

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### Congratulations!!

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Ben D
- Classrooms
- Upcoming Events

How awesome is this!?! Ben's "Imagine Van Gogh Restaurant" won first place in the Special Needs Category at the Frelinghuysen Gingerbread competition this year!

Woo Hoo! Way to go, Ben! Congrats!

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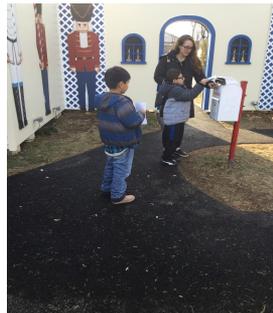


## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM MICHELLE'S CLASS

Miss Michelle's class has been celebrating the holidays in many fun, educational ways. In language arts, we have been practicing holiday vocabulary, and with all the exciting events that are filling up our calendar, we have been practicing the temporal concepts of yesterday, today and tomorrow. In social studies, we have been studying culture and have been learning about various celebrations that are honored throughout the year.



Our focus in social skills and CBI has been on how to receive a gift (even the ones that we may not be expecting or like), and the importance of giving during the holiday season. The students went shopping to the mall, where they had to think of others and choose an appropriate gift. We also practiced choosing a gift for a friend, wrapping it and presenting the gift to our friend.



Thanks to the Denville Rotary the students had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Denville Holiday Village. In the morning, the students wrote their letters to Santa, which they placed in the mailbox at the village. Then they were off to meet Santa. We had a wonderful time and hope your holidays are just as much fun!!!

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM JOE'S CLASS

First inaugural "Cereal" Social at CTC

On December 8th the CTC Middle school celebrated its first ever "Cereal" Social! The idea first came to being when it was trialed during Summer camp, and from its success was brought to the school year. All the students were asked to bring in their favorite cereal from home. We all toasted our spoons together and enjoyed sharing, celebrating, and dancing with our best tasted cereal. The "Cereal" social was a collaborative effort zeroing in on the social skills, life skills, and an age appropriate time for fun. We truly enjoyed our time together and look forward to our next "Cereal" social event.



## A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM SFSS

Holidays can be 'the most stressful time of the year.' Whether you have many or just a few plans, the disruption in the daily routine can have more adverse than pleasurable effects, contributing to more frantic than calm times. It can feel overwhelming, pressured, and it can certainly heighten a range of positive and negative emotions for every member of the family. It is difficult to remember to give yourself and your loved ones the gift of slowing down, taking a deep breath, and listening to your inner self. To support your efforts in self and other's self care, here are some easy suggestions to remind you and others of the need to press pause and reflect.

1. **Simplify.** It is often the addition of things, people, and activities to an already busy life which turns the holidays into a hectic mess. Instead plan for the interruption by setting aside blocks of time without an activity planned.
2. **Clarify.** This is not the time to do activities or travel to see family without wanting to do it. If there is no desire, the event should be avoided. Don't add to the schedule anything for which is designed to please others at the expense of personal energy.
3. **Participate.- or Not.** Allow each family member to choose an activity or meal that they want. No matter how young or old the person is, the gesture will be much appreciated and can reduce family tension.
4. **Create.** This is less about making something and more about allowing the imagination to flow over the wonder of the season. Use this time to pull something from the images conjured that can be done in the present. It could be sitting by a fire, singing songs, reading together, ice skating outdoors, or trying out a new set of recipes.
5. **Smell.** Interestingly enough, one of the best ways to increase relaxation and reduce the side effects of stress is to breath in an appealing scent. Perhaps this is why the latest craze is essential oils, scented candles, and aroma therapy. Finding a fragrance that is appealing might take some effort but it can bring about almost instant relaxation.
6. **Reflect.** What does this season mean to you? What is important about it and who is most important? Make the answers to these questions be the intentional focus of the holidays instead of the distraction of stuff, malls, traffic, and meaningless events.
7. **Balance.** With everything going on this time of year, it is easy to forget the basics. Don't forget to exercise, eat right, get enough sleep, drink plenty of water, and take vitamins. These things are even more important now when the routine is a bit frantic.
8. **Rejuvenate.** Extroverts draw their energy from others while introverts require alone time to rejuvenate. When things are busy, this need for restoring energy levels is even stronger.
9. **Absorb.** Nature tends to be the great equalizer in resetting emotions, thoughts, and senses. Take a few minutes every day to absorb the outdoors regardless of the weather. Just pausing to look at a tree can be extremely beneficial during this time.
10. **Silence.** A few moments of silence can bring a sense of peace and contentment. Use this time to be aware of emotions that rise to the surface and release any negativity, and refocus on the joys of the season.

Have a happy, peaceful, joyful and rejuvenating holiday!  
The SFSS Department  
Rachael, Nick, Jen, Stef, Joanne, Michelle, Bebe and Mady

## CTC CONNECTIONS - RESOURCE WEBSITE

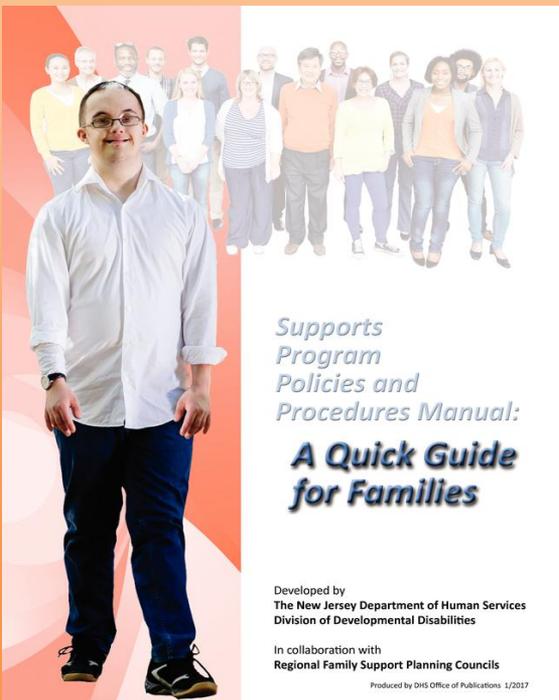
*...everything you need to navigate the journey!!*

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, and 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>



*Supports Program Policies and Procedures Manual:*  
**A Quick Guide for Families**

Developed by  
The New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

In collaboration with  
Regional Family Support Planning Councils

Produced by DHS Office of Publications 1/2017

[http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/family\\_guide\\_to\\_supports\\_program\\_policy\\_manual.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/family_guide_to_supports_program_policy_manual.pdf)

This Guide summarizes the information in DDD's Supports Program Policies & Procedures Manual – *the rules that govern Supports Program eligibility and process* – in a comprehensive, yet uncomplicated format for families.

The complete manual is available on the DDD website:

[http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/supports\\_program\\_policy\\_manual.pdf](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/supports_program_policy_manual.pdf)

## CTC Connections Highlight "Homework Help"

<https://sites.google.com/a/celebratethechildren.org/national-and-state-organizations/home/homework-help>

The Homework Help Tab is located on the CTC Connections Resource website. **Instructions above...**

The Homework Help page as many amazing and fun resources for students and families. This is a great way to keep students engaged over holiday breaks along with supporting homework, independence and engagement.

**Learning for ALL!**

## December 13, 2017 - 12:30 Parent Healing Group, Meditation & Tonglen

**RSVP REQUIRED**

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

## UPCOMING PARENT TRAINING "HOW" Hands On Workshop Series Monday Feb 12, 10-11:30am

"How" is a five-part workshop series to help families navigate the transition from school to adult life and entitlements vs. eligibility.

**RSVP REQUIRED**

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



**Celebrate the Children**

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

## CTC Haircut Day, Wednesday, January 10th

Is it hard to find a hairdresser who understands your child with special needs?

**Is it hard for your child to tolerate getting their haircut?**

Would you like to get your child's haircut by a licensed hairdresser who has personal experience with special needs children who will provide this service in the comfort of Celebrate the Children?

If you answered "YES" to one or more of these questions, Celebrate the Children is happy to announce we are offering haircutting services 1x a month to our students during the school day.



Maureen Long, a member of our CTC family and a licensed hairdresser with 30 years of experience, is pleased to DONATE her time by providing your child with a developmentally sensitive haircutting experience.

*100% of the proceeds raised goes directly back to Celebrate the Children. Maureen's late son Patrick, who passed away in November, 2016, loved attending the After-school Program (ASP). In his memory, Maureen will be using the money raised to offer CTC students scholarships to attend the ASP.*

**If you would like your child to be scheduled for a haircut on Wednesday, January 10th, please complete the attached form and return to school by Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. There are LIMITED slots available. Students will be serviced in the order that forms are received.**

Questions: Email Joanne Keilty at [jkeilty@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jkeilty@celebratethechildren.org) or call 973-989-4033 ext. 141

## --Welcome to Wonderful Wednesdays--



Dear CTC Parents,



Please join our team of Wonderful Wednesday parents. Our mission is to show our thoughtful appreciation to CTC teachers, aides and staff who do so much to help our children discover inner strengths and become the best they can be. Once a month we treat these amazing people to continental breakfast delights including such goodies as coffee, yogurt, bagels, fruits, danish, quiche etc. Wonderful Wednesdays are the second Wednesday morning\* of each month. In order to do this, we need your support. It would be helpful if you could donate at least \$50 during the school year or make/bake something delicious and send it with your child on Wonderful Wednesday. **Please contact Carole McBride (Jordan and Isaiah's mom) by email at [carolemcbride@comcast.net](mailto:carolemcbride@comcast.net) or at 908-798-0094 as soon as possible. If writing a check make payable to Carole McBride and please put Wonderful Wednesday in the memo.**

*It is so important to show our CTC folks that parents appreciate their efforts. And breakfast is a simple way.*

Thank you for your anticipated support,  
*Carole & Lori*

\*1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9 and 6/13

If there is a weather delay or closing we will have Wonderful Wednesday on the following Thursday and if Thursday is delayed or closed it will be on Friday.

\*\*Please note this is not a PTO effort\*\*

# Celebrate the Children

Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again! **Did you know you can support Celebrate the Children and the amazing work that we do WHILE you do your holiday shopping this year?!?**

**AmazonSmile** is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization **every time you shop, at no cost to you.** When you shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0804200>, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Celebrate the Children School.

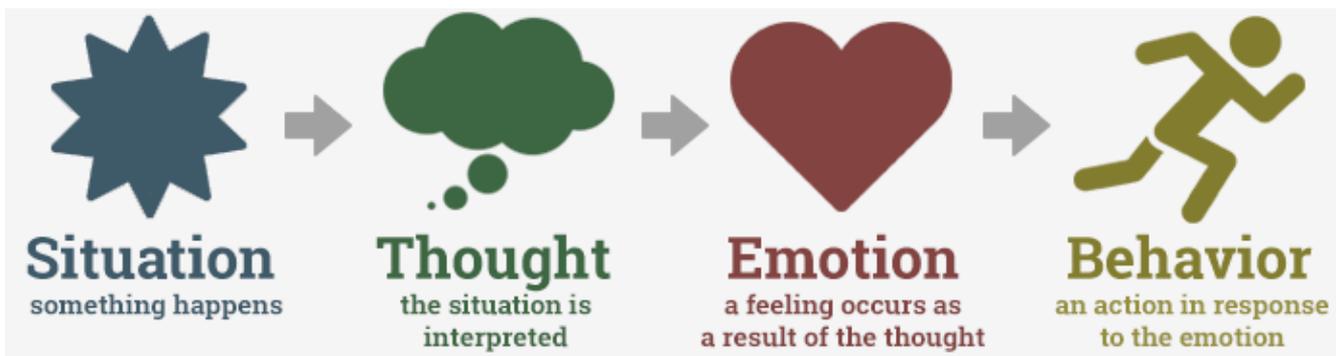
It's that easy! To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0804200> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device!

**You shop. Amazon gives. It's that simple.**

**Thanks for your continued support and dedication!**  
Jenna

*CTC Small Group  
Parent Series  
ANNOUNCING OUR  
2018 WINTER SESSION!*

*“CBT:  
Cognitive Behavior Therapy”*



*Meets on Fridays from 11:15 AM -12:45 PM  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*The group will be held in the CTC lobby conference  
room*

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

# Brady Rymmer <sup>3X GRAMMY</sup> nominated

The  and the Little Band That Could  
**Growing Stage** **DEC. 23, 11 AM**  
the children's theatre  
of New Jersey

An all-ages rockin'  
holiday concert!



Tickets: 973.347.4946

[www.growingstage.com/concert-series](http://www.growingstage.com/concert-series)



TICKETS ARE ON SALE, Exclusively at [tdf.org/wicked](http://tdf.org/wicked)

**PERFORMANCE DATE:**

1 p.m., Sunday, February 4, 2018

All tickets \$55-\$79!

How to buy tickets:

Go to: [www.tdf.org/wicked](http://www.tdf.org/wicked)

Click the **BUY TICKETS** button. The button will appear at noon (EST) on the right-hand side of the webpage. Clicking the button will direct you to a password-protected webpage.

Enter the password: **TDFAUTISM**

Enter the number of tickets you need in your desired section of the theatre, or click the seat map to select your own seats. The option to select your own seats is NOT available on mobile devices.

**\*TIP:** Click on the seats you want when you see them. Seat availability is shown in real-time, and tickets will sell fast. You will be given 45 minutes to complete the check out process.

After you check out, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not, contact [autism@tdf.org](mailto:autism@tdf.org) to confirm your purchase.

Additional tips:

Seat changes: We are unable to change your order on the day we go on sale. Due to the volume of customer service requests and our limited staff, we cannot assist you until the next day if you decide you prefer different seats.

About the show:

Wicked is the untold tale of an unlikely friendship between two women in the Land of Oz, the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good, long before Dorothy drops in. Elphaba, born with emerald-green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. Glinda is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. The remarkable odyssey of how these unexpected friends changed each other's lives for good has made Wicked one of the world's most popular musicals.

Running time: 2 hours 30 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

Warnings: Flying monkeys come out near the audience. For reference to their appearance, watch this video clip.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Help support Celebrate the Children and the amazing work that we do WHILE you do your holiday shopping this year?!?

Shop at **Amazon Smile** simply by going to

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0804200> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device!

### Brady Rymer and the Little Band That Could

December 23 @ 11am  
Growing Stage Theater  
Netcong, NJ  
Tickets: 973-347-4946

### Next Hair Cut Day

January 10, 2018

Contact Joanne Keilty for more information. 973-989-4033 x 141 or [jkeilty@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jkeilty@celebratethechildren.org)

### Wonderful Wednesdays for CTC Staff

1/10, 2/14 3/14, 4/11, 5/9 & 6/13

Contact Carole McBride @ [carolemcbride@comcast.net](mailto:carolemcbride@comcast.net) or 908-798-0094 if you are able to help.

### Upcoming Parent Training

“HOW” Hands On Workshop Series

Monday, Feb 12, 10-11:30am

**RSVP Required** to Jen Mandato  
[jmandato@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jmandato@celebratethechildren.org)

### CTC Small Group Parent Series 2018 Winter Session

“CBT: Cognitive Behavior Therapy”

Meets Fridays 11:15am – 12:45pm

Jan 5, 12, 19 & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

RSVP: Mady Kaplan or Stefanie D’Amore  
@ the SFSS Dept. 973-989-4033 ext 421 or 420

### Parent Healing Group, Meditation & Tonglen January 10<sup>th</sup>

**RSVP REQUIRED**

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

### Mark your Calendar!

Special Olympics Track & Field Competition

**Saturday, May 5, 2018**

Hackettstown High School

Look for more information this winter

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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