

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### 'TIS THE SEASON!

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 'Tis the Season
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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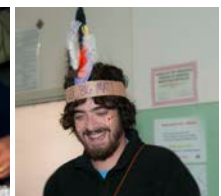
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At this time of the year, Celebrate the Children is reminded off all it is thankful for. We are thankful for all of our wonderful students, their fantastic families, all of our very talented, and dedicated staff, our tireless leadership team, and our new school building, which will allow us to re-join our schools, once again.



Last week, Celebrate the Children's staff and students enjoyed an incredible Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to all of our staff and parent volunteers for assisting in the preparation and a very special thank you to Ms. Patricia Fichter for all of her hard work, devotion and coordination in making this meal possible.

From our family to yours,  
Happy Holidays!



## WELCOME TO DENVILLE!

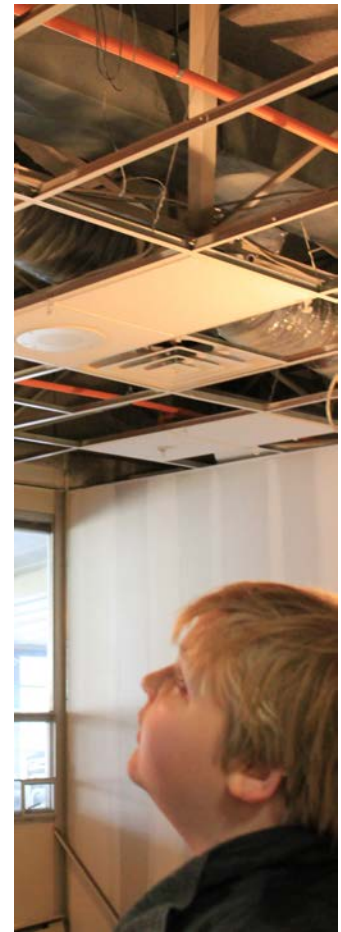
Construction is moving along at a rapid pace and our new Denville School is looking fabulous! We remain hopeful that we will move over the holiday break, we hope to celebrate a new year with a new school location. Celebrate the Children is happy to rejoin our schools and plant our roots in our new 70,000-square-foot building on Diamond Spring Road. The building will not only will allow us to share important resources, but also will provide our population with space needed to expand our educational programs to meet the diverse needs of our students.

The new campus will be divided into three wings: preschool/elementary, middle school and high school. There also will be a separate building for the adult program, including two apartments onsite. In addition to classroom space there will be dedicated art, music, science and yoga rooms, multiple sensory rooms and gyms, dedicated Floortime rooms, quiet work rooms, and multiple life-skills training environments.

**Parents are welcome to attend an informational session at their child's current campus during this month to learn more about our move, hear about our wonderful new campus, any schedule changes, and our process on preparing the students and how you can support your child. Please RSVP to the main office if you are interested in attending.**

**Dover Campus**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00am**  
**Dover Gym**

**Wharton Campus**  
**December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30pm**  
**Wharton Gym**



## PAJAMA DRIVE

It's time for the annual Scholastic Reading Club Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive benefitting the Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, caring classrooms across the country have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

Our school wants to be a part of this drive so that we can help make a better bedtime for these children. Together we can help the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive reach even more kids with pjs and books.

If you and your child are able to participate, please have your child bring in a new pair of pajamas to school by **December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

- Pajamas must be brand-new.
- Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.
- Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.
- Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they
- are flame-retardant and safe.



If you have any further questions regarding this program please contact Lauren Babcock at [lbabcock@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:lbabcock@celebratethechildren.org).

\*Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a sweet bedtime story.\*

PS: You can find out more about the drive and the program at: [scholastic.com/pjdrive](http://scholastic.com/pjdrive)

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM KELLY'S CLASS

In order to work on our fine motor and sequencing skills, Kelly's class has created paper-mache turkeys to use as a Thanksgiving centerpiece. We started with a balloon and applied newspaper with paper-mache. We then painted our turkeys, added feet, hats, eyes, beaks, and wings. We enjoyed making this holiday gift for our families. We also enjoyed discussing all that we have to be thankful for with our classmates!



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

*- Plutarch*

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM TIFFANY'S CLASS

Ms. Tiffany's class has definitely been enjoying the fall! We have been doing a lot of fall activities, lessons and crafts this month. In Science class we had a lesson on Apple trees and their life cycles. We cut open an apple and studied its parts and then learned about how the seed helps make a new tree. During the life cycle lesson, we talked about how the apple tree loses all its leaves in the fall. Because of this, a curious student asked about why trees lose their "Green Dye" in the fall so we had a side lesson on why leaves change color.

We also raked paper "leaves" in the classroom and then sorted them by color. We acted as Scientists and hypothesized what color leaves we would have more of. The majority of the class guessed Orange leaves and when we finished our sorting and counting we found that we had the most yellow leaves (orange was a very close second).

The class went on a nature hunt where we had to find certain fall items like a red leaf, an acorn, a pinecone, and a few other things. This was a big hit and the students had a fun time finding the items around the school property and in the woods behind the school. We had trouble finding pinecones, but one student found a coconut left under a pine tree! Each student brought their items back to class and they were used for our Thanksgiving Feast Centerpiece.




**A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
BY: WENDY BEFFERT**

**Volleyball!**

Let's face it, Volleyball at CTC is fun! Here at CTC I use a giant hot air filled "Airlite" ball made of parachute material to make it even more fun. What the students don't know, shhhh, is that they are also learning. They're motor (muscle) learning, which is why my class is called Physical *Education* and not just "gym". The slower floating ball affords students more time to develop eye-hand coordination. As they track the ball moving toward them and then experience the action of pushing it away, they are increasing what Dr. Wachs and Weider refer to as Coordination of body's axes, and is defined below. ([Visual/Spatial Portals to Thinking, Feeling and Movement](#), Serena Wieder, Ph.D. & Harry Wachs, Profectum Foundation, 2012)



  
*“Education  
is all a  
matter of  
building  
bridges.”*

**Coordination of body's axes** – Coordination of both sides of the body, upper and lower parts of the body and pivoting and twisting movements. Reciprocal interweaving of three main internal body axes: vertical, horizontal and transverse that control side-to-side, toward-away and clockwise-counterclockwise movements. Without an in depth knowledge of one's body axes, understanding and applying spatial coordinates and three dimensional concepts are difficult. These skills are vital to success in art, math, science, geography and industrial arts.

Please visit my website at [www.wendyspe.weebly.com](http://www.wendyspe.weebly.com) for more information.

- Ralph  
Ellison

**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](mailto: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

December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Early Dismissal  
Parent-Teacher Conferences

December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Welcome to Denville!  
Dover Parent Presentation  
10:00am  
Dover Gym

December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Last Day  
After School Program

December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Welcome to Denville!  
Wharton Parent Presentation  
1:30pm  
Wharton Gym

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Meeting  
1:00pm

December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Early Dismissal

December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Early Dismissal

December 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>  
School Closed  
Holiday Break

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Benefit  
Celebrating 10 Years!

**Celebrate the Children**  
A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033  
[www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org)