

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

# LEGO Room

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Lego Room
- Classrooms
- Upcoming Events

We had a large turn out again this Saturday for the Lego Room Eagle Scout Project! There is much excitement around this project and the Lego donations are starting to pour in! ! The BIGGEST of Thank You's to Keith H, his family & BS Troop 72 Parsippany!



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

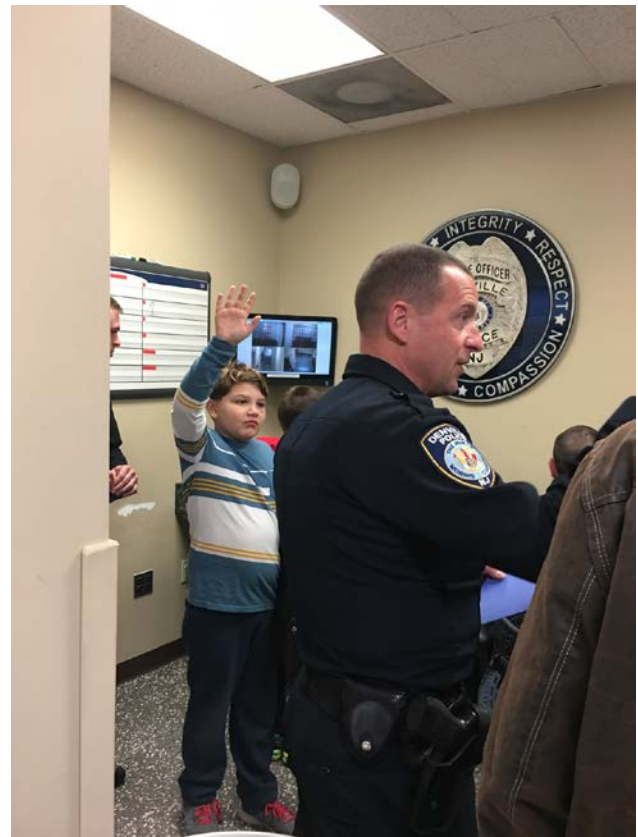
A Peek Inside the Classrooms  
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## A PEAK INTO THE CLASSROOM AMANDA'S CLASS

This week we have been learning about Community Helpers. To show our appreciation we baked cookies and made cards for the Denville Police Officers. Wednesday for CBI we visited the police station and gave them their cards and cookies. The Denville Police officers then gave us a tour of the building. We had a blast and the students really enjoyed seeing the station and learning about what the officers do there to keep us safe.



## **A PEAK INTO THE PROGRAM FC LISA'S CLASS**

Newsletter Submission from FC Student Gil Tov:

I am Gil, and typing is my freedom that I did not know before Celebrate the Children school. I have been given this wonder from my loving parents who never stopped their belief in my intelligence and my personality. They found typing for me and this has grown into my beautiful life. Now everyone knows that I truly am this guy with many ideas, jokes and full of intelligence and love. One day I dream of college now my mind is free. Thank you to everyone who also believes in me and the dreams of those who think or express in different ways. You have made many dreams come true and thank you for being a group that lives to dream as well. The students at our school have unlimited talent and potential if you believe in our intelligence, creativity and power. There is much to be learned for me and also a great amount to be learned from the great different people who are my friends. I am a happy guy now that I have found my wonderful voice that is a bit different but growing stronger every day. I am proud and believe the future is ours when there are big thinkers in the world like there are at Celebrate the Children.

## **A PEAK INTO THE NURSE'S OFFICE NURSE MARY**



In order to provide a safer environment at Celebrate the Children, we are excited to announce that fourteen staff members will become Heartsaver CPR/ AED Certified on Feb 16th! The certification process will take place at our campus and will be provided by St Clares Training Center. The staff members selected for the training work in different areas throughout the building. This will insure that there is always someone available in the event of an emergency. Many thanks to the CTC Foundation for providing us with a grant to fund this training.



## A PEAK INTO THE PROGRAM SFSS

PLAY: An essential *job* in childhood for healthy development

Did you ever wonder why “*play*” is emphasized in CTC’s DIR FloorTime educational and therapeutic interventions?

Play is a native manner of expression found across species and occurs throughout the lifespan into adulthood. Yes, play is a vital activity for healthful living for children and adults.

In childhood, *play* is a facilitator of development. Human children use play as a medium for self-expression. Play serves as a powerful force in the drive toward self-regulatory capacities, independence, symbolic thinking, and as a laboratory for interpersonal and intrapersonal conflict and resolution.

Play-based interventions are indispensable in CTC’s DIR FloorTime work. Play is not done for the sake of play. Play is an essential instrument used by CTC’s therapists and educators to organize a child’s experiences as we work toward strengthening the child’s relational, communicative, and cognitive functioning. Through play, meaningful relationships are developed, fostered and maintained in a fun way.

In summary, play:

- Facilitates maturational gains in the DIR Functional Emotional Developmental Levels
- Allows children a means of motoric expression of inner experience that they may not be able to express verbally or experiences that they may find threatening to express verbally
- Provides therapists and teachers with a means to conduct assessment of therapeutic and educational progress.

February 5-11 is *National Play Therapy Week*. We invite you to explore the following websites to learn more about play:

[The Association for Play Therapy](#)

[The Profectum Parent Toolbox](#)



# Celebrate the Children



School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles  
Developmental Individual Relationship-Based Intervention®

[www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org)

230 Diamond Spring Road Denville, NJ 07834

Phone: 973-989-4033 Fax: 862-244-4969

## Future Fair

Friday April 7, 2017

10:00 am to 12:00 pm



**Join us for our Annual Future Fair to learn about the world of opportunity waiting for you!**

**All are welcome!**

There will be a wide variety of Organizations, Programs, and Schools ready to share their resources including the following:

*JoyDew, The Felician 21 and Over Program, Wae Center, YMCA Real Life Choices, Allied Wealth Partners, Centenary University, ARC NJ, DVRS*

**RSVP: Jennifer Mandato, MA School Counselor**

**[jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org) 973-989-4033 ext. 413**

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January 24, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The New Jersey Special Olympics Area 3 is excited to host its annual Track & Field competition at Hackettstown High School for its 12<sup>th</sup> year. The date is set for **Saturday, May 6, 2017**. There is no rain date for the event. Based on the regulations from Special Olympics, all Celebrate the Children (CTC) students who are age 8 years or above are eligible to participate in the competition. Accommodations are made to support the athletes and each competitor is successful and receives a medal. All participating athletes must arrive for registration between 8:00 and 8:30 am and opening ceremonies begin at 9:00 am.

Special Olympics has updated their paperwork since our last time participating in the Track & Field competition. Each athlete must now have a valid PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM and ATHLETE MEDICAL FORM on file. The participant release form is new documentation. Both of these forms must be completed every three years. Special Olympics has stressed that they must have the ORIGINAL participant release form and athlete medical forms. They will not accept scanned or faxed copies. Please see the attached "Athlete Registration and Special Olympics NJ Medical Policy" for further information.

We have also included a CTC LETTER OF INTENT. Please fill out this form if you intend for your child to participate in the competition. It includes an area to document the competitor's t-shirt size. Each student will receive a shirt to wear during the competition and it is a souvenir for them to remember the experience.

Please be aware that this is not a CTC run event. We have learned that it is a long day for the students and there is a lot of waiting involved for all who participate. Unfortunately, we are not informed of times of events. Track events take place in the morning and field events (softball, TurboJay, and shot put) are in the early afternoon. Each athlete may compete in up to a maximum of two track events, one field event, and one relay race. In the event that the day is too long for your athlete, you have the option to participate in only the morning track session. If the wait time is not an issue, sign up your athlete for both the morning track and afternoon field events.

Please return the **ORIGINAL PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM, ATHLETE MEDICAL FORM, and CTC LETTER OF INTENT** to CTC (c/o Danielle Dieckmann and Lisa Bruno) by **Friday, March 3, 2017**.

Unfortunately, there is no exception to the due date. Any forms submitted after March 3<sup>rd</sup> will **NOT** be accepted and the athlete will be unable to participate in this year's competition. If your athlete competed in the past with CTC's Track & Field team, they have a current medical form on file unless we specifically notify you otherwise. These athletes will still need to submit a participant release form and CTC letter of intent.

If you have any questions regarding Special Olympics, please contact Lisa Bruno or Danielle Dieckmann at (973) 989-4033 x123. We look forward to another incredible partnership opportunity with Special Olympics. Go CTC Sea Turtles!

Sincerely,

Your CTC Special Olympics Coaches

**Special  
Olympics**  
New Jersey



Lisa Bruno, OTD, OTR

Danielle Dieckmann, PT, DPT

## SFSS Programs

### Parent Training Groups

**February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** - Bobbie Gallagher, MA, BCBA will be presenting on ***Sexuality & Hygiene for Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities - What Caregivers Need to know***. Adolescence can be a difficult time for children and families, and can be especially difficult for children with developmental disabilities and their families. This presentation will provide an overview of the specific challenges present during puberty and adolescence, specifically issues of sexuality and hygiene. Strategies for increasing independence in grooming, hygiene, health, and dressing will be reviewed. In addition, issues and strategies surrounding sexuality, modesty, privacy, boundaries and personal safety will be discussed.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am** - Michelle Attardi, SLP will be presenting an ***AAC Training on Programming a Device***. AAC training will help increase comfort with programming and backing up the device that supports their child's expressive language. This training will also help increase an understanding on functional use at home by problem solving ways to implement it for families.

**If you have any questions, would like more information on any of these trainings or to RSVP please contact:**

Jennifer Mandato, MA at [jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org) or  
973-989-4033 ext. 413

### **CTC Small Group Parent Series: "Developing Resilience & Reducing Stress"**

Will meet Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 11-12:30

in the CTC lobby conference room

To sign up you **must RSVP** to: Mady Kaplan or Stefanie D'Amore at the  
SFSS Dept.  
(973) 989-4033 ext 420 or 421



Please join us for the

# *Grand Opening*

of the

**JoyDew Job Training Center  
for adults with autism.**

Our state of the art training facility will train adults with autism for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, to provide them with opportunities for meaningful life and career development.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Sunday, February 12**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM at:**

**Limitless**

**30 Righter Avenue**

**Denville, NJ 07834**

For more information please contact: [anat@joydew.com](mailto:anat@joydew.com)



## CTC CONNECTIONS - RESOURCE WEBSITE

*...everything you need to navigate the journey!!*

On this site you will find access to a vast array of Local, State, & National Resources and Organizations dedicated to supporting children, families, and professionals. You can sign up for newsletters & publications, locate workshops, seminars and conferences, access webinars, find publishers, connect to other families, get homework help, and the list goes on!

We encourage you to explore, connect, and utilize the vast resources available to you through these organizations. The knowledge you will gain, the confidence it will afford you in your journey, and the community connections you will secure are invaluable!

Look for "CTC Connections" on the home page of the CTC School website

Go to the "MORE" tab, click on "RESOURCES", then "CTC CONNECTIONS"

<http://www.celebratethechildren.org/ctc-connections.html>

## Parent & Professional Presentation at CTC

### Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services & Supports Workshop

**When:** Thursday Feb 2, 2017, 6:30pm

**Where:** CTC Music Room

**For Who:** Parents & Professionals

**Presenter:** Katelynne Collick, DDD Coordinator, Employment & Transition Services

**RSVP REQUIRED:** to Jen M. at ext. 413 or [jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org)

#### TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Overview of DDD Services and Supports
- Timeline for new graduates
- Eligibility
- Application Process
- Budgets
- Service Descriptions

**This information is critical in the planning process for Transition and life after entitlements. We encourage EVERYONE to attend!**

## Morris County HOW

Our "HOW" Hands On Workshop Series

Is your student ready for life after high school?

Are you?

"HOW" is a five-part workshop series to help families navigate the transition from school to adult life.

Our NEXT MEETING of the 2016-2017 School Year is

**Monday Feb 13, 10:00-11:30am**

**RSVP REQUIRED**

email [Cheri\\_calexander@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:Cheri_calexander@celebratethechildren.org)

**TOPIC: "Yes your child can work! Working toward employment for people with IDD"**

#### UPCOMING PARENT TRAININGS AT CTC

- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10AM: Sexuality & Hygiene
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 12:30: Parent Healing Group, Meditation & Tonglen with Glen
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 11:30AM: AAC (Alternative & Augmentative Communication) Training

**RSVP REQUIRED**

Contact Jen Mandato at

[jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org)

#### CTC Parent Support Groups & SFSS Small Group Parent Series

We have a few Parent run Support Groups that meet on and off premise. Contact your SFSS Case Manager for more details!

We also strongly encourage families to reach out to their home communities for support and recreation opportunities!

## Morris County HOW

“HOW” is a five-part workshop series to help families navigate the transition from school to adult life. Our next meeting is **Monday, Feb 13, 10-11:30 am**

**RSVP REQUIRED**

Email Cheri at [calexander@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:calexander@celebratethechildren.org)  
Mark your calendars with additional meeting dates in the series: March 13

## Parent Trainings

**2/8** - 10am Sexuality & Hygiene

**3/3** - 11:30am AAC (Alternative & Augmentative Communication) training

**RSVP Required**

Contact Jen Mandato at [jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org)

## CTC Small Group Parent Series 2017 Winter Session

**“Developing Resilience & Reducing Stress”**

Meets on Friday, 2/10 & 2/17

from 11am-12:30pm in the CTC lobby conference room

To sign up you must RSVP to:

**Mady Kaplan or Stefanie D’Amore**  
@ 973-989-4033 X 420 or 421

## Light It Up Blue

March 31, 2017



## Special Oylmpics

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017**

Hackettstown High School

Registration 8-8:30am

Opening Ceremonies 9am

For questions contact:

Lisa Bruno or Danielle Dieckmann  
@ 973-989-4033 x 123



## Grand Opening

of the

**JoyDew Job Training Center**  
for adults with autism.

**Sunday, February 12, 1:00 – 4:00 PM at:**

**Limitless**

**30 Righter Avenue, Denville, NJ 07834**



## Benefit/Gala

March 11 @ 7pm

Meadow Wood Manor

461 NJ-10, Randolph, NJ 07869

**Future Fair**  
**Friday April 7, 10am – 12pm**  
**All are welcome!**

There will be a wide variety of Organizations, Programs, and Schools ready to share their resources.

**RSVP: Jennifer Mandato**

[jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org)

or 973-989-4033 ext 413

**Profectum's 5th International Conference**  
**Honoring Individual Differences: The Gateway to**  
**Supporting Neurodiversity**

Friday, March 31st thru Saturday, April 1st, 2017

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

San Marino, CA

Register @ [profectum.org](http://profectum.org)

Early Bird registration discount through 2/1/17



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