

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

Calendar

June 19	Last day of School Year Program
June 20-21	CCC Closed Professional Days
June 24	First Day of Summer Program
July 4	CCC Closed/Concord's Picnic in the Park
July 24	All School Summer Picnic
August 16	Last day of Summer Program
August 19-23	CCC Closed
August 22	Open Classrooms at all sites
August 26	First Day of the school Year

Mark Your Calendar !
CCC Summer Picnic
at The Ripley Playscape
Wednesday, July 24, 6 PM



Coming in December: CCC Art Show at the Concord Public Library

Art at CCC – the why, the how, the stories, and the creations – will be featured in a month-long display in December in the second floor gallery at the main branch of the Concord Public Library. The exhibit will include displays of art from our children accompanied by information about the creative process, what the children learned, and the stories that they tell about art, both theirs and others. Save **Thursday, December 5**, from 4-7 p.m. for a community celebration of our children and their art in the gallery. More details to come in the fall!



Coming in December – Planning in July! Are you a museum loving parent, an art aficionado, or just love the idea of sharing our children's art with the town of Concord? We would love to have you join us as we plan and prepare for this exhibit. If you would like to help please contact Candice Campbell (office@concordchildrenscenter.org) or Jennifer Saxe (development@concordchildrenscenter.org.)



The Executive Directors Annual Report, Pat Nelson M.Ed.



Classroom Photo 1977

2018-2019 has been the kind of year that reminds me over and over what a truly special place we have in Concord Children's Center. As Executive Director I am enormously grateful for the community we build every year, a community ready and able to help advance CCC as we grow and change over time. Since our founding in 1975 families and staff have worked together to be the best we can be, responding to the changing realities and needs of children, families, and the world around us.

It seems like almost overnight we have grown from the 7 teachers, administrators and 35 children who came together at Harvey Wheeler in 1975 to be the first full time childcare program in Concord – making this vision happen on a budget of \$40,000. We now share three buildings with 232 children, their families and sixty staff. We have a budget of over three million dollars. Our infrastructure has grown along with the rest of the world's. We now use text, email, our website, and Facebook to communicate with our families. The addition of the Kaymbu has allowed us to document and communicate the learning taking place at CCC. Most recently we have started to replace the color coded paper forms used since the beginning of time, to collect the important information we need to keep children and families informed, safe and well served; with an on-line form filling platform. We introduced the use of an assessment tool in 2010, added a level of security to all of our buildings in 2013, developed a Center Wide Inclusion Policy and determined in 2016 we would continue with NAEYC Accreditation. What has made all of these policy and practice decisions work so well, is the level of involvement in studying problems and coming to solutions by the staff and family community at CCC. We joke that we can barely change a lightbulb without a committee. However, when we do change the light bulb it works quite well.

This year as we look forward to changing the model of our school from a three site to a two site program and finding a home for the combined Emerson and Ripley school, I am immensely grateful for this tradition of involvement by a broad group of interested members of our community. Over the past two years former Board Chair Campbell Rowe has led the Long Range Planning Committee consisting of parents, teachers and administrators; in a planning and decision making process, leading to the recommended two site model. Our treasurer Stephan Bader, alumni parent who's Ripley three year old is now in college, our business manager, Melissa Gallo, also an alumni parent, the program directors and several financially savvy parents have been pouring over the numbers, to create a plan. Jennifer Saxe the Development Coordinator has been working with her team of parents and alumni to create the systems we need to build our fundraising over the next few years to help support the building project. With the help of a brand new parent Tom Doherty, who came to us with lots of fundraising experience and a his six month old baby, the Annual Appeal committee, and the generosity of our current families, alumni and community friends we increased this year's annual Appeal by almost 50%. This kind of participation and support combined with energy and tenacity makes for a powerful organization with a wonderful 44 year legacy and a brilliant future.

2018-19 Has been a year filled with joy and unfortunately some sadness. In November we lost Dotty Whittier, a Ripley teacher for over 12 years. Dotty was a beloved teacher, and amazingly positive presence at CCC. On Saturday June 8th CCC remembered Dotty at a gathering of families and friends in the beautiful playscape at Ripley. Dotty loved our outdoor space and was often seen throughout the winter in a full one piece snowsuit, playing along with the children. In the warmer months one of her favorite activities was building Fairy houses. On Saturday we celebrated Dotty by building our own Fairy Houses which can be seen scattered around the Playscape. Gage Whittier, Dotty's husband presented CCC with a check to begin a fund in Dotty's name. This fund will be used to provide financial scholarships for CCC families. It was a beautiful day and embodied much of what made Dotty so dear to all of us. The Full Annual Report can be viewed at

www.concordchildrenscenter.org



Long Range planning Update – CCC Two Site Model Concept

Over the past year the Long Range Planning committee and the CCC Board have been working on a plan to create a two site model for CCC. West Concord will continue serving the west side of Concord and a location on the east side of Concord will be developed to house both the Emerson and Ripley programs.

CCC has been looking at land in Concord to lease and upon which to build, find a residential property on enough land to develop and expand for use as a school or identify a suitable existing development in which to lease indoor and outdoor space.

What is the two site concept?

In order to maintain our current number of students we would set a goal of two schools, each housing a daily capacity of 98 students. This model allows us to increase our total daily capacity by four students.

Currently daily capacity is:

- West Concord 98 (3 infants, 9 toddlers, 60 preschoolers and 26 after schoolers)
- Ripley 66 (3 infants, 9 toddlers, 30 preschoolers and 24 after schoolers)
- Emerson 28 (13 infants and 15 toddlers)

In the two site concept we will factor the need to have enough preschool spaces at each school to assure we can accommodate all of the toddlers moving on to preschool. To achieve this we are modelling two schools, each with three infant toddler classrooms, three preschool classrooms and an after school classroom/space.

This is not the first time CCC has relocated and created a new school, we are looking forward to working again with teachers, families and administration to see this project come to life.

RIVERFEST IS COMING UP THIS JUNE!



Don't miss the celebration...

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
RIVERFEST 2019! JUNE 22 &
23, 2019**

Celebrate *your* Wild and Scenic River at RiverFest, June 22nd and 23rd—a weekend of free activities, from Lowell to Framingham, celebrating our local Wild and Scenic Rivers.

With free walks, paddles, talks, explorations, music, and family-friendly adventures led by local organizations, there is something for everyone.

Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge on Sat June 22nd, with family fishing, arts and crafts, hotdogs available through Friends of the Assabet, and other fun activities.

On **Sunday visit the Old Manse in Concord** for a full afternoon of kids activities, tours, music, and the now-famous Family Cardboard Boat Race.

For Information: <http://sudbury-assabet-concord.org/riverfest2019>