



# THE Centerpiece



THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Director's Desk Spring 2014

Dear CCC Parents,

Happy Spring...finally!!

Each year in May for the past 5 years the Center holds a fundraising Golf Outing. Typically we do not get a lot of parents to come out for the event, however, we do have some very loyal parents who continue to show up and support the outing year after year.

The event is lots of fun and for a good cause, to raise money for our scholarship fund. This year the event was on May 7th. We had a beautiful day and about 30 golfers participating. After the golf, there is a dinner and silent auction. This year we were able to raise about \$5000 for our fund.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the event's success by attending, donating, advertising and volunteering.

We are already planning for next year's outing and thinking of ways to make it even better and more successful. Hopefully, with enough notice, we can get a few more parents to play hooky and join us next year.



Our next **fun/fundraiser** is CCC night at the **Renegades** game on July 11. Information will be coming soon on how to sign up. This should be an interesting night, as I am scheduled to throw out the first pitch!!

Until then, enjoy the weather and be sure to check us out and like us on our new Facebook page. Just search on Facebook for Country Childrens Center.

Polly

## Spring at The White House



*Above: At the Katonah Museum of Art.*

*Below: Mrs. Pam reads a story to the CCCK children.*



Spring has arrived at The White House and it's mostly because the Pre-K and CCCK kids were hard at work during the Week of the Young Child planting pansies, sprouting seeds and cleaning up the yard! Our garden beds are filled with pansies and daffodils plus during Earth week the kindergarten kids reused old shoes and rain boots as planters. The whole property is spruced up and since the weather has finally showed us some springtime warmth the kids are really enjoying outdoor play each day. Of course both the Pre-K and CCCK kids are very busy with their daily curriculum and activities but they are also preparing for their end of the year shows. The Pre-K class will have their annual graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 4pm and the CCCK class will have their final end of the year show...Canciones en Español with Miss Evelyn and a recorder concert with Miss Ellen on Tuesday, June 24, 2014. It is the final show as now kindergarten will be full day in the Katonah-Lewisboro district and our kindergarten enrichment at the White House will come to a close. Stay tuned for a new Pre-K classroom to open in the fall - we will keep all of you posted.

Some highlights to our final days of winter into spring here at the White House were the Intergenerational Art exhibit, the Week of the Young Child activities and a bench dedication to the kindergarten program at the White House. On March 2, the annual Intergenerational project, "A 3-D Self Portrait in Paper Dolls" which was exhibited at the Katonah Museum of Art in correlation with their "Eye to I, Self Portraits Through the Years" exhibit, was a success and received rave reviews from our CCC families. During the ever-popular Week of the Young Child the White House classrooms enjoyed many special activities like the annual bike parade, Jerry the Magician, The Nature of Things and lots of yummy treats for CCC's birthday celebration. It was at the end of that wonderful week the White House dedicated a beautiful wrought-iron bench to the 17 years of teaching, learning and growing to the CCC kindergarten program which is coming to an end at the end of June. A heartfelt thanks to Polly Peace for her endless support, her lovely speech and for treating all the kids to cake at the end of the ceremony! Happy summer to all and I look forward to the start of something new at the White House this fall.

Pam Belmonte  
White House Site Director



## Children Say the Darndest Things

The idea for this piece came to me when I was with my four year old granddaughter and thought it would be fun to capture some of the Watson/Baby Blue children's spontaneous remarks! To set the stage: My family and I were having dinner at my daughter's house and my granddaughter came to us and said, "There's an artist sitting on our steps." Getting up to look, I indeed saw a woman sitting on a step. I asked, "What makes you say she's an artist?" My granddaughter answered, "She's wearing a hat." The woman was wearing a beret.

Sitting at the PreS/PreK lunch table one day I asked, "Where is Anika?" I was told that she was on vacation in Puerto Rico. "What is she going to do there do you think?" A child answered, "Get Spanish." At Easter time a child said, "I remember you; I never saw an Easter Bunny drive a car!"

Going outdoors, the PreS/PreK follow their routine of stopping at the bottom of the stairs and sitting on the heater. I'm counting the number of boys and then the number of girls. As I'm doing that a child says, "When I was a baby I was a boy. Now I'm a girl."

A Preschooler made me a necklace and a bracelet. After thanking the child a small group said, "Show your parents; show your mom and dad!"

Upon having a child return to class after being away, a classmate said, "I'm so glad to see that Hanrui is back with us." Another child, before going on vacation said, "I'm going to miss you guys."

Ms. MaryJane said to a child, "Please get out of the dirt." Child's response, "Oh come on Ms. MaryJane, can't I have fun?" Three children arrived in the Preschool room at the same time. A child said, "I can't believe that, isn't that ridiculous?"

One of the PreK children told a joke; "If a small cricket gets in your house, it will drive you bananas!"

Not to be outdone by the PreS/PreK children, the Toddlers added some of their own! Standing on the changing table, a Toddler said, "I'm too tall." Another said, "My mommy works too much. I want to go to college so I can go to work with Mommy and buy money."

"I like writing," said a child while looking very concentrated at the paper he was using.

A young toddler said while drawing, "I make a snake."

Are you surprised by these remarks? Are some of you able to match your child up with the remark? It's a great deal of fun for us to see the children's personalities developing!!

Jean Nathanson  
Watson/Baby Blue Site Director



*Above: The Preschool and Prekindergarten classes.*

*Below: The Toddler class.*



## Welcome to The Farm



*Introducing Evelyn Grace Worner (above—Theodore's new little sister) and Tyler Jamie McMahon (below, with big brother Riley).*

Well if you are a parent at the Farm you may want to stay away from the 'water'....we have a lot of pregnant moms with new babies here or about to be here! Only kidding about the water!

We have had or still have 11 pregnant moms. That is a lot.

We all get so excited when a mom, dad or child let us know. It is so exciting to guess what sex the baby will be, names, weight/inches long or birthday. It is just like an extended family. The news is spread around and details, details, details. We usually print a picture of baby and big sister or brother and proudly display for all to see.

Congratulations to the following families on the birth or birth to be:

Hattendorf- Rebecca..big sis' Sydney

Viggiano- Jax..big sis' Jordyn

Schilke- Adelaide..big bro Gunnar

McMahon-Tyler Jamie..big bro Riley

Mallin-Rose..big bro' Connor

Pietroburgo-??..big bro to be Brandon

Clark-??..bid sis' to be Adrianna

Robbins-Allan..big bro Bryant

Worner- Evelyn..big bro Theodore

Tanana-Emme..big sis' Charley

One who has not let the cat of the bag yet:o)

Thanks to all the Farm CCC families for sharing your most precious cargo with us!

Noreen Cotter  
Farm Site Director



## At CCC....We Are Family

Whether celebrating a new baby brother or sister; celebrating a teacher getting married; families pitching in to help create a new garden at the center; being proud of the children for all that they are learning, or celebrating a staff member getting his/her degree, certificate in early childhood or even a driver's license....being any part of CCC means being part of the CCC family.

It never ceases to amaze me how involved and how intertwined all of the CCC families and centers are. Every day there are magical moments at CCC- a Preschool child offers to help his/her friend without being asked; a 3 year old learns how to zip his/her own jacket or get dressed on their own- and smiles a huge proud smile; we can literally watch as a baby discovers his/her own hands and how they work or how to get from one place to another; a toddler learns how to share. These are the daily magic moments, but it is other moments that make CCC, *in particular*, a magical place to be. We recently had our "Muffins with Mom" celebration and will soon have our "Dogs with Dad" celebration to celebrate the awesome parents here....at these events, it is so special to see the bonds between child and parents, and to see the enthusiasm the teachers have in making the day so memorable. It is the volunteerism that exudes when we have our Fall Festival or Earth Day Festival...and the families who get to enjoy one another's company, as their children are playing with their closest friends that they've made at CCC. It is the outpouring of caring that comes when a family or teacher loses a loved-one, or when we ask people for donations for other families in need. It is the insane amount of food that arrived from all different countries when we had our international family pot-luck. It is the effort that the teachers made and the pride on the children's faces as we had a pancake breakfast and they tasted their own home-made maple syrup from the tree they tapped right here on our property. Older siblings, parents and grandparents have all graced our site as guest readers. It is the awe-inspiring Polar Express event that Polly creates each and every year that literally taps into the child in each of us (even my husband's 91 year old grandmother went and donned a pair of antlers!!). It is the spectacular Week of the Young Child which is celebrated with exuberance each year here, where we ask for and get so much family involvement!

As I look back on this school year, *all* of these happening that I listed, and so many more, all occurred here at CCC within one year!! This is why people come to CCC, stay at CCC, and return to CCC (even most of the counselors at our day camp are returning CCC children...all grown up)! When I opened the very special Mother's Day card that my youngest son, Oliver(7), made for me, and he drew a picture of and listed as "My favorite thing to do with my mom is... go to CCC Festivals with my mom," I knew then and there what I'd write this article about. Family is what CCC is all about...for your children and my own. CCC is a family affair, and if the one thing we teach our children is the value of family, then, in my opinion, we have done our job.

Shanna Krizan, Bedford Hills Site Director



*Above: Watching the Fairy Show at the Earth Day festivities.*

*Below: Families at Muffins with Mom.*



## Spring at Kitchawan



*Above: The preschool children working in the garden*

*Below: PreK enjoying the Spring weather!*



All the Kitchawan children have enjoyed observing Spring unfold in the past month.

The infants have enjoyed their word walks. Walking all over the property looking for signs of Spring. Ms. Martha and Ms. Aura give the words to everything the children point at to help build their vocabulary and understanding of the world around them. The older babies have been helping out by watering the daffodils and pansies out in front of the Baby Barn. The younger babies have enjoyed crawling on the grass experiencing the way it feels under their feet and hands. They will continue to celebrate Spring with art projects, books and many more outdoor activities.

In the toddler room they have done many Spring related art projects to help decorate their class room. The children have become little artists through painting, coloring, cutting and gluing. They have made turtles, bugs, watermelons and umbrellas just to name a few. Also while in the garden the teachers and children have dug for worms to feed to Franklin the turtle. Franklin has been living in the toddler classroom for the past few weeks and the children absolutely love it. They enjoy watching Franklin eat the worms they dug up for him, drink his water and take a bath in his water bowl.

The preschool children have been doing lots of work in the garden. In the beginning of Spring they started many seeds indoors to germinate. While the seeds were growing the children prepared the garden for planting. They pulled weeds, turned over the soil and made a plan as to where to plant their seedlings. They have planted green beans, snap peas, corn and carrots. They take daily trips to the garden to keep up the watering and weeding. While there they enjoy seeing how much their plants have grown. They are anxiously waiting to see their veggies start to grow so they can taste them!

The Pre-k have taken their classroom outside to enjoy the warmer weather. The children enjoy having some of their centers out on the deck. On Earth Day the children walked around the grounds looking for litter to pick up. They also talked about what they can do to help keep the earth clean. As graduation gets closer the children have been practicing very hard. Along with all the above mentioned activities the Pre-k have also made many beautiful art projects and read many books related to Spring.

All the classes here at Kitchawan have really enjoyed the warmer weather that Spring brings. It gives them a whole new center to work with – the outdoors!  
Caroline Paterno, Kitchawan Site Director



## Music with Ellen



Above: Singing and dancing at Bedford Hills!

Below: Piano lessons at Watson-Baby Blue.

Springtime has been both musical and magical as we have sung and danced to lots of different rhythms, musical genres, holiday festivities and traditions. Some favorite songs about planting seeds, windy March, rainy April, sunshine, spring animals and farming have been “Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow”, “The Green Grass Grows All Around”, “The Garden Song”, “Here Comes Peter Cottontail” and fun finger plays such as “Two Little Birds”.

For **St. Patrick’s Day**, we had such fun learning how to dance the Irish Jig and had “Pied Piper Leprechaun” parades to the sound of Irish fiddlers, Celtic harps, bagpipes, pennywhistles, and the bodhran drum. On **Mardi Gras**, we had a fabulous colorful party parade to the Cajun Zydeco music of New Orleans! We also celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday with musical story rhymes in which many of the children came up with wonderful, creative “Seussical” rhymes of their very own!

We kicked off **The Week of the Young Child** with the best musical parade ever and from then on, the singing never stopped all week long! The week of Earth Day was filled with songs like “Every Day Is Earth Day!”, “We Are a Lean Green Cleaning Machine” rap, and I introduced the genre of Americana Folk, with Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land”.

In May, we celebrated **Cinco De Mayo**, dancing in sombreros with maracas, and of course, it’s always the best when we get to show our Mom-mies and Daddies how much we love them on each of their special days.

Piano and recorder lessons have gone *so well!* The children have had lots of musical fun while learning, and they have been a joy to teach! We hope that you can all attend our upcoming May piano recitals, as well as the Kindergarten *Conciones* performance at the White House. The children are very excited and busily practicing the special songs they will play. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

A happy spring to all!

Miss Ellen, CCC Music Teacher





**Field Goods is coming to CCC—Sign up for deliveries and help raise money for the school! Open to the whole CCC community.**

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**How Does It Work?**

It's easy! Just go to [Field-goods.com](http://Field-goods.com) to sign up for a subscription to receive a weekly bag of Hudson Valley Produce right at your CCC location. Field Goods selects the 5-8 different types fruits and vegetables you will receive. Subscriptions cost \$22, \$27, or \$32. \$2 per bag delivered will come back to the school all year long. All the products are either Certified Organic, organically grown, use integrated pest management or implement small farm farming methods. **Produce bags will be delivered to CCC each Wednesday or Friday, depending on your site.**

It is loads of fun to see the harvest surprises. Field Goods delivers 150+ varieties of fruits and vegetables and more than a dozen types of local cheese and bread. Field Goods' *In the Bag* newsletter, gives you information about the produce and how to prepare it.

Field Goods delivers ALL YEAR! You can sign up anytime with **no long-term commitment**. Winter deliveries include frozen produce (from Kingston-based Winter Sun Farms), root veggies, hardy greens, mushrooms, greenhouse products and more.

**What people are saying about Field Goods...**

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"I am having so much fun experimenting with new food and recipes."

"Excellent quality, value, variety."

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"Great newsletter. Makes me want to cook."

"**THANK YOU for changing the way my family eats!**"

**Field Goods offers great value and variety, convenient delivery, fresh and delicious produce, and supports local farmers.**



**What's not to love?**

To sign up & learn more, go to [Field-goods.com](http://Field-goods.com)

Call 888-887-3848 or Email [info@field-goods.com](mailto:info@field-goods.com)







### **Contact Numbers**

Main Office: 914-242-0520

Bedford Hills: 914-242-0520 Ext. 203

The Farm: 914-242-0520 Ext. 111

Kitchawan: 914-242-0520 Ext. 601

Watson: 914-242-0520 Ext. 412

White House: 914-242-0520 Ext. 301

After School: 914-242-0520 Ext. 302

## **The Country Childrens Center**

### ***Graduation Schedule***

***Watson: June 12th at 10:30 AM***

***White House Pre-K: June 17th at 4PM***

***Farm: June 18th at 4PM***

***Kitchawan: June 19th at 11:00AM***

***Bedford Hills: June 20th at 10AM***

***White House CCCK: June 24th at 4PM***

