

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



Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. We hope that this monthly newsletter helps to keep our families up to date with what is happening in

the classroom, as well as in the CCC community of parents and teachers. We welcome your ideas for how we can best communicate with our families. Please send comments to Pat Nelson at executive@concordchildrenscenter.org

Interested in getting involved at CCC?

The **Personnel Committee** chairs, Kate Damon and Kim Casalena, invite interested parents to join them at the first meeting of the year, on **Tuesday September 9 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM**. Come and



hear about the committees agenda for the year and decide if you would like to join this very important CCC committee. You can stay and attend the first meeting of the **Board of Directors**. Attorney Liz Reinhardt will be presenting a workshop on the *Role of the Board of Directors in a Non-Profit*.

Going Green at CCC

In an effort to cut down on the amount of paper used at CCC we did not distribute the **Parent Handbook** to all of our families. New families should have received a handbook in their "back to school" packet. If you would like a copy please ask your program director. The **Parent Handbook** will also be posted on our website at www.concordchildrenscenter.org. We are now distributing this **Newsletter** by email. There will be some copies at each site for any families seeking a paper copy.

CCC Calendar

September 2

The first day of school!

September 9

Personel Committee @ West Concord 6:30

Board meeting @ West Concord 7:30

September 11

Reception for New Families – 7PM @ 1300 Main St.

September 16

Ripley Fall Picnic

September 17

West Concord Fall Picnic

September 23

Emerson Toddler 2 and Twos Parent Night

September 25

Raising Three Year Olds-Parenting Class at 1300 Main St.

September 30

CPS closed – Optional After K and Grade 1

Concord Family Network

Concord Family Network (CFN) is a volunteer-run group of local parents, based in Concord, working together to unite, inform and engage Concord families with young children. www.concordfamilynetwork.org

CFN September Events

Fire Truck Wash ~ Date/Time TBA - Bring a sponge and bucket, and we'll supply water, soap, neighbors, snacks and a real Concord fire engine! RSVPs requested... membership not required!

Family Softball Game -- 09/14 (9/28 rain date), 10:30AM, Rideout Fields -- Batter Up!

Halloween Planning Meeting ~ Date/Time TBA -- Come participate in the planning of this creative, fun October event... Open to the public, proceeds donated to charity

West Concord Village Day Saturday Sept. 27

Concord Children's Center has been invited to host a table at the West Concord Village Day Tag Sale. We will do our famed face painting, offer Concord Childrens Center Cookbooks for sale, and distribute information about Concord Childrens Center Participation supports the Warners Pond Restoration Project. In order for us to host a table we would need some parent volunteers to face paint, and man the table from 9 AM til 2 PM. Anybody interested? Please contact Pat Nelson at 978-369-3747 or executive@concordchildrenscenter.org, if you would like to help with this event.



Bookshop Fundraiser: Saturday Nov. 8

Buy books at the Concord Bookshop on November 8, and help raise money for CCC facility improvements

Parent Evaluations - June 2008-



Twice a year we ask for feedback from our families. We like the fact that we see our parents daily and often hear from you about what you like and what you

think we could improve. The parent surveys help to put all those conversations together and gives us direction for improving our programs.

The 2008 end of the year survey that 40% of our families completed, demonstrated that overall respondents are very satisfied with Concord Children's Center. Parents can choose to answer with *Very Satisfied*, *Satisfied*, or *Not Satisfied* to 23 questions about CCC. Overall 87% of the families responding indicated that they were very satisfied with CCC.

One area that received less than 100% *Very Satisfied*, was the area that asked questions about our facilities and maintenance, both indoor and out. While we meet all the standards set by the Commonwealth and NAEYC our accrediting body, we recognize that short and long term facilities plans need to be put into place for the building we own, (West Concord) and the two sites that we rent from the town (Ripley), and Emerson Hospital (Emerson). Our Long Range Planning Committee has been looking at the issue of facilities over the past couple of years. We will dedicate a portion of this year's Annual Fund to make site improvements. If you are interested in participating on this committee or helping with facilities maintenance, please contact Pat Nelson at executive@concordchildrenscenter.org

Parenting Workshops

The Center for Parents and Teachers Fall Parenting Program:

"How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk"

Facilitated by Cyndie White, M.S., Parent Educator

Dates: Friday, October 17, 24, November 7, 14, 21

Time: 9:30-11:00AM

Location: Ripley Building, 120 Meriam Road, Concord, MA

To pre-register: Email amartinez@colonial.net or call 978-202-1146.

Raising Three year Olds

Thursday September 25, 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Betsy Wisch will conduct a First Connections seminar at 1300 Main Street. For information and to register contact First Connections at 978-287-0221

The Summer Assessment Project

This Summer, with a grant from the Department of Early Education and Care, Concord Children's Center Administrators and teachers met four times to study two child assessment tools. Led by our Administrative Director, Joanne Saideh, we reviewed two tools that are designed to measure children's growth and development from infancy through age 5 years. Like many developmentally based early childhood programs, Concord Children's Center has traditionally followed an observational assessment process developed by our own staff.



Assessment of child growth has increasingly been of interest to early childhood educators. A great deal of attention has been paid to the importance of assuring that any assessment of young children is developmentally appropriate and designed to enhance a teacher's capacity to tailor curriculum to address developmental milestones. The tools that we have been looking at, *The High Scope Child Observation Record*, and *Creative Curriculum Assessment of Child Progress* meet this criteria. We anticipate that we will choose a tool this fall for implementation in the Fall of 2009, at that time we will provide parents with an orientation to our assessment process.

Diane Krug, Jen Conradt, (West Concord teachers), Laura Carpenter (Emerson teacher) and Dottie Whittier, (Ripley teacher), have been members of this study group along with the Program Directors, Joanne Saideh, and Pat Nelson.

If you are interested in knowing more about the assessment of young children please contact Joanne Saideh or Pat Nelson, or ask your Program Director. You can check out the Creative Curriculum website at www.creativecurriculum.com and High Scope at www.highscope.org.

CCC Bulb Fundraiser



Watch for information on how you can buy great bulbs for fall planting and help raise money for CCC. Order forms and details will be available at each site.