

After the Bell

The Country Childrens Center School Age Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2
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- Team Building at Increase Miller
- Group Cohesiveness at Bedford Hills
- Building a Program at West Patent
- Cooperative, Improvisation, and Theater games at Katonah
- Community at Lewisboro/Meadow Pond

Directors Desk

As the Winter gets underway and we move into the holiday season in the wake of Super Storm Sandy, it's interesting to observe how our community has pulled together in this difficult time. CCC would like to thank all of the families in the community for giving us the privilege of caring for your children. Sharing, caring, and teaching, that is what we do.

At the Country Childrens Center our programs were lucky to get through the storm with minimal damage. Center wide we experienced the same power outages and fallen trees that

many of you also dealt with. Looking around the property at the White House, especially in the woods on the Chipmunk Trail and Camp Sequoia, it is amazing to see massive trees that were uprooted during the storm. The shear force of this event has bought about so many hardships and loses to the Tri State area; I hope that your families are all safe and warm. Seeing all of you when we reopened after the storm was like seeing members of our own family.

If you are interested in donating anything to the relief efforts we

are accepting goods, food, clothing or whatever you think may be of use to those people in need. Donations can be made at the White House.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Brent Morton

School Age Program Director



Increase Miller: Team Building

We asked the kids what they liked best about the program. Most of the answers were the same like playing outside and playing with friends. There were some that were different and those were doing homework, playing football and enjoy hanging out with the CCC teachers. The last one that was good was one child said that everybody was nice.

We play a lot of team games because I feel that children need to learn to play on a team and be a good teammate. We play football, kickball and soccer. The teachers usually choose the teams because we know each persons strengths and weaknesses. I try to balance the

teams as fairly as possible depending on the sport or game.

All over CCC, we have been doing Zumba and History of video games, which both have been fun. During gym time, we've been playing flag tag which the children have enjoyed. In art, we are working on a giant quilt where each child has their own square and they get to draw whatever they want on it. After it is complete we will tie them together and display it.

Greg Barnes

Site Director, Increase Miller



Group shot at IMES

Bedford Hills: Group Cohesiveness

The biggest differences between the morning program and the afternoon are the size and structure. The morning program has a more personal atmosphere to it. The children arrive at staggering times. Since there is a smaller amount of children, there is more one-on-one time which includes playing and even eating breakfast. In the afternoon the children all arrive at once and the group is a lot larger. As a result, we design many group activities.

Since the children in the morning come in at staggering times and most eat breakfast, it is difficult to have an organized group activity. However, we do try and get a group game going once everyone is done. Some of the games they like to play are sorry, clue, life, and trivial pursuit. Their favorite is when we bring some of the sports equipment out which, of course, are safe and appropriate to play with in the

cafeteria. In fact we just ordered some new stuff to play with. In the afternoon someone gets to choose the group activities which have included: capture the flag, kick ball, soccer, quick sand, tunnel tag, misquote tag, Indian chief, and wizard. The game they like playing the most is wizard. During free time the kids love playing with the blocks and marbles.

Both programs have their unique aspects. I enjoy having the up close and personal family-like atmosphere in the morning. But at the same time the afternoon allows a more flexible schedule and planning of art activities. As the Site Director, additional bonuses are my co-workers who have the resourcefulness and understanding of these unique programs for your children.

Safety is always my number one priority in every program we design. However, being

in that position, I am more aware of potential safety hazards especially for younger children. My health care training allows me to handle any potential accidents more accurately.

Tiffany Baffi

Site Director, BHES



Hats: by Katie



Say Cheese!

West Patent: Building a Program

West Patent Elementary School is the newest edition to the wonderful C.C.C. after school programs. The program started back in January of last year. The program consisted of only 4 children and has since doubled in size. Building up the West Patent program has proposed some challenges but I am confident that it will continue to flourish.

For the past few years I have worked for C.C.C. as a counselor at our Summer Adventure Camp. During camp I work with the Sequoias, our largest group which consists of about 20 children all going into 5th or 6th grade. Coming to our West Patent program and working with such a small number children who vary in ages from Kindergarten all the way up to the 5th grade has presented its challenges. The biggest challenge that I face is trying to plan activities that will get all of the children of different ages interacting with one another. To help overcome this obstacle I try to have all of the children engage in at least one group activity per day whether it is a board game inside or a game of tag out on the playground to help them develop a sense of unity.

Our schedule is pretty consistent from day to day. We start our afternoons off by meeting on the rug to discuss how each of their days were. We then move onto homework/quiet time where the children get a chance to get their school work out of the way or to just hang out and relax quietly after a long day at school. Once everyone's homework is complete we will have a snack. The kids have really been enjoying the fresh vegetables and blueberry muffins. When snack is finished the kids clean up and we'll head to either the gym or outside to the playground for a group activity and some free play.

The children at West Patent have a variety of activities that they enjoy participating in. While playing inside they love to play the board game Life where they get to pretend to have their dream career such as an athlete or a teacher. They also seem to enjoy trying to beat me at Guess Who. The kids have also had fun drawing pictures to decorate our shelves and have gotten really creative. While playing in the gym or outside they enjoying playing a variety of sporting games such as kickball, basketball and their new found love for

football.

As the Director I have set some personal goals for the year. I hope to create an environment where all of your children feel they are part of something great, a place where they feel welcomed, safe and comfortable. I want them to be excited to come to C.C.C. each day. I would love to see all of the different age groups bond and form new friendships. I would like to see our older children become positive role models who our younger children can look up to. I am looking forward to the rest of the year. and to continuing to build up the West Patent program.

Michele Long

Site Director, WPES



Taking a Big Leap!

Katonah: Theater and Improvisation

At the afterschool program at Katonah Elementary School we have twenty four children who range from six to ten years old. This school year, every Thursday is "Theater Thursday", where we take time, usually twenty to thirty minutes, to play some sort of theater, improvisation, or ice breaker game. These include games such as, ZOO, Indian Chief, Guess the Person, Human Knot, Taxi Driver, Bus Stop, Dinner Party, and Freeze and Justify.

When the kids heard that they were going to be doing this, they didn't seem very enthusiastic about it. However, during the games and after completing the games, they all for the most part say that they really enjoy participating and this can be seen just by their body language and attitudes.

The main goals of these games and exercises are to get each child to

develop their own voice and feel more comfortable speaking and performing in front of a group of people. They also teach children to be mindful of each other as they share the spotlight. It isn't easy being put on the spot. It can be nerve racking, but learning these exercises early on, will help them down the road on projects and presentations, as well as being able to think critically, be creative, and improvise with what they are given.

These exercises can be a great outlet for frustration and help children build active imaginations. I really enjoy watching the children actively participate during these cooperative games.

Zach Hershman

Site Director, KES



KES kids playing Taxi Driver



The Leaning Tower of KES

Lewisboro/Meadow Pond: Being Part of the Community

One of the biggest challenges in running a program with mixed ages groups is creating an environment that provides a consistent balance of support for each individual child and their families.

I would like each child to have fun, feel like they are part of a team, and provide them with a better perspective of themselves. I hope that the kids who spend their bulk of there Elementary School years at CCC feel good about themselves and appreciate the originality in each individual.

The most gratifying part of my job at the end of the day is the sight of the kids playing together at all different ages and seeing that my kids never want to leave when their parents pick up. The kids at Lewisboro say that the best part of CCC is outside play because it provides an unlimited amount of possibilities.

Jeff Ho

Site Director , LES



Anyone want to play line tag?



Not it!

CCC SCHOOL AGE
NEWSLETTER

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Contact Numbers

Bedford Hills: (main office) 914-242-0520 Ext. 203

Watson: 914-242-0520: Ext. 412

The Farm: 914-242-0520: Ext. 111

Kitchawan: 914-242-0520: Ext. 601

White House: 914-242-0520: Ext. 301

B.H. Elementary School: 914-216-4371

Increase Miller: 914-763-7190

Katonah: 914-763-7191

Lewisboro: 914-763-7890

West Patent: 914-525-2628

Weather Line: 914-242-0520: Ext. 250

Curriculum

- Once a month, Zumba with Ms. Sharisse, will be at each site. Designed exclusively for kids (ages 4-12), Zumba classes are rocking, high energy fitness packed with specially choreographed, kid friendly routines and all the music kids love, like hip-hop, reggae ton, cumbia, and more. Parents love Zumba because of all the effects it has on kids, increasing their focus and self confidence, boosting metabolism, and enhancing coordination.
- Once a month each site will be visited by John Cody to work with puppets . This includes puppet shows, teaching kids to make their own puppets, as well as teaching the correct ways to make a puppet come to life using correct hand movements and improvisation.
- Each program will also have the opportunity to have the History of Video Games where kids will look at various video game consoles from past to present and see how they have evolved over the years. They will also learn how video games are created.

CCVC

There are no more scheduled CCVC days this month (November).

Upcoming CCVC Days

- 12/9/12: Bedford Hills Only
- 12/24/12: Christmas Eve (We will be closing at 2pm)
- 12/26 – 12/31: Holiday Recess (Wednesday through Monday)



IMPORTANT WEATHER INFORMATION

For Katonah/ Lewisboro Elementary School CCC Families

- 1) In the event of a 2 HOUR DELAY, CCC must also delay. Therefore there will be no AM care provided at the elementary schools and the White House will open at 9:00 AM for children enrolled in AM care. Children enrolled in AM care at Katonah, Lewisboro, and Increase Miller Elementary Schools can be dropped off at the White House beginning at 9:00 AM and will be sent by district bus to their respective schools.
- 2) In the event of a SCHOOL CLOSING, children enrolled in CCVC can be dropped off at the White House beginning at 9:00AM. Only children enrolled in CCVC are eligible for care if the school closes due to weather conditions.
- 3) If the Country Childrens Center must be closed due to weather conditions, information can be accessed through our Weather Advisory line: (914) 242-0520 Extension: 250

ALL DELAY AND CLOSING INFORMATION IS ANNOUNCED BY 6AM ON:
WHUD 100.7 FM

IMPORTANT WEATHER INFORMATION

For Bedford Hills Elementary School CCC Families

- 1) In the event of a 2 HOUR DELAY, CCC must also delay. Therefore CCC's AM program at Bedford Hills Elementary School will open at 9:00AM
- 2) In the event of a SCHOOL CLOSING, children enrolled in CCVC can be dropped off at the White House beginning at 9:00AM. Only children enrolled in CCVC are eligible for care if the school closes due to weather conditions.
- 3) If the Country Childrens Center must be closed due to weather conditions, information can be accessed through our Weather Advisory line: (914) 242-0520 Extension: 250

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