

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AMAZING ACTS OF KINDNESS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Amazing Acts of Kindness
- CEW@
- Special Upcoming Events

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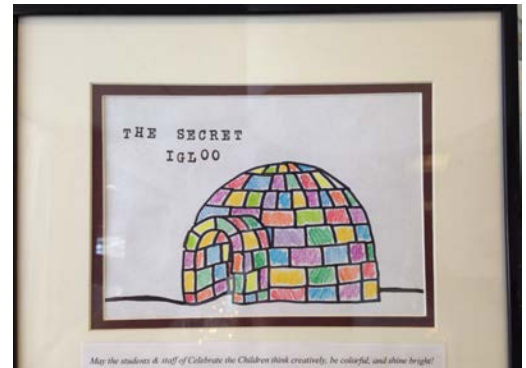
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A donation totaling \$5,000.00 from the Secret Igloo Fundraising event was presented to Celebrate the Children staff last Friday, by the amazing designer herself, Jenny Purner!

“Welcome to Denville, Celebrate the Children School!! With only having moved into Denville a little over one month ago, I hope our housewarming gift from Rockaway, Denville, and all neighboring areas makes you feel welcomed into the neighborhood!”

Thank you for welcoming us into the community and for this extraordinary gift. On behalf of all the students, staff and families, thank you and your team, from the bottom of our hearts!

“May the students & staff of Celebrate the Children think creatively, be colorful, and shine bright!” Jenny Purner February, 2014



AMAZING ACTS OF KINDNESS



A very special thank you to Veeral and his family! On Thursday, Veeral presented Lauren Blaszak with a very special gift. Veeral just celebrated his Birthday and instead of gifts, he asked that his friends make a donation to CTC and raised a total of \$595! What an extraordinary act of kindness and generosity! Thank you Veeral!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We are happy to announce that CTC will be participating in the **Special Olympics Area 3 Track & Field Competition** (LTP - Celebrate the Children). It is scheduled for **Saturday, May 3, 2014**. All of our students who are **age 8 or above** are eligible to participate in the competition. If your child is under 8 years old, we welcome them to attend and cheer on the competitors. We strongly encourage all of our students who meet the age requirement to partake in this amazing experience. Accommodations are made to support the students and each competitor is successful and receives a medal. Last year, we had about 40 students compete. It was an experience that all staff, students, and families will not quickly forget and we look forward to expanding our team this year.

In order for eligible students to compete, a Special Olympics medical form needs to be completed and signed by you and your child's physician and returned to CTC along with your letter of intent.

If you have any questions regarding the medical forms or the registration process, 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!



WHAT IS CONNECT EXPERIENCE WRITE (CEW)® ?

Handwriting the CTC way...

Connect Experience Write (CEW)® is a handwriting program created by occupational therapists Michele Parkins and Carrie Davis while at CTC. In CEW, students write letters using visual templates while listening to music that simulates the movements needed to form the letters. This combination of visual templates and auditory guides strengthens the visual spatial foundations related to writing.



Keeping relationships and emotional connection at the forefront, CEW classes begin as a group. Students participate in whole body movements to the beat of music to help them identify the top, middle, bottom, left, and right parts of their bodies – all important foundational concepts to writing. They then move their shoulders, elbows, wrists, and fingers to a song that helps them isolate the body parts used when writing. Lastly, gross motor movements are performed with a partner (called “Mirror Movements”) that correlate with foundational writing strokes – vertical line, horizontal line, curves, and diagonals. The music is comprised of the same tones as the music that is used for each letter.

As a developmental program, CEW letter groups progress according to development of writing strokes -- vertical and horizontal lines first followed by curves and diagonals. Students that are already writing still start foundationally with the vertical and horizontal capital letters (E, L, F, I, T, H) and progress from there to curves (D, B, P) and then diagonals (K), etc. They will then work on the lower case letters. The reason for this is that if students are having challenges with handwriting, chances are there are gaps in the developmental foundations needed for automatic fluid writing.

Connect Experience Write (CEW)® is an interpersonal handwriting program that uses sensory-motor integration and visual spatial concepts to facilitate the development of handwriting skills in students with alternative learning styles.

Listen to our very own, very talented, Occupational Therapist, Michele Parkins and Carrie Davis speak at the NJ Council for Exceptional Children! They will present their handwriting program, Connect Experience Write (CEW)®. They have many exciting developments, as they move forward and develop this program for a larger audience.

Connecting Students to Success

Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ

Hosted by: Ramapo College Teacher Education Program–The School of Social Science and Human Services

Monday, March 17, 2014 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Peggy McDonald, Director, New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education

<http://community.cec.sped.org/NJCEC/events/niceannualconference>

If you would like to learn more about CEW®, please contact Michele Parkins at mparkins@celebratethechildren.org.

**CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN
ANNUAL BENEFIT**

Celebrating 10 Years



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! Visit our website TODAY for more information, sponsorship opportunities or to reserve your tickets!

**CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN
PRESENTS THEIR**

ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CELEBRATION

**FEATURING ANIE KNIPPING
HONORING MR. CUONG DO**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014
7:00PM**

**MEADOW WOOD MANOR
461 STATE ROUTE 10 RANDOLPH, NEW JERSEY 07869**

Formal Attire

Raffle, Auction and Casino at Event

Music from the Al Louis Band and Brady Rymer

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANIE KNIPPING,
author and illustrator of Eccentricity: A Journey Through A Mind.

BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT: FINDING SOLUTIONS TO SPAN EMPLOYMENT GAPS

A conference for professionals highlighting best practices in supporting people with disabilities in career planning, customized employment, and transition from school to work.

- Keynote presenters: Lee Balsler and Geri Jewell
- 18 Conference Workshops on topics including: Supporting Employment First, Education/Transition, Model Transition Programs, Creative Employment Strategies, State Services, Community Resources, Behavior Supports, and Mental Health Resources
- Continuing Education credit: Social Work, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Education

Save \$25 with Early Bird Registration by February 21, 2014

Friday, March 21, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ

View more conference information at:

http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/departments_institutes/boggscenter/conferences/Facing_the_Future.html

Co-sponsored by The Boggs Center and NJ APSE: Association of People Supporting Employment First.

AWAKENING POTENTIAL THROUGH BRAIN SCIENCE PROFECTUM CONFERENCE MARCH 21-23, 2014

Research is providing insight into how the brain thinks, creates and feels. This scientific progress also reveals that for each person, brain plasticity allows competencies to develop even when early indications imply limitations.

We invite you to join us March 21-23, 2014 in Pasadena, California, for Profectum Foundation's 2nd International Conference. Keynote presentations by leading scientists, clinicians, and educators feature state-of-the-art research and treatment models to advance progress for individuals with Autism (ASD), Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD), behavioral and learning challenges of all ages.

Explore the newest scientific discoveries in "executive function", sensory processing, motor planning and timing, communication and oppositional behavior. These scientific findings confirm the use of the DIR-FCD Model in your home, classroom and clinic to enhance working memory, attention, self control, sensory motor integration and visual spatial knowledge. Case discussions and videos will demonstrate treatment strategies in all settings which support development of lifelong competencies for relating, thinking, feeling and functioning.

**New Insights and Interventions that Work
for Autism, Sensory Processing Disorders
and Oppositional Behavior**

**Profectum Foundation's 2nd International
Conference
March 21-23, 2014
at the Pasadena Convention Center,
300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA**



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! ☺



SNOW, SNOW, SNOW! SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATES

What a winter! Due to the most recent snowstorms and unexpected school closings, Celebrate the Children has modified its Winter Break Schedule. As of today we have updated our calendar and school will now be in session for half days on both Thursday and Friday, February 20th and February 21st. Therefore our Winter Break will now be Monday, February 17th through Wednesday, February 19th. Please refer to your child's backpack as well as the attachments in the weekly folder for an updated school calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 17th-19th
Winter Break

February 20th
School OPEN
Early Dismissal

February 21st
School OPEN
Early Dismissal

March 14th
Annual Benefit
Celebrating 10 Years!

March 17th
Connecting Students to Success
Conference
Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ

March 21st
Building Bridges to Successful
Employment
Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ

March 21st-23rd
Awakening Potential through Brain
Science
Profectum Conference

March 28th
Early Dismissal

Celebrate the Children
A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.celebratethechildren.org