

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Giving
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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Celebrate the Children school would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your support and contributions over the years. 2014-2015 marks our first full year in our new home in Denville, New Jersey. Due to your generosity, we have been able to fund and implement many activities and programs, including our music program, which has allowed our students to dive into the wonderful world of music. A piano, drums, ukuleles, music curriculums and more now fill our music room and our students bolster with excitement as they use them on a daily basis and as they prepare for our annual spring concert extravaganza! Last year, the *Journey Through the Decades* Spring Concert was a stellar performance showcasing student talent and abilities. The show, excitement, and gleam in the eyes of our students will have lasting impacts and made memories for a lifetime. Thank you for your commitment to our students and their education.



While our music department has excelled thanks to contributions from donors like you, we are determined to create an environment where all areas of academic experiences continue to prosper. We have seen how generous donations have made an impact on all of our programs and this year we hope to expand one: **the great outdoors.**



This year, additional plans will be put into place to create experienced-based learning environments to include multiple playgrounds, picnic areas, gardens, a basketball court, soccer field, fitness paths, fitness stations, a tree house, and a high/low ropes course. Outdoor learning environments facilitate children's hands-on learning experiences, which incorporate key disciplines while creating an inviting learning space in the natural world. There are numerous benefits of having sustainable outdoor nature classrooms. Not only do these classrooms connect students with the environment but they also offer lessons and activities that have been shown to develop creativity and problem-solving skills, stimulate cognition and understanding through the physical manipulation of objects, and build capacities and skills that will last a lifetime supporting independence and potential job opportunities in the future.

Please visit our website to learn more about our **Annual Giving Campaign** and see all of the exciting plans we have for the **Great Outdoors!**

www.celebratethechildren.org/online-store

A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM NIKKI'S CLASS

Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!
We have been getting in the holiday spirit with the book, *The Gingerbread Man*. We discussed the sequence of the story, and reenacted it through a school wide scavenger hunt. We made gingerbread men cookies and houses. In math, we learned the vocabulary word "same", and practiced making the same gingerbread man using different shapes and colors. We also made a big gingerbread man and counted the different shapes



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM RON'S CLASS



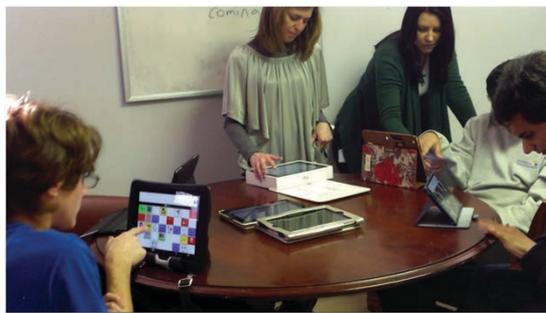
Ron's homeroom class has been a hustling and a bustling! We recently celebrated *Friendsgiving* with Jackie's class. It involved our students designing invitations, preparing a menu, going shopping for ingredients, cooking a number of dishes, and setting the table for their peers. It was a success!

Our homeroom made beautiful wind chimes assembled from found objects in nature. Ron's class has a new look! Tables replaced the desks, which fosters more room for activities and better peer interaction. Ron's Biology class is still growing their beans, they are slowing down a bit in the winter months, but one of the stalks grew a bean pod! Ron's Science class has finished observing their mealworms grow to adult hood. They have undergone a complete metamorphosis and were adult beetles. They were released into the wild early enough to find a place to sleep for the winter. Ron's Math classes are starting a unit on investing and are soon going to explore and participate in the world of penny stocks.



A PEEK INTO THE RELATED SERVICES DEPARTMENT

September welcomed a brand new group to the Related Services department. Our speech and Language pathologists have been running AAC groups throughout the week to help students who communicate with AAC devices become more proficient in programs such as GoTalkNow, Proloquo2Go, Speak for yourself, LAMP, and TouchChat. This also gives them the opportunity to converse with other peers that use this form of communication.



This month students have been working on sharing their ideas and opinions with their peers. They have been listening to different genres of music and then expressing like or dislike, as well as sharing any other thoughts they had that came to mind. Some have even made up and composed their own songs and rap beat. This allowed them to take learn creating, sharing and listening to other's ideas, which are then expanded upon each week.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CELEBRATIONS FOOD & ALLERGY REMINDER



"Tis the season for celebrations! Many classrooms and departments like to celebrate the upcoming holidays with parties and what's a party without a few yummy treats? Since we know food is an important tool in social situations, please remember to coordinate with your child's homeroom teacher before sending in any snacks and party foods that are intended to be shared with the class. This will allow students with allergies and other dietary issues the opportunity to arrange an alternative treat if they choose to do so. We are constantly striving for full inclusion. Therefore, with this aim in mind, we recommend providing one week's notice before sending in snacks or treats to help ensure staff has time to inform the family and if they choose, the family has time to respond.

TEEN NIGHT OFFERED THROUGH MOUNT OLIVE PEAK

Teen Night Out!

A night out for Middle School and High School teens in grades 6-12. Dance your feet off and enjoy some fun games. It's a perfect time to socialize with peers, have a snack, and most of all, have fun!

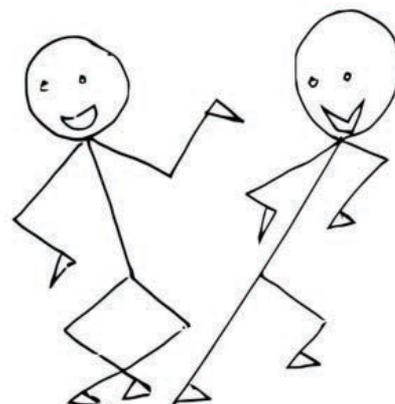
Dates: Saturdays **1/24, 2/21, 3/21**

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per teen

Location: Mt. Olive Senior Center

For more information or to register, please email kellya@peakgroup.org



AMAZON SMILE

Did you know, Celebrate the Children could benefit from your Amazon.com shopping?

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 smile.amazon.com, 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 your favorite charitable organization.

That's right! If you visit smile.amazon.com, you can select Celebrate the Children as your charity organization to support, and that's it! Simple as that! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Celebrate the Children. You shop, Amazon gives!

SCHOOL DELAYS, EARLY DISMISSALS OR CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER!

With winter fast approaching, please take a moment to review how our school communicates school delays, early dismissals or closings due to inclement weather.

When a decision is made, it is immediately communicated to parents, transportation and staff via our Honeywell Instant Alert System. It is also announced on our school main telephone line through Option #7 and published on our CTC Facebook page.

It is always a good idea for members of our school community to login to our Honeywell system and double-check all settings. While reviewing your profile, please be sure to select that you would like to receive alerts from "midnight to midnight".

It is important to select "midnight to midnight" as this will ensure you will receive all alerts including those that are sent in the early morning hours. If you choose a certain time frame you may miss those alerts that are sent outside your preferred time frame.

How to Update Your Instant Alert Settings

Please follow the instructions below to log in to your Honeywell account and make any necessary changes. For your convenience, we have also added the Honeywell website link directly on our school website, www.celebratethechildren.org.

Log on to: Honeywell Instant Alert Website: <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>

- Enter the user name and password that you created when you registered. If you have forgotten either your user name or password, you will be prompted to enter some additional information and your user name and/or password will be sent immediately to your email account. If you have not yet created an account, you can do so by clicking New User/Sign Up (Parent).
- Click on 'Alert Setup.'
- Check (or un-check) the boxes to select which alert type you would like to have sent to which device. Click on 'Save' when complete.
- For e-mail, text messaging and pagers you may send yourself a test message. Click on 'Send Test Message' to send yourself a message.
- Please review all personal information to make sure home/cell phone numbers and email addresses are up to date.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Katie at Ext. 150.

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! ☺

REMINDERS

Progress Reports are NOW AVAILABLE on the Realtime Parent Portal!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 23rd
Early Dismissal

December 24th-31st
Holiday Recess
School Closed

January 1st- 2nd
Holiday Recess
School Closed

January 14th-February 4th
RDI Parent Trainings
12:00-1:30

January 16th-February 6th
RDI Parent Trainings
11:30-1:00

January 19th
Martin Luther King Day
School Closed

January 24th
Teen Night
Mount Olive Senior Center
7:00pm

February 16th-20th
Winter Recess
School Closed

March 5th
Speaker Series
SCARC Guardianship Services
7:00pm
CTC

March 27th
Annual Benefit
SAVE THE DATE!

June 11th
Speaker Series
Transportation
7:00pm
CTC



Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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www.celebratethechildren.org

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