

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bowl-A-Thon
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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*THERE IS STILL
TIME TO
REGISTER!*

**BOWL-A-THON
HALLOWEEN STYLE**



*CREEPY CRAWLERS EVERYWHERE
ARE SURE TO BRING A FRIGHTFUL SCARE...
GHOULS AND GOBLINS WILL BE THERE
JOIN US, JOIN US IF YOU DARE!!*

Each bowler is **required** to pre-register with a goal to raise at least \$100.00!

Awards will be presented for the most money raised, best costumes and more!
Join us for this "spooktacular" event for a "boo-tiful" cause!

Please contact Kristin Verdi if you have any questions! 973.989.4033, ext. 199



**Sunday, October 27th
12:00pm
Circle Lanes
Ledgewood, NJ**

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO PROGRESS: VITAL PATHWAYS TO ADVANCE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMYSTIFYING FLOORTIME™ PROFECTUM CONFERENCE

Over the long weekend, the Profectum Foundation and staff members from Celebrate the Children delivered fantastic presentations focusing on comprehension across the spectrum, developmental foundations, Floortime™, supported typing, vision and knowledge and much more. The response from the participants was overwhelming and everyone learned so much. In case you missed it, webcasts will be available soon! Check Profectum's website periodically for updates or reach out to the business administrator for more information!

MULTIDIMENSIONAL THINKING BY LEONARD J. PRESS, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD



It was such a joy yesterday to be a plenary speaker and workshop presenter as part of the huge Profectum Conference in New York City. This is a very impressive organization of like-minded professionals and parents who are at the forefront of changing the way we help to guide the development of children with special needs. **The work being done at Celebrate the Children in New Jersey is phenomenal. This school devoted entirely to children with special needs is the first, to my knowledge, to import the methodologies pioneered by the developmental optometrist Harry Wachs in Thinking Goes to School and more recently in his book co-authored with Serena Wieder, Ph.D.**

I had the privilege of sharing the podium in a plenary presentation with Serena Wieder, and in a workshop presentation with Dr. Mehrnaz Green. Mehry, as she is known to her colleagues, is one of the many reasons why the future of developmental optometry is bright. Influenced at NOVA Southeastern by Drs. Stanley Crossman and Rick Morris in Florida, she became interested in children with special needs while under the tutelage of Drs. Celia Hinrichs and Cathy Stern in Boston. She then joined the practice of Dr. Harry Wachs in D.C., and the rest is history.

There was incredible energy in the room yesterday, at The Pennsylvania Hotel in mid-town Manhattan. Our colleague, Dr. Beth Ballinger, made the trip cross-country from California. Earlier this year, Profectum conferred its Humanitarian Award to pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton for three-dimensional thinking in autism and stress related disorders. Drs. Brazelton and Greenspan formulated the seven irreducible needs of children, one of which is appropriate developmental experiences.

Clearly an understanding of the pervasive nature of visual/spatial development and its influence on Dr. Greenspan's model is evident from the chapter written by Dr. Wachs in the ICLD clinical guidelines. It is equally clear that other eyecare practitioners have the potential to grasp the significance of this work. I received many nice comments about my overview of these issues, and the hundreds of attendees gained much insight into the multidimensionality of vision in contrast with the superficial approaches inappropriate to these populations.



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM JACKIE'S CLASS

October has been a very busy month so far in Ms. Jackie's class! We have been practicing our life-skills in the kitchen while making apple pancakes, applesauce, Halloween cupcakes, and french-fries. The staff and students worked diligently to prepare the soil in our CTC garden, and planted several different kinds of lettuce, as well as spinach and beets. Everyone is learning how to care for our garden by weeding and watering our seedlings on a daily basis. We have also been enjoying our weekly life-skills trips to go horseback riding, swimming, apple picking, pumpkin picking, and having lunch at the Rockaway Mall. Stop by the Wharton Campus and check out our "spooktacular" Halloween and Fall decorations in the classroom and hallways!



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM KAREN'S CLASS

Our new course entitled "Developmental Foundations" wraps crucial body, visual-spatial and thinking capabilities into tons of fun, critical thinking, and group problem solving. It's proving to be so engaging and motivating that we barely know we are in the classroom and when it is time for dismissal, it is hard for us to wrap up until all challenges are conquered! Thinking and brain games are enlarged to be life-size and interactive and our brains are turned on and tuned in to be creative and collaborative!



Our new incentive program is a huge success and is helping us attend to and reach our social and emotional goals across the entire day. Students have created characters to role-play in a group problem solving activity. Students take responsibility for acting out these roles within a narrative, either through literal acting or through a process of structured decision-making or character development. Reaching their goal areas earn them experience points to use in game play. Goal areas include being responsible for our own learning, communicating effectively, taking on a mentoring role, and contributing as a positive member of the community.



Language Arts participants are riveted by our reading group book selection "The Fault in Our Stars". Enticing teen characters are really connecting to our own lives as the "teen animal" as well as sharing experiences of having life altering and sometimes threatening illness. Despite these monstrous challenges, the characters reveal their unique personalities and the trials and tribulations of dating, school, and parents, on top of navigating Cancer Support Groups, hospitals and a wide variety of treatments. Humor, sarcasm, and philosophical thought blend seamlessly and provoke lively and enticing group conversations and journaling response. No spoilers please!



TRUNK- OR-TREAT

On Thursday, October 31st at 1:00pm Celebrate the Children will host their annual Trunk-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza! The day will consist of a Halloween Parade and Trunk-or-Treating! Trunk-or-Treat provides our students with a fun and safe way to participate in the trick-or-treating experience. We are currently seeking parents and staff who would be willing to participate in our Trunk-or-Treating. Participants are asked to decorate their cars and hand out a special treat! The event begins at 1 but we are asking parents who are participating in trunk-or-treat to be ready and set-up by 12:30 in the Wharton School parking lot. Please note, Dover students will take a bus over for the event and will return to Dover for dismissal. Please send your child in with their costume clearly labeled with their name on it on the day of the event. Any questions, please contact Kristin Verdi at 973-989-4033 ext. 199 or kverdi@celebratethechildren.org.

All family and friends are welcome to attend this wonderful event! We hope to see you there!!!!



Still need the perfect costume?
You can purchase your child's costume online at a wholesale price and 15% will be donated back to the CTC PTO!

What a boo-tiful deal!

**HALLOWEEN
COSTUME FUNRAISER**
Get The Best Selection Costumes at
LOW WHOLESALE PRICES
We Receive 15% of All Sales
USE PROMO CODE **FUN1040**
Be sure to Checkout as a New Member
This will waive the \$5 Membership Fee
CLICK HERE
www.WholesaleCostumeClub.com

*“Good schools, like good societies and good families, celebrate and cherish diversity.”
-Deborah Meier*

CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Save the Date

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

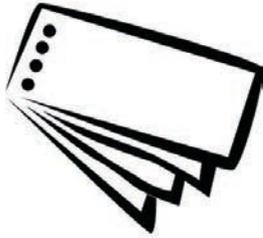
Celebrate the Children at our annual benefit!

**Annual Benefit
March 14, 2013
Randolph, New Jersey**



Formal Invitation to Follow

REDUCED FARE



Did you know NJ Transit offers persons with a disability greater traveling freedom and lower fares? When students ride with NJ TRANSIT, they can save one-half or more of the regular one-way fare. In addition, personal assistants ride for free when the person with a disability presents proper identification. Apply for your NJ TRANSIT Reduced Fare ID card by visiting NJ Transit's website.

CTC CONNECTIONS

The CTC Connections site provides 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, publishers, connect to other families, get homework help, and the list goes on!



We encourage you to explore, connect, and utilize the vast resources that are 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!

Access this page from Celebrate the Children's website on the homepage!



PTO BITS 'N PIECES

We are still looking for room parents! If anyone from the classrooms below are interested in volunteering please contact Maureen Avery, moandjeffavery@embarqmail.com as soon as possible. Nicole Squillante, Lauren Babcock & Jamie Burd, Paula Paglione, Lisa Silva and Karen McDowell.



Don't forget to order your KidStuff Coupon Books! These books are chock full of money saving coupons for stores, restaurants and fun locations. The PTO will earn 50% of the proceeds, which will be put towards the Denville playground fund!

YANKEE CANDLE

Later this month, in perfect time for the holidays, the PTO Yankee Candle Fundraiser will begin! Keep an eye out for information and your catalog!



A SAD “SEE YOU LATER”

Dear Parents,

I have enjoyed working at Celebrate the Children for the past seven years however, after much deliberation and due to personal reasons I have recently turned in my letter of resignation. Needless to say, this is not an easy decision to make after so many years at Celebrate the Children. My mind is filled with ambivalent feelings right now. On one side it's difficult to wrap up such a significant part of my life. Teaching here has helped define me and I will always cherish the memories, the camaraderie with the talented staff and most importantly, the respectful relationship with my students. On the other side, I am excited for the opportunity for a career growth of my own.

It's been my privilege and reward to share my passion with the students in my classes over the years. It's also been my privilege to watch them grow, change, and be challenged even as I, as a teacher have had a parallel experience of growth, change and personal development as I fulfilled my role as mentor and educator. In addition to the students, I feel blessed to have had this opportunity to work with such an amazing group of parents. The parents I met on my journey at CTC have been some of the strongest people. You all give your children the love, encouragement and support they need day in and day out to help them emerge with a strong sense of self-worth, confidence and determination to keep going even when things are tough. I would like that thank you for sharing your precious children with me.

I have no regrets, only great memories that will stay with me forever. I will always be very proud of my role as an educator and all I feel like I have accomplished at Celebrate the Children. Although my career path has taken a turn, CTC will always have my heart. I will stay in contact with the school and I'm sure you'll see my face at the many events held by CTC. My last day will be October 18. Be rest assured, your children will be in good hands and in the care of a new excellent teacher, Miss Tiffany. She will be working with me before I leave to ensure a smooth transition for everyone. I appreciate all of your support through this process.

Wishing you all luck for your future journey as parents,

Jennifer Robak, “Ms. Jenn”

Best of luck,
Ms. Jenn!
We will miss you!



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

October
PTO Halloween Costume
Fundraiser

October 27th
Bowl-A-Thon
Circle Lanes

October 31st
Trunk or Treat
Wharton Campus Parking Lot

October 18th & 25th
Dover Campus Parent Series
11:00am-12:30pm
Conference Room

March 14th
Annual Benefit
Celebrating 10 Years!

Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.celebratethechildren.org

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