Save the Date:
Tuesday, January 14
4:00 – 5:00
At DCCCC

Are you interested in ideas on what to pack and how much to provide in your child’s lunch bag? Join Dartmouth Health Coach, Nancy Duhaime, as she presents some quick and easy ideas to make your child’s bag lunches meet the “3-square-meals a day” recommendation along with tips on packing lunches in a fresh and appealing manner.

RSVP, if possible, to DCCCC@Dartmouth.edu, but come anyway.

Trying Something New
Did you notice? This is different than our usual newsletter. We have decided to try something new with the DCCCC Newsletter. Many classrooms are now sending out regular updates to families about their classroom activities so we will send a monthly “News From the DCCCC Office” letter once a month to all families. We’ll include important information for all families as well as pictures from all center events.

We will do a quarterly Newsletter that includes pictures and news from all classrooms.

DCCCC Will Be Closed
December 23, 2013 - January 1, 2014 – Winter Break
March 17, 2014 – staff in-service
May 26, 2014 – Memorial Day
July 4, 2014 – Independence Day

Events at DCCCC During December
Tuesday, December 17, 4:00pm: Sing-a-long in the multi. This is an event for children but all families are welcome to attend.
Friday, December 20: All-center PJ day for anyone who wants to participate.

Snow Days
Whenever Hanover schools close or open late due to inclement weather, DCCCC will have a late opening time of 9:00 a.m. A late opening at DCCCC will be announced on:
- WMUR TV Channel 9 and www.WMUR.com
- WCAX TV Channel 3 and www.WCAX.com, (go to weather, select school closings)

During school vacations, late openings will be decided by the Director in consultation with local authorities and will be announced in the same media as above.

Grizzlies may arrive at 9 a.m. too and pay the full day rate.
News From Big Jeff

----------------------------------No More Grizzlies?----------------------------------

Dear Big Jeff,

I heard someone say that you weren't going to have a Grizzly program for kindergartners anymore. What's up with that?

Signed,

Waiting to be a Grizzly

Dear Waiting,

It's true. After a 26 year run our After-Kindergarten program will come to an end. As Hanover schools change to full-day Kindergarten, our part-day After-K program is no longer needed. We will surely miss our Big Kids and that last year we have had with their families.

The good news for the Dartmouth community is that we will be able to take more infants, toddlers and preschoolers. We are currently studying how best to use the space to accommodate younger children.

Stay tuned for more information.

Thanks,

Big Jeff

----------------------------------Needs a babysitter----------------------------------

Dear Big Jeff,

I'm in desperate need of a babysitter while I'm working on the final chapter of my book. Do you have a babysitting list? Is there a teacher that I can hire?

Signed,

Urgent

Dear Urge

Let me point you toward a couple of resources: the Dartmouth Student Employment Office (www.dartmouth.edu/~seo) and the Child Care Project (603-646-3233) may have some suggestions for you. To help staff and families maintain professional boundaries, DCCCC no longer maintains a list of babysitters. We do not endorse or assume liability for private employment arrangements between
DCCCC families and staff or other individuals. That would be outside of our jurisdiction and we ask that you not make these arrangements at DCCCC.

Good luck with the book. Books are more work that another child, but at least you don’t have to change their diapers!

Big Jeff

---------------------More day care days?----------------------

Dear Big Jeff,

This is my tenure year and I’m really under pressure. My son only comes 3 days/week. I really like having him home with me, but if I need to, may I send him on one of his off days? Could I add a day to his schedule just for this term?

Signed,

Junior Faculty

Dear Junior,

Absolutely – as long as we have room. For an occasional extra day, check directly with your child's teachers. If they can fit you in, they will and they'll let the office know to bill you for an extra day. They may not know too far in advance, though. Teachers know about attendance, but I handle enrollment. If you’d like to add to your regular child care schedule, I'm the guy to talk to. If I've got it, you can have it. If it turns out that all your publications, research, teaching, advising, community service and family responsibilities get all caught up (that COULD happen), just give me 30 days' notice before you drop the day. If I don't have the day that you need available, I'll keep my eyes open and let you know when there is a change. On the other hand, if you know that you will not need a day/s in the future, it's very helpful for me to know as I may have someone else in the queue who would be delighted to know that relief is on the way.

-----------------------------------Should I give a gift?---------------------------------------

Dear Big Jeff,

We really love our child’s teacher. She’s like a part of our extended family. We do remember to say thank you regularly, but there are special times when we’d like to give a small gift or token of our
appreciation. What do you suggest?
Signed

Appreciator

Dear Grateful,

What sweet words! There is nothing your child’s teacher would like to hear more. Honestly the best way to show your appreciation in just what you are doing – say thanks. We love to hear that things are going well. An honest to goodness paper and pen note has a special effect. You might consider a handmade item from your child. If he draws a special picture, you can dress it up with an inexpensive frame for a nice gift. Photos of your child and his/her teacher together are also special – a quote from your child makes a nice addition. Something that your child has helped to cook is also nice although it is a bit tricky to keep track of dietary restrictions, so you might want to inquire ahead.

I know from our prior conversation (the one in which I said, "Let me think about that.") that you are actually asking about physical items as gifts. It’s important that you NEVER feel obligated or swept up in a rush of gift giving with the feeling that you must present your child’s teacher with any kind of a gift. A simple thank you is always appropriate.

If you do choose to purchase an item, it’s safe to assume that the teacher already has a couple of commercial My Favorite Teacher coffee mugs, but I bet that s/he doesn’t have one that your child painted a TipTop Pottery or one with your child’s photo on it. Gift certificates have a broad appeal. Teachers like to eat so a gift certificate to the Coop or a local restaurant that delivers to DCCCC is nice. And, of course, anyone can find something they like on Amazon.

The most memorable purchased gift I ever received from a child cost a dollar, on sale. This was 37 years ago, so clearly it made an impression. What was it? A hat! A very inexpensive, white hat machine knit with acrylic yarn. Why was it special? Clearly Sarah picked it out herself and was so convinced that it was a perfect gift that her mother, with some chagrin, couldn’t talk her out of it. The hat is long gone, but not the memory of an authentic gift from the heart is still with me – all for a dollar!

You might also consider making a small gift to the classroom in lieu of a gift to the teachers - a children’s book, for example. I have one on my desk right now from a family who gave it to us in 1986. The children wrote their names inside the cover so I think of Ariel and Zachary and their parents whenever I read the books.

In sum, I’m sure you already find ways to let your child’s teachers know that they are special and that you appreciate their role in your family. “Thank you” is plenty. Get out a note card and capture a favorite memory or a special moment to let your child's teacher know you appreciate.