

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### SOMETHING "EXCEPTIONAL" IS HAPPENING AT CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Exceptional Minds
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Food & Allergy  
Reminder  
2

A Peek Into the  
Classroom  
2

A Peek into the  
Program  
3

Amazon Smile  
3

Teen Night  
3

Upcoming Events  
4

In recognition of the current and projected statistics on adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and successful employment, Celebrate the Children (CTC) continues to strive to better prepare our young adults with skills, abilities and connections in the community that will foster successful employment and fulfilling lives.



Beginning early next year, Celebrate the Children will begin a new project that focuses on the development of an in-house digital arts vocational training program modeled after the first year curriculum of the Exceptional Minds (EM) Studio in California. In deep appreciation, **this program has been made possible through a grant from New York Collaborates for Autism from the proceeds of Comedy Central's Night of Too Many Stars.**

Celebrate the Children's Digital Arts Vocational Training for Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum is an innovative program in that it will tap into the natural talents and motivations of our students with ASD. Currently, young adults with the ability to utilize specific passions in discrete areas of interest are under-served. "Unlike typically developing children who have lots of interests but few things they are exceedingly passionate about, individuals with ASD often find their passion early and stick to it for a lifetime! By tapping into these interests, we help them refine and expand their abilities, stimulate their creativity and open potential career paths." Dr. Ricki Robinson.

CTC will work directly with the Exceptional Minds Studio on a consultative basis to develop our program. We will recognize the diverse needs of a range of our students, including those with more challenging verbal and behavioral abilities, by providing a tailored and supportive training environment in-house. This will include, but is not limited to, training and eventual certification, in the following Adobe Programs: Flash and Photoshop. While engaged in training within these Adobe programs, students will continue to participate in CTC's existing Transition Programs targeting work ethics, social skills, self-advocacy, etc. Additionally, while participating in the Adobe Training Program individuals will have the opportunity to visit local digital arts and animation studios to experience the work first hand. Collaboration with these local agencies will be established in order to provide internships and potential permanent employment opportunities upon graduation from CTC at age 21.

We are very excited to begin this endeavor and are very thankful for our friends at the **New York Collaborates for Autism and Comedy Central's Night of Too Many Stars** for making this program possible.

## '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.



### A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM LISA'S CLASS

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Yes!!! It was snowing in Lisa's class! With a little creativity, some conditioner & baking soda, we brought Frosty to life! As always, fun and teamwork are the driving forces that lead to lasting memories. Together, in the spirit of the holidays, the students used motor planning and decision making, to create homemade snow. Frolicking with friends and snowball fights were the added bonus!



### A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM RUTHIE'S CLASS



We have had so much fun getting ready for the holidays with our friends. First we made turkey sculptures to kick off our Thanksgiving events. Getting snowed out the day before Thanksgiving didn't stop us! We simply postponed our celebration until the following week when we let the feathers fly. December has been equally exciting. We went to the Gingerbread Wonderland at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. It was spectacular!! December 16th we went to visit Santa and shop for presents for our families. Overall, it has been a very fun and exciting time in Ruthie's classroom.

## A PEEK INTO THE ART PROGRAM

The second marking period finds us continuing with our art theme of the year: the Ocean. Both Primary and Secondary students are looking out to the horizon and creating seascapes in the style of American artist Albert Pinkham Ryder and English artist J.M.W. Turner. Both of these artists are known for their seascapes.

Students created beautiful painted collages of spooky, rocky, moonlit shores like eccentric artist Albert Ryder. We ripped and glued paper to form collaged rocks, clouds and the moon and then added paint to make a dreamlike scene.

Students collaborated for a sensory painting experience using one of Turner's most famous paintings as inspiration. In 1842, Turner had himself tied to the mast of a steam ship during a violent winter storm, was at sea for 4 hours and painted the atmospheric: Snow Storm- Steam Boat off a Harbours Mouth. Students listened to Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries as dramatic inspiration and painted large swirls of colors on rolled out paper until our own little paper boat was covered with snowy waves.

Some students in the Adult Program's Graphic Arts class started expanding their technology skills as Art and Technology team up for the second marking period. Students are beginning to document their personal artwork, past and present, by photographing, editing and creating digital files to create the beginnings of an online portfolio. Students have also started working in Inkscape: a user-friendly vector graphics program. The students start the hour-long co-class in art with Mary Beth and transition next door to Harry in the tech room. While still honoring history and artistic tradition, art at Celebrate the Children, has entered the Digital Age.



## AMAZON SMILE

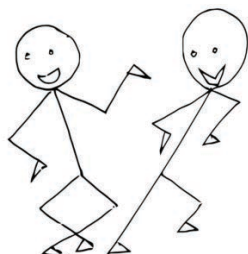
Did you know, Celebrate the Children could benefit from your Amazon.com shopping?

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!



## TEEN NIGHT OFFERED THROUGH MOUNT OLIVE PEAK



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](mailto:kellya@peakgroup.org)

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Early Dismissal

December 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>  
Holiday Recess  
School Closed

January 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Holiday Recess  
School Closed

January 14<sup>th</sup>-February 4<sup>th</sup>  
RDI Parent Trainings  
12:00-1:30

January 16<sup>th</sup>-February 6<sup>th</sup>  
RDI Parent Trainings  
11:30-1:00

January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther King Day  
School Closed

January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Teen Night  
Mount Olive Senior Center  
7:00pm

February 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
Winter Recess  
School Closed

March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker Series  
SCARC Guardianship Services  
7:00pm  
CTC

March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Benefit  
SAVE THE DATE!

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



# Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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