



CCC Newsletter

Volume No.17 Issue No. 5 | April 2022

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

Getting Out in Nature at CCC

Concord Children's Center's educational program is grounded in decades of research demonstrating that the best foundation for a young child's development and future learning is open-ended, child-initiated play. Taking this play outside further increases these benefits and also instills a love of, and appreciation for, nature in our children. Outdoor play is a fundamental part of the CCC program, regardless of the weather, as every parent who has brought home a pair of mud-encrusted snow pants knows all too well.

Inside and Outside the Classroom

Nature is often part of the curriculum at CCC. Our Triangle Room students visit the river throughout the year, documenting what they see each time. At Ripley, the 3-4's have been working on a project to plant and care for flower seeds, and last fall, a couple of our Emerson classrooms painted with pine needs to make beautiful pictures!

In addition to specific curricular units, CCC students have fun outside in all seasons ... playing in the leaves in the fall, following animal prints in the snow in the winter, squishing mud through their fingers in the spring, and running through the sprinkler during the summer.

Professional Development

There are many professional development opportunities addressing the importance of outdoor play for young children, including the following opportunities this year that CCC staff have attended:

- An April workshop around [Growing Up Wild](#), an early childhood education activity guide published by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of its Project Wild program. This program aims to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment that will result in informed decisions, responsible behavior and constructive actions concerning wildlife, people and the environment.



"Incorporating nature into all aspects of our curriculum -- literacy, numeracy, art, science -- makes these topics so much more exciting and accessible to the kids," said West Concord Program Director Anne Doherty, who attended the workshop.

- [Inside and Outside with Nature](#), a three-part series presented in January by Mass Audubon focusing on how teachers can explore nature with their students both inside and outside the classroom.

Save the Date for an Outdoor Family Concert!

The COVID pandemic has moved social gatherings outside, and over the past two years our children, classrooms and families have taken advantage of the great outdoors to gather safely. In this spirit, we are pleased to announce that on **Sunday, June 5**, we will be welcoming the children's musical group [Rockabye Beats](#) to the Playscape at Ripley for a family lunch concert! The party starts at 11 a.m., and the music starts at 11:30. Bring a picnic lunch and plan to arrive before and/or stay after the concert to give the kids time to explore the Playscape. Thank you to the **Boardman family** for donating this performance to CCC.



Fundraising Updates

2021-2022 Fund for CCC

To date, the **2021-2022 Fund for CCC** has received **over \$98,000** from current families, teachers and staff, alumni families, grandparents, and special friends. **Thank you** to everyone who has donated to date! Each donation makes a difference for our children, our teachers, and our school.

We hope that all our community members will consider supporting CCC at this exciting time as we launch CCC *Reimagined*, our strategic project to restructure CCC into a two-site model. Use the materials you receive in the mail to make your donation or [donate on-line](#). Learn more about the Fund for CCC on the [CCC website](#).



Support CCC by Shopping at AmazonSmile!

When you shop at AmazonSmile and designate CCC as your preferred charity, 0.5% of your purchase is donated back to CCC! AmazonSmile offers the same items, prices and benefits as Amazon.com and also gives back to customers' favorite nonprofits. Just shop at AmazonSmile and designate CCC as your preferred charity. [Start shopping - and supporting CCC - now!](#)

Events and Calendar Updates

Coming in June: Family Concert at the Playscape

All CCC families and friends are invited to a lunchtime concert

featuring local musical group [Rockabye Beats](#). This interactive show will include singing, dancing, instrument jams, a little bit of Spanish, and a healthy dose of silliness. There will be a food truck, or bring a picnic lunch!



The show will take place on **Sunday, June 5**, at the [Playscape at Ripley](#). The performance will start at 11:30, and families are encouraged to arrive early and stay after the concert for playground fun and socializing. Our thanks to the **Boardman family** for donating this performance to CCC.



Important Upcoming Dates

April 14: summer confirmations distributed to families
April 18: Patriots' Day -- CCC closed
April 19-22: April optional days
April 27: CCC Board meeting
May 30: Memorial Day -- CCC closed
June 5: [Family lunchtime concert with Rockabye Beats](#)

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

As a non-profit, CCC is governed by a board of directors that is primarily responsible for the Center's financial and organizational oversight. Board meetings are held the [third Wednesday of every other month](#) over Zoom and are open to all families. Please contact **CCC Executive Director Pat Nelson** for the link to any meeting. Please also contact Pat if you are interested in getting involved with the work of the Board or its committees (Advancement, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Nominating, and Personnel).

2021-22 Board Members

Becky McCullough, Chair (Emerson, West Concord)
Jay Abelowitz, Co-Chair (Alumni)
Stephan Bader, Treasurer (Alumni)
Tom Doherty, Secretary (Ripley)
Meg Ansara (West Concord)
Phil Barr (West Concord)
Marcela Bean (CCC staff rep, alumni)
Eric Boisvert (Emerson)
JC Conti (CCC staff rep, Emerson and West Concord)
Emily D'Arcy (CCC staff rep, Ripley and West Concord)
Karen Lennon (West Concord)
Katherine Manning (Ripley)
Stacia Morabito (Ripley)
Jonathan Rankin (Emerson)
Yumi Suarez (West Concord)
Shannon Sweeney (West Concord)