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

Brunswick Veteran’s Day Parade
On Nov. 5, 2006, parents, children and staff rode the DCCC float in the annual Brunswick Veteran’s Day Parade. Children threw candy to parade-goers while others waved flags. The float was decorated by families at the Fall Festival. Parents, children and staff made a banner of handprints in red and blue with the words added, “These Hands Hold Our Future!” The DCCC float won 2nd Prize and we were awarded a check for $125. Thank you to Brian Snoots for providing the transportation for the 2nd year in a row!

Dandelion Holiday Festival
On December 16, families prepared for the holidays by making holiday wreaths, advent chains, ornaments, nativity scenes and posed for family photos. Delicious goodies were provided by families and DCCC. The event concluded with a sing-a-long.

What’s New?

The Dandelion Learning Community continues to add enhancements to the program to promote positive growth and development in children. Monthly parent workshops will begin in January. Childcare is provided but is limited. Please register at the front desk. Hope to see you there! All workshops will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.
Jan. 31 “Look at Me Grow!” Developmental Milestones
Feb. 28 “I Am Lovable and Capable “ Building Self-Esteem
Mar. 28 “I Am Getting Ready to Read and Write” Promoting Early Literacy
Apr. 25 “Teach Me a Better Way” Positive Discipline Part I
May 30 “I See Your Actions, I Hear Your Words “ Positive Discipline Part II

Calendar of Events
December: Celebrate!
- Dec. 4—DFA Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
- Dec. 9—Parents’ Night Out, 4-8 p.m.
- Dec. 13—Family Breakfast 6:30-9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 14—FCPS dismiss 2 hrs. early
- Dec. 16—Holiday Festival for DCCC Families, 1-4 p.m.
- Dec. 25—DCCC Closed (Merry Christmas!)
- Dec. 22-31—FCPS Closed (Winter Break) No DCCC Preschool

January: Winter Wonders
- Jan. 1—DCCC and FCPS Closed, No DCCC Preschool
- Jan. 8—DFA Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
- Jan. 10—Family Breakfast 6:30-9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 15—FCPS Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Jan. 20—Parents’ Night Out, 4-8 p.m.
- Jan. 22-23—FCPS Closed (Professional Development)
- Jan.— “Night Out of the Kitchen” at a Local Restaurant, Date/Time TBA
- Jan. 31 — Parent Workshop

February: Friends Forever
- Feb. 5—DFA Meeting, 7-8 p.m.
- Feb. 14—Family Breakfast 6:30-9 a.m.
- Feb. 5—Fall Registrations Due
- Feb. 15—FCPS Dismiss 2 hrs. Early
- Feb. 19—President’s Day—DCCC and FCPS Closed for Children, Staff In-service Day
- Feb. 28—Parent Workshop

Dandelion Administration
(Please see Staff Bulletin Board in entryway for staff photos)
Mary Janson, Director
Janice Czeh, Program Administrator
Kim Mogard, Office Manager
Tonia Henderson, Early and Late Front Desk

“To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while.”
Josh Billings
**Staff News**

Our infant program in Room 1 is growing so we were happy to welcome Stacey Tew to our Dandelion staff as an additional infant/tod staff. Stacey works late afternoons in Room 1 and has already become an integral part of our Dandelion community. Her son, Samson, joined our two's for the late afternoon program.

Katie Hipkins started at Dandelion this fall as a permanent sub but quickly moved into a weekly staffing position. She now works daily with our infants/tods in Room 1 with Ms. Joy but will be changing her schedule slightly when she continues college in mid-January. We are happy to have her as a permanent member of the Dandelion community.

Tiffany Schwartzbeck is our new lead teacher for our all-day three’s program. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in early childhood including past classroom and administrative positions. We are excited to have her on board.

**Program Updates**

### Specials

Specials began at the end of September for Dandelion children. Art and music have been offered each week. Fitness has included walks each week on the grounds. Fitness will begin again in Jan. 2007. Take a peek at the Specials bulletin board in the main hallway for details.

### Accreditation Update

Our program has completed the pre-validation phase of Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation. We are waiting for the state validators to visit to finalize the process.

### Kenya – Our Sister Country 2006-7

More correspondence with our friends in Kenya occurred in November when Ms. Gail, Ms. Mary’s sister, delivered our special notes on her trip to Nairobi, Kenya. We received gifts of books from Kenya that will be shared throughout our program.

**Curriculum Corner**

Building Displays -- The scarecrows made by each classroom were a hit with children and families. Children named them and some had to say good-bye to their scarecrow friends every evening before going home. We have added decorations made by each classroom to the front of the building to create a Gingerbread House out of Dandelion.

Parent-Teacher Conferences -- Conferences were 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.

**Parenting Workshops**

October’s workshop was entitled *Play is Their Work* and focused on what each child gains from each center in the classroom. November’s workshop was entitled *Handling the Holidays* and discussion included addressing stress for adults and children that typically occurs during the holiday season. More parent workshops are planned for the year. Watch for a flyer. Childcare is provided for each workshop.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

Dandelion will make every effort to maintain their regular open hours during inclement weather. If the weather becomes 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.

**Yearly Registration**

All families must re-register each year in February for the upcoming August – July program. Registration information will be forthcoming. Re-registration for the Fall will be due by Feb. 5. More information to come.

**Family Breakfasts**

Breakfasts are provided by Dandelion Administration for families and staff to enjoy on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. Please mark this special event on your calendars. It is a great time to meet other families, talk with teachers, and start your day off with a sit-down breakfast.

**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.

- Previous DFA family activities included the Ice Cream Social in September, the Fall Festival in October, the Veteran’s Day Parade in November, the Holiday Festival in December and Parent’s Nights Out in Sept., Nov., and Dec. Please request a DFA Event calendar at the front desk if you do not have a copy.

- Presently the DFA has over $4,000 in its budget. We had a successful Longaberger Basket fundraiser followed by a successful Wolfgang candy sale. We continue to offer Parents’ Night Out which also provides additional income to the DFA account (see framed schedule by the front desk for future PNO).

- DFA hosted the Holiday Festival held on Dec. 16. Many holiday activities for families were planned including a holiday sing-a-long. DFA covered all costs so families could attend for free. Families were asked to bring a snack to share. Families also were encouraged to bring a food item donation or hats/mittens donation that were then distributed to local charities serving families in need.