



Country
Children's
Center™

The Centerpiece

SPRING 2013

Director's Desk

Happy Spring everyone. Our spring has been slow to start but we are doing our spring rituals as usual anyway.

On Sunday April 22, the CCC had our annual Earth Day celebration at our Farm site in Katonah.

We had a great day and we celebrated the beautiful Earth with lots of animals, seeds and fun. Lots of you were there to celebrate with us, which was wonderful.

The week of April 14-21 was also the National Week of the Young Child. We all had a great time celebrating the importance of children in our lives as well as the importance of the people who spend each day with them helping them to understand the world and learn.

At the end of the week we closed early so that we could get all of our staff together and have a couple of training sessions. We know that early closings are difficult and inconvenient, but we greatly appreciate your cooperation on that day as it allowed us all to gain some terrific new information to help us in our work.

The train-

ings were on classroom management and on how to use sign language to help very young children and infants to better communicate their needs to us. Both workshops were excellent. In fact, the information presented struck me as being relevant not just to the staff, but that it would be very helpful and interesting to parents as well.

Therefore, we are in the process of trying to set up two evening events for parents where these same two trainers can share this information with CCC parents who are interested. I hope, once these get set, that many of you will attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for parent/teacher collaboration. We hope to do more of these in the future, as well, should we get a good response.

In the meantime, enjoy the sunnier, warmer weather with all the hope that the season of spring can bring to our lives.

-Polly



A Celebration with Jane

The CCC Farm site had a fabulous Week of the Young Child. A highlight to the Farm's week of celebrations was a bench dedication to Jane Eisermann.

Jane has worked at The Country Childrens Center for 20 years. She is a talented artist and has worked in many different areas of CCC including afterschool programs, infant, toddler, preschool, Pre-K, and kindergarten rooms. For the past several years she was the CCC's "Traveling Art Teacher", a floater at the farm, and also helped with Intergenerational Program at the White House.

Jane's decision to retire was not an easy one. She would like to spend more time enjoying her hobbies, husband, children, and grandchildren.

The dedication was in the science barn and all the Farm children attended. Jane loved all the cards made by the kids. Polly wrote and read a poem 'ode' to Jane. The celebration ended with a cake and Jane promised to not be a stranger!

Happy Spring!

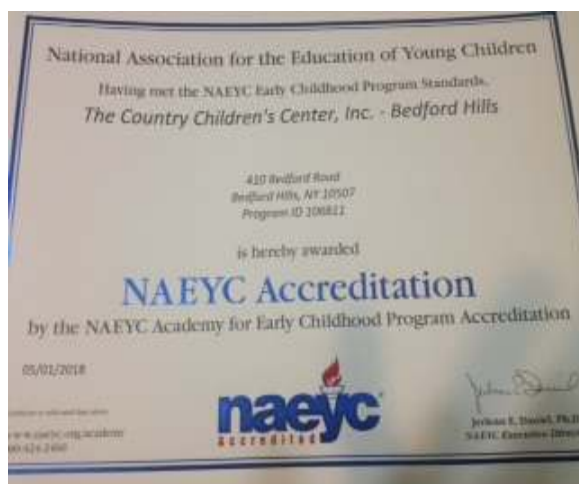
Noreen Cotter
Farm Site Director

*Below:
Jane Eisermann
and the children
and staff from the
Farm enjoy the
dedication
ceremony.*



NAEYC Accreditation at Bedford Hills

“**Congratulations...You have chosen a program for your child that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children**” ...this is how the pamphlet reads in our Congratulatory package for becoming an accredited program! What does this mean, you may ask? Becoming an accredited early childhood program means that we strive toward the highest standards put forth by the National association in Washington D.C. and are considered a high quality program.



On April 10, 2013, the Bedford Hills CCC site was officially notified that we had received the mark of quality and had been granted accreditation!! The journey to become accredited began under the leadership of Benan Ozkaynak, the former site director for 10 years. She, along with the amazing teachers here at BH CCC put forth a great deal of effort, time, and passion for education and young children over the past year and half in order to prepare for the accreditation process and accreditation visit (which occurred in late February). To give you some idea as to what is involved, in addition to the many meetings, creative, detailed binders for each classroom that must be compiled, and scrupulous detail to classroom settings, toys, programming, etc..., all NAEYC-Accredited Programs must prove the following: Promoting **positive relation-**

ships, curriculum that fosters all areas of a child development, developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate **effective teaching approaches, ongoing assessments** of children and communication with families, promote **nutrition and health** of children, **teaching staff** that has quality educational qualifications and professional commitment to diverse interests and needs, maintain collaborative **relationships with each child's family, build and use community relationships**, strong personnel, fiscal and program management policies so that all children, families and staff have high **quality experiences**.

I was fortunate enough to be hired in December to swoop in for the “victory lap.”, and to see the end of the accreditation process through. To see what Benan, the staff, teachers, the CCC Board, the CCC families and of course Polly Peace have gone through to make this happen is inspiring! I am beyond proud of everyone involved. I feel honored to be a part of the Bedford Hills CCC family, and I sincerely hope that every family, every child and every staff member here feels the same. We all did it together and that is exactly what accreditation is all about!!

~Shanna Krizan Bedford Hills Site Director



Left: The official accreditation

Below: A happy face in the infant room!

The Week of the Young Child



The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is always a special week in April. The National Association for the Education of Young Children headquartered in Washington, D.C. (NAEYC), our governing body, annually sets the theme. I hope you've seen CCC's banner, The Early Years are Learning Years (hanging outdoors.) At Watson/Baby Blue we took it a step further and worked with the belief that Children are Never Too Young to Teach and Adults are Never Too Old to Learn, symbolizing that learning is reciprocal. Keeping this in mind, each classroom designed a banner t-shirt that was displayed as we marched around the outside of the Flewellin House on Monday, welcoming the week in. The children were thrilled to see balloons inside and outside the building and left for the day feeling very satisfied because they planted pansies, jumped in the Castle, and of course, took a balloon home.

On Tuesday, we were very pleased to welcome back our friend, Author/Illustrator Marisbina Russo who read us two of her popular books, The Lineup Book and The Bunnies are Not in Their Beds. Then we jumped on our trampoline for those who have Muscular Dystrophy. We followed this up with a CCC Birthday Celebration at all sites. With Wednesday coming

next, we were treated to making our own sundaes. Thursday found us hands-on again when we built two planter boxes with Chris on our gazebo. Working with our hands gave way to working our bodies when we took a Zumba class with Ms. Sharise, and then we had class with David Schloat who brought his Carnivorous Plants.

What a magical week we had culminating with CCC's Annual Earth Day Celebration at The Farm. It was wonderful to see families mingling on the playground that held, specially set up for the day, two jumping castles in addition to the swings, tire swing, see-saw, sandbox, and climbing slide structure. For me, what makes this week so special is the CCC Spirit that we all feel at all the buildings and programs. You can take a CCC person to any site and drop her at that site and what she will feel and what you would see is the spirit of caring for and nurturing children. A by-product of holding this celebration at The Farm, is that parents from other preschool and Pre-k sites get to see the pool and its surroundings, for it is here that swim lessons and free swim are given during the summer. Sharing experiences across our many sites makes for the feeling of belonging and strength which is crucial to a child's development.

Jean Nathanson Watson Site Director





Spring at the White House

With all the winter activities behind us, the White House is eagerly awaiting the arrival of warmer weather! During the past couple of months the Pre-K and

CCCK kids have enjoyed learning about winter animals, dinosaurs, the solar system, healthy habits, the water cycle, weather and rainbows. Whew! I am sure I am missing some of the topics as the children at the White House are always involved in new activities and learning centers. Back in February, the CCCK Intergenerational Program headed by our own Polly Peace published a wonderful book called *IN THE OLD KITCHEN* inspired by heritage kitchen tools. The artwork and photographs were done by two of our CCC staff artists in residence, Jane Eiserman and Coralyn Klubnick-Simone. It was exhibited at the Katonah Museum of Art during Young Artists Week.

With the change of seasons at the White House brings a change of gears...even though we spend year round enjoying the great outdoors at our site, with the return of spring the Pre-K/CCCK are bringing the indoor classroom outdoors! The White House Adventure Yards, our wiffle ball field, is in full "swing" each day during recess. Can anybody say CCC World Series??

The White House spent the Week of the Young Child engaged in all the special events that CCC plans for each site. We thank all the special guests, mystery readers and Polly for making the WOYC another success at CCC. Speaking of the mystery readers, the Pre-K and CCCK programs at the White House have opened up the mystery reader program for parents and family members of the White House. Every week a special guest reader surprises the children by arriving to read to the class. It is a wonderful addition to our curriculum and enriches parent involvement in the program.

The White House classrooms have been busy

outdoors planting pansies, creating a sunflower garden and cleaning up the grounds for Earth Day. The CCCK kids walked the chipmunk trail and the playground areas on Earth Day with our trash collection gear and made sure to leave not one bit of litter on the property. The Pre-K class in honor of Earth Day painted nature patterns on a garbage can designed specifically for the playground area trash and all the White House kids have brought in reusable water bottles for recess so we don't use throw away cups. Every little bit helps the Earth. We also have a former student of CCC creating an outdoor amphitheater for our summer adventure camp. Tyler Simone is becoming an Eagle Scout and will create this area as a part of his scout project.

As the year winds down, the White House classes will be preparing for Pre-K graduation and the CCCK is practicing for their Canciones en Español with a special musical recorder concert with Miss Ellen. The White House "breakfast club" will have their annual Fifth Grade graduation breakfast – hard to believe that some of our former infant class students are moving on to middle school! All these events will take place in June. As we come full circle in our school year I would like to acknowledge all the teaching staff at

the White House for a job well done and thank all the families entrusting us with the care and teaching of their children.

Pam Belmonte,
White House Site
Director



Above: White House children celebrate Spring by planting.
Below: On the WH Adventure Yards.

Springtime at Kitchawan Barns



Ms. Martha reads with the infants.

This Spring, the infants have enjoyed their word walks. Walking all over the property looking at signs of Spring, Ms.

Martha and Ms. Aura have been giving the words to everything the children point at to help build their vocabulary and understanding of the world around them. They have visited the garden and enjoyed getting dirty playing in the dirt. The older babies have been helping out by watering the daffodils in front of the Baby Barn. They have spent lots of time outside playing with balls and the tunnel on the grass. The little babies enjoyed feeling the grass and they were encouraged to touch and crawl on it. They will continue to celebrate Spring with art projects, books and activities.

In the toddler room they have done many Spring related art projects to help decorate the class room. They made birds, flowers and umbrellas to name a few. Like the infants, the toddlers have spent lots of time outside. They went on nature walks looking for the flowers that are starting to bloom. They talked about the colors they saw and the noises they heard on their walk. On Earth Day the children enjoyed taking a trip to the garden to plant sunflower seeds. The children will continue to water and watch as their flowers begin to grow. Also while in the garden the teachers and children dug for worms to feed to Franklin, our new turtle. They enjoyed watching Franklin eat the worms they dug up for him.

The preschool children have been doing lots of observing of things they see happening outside. Once they notice a flower that has bloomed they come inside to see if they can identify it in a flower

book, then they learn the name of the flower and Ms. Lee Ann hangs up a picture of the flower on their flower wall. They have also been talking about seeds. They have noticed that there are seeds in the fruit they have after lunch. They collected the seeds and sorted them, described them and did many learning activities around the seeds before gluing them to paper for their tree project. The children have enjoyed digging for worms in the garden for Franklin.

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. They have learned new songs about spring with Mr. Kenny and Ms. Ellen. 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. The children had many great ideas! The pre-k is anxiously waiting to start planting in the garden. Ms. Jen will begin garden planting in the middle of May. They have been getting the garden ready by turning up the soil and picking the weeds. Each child was able to plant a pansy outdoors during the Week of the Young Child. 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! Each class has many more exciting educational activities planned for the remaining days of Spring.

Caroline Paterno,
Kitchawan Barns
Site Director



Planting daisies!

The Country Childrens Center Presents The First Ever



Awesome Foursome Golf Outing Classroom Challenge

If any classroom from any of our CCC sites, comes up with a foursome for our annual golf outing on May 7, 2013 at Centennial Golf Club, you will be entered to win something very special for that classroom.

The foursome with the lowest total score after 18 holes of golf will win, for their associated classroom, \$150 for those teachers to spend in the classroom any way they want. (Books-Supplies-a party for the kids-toys and so on.)

Remember, it must be a foursome from a single class. Each class can have more than one foursome representing it, but all participants must be associated with the same class. (Example: Toddler room Watson or Pre-K Room Kitchawan.)

If you are interested in participating in this fundraising event, please call Cheryl Flores: 914-242-0520 EXT. 211

Outing tickets are \$200pp- This price includes (lunch-driving range-18 holes of golf-dinner and 2 hr open bar and silent auction)



**Country
Childrens
Center™**

PO Box 91
Katonah, NY
10536

Polly Peace

Contact Numbers

Bedford Hills (main office) 914-242-0520
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
B.H. Elementary School 914-242-0520: Ext. 502
Increase Miller 914-763-7190
J.J. Middle School 914-242-0520: Ext. 503
Katonah 914-763-7795
Lewisboro 914-763-7890
Meadow Pond 914-763-7987

Graduation and Recital Dates

The Farm

Graduation on Wednesday, June 12th at 4:00pm

Piano Recital on Friday, May 31st at 5:30pm

White House Pre-K

Graduation on Wednesday, June 19th at 4:00pm

White House CCCK—Canciones en Español

Graduation on Thursday, June 20th at 4:00pm

Bedford Hills

Graduation on Wednesday, June 12th at 10:00am

Watson

Graduation on Tuesday, June 4th at 4:00pm

Piano Recital on Thursday, May 23rd at 5:30pm

Kitchawan Barns

Graduation on Thursday June 20th at 11:00am

Piano Recital on Wednesday, May 29th at 5:30pm