

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

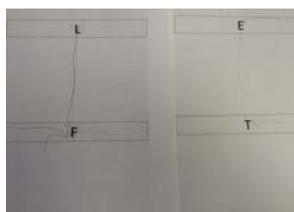
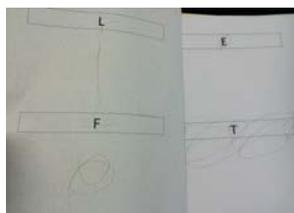
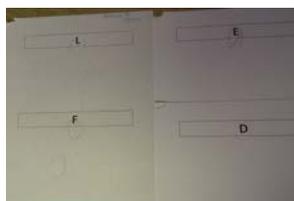
THE OT DEPARTMENT HELPS CTC STUDENTS CONNECT, EXPERIENCE, AND WRITE! THE RESULTS ARE IN!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CEW
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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Connect Experience Write (CEW)[®] is a research-based proven technique to help our students learn how to write.

Some of our students participated in a research study through Kean University to determine the efficacy of the CEW handwriting program for students ages 5-13 who were non-writers. After 8 weeks of participating in the program all of these students are now writing the letters that were worked on during the treatment time! We are so proud of each and every one of them as well as the staff that worked so hard in this process. Check it out!

Connect Experience Write (CEW)[®] is a handwriting program created by occupational therapists Michele Parkins and Carrie Davis. In CEW, students write letters using visual templates while listening to music that simulates the movements needed to form the letters. This combination of visual templates and auditory guides strengthens the visual spatial foundations related to writing.

Keeping relationships and emotional connections at the forefront, CEW classes begin as a group. Students participate in whole body movements to the beat of music to help them identify the top, middle, bottom, left, and right parts of their bodies – all important foundational concepts to writing. They then move their shoulders, elbows, wrists, and fingers to a song that helps them isolate the body parts used when writing. When learning to write the letters, gross motor movements are performed with a partner (called “Mirror Movements”) to the beat of music that simulates the lines needed to form the letters. The students then use templates on a vertical surface to form the letters using hand movements to the beat of the music. Lastly, the students move to tabletop and write the letters on paper templates to the beat of the music.

Everyone sings and dances to the sounds of letter formation making emotional connections with each other and the occupation of writing. Teachers, aides, therapists, and students have all been “caught” singing the songs of CEW in hallways around the school! Fun is had by all!

We would like to thank the families that gave permission for their students to participate in this research project.

You can learn more at connectexperiencewrite.com.

A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM JANEAN'S CLASS

With winter in full force, Janean's class decided to bring the weather into the classroom! The students worked together to make a huge bin of snow using shaving cream and cornstarch. The students really enjoyed the sensory experience. They made snowmen and snowballs and had fun getting themselves and the staff messy. Who knew learning about weather could be so much fun!



A PEEK INTO THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Before the holidays everyone had fun volleying the giant "Airlite" ball made of parachute material. What the students didn't know, shhhh, is that they are also learning. The slower floating ball affords students more time to develop eye-hand coordination. As they track the ball moving toward them and then experience the action of pushing it away, they are increasing what Dr. Wachs and Weider refer to as Coordination of body's axes. Students are also learning teamwork and good sportsmanship. Vital social skills are enhanced as they sustain the rhythmic back and forth action of volleying the ball with their peers in a non-competitive version of the game called "Keep It Up".

After our winter break we eased back in to our schedules with some relaxing yoga. Younger students followed a yoga circuit by matching the postural exercises on a series of cards to those attached to a series of cones set up around the gym. Older students learned deep breathing, the sun salutation warm up, various postural exercises and relaxation.



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM ADULT PROGRAM

THE SECRETS OF THE ADULT PROGRAM BY: KATIE M.

For many people in the school community, the adult program remains shrouded in mystery. It does not help that it is housed in a completely different building. Now, it's time to put the mysteries to rest by explaining what we do here.

In the morning, all students in the adult program go to work. Some of them work on-site in GreenVision, a recycling program housed in the adult program building. Others go out to work in the community at places like Applebee's and the Hampton Inn. Students learn valuable work skills such as respecting their bosses, remaining on-task at work and proper work attire.

The adult program is also learning responsibility and organization through long-term project management. We are currently refurbishing an apartment on the upper floor of the adult program building. We are also preparing a school store that will sell healthy snacks and other goods to both students and staff.

The adult program also remains in some special classes like art and physical education. However, it also participates in others focusing on critical thinking and transitioning into adult life. One lesson revolved around positioning "elves on the shelf" in various humorous or interesting locations and taking pictures. Others gave students a pretend budget and taught them how to manage it while going to various places in the community like Lowe's and Costco.

There are also other programs on the horizon. Through a grant, we will be receiving Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software and learning how to use it on a professional level through tutorial videos. We are also testing a new online service called Identifor, which uses video games to determine which jobs (based on our strengths) would be best suited to people on the spectrum.

There are many more activities the adult program participates in, but there are too many to properly list. Hopefully, this dispelled some of the "mystery" surrounding the adult program and united us with the rest of the school in a new way. You are welcome to come visit us whenever you wish.



PTO DONATION

PTO President, Lisa DeMarco DeNicola and PTO Treasurer, Maureen McCarthy Avery present checks to Celebrate the Children Principal, Dr. Michael Knox in the amount of \$925.00. Proceeds from the KidStuff Book Fundraiser will go towards the Playground Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser!

Additionally, the PTO has sponsored a dedication brick. If you are interested in purchasing a dedication brick, please contact Jenna Hammond (jhammond@celebratethechildren.org) or visit our website for more details!



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

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

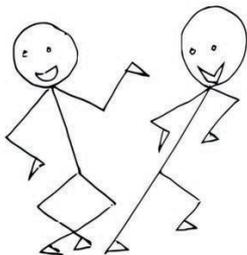
**LHynes@celebratethechildren.org
973-989-4033 ext 424**



**Wednesdays 12:00-1:30
January 14th- February 4th**

**Fridays 11:30-1:00
January 16th-February 6th**

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!

New Date!

Dates: Saturdays **1/31, 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

AUTISM SPEAKS NIGHT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS!

Devils vs. Panthers
Saturday, January 31st - 7:00 PM
Tickets are ONLY \$17.17

Exclusive autism friendly group seating at the game in Devils Party Zone!

Devils drawstring backpack with every ticket purchased!

A portion of the proceeds from each ticket will be donated to Autism Speaks

Visit newjerseydevils.com/autismspeaks to purchase tickets
Use promo code: autismspeaks



GROUP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Devils vs. Panthers
Saturday, January 31st at 7:00pm
Tickets are ONLY \$17.17



- Exclusive autism friendly group seating at the game in Devils Party Zone!
 - Private lounge with interactive games
 - Specially priced group ticket
- Families can enter through the Lafayette Tower Entrance, located on the corner of Mulberry and Lafayette Street
- Devils drawstring back pack with every ticket purchased!
 - Back pack pick-up - Bring your tickets to the Group Events Table, located directly across from Section 18
- A portion of the proceeds from each ticket will be donated to Autism Speaks

[Buy Tickets>>](#)

Use promo code: [autismspeaks](#)

OR VISIT:

newjerseydevils.com/autismspeaks

ORDER DEADLINE: 24 Hours Prior to Game

Questions, call Jake Rinaldo, Devils Group Events, at (973) 757-6167 or email jrinaldo@newjerseydevils.com (M-F, 9-5pm)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 28th
Prep Club
CTC Denville
6:00pm

January 31st
Teen Night
Mount Olive Senior Center
7:00pm

January 31st
Autism Friendly Hockey Game
Prudential Center
Tickets Required

February 11th
Coffee with Dr. Mike
Reservations Required
9:30am

February 16th-20th
Winter Recess
School Closed

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

**March 27th
Annual Benefit
SAVE THE DATE!**

April 1st
Coffee with Dr. Mike
Reservations Required
9:30am

June 11th
Speaker Series
Transportation
7:00pm



Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.celebratethechildren.org

EDITOR: JENNA HAMMOND