



Country
Childrens
Center™

THE Centerpiece



THE CCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Editor, Carmelina Myers CCC Program Director of Education



Director's Desk December 2016

Dear CCC Friends and Families,

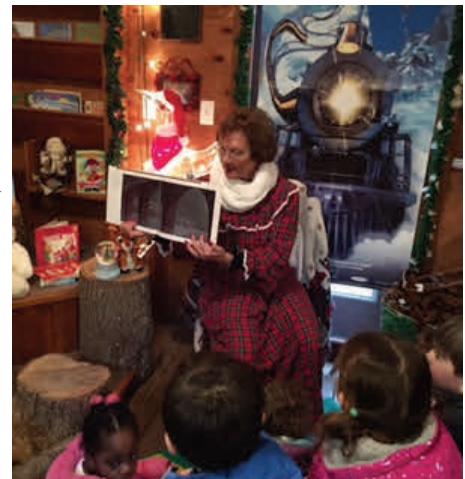
Season's Greetings! At this time of the year I think we are all so aware of the tremendous gift that children are in our lives. The joy and excitement we are experiencing just would not be possible without children in our world. Spending time with the children at the Country Childrens Center remains one of the greatest joys of my life.

In my personal life I am particularly happy as well, as I have just been blessed with a new grandson. Although I have experienced hundreds of births during my 30 years at the CCC, the miracle of each new life is still a wondrous event. As I held my tiny grandson, I was awe-struck, considering the trust that is placed in us by the CCC parents each day. It is such an awesome responsibility, as well as such a wonderful privilege, to have a part in the development of each child as we partner with parents. All at the CCC take this very seriously.

This year we have 90 CCC staff that care for over 450 children on a daily basis. While we have grown quite a bit during my tenure, we have not changed in our focus and priority. That priority is to provide the best care possible for every child at the CCC. Our good work in our community will celebrate its 50th year in 2017. We are very proud of this benchmark and will be planning many ways for all to share in our legacy and longevity.

So, at this holiday time, my wish for all of you is time to spend with your families, time to see the wonder in the world through children's eyes and hopefully time to relax and find peace each in your own way.

Thank you for being part of our CCC family and for supporting our work. Happy Holidays.



Sincerely,
Polly



New School Year, New White House

The new school year brought some great changes to the White House. The upper level classrooms have been revamped and renamed the Preschool class with Miss Debbie and the Pre-K class with Miss Evelyn while the lower level classrooms have become rooms with multiple purposes. Our music and science specialists utilize the classrooms for special activities as well as the teachers for art. A new and innovative art classroom has been set up to be used on a weekly basis for children to create spectacular open-ended art projects. In the afternoon, these lower level classrooms are also used by our afterschool program for John Jay Middle School led by Grace Nevin. Our outstanding outdoor experience was also upgraded with the addition of The Big Blue Blocks from Imagination playground. With the New Year upon us, we look forward to a wonderful second half of the school year at the White House!

Pam Belmonte, CCC Site Director at The White House



A CCC “Melting Pot” in Bedford Hills

Throughout each year, our focus here at Bedford Hills, in addition to the obvious learning, playing and development, is always embracing one another's differences and celebrating our diversity. Now, more than ever, I feel that this is extremely important to teach. We are always talking to children about different places, tasting new foods and learning about different traditions and languages. To kick off our *celebration of differences*, each year, we host an annual Bedford Hills CCC International Potluck Dinner. We



had an amazing feast with families coming together sharing their backgrounds and foods. Represented in this one small center were people and foods from Korea, Russia, Peru, Brazil, Ireland, America, Isreal/Eastern European, Guatemala, Mexico, Italy, France, Bosnia, Puerto Rico, Brazil and more! It was a gathering of the most peaceful, joyous and delicious kind and, as always, something we look forward to each year!

Shanna Krizan, CCC Site Director at Bedford Hills



Watson Celebrates Diwali

Watson Baby Blue is a unique international community bringing children, staff and families together from all parts of the world. This diversity often brings celebrations that are both educational and fun. At the end of October, the children of Watson celebrated the Indian holiday of Diwali. Known as the festival of lights, Diwali means “row of lights”. It is customary for people to get new clothes and jewelry along with making sweets to enjoy the celebration. As a way of looking forward to good things in the New Year, gifts and sweets are exchanged with friends and relatives. In India, this holiday lasts up to five nights. In North America, it is celebrated in just one day marking the beginning of the Hindu New Year. As the children learned about Diwali, Ms. Manjit, our preschool teacher from India, made special sweets to share with our friends and families at snack time. The children also danced with her to special Indian music. During the celebration, a preschool parent also came in to read a special Diwali story giving children the opportunity to ask questions. Here at Watson we feel fortunate to be surrounded by such diversity and be able to show children how to embrace our cultural differences.



Kristen Pollock, CCC Site Director at Watson Baby Blue

Working with Tadpoles



Here at Kitchawan we are happy to be piloting a new digital daily sheet program called Tadpoles in our Pre-K class! This program has replaced the paper daily sheets sending all information electronically to parents via email allowing them to view only their child's daily information. The benefits of the Tadpoles program allows classroom teachers to capture special moments, take photos and videos of their students in action as well as send important classroom and center information to parents. We find this form of communication to be a more effective when communicating with parents throughout the day. At the same time, parents have the ability to view their child's portfolio with the use of the Tadpoles mobile application. With the mobile application, parents can mark their child out sick or on vacation. Because of its success and the positive feedback from the Pre-K parents, we are in the works of using it in all the classrooms!

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Caroline Paterno, CCC Site Director at Kitchawan

Jessica Sousa, Pre-K Teacher



Having Fun at the Farm!

As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun!" Our fall has been very busy. Here is a quick recap of some of our fun...Fall Festival, CCC Spirit Day, a Halloween parade, a sharing feast, library trips, apple picking, our art auction, and most recently, the annual Polar Express party, just to name a few. At the Farm, we also welcomed some new staff. We have Shirley in our Pre-K program, Victoria with infants and Kelly with toddlers. These are all great new staff adding to our existing great veteran Farm staff. Together we all plan for a year ahead full of lots new fun! Happy December!

Noreen Cotter, CCC Site Director at The Farm



John Jay Middle School Are All Smiles!

Did you know at CCC we provide child care for infants all the way through 7th grade?! This year, the lower level of the White House has been repurposed to accommodate our after school program for John Jay Middle School children. The children are bussed to the White House each day from the middle school. At the White House they have access to a wide variety of age appropriate activities and resources. We have computers, ipads, loads

of arts and craft supplies and comfortable accommodations so the children can relax and get their homework done. Utilizing the full lower level of the building has allowed us to create an environment that offers parents the safety and security of a CCC program while giving the kids the space and freedom they crave as middle schoolers.



Brent Morton, CCC School Age Program Director

SAVE THE DATE!

Country Childrens Center Golf Outing

May 22, Centennial Golf Club Carmel, NY