

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

CCC Calendar

Nov. 24-25 Closed for Thanksgiving Break!
Dec. 7 Auction planning meeting
Dec. 14 Board Meeting/Audit/W.C.
Dec. 26 Closed for Holiday
Dec. 27- 30 December Optional Days
Jan. 2 Closed for New Years

Welcome to our new Development Staff

We are very pleased to welcome Ripley Alumni Parent, Jennifer Saxe, to our Administrative Staff as our Development and Alumni Relations Coordinator. Jen has served on the Board and Co-chaired the Development Committee for the past two years. She has also co-chaired the Auction Solicitations Committee for two years. Before volunteering for CCC she worked for 8 years in the development office of an international school in Zurich. We are thrilled to have Jen join us to assist with our Capital Fundraising effort.



Bookshop Fundraiser

Many thanks to all who baked and hosted at the Concord Bookshop Fundraiser and to West Concord Parent, Christa Collins for organizing the event.

2011 - 2012 Annual Appeal

By now, all families should have received their fall Annual Appeal letter. The special qualities that make CCC extraordinary are impossible without parent and alumni support. Programs such as tuition assistance, competitive salaries and professional development for CCC teachers, and capital improvements and maintenance at all sites cannot be funded completely from operating income. Annual Appeal funds are vital to keeping the quality of programs at CCC high.

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.

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.



CCC Auction Co-Chair, Jen Montbach, West Concord Heart Room parent, is delighted to welcome Michelle Keenan, West Concord After School parent, as an Auction Co-chair.

We are still hoping to have an Emerson or Ripley parent join this team. Auction Co-chairs are the connectors for all of the volunteers and the committee chairs who support the Auction, they keep a eye on the big picture. If you would like to know more about helping to chair the Auction, please contact Jen Montbach at jennifer@montbach.net



We invite all of our families to join us at our next Auction planning meeting on December 7 at 8 PM. At West Concord



How to reach your Program Director

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Parent Teacher Conferences and Assessment at CCC

Over the next month your teachers will be inviting you to meet with them for your child's mid year conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from your teacher about your child's experience at CCC and for you to share your own thoughts and questions about your child's development. **Please feel free to ask your Program Director for more information about assessment at CCC.**

Your children's teachers construct their conference reports using assessment data gathered over the first few months of school. The assessment process at CCC is an ongoing open-ended process that looks at the whole child, as both an individual and as a member of a group. Assessment takes place within the context of the classroom and happens throughout the year. It is a strength-based, developmental approach designed to document a child's growth over time and describe a child's progress toward learning goals as outlined by a developmental continuum and Concord Children's Center curriculum philosophy.

Our assessment process is a team approach rooted in the teacher's power of observation and their knowledge of each child as an individual. CCC teachers are trained to conduct age appropriate assessments of children within their classroom age group. Methods used to evaluate a child's abilities, interests and progress include anecdotal notes, samples of drawings, artwork or constructions, records of conversations, talking with a child to learn more about their thinking, and developmental checklists.

In order to provide developmentally appropriate



assessment that benefits infants and toddlers, teachers observe infants and toddlers to learn how they accomplish certain important functions such as moving around their environment,

forming relationships, manipulating objects, solving problems and communicating with others.

This year we have added a nationally published research based assessment tool, *Teaching Strategies Gold*, to supplement our traditional individual child assessment approach. This tool is recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the association that

accredits our program. The tool offers a methodology for documenting the developmental progress a teacher observes in the areas of social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive growth. Teachers are also observing growth in your child's understanding of developmentally appropriate concepts in literacy, math, science, social studies and the arts.



Your children are growing and developing in all areas through the medium of purposeful play, carefully guided by their teachers.

In addition to using this information for conference report preparation, the process of assessment informs curriculum development in the classroom and targeted individual support that will move each child along their continuum of development.

We are proud of our teacher's ability to know and understand each child, and through the process of observation, to assess and set goals for individual children and the classroom. We hope you enjoy your parent teacher conference. Parents play an important role in the assessment and conference process. Understanding and appreciating the child's developmental progress within the context of his/ her family values and cultural background is crucial to meeting the needs of each child. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, please take a moment to do so.

December Optional Days Reminder

If you would like to have your child attend CCC during the December Optional Days (December 27-30) please let your program director know as soon as possible.

The CCC Wish List

- Laptop Computers
- Technology Savy volunteers for on call tech support