

The Centerpiece

Country Childrens CenterSM



Little Steps...Big FeatsSM

Director's Desk

New CCC location, at Kitchawan Road in Yorktown is open!

At long last, we are happy to report that our new site at 862 Kitchawan Road in Yorktown is finally up and running. When it is fully enrolled, it will have room for 16 infants, 11 toddlers and 21 preschoolers.

The new site is made up of 3 barns. The main barn holds the toddler and preschool program as well as the director's office.

The infant program is in its own "baby barn".

A third barn is just for storage right now, but will be used in the future for special programming as we have done at Bedford Hills

with our Art barn and the Farm with our Science Barn.

The site is beautifully situated on 2 acres of land that include lots of trees and nature, as all our sites do.

We are very excited about our new addition. We will have an official opening in April during the National Week of the Young Child to celebrate our accomplishment.

The site director at Kitchawan is Caroline Paterno who is doing a great job of getting this new program rolling. If anyone would like to tour the new site, please call Caroline at ext 601.

Polly



1st Quarter

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Spring 2010

Bedford Hills Preschool/Pre-K Has A Sister School In Istanbul, Turkey

By Benan Ozkaynak/Site Director

After visiting Istanbul around the holidays and meeting an old college friend who owns/runs a preschool in that beautiful city, we decided to make our programs "sister schools". Upon my return, I met with Pre-K group and told them about the project. We looked at the globe to see where we are and where they are, noticed the big ocean to go over in order to get to there. We looked at some photos of the city and also at the picture book from Istanbul Toy Museum and we passed around Turkish money "lira". We gathered some questions to ask our new friends in our sister school. Children wanted to know what they eat, if there are any big buildings, how old they are, if they go to Stop&Shop, what their school looks like and if they read any books. It was interesting and fun to see the children trying to find a common ground with children whom they never met. I emailed their questions along with some photos of our activities. AYISIGI (which means moonlight) preschool answered our questions and emailed us many fun photos. We enjoyed looking at them, noticing how they do so many similar activities like cooking, painting, sand play, making

puppets, playing doctor, exercise, music, planting, building with legos and lots of outdoor play. One thing they have less compared to us is snow! We decided to send them our snow ice cream recipe, so they can try when they get some snow.

Staff and children are very excited about exchanging ideas and activities with our new friends, learning about another culture as part of our global studies. We will also share them with you all.



The Farm and Watson Come Together for Thanksgiving

The Watson Pre-K embraced the idea of coming together with The Farm to enjoy the Sharing Feast Four Winds prepares for us yearly. We have always enjoyed this particular meal because it symbolizes how lucky we are to have plenty to eat cooked by people who care about us. Their culinary skills shine. What made this extra celebratory and full of excitement is that we sent invitations to the Farm's Pre-K children. The children addressed the invitations so that every child received a personalized one. The excitement built from there. The children made gifts for their guests. Just like you get ready for company at home, so we prepared and got ready for our guests to arrive. We were very happy to do this because Noreen Cotter, The Farm's Site Director, is always gracious to us when she and her staff host us for swimming every summer. Also, making the barn and the building available to all of CCC for the Polar Express is another sign of their graciousness.

We met the Pre-K children as they got off the bus and greeted them with a WELCOME sign. It took no time at all for our children and our Pre-K visitors to become comfortable with each other on the playground.

When the group came inside, they washed their hands and had circle time. It consisted of reading a Thanksgiving story and also reading the Recipe for Friendship poster the Farm children made up themselves. We were very flattered and honored. They also brought class made butter and banana bread. We all enjoyed the meal and becoming acquainted with each other. We are looking forward to doing it again and making it a tradition.



“Pediactricks”

Choking warning urged for food labels

Pediatricians seek to protect kids from high-risk items

CHICAGO - When 4 year-old Eric Stavros Adler choked to death on a piece of hot dog, his anguished mother never dreamed that the popular kids' food could be so dangerous.

Some food makers including Oscar Mayer have warning labels about choking, but not nearly enough, says Joan Stavros Adler, Eric's mom.

The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees. The nation's largest pediatricians group is calling for sweeping changes in the way food is designed and labeled to minimize children's chances for choking.

Choking kills more than 100 U.S. children 14 years or younger each year and thousands more — 15,000 in 2001 — are treated in emergency rooms. Food, including candy and gum, is among the leading culprits, along with items like coins and balloons. Of the 141 choking deaths in kids in 2006, 61 were food-related.

Surveillance systems lack detailed information about food choking incidents, which are thought to be under reported but remain a significant and under-appreciated problem, said Dr. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Smith is lead author of a new policy report from the pediatricians academy that seeks to make choking prevention a priority for government and food makers. The report was released Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Doctors say high-risk foods, including hot dogs, raw carrots, grapes and apples — should be cut into pea-sized pieces for small children to reduce chances of choking. Some say other risky foods, including hard candies, popcorn, peanuts and marshmallows, shouldn't be given to young children at all.

Federal law requires choking warning labels on certain toys including small balls, balloons and games with small parts. Unless food makers voluntarily put more warning labels on high-risk foods, there should be a

similar mandate for food, the pediatricians academy says.

Adler, a Warren, N.J. attorney who pushed for more warning labels after her son died in 2001, says she hopes the academy's efforts will work. Several efforts to pass federal legislation for labels have failed in Congress.

The group also urges the Food and Drug Administration to work with other government agencies to establish a nationwide food-related choking reporting system; and to recall foods linked with choking.

The academy says the food industry should avoid shapes and sizes that pose choking risks.

Something as simple as making lollipops flat like a silver dollar instead of round like a ping-pong ball can make a big difference, said Bruce Silverglade, legal affairs director at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which also has lobbied for more attention to choking prevention.

Grocery Manufacturers Association spokesman Scott Openshaw declined to say whether food makers would consider warning labels or new designs, but said making parents aware of choking dangers is key to keeping kids safe.

Openshaw said the industry would continue working with the FDA and USDA "to ensure that our products are as safe as possible."

At the FDA, spokeswoman Rita Chappelle said the agency will review the academy's analysis and recommendations. She said the FDA also would continue consulting with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on assessing choking hazards associated with food and take action on a case-by-case basis.

Adler considered herself educated about children's safety. Her son had eaten hot dogs before without any problem.

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Joan Stavros Adler Warren of Warren, N.J. holds a photograph of her son Eric Stavros Adler who choked to death on a piece of hot dog nine years ago at age four.



Save the Date

THE FIRST ANNUAL COUNTRY CHILDRENS CENTER GOLF OUTING



MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

THE SALEM GOLF CLUB, NORTH SALEM NY

The day will include 18 holes of golf, lunch dinner, cocktails, contests, prizes raffles and a silent auction.

All proceeds from the Golf Outing benefit the CCC Scholarship Fund.

The CCC scholarship fund is established to enable parents who cannot afford the full cost of childcare to have access to the high quality flexible programs of the Country Childrens Center while working to support their families. In the current economic times the support of our community to help add to this fund is needed more than ever.

More details and information on the Golf Outing to follow soon!

CCC Intergenerational Program exhibits at the Katonah Museum of Art for the 6th consecutive year

4 Mosaic benches were created by the group and displayed during Young Artists Week, February 7-14. The benches were titled "Pieces of History, Seasons of Life."



Contact Numbers

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