



CCC Newsletter

Volume No.19 Issue No. 3 | December 2023

The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn

News & Updates from CCC

Bringing the CCC Mission to Every Child

Last month, I attended the Annual Conference for the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC) with CCC teachers **Erika Gutermuth, Brinna Conley, and Jenna Sullivan**. It was a wonderful, chaotic, informative and inspiring week. Erika, Brinna and Jenna attended workshops on various aspects of teaching infants, toddlers and preschoolers, including supporting emotional regulation, new children's literature, music in the classroom, and others. I attended sessions on supporting employees' health and wellness, leadership and coaching, and the business of early education. However, my most important take aways came from listening to directors of other centers in other parts of the country discuss their challenges and brainstorm solutions. I can tell you that I left the conference confident that Concord Children's Center is in the top tier of early childhood programs in our country.



The CCC mission is ***to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared, and inspired to learn.*** We live this mission every day with our children and families. One of the ways we are able to do this, I realized while at the conference, is by being in Massachusetts, a state that values early education and supports centers with child care stabilization funds. Further, on a call with the [Department of Early Education and Care](#) this fall, I listened as the state committed to increased funding for the state voucher program, which allows children from low-income families to attend quality child care programs. CCC has participated in the voucher program for decades; indeed, we are one of the few programs in our area that does. We enroll an average of 4-6 students each year who are using state vouchers.

Our ability to enroll children via the voucher program is mission critical for several reasons. Being a voucher accepting program means:

- CCC can apply for grants and other benefits from the state and grant-making

- organizations that we might not otherwise be able to receive.
- CCC can receive tuition, from the state, for families who might otherwise require full tuition assistance directly from us.
- Most importantly, being a part of this program allows children from all families to access the quality care we provide, regardless of income.

Being a voucher accepting program also means:

- Children who attend CCC via the voucher program develop relationships with our teachers, who become trusted adults in their lives.
- Their families depend on our teachers for advice and guidance, just as our other families do.
- We provide stability for families and children who may be in an unstable financial or housing situation, and we do it with love and appreciation for a child's unique gifts and experience.

This year, the disparity between the early experiences of our students shows up in stark relief. This can happen when a child who has never been in a group care situation joins a classroom of students who have been in a quality childcare setting for much of their young lives, or a child who has experienced trauma around housing or food insecurity joins a classroom where food and housing are rarely in question. We work as a staff of caring and sensitive teachers and administrators to make sure that CCC's mission is carried out for every CCC child each day, despite these challenges. As an organization, we are committed to providing quality care to all our students, regardless of their situation.

As I reflect on the NAEYC Conference, the challenges that programs face in other states with less support, and those programs experiencing a difficult hiring and compensation climate, I am grateful for CCC's ability to thrive with highly skilled and caring teachers who bring our mission to everyone we can reach. I am committed to ensuring that we continue to offer the highest quality care to every child in our program. Thank you to our families for your support of our mission this year. Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Suzie Kornblum
Executive Director

Fall Fun Around CCC





Opening 250 Old Bedford Road

We are in our new home! Our last day at our Emerson and Ripley locations was Wednesday, November 8. Our East Concord staff spent Thursday packing up their last items and were joined by our West Concord staff to move into our new site on Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11. Our East Concord staff welcomed families and children on Sunday, November 12, for an open house and then our doors opened for the first day in our new home on Tuesday, November 14.

This move could not have happened without a huge amount of effort on the part of ALL of our teachers and staff and a huge amount of patience and understanding on the part of our families. We are extremely grateful to all of you for your support during this process and look forward to moving forward together in our new two-site configuration.

Open House for Families



First School Day at East Concord



Advancement & Community Updates

Fundraising

Fund for CCC

To date the **2023-2024 Fund for CCC** has received **over \$69,000** in commitments from current and past families, staff, and friends. Fund for CCC donations are immediately disbursed back into the operating budget to benefit our students, our teachers and our school.

For current families and teachers, the **Giving Challenge** is underway! The two CCC classrooms with the highest rate of participation in the Fund for CCC from their families and teachers through December 31 will enjoy a special activity after the holidays. Participation in the Giving Challenge is tracked via Giving Snowmen at each site ... for each classroom donation, the snowman gets another snowball!

Use the materials you receive in the mail to make your donation or [donate on-line](#). **The amount of your donation is not important ... what matters is that you donate!** Information on the Fund for CCC is available on the [CCC website](#).

Fund for CCC

Parent Team

Grace Giles, Chair

Meryl Ayres

Carly Heller

Susan & Shawn Kelly

Julie McClure



Events



Night at the Museum!

CCC is taking over the [Discovery Museum](#)! From 5:30-7:30 p.m. on **Sunday, January 28**, the Museum will be open to just CCC families and teachers. See the exhibits, check out the interactive galleries, and enjoy pizza and drinks in the Play Labs.

This event is limited to 300 people (CCC families and staff only, please). Tickets to go on sale after the holidays!



**Save the Date for
Celebrate Concord Children's Center!**



Save the evening of **Saturday, April 6**, for the CCC spring event, *Celebrate Concord Children's Center!* This fun adults-only community evening includes socializing, our classroom creations, a live auction, and more! This year's event will take place at the Barn at Nashoba Brooks School -- invitations to be mailed in early 2024. For more information, or if you would like to get involved with this year's event, please contact CCC Development Coordinator [Jennifer Saxe](#).

Concord Bookshop Fundraiser Thank-You

We are thrilled to report that the [Concord Bookshop](#) this year donated **\$1,406** to CCC from last month's Bookshop Fundraiser! This is the most this event has ever brought in for CCC, and we also reached a new high number of books purchased for our classrooms: 105!! A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in the day, whether by volunteering, reading, or shopping!



For Your Calendar

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 25: Christmas, CCC closed
- Tuesday, December 26-Friday, December 29: Optional days
- Monday, January 1: New Year's Day, CCC closed
- Monday, January 8: 24-25 applications due
- Monday, January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, CCC closed
- Sunday, January 28, 5:30-7:30pm: Night at the Museum

**Subscribe to the
CCC Calendar**

Stay current on events at CCC by subscribing to the [on-line calendar](#). Select which events you want to be kept informed about and stay up to date!

CCC Board Updates

Join the Board!

As a non-profit, CCC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is primarily responsible for the Center's financial and organizational oversight. Board meetings are held every other month and are open to all families.

We are always looking for Board and Board committee members. In particular, we are seeking community members with accounting or financial management skills to join the Board

2023-24 Board Members

- Shannon Sweeney, Chair (West Concord)*
- Hayden Tilley, Vice-Chair (East Concord)*
- Stephan Bader, Treasurer (Alumni)*
- Tom Doherty, Secretary (Alumni)*
- Elie Adam (West Concord)*
- Christina Anderson (West Concord)*
- Phil Barr (West Concord)*
- Amantha Butler (Alumni)*
- Katie Carr (East Concord)*
- JC Conti (CCC staff rep, West Concord)*

Finance Committee. Please contact [CCC Executive Director Suzie Kornblum](#) if you are interested in getting involved with the work of the Board or its committees (Advancement, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Nominating, and Personnel).


Jackie Fishbein (West Concord)
Grace Giles (East Concord)
Katherine Manning (East Concord)
Jordan Zirkel (CCC staff rep, West Concord)

Community News & Events

COMMONWEALTH BALLET

The Nutcracker 2023

MELENIE DIARBEKIRIAN • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Celebrate the Magic of the Season!

Regis College, Weston


November 24 – 1PM* & 6PM
November 25 – 1PM & 6PM
November 26 – 1PM

December 15 – 7PM
December 16 – 1PM & 6PM
December 17 – 1PM

* The shortened performance at 1pm November 24th is Sensory and Family-Friendly. Tickets for this show start at \$15.

MIKE NYMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Tickets starting at \$23 Free parking



CommonwealthBallet.org or 978.263.7794

Concord Children's Center | concordchildrenscenter.org

