



# After the Bell



The Country Childrens Center School Age Newsletter

## Winter Recess at CCVC

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2, 2012

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On Friday, December 28th, children enrolled in our CCVC program took a trip to Westmoreland Sanctuary in Mt. Kisco New York. We learned about all different kinds of animal prints and each child made their own



prints out of putty. The first floor has an exhibit of live animals that we were able to interact with. The second floor has a taxidermy exhibit. Our last hour there was spent going on a nature hike in search of animal prints. We had an absolute blast!!

### Points of Interest:

- CCVC
- Spreading the holiday cheer at Lewisboro and Meadow Pond.
- Happy holidays from Katonah.
- Holiday traditions from Bedford Hills.
- Family time at West Patent.
- Keeping the holiday spirit alive at Increase Miller.
- CCVC (continued)

## Lewisboro and Meadow Pond

Happy holidays from Lewisboro Elementary School. We have children who celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah. Everyone is very excited for the holidays. We are decorating our board with snowflakes and will be having a holiday party on Thursday. Looking forward to 2013!! Enjoy the break.

Jeff Ho  
Site Director, LES



## Katonah

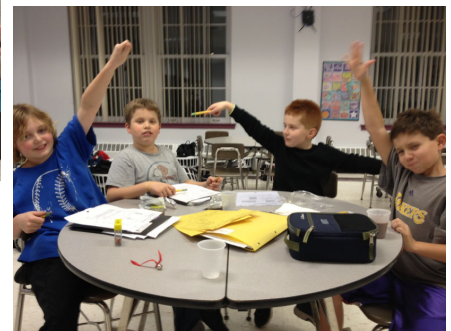
It's hard to believe that we are about to enter year 2013. This year has absolutely flown by. The holiday season is always a memorable one. Everyone looks forward to this time of year, and it's here at last.

The majority of kids at KES celebrate Christmas, but a lot have celebrated Hanukkah already, and some celebrate both. Most of our kids are heading somewhere over break. Whether Maine or Mexico, they are sure to spend quality family time together and have a ton fun. Isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Here at CCC we have learned how to play Dreidel, make our own holiday wish lists, colored holiday drawings and artwork for our closet door, made holiday hats, and on December 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be watching a holiday themed movie as we sip hot cocoa.

I hope everyone enjoys the holidays and look forward to seeing you all next year!!!

-Zach Hershman  
Site Director, KES



## Bedford Hills

The holidays celebrated at Bedford Hills Elementary school are: Christmas, Little Christmas/the Epiphany - also know as Three Kings Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, both Christmas and Hanukkah, and one Jehovah Witness.

Our family tradition is the celebration of Christmas Eve. It started when I was young with my grandparents coming over with homemade cookies and stacks of presents. We kept this tradition while adding some new ones along the way. One new tradition was to shop for all our gifts during the day then stay up all night wrapping them into Christmas morning. Our Christmas tree was always a marvel. The newest one we added was to purchase new pajamas to wake up in on Christmas morning.

Here are some of the traditions celebrated by the families at Bedford Hills Elementary School: have a party each year called Chrismakkah; go on vacation, light the menorah and read Hanukkah stories; have a dinner, read books, play games, pour a cup of juice for all to drink for Kwanzaa; have two special dinners and go to the

Sleepy Hollow country club; have a party, go out for dinner, make chocolate Dreidels; from December 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> we go to families houses for food and prayers, then on the 25<sup>th</sup> we have two Christmas dinners; we have a Christmas dinner as well as celebrating little Christmas/The Epiphany - also know as Three Kings Day.

-Tiffany Baffi  
Site Director, BHES



## West Patent

Over at West Patent we are all really excited for the upcoming holidays! We have children who celebrate Christmas and some who celebrate Hanukkah. No matter the holiday each child may celebrate, they all seem to be celebrating in the same way. Everyone will be gathering with their families, eating lots of food and of course opening some awesome presents! To celebrate the upcoming holidays the kids have been getting creative. They have been painting winter wonderland pictures and have been making decorations that we will use for our holiday party on December 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year!

Michele Long

Site Director, WPES



## Increase Miller

Happy Holidays from IMES CCC after school program. I went around asking the children what traditions they and their families enjoy. A lot of them were opening presents in the morning, going to their cousin's house to celebrate the holidays or maybe having a special breakfast on Christmas morning. One child said that he and his family watch the Christmas Story every year on Christmas Eve. For those who only celebrate Hanukkah, they enjoy getting a present each night and lighting a candle for each night. Then after that they would play with their Dreidel.

We have our board decorated with different holiday pictures and we just finished a big banner that we will be displaying soon.

The holidays are a great time to spend with your family and we hope that you all have a safe one!! See you in 2013!

-Greg Barnes

Site Director, IMES



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### CCVC (cont.)

There are NO scheduled CCVC days in January



On Thursday, December 27th we took at trip to The Wolf Conservation in Cross River. They had a special event called the "Holiday Howl." The Wolf Conservation staff gift rapped a box



full of food ( raw meat, bones, and garbage) and it got demolished by two wolves. We were able to see a total of five different wolves, and were lucky enough



to catch a glimpse of a wolf so rare, in which only 300 exist in the entire world. This rare wolf is known as the Mexican Red Wolf.