

# Discovery News

First Church of Winsted Children's Discovery Center

September 2008

95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098

(860) 379-4838

[www.childrensdiscoverywinsted.org](http://www.childrensdiscoverywinsted.org)



## Welcome to Children's Discovery Center!

While too many of you we say "Welcome Back", to others we say "Hello" for the first time! It's so nice to see all of you. Hopefully you have carefully read the parent handbook which was handed out at Parent Orientation for those of you who attended, for those of you who weren't able to attend it was placed in your child's mailbox. If you have not received one, have any questions or concerns regarding the policies and information in the handbook please feel free to see Tanya about them. We value your thoughts and concerns, therefore this year we have a questions, concerns and suggestions box located on top of the mailboxes outside the upstairs classroom. Feel free to express your concerns, questions, suggestions and compliments, as communication between the families and staff is very important to us. Each staff member is excited to be a part of your child's preschool experience and we are grateful that you have entrusted us with your child. We look forward to working with each of you.

In an effort to "Go Green" and help reduce paper that just gets tossed away after reading we are wanting email the monthly newsletter to those of you that are comfortable with that. If you would rather have the newsletter emailed to you rather than placed in your child's mailbox please let Tanya know if you have not already done so.

## Dates to Remember

Every month there are things to keep track of at school. There will be a list of them in each newsletter, as well as notes on the calendar in the entry way.

- Sept. 15-30<sup>th</sup> .....Fundraiser
- Sept. 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> ...Fundraiser Tally Sheet Due
- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> .....Butterfly Celebration
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> .....Four's Orchard Trip
- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> .....Evening Magic Show
- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> .....No School (Columbus Day)

## Gift Wrap Fundraiser

You should have received your fundraiser pack in your child's mailbox; the sale will begin on Sept. 15. We understand that many of you have other fundraisers going on at home with your older children, but do hope you put an effort into our fundraiser too. Genevieve's gives us a 50% profit on our sales, which usually amounts to \$1000 or more each year. All proceeds from the fundraiser go toward a capital improvement project at the school. We've already resurfaced the trice-pike, painted inside the building and installed a new floor in a portion of the downstairs this summer.

Please read your instruction sheer carefully so you will understand the process. Tally sheets and money are due back to the school by September 30<sup>th</sup>. You

may return them in the basket that hangs by the top of the stairs as you enter the upstairs classroom.

We are looking for a volunteer to help with the processing of the envelopes when they are returned. Please see Tanya should you be interested in helping with this.

You will be notified when the orders are ready for pick-up early November.

## Reminders

There are some important pointers we want you to pay special attention to. These are all found in the parent handbook and we spoke of them at Parent Orientation Evening, but they are important enough that we wish to review them again!

**Label Clothing-** Make sure all of your child's clothing comes to school labeled. This includes backpacks, extra clothing, jackets, hats and mittens. Imagine 16 children needing jackets for a cool fall morning and two teachers trying to figure out who is supposed to wear what!

**Extra Clothing-** Make sure your child has extra clothing in his/her backpack EVERY DAY! The children are always more comfortable in their own clothing rather than borrowed clothing should he/she spill juice on their laps at school.

**Drop off and Pick Up-** The teachers arrive at 8:30 a.m. to prepare the environment for the day. Your child is welcome to enter the classroom at 8:55 a.m. Please try to be as prompt as possible at pick up time, as children get worried if they are picked up late. If your child is dropped off or picked up by a caregiver, please be sure they are aware of this policy.

**Payment-** Thank you to all of you who remembered to pay September's tuition payment in August. We understand that it can be confusing to get the payment to school before the year begins, but CDC has had this policy for many years and have found this works the best way. It guarantees the staff will

receive their payroll on time and gives the bookkeeper a chance to catch up with families who may be behind in payments by the end of year. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this matter.

## Allergy Alert!

We wish to make you aware of food allergies at school. We like to make sure all of the families are aware of school allergies, so if you volunteer to bring any food into school to share, whether for a celebration day, Birthday or "just because", you can be mindful of what you send in.

This year our allergies include:

Three's - Milk

Four's - MSG

Some of these children may get very sick if they ingest the foods they are allergic to. If you send baked goods to school, please label them with the ingredients, so the staff can be cautious.

## Wish List

Another part of the monthly newsletter is the Wish List. This is a list of things we need and are looking for to add to the program. Usually, the items are things you can find in your recycling bin or are fairly low cost. There are post-it-notes posted on the bulletin board for our wish list. If you would like to donate an item on our wish list, please take the post-it-note home with you. This will serve as your reminder that you have volunteered to donate this item(s) and it will indicate to the staff that they can expect that item(s) to come into school. At this time we are in need of: 100% fruit juice, crackers, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and a guinea pig cage.

Thank you in advance!

If you bring items into the program such as snack foods or other items on the wish list, please bring it into the upstairs classroom and sign your child's name with what you have donated on the clipboard labeled "Donations" on the countertop. Already this year we have had many things donated! We appreciate your generosity very much!

## Curriculum

Each month we will share with you our curriculum plans for the unit we are currently working on. The first week of school all classes will be involved in a unit "About Me". Children will become more aware of themselves, others, feelings and manners. After this all classes will be working on a unit about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. We will be busy watching our caterpillars wrap themselves up in their chrysalis and finally emerge as a beautiful butterfly!

One of our favorite butterfly movement activities is:

Roly Poly Caterpillar into the corner crept.

Spun himself a blanket and for a long time slept.

Roly Poly Caterpillar wakened by and by found himself with beautiful wings, changed into a butterfly!

## Butterfly Celebration!

Have you stopped in to see the caterpillars or they chrysalis? We are anxiously awaiting for a butterfly to emerge! As we culminate the unit on the life cycle of the butterfly we will have our first celebration of the year. The three's will celebrate life, as we see the life of a caterpillar change and become a butterfly and then watch them fly to warmer climates on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

You will find a signup sheet posted on the bulletin board in the entry way. Please look it over to see what you can bring to help with the celebration. We will be looking for creative snack ideas and for parent volunteers on the day of the party. Parent volunteers will be responsible for gathering the food as it comes

in that day and setting it out for the party. After snack, they will clean up the kitchen area. This will give you an opportunity to "peek in" on your child's day at school!

## Four Year Old's Field Trip to Bushy Hill Orchard

The first field trip of the year will be for the four year old class on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be going to Bushy Hill Orchard in Granby, CT. Look for permission slip in your child's class. There will be a separate information sheet in your child's mailbox soon. Watch for the details.

## Conscious Discipline®

This year we are implementing portions of Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline® here at CDC. Conscious Discipline® is a comprehensive classroom management program and a social-emotional curriculum. It is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. Conscious Discipline® has been specifically designed to teach us how to respond rather than react. Should you want additional information or have interest in attending a video workshop series on this program see Tanya.

## CDC Directory

Each year we put together a directory. This includes all families who are interested in being in the directory. The directory information sheet will be in your child's mailbox soon. Once the information is compiled, a beautiful directory will be available to you! The directory is a wonderful tool when you wish to arrange for play dates or Birthday parties.

## **Recipe From the Classroom for Home**

Play Dough

2 Cups of Flour

2 Tbs Oil

2 Cups of Water with Food Coloring or Paint

1 Cup of Salt

4 Tsp Cream of Tartar

Combine all ingredients and cook over medium heat in saucepan stirring constantly. When done, the mixture begins to form a ball. Let it cool until you can touch it comfortably and then knead it. The play dough will keep for a month or more if stored in a covered plastic container. Enjoy and have fun!

## **Magic Show**

Jerry's Magic is coming to CDC on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for CDC families. The program Jerry will present includes a colorful blend of Magic, Comedy, and Audience Participation. He uses a lot of helpers from the audience and everyone gets to meet (and pet) Marshmallow, the Magic Bunny! Keep a camera handy, you'll get some wonderful shots. We hope to see you there!

## **Word from the Director**

I am very excited to be here as director this year and am looking forward to getting to know each of you. CDC is a special place where each child is nurtured and respected and I am grateful to be a part of that. I am most grateful to all of the families that have entrusted us with their precious children. I am committed to work with the staff, parents and Board of Christian Education to ensure that we continue to have a high quality preschool, where it feels like being part of a family. On that note I welcome any of your thoughts or concerns with regard to the program. My office hours will be

Monday and Tuesdays 8:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m. and the first and last Friday of each month from 8:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m. Should you have a concern when I am not there you can leave a note in my mailbox requesting that I give you a call or call the school and leave me a message and I will get back with you as promptly as possible. You are welcome to email me to at [fcchildrens@snet.net](mailto:fcchildrens@snet.net). I am looking forward to a great year!