

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

Sept. 6	First day of School!
Sept. 13	Ripley Fall Picnic
Sept. 14	Board meeting @ West Concord
Sept. 15	West Concord Fall Picnic
Sept. 29	CPS closed optional Afterschool
Oct. 12	Board meeting at Ripley
Oct. 21	Fall Social
Oct. 23	Rolie Polie Concert
Oct. 28	Fall Social

Building our CCC Community

Community at CCC means lots of events, held to connect families with each other, their teachers and the CCC Administration and Board.. Below is a "Clif's Notes" for these start of the year events.

- **Picnics:** These are for the whole family, they are informal, generally pot-luck, and a wonderful time to reconnect and meet with other families and the teachers.



- **Fall Socials: New this Year!**
When we survey parents we ask you what you wish we did more of at CCC. A common theme lately has been a wish for more opportunities for "adult" gatherings. This fall we will hold two Fall Socials. Parents and Teachers are invited for an evening of drinks and appetizers. Area restaurants will offer a discount on dinner for Concord Children's Center families who would like to make this a night on the town! Watch for your invitation.

- **Classroom Events:** Information about classroom events can be found in your parent mailbox that is located in your child's classroom. We will also, as much as possible, post upcoming events on our CCC Facebook FanPage and through our email list-serv.



Parent - Teacher Communication

This year we will be trying something new. During the first several weeks of school your teachers will be scheduling "telephone times" with you to touch base. The calls will give your teacher an opportunity to hear from you about how your child's school experience is going this year, and for the teacher to share some of the exciting curriculum that is happening in the classroom. We hope that a brief phone call without the distraction of the busy drop-off or pick-up, will allow teachers and parents to connect early on in the year. Communication with our parents is very important to us; we place a great value on our partnership with you as we strive to create the best possible experience for your child. Please watch for sign-ups in your child's classroom. We will be asking you to tell us when it would be best to call you and at what phone number.

EMAIL!

We are working to develop our ability for classroom teachers to communicate via email with their families. We would use email only for newsletters and general classroom announcements. We would not use email to have discussions about children. We believe it is very important for parents and teachers to speak together about children. Parents are welcome to call during the day if they wish to speak with a teacher about their child or simply want to check-in to see how things are going.

How to reach your Program Director

Emerson Jennine Lesser 978-369-0492
emerson@concordchildrenscenter.org

Ripley Penni Hensley Wagner 978-369-5983
ripley@concordchildrenscenter.org

West Concord Anne Doherty 978-369-6790
westconcord@concordchildrenscenter.org

The CCC Wish List

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

“Back to School” Curriculum Themes



The Fall curriculum always includes activities that help the children get to know each other and come together

as a group. **Circle Room** teachers Jen Turini, Shawn Dutcher, and Autumn Lucas have built this Fall’s curriculum around “Shoes”. Three and Four year olds are beginning to sort and classify items, they are discovering how things are alike and different, and what things belong together. Shoes are a wonderful medium for building on these skills. As our 3 and 4 year olds’ world view expands, they love to compare what is around them. Their developing sense of humor can find much that is funny in the world of shoes. Our students have been reading books about shoes, making graphs of what kinds of shoes are in their classroom, and are of course trying on a variety of shoes in their dress up area.

The Four Fives in Patricia Collins, Dottie Whittier, and Susan Barker’s class at Ripley is starting the year with a “Building a Classroom Community” theme. Games and songs focus on making friends and working together. The class will make a classroom collage of photographs of each child’s family. Four and Five Year olds are beginning to have a growing awareness of who they are as individuals, and how they can contribute to the work of a group. These skills are essential for building creative, collaborative and above all enthusiastic learners. The class is also reading Audrey Wood’s book, ***Quick As A Cricket***. This wonderful book reminds children, teachers and parents that we are unique and complicated creatures, that children can be quick as cricket one minute and slow as a snail the next. The self portraits that the children have drawn in these first few weeks will offer us a wonderful opportunity to see each child’s growth over the year when we look at them side by side with the end of the year self portraits.

The Toddlers in Michelle Lewis, Lynn St. Germaine, and Sue Perkin’s class will begin the year bringing “home” into the classroom with family photos. The teachers will spend these first

weeks getting to know and understand each child, while helping the toddlers to make connections with their friends in the classroom.

Our After School students are experiencing CCC from a whole new perspective. Returning to West Concord or Ripley after a day at elementary school offers the opportunity to experience CCC through new eyes. Our CCC Afterschool program allows children to continue to develop the social and emotional growth that is critical to school success. Literacy, math, and science activities, embedded in play, help to reinforce the skills they are learning at school. During these first weeks they are coming together as their own group with the older children relishing their new role as ‘mentors’ for the kindergartners.

Look around your child’s class, take a moment to read your classroom newsletters or chat with your teacher or program director to learn about the the great things that are happening during your child’s first few weeks at CCC.

CFN Kids’ Stuff Tag Sale Saturday, October 1 2011 Sanborn Middle School Cafeteria

8 Am – 12 Noon

On Saturday, October 1 2011, The Concord Family Network (CFN) will be holding its Kids’ Stuff Tag Sale.

Come enjoy a coffee and treat at our bake sale and find a treasure or two or three at the 20+ booths selling gently used children’s items.

The tag sale will be held from 8am until 12 noon. You may purchase a spot for \$20 at the tag sale to sell your items. The tag sale is open to all children’s items

Admission is \$1/person. Proceeds from admissions and the bake sale will be donated to First Connections, a non-profit that provides support and services to local families.

For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact Eck Redmond at eck.redmond@gmail.com



CCC receives donation from Concord Carlisle Community Chest.

CCC Business Manager, Suzie Kornblum, accepted a very generous

donation from the Community Chest to support our tuition assistance program.

Building Campaign for CCC

In this newsletter, you have read about some of the many wonderful programs that make Concord Children's Center such a special place for your child and your family. While our staff and our curriculum are what make CCC truly special, our three locations allow us to offer our families a choice in where they send their children. Our facilities are not the most important part of CCC – that part is the learning and growing that happen in the facilities– but they do require constant care and maintenance to be in an optimal condition that is conducive to this learning and growing. This school year, CCC will be doing various levels of renovation to all three facilities to ensure that they remain top-notch for our children and families.

Ripley



Last year CCC acquired a long-term lease for our Ripley site from the Town of Concord. While we have been a tenant of the town at the Ripley School Administration building for almost 30 years, until last year, we were

granted only one-year leases at the site. This limited our ability to invest in and develop our Ripley program. Now that CCC has been granted a long-term lease, we can fully develop this site to support a complete early childhood program, from infant care through to pre-school and after-school care. This work started this summer with the construction of a connector to join our new infant-toddler room (opened last year) to our existing pre-school and after-school classrooms. Capital improvements still to be done include the constructing a natural playscape and renovating and updating all the classrooms, including the air conditioning systems.

The CCC Development Committee welcomes new members to help with our events as well as the Annual Appeal, and Auction. Email or call Pat Nelson to volunteer.



West Concord

Our site in West Concord, the only building CCC owns, is now ten years old, having opened in 2002 following a successful capital campaign which raised almost \$1 million. This building is now in need of

wise capital maintenance to ensure that it lasts well into the future. Planned maintenance work includes: replacing the floors in the classrooms, heating and air-conditioning updates, and roof maintenance.

Emerson

We have a new three-year lease at our Emerson site, which will also allow us to do much needed improvements there, such as landscaping, replacing carpets and flooring, painting, and the purchase of outdoor play equipment.

Building CCC

As we prepare to invest in our buildings, we know that tuition and our regular fundraising will not cover our capital expenses. As a non-profit, CCC applies all tuition income to teacher salaries, program support, and day-to-day administration. We hire very well trained-and educated professionals and offer a work environment that supports staff so that your child experiences quality and consistency every day, all day, in their classrooms.

With professionally-trained staff and very low turnover, payroll costs consume the majority of our budget. There is thus little to spare for capital renovations of this scope. For this reason, this year we are launching a capital fundraising effort, "Building CCC," to offset the costs from these necessary renovations this fundraising effort is separate from our Annual Appeal, which we run each year – information about this will be included in next month's newsletter

We invite all of our families to become a part of "Building CCC" by donating and/or volunteering to help with fundraising events. If you are interested in helping this effort please contact either Ripley alumni parent Jennifer Saxe (jensaxe@hotmail.com) or current Ripley parent Ben Bailey (ben_bailey@concordacademy.org), or speak to me.



First Connections is a wonderful resource for families. Below you will find two up-coming workshops. To view the entire Fall listings you may go to

<http://www.firstconnections.org/uploadDocs/Fall2011news.pdf>



Multicultural Moms Group meets Wednesdays, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 7:00-8:30

p.m.

Were you raised in another country and are now parenting your own children in the U.S.? Well you're not alone. Each month this group of moms meet to share their unique perspectives, observations, humor and thoughts on the ever-evolving role of raising a bi- or tri-cultural child. We discuss all kinds of topics including (but not limited to) personal language barriers, language choices for our children, immigration and visa issues, traditional vs American roles of women, and cultural customs. Currently there are women in the group from Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, China, Spain, Holland, Uganda and Hungary! New members are always welcome. Facilitated by Ellen Weisstein, M.S. First Connections' support groups, while therapeutic, are not therapy groups. Their purpose is to provide an opportunity for parents to share and support each other in their common experiences.

Setting Tables, Setting Limits

Do you ever feel like you are running a small restaurant in your own kitchen and you don't want the job? This interactive workshop will give you tips on how to get your family to the same table, at the same time, eating the same food (it can be done!)

Our Discussion will Focus on:

- How to handle picky eating behaviors
- How to and when to set limits around eating
- Which "food fights" are worth the battle

A food demonstration and lots of question-and-answer time will be included. Ms. Csaplar is in private practice, and also works through Minute Man Early Intervention. She has raised three children, one of whom has always been suspicious of anything green! \$10 donation suggested

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Gleason Library, Carlisle

To join a group, please call 978-287-0221 or email lmattthews@jri.org. The group facilitator will contact you and, if desired, add you to an email reminder list. Group members are expected to notify the group leader if unable to attend a particular meeting date. If parking fees are a barrier to group attendance, please ask for validation.