



# News From the DCCCC Office

March 2016

Jeff Robbins, Director  
Sunnie McPhetres, Assistant Director

Dawn Cote, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Small, Administrative Assistant  
Janene Robie, Administrative Assistant

## **Staff**

### Chickadee One

Michele Estes  
Denise Ayers  
Judy Labrie

### Chickadee Too

Teresa Hahn  
Lori Higgins  
Moya Stevens

### Owls

Debbie Burnham  
Wendy Irwin  
April Buchanan

### Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague  
Jenn Boudro  
Anna Fuller

### Otters

Susan Quimby Young  
Joel King  
Jen Murphy

### Badgers

Terri Hollis  
Miranda Arruda  
Valerie Stefani

### Black Bears

Amy McLellan  
Barb Merchand  
Kelly Bosma

### Floating Assistant

### Teachers

Liz Harrington  
Katie Robinson  
Eileen Ruml  
Kristin Cole  
Brian Goodness  
Terri Crane

## **WINTER FEST FUN**

February 24 was an exciting day at DCCCC! The weather outside was not exactly delightful (lots of winter rain) but inside the kids and teachers were having a great time at the All-Center Winter Fest. The children were divided into color coded teams that consisted of some children from each of the four older classrooms and two teachers. Children from Owls and Chickadees traveled with their own teachers and chose the events that were most appropriate for them.

We started as a huge group in the Little Multi where Jenn (the organizer of the event) told us what would be happening and divided us into teams. The teams traveled throughout the building and participated in five different events: Snowflake Freeze Dancing with Jennifer in the Little Multi, Snow Ball Transporting with Barb in the Black Bear Room, Ice Excavating with Miranda in the Badger Room, Snowball Throwing with Joel in the Otter Room (which included throwing "snowballs" at teachers), and an Amazing Obstacle Course with Liz in the Big Multi.

We try to have events of this type several times each year. The children are excited to do something different. They are learning about their larger DCCCC community, older kids helping younger kids, being with teachers and children who are different than their normal choices, and being able to change up their routines now and then!

I (Sunnie) had the privilege of traveling with the *brown group* this year. Later, while having lunch in a classroom, I asked the children



what their favorite activity was. I expected it to be the obstacle course, but I was wrong! They most enjoyed throwing stuffed snowballs at the teachers. Here are a few pics from the day for you.





## From Sunnie

### There are so many staff members at DCCCC; who are they all?

You see many faces at DCCCC, especially in the afternoon. We have several categories of staff members here.

- **Regular Staff Members**
  - All regular staff members have completed higher education course work in Early Childhood Education (ECE). They joined our staff after a rigorous interview, reference and background check. They are qualified and very capable of working alone with groups of children. They are able to open and/or close classrooms without direct supervision.
  - Our regular staff is comprised of two groups:
    - First are the **assigned classroom staff members**: each classroom has three regular staff members, and I bet that you know who they are for your child's classroom(s).
    - The second category is **Floating Assistant Teachers**. We have a team of six (two full-time and four part-time) Floating Assistant Teachers who are regular DCCCC employees and have the same credentials as our regular staff members. They are able to step into any classroom and function fully as a member of the team when needed. Profiles of all Floating Assistant Teachers will be available in the multi soon but for now here are some pictures and their schedules.



**Liz Harrington**

**Full Time**



**Katie Robinson**





**Eileen Ruml**

**Mon, Wed, Fri.**

**Kristin Cole**

**Tues, Wed, Thurs.**



**Brian Goodness**

**Tues, Wed Afternoon**

**Thurs, Fri all day**

**Terri Crane**

**9:30-1:30 all week**



- **Temporary Staff members**

- Most of our temporary staff members have not completed higher education in ECE. Like our regular staff, they had to complete the interview, reference and background check process. Temporary staff members work under the direct supervision of a regular staff member.
- Our temporary staff are also comprised of two groups:
  - **Substitute Staff.** The people in this category enjoy working with children, are looking for a temporary job or are willing to work on a term by term basis. The people in this group change frequently. I'll introduce you to some of the members of our substitute staff in this article.
  - **Student helpers.** We offer experience to Dartmouth Students on a term by term basis. We also employ students from the Hanover area who are home from college. Occasionally, we

have local high school students who work here afterschool or are doing field placement for a class.

- **Volunteers**

- Our volunteers are mainly comprised of upper elementary/middle school age children who are DCCCC alumni. Their experience of DCCCC is so memorable that they want to *give back* by volunteering to play with children for a few hours a week. We love having alumni come back to volunteer (just a note for your future planning)!
- Occasionally we have older volunteers as well.
- As with all temporary staff, volunteers work only under the supervision of regular staff members.

- **Office Staff**

- We can't forget our office staff.
- Our amazing office staff are trained to do the things that they do so well.
- They had to undergo the same reference and background check as required for the teaching positions.
- The office staff will step in to help a classroom from time to time, but only under the direct supervision of a member of the regular teaching staff. (Jeff and Sunnie are allowed to be alone with children-they do have backgrounds in ECE!)

## Here's a Bit About Some of Our Current Substitute Staff

### Eric Pinard-Janisch

Eric Pinard-Janisch is originally from Chugiak, Alaska. He came to the Upper Valley with his wife who currently attends Geisel School of Medicine. He first started as a substitute four years ago with the then Grizzly class for 5 months. After serving in the military and returning to the Upper Valley, Eric joined DCCCC again in February. He currently lives in Lebanon, with his wife Nigeen. His hobbies are rock climbing, ice hockey, and brewing beer. Eric spent the last three years stationed in Vicenza, Italy and had the opportunity to travel all over Europe. His favorite foods are pizza and ribs and his favorite color is orange.

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## Sue Downey

Sue Downey is originally from Connecticut. She has been helping out at DCCC for 5 months. She currently lives in Springfield with her husband 2 horses 1 dog and her father. She has 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters. One daughter lives in Keene and the other lives in Enfield.

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## Megann Wheeler

My name is Megann Wheeler and I'm originally from the small town of Orange NH. I have been helping at the DCCCC for 10 months. I currently live in Orange, NH. My hobbies are photography and photo editing, along with writing. I've visited a few interesting places in my life but my favorite was Michigan. The sunsets are amazing out that way. My favorite thing to do is go out and take nature photos with my camera.

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## David Kano



David Kano is a contemplative practitioner of mindfulness. He is originally from Lincoln, MA. A job computer programming at the Dartmouth College Library originally brought him to the Upper Valley area. He has been helping at the DCCCC off and on since 2007. He is currently in the process of finding / developing an intentional community in which to live. In addition to child care, he loves to work the land to grow food, write poetry and an occasional blog post (see [www.oceanofspirit.org](http://www.oceanofspirit.org)). His hobbies include hiking, biking and swimming. In 1998/99 he traveled to Nicaragua to help build a wood working workshop and live with a local host family. His favorite quote is, "Wisdom is knowing I am nothing, Love is knowing I am everything, and between the two my life moves." Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj

## Jodi Lenning

Jodi recently moved to Hanover from Illinois. Jodi has been helping at DCCCC since December. Jodi and her family enjoy the opportunities the area provides for hiking, biking, golfing, fishing, and, now, sugaring. They are a Dartmouth family and happy to be involved throughout the Dartmouth community.

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## Jane Lee Wolfe



Jane Lee Wolfe was born in New York and raised in Washington DC. She then spent 35 years in Arkansas! Family in Vermont brought Jane to the Upper Valley. Jane has been helping at DCCCC since 2012. Jane lives in Woodstock, Vermont with three beagles and one dachshund and occasional long term guests. Jane's principal field work when not at DCCCC is Spiritual Health and Spiritual Fitness. Jane runs a small not-for-profit called Bog Chapel, Inc. Jane has visited many interesting places in the world; having no particular favorite. People and scenery are everywhere.





## **Hyvis Thatcher**

Hyvis Thatcher was born in California but raised in Iowa. She came to the upper valley to fill a nanny position. She really likes exploring outside, getting dirty, hiking and crafts with kids. Hyvis has a great passion for what she does. She will be reducing the number of hours that she works with us soon as she will be undertaking nannying responsibilities once again.

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## **Amandine (Amy) Clare**

Amy has been at DCCCC for about a year now. Amy came to us from France. She can be seen regularly in the Hedge Hog room but helps out in other rooms when she has time. Amy has two young boys of her own.



## **Lilian Dalton**



Lilian has worked at DCCCC for about a year now! Most of her time has been spent in the Chickadee Rooms. Lilian came to us from Florida and is pursuing her education when she is not at DCCCC. Wedding bells are in her future as well.



Dear Big Jeff



Dear Big Jeff,

We've really been enjoying the plants in the greenhouse and the hallway at DCCCC. What are they? Where do they come from? Who takes care of them? I can't keep a plant alive.

Signed,

No Green Thumb

Dear Your Thumb is Probably Greener than You Think,

Well thanks! I'm the PI on that project but I have a generous and forgiving team to back me up. The truth is that I have a hard time throwing away those little spider plants. Or the cuttings from the English Ivy and the Swedish Ivy. Or broken branches of the Christmas Cactus. The fact that they root and grow under my loose supervision is a testament to Life itself. Happily most of the plants you see are extraordinarily hardy and like to get their feet get dry between waterings. As you can see, jade plants, zebrina and money trees are also pretty easy to grow, too. As far as telling you the names of them all, suffice it to say that you don't have to know the names get them to grow....

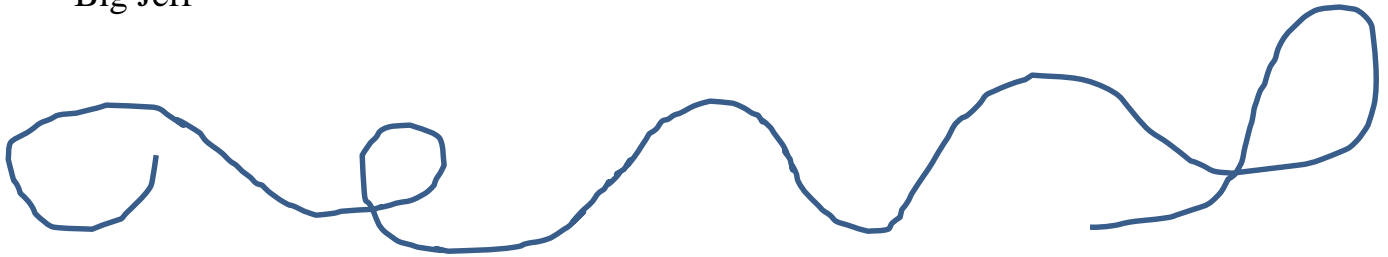
Besides choosing hardy plants and not overwatering them, one of my really obvious secrets is to have lots of plants. That way if I lose one, it's not exactly lamentable and I don't go to the dark place and think that I "can't keep a plant alive". This approach does have its limits however, as has been pointed out to me at home, as well as at school, so I'm branching out, so to speak, into new spaces. In my own defense, I must say that occasionally plants call my name in a store. Sometime plants in other people's offices whimper and I know they have to be rescued.

Children and plants go well together, by the way, if you have realistic expectations (and if they have an aforementioned generous and forgiving back up team). No, the children aren't going to remember to water the plants at the right interval every time, but neither do I. I have a system. I water on Fridays. I may casually check in between. With enough repetitions even I can remember which plants dry out more quickly than others. I also have a cheap hygrometer, but that's another one of my secrets.

Kids like the opportunity to do real work. Caring for hardy plants can meet that criteria. Sometimes children help me with the watering at DCCCC and enjoy the adventure of leaving the classroom and the opportunity to do a grown-up job. In addition to watering, the Black Bears have assisted in pruning overgrown plants, rooting the cuttings and starting the new plants in soil. You can see the cuttings and baby spiders growing on their window sills and we are getting ready to start their own hanging baskets. An overgrown spider plant just donated *dozens* of little spiders, so let us know if you want to discover your inner green thumb.

Signed,

Big Jeff



### Some Fun Pictures From DCCCC





**Special Reminder**  
**DCCCC Will Be**  
**Closed Monday,**  
**March 14 for an**  
**In-service Training day**

**DCCCC will Be Closed**

**Monday, March 14** – In-service training

**Monday, May 30** – Memorial Day

**Monday, July 4** – Independence Day

**Two days in late August** - TBA

**Snow Days**

Typically DCCCC has a late opening time of 9:00 when Hanover schools close or open late due to inclement weather.

DCCCC will make an independent determination about a late opening if Hanover schools

- a.) Are on vacation
- b.) Announce closure a day in advance
- c.) Make a morning decision to close school in anticipation of poor PM driving conditions.

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)

-Whenever possible, Jeff will send an e-mail to all families, but TV and websites are your most reliable source of information.

**SAT/SUN, MARCH 26 & 27**

**NH Maple Sugar Weekend**

Saturday, March 26, and Sunday, March 27, 2016. Join the fun at a local sugar house! Sugar makers statewide will open their doors, inviting the public to share in the centuries-old craft of maple sugaring. Come and talk to the producers in your local area. They will be happy to share with you how their operation works. Many will be offering free samples of fresh syrup, as well as samples of maple candies and confections, coffee, and doughnuts.

For a list of participating sugarhouses, check the New Hampshire Maple Producers' website in early March at [LINK](#).



# HOPSTOPS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

## [Hanover HopStop: Upper Valley Music Center](#)

Sat Mar 19 2016 - 11:00 AM

The Upper Valley's youngest musicians share their favorite music.



## [Claremont HopStop: Upper Valley Music Center](#)

Sat Mar 19 2016 - 3:00 PM

The Upper Valley's youngest musicians share their favorite music.



## [Hanover HopStop: Companhia Urbana de Dança](#)

Sat Apr 09 2016 - 11:00 AM

Brazilian dancers perform their athletic mash up of hip-hop and modern dance.

## [Claremont HopStop: New Inca Son](#)

Sat Apr 09 2016 - 3:00 PM

World music group showcases the ancient melodies and folklore of the Inca culture.

