

# CCC Newsletter

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*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*



## October 21, 2016

### Calendar

Oct 21	Fall Social/ Beer and Wine Tasting
Nov. 1	Optional AM After School
Nov. 5	CCC Enrollment Open House
Nov. 9	Board Meeting
Nov. 11	Optional AM After School
Nov. 14	Dec. Optional Days Requests Due
Nov. 19	Bookshop Fundraiser
<b>Nov 24, 25</b>	<b>CCC Closed</b>

### **"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." — Emilie Buchwald**

The above quote was suggested as the theme for this year's Bookshop Window. Each year a group of parent volunteers choose a theme and create a "window tableau" to express the theme. The Concord Bookshop displays this window for a week

The Reach Out and Read website, lists a number of great reasons for reading aloud to children. "Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to language development." Among other things, reading aloud:

- Builds word-sound awareness in children, a potent predictor of reading success.
- Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory. *Bardige, B. Talk to Me, Baby! (2009), Paul H Brookes Pub Co.*
- Reading aloud stimulates language development even before a child can talk. *Bardige, B. Talk to Me, Baby! (2009), Paul H Brookes Pub Co.*
- The nurturing and one-on-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading later in life.
- Reading aloud is a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress or tragedy.



***Wine and Craft Beer Tasting***  
***Celebrate the start of another great year at CCC!***

Join the CCC community at this  
Informal gathering of the CCC Grown-ups!  
7-11 p.m., Friday, October 21  
Home of Ripley (and former West Concord)  
parents  
Halley and Bill McIlwain  
316 Heaths Bridge Road

“




## Bookshop Fundraiser Saturday Nov. 19

Kickoff your holiday shopping at The Concord Bookshop

and support Concord Children's Center at the same time! The Bookshop will donate 10% of all purchases all day long to CCC. CCC teachers will be reading to children throughout the morning and the bookshop will feature children's book favorites selected by our teachers. Watch the Bookshop for our parent decorated window. This window will appear on November 14th.

## Fall Volunteer opportunities.

 November 19: Bookshop Fundraiser  
Please let us know if you can help with this event or if you would like to join the Events Committee; by calling Pat Nelson or Jennifer Saxe at 978-369-6790 or email [Pat at Executive@concordchildrenscenter.org](mailto:Executive@concordchildrenscenter.org).

## Celebrating Holidays at CCC



Holiday celebrations can be wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the traditions and values that are significant parts of people's lives. At Concord Children's Center it is important our curriculum reflects and respects the cultures represented by all of our families. Holidays are one way for our community to work together to create developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences.

Following the lead of our children and their families, CCC will include a variety of holidays in the curriculum and invite our families to share special traditions. At the start of each year we ask our families to let us know the holidays and traditions they celebrate and if they would like to join us in the classroom to share an aspect of their celebration. By completing and

returning the Child & Family Information Form, families help us plan celebrations to integrate into the classroom curriculum. Our CCC community of families celebrate over two dozen different holidays throughout the year.

In any given year your child's classroom might celebrate by dressing in costumes, sharing a special food, story, song or ritual that is part of a holiday tradition. We focus on the secular aspects of holidays, often focusing on commonalities of the various traditions. In our programs we have some holiday traditions of our own:

- A Halloween Costume parade and songs shared with members of the Ripley and West Concord Community.
- The making of a "stone soup" and a "friendship feast" with families and friends
- The construction of gingerbread houses and the lighting of the "Night Tree"



We recognize, regardless of which holidays are celebrated, they often come with an abundance of anticipation and excitement. We are all affected, no matter what our traditions may be. At the Children's Center, we remain committed to providing developmentally appropriate experiences, and paying careful attention to children's emotional and physical wellbeing. We provide a calm and predictable place for children, and guide conversations toward opportunities of giving vs. getting.

### How to reach your Program Director

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# What does it look like?

The first standard in the NAEYC Accreditation Classroom Portfolio is “Relationships”. More than any other criteria, relationships are at the heart of everything we do at CCC. Below are examples of the NAEYC Portfolio entries from 2012. This year we will be updating our portfolios for our 2017 Accreditation

The NAEYC Relationships standard states: *The program promotes positive relationships among all children and adults. It encourages each child’s sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and fosters each child’s ability to contribute as a responsible community member.*

Each standard has a number of criteria. Teachers and administration use the portfolio to illustrate how we embody each criteria in our classrooms.

## **Criteria 1.C.:Helping Children Make Friends**

Teaching staff support children as they practice social skills and build friendships by helping them:

- a. enter into [play],
- b. sustain [play], and
- c. enhance play.



*Teachers make their presence known and felt while sitting with the children. They observe and facilitate at the same time. Teachers often sit with children to observe their play, but also to help navigate friendly play skills, such as cooperation and sharing.*



*Last fall when we were making a scarecrow as a class activity, the teacher supported the children as they decided how to construct the scarecrow, sustaining the activity and building relationship through working toward a common goal*

**Criteria 1.A.01:Teachers work in partnership with families, establishing and maintaining regular, on going, two-way communication.**



*Each day at drop off and pickup, we greet each child and touch base with each parent. A priority at Concord Children's Center is building community within our school. As part of that mission, we involve families in several activities throughout the year including our Friendship Feast, a Game Night and an End of Year Program which build relationships and enrich aspects of our curriculum.*