



Country Childrens Center



The Centerpiece

Country Childrens Center

Directors Desk

September 2011

Hi everyone and welcome to our new "school" year. Everything at the CCC is humming along well as September comes to a close.

We will be producing this newsletter quarterly to keep you informed about the goings on of the whole of the Center.

You currently all get daily FYIs from your site directors, which has been great for improving communications between you and your children's programs. The purpose of the Centerpiece is to bring you news about all of the programs that the CCC operates and to connect you to the CCC greater com-

munity.

As we turn out our 1st edition for 2011, a big thank you to Samantha Scott, former CCC student and employee who now is working for us part-time to edit and produce the newsletter.

Happy fall.
Polly



Quarter 1, Issue 1

Fall 2011

Points of Interest:

- ☺ Welcome back!
- ☺ News from sites across the Center
- ☺ Upcoming art auction
- ☺ Join us at the CCC Fall Fest
- ☺ Important contact information

Kitchawan Welcomes Fall

Although the weather has not felt much like Fall up until now, Kitchawan has started the school year off with lots of Fall fun!

The infant teachers created a pretend apple picking trip by putting apples in the garden where the babies then had to find them. They also played in the leaves, throwing them up in the air and

watching the brilliant colors as they fell gently to the ground.

The toddlers have used all the outside elements in their pretend restaurant. In order to find the best and freshest ingredients, the restaurateurs enjoy digging in the dirt,

(continued on p.2)



"Cooking" up a storm!

Inside this issue:

White House	2
Bedford Hills	2
Kitchawan	2
The Farm	3
Watson	3
Art Auction	4
Fall Fest	5
Contact Info	6

New School Year at the White House



Smiling proud at their Duplo-block creation!

successful start and the enthusiastic energy was everywhere as our students eagerly began to learn and play!

Not to be forgotten, the White House Before-School program comprised of our 1st-5th graders also had a fabulous start to the school year!

With the classrooms looking shiny and new, all set up and ready for learning, the White House staff excitedly welcomed all of our new students back on September 7th. The Pre-K Inclusion and Kindergarten Wrap-around programs took off to a

The White House welcomes a new office member this September. Brent Morton, resident School-Age director, has set up shop in our office along with the rest of our outstanding Pre-K and CCKK returning staff, Jessica Smith and Evelyn Muñoz as

lead teachers respectively. Both the Pre-K and the CCKK classrooms began the year with a focus on "ALL ABOUT ME," which stressed individuality, diversity, and friendship intertwined with many wonderful activities, as well as each program offering Spanish Class to its students. Finally, many times throughout the day you will find all the children at the White House enjoying the bountiful outdoors including the playground, sport court, tree circle, and backyard trails. We are lucky to have an abundance and array of nature for us to admire and learn about!

-Pam Belmonte/Site Director

Get to Know Ms. Donna at Bedford Hills

Introducing Donna Perez, our new infant teacher at Bedford Hills site.

Donna is a new addition to our staff and we are so happy to welcome her to the Country Childrens Center! She is the mother of a 5-year-old and has experience working in early childhood settings. Donna is also in the process of obtaining her CDA (Child Development Associate) degree through

Child Care Council of Westchester. She loves working with the babies and she is a very hands-on infant teacher. Donna is a wonderful addition to our small CCC community and we are lucky to have her aboard!

-Benan Ozkaynak/Site Director



Enjoying story time with Ms. Donna!

Kitchawan Welcomes Fall

(continued from p. 1)

sand, woodchips, and leaves. They have made some really crunchy, yummy food!

The preschool children have been doing lots of hands on experiments with pumpkins. They

really enjoyed taking the insides out of the pumpkin and playing with it in the sensory table. Squeals of laughter could be heard when the children felt how slippery and slimy the pumpkin innards were! To continue with the pumpkin unit, the children made Pumpkin Mush

for their weekly cooking activity. Children and teachers alike are looking forward to their apple picking trip in October. All the classes are eager to continue celebrating the Fall season with many more fun activities!

-Caroline Paterno/Site Director

Spanish with Señora Linda at the Farm

Welcome Señora Linda! The Country Childrens Center is pleased to introduce Linda Forman, a retired Spanish teacher, back to our Pre-K program at the Farm! Linda worked as a Spanish teacher for 38 years at Carmel High School. During her time there, she also served as the head chairperson for the language department. After retiring, Linda wanted to give back to the Country Childrens Center. Not only was she a former board member, her son attended CCC as a 3 & 4 year old back in 1989, who I was lucky enough to have taught when he was 3. He loved the Ninja turtles and the color

green! Linda comes to the children on Mondays where she teaches Spanish vocabulary. The children really enjoy her company as well as her great stories, singing, and fun games. All the children were assigned a Spanish name which they use during their lessons. Linda has also been kind enough to build up our Spanish library where the children are welcome to continue learning. As our Spanish library



Hola clase! Let's learn Español! continues

to grow, we welcome all the sites to borrow books for their classes!
Gracias Señora!
-Noreen Cotter/Site Director

Watson's National Accreditation

The Watson/Baby Blue CCC has achieved national accreditation! NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) is our accrediting organization. Its purpose is to establish NAEYC/accreditation as a leading force for enhancing children's well-being and early learning. It seeks to improve the quality of early childhood programs serving children from birth through kindergarten. "Baby Blue"/Watson CCC was accredited previously under NAEYC's old guidelines. NAEYC began re-vamping their standards several years ago and came out with new ones in 2007. Under the new

guidelines, accountability and portfolio documentation to represent the program are stressed. A total of 10 standards with supporting 400 criteria are used to decide on accreditation. We are very proud of the



"Baby Blue" showing their CCC pride on Spirit Day!

infant, toddler and preschool/pre-k staff for achieving this formidable challenge. It was a tremendous group effort and each staff member contributed to making the process a success. We also need to thank the office staff, especially Jessica Matero, for helping to keep us on track with the portfolio preparation and documentation. We are very proud of the success of our efforts and our accomplishment of national accreditation on August 31, 2011. We look forward to continuing to put our efforts into practice. Our accreditation is good for 5 years, but needs yearly review.

-Jean Nathanson/Site Director



To: Friends and Family of the Country Childrens Center

Re: Our Annual Art Auction

Date: November 5, 2011

Time: 6 pm

Location: 862 Kitchawan Rd. (Route 134)

Yorktown NY 10598

Cost: \$10 per person

Purpose: CCC Scholarship Fund for Needy Working Families

Once again, it is time for The Country Childrens Center's Art Auction which raises money for our Scholarship Fund. We are looking forward to another lively and successful event. Proceeds from last year's auction helped over 15 families to receive tuition assistance from the Center. This year, we are hoping for a similar result as the need for families to receive help from the CCC continues to grow. That is why we are inviting you to come join us for drinks, food and music as well as beautiful art. This is a wonderful chance to get out on a Saturday night for only \$10 per person and support a great cause at the same time.

If you are interested in attending:

Please email Bill Dandreaano at wdandreaano@countrychildrenscenter.org and let us know how many people will be attending along with you. Also, admission checks are payable to "The Country Childrens Center" and can be mailed to the address below along with the bottom half of the invitation insert if you desire a specific type of art.

Thank you and see you in November.

Sincerely,

Bill

Checks mailed to: PO Box 91, Katonah NY, 10536

CCC Annual Fall Festival
Saturday October 29
11-2
CCC "Farm"
466 Cross River Rd.



Pumpkin patch

Homemade doughnuts

Enchanted woods

Haunted house

Jumping castle

Pony rides

Sing along with Miss Ellen

Clown/balloons/crafts

\$25
Per family
(max 4)



Country Childrens Center

PO Box 91
Katonah, NY 10536

Phone: 914-242-0520

Polly Peace, Executive Director

Little Steps....Big Feats

www.countrychildrenscenter.org



**Country
Childrens
Center** SM

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

Weather Line 914-242-0520: Ext. 250