



THE Centerpiece

THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Directors Desk Fall 2013

Dear CCC Families,

Welcome back to the CCC. The Center had a great summer packed with lots of fun activities, music, events and of course swimming.

Now that it is fall, we turn our program focus to the many opportunities that this beautiful time of year can offer us.

As you will read in this Centerpiece issue, all the programs are busy doing typical fall things. We have been cooking, taking apple picking trips, leaf picking and leaf piling, doing pumpkin activities and so much more.

The fall is also a time of annual special events for the CCC. Our Art Auction was held at the Katonah Library on Sept 28. It was lots of fun as well as a successful fundraiser for our scholarship fund.

Our Intergenerational Program has started up again. We currently have 4 grandparents and one great grandparent involved. We will be exhibiting again at The Katonah Museum of Art in the spring. We welcome anyone interested in joining us at the White House on Tuesday afternoons.

September 20th was our CCC Spirit Day. This was a very exciting day where staff and children celebrated the CCC with t shirts, banners, cakes, balloons, songs, streamers and a general spirit of joy. It was an amazing effort by everyone. We had a contest for the most spirited site. Even though everyone made a gigantic effort, the Farm was the winner this year with their efforts and artwork which adorned the inside and outside of the Farm and everywhere in between! The Farm staff will be treated to a pizza day for their enthusiastic efforts.

Lastly, a few days ago we had our annual Fall Family Festival. With over 200 people in attendance, the families who were there enjoyed not only a beautiful day of weather but lots of treats and entertainment. The smiles were contagious and the day finished with children trick or treating through our fun trail in the woods behind our science barn. I would be remiss to not mention that Cinderella was there too in her "castle". Needless to say, a great time was had by all.

So we are off to another CCC year. With this strong start, we hope to see you in the classroom and at events as we work together to make the CCC a wondrous, safe and memorable part of the children's life.

Polly



Positive Sparks are Flying at CCC: Teachers are Lifelong Learners



Above: Lisa explores and art activity with the toddlers.

Below: Monika helps Pre-K paint a boat.



On October 14, CCC teachers, directors, & staff spent the day training with Emily Flay, Judy Kropf, and Monica Levy. Emily worked with us on Yoga for Children, Judy (back for a second time) exposed us to more sign language, and Monica L. encouraged us to include big body movements when we work with children on their developing math and literacy skills. This was an excellent use of our time! A lot of what we learned has been brought into the classrooms at Watson/Baby Blue. While being exposed to “talent from the outside” we also want to take note of our very own on site talent, our Educational Coordinator, Monika Keksis. She is in each building weekly and visits at least once a month with each classroom. Added to this, Monika holds monthly meetings with all CCC teachers working with children on the same level. For example, she meets with all the infant teachers, toddler teachers, and so on. In this way, she can provide specific information to each group. Further, the teachers themselves are great sources of information and can serve as peer to peer coaches. Another positive outcome is the camaraderie the teachers feel as a result of coming together so often. Monika also facilitates meetings for the entire CCC staff when she provides monthly trainings in the evening. Coming up in November, we are looking forward to her training on Emotional Health & Resilience in children.

The children are clearly the recipients of the knowledge and enthusiasm their teachers bring back. They also get to see their teachers working as a TEAM and sharing ideas through cordial discussion. It occurs to me that last Winter, we had an IBM parent come into the prek room with a colleague. They shared a color mixing project with the class and I was most impressed with the discussion and asking for assistance they displayed as they worked together to make this a meaningful, hands-on experience for the children. CCC children have excellent role models in their teachers too.

CCC functions as a well oiled machine! With the right amount of nurturing, appreciation, motivation, and knowledge there is nothing that we can't do! We love to be challenged and raise the bar!

Best Wishes from us here at CCC Watson/Baby Blue for a fabulous fall!

Jean Nathanson
Watson Site Director



Staff Development and Appreciation

Staff Development Day was a great success. On Monday, October 14th, the entire CCC staff met up for a day of fun, trainings & house meetings. The Farm won the Spirit Day contest and 3 staff were recognized from the Farm site: Vinny Cugnola for taking such good care of the animals, Marie Chariott for being my right (and sometimes left) hand & Florence Monahan for being reliable and dependable opening up the building every morning.

Polly began by speaking and then the site directors spoke. I was so excited to present the farm staff with the 'so well deserved' notes from you...the parents! Kim Van Orman-Mook gave us 5 adorable dinosaur totes during dino week during the summer. They were orange & blue. We were short one but then Lisa Lindsay-Jones gave us a cute tote from scholastic (with some donated journals). I put the 'book' of notes together along with post it notes, pens, tape and a special little bag of goodies. I made each staff member a ziploc bag. The bag had some chocolates, lollipops & a card. I wrote a card to each staff member telling why they are special to CCC and thanking them for taking such good care of our 'precious cargo'. It was so fun and it meant so much to the staff. I thank you for taking the time to write notes, which is so precious while working full time, raising a family & everything else. Thank you so very much to the parents who took the time; some parents went through the years, some are new, some are on their last child (out of four ...the Jen family). I believe 95% of parents wrote something and I thank you so very much.

The infant and toddler teachers had another training session on sign language and the preschool & pre-k staff had a training on music and movement. They were both extremely interactive, energetic and we all enjoyed it.

So thank you for taking the time and appreciating the staff who take care of the children each and everyday.

** Also a special thank you to Jeanine Hickey, Karen Kucinski, Kim Van Orman-Mook & Lisa Lindsay-Jones who have donated various items to the Farm site. We appreciate it.**

Happy Fall!

Noreen Cotter (& Awesome Farm Staff)
Farm Site Director



Above: Farm staff work side by side to put together a puzzle.

Below: Creating a movement activity.



Fall at the White House



*Above: Pre-K children enjoying their tour (and tasty apples) at Stuart's Fruit Farm.
Below: Pam and Evelyn with the Wrap Around*



Welcome to the new school year at the White House! The Pre-K and CCK started the school year off celebrating the 3rd annual CCC Spirit Week. The White House was decorated in orange and blue, enjoyed school spirit day, crazy hat day and made tons of homemade goodies to honor CCC. Both groups made CCC pom poms and cheered "CCC is the place to be! Come laugh, learn and play with me...CCC'ya!" It was awesome to see the staff and children come together to celebrate CCC at the White House. All of our specials have begun too – music with Kenny Green and Ellen Reynolds, science with Kristen Pollock and Spanish Class with Evelyn Muñoz.

This year at the White House we welcome back to Pre-K the Children's School and their wonderful staff, Ronni Mandel and Pam Rothlein plus our new assistant to Jessica Smith, Antoniette McVay. The Pre-K class began the year preparing for an accreditation visit from the NAEYC which occurred on October 10, 2013 and was very successful. Kudos to all the staff in the Pre-K...we look forward to receiving the stamp of approval from NAEYC. Throughout that process, the Pre-K was still focused on the wonderful themes and activities for the children that included a week of harvest projects and learning centers as they headed to Stuarts Farm for an apple picking trip.

The CCK kindergarten sessions are off to a great start as well and just completed an awesome ALL ABOUT ME unit and will get creepy-crawly next with a BATS AND SPIDERS theme. Polly Peace and our artist in residence, Coralyn Klubnick-Simone, have begun the Intergenerational Program which meets every Tuesday. This year we welcome our grandparents, Debbie, GiGi, Polly, Nana Jane and Elspeth to the program as they join us on our journey into self-portraits as we work towards our artistic creation for the Katonah Museum of Art exhibit in February. We welcome back Rosi Monge as our assistant teacher in CCK and mentor to our JJMS kids. As usual there is tons of outdoor play, nature walks and afternoon enrichment each day at the White House for all the children. Happy Fall!

Pam Belmonte
White House Site Director



Around the World at Bedford Hills

As the new school year has begun, and I head into the first FULL year in my position as Site Director of the Bedford Hills CCC program, I am excited about the year ahead. This year's theme for our center at Bedford Hills will be "Around The World." This will encourage the staff, children and families to all focus on the diverse cultures that make up our center. Just in our Bedford Hills site we have children and families whose backgrounds are (and these are only the ones that I know about) Ecuadorian, El Salvadorian, Swedish, German, Chinese, Jamaican, Mexican, French, Peruvian, Serbian, Irish, Guatemalan, Korean, British, Italian, Costa Rican, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Polish and of course American. I've heard one of the children singing Frere Jacques in Swedish that his grandmother taught him. A mom visited and shared a book about the Jamaican bobsled team and brought in Jamaican music and food for tasting. Another mom brought in Guatemalan food. One of the little girls came back and shared with her class about her vacation to Mexico to visit family. These experiences, and the sharing of them, are extremely valuable and will hopefully impress upon the kids for years to come. When I was seven, my second grade teacher introduced our class to French- the language and the culture. It sparked in me a passion for learning about other cultures. I strongly believe that if this generation learns to embrace differences and learn about other people's cultures, traditions, and backgrounds, that it could literally lead to a more peaceful world for their future....if only everyone would teach this. We will at least do our part in our small corner of the world here at CCC.

Throughout the year, our focus will be on embracing cultural and learning about different places, foods, music, traditions and languages. This will of course not be a daily theme, but will just be an emphasis on our culture here at Bedford Hills and part of all of the other things we are learning about. We are encouraging families to be a part of our learning, and invite you to come in to share anything (artifacts, foods, books, music, dance, language lesson). I am sure that the year will culminate with a special event (to be determined), but to kick start our year, we will be having an International Pot Luck in November. We look forward to celebrating diversity and learning alongside the children....may the learning never cease.

Shanna Krizan
Bedford Hills Site Director



"If we are to teach real peace in this world, if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."



Trick Or Treating at IBM



*Above:
The children
dance and
sing at
IBM.*

*Right:
Trick or
treating
fun!*



Every year since Kitchawan has opened the pre-K has joined their pre-k friends from our Watson location to visit IBM for some Halloween fun. We are very lucky as a center to have such a great relationship with IBM.

Along with the amazing experience the children have at IBM they also get a bus ride. If you ask any pre-k child what their favorite part of a field trip is, they will most likely say "the bus ride!"

Once the children arrived at IBM they were greeted by an IBM employee who was dressed like a princess! She then led them to the cafeteria where all the children sat in a circle. Ms. Ellen, our music teacher, came with us and led us in a fun Halloween sing along. She sang all the children's favorite spooky songs.

The children enjoyed singing and dancing around in their costumes! I am sure it was just as enjoyable for the IBM employees that were there watching. Most were parents but others just came by to join in the fun!

After the sing along the children enjoyed a yummy snack of cookies and chocolate milk provided by IBM. If all that fun and excitement wasn't enough the children then trick or treated to all the parents and staff that were there to help celebrate Halloween with the children.

IBM provided a wonderful and yummy Halloween experience for the children. We are very thankful for all they did!

Have a wonderful Fall!

Caroline Paterno

Kitchawan Barns Site Director



Classroom Corner

Celebrating Great Happenings in the Classroom



The Watson Infant Room got a special treat this month when they took a walk to the pumpkin patch and apple orchard (conveniently created by Maria and Blanca, located right underneath the trees on the beautiful Baby Blue property). The children were able to pick their own apples and roll around a great big pumpkin. There were lots and lots of sensory explorations going on.

Great job Maria and Blanca!



The children in the Wrap Around program at The White House have been working very hard to create their own version of the classic song "Five Little Pumpkins". As you can see in this photo, they created their very own pumpkin props to use with the song. They look forward to recording their final performance at the amphitheater soon! Wonderful work Evelyn and Pam!



Children in the Bedford Hills Pre-K room were busy recently making their very own pumpkin play dough, from scratch! With Ivette, Maureen, Allie, and Amanda leading the way, they were able to prepare ingredients, measure, mix, and prep for play. This was a great activity incorporating math, vocabulary, following directions, sensory experiences, and social skills. Awesome activity Bedford Hills Pre-K teachers!



Its always good to see (and hear) a great story book being read to a group of children. The Infant Room teachers at Kitchawan Barns are taking story time to a new level. Before this wonderful weather escapes us, they are taking advantage of a little extra outdoor time by reading to the children out on the playground. Terrific idea Martha and Aura!

The children in the Toddler Room at The Farm site were having a great time painting this trunk for their classroom's Family Tree. This was a great fine motor activity (holding—and aiming—the paintbrush) and also a wonderful sensory experience for those who dared to finger paint. Well done Kathy and Cristina!



Wonderful Job everyone!

Monika Keksis, Educational Coordinator





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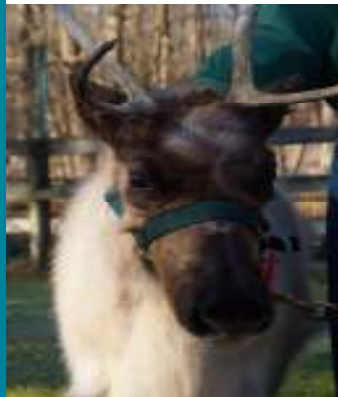
Increase Miller 914-763-7190

J.J. Middle School 914-242-0520: Ext. 503

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Meadow Pond 914-763-7987



Save the Date!

The Polar Express 2013

December 12th and 13th

At The Farm Location

****Photos with live reindeer****

****A reading of *The Polar Express*****

****Special costumed visitors****

****Polar Express train layout and more!****

