



# Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

Summer 2013

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

## Recent Events DCCCC Summer Olympic FUN!



# Annual DCCCC Bike Parade



## From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

I met your lovely daughter at DCCCC last month and heard that she is a DCCCC alumna and she is turning 30! You have a son, too, right? Did he go to DCCCC? What was it like to be a day care parent in the Olden Days?

Signed,  
Curious

Dear Curious,

Funny, I was just thinking about that myself. When my kids show up at DCCCC, it's like Old Home Day. Not only do they remember their first teachers, some of those teachers are still here! Of course, my kids' early memories have been augmented by being affiliated with DCCCC in various capacities over the years. They began with visiting Dad's School, to being enrolled, to being school-aged "guests" on days they didn't have school, to being informal helpers and volunteers, then being conscripted into the labor force when they were old enough. DCCCC is a great place to work during college vacations and between jobs! And you're right, having a child turn 30 is indeed a milestone. That, with being Officially Old myself, does grant me permission to reminisce freely. I remember some details and some gestalts. In thinking it over, I think that's a good thing. Maybe I've remembered what was really important.

I did quite a bit of teaching for local colleges when my children were little and often used my own parenting experiences to illustrate various principles of child development or early childhood education. (I think they have since forgiven me for this.) Sometimes I asked for help in preparing lectures. One question I asked my children went something like this, "I'm going to be talking to some people who are learning to be teachers. What should I tell them about being a good teacher?" The answers were usually simple and short and profound, "They should be nice." "Let the kids play." "Don't let kids be mean."

It turns out that these are just the sorts of memories that I have. The teachers were nice, they had interesting things for the children to do and to think about, and they helped the children manage the ups and downs of group living. As hard as I try, I can't remember a single important academic moment. Almost everything my children learned was in the context of play and daily living: how to write your name on your art project, how to tell someone that you wanted the toy they had, how the grass could be wet and slippery one day and dry and prickly another. Speaking of academics, here's a humbling

memory. Given the thousands of stories we read to the kids, all of the interesting and enriching experiences we provided and the excellent preschool education they received, I assumed that my children would be early readers (and that was important). I humbly relate that, like all children, they learned to read when it was their time, right on schedule somewhere between 5 and 7. Of course that makes learning to read sound like a single event in time when it is really the accumulation of countless experiences, but you get the point.

Here are some things that I DO remember as important from the DCCCC years.

The teachers

- helped one to get her sock lines straight and that was critical to her at the time.
- let the boys play Teenaged Mutant Ninja Turtles because they were playing it anyway and hiding it was counterproductive and there was much to be learned from it.
- carved pumpkins and let the children get as messy or stay as clean as their personal tastes dictated.
- took them grocery shopping.
- let them sit on a plastic shovel and use it as a sled.
- welcomed me to slip in and out of the classroom though out the day.
- let them strip down to the underwear to play in the big mud puddle.
- peeled the skin off a pear for the one who simply couldn't gag it down.
- went the extra mile to find a missing stuffed animal on Friday night before the weekend.
- greeted us each and every morning when we arrived, drawing the children in for the day.
- relayed an interesting story at the end of the day, telling the good and the bad and occasionally, the ugly.
- made real conversation with the children and knew what they liked to talk about.
- knew each child's interests, talents and quirks.
- were kind and thoughtful and friendly and generous and patient.

I'll try to impart this wisdom to my children as they become parents, but I have an idea that all parents must discover for themselves what is important and what isn't, and they must give themselves permission for this to change over time. And I'll have to accept that my firm beliefs today may be different tomorrow.

Thanks for the opportunity to reflect,  
Big Jeff

## Greetings From Sunnie:

Principle #4 from Bonnie Harris' *Confident Parents, Remarkable Kids*:  
**Expectations must be set for success.**

Two quotes from Bonnie's book.

"When expectations are set for success, the child's development is understood, temperamental characteristics are accepted, and he can develop confidence in himself so his unique talents and abilities can flourish."

"Children behave in the way they perceive they are expected to behave."

What does this mean at DCCCC?

All of our staff members are constantly learning about the development of children. They are learning new things about the brain and how it grows and learns. They are learning new things about how children learn in social situations. They learn about how their behaviors and expectations affect the children they care for. The DCCCC staff realizes that they get more of what they focus on. They appreciate that they should focus on appropriate expectations rather than behaviors that might not meet those expectations.

The second quote is very important. You will likely see teachers giving children a fresh start each day. If a young toddler decided to bite someone the day before, the expectation when she arrives the next day is that she will not bite. If a preschooler did not feel like participating in circle one day, the teachers will not be saying, "Oh no, it's circle time – he's not going to want to participate." The staff in each classroom takes time to talk about the children in their groups. They talk about the challenges that they face, but more importantly they talk about the positive expectations that they have and how they (the teachers) can work to help children achieve those expectations. Each child is given many opportunities to succeed!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

- August 26 and 27, 2013** – Staff training and preparation for the new year!
- September 2, 2013** – Labor Day
- November 28, 2013** – Thanksgiving Day
- November 29, 2013** – Day after Thanksgiving
- December 23, 2013 – January 1, 2014** – Winter Break
- March 17, 2013** – Staff in-service

## Water Safety

Many staff members at DCCCC just participated in a seminar about water safety with children. The State of NH requires that we remain certified and up-to-date with water safety if we choose to do water activities with children.

It is very sobering and enlightening to attend this training.

The training is available on-line as well. If you'd like to take a look at what we learn, or even increase your own knowledge, the free training can be found at

<http://www.empoweringprograms.com/watersafety.htm>.

*Another Day to Mark on Your Calendar!*

*Picture Day!*

*Friday, October 11, 2013!*

*Details will follow as we get*

*closer to the date!*

# Resources for Families

**WATCH OUT FOR THE 2013...**

## HAMPTON BEACH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL!

**Check It Out - August 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, August 12**

- ⊓ 10:00am-11:00am..... BJ Hickman Magic Show
- ⊓ 11:00am-12:00pm..... Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionettes
- ⊓ 12:30pm-1:30pm..... Julie & Brownie
- ⊓ 2:00pm-4:00pm..... Buc's Lagoon Mini Golf - Register Early at the Chamber Office
- ⊓ At Dusk..... Movie Night

Under the stars on our 5 star beach-Weather Permitting

**Tuesday, August 13**

- ⊓ 10:00am-11:00am..... Fran Flynn Magician Extraordinaire
- ⊓ 11:00am-12:30pm..... Balloon Twisting with Fran!
- ⊓ 11:00am-12:00pm..... Classic Alive! Loris Burbine - Sleeping Beauty
- ⊓ 1:00pm-2:00pm..... Fran Flynn Magician Extraordinaire - Second Show!
- ⊓ 2:00pm-3:00pm..... Malik - Get Ready to LAUGH!
- ⊓ 3:15pm-4:00pm..... Lil' Iguana - Live!
- ⊓ 4:15pm..... Extreme Air Jump Rope Team

**Wednesday, August 14**

- ⊓ 10:00am-1:00pm..... Face Painting! Toni Marcus & Daughters! line ends at 12:30pm
- Face Painting with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast
- ⊓ 10am-1:30pm..... Radio Disney!!! Prizes, Music, Fun & MORE!
- ⊓ 1:00-2:00pm..... Abracadabra Productions - Strolling Miracles
- ⊓ 2:00pm..... Ronald McDonald - Free Ice Cream!
- ⊓ 9:30pm..... Hampton Beach Fireworks!

**Thursday August 15**

- ⊓ 10:00am-2:00pm..... Jump Around in the PIRATE MOON Bounce House!
- ⊓ 10:00am-1:30pm..... MORE Face Painting!
- ⊓ 10:00am-2:00pm..... Party with Pam! Turn the Music On and let the FUN begin!
- ⊓ 2:15pm-3:00pm..... Vic & Sticks - Recycled Rhythm Band
- ⊓ 3:00pm..... Fly a Kite on the beach - Free Kites for Kids until they're gone!
- ⊓ 4:00pm..... Bumper Sticker Slogan Contest Entries DUE

**Friday, August 16**

- ⊓ 11:00am..... Children's Costume Parade!!! Meet at the state park at 10:15am
- Come see the Roaming Railroad!**
- ⊓ 12:00-Noon..... Grand Finale at the Seashell Stage!

**Fun! Prizes! Cool Performers! And MORE!**

**IT'S FREE FOR ALL!**

Watch for big surprises all five days

Don't Miss The Huge Costume Parade on Friday

See the complete line up online at: [www.HamptonBeach.org](http://www.HamptonBeach.org)

Or call the Hampton Chamber at 603-926-8717

**WIN A NEW BIKE!**  
Write a Great Kid's Slogan for Hampton Beach!  
We'll use it for a Summer 2014 Bumper Sticker!

### LOST RIVER GORGE & BOULDER CAVES

**An Unforgettable Adventure!**

Guests of all ages have marveled at its beauty, mystery & tranquility. Lit by lanterns & guided by wooden walkways, step back in time to explore amazing caves!

**Explore & Discover!**

**Star Party**  
9/7/2013  
(8:00PM)

**Event Fee:** Free

**Description:**  
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in partnership with the Springfield Telescope Makers of the Stellafane Observatory in Springfield, Vermont, holds a night viewing event of deep-sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae, star clusters and planets.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site  
Cornish, NH 03745

Phone: 603-675-2175  
Email: [gregory\\_c\\_schwarz@nps.gov](mailto:gregory_c_schwarz@nps.gov)  
Website: [www.nps.gov/saga](http://www.nps.gov/saga)

## Spot Big Jeff at the

### 64th Annual Cornish Fair event

AUGUST 16, 17, 18, 2013

A Family-Friendly, Country, Agricultural Fair Town House Road, Cornish, NH

[www.cornishfair.org](http://www.cornishfair.org)

## Family Programs at the Enfield Shaker Museum

8/10/2013  
(10:00AM)

**Event Fee:** Free with the purchase of adult admission ticket(s).

### Description:

Join us for these family oriented educational workshops. Your whole family will share the experience of the Shaker pastimes and learn about the history and heritage of the Shakers.

447 NH Route 4A  
Enfield, NH 03748

Phone: 603-632-4346

Email: [events@shakermuseum.org](mailto:events@shakermuseum.org)

Website: [www.shakermuseum.org](http://www.shakermuseum.org)



Escape this summer to the White Mountains and experience an exciting variety of things to do and see. Click below to request your Vacation Planning Kit today!!

[Lodging & Attraction Deals](#)

## Circus Smirkus 2013 Big Top Tour

8/8/2013  
(6:00PM)

**Event Fee:** Adult (13+) \$20; Children (2-12) \$17; Under 2: FREE

### Description:

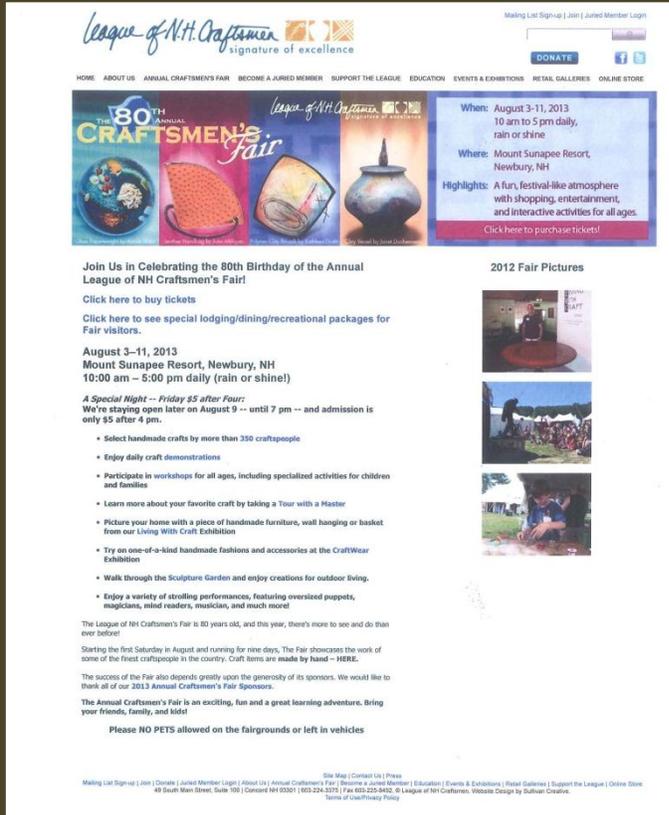
Come see the award-winning, international traveling youth circus! Kids – ages 10 to 18 – are stars, on highwire and trapeze, as clowns, jugglers, acrobats and more. This is the circus featured on the Disney Channel, the circus that The New York Times called “exuberant” and “joyful.” This year, grab your ruby slippers for Oz Incorporated! Click your heels together, as Circus Smirkus goes “somewhere over the rainbow” with a new spin on the Wizard of Oz

Fullington Farm Field  
Hanover, NH 03755

Phone: 877-764-7587

Email: [info@smirkus.org](mailto:info@smirkus.org)

Website: <http://www.smirkus.org>



League of N.H. Craftsmen signature of excellence

HOME ABOUT US ANNUAL CRAFTSMEN'S FAIR BECOME A JURED MEMBER SUPPORT THE LEAGUE EDUCATION EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS RETAIL GALLERIES ONLINE STORE

When: August 3-11, 2013  
10 am to 5 pm daily, rain or shine

Where: Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH

Highlights: A fun, festival-like atmosphere with shopping, entertainment, and interactive activities for all ages. Click here to purchase tickets!

Join Us in Celebrating the 80th Birthday of the Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair!

Click here to buy tickets

Click here to see special lodging/dining/recreational packages for Fair visitors.

August 3-11, 2013  
Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily (rain or shine!)

A Special Night -- Friday 8/5 after Fair:  
We're staying open later on August 9 -- until 7 pm -- and admission is only \$5 after 4 pm.

- Select handmade crafts by more than 350 craftpeople
- Enjoy daily craft demonstrations
- Participate in workshops for all ages, including specialized activities for children and families
- Learn more about your favorite craft by taking a Tour with a Master
- Picture your home with a piece of handmade furniture, wall hanging or basket from our Living With Craft Exhibition
- Try on one-of-a-kind handmade fashions and accessories at the CraftWear Exhibition
- Walk through the Sculpture Garden and enjoy creations for outdoor living.
- Enjoy a variety of strolling performances, featuring oversized puppets, magicians, mind readers, musicians, and much more!

The League of NH Craftsmen's Fair is 80 years old, and this year, there's more to see and do than ever before!

Starting the first Saturday in August and running for nine days, The Fair showcases the work of some of the finest craftpeople in the country. Craft items are made by hand -- HERE.

The success of the Fair also depends greatly upon the generosity of its sponsors. We would like to thank all of our 2013 Annual Craftsmen's Fair Sponsors.

The Annual Craftsmen's Fair is an exciting, fun and a great learning adventure. Bring your friends, family, and kids!

Please NO PETS allowed on the fairgrounds or left in vehicles

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## News from the Float Team

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

## New Members of the Team of Floating Assistant Teachers



### Audrey Stout

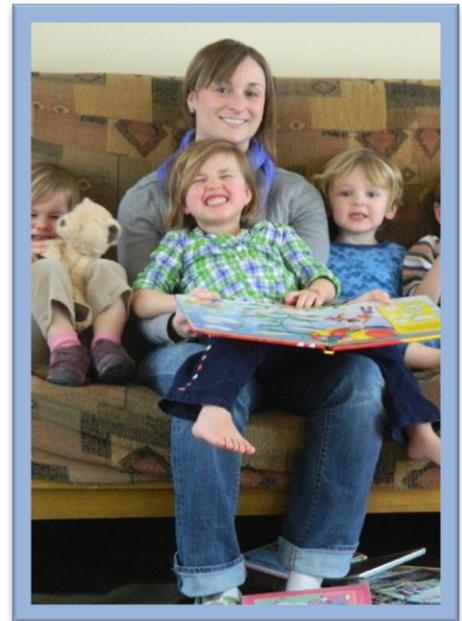
Hi, my name is Audrey and I am originally from Kennebunkport, Maine but I have lived in Vermont for two years now. I recently graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelors of Science in Education. I love working with kids and especially enjoy staying active, particularly by playing squash! I am looking forward to moving to Quechee with my fiancé where we will be welcoming our first baby, Chloe, in October! I am very excited to begin working at DCCCC and I look forward to meeting you!

Audrey and Melissa will join our staff as full-time Floating Assistant Teachers August 19.

Anna will join us as an afternoon Floating Assistant Teacher September 3.



Hi! My name is Melissa Horrigan, I was born in New York where I lived with my family until I was 15 when we moved to the Poconos. We moved to a lovely area in Pennsylvania surrounding Lake Wallenpaupack; there I met my boyfriend Brandon, who grew up in Wilder, VT. Brandon and I lived in Hawley before we moved to Vermont last year in July to be closer to his family. I have loved living here so much, Brandon and I just bought a house and now we have a new puppy named Loki. In my spare time I like to have girls' nights with my friends, watch movies and TV shows, and just relax with Brandon and family. I look forward to getting to know everyone and working with all of the wonderful children!



Anna Fuller, who has been working for us as a substitute in a variety of rooms, will become a regular member of our staff September 3. She will work every afternoon throughout the Center. More information about Anna next month!

# News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,  
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,  
Teacher

April Buchanan,  
Assistant Teacher

This is the last newsletter of the school year and we have a lot to report!

Our four future Pandas are now official toddlers: Kallen is speaking in full sentences, Anne is singing us songs and telling us "NO WAY!", Scarlett Wiens is toilet trained and Jillian is having fun visiting her new classroom. Please continue to have your child drop into the Panda Room in the mornings.

A new family recently joined us. Please welcome Marcy and her parents: Holly and Jason.

We have two new walkers: Hans and Eva and now upright and on the move!

Jack, Elliot and Conrad are all crawling. The room is in constant motion!



Scarlett Lewis is now rolling wherever she needs to get to. She gets stuck from time to time and we have to rescue her.



We have done lots of water play outside. We have added boats, cups and even bubbles to the water. One day Wendy set up a car wash for the toy cars! We have also been exploring the garden and spotting several vegetables growing. While inside we have introduced "I Spy" books and the children love looking through them. Some are old enough now to play "I Spy" while out with family and friends!

As we close out our school year we will continue to visit the Panda Room and introduce new items to our active, growing Teddies.

Enjoy the summer!

Fondly,  
Debbie, Wendy and April



## News from Teddy Too

Radoyka Garcia,  
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,  
Teacher

Denise Ayres,  
Assistant Teacher

*¡Saludos!*

Greetings from the Teddy Too's!

How quickly babies grow when you're having this much fun!

Unbelievable, but the school year is about to end. We've said our official goodbyes to Jackie and Joshua who have moved on to new adventures. We'll be saying our farewells to those graduating to future

Pandas: Charlotte, Eleanor, Gates, Caterina, and Nivi-- will just be a couple of doors away, but we will miss you a great deal! We will be welcoming Teddies who were on long trips; returning in the fall: Henry and Arabella. Also, Auggie, Sophia and Brody have been bonding with

friends this summer—old and new; they absolutely love this. Two new Teddies were eager to join us...Austin Tine and Danny Christesen: *Welcome!!!* And last but not least our 'soon-to-be Teddies' who have been visiting and already enjoying their playtime here; we're so glad you'll be with us!

Each child has shared their gift to us and that is their unconditional love; this is definitely reciprocated and these children will not be forgotten. (They might not remember us, but this is just fine.) They will remain in our hearts always.

Looking forward to another great year!!

Wishing you all well,

Ray, Lori and Denise

*(\*Special thanks to Liz and all of our helpers, substitutes, volunteers who have been an essential part of our babies' lives. \*)*

# News from the Panda Bears

Jennifer Sprague,  
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,  
Teacher

Teresa Hahn  
Assistant Teacher

Hello Panda Families;  
Wow the month of July is just flying by. The Pandas have been very busy! We have been enjoying the warmer weather outside. We have been using the small pool and water table for water play and we have been picking vegetables from our gardens. Yum! The sunflower house is growing fast! It's now taller than the Pandas. We are looking forward to the sunflowers coming.



We celebrated national mud day on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. We had Pandas use the hose and spray the sand. We used buckets and mixed and mixed until we had mud to play in!



We celebrated Brian's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Brian picked Mary Rose, Rena, and Kevin to help make cupcakes with Teresa. We enjoyed the chocolate cupcakes for snack with Brian's parents.



We have been having Pandas visit the classroom they will be moving up to at the end of August. We have been playing and having lunch in the classrooms. Thank you to parents for bringing your child to see their new room at drop offs. It will help their transition go smoothly! You probably have noticed that we also have Teddies visiting the Panda room at drop off and during the day. Pandas have been playing with Teddies and showing them around the room. We look forward to more Teddies coming for visits.



Thank you to parents for coming in for Parent/Teacher conferences. If you have not scheduled a conference yet please email us or let us know a time that works for you.

We hope you are enjoying your summer!

Jennifer from the Panda team

## News from the Koalas

Susan Quimby Young,  
Lead Teacher

Joel King,  
Teacher

Assistant Teacher

I cannot believe that it's almost August.... that means half the summer is already gone! We've had a great time this summer. We've had fun with water and sand especially. If you give a kid a hose and he'll probably want you turn it on high. If you turn it on high, he'll probably try to make a river. If he makes a river, he'll probably have some friends join him. If his friends join him, they will probably step in the river. If they step in the river, they will probably want to jump in it. If they jump in the river, someone is probably going to want a turn with that hose..... and so on and so on! That hose is a pretty special thing to play with in the sand box. One day Joel brought out a big adult shovel and dug some big troughs for rivers and the kids loved it! It was great fun to watch their excitement and immediate involvement. Sand, water and kids just seem to go together!

We've said our final goodbyes to Kirsten, Gabriel and Yirang. I was so happy to get to know Yirang and Kirsten as they had skipped the Panda room. It was a fun few months since I started in early February! It was hard to say goodbye to Gabriel after being with him and his wonderful family for Pandahood and Koala Land. We wish them all the best. Yirang will join the ranks of the Woolly Bear room with a bunch of her friends in the fall.

Liam and Angus will be back soon from their time off this summer and we'll welcome them back with open arms. We'll be beefing up the visiting to your children's future classrooms to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Feel free to stop in your child's future room and check it out. I'm sure a teacher will be happy to answer your questions or perhaps you'd like to set up a meeting. We will be meeting with the Woolly teachers as well as the Polar teachers to pass along any information that may help their move as well.

We are planning a casual, stop on by morning snack on Tuesday August 20th from 7:30-9:30 or so. We'd love to have a little time to chat with you before you move on down the hall at the end of the month.

Thank you for sharing your child with us this year. I had such a great time joining this group part way through the year. I love them all!!

Susan for the Koala team

Valerie Stefani will be joining the Koala Team as the Assistant Teacher. She will "get her feet wet" working Tuesday and Friday in August. She will join the team full time on September 3!



## News from the Woolly Bears

Jo Brambles,  
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,  
Teacher

Moya Stevens,  
Assistant Teacher

Greetings from the Woolly Room!

This summer has been absolutely FLYING by in the Woolly room as we all get used to our new teaching team and start saying goodbye to good friends. We have also started transition visits, and it is wonderful to begin getting to know our future Woollies. Only a few short weeks until we will all be together!

The Woollies have been keeping cool in the hot sticky weather this July with LOTS of water play, both inside and out. They really enjoyed chipping away at ice blocks to free the animals trapped inside, and painting with colored ice. There is nothing like ice to cool everybody off on a 97 degree day!

We have also been learning about sea creatures of all kinds, including hermit crabs and underwater habitats, whales, dolphins, and other sea mammals, and seahorses (did you know the male seahorse cares for the eggs?)

We are looking forward to more sunny summer weather (but maybe a little cooler, please!!), and lots more water play to finish off the season. Enjoy the pictures below. A quick disclaimer: We had a hard drive tragedy in the Woolly Room this past week, and lost EVERYTHING! I apologize if you've seen some of these pictures before – I hope we can build our photo gallery back up quickly!

All the best,

Jo for the Woolly Bear team





## **News from the Polar Bears**

Terri Hollis,  
Lead Teacher

Miranda Arruda,  
Teacher

Assistant Teacher

Greetings Polar Families,

Heavens to Betsey Betty Boop, it has become that time of year again already. Though I have only been a Polar Teacher since January and our Teaching team of Miranda, Kelly and myself are quite new, we have reflected often. The Polar Bear Children have truly moved in a direction where they enjoyed one another's company. They have laughed more than cried. They have been more content than bored. They have been more safe rather than hurt. They have talked more than shouted. They have heard not just listened. I would say regardless of some unwanted changes it was a really successful year for all.

Remember change is coming not just for children moving on but for those that will stay. All children will have a change in routine and comfort zone. One thing that children have repeatedly taught and reminded us of is just how capable they are of "going with the flow". The adults helping them through these changes just need to remember that changes and transitions is a path to a wonderful and exciting future.

I am certain that I speak on behalf of the entire Polar Teaching Team When I say Thank You. We have had real moments of pride and happiness watching your children work hard and grow, and knowing we have been a part of that. Knowing that they have tools that will help them make future changes positive ones. We are looking forward to welcoming new children to our class and becoming one to learn and explore together.

Sincerely

Terri, Miranda, and Kelly

## News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,  
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,  
Teacher

This is always a difficult letter to write...the final weeks of your child being a Grizzly and attending DCCCC. And this year is even more emotional and intense for me as I complete my final week of being a Grizzly teacher after 16 years! I hope by now you have met Brenda Metzler. She will capably and enthusiastically will be taking over the Grizzly program and working with Kristin to be sending your child off to new beginnings in a matter of days! It's not easy to say goodbye after we've been together and so close, day after day, for almost a year. I hope that during this brief time of being in our care that each child has felt safe, loved, happy and free. Each "last day" brings a celebration and the excitement of things to come!

I've been busy putting together "good-bye" books for the Grizzlies. Looking at the pictures makes me realize just how much they have grown and changed throughout the year. It's a privilege to have witnessed their many magical moments of wonder, discovery, creativity and friendships. The list of our activities and accomplishments for this year is impressive for us as a group and for each child as an individual. The children have grown in confidence, independence and in getting along with others in all kinds of situations. They have come a long way with their willingness to try new things and really have become important members of this "community".

Our swimming lessons this summer have been a huge success thus far and for the most part, we've had some great weather on these days allowing for us to remain at Storrs for a significant part of our day. We will spend the last month bringing closure to our time together. We will talk about our memories and the good times we have shared, as well as our worries and hopes for First Grade. We'll begin welcoming visits from the children and families who will be in the next group of Grizzlies. We know that the group will show great empathy as they greet and introduce themselves and the room to these younger children coming in. It's always exciting to watch them take these children under their wings and show them around to teach them what they feel are the important things to know.

Our final birthday cheers go out to...

Pablo Martin-Asensio on July 5<sup>th</sup>

CJ Harris on July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Mya Veracka on August 24<sup>th</sup>

You have been a most supportive, generous and remarkable group of parents. The fine job you do raising your children is very much a part of the versatile and delightful people they are becoming. I really appreciate the trust that you have placed in us, thank you. You will be missed!

With all the very best,  
Karen





## Welcome Brenda to the Grizzly Room!



Many years ago I had the good fortune of being a part of the Polar team. Then I ventured off to volunteer for a couple of years, direct another child care center, do some consulting, and travel. Joining the Grizzlies brings me full circle, back to Dartmouth for a year, and I'm happy to be here!

When I'm not playing with children or teaching parents and other educators, I enjoy my gardens, good food, travel, and time spent with friends and family.