

Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

September 2013

Welcome to the 2013-2014 School Year at DCCCC!



Front and center: Terri Crane (float)

Kneeling (from left to right): Jeff Robbins(director), Rosalind Myles-Watkins(Grizzly), Jo Brambles(Polar), Dawn Cote(Admin. Asst.), Brenda Metzler(Grizzly), Kelly Bosma(Polar), Terri Hollis(Polar), Miranda Arruda(Polar), Jennifer Sprague(Panda), Ray Garcia(Teddy Too)

Standing (left to right): Wendy Irwin (Teddy One), Liz Harrington (float), Joel King (Koala), Debbie Burnham (Teddy One), Terry Chase (Admin. Asst.), April Buchanan (Teddy One), Susan Quimby Young (Koala), Lori Higgins (Teddy Too), Moya Stevens (Woolly), Teresa Hahn (Panda), Sunnie McPhetres(Asst. Dir.), Kathryn Hollis(long term sub), Anna Fuller(float), Kristin Ball Cole(Grizzlies), Denise Avres(Teddy Too), Barb Merchand(Woolly)

Not available for the group photo: Eileen Ruml(float), Audrey Stout(float), Melissa Horrigan(float), Valerie Stefani(Koala)

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Office: Jeff Robbins, Sunnie McPhetres, Terry Chase, Dawn Cote



From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

I have a problem. I don't want to say what it is, but I don't know who to talk to. Who is Big Jeff anyway?

Signed

A potential fan

Dear Fan,

Who is Big Jeff? This is an excellent question and one I ask myself periodically. Big Jeff is the Director of Child Care Services at Dartmouth College. As such, I'm the director of DCCCC and director of the Child Care Project (child care resource and referral www.dartmouth.edu/~ccp. I have offices in both places and go back and forth frequently. If you haven't visited my DCCCC office recently, drop by to check my collections (lanyard, canned foods, candy tins and more). Or, come and see me at the Child Care Project at 17 ½ Lebanon St upstairs over Sotheby's where I have a very grown-up office with plants and artwork. If I'm not at DCCCC, the office almost always knows where I am. Use the DCCCC phone number (646-6610) so they can track me down if you need me. E-mail is a good way to find me, too. Jeff.Robbins@Dartmouth.edu

While we're at it, who is Sunnie? Sunnie is the on-site assistant director of DCCCC. She's in charge of the day to day operations, although you may talk to either of us about anything that comes up.

Our offices are at the front of the building on either side of the front door facing the parking lot – mine on the east, Sunnie's on the west.

A problem? THANK YOU so much for letting us know. As a young teacher, I dabbled in insensitivity and defensiveness in response to peoples' concerns. It didn't actually work out that well, so for the last, say 35 years, I've been working on the "How can we fix that?" approach. DO tell us if you have a problem, concern, interest, or question. It's a favor to us when you tell us what we need to know.

WHO to talk to? Start with anyone you like to get pointed in the right direction, but here's a quick guide:

All things wise and wonderful about your child – his or her teachers.

Consult, second opinion or just a cup of coffee and a chat – Sunnie or Jeff or both. Any topic from child growth and development to parenting. We have different experiences and opinions so you can get different information without ever leaving the building.

Office things, maintenance issues, paperwork and miscellary: Terry and Dawn.

Billing: Dawn.

Enrollment and changes of schedule: Jeff.

Greetings From Sunnie:

Principle #5 from Bonnie Harris' *Confident Parents, Remarkable Kids*: Connection strengthens relationship.

"Connection does not mean hugs and kisses and happiness abound. Connection can occur through conflict. It is a way of communicating that encourages listening and talking and feeling important to someone – interaction."

This is a very important time of year at DCCCC. Many children and their families are joining a new classroom, getting to know new staff members, children and other family members. It is a time when connections and trust are being formed. Each year, just before we transition from one class to another, teachers from the "old classroom" meet with teachers from the "new" classroom. Information is shared about children that will make the connection process easier for children. Things such as, she feels safer to fall asleep if an adult just sits beside her or his day starts off best if he can hold his bunny for a few minutes, give insight into making the transition positive for children. This insight is important but it is not a substitute for the connections that must be formed. Children need to learn that they can trust the adults in their new classrooms, not just because Papa, Mom or Big Jeff said that they should, but because the new adults prove themselves trustworthy.

You will often here teachers refer to the first week or two after the transition as the honeymoon period. During this time everyone, children and adults alike, are on their best behavior. Trust has not been established so children do not tend to push the boundaries set forth by adults right away. Adults know that they have to make connections with new children and with older children in new roles, so they are taking time to gauge what expectations and demands should be.

We are now in the post-honeymoon period. The children are realizing that they are in a safe environment and that their new teachers are "nice" and "fun" and "silly." They feel safe enough to take the next step in establishing trust and connections. "What happens if I push the boundaries just a bit?" While walking down the greenhouse the other morning, I witnessed a teacher and a child involved in this type of connecting. The child was very quietly ignoring the teacher. The teacher was patiently waiting for the child to acknowledge that he had heard her when she asked him to go outside. The teacher said, "I told you that I would help you to do it if you cannot do it on your own. You can always trust me to do what I say."

Infants and their teachers will spend time learning about each other. What will she do if I cry for five minutes while she holds me? How does he like to be held? What happens if I kick when I'm getting my diaper changed? What is she interested in looking at and listening to?

Toddlers will discover what happens if they make a lot of noise or run around the room or sit quietly all by themselves or bring a book to a teacher. Toddler teachers will learn who likes to climb and read and who does not like to touch gooey things or have their hair touched.

Preschoolers will form alliances with other children and observe what happens when other children push the limits and what will happen if I do exactly the same thing. Whispers and giggles can be followed by "running away from the teacher" on the playground when it is time to go in. Preschool teachers are showing children that they will be held to appropriate expectations and that there will always be someone there to help them learn what the expectations are and different ways that they can meet them.

Kindergartners explore their role as the "big kids" here at DCCCC just minutes after being the "little kids" at the Ray School. Figuring out hierarchies and friendships and relationships in two different settings takes a great deal of energy, experimentation and analysis. Grizzly teachers are observing for interests and friendships and strategies for making meaning out of life and then trying to use that information gained to help children navigate the path through this exciting yet anxious time of life.

The connection process will continue. Boundaries will be pushed and examined and questioned and changed. Relationships will strengthen and grow. Throughout it all, the children will be learning skills that they will need for a lifetime and the teachers will be there to guide them.

Sunnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

- -November 28, 2013 Thanksgiving Day
- -November 29, 2013 Day after Thanksgiving
- -December 23, 2013 January 1, 2014 Winter Break
- -March 17, 2014 Staff in-service
- -May 26, 2014 Memorial Day
- -July 4, 2014 Independence Day

Snow Days (It's never too early, right?)

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.

Working Mom's Group:

Ready or not - fall is here! Below are the dates for the fall lunches for the Working Mom's group so mark your calendars now and try to join us:

Thursday, September 19 Friday, October 18 Wednesday, November 20 Tuesday, December 17

All lunches will take place at 12:00 at Ramunto's in Hanover

Those of you that have never come or not come in a while, please join us as you might just make a new friend, learn something, or at least get out of the office!

For those new, here is a synopsis of what the Working Mom's group is about:

We are a 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, allowances, child care options, bedtime routines, food, summer camps, 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 6-12 women at each lunch. It would be great to have more so tell your friends or bring a friend and mark your calendars for upcoming lunches!

Megan

Resources for Families

October 12-13, 2013

Warner Fall Foliage Festival!

Since 1947, the people of Warner have come together at the height of autumn color to host the Warner Fall Foliage Festival and to welcome old and new friends to our community. The Festival is Warner's invitation to share the natural splendor of New Hampshire's vibrant autumn colors while enjoying food, entertainment, carnival rides and fine crafts along the main streets of Warner.

The Festival is organized and by hundreds of local volunteers. During the festival, good folks from walks of life volunteer to cook, sell tickets, wash dishes, carry soda, flip chickens, steam lobsters and become 'refuse collection specialists,' all to money for community projects.

We welcome you to our small central New Hampshire town to experience autumn's splendor and share in our community spirit.

More information http://wfff.org/

3rd Annual Sprouty Saturday, September 21st at the Sharon Elementary School events begin at 9AM.

The Sprouty includes a 5K Run or Walk, a 10K Run and a Kids' Fun Run, along with a fabulous Farmers' Market. Please register on-line at Active.com and put "Sprouty" in the Search Box. Registration for the 5K is \$12, 10K is \$20, youth 12 and under are free. Everyone will receive a lettuce plant from Dandelion Acres, ribbons for the Kids' Fun Run and terrific prizes for the top three female and male winners in each event. Proceeds from the Sprouty are used to purchase locally grown food for the school's meals program.

Whether you walk or run, or just enjoy festive music and good food, we hope to see you on Saturday, September 21st!

Catherine T. Hazlett
Executive Director
Health Connections of the Upper Valley
PO Box 4, North Pomfret VT 05053
(802) 457-4780

10th Annual Vermont Fine Furniture, Woodworking & Forest Festival September 28-29, 2013 Woodstock, VT Sat 9am-6pm

A Forest to Furniture Festival!

Sun 10am -4:30pm

Join us for a celebration of Vermont's forests and it's bounty of wood products. Support our local wood craftpeople;

local wood is local good! Visit our "From Vermont's Working Landscape to your Home" exhibit! More information:

http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org/

1st Annual Great Mac & Cheese Challenge!!

Welcome Mac & Cheese Lovers!!! Come join us at the first ever Mac & Cheese Challenge.

Come sample 20 competing Mac & Cheese dishes of top chefs and restaurants from around the region. Just \$10 (\$15 if purchased at the door) for the event where you can sample every recipe and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award!

Harpoon Draft Beer available for purchase, Live Music, Calf Petting Zoo, T-shirts for sale, Kids under 6 get in free...

Rain or Shine! Don't miss it.

All proceeds will go to benefit Vermont Foodbank, Sustainable Woodstock, and Vermont Dairy Foundation.

More info:

www.vtmacandcheese.com





Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey [®] is proud to present DRAGONS!

For the first time in circus history, myth and majesty will share the arena during this must-see family event that can only be witnessed at *The Greatest Show On Earth*[®]! Experience circus spectacles so incredible that once again you will believe in the unbelievable!

Dragon tribes from the far reaches of the earth are brought together in a single performance, displaying their breathtaking skills in a circus tournament of champions. Each tribe must prove that they have virtues of Courage, Strength, Wisdom and Heart to arouse dragons which appear right before your very eyes! Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime family event when *The Greatest Show On Earth* brings the world together... to bring your family together!

Manchester, New Hampshire

Verizon Wireless Arena

DRAGONS (BLUE TOUR)

Thu October 3 **7:00PM**

Fri October 4 **7:00PM**

Sat October 5 **11:00AM, 3:00PM, 7:00PM**

Sun October 6 12:00PM, 4:00PM

more info:

http://www.ringling.com/ContentPage.aspx?id=45469§ion=45450

News from the Float **Team**

Liz Harrington Melissa Horrigan **Audrey Stout** Eileen Ruml Terri Crane Anna Fuller

How time flies- I can't believe that we're already in the month of September! It's this time of year that we floats are getting to know new children and new routines in each classroom. [We're also smiling about how much everyone has grown in the past year! You may see us as afternoon helpers or as extra helpers, giving time for the teams to have a chance to work on accommodating their new classrooms.

The float team has also experienced some changes. I am very excited to be working with a full float team! Melissa and Audrey, who are new to the DCCCC, are already settling in. You would never know that they've only been with us for a short while- they maneuver from room to room easily and the children are pleased to see them in their classrooms. We are also excited to have Anna as a part of our team and that Terri is back to join us as our AM and PM Floats! It has been very exciting for Eileen and I to start off this year with such a solid crew.

Keep your eyes peeled in the multi- float team bios will be "popping up" soon so you can get to know us more!

On behalf of the float team,

Liz







As promised last month:



Hello my name is Anna Fuller. I have lived in Vermont almost all of my life and I love it here. I have an associate degree in graphic design and love anything art related. After several years off, I have returned to college to get my degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. I love working with children and have really loved working at DCCCC as a substitute. I am excited to begin my new position as an afternoon float assistant teacher! When I am not working I enjoy reading, going for walks with my dog, sewing quilts with my mother, spending time with my family

and friends, and relaxing at home. I really love animals, especially dogs. I adopted my dog Quintin, a shar pei- black lab mix, 7 years ago. He was a bit crazy at first but I always knew he had a great heart. Spending time with him reminds me to not take things too seriously and to enjoy the here and now.

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham, Lead Teacher

> Wendy Irwin, Teacher

April Buchanan, Assistant Teacher Welcome to a new year in Teddy One. Our one new child is James. He has joined us with his parents, Lindsay and James, and big sister Katharine. Katharine is a former member of our Teddy One Room and is enjoying coming to visit.

Our one big change has been our morning routine. With most children taking morning naps we have moved activity and outside time to after lunch. Some mornings we have only one or two children awake! That will change as the year goes on and children transition to one nap. For the children that are awake in the morning we have extra one

on one time. We play outside or go to the multi-purpose room with the Teddy Too children.

You may wonder what we do all day besides feedings and diapers. We are always talking about home, family and pets. Most children love looking at their home photos. For some it makes them sad and we understand that and wait to put up their pictures until they feel more comfortable being with us. We sing songs and do finger plays. We read books and build with blocks. We have tea parties and ball games. We encourage new development and applaud accomplishments. We demonstrate sharing and gentle touches. We cuddle and hug. We laugh often! We have fun!

Our new kids list has arrived from the office. Please check the list to make sure we have the correct phone numbers for you. The list is located beside our sign in sheet.

Our reminders: Please wash hands when you arrive each day, put nut free notes in lunch boxes and please send family photos if you have not done so yet.

We are looking forward to having a busy, wonderful year. Fondly,

Debbie, Wendy and April









News from Teddy Too

Radoyka Garcia, Lead Teacher

> Lori Higgins, Teacher

Denise Ayres, Assistant Teacher



¡Hola! Hello from the Teddy Too Room!

Happy New School Year 2013-2014! We have had a great start with our babies: Danny Christesen and Austin Tine who have begun during the summer and we have officially met Anna Sofia Johnson, Zahra Mehra, Camilo Herr Padilla and Micah Roskies; our newest members of the Teddy Too crew! Welcome Back to a second year Teddy: Henry Herrmann, who was travelling all summer long! The rest of our second year Teddies are: Auggie Reder, Sophia Horowitz, Arabella Garrison and Brody Genest—we are so happy to have you again! (on a side note: Sophia H. will be travelling soon and returning during January 2014—*special Teddy hugs to her and her family: we will miss you lots!*)

Getting to know the children and their families is one of the things I enjoy most about being here. Also, I have wonderful team: Lori and Denise who have been so supportive and caring about the work we do here with our babies. We continue to keep track of their rhythms and routines as we help them accomplish their goals like: relationship building, gross motor/fine motor skills, sound recognition, playing games, signing to favorite words, understanding emotions of self and others, and overall, discovering 'life' as a Teddy in our center...but the list goes on. We are going to enjoy sharing the many school experiences with you as well as listening to you about their home adventures. Every moment is so amazing!!

We look forward to this new journey with this beautiful group of Infants and Toddlers!

Ray on behalf of the Teddy Too's

News from the Panda Bears

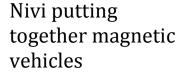
Jennifer Sprague, Lead Teacher

> Jenn Boudro, Teacher

Teresa Hahn, Assistant Teacher Welcome New Panda Families! What a great first few weeks we have had together. Thank you to parents for signing your child in and out, for helping your child wash their hands in the morning, bringing nap items, and for packing yummy healthy lunches. Great Job! So you might be wondering what these 10 busy Pandas have been doing these past few weeks. Here is a look at all the fun we have been having together!



Miles lacing some shapes on a string







Scarlett putting together an apple sequencing puzzle

Charlie using red glue to glue apples on her tree





Eleanor using green paint and apples to make apple prints



Caterina putting birthday candles in a birthday cake

Jillian going on an apple hunt in the little multi





Charlotte putting an apple up on top of her head after reading the story "Ten Apples Up On Top"

> Kallen pretending to be a fire fighter inside the fire truck





Annie playing the piano in the big multi

News from the Koalas

Susan Quimby Young, Lead Teacher

> Joel King, Teacher

Valerie Stefani, Assistant Teacher







Wooo Hoooooo!! Welcome to the Koala room! We are so excited to have your children with us for the next year. We'll be a-singing and a-dancing all year long! We have some tricks up our sleeves to keep these kids happy and excited about being Koalas.

Now the majority of you came from my beloved Panda room so you are familiar with each other but I'd like to welcome a couple new-comers.

Rui Rui ~ parents Wei Wang and Aiden (Liangfeng Fu) Sophie ~ parents Songbai Ji and Xue Xu

It can be a little tricky joining a well-established group and we are hoping to help with that transition.

We've had a great time chowing the beans and lettuce in the raised beds on the Grizzly playground. There are also lots of tomatoes in the garden outside our window. The pole beans made a great tunnel for a while which was enjoyed by many kids from different classrooms. There is also a huge tunnel on the front playground that the Polars planted and the beans are huge and fun to open and see the beans inside. I'm hoping to save some, dry them and try planting them next spring. Hmmmm we'll see! There are also about 20 eggplants growing. I'm sure Valerie will make some eggplant lasagna for snack at some point. It's been fun watching them progress from flowers to teeny eggplants all the way up to big ones. And I was surprised when I looked at our beet crop. Those babies were so big and planted so close together that they are popping right up out of the dirt. We talked about how beets were "roots" which grow underground (unless I didn't thin them enough so they had nowhere else to go but up and out of the dirt!). We looked, felt and smelled the beets and the greens that were above ground. I cut a couple into pieces and we made prints with them. Then I boiled them up and will use the juice to dye paper towels and hopefully some fabric. The color is beautiful. And yes we'll be able to taste some beets soon as well. I may even make something my mother used to make..."red flannel hash" which uses beets and potatoes and some other ingredients. I have an OLD grinder that will be fun to turn and grind up potatoes and beets. Wow but that's bringing me back to my childhood!

We're delighted that so many of you are able to drive to Poverty Lane for apple picking. It'll be a blast. If by chance your child doesn't attend on Thursdays, feel free to come along with your child. You can either meet us here and follow the caravan or meet us there. We get a "wagon behind a tractor" ride up into the orchard for picking. Our ride is scheduled for 11 so we're planning on leaving here around 10:30 and returning by 12-12:30 at the











latest. There will be cider for sale and you can also purchase apples for your family or pick 'em yourself. If by chance it's bad weather, we're out of luck unless we can re-schedule but they fill up quickly for these school trips.



-please send in puddle boots almost daily as the grass is usually quite wet all morning.

-check to be sure your child has extra pants, shirts, underwear, socks etc. as we're getting wet and wild often. -as the weather goes from warm to cool to hot to freezing, be sure your child has clothes for those chilly days that are rapidly approaching.

We have a few bird feeders out now and have seen chickadees, gold finches, blue jays, morning doves just to name a few. Joel said there was a cardinal out there the other day. I love seeing the kids looking out the window and start to identify some of the backyard birds of New England. I fully expect woodpeckers as soon as we get some suet out.

Sunnie brought us a whole snake skin to look at. How cool is that?! Thanks Sunnie!

If you need to e-mail us, please add Joel King and Valerie Stefani so they receive basic information as far as early pickups, out for the day, coming in late, etc. This way the information is getting to all 3 teachers. This is especially important in case I am out for the day. Of course if you'd like to speak with me alone, do feel free to email me alone.

OK then... welcome again to the Koala room and get ready for a fun filled year!

Fondly, Susan for the Koala team











News from the Woolly Bears

Jo Brambles, Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand, Teacher

Moya Stevens, Assistant Teacher Greetings from the Woolly Bear Room!

Our whole Woolly team is so excited to have welcomed our new Woollies this month! It has been a wonderfully smooth transition, and we are enjoying getting to know all the new faces. A big Woolly Welcome to Faith, Jason, Simon, Katharine, Nate, Owen O., Yirang, Greta, and Carter!



















Barb, Moya, and I also couldn't be more proud of our returning Woollies, who have stepped up into their new roles as leaders and models. Welcome back to Anya, Klil, Lily, Owen S., Rowan, and Sophie!













As our Woollies settle into their new room and their new roles, we have been enjoying lots of time outdoors, catching every last ray of sunshine summer has to offer us. We have set about learning how to be great Woolly helpers these first few weeks, and how to use our helping hands to make our classroom a better place. The upcoming transition into autumn will bring us easily into our first real curriculum thread of the new year: apples, farms, and the bounty of the autumn season. Keep your eyes peeled for more on this topic, and in the meantime we will continue enjoying summer's final push and getting to know one another as a new community of learners and friends.

All the best, Jo for the WB Team

News from the Polar Bears

Terri Hollis, Lead Teacher

Miranda Arruda, Teacher

Kelly Bosma, Assistant Teacher Greetings to both New and Established Polar Families,

So we are just days into our new year. This time period is known to teachers as the honeymoon period. It has absolutely felt that way. It is known that way because it can be typical for children to be very content and happy with the new situation until the reality sets in that the new and exciting change is one that is and will be. Then perhaps it is a good time to express displeasure with the change that they did not have input. All of that being said this transition time rates right up there as one of the smoother ones I can recall in 18 years. GO POLARS GO!







We have met two new friends Rowan and Donovan





We have already celebrated two birthdays.





We have explored the new set up and freshened up areas of the classroom. Three areas that have definitely stood out are the big body space, the Lego table and our Polar Bakery shop





















On behalf of all Polars Terri Hollis

News from the Grizzlies

Brenda Metzler, Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole, Teacher

Rosalind Myles-Watkins, Child Care Assistant



"It's a very ancient saying, But a true and honest thought, That if you become a teacher, By your pupils you'll be taught.

Getting to know you, Getting to feel free and easy When I am with you, Getting to know what to say. "

- by Richard Rodgers, from The King and I

Getting to Know Each Other

These lines are humming through my head as Grizzlies spend our first few weeks learning to know each other. There are new faces, new names, new spaces and routines, new toys and activities, lots of new teachers, and new expectations. Yesterday I overheard one Grizzly quietly ask another, "What's his name?" so that he could invite his new friend to play.

In addition to offering earlier and longer Rest Time, Kristin and I have been sharing "Grizzly News" at Morning Meeting. Each day Grizzlies get some useful information about our life together - about the role that each of us plays to make it work well. The children bring their voices to the conversation with, "What if..." and "Why?" and "Well, how about..." They are learning that their contributions are meaningful to our life as a classroom community.

All of us are learning each other's *style* and personality. Collectively, we have a *lot* of energy and a ton of creativity. Some of us are quiet, while others are rambunctious and noisy. Some of us like to curl up in a cozy place with a stack of books, and some of us would rather be jousting with our whole bodies. Kristin and I are already thinking about how to reconfigure the classroom to best support Grizzlies' interests. And we're investing time in teaching the children how to use their powerful bodies in safe and friendly ways even while enjoying very active physical play.

Over the next few weeks the Grizzlies will be writing and illustrating their autobiographies. It's a fun way for all of us to reflect on who we are and what we like, and to give some thought to the perennial question, "When I grow up, I want to...". I especially enjoy hearing a Grizzly say, "When I was young..."

Brenda for the Grizzly Team