

# August 2012



## Mount Kisco Child Care Center

PARENT CONNECTION – A family newsletter

Dear Parents:

The summertime is a time to stop and smell the basil. And the lavender. It's also a time to marvel at what's been growing at MKCCC – children and the vegetables, herbs and flowers in our gardens!

Every year for over 25 years, I have watched infants grow into toddlers, toddlers into preschoolers, preschoolers into school-age children and later on, those children grow into High School students who return to MKCCC as volunteers. While we adults try to turn back the hands of time, our children remind us of how fast those hands really are! These days, I am marveling at the fact that we have a few children enrolled in our program, who are second-generation MKCCC students. Time flies!

As we enjoy summer in all its glory, I'm reminded of the wonder of it all, especially as I walk through our gardens. Sunflower seeds, planted last Fall with the help of IBM volunteers, grew into a beautiful sunflower in the preschool gardens, shown at right. Also last Fall, the preschool children wondered, "what would happen if we left a pumpkin to rot in the soil until Spring?" The result? We have two very large pumpkins growing. Can Halloween be far behind?

Fun summer activities for our families are planned for this month, and we hope to see you on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at MKCCC's annual **Family Picnic**, and on August 8<sup>th</sup> at **Ben & Jerry's** in Mount Kisco for **Benefit Scoop Night**, at which a portion of the proceeds will be donated to MKCCC.

Finally, we end the summer and start the fall with **Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening**, our signature fundraiser, on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Ivanna Farms. Many of our parents have been actively involved in this year's benefit (thank you!), at which **Frances and Isidoro Albanese** of Frannie's Goodie Shop and Bellizzi and MKCCC Board Member **Curtis Beusman**, are being honored. Please watch for your invitation in your child's cubby/mailbox, later this month, and call a babysitter!

Warmly,

Dottie Jordan, Executive Director



MKCCC Advisory Group member Sharon Pollack (center) is joined by Dawn and friends of MKCCC at Sparkle for a Cause at Crabtree's Kittle House on July 17<sup>th</sup> (left). Over 50 friends dined in support of MKCCC that evening. Volunteers from Ben & Jerry's in Mt. Kisco paint backdrops for "Caps for Sale" to be performed by the school-age children (right).



### Mark your calendar:

- August 3<sup>rd</sup>:**  
Family Picnic  
Starting at 6:00 PM
- August 8<sup>th</sup>:**  
Ben & Jerry's Scoop  
Night for MKCCC  
5:00 – 10:00 PM
- August 15<sup>th</sup>:**  
Performance of  
"Caps for Sale"
- August 16<sup>th</sup>:**  
JEWEL Art Show  
10:00 AM
- August 27 – Sept. 4:**  
MKCCC closed
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>:**  
Feed Me Fresh: An  
Edible Evening  
7:00 – 11:00 PM

## News from the Classrooms

The **INFANTS** are delighted to welcome our new friends, Lily, Oliver and Eloise to our program. We are sad to say goodbye to Neil, but he is moving on to bigger things...toddlers! The infants have been beating the heat by splashing in the water table and filling and dumping buckets in the sprinkler. They've also been taking stroller rides into the community.

In the **TODDLER**-verse, the children are enjoying the summer with lots of outdoor activities! They're keeping cool in the sprinklers and at the water table, but have the most fun going on the bus to the pool in town! They all love it! The Toddlers had fun earlier this month celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and having a sing-along with Graham Clark. Toddlers enjoyed a visit from **Sea Wonders** (they got to see a real crab!) and from **Nature of Things** that brought a duck, a frog, a snake and a chinchilla for us to learn about! The Toddlers welcome Teachers Miss Ashley and Miss Rebekah and celebrated birthdays with Jack, Sam and Tillman. In August we'll celebrate birthdays with Diego and Miss Elizabeth – Happy Birthday!

Our **PRESCHOOLERS** have been having a very busy summer – they've been having a blast swimming and splashing around at Bedford Hills Memorial Park. They've also learned how to keep their bodies healthy

with exercises taught to them by Mr. Neil in “boot camp.” The preschoolers had a great trip to the planetarium where they learned more about the sun, stars, planets and our solar system. **Sea Wonders** and the **Nature of Things** also visiting with the preschoolers, teaching them about ocean creatures and other interesting critters. And finally, the preschoolers really want to thank our friends from **Ben & Jerry's** – everyone loved making mint chocolate chip ice cream (with home-grown mint from our gardens) and then going to the Ice Cream Social.



The **SCHOOL-AGE** children have had a fun-packed July, spending their time outside playing baseball and tag, harvesting vegetables from the garden, and even making their own shops such as a “Cupcake Factory.” The pool, no surprise, is a big hit for everyone – we may even have some promising Olympic divers and swimmers in the group! Their trip to **SplashDown** was a blast and upcoming trips to **Mad Science, Liberty Science Center** and **Red Rooster** are highly anticipated. Staff from **Northern Westchester Hospital** taught the children about basic First Aid this month. And finally, the children are preparing for their performance of “**Caps for Sale**” on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – please join us!

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## Feed Me Fresh *by Dr. Susan Rubin*

We had an especially sweet Feed Me Fresh treat in July, thanks to our friends at **Ben & Jerry's**. As part of their afternoon of volunteerism, high-school and college age young adults who work at Ben & Jerry's in Mount Kisco helped the preschoolers to make the freshest Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream they've ever had! Each class used mint, picked from our garden with Ben & Jerry's Vanilla Ice Cream and chocolate chips to create their own version of the classic flavor. They liked it! One classroom mixed all the ingredients together, and the others scooped their vanilla ice cream and topped it with mint and chips—just goes to show you that great minds don't always think alike, but that the end result is just as sweet!

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## JEWEL *by Nancy Loden, Intergenerational Coordinator*

The August 16<sup>th</sup> **Art Show** will be one of the highlights for the month of August. The school age children along with the older participants have been working on art projects since the beginning of the summer. They studied art starting with the Egyptian Hieroglyphs to Andrew Goldsworthy – nature sculptures. The art show will be on display in the courtyard for viewing all day long. A light bite will be served at 10:00 a.m. and again at 3:00 in the afternoon. Please join us. Mary Ann Robinson will be working on her Horticulture Therapy accreditation from The New York Botanical Garden with MKCCC/MSH. Her internship will include programs with plant materials with older participants, children and the JEWEL program. The JEWEL participants will harvest and pickle some of the vegetables from their gardens. They will be available for sale at the MKCCC picnic August 3. JEWEL will start the quilt project in August. Thanks to the guidance of Abby Stuckey, a senior at Fox Lane High School, we have a plan and the materials to begin our project. In July we had our Peace Pole Dedication with Rabbi Aaron Brusso officiating - the children sang along with the older participants, the school-age children shared the Power Point presentation they created about what Peace means to them and there was a toddler parade. It was a very special event.



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## The Bottom Line from Ruth Goodman, MSW

Ok, is it fair to shift from wishing you “happy summer” last newsletter to reminding you to gear up for fall and back to school this one? Probably not, but here goes...after summer's hot, slow and hopefully relaxed pace, the prospect of getting one's kid(s), and one's self ready for the onslaught of the school year and its structure can be daunting. If this transition is causing you stress, it may be doing the same for your kid(s). Talking about it helps. Check in with your kid(s) about how they are feeling. Perhaps they have questions about a change of classroom or teacher. If you want to touch base about the oncoming year for your kid(s) or yourselves, please come see me!