



THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Directors Desk Winter 2014

Dear CCC Parents,

Wow! What a winter!

I am hoping that this message finds you well and having survived such a harsh winter with minor problems. It has been hard on everyone. As you all know the CCC tries to stay open as much as possible, but this year has been really difficult with all the "state of emergencies" to deal with.

However, brighter days are not far off so we must all keep the faith. In the meantime, hopefully the news in this note will bring a little sunshine to your thoughts.

Due to all the early closings, delays, etc., the CCC has decided to **NOT** close the preschool programs early at 3PM on Friday, April 11th, as previously advertised on our annual calendar of closings. All programs will be closing at the normal time on that day.

This is just a small gesture on our part, but one that we hope will make your lives a little easier.

We usually close on this day at the end of the Week of the Young Child to have a center wide training for staff. However, with our awesome Educational Coordinator in place (Monika Keksis), the staff are getting a lot of training hours throughout the year so this is not the necessity it used to be.

Most likely, the staff would prefer to spend the end of our celebration week with your children than in a workshop anyway.

Hopefully we are finished with the bad weather. But, even if not, know that we sympathize with your frustrations this winter and share them right along with you. We hope this news pleases you.

Please find our updated calendar in this issue (see last page).

Thank you for all your cooperation and understanding during the winter months. We look forward to warmer spring days coming soon.

Polly



OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?

Home Depot Visits The Farm Pre-K



I am writing this article for the Centerpiece on the recent "Home Depot" experience in the Farm's Pre-K classroom. A while back, we had planned a trip to Home Depot but Mother Nature didn't cooperate. Lucky for us, Home Depot said "We'll come to you!" And so, one morning in late February, Domencia Lipton and John Maggio came to us from the Brewster, New York Home Depot.

To help us with our unit on "Tools, Tool Safety, & Technology" they taught us how tools can either help us or hurt us and how to be safe. Each child received a Home Depot apron, a pin, a certificate and we each made a car from the movie "Despicable Me 2".

They brought enough hammers for each child to use and we were busy little bees. The kids had a fun time banging the nails with real hammers under close supervision. This was all done at no cost at all! Thank you Home Depot!

This activity was being used as part of the Pre-K's science fair project. Their project was to see what raced the fastest: 1) a wooden car, 2) a plastic car, or a 3) metal car? The CCC had it's 2nd Annual Science Fair at the Katonah Village Library on February 27th. We were named the Overall Winners for our Pre-K Drag Race project!

Thank you to Katie & Cristina for taking the children's interest to heart and turning it into a hands on approach.

Noreen Cotter
Farm Site Director

Above: The Pre-K class with Domencia and John from the Brewster Home Depot.

Below: Hard at work putting together cars.

Below Right: Learning all about tool safety.



Together We Can “CHANGE” the World

In the spirit of acts of kindness and focusing on GIVING around the giving season (Thanksgiving and the winter holidays), we wanted to do just that with the kids at CCC Bedford Hills. We wanted to focus more on the spirit of giving, and how it feels to give, as opposed to only receiving. We decided to choose a charity related to children, and wanted our CCC kids to be active participants in giving to such a charity. We chose the Save the Children organization because they help children in need and it just so happens that the President of the CCC Board works for Save the Children.

We started our giving project by reading the book “The Giving Tree,” by Shel Silverstein. We followed the book up with a discussion about how it feels to get and how sometimes it feels even better to give. We spoke to the children about how much we have to be thankful for and that some families and children are not as fortunate. Additionally, we put out an exciting light up rocket ship (piggy) bank in which the children could collect and deposit coins. We wanted it to be something that they could literally SEE as the amount of change climbed up the tube....to see that just a little change can make “change” for another child. The kids really got into the spirit of giving. We collected, not only the coins, but asked the kids and Bedford Hills’ families to donate their gently used or new toys, dolls, and books from home. The parents and children of Bedford Hills were extremely generous in their donations and we are proud to announce that we collected \$89.85 in coins in the rocket ship (and will be adding the extra change to make it an even \$100), and are sending about 5-6 boxes filled with some used and many new toys, books, and clothing through Save the Children to a Head Start program in great need in Louisiana. The children in the Pre-school and PreK classes are working on a letter to send along with the donations, and are packing up the boxes themselves, which we hope will impress upon them even further, the connection and great feeling one can get from giving to others.

Thank you to all of the Bedford Hills families for your help, donations, and enthusiasm in our giving project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by us and will undoubtedly reach down through the hearts of your children all the way to Louisiana to truly touch the lives of others.

Shanna Krizan
Bedford Hills Site Director



Above: Children add change to the Rocket Ship.

Below: Packing up boxes of donations for a Louisiana Head Start classroom.



Winter at the White House



Above: Ms. Jessica helping children make shapes out of pretzel sticks.

Below: The CCKK children enjoying the winter playground.



What a winter we are having! Pssst...the White House kids are loving all the snow with the added bonus of sleigh riding, snow hiking, fort building, spray bottle painting and even shoveling during recess. As the season changed, so did some things at the White House. The Pre-K program said a sad goodbye to Debbie Walker from the CSED as she moved on to a different school but welcomed Lisa Ryan as the CSED aide. The Breakfast Club kids along with the Pre-K/CCCK kids bid farewell to Justin DeLaMothe, as he began a new job in the communications field.

Both the Pre-K and CCCK classrooms have been busy as beavers as the months have passed with so many wonderful learning activities. The Pre-K kids have been involved in some awesome curriculum themes from Opposites to Transportation, Thankfulness and Friendship as well as a trip into Space! Currently they are discussing the habits of animals in Winter vs. Polar animals plus the Pre-K kids are anxiously waiting to join their parents in the "I LOVE YOU" breakfast that was postponed due to the snowstorm. The Mystery Reader program has begun in the Pre-K classroom and has already had many special guest readers. As if all that wasn't enough, Miss Jessica works tediously to prepare the Pre-K kids for kindergarten with a focus on the Handwriting without Tears curriculum. The CCCK kids, who tirelessly juggle being at two schools simultaneously, have enjoyed learning about Animals in winter, spent the month of December traveling around the world and researching countries and in January blasted off into the Solar System. Hopefully the White House won't shake with the weight of our Dawn of the Dinosaurs theme coming in March! The Intergenerational program has completed it's project and it will be displayed at the Katonah Museum of Art starting March 2, 2014 during the Young Artist exhibit.

And now for some great news...Jessica Smith, our White House Pre-K teacher has been awarded the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL National Child Care Teacher Award! As one of many teachers across the nation who applied for this award, only 50 were chosen and we are thrilled one of them was our beloved Miss Jessica! She will receive her award on April 2, 2014 in Malvern, Pennsylvania and all of us at CCC could not be more proud that she was successful and not only will receive her own prize but the White House will benefit from her proposed project of having a year round compost program included in our curriculum.

Pam Belmonte
White House Site Director



Watson Celebrates the Year of the Horse

Here at Watson, we were all very excited to have Pei Wang come in and share the Chinese New Year with us. Probably one of the most excited was Lucas, Pei & Yu's three year old son. When Pei walked into the house she commented on how nicely it was decorated.

In addition to our collection of decorations, Pei brought with her two beautiful, colorful cut outs of horses, something we didn't have. She also showed us pictures of paper cuttings (an intricate art form), the Chinese Zodiac, and talked to us about the meaning of red envelopes (each child received an envelope with a treat inside), the color red, fireworks, and the fact that this is the busiest travel time for people in China because they want to spend the New Year with family and friends. There are not enough seats on buses, trains, or planes for all who want to travel. Pei also told us about celebrating the New Year when she was a little girl living in China.

With Thursday being our Music with Ms. Ellen day, Pei was able to see how the New Year was welcomed in as Ms. Ellen lead a parade of the children holding ribbon sticks and later on they put on conical hats. In her preparations for coming in, Pei took the opportunity to cook dumplings and chicken for the children and their teachers. It was such a pleasant morning that we would like to do it again.

We shared such a wonderful time because we were all able to relate to a New Year's celebration. We all appreciated the camaraderie that was felt in the room. It was clearly a time of coming together to take note of a cultural event meaningful to many families and we were grateful to be a part of it.

Uncut noodles are eaten on New Years in the hopes of having a long life. This reminds me of one of the holidays I celebrate that takes note of the New Year in the form of eating from a round challah (a type of bread) which symbolizes new life, it's richness and fullness.

From all of us here at Watson/Baby Blue, we wish all of you a Happy Year of the Horse!

Jean Nathanson, Watson Site Director



Above: Lucas and his mom, Pei Wang.

Below: Preschool and PreK celebrate the New Year.



Winter at Kitchawan



Above: The preschool children building an igloo.

Right: Teachers bring the snow inside for the infants!



It has been a very busy Winter here at Kitchawan Barns. Along with this Winter being busy it has been very long. All the classes have done a great job keeping the children occupied through the long cold Winter days.

In the Baby Barn they enjoyed all the sensory aspects of indoor snow play in their sensory bin. When the weather permitted the babies went for quick, cool word walks where the teachers described their surroundings and introduced new words to the children. Another favorite Winter activity the babies enjoyed many times this Winter was watching the snow fall through their large low windows. There were also many Winter and snow themed books, songs and art projects to keep them busy and learning.

Just like the babies the toddlers enjoyed indoor snow play in their sensory bin. To make the snow play a little more interesting the toddler teachers added liquid water color to the snow. The children enjoyed watching the colors swirl and mix in the snow as they played. They also got a lesson on color mixing. For art projects the children worked on creating their own winter wardrobes making hats, boots, mittens and scarves. Another fun sensory activity the toddlers did was playing with melted snow (which is a combination of corn starch and water) It is a very soothing sensory activity that the children really enjoyed. Lots of Winter songs and finger plays also!

The preschool was able to get outside and build some great snow forts and castles. They used a milk crate to make blocks out of snow and used the snow blocks to build with. They enjoyed learning and talking about icicles. They measured their length, timed how long it takes them to melt and measured the amount of water they melted in to. The preschool used all their five senses with indoor snow play. They were given cooking tools in the snow to pretend to cook with it.

The pre-k class started the Winter out with a big unit on the Arctic. They learned about the animals that live there, what they ate and where they lived in the arctic. Like all the other classes they played with snow indoors at the sensory table. They talked about their five senses and how they used them playing with the snow. For art projects they made Eskimos with their own faces and igloos with yummy marshmallows.

Even though Kitchawan has done many fun and educational things during the Winter months we are all looking forward to Spring and the fun we will have then!

Caroline Paterno, Kitchawan Barns Site Director





Contact Numbers

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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, Inc. Regular Child Care Calendar of Planned Closings 2013-2014

July 4 & 5, 2013 – Thurs. & Fri. **CLOSED** - Independence Day Break

September 2, 2013 - Monday **CLOSED** – Labor Day

October 14, 2013 - Monday **CLOSED** – Columbus Day

November 28 & 29, 2013 - Thurs. & Fri. **CLOSED** – Thanksgiving Recess

December 24, 2013 – Tuesday **EARLY CLOSING - 2:00 PM –**
Christmas Break

December 25, 2013 –Wednesday **CLOSED** – Christmas Break

January 1, 2014 – Wednesday **CLOSED** – New Year’s Day

January 20, 2014 - Monday **CLOSED** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17, 2014 - Monday **CLOSED** - President’s Day

May 26, 2014 - Monday **CLOSED** - Memorial Day

Reminder: Regular tuition is always due. An allowance has been made for all scheduled & unscheduled closings.

