

March 2021



What's Inside:

Caterpillar	2
Butterfly	2
Dragonfly	4
Rainbow	4
Grasshopper	3
Firefly	3
Ladybug	3
Bumblebee	5
4/1/2021 UPDATE: NYS Travel Guidance	5

Special points of interest:

- DICC is CLOSED for Spring Break Fri, April 2nd
- School Age Programming Mon, April 5th thru Fri, Apr 9th 8:30a-5:30p at our BJM location
- DICC Board of Directors meets via Zoom on Mon, Apr 19. IF interested in participating, contact Krista for call specifics

Dear Families and Caregivers,

As amazing women are honored throughout the month of March (and always), we share some wise words from the late Beverly J. Martin - a formidable educator, mentor, activist for racial, economic and social justice, school administrator, community leader, mother, friend, colleague, wonderful soul and so much more.

“Always live in a state of preparedness as much as possible. I may be unable to predict the unexpected circumstances ahead. What I can do is prepare my heart and mind to be in alignment with our people so that together we can see the possibilities within the obstacles.” (Ms. Martin)

Thank you to our community for making those words come to real life as we navigated from the onset and to this one year date of pandemic times. It is an experience like no other! Our journey will continue and Ms. Martin's wisdom will guide us as we prepare and respond to what our work and personal lives present moving forward. Thank you again.

In April, we will begin our review

of the first quarter of 2021 - our sustainability, teaching and learning, operations and protocols, programming, grants, partnerships and more. As a result new goals, ideas and desires will be established in phases. Our DICC Board of Directors is working on this and staff, families and community supporters have and will continue to be in partnership with this work and planning. There is extensive support for early childhood education and care, fiscally and philosophically at local, state and national levels. We will stay connected as we act on Ms. Martin's advise regarding "preparedness as much as possible"!

With respect and caring,
Denise, Krista and Tieara



Caterpillar

Hello everyone! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March is already here. We are still wishing for the warmer weather, so we can open the windows and let the fresh air in.

Since March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday, we enjoyed a Dr. Seuss theme for first part of this month. We are read some of Dr. Seuss books and made many interesting art projects based on the stories we enjoyed.

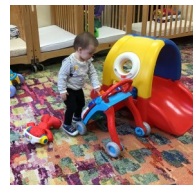
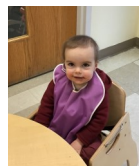
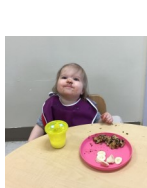
We glued red stripes on a hat for "Cat in the Hat", painting red fish and blue fish for "One Fish, two Fish..", glued our "Green Eggs and Ham", and

stomping feet for "The Foot Book".

For sensory, we have touched green jello to represent our green eggs, played with bubbles "Barber, baby, Bubbles, and a bumblebee", had fun with some feathers "four fluffy feathers on fifer-feffer-feff".

In the second part of March, we learned about St. Patrick's Day. We have painted colorful rainbows, created shamrocks, and glued on pots of gold. Green is our main color for the month.

In March, we have said goodbye to our friend Miles. He is going to do great in Dragonfly Room making some new friends and learning new things.



Butterfly

Butterfly families, let's Spring into March! We have kicked the month off with Spirit Week! This was a fun experience that all of the children got to participate in. It displayed unity and school spirit.

Some themes we are going over this month are Seuss week - to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday which was on March 2nd, we read many of his silly and wacky books and did many fun activities that went with each book,

Woman's History Month - coinciding with International Woman's Day (8th) to celebrate and honor woman who have impacted our lives then and now, having the kids wear purple green and/or white on the 8th to celebrate IWD,

St. Patrick's Day - celebrating Irish culture, heritage and traditions, we plan to have a party on the 17th where the children can wear green and will participate in many fun activities throughout the week,

Spring - where the children will learn about the season of new beginnings and expected seasonal changes and will get to investigate and discover what

they see in nature, and Bunnies! - one of the animals we will see more of in the Spring, ending the last week with an egg hunt and party in the classroom.

The letters we will go over this month are C, D, E, F and G! The children are doing very well with their letters and we are hearing that they are even going home and signing letters to their families. This is very exciting!

Many of the Butterflies are progressing with their potty training so please continue to assist with this process as it will only help. With the snow melting and weather warming up a bit, we ask that families be mindful that it could still get pretty chilly AND wet throughout the month but we want to get outdoors more. Make sure to send in weather appropriate clothing everyday as well as a change of clothes in case they get muddy, soiled or have a little too much fun with meals! If you have any questions please contact us via Remind, email or text.

Grasshopper

Hello Grasshopper Families!

We hope everyone is safe and well. As the weather gets warmer, we will be able to go on our outside adventures again, yay! With that being said, if you can make sure your child has an extra pair of clothes along with boots or shoes that can get dirty, that would help us tremendously!

This month we plan to cover S for Spirit Week, U for Understanding STEAM (What does STEAM stand for? How do we use STEAM?), A for Antarctica & Australia

(Where are both of the continents? How are they different? What animals live there, etc.), & K for Kindness (What does kindness look like? How can we show it? What does it mean to be kind?). For the month of April, we will be covering letters M, N, R, & V with themes to be determined.

As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to email Ms. Kaylee (kaylee@dicc.org) or contact us through Remind 101! Stay safe & healthy!

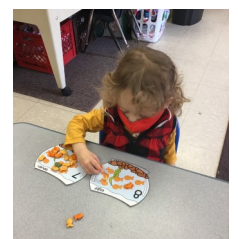
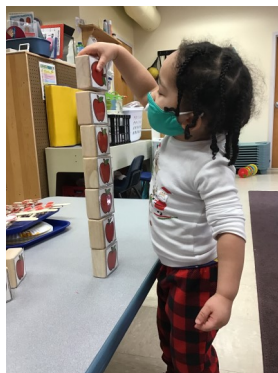
Firefly

Springtime is approaching. This means some nice weather, and more outside time for our classroom. We ask that each kid have a change of clothes that they either keep in their cubby or bring to school with them in the morning. The Firefly classroom will be talking about the different seasons, what we notice and what we like most about each. St. Patrick's Day offers us a fun day to be festive in the classroom, so wear your green or shamrocks and join the party! We will also continue working on our numbers, letters and shapes as well as practicing our cutting and gluing skills. Thank you for all your support, and let's all welcome spring together.

Ladybug

The ladybugs are working on letters F-J this month. We are learning the upper case, lower case, sound, the sign for each letter as well as how to write them. The ladybugs are having a lot of fun learning our alphabet. We also read books each week based on the letter of we are exploring.

The ladybugs are also enjoying the weather as it gets warmer. We go out for walks and playground time as often as we can. We learned about ice in the inlet/creek when it was piled up as well as the animals around that are starting to wake up. We are also looking for signs of spring as we wander on our walks. The signs are all around us!



Caterpillars ... Hands on, learning and exploring

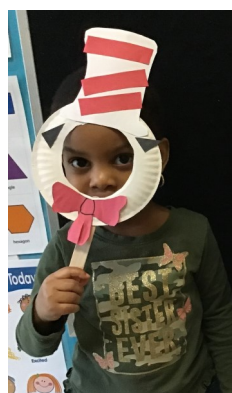
Dragonfly

Hello, Dragonfly Families!

Can you believe it is almost Spring already?!

This month we would like to welcome new friends - John and Miles—to our classroom. We also extend a heartfelt good bye to Lucy as she transitions to preschool. We will miss you Lucy and look forward to seeing how great you are doing in your new class.

In March we are learning about the



letters “E” and “F” as well as continuing to recognize our names, shapes, numbers and colors.

Warmer weather also comes in March. With the change in seasons we will look forward to both learning about Spring and getting outside more often for fresh air activities.

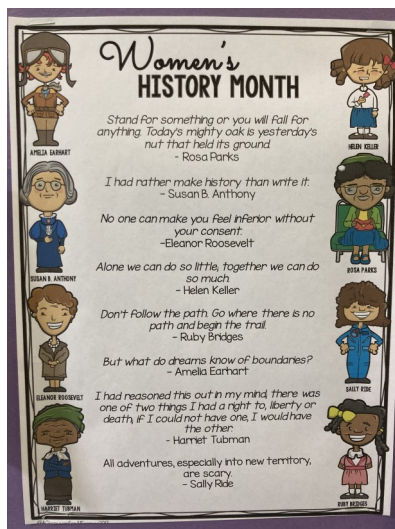
We ask parents to be mindful of the daily weather conditions. Dress your children in layers and send appropriate foot wear for playing outdoors (and even



Rainbow

Happy March, Rainbow Families!

We would like to welcome Loki to the classroom and the rainbow family! As we move into March please remember the weather will be fluctuating. There will be some days we are outside enjoying the weather (playing in the mud and puddles) so please plan clothes appropriately and please do send extras along with rain boots or snow boots. We are super excited for the warmer weather to finally be coming and can't wait to get outside with the kids!



We wrapped up Black History Month and are now focusing on Women's History! There will be various activities and books that go along with each person the kids will learn about. If there are any specific women you would like us to bring up this month to explore don't be afraid to tell us!

We are also in the process of creating a family wall for our class, so please send in a few family pictures (pets, important people in your child's life, etc.).



Bumblebees

Hello, Bumblebee families. I hope everyone is healthy. Thank you for your continued assistance and dedication to these challenging times we continue to face. We would like to welcome Ms Gloria, who has joined me in running our program with hopes that she will stay aboard throughout the summer program. Mr. Mike has continued conducting his student teaching every Friday with the our program, as we continue to learn about U.S. History. He will be graduating this May, so we will continue to enjoy his History lessons for the next two months. This month we are focusing on nature and various ecosystems from all over the world. We have learned about the rainforest this past week, and learned information about different species, how they live, their living environment and how they survive. We will also be learning about Woman's History Month. We will

discuss the importance of their contributions, accomplishments and the continued efforts to strive for respect and equality.

Just a quick reminder that the weather seems to be getting nicer and we will be utilizing the playground again. We ask that you send weather appropriate clothing for your children. We continue to have access to the gym at BJM so please contact the Program phone during pick up as we may be in the gym 4:45pm-5:30pm. We continue to maintain our safety precautions/protocols as well as those of the school as we continue our fight against this pandemic. We are doing our very best to provide a safe and sanitized space for your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Marcus@dicc.org. Thank You!

DICC Toddler & Preschool Openings AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.

Those interested contact Krista at 607-272-7117 or admin@dicc.org

NYS COVID-19 Travel Guidance—April 1st 2021 UPDATE

Starting April 1, 2021 domestic travelers will no longer be required to quarantine after entering New York from another U.S. State or U.S. Territory.

Mandatory quarantine remains in effect for international travelers.

For more information: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-quarantine-domestic-travel-will-no-longer-be-required-starting-april>

All travelers now and after April 1 are required to complete the NYS Traveler Health Form upon return to New York State.



Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

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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.

Thank You ...

... for your time, attention and all that you are doing as we move forward together during these new times and ways.

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