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

Earth Day
The Dandelion Family Association hosted an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 21st. The families participated in recycling activities. The celebration also included planting trees donated by Lost Hen Farm and flowers provided by Meadow Farms. The festivities concluded with a Nature Discovery Walk on the 16 acres of Dandelion's nature trails leading to the Catoctin and Broad Run Creeks.

2nd Annual Family Picnic
Dandelion held their 2nd Annual Family Picnic, Friday, June 8th to say goodbye to another school year and hello to SUMMER! Entertainment was provided by the local blue grass band, The Orchard Boys. More than 140 family members braved the hot steamy evening to enjoy food, fellowship and bluegrass music. The storm that rolled through caused an indoor relocation of the festivities, but a good time was had by all.

What's New?
Dandelion is fully accredited! Accreditation is a voluntary process that denotes quality programming in early childhood. Dandelion is among the few programs to receive acknowledgement on this level of excellence from the state of Maryland. If any new families would like to learn more about this process, handouts with full details will be available at the front desk. See the Program Updates section for more details.

New playground equipment arrived in May for two of Dandelion's playgrounds. Funds for purchasing the equipment were raised by the Dandelion Family Association. Thanks to all families who participated in the fundraising efforts.

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken."
— James Dent

Calendar of Events

June:
• June 4—DFA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
• June 5—Room 4 Preschool Graduation, 7 p.m.
• June 8—End of the Year Blue Grass Picnic, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
• June 12—Bookmobile Visits DCCC
• June 15—Last Day of School Year Session, Room 4’s Preschool Graduation, 7 p.m.
• June 18—DCCC Closed, Staff In-service Day
• June 19—First Day of Summer Session “Fun & Fit 2007”
• June 21—Moonbounce Visits DCCC, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

July:
• July 2-13, Yum, Yum & Fun
• July 16-27, Exercise Excitement
• July 3—Bookmobile Visits DCCC
• July 4—4th of July, DCCC Closed
• July 10—Field Trip to Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, VA, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Rooms 5 & 6)
• July 11—Family Breakfast (Outdoors), 7-9 a.m.
• July 13—Keys Ticket $ Due, Tae Kwan Do, Rooms 4-6
• July 17—Parent Workshop, “Watch Me Grow: Part II,” 6:30-8:30 p.m.
• July 20—Tae Kwan Do, Rooms 4-6
• July 24—Bookmobile Visits DCCC
• July 27—Tae Kwan Do, Rooms 4-6, DCCC Family Night @ Keys Game Meet at 6 p.m., Game begins at 6:30 p.m.

August:
• August 3—Bookmobile Visits DCCC
• August 4—4th of July, DCCC Closed
• August 10—Field Trip to Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, VA, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Rooms 5 & 6), DFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
• August 14—Bookmobile Visits DCCC
• August 18—Dandelion Day for Staff and Families at Franklin Water Park, 4-8 p.m.
• August 23—Last Day of Summer Session
• August 24—DCCC Closed, Staff In-service Day
• August 27—First Day of School Year Session, DCCC & FCPS

Dandelion Administration
Mary Janson, Director
Janice Czeh, Program Administrator
Kim Mogard, Office Manager
Welcome summer and welcome Pam Allen to Room 1 staff. Pam works for the FCPS at Valley Elementary during the school year. Pam will be assisting Ms. Joy in the day time, replacing Ms. Nicole who is on maternity leave and Ms. Katie who is working at a summer camp. Both are planning to return in the Fall.

Welcome also to Kimberly Turbyfield, who is returning as summer staff as the lead teacher in Room 5. She is a Junior at Crown Bible College majoring in Secondary Education.

Another welcome is extended to Megan Sommers who is an elementary Education major at Towson University. She will be overseeing Room 6 school-age program for the summer.

### Program Updates

#### Family Vacations

Please be sure to inform the front desk when your child will not be present due to vacations, 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.

#### Accreditation Update

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.

### Summer Family Events

**Family Fitness Walks:** Families are invited to participate in a “Walk for Health” program. A log for recording distances families walk together will be provided along with a pedometer. Discovery Walks down the trail to Catoctin and Broad Run Creeks will also be a part of our summer fun for families. Families are asked to sign up at the front desk when using the trail on Fridays between 3:00-6:30 p.m. This is a 1/2 mile self-guided walk that takes about one hour to complete. Please pick up a brochure at the front desk for more details.

**Dandelion Keys Night:** A special night out for families is planned at the Keys ball park on July 27, 2007. Fireworks and Carousel rides will also be part of the festivities. Tickets will be available for pre-purchase at the front desk.

**Swimming at Franklin Water Park:** Swimming, wading, sunbathing, and standing in the waterfalls will make this an evening to remember with the family. Join us on Saturday, August 18 from 4-8 p.m. Please sign-up at the front desk.

### Safety Reminder

Please make sure to watch your child carefully when in the parking lot. It is a busy place during drop-off and pick-up and a small child can be difficult to see between parked cars.

### Accreditation Update

Fun & Fit 2007 calendars have been distributed. Please look over the events so your child will have needed clothing and materials for water days, creek days, Wacky Wednesdays and other special events.

Summer art classes will be offered by Angela Wyant. Angela is an art specialist with Montgomery County Public Schools and is a Dandelion Parent. Classes will be held on Thursdays for Rooms 1-3 and Fridays for Rooms 4-6 Classes will start in July.

### Family Breakfasts

One breakfast will be held during the summer, on July 11. It will be an outdoor event from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. on the “Tree house” side of the building. Plan to enjoy a sit-down breakfast with your family and the beautiful outdoors. The breakfast will be held inside if the weather is inclement.

### READ Program

Fill your summer evening with family reading experiences. New book packets have been added. Set up a folder 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.

### Dandelion Family Association Updates

- The DFA continues to meet on the first Monday of the month (except in July). All families and staff are welcome. Childcare is provided at no cost to families. Please see the minutes from each meeting posted on the Parent News Bulletin Board by the front desk or on the Dandelion website www.educatewithcare.com

### Summer Parent Workshop

A summer parent workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17 at 6:30. This workshop is entitled “Watch Me Grow: Part II” and will focus on developmental milestones for children. All parents are invited to attend at no cost and child care will be offered for $5.00/child. A sign up will be located at the front desk, pre-registration is required.

### Summer 2007

One DFA Event Booklets will be available soon with a calendar of monthly events for Dandelion families for the 2007-2008 school year.