



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

News & Updates from CCC

Welcome to the 22-23 School Year



Dear CCC Families and Teachers,

We are off to a great, "normal" start to the new school year. Most of our COVID protocols have been lifted (although we are prepared to pivot in this regard if needed), and I am so enjoying seeing the faces and smiles of our children and teachers. It is wonderful to be able to again welcome our families in to our buildings and see their happiness at being able to see their child's school and classroom, in many cases for the first time.

We start the new school year with several staff changes. Former Ripley program director **Penni Hensley Wagner** has taken over as Administrative Director from **Joanne Saideh**, who is now our Director of Professional Learning. Former Ripley assistant program director **Emily**

D'Arcy has stepped into the program director role and Ripley teacher **Brinna Conley** into the assistant program director role (by the way, both Emily and Brinna are past CCC students themselves!). From its founding in 1975, CCC has prioritized providing its teachers with opportunities to continue to learn and grow in their profession, with the result that we enjoy an average teacher tenure of roughly 11 years.

This fall we formally kick off *CCC Reimagined*, our strategic project to restructure CCC best and most efficiently serve our children and families -- learn more in the update below.

A quick COVID update: our [COVID dashboard](#) is always able to be viewed on the CCC website. We will not longer be distributing this weekly as we did last year and over the summer.

I hope to see many of you at our Fall Social this Friday (details below) and at our Back to School Nights. I'm looking forward to a great year!

Pat Nelson
Executive Director

Learning About the History of CCC: "We Need to Know Our History to Know Ourselves"

Every August during work week, the CCC staff takes one

morning for an all-staff meeting, where they receive updates for the school year and participate in cross-site professional development activities. This year's meeting took place on August 22 at the [Concord Public Library](#) (thank you to the library for donating their beautiful Goodwin Forum to us for the morning) and featured a special guest: CCC co-founder **Chris Gerzon**. CCC Executive Director Pat Nelson invited Chris to speak to the staff on the history of CCC, a request to which Chris readily agreed, since, as she pointed out to the staff, "we need to know our history to know ourselves."

Chris spoke about the early days of CCC when she and co-founder **Deborah Begner** started CCC with "no money, 5 teachers and 20 families who entrusted their children to us." And the values that Chris and Deborah held central to the founding of CCC remain at the heart of our program today (see sidebar, below).

Chris pointed out that, over the past 47 years, CCC has touched the lives of literally thousands of families and that the teachers are at the center of these relationships.

"You are CCC," Chris reminded the teachers and staff. "You are the heart and center of this school, and without your energy and commitment, there would be no CCC ... remember every day how vital your job is not only at the center for the children in your class and their parents but to our country and to its future. You are educating the next generation of people who will have to make some very serious decisions about the direction of this country and the fate of the world."

Chris wrapped up her presentation with good wishes to the teachers for the school year: "Congratulations on choosing the most important job in the world. May you spend many rewarding hours with these little ones who will certainly become more creative, competent, and caring people because of your influence."



CCC staff enjoying bagels and coffee on the Concord Public Library lawn before the staff meeting.



CCC co-founder Chris Gerzon speaking to CCC staff in the Goodwin Forum.



(L-R): Executive Director Pat Nelson, co-founder Chris Gerzon, teachers Denise Welch and Diane Krug (both of whom were hired by Chris), PLC coordinator Joanne Saideh, and Administrative Director Penni Hensley Wagner.

47 Years of Concord Children's Center Values

- The teacher is not the expert imparting knowledge to parents, and listening to parental concerns means first understanding before offering advice.
- The most important thing to say to parents every day: remind them how much you love being with their child.
- How we talk to children matters. They will imitate you, what you say, and what you do, and they listen to everything
- How you arrange your classroom, your schedule and your materials influence how your children play. The most important aspect is to encourage exploration and all kinds of play with concrete objects and basic classic toys like blocks, puzzles, paint, and art supplies.
- Often less is more and simply being out in nature and with others can be the best teacher.
- Create a sense of community in your classroom based on trust. Children do not learn anything if they do not feel safe. Your primary job to make sure they feel safe.
- Your classroom is your students' first experience of what it means to be a member of a community, including learning that they have rights and responsibilities here, that conflicts are a natural and normal part of living with other people, and that learning to solve conflicts is a lifelong skill.

Back to School at CCC

The new school year has started, and the learning and fun are in full swing!



This is the start of an exciting year for CCC as we officially launch *CCC Reimagined*, our strategic project to best and more efficiently serve our children and families by restructuring to a two-site model. When this project is complete, CCC will own two sites in Concord, one at **1300 Main Street** on the west side of town and one at **250 Old Bedford Road** on the east side of town.

Construction on our new site at 250 Old Bedford Road is scheduled to start later this month, and we just held our first pre-construction meeting with the Town of Concord. We will be celebrating groundbreaking on our new site with a community celebration on **Sunday, October 16** -- see more details below. And you can always get information about the project on the [CCC Reimagined](#) page of the [CCC website](#).

Advancement Updates

2021-2022 Fund for CCC Thank You

The 2021-2022 Fund for CCC closed on June 30 having raised **over \$103,731** for our children, our teachers, and our school — the highest amount in CCC history! We reached our highest current family participation rate last year as well — **80 percent** — and received donations from current families, teachers and staff, alumni families, grandparents, special friends and corporations! **Thank you** to everyone who supported us this past year — philanthropic support from our community is always important to CCC, and each donation is important and makes a difference.



Upcoming Events

Fall Social

The CCC fall social is back! After an unexpected three year hiatus, this year's social will take place on **Friday, September 16**, at **7:00 p.m.** at the home of West Concord parents Carrie and Jonathan Rankin, 95 Upland Road in Concord. As in past years, [West Concord Wine & Spirits](#) will be a part of the evening with wines and local beers for you to try.

All current parents and staff are invited to this fun event to celebrate the start of the school year -- please RSVP to CCC Development Coordinator [Jennifer Saxe](#) if you're planning to be there. Please note that this is an adult-only event ... for your convenience, CCC maintains a [list of CCHS students available for babysitting](#). Hope to see you there!



Community Celebration of 250 Old Bedford Road Groundbreaking

All CCC families and staff are invited to celebrate the groundbreaking of our new site at 250 Old Bedford Road with a community celebration at the Playscape at Ripley on the morning of **Sunday, October 16**. Start gathering on the Playscape at 10:30 a.m., and at 11:00, children's musical group [Rockabye Beats](#) will perform their fun mixture of singing, dancing, instrument jams, a little bit of Spanish, and a lot of silliness! We'll have construction hats for everyone ... bring your diggers, shovels, and other groundbreaking supplies! More details about this fun morning to follow closer to the date.



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!](#)



Upcoming Events

Important Upcoming Dates

September 16, 7:00 p.m.: Fall social
September 22: West Concord picnic
September 28: Ripley picnic
September 29, 7-8 p.m.: Emerson Back to School Night
October 6, 7-8:30 p.m.: West Concord Back to School Night
October 10: Columbus/Indigenous People's Day -- 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

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 every other month 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).

2022-23 Board Members

Tom Doherty, Chair (Ripley)
Shannon Sweeney, Vice-Chair (West Concord)
Stephan Bader, Treasurer (Alumni)
Meg Ansara (Alumni)
Phil Barr (West Concord)
Eric Boisvert (Emerson)
Katie Carr (Ripley)
JC Conti (CCC staff rep, West Concord)
Katherine Manning (Ripley)
Stacia Morabito (Ripley)
Yumi Suarez (Alumni)
Hayden Tilley (Emerson)

Christina Anderson (Alternate, West Concord)

Community News

Are You New in Town?

Are you new to Concord Children's Center or Concord? Looking to meet more people? [Concord Family Network](#), is a local non-profit, volunteer-run group of parents, based here in Concord working to unite, inform, and engage local families with young children (birth-6 years). We host many events throughout the year and hope you **join us!**

