

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back to School!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Message from Principal Mike
- Our Move to Denville
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013-2014 academic school year. I am equally excited to announce that our unconditional desire to promote self-esteem, socio-emotional development with purposeful deference to critical thinking among all students through rich, positive, and experience-based learning remains a top priority. Of course, the school's philosophy is still anchored in our signature **DIR@ Floortime™** approach.

As we embark on this journey, please know the after-school, swimming, and community-based instruction programs will continue to exist at both campuses. Everyone should take great comfort in knowing the expansion of our adult/transition program will be even more of a dominant focus. The strong pledge to literally celebrate the characteristics of all students has not been severed and remains a core feature embedded within the heart of our school.

The origin of the school's commitment is found in our deep dedication for not only understanding students'

developmental levels, respecting their individual differences, and establishing caring school-community relationships but also for striving towards educational excellence. In support of these themes, a collective effort to put wrap-around social, therapy, developmental and academic support systems in place is critically important.

Undeniably, CTC will continue to breathe the air of professionalism and open communication through the lung's of our school's character. Indeed, I am 100% confident this will be the best year ever for our staff, students, and the families we serve so proudly. As the School Principal, I look forward to everyone displaying optimum support and cooperation. of our adult/transition program will be even more of a dominant focus. The strong pledge to literally celebrate the characteristics of all students has not been severed and remains a core feature embedded within the heart of our school.



Dr. Michael Knox, Principal



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
OUR MOVE TO DENVILLE**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As we embark on the new school year, we would like to provide you with an update on the anticipated relocation of our school facilities. As many of you know, Celebrate the Children has been working very hard to combine our two campuses into one location in Denville, New Jersey. This move will not only allow us to share important resources, but provide our population with space needed to expand our educational programs to meet the diverse needs of our students. The new campus will be divided into three wings: Pre-school/Elementary; Middle School and High School. There is also a separate building for the adult program, including 2 apartments onsite. In addition to classroom space we will have dedicated art, music, science and yoga rooms, multiple sensory rooms and gyms, dedicated Floortime™ rooms, quiet work rooms, multiple life-skills training environments and much more.

It is with great pleasure that we announce our approval to occupy the space currently used by the New Jersey Foundation for the Blind on Diamond Spring Road. The Denville Township Council was very supportive of the anticipated move and welcomes CTC students, staff and families into their community.

The closing date is scheduled to commence mid-September. We hope to have renovations completed and move BOTH campuses by January 2014. However, as we move forward with the necessary renovations to meet the needs of our students, we cannot guarantee that there will not be any delays. Please know, we are moving at full force with anticipation of moving in January. We will continue to be transparent through this process and keep you up-to-date as we move forward.

Please join us in our excitement as we prepare to take our program, yet again, to the next level in this state-of-the-art building. Also, a world of thanks to all of the staff and families who helped to make this approval possible by showing their support at local events and township meetings.

As always, we will be happy to address any questions that you may have regarding this transition.

L Blazak
M/A



AUTISM FAMILY SERVICES OF NJ 9TH ANNUAL BEACH BASH



On Sunday, September 8th, 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. This is the largest gathering of the autism community in NJ each year and this year broke the record with almost 7,000 attendees! Be on the look-out for this event next summer! It is truly a magical day!

USED CLOTHING DRIVE

CTC will hold a Used Clothing Drive on October 2, 3, & 4. Items can be dropped in front of our Wharton Campus anytime during these three days 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!



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO PROGRESS: VITAL PATHWAYS TO ADVANCE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMYSTIFYING FLOORTIME™ PROFECTUM CONFERENCE

This conference will help you understand the barriers to progress and “how to” move forward through case discussions, examining underlying processes, hands-on workshops, and the opportunity to learn how to interact and play with your child using the techniques of Floortime™ to promote progress.

Floortime™ need not be a mystery! Learn the strategies to engage your child in play to help him relate, communicate, think and enjoy discovery and learning. Attend beginner and at school workshops during the conference. Prior experience is not necessary. Floortime™ can be added to all other intervention approaches.

You will learn what to do when:

- The child won't play with you and runs away instead
- When the child is flapping his hands instead of paying attention to you
- When the child loses control and has a meltdown or becomes your tyrant
- How to help the child expand his symbolic play and common sense reasoning
- How to respond when the child's theme in play or behavior is aggressive and you want him to be “nice”
- When you want to discover what is going on in his mind, why and what to do
- When you need to reflect on your feelings as you strive to co-regulate, play and climb the developmental ladder

This conference is different! Don't miss this opportunity, attend this conference:

- To understand the challenges, often hidden in plain sight, to thinking, feeling, communicating and functioning
- To learn strategies and practical approaches you can implement at home, in therapy and in school
- To help develop self-regulation and improve capacities to learn with less stress and greater relatedness
- To integrate four thematic areas related to comprehension – language, visual spatial, sensory and emotional processes, and education
- To meet and network with colleagues, friends and parents dedicated to the progress of everyone they reach
- To hear a student panel discuss their experience of Autism



To register and view registration details visit, www.profectum.org

Sunday, October 13 & Monday, October 14, 2013

New York's Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Avenue

New York, NY

Tel. 212-736-5000



STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

A very special thank you to the PTO for coordinating an amazing breakfast appreciating our staff on Thursday, September 5th !
What a great way to get our school year started!

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

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! 😊

SAVE THE
DATE!

BOWL-A-THON HALLOWEEN STYLE



Sunday, October 27th
12:00pm
Circle Lanes
Ledgewood, NJ



WE HAVE A WONDERFULLY
GHOULISH IDEA BREWING...

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SPOOKTACULAR EVENT!

PTO HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

Make sure to check out the Halloween fundraiser flyer in your child's Weekly Folder! You can purchase your child's costume online at a wholesale price and 15% will be donated back to the CTC PTO!

What a boo-tiful deal!

**HALLOWEEN
COSTUME FUNDRAISER**
Get The Best Selection Costumes at
LOW WHOLESALE PRICES
We Receive 15% of All Sales
USE PROMO CODE **FUN1040**
Be sure to Checkout as a New Member
This will waive the \$5 Membership Fee
CLICK HERE
www.WholesaleCostumeClub.com

STAFF NEWS



Congratulations!

Joe Devore is now a full-time Teacher at the Dover Campus

Jamie Burd will be working as a long term sub for Lauren Babcock at the Wharton Campus

Teachers

Welcome!

Nikki Squillante is our New Pre-K Teacher at Wharton

Congratulations!

Katie McColligan who will be working as our Admissions Coordinator and overseeing our new hire mentor program

Daniela Peluso who will now be working as the Administrative Assistant in our RS Department

Para's

Welcome!

- Dona Malson, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Melissa Martin, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Kevin Guldner, Paraprofessional Dover Campus
- Katelyn Donohue, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Alexandra LaVitola, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Steven Grosso, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Amanda Knops, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Ricky Puerto, Paraprofessional Dover Campus
- Adam Najemian, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Melissa Callahan, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Debbie Lowenstein, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Christopher Mould, Paraprofessional Wharton Campus
- Marianna Lindsay, Paraprofessional Dover Campus

New Scenery!

Patrice Schaeffer is the Admin Support in the Wharton Front Office

Shelann Coughlan is the Admin Support in the Dover Front Office

Administrative Support

Welcome!

Alex Torres is the new Custodian at the Wharton Campus

Related Services

Welcome!

Erin Shipley, SLP
Lisa Scarpa, SLP

Congratulations!

Lisa Bruno who was promoted to our new Related Service Coordinator

Congratulations to our new team leaders:
Michelle Parkins - OT
Danielle Dieckmann - PT
Lauren Butera - SLP



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations on your Promotion!

Teri Howard, L3
 Aretha Hurt, L2
 Keisha Togna, L2
 Rachael Vanderbilt, L2
 Stephanie Murphy, BA
 Lisa Zamorski, L2
 Crissy Zipko, BA

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Erin Togno who was married over the summer and is now Mrs. O'Connor

Congratulations Lauren Babcock on your beautiful baby!

Congratulations to Laura Baldwin who was recently accepted into Montclair State University

Congratulations to Jackie Giganti who received her Basic DIR® Certification over the summer

Congratulations and best wishes to our staff who have left to pursue new careers, return to school or relocated out-of-state!

Kevin Perry, Custodian
 Ezekiel Cuellar, Paraprofessional, FC
 Nicole Kuhrt, SLP
 Ashley Martin, Paraprofessional
 Sandra Montero, Teacher
 Deb Wieboldt, Administrative Assistant
 Lynn Gonzalez, SLP
 Carrie Davis, OT
 Meghan Spitzer, Administrative Assistant
 Helen Smith, Paraprofessional
 Amy Feld, Paraprofessional
 Nicole Spagnolo, Paraprofessional
 Lia Fierro, Paraprofessional
 Dan Cherry, BA
 Allyson Todd, SLP
 Elisabetta Mennella, Paraprofessional
 Crissy Guibbord, Paraprofessional

*Best of
 Luck!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19th
 Open House

September 23rd
 After School Program Begins

September 26th
 Back to School Night
 Wharton & Dover

September-October
 PTO Halloween Costume Fundraiser

October 2nd 3rd 4th
 Clothing Drive

October 14th
 No School
 Columbus Day

October 13th 14th
 Profectum Conference
 NYC

Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.ctcschool.org