

CCC Newsletter

Publisher: CCC

Volume No.8

Issue No. 7

Date: May 5, 2015



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

May & June at CCC –Special Friends Day May 8!

CCC Calendar: March & April

May 8	Special Friends Day
May 13	CCC Board Mtg. and Phonathon
May 19	Ripley Picnic
May 21	Garden Night at Emerson
May 25	CCC Closed for the Holiday
May 28	Preschool Field Day
Jun 4	West Concord Picnic
Jun 10	CCC Annual Meeting
Jun 18-19	CCC Closed for Professional Days
Jun 22	First Day of CCC Summer Session

Spring Annual Appeal Fun facts



- To date, the Annual Appeal has raised over \$12,000 for our school and our children!
- 51 current families -- almost one in three -- and 33 alumni families have made a donation.
- It's not too late for you to make a donation! The Second Ask letter goes out this week.



May 13: CCC Annual Appeal Phonathon

On Wednesday evening, May 13, CCC Board members will be calling our

families to ask them to support our Annual Appeal. The Board gathers at 1300 Main Street for pizza and phone calls. When they call, we hope families will not only donate but will also take this opportunity to ask questions and share their impressions of CCC with our wonderful board members.



End of the Year Events

Watch your **Parent Pockets** for the many classroom events planned for the end of the year.

From plays to pizza parties, art shows to game nights - your child's teachers are planning events to celebrate the end of another wonderful year.



Get Ready to Run! The Thoreau School Road Race is May 17.

Get fit this spring with the Thoreau School's 9th Annual Road Race, a community wide celebration, Sunday, May 17! Register TODAY to avoid lines and save on the registration fee.

<http://www.thoreauptg.org/road-race/>

All events take place at the Thoreau School, 29 Prairie Street, Concord. See you at the Finish Line!



Discovery Days at Ripley Playscape

On Sunday May 3rd over 200 moms, dads, grandparents and children attended Discovery Day for Young Families at Ripley. Please feel free to discover the Playscape on your own – enjoy the rolling and sliding hills, the nests, the sand ship, and the musical drum. Two additional Discovery Days will take place in June, one for seniors and one for adults and older children with special needs. For information:

<http://www.ripleyplayscape.org/discovery-days.html>



Zen and the Art of Early Childhood Education

(Courtesy of Kathy Reticker, CCC Executive Director 1992-2004)

On the next two pages parents of our five year olds or soon to be five year olds, will find helpful information about the transition to Kindergarten. As I was trying to put an article together on why CCC does not see our years with your children as a time spent “getting children ready for kindergarten”, Joanne, CCC’s Administrative Director, reminded me of an article written fourteen years ago by my predecessor, Kathy Reticker. I would be hard pressed to improve upon Kathy’s words.

- *“Our mission is to provide a wonderful place to spend one’s childhood, not so tomorrow will be brighter, but so today will be filled with opportunities for delight...The concept of pre-school as simply a step or preparation for the next thing seems wrong....Childhood is a time in its own right with its own experiences. The excitement of learning something new, mastering a new challenge, or simply running and playing are important. As the pressure to succeed and MCAS tests trickle down to the younger (and younger) grades, it is like swimming upstream to suggest we stop and think about what really is important in Childhood. All of this is not to say that children leave CCC ill prepared for kindergarten. Our goal is to have them leave with their natural curiosity and love of learning intact, with a sense of self confidence and ability to be a friend. We strive to listen to children, to meet them where they are and help them take the next step.”*

Kathy’s words ring as true in 2015 as they did in 2001, perhaps even more so. Much has been written in the literature about the importance of early childhood education, not as a mini-version of elementary education, but as its own phenomenon, where children can grow and thrive in the presence of talented and caring teachers, skilled in the ways of nurturing the hearts and minds of young children.

Your children are ready to move on to kindergarten because we are committed to remaining in each child’s “present”, each day they are with us; confident they will be ready to experience their next

step as they move on.

How Do We Use Our Annual Appeal Dollars?

Maintaining and improving our Buildings

One of the things that make CCC so special is our history. In 1975 the founders Chris McVinney and Deborah Begner opened the Center with 5 teachers and sixteen children. By the end of the year there were 40 CCC children playing in the classrooms at the Harvey Wheeler Building in West Concord. In 1981 CCC opened a second site at the Ripley Building outside of Concord Center and in 1986 our first “babies and toddlers only” site opened on the campus of Emerson Hospital. In 2002 we moved out of the Harvey Wheeler Building and into our new West Concord Site at 1300 Main Street

With this history comes the responsibility of maintaining our buildings and the need to have a plan for capital investments. West Concord is the only building we own and we have taken seriously the importance of preserving this asset. With long term leases at both Emerson and Ripley we are able to make capital investments above and beyond the maintenance provided by our landlords; the Town of Concord and Emerson Hospital.

With the support of our Annual Appeal we are planning the following improvements over the next five years – some are fun and some are simply the necessary expenses that come with aging buildings.

At West Concord we will be:

*Replacing the Cork Floors in the Classrooms
Replacing aging pipes in our sprinkler system
Painting the interior and exterior
Adding playground equipment and a shed for outside curriculum (the fun stuff!)
Replacing the roof at the end of its projected 30 year life*

At Ripley

*We will continue to support the development of the Playscape at Ripley
Invest in improved air-conditioning for the three classrooms*

At Emerson we will be

*Replacing the flooring in three rooms
Replacing the decks on each side of the house
Upgrading the shed*

We thank our families and our Alumni families for their continued support.

Registration required for all programs: lmattthews@jri.org or 978-287-0221

- Tuesday, May 12**
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Bedford **Taming Toilet Training** presented by Developmental Specialist Jill Vetstein, LICSW. This seminar includes understanding different potty training approaches, learning techniques and resources, necessary developmental signs before beginning, how to introduce and implement the potty, expectations and challenges.
- Wed., May 20**
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Concord **Raising a Bilingual Child** presented by Teresa Burke, Co-founder of *Hola La*. This interactive workshop will present some of the research on the benefits of **Carlisle** bilingualism, including cognitive, cultural, and socioeconomic. Teresa will share ideas, activities, and strategies that parents can use at home to maintain or teach their heritage language to their children.
- Tuesday, June 9**
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Concord **Toddler Talk: “Wabbit versus Rabbit” What’s “Normal” in Toddler Language Development** presented by Angela O’Hara, M.S., CCC-SLP. Focus on 18-48 mos. Will address comprehension, expression, articulation, pragmatics/social expectations.

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

To be added to the monthly reminder email for Adoption Learn & Play: email lmattthews@jri.org

To contact the facilitator, Mary Rowlinson, R.N. – mrowlinson@jri.org or 978-287-0221, ext. 218.

- April 8:** **Temperament vs. Personality** – As parents, do we blend well with our children or need some day-to-day tips on nurturing their inborn temperament?
- May 13:** **Secret Thoughts of Adoptive Mothers** – a focus on moms in honor of Mother’s Day
- June 10:** **A Look at the Wise-Up Workbook and Life Books** – interactive adoption-based projects you can work on with your child.



**D.W. Counts Down to Kindergarten
June 5, 6:30 – 5:30 at the Concord Scout House**

Arthur’s younger sister gets help from her family and friends as she prepares to enter kindergarten. This 20-minute play performed by KidStage Acting Company will include opportunities for children to participate and lots of helpful ideas for parents. There will be a StoryWalk to read on your way over from the parking lot, and refreshments served by Whole Foods. This program is appropriate for all children

entering kindergarten in Fall 2015. **Registration is required to attend this program due to space limitations of the building. Please email lmattthews@jri.org or call 978-287-0221 with the number of participants and the town that you live in.**

Friday, June 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Concord Scout House

The Center for Parents and Teachers
in collaboration with the
Concord Public Schools

Presents

***Smoothing the Transition to
Kindergarten:
Ways Families Can Best Support School Readiness***



A special program for
Incoming Kindergarten Parents

featuring

Jeanine Fitzgerald

Parenting Educator, Teacher Trainer
and School System Consultant



Jeanine will discuss what you can do to prepare
your child for a smooth transition to Kindergarten.
She has over two decades of experience working with children of all ages
in many types of educational settings.
Insightful, **very funny**, and entertaining, Jeanine has a wealth of information
and practical strategies to share with you.



Tuesday, June 2, 2015
7:00 PM
Alcott School Auditorium
93 Laurel Street
Concord



-No registration necessary-
-Free and open to all-