

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



November & December 2015

Calendar

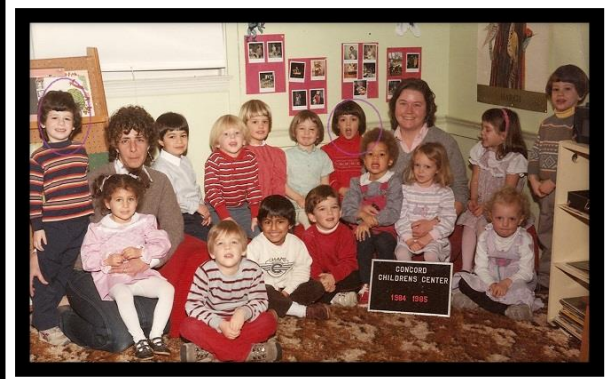
Nov 5	Optional After School AM
Nov 7	Bookshop Fundraiser
Nov 11	Optional After School AM Board meeting @ Ripley
Nov 13	Dec. Opt Days Requests Due
Nov 14	Enrollment Open House
Nov 26 & 27	CCC Closed for Holiday
Dec 24	Half day
Dec 25	CCC Closed for Holiday
Dec 28-31	Optional Days
Jan 1	CCC closed for Holiday

Bookshop Fundraiser Saturday Nov. 7

Kickoff your holiday shopping at The Concord Bookshop and support Concord Children's Center at the same time! The Bookshop will donate 10% of all purchases all day long to CCC. CCC teachers will be reading to children throughout the morning



40th Anniversary Alumni/Baby Match



Two of our West Concord Circle Room babies have CCC Alumni parents, (conveniently circled) who learned and played together at West Concord in 1985. Can you match the Parents to the Babies? Hint one of these 1985 preschoolers chaired the CCC Auction in 2012 and 2013.



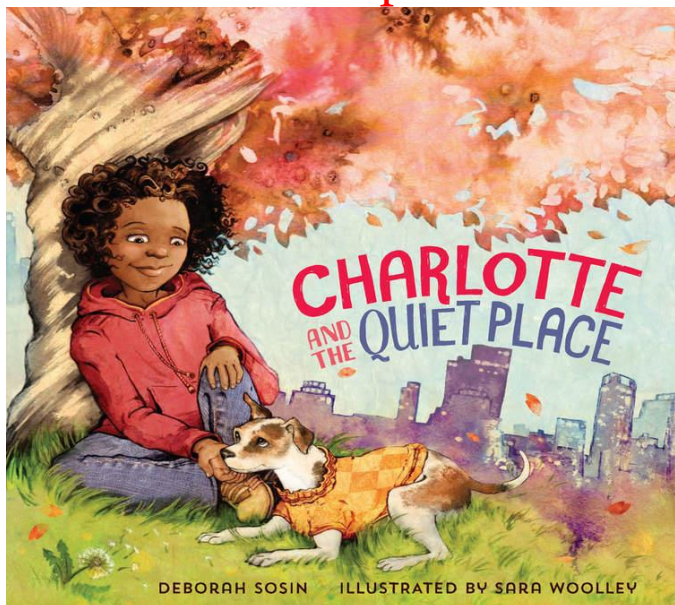
Educational Practice at CCC: A Sand Bucket, two toddlers and the New York Times

"Work is increasingly like pre-school. Sharing and negotiating matter" In a New York Times article Claire Cain Miller made



the case for why today's workers need an education that more closely resembles a pre-school classroom than a lecture hall. Teaching negotiation and sharing to children happens daily in pre-school without a teacher lecturing to children about these terms and their value in the workplace. The curriculum looks much like something that happened last week on the Toddler playground at Ripley. Sharing and negotiation unfolded naturally and organically with a teacher nearby to observe and reinforce the behaviors. Carefully, not interfering, she let two children figure out how to share a sand toy with pre-school friends by propelling it over the toddler fence and into the pre-school play yard. Eventually the two toddlers involved discovered a way to work together to catapult the toy over the fence. Later the teacher brought this story to the team's planning time, to be used to develop activities that would build on these emerging sharing and negotiating skills. This is curriculum at CCC.

Pat's Pick For the Bookshop Fundraiser



This book recently came to my attention via the Huffington Post. *Charlotte and the Quiet Place* shows how a child discovers mindful breathing and experiences the beauty of silence.

Our children are growing up in an increasingly complex and busy world. Educators and child development specialists recognize the importance of starting with very young children to build resilience and develop healthy coping strategies. Mindfulness, meditation, and yoga are recognized as valuable tools for children to integrate into their daily lives. During 2014 – 15 school year CCC teachers participated in professional development workshops to learn techniques for bringing relaxation and mindfulness techniques into the classroom. *Charlotte and the Quiet Place* offers a reading experience through which you and your child can explore mindfulness.

December Optional Days –



November 13 Deadline

Families planning to bring their children to school on December 28, 29, 30, or 31 will need to let us know by November 13.

Watch for sign-up sheets at your child's classroom.

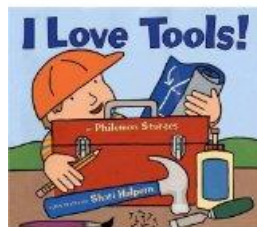
In 2015 CCC Celebrates 40 years of welcoming families and teachers into the CCC community – Please join us as we celebrate throughout this school year!

Saturday, November 7 Things to do after stopping by the bookshop!

Dad & Me STEM Project Build a Bird Feeder!

Children aged 4-8 are invited to register for this special program. Each child will build a sturdy wooden bird feeder that can be hung or mounted on a post. Children will leave with a ziplock bag of birdseed, and a book to help them identify birds that may use their feeder. Limited to 20 children. One parent can supervise up to 2 children.

Nov.7, 10:00 a.m. Held at Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street
lmattews@jri.org or 978-287-0221 to register



StoryWalk Day

We will set up the book "I Love Tools," about a family that builds a bird house in their back yard, on the grounds of Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street, West Concord. Please stop by and

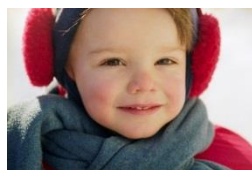
enjoy a walk and a story. We will leave the storywalk set up from November 7 to 12.

World's greatest auction needs you!



On April 9 CCC families will attend a great party and raise money for CCC capital improvements, professional development and scholarships. The way we do this is by having the world's greatest auction of things families need – vacations, museum passes, Spa Days for mom or dad, a camp experience, a night out in West Concord, and the list goes on. We need volunteers to help with the solicitation of these donations. It is a small, time limited commitment. If you can help please contact: Jennifer Saxe at ccc-development@verizon.net

Cold Weather Wear



Outside play happens year round at CCC. Please remember to dress your children for the weather.

The Concord Children's Center Annual Appeal –

What Is It, and Why Does CCC Have One?

Let's start with a statement of fact: sending your child/ren to CCC is not cheap. The same things that make the CCC experience so special for our children – two lead teachers in each classroom, high teacher retention rates, lovely outdoor play spaces, special programs – are also expensive. So, given that tuition is at the level that it is, why does CCC need to ask families for Annual Appeal donations on top of this? And what is the Annual Appeal anyway? Let's start by answering the second of these two questions first.

The Annual Appeal is an annual fundraising effort to support the CCC operating budget. Donations are made and spent during the school's fiscal year (July 1-June 30), so donations need to be renewed every year. Annual Appeal donations benefit areas throughout the school, including teacher professional development, CCC's excellent education program, and tuition assistance.



August 2015 Teacher Training

That explains what the Annual Appeal is ... but why does CCC have one? Believe it or not, the answer to that question is that running the Annual Appeal allows CCC to keep tuition as low as possible. As a non-profit organization,

CCC is predominantly tuition-driven, meaning that the income in the operating budget which goes to run the school comes primarily from tuition. This means that CCC is almost entirely dependent on tuition for everything. Whether it's introducing a new program, increasing teacher salaries, hiring new staff, or buying new materials for our classrooms – all of these decisions can potentially impact tuition. Having another reliable income source, such as a strong Annual Appeal, gives CCC the flexibility to make decisions like these that improve the school for our children without impacting tuition.

Similarly, in years when enrollment is not strong and tuition is, correspondingly, down, having a strong Annual Appeal allows CCC to continue to offer our children a strong, well-rounded program, rather than cutting teaching time or program offerings in order to stay within a reduced operating budget.

In sum, the Annual Appeal lets CCC offer the best range of programs and opportunities for our children while helping to keep tuition as low as possible. Your donation to the Annual Appeal helps make this happen – donations of any size are important, appreciated and make a difference.



CCC families this month will receive the first Annual Appeal solicitation letter for this year. We hope that all of our families will consider supporting CCC and everything that it makes possible for our children by making a donation. Donation materials are enclosed with the letter, or you may donate via the CCC website: www.concordchildrenscenter.org. Thank you!

Preschool Teachers & Parents Evening at the Museum



Thursday, November 19
6:00 - 7:30 pm

RSVP to cm1@concordmuseum.org by November 17

The Concord Museum offers ongoing and special opportunities for young families to learn together, as well as preschool programs at the Museum. Learn about our family-friendly activities, and enjoy an evening out at the Museum. Refreshments will be provided and staff will be on hand to answer your questions. We're looking forward to welcoming you!



- Discover history at hands-on stations
- Try a Museum Scavenger Hunt
- Use our Family Trail Guide

- Explore Children's Literature during **Family Trees**
- Read a book together in the galleries
- Learn more **online**



Programs at First Connections

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

Monthly Post-Adoption Support Group for Parents with Children 0-8

Our free, facilitated, post-adoption support and education group is a place where adoptive parents can meet and share resources with other adopted families, as well as build their parenting skills with adoption-specific educational topics and tools. Our schedule of Fall topics includes:

Nov. 18: Overview of the 7 Core Issues of Adoption..

Dec. 16: Transracial Parenting-Your Child's Culture.

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. at First Connections, Concord

Weekly Emotional Wellbeing After Baby Group

Anxiety and depression are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, yet mothers often feel isolated and ashamed if they are struggling. Moms experiencing new or increased anxiety or depression, or who are feeling overwhelmed in the postpartum year can come together for this supportive, nonjudgmental, confidential group to share stories and learn from each other. While this is an ongoing, weekly group, before attending for the first time please contact the facilitator, Laurie Ganberg, LICSW at lganberg@jri.org or 978-287-0221, ext. 219. Childcare for an older sibling can be provided with advance notice.

Every Monday, 10-11:30 at First Connections on the Emerson Hospital Campus, Concord