



Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,


I am pleased to share that we are having a great entry to 2018 filled with rejuvenation and exciting happenings. I hope you are well and having positive transitions to the new year as well. The weather has certainly put us to the winter transition test! We are all doing our best to be healthy and well during this time of year too! So far, so good...

Here are some DICC updates and information sharing details:

- Our heating, playground and phase I of roofing projects are completed, well functioning and passed all inspection requirements. We are safe and sound with ongoing maintenance plans in place.
- We have many children moving on to new classrooms and new children from our wait lists are joining us. It is happening at all age levels and we have actually opened a new PreK classroom. These are exciting times!
- We have excellent new staff. Welcome Roni, Vicki, and Beth to the Orange Ladybug Rm and Jessica P as a new substitute involved in so many of our classrooms.
- Some of our current staff and interns have been very busy with a new initiative between DICC and TC3. We have worked out adult scholarships and flexible scheduling to help those interested in continuing education. It is exciting to see people pursue their education while remaining in our workplace. We have created opportunities that many would not have otherwise been able to access. This is so important and everyone benefits from the teaching and learning taking place.
- Ithaca College graduate students will be back with us in February for their spring semester. They will work in various classrooms on language enhancement as well as exploring diversity through literature and art expression. The students have regular planning time with the teachers and have strong supervision and coaching from our consultant, Nancy DeSarro and Jana Waller, IC Professor.
- We are working with the Science Center on curriculum and activities, along with other early childhood sites and staff. And our waddlers, toddlers and pre-k children have been actively involved with happenings and visits to the center. Teachers will be sharing updates about all of the science learning that is taking place in the classrooms and throughout the community.
- A working group of early childhood providers is gathering along with ICSD to develop a needs assessment for children from infants to age 8 and their families. It is important to know what care, education, social, cultural and economic needs and wants are within our community. Please look for upcoming information that will ask for your insights and ideas on how to best serve you and your family.
- Classroom teams have been doing visits to other community based early childhood settings that are similar to their age levels. It has been so helpful to connect with other colleagues and observe how they provide day to day teaching, learning and care. We are learning a lot about all of the environments and sharing great ideas.

Respectfully, Denise

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon, Feb 12	DICC Board
5:30-7:00pm	Training
Mon, Feb 19	CLOSED —
	President's Day
Feb 20 thru	Afterschool
Feb 23	Rooms Open Full Days

Let's Review—DICC Health Care Policy

DICC strives to control the spread of illness to the highest extent possible by ensuring that neither children nor employees are needlessly exposed to illness. To ensure a healthy group care environment, a partnership between parents and staff is necessary. Staff practices proper hand washing and equipment disinfectant procedures to minimize the spread of illness in the classrooms and are alerted to the symptoms of illness. Parents play a key role in minimizing illness and maintaining a healthy environment for all of the children by keeping their child out of the Center when the child's health is questionable or when the teachers believe it is necessary due to health concerns in the room.

The decision to send a child home is based on the symptoms a child is showing (see DICC Parent Handbook Illness Exclusion Policy) and especially on how the child is acting. Behavior is the key indicator of a child's health.

Note to Parents:

- DICC needs and wants new board membership. We are actively reaching out to recruit and retain people interested in guiding and supporting us. Please contact Krista if you have an interest and/or questions regarding participation.
- Do you have any exciting fundraising ideas? We are doing some homework on this topic and would love to hear from you with your thoughts and potential actions.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Blueberry Muffin Room

With Valentine's Day right around the corner the Blue Room's lesson plans revolve around love and friendship. We are working on sharing, gentle hands, waiting turns and not throwing toys. We are also working on each babies' individual growth - from starting to eat solids to becoming better adjusted to the classroom, learning to sit, pulling themselves up to stand and moving closer towards taking those first steps. They are each becoming stronger every day.

Butterfly Room

The Butterflies have been cocooning during the cold winter months. We've been learning about colors, our bodies and selves, and also discovering the fun we can have in our building's indoor play spaces. When weather permits we are still venturing out to the Sciencenter for some warm stimulation.

Please make sure that we have snow gear, including boots, so that we can have more outdoor adventures on our playground.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

Early in February we talked with the children about life on the farm. We also explored all the different types of pets, their care and feedings. We have done lots of art projects related to those two topics. You can admire the children's work and their creativity all over the classroom. The second part of the month will be dedicated to different types of transportation—cars, trains, boats, planes, hot air balloons, and many other ways to travel.

One of the most enjoyable times for the children is science/sensory time. We did several sensory activities in our classroom, and we also explored different sources of this type at the Science Center. We put some pictures from our trip on our bulletin board just outside our classroom. Please take a look at your children discovering science.

Grasshopper Room

The Grasshopper Room is conducting an investigation of water. We have been exploring with water in all its forms; discovering how snow dissolves, observing how water helps plants grow, and freezing watercolors to make paint popsicle art! The children have been very curious, and have enjoyed noticing all the ways water is around us. Here are some ways you can continue this exploration at home:

1. When taking a bath, bring a few objects along and notice how some sink, while others float. Ask your children to make predictions about which will float and sink, and then watch what happens.
2. Discuss ways to conserve water with your children at home.

On another note, we said goodbye to Amy, and hello to Jessica, who will be teaching alongside Laken until the new teacher begins. The transition has been going wonderfully, and we are grateful that you share your children with us.

Orange Ladybug Room

The children have been enjoying some exciting changes in the Orange Room! The class room was rearranged to accommodate space for new toys and areas of play. The kids are still working on the winter theme and enjoy going for adventures outside when the weather cooperates.

Rainbow Room

The toddlers in the Rainbow Room are working on sharing and using our words. We have many little ones now and our older children are teaching them the ropes. We will be making Valentines this month while exploring love and family. We are enjoying the fun of working with new classmates as they bring new smiles, personalities and their own rainbows to our room.

Firefly Room

In February the Fireflies dove into some science experiments as DICC works together with the Sciencenter. Oh yeah! Water play – is there anything better? • Making boats – will they sink or float? • Eye droppers • Squirt bottles • Weights and measurements • Books • So many questions – the kids are surely excited about learning!

We are still working on the alphabet, practicing both writing and printing. Our IC students will be coming soon with stories and activities. Walks are filled with the children finding words on street signs, learning to identify the words and spell – STOP, BIKE and STREET to name a few. So many things to learn through play!

Yellow Bumblebee Room

Yellow Room has been enjoying the snow every chance we get and focusing on group activities that interest the entire class. This is a challenge with 5 to 10 year olds but even more rewarding when it is accomplished. We recently received a large Marble Run set and all of the kids spent two afternoons using teamwork to create two intricate tracks.

We are also extremely proud of how hard our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders are working on learning to read and/or increasing their reading levels. The older kids are working hard on their math concepts through school assigned homework and extra practice as necessary here in our class.

