

# 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*



## Welcoming our new Emerson Program Director

In July we said goodbye to Marianne Maloney who was the the Emerson Program Director for 14 years. At the end of August Jennine Lesser joined the Emerson program as the new Program Director. Jennine joins veteran directors; Anne Doherty the Program Director at West Concord and Penni Hensley Wagner the Ripley Program Director.

With 13 years of teaching experience at CCC, seven years on our Board, and two years as a Development Assistant in the CCC Administration, Jennine brings many skills and much experience to her new role. Our program directors are very important to the quality of our program. Along with scheduling staff and children, maintaining our accreditation and licensing standards, assuring that our facilities are safe and clean, Program Directors provide support and supervision to teachers, are the main line of communication with families, and help the administration formulate policies and plan the programs that keep CCC an exceptional school. Jennine and Penni also serve as classroom teachers. Anne is often found covering classrooms for teachers when needed. We are very fortunate to have such committed and tenured program directors.

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Ripley                              Penni Hensley Wagner 978-369-5983  
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West Concord                      Anne Doherty                      978-369-6790  
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## CCC Calendar

**August 31**                      *The first day of school!*  
**September 9**                      *Board meeting @ West Concord*  
**September 10**                      *Reception for New Families – 7PM @ West Concord.*  
**September 15**                      *Ripley Fall Picnic*  
**September 23**                      *West Concord Fall Picnic*  
**September 28**                      **CPS closed optional AM K, 1 & 2**



## After School Program at CCC

This year we are offering an after school program for our families that includes Second Grade as well as Kindergarten and First Grade. Our afternoon program will open on our first day of school, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Families wishing to have their children attend the afternoon program, arriving at 12:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, prior to the start of the public schools on September 3<sup>rd</sup> should please contact Anne at West Concord or Penni at Ripley.



## Long Range Financial Plan for CCC – Volunteers needed!

In 2010 Concord Children's Center will celebrate 35 years of serving children and families in Concord. When we opened our doors in 1975 we were the first and only non – profit program committed to offering full time year round childcare provided by professional educators, in this area. In 1985 we became one of the first programs in the country to be awarded the prestigious NAEYC Accreditation. In 2002 we built our own building, 1300 Main Street, on land owned by the Town of Concord. This effort required a Capital Campaign that raised almost one million dollars and a unique partnership with the town of Concord. All of these milestones were the result of careful long range planning, and all were designed to assure that CCC would remain a strong non-profit organization.

This year the board will be launching the development of a new Long Range Financial Plan for CCC. We are looking for volunteers to work with the Long Range Planning Committee to help with this project. If this is an area of experience and interest to you, please contact CCC Treasurer Margaret Foley (978-371-9934) or LRP Chair Suzie Kornblum (978-443-6450)



**Reception for New Families**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup> 7-8 PM at 1300 Main Street**



### The Ripley Project.

This summer we started work on a project to give our Ripley program a much needed face lift. We love our fields and gardens at Ripley, our large sunny classrooms

and our use of the Gym and Big Room in the Concord Public schools administration building.

This year we decided that, like all of Concord's elementary school buildings that were built in the 1950's, our space at Ripley could use some improvements. Working with the public schools we developed a short range plan that was begun this summer. This plan includes developing some much needed office and storage space for Penni and her staff, improving the walkways, landscaping and entrance to our classrooms and establishing a clearer outdoor entrance to our school with a CCC sign. The Long Range Planning Committee will be hosting work days at Ripley to help with planting, refurbishing our very sturdy but well worn wooden chairs and refinishing the wooden doors leading to the classrooms. Please let Penni (978-369-5983) or the LRP committee chair, Suzie Kornblum know if you would like to help with any of the projects.

### CCC, Community Partnership for Children, and First Connections

We are very happy to announce that Concord Children's Center has become the Lead Agency for an Early Education and Care state grant that will support the Community Partnership for Children programs in Concord, Carlisle, Maynard, Boxboro, Acton and Littleton; and the *First Connections Program* located on the grounds of Emerson Hospital.

The grant from the Department of Early Education and Care, consolidates services to families and children that are offered in Concord and the surrounding towns. *First Connections* will continue to offer playgroups, parenting seminars, support groups for parents of children birth through three, adoption support services for newly adopting families, and assistance to Parent Associations in many of the towns surrounding Concord.

### 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](http://www.concordfamilynetwork.org)*

### Reflections on a Summer of Learning Through Play

*Anne Doherty, West Concord Program Director*

This summer I have done a lot of reading on how young children learn and the importance of unstructured play to support this learning. I was particularly struck by an article by Peggy Orenstien, New York Times columnist, who wrote about a recently released report from the *Alliance for Childhood*, a non-profit advocacy group, emphasizing the importance of play. Ms Orenstien wrote; "Play at age 5 is of great importance not just to intellectual but emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual development. Play, especially "let's pretend" is how children develop higher-level thinking, hone their language and social skills, and cultivate empathy."



One of the favorite activities during our summer program was playing outdoors and exploring water! Each day there was lots of activity in the sand area as children

explored the different properties of water in its natural state as found in puddles and child-made rivers and streams. Others came over to this area to take turns with the hose to pretend to put out many blazing fires, while others pretended to be chefs in the kitchen as they combined sand, different grasses, flowers, leaves and water together for delicious meals.



Selling ice cream at the "ice cream stand" is also a favorite pretend activity. The ice cream stand is a tree by the fence which is the perfect place to sell ice cream. There is a space that is just big enough for a child or children to stand behind while one yells out, "ice cream for sale, ice cream for sale!"

Children will then walk over and order their favorite flavor, ask what the cost is and hand the seller a handful of sand, pebbles or grass in exchange for the dessert.

At Concord Children's Center we understand the importance of children being offered many opportunities to pretend and through these opportunities they explore, observe, discover and make meaning from the world around them. Our teachers invite the children to be actively involved in their own learning by asking questions, reflecting upon what they are doing and connecting new knowledge with past experiences. We value play and delight in watching children grow in all areas of development as they access the play filled curriculum that we offer.