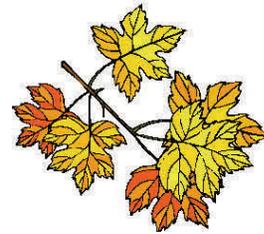




THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Director's Desk Fall 2015



Hello CCC families and friends,

I greet you as I enter my 29<sup>th</sup> year as Executive Director of the CCC. If it sounds like a lifetime, I can tell you it sort of feels like one too!

All these years have brought so many changes to the field of early childhood education. I am proud to say that the Country Childrens Center has been on the leading edge as an early adopter in many of these trends. We have been in the forefront from being the first in Northern Westchester to offer infant care, to creating a summer camp for working families. Further, we have expanded our offerings in before and after care for school-age children, and developed a Pre-K curriculum that guarantees children will be both ready for school as well as ready to learn when they enter Kindergarten and confront the "Common Core" standards. Throughout its history, the CCC has remained true to its mission while remaining a leader in current teaching practices and appropriate care for young children and working families.

Recently, due to my longevity, the fruits of our labors have become quite apparent. Happily, children who once attended the CCC are now coming back to enroll their babies in the very same program that they once flourished in. This is more than validating for me. It is an amazing testament to the core values of the CCC and how our program has stood the test of time.

Time has changed many things and in my 29 years I have certainly seen a lot at the CCC. We have grown and adapted as needed. The world is a very different place now, however children have not changed. Our daily care for them has not essentially changed either. Our model, based on a solid philosophy of letting children play and develop each as unique individuals, remains our guide. We are committed to using all of our resources to that end.

So now, as a "grand- executive director", I continue to embrace my job and love the wonderful children that we are so blessed to care for each day.

So here is to another great year for the children and all of us at the CCC. Thank you all for your participation in this wonderful journey as we look forward to more former CCC graduates returning to us in the coming years.

Polly

## Home Away From Home at Bedford Hills



As the autumn leaves change, so have things at Bedford Hills CCC. Just in the months of September and October, we welcomed new families, new classes, and activities.



*Above: Toddler teachers, Teresa and Alexis, enjoying the playground with Toddlers*

*Below: CCC Bedford Hills Staff celebrating CCC spirit!*



This fall, we welcomed 8 new families throughout the infant, toddler, preschool, and pre-k rooms. Our Bedford Hills staff “family” celebrated a wedding (congratulations to preschool teacher Kayla), and a birth (congratulations to toddler teacher Diana on the birth of her daughter). We also honored the grandparents at our center by holding a special Grandparents Day. The grandparents joined us for story time, a picnic snack, and a special performance by a grandfather, local pediatrician Dr. Pete Richel, who sang a CCC themed song made especially for us!

With new classes and staff changes, we bid a sad farewell to the Childrens School program this fall. While the children, teachers and program are missed, it has made the smaller groups very close. The preschool and pre-k classes have come together as good friends treating each other like a family. The toddlers have also missed their teacher, as Diana has been on maternity leave. Yet, the children have continued to grow and learn at amazing paces with Maggy, Teresa, and Alexis leading the way. They, too, have become a close knit group as they learned to share and play together. The infant room welcomed a new teacher this fall, Loreto, a teacher from the Farm site. She brought her special touch of warmth in the baby room while creating a loving and nurturing team with Donna. While speaking of special editions, the CCC Bedford Hills family is thrilled to welcome several siblings into the family. Congratulations to the Hubener, O’Brien, Shapiro, and Garcia families. Bedford Hills is looking forward to welcoming their new additions to the center and being part of their journey.

Looking back at all the events and changes, I am impressed with the way the teachers, families and children embraced the various changes. The love and enthusiasm with which everyone brings to Bedford Hills has created a beautiful home away from home.

*Shanna Krizan, Bedford Hills Site Director*



## Fall Fun at the White House

Fall is here and the White House has begun another fabulous pre-k year! We welcome back our CCC Staff and the CSED staff as we embark on another year of learning! Both pre-k classes are in full swing and began the year with an All About Me unit in September, their first trips to the Katonah Library and a trip to Wilkens Farm for apple picking. The fall fun is continuing in October's curriculum with a focus on pumpkins, fall animals and hibernation. October is also Fire Safety Month, and the White House enjoyed a special visit from the Katonah Fire Department! Along with show and share, visits from our specials teachers have begun-music with Kenny and Ellen, science with Pat, art with Victoria, and Spanish with Evelyn.

This year, Polly Peace, our executive director will be spearheading a new component to our ever popular Intergenerational Program. The older Pre-K children will visit the "seniors" at Somers Manor, a local rehabilitation/nursing home facility, once a month. The seniors and children will sing songs together with the assistance of Miss Ellen and engage in monthly arts and crafts projects. We look forward to the first visit at the end of the month.

To welcome the new children and families, the White House opened its doors for a yummy ice cream social. The classrooms were bursting with projects and activities for parents to see while enjoying delicious bowls of ice cream with their children. The Pre-K teachers, Jessica and Evelyn did a fantastic job describing our pre-k programs. It was a wonderful way for parents to meet and feel a sense of community.

To bring community to the White House, we had our first Parent Group meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a great way for parents to join staff to discuss topics regarding their pre-k children as well as forming relationships with other families. We already established class parents for each pre-k class to help plan parties and special events. Finally, on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our 6<sup>th</sup> annual pot luck dinner. It was a wonderful evening of yummy food and great conversation.  
Happy Fall!

*Pam Belmonte, White House site director*

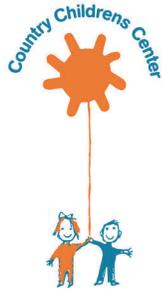


*Above: Pre-K classes enjoying their trip to Wilkens Farm*

*Below: Families enjoying the ice cream social.*



# Afternoon Fun at Kitchawan Barns



*Above: Pat Krugman, The Country Childrens Center Science Teacher and Kitchawan Barns after-school program teacher.*

This September, The Country Childrens Center Kitchawan location opened its first after-school program for the Yorktown School District. Along with Brent Morton, the CCC's school-age director, we are pleased to provide high quality after-care for the children who reside in Yorktown.

Our very own science teacher, Pat Krugman, is leading the program with exciting and educational after-school activities. Alongside the daily routine of homework and a nutritious snack, the children are experiencing activities that extend the skills and academics learned in the different subject areas in school. Pat has helped children tap into their imaginations by creating open-ended art projects using large cardboard boxes and reusables, upcycled recyclables. They have assembled time machines, rockets and vehicles just to name a few of their cardboard creations. With her expertise in science, Pat did an excellent job extending the children's knowledge about energy by helping them create solar powered robots. The children have also put scientific experimentation into practice by learning how to dye pasta from natural ingredients and using them to make necklaces.

During outdoor time, the children play a variety of games that encourage cooperation and teamwork. Working together, the after-school children made up a game called "Noodle Ball" played with pool noodles and a beach ball! With the help of Mr. Brent, the group also started a superhero video with the children as actors. It was amazing to see the children's personalities when they were being recorded- not a shy one in the group!

Along with our other programs and amazing teachers at Kitchawan, the after-school program is thriving, and if you or anyone you know is looking for a high quality after-school program in the Yorktown School District, please pass our information along- thanks!

*Caroline Paterno, Kitchawan Site Director*





## Fall Into Autumn with Watson Infants!

Fall is in full swing here at Watson and stepping outside the classroom to explore the sights of the season is exciting for the children, especially the infants! The infants took their very first “field trip” of the season. Field trips can be a very valuable learning experience for very young children, and the infant teachers made it possible for the babies.

All bundled up and in the buggy, the infants went on a long walk around the building to the beautiful sugar maple tree. There, they disembarked and experienced their very own apple farm! Just beyond the white blanket set out for them to sit, hundreds (ok, ten) apples were hanging on low branches for the children to reach up and pick. Infants were pulling and mouthing the apples, and some were grabbing two at a time!

To further the experience of the trip, the infants went on their very own hay ride. In a box filled with leaves, the children took turns being pulled across the grass and around the maple trees. What a ride! After collecting apples and going on hay rides, back in their buggy the infants returned to their classroom.

The very next day, a surprise cooking project was in store for the infants. Apple sauce was made from all the apples they picked. Each child had a chance to turn the food mill squishing the already cooked and cooled apples. Enough was made to fill a jar for home to share with families and a special snack at school.

Being in the infant room at Watson brings experiences that are not just for the older children. We strive to make sure the children are immersed in the world around them by living what they are learning.

*Kristen Pollock Watson Site Director*



*Above: Infants picking apples with their teachers.*

*Below: Infants making and tasting apple sauce*



## Fun on the Farm!



*Above: Preschool children practicing fire safety.*

*Below: Pre-K student saying hi to Patty and nugget.*



Whether you are looking forward to the brisk fall air or miss the warmth of summer, a change in seasons can bring new friends, new beginnings, and exciting yearly traditions. The Farm is a place where children, families and staff experience this often.

Making it their mission, the staff, children and families rocked CCC spirit week this year! With fishy fun from Route 35 all the way back to the science barn, everyone sported crazy hats, orange and blue spirit wear, and favorite character outfits. On sports day, we graphed the favorite teams of all the visitors that day. The grandparents were also honored during the week as the Farm celebrated Grandparents Day with over 100 visitors!

This fall we were so happy to have new friends from the Childrens School join in the spirit day festivities. Our Pre-K class welcomed two fabulous teachers, Ms. Ronnie and Ms. Lisa, along with 6 new friends who come on the bus everyday. Everyone is having so much fun learning together from guessing our mystery readers to two wonderful trips to the Katonah Library and Stuart farm. And speaking of new friends, we have two new feathered friends at the Farm, Patty and Nugget. Both beautiful chickens crossed the road to join the CCC fun! They enjoy eating apple cores and keeping company with the bunnies.

A beautiful playhouse has been added to the playground. It is very much loved, and the source of terrific dramatic-play. After a visit from the Katonah Fire Dept., children pretend to extinguish fire in the play kitchen of the house along with lots of "Stop, Drop and Roll" in the leaves.

As we bring in new Farm fun, we continue our program visits from our specials teachers. Ms. Pat, the new science teacher, experiments with yummy vegetable from local markets which you can also get when you sign up with Field Goods. Ms. Victoria, the new art teacher, also comes weekly to work with the children to create beautiful masterpieces. Many of them will be displayed and up for auction at the Art Auction on Nov. 21 at the Katonah Library. We hope to see you there! We are also blessed to have former board member, Linda Forman, come weekly to the pre-k class to share stories, sing songs, and play games in Spanish. And, of course, we continue to rock the Farm with

tunes from Mr. Kenny and Ms. Ellen!

A big thank you to all the families who came to our Fall Festival this year. It was a lot of fun, and we look forward to it again next year!

*Noreen Cotter, Farm Site Director*



# Meet the Specials Teachers at the CCC!

## Art with Ms. Victoria

Children are born artists that are naturally curious, imaginative, and inventive. This year the Country Childrens Center is fostering these traits with a special art class once a week in the toddler, preschool and pre-k programs. Victoria Skiff, a very talented artist, having studied art in college, has taken on the role of the art teacher. Each week, Victoria aims to foster the children’s creativity through open-ended art experiences. Her lessons give children the opportunity to play around with art using various supplies that include fabrics, paints, recyclables, and much more! All of her art projects are designed so the children create without any expectations of the final product while learning key concepts such as texture, color, shape and size. Many of these wonderful pieces of art created by the children will be displayed and auctioned off at the Country Childrens Center Art Auction on November 21. We hope to see you there!



## Music with Mr. Kenny

Each week the sounds of excitement and music fill the toddler, preschool and pre-K rooms as they experience music with Kenny. Kenny Green has been with the Country Childrens Center for almost 30 years! During his time here, Kenny did several recordings. His first solo recording in 1989, currently out of print, was called “Bear Song” which included a children’s chorus with participants from the Country Childrens Center. His last solo “family recording” was done in 1994 called “Kids in the Park” which is still available for purchase at CDbaby.com. The children love music with Kenny because he does more than entertain. While singing songs for the holidays and seasons, Kenny explores the sounds of music each week with a different musical instrument that include: standard six-string guitar, high-string alto guitar, tenor guitar, tenor



banjo, five string banjo, mandolin, mandola, ukulele, dulcimer, kalimba, and a very special charango. The charango was presented to Kenny by one of our very own teachers! Rosie, a pre-k teacher at the White House brought the charango back from her visit to Ecuador. To commemorate this, Kenny plays the charango while singing a well-known children’s song in Spanish called “Los Pollitos” each year during the first week of May. Kenny feels very lucky to make music and learn with children at the Country Childrens Center, and we are lucky to have him apart of our program!





## Science with Ms. Pat

The sense of wonder and curiosity children bring to the classroom at an early age are the perfect traits for budding scientists. Each week the toddler, preschool, and pre-k children at the Country Childrens Center explore the world of science with our new science teacher, Ms. Pat Krugman. Pat brings a world of knowledge about scientific topics and exploration to our program. As the children experiment about the world around them, Pat's lessons encompass both



content and process. Projects include simple demos about the solar system, categorizing and sorting things found in our own gardens, and craft projects using natural juices from fruits and vegetables. To bring scientific experimentation alive, the Country Children's Center holds an annual science fair in February. At this fascinating event, these young minds apply skills learned through science with Pat to experiment and seek answers to view the world scientifically. It's an event we all look forward to each year!

## Music with Ms. Ellen

In her 6<sup>th</sup> year as a music teacher at the Country Childrens Center, Ellen Reynolds brings the joy of learning music to all of our programs weekly. Ellen holds a degree in Elementary Music and Early Childhood Education with a certification in the Orff Schulwerk dynamic method of teaching music and movement. Her training allows her to take a very hands-on approach with children. Ellen's classes included movement and interactive activities accompanied with a guitar, flute and piano. The children are often seen moving like the wind, falling like autumn leaves and dancing like a rainbow with colorful scarves and ribbons. To aid in social development, children sometimes partner for circle dances, musical games and parades. Ellen's musical curriculum explores various genres and cultures while learning about musical elements such as rhythm, pitch, melody, and notes of the basic scale. The musical experience with Ellen is as infinite as the imagination!



*Carmelina Myers, Educational Coordinator*





## CCC Art Auction and Children's Art Gala

To Benefit The Country Childrens Center Scholarship Fund

Saturday, November 21, 6pm - Preview, 7pm - Auction  
at the Katonah Library, 26 Bedford Rd, Katonah, NY



Admission: \$10.00 per person - Paypal tickets available @ [www.countrychildrenscenter.org](http://www.countrychildrenscenter.org) - Wine & Beer ~ Appetizers & Coffee

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## Donate your old smartphone!

The Country Childrens Center is collecting old smartphones at each location for camera use in classrooms. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact your child's site director.





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It is loads of fun to see the harvest surprises. Field Goods delivers 150+ varieties of fruits and vegetables and more than a dozen types of local cheese and bread. Field Goods' *In the Bag* newsletter, gives you information about the produce and how to prepare it.

Field Goods delivers ALL YEAR! You can sign up anytime **with no long-term commitment.** Winter deliveries include frozen produce (from Kingston-based Winter Sun Farms), root veggies, hardy greens, mushrooms, greenhouse products and more.

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