

DLC's Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2016

Happy winter-almost spring DLC parents! We are in luck, because this year Mother Nature has delivered us plenty of cold and rainy weather. Even on chilly wet days, being outside is essential to a young child's health and well being. We at DLC believe nature is a child's greatest classroom! We have even been lucky enough to discover ice in our yard on a couple of occasions. This is in addition to wind, rain, clouds, and even hail!



Earth and life science for young children comes in many forms. Sometimes it involves a more formal setting where kids ask questions. Then a teacher helps them make a hypothesis or prediction, and we test out their theory. For example, right now the

Butterfly group is conducting a bean plant experiment. One day some of the kids from the Butterfly group found beans in our yard. After bringing them to a teacher, they decided to do an experiment to find out how long it would take the seeds to sprout. Each child in the Butterfly group made predictions about what the seeds needed to grow and how long it would take before they saw a green shoot push through the dirt. Every day the kids observe the seeds; they examine the growth taking place underneath the surface, and discuss any changes they notice. The variety of hypothesis the Butterflies made gives great insight into a 4 and 5 year old's concept of time and space. When asked the question, "How long until the beans will sprout?" The predictions ranged from one minute to one hundred years. I love it!

Our goal as preschool teachers is NOT to make sure our students get all the facts straight, rather we foster a sense of curiosity and scientific thinking; ask questions,

gather information, create a hypothesis and test it out. What worked, and what did not? Fail, learn, and try it again. Why did some beans grow and others did not? Being right is not the objective. On the contrary, we encourage kids to keep asking questions, and to learn from their mistakes.

Other times, science investigations come in the form of quiet contemplation. For example, a child may pick up a piece of ice and wonder why it melts in their hands. Or they see fog and ask, what is that stuff and what is it made of? And the wind! We can feel it and hear it but we can't see it! Not to mention the dirt, plants, and insects...the outdoors are rife with opportunities for scientific discovery! We are so lucky at DLC to have such an amazing outdoor space that serves as a science and discovery lab for your children!

On this note, please make sure that every day your child is prepared for their outdoor classroom! They should have many changes of clothing including cold weather, warm weather, rain boots, a second pair of shoes, socks, underwear, and a rain jacket with a hood. Thanks for your help!



Sign-In/Out Procedures

I want to thank everyone for your patience and willingness to learn Procure, our new sign-in/out system. I know change can be difficult, but this change has been so worth it! It is much more efficient for all of DLC's staff to track and monitor the children at school.

However, I did want to make sure that all parents (and your extended family members) dropping off and picking up children are aware that checking in and out is a two part system. After you check your child in at the computer you must also highlight their name on the roster to the right of the computer. After checking your child out you must cross their name off the roster with a black sharpie. The roster is what we use if we have to suddenly evacuate or run a fire drill. This month we ran two fire drills and there were many kids not crossed

off the roster who had already left for the day. In a drill, this is not too hard to figure out. In a real emergency when our staff is faced with many stressful decisions to make, trying to figure out who was not signed in our out properly is not something we need to worry about. We update the roster many times throughout the day, but if you could be extra diligent about this it will help tremendously. Thank you in advance!



The Love Note Project

Last month DLC's Love Note Project began! We randomly chose Teacher Kim to be the first honorary teacher to receive our love. We created a poster full of beautiful photos of Kim and her family and left blank pieces of paper for anyone to write Kim a note about why they love her, or what they love about her. The

most important part about The Love Note Project is the jar that our community fills up with love for our teachers. It not only has a profound effect on the teacher who gets to read about why we value her, but it will also have a positive effect on you! Each person that takes the time to share their love through written words will also benefit. So keep your eyes peeled for the next victim of The Love Note Project, her identity will soon be revealed!

DLC's Sharing Garden

Last year our preschoolers planted a garden of greens for our Guinea Pigs. We no longer have the piggies as pets, but we do have a garden that is thriving. If you love Kale, Chard, rosemary, and mint I encourage you to cut some down and take it home! We have tried to feed it to your kids, but we were not too successful 😊 We are going to attempt green smoothies soon, but we just needs to make sure they don't appear green!

Yoga for Kids and Adults

Most of you already know that I offer yoga at DLC for kids and adults. For me, yoga has been nothing short of life changing. It is

more than just exercise, it's also a tool to practice acceptance, compassion, faith, and stress relief. The reason I became a yoga teacher is because I wanted to be able to share yoga with my community. Right now I offer a weekly class on Monday nights at DLC (for adults only) from 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm. You are welcome to invite a friend or extended family members. Look for the weekly RSVP e-mail to sign-up.



Your children are all enjoying yoga at school as well! I practice yoga with about two groups a month. For kids, yoga is a bit of a different experience than it is for adults. It's an introduction to noticing feelings in their bodies, playing with balance and stretching, as well as having fun and celebrating our individual differences. I mix in a lot of sounds, games, and music as well. Ask your child if they can show you their favorite yoga pose!

Small Group Newsletters

For a long time, our teachers have been writing monthly newsletters to keep parents connected with what's happening during small group time. This year, we are going to space out our teachers' newsletters a bit more by making them quarterly. If you did not receive a small group newsletter in January, it will be emailed in the beginning of March. The schedule for the rest of the year is **May, August, and November**. The main reason we are doing this is because I would like my teachers to spend a majority of their teacher prep time on planning projects and activities that make your child's educational experience exceptional. Communication is very important to us. If you ever feel like you need to know more about your child's group time, you can reach out to me or you can e-mail your child's small group teacher directly.

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Trike-A-Thon

DLC's annual St. Jude Children's Hospital trike-a-thon will be on **Wednesday March 23rd** at Safetyville USA from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. The kids learn that we are using our healthy bodies to raise money to buy medicine for sick children. They will also learn a number of bike safety rules. As the kids learn each safety rule, teacher Bonnie will post them on our front walk way. Take a peek and see what rule #1 is!

The week of the trike-a-thon (3/21-3/25), all kids may bring and leave their bikes/trikes/or scooters and helmets to school so they can ride all week. Please label each with their name. Next week we will post a sign-up sheet for parent helpers on the day of the field trip. The school-agers will be coming too so it will be all hands on deck!

As a teacher, spring time is one of my favorite times of the year. Baby animals are being born, flowers are blooming and insects and bugs are everywhere! Right now our friends are monitoring a mommy hummingbird on our side yard. We watched her build her nest, and now she has two tiny

eggs inside of it. We can't wait to meet her new babies! I look forward to sharing this new season with each of you, and celebrating all of your children's ups and downs together. I will leave you with a quote my mom just shared with me. It reminds me of what makes DLC so special.

"The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and the soul of the child."

- Carl Jung

Fondly,
Teacher Jami

