



THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Director's Desk Spring 2015

Dear CCC Parents,

In March of 2001, we opened our program at the TJ Watson Research Lab in Yorktown. We named the program "Baby Blue" in honor of the parents at this site who were all IBMers.

Since its opening, Jean Nathanson has been leading the program at "Baby Blue" as our faithful site director. After 20 years with the CCC, Jean has decided to move on to new adventures in her life and leave her position at Watson. Jean leaves the center with wonderful memories and accomplishments and admits her departure is bittersweet. We sincerely thank Jean for all her efforts in creating a wonderful program for the past 14 years at Baby Blue. Most notably, Jean led her team to accomplish NAEYC accreditation for the program and has worked hard to maintain that status right up to the present. For this we are so grateful as well as proud.

While staff, children and parents will miss Jean, we are fortunate to have a capable and enthusiastic replacement in the wings. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Kristen Pollock will take the helm at Watson. Kristen is known to you as our CCC science teacher and has also worked as a pre-school and pre-k teacher for us for the past 17 years. We are excited to welcome Kristen to her new role.

So as we sadly bid Jean adieu and wish her all the happiness retirement can give her, we also look forward to continued high quality programming and care at CCC's Baby Blue under its new leadership.

Congratulations and best of luck to all.

Polly





## Watson Celebrates!



*Above: Pre-K enjoying their visit with Mike Ornstein*

*Below: The Toddler children with the Cat in the Hat !*



Life with children can be creative and more meaningful when we celebrate the small things. Celebrations bring the feeling of excitement to life, especially in children. Here at Watson, the building came alive with the sounds of children laughing as we celebrated several events throughout late winter and into early spring.

In March, we enjoyed a visit from the Cat in the Hat while honoring the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The children were excited to have the Cat read the classic stories *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*. You can't have a party without food! The Pre- K children put on their chef hats and made green eggs with ham while the toddlers stacked strawberries and bananas to replicate the Cat's hat.

As the celebrations continued, we recognized the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday of Watson! This year was a special birthday because we honored Jean as she announced her retirement. We will miss her smile and wealth of knowledge as she moves onto enjoying the next chapter in her life. The blue and orange hearts made by the children for her throughout the building will always be a reminder of Jean's dedication to the education of young children.

In April, the CCC celebrated a very special time of year, The Week of The Young Child. It is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Our theme this year was fantastic fairytales! The activities throughout the week included a special visit from, author, Mike Ornstein and Bella the fairy puppet with Ms. Carmelina. As the week came to an end, the children dressed as their favorite fairytale character and put on a small performance for each other.

Now that the warm weather is upon us, we will be moving our celebrations outside and look forward to honoring our Pre-K graduates. We look forward to seeing you on June 9<sup>th</sup>!

Kristen Pollock, Watson Site Director





## All Smiles at the Farm

After a long winter, we are happy to see the sun has made its way through to bring us the warm weather we've been waiting for. That brings a smile to the faces of many, especially the children!



Above: The Pre-K children enjoying their princess pizza

Below: Preschool teachers, Megan and Michele, dressed as Tweedledee and Tweedledum.



In April, staff and children had every reason to smile as we celebrated The Week of the Young Child. It is a celebration of early education, young children, staff and families. This year, the theme was fantastic fairy tales. Each of the five days was turned into a child's fantasy with activities that brought their imaginations to life.

We kicked off the week with Music Monday. Ms. Ellen and the Pre-K class took on the NAEYC's (National Association for the Education of Young Children) musical challenge by creating a video of their own version of "Thingamajig", by Luck Diaz and the Family Jam Band. It was then submitted to their Facebook page. The children were so excited to make their own music video! With hundreds of videos submitted that day, we were one of three that made it to the NAEYC's Facebook page! We continued with a visit from Drama Mama, Caroline Neilson. She worked with the Preschool and Pre-K children to reenact classic stories like *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Caps for Sale*. A delicious touch was added to the week with Fairy Bread made by infants and toddlers, and Princess Pizza whipped up by the Preschool and Pre-K children. Our celebration ended with very special event. The WHUD family and fun crew joined us with a special raffle while the staff and children dressed up as the characters from *Alice in Wonderland*. The Preschool and Pre-K classes performed parts of the story to the WHUD crew, children, family and friends. The true beauty of imagination came out in all the children during their performance!

As we continue toward summer, the smiles at the Farm will continue to grow. Pre-K graduation will soon be upon us, and we are so proud of these little children. It seems like yesterday that many of them were with us as infants. I am a true testament to this! My son Taylor, now 21, who began as an infant at the CCC will be graduating from Bucknell University next week. Parents, enjoy every moment of your little ones because times flies and they will be all grown up before you know it!

Noreen Cotter, Farm Site Director



# Hooray it's Spring at Kitchawan!



Spring is here and we are welcoming it with lots of fun and educational activities here at Kitchawan, especially the infants!

The mild temperatures have made outdoor learning a real pleasure for the infants. They have enjoyed walking around the grounds and soaking up the environment while on nature walks and playing outside. Ms. Martha, Ms. Aura and Ms. Sue have enriched the children's vocabulary and awareness of the outdoor world around them by naming what they hear and see. The older babies have been helping out by watering the daffodils and pansies they planted during Week of the Young Child out in front of the Baby Barn. As often as possible, the teachers have brought the classroom outside by putting down a picnic blanket with toys for them to explore. The mobile babies have been working on their gross motor skills by kicking and chasing balls in the grass. The younger babies are getting in touch with nature by crawling and lying on the grass while experiencing the way it feels under their hands and feet. They will continue to celebrate Spring with art projects, books and many more outdoor activities!

Caroline Paterno, Kitchawan Site Director



*Infants enjoying reading stories outside*





# White House Filled with Fun

Even though the winter season packed a wallop of snow, it didn't stop the White House from the joy of learning in the classroom and outdoors too! Both Pre-K classes were happily engaged, learning about winter animals like penguins and polar bears. During a unit on author studies, Pre-K 1 spent a week enveloped in all the wonderful stories by Ezra Jack Keats while Pre-K 2 colorfully re-

created the ideas and illustrations from Eric Carle stories. The incredible amount of snow did not hinder White House children from their usual outdoor activities. They adapted to trudging through the deep snow to make snow forts, sleigh riding, and building amazing snowmen. Their favorite snow activity was using liquid water colors to tie-dye paint large piles of snow. The playground looked like a giant art museum! As winter seemed to subside, the White House Owl groups participated in the CCC Annual Science Fair. It's a time of year where our science program comes to life! This year, Miss Jessica's class experiment on electricity, and Miss Evelyn's class experiment on volcanoes, took home prizes!



From late winter to early spring, the White House also enjoyed many special visits from families and friends.

Two dentists, Dr. Ruby and Dr. Lisa, visited our Pre-K classes during their healthy habits unit. They shared important information about dental health and gave everyone goody bags to keep their smiles bright! In February, families were invited to our annual "I LOVE YOU" breakfast for Valentine's Day. All the Pre-K children worked hard in the days leading up to the event by making muffins, fruit salad, and special gifts for their families.

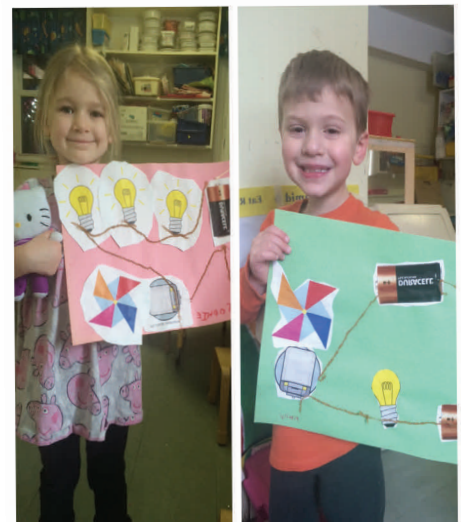
*Above: Pre-K with their Science fair project*

*Below: Pre-K 1 children showing off their electricity projects.*

As we moved into March, we began one of our favorite times of the year, the mystery reader program. Once a week, family members are invited to surprise their child with a visit to the classroom to read a special story. The looks on all the children's faces as one of their family members walks into the classroom is priceless!

Celebrations are always exciting here at the White House. In March, the children celebrated the birthday of Dr. Suess by sharing books with their classmates and teachers. Each year, in April, we look forward to celebrating the Week of the Young Child. Many of our special guests that week included master storyteller, Jonathon Kruk, and Chef Connor who made homemade pizza with the children after reading the story *Princess and the Pizza*. We ended the week with two stellar performances in our outdoor amphitheater with *The 3 Little Pigs* by Pre-K 1 and *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Pre-K 2. Bravo!

I want to thank all the parents for allowing the White House staff the opportunity to teach and grow with their children during the 2014-2015 school year. We look forward to seeing many of you at the CCC Annual Piano Recital and the Pre-K 1 and Pre-K 2 graduations. A happy and safe summer to all the Pre-K families!



Pamela Belmonte, White House Site Director





## Around the World at Bedford Hills

Writing this spring's Centerpiece brings back fond memories of past years with the CCC. I can recall returning as site director of Bedford Hills, with the desire to share in writing what incredible diversity we have at our location. Exposure to the beauty of various cultures can have a profound impact on children. Hopefully the experience helps raise global citizens accepting of differences. The theme for my article then, as it is now, is "Around the World".



*Above: Diversity at hand in the Preschool*

*Below: Bedford Hills families join us for the international potluck dinner.*

Since my return to the CCC, I realized that this theme did not need to be implemented in our center, but rather that it is omnipresent. Our small center alone has families from across the globe; Ecuador, Spain, France, Russia, Puerto Rico, England, Mexico, Japan, Guatemala, Poland, India, and Peru. Drawing from this, the children teach their friends words in French, Polish, Spanish, and Japanese! We often invite parents to visit our center and share their cultures through food and music. We recently had a mother from Mexico help us celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a feast and story time in Spanish. Another mother whose roots originate from Japan joined us to celebrate her son's birthday. She just happens to be an accomplished pianist and treated the Pre-K class to a concert. Not only did it include Japanese folk songs for children, but as a testament to the many cultures here at our site, she shared her son's father's heritage with music from Poland.

To honor the diversity at Bedford Hills, we had an annual international family pot luck dinner. It was such a special evening. Almost all of the families attended carrying dishes of plenty that stretched across the globe!

On a daily basis, I am grateful to watch the children accomplish simple things like trying foods from another part of the world. They don't recognize how the exposure is affecting them, but as an adult it's easy to see the beauty in their acceptance. Our Motto here at the CCC is "Little Steps....Big Feats". My hope is that these little footsteps that walk out of these CCC doors, enter the bigger world, and lead to deep footprints and more world peace which is indeed a "Big Feat"!



Shanna Krizan, Bedford Hills Site Director



## The Cook's Corner



This season's favorite CCC recipe!



### *Fairy Bread*

*The ingredients to make this magical treat includes a slice of white bread spread with margarine, topped with sprinkles, and cut into small triangles.*

*The treat began in the mid 20th Century, as Australians began to create a tradition of serving it at children's parties or as a simple snack. Once you take a bite, you'll realize that it really is the bread of the fairies.*

*The worst part, though, is that it only takes a few bites to consume the triangle of fairy bread, so you'd have to keep running back for seconds. The kids loved it!*





# Country Childrens Center

Join us as the Renegades host  
the Batavia Muckdogs  
Saturday, July 11th at 7:05 pm



**\$15 Package Includes:**

GA Ticket

Gades Group Gift

**\$20 Package Includes:**

GA Ticket

Hot Dog & Soda

Gades Group Gift

Purchase online at  
[www.gadesgroups.com](http://www.gadesgroups.com)

Password: **countrycc**

Portion of proceeds will benefit  
Country Childrens Center

Questions? Call the ticket office at 845-838-0094







**The Country Childrens Center**

*Graduation Schedule*

**Watson:** June 9th 5pm

**White House:** Pre-K 2- June 10th 4pm

Pre-K 1 June 11th 4pm

**Farm:** June 24th 4 pm

**Kitchawan:** June 18th 11:30 am

**Bedford Hills:** June 19th 11am

*COME JOIN US  
AT OUR  
CCC Annual PIANO RECITAL*



*Date: Saturday, May 30, 2015*

*Place: CCC Kitchawan Site  
(862 Kitchawan Road, Ossining, NY)*

*Performance Times:*

*Farm, Bedford Hills and White House  
students will perform 9:30 am - 10:30 am*

*Kitchawan and Watson students  
will perform 11:15 am - 12:00 pm*

*RSVP - Limit of 4 guests per child  
Refreshments following each performance*



*See you there!*

