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The Centerpiece

QUARTER 1

FALL 2012

Director's Desk

Hi everyone! Welcome to our new "school" year. We started the year off with great enthusiasm as we celebrated CCC Spirit day together on Sept. 7th. After that it has been busy, busy, busy at the Center.

In addition to our regular wonderful staff, we have welcomed back our special teachers in Art , Science, Spanish and Music after the summer off. We are off to a great start and an exciting year.

The programs are working on various projects mostly centered around getting to know each other, themselves and their families.

This topic reminds us of our desire to partner with our parents to make the care and education the children receive here relevant and meaningful, as well as connected between home and

school. As the year develops, we welcome you to participate in activities in your child's classroom, share a talent or treasure with us, or join in the CCC life in as many ways as you want to.

Very soon we will be having our first family event of the year, the Fall Festival on Oct 20th. I hope to see many of you then at our Farm site in Katonah. In the meantime, please feel free to call me at any time during the year to discuss any concerns or comments you may have that will help us to always keep improving. Happy fall.

Polly, Executive Director



At The White House

The White House is off to a great start to the school year for the Pre-K and Kindergarten programs. The first week of school was also the time to celebrate CCC Spirit Day and the White House classrooms were abuzz with blue and orange activities to honor CCC. The Pre-K and CCKK staff were all decked out in their orange CCC t-shirts while the kids wore blue and orange!

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Evelyn and Mary Kate with the children celebrating CCC Spirit Day!

At The White House (continued)

Throughout the day the Pre-K and CCK kids made



Jessica and Rosi celebrating with the children.

homemade blue/orange cookies, blue/orange play dough, two magnificent banners, CCC headbands and neck-

laces, plus there were balloons galore! It was a fantastic day and the White House earned an edible arrangement

for all of their hard work.

This year the White House will offer piano lessons with Miss Ellen and in the kindergarten program, Polly Peace will head the second year of the Intergenerational Program with a special edition Ice Age animation theme! The AM and PM kindergarten kids will take a trip to the Katonah Museum of Art for the Ice Age exhibit to kick off the Intergenerational Program with Ms. Polly.

Of course, the White House is still the home base for the Breakfast Club in the early mornings headed by Zach Hershman and the CCVC program for school vacations run by Brent Morton. We look forward to a wonderful school year.

Pam Belmonte, White House Site Director

NAEYC Accreditation at Bedford Hills

Founded in 1926, NAEYC (National Association of the Education of Young Children) is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children, with nearly 80,000 members, a national network of more than 300 state and local affiliates and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations. The NAEYC Academy in Washington, D.C., sets and monitors standards for high quality early childhood education programs and accredits programs that meet these standards.

It has also been CCC's mission to provide affordable, quality day care programs designed to meet the individual needs of each child through a caring, nurturing, and challenging environment. Therefore, our Bedford Hills program happily took on the challenge of getting accredited through NAEYC.

For the last two years, the program engaged in the required steps of self-study and self-assessment while parents and teaching staff provided great feedback through NAEYC's surveys. We have just completed the third step of accreditation and mailed our candidacy application to the Academy.



Antoniette and Diana working on a NAEYC classroom portfolio.

While we are waiting to hear from the Academy about the date for the assessor's visit, the teaching staff and I are working on the classroom and program portfolios in order to "tell our program's story" and make improvements as necessary. I would like to thank everyone who was involved and helped out during our accreditation process including parents, teaching staff, our executive director Polly, office staff, and of course, the children who continue to inspire us every day.

-Benan Ozkaynak-Bedford Hills Site Director

September at the Farm



Fall is here and things at the Farm are in full swing and going very well. We have had a few things stay the same and also we are experiencing

some new things. We began our school year with CCC Spirit Day! We decorated the inside and outside of our building with balloons, streamers, ribbon and a puzzle collage. The pieces of the puzzle were decorated by each staff member. All staff wore our CCC T-Shirts and our children did the same. We won a pizza party from Polly (executive director) for doing a great job!

Our Pre-K class is doing very well with the addition of Katie Monahan. Katie and Cristina are working very well together and have created a wonderful classroom environment. The kids love them and the classroom is bright, inviting and enthusiastic. Also, our very own Kathy Esposito has begun her journey to her CDA. She is going to night & weekend classes and is very excited to further her early childhood knowledge. Kathy is also doing a very good job as the lead teacher of the Twoddler room. Cristina G. and Kathy E. are a wonderful team and the children are happy to have them as their teachers. The Pre-K has begun going to the Katonah Library every two weeks. One child said, "I am so excited to go on the bus for the first time." This is a wonderful experience.

This year, we decided to swim for an extra two weeks. We are so lucky to have the pool here at the farm and we used it in those early warm days in September. The kids and the parents loved the idea and Katie M. did a great job as a lifeguard in the afternoon and being the lead teacher in the Pre-K class. We have amazing teachers here.

Also, we have a new addition to our Pre-School room. Susan Steiger was hired this September

to work with Megan in the Pre-School room. They are working very well together and again, the kids are having a lot of fun. Susan is very energetic and has a lot of experience in this field of work. Megan and Susan compliment each other and create a warm, nurturing environment for the kids to 'learn through learning' and have a good time doing it.

We had many 'seamless' transitions this year and all our children have adjusted to their new rooms very well. We have wonderful staff, great kids, awesome parents and a beautiful building. This is going to be a great school year.

-Noreen Cotter, Farm Site Director



Below: Kathy and Vinny with the children
On CCC Spirit Day



Great Changes at Kitchawan

This school year started just as wonderful as the weather has been. I am proud to say that Kitchawan’s preschool/pre-k program has grown that we now have them split into two class rooms. The Kitchawan site will be open three years in February and the enrollment keeps on growing!

This split enables the teachers to focus on developmentally appropriate activities for their age group. The preschool is for three to four year olds and the pre-k is for four to five years olds. One of the pre-k’s main objectives it to get the children ready for Kindergarten next year. Even though they are split into two classrooms the teachers are working together on curriculum and planning.

Every Friday both the preschool and pre-k have been enjoying Fitness Fridays. Weather permitting they spend most of the morning outside. The children have participated in obstacle courses, soccer games and relay races.

-Caroline Paterno, Kitchawan Site Director



Fun at Fitness Friday! Above: Zachary Kirsch doing jumping jacks. Below: Nicholas Pollack practicing on the balance beam.



Everything I Ever Needed to Learn, I Learned in Child Care

Recently, I caught part of an interview with a prominent political figure who was commenting on the reaction of some Middle Eastern countries to the recent negative video that has gone viral. To paraphrase

he said, people have to learn that they can’t react tumultuously every time they hear something negative. The world is small and the diversity great and we have to be able to have differences of opinion without reacting physically.

Everything I Learned, Continued....



Children at Watson/Baby Blue playing with the parachute!

As an early childhood educator, my ears perked up when I heard these words. This is exactly at the core of what we help children learn. As children mature and grow in their skills of speech and empathy, they are better able to communicate and put themselves in other children's shoes. In order to develop these skills, children as infants must have their physical needs met, thereby developing a sense of trust. Once this foundation is laid children are free to learn through hands on developmentally appropriate experiences under the watchful eye of parents and caregivers. From here, they move onto toddlerhood where they begin to establish themselves as their own people. It is not unusual that empathy begins to show itself at this stage. A tilt of the head while looking and listening to the child who is upset, can trigger an empathetic response. It also is not unusual that children have a difficult time sharing. As children proceed through toddlerhood, parallel play (children playing along side one another) begins to fade, speech becomes stronger, and the exchange of ideas begins to blos-

som. It is not always a straight road however. This follows children into their third and fourth years where prompts are still needed to "use your words" instead of grabbing, hitting, etc.

The point is, children do not learn in a vacuum. They learn in a nurturing and stimulating environment, within the context of a relationship. As with all CCC sites, we here at Watson/Baby Blue help the children make discoveries in an environment of respect, acceptance, and appreciation.

I also recently became aware that the NYC Public School System is offering individual instruction to children via computers. Until that becomes a way of life, I whole-heartedly subscribe to the importance of children developing soft skills as a prerequisite to academics.

Jean Nathanson
Site Director

Seasonal Flu: A Guide for Parents From the New York State Department of Health

Is seasonal flu more serious for kids?

Infants and young children are at a greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. That's why the New York State Department of Health recommends that all children 6 months and older get the seasonal flu vaccine.

Flu vaccine may save your child's life.

Most people with seasonal flu are sick for about a week, and then they feel better. But, some people, especially young children, pregnant women, older people, and people with chronic health problems can get very sick. Some can even die. A flu vaccine is the best way to protect your child from seasonal flu. It is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

What is seasonal flu? The flu, or influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu can spread from person to person.

Flu shot or nasal spray vaccine?

- Flu shots can be given to children 6 months and older.
- A nasal-spray vaccine can be given to healthy children 2 years and older.
- Children younger than 5 years who have experienced wheezing in the past year – or any child with chronic health problems – should get the flu shot, not the nasal-spray vaccine.
- Children younger than 9 years old who get a vaccine for the first time need two doses.

How else can I protect my child?

- Get the seasonal flu vaccine for yourself.
- Encourage your child's close contacts to get seasonal flu vaccine, too. This is very important if your child is younger than 5 or if he or she has a chronic health problem such as asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes (high blood sugar levels). Because children under 6 months can't be vaccinated, they rely on those around them to get vaccinated.
- Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes. It's best to use a tissue and quickly throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. This will prevent the spread of germs.
- Tell your children to:
 - Stay away from people who are sick;
 - Clean their hands often;
 - Keep their hands away from their face, and
 - Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others.

What are signs of the flu?

The flu comes on suddenly. Most people with the flu feel very tired and have a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. The cough can last two or more weeks.

How does the flu spread?

People who have the flu usually cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose. The droplets in a cough, sneeze or runny nose contain the flu virus. Other people can get the flu by breathing in these droplets or by getting them in their nose or mouth.

How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?

Most healthy adults may be able to spread the flu from one day before getting sick to up to 5 days after getting sick. This can be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease as well (people with weaker immune systems).

What can I do if my child gets sick?

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks lots of fluids. Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child over-the-counter medicine. If your children or teenagers may have the flu, never give them aspirin or medicine that has aspirin in it. It could cause serious problems.

Can my child go to school/day care with the flu?

No. If your child has the flu, he or she should stay home to rest. This helps avoid giving the flu to other children.

When can my child go back to school/ day care after having the flu?

Children with the flu should be isolated in the home, away from other people. They should also stay home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours (that is, until they have no fever without the use of fever-control medicines and they feel well for 24 hours.) Remind your child to protect others by covering his or her mouth when coughing or sneezing. You may want to send your child to school with some tissues, wipes or gels with alcohol in them if the school allows gels.

For more information about the flu, visit <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/>

Or, www.cdc.gov/flu Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CCC ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20
11-2
CCC "FARM"
466 CROSS RIVER RD**



PUMPKIN PATCH

HOMEMADE DOUGHNUTS

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HAUNTED HOUSE

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