



# News From the DCCCC Office

December, 2014

Jeff Robbins, Director  
Sunnie McPhetres, Assistant Director

Terry Chase, Administrative Assistant  
Dawn Cote, Administrative Assistant

## Staff

### Chickadee One

Ray Garcia  
Kristin Cole  
Denise Ayers

### Chickadee Too

Teresa Hahn  
Lori Higgins

### Owls

Debbie Burnham  
Wendy Irwin  
April Buchanan

### Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague  
Jenn Boudro  
Anna Fuller

### Otters

Susan Quimby Young  
Joel King  
Valerie Stefani

### Badgers

Terri Hollis  
Miranda Arruda  
Melissa Horrigan

### Black Bears

Amy McLellan  
Barb Merchand  
Kelly Bosma

### Floating Assistant

### Teachers

Liz Harrington  
Moya Stevens  
Terri Crane  
Eileen Ruml



## **A few Hedgehogs and Black Bears helped Sunnie decorate a house for the Family Place Gingerbread Festival**





# From The Director

Dear DCCCC families and friends,

I didn't have Dear Big Jeff letters to answer this month, so I'm taking the opportunity to ramble. If you have questions about child development or early care and education for January, send them on in.

The new driveway lights are up, functional and on an automatic timer. The long awaited project to install new lights along the driveway stalled earlier this fall when the lampposts were back ordered. They arrived just in time for the recent snows and the electrical crew being deployed elsewhere. Of lesser import to diurnal individuals, lighting is also being installed for the custodians in the recycling shed. In the much more fun department, we gave our playground lights a trial run this week. With a little maintenance, they will provide an opportunity for night sledding. Now all we need is a ski lift.

Nope, there is no plan to pave the driveway. It's prodigiously expensive. Think of it as one big, very effective speed bump.

Summer and Fall aren't that far away administratively. I'll move it closer to my forebrain in January. In February or so, I'll ask you what your summer and fall child care needs are and begin to imagine how classes will shape up for the fall. I always plan for congenial cohorts of children to stay together. As they always do, the age ranges of classes will overlap depending on how many children remain, what their schedule needs are and who is on the waiting list. I encourage myself not to assume that I know how things will piece together and which children will be in which classes. That's probably a good hint to everyone else not to make assumptions either. Speaking of the waiting list, we certainly took a bite out of it this year with all of the spaces opened up by discontinuing our after-Kindergarten program when the Ray School began their full day Kindergarten program. Now that's good news.

I had the opportunity at a gathering on campus recently to reminisce about 30 years of DCCCC graduates. Families (and one alumna!) were present from almost all the way back to 1984 when I arrived here to a stack of job applicants, a pile of enrollment forms and a stack of equipment catalogs. By September 1984, DCCCC was up and running with about 15 children. Our current capacity at DCCCC is 86 with 19 more spaces at the DHMC Child Care Center. If any DCCCC alums are

reading this, the oldest of you are now 35 and I am hoping for the career achievement of having one of your children in our care. Pass it on.

Here's another fun fact. In one recent year we had 19 DCCCC alums on our part-time payroll. What a treasure that they are able to work part-time after school or to come in during their school breaks. Not only do our relationships with children and families span time and space, parents often tell us how their children have maintained friendships with their DCCCC buddies. I had my own glimpse of this when my kids came home from a martini bar where they stumbled across old DCCCC classmates and swapped stories that I thought only I knew.

Best wishes for a family filled holiday season. I always look forward to the children returning after winter break to see how much they've grown. It's like they come back all grown up and ready to play and learn as a cohesive group all the way until mud season in March when another developmental shift seems to occur. This is often concurrent with the demise of sledding as a primary sport and the long haul to spring. Happily, mud is pretty fun, too!

Happy Holidays,  
Big Jeff





## Greetings from Sunnie:

Can you believe that 2014 is coming to a close? It seems like just a few weeks ago that we were preparing for BIG changes at DCCCC. Walking through the classrooms now, it is hard for me to remember doing things any other way! I love watching the Owls gluing and dressing up to go outside, the Chickadees having lots of space to learn to crawl and move safely, the Black Bears acting and feeling like the big kids on campus, the Hedgehogs showing how independent they can be while moving throughout the building with their teachers, the Badgers showing us that they can do bigger and better things even if they are in the same physical space that they were in last year, and the Otters climbing higher, walking further, and discovering so much about the natural world around them!

As we move into the new year of 2015, there will continue to be changes as we work our way through this first year of transition. The new year will bring new babies to the Chickadee rooms. We will have two full classes of infants. Along with new faces, we will have some staffing changes as well:

Ray (Chickadee One Lead Teacher) has decided to explore a career outside of child care. She received an offer that she couldn't refuse and her last day at DCCCC will be January 16, 2015.

Kristin (Chickadee One Teacher) has decided that working fulltime is not what will best for her family. She will become a part-time floating assistant teacher starting in January. Kristin will remain in the Chickadee rooms three days a week until we have filled all of the Chickadee positions.

Teresa has moved from the Chickadee Too Assistant Teacher to the Chickadee Too Lead Teacher. We are happy to have her guide the new classroom.

Michele Estes will join the DCCCC staff as the Chickadee One Lead Teacher. We met Michele Estes while interviewing candidates for the Chickadee Too Lead Teacher Position. Michele worked in the infant room here at DCCCC when we first opened this building! She has a degree in education from Wheelock College and a variety of work experiences with young children. She has worked with many ages but said that she just loves infants and wants to return to working with

them fulltime. We are thrilled that Michele will be rejoining our DCCCC staff on January 5.

Denise and Lori will remain steady in their positions, Chickadee One Assistant Teacher and Chickadee Too Teacher, respectively.

We are in the process of recruiting and interviewing candidates for the Chickadee One Teacher and the Chickadee Too Assistant Teacher! While we find just the right candidates, the Chickadees will be joined by members of our very able team of Floating Assistant Teachers. Things are rolling right along!

In a nutshell in January the Chickadee Teams will be:

Chickadee One

Chickadee Too

Michele Estes – Lead Teacher

Teresa Hahn – Lead Teacher

Interviewing for – Teacher

Lori Higgins – Teacher

Denise Ayers – Assistant Teacher

Interviewing for – Assistant Teacher

Floating Assistant Teachers and Substitutes who may be in the room:

Kristin Cole

Liz Harrington

Jordan Caudle

Moya Stevens

Terri Crane

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

**-December 24-January 2 – Winter Break**

**First Day Back will be January 5.**

**-Monday March 16 – Inservice**

**-Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day**

**-Friday, July 3 – Independence Day**

## **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](http://www.WMUR.com)

- WCAX TV Channel 3 and [www.WCAX.com](http://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.