



CCC Newsletter

Volume No. 20, Issue No. 2 | October 2024

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

Connecting with our Community

A few weeks ago, we welcomed parents at both Concord Children's Center locations to our **CCC Night – Curiosity, Connection, and Community**, formerly known as Back to School Night. By renaming the evening, we hoped to focus on what we know is important to our community – learning and connection between home and school.

At each site, the evening began at 7 p.m. with a large group meeting in the multipurpose spaces. Our Program Directors, **Anne Doherty** at West and **Jennine Lesser** at East, and I spoke about CCC's mission and program. Parents then proceeded to their child(ren)'s classroom(s) to hear directly from teaching teams. The event concluded at 8:30, or earlier, depending on the length of classroom discussions.

A family survey distributed after the event provided insight into whether we achieved our goals. Happily, the feedback suggests that the evening was helpful and positive for parents. Comments included appreciation for learning more about classroom routines and daily schedules, hearing about teachers' educational philosophies, and having the ability to ask questions. Many parents also enjoyed meeting other parents, meeting educators they did not know, and learning who does what at CCC. Finally, parents commented on the obvious love and connection that CCC educators have with our children. One parent said, “[The evening was a] reminder of why we love our teachers and why our child is so comfortable here.”



When asked for suggestions for improvement on the event, some clear themes emerged:

1. The timing is challenging for families. Parents suggested offering childcare, starting the evening earlier, or even starting the evening later, to avoid disruption of the dinner-bath-time-bedtime routine.
2. Parents suggested that the classroom presentation portion of the evening needed more structure and perhaps a more unified discussion of curriculum and CCC philosophy.
3. Ideas to improve the “facilitating connection” piece of the evening included making sure parents were introduced to each other.

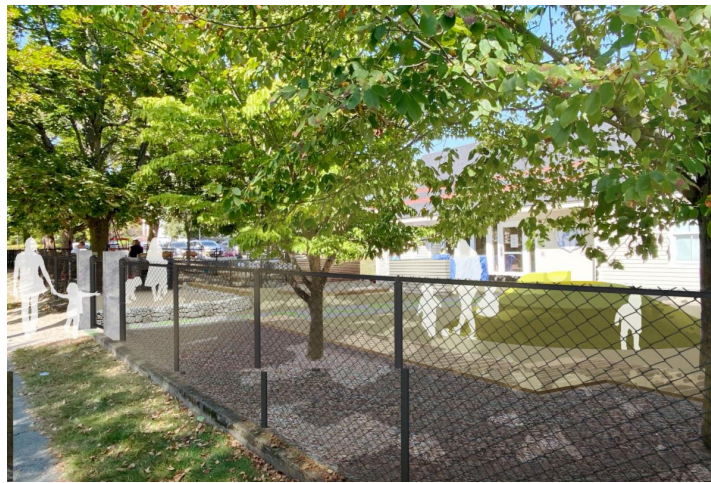
We thank you for giving us this feedback! We are consolidating your comments as we plan how to include CCC Night in our school calendar going forward. We know that it is important to families, and to us, to offer opportunities for shared Curiosity, Connection, and Community. If you did not have a chance to complete the survey and would like to share feedback, please [email me](#). I would love to hear from you!

Fondly,

Upgrading our West Concord I/T Playground

Our Infant/Toddler playground at West Concord was originally created in 2013 when we opened the first Infant/Toddler classroom in that building, with 12 students. Since then, we've expanded the IT enrollment at West Concord to 27 students each day, and the playspace is showing the wear and tear created by so many little feet!

CCC has therefore retained the services of [LEMON BROOKE](#), LLC landscape architects to help re-design and renovate the Infant/Toddler playground at our West Concord location. LEMON BROOKE designed the [Playscape at Ripley](#) and the new playspaces at our East Concord location. LEMON BROOKE will be helping us improve the use and beauty of our West Concord Infant/Toddler playground by expanding the rubberized crawling and running surface, installing protection around the existing trees, retaining our sandbox, and adding some additional play features. We are hopeful that this renovation will be approved by the Historic Districts Commission and the Town of Concord, and that our youngest West Concord students will soon enjoy a refreshed and beautiful space.



A LEMON BROOKE rendering of the renovated West Concord infant/toddler playground.

Accreditation Update

CCC continues to move through the accreditation process. NAEYC Coordinator **Jordan Zirkel** and her team of documenters met this month to finalize the last few areas of documentation to finish the classroom portfolios. The completed portfolios for classrooms and programs will be submitted in early December for accreditation review.

Fall Fun Around CCC!





Advancement & Community Updates

2025-2026 Admissions

The CCC 2025-2026 admissions season is now open! Applications are coming in from new families, and we will hold Enrollment Open Houses at both of our sites from 9-11am on **Saturday, November 2**. Continuing families will receive re-enrollment forms on **Friday, December 13**. The complete admissions timeline is as follows:

- Friday, November 1: 25-26 applications available for new families.
- Saturday, November 2, 9-11am: enrollment open houses at both CCC locations.
- Friday, December 13: 25-26 re-enrollment forms distributed to current CCC families.
- Friday, January 10: due date for all 25-26 applications.
- Friday, February 7: 25-26 admissions notifications sent.

Kicking Off This Year's Fund for CCC and the Giving Challenge!

Families and staff will soon be receiving their Fund for CCC fall appeal letter in the mail. The Fund for CCC is an annual fundraising effort to supplement the CCC operating budget. Donations benefit programs across the school, including

- professional development,
- tuition assistance,
- outdoor play spaces, and
- special programs.

Donations come in and are spent during the CCC fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

The **Giving Challenge** is back, and this year, it's **a community-wide Challenge!** We are challenging all of our families, educators, and administrators to help us reach **75% community participation** in the Fund for CCC! If we reach this goal, all of our children will enjoy a special activity after the holidays! All donations made by the end of the day on December 3, Giving Tuesday, count toward the Challenge, so don't wait -- **make your donation today!**



Last year's Fund for CCC raised **over \$91,500** to benefit our children, our educators, and our school. Over **70 percent** of current families and **68 percent** of current staff made a donation,

along with past families, special friends, Concord community members, and corporations. Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed -- you make a difference for our children, our teachers, and our school.

Check Out CCC in the Window!

Concord Children's Center will be featured from **November 11-18** in the **Concord Bookshop** community window in Concord Center. If you're downtown during that time, stop by the Bookshop and check out the window!

Top photo: our 2023 window focused on CCC's reconfiguration into a two-site model.

Bottom photo: our 2021 window called out the importance of high-quality early childhood care and education as highlighted by First Lady Jill Biden and Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton in June 2021.



For Your Calendar

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, October 15: 25-26 applications available for new families
- Saturday, November 2, 9-11 a.m.: Enrollment Open Houses
- Monday, November 11: Professional Day, CCC closed
- Thursday, November 28-Friday, November 29: Thanksgiving, CCC closed

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 seeking Board and Board committee members. In particular, we are seeking community members with accounting/financial management skills to join the Board 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).

2024-25 Board Members

Christina Anderson, Chair

Grace Giles, Vice-Chair

Jackie Fishbein, Secretary

Stephan Bader, Treasurer

Elie Adam

Phil Barr

Amantha Butler

Sean Hetherman

Susan Kelly

Isabelle Lechauve (CCC staff rep)

Katherine Manning

Sarah Sample

Shannon Sweeney

Jordan Zirkel (CCC staff rep)

Community News & Events

Joint CCC/CFN Playdate This Saturday

CCC is hosting a preschool playdate **this Saturday, October 19**, together with [Concord Family Network](#) and [Acton-Boxborough Family Connection](#)! All area families with young children are invited to this fun morning, which will take place at **CCC West Concord, 1300 Main Street, from 10-11:30AM**. Fun activities will be provided! This is an outdoor event, but we will move indoors if weather is bad. CCC infant/toddler and preschool classrooms will be open for tours on both days!



Acton-Boxborough
Family Network



Community • Family • Fun!

Barefoot Books Fall Open House This Saturday

A promotional graphic for the Barefoot Books Fall Open House. The background is a warm, autumnal yellow with scattered leaves and a tree. The text is in various colors and fonts. At the top right is the "CONCORD FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS" logo. The main text reads "Barefoot Books Author Storytimes and Fall Open House!" in red and green. Below that, it says "Stories, Crafts, & Shopping" in green and red. The date and time are "Saturday, October 19 from 10am—2pm" and the location is "23 Bradford Street, 2nd Floor, Concord, MA". At the bottom, there are three author portraits and their book covers: "Bring Back the BABKA!" by Sara Herzog, "Midnight MITZVAH" by Sara Herzog, and "My Cousin's MERMAID" by Sara Herzog. A red circular badge in the bottom right corner says "Enjoy 20% off books & gifts".

CONCORD FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS

Barefoot Books Author Storytimes and Fall Open House!

Stories, Crafts, & Shopping

Saturday, October 19 from 10am—2pm

23 Bradford Street, 2nd Floor, Concord, MA

Enjoy 20% off books & gifts

[RSVP via EventBrite.](#)

Halloween Skate with the CCHS Girls Varsity Hockey Team

**CCHS GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY
FUN-RAISER**

CAN'T MAKE IT? BUT WANT TO DONATE?

venmo
 THANK YOU KIND SOUL!

HALLOWEEN SKATE
 MUSIC, COSTUME CONGA LINE & LOTS OF FUN
SUNDAY OCT 27 5:55 - 6:55 PM **NO HOCKEY STICKS*
 Nashoba Valley Rink, Boxboro
 A.J. MLECZKO GRISWOLD OLYMPIC GOLD
 MEDALIST IN WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY WILL BE
 THERE WITH HER GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS!

**BRING YOUR OWN SKATES
 HELMETS
 AND COSTUMES!**

**\$10 PER SKATER
 \$40 PER FAMILY**
 KIDS UNDER 13 MUST
 HAVE AN ADULT
 PRESENT

**CASH OR VENMO AT THE DOOR
 SIGNED WAIVERS AT THE DOOR FOR THOSE UNDER 18**

Concord Children's Center | concordchildrenscenter.org



Concord Children's Center | 1300 Main Street | Concord, MA 01742 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!