

DBELC February Newsletter

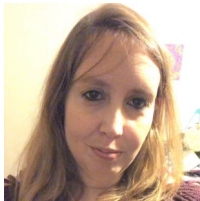
A Note from Ms. Trish I (belatedly) hope everyone had a happy and blessed holiday season! I thank all parents, friends, and family members for attending this year's DBELC Christmas Pageant. The children work very hard to prepare their songs and are always so thrilled for everyone to see them perform. I would also like to thank Pastor Sal and the volunteers of DBUMC for their assistance. Year after year, the Christmas Pageant becomes more and more spectacular. Thank you to all the families who gave gifts to the teachers and myself, as well. It was so generous of you and makes us feel appreciated.

I hope everyone is having a great new year and we are happy to begin 2018 with you. I would like to thank Ms. Shana, Ms. Sandy, Ms. Sam, and the rest of the DBELC staff for taking care of the center while I was on vacation. They did an amazing job at making

sure that things operated smoothly in my absence. I had a wonderful vacation and am rejuvenated for this new year. I know that this year will bring some exciting changes to DBELC, including attaining our STAR 3 rating and beginning playground improvements! With the help of STARS specialists, we -including all DBELC staff- have been working diligently on meeting our STAR 3 standards. These standards encompass the quality classroom environment, materials, curriculum, and practices, how we as teachers interact with children, families, and each other, how families engage and participate within the program, business management and practices, and teacher education. If you are interested in learning more about these standards or have any questions about how they are scored, please ask!



Welcome and Goodbye to DBELC We were sad to say goodbye to Ms. Erin, who left us in early January, to spend time as a stay-at-home mom. We will miss her but understand how important it is to be a mom. You may have already noticed some new faces in our infants and toddlers program at DBELC. While we do plan to continue hiring new staff, please join me in welcoming those who have recently joined the DBELC family.



Ms. Kim joined the DBELC teaching team in December of 2017. Before DBELC, she cared for infants and toddlers for several years through volunteer and babysitting opportunities. Ms. Kim has also been involved with and volunteering with a local dance company for over 12 years and a local competitive cheerleading squad and school cheer teams for over 5 years. She is very excited to continue her education and earn her Associates Degree in the field of early childhood education. In her spare time, Ms. Kim enjoys spending time with her husband and four children, sports, and watching and volunteering with her children's activities. What she enjoys the most about caring for young children is experiencing everything through their eyes and witnessing their excitement when they learn something new or create something new. She also enjoys watching them grown and develop over time.

Ms. Jamiee joined the DBELC teaching team in January of 2018. Before joining our infants and toddlers program, Ms. Jaimee graduated from West York High School in 1993. While living in North Carolina, she pursued a degree in dental assisting to be able to volunteer at the dental clinics on the Marine base at Camp Lejeune. After returning to PA, Jaimee continued working in the dental field for 12 years before choosing to be a stay-at-home mom to her four children. When returning to the workforce, Jaimee made the career change to early childhood education, which has been her passion ever since. She has experience teaching at other local centers with infants and toddlers. In her free time, Jaimee loves to spend time with her family, especially her granddaughter, Paislee. She loves collecting anything that has to do with pigs and even has two pet pigs named Hank and Tucker who live with her in her house! What Jaimee finds the most magical about working with young children is watching them as they learn new things and achieve their milestones.



Kitchen Updates

Just a reminder from the DBELC kitchen, children are permitted to pack a breakfast, lunch, or snack if they do not prefer to eat what we serve. We do have a few requests for packed meals and snacks. We request that all packed foods be ready to serve, as in they do not need reheated. We also request that all meals and snacks meet nutrition guidelines and include healthy choices like fruits and vegetables. We prefer that lunches not include sugary snacks and treats that contain no nutritional value, such as cookies, cupcakes, etc. Snacks that do not meet nutritional guidelines or do not contain an essential food group will not be offered. All food brought from home must be eaten during normal meal and snack times. If a child has missed a meal or snack time due to drop off times, a parent is expected to provide the child with that meal or snack before arriving at the center.

"It's better to know how to learn than to know how."

Dr. Seuss

Illness Policy

We have had a few questions about our illness policies lately. With the arrival of cold and flu season, I would like to take a few moments to remind you of those policies. They are stated in our Parent Handbook, so please don't forget to refer to it when questions arise. The health and safety of the children is our biggest concern. For this reason, we do enforce an illness policy which corresponds to the Department of Human Service's Illness Policy and Caring for our Children for licensed child care centers to help stop and contain the spread of illnesses. There are times, though, when our policies surpass and are more stringent than those recommendations, and we may not allow a sick child to return to or remain in care until we feel the child is well enough to do so. We do apologize for these inconveniences, but we ask for your understanding and preparation in having alternative plans for when these situations arise. If the following symptoms or

signs of illness are apparent, your child will not be able to attend for the day: fever of 101 degrees or higher (100 under the arm), diarrhea (more than 2 times), vomiting, draining or suspicious rash, eye discharge or Pink Eye, lice or mites. The child must be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours before they return to care. If a child does not meet these illness requirements but is still too ill to participate in normal center activities, we reserve the right to require that your child be picked up from care. If we suspect your child may have a contagious condition, we will ask that your child be examined by a pediatrician. There are times when a pediatrician may approve your child to return to care that we still cannot allow your child to return until we feel that your child is no longer contagious. The ill child will not be permitted to return to child care until the period of contagion has passed.

confidence, and to take care of the world around us. Dr. Seuss teaches us to be a great thinker, to do your best, to be unique and curious, and that success is a journey. Setbacks happen but never give up. This year, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's 114th birthday on February 27th with a green eggs and ham lunch. Please wear red and white that day to honor Dr. Seuss.



Upcoming Events

- March 25th
Children's Easter Sunday
- March 28th
DBELC Easter Egg Hunt
- March 30th & April 2nd
Easter
Center closed
- April 27th
Parent Luncheon
- May 14th
Muffins with Mom
- May 20th
Pre-K Graduation
- May 28th
Memorial Day
Center closed
- June 18th
Donuts with Dads
- July 4th
Center closed

"Don't give up. I believe in you all.

A person's a person no matter how small."

Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss is a children's classic and we take the time every year to celebrate his writings. There are so many things Dr. Seuss can teach us. Dr. Seuss's books are so full of fun and engaging rhymes and fascinating creatures that we forget the bigger ideas Dr. Seuss tackles. Through his writings, Dr. Seuss teaches acceptance, equality, self



Infants

Happy first birthday to Maddox! Welcome to Zoey and we are happy to see Olivia transitioning so well to the young toddler classroom. In January, we enjoyed some snow sensory activities. In February, we are looking forward to our Valentine's crafts. Our babies are growing so quickly. Brooks is working so hard and getting so close to crawling on his own. Tommy is practicing sitting up with support, Olivia B. is crawling, Nova is becoming much more alert and smiling, Ryan is feeding himself, Maddox is running around the room, Brantley is rolling, Samuel is sitting independently and scooting backwards, and Cayden loves to jump and talk up a storm!



Young Toddlers

The young toddlers would like to wish all of you a happy winter! Bundle up and stay warm! We were sad to say goodbye to Ms. Erin, but we have been enjoying getting to know our new teachers, Ms. Kim and Ms. Jaimee and the new friend who joined our class recently, Olivia. We miss Ms. Sam, as she will be helping with the older children for the duration of her pregnancy, but she does get to visit us from time to time. January was all about ice and snow! We gathered buckets of snow from outside and stuck our hands in to feel how cold snow is. We also learned to make snowballs and used black paper and ice cubes to make disappearing pictures. We also made our own fake snow! It was very fluffy and lots of fun. The sign language word of the month was cold! At the beginning of February, we made shadows like the groundhog and celebrated the Super Bowl. For the month of February, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Our Valentine's party is on 2/16 and details are posted on our door.

Older Toddlers

Happy February Everyone! We will continue talking about winter this month. We will also continue to explore cold, which means playing with ice cubes in our sensory bin and bringing in snow when we are lucky enough to have some outside. Our class also loves to paint, so we will be exploring art and different ways to express ourselves. Being that it is February and a lot of people think about love, we will also be talking about friendship and being nice to each other.

Our Valentine's Day party will be on Wednesday, February 14th. Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate something to our party. The children always have fun when we have our parties and they get to share with their friends. A list of the children's names went home if anyone wants to send in Valentine's. The children decorated mailboxes just in case. They also made special Valentine's for their parents.

Our color for this month is red and we will be talking about the parts of our bodies. You can extend the learning at home by singing "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes." You can also play "Simon Says" for different body parts or "I Spy" for different colors around the room.



I would like to take the time to thank all families and children in our infants and toddlers program for your understanding and patience the past month. I know that the teaching staff has changed and bounced around a few times with the departure of Ms. Erin and Ms. Sam. When teachers leave a classroom, there is always a void left. We miss their experience, care, and knowledge. Any change can be disruptive to the regular routine. We try to minimize that disruption as much as possible, but sometimes these disruptions are out of my control and unexpected. Finding and training new teachers is a lengthy and involved process that cannot be rushed. New teachers are often paired with more experienced teachers or take time working with different classes throughout the building to find which age group and co-teacher they fit with best. This is an essential part of the training process. And, this is the process we are going through, and hopefully completing, now. Ms. Kim and Ms. Jaimee have spent time training in different classrooms with different teachers and will begin settling themselves into the young toddler classroom. Being a new teacher can be intimidating, especially when replacing amazing and well-loved teachers, so please assist me in welcoming them to DBELC. They are both excited to work with your children and your family. If you have any questions or concerns about the staffing changes or new DBELC staff, please be sure to address those concerns to me (not other classroom staff).

Preschool

Last month, preschool focused on learning all about the winter. We had fun doing an experiment to estimate how long it would take for ice to melt. We used ice in our sensory table to fill different sized bins. We added Arctic animals to swim in our frigid waters. We especially liked having a "snowball fight" with cotton balls, as we watched the cotton balls fly across the classroom. Lastly, we created pictures of us playing in the snow.

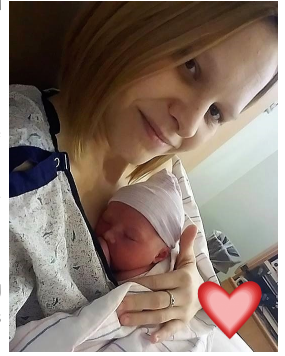
Lately, we have been having dance parties and racing around our classroom, acting like different winter animals to get our "wiggles" out. We are getting good at finding letters around us and counting 1-10. These are great and easy skills that any parent can practice with their child. Point out letters while reading a book or menu or while passing a sign at the store. Keep magnetic letters on your fridge and play "Letter I Spy" while you are cooking dinner or washing dishes. Play simple board games to practice counting. Count how many steps you have climbed, how many doors are in your home, how many coins are in your pocket. There are so many interactive ways to practice these skills that allow parents to spend more time with their child and allow a child to spend less time practicing these skills through screens or apps.

Pre-K

Our class would like to congratulate Ms. Rola on the arrival of her new baby boy, Bensen! We looked at pictures she had sent us and are excited to soon meet him in person. We cannot wait to have her back with us when she returns from her maternity leave!

While Ms. Rola is away we are very happy that Ms. Sam is helping out in our classroom! Although she is used to the younger toddlers she is adapting well to our busy schedule, fun activities, and many engaging conversations! Also, Ms. Katie has really been a big help in the afternoons for us! She is very patient and kind with all the children. Ms. Shana would like to thank you both for stepping in to help!

Our Pre-K class has started focusing on the skills that will be introduced in Kindergarten and on the upcoming Kindergarten assessment tests. Also, Kindergarten registration dates are coming up. Check with your child's school district! Our theme in January was "all about winter." We certainly know it's here! As a class, we discussed what seasonal changes we have observed and felt, listed outdoor activities, experimented with changes in matter such as forms of water, read how animals adapt to wintertime, and researched which animals hibernate during winter. Not many of the children knew the story of Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, but only half of our class was excited when he announced on this year's 2018 video that we have six more weeks of winter!



While at circle time we continue to name the parts of a book, who the author and illustrator are, name characters in the story, recall parts of a story, and make predications. Now we are finding out what books are fiction and which are nonfiction. These are good discussions to practice at home while you read each night!

Each week we look at a number and letter of the week. We finally reached our yearly goal looking at numbers 1-20 and reaching letter Ss in the alphabet so far this year. In order to help teach the children number and letter identification we play number games, use our floor numbers to line up while we transition, sing songs, have stations at the learning centers, and practice naming new vocabulary words for the children to hear the beginning letter sounds. The children are then able to begin making connections to other words they know that may start with the same letter. We encourage you to continue practicing the letters of the alphabet and numbers 1-20 at home through identification and counting activities.

Coming up in February we will have our Valentine's Exchange Party! We will talk about why we celebrate Valentine's Day and exchange cards, treats, goodies, etc. (your choice) with one another to show how much we care for one another and the importance of friendship! Please make sure there is a name on each Valentine!

School-Age

January was quite a month for us. Sometimes it felt like we were here more than we were at school with so many weather-related closings and delays! We had fun passing the time with games and activities. Some of our favorites were making playdough and playing our own versions of tag in the sanctuary. Sometimes snow days are great for just providing us with the opportunity to engage in complex and extended play with our friends. As school-agers, we don't get to do that very often, and the skills we can learn through play are just as important as those we learn sitting in a classroom. Through complex and extended play, we practice social skills and develop lasting friendships and experiment with different roles and social expectations (How does a dad act? How does a mom act?). We also experiment with math and science concepts through building and creating, we express ourselves through sensory and art activities, develop vocabulary skills through communicating with each other and being exposed to new concepts and materials, practice independence and responsibility by cleaning up after ourselves and taking care of our classroom, and stay healthy with gross motor activities and games.

Remember that all children enrolled in our before and after school care program are welcome to attend care on snow days, early dismissals, and school delays at no extra cost. We do ask that if a child's schedule is changing (for example, a child who typically only attends in the afternoons will be coming in the morning for a delay), please call that morning and inform us that your schedule is changing. This helps us with knowing how to staff teachers for the day and what children to expect (especially when that concerns getting off the bus). I know it may seem like spring is a distant concept, but it will be quickly approaching. Early spring is when we start gearing up for summer and start planning for our summer trips and activities. It is not too early for you to start thinking about your plans for summer care. Currently enrolled DBELC students receive first dibs at spots for the summer program. Spots are limited and registration is required to save a spot. The weekly tuition rate for school-aged children for the summer program is \$120 per week. The field trip fee is still \$150 and will include a DBELC t-shirt and water bottle. Registration forms will be distributed soon.

In February, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with some special snacks and will be doing a special restaurant unit during which the kids will get the chance to help prepare, serve, and eat very special snacks. Lastly, we would like to remind parents to keep your children, even school-agers, within arm's reach at drop off and pick up times. Proper supervision of children is a state-mandated regulation. Also, please encourage children to clean up their mess at pick up times. We know you have worked a long day and are eager to get home, but it is important for us to support the children in learning responsibility and respect for our classroom materials and for each other.