

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### Welcome Back to School!

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Message from Principal Mike
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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Dear Parent Super Stars,

Yes, it's that time of the year again. School has begun. The first week was very successful. Unsurprisingly, the second week was just as fabulous. From all accounts, this year's kick off seemed to be the most organized. Big "KUDOS" to everyone, who played a part to make that happen!

In spectacular fashion, your children are beginning to settle down to the routine that will take them through the next ten months of their growth. For sure, our journey together will allow us the opportunity to really appreciate the vision set forth by our school founders, Lauren Blaszak and Monica Osgood, and take advantage of the many bright projects on the horizon.



Certainly, we would really like you to know our plans for the upcoming time, understand our procedures and policies, and hear all about the new and exciting initiatives. Within the same spirit, we'd like to meet you and have you meet us as well. Having great a relationship between CTC and the school community is paramount!

As a reminder, please know that we are holding our annual "Back-to School" Night on Tuesday, September 30, 2014, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the school. The leadership team as well as the CTC faculty would be most happy if you would accept this invitation and come visit us. It should be an enjoyable evening for everyone.

As the principal, I look forward to seeing all of our parent super stars and of course VIP parking for everyone!! Let this be the best year ever!!

Stay Awesome,

Dr. Michael Knox, Principal



## REMEMBERING 9/11

Celebrate the Children's students, staff and members of the Denville Police Department gathered today for a memorial service to honor the heroes and remember those we lost in the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy in 2001. Hannah and Marina introduced the service singing the Star-Spangled Banner following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Music Teacher, Dan Myers. In addition to a speech by Dr. Mike Knox's, Denville Police Captain, Paul Nigro shared a few words. Students also delivered fantastic speeches sharing their thoughts on the event.

In memory of those we lost a small tree donated by our landscaper, Chris Keller, was planted by our students. Always remember. Never forget.



## OPERATION SMILE

Operation  Smile

A very special thank you to Deb's class and all the support from our students, families and staff for their help with operation Smile last school year! We received the following letter from the Co-founder & President:

A gift has been given in your honor, Monica Osgood and Lauren Blaszk, by Debra Casteluccio & Students. This gift will provide surgery for a child born with facial deformity and will truly transform the life of a child, a family and inspire a community.

Operation Smile mobilizes a world of generous hearts to heal children's smiles and transform lives across the globe.

We hope it brings you joy, knowing this donation in your honor is truly changing the world one smile at a time.

## AUTISM FAMILY SERVICES OF NJ 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BEACH BASH



On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Celebrate the Children had a spectacular time at the Beach Bash in Belmar, NJ! The Beach Bash is an annual event hosted by Autism Family Services of New Jersey for individuals and their families living with autism spectrum disorders. This free event is held each September in Belmar for families and includes organized activities, a DJ, arts and crafts booths, informational vendors, lunch, beach games and more. Families have an opportunity to network and partake in organized activities throughout the day. Also included in the day's activities is a free surf camp featuring Surfer's Healing. Check CTC's Facebook page for a video of one of our students surfing! This is the largest gathering of the autism community in NJ each year and this year broke the record with more than 7,000 attendees! Many familiar faces stopped by our tent! Be on the look-out for this event next summer! Surf registrations begin early spring and close within minutes. It is truly a magical day!

### USED CLOTHING DRIVE

CTC will hold a Used Clothing Drive on October 15, 16 & 17. Items can be dropped in front of our Denville Campus anytime during the first two days and by 10:00am on Friday or sent to school with your child. If your school or company is interested in collecting items for our clothing drive, please contact the school and we can arrange for pick-up. CTC will earn money towards our programs for every pound of clothing donated! Please see the flyer in your child's Weekly Folder for a complete list of accepted items. Thanks in advance for your support!



## AWAKENING THINKING IN THE BODY & MIND PROFECTUM CONFERENCE

Research is providing insight into how the brain thinks, creates and feels. Scientific progress also reveals that for each person brain plasticity allows competencies to develop even when early implications imply limitations. We invite you to join us November 16, 2014 at John Jay College in New York City for Profectum Foundation's 4th Annual NY Conference.

This Conference will present scientific research related to the sensory motor process, executive function and state of the art developmental practice. Explore the newest scientific discoveries on how to recognize an individual's challenges expressing intent and ideas. You are sure to come away with new practical tools, insights, and inspiration! We are here to make this an exciting, enjoyable and enriching experience for YOU and cannot wait to see you this November in New York.

**Sunday, November 16th**  
John Jay College  
524 West 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY



To register and view registration details visit, [www.profectum.org](http://www.profectum.org)

### BOWL-A-THON SUPER HERO STYLE



**It's a bird, it's a plane...  
No, it's CTC's Super Heroes!**

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**12:00pm**  
Circle Lanes  
Ledgewood, NJ

*"Good schools,  
like good societies  
and good families,  
celebrate and cherish  
diversity."  
-Deborah Meier*

### SOCCER ANYONE?

The Outreach Program for Soccer (TOPSoccer) is a program for special needs kids who would like to learn how to play soccer and have a little fun. Kids with special needs, ages 5-16, from any township are invited to participate. Beginners are welcome and each player will be given a buddy at each session. The program is held on Saturday's beginning September 20<sup>th</sup> at their indoor facility in Sparta, NJ. This is a FREE program. There is NO COST to the players.

Those interested in participating should contact Gil Gibbs, [paraking88@gmail.com](mailto:paraking88@gmail.com) or at 973.670.7217 and check out their website, [www.spartasoccer.com](http://www.spartasoccer.com).



### STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

A very special thank you to the PTO for coordinating an amazing breakfast appreciating our staff on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>!  
What a great way to get our school year started!

## ACCESS CONSORTIUM'S CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SYMPOSIUM

We are thrilled to announce pre-registration for the Museum Access Consortium's Cultural Connections for People with Autism Symposium on Saturday, October 25th from 12:30-5:30PM at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Space is limited for this free symposium and registration is mandatory. We are offering you early registration as a thank you for your continued attendance and support of the Museum Access Consortium. **Please note that space is limited and public registration will open on Monday, September 15th at 10AM. Registration for the symposium is offered on a first come, first served basis until capacity is reached. Also, due to the nature of the event, participants must be 18 or older to attend.**

This Cultural Connections Symposium will involve a series of facilitated conversations that will invite adults on the autism spectrum, caregivers, service providers as well as disability and education professionals to participate in discussions about how cultural institutions can provide more welcoming and meaningful experiences for people on the autism spectrum, their friends and family members.

Link for registration: <https://macsymposium.eventbrite.com>

The following topics for the day will be explored through presentations, networking, breakout sessions and roundtable discussions:

- Improv and Play in a Cultural Setting
- Engaging adults on the autism spectrum
- Parent/caregiver advisory boards
- Sibling support and inclusion in cultural programming
- Better serving day habilitation programs at cultural institutions
- Strategies for a social outing



### DENVILLE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Denville Social Services Food Pantry needs your help! Their shelves are quite sparse and they are seriously in need of food donations. They are extremely low and in some cases out of the following items:



- Breakfast cereal
- Parmalat milk
- School snacks
- Tuna/Canned meats
- Pasta/ Mac n Cheese
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Peanut butter/Jelly
- Paper towels/Bathroom tissue\*
- Laundry/Dish detergent\*
- Personal hygiene items\*
- Cleaning supplies\*

\* These items cannot be purchased under the food stamp program.

Thank you so much for your support. Items can be dropped to Denville Township building, there is a drop box in the main entry way for your convenience.

STAFF NEWS

Para's

Welcome!

- Alec Buccino, Paraprofessional
- Jennifer Du Chemin, Paraprofessional
- Jessica Garrabrant, Paraprofessional
- Brett Garrison, Paraprofessional
- Jennie Grube, Paraprofessional
- Nicole Hoffman, Paraprofessional
- Devin Karkovice, Paraprofessional
- Laura Kiely, Paraprofessional
- Zachary Mann, Paraprofessional
- Danielle Nittolo, Paraprofessional
- Samantha Picciuti, Paraprofessional
- Kayla Sebastian, Paraprofessional
- Paula Valencia, Paraprofessional
- Caitlin Weingarten, Paraprofessional
- Madeleine Welch, Paraprofessional
- Thomas Milicia, Paraprofessional
- Susan Deford, Paraprofessional
- Michelle Murphy, Paraprofessional



Bus Driver

Welcome!

Andrew Barber, Bus Driver  
An additional Bus Driver for our New Bus!

Administrative Support

New Scenery!

Congratulations Kathy Avallone on your new position as the Front Desk Receptionist! Kathy has worked for Celebrate the Children for the past 5 years as a paraprofessional!

Related Services

Welcome!

- Alanna Goddard, SLP
- Amy Pinder, SLP
- Lisa Rodgers, OT

Social Worker/ RDI

Welcome!

Laura Hynes, Social Worker & RDI

Sub Nurse

Welcome!

Emily Crispino, Substitute School Nurse

Supervisor of Curriculum/ Instruction

Welcome Back!

Katrinka Sullivan, Supervisor of Curriculum/Instruction

## 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! ☺

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Open House

September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Back to School Night

November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Profectum Conference  
John Jay College, NYC

September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
After School Program Begins

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>  
Clothing Drive

November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bowl-A-Thon  
Circle Lanes  
Ledgewood, NJ



# Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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

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