



Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ARE YOU READY TO LIGHT IT UP BLUE?

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Light it Up Blue
- Special Upcoming Events

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Peek into the Program	2
Art Opening	2
MNRI Postural Conference	3
Spring Concert	4
Clothing Drive	4
Post Luck Dinner	4
Parent Teacher Conferences	4
Upcoming Events	5

On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139, tabled by the State of Qatar, which declares April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in perpetuity. This UN resolution declares WAAD as one of only four official health-specific United Nations Days and will bring the world's attention to autism, a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions. The World Autism Awareness Day resolution encourages all Member States to take measures to raise awareness about autism throughout society and to encourage early diagnosis and early intervention. It further expresses deep concern at the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent developmental challenges.

Autism Speaks celebrates their signature campaign, Light It Up Blue, along with Celebrate the Children and the international autism community, in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day. Light It Up Blue is a unique global campaign that kicks off Autism Awareness Month and helps raise awareness about the disorder.

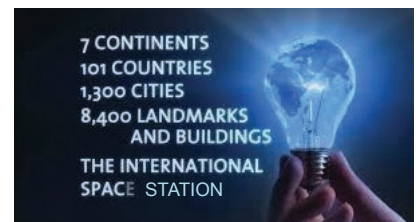
This year, on April 2nd, beginning at 10:00am, Celebrate the Children will host their annual Light It Up Blue festival in the Gym at the Denville School. Teachers and Departments have incorporated blue into many fun and enriching activities. Students will rotate station to station participating in different projects. Our dear friend, Brady Rymer and band members will perform a concert for our students and guests at 11:00am. WDHA, Denville Police Department, Denville Fire Department, and more special guests will join us for the fun. Please join us!

In honor of this historic day, thousands of iconic landmarks, buildings, hotels, bridges and retail stores are among the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the globe that illuminate blue to spread autism awareness.

How can you show your support? Light your homes and businesses BLUE! For commercial or public buildings: Ask your building management or facilities department for lighting building exteriors blue.

- change outdoor/indoor white bulbs to blue bulbs
- tint windows with blue gel sheets
- cover existing fixtures with blue gel filters
- invite neighbors and friends to light blue and join in shining a light on autism!

We want to see your pictures! Share your photos with Celebrate the Children!
Please email jhammond@celebratethechildren.org or share them on our Facebook page!



A PEEK INTO THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM BY: WENDY BEFFERT

Our Mileage club is now in full swing and the miles walked for the first month have been tallied for each class. Students and staff have been faithfully putting those miles in- way to go everyone!

Primary students are working on various floor scooter locomotion techniques as they race their peers to match colored beanbags. Pushing backwards against the resistance of the floor to propel themselves helps them to gain reflexive control, if needed, so that body movements become more purposeful (see the chapter on General Movement-Thinking Skills in *Thinking Goes To School* by Wachs & Furth). They're also being exposed to the spelling and names of the colors in English and Spanish. Additionally, they are learning body awareness, directionality and following directions through dance (*The Cha Cha Slide and the Sid Shuffle were favorites!*) and additional various "Simon Says" type activities for the younger set.

Secondary students have taken the scooter hockey fitness challenge and won! They're strengthening their core, increasing cardiovascular and muscular fitness, learning to sequence and follow directions, increasing eye-hand coordination and learning teamwork while having fun. This type of fitness course also increases body balance, and motor planning while also gaining reflexive control if needed. They're also creating fitness goals for themselves and learning how to create their own exercise programs. They also rocked the dance floor with the Cha Cha Slide, Cupid Shuffle and a few Zumba songs.

In health we've been learning about healthy, sometimes healthy and not so healthy foods by using the CATCH kids nutrition program. In the CATCH program these foods are called Go, Slow and Whoa foods. Secondary students are also working on a nutrition project called *Time Travelers*, based on a short story in which a group of travelers land in NYC one hundred years from now and find some surprising health habits.

Please visit my website www.wendyspe.weebly.com for more information.

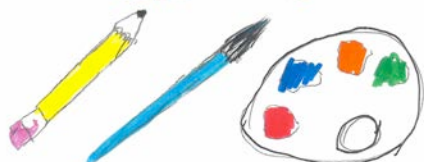


You're Invited
to Matt Ribaldo's
Art Opening!

When: April 12th
2:00-4:00PM

Where: Fine Grind
(Little Falls, NJ)

* Live Music *



CTC STUDENT HOSTING HIS VERY OWN ART OPENING

Don't forget! On April 12th, 2-4pm Matthew Ribaldo will be hosting his very own art opening at the Fine Grind coffee shop in Little Falls, NJ. Please come out and support one of our many talented students!

DYNAMIC & POSTURAL REFLEX INTEGRATION
APRIL 7-10, 2014
CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN- DENVILLE

The Dynamic & Postural Reflex Integration course provides the foundation for professionals and parents to understand the importance of primary motor reflex pattern maturation, why a reflex might not be integrated, the impact a nonintegrated reflex can have, and the MNRI techniques designed to assess and integrate reflexes. Primary motor reflex patterns emerge along a predictable developmental continuum, with each successive reflex emerging to secure a child's survival and protection as his system mature and advances. When adequately engaged, each reflex anchors neurologically more deeply a physiological, emotional and psychological sense of security, freeing an infant to focus on exploring, learning, and fully advancing through all stages of primary motor reflex maturation. It is through this complete integration process that primary motor reflex patterns form the foundation for related motor reflex schemes (sitting up, crawling, walking, etc.) to mature and for each of us to reach our full potential over time, anchoring emotional and behavioral regulation, and advancing motor, communication, and cognitive learning. Congenital disorders or traumatic events that occur in utero, at birth, or anytime after birth can interrupt the activation, maturation and integration of a primary motor reflex pattern. Depending upon the number of reflexes impacted and the maturational deficits of each impacted reflex, a broad spectrum of life challenges can occur.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend this important workshop!
DYNAMIC & POSTURAL REFLEX INTEGRATION
April 7-10, 2014 • Denville, NJ



VISIT WWW.MASGUTOVAMETHOD.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE

The MNRI Dynamic & Postural Reflex Pattern Integration 4-day course explores:

- The general MNRI Method and the role played by the Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration Program
- The progression primary motor reflex patterns beginning in utero and continuing through life
- The role primary infant reflex patterns play in establishing subsequent related motor reflex schemes and the development of advanced motor, communication and cognitive abilities and emotional and behavioral regulation
- MNRI techniques to assess pattern and integrate primary motor reflex patterns
- How to create MNRI primary motor reflex integration programs for individual clients
- How to incorporate use of MNRI Dynamic and Postural Integration course content into daily client and home practice

This class has been called "The Missing Link" by many Occupational, Physical & Speech Therapists

Where: Celebrate the Children School
230 Diamond Spring Rd.
Denville, NJ 07834

When: April 7-10, 2014

Fees: First time participant - \$675
Repeat Attendance - \$405





SPRING CONCERT

We are very excited to invite you and your child to our 3rd annual Spring Concert at the Denville Campus. The event will be held on **Thursday, June 12** time TBD.

The evening's festivities will consist of various musical performances with dancing, costumes, props, and more. Each student will have an important role and part to contribute to the performance. All rehearsals will be held during school hours, but the actual show will be held on the evening of Thursday, June 12.

If you have not sent in your child's permission slip for the Spring Concert, please do so ASAP. Any questions, please contact Kristin Verdi Polster [973-989-4033 Ext 199](tel:973-989-4033).

SPRING CLEANING! DONATE YOUR OLD CLOTHES!

Save the date!

Celebrate the Children's "Spring Cleaning" Clothing Drive Fundraiser will be held May 1st & 2nd! CTC earns money for every pound donated!



PARENT POT LUCK DINNER

SFSS is planning to host a Parent Pot Luck Dinner for all the parents at CTC on Wednesday, April 30th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

This will be an "Adults Only Dinner" where parents can share a dish and recipe from their culture and family.

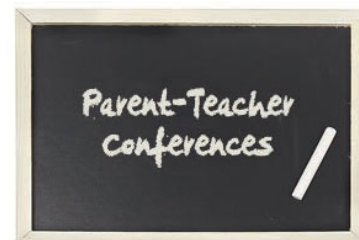
We hope this will be an opportunity for parents can get to know one another, enjoy good conversation, good food and celebrate both campuses coming together as one.

Please mark your calendars, book your babysitters and RSVP to your SFSS case manager.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences originally scheduled for April 10th and 11th will be postponed until the following week. April 10th will now be a FULL DAY of School for students. Please be on the look-out for scheduling information from your child's teacher.



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

April 2nd
Light It Up Blue Festival &
Brady Rymer Concert
Denville Gym
10:00am

April 7th-10th
MNRI Postural Course
CTC- Denville

April 10th
FULL DAY

April 12th
CTC Student Art Opening
Fine Grind Coffee Shop
Little Falls
2:00pm

April 17th & 18th
Early Dismissal
Parent Teacher Conferences

April 21st-25th
Spring Recess

April 30th
Pot Luck Dinner
5:30pm
Denville School

May 1st & 2nd
Clothing Drive

Celebrate the Children
A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.celebratethechildren.org