

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING VETERANS

Happy Veterans Day!



Today we would like to take a moment to thank to all our Veterans, especially CTC's very own Alex, Chris & Joe! We're proud to have you as part of our staff. We thank you for your dedication and sacrifice!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Celebrate!
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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CELEBRATE THE VISITORS!

We are very excited to invite you to our Friday Training presentation on November 15th. We welcome special guest, **Anie Knipping** who will present her book, ***Eccentricity- A Journey through a Mind***. This is an amazing book, and even Temple Grandin says, "Anybody who is interested in creativity should experience this book. I think it will help people understand the sensory world of a person with autism."

Anie will have copies of her book with her available for sale; don't forget your checkbook or cash! The book is also available online for free! Check it out!

<http://www.theseventhstarprojects.com/eccentricity.html>

Please RSVP to jhammond@celebratethechildren.org if you wish to join us for this special presentation at the Wharton campus on Friday, November 15th beginning at 1:45pm.

A note from Anie:

Hullo, all, my name is Anie, I'm autistic, and I wrote/illustrated this book on what it's like to be me. There are visuals of my oversensitive sensory system, the surreal nature of living with Synesthesia, illustrated maps of social/sensory theories I've made to make sense of the world, the history of the people who live in my head, and more.

Because of my unusual position in all this, I felt compelled, nay, duty-bound, to fill the void between the outside world and the various states of mental aberration that I hold. There are times I've felt I was made for this sole purpose, and for the longest time I feared dying with it unfinished. I fear it no longer.

A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES SIBLING DAY

On Friday, November 8th CTC hosted its annual Sibling Day! Our students were able to spend the day with their siblings and show them all of the wonderful things they do at school. Siblings were able to engage in fun activities including making their own Super Hero, going horseback riding, creating family trees, and navigating obstacles courses.

As CTC just honored this special relationship in our student lives with sibling day, we thought it would be a great opportunity to highlight this important but sometimes overlooked group of children: Siblings of Children with Special Needs. Siblings experience many challenges while growing up as well as many enriching experiences.

“Kids who grow up with a sibling with special health or developmental needs may have more of a chance to develop many good qualities, including:

- patience
- kindness and supportiveness
- acceptance of differences
- compassion and helpfulness
- empathy for others and insight into coping with challenges
- dependability and loyalty that may come from standing up for their sibling.” (Boyse, 2009)

Like all children, siblings will experience a range of positive and negative feelings. It is important to validate their feelings and allow a healthy expression. “When parents tune in to the individual needs of each child in the family, they can help ease the difficulties”. (Boyse, 2009)

Parent Tips from Dr. Gurian (2013):

SPECIAL TIME - “Parents, focused on including their child with special needs as a full member of the family, may tend to give less attention to the needs of their other children. It is important, however, to try to give each (child) a regularly scheduled special time with each parent alone and together.” In Brady Rymers musical words of wisdom, “Being with You”, serves as an a reminder of the importance of connection and special time for each child!

It is also important for siblings to share special times together...

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES - “When planning family activities, remember that not everything has to be done with the whole family. When an activity is too taxing for the special child, arrangements can be made for his care while the family is out.”

IDENTITY/ SELF-ESTEEM- “Encourage each child to pursue own his/her own interests and give each one a special space for personal things.”

SUPPORT SYSTEMS- “Recognize each child's unique strengths and accomplishments and make sure they develop friendships outside the family. If a child is concerned about how a friend might react to his sibling, role-play some possible conversations and explanations.”

BE POSITIVE- “Find opportunities to complement each child for being helpful and for being a team player.”

FAMILY MEETINGS- “Parents should initiate periodic family discussions at a quiet time with no distractions. Providing a designated time would enable everyone to air feelings, positive and negative, and a way of talking about stresses such as peers, reactions of public, extra responsibilities and other accommodations. Kids should know it's okay to ask questions, and discussion should clarify any misinformation they may have picked up. Parents should try to maintain calm, modeling an attitude of coping, communicating and actively seeking ways to solve problems. Research shows that avoidance of these issues may lead to children's difficulties as adults in expressing emotions, in establishing relationships and vulnerability to depression.”

Siblings have an important role in our student's lives. CTC's Sibling day is simply celebrating this sibling relationship. Our goal, like a family's goal, is to build opportunities for bonding and celebrating a connection. Our students and their siblings created CTC family trees each individual leaving their unique imprint, their handprint, to create the leaves and roots of our trees.

As Laura Smith summarizes her sibling relationship from her CTC blog entry, “Throughout the years Eric has opened my eyes to a different way of thinking and I am by far a better person because of it.”



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM PAULA'S CLASS

Ms. Paula's class is getting excited for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday! We have been learning the history of the holiday and practicing our social skills that will help us enjoy the day with our families. Songs, finger plays and vocabulary lessons help the students understand what the holiday is about. One of our favorite songs, "The Turkey Trot", gets us moving and learning to move isolated parts of our body. "The Turkey Trot" is sung to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey" using all the parts of the turkey (wings, drumsticks, stuffing, waddle, turkey body) instead of our own.

Students have had a great time preparing many of the traditional Thanksgiving foods that we may have at our family gatherings. Recipes include pumpkin pie, cornbread, and some special, favorite recipes sent in by our families. Additionally, we have been practicing many skills including buttering rolls or cornbread, passing food at the table, and giving gifts (if visiting a family member).

We are thrilled to read a few Thanksgiving stories in Language Arts and Social Studies and can't wait to act out the story of the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Making pretzel stick Mayflowers will be a fun way to begin learning how the Pilgrims traveled to America.

Each season, our classroom bulletin board tree is updated and created by the students. It is now filled with beautiful red, orange and yellow leaves which the students made by dying coffee filters with food coloring and water. We also embellish our class owl tree each season with owl decorations. Both remind us what season we are in and what is happening around us.



*"The
mind is
not a
vessel to
be filled,
but a fire
to be
kindled."*

- Plutarch

A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM RELATED SERVICES

Since November 1st, the Related Services Department has been collecting canned goods for Denville Township Social Services and the Denville Food Party. Donations will be collected for two weeks and delivered by our students on November 15th. The **only** items needed include:

Canned Pumpkin
Pie crust
Evaporated milk
Gravy
Chicken broth
Corn muffin mix

Canned fruit
Bread crumbs
Stuffing
Cranberry sauce
Canned yams/sweet potato
Brownie/cake mix



If you would like to donate, please send items to school with your children or drop them off in the main office at each campus.

“Education
is all a
matter of
building
bridges.”

- Ralph
Ellison



COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION

The students at the Wharton Campus enjoyed a trip to Centenary College to see a show from the Stage Company's Young Audience Series. With even more plays and performances, the Young Audience Series is part of the professional Centenary Stage Company's mission to serve the region's youth with dynamic performances and workshops throughout the year.

Students enjoyed the Laura Numeroff Joffe repertoire, *If You Give A Pig a Pancake*. The show follows the enterprising journey of a young girl who accommodates the demands of a quirky piglet after eating pancakes. Their adventure is an escapade which becomes embroiled in taking a bubble bath, a little tap dance, taking a photo, mailing a letter, building a tree house, and of course, going back for more pancakes.

This season, the Young Audience Series offers stage adaptations of your favorite classic children's literature every third Saturday of the month at the Centenary Theater (aka The Little Theater) in the Seay Building on the campus of Centenary College, unless otherwise noted. Curtain time for all performances is 11:00am, unless otherwise noted. For more information on upcoming shows, please visit

<http://centenarystageco.org/O5SpecialPrograms/YoungAudienceSeries/index.asp>.

CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Save the Date

Annual Benefit
March 14, 2013
Randolph, New
Jersey

Formal Invitation to
Follow

It was born out of a vision and passion for children with alternative learning styles with 4 students in a small center. Now, we celebrate 10 years of excellence and passion with almost 120 students from over 70 school districts. Join us as we remember our journey and celebrate the past, present and future of Celebrate the Children at our annual benefit!

BLOG

This year, Celebrate the Children is introducing a BLOG! Contributions to the blog will be made by Celebrate the Children's highly talented, interdisciplinary team, as well as some of our wonderful families. Posts will include personal stories, experiences or advice as it relates to our students and children with similar gifts. If you would like to contribute to our blog, please email jhammond@celebratethechildren.org, we'd love to share your story! Please visit our website to read our entries!



WHY ARE WE USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHY SHOULD YOU FOLLOW US?

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and now affects 1 in 50 children. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined.

We are at an important time in the field of special needs intervention as many people are beginning to recognize the need for approaches that look at the overall development of a child and target areas such as abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self-esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting. At this time, the demand for this type of intervention is much greater than what clinicians and educators are able to supply. Therefore, it is crucial that we share the amazing programs we have to offer and the "how to" with others.

To fulfill our mission, we need your help and ask you to participate with us in the development of work, in the sharing and building of materials, and in the structure and growth of our organizations: Celebrate the Children and Profectum. Like us on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and spread awareness of progressive programs that support families and help individuals reach their highest potential and find success in society.

Please share our pages and posts with your family and friends! ☺



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15, 22
Small Group Parent Series
11:00am
Dover Conference Room

November 14th
Food Drive Donations Due

November 15th
Yankee Candle Fundraiser Due

November 20th
Coffee with Dr. Mike
9:30am
Administration Building

November 20th
Thanksgiving Feast
11:00am
Wharton Campus

November 20th
PTO Meeting
1:00pm

March 14th
Annual Benefit
Celebrating 10 Years!

Celebrate the Children
A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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