



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

May 2011

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

DCCCC Staff: Movin' and Groovin'

There have been some changes in where you will find some of our staff at DCCCC!

If you are looking for Joelle in the Grizzly Room, you can find her happily at home taking care of Edison. We will certainly miss her here at DCCCC, but we are happy that she has the opportunity to enjoy Edison!



If you are looking for April in the Grizzly Room, you can find her in the Koala Room. April accepted a permanent position as the Assistant Teacher in the Koala Room! Lucky Koalas!



If you are looking for Kristin in the Woolly Room, you can find her in the Grizzly Room filling the role of Teacher. Kristin will be missed by the Woolly children, families and staff, but they know that she is right down the hall! The Grizzlies are happy to have her!

If you are looking for Moya moving from room to room, you can find her in her new role as Assistant Teacher in the Woolly Room. The Woollies are happy to have Moya join their team!



Who will you find moving from class to class instead of Moya? We are in the process of discovering that! Stay tuned for more news!

There will be many new faces appearing throughout the summer. As our staff take turns having some time off to enjoy the summer, we will be joined by some of our old familiar friends who are returning from school for the summer. Be sure to introduce yourself (if they don't beat you to it)! If you have any questions about who's who in your child's classroom please do not hesitate to ask!

From the Director

May newsletter

Dear Big Jeff,

“Bicker” isn’t a strong enough word for the interaction between my two children. They seem to actively dislike each other and can be downright mean and spiteful. Obviously I don’t want them to grow up this way and in the meantime it’s a real problem. We don’t have much family harmony around here. What can we do?

Signed,
The Bickersons

Dear Bickersons,

You are not alone. Most of us with more than one child have experienced sibling rivalry. When my family was going through that stage (which, um, lasted through junior high to one degree or another) it was hard to imagine that my children would ever like each other or even be civil... Happily as young adults they are actually friends and confidantes exchanging useful information like how to deal with Dad.

Here’s a link of a pretty good article:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/sibriv.htm>. Like everything else in a book or on the internet you must decide which pieces work for your family. Positive reinforcement for example, works wonders in some families, but backfires spectacularly in others. You’ll need more than one technique so you can choose a strategy that fits the situation. I’ll highlight a few from my experience.

- When children argue, don’t buy into it. Stay calm and rational. Don’t take sides.
- Help children use problem solving techniques. Your child’s teacher is an expert at this if you’d like a consult.
- Notice friendly behaviors and comment on them. “You two are really having fun.” “What a peaceful day we’re having.” “We are a Cooperating Family! Somebody should give us an award!”
- Allow children to express their feelings. Jealousy, anger and frustration are real. Acknowledging and naming them helps to manage them. You might say simply, “You are really angry about this.”
- Plan ahead for the tough times when your children have the fewest emotional and rational resources, like the time between day care and dinner. You already know that your children won’t be at their best. This isn’t the best time to tell them to go play and trust to fate that it will all work out. You might instead initiate an activity that is likely to

succeed, coloring at the kitchen table under your watchful eye, for example. It might be a time for playing independently rather than together.

- Make positive family time happen. Find activities that your family likes doing together. It doesn't matter what – reading, going for a walk, playing baseball in the back yard are all fine as long as you are enjoying each other's company.

- Find time, too, for each child as an individual. Everyone needs time to feel appreciated for who they are.

- Absolutely prohibiting hurting each other. It's never okay to hit, bite or kick.

- Allow yourself a time out. Time out doesn't work for kids because they are never contemplating what they did wrong and how they might do it better the next time (you can probably guess what sorts of things they are thinking). Time out does work for adults who need to catch their breath and choose a helpful action. Walk away for a minute, look out the window and breathe deep. You have a choice of how you respond.

Above all, be patient with yourself and with your children. Your own mother will tell you, "They'll grow out of it."

Peacefully,
Big Jeff



DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

-May 30, 2011 – Memorial Day

-July 4, 2011 – Independence Day

-August 29 & 30, 2011 – Preparation for the new school year

-September 5, 2011 – Labor Day

Sunnie Greetings:

I have been having a great time this month playing in many different classrooms. I recently realized that I have a “grandparent” job! I can go into the classrooms, be helpful, play with the children, break a rule or two and then go back to my office! It just doesn’t get any better than that.

I had a great time in the Koala Room one afternoon. I read many books, looked at ants, heard about the lady bugs that were due to arrive and played with lots of vehicles. I love watching these children at this stage when they are becoming so welcoming to “outsiders” and want to tell them everything about their classroom.

I was able to work in the Panda Room one morning. The Pandas were a bit surprised to see me when they walked into the room, but it didn’t take long for them to decide that we could have fun together. I love playing with play dough and was very happy to see that the Pandas love it too! We sang songs and read stories and played, played, played. One of the Pandas even peed on my lap – still part of the fun!

I spent an afternoon in the Teddy Too Room. There is nothing like kissing baby heads to make one feel at peace. Watching the young toddlers as they explored life was amazing. They were eager to engage and very, very busy!

I have not spent as much time in the Teddy One Room yet. I did get to sit down and play with them for a few minutes recently. I went in to give something to Debbie but the children were so welcoming that I just had to sit down and play! Playing the “where is…” game was giggle provoking! Many of the children are talking up a storm and were quite happy to point out all of the pictures in the room and to let me know that they were on their way outside to play!

I spent an afternoon with the Woollies. I introduced them to a magic book that they didn't even know was in their classroom! They thought that it was just a block; were they ever surprised when I told them that they could even see the pictures in their imaginations! They were quite entranced as we "read" the magic book about a train that could take them anywhere. Wonder and imagination are such amazing qualities in preschoolers!

I spent some time on the playground and in the multi with the Polars. They were all so eager to show me what they can do! They were pumping on the swings, climbing high on the chinning bars, playing baseball and running very fast. They were quick to test whether I still remembered the rules of the playground or not. I did remember the rules and told them that safety still comes first! It was great to see how many things their growing bodies can do.

It has been awhile since I spent time with the Grizzlies. I have played with them in the multi – but that was a while ago. I try to stop into the Grizzly Room to chat with them every now and then. How can I help it? Every time that I go to the kitchen, I hear Grizzlies yelling, "Hi Sunnie!" They are so welcoming and enthusiastic! I have supervised them in the multi a couple of times and they show me just how grown up and respectful they can be. One of my former Polars told the other Grizzlies, "You don't know about Sunnie. If she uses a stern voice, you really need to listen to her!" I don't think that I needed to use my stern voice at all while playing with them.

Thank you for having such wonderful children for me to play with!

After playing I can go back to my office, make sure the newsletter gets put together, arrange training for the staff, answer questions and update the website among many other things.

Now, I ask you, can you imagine a better job than mine?

Resources for Families

Table Troubles and Market Mayhem— Tools for Going from “Yuk!” to “Yum!”

Thursday May 19, 2011

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Registration Required

Organization: Women's Health Resource Center

Location: Women's Health Resource Center, on the mall in Lebanon, NH

Do you dream of pleasant mealtimes? Do you wish for creativity when planning snacks? Do you want your children to be proud of local food sources and understand how to make good choices? Do you intend to teach them the value of sustainability in a world filled with slick marketing and shiny wrappers?

We will begin this interactive workshop by gaining a better understanding of the feeding relationship and the division of responsibility between parents and their children. As parents, we will gracefully approach the *what, when* and *where* of feeding as we become comfortable with allowing our children to do the *how much* and *whether* of eating.

With this new approach to feeding our family, we will focus on effective strategies for maneuvering through the boom market in food products marketed towards infants and toddlers; how to evaluate the pros and cons of these products and how they fit into your child's healthful diet.

This class is designed for parents of children up to age five. If your child has not yet started solids, it is never too early to gain anticipatory guidance for the family table.

Families will learn strategies for feeding children healthfully and with awareness of the impact of their food choices on the environment.

"The secret to feeding a healthy family is to love good food, trust yourself, and share that love and trust with your child. When the joy goes out of eating, nutrition suffers." -Ellen Satter

\$10/person or family for the workshop

Emily Neuman, Sustainability Coordinator and Mary Saucier Choate, Registered Dietician, Co-op Food Stores

- All classes take place at the Women's Health Resource Center, **on the mall in Lebanon**, unless otherwise noted.
- Space is limited, so please pre-register by calling **(603) 650-2600**.
- **All classes must be paid for in full one week before they begin, and we are unable to provide refunds for a program after that date.**
- WHRC reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment.
- In case of bad weather, class cancellations will be made on the day of the class: by 2:30 pm for evening classes, and by 8:30 am for daytime classes.

May 14, Cow Pie Bingo Benefit in Hanover: for Hampshire Cooperative Nursery School scholarships, takes place at the school, 104 Lyme Road, Hanover, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with live music, free ice cream, face painting and the like. \$10 per family, with chance to win \$500 grand prize. 603-643-4640

May 14, Stories and Activities in West Hartford: for children of all ages, with caregiver: 1 p.m., West Hartford Library, 5133 Route 14. 802-295-7992 or whartfordlibraryvt@gmail.com

May 14, Contradance with Northern Spy in Norwich, with caller David Millstone: 8 p.m., Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. \$8, by donation for ages over 60, free for ages 15 and under. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome; bring clean, soft-soled shoes. 802-785-4607 or rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu

May 14, Disney's Mulan Jr., presented by Hartford Memorial Middle School: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m., auditorium, Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$7, free for ages 3 and under. Tickets available one hour before show: 802-295-8662, ext. 111 or www.bmmsmusical.com

May 14, "With a Song in Our Hearts": an evening with the Upper Valley Community Band playing tunes from Rossini and Gershwin to the marches of Sousa, begins at 7:30 p.m. at Lebanon Opera House. \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students. Special guests: The Honeymooners, a harmony and a cappella quartet. 802-295-3864 or www.uvcb.org

May 14, Joseph Stein's Fiddler on the Roof, directed by Alan Haebnel with music direction by Jane Woods and choreography by Denise Frawley: 7:30 p.m., Hemberger Memorial Auditorium, Hanover High School, 41 Lebanon St., Hanover. \$9 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Tickets: 603-643-3431, ext. 3538 or bill.hammond@hanovernorwichschools.org

May 20, Dinner, Family Dance and Contradance in Woodstock: Vegetarian dinner at 5:30 p.m.; family dance at 6 p.m.; potluck dessert at 7:30 p.m.; contradance 8 to 10:30 p.m., Little Theater, 54 River St. \$8 for adults, free for ages 17 and under. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. No partner needed; bring clean soft-soled shoe. 802-785-4039 or hoffman.wright@valley.net.

May 21, Major Mess -- Bubble Fun! For all ages, ages 5 and under must be accompanied by a caregiver: 10 a.m. to noon, Purple Crayon Productions/ ArtisTree, Mount Tom Building, 1207 Route 12, Woodstock. Use wands and everyday items to make bubbles. ^ \$10 an hour. To register: 802-457-3500 or ts@purplecrayonproductions.com.

May 21, Gumbo Loco! Let the Good Times Roll! Doors open at 10:30 a.m., program at 11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Hopkins Center, East Wheelock and College streets. Program features local musicians Andy Stewart, Mary Jo Slattery and Ivan Goguen. Free. Part of HopStop Family series. 603-646-2422 or hop.dartmouth.edu.

May 22, WISE Benefit Dinner in Lebanon: 4 to 8 p.m., Margarita's Mexican Restaurant, Centerra Plaza. Percentage of food sales to benefit WISE in conjunction with their 40th anniversary. 603-643-8800 or wiseoftheuppervalley.org

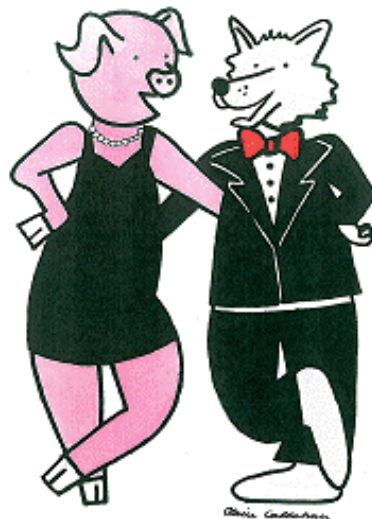
May 25, Pig & Wolf Street Art Welcoming Party at the R.W. Black Community Center, 4 pm to 6:30 pm. (see next page for details about Pig and Wolf).

May 28, Medieval Festival at the Open Fields School on the Thetford Hill Greene. 10am-4pm rain/shine. \$5/person, \$20/family (3 and under free). Join us for food and drink, crafts, fencing, parades, and all manner of performance and fun. 11am: storytelling with Simon Brooks. 1pm: procession and entertainments with the King and Queen. 3pm: get up close with VINS raptors. Help us make this a green event and bring your own napkin and mug or rent a mug for \$1 at the Festival.

May 28 & 29: Cows & Camembert Weekend – Billings Farm and Museum. Celebrate Vermont's dairy heritage with two days of sampling and purchasing delicious Vermont cheeses made by artisans, plus dairy education programs, ice cream and butter making, and judging Jerseys with the farm manager. Take a cow's tour of the farmhouse and test your knowledge of cow trivia. Admission includes our 26th annual spring commemorative button and children's art show.

June 5, 12, 19, & 26: Ice Cream Sundays – Billings Farm and Museum. In celebration of Dairy Month, lend a hand making, then tasting ice cream – a different flavor each week. Learn the history and scientific facts about this dairy treat.

.....
**Hanover's
Gone
Hog Wild
For
Pig & Wolf!**
.....



Details on next page

Who are Pig & Wolf?

The unofficial mascots of the Town for many years have been two whimsical chainsaw art critters known as Pig and Wolf. These endearing characters were created by local chainsaw artist Willy Black and they have resided on the lawn of local citizens Bill and Cristina Hammond at one of the gateways to Hanover.

Over the years Pig and Wolf have welcomed folks to Hanover wearing a variety of costumes. They herald the coming of community events, and travel to local non profits to add some fun and buzz. They are truly Town Treasures!

Project Overview

Raymond Paulin Fiberglass Creations of Berlin, NH will produce 10 pigs and 10 wolves to be painted and decorated by local artists. A committee will review all submissions and determine who will be invited to render these critters into wonderful works of art !

- Publicity announcing the arrival of the sculptures will lead up to their placement around town.
- Events at Hanover Schools will create a spirit of fun and interest in the art event.
- Walking maps will be created for people to go on a hunt to see all the sculptures.
- We hope to have stories about the event in local papers and magazines.
- Artists and *SPONSORS* will be identified on a plaque on their sculpture and included in publicity surrounding the event..
- Sponsored sculptures will be on display at local Hanover establishments from June – September.
- Sculptures will then be sold at auction in early October.

Artist's Bios

[To learn about the artists chosen to bring Pig and Wolf to life click here!](#)

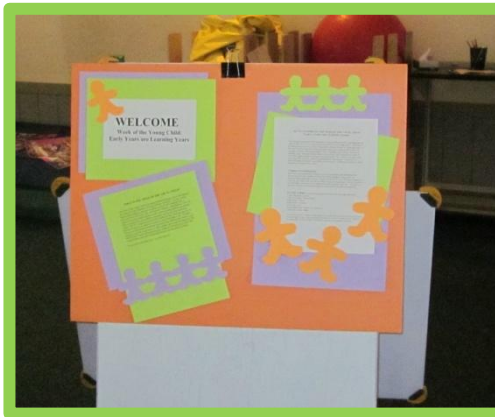
Picture of the Process

[To see pictures of Pig and Wolf click here](#)

Recent Events at DCCCC

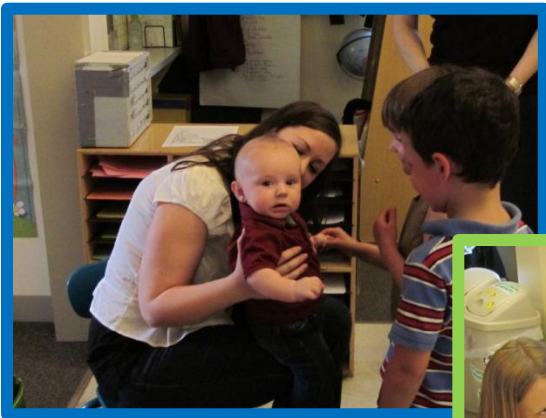
Week of the Young Child Display

Our Week of the Young Child committee (Debbie B, Raquel, and Barb) led the staff in creating posters that chronicle some of the areas of play and learning that happen at DCCCC. Each classroom chose a curricular area and used pictures to document play and learning. Susan even added a whole table of toys and activities. Families gathered to look at the displays and have a tasty snack. More pictures at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dcccc/special_events/woyc.html



Grizzly Party

Grizzly families gathered to say good-bye to Joelle (and to meet Edison). April was also on hand so that families could thank her for the weeks that spent with their wonderful children before she moved into the Koala room. It was also a time to greet Kristin as she joined the Grizzly team! Fun was had by all! More pictures at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dccc/special_events/grizzlyparty.html



Saint George and the Dragon

Children (including Sunnie's daughter, Claire) from the Open Fields School in Thetford, VT, performed a very short rendition of Saint George and the Dragon. The children from DCCCC were very attentive to the performance. The six players all knew every part in the play and were willing to perform a second time through. The audience was delighted that they could choose the players' roles the second time. It was quite exciting that a boy was willing to be a princess and that a girl could be the dragon! The players finished the performance by singing the "French Cathedral Song" and "Hey, Ho." They even taught us, "Hey, Ho" and led us in a round! The OFS Players are touring locally (we were their first stop) to promote their Medieval Festival that will be held in Thetford on May 28. More pictures at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dcccc/special_events/of.html



The 2nd Annual Polar Art Show

The Polars hosted their 2nd annual art show in the multi. They worked all year creating art to be displayed. Classrooms were invited to preview the event during the day. Families gathered for a formal show opening in the late afternoon. The Polars were dressed in their finery and quite happy to guide families members through the displays and to offer them a tasty snack. The works of art included: self-portraits, body tracings, sand painting, recycled art, tactile bottles, water colors, paper-maché, wood working and a slide show of the art process. It was a grandly successful event! More pictures at

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dcccc/special_events/polarartshow11.html



News from the Floating Assistant Teacher Team

Eileen Ruml

Teresa Hahn

Gladness Msumanje

Where Will You Find The Floating Assistant Teachers Today?

Moya: Moya has moved into the Woolly Room and a permanent basis. She was ready, willing and able to move into that classroom when Kristin was promoted to a Teacher position in the Grizzly Room. One of the many benefits of having a team of Floating Assistant Teachers is that they are familiar with the programs in all classrooms and can easily become part of a team when needed. While we will miss having Moya move throughout the building, we know that she will be a great addition to the Woolly Room!

Eileen: Eileen is currently spending some time outside in the afternoons. The children know her as the person who will help them to harvest and feed worms. They also know that Eileen is ready to read stories and lead them through peaceful exercises. Eileen is limiting her germ exposure these days as is appropriate for someone experiencing chemo-therapy. That means that she will be working primarily outside or doing some “non-kid” things that need to be done throughout the center.

Teresa: Teresa spends her Fridays in the Teddy Too Room. She is a very familiar face to them so is often the member of the team that we call upon most often to cover the needs of both Teddy Rooms. She is not limited however! Teresa can be seen in any classroom at any time Monday – Thursday! The kids know that they can rely on her to have fun but to expect them to follow the rules.

Gladness: Gladness moves around everywhere throughout the building. She is always willing to step up and close or open a classroom if needed. Gladness can often be seen leading children in art exploration projects. Listening to Gladness play with children of different ages in the multi is a real treat! She has as much fun as they do! But just because she is having fun, it doesn't mean that she doesn't have appropriate expectations of the children. The kids enjoy playing with Gladness but know that they can respect her!

In the Process: We are in the process of hiring another Floating Assistant Teacher. We have met a number of wonderful people and should be ready to select someone soon!

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

Keri Wolfe,
Assistant Teacher

The signs of spring are here! A gold finch came by our outside area recently and we all rushed to the window to see it. I saw a child from the Panda Room picking dandelions outside and the mud has finally dried up. YEAH!

The Teddies are fully enjoying our large playground. They are so busy and they explore the whole yard. They climb in the cars, go down the slides, push a lawnmower and then climb into the sandbox. When it's time to go back inside some fall to the ground crying, "NO!".



Speaking of "No's", we are a true toddler room now, complete with temper tantrums and disagreements. Toddlers are learning to think for themselves and express their own opinions and ideas. Wendy, Keri and I support them through this time by allowing them choices, but also keeping them safe: "Yes, you can pick what you want first for lunch" and "No, you cannot climb onto the table."

We give them the words they need: "You are sad that Mommy went to work." We ask rather than tell: "When you are done with the book would you give it to your friend?"

What can you do as a parent? Please remember that every child goes through this stage and it is normal behavior. You can talk to your child in the morning about going to school, sharing with friends, and being gentle with their classmates. You can set limits at home and be consistent: "The computer is for Mommy and Daddy to use."



Remember that your child is learning to think for themselves and they are learning to express their own ideas. This will serve them well in the future. For now we can teach them to be safe and to consider the needs of others. This is a long, ongoing process.

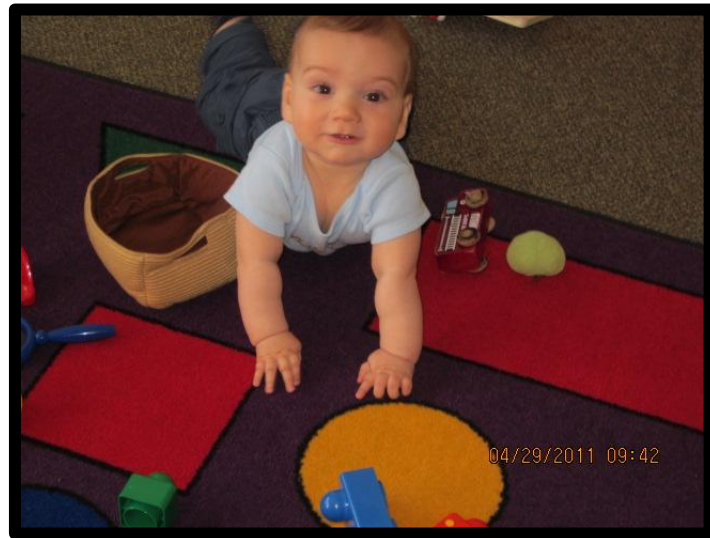
Lastly, you can hope for a good night's sleep for your child and for you!

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Leilani and her family. They will be moving at the end of the month. We will miss them all, especially watching Leilani be a "mother" to all her friends.

We wish you all a wonderful spring.

Fondly,

Debbie B., Wendy and Keri



News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,
Lead Teacher

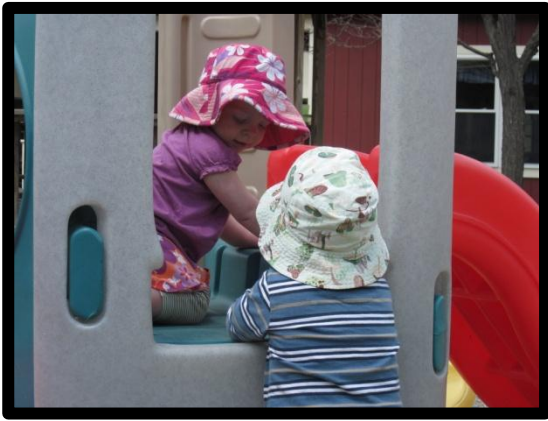
Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher

This month we've had many opportunities to use magnets and magnetic toys. Magnets are a great way to introduce science to very young children. It is also a fun way to stimulate their curiosity and build their fine motor skills. Magnets are like a science magic trick. Kids are

stuck by the magical way two toys stick together and stay that way. We borrowed a train set from the Panda room and used them with the road tracks. Some had fun discovering how many trains they could put together and pull around. Some only wanted the Thomas trains, and some others were only into hoarding and seeing how many they could carry around in their arms. We also had the magnetic sticks out with the cookie sheets to build with. Some made towers or bridges and some just experimented with making them stick to the cookie sheet. We played with magnetic letters and some had fun seeing the letters that spelled out their names. By far though the magna tiles are the most played with magnetic toy. They are flat tiles made into shapes and have magnets on all sides. We all enjoy making towers and building big stacks of tiles. While magnets are fun to play with we make sure they are big and toddler friendly and have no pieces small enough to be swallowed.





We are really enjoying being outside now that the weather has warmed and our playground is fully accessible again. We are discovering all the new gross motor skills all the toddlers have developed over the winter. Some are really getting the hang of climbing up the steep steps to the slides and figuring out how to get their legs out in front of them to slide down. While some leave my heart

pounding as they try to maneuver up and down the steps and slide without falling forward or backward before getting to slide down. We have some very sturdy and steady climbers who are ready for the big climber at the top of the hill.



We have also been taking garden walks to see what is growing in our gardens. As we walk we talk about being gentle to our flowers and to watch where we step. We may need a lot of reminders about those rules...



The babies in our group are getting bigger and have started to see the Teddy room as a different place. Now that they are getting stronger and holding themselves up a bit more they are able to sit in the exersaucer or on the futon. From there they are able to watch the toddlers whiz by or have one stop and give them toys to explore and a few pats on the head. They are watching and taking in all that is going on around them. Before long they will be rolling and moving around the Teddy room as well.



Enjoy the spring weather,

Terri, Lori and Denise



News from the Panda Bears

Susan Young,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Angie Terino,
Assistant Teacher

Spring has sprung! Things are turning green all around us. One father shared with me that the first thing his child noticed one morning recently was that "the leaves are out!" Why yes they are! My brother commented to me once that leaves in the spring are different.... they are a different green.. a new lighter green. Ever since then I've spent more time noticing such things.

Anyway.. along with spring comes gardening! The Panda garden is looking great. We've tasted chives and some mint. For a while before things started coming up, i let kids just kind of cruise on through but as new sprouts started popping up decided it was time to protect them until they are bigger and stronger. A lot of Pandas and some older kids helped bring the fencing from the shed. We loaded up the wagon and hauled them over to the garden. We made the pathways through the garden and of course even when it was requested that they NOT climb over the fence, some just had to. And that was ok.

I'll let you know some of the activities we've done with gardening and seeds. We've used seed packages for shakers during music times. We've looked at different types of seeds. When you ask a child what color seed they think is inside the yellow wax bean package, of course they say yellow! They were surprised when they saw they were black. This is two year old science as they made these predictions as well as cognitive development as different colors were labeled and discussed. We've used fine motor skills as we pick them up and look at them. We'll be using gross motor as we begin to work the soil for beans and sunflower plants. We've also used gross motor skills as we loaded up the big wheelbarrow that was left from last year and brought it out in the field to where we dump that stuff. We've used our senses too. We tasted, smelled, looked at, touched and listened to the sounds outside. The birds are awesome to listen to! (I'll let you in on the bird circle we did today another time!!)

One of my all-time favorite books about gardening is called "ONE BEAN" by Anne Rockwell. It is just perfect for this age group. It goes through the life cycle of a bean. It starts like this... "I had one bean. It was dry and smooth and hard". Those words give us a lot to work with! We'll hold a bean and feel it just like in the book. We'll talk about how it feels. We'll compare them to other things that feel similar and different. Next we'll see that when they are soaked, they become wrinkly. That's a new word for these kids that is supporting language development. This book will be used all spring and into the summer as we sprout, plant and harvest beans. We'll be planting tons of pole beans for the bean house. There will be a large variety of beans (green, yellow, purple, bush style and pole bean style)

growing up the fence separating the two playgrounds. We'll grow sunflowers for our bird friends as well. I found some pole peas as well and they will be planted this week for an early harvest. I can't wait!!

Here are a couple of gardening songs from a book we have... Maybe we'll use our seed shakers when we sing some!

FLOWER GARDEN.. (to the tune of twinkle twinkle little star)

Planting seeds in the ground,
Healthy soil all around.
Give them sunshine,
Give them rain,
Give them food most every day,
Planting seeds into the ground,
Flowers blooming all around!

RAIN AND SUN ...(to the tune of are you sleeping)

Rain and sunshine,
Rain and sunshine,
Make plants grow,
Make plants grow,
Healthy leaves and roots,
Flowers, seeds and fruits,
Rain and sun
Rain and sun.

Stay tuned for lots more gardening stuff coming up!!
Happy happy spring!
Susan

News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,
Teacher

April Buchanan
Assistant Teacher

The Koalas have been having fun getting into different characters with the dress ups.



News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Moya Stevens,
Assistant Teacher

Dear Woolly Families,

It's great to be back to work and writing the May newsletter. The grass is green. The trees are budding. The sand and field areas are dry. The swings have been hung and the bikes are out of storage. It is great to celebrate spring at DCCCC!

The Woollies have been very busy enjoying all the newness that this season has to bring. They are relieved to be able to just put on their shoes and sunblock and run out the door to go play. With the swings return to the playground some children are finding great pride at getting themselves started without a teacher's starter push. While other friends are finding that they are big enough and strong enough to pump and make themselves go really, really high.

The field area has been full with children playing baseball, freeze tag or soccer. Woollies are doing a great job at inviting and including others into the games they are playing on the field or in the sand box. Often you can hear someone say, "Yeah sure, What would you like to do?" The other exciting growth the Woollies have made is working well with others during a conflict during a game. We are hearing them make peaceful solutions to a problem



or stop and come get support from a teacher. We are so proud on our problem solving WB's.

There have been some Kristin sightings! Sometimes we have seen her in the greenhouse as she is passing by our cubbies and other times we have seen her when she is outside with the Grizzlies. It is always fun to get a wave or a hug from our friend Kristin.

Grizzlies have been taking turns coming to our room in the afternoons to read us a book or two. It is great to have our "old Woolly" friends be so grown up and read out loud to us. Thanks for reading to us GRIZZLIES!!!

Deb, Barb and Moya



News from the Polar Bears

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Teacher

Raquel Fluette,
Assistant Teacher

Hola!--From the Polar Bear Room,

Spring is finally among us! The sun shines and the grass looks green, unexpected flowers are growing around the center. In the playground, children are rolling around and laughing as they enjoy the spectacular weather. With all this sun also comes the rain and we're out there again, splish-splashing right in it!

Our 2nd Annual Polar Bear Art Show was a success! It was great seeing all the Polar families during this special event and also all the beautiful

outfits that the Polars brought. (So adorable!) Mitchell Family and Otto Family: "We missed you!" The children were so proud of their accomplishments and gladly showed their parents around. This year we set up a bit earlier so that other classrooms could experience our Art Show. We had great feedback from those who could make it and were so excited that they enjoyed it. This event brought such joy and we appreciate everyone who participated in bringing it all together from beginning to end!

May 6, 2011 was the National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day and on behalf of the Polar Team—many thanks to your testimonies. It was so wonderful to hear your kind words, your sweet gestures, treats and flowers, wow! But also many thanks to you all for everything you do to keep these children smiling—sometimes the simplest things require more effort.



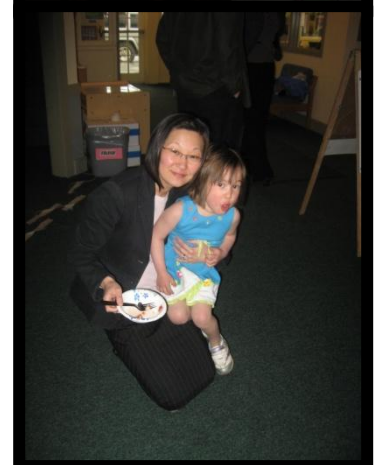
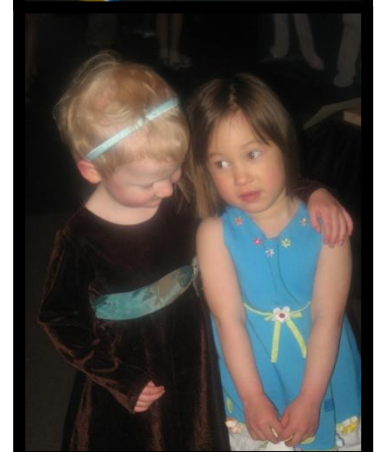


For some time, we have said our goodbyes to Odin Mitchell who has moved to California with his family and are welcoming former Polar Bear: Russell Gover! Russell is now five years old and has joined some of his old Polar buddies and has made new friends. He'll be with us through the summer and then going to Kindergarten in Lebanon.

"Bienvenidos, Russell and Family!!!"

Looking forward to more Spring excitement...working on our gardens, planting again, learning about bugs, composting worms, and lots more!

Ray and the Polars



News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,
Teacher

Last month I wrote about the realization the Grizzlies have noticed, as they discover how much they have grown and the many capabilities and interests they all possess and share amongst the group. With having less than 6 more weeks left of Kindergarten, we are at a time to be recognizing and celebrating these accomplishments as well as beginning to look ahead at expectations for First Grade. We are asking the children to determine what was required to achieve their successes in order to help them continue to conquer new challenges and desires. Through conversations and stories, key themes that keep reoccurring include: patience, practice, “I can” and “I’ll try” positive attitudes, supporting one another, taking risks and having confidence in oneself and each other. All the Grizzlies have had the freedom to grow and construct their own knowledge through first hand interactions with an interesting, challenging and changing environment. They’ve been taught and supported by adults who have faith in their abilities to control and regulate some of their own learning. This Kindergarten year is a big step on what we hope is a journey of lifelong learning.

When asked to reflect on the year, the Grizzlies quickly and confidently gave the following responses to this question: **Now that you have turned 6 (or will be turning 6 soon), what is something that you can do now that you couldn’t do well when you were only 4 or maybe even 5 years old?**

Carter: I can read many new words now and I can respect toys better.

Gianluca: I practiced skiing, swimming, and baseball a lot this year and am really good at all of them.

Ella: I am better at cleaning up my things when I am done using them.

Ben: I can draw more things now and do it more carefully and use more detail. I am a good baseball player and am better at teaching and helping others to also get better.

Nell: At the beginning of the year I wasn’t very good at reading and now I am. Since I take ballet lessons and practice I can now do a plié and releve since my balance has gotten better.

Casey: I can now tie my shoes!

Emilia: I took ski lessons this winter and got really good.

Kate: I am better at skiing and reading.

Audrey: I am drawing more carefully and staying in the lines and making clothes for my paper dolls. I can do better splits in gymnastics too.

Amina: I can jump rope.

Vidushi: I have become a good reader.

Adam: I can now tie bows and write my letters better and smaller.

Ian: I am now good at playing hockey and running faster.

Liam: I used to just draw stick figures but can now draw people with full bodies. I am also a great reader.

Moritz: I can hit the baseball better.

Janina: I am now riding a 2-wheeled bicycle and going faster.

Cameron: Baseball of course...hitting, catching, and getting more people out!

Natalia: I can ride a 2-wheeler.

Ashley: I used to not be able to tie my shoes and jump rope but can now do both!

The warmer weather and sunshine adds to some great energy and good feeling in the group. Kindergartners are excited about hatching baby chicks in their school classrooms. Some of their own baby teeth are getting wiggly or even falling out. New shoes and new bigger clothes for keeping cool are being fashioned. It's baseball season. It's biking season. It's gardening season. Many children have enjoyed learning to jump rope and other new exciting outdoor activities lately include making pinwheels, cluck cluck cups, and wand streamers. Performing amazing tricks on the chin up bars and cooperative high pumping on the tire swings never seem to grow old. And it seems like each day another child discovers how letters have become words, and words are stringing together into...reading! On a voluntary basis, Grizzlies have been invited to go with a partner on certain days to the Woollies during our rest time to read to the preschoolers. It's fun and exciting to be a Grizzly these days!

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Sophia Shi and her family this week as they will be moving back to China. They will be missed.

We will be sending out our Grizzly Summer Packet in early June!

Happy 6th Birthday to Casey Havrda on May 31st!

Happy May,
Karen