

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### LIGHT IT UP BLUE FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Light It Up Blue
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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On Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the students of Celebrate the Children, along with teachers, staff, families and friends joined us for our annual Light It Up Blue Festival in the Denville campus gym. Students enjoyed many activities including photo booths, puzzle activities, blue fishing, making blue play-doh and so much more! The highlight of the event was when we all ‘Found the Rhythm in our Feet’ as we danced to our very own concert performed by Brady Rymer and friends.

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. But why stop on April 2<sup>nd</sup>? We like to illuminate all month long!

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](mailto:jhammond@celebratethechildren.org) or share them on our Facebook**

## APRIL FOOLS!



The joke was on Principal Mike this April Fools Day! Students from Amy's class carefully planned this very clever prank!

## CTC SCHOOL STORE



The CTC School Store is Open for Business!

Over the past few months, the Adult Program students have been hard at work preparing for the opening of the school store. They were involved in writing an initial proposal, requesting information through surveys, budgeting, comparison shopping, and learning about running the store's day to day operations. There is a small variety of healthy snacks available as well as all of your favorite CTC Spirit Wear!

## TEEN NIGHT SPONSORED BY PEAK

Saturday night out for Middle School and High School teens in grades 6-12. Music, movies, games and lots of snacks. Hang out with friends and, most of all, have fun!!

Date: Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per teen

Location: Mt. Olive Senior Center

For more information and to register, please email [kellya@peakgroup.org](mailto:kellya@peakgroup.org)



## A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM TRANSITION & ADULT PROGRAM

It's time to start renovating the CTC Apartments! A&R Interiors of Denville, NJ has generously DONATED their service (a value of \$1,250.00!) and will continue to work with our students sharing the design process etc. IN collaboration with our students and staff, A&R contributed vision boards for the space and now we need to make it come to life for our students!

Our hope is that this space will be a comfortable, communal, collaborative, practical & real-life learning environment that will expand the possibilities of independence and motivate our students as they prepare for adult life!

**We are looking for monetary, material, and manpower donations.**

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CTC APARTMENT RENOVATIONS?!?  
Please share your contact information and area of interest if you are able to contribute to the project and CTC THANKS YOU in advance for your generous contributions!! Share contact info & area of interest via [calexander@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:calexander@celebratethechildren.org)



## A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM RELATED SERVICES



Remember the tasty Pancake Breakfast hosted by our students and the Related Services Department?

Last week Lisa Bruno and Ethan dropped off over \$300 to the Denville Food Pantry as a result of our OT community group Pancake Breakfast!

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM PAULA'S CLASS

Ms. Paula's class has had a busy month learning about the water cycle and how rainbows are made in addition to lots of special activities for Dr. Seuss Week and St. Patrick's Day! The students loved Dr. Seuss week and enjoyed reading his longer, more challenging books such as *Yertle the Turtle*, *Horton Hears a Hoo* and *The Lorax* and picking a project to go with each story. The Cotton Candy Truffula Trees from *The Lorax* were a hit!

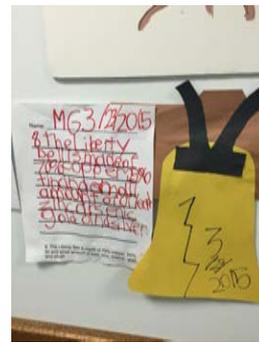
We spent a lot of time learning about how the rain (precipitation) and the sun form a rainbow and made lots of projects to reinforce this lesson. We practiced putting the colors of the rainbow in the correct order while singing a simple song to help us. We enjoyed making rainbow parfaits but reversed the order of the colors so red was on top and looked more like a rainbow! Students added marshmallow fluff clouds and golden raisins to represent gold at the end of the rainbow. Experimenting with shades and adding colors together in shaving cream and cupcake pans with paint was a fun experience.

Our CBI to the Alexis Diner was a great ending to our unit on learning how to use money. The students practiced saying/typing their orders to the waitress who gave them each separate checks. At the conclusion of his or her meal, each student went up to the register, individually, to pay their bill and count their change.

Our recent Science classes have been about the phases of the moon. Students enjoyed learning that the moon revolves around the Earth and the Earth and Moon revolve around the sun, especially when we did a project with Oreo Cookies representing the moon. Believe it or not, we didn't lose any moon phases in the process because we kept a nibble plate of extra cookies on the table!

National Symbols have been the focus in our Social Studies classes and we have learned about the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty and the US Flag. We will continue learning about the Eagle, Presidential Seal and Uncle Sam.

It has been a great month in Ms. Paula's Class!



## A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM ART PROGRAM

Art continues with the theme of the year, Ocean. We mix it up a bit with a unit on Nautical Symbolism. Throughout most of human history the majority of the population had to work procuring food. That meant that our ancestors were most likely farmers, fisherman or a trade connected to those occupations. Also, most civilizations grew around water so all human cultures throughout history have connections to boats and water.

The four symbols we are visually illustrating are: Anchor, Lighthouse, Life Buoy or Life Saver and Compass.

An Anchor symbolizes steadiness or regulation. What keeps you steady?

A Lighthouse symbolizes a guide through rough times. Who or what is your guiding light?

A Life Buoy symbolizes a rescue in extreme distress. Throw a fellow a line.

A Compass symbolizes movement in the right direction. Where am I going and how do I get there?



## A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION BY: WENDY BEFFERT

Over the past few weeks in health class our primary students have been learning to discern the differences between strangers, acquaintances, friends, helpers and family members and the various roles people in their lives play.

They're learning how to identify and stay safe from "Tricky People" instead of "stranger danger". New research shows that "Tricky People" can be strangers OR people known to the child. Older students will also be learning about safety concepts as it is developmentally relevant and will include other topics such as internet safety.



<http://www.checklistmommy.com/2012/02/09/tricky-people-are-the-new-strangers/>  
<http://www.childluresprevention.com/>

## AUTISM AWARENESS NIGHT NY RED BULLS

The NY Red Bulls soccer team is participating in Autism Awareness Month and in Light It Up Blue. They're having a special cheering section for their match on April 17, and a safe zone inside the stadium for the children who need a quiet place.



Some of the proceeds from ticket sales for the game on the 17th will go to one of three charities of your choosing: Autism Speaks, The Valley Program for Children with Autism or Autism New Jersey if you purchase your tickets here, <http://www.newyorkredbulls.com/AutismAwareness>.

Be sure to check out the "Game Guide," an informative Social Story written by Autism Speaks about going to the game found on the bottom of the Red Bulls web page.

## NYC PANASONIC TRIATHLON



Celebrate the Children is excited to be participating in the New York City Panasonic Triathlon as a Charity Partner, this year in July.

Each year, thousands of athletes brave the waters of the mighty Hudson River before biking along Manhattan's West Side highway. Finally, athletes put on their running shoes for a run through New York's famed Central Park in the final stage of this iconic race.

Currently, we are recruiting athletes to be on our team! If you are interested in participating (or know someone who might be) and raising money for your favorite school, please contact Jenna Hammond ([jhammond@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:jhammond@celebratethechildren.org)).

To learn more about the NYC Panasonic Triathlon, please visit <http://www.nyctri.com/>

## THE QUEST FOR THE TABLET



Save the date! Our Spring Concert, *The Quest for the Tablet*, will be held on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. *The Quest for the Tablet* is an underwater and worldwide adventure where Jacques Cousteau's scientific team of scuba divers encounter Ghost Pirates. They all are in a race to find the secret tablet pieces that are hidden in various parts of the world.

Students have been working hard writing the script for the concert this year and are very excited about the upcoming show. This is sure to be the best concert yet.... very original. Additionally, we secured a new location to have the concert, Baker Theatre in Dover, NJ. The theatre has a balcony, a huge stage and seats 1200; come one, come all!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11<sup>th</sup>  
Matt Ribaudo's Art Showing  
The Fine Grind Coffee Bar  
2:00-4:00pm

April 15<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Meeting  
1:00pm

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker Series  
SCARC Guardianship Services  
7:00pm

April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Prep Club  
6:00pm

April 22<sup>nd</sup>- May 13<sup>th</sup>  
RDI Parent Training

April 25<sup>th</sup>  
Teen Night  
Mount Olive PEAK  
Mount Olive Senior Center  
7:00-9:00pm

Reservations Required: [kellya@peakgroup.org](mailto:kellya@peakgroup.org)

April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Training Group

May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Special Olympics  
Hackettstown High School

May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Walk-A-Thon & Field Day

May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Prep Club  
6:00pm

May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Talent Night  
7:00pm  
Reservations Required

May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Prep Club  
6:00pm

June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker Series  
Transportation  
7:00pm

June 17<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Concert  
Save the Date!



# Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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