

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM FACILITATED COMMUNICATION

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Supported Typing
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

A Peek Into the Classroom  
2

Annual Benefit  
3

RDI Parent Training  
3

Teen Night  
4

Upcoming Events  
4

It has been 8 years since supported typing was first introduced to Celebrate the Children. In those 8 years many amazing things have happened. While it was always our philosophy to presume competence in all of our students, when they began communicating fluently, we began to understand just how much they were being underestimated, even with the best of intentions. Over these past 8 years, we have learned so much more from our students than they have learned from us. The way we present information, the way we interact whether it be verbally or in other ways tends to show just how much we believe in each student.

I am proud to say that over time, CTC has built a culture where every student is acknowledged as intelligent. The conversations you hear between students and staff or amongst peers is telling of that. It is not unusual to include students, even non-verbal students, in the development of their individual plans. Including the students in this process takes some of the guesswork out of it. Students are able to tell us what they need, why they need it and how things should be implemented. When we follow their lead in this manner, things usually run much smoother and take less time to overcome than when we assume we know what a student needs.

Students are participating in age appropriate academics/activities and are flourishing. They understand their difficulties and when required to work on things that are difficult for them, they are readily trying once the process and the reasoning for the process is given to them. They and we understand more and more that what we see is not what we get and much of what they may present to us is beyond their control or desire. By including them in intellectual conversation surrounding these difficulties, they realize the respect that is being given to them and will work to overcome things through activities that they would have resisted in the past.

Friendships are being made every day. All students ideas are seen as important and students using typing to communicate are finding that students who communicate verbally are seeking them out, asking for their opinions and wanting to spend time with them, truly making friends, some for the very first time.

Families have been extremely supportive of their children and are embracing communication in their homes as well. This has not always been easy but with practice and consistency, everyone is making their own progress and has their own amazing stories to tell of their journeys. Being able to communicate in all environments is very powerful and acknowledging that their children do indeed have many things to communicate contributes to their child's sense of self and pride in who they are!



This is a wonderful thing to witness and we look forward to everyone's continued progress!!!

Lisa Romaine, Supported Typing Teacher

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM LAUREN'S CLASS

Lauren's class has been hard at work at our "Class Cafe". In preparation for an upcoming trip to the local diner, students are learning the ins and outs of what it takes to work at a restaurant. Each week we feature a different food item that the students help prepare and serve to other classrooms and staff. The students are also exploring the various roles/jobs that are needed to help make a restaurant a success. Not only are the students learning about who works at a restaurant, but also the importance of being a customer and having appropriate manners as well. The students are having such a great time with this activity and truly look forward to watching their classroom transform into a diner.



## A PEEK INTO THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Snow or shine, the After School Program's Fit Club can be seen outside on a Wednesday afternoon. The students and staff participate in a walking/running program around the school building, which accommodates the needs of each participant. The Fit Club offers both physical activity and a social environment. All participants, students and staff, demonstrate a sense of camaraderie while walking laps around the building. They can be seen listening to music together, talking about the latest movie, or walking at the same pace side by side. After getting some fresh air, the fun moves inside. Stations or group run exercises focus on strength and stretching. Check out some of the exercises that they perform. Also, walking is a convenient form of physical activity that can be easily enjoyed by all. Fit Club welcomes you in joining us to get outside and walk!



**AND THEY'RE OFF!  
A RUN FOR THE ROSES  
ANNUAL BENEFIT**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

*Celebrate the Children's*



**ANNUAL  
BENEFIT**

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MARCH 27TH 7:00 PM

FORMAL ATTIRE  
DERBY ATTIRE OPTIONAL *but Encouraged*



HONORING EQUINE TRANQUILITY  
WELLNESS CENTER

RAFFLE • AUCTION • BEST DRESSED •  
LIVE MUSIC • FINE FARE *and*  
RUN FOR THE ROSES DERBY EVENT

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MEADOW WOOD MANOR  
461 STATE ROUTE 10  
RANDOLPH, NEW JERSEY 07869

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**BENEFIT**

It's almost time for Celebrate the Children's Annual Benefit and you won't want to miss the event this year! On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Celebrate the Children will host an evening of fine foods, dinner, live music, dancing, silent auction, and a Run for the Roses Derby Event! Don't forget your hats! Derby attire is encouraged and prizes will be awarded for the best one! Currently, we are seeking donations for tricky tray items, silent auction items and general monetary gifts. All donations, large or small, are truly appreciated. Various levels of sponsorships are available including "Own/Name a Horse" and "Sponsor a Race" during our horse race event. Please see our website for more details or speak with one of our coordinators for more information. Formal invitations to follow. We hope to see you there!

**RDI PARENT TRAINING**

RDI and DIR have the same goal of addressing developmental goals and objectives for students. RDI was designed as a parent based intervention. RDI has hundreds of very specific, systematic, developmental goals that fit nicely within DIR's developmental levels.

The main difference you will likely see and feel initially, is that RDI begins with a more structured, parent or guide led approach. Our goal in RDI is to create opportunities for the child to become regulated through co-regulating with a parent or guide.

Once the child is able to actively and competently engage in the back and forth set up by the parent or guide, more responsibility is transferred to the child to maintain that coordinated activity. Aside from the initial way an RDI activity is set up, it is often difficult to discriminate between RDI and DIR once an activity is in motion.

For more information on RDI, visit [www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com)

**Contact Laura Hynes to register  
Or for more information**

**LHynes@celebratethechildren.org  
973-989-4033 ext 424**



**Wednesdays 12:00-1:30  
January 14<sup>th</sup>- February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Fridays 11:30-1:00  
January 16<sup>th</sup>-February 6<sup>th</sup>**

## BRADY RYMER AND THE LITTLE BAND THAT COULD



Please join us in congratulating our dear friend, Brady Rymer and our very own, music teacher Dan Myers on their Grammy Nomination, 2015 Best Children's Album! Tune in THIS SUNDAY to watch the Grammy's , spot them in the crowd and cross your fingers for the win!

Join Brady and the Little Band that Could at the Growing Stage in Netcong, NJ for a fun concert event for the entire family!

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm

For tickets: (973) 347-4946 or visit [www.growingstage.com](http://www.growingstage.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Coffee with Dr. Mike  
Reservations Required  
9:30am

February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Brady Rymer Concert  
Growing Stage  
3:00pm  
Tickets Required

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

February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Teen Night  
Mount Olive Peek  
@Mount Olive Senior Center  
Reservations Required

February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Prep Club  
Understanding Support Coordination  
6:00pm

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

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Series  
Executive Functions Part II  
11:00am

March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Training Series  
Planning for Adult Life  
11:00am

March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Training Group  
Initiating Parent-Child Connections  
1:30pm

March 21<sup>st</sup>  
Teen Night  
Mount Olive Peek  
@Mount Olive Senior Center  
Reservations Required

March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Prep Club  
6:00pm

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Benefit**  
**Meadow Wood Manor**  
**7:00pm**

April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Coffee with Dr. Mike  
Reservations Required  
9:30am

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

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

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



# Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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