



# Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

March 2012

## In This Issue:

From the Director  
pg. 2

Sunnie Greetings  
pg. 4

Announcements  
pg. 6

Resources for  
Families pg. 7

Recent Events  
pg. 8

Floats pg. 9

Teddy One pg. 10

Teddy Too pg. 12

Panda pg. 14

Koala pg. 16

Woolly pg. 18

Polar pg. 20

Grizzly pg. 23

**Office:** Jeff Robbins,  
Sunnie McPhetres,  
Terry Chase, Amy  
Potter



## From the Director

### **Summer and Fall enrollment**

Friday, March 16 was the deadline for indicating your summer and fall child care needs. As much notice as you can give me of upcoming changes is helpful, but a 30 day notice is required to reduce your child's schedule or to withdraw. That gives me enough time to get another child on board. Remember that if I have at least 30 days' notice (more would be great) your child's space may be saved with a 50% holding fee for a summer absence of 4 consecutive weeks or more.

Once I have the surveys back, I'll start to construct fall class rosters. Getting everything to fit is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, so it takes a while. I honestly don't know which children will go to which group and if there is to be an age cut-off, where it will be. It changes from year to year, so it's best not to assume that your child will be in one group or another. Well, if you have a kindergartner, you can be sure that s/he will be a Grizzly and if s/he was a Polar or a Woolly last year and is not going to kindergarten s/he will be in the same group this year. If you have questions, please feel free to talk with your child's teachers, Sunnie or me.



Dear Big Jeff,

My child couldn't have her lunch last week because I forgot to put a "nut free note" in her lunch box. Isn't there some way around this? I don't even know if there is a child allergic to peanuts in her room.

Signed,

This is nuts

Dear Nuts,

Um, no. There isn't a way around it. There are several children in the building with nut and peanut allergies whose allergic reactions can be life threatening. We take that pretty seriously! It can take only the tiniest amount of an allergen to trigger a reaction. Nut allergies are particularly challenging because so many foods have nuts hidden in them or are processed in plants where nuts are present. When the children are older they will be able to manage their own consumption, but in the meantime it's our job. Peanut butter

is a special challenge because it sticks so nicely to everything. One child with a PB&J sandwich can spread peanut butter through the center pretty quickly.

If I had any question about the wisdom of a nut-free policy, I was convinced when I attended the Food Allergy Support Group at DHMC for parents and caregivers of children with food allergies. Our challenges in being nut-free in a controlled environment for part of the day paled in comparison to families' challenges in keeping their children safe and healthy every day, everywhere.

One way I know how vigilant we have to be and how we have to support each other's efforts is through the mistakes I've made. More than once, sadly, I've picked up a package of something at the grocery store, scanned the label and decided it was nut-free only to have a teacher send it back to me, because I had missed something on the label. Now that's embarrassing!

So, here's the drill, every day:

- no peanuts, no tree nuts, no food containing nut products or processed in a plant where tree nuts or peanuts are present.
- send foods in their original packaging with label intact or send a note indicating "Nut free"
- check every package, even if it's a brand that is usually nut free - manufacturers changes ingredients, processes and processing plants without notice.

Thanks. We truly appreciate your help.

Big Jeff

I have checked the ingredients in this lunch. It is tree nut/peanut free.



Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have checked the ingredients in this lunch. It is tree nut/peanut free.



Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have checked the ingredients in this lunch. It is tree nut/peanut free.



Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have checked the ingredients in this lunch. It is tree nut/peanut free.



Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Greetings From Sunnie:

### Where should all the teachers be?

There has been a great deal of movement of teachers throughout the Center and there may be more changes to come. We are so fortunate to have teachers that possess the high quality of adaptability and who know what is appropriate for children of all ages. We are also very fortunate to have teachers that move around and are familiar faces for all of the children.

I just want to give you an update about the status of all of the classrooms!

Teddy One

Lead Teacher: Debbie Burnham

Teacher: Wendy Irwin

Assistant Teacher: Michele Murphy

\*\*Michele will be leaving the Center; a search is currently being conducted to find a new assistant teacher

Teddy Too

Lead Teacher: Terri Crane

Teacher: Lori Higgins

Assistant Teacher: Denise Ayers

\*\*Terry Crane will be reducing her schedule to part-time and joining the team of Floating Assistant Teachers

Ray Garcia (current Polar Lead Teacher) will be joining the Teddy Too team as soon as we find a new Polar Lead Teacher.

Pandas:

Lead Teacher: Susan Young

Teacher: Jenn Boudro

Assistant Teacher: Teresa Hahn

\*\*Susan is back and life is happy in the Panda room

Koalas:

Lead Teacher: Terri Hollis

Teacher: Bobbie Lynn Stone

Assistant Teacher: vacant

\*\*Gladness has been a stable presence in the Koala room for some time now. She will continue to be in the Koala room until Bobbie Lynn returns from maternity leave. We are currently searching for just the right person to permanently fill the Assistant Teacher position.

Polars:

Lead Teacher: Ray Garcia

Teacher: Tatyana Bills

Assistant Teacher: Raquel Fluette

\*\* Ray will be moving to the Teddy Too room when we find a new Polar Lead Teacher – the search is currently underway. We'll make plans to cover for Raquel's maternity leave as the time approaches! Rosalind Myles-Watkins in frequently in the Polar Room for added assistance.

Woollies:

Lead Teacher: Deb Girdwood

Teacher: Barb Merchand

Assistant Teacher: Moya Stevens

Classroom aide: Loey Crooks

\*\*It seemed more appropriate to Moya to serve as a member of the Floating Assistant Teacher team for a while. Elizabeth is working full-time in the Woolly room for the foreseeable future. Deb is working part-days still and Loey is covering the hours that Deb is not here.

Grizzlies:

Lead Teacher: Karen Gray

Teacher:: Kristin Cole

\*\*No notes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Teachers who are currently floating:

Eileen Ruml (M,W,F)

April Buchanan

Miranda Arruda

Moya Stevens

Soon to be floating:

Terri Crane (ams)

Loey Crooks (pms)

The short story: All of the children are well cared for by people that they know and love!



**DCCCC Will Be Closed  
On The Following Days:**

**-November 24 and 25, 2011 –  
Thanksgiving Break**

**-May 26, 2011 – Memorial Day**

**-July 4, 2011 – Independence Day**

**Coming Soon to an inbox  
near you:**

We will soon be sending the link to our annual family survey.

Your opinion means a great deal to us!

Please take the time to complete the survey when the link arrives!

**Shoe Drive for Upper Valley Haven:**

Lightly used shoes for children and adults can be donated daily at a drop box located outside the office complex at 45 Lyme Road. Sponsored by BE Fit Physical Therapy. 603-653-0040.

**Working Mom's Group Lunch**

Wednesday, April 11 at 12:00 at Ramunto's in Hanover

A little background on the group for those who are new: We are very casual group that gets together once a month for lunch to talk about whatever is on our minds. We all know how challenging it is to balance a career and a family and it's really nice to have others to talk with and get ideas or just vent. We discuss all types of things ranging from pregnancy, potty training, child care options, bedtime routines, food, etc. Any topic is open for discussion and people have been so helpful in offering advice and assistance when needed. Mom's in the group have all age ranges of kids and everyone is welcome. Typically we have anywhere from 5-12 women at each lunch. It would be great to have more so I hope to see some new people and the return of some who haven't been in a while. Mark your calendars now and try to join us!

If you have any questions or know people that would like to be added to the e-mail list, please feel free to e-mail me!

Megan Sobel

# Resources for Families

**Saturday, March 31, 11:00 a.m.--3:00 p.m.**

Join Dartmouth Sustainability and others in the Upper Valley who are doing awesome sustainability work at the Co-op Food Store Annual Expo!

White River Elementary School, 102 Pine Street, White River Junction, Vermont.

This year's expo will focus on Sustainability in the Upper Valley. Free brunch catered by the Co-op and plenty of fun activities for the whole family! Be sure to add this community event to your annual spring calendar!

**Saturday, March 31. Open Fields School Open House in Thetford:** 1 to 4 p.m., 37 Academy Road. Open house activities include paper plate puppets, egg drop and more. Free. 802-785-2077.

**Saturday, March 31. Book Reading With Local Author in West Lebanon:** 2 p.m., Encore Books, Staples Plaza. Local author Karen Wright reads from and signs all three of her children's book. Free. 603-653-2500.

**Saturday, March 31. Book Reading With Local Author in West Lebanon:** 2 p.m., Encore Books, Staples Plaza. Local author Karen Wright reads from and signs all three of her children's book. Free. 603-653-2500.

**Free Family Outdoor Event This Sunday Hosted by Upper Valley Land Trust**

Join us April Fool's Day, Sunday April 1st, from 10 a.m.-2 pm for some fun in the forest and wetlands at Lyme Hill Wetlands in Lyme, NH! All ages are invited to come and participate in this trickster-themed event that will include nature walks, games, crafts and activities. This event is co-sponsored by the [Hulbert Outdoor Center](#).

Learn about local wildlife and the tricks they have for surviving in their Vermont and New Hampshire habitats. Pack some snacks or a bag lunch and come any time after 10 and before 2. Stay as long as you like!

Geared for 4 and above, but younger children are welcome with a carrier (stroller won't work on the varied terrain). Proper attire is a must – boots are necessary!

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with this fun event!

Email Maggie Stoudnour, [maggie.stoudnour@uvlt.org](mailto:maggie.stoudnour@uvlt.org) or Anna Slack, [anna.slack@uvlt.org](mailto:anna.slack@uvlt.org), for descriptions and to volunteer! Heavy rain will cancel this event.

**Sunday, April 1. Wild Cookie Extravaganza Fundraiser in Wilder:** 1 to 3 p.m., Wilder Center, 2087 Hartford Ave. Twenty home bakers vie for prizes in the first-ever Wild Cookie Extravaganza \$5 donation to Upper Valley Haven; children under 10 free, includes two cookies. Sponsored by King Arthur Flour and the Wilder Center. 802-698-8368.

**Sunday, April 1. Drumming and Dancing in South Strafford:** 6 to 8 p.m., Barrett Hall, 248 Route 132. Open drum and dance circle for all ages and abilities. Bring an instrument if you can. Children welcome. Donations requested for hall rental. 802-765-4059.

**Saturday, April 28. [HopStop: Interplay Jazz Quintet—Jazzy Jam Session](#)**

HopStop Family Series: Enjoy the stylings of the Interplay Jazz Quintet through musical improvisation games and scat singing geared especially for young children. Saturday, April 28th at 11:00 am

# Recent Events at DCCCC



## **News from the Float Team**

Eileen Ruml

Gladness Msumanje

Elizabeth Harrington

Miranda Arruda

April Buchanan

Loey Crooks

## **The Floating Team is A-Changing**

We have two new members to our team of Floating Assistant Teachers. They are both familiar faces already which will make their transitions oh so easy!

Terri Crane from Teddy Too Land will be reducing her schedule and joining the team of Floating Assistant Teachers from 9:30-1:30 every day. Terri will work in classrooms while classroom staff take time to plan activities for their group. Terri will begin her new position when we have found a suitable replacement for her in the Teddy Too classroom.

Loey Crooks (frequently seen in the Woolly and Panda rooms) has joined our regular staff as an afternoon Floating Assistant Teacher. Loey is in the process of continuing her education in Early Childhood Education. She has added a great deal to our program as a substitute; we look forward to having her as a permanent staff member! She will be moving throughout the building wherever she is needed. Watch for Loey in a classroom near you!

Where are the rest of the Floating Assistant Teachers?

Gladness is in the Koala Room while we search for a new Koala Assistant Teacher; she will stay in the Koala Room while Bobbie Lynn is on maternity leave.

Liz is spending time in the Woolly Room.

Miranda is here , there and everywhere – but mostly in the Infant/Toddler Wing.

Eileen spends a great deal of her time with the older children.

Moya and April are both spending some time floating throughout the building!

The Floating Team is ever-changing! It's so nice to have so many faces that are familiar to all of the children!

## News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,  
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,  
Teacher

Michele Murphy,  
Assistant Teacher

Welcome back to Michele and Madelyn! Michele has returned and Madelyn has been on vacation in sunny Florida. While on vacation Madelyn learned how to move herself by scooting, rolling and crawling backwards. Go Madelyn!



We have been introducing new art experiences to the teddies. Finger painting was a big hit with Owen painting three pictures. Grace even did a one finger method, poking and moving the finger paint around.



We mixed cornstarch and water to make "goop". Kirsten would say, "goopy" as she dipped her hands in it while Yirang wanted more and more of the mixture to move around on a tray.

When we write daily sheets Cleo comes right over to us to grab the paper. She loves to "write" on the sheets.



Often we give the children paper on a clipboard with chubby crayons. Kellyn will sit and make several pictures and Remi will come over to join her.

Play dough is another favorite activity. Carter will try to roll balls with the dough. Dara will poke at it and hold some to squeeze.

Emily is being introduced to crayons and coloring.

Play dough and painting are two ways we explore fine motor skills, expand vocabulary and learn to follow directions. To the teddy's it is just pure fun!

Here is our favorite play dough recipe to try at home:

1 cup Flour

1/2 cup Salt

2 tablespoons oil

2 teaspoons cream of tartar

food coloring

1 cup water

Mix all ingredients except for water

Heat water to boiling in the microwave and add to dry ingredients

Mixture will be soupy at first, but will firm up while stirring

Enjoy!

We hope you enjoy the extra sunshine coming our way.

Fondly,

Debbie, Wendy and Michele

## News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,  
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,  
Teacher

Denise Ayres,  
Assistant Teacher

The spring season is upon us we have spent the last couple of weeks outside sometimes in the in the snow, sometimes in the puddles and mud. When it was sixty degrees out the other day we had a blast playing in the puddles. We haven't been able to predict what the weather will bring us, but we like to be ready whatever comes our way. Please send extra clothes, including extra socks, also send in any waterproof outer gear that you have along with the winter gear. We're not done with that yet!

This month we have been enjoying some more art activities. Painting is a favorite for most of the toddlers, although we have a few that don't really care for it yet, and would rather be playing with other toys. Some toddlers get right into it with their paintbrushes or hands spreading paint liberally around on their paper, while others take a more tentative and slower approach. Each child is able to approach these activities in their own way each doing what feels right to them.

Music class continues to be a fun time for the Teddies that are participating. We are also singing and doing songs in our classroom. Songs with lots of hand gestures like "Open Shut Them", "Itsy, Bitsy Spider" and "Twinkle, Twinkle" are favorites. Some of the younger toddlers are really enjoying this as well and starting to imitate the hand movements in their own way. This group loves music!

We have discovered that this group are either all teething or really like the taste of the cardboard books are made of. We usually have one or two Teddies that chew on the books, but in this group we have six or seven that really like to chew and nibble the corners and edges of the books. One of them even hides behind the rocking chair while nibbling away on a corner of a book. I will say that when the books are not being chewed they do like to sit



and read book after book. When this group is done teething we will need to make a run to the bookstore for some new, not so chewed books.

I don't know for sure when my official last day will be in the Teddy Too room, but I have to say this is a bittersweet time for me knowing that interviews for my position have started, and may be done, and a new Lead Teacher chosen by the time this goes to print. It has been a long, sweet ride for me, twenty-four years at DCCCC and nineteen of them as a Teddy. Let's just say I have loved a lot of babies and toddlers! I don't know how many for sure, but I'm guessing it's in the hundreds! Okay let's not talk about how many diapers I have changed! I am excited to be staying here at DCCCC and look forward to spending time in some other classrooms as well as spending more time with my family.

Happy Spring!

Terri



## **News from the Panda Bears**

Susan Young,  
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,  
Teacher

Teresa Hahn  
Assistant Teacher

Wow!!! The Pandas have grown so much since I left in December! They have gotten taller for one thing but I've also noticed how their verbal skills have progressed! I am seeing a lot of children engaged in dramatic play together. Every day I hear one child ask another to come over and be the baby, often with a blanket and baby bottle in hand. They are using the "props" provided in their play as they are well into their two's now. It has been so fun to watch!

Now that we have gone through just about the weirdest snowless (or practically!) winter that I can remember, the Pandas are ready for the outdoors. Please keep sending in puddle boots and

rain pants if possible. The playground will continue to be wet and muddy. Also be sure your child's cubby is stocked with extra clothes and socks. Thanks.

Speaking of being outside..... I was delighted to take children out and about! We ventured outside the playground fence several times last week when I returned. We saw so many deer tracks and scat (poop) along with some others. We looked where the deer had chewed off some branches and talked about what they might eat. I told them that maybe we could leave a few apples for them one day. We also found a new bird nest in the bushes next to the Grizzly room that had plastic woven into it! I can only hope that a robin returns to nest on our porch this spring!! We now have quite a few nests that have been spotted around the center. I may have to make a map!!

Some of us ventured all the way down the gully and over to the community gardens. The children began walking down through all the raised beds. They poked in the dirt. They saw the tall stalks of old brussel sprout plants and we even found some green brussel sprouts that seemed to make it through the winter. Yes we

touched them, no we didn't eat them!! It sure did get me thinking about spring and gardening.... and speaking of.....

I am in hopes of a great gardening year. Teresa and I are going to an all day workshop in April about gardening with children. I have been the "bean lady" over the last several years with massive bean plants going up the hill and our bean house. It didn't do as well as I'd have liked last year so we'll beef up the compost and get it right this year. You'll see children chowing chives and mint in our garden. I am sure Teresa will come up with awesome ideas to keep the Pandas enthused and engaged. Stay tuned!!!

I have had a request from one family that made total sense to me. We write up our daily sheet with activities and what we've done though out the day but by golly, it's close to impossible for you all to read it as you're trying to say hello to your child, gather their stuff together and touch base with the teachers. We are going to make copies of the daily sheet for you to take home. They will be next to the clipboard as you sign out. Please grab one if you wish. The information on this may help to stimulate conversation on the way home, at dinner and/or bedtime. You may want to talk about a book their child read that day, or the puddle they jumped in, or the snack they had, or what they did in the big multi or anything else on the list. I am the first one to admit that as we begin this, we may well forget on occasion!

I must say that it felt so good coming back to all the hugs and smiles from everyone... from the children, from fellow staff members and of course you parents! Thank you for making me feel so wanted!!  
I am SOOOOO back!!

Susan for the Panda team

# News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,  
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,  
Teacher

Assistant Teacher

Greeting Koala Families,

First let me just say how thankful we all are about the fact that the ice has melted from our Playground. It is crucial that we get out each and every day, and the ice has made it a little difficult. Some children have actually taken to riding bikes on the is now an exposed bike path. Who's ready for spring? Say I.

We have spent a great deal of time exploring different textures and how they feel. In the Area of arts and crafts we have done various types of painting. The children really enjoyed painting with tinfoil. The tinfoil felt hard and smooth as it was crinkled and made different textures on the paper.

We play with play dough often, but it is amazing if you give the children pebbles to mix in how the contrast of hard and soft makes it a whole new experience. One of the favorite sensory activities was the process of making "clean Mud". On this one I gotta say it was a toss-up as to who had more fun me or your children. Now I know parents say they're glad we do the messy stuff at daycare so they don't feel the need at home, but this is a great and easy rainy day project. Take clean (duh) toilet paper, have your child help you shred it into many fine pieces. Shave a couple bars of white ivory soap, your children could use butter knives. Mix it all with warm water and TADA. The more you play with it the more it really does begin to feel like mud. It works great at a table on a tray. We used it with scoops and different cups one day but added snakes and bugs the next. Give it a try.....There were squares of different textures such as sand paper, felt, and faux fur presented to the children to glue on paper in any way they felt was the right way. Check out the wall of our textured collages.



What would exploring textures be without literally emerging yourself in them? We created a tunnel that was covered with fur as well as on the floor of the tunnel in which to crawl through. I could not fit through but all indications were that it was fun. The children were a pile of enthusiastic laughter as they took turns going through.

Our circle times have also exposed Koalas to the idea of thinking how different things around us feel. Bobbie Lynn did a great game of putting different objects in a bag and having children guess what they were feeling without seeing it first. They were really good at it. It was a little surprising the one item that stumped them was a crayon. I exchanged our library books which had different topics such as furry monsters and gooey mud,

Gladness had a wonderful project of taking out several items that had different shapes sizes, and textures. They were just given the freedom to look using magnifying glasses at them however long and whichever pieces they wanted to.

So in a nutshell that is only a small sampling of some of the things we have done recently in the Koala Room. I think when we do a topic such as exploring textures it is a good reminder to teachers to think about the environment around us. Stop, feel and smell the roses. There are interesting and different things that we see every day but forget to take a moment to enjoy them. It is great to have so many materials available to us but there are things around us every day that is a wonderful learning opportunity. Let children feel bread before toasting it. How did it feel how does it feel now sort of thing.

On behalf of the Koala Room  
Terri Hollis



## News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,  
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,  
Teacher

Moya Stevens,  
Assistant Teacher

Hello Everyone,

The Woollies have been very busy traveling from outer space to the deep blue sea. We have also encountered some new friendships along the way.

We decided to skip winter all together and go straight for mud season this year. We have been busy making mud pies, mud soup, and clearing out the drain to release the huge puddles on the playground. We even got to use a sled as boat this year.

I thought over the next couple of newsletters I would highlight one learning domain a month as a way of letting you see how we are meeting children's developmental and learning objectives through play.



### Domain: Literacy

Objective 17: Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses

- a. uses and appreciate books
- b. uses print concepts

Objective 18: Comprehends and responds to books and other texts.

- a. Interacts during read aloud and book conversations.

Woollies have been having great fun exploring books. They are reading books out loud to each other and to themselves. We have been working all year at predicting story plots and talking about cliff hangers. We have explored the Magic Block story and have begun using toys and props from the room to create interactive cooperative stories. On Mondays children tell a story orally to a teacher while she writes/types the story as they speak. Later the illustrate their words. During multi

children are using characters and animals from the books to act out and move in new and exciting ways.



We welcome Owen Satterlund and his family to WB room. Owen lives in Etna with his parents and two older brothers. This month we will welcome Alexander Wang and his family.

We are looking forward to a warm spring where we will be able to get out even more. I look forward to taking our Woollies out to explore our Woolly Bear woods. I wonder what we will find after the winter thaw....



Respectfully,  
Deb, Barb, Liz and Loey

## News from the Polar Bears

Radoyka Garcia,  
Lead Teacher

Tatyana Bills,  
Teacher

Raquel Fluette,  
Assistant Teacher

¡Hola a todos! (*Hello to all!*)

Hoping everyone is enjoying the recent signs of spring! The Polar Bears, naturally, have been waiting for more snow however, as the ice begins melting quickly, the mud is a whole new wonderful texture.

Early February, Raquel helped put together a special event... we joined the Woollies for “International Pizza Day” and both classrooms made English Muffins pizza that we enjoyed eating in the Multi. This was followed by a (signing) song with Deb, Pizza themed board games, coloring and a pizza story with Raquel. It was great to spend time with our neighbors.

The Love Snack was so much fun! Polars spent a lot of time working on Valentines’ for their friends, families and teachers. We baked muffins, cookies and munched on fruit and cheese platter! We

decorated the room with ‘Love’ and enjoyed seeing our Polar Families have a good time.

Also during February, Tatyana celebrated in the Polars a Russian Holiday called *Maslenitsa*. Crêpes are the special dish during these very festive times. Many ‘cooks’ in our classroom made the batter and later we devoured the crêpes during our afternoon snack with a variety of toppings. We just love being together and having good food!

On the food topic, we had a special invitation from the Grizzlies and had a Pasta Lunch in their classroom. We sat with Grizzly friends and ‘quietly’ observed each other, but once a few began to pack up, Polars discovered many interesting areas of their room. Grizzlies were more than happy to show us around too! We wrapped it up with Karen’s special story time and later had the Chocolate Chip bars they made for us. We would love to do this again. Thank you Grizzlies!!!

Our winter theme lasted for many weeks and has ended with a delightful presentation from the Arctic Studies Department at Dartmouth College. Amy Newcomb, Calvin’s mom, passed on the word about our theme and I met with a group of grad students from this program to help put together their presentation. This was a wonderful experience; to understand what they do and why they study in this environment. They brought many interesting materials: a whale’s baleen, fossils they dug themselves, a muskox horn, pictures of the people who live there, pictures of wildlife and certainly the protective gear they wear to keep warm throughout their journeys. During our gathering, we watched a clip on the projector of how they travel to Greenland and how deep they dig into the ice in order to study what happens to this part of the earth. We had different ‘stations’: the gear, the land, the

wildlife. Each table had one grad student who discussed and shared in small groups these very special items. We rotated groups to the sound of a bell and later gathered to hear about what the Polars had learned...it was incredible how much information they remembered! Stay tuned for more Polar Adventures...

Wishing you all well...

### Ray and the Polars





## **News from the Grizzlies**

Karen Gray,  
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,  
Teacher

Our numbers were down a little during February school vacation, as several families took vacations of their own. Those of us left here “at home” were excited to have all day Grizzlies! In addition to learning some things about the presidents on Monday, we received a surprise visit from Eric (our former most popular afternoon assistant). Throughout the week, the Grizzlies enjoyed helping Kristin prepare the delicious morning snacks. With having a successful Valentine celebration earlier in the month with the Pandas, we decided to continue providing opportunities to do something nice for/with the other classrooms. Therefore, Grizzlies were especially thrilled to host a special lunch for the Polar Bears during the vacation week. They were such a helpful group and particularly enjoyed showing them around and sharing their space and materials with these preschoolers. Another day, the whole group went to the multi together for some parachute games and to play a musical movement game called Hullabaloo. Throughout the week, the children were excited to have extra time in the room to construct with the space legos as well as use the jungle animals with a variety of manipulatives. With the continued fascination with sled dogs and endless pretending, we topped off our week by viewing the Disney movie of “Snow Dogs”. We were saddened that we didn’t get any snow for some of our outdoor planned activities but that didn’t stop us from having fun out there and it turned out that we got some snow the following week anyway! And finally...we got to go sledding on the BIG hill!!!

When we all were back together after vacation we recognized Dr. Seuss’s birthday on March 2nd. We have read, and continue to read, many of his books. Inspired by his rhymes, humor and imagination, we are playing many rhyming games and using our own imaginations. With an array of materials, unique and unusual “creatures” are being constructed that look like they could have jumped right out of a Dr. Seuss book! Fun is being had with our Toobers and Zots and being turned into creative and silly masterpieces. We hope to begin creating some of our own imaginative stories too!

Imaginative play drives our days here in the Grizzly Room. This type of play allows children the chance to leave the here and now to try on different roles and feelings and to practice social and cognitive skills- all while having fun in the wonderful world of “What If...”. Imagination is a realm of adventures and surprises! Grizzlies are masterful at creating their own props needed for make-believe. They also thrive on decorating the environment to set the appropriate feel for their play. A great deal of purposeful thinking goes into these creations, as well as the skill required in order to make these props. The joy of creating something is exhilarating! The creative thinking and personal emotion combine into an individual’s artistic expression- a kind of expression where there is no right or wrong. Children are free to experience satisfaction without a set of rules or expectations for outcomes!

With a post office/store set up in our room and an interest in making money, we have been learning about money. Learning about money is an abstract and complicated concept for young children for several reasons. Having more coins doesn't necessarily mean having more money; larger coins aren't always worth more than smaller ones; and the names of coins have no logical connection to their value. By playing games and doing a variety of repetitious and playful activities with this fascination of money, the Grizzlies are having firsthand experiences that help them to identify coins and begin to learn these concepts. We can only wish that money grew on trees or all it took was a green piece of paper and a marker to create real money! Some of our stories have helped the Grizzlies realize how hard families work to earn their dollars and all the important things they spend their money on that supports the family in so many different ways. After reading the story If You Made a Million by David M. Schwartz the Grizzlies were asked what they would do or buy if they had a million dollars and here are their responses:

**Henry C.:** I would buy a castle and be the king of the world.

**Henry W.:** I would buy all the lego sets ever made.

**Ian:** I would become the owner of a football stadium.

**Rhea:** I would put it in the bank and save it.

**Cynthia:** I would buy a lot of books because I love to read and I would buy a puppy.

**Nina:** I would give half of it to poor people and the rest I would use to buy cats.

**Elena:** I would use it to buy art stuff.

**Pilar:** I would go on a trip to Mexico and also buy a jewel.

**Gabriel:** I'd give half of it to poor people and then pay someone to train a dolphin so I could ride on it.

**Matthew T.:** I would buy a spaceship and take a trip to outer space.

**Michael:** I would buy a castle.

**Matthew J.:** I would buy food for my family and for other people who need it.

**Katie:** I would buy a lot of candy and lots of My Little Ponies and new stuffies.

**Aaron:** I would buy all of the legos in the world.

**Ryder:** I would buy all the star wars toys.

**Andrew:** I would buy some nerf guns and lightsabers. If I still had enough money I would buy an iphone.

**Noah:** I would buy all of the Star Wars action figures in the world.

**Freddie:** I would spend half of it to buy Mario games and I would spend the other half buying legos.

\*Enjoy viewing some of our recent photos of Grizzlies having fun together!\*

On behalf of the Grizzlies,  
Karen





**FitKids at RVC and other local  
childcare  
centers are hosting a 1-Mile  
Tot-Trot to benefit:**



Date: Saturday, April 28th from 10am to 12pm. Place: The River Valley Club located in Centerra Park. (behind the COOP)

Refreshments will be provided after the walk and all children who participate will receive a goody bag\* to thank them for participating!

Open to the  
public!

\*Please RSVP by April 13th to ensure that your child gets a goody bag. Contact: Jenn Parker, 603.643.7720 ext. 105 or [KidFriendly@RiverValleyClub.com](mailto:KidFriendly@RiverValleyClub.com).

3RD ANNUAL  
SHARON RECREATION ALLIANCE'S

# GIRL & TEA MARDI GRAS PARTY

SHARON ELEMENTARY

(Under Large Tent - Rain or Shine)

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Bring your favorite American Girl Doll  
or Special Doll to a tea party!

We will have mask making for you and your doll,  
shopping on Bourbon Street.

Shows by **Dylan the Magician**,

**Cheryl the Clown**, Live Music from

**Gerry Grimo and East Bay Jazz Quintet**

a light lunch under the French Quarter Tent  
and More!

Every paid admission will receive  
a Mardi Gras bead  
greeting and 1 chance to **win the**  
**American Girl Doll Marie-Grace**

Pre-registration and admission  
of \$10.00 is required by

**Friday, May 4.**

Walk-ins welcomed \$15.00.

Mail to Barbara Bragg,

P.O. Box 864, WRJ VT 05001

Questions? Call (802) 763-8447

