

# CCC Newsletter

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*The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn.*

## Bookshop Fundraiser



Many thanks to all who baked and hosted at the Concord Bookshop Fundraiser. This was the most successful bookshop Day we have had in many years. We will receive a donation of over **\$1,000** from the bookshop..

The goal of this year's Annual Appeal is \$20,000. Gifts of any size are important, make a difference and encourage others to give. We hope that our families will make their children's school their philanthropic priority while at CCC.



## *Toy Shop offers a night for CCC, CCC offers childcare for Shoppers*

The Concord Toyshop has generously offered to remain open until 8:30 Pm on Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 15% of the evening's proceeds will be donated to CCC. Please let family and friends know about this special shopping opportunity. For our families we will be offering a "**Story Hour**" at West Concord for children over two years old who are currently enrolled at CCC and their siblings. Our Program Directors, Anne Doherty, Penni Hensley Wagner, and Jennine Lesser, along with Administrative Director Joanne Saideh have generously offered to donate their time to give parents some shopping time without children.



**CCC December Calendar**  
*Remember to send your children prepared to play outdoors*

- 3** Toy Shop of Concord 5:30-8:30 PM
- 8** Board Meeting at 1300 7:30 All Welcome! CCC Audit Presentation
- 10** *Why Children Need Nature* 7 PM at West Concord
- 24 & 25** CCC closed
- 27-30** December Optional Days
- 31** CCC Closed
- Jan. 3** Applications for 2011 -2012 will be distributed

## Annual Appeal



The CCC Annual Appeal along with the Bookshop Fundraiser, the Auction and other fundraisers that are held throughout the year help to support the special qualities that make the Center extraordinary. Programs such

as tuition assistance, competitive salaries and professional development for CCC teachers, capital improvements, and maintenance at all sites cannot be funded completely from tuition.

The biggest cost by far is staff salaries and benefits. For running a school with low student/teacher ratios and highly qualified, professional teachers, this is as expected.



## December Optional Days

This year December Optional Days will take place at our West Concord Program. Families who have enrolled from all three sites will gather at West Concord. Teachers from all three sites will be scheduled at West Concord. If you have questions or wish to sign-up please let your Program Director know ASAP.

## The Reason for Lunch

Penni Hensley Wagner, Ripley Program Director

*We should look for someone to eat and drink with before looking for something to eat and drink... ~ Epicurus*

It's 11:45 A.M. and children across Concord Children's Center are washing their hands, collecting their lunches, and finding someone to sit with for lunch. Several years ago we decided to adjust our program to include all of the children for lunchtime. This gives everyone the opportunity to come together for community and language building. They are developing the fine art of conversation by taking turns telling about their mornings and lives, asking questions, and making comments of support or wonderment. At Ripley we also ask the children to reflect on the "best thing" about their day and share it with others at their table. The children and teachers often share moments of who they were with along with what they were doing. The children show us how important this is to them by reminding us to check in with them or starting the conversation of "best thing" on their own.

## The Friendship Feast

We also take the opportunity in November to join together for Friendship Feast lunches at our West Concord and Ripley sites. Each program creates this experience in their unique way. At West Concord the groups come together in the "big room" to sit at the big tables, share a meal and celebrate how they are part of the bigger community at their program. At Ripley we invite the families to send in an ingredient for our lunch and to join us. We create soup and breads along with cut fruit and veggies and cider for the children and their families to share. Many families were able to join us to share the bounty of the harvest and celebrate our community. This year we were thrilled to expand our table to include the infants and toddlers.

## Sharing our Food

Again this year a family coordinated a food drive for **Open Table**. It was wonderful to see the collection boxes filling up as all of you were able to share what you could with others. Children were carrying in boxes and cans to share with others in the community. One afternoon, Peter Morris, (his family coordinated the drive) exclaimed, "Wow, you should see my mom's car. It is full of food!" His mom's car is a minivan, so indeed WOW! Everyone sharing generously helps our children to see themselves as part of a larger community. Thank you.

## Why Mud?

Pat Nelson & Diane Krug



One afternoon I looked out my office window and watched a very happy group of girls playing in the sole mud puddle on the West Concord playground. As whoever was responsible for laundry that day well knows, they were fully immersed in mud play. I asked teacher Diane Krug to tell me a little bit about how this play contributes to learning. Playing in mud falls in the category of *Sensory Play*. Diane explained that "young children learn through their five senses, touch, sight, smell, taste, and hearing." We place sensory tables in all of our classrooms – babies on up are exploring the world by using their senses indoors and out. "Our job as educators", said Diane, "is to help them explore their senses by providing appropriate activities for sensory play and learning. A mud puddle can be the most basic way to explore, process, and come to understand new information". As children grow older these experiences assist in their acquisition of new knowledge thru more formal instruction. Joanne Saideh, recommends a favorite book for extending this exploration of mud, **The Mud Puddle** by Robert Munsch Great Reading!

Anne Doherty, West Concord program director went right to the source of the mud puddle play and this is what the children told her:

"My friends were in the puddle so I wanted to play with them."

"I take dance lessons so I like to practice in the puddles and you can dance better if you get mud on your hands"

"Splashing and sliding in the mud is fun!"

"You can get dirty in the mud puddle. Sometimes you aren't suppose to get dirty"

"I jump and then I get all dirty and then I can take a shower and get clean"

"It feels cool on a hot day because there is water in the puddles"

"I like to wear my new boots!"

"I can get my shoes all dirty and my tights too".