



Book Bag Buzz



Dear Families,

As we begin a new year at Challenged Child and Friends, no doubt you will see a great many changes. The most visible difference is the bright new colors of the classrooms and hallways. Our great friends at AkzoNobel donated all of the paint and supplies and organized a "paint out" at the center – more than 100 volunteers finished the entire job in less than seven hours. It was an impressive, and colorful, feat!

You will also learn about staff changes that I believe will result in an even greater experience for your child at CCAF. To simplify and improve coordination among our health support, early intervention, pre-school and therapy programs, we have grouped all of those services under the leadership of the Program Director, Carla Baker. In addition, two new positions, Education Coordinator (LeeAnn Nixon) and Classroom Therapy Liaison (Lisa Short) will increase our capacity to link and coordinate our classroom and therapy services and provide more support for our teachers, paraprofessionals and therapy staff.

Change does not always come easy, and there are not enough "thank-yous" to cover all of the individuals who have worked so hard this summer to make CCAF an even better place for your children. The paint is dry and the dust has settled and the volunteers, board members and staff who have prepared the building and programs for the year are the real heroes.

I hope that you will join me in appreciating their efforts to make the 2011-12 school year at CCAF the best ever!

Dave Earnest
Executive Director

Visit our website at www.challengedchild.org for news, resources and upcoming events at Challenged Child & Friends.



Challenged Child & Friends

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Dates to Remember

- 9/5 Labor Day-No School
- 9/17 Art in the Square
- 9/23 Pajama Day
- 9/24 CCAF Day at North Georgia Zoo
- 9/28- 9/29 School pictures
- 10/7- 10/9 Pro-Am Tennis Tournament
- 10/14 Staff Work Day (no school students)
- 10/15 Harvest Balloon Festival



Late Pick-up Policy

CCAF operation hours are 7:15AM-5:15PM.

Reminder: If you pick your child up after 12:35pm for the ½ day program, after 2:05 for short stay program or after 5:20pm for the full day program, there will be a charge of \$1.00 per minute late after these times. Parents will be asked to sign a "Late Pick-Up" form and payment is due at the front desk upon pick-up. We do ask that you contact the front desk to notify staff that you will be late picking your child up, the approximate time you will be arriving and specify a reason. We will make every effort to comfort your child while he/she waits. If late pick-ups are excessive, parents will be contacted to determine if their child's placement will be forfeited.

Early Arrival

Early Arrival runs from 7:15AM-8:25AM. Students may be dropped off anytime during Early Arrival. After 8:25AM, students are to be dropped off in their classrooms. If you are unsure where your child should be dropped off for Early Arrival, please refer to the chart below:

<u>Classroom Teacher</u>	<u>Early Arrival Room</u>	<u>Classroom Teacher</u>	<u>Early Arrival Room</u>
Mrs. Jill Mullinax	Classroom A	Mrs. Susan Bartig-Oliver	Classroom F
Mrs. Taryn Baxter	Classroom B	Miss Heather Freeman	Motor Room
Mrs. Clarissa Heard	Classroom B	Mrs. Natalie Parker	Motor Room
Mrs. Joanna Futch	Classroom L	Miss Courtney Napierala	Classroom F
Miss Sybil Schneider	Classroom F	Mrs. Jeanie Sanders	Motor Room
Mrs. Julie Cragle	Motor Room		

Parking

Please be aware that buses that serve Hall County and Gainesville City schools begin arriving at 8:00AM and again at 12:15PM. Please park in the designated parking areas. Parking along the canopy area and the curbed areas outside of the parking lot is restricted from 8:00AM – 9:30AM and from 12:15PM – 12:45PM. Please feel free to use the Employee Parking lot for overflow parking during drop-off and pick-up.

Nurse Notes

Welcome back. We are so glad to see everyone and meet new friends. Just a few friendly reminders:

For the safety of our children, no medicine can be left in the classroom/book bag. Please drop it off in the nursing office or take it home with you. Turn in all paper work and let us know of any changes in your child's health, medicines, address/phone numbers, diagnosis, etc. during the school year. It is very helpful so we can provide the best care for your child that is possible.



As far as illnesses, remember to keep your child home until they are 24 hours free of symptoms if they are sick with nausea, vomiting, fever, and/or diarrhea, green/yellow runny noses, or just not well enough to participate in the day's activities. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Education Notes



Welcome Back! I am excited to welcome all back to school for the best school year to date! I am impressed by our teachers and staff and their commitment to do what is best for the children of our center. This is truly a life changing environment and I am so proud to be here! That being said.... I would like to share a bit about myself. My name is LeeAnn Nixon. I am not new to Challenged Child but am new to the Education Coordinator position. I worked here a number of years ago as a teacher and left to work with the school system for a short while. My heart has always been with Challenged Child and friends, and I was so eager to return! I first became familiar with the center when my son, Nick, was placed here for preschool services. He was diagnosed with PDD-NOS as a 4 year old and had already been receiving speech and occupational therapy services at another wonderful intervention center here in town. However, after touring, I really felt that this was the place for Nick to be involved with a larger group of peers. Nick is now 13, he plays basketball and baseball and does it well! I am so proud of his progress and of the young man that he is becoming, and I feel that Challenged Child had a large part in that! I have two other children, Natalie and Nate, who attended Challenged Child and Friends as well. I see a difference in the way that they handle peers with disabilities, not only because of their brother, but because of the inclusion that they became accustomed to here at CCAF. Needless to say, I have a sense of investment here, I feel first-hand the power of advocacy and of support for the entire family. I feel that the staff at Challenged Child provides top-notch care and support for families in our community, and I am thankful to be a part of such a special team. As the Education Coordinator, I will supervise the teachers and paraprofessionals and the use of curriculum. I will also oversee the implementation of goals and assessments. Please feel free to contact me any time at lnixon@challengedchild.org or at 770-535-8372 ext.108.

Thanks so much and blessings to all,

LeeAnn Nixon

All of our students will be taking part in some great activities throughout the year. These regularly scheduled activities include:

Music therapy with Mrs. Paula James

Story telling with Gail Hogan

Pet Therapy with Dr. Luke



September 17th 10am -7pm



Art, music, crafts, and food will entertain the whole family at this all-day art festival, that is free to the public. Stroll down the tree-lined streets of Gainesville's celebrated Downtown Square and visit with the creators of original art. Bring the whole family - kids of all ages will enjoy various activities in the Youth Artist Market. Youngsters will revel in the hands-on creative arts activities while enjoying their very own youth-oriented entertainment.

This year's event features many well known regional artists. A Silent Auction of original artwork to benefit Challenged Child and Friends will be held at Gallerie 110. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to Challenged Child and Friends. The artwork is on display currently through September 17, 2011.



Challenged Child and Friends will be selling Sally Foster starting August 24, through November 4. Sally Foster sells everything from cookie dough, homegoods, gifts and wrapping paper. Cookie orders will be taken on the forms included in your child's bookbag. To order other items please go to www.sallyfoster.com

All orders over \$50 ship for free.
PLEASE USE CCAF ACCOUNT # 508500



CCAF Day at North Georgia Zoo

Did you know there is a zoo in Cleveland? North Georgia Zoo will be sponsoring CCAF Day on Saturday, September 24th. Mention that you are there for CCAF and receive a free feed cup to give your furry new friends in the petting zoo and the zoo will also donate a portion of your admission to CCAF. For more information about the zoo, hours and directions visit www.northgeorgiazoo.com



Values:
Caring
Committed
Advocates
For Children
and Families

MISSION

Mission: To serve children with disabilities and their typical peers through state-of-the-art educational, therapeutic, nursing and family counseling services in an integrated environment.

VISION

Challenged Child and Friends will become Georgia's nationally recognized, accredited early intervention center where children with disabilities and their families, along with their typical peers, will achieve their full potential. We will share our model of excellence to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our region, state, and nation.

Challenged Child and Friends [CCAF] provides information from other publications and various sources to help families with resources.

Some center or agency events may include vendors or representatives promoting products or services, which may include proceeds from sales designated as a donation to CCAF. The inclusion of a product display or product sale or a printed resource or a service description does not imply endorsement or specific knowledge of the content, qualifications, quality or implied benefits or results.

Our goal is to provide information and options for consumers, staff, volunteers or supporters.

Book Bag Buzz Editor: Robyn Shoaf,
robyn@challengedchild.org
Parent contributions to Book Bag Buzz are welcome and are printed as space permits.

PTC—Parent Teacher Connection

Parent Teacher connection needs you! This group provides appreciation for our staff and their hard work. They also provide support to one another as mothers of young children. Please contact your child's teacher or email LeeAnn Nixon at lnixon@challengedchild.org or give me a call at 770-535-8372 ext 108 to express your interest in being involved in this wonderful group.

Please remind your child's teacher how much you appreciate them! They do such an awesome job and they love to hear your encouragement!



Challenged Child & Friends

The mission of the Parent Teacher Connection (PTC) is to be an inclusive organization that works to support Challenged Child & Friends, Inc. (CCAF). It is comprised of both parents and teachers who want to unite efforts to encourage the best learning environment for the children enrolled at CCAF. The PTC is also a support organization for all parents and teachers whose children attend CCAF. The PTC hopes for 100% participation from the parents and teachers of CCAF and PTC hopes to become a great resource to assist in both educational and volunteer efforts. The PTC does not require a particular financial and/or time commitment but requests volunteers to help support CCAF PTC activities.

GET INVOLVED! Please provide your name and information below

Parent(s) Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive PTC email updates: Yes No

Any questions or concerns regarding PTC program, please contact LeeAnn Nixon Education Coordinator at 770-535-8372, ext 108 or lnixon@challengedchild.org

Please return to your child's teacher or the front desk.