



DECEMBER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

PREPARED BY MEGHAN GUERRA LYONS,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Downtown Ithaca
Children's Center

DICC UPDATES

Hello DICC Families!

As we enter the season of giving, we wanted to remind families of the generosity of United Way Tompkins County.

DICC is proud to be a funded partner of United Way of Tompkins County. Their process not only assesses community needs and identifies areas they will fund (including our mission!), but they have community volunteers who are “subject matter experts” assess what programs are the most impactful and which agencies are the strongest partners when deciding on funding. Being a United Way funded partner is a great testimony to the great work being done by our organization.

We ask that you consider giving through United Way of Tompkins County – supporting not only DICC but UWTC itself and 62 other agencies and programs – as we work collectively to make Tompkins County a place where everyone can thrive! Please give today at www.uwtc.org/give or by calling (607) 500-GIVE.



DICC Staff Participating in PJ Day in honor of DeJour Gandy

As we enter 2023, DICC Administration is evaluating our current classroom teams to ensure that each classroom is operating at optimal capacity. You may see different faces in your child's room from time to time while we assess and adjust teacher room assignments. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Meghan or Krista. Thank you!



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DICC REMINDERS

- School Calendar: The 2022 -2023 School Calendar is available! If you need a paper copy, please let us know and we can print one out for you.
- Tuition announcement will be made soon.
- We will have our updated 2023 Parent Handbook, including Babysitting Policy, Health Policies, and others available by the end of January.
- Inclement Weather Delays and Closings: As we enter winter, please check your email, DICC Facebook, Remind Application, and/or our website. We do not align with school district closings.
- Please let teachers know of a child's absence by 9am.

Thank you and we appreciate your continued support!

From the DICC Administration Team,

Tieara Leckey, *Program Director*; Krista Tripp *Executive Director of Operations*;

Meghan Guerra Lyons, *Executive Director*

Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

506 First Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 272-7117

admin@dicc.org



**Downtown Ithaca
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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



TIEARA

Birthday: 11/17
Room: Program Director
Years at DICC: 2.5 years

FAVORITES

FOOD:
Sushi

COLOR:
Black

DICC PERK:
I love the community and mission
of DICC. We encompass DE&I.

*"Perfectly
Imperfect."*
FAVORITE QUOTE



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Blueberry Muffin

Ms. Eugenia, Ms. Lidin, & Ms. Xiomara

Hello Blueberry Muffin Families!
In December we learned about all different types of celebrations. As we enter colder months, please send children in weather appropriate clothing. If you need assistance with this, please speak with us. Thank you!



Caterpillar

Ms. Bogna, Ms. Ysabel and Ms. Laken



Greetings and Happy Holidays! This time of year can be hectic for many of us, so please take a moment to relax and catch up on the latest from the Caterpillar Room. Enjoy!

We have been focusing on the winter season and the many holidays which are celebrated during this time of year. As part of these two topics, the Caterpillars will hear stories, sing songs and create several crafts related to each.

For sensory purposes, the children will have the opportunity to touch cool whip, oatmeal, if we are lucky, some cold, wet snow!

In December we have to say goodbye to Avi. She is going to have lots of fun and new adventures in the Dragonfly Room.



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Ms. Natia, Ms. Nonni & Mr. Tony

Rainbow



Hello Rainbow families! This month we worked on everything winter! From making snowmen out of the children's names to making gifts and ornaments for Christmas! We worked hard on our shapes, ABCs and numbers in English and Spanish! We learned about New Years and created a snowman and a snack for the center to enjoy. We didn't get outside much this month due to the frigid weather we had so we had lots of fun in the big room playing with balls, bikes and doing some gymnastics! Come January we would like to get outside and play in some snow! So please send in all winter gear! Thank you! And as always any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out!

Dragonfly



Hello families.

For the month of December we are going to focus on the holidays that are celebrated during the month. (Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and the festival of lights just to name a few). If you have anything specific you would like to add please feel free to reach out to the Dragonfly teachers and we will be sure to implement it in our lesson plans. We will start the month with Christmas around the world and continue from there. Please take a second at pickup and check through your child's bin and take home any warmer weather clothing to be replaced by some warmer clothes. As a reminder please reach out to us via the Remind app, email, or by phone with any questions or concerns.



*Ms. Heather, Ms. Tiffany, Ms.
Laura & Ms. Anne*



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Butterfly



Ms. Keyna , Ms. Siham, & Ms. Kassie

Hello Butterfly Families!

In December we learned about all different types of celebrations. As we enter colder months, please send children in weather appropriate clothing. If you need assistance with this, please speak with us. Thank you!

Firefly



Ms. Josalenn, Ms. Ciara, and Mr. Josh.

Hello Firefly Families!

In December we learned about all different types of celebrations. As we enter colder months, please send children in weather appropriate clothing. If you need assistance with this, please speak with us. Thank you!



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Hello Ladybug Families!

In December we will be discussing how to handle being sad and frustrated as well as letters g m k. We are hoping to go outside, so please send your child in weather appropriate clothing. If you need assistance with this, please speak with us. Thank you!



Ladybug

Ms. Roni, Ms. Lorraine, and Ms. Bridgette



Grasshopper

Ms. Cassie, Ms. Abi, & Ms. Zaria



Grasshoppers December consisted on learning about the different holidays. We learned about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and the theme our room decorated in was Winter Solstice, we also added on Yule. The kids loved using all nature based things to decorate.



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From Tieara Leckey

To the amazing DICC community,

These last two plus years with you all have been a blessing. I have grown from the experiences, lessons, and love that I have gained from being a part of this beautiful community.

As much as I love the DICC community I have decided to leave my position as the DICC Program Director effective January 6th, 2023. I am forever grateful for this experience, the connections we have made, and all the new skills I have learned in the role as well as from all of you.

Over the next few weeks, I will be working to get all reviews done, planning for January with the classrooms, as well as getting the schedule set for the next few months.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the mission of DICC. I will see you all around.

IMPORTANT DATES

DICC will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, January 16th

Monday, February 20th

Friday, March 17th



Thank You

DICC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mariah McNamara

Vice President: Michele Westfall

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Brittany Griffin

Member: Devin Zysling

Member: Aubrey Hetznecker

Member: Jacob Yale

Member: Valentina Fulginiti

Member: Melissa Troiano

Interested in Joining ?

Email Admin@DICC.org

FOLLOW DICC



Did you know we are on Facebook?

<https://www.facebook.com/DowntownIthacaChildrensCenter>



We are also on TikTok! Our lunches from our chef posted. You can follow @Ithacachild



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