

July 2020



# Family Communication

## Special points of interest:

- More children return to enrollment weekly—YEAH!
- First DICC fish caught! (see page 4)
- Thank you for the overwhelming support of our community funders!

## What's Inside:

Love & Peace Out from Kieah	2
Blueberry Muffin & Caterpillar	2
Butterfly	3
Rainbow	3
Grasshopper	3
Ladybug	3
Dragonfly	4
Bumblebee	4

## Dear DICC Families & Caregivers,

I want to thank you for all of your time, attention and support that is taking place during our reopening process. It certainly makes for positive outcomes for all! We continue to be in the NYS emergency response phase of COVID19 through August. Our protocols and safety plans move us forward and are at the forefront of all the teaching and learning happening at DICC. You will see and read what that looks like in this newsletter as well as your direct experiences with everyone. You will also receive updates from Krista regarding any new program and protocol information from the state. We are working on forms and processes to align with those guidelines and best practices. Please continually check for these communications and let us know if you have questions and feedback to share. It is so important that we remain connected and consistent for the safety, health and wellness for our care and education.

Thank you in advance for all that you are doing.

Enrollment is increasing regularly as families are returning to the workforce and/or situations result in the need for child care. It is great to see everyone and we look so forward to eventually serving our entire community again. It is happening! Enjoy the photos and information sharing in the newsletter, as it represents all that we have committed to from the beginning of these new ways of being to current times. We continue to learn and grow together in the best interest of the children, families, staff and community at large.

And for the world front ... " A well taken care of TODAY will pave the way for a well taken care of TOMORROW." - Sri Swami Satchidananda

With Respect and Caring,

Denise

## We Stand Together

DICC provides a creative and culturally diverse environment. We are many ... alike and different, many sizes, shapes, colors, religions. We want the strength in our diversity to be visible to our children, families and community.

Last week our living mural was born—in the front large motor room—visible

to all who enter our doors. Every child and staff member is represented now and going forward with their hand prints in the color they see themselves.

We value each other. We learn from and with each other. We stand together in solidarity.



## Love & Peace Out from Kieah

Denise, Krista, Tiara & DICC Community,

How do I even begin to write a retirement resignation note when I am still trying to acquaint myself with the idea of retiring? I see it as a time to spend with my goddess self and rise up with the uncertainty of our expanding world.

One thing for sure, I will miss being a part of the DICC Community and seeing it fulfill its mission of change, acceptance and growth toward unity!

This I will always hold dear and I appreciate being trusted to care for so many beautiful children. The "I Love You" everyday, 100 times a day, helped open my heart and the hard days helped me to realize the personal growth I needed to become a better teacher and student of the Earth school.

So, in January 2021, I will finally graduate and enter an exciting new chapter of my life.

I'm happy I chose to stay through summer and fall for more time to get used to the new ideas and see the wonderful within the presence of all of us working together. So much love!

I do want to give a shout out to Mike Armstrong for helping me to find my way when I'd get lost, for putting up with my jokes and for being the best co teacher ever.

And to Miss V who will always shine with glitter!

Words to live by...

Rise up and own those tough vulnerable moments, be fascinated by rainbows and a good old pie in the face does wonders during hard time.

Love & Peace Out,



## Blueberry Muffin & Caterpillar

Hello and welcome to the Blueberry Muffin Room during the wonderful summer!

Despite the sticky weather the children are enjoying morning walks to the park and around the neighborhood. From the stroller they can see many beautiful flower, birds and sometimes also a cat or a dog passing by.

A bigger part of their day the children are doing fine and gross motor activities inside. Last week we concentrated on transportation in our lesson plan. The children had lots of fun playing with cars, trains and airplanes. We also read some books and sang songs about this subject.

Moving further in July, the children will discover life on the shore and under the sea. We are going to make lots of art projects, starting with painting colorful fish, decorating sand castles, gluing tentacles on the octopus and many more. For sensory time we are planning to play with silky sand, salty water, blue jello and oatmeal.

We will sing a song about Baby Beluga and about the pretty fish in the sea and we are also going to listen to the ocean sounds on the CD.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued love and support. Have a great month!

## Butterfly

Hello, from the Butterflies!

This month, the Butterflies would like to welcome back some of our old friends, Aliyah and Leila, who have already returned, and Kai and Henry, who will be joining us throughout the month. The children and staff have been adjusting very well and we are excited to start getting more friends.



The Butterflies have done a phenomenal job at wearing their masks and may we say it is quite impressive for a group of toddlers! The children are also becoming very familiar with our daily routines of proper handwashing upon arrival, between activities, transitions, indoor/outdoor play and before leaving.

This month some themes we will be looking at are: Flowers - the children have grown their own plants and are watching them grow in the classroom; Birds - the children will have a bird feeder outside of our classroom window to see what visitors we get; The Zoo - we will be doing a virtual zoo "field trip"; The 5 Senses will also be explored; And a unit on emotions and feelings, as we are all trying our best to adjust to the new "norms" and finding ways to express ourselves.



## Rainbow

We would like to welcome Wilson and Kyler to the Rainbow Room. They are adjusting well to our classroom. We miss all of our other friends and are patiently waiting for their return.

For the month of June we explored nature in our camping unit. We made fishing poles out of sticks, painted with marshmallows, made bird feeders and even pitched tents for our own campout.

When we are outside on our nature walks or playing in the field we are always practicing wearing our masks for our own and our friends safety. We love washing our hands while singing the ABCs.

This month we are going to dive into the ocean with an under the sea theme. We can't wait to learn all about the cool creatures.



## Grasshopper

Happy July Everyone!

The kids have been adjusting to our new "normal" so well! This month we will continue our usual letter books and themes. This month we plan to cover Q (Queens and Kings), R (Rainforest and Recycling), S (STEM), and U (Under the Sea). We also will continue to have Fun Fridays with the kids which usually includes a fun water day, dressing up, fun experiments, etc. With this, we just wanted to remind everyone to make sure everyone brings an extra towel and the kid's bathing suits! Our soon to be Kindergarten friends have been learning more math in small groups, and we plan to add in some simple reading and writing to get them prepared for next year! It is so awesome to see how excited they are to learn these new things!

We would also like to welcome Ms. Ciara to our room. Ms. Ciara will be with us for the summer and we are so excited to have her!

We hope everyone is safe and well.



## Ladybug

The ladybugs are studying caterpillars and butterflies, summer itself, construction, pets and zoo this month. Please plan on them being dirty and sweaty everyday. We are getting wet as often as possible as well. We have a busy bunch of kiddos and playing outside is key to burning off their energy. Please make sure they have a bathing suit, towel, water shoes, (their own water bottle to be taken home daily), and sunscreen (if desired). The school does have spf 50 spray on sunscreen for children to use.

# Dragonfly

Hello everyone!

This first month back has been great! Although there has been some changes the children are adjusting well.

For the month of July we will start off with celebrating the fourth of July and our independence. We will talk to the kids about what Independence Day means while we do some fun Fourth of July art projects (fireworks, stars, flags). For the rest of the month we will explore summer i.e. insects, summer treats, the beach.



# Bumblebees

Hello Bumblebee families!!!

I hope all is well with each and everyone of you. We have been exploring different species of sharks and dinosaurs as well as having a full nature week. This included learning how to fish and explore different animals and objects close to where we live. We have had several different science and art projects geared towards our theme weeks.

We are excited to announce that we have been given permission to utilize the Alex Haley Pool. We continue to ensure that we are practicing best measures for safety as we continue to live through these current changes. Please continue to send a change of clothes with your child/ children as we move towards warmer weather and now have the option to utilize the swimming pool three days a week. There is no charge for this opportunity. A permission form has been sent out to families and another will be sent via email. If you could please fill those out and return them ASAP that would be great. We are targeting next week to start swimming. The form includes a break down of safety precautions and what you as parents can expect. If you have any questions please contact myself at Marcus@dicc.org

## PREVENT COVID-19 DURING TRAVEL

**If you travel, take these steps:**



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

506 First Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
Phone: 607-272-7117  
Fax: 607-272-4100  
Email: info@dicc.org

## Please Share ...

Thoughts? Please share...

Thank you for your time and attention and all that you are doing to be as well as you can as we establish "new normal".

ASK FOR HELP... GIVE HELP...

Denise, Exec Director —  
Denise@dicc.org

Krista, Operations Manager—  
Admin@dicc.org

Tiara, Program Director—  
Tiara@dicc.org

Look for us on the web:  
[www.DICC.org](http://www.DICC.org)



The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center provides a creative and culturally diverse environment that fosters the emotional, social, and intellectual development of children. Our successes are achieved through family, staff, and community support and collaboration.