Dandelion Community Mission Statement
We are dedicated to promoting positive development in children by:
• Building caring relationships through positive discipline offered in a safe and enriching environment;
• Providing dedicated staff to engage children in the joy and excitement of learning;
• Offering a quality curriculum using innovative and research-based teaching strategies;
• Establishing strong partnerships with parents/guardians; and
• Nourishing spiritual growth through modeling love and respect for each other and the world around us.

Recent Family Events
The children at Dandelion had an exciting visit from Farmer Jen Woo Woo and her Magical Pumpkin Patch on October 11. The children sang songs and watched a magic show. Farmer Jen helped each class make a scarecrow and allowed the children to pet the bunnies and ducks that she had brought along with her. The morning festivities concluded with each child picking out their own pumpkin to take home. A special thank-you to the Dandelion Family Association who funded this event. Willy Woo Woo will take home. A special thank-you to the Dandelion Family Association who funded this event. Willy Woo Woo will return on December 12 for Jingle Bell Magic.

What’s New?
The Dandelion Learning Community is a place for children and their families to grow and learn. We have a new series of parent workshops beginning in November. Childcare is provided but is limited. Please register at the front desk. Hope to see you there!

November:
- Nov. 2—FCPS & DCCC Preschool Closed
- Nov. 4—Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 4—DCCC Participates in the Veteran’s Day Parade, Time TBA
- Nov. 5—DFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 6—FCPL Bookmobile Visits
- Nov. 7—4’s Preschool Conferences, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8—3’s Preschool Conferences, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 13—Room 3 Conferences, 10-6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 14—Breakfast Bar 6:00-9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 14—Room 1 Conferences, 12-6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15—Room 4 Conferences, 10-6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 20—Center-wide Thanksgiving Meal for Children and Staff
- Nov. 21—FCPS & DCCC Preschool Closed
- Nov. 22—Thanksgiving, DCCC & FCPS Closed
- Nov. 23—FCPS &DCCC Preschool Closed
- Nov. 26—Santa’s Secret Shop Opens
- Nov. 27—FCPL Bookmobile Visits

December: Celebrate!
- Dec. 1 —Holiday Festival 1—3 p.m.
- Dec. 3 —DFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 7—FCPS Dismiss 2 hrs. early
- Dec. 8 —Parent’s Night Out 4-8 p.m.
- Dec. 12—Breakfast Bar 6:00—9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 12—Willy Woo Woo Jingle Bell Magic
- Dec. 18—FCPL Bookmobile Visits
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1—FCPS & DCCC Preschool Closed
- Dec. 25—Merry Christmas, DCCC Closed
- Jan. 1 — New Year’s Day, DCCC Closed

Note: Calendars are also available online at www.educatewithcare.com or at the front desk.

“There is nothing quite like a fall day. The cool crisp air, pumpkins in the fields, and playing in the leaves. The smile on your face can warm a chilly day.” —author unknown
Staff News

Mary Anne Edwards is our new preschool teacher for 3’s in our Preschool-Hours-Only Program. Her background includes teaching first grade and working with young children in a variety of capacities including raising her children along with her husband. Welcome, Mary Anne!

Betsy Duttweiler joined our two’s classroom as an assistant to Ms. Vicki in August. Her background includes a degree in English Literature and recent completion of college classes in early childhood. She raises horses and enjoys working with children. We welcome Betsy to our Dandelion Community.

Gail Craddock is our late afternoon teacher in Room 4. Gail’s background includes working in a variety of educational settings including teaching kindergarten. Gail enjoys training dogs in her spare time. Welcome, Gail!

Program Updates

Art classes will continue to be offered this fall by Angela Wyant. Angela is an art specialist with Montgomery County Public Schools and is a Dandelion parent. Classes will be held on every other Monday afternoon. For a listing of projects children will enjoy during art, please see the announcements bulletin board by the front desk.

Accreditation Update Reminder

Validators for Maryland State Department of Education reviewed Dandelion’s program on Monday, June 11. Each validator observed in classrooms, talked with staff and administration and reviewed program curriculum, family involvement and administrative practices. All comments were positive. Results were sent to the state’s committee for review and finalization of the process and confirmation of accreditation was received on 6/27/07. Thanks to all who participated in this effort and we are excited to now be fully accredited.

Curriculum Corner

October’s Unit of Study is Fall Fun. Please take time to enjoy the scarecrows made and named by each class as part of this month’s study. Units of Study for the year are listed in parent handbooks. Classrooms share the same general topics but have different focus areas for each age level.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held in November to give families and teachers a chance to talk about children’s development. The next conferences, which are scheduled for March, will give teachers a chance to talk about children’s progress. Sign-up sheets for conferences are outside each classroom door.

Inclement Weather Policy

Dandelion will make every effort to maintain their regular open hours during inclement weather. If the weather makes it too difficult for staff to get to the center, a message will be left on the Dandelion phone and the website stating the adjusted hours of operation. Please call before leaving home if the weather is in question.

Yearly Registration

All families are enrolled at Dandelion from September—August and must re-register each year in February for the upcoming Fall. Registration information will be available in January.

Family Breakfast Bar

A Breakfast bar (assortment of food items) will be provided by Dandelion Administration for families and staff to enjoy from 6:00 – 9:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Please mark this special event on your calendars. Breakfast items will be available in the main hallway for families to pick up and eat in the classroom with their children. It is a great time to meet other families, talk with teachers, and start your day off with a breakfast with your child. Feel free to take breakfast items with you exit the building.

Children’s Absences

Please be sure to inform the front desk when your child will not be present due to vacations, illnesses, FCPS days off, etc. This assists us in scheduling staff and activities for each classroom as well as avoiding the phone call from the front desk to confirm absences.

Parent Workshop Series 2007-8

A new series of Parent Workshops will begin in November. All parents are invited to attend at no cost and child care will be offered for $5.00/child. A calendar of topics is at the front desk along with a sign-up sheet. Pre-registration is required.

READ Program

Reminder: Spend some quality time in the evening reading with your child. Pick up books at the READ display in the main hallway and start on your way to Reading Every Available Day! Thank you to those families who are already participating. Please ask at the front desk for assistance if you have any questions.

Parking Lot Safety

Please do not leave your parked car running while you are in the building or allow children to go to cars or the parking lot unattended.

Tuition Reminders

• Bi-weekly tuition payments are due every other Monday. A bi-weekly tuition schedule is posted by the parent mailboxes.

• Monthly and Preschool Tuition is due the first of the month. In order to receive the discount, tuition must be received by the 5th.

Dandelion Family Association Updates

• The DFA continues to meet each month on the first Monday of the month. All families and staff are welcome. Childcare is provided at no cost to families.

• A DFA Book has been distributed to all families which includes information about upcoming events.

• Presently the DFA has $1502.08 in its budget. The DFA has voted to give each classroom $100 to spend on materials for children and to pay for Willy Woo Woo to come to Dandelion in October and December.

• The current DFA fundraiser is Kidz First which includes a catalog for gift items and a Secret Santa’s Shop for children to purchase items for their families.

• Watch for more information!