

# 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*



## August 2014

### Community Events at CCC

*CCC events are held to connect families with each other, their teachers and the CCC Administration and Board. Below you will find a brief description of events that take place each year.*

- **Picnics and Pot Lucks** are for the whole family, a wonderful time to connect with other families and the teachers.
- **Classroom** events include morning coffees and late afternoon or early evening pizza parties and potlucks. Information about classroom events can be found in your parent mailbox that is located in your child's classroom.
- **Socials and the Auction** are events for all of the adults in our community. In the fall we have a social, held at the home of a CCC family. The Auction takes place at the end of March. Both events are a great chance for a night out with friends and soon to be friends from your child's school.
- **Concerts, Fundraisers** include a day at the Concord Bookshop in November and at least one family concert featuring children's performers.

### Calendar

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Aug. 22</b>      | <b>Last day of the Summer Session</b>           |
| <b>Aug. 25 - 29</b> | <b>CCC Closed</b>                               |
| <b>Aug. 28</b>      | <b>All School Open House</b>                    |
| <b>September 1</b>  | <b>CCC Closed for the Holiday</b>               |
| <b>Sept. 2</b>      | <b>First Day of CCC School Year!</b>            |
| <b>Sept. 9</b>      | <b>Ripley Picnic</b>                            |
| <b>Sept. 10</b>     | <b>Board Meeting @ West Concord</b>             |
| <b>Sept. 18</b>     | <b>West Concord and Emerson Picnic</b>          |
| <b>Sept. 20</b>     | <b>Changing Seasons at Ripley<br/>Playscape</b> |
| <b>Oct. 8</b>       | <b>Board Meeting</b>                            |
| <b>Oct. 14</b>      | <b>CCC Closed/Holiday</b>                       |
| <b>Oct. 17</b>      | <b>CCC Fall Social</b>                          |

### Kindergarten Popsicle Party



Sponsored by the Concord Family Network and First Connections

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Alcott School Playground

**All incoming Kindergarteners in Concord and their families are welcome RSVP by Aug. 22 to [concordfamilyntwk@yahoo.com](mailto:concordfamilyntwk@yahoo.com).**

**Include names of adults and kids in party & Kindergartener's school and name of K teacher**

Check [www.concordfamilynetwork.org](http://www.concordfamilynetwork.org) for information

Attending & volunteering to help with **Events** are a great way to meet other families, get to know the staff and support CCC. If you would like to be part of planning for this year's events you may contact [Jennifer Saxe](mailto:Jennifer.Saxe@development.coordinator.net) our Development Coordinator at 978-369-6790 or [ccc-development@verizon.net](mailto:ccc-development@verizon.net).



## Celebrate the changing seasons & explore the Playscape at Ripley!

**Saturday Mornings 9:30 to 10:30, September 20, December 20, March 21, and June 20.**

The circle of seasons throughout the year is especially meaningful to children, who are so aware of the first red leaf, the first snowflake, the first little crocus poking up through the snow...but sometimes our busy, hectic schedules make it difficult for us to take the time to join them in their wonder and awe of the beauty of our natural world.



In celebration of the Concord's new Park and Playscape, located adjacent to the Concord Children's Center at 134 Meriam St, CCC is offering a family-oriented, participatory event to mark the changing seasons, led by Ripley teacher Patricia Collins.

Participants will have the opportunity to play and explore the Playscape, as well as join in a gathering circle to create a ritual of song and movement. There will be instruments to play and a rainbow of silks to move with!

Space may be limited, so please call or email Pat Nelson to reserve a spot for your family. (978-369-3747 or

For information about the playscape:  
[www.ripleyplayscape.org](http://www.ripleyplayscape.org)

## Community Resources:



Concord has a great Affordable Housing program. For more information you can contact:

Lara Kritzer, Senior Planner, Town of Concord  
141 Keyes Road  
(978) 318-3290  
[lkritzer@concordma.gov](mailto:lkritzer@concordma.gov).

## CCC Alumni Donation



Concord Boy Scout Troop 132 provided 2 handicap accessible picnic tables to the Ripley Playscape as part of Jonathan Lilly's Eagle Scout community service project. Jonathan attend CCC's West Concord program. The tables built by Jonathan and members of his troop meet the requirements of the American for Disabilities Act and are made of recycled and non-degradable materials. Jonathan reached out to Concord community families that had benefited from Concord Children's Center programs and local businesses to help fund the project. In addition to the tables Jonathan raised over \$1,000. This donation to CCC will help support other inclusive elements on the Ripley Playscape.



## Save the Date

**Fall Social - October 17:** This

all school (Grown-ups) party is held at the home of one of our families. It is a well attended and rollicking fun time event! So line up your baby - sitter now!

### How to reach your Program Director

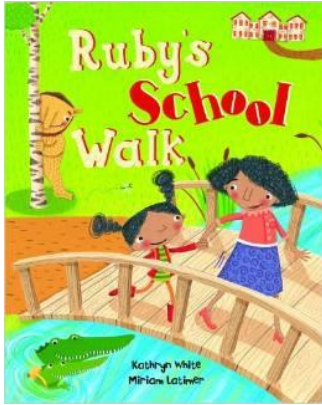
Emerson Jennine Lesser 978-369-0492  
[emerson@concordchildrenscenter.org](mailto:emerson@concordchildrenscenter.org)

Ripley Penni Hensley Wagner 978-369-5983  
[ripley@concordchildrenscenter.org](mailto:ripley@concordchildrenscenter.org)

WC Anne Doherty 978-369-6790  
[westconcord@concordchildrenscenter.org](mailto:westconcord@concordchildrenscenter.org)

## Reading Opportunities for the Whole family

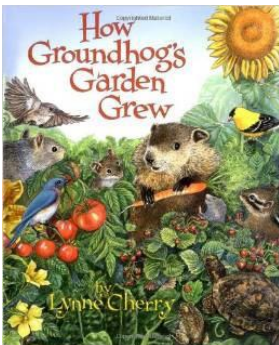
Summer StoryWalks combine a wonderful children's picture book with all the joys and benefits of walking together outside. The StoryWalk® Project makes the books available in the community for free to benefit families with young children and people of all ages.



Help your child get ready to transition to elementary school, kindergarten, preschool or child care by calmly reading this story while walking along together at these locations:

**5:00-7:00 p.m. on August 21st at "Third Thursdays"**  
**Littleton Common, Intersection of Rtes. 119/110/2A**

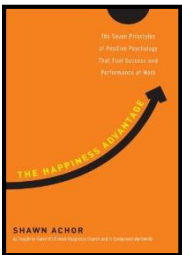
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on August 27\***  
**Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord**



What better way to wind down the summer than by visiting Codman Community Farm in full bloom! This wonderful story will be displayed as you follow the pathway around the gardens. Taking the StoryWalk® is free of charge. Codman does have a farm produce store, and you can also "pick & pay" for a bouquet of flowers during your visit if desired. If you wish to visit the farm animals, families are asked to contribute \$3 adults, \$2 children in the office toward maintenance of the farm. There are sheep, cows, pigs, goats, chickens, rabbits, ducks, a water buffalo named Herman and an albino donkey named Opal!

**10:00 a.m. Monday, August 18 to Noon, and Monday, August 25\***  
**At Codman Community Farm, 58 Codman Road, Lincoln**

**"Guided" StoryWalk® with First Connections' Playgroup Facilitator Ellie Springer held on August 25 at 11:00 a.m.**



**HEALTHY CONCORD** invites you to read and discuss

Harvard researcher, Shawn Achor, proposes a different route to success, detailed in his book, *The Happiness Advantage*. In it he describes how a positive mindset allows our brains to become more engaged, creative, motivated, energetic, resilient, and productive at work and school. This discovery is supported by rigorous research in psychology and neuroscience, management studies, and the bottom lines of organizations around the globe.

Adults and teens are invited to join **Healthy Concord** for a book talk on *The Happiness Advantage*, facilitated by Colleen Meaney, CCHS Assistant Principal, and a CCHS student. Books are available at the Concord Public Library and through the Concord Bookshop.

**Monday, September 8, 2014 7 -9 pm**  
**Harvey Wheeler Community Center**

Questions? Contact Jill Block, Healthy Concord Coordinator – [jillblock16@gmail.com](mailto:jillblock16@gmail.com)



**Registration required for all programs: [lmattthews@jri.org](mailto:lmattthews@jri.org) or 978-287-0221**

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|--|---|
| <p><b>Thursday</b><br/><b>September 18</b><br/><b>Littleton</b><br/><b>7:00 p.m.</b></p>         | <p><b>You're Not the Boss of Me: Helping Your Child be a Flexible Thinker by Being A Flexible Thinking Parent presented by Donna Shea from The Peter Pan Center.</b><br/>Donna will discuss teaching your child the important life skills of frustration tolerance and flexible thinking by using a "you-me-we" problem-solving approach.</p>   |
| <p><b>Saturday</b><br/><b>September 20</b><br/><b>Maynard</b><br/><b>10:30 a.m. to 12:30</b></p> | <p><b>Family Focus Group for Bilingual Families presented by WIDA Early Years Program.</b> Parents will learn what will be expected of their child's language skills when he enters school, how spoken language skills relate to reading abilities, how a child's home language affects his ability to learn English, and about the Mass. Early Learning Guidelines. Parents choose a free book for participating in the group.</p>           |
| <p><b>Thursday</b><br/><b>October 9</b><br/><b>Bedford</b><br/><b>7:00 p.m.</b></p>              | <p><b>Keeping Kids Safe presented by Marybeth Dwyer from Children's Trust Fund.</b><br/>This program provides parents with the information and skills they need to face the sensitive issue of child sexual abuse. Included will be how and when to bring up the topic, and what to do if a child discloses something happened to them. For parents of children ages 4-10. Protect your children while preparing them for the real world.</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday</b><br/><b>November 13</b><br/><b>Boxborough</b><br/><b>7:00-9:00 p.m.</b></p>    | <p><b>Gentle Sleep Support Workshop presented by Pediatric Sleep Consultant and Child Development Specialist Sarah Kerrigan.</b> Learn about appropriate expectations and supportive strategies to help your baby sleep. Learn why babies and toddlers sleep the way they do, how biology and psychology affect your child's sleep, developmentally appropriate expectations, tools and strategies you can apply.</p>                         |

**Post-Adoption Topics held on Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 in Concord (childcare provided)**

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>September 10</b> | <b>Defining Your Adoption Story &amp; the "10 Commandments" of Telling</b> |
| <b>October 8</b>    | <b>Keeping Our Children Safe</b>   |
| <b>November 12</b>  | <b>Holidays and Celebrations in an Adoptive Family's Life</b>              |
| <b>December 10</b>  | <b>Handling Transitions and Disappointments</b>                            |

To be added to the monthly reminder email for Adoption Learn & Play: email [lmattthews@jri.org](mailto:lmattthews@jri.org)  
To contact the facilitator, Mary Rowlinson, R.N. – [mrowlinson@jri.org](mailto:mrowlinson@jri.org) or 978-287-0221, ext. 218.

**Parent-Child Programs**

**Sat., October 25 Visit the Butterfly Place in Westford for Ages 3 thru 8.** Observe & learn about the life cycle of caterpillars and butterflies in a tropical environment. Includes free book.  
**10:30 or 11:00**

**Tuesdays, 2-3:00 Outdoor Explorations with Ellie at Mt. Misery in Lincoln for Ages 3 thru 6**  
**Sept. 16 to Nov. 4** Observe and explore the changing of seasons with trail hikes, pond discoveries, and sharing what you discover in your own neighborhood between classes (no strollers).

**Wednesdays**  
**1:30-2:30 p.m.**  
**10/15, 11/12, 12/17**

**Intergenerational Story and Song Time with Seasonal Craft Project for Ages 2-5 and Grandparents.** Bring your grandparents to a fun afternoon co-sponsored by the Carlisle Council on Aging. Ellie will lead the fun – sign up for one or all dates.

**All programs are free. We are a MA Dept. of Early Education & Care CFCE Grant Program serving 11 towns.**