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# Fairfield County Parent

November 2012

Happy  
Thanksgiving!

Annual: Leaders  
in Education

Holiday  
Entertainment



# RIDGEFIELD ACADEMY

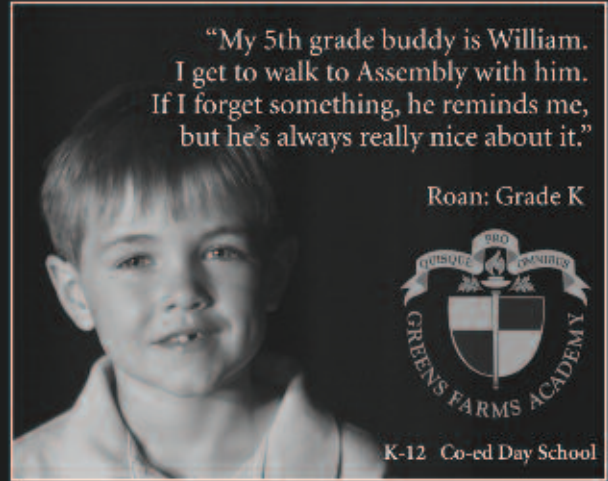
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AGES 1 to 5

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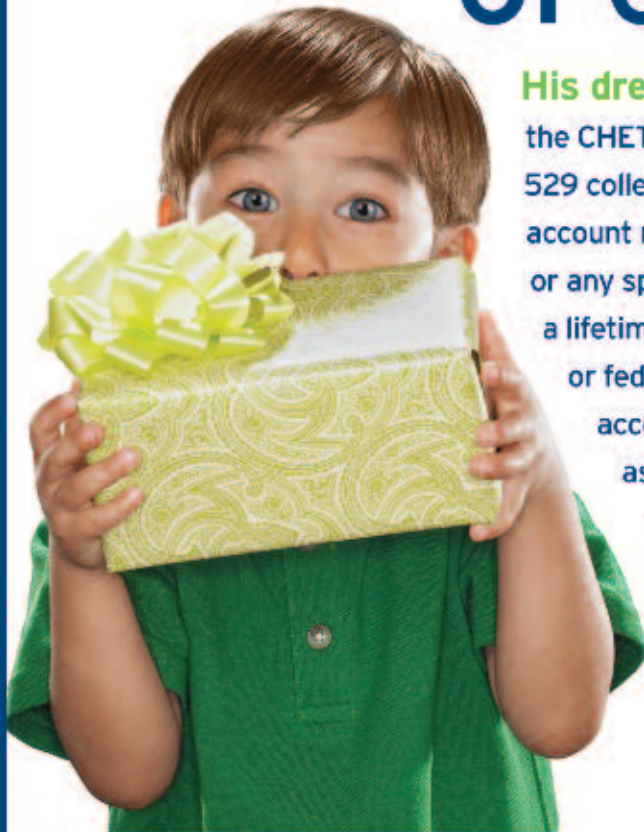
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The last vibrant days of autumn lead into the spirit of the holidays. Here are great ways to spend time with your family in November.

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The CHET direct-sold plan is administered by the Connecticut State Treasurer's Office, and managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc.

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Look for Connecticut Parent Magazine online at [www.ctparent.com!](http://www.ctparent.com!)



On our print cover: Seasons of Exploration at The Independent Day School. Photo by Robert Lisak.  
 The digital-only edition features CT parent and PBS star Steve Roslonek of SteveSongs. Read about his upcoming performances on page 53.  
 Photo by Sasha Nialla.

Use your smartphone's QR Code Reader to instantly access [www.ctparent.com!](http://www.ctparent.com!)

Connecticut Parent Magazine welcomes letters. Write to Editor, Connecticut Parent Magazine, 420 East Main Street, Suite 18, Branford, CT 06405, or email to: [editorial@ctparent.com](mailto:editorial@ctparent.com). Your name, address and daytime phone number are required with your letter in order to be published. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity or for space considerations.



## Get in the Picture



It's "all systems go" as we head into the holiday season! Are you ready? It's a busy time of year, as moms and dads find it especially tricky to mix in all this season brings, amidst the usual juggling of work, school and family responsibilities. And, "family" isn't limited to our households; it includes grandparents, aunts & uncles, cousins and more. Family dynamics certainly make life interesting!

There is a story that has created a lot of buzz of late which might be of interest to our audience. In fact, it's generated over six million views on the *Huffington Post*. It centers on a blogpost by a mother of three who realized she didn't appear in most of the pictures taken of her children. Everyone can relate to this story, which explains its popularity, and she has brought out something that parents can connect with. Looking back, I see the pattern in my own life: as my hair has changed from brown to salt and pepper, there was less of me captured on film in general, and with my kids specifically. As a mom and dad, it's natural to take pictures of your children and not be in the picture.

Have this observance serve as a wake-up call! Take a look at your children's baby book. Is there a picture of you holding your newborn? As you look back at the moments captured during your child's graduation from nursery school, are you in the photograph? With smartphones at the ready, our children are the most-photographed generation in history, but don't hesitate to step out from behind the camera and get into the picture every once in awhile. Who cares if your hair isn't just right, or if you aren't dressed up perfectly? Get in the picture as this is how you really are in your child's day-to-day life. And they love you for it.

Twenty years from now when you and your children are looking at family photos, it will be equally important and fun that your child will see mom in a photograph. We know our children grow up quickly, so too, does time pass too quickly for us — what a rush for your children to see mom when she's in her twenties and thirties! And so easy to share in photos if you remember to step out from behind the camera.

On the cover of our October cover we showcased an entire family — we usually feature only children. I thought it was a great change of pace. We love our covers! In addition to regular picture taking, the holidays are a perfect time to have an official family portrait taken of your family as you will keep such a photograph in your hearts forever. And something you can share with all those aforementioned grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins!

There is so much going on in November we added another page to our calendar! We are a small state but have so many great activities and events taking place. Make sure you keep this issue handy in case things slow down and you are looking for a family activity. Have a great month!!

Sincerely,

Joel

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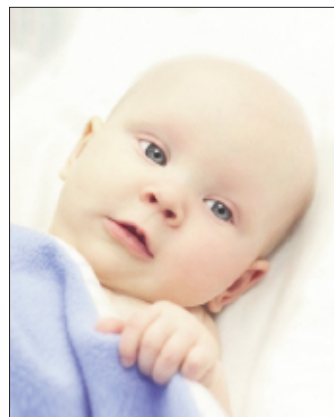
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news bits from the ♥ of Connecticut

# smalltalk

## A Day of Family Fitness for a Great Cause



Jamie's Run celebrates the life of Jamie Knotts, who lost her battle with a liver tumor in 2010.

Come to the 3rd annual Jamie's Run on Sunday, November 4 at Standish Park in Old Wethersfield.

There is something for everyone — a 5K run, 3K walk and Kids' Fun Run. The Fun Run, for ages 12 and under, takes off first and goes down Garden Street and back, about a 1/2 mile. Each fun runner gets a ribbon and the winners get a trophy block.

The 5K run begins after the Fun Run and heads down Garden Street to the Wethersfield Town Green. The picturesque, certified course goes through the quaint village of Old

Wethersfield, passing historic homes and landmarks. The course is flat and fast and begins and ends at Standish Park. The walkers follow the runners down to the green and back.

Stick around after the race because the party continues with live music, hot cider, hot chocolate, coffee and free Farmer's Cow ice cream. Kids will love the bounce house and giant slide, in addition to face painting and games! Awards will be given to the winners and top three in each age category.

The event celebrates the life of Jamie Lynne Knotts, who died in January

2010 of a rare type of liver tumor at the age of 5 1/2 months. Proceeds from the race benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.; the Fun Run starts at 11 a.m., followed by the run and walk at 11:15 a.m. Awards will be announced at noon. The cost is \$28-\$30 for the 5K run and 3K walk; and \$9-\$10 for the Kids' Fun Run. Standish Park is located on Garden Street. Parking is available at the DMV on State Street.

For more information, visit [www.jamiesrun.org](http://www.jamiesrun.org).



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# INDIAN LORE AT THE PEQUOT MUSEUM

Want to earn your Indian Lore merit badge? The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Mashantucket is offering two workshops on Saturday, November 3 and Saturday, November 17 where scouts can learn traditional crafts, games and fun facts!

The Indian Lore Badge Workshop teaches scouts that American Indians have many different cultures, languages, religions, styles of dress and

different ways of life.

The workshops take place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The classes are limited to 25 scouts each, ages 11-18. Pre-registration is required for this event. Participants can register online through the Connecticut Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America at [www.ctrivers.org](http://www.ctrivers.org).

If you're craving more weekend fun at the museum, you won't want to miss *Celebrating the Harvest Days* on Friday,

November 23 and Saturday, November 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Leah Hopkins will lead the harvest celebration as she demonstrates various traditional Native cooking methods. Visitors can bid on items at the silent auction that will be held and try other fun activities, including \$5 crafts that participants can take part in. These exhibits are free with museum admission and free to members of the museum.

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center is located at 110 Pequot Trail.

For more information, call 800-411-9671 or visit [www.pequotmuseum.org](http://www.pequotmuseum.org).

## HUSTLE YOUR BUSTLE and RUN FOR FOOD

Hurry to Short Beach in Stratford on Sunday, November 4 — you don't want to be late for the annual Harvest Hustle! The 5K and 10K road race is presented by Big Boy Racing.

This is a great community event for people of all ages, including elite and recreational runners, walkers and spectators!



Proceeds from the Harvest Hustle benefit the Connecticut Food Bank.

The emphasis of this race is on fun with DJs playing music along the route, in addition to raffle prizes, t-shirts and gift bags filled with items donated by local businesses. Don't miss the after party where top finishers will win awards!

Organizers Jack Schlechtweg, Rob Pezzulo and Chris Capodicci created Big Boy Racing to benefit local charities. This year, proceeds from the race will be donated to the Connecticut Food Bank.

The race begins at 10 a.m. The cost is \$20 for the 5K and \$25 for the 10K. Short Beach is located at 1 Dorne Drive.

For more information, visit [www.bigboyracing.net](http://www.bigboyracing.net).

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[theprospectschool.org](http://theprospectschool.org)

**THE Prospect School**  
at WOOSTER

# Look Out, Red Nose Ahead!

It's a bird, it's a plane — no it's Rudolph's nose! Whether you arrive by car or sleigh, you won't want to miss *Rudolph and The Reindeer Games*, at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre. The performances run from November 10 through December 30.

Based on the beloved Christmas story, this show brings Rudolph and his shiny red nose to life.

It's the 73rd annual Reindeer Games, and a new contestant looks like he might "sleigh" the competition — until his nose gets him disqualified! Can Rudolph win the games, get the doe of his dreams and save Christmas?

The show will focus on not being afraid of who you are and how a shiny red nose can be a good thing!

Performances are on Saturdays and Sundays at noon and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18-\$24. The Downtown Cabaret Theatre is located at 263 Golden Hill Street in Bridgeport.

For more information, call 203-576-1636 or visit [www.dtcab.org](http://www.dtcab.org).

## Keep Your Toes Toasty

It's officially time to trade in flip flops for some "frostbite!" If your toes aren't up for the cold, wear thick socks and lace up those sneakers to get ready for the 2012 5K Frostbite Run and Walk on Saturday, November 17 in Enfield.

Join in on some frosty fun for the whole family! You won't want to miss out on the music, refreshments and door prizes. There will also be prizes for male and female runners with the best times in multiple age groups.

Registration and check-in begin at 9 a.m. The race starts at 10 a.m., followed by the walk at 10:05 a.m. The cost is \$25 for runners and walkers over 17; and \$20 for runners and walkers 17 and under in advance and \$30 for ages 17 and up on race day.

Proceeds of the event support Community Health Resources (CHR), a growing non-profit, community-based behavioral health agency that provides services in Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

The race takes place at the Enfield Street School located at 1318 Enfield Street.

For more information, call 860-731-5522 or visit [www.chrhealth.org](http://www.chrhealth.org).



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*Above, right: Sharel Cassity (Cherokee) NY jazz saxophonist and Jazz Legacy recording artist.*

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[pequotmuseum.org](http://pequotmuseum.org)

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Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 am-4 pm  
**Honoring of Nations Veterans Powwow**  
Experience traditional arts, regalia, song, and dance to honor Native nations and their veterans. Take a chance on the 50/50 raffle — half goes to the winning number and half to the Museum. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 23 & 24, 4 pm  
**Thanksgiving Dinner & Concert**  
Join us for a Native-inspired gourmet dinner and concert in the restaurant with jazz saxophonist and recording artist Sharel Cassity (Cherokee) with piano accompaniment. \$65/\$50 Museum members. Register by Nov. 15: (800) 411-9671 or email [seleazer@mptn-nsn.gov](mailto:seleazer@mptn-nsn.gov).

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## Holiday Magic *Sparkles* in the Tunnel of Lights

Twinkle, twinkle little lights! Get in on the fun of Winterfest and the Tunnel of Lights at the Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor from November 23 through December 30.

Whether you ride a closed car or brave the cold to ride the open "electric sleigh," it promises to



All the displays are decked out for the holidays.

be a wonderful winter time! Join the motormen for sing-a-longs to classic Christmas carols as the trolley makes it way through the Tunnel of Lights.

At the visitor center, you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and listen to the entertainment! Don't forget to check out the model trains and displays that bring joy to people of all ages.

Winterfest and the Tunnel of Lights will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5-9 p.m.

The Connecticut Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road.

Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; \$6 for children 2-12 years old; and \$3 for children under 2.

For more information, call 860-627-6540 or visit [www.ct-trolley.org](http://www.ct-trolley.org).

## Come to the New World with the Pilgrims


Get into the Thanksgiving spirit when *The Littlest Pilgrims* is performed at The Ridgefield Playhouse in Ridgefield on Monday, November 19 and Tuesday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m.

This musical is based on the voyage of the first Pilgrims to the new world, with John Carver leading the way on this journey. When the Mayflower finally lands in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the audience will discover how the Pilgrims make it through their first year.

After the one-hour performance, students will be able to talk with the performers, in addition to a question and answer period.

Tickets are \$10. The Ridgefield Playhouse is located at 80 East Ridge.

For more information, call 203-438-5795 or visit [www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org).



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## TenniSimple™

Learn the game. Play the game. The easy way.

# It's a Fabulous Fall at the North Haven Library

From the first day to the last, November at the North Haven Library is filled with fun, fun fun!

On Thursday, November 1 at 7 p.m., children can participate in Heads or Tails! The Hundred Penny Box and Other Tales. Kids, ages 7-11, will make "cents" out of this shiny penny craft by learning facts about the Lincoln penny. Heads: listen to a story on 100 years of pennies; tails: start a penny collection! Pennies and craft provided.

Do you like to bake? Then come to the Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, November 15. Whip up a batch of tasty pumpkin muffins then shake up some homemade butter. Session I, for ages 3-5, is at 1:30 p.m.; session II, for ages 6-9, begins at 4 p.m.

Children, ages 4-8 with dad or a male caregiver, can come to the library on Tuesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. for Dads and Me — Turkey Tracks. Wild turkeys can run up to 20 mph, but that might not be fast enough for these tasty appetizers to escape from being gobbled up! This fun snack will use crackers, cream cheese and chow mein noodles — yum!

## Grab Your Ticket For the Holiday Express!

Roll your way into the holiday season at the Fairfield Museum and History Center on Friday, November 30. You won't want to miss Fairfield's tree lighting ceremony.

Then warm up at the museum and be one of the first to see the *Holiday Express Train Show* during opening night.



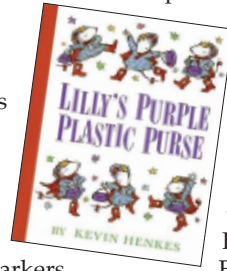
Children and adults alike will take part in the magic of the model trains winding around a winter wonderland of spectacular trees and beautiful holiday scenery.

Opening night will take place from 7-9 p.m. Special admission for the evening is \$3; and free for children 5 and under. The Fairfield Museum and History Center is located at 370 Beach Road.

For more information, call 203-259-1598 or visit [www.fairfieldhistory.org](http://www.fairfieldhistory.org).

Have fun counting down the days until Christmas by creating an Advent calendar on Monday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. This class is for ages 7-12. Children, ages 5-7, can have some Purple Pizzazz on Tuesday, November 27 at 4:15 p.m. when they hear the story of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Then, using colorful markers, they can design their own tote bag.

Turn a blah day into a playful pizza party on Thursday, November 29 at



7 p.m. with Let's Do Take Out with *Pete's a Pizza*. Enjoy this story by William Steig then make a personal pizza with cookie dough, chocolate and candy toppings!

The events are free and registration is required for all of these activities. The North Haven Library is located at 17 Elm Street.

For more information, registration and additional activities, call 203-239-5803 or visit [www.northhavenlibrary.net](http://www.northhavenlibrary.net).

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# Get Into the Holiday Spirit in Shelton

Even though Thanksgiving has yet to arrive, it's never too early to start thinking about holiday gifts, getting decoration ideas and shopping for that all-important tree. What better place to do all of that than at the 9th Annual Festival of Trees and Wesley Village Craft Fair on Saturday, November 17 and Sunday, November 18 at Wesley Village in Shelton.

Over 20 volunteers and donors have been busy creating beautifully decorated trees and wreaths that visitors to the festival can try to win in a raffle. Just drop a ticket in the box in front of the tree you want and keep your fingers crossed!

While waiting for your raffle ticket to



Proceeds from the auction benefits TEAM's Valley Interfaith Caregivers program.

be called, start your holiday shopping by strolling through the craft fair featuring over 60 vendors. You can also buy some home baked holiday treats and have lunch in the Crosby Cafe. Make sure the kids come along so they can have their photo taken with Santa from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.!

The Festival of Trees benefits TEAM's Valley Interfaith Caregivers program, which provides support services and companionship to residents ages 60 and up and disabled people of any age.

Festival hours are from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on both days. Admission is free. Wesley Village is located at 580 Long Hill Avenue. Parking is at Long Hill Elementary School with free shuttle service.

For more information, call 203-944-8292.

## Santa Tries Out New Transportation

Santa is coming to town, but don't look up in the sky; this time he is taking the trolley!

Visit the Shore Line Trolley Museum in East Haven from November 24 through December 23 for *Santa on the Trolley*. Children will enjoy complimentary cookies and hot chocolate. Kids will even receive a small gift from the jolly man in red. Don't forget to bring the camera, you won't want to miss getting a picture of your little one on Santa's lap!

After pictures, you won't want to miss the museum's antique trolleys that will be decorated for the holiday season. Take a ride into the past and enjoy the multi-cultural displays in the Winter Wonderland.

In the evening, the museum transforms into a fantasy of twinkling lights! Many of the trolleys, buildings and sites along the rail line will also be decorated for the season.

You can see Santa and the Winter Wonderland on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. The rides are free with museum admission which is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$6 for children.

The Shore Line Trolley Museum is located at 17 River Street.

For more information, call 203-467-6927 or visit [www.shorelinetrolley.com](http://www.shorelinetrolley.com).

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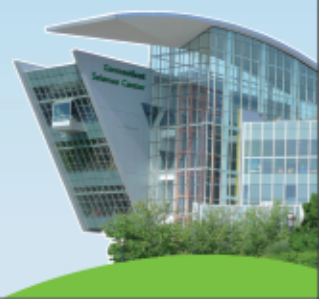
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Saturday	12/08	UNION	7:00 PM
Tuesday	12/11	MASSACHUSETTS	7:00 PM
Friday	12/28	RUSSIAN TOURING TEAM	7:00 PM
Friday	01/18	HARVARD	7:30 PM
Saturday	01/19	DARTMOUTH	7:00 PM
Friday	02/01	PRINCETON	7:00 PM
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Friday	03/01	COLGATE	7:00 PM
Saturday	03/02	CORNELL	7:00 PM

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# Creative Weekends in New Haven

Don't miss out on *Weekend Workshops for Families* at The Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven. As part of this series, the "Fun with Felting Workshop" will be held on Sunday, November 11 from 1-3 p.m.

A variety of fantastic felty projects can be made including: hats, mittens, bags, stuffies, pillows and more! Maybe add some buttons, fun stitching, or felt scraps! All the materials that you need are provided. The workshop is for children 6 and up with an adult. The instructor will show samples and assist with hand or machine sewing and construction. Make a unique holiday gift or something fun for yourself! The cost for non-members is \$30 per adult and child and \$15 for additional family members. The cost for members is \$27 per adult and child and \$14 for additional family members.

Want to know about more weekend fun? On Friday, November 16 come to *Pizza-And-Art Fridays*. Schedule a date



Come to Creative Arts Workshop's *Pizza-And-Art Fridays* for dinner accompanied by fun craft activities.

night or grab an evening out with friends and drop the kids off for some yummy crafty activities.

Children, ages 6-12, will get pizza, a drink and a terrific treat; then they will do a project that focuses on construction and mixed media. The workshop runs from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$38 per child for non-members and is \$34 for members.

The Creative Arts Workshop is located at 80 Audubon Street.

For more information, call 203-562-4927 or visit [www.creativeartsworkshop.org](http://www.creativeartsworkshop.org).

## Winter Family Fun in Cheshire

Keep the oncoming winter at bay with some outdoor fun. The Hot COCO 5K is coming to Cheshire! Bring family and friends to this 5K event on Saturday, November 17 at 10 a.m.

The flat, certified course passes stately homes and runs on a portion of the Farmington Canal Trail.

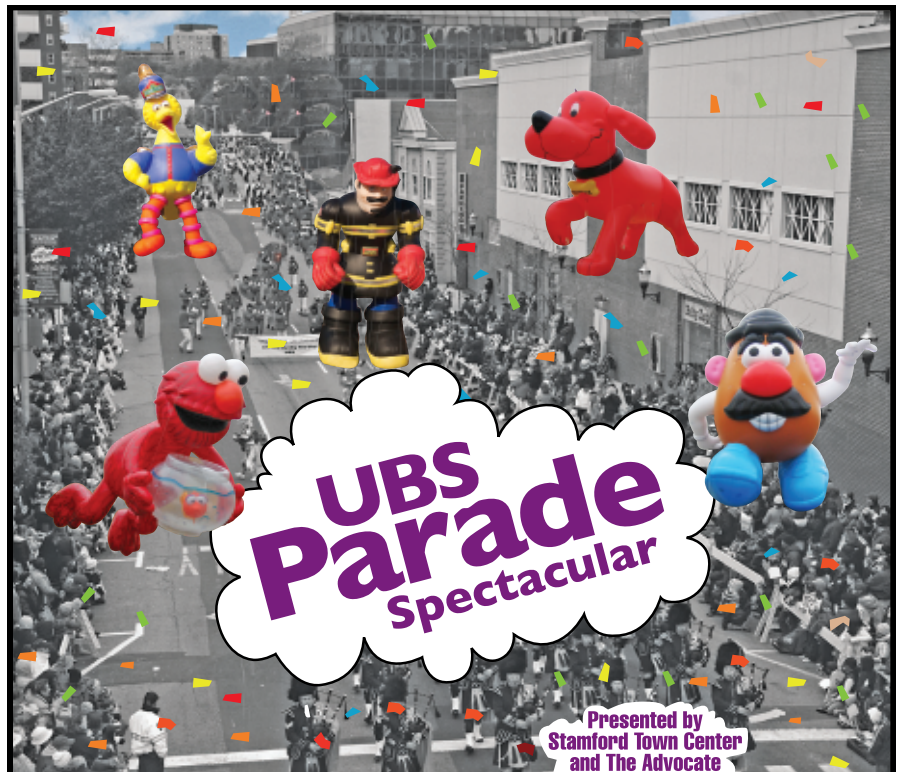
Children can make a run for it too, when the Kids' Fun Run takes off before the 5K. There will be on-course music to keep everyone moving. Running shirts will be given to the first 500 entrants.

After the run, stick around for the post-race celebration. Enjoy live music, food, clowns, face painting, vendor giveaways and, of course, hot cocoa!

The race proceeds benefit Abilities Without Boundaries, an organization that helps individuals with mental and physical disabilities lead a more productive and fulfilling life. Participants who fundraise \$100 or more for Abilities Without Boundaries will receive complementary entry.

The cost is \$26 for the race; \$8 for the Kids' Fun Run; and free for spectators. The race will begin at Norton School which is located at 414 North Brooksvale Road.

For more information, call 203-481-5933 or visit [www.jbsports.com](http://www.jbsports.com).



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# Joseph's Story is a Dream Come True

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to vibrant life when Curtain Call, Inc. presents *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on November 16 through December 15 at the Kweskin Theatre in Stamford.

In this delightful, musical parable, Joseph, his father's favorite son, is a boy blessed with prophetic dreams. When he is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and taken to Egypt, Joseph endures a series of adventures in which his spirit and humanity are continually challenged.

As news of Joseph's gift to interpret dreams reaches the Pharaoh (wryly and riotously depicted as Elvis),

Joseph is on his way to becoming second in command! Eventually, his brothers, having suffered greatly, unknowingly find themselves groveling at the feet of the brother they betrayed but no longer recognize! After testing their integrity, Joseph reveals himself, leading to a heartfelt reconciliation.

Set to a cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. on Sundays. There will be a 2 p.m. Saturday matinee on November

24, December 1, 8 and 15. Tickets are \$14.50-\$29. The Kweskin Theatre is located at 1349 Newfield Avenue.

For more information, call 203-329-8207 or visit [www.curtaincallinc.com](http://www.curtaincallinc.com).

## Let the Light of the Holiday Season Shine

The Farmington Valley Arts Center in Avon is hosting their 36th annual Candlelight Opening on Friday, November 16 from 6-9 p.m.

Enjoy this festive kickoff to the holiday season showcasing works created by diverse and talented artists. Help celebrate the arts center's long-standing commitment to fostering connections between artists and the public.

See 20 artists in their inspiring and inviting studios and shop for beautifully crafted gifts. Visitors can enjoy complimentary refreshments and help create a community art installation of candles.



Stroll through the candlelit Farmington Valley Arts Center to find beautiful and unique hand-crafted holiday gifts.

While strolling the illuminated walkways, visit talented creators and discover the season's largest selection of unique, wishlist-worthy gifts!

Admission is free. The Farmington Valley Arts Center is located at 25 Arts Center Lane.

For more information, call 860-678-1867 or visit [www.artsvac.org](http://www.artsvac.org).

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# You Have To Kiss a Lot of Frogs to Find Your Prince!



Stepping Stones Museum for Children presents *The Frog Prince and Other Tales*.

Hop over to the Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk and pucker up — *The Frog Prince and Other Tales* will be performed on Saturday, November 10 at 2 p.m.; and Monday, November 12 through Friday, November 16 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Four classic stories from children's literature come alive in this enchanting new puppetry spectacle.

Enduring tales of kindness, determination and loyalty are performed with beautifully hand-crafted puppets and scenery, creating an unforgettable experience.

A magic fish grants wishes for a dutiful husband in *The Fisherman and his Wife*; a lifetime of hard work is rewarded with kindness from a pair of mysterious nocturnal visitors in *The Shoemaker and the Elves*; a trio of

surefooted brothers outwits a cantankerous troll in *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*; and a young princess learns the importance of keeping a promise in *The Frog Prince*.

Each 50 minute performance is followed by an art of puppetry demonstration, along with a question and answer session with the puppeteers.

The cost is free with museum admission, which is \$15 for adults and children; \$10 for seniors; and free for children under 1. Stepping Stones Museum for Children is located at 303 West Avenue.

For more information, call 203-899-0606 or visit [www.steppingstonesmuseum.org](http://www.steppingstonesmuseum.org).



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# GET READY TO RUMBLE

Start snapping those fingers — the Sharks and the Jets are back and taking over Waterbury when *West Side*

*Story* comes to the Palace Theater on Saturday, November 24 and Sunday, November 25.

More than 50 years ago one musical changed theater forever. Now it's back and mesmerizing audiences once again. From the first note to the final breath, *West Side Story* soars as the greatest love story of all time!

This revival remains as poignant as ever. The Bernstein and Sondheim score is considered to be one of Broadway's finest and features such classics as "Something's Coming," "Tonight," "America," "I Feel Pretty" and "Somewhere."

This revival is different from the original 1957 production. It is tougher and the content is a darker reality. The Puerto Rican characters sometimes sing and speak in Spanish, which not only gives them more authenticity, but reflects the sounds of New York City today. As a result, the timeless universality of the show is felt as powerfully and with as much relevance now as it did when it was first written. The show is recommended for ages 13 and up.

Showtimes are at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$49-\$69. The Palace Theater is located at 100 East Main Street.

For more information, call 203-346-2000 or visit [www.palacetheaterct.org](http://www.palacetheaterct.org).



The Jets take on the Sharks in the timeless romance of *West Side Story*.

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## Party with Sugar Plums and *The Nutcracker*

The New England Ballet will keep you on your toes when they present *Sugar Plum Party* on Sunday, November 25 at 12:30 and 3 p.m. at the Stratford Theatre in Stratford.

This show is an abbreviated version of *The Nutcracker*, choreographed especially for children. Dancers will be available after the performance to meet and greet their audience and children will be invited to participate in a simple craft activity.

All your children's dreams will come true when they have their photo taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy, or any of *The Nutcracker* dancers for a small fee.

Tickets are \$15. The Stratford Theatre is located at 2422 Main Street.

For more information, call 203-799-7950 or visit [www.newenglandballet.org](http://www.newenglandballet.org).

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# Taking Children to THE THEATRE

by Denise Yearian

There is a new trend in children's entertainment these days, and it has nothing to do with electronic gadgets. Live theatre, once reserved for adults, has taken center stage with children all over America. Today there is an abundance of family theatre performances featuring a standard of excellence never seen before. And, with the holidays approaching, the offerings are even greater.

One year for Christmas, my husband and I decided to give our children theatre tickets instead of inundating them with toys. Since this would be

their first time seeing a live performance, we searched for shows with familiar storylines. I checked local and regional listings and chose two that

appealed to the ages and interests of my children — *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*. The first one was held

*continued on page 22*

## Hartt Community Division Presents Tchaikovsky's

# *The Nutcracker*

The Hartt School Community Division (HCD) presents the timeless holiday ballet classic *The Nutcracker* on Friday, December 14, Saturday, December 15 and Sunday, December 16 in the Millard Auditorium at the University of Hartford in West Hartford.

The Hartt School Community Division of the University of Hartford has been bringing dance performances to the families and community of the Greater Hartford region for years. This holiday season, HCD's fully staged production of Tchaikovsky's time-honored classic, with staging by Artistic Director Samantha Dunster, will transport the audience to a magical world.

Following last year's success, HCD continues to build their production of the ballet, including new scenic elements and the addition of a fourth performance. This extra performance, as well as the addition of a second cast of many of the roles, will give even more of Hartt's talented students the opportunity to perform onstage in the full-length story ballet. In addition to the over 100 Hartt dancers between the ages of 5-18, former members of the Hartford Ballet will grace the stage. Local celebrities and dignitaries

will make cameo appearances. This year's audience can look forward to the surprise of seeing which well-known faces will join the cast this season.

Dunster keeps the focus of the production on the children and students of Hartt. Dunster says "The holidays

are a magical time of the year for children and Hartt's production of *The Nutcracker* truly evokes the spirit of the season. HCD's production is performed both by and for young people. Professional guest artists dance cameo roles in our production — dancing alongside, inspiring and mentoring our students throughout the entire process — yet the focus of this production



Photo by Thomas Giroir Photography.

remains exactly where it should be, on our young artists."

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday; 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$15 for students 12 and under; and \$20 for other students with ID and senior citizens. Millard Auditorium is located at 200 Bloomfield Avenue.

For more information, call 860-768-4228 or visit [www.hcd.hartford.edu](http://www.hcd.hartford.edu).

# Holiday Entertainment

continued from page 21

in January at a local dinner theatre. I knew from talking with others that this was a family venue and would be a good place to take children. The second took place in February in the city — a bit more upscale, but I knew they were ready for the experience.

When first introducing your child to the theatre, start with familiar storylines and characters that will appeal to his age and interests. Check local and regional listings, talk with family and friends, and read reviews in the paper or online. Though you want to focus on something familiar, if a show is advertised as being family-friendly, consider it an option and learn more about it.

Once you have a list of several possibilities, call and ask for specific information. Is the show family-oriented? Are there frightening scenes that may affect your child? What is the undertone of the humor? Is it age-appropriate for your child? Will he understand the story, at least to some degree? Is there much in the way of spectacle — colorful costumes and sets,

slapstick comedy and special effects?

These are some of the reasons I chose *The Wizard of Oz*. I knew the costumes, sets, characters and special effects would hold my kids' attention. Shows that involve audience participation will also keep your child engaged. Ask if it is possible for your child to meet the performers backstage. This will give him something to look forward to after the show.

If your child is young, ask how long the show runs before intermission. What is the theatre's policy about leaving during the performance? This is important as you consider your child's age and attention span. He should be able to sit relatively still, but don't worry if he gets restless after about 20 minutes. Most organizations that cater to families are tolerant of children's shorter attention spans. Just the same, choose your seats wisely. If you think you may have to slip out during the performance, opt for a seat near the aisle so you won't step over people getting out.

Once a show has been decided upon, discuss it with your child. If it parallels a book or movie, read or watch it together. Explain the plot and discuss



Connecticut has wonderful venues for introducing your children to live theatre, such as The Palace in Waterbury.

the characters. Even though the play will be a little different, your child will know what to expect.

That is what we did with our children. One week before each performance, we rented a video so our kids could reacquaint themselves with the story and songs. It also helped to build excitement prior to attending the shows.

Another thing we did before the show was to discuss theatre etiquette — in our case dinner theatre etiquette. With three children, I thought it would be best to do a dry run. So, one night I planned a special dinner, asked the children to dress up, turned down the

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lights, lit the candles, and set the table with fine china and crystal. During dinner, we talked about table manners as well as what would be expected from them during the performance.

Sometime before taking your child to the show, discuss theatre behavior. Explain that, while in the playhouse, he will have to walk, rather than run, to and from his seat. For the most part, questions should be held until intermission. If, however, this is a family performance, tell him he may ask questions if he whispers quietly. Note that while these are basic guidelines, children new to the theatre experience may have a hard time completely following the rules.

On the day of the show, plan to arrive at least 20 minutes early. Find your seats then take your child to the restroom. Tell him he will not be able to go back to the restroom until intermission. Bring along a bag of small items your child can eat quietly — raisins, M&Ms, fishy crackers, etc. — in case he gets hungry before the break. You may even consider stowing a few quiet activities your child can do in his seat to ward off restless behavior.

After the performance, take your child somewhere special for a treat. Ask

questions and share impressions regarding the show. What was his favorite part? Did he like a certain character? Was there one he did not like? Did he see a transformation of character? What did he think of the sets, costumes and special effects? Can he retell the story to you? If there were songs, can he sing any of them for you?

If possible, buy a toy or souvenir to help him remember the event. When you get home, ask your child to draw a picture of one of his favorite scenes or characters. If you did not rent the parallel movie or read the book, do so now. Was the storyline presented differently in this format? If he enjoys pretend play, as most children do, have him act out his favorite part of the play.

Above all, remember taking your child to a live theatre performance is an experience he will never forget. My children, now teens, still remember the Christmas we exchanged toys for tickets. For them, it was the start of a now-favorite pastime. Who knows? Take your child to a few shows and, like me, you may find he is ready for an encore! ♥

*Denise Yearian is the former editor of two parenting magazines and the mother of three children.*

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# Creating "Home Sweet Home"



by Rachael Moshman

Bringing home a new child is an exciting experience. It can also be overwhelming, especially when the child comes to you through foster care or adoption. The child has already been through the trauma of at least one move and separation from familiar caregivers. They are likely scared and confused. The same is often true for the new parents and any children already in the home.

My daughter entered foster care at age 4 and lived in a dozen places before my husband and I adopted her when she was 9. We met her on a Monday and she moved in with us that Friday. This included flying half way across the country with us.

We had anxiously been preparing to bring her home for six months while we waited for interstate placement paperwork to clear. However, she wasn't given nearly the same amount of time to process the change. We weren't allowed any contact with her before our first meeting and she didn't even know we existed until days before our arrival. She had a new state, home, school and parents to adjust to with very little preparation.

It was a difficult transition for our family. We understood each home has a different set of rules, expectations and dynamics and that our daughter would need time to adjust. However, my husband and I underestimated how

challenging it would be for us to settle into our new life as parents of a traumatized 9-year-old.

Therapist Nancy Mehesy has worked with many foster and adoptive families. She offers the following advice.

### Have Reasonable Expectations

Mehesy says, "Foster and adoptive families have a delightful desire to care and love but are often surprised when the child is not responsive and appreciative. Expectations are usually unrealistic." She suggests parents consider what the situation is like for the child. "Children are usually very scared and have no idea what to expect when they enter a new home. It's like arriving in a foreign country where you do not know the language or customs until you step on the landmine and are corrected."

She encourages those starting this journey to talk to experienced foster or adoptive families and caseworkers who can guide them towards more realistic expectations. She also emphasizes that the family will never be the same. "Adding a child to the home through foster care or adoption changes the dynamics, priorities and daily operations of the home and impacts every member of the family."

### Work to Ease the Child's Fear and Anxiety

Mehesy says there are several steps foster and adoptive families can take to make the transition easier. She suggests:

- Allow the children to have choices when appropriate.
- Respect items they bring with them from previous homes, such as books, toys, clothing and photos.
- Give the child plenty of notice and time to adjust to the family's expectations and schedules.
- Help the child find words to express their feelings.
- Provide a safe and quiet space for when the child is overwhelmed.
- Grant permission for the child to continue caring about their biological family or previous foster parents.

She adds parents shouldn't expect bonding to occur quickly or to try to force it. Attachment takes time for everyone involved. She urges, "Be honest with yourself about all your feelings, hopes and fears, even if you think they are unacceptable."

### Prepare for Challenging Behavior

Mehesy explains that the child may never have experienced structure or adult responsiveness. Instead, they've learned that the world isn't a safe place and they can only depend upon themselves. They may act out in an effort to keep themselves closed off to the new family for fear that they will be rejected yet again. Each move is very traumatic and often results in the child building stronger internal walls in an effort to protect themselves.

Mehesy says challenging behaviors, including defiance, tantrums, aggressiveness and destruction, are common in foster and adopted children. "Their wounds are silent and often misunderstood. Their behavior, which may be

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unusual, has a much deeper meaning than trying to rebel against authority." She offers three warnings:

1. The child may go through a "honeymoon period of 'good' behavior" at first.
2. Traditional parenting methods are often ineffective with traumatized children. A therapist experienced in trauma and adoption issues can help you explore alternatives.
3. Friends and family may pull away because they don't understand the situation or know how to respond.

She adds, "A commitment to love, even when children behave in an unlovable manner, is vital."

### Foster and Adoptive Mothers Share Their Experiences

Kelly Martin received an emergency call from her agency last year. A 4-year-old boy and his 9-year-old sister were in need of a home immediately. The family had never fostered school age children and had previously only been open to one child at a time. However, they felt compelled to step up to the need and are pleased the children have become part of their family permanently.

Their biological daughter was 10 at the time and Martin wishes there would have been time to prepare her more. She explains, "The transition was harder for my bio family than I thought it would be. This impacts everyone in the home, not just the foster children moving in. We have really struggled making sure everyone knows how special they are as individuals."

Danielle Stevens-Fasnacht treats any child that enters her home as a member of the family right away. She says, "Every child deserves to truly feel part of the family, whether they are with you for one night, a year or forever."

She tries to make the transition less painful by purchasing the same shampoo, laundry detergent and food items used at the previous home whenever the information is available. She also works hard to honor the people who were part of the child's life before her. She says, "Just because a child is an infant when they are placed in a new home, doesn't mean they don't long for their biological parents. If I can love more than one child, then my child can love more than one mommy." She continues contact with biological families whenever it is safe and appropriate.

This isn't possible for the siblings placed with the Martin family due to a

history of extensive abuse. The trauma the children endured has made forming a parent-child relationship difficult, but Martin is confident "time and persistence will pay off in the end. They just need time to understand that we are not going to harm them, will love them no matter what, and we will be there for them for the rest of their lives."

Our daughter has been home for nearly three years now. The first year was frightening, exhausting and frustrating for all of us. We got some things right and missed the mark on others. It's hard to believe in "forever" when you've had a dozen sets of parent figures in nine years, but she's

finally beginning to feel confident that our commitment to her is genuine. The abuse, trauma, abandonment and instability she suffered before us left her with scars we're all working hard to heal. It's a tough road, but so worth it. She summed it up best while both celebrating me and grieving for her biological family on Mother's Day by saying, "Adoption is complicated." ♥

*Rachael Moshman is a freelance writer and blogger. Her greatest accomplishment is becoming her daughter's last mother through adoption from the foster care system.*

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# Knowing the Child:

## The Heart of Independent Education

by Joe Zibell

Shortly after the global financial crisis developed in the fall of 2008, an organization conducted a survey of parents whose children were in independent schools. This data, collected by ISM (Independent School Management), sought to assess how and why families were sticking with independent education in more financially-challenging times despite the cost of tuition. For those within the industry, the affordability issue loomed large, and the exact effect on parents' decisions to either keep their children in a school, or apply to a new school, was unclear.

The results of the report were fascinating, and revealed a set of intangibles that are hard to quantify by mere statistical data or pull-quotes from an admissions brochure.

There were four essential reasons identified that parents ascribed to their decision-making and loyalty to independent education.

From fourth most-cited to the top reason, the list was:

rigor of the program/ quality of the faculty; the influence of the school's community as a counter-cultural force in their children's lives; their children's relationship with their teacher (as opposed to specifically citing the teacher's skill-level); and safety. What's important to note, is that "safety" in this context did not simply mean harbor from physical harm, but something more all-encompassing.

"When parents were asked to describe that," says Douglas Lyons, executive director of the Connecticut

Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), "what they said was, 'My child feels safe in every way that a child can feel safe. My child feels physically safe, socially safe and emotionally safe.'"

It's evident that Lyons speaks from the heart when discussing independent education. In a recent interview with *Connecticut Parent Magazine*, timed to coincide with the publishing of this year's *Education Resource Guide*, Lyons shared some of the aspects he sees in independent schooling that lead to tangible, positive results in a child's life.

"As a parent of three kids who went through independent schools, that's my answer: my kids felt known and they felt safe. They felt their

teachers knew them well enough to even know when they were hurting about something."

As Lyons notes, we are in a critical time to assess education options for our children, as we move out of

the information age and into a time that will reward kids who are creative and analytical, and able not just to think in terms of content, but who can apply new ideas in the real world.

### A Shift Away from Public Education

A self-admitted "child of the '60s," Lyons spent the first two decades of his career, coincidentally enough in public education, without any background in independent education at all. "My life's work, my

ministry, was going to be in public education," says Lyons looking back on those early years. In fact, riding the momentum of a "fast-rising career," he

wound up as a superintendent of schools in an affluent Manhattan suburb. It was after he had children however, that Lyons began to re-evaluate not only the educational options for his three young ones, but the implications for his own career path.

"I ultimately decided that public education wouldn't work for my family," says Lyons. "So I put my kids in private school, and I felt like a hypocrite, so I had to do the right thing. I told the board, 'Look, I need to follow my children out of public education.'"

Lyons admits that it was a difficult decision, one that he struggled with. However, as a leader of one of America's wealthiest public school systems at the time, Lyons had first-hand knowledge of the problems he saw with public education, and the opportunities that other options presented. While Lyons was clear in recognizing the people he's worked with in public education ("many of the finest people I've worked with in my career"), he was frustrated by systemic problems, such as an over-reliance on standardized tests results, that were at odds with his ideals of the best way to educate a child. And as he made the decision for his own children, the next step of his life was a natural extension.

### A Consequential Decision

"The choice of a child's school is



Douglas Lyons



Photo courtesy of Ezra Academy.

one of the most consequential decisions a parent will make," says Lyons. "A child spends a great deal of time in school; a lot of things happen in the life of a child in school. And therefore I think, for all parents, it's a duty, a responsibility that rather than purchasing a school through the purchase of your home, you make an intentional decision about where you want your child to grow up as a learner."

With the importance of such a decision evident, Lyons cited several hallmarks of an independent education, including parent involvement, the students' relationships with the teachers, the social support in that environment, and an emphasis on the arts.

"At an independent school, parents are much more involved than they are at a typical public school," says Lyons. "There is a relationship of trust and investment. When people are paying tuition, they're invested; this is a choice they have freely made and they want to support it. Independent schools look for volunteers, and they love having them on campus.

"One of the biggest shocks for me when I left the position of superintendent and became head of a private school, was the amount of parent involvement and the type of volunteerism: very appropriate and very helpful.

"Another thing that is a hallmark of private schools is that not only are class sizes small, but there is a real expectation that teachers will know each child individually. We

know our kids as individuals; we also know them as members of families. A child not well known is a child not well taught.

"I also believe independent schools view the social world of schools as just as important as the academic world," says Lyons.

"Teachers will intervene in all of the friendship issues that happen between kids. The biggest shock for me when I became head of school was the high priority given to manners. Manners are in

our DNA. Teachers are respected by the kids; they have to be or they're not invited back. That being said, we are operating from a huge advantage. We choose our kids, we choose our families; they don't just arrive. If we have people who don't support the mission and values of a school, they don't get invited back."

Lyons also noted there is social support for achievement in an independent school environment. As

he puts it, "It's cool to be successful in school. It doesn't cost you

anything socially to be at the top of the class. Most kids know, 'The kids at the top of the class deserve our respect.' You can be first-chair violin at an independent school and all the other kids think, 'That's really cool.'"

Tied into that last observation, Lyons also noted that arts programs have the same stature as math and science programs.

"Independent schools really celebrate music and art. More and more the first budget cuts are being taken from these programs, making it clear they're

considered secondary. When in fact, it's harder to get into UCLA School of Design than it is to get into Harvard Business School. People realize that thinking creatively is the future. This is why we celebrate our arts programs."

Lyons addressed this shift from content assimilation to a new world where creative thinking is going to be key to success.



Photo courtesy of Pine Point School.

*continued on page 39*

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**Ben Bronz Academy**  
139 North Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-236-5807  
www.benbronzacademy.org



A day school for bright, dyslexic and learning disabled youngsters, grades 2-12, Ben Bronz Academy was founded in 1985 with the belief that every student deserves the chance to succeed. The school offers a full-time academic program with a remarkable teacher/pupil ratio of one to three. Students come from throughout the state and, after achieving their goals, return to schools in their own communities.

**Mission Statement:** The fundamental purpose of Ben Bronz Academy is to help students become competent problem solvers, effective communicators and independent learners. Our goal is to help students learn to identify and correct their functional weaknesses and to develop sound, spontaneous thinking habits that build self-confidence and foster greater curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

**Unique Features:** Ben Bronz Academy provides all required academic courses, along with a full range of remedial classes. The Ben Bronz Reading System, based upon years of research, addresses the problems of the severely disabled reader through a comprehensive approach that gives them immediate success. Twice a year, students and teachers immerse themselves in a special learning project called "Research Week," an innovative curriculum that motivates students to explore a new topic.

### Bi-Cultural Day School

2186 High Ridge Road  
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www.bcds.org



*Head of School:  
Jacqueline Herman*

Bi-Cultural Day School is a Jewish day school which welcomes and celebrates the diversity of the Jewish community. With over 360 students in grades pre-K through 8, the school offers small classes, experienced teachers and outstanding facilities on 13 acres. The program combines Jewish tradition and values with innovative curricula, cutting-edge technology and extra-curricular activities.

**Goals:** Bi-Cultural Day School strives to educate the heart as well as the mind; to develop a strong sense of ethical values; an understanding of the history of the Jewish people; a respect for the traditions and practices of Torah learning; a competence in the Hebrew language; an awareness of the enrichment of the two cultures that nourish us; a sense of responsibility to be participating citizens; a spiritual bonding with Israel; and a sensitivity to the brotherhood of man.

**Unique Features:** The school's program prepares students to gain admission to the most competitive private high schools, both secular and Judaic. Students also place in the top track at their local high schools. With a strong Bi-Cultural foundation, alumni gain admission to the nation's most prestigious universities. The child-centered program has small group tutorials and one-on-one instruction, which addresses individual needs for both remediation and enrichment.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## Canterbury School

101 Aspetuck Avenue  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-210-3800  
www.cbury.org



*Head of School:  
Tom Sheehy*

Founded in 1915 and still guided by lay Roman Catholics, Canterbury School is a college preparatory, coeducational boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12.

The school prides itself on creating a community based on Catholic values, where students and faculty forge lasting bonds and every student experiences a broad challenging program in a small school setting. The school's educational environment fosters academic rigor, athletic development, artistic enrichment and spiritual growth.

With its rigorous and humane approach to students, both in and out of the classroom, Canterbury's program inculcates vital intellectual and ethical habits of mind. The school sees all students as individuals, supports them as necessary, stretches them as appropriate, and inspires them to become moral leaders in a secular world.

**Unique Features:** The academic program at Canterbury prepares students for active intellectual work in a changing world. The curriculum pursues broad and deep exposure across disciplines, and is designed to create a fertile academic environment, inculcate a love of learning, and prepare students to become contributing citizens and moral leaders.

## Chase Collegiate School

565 Chase Parkway  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
203-236-9560  
www.chasecollegiate.org



*Headmaster:  
John D. Fixx*

Chase Collegiate is a coeducational day school in the classic, independent school tradition for grades Pre-K3 through grade 12; serving 471 students on a 47-acre suburban campus in Waterbury, where each student matters. At Chase, strong students are provided with a worthy challenge to fully develop their talents in a community which values personal achievement, leadership and community. Parents and students select Chase because of the partnership with faculty. The campus is easily accessible off exit 18 on Route 84.

**The Upper School** offers a demanding college preparatory curriculum, an integrated program of academics, visual and performing arts, interscholastic athletics, service opportunities, clubs and associations. AP courses in 17 subjects allow students to graduate with college credits. Recent graduates have gone to Brown, Clark, George Washington, Hampshire, Syracuse, University of Vermont, Yale and Wesleyan.

**The Middle School** at Chase provides small classes, a rigorous academic program, robust music and arts programs and a strong advisory program. The student, parent and teacher partnership helps students negotiate the challenges of adolescence.

**The Lower School** curriculum environment emphasizes reading, writing, speaking and math, with foreign-language, science, social studies, art and music instruction, library visits and daily physical education completing the curriculum. The Responsive Classroom is also used.

## Christian Heritage School

575 White Plains Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
203-261-6230  
www.kingsmen.org



*Head of School:  
Brian Modarelli*

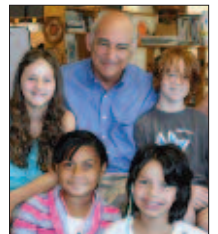
Christian Heritage School in Trumbull, CT, is pleased to welcome our new Head of School, Mr. Brian Modarelli. An Ohio native, Mr. Modarelli previously served as Head of School at Ben Lippen boarding and day school in Columbia, SC, where his four children attended and his wife volunteered.

Mr. Modarelli is finishing a Ph.D. from University of SC, on the dissertation topic "selective universities' position on intensive dual enrollment." In 1996, he earned his Ed.S. in Education Leadership at Augusta State University, studying standardized testing. He completed his Masters in Mathematical Education in one year at FSU in 1988. Mr. Modarelli's undergraduate work was at Baptist University of America, majoring in mathematics and religion, and minored in education. He also lettered in football and baseball. Brian is also an ordained minister and has served on the senior staff of a 12,000-member church in Florida.

Brian and his family are thrilled to be here, at a college-preparatory school that highly esteems academic rigor, co-curricular activities and the arts. "It is my desire to continue the Christian Heritage School tradition of preparing students to gain entrance into the best universities in the world," says Mr. Modarelli. "I like to think of CHS as a 'calling-prep' school — that is, we are preparing students to serve the Lord in a variety of disciplines for which God has uniquely designed them."

## Cold Spring School

263 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06513  
203-787-1584  
www.coldspringschool.org



*Director:  
Merrill Hall*

Cold Spring School is a fully-accredited independent day school with approximately 125 girls and boys in preschool through sixth grade. At Cold Spring, teachers create a rich, child-centered learning environment and guide each student on a journey to increased knowledge, curiosity and compassion. The school offers a flexible arrival time between 8 and 8:30 a.m. and an optional, extended day program from 3-5:30 p.m. Vacation childcare is offered on many days when school is not in session.

**Mission Statement:** Cold Spring School challenges children to become self-reliant, curious and resourceful problem solvers with the academic and social skills to engage constructively and ethically in our diverse, changing world.

**Unique Features:** Our students represent the diverse cultural, racial and economic backgrounds found in the greater New Haven area. The school occupies a beautifully renovated brick building overlooking New Haven Harbor and adjacent to a city park, as well as a studio next door, housing our art and music studios and stand-alone sixth grade class. All other classes are multi-age, staffed by two full-time teachers who use a thematic approach to guide each student toward developmentally appropriate academic and social goals. Children are challenged to think as well as act, to discover alternate ways to reach solutions and to work with one another toward problem solving. When our graduates leave Cold Spring, they are self-confident learners who are well prepared for further study.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## Connecticut Friends School

317 New Canaan Road  
Wilton, CT 06897  
203-762-9860  
www.CTFriendsSchool.org



*Co-heads of School:  
Mark Dansereau and  
Kim Tsocanos*

Connecticut Friends School (CFS) is a coed Preschool-8 school, with multi-age classrooms, combining outstanding academics, arts and outdoor leadership programs with Quaker values of simplicity, peaceful problem-solving and mutual respect. Schoolwide activities foster collaboration and respect. Our 15-acre White Barn Campus in Norwalk serves as a living classroom where students study woodland animals, trees, waterwheels and more. Since the opening of the first Friends School in Philadelphia in 1689, social, ethical and spiritual development, and academic excellence have been hallmarks of every Friends School.

At CFS, students engage in serious work in a joyous atmosphere, and hail from Wilton, Westport, Weston, New Canaan, Darien, Norwalk, Stamford, Ridgefield, Redding and other local communities in Fairfield and Westchester. CFS is the only Quaker preschool through middle school in Connecticut.

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## Convent of the Sacred Heart

1177 King Street  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
203-532-3534  
www.cshgreenwich.org



*Head of School:  
Pamela J. Hayes '64*

Convent of the Sacred Heart is an independent, Catholic day school for girls in preschool through grade 12, located on a 110-acre campus in Greenwich, Connecticut. Founded in 1848 in New York City, the school is part of the international network of 200 Sacred Heart schools.

Facilities include modern classrooms with the latest in technology for learning, science laboratories, an observatory, a library/media center, Lower and Middle School computer labs, theater and a dance studio. There is a studio for the award-winning broadcast journalism program that offers students of all ages an opportunity to create news shows, documentaries and special programs. A computer laptop program is in use for grades 6-12.

Sacred Heart provides a full schedule of varsity and junior varsity sports and its facilities include synthetic turf fields, an indoor pool, tennis courts, cross country course, gymnasium for volleyball and basketball, and fields for playing soccer, lacrosse, softball and field hockey.

Enrollment 2012-2013: 776 girls, with 195 in the Lower School, 281 in the Middle School and 300 in the Upper School. Students come from 60 towns and cities in CT and NY. For 2012-2013, more than \$3 million in financial aid was awarded to 18 percent of the student body.

A Sacred Heart education provides a strong academic foundation appropriate to each student's individual talents and abilities within an environment that fosters the development of a student's spiritual life and establishes a strong sense of personal values. Graduates are prepared to become leaders with broad intellectual and spiritual horizons.

## The Country School

341 Opening Hill Road  
Madison, CT 06443  
203-421-3113  
www.thecountryschool.org



*Head of School:  
Dr. Laurie Bottiger*

The preschool to grade 8 programs at The Country School are designed to educate curious, enthusiastic and motivated learners, and our small classes allow close attention to the academic, social and emotional development of every student. Our focus on the whole child helps students develop a love of learning, as they grow both inside and outside the classroom. We celebrate the wonder, creativity and exuberance of childhood through hands-on learning, creative expression and play.

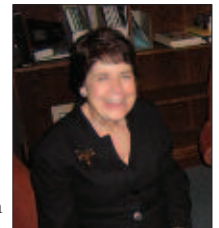
The traditional disciplines — reading, writing, mathematics, science, world languages, history and technology — are combined with experiential learning and outdoor experiences. A focus on 21st century skills, including STEM and Design Thinking, helps prepare students for the future. Studio art, music and drama programs provide an important creative outlet for students in all grades. All students enjoy outdoor recess every day.

Middle school interscholastic sports include soccer, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, cross country, swimming, baseball and softball. Our 23-acre campus provides opportunities to experience a children's garden classroom, ropes course and hiking trails. Our Outdoor Education Program culminates in a 10-day adventure in the Southwest for 8th graders.

We strive to empower young people to reach their highest not only in school but also in life. Education at The Country School lasts a lifetime.

## Eagle Hill School

45 Glenville Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
203-622-9240  
www.eaglehillsschool.org



*Head of School:  
Dr. Marjorie E. Castro*

Eagle Hill School holds a special place in education in Fairfield County for children with language-based learning disabilities. Situated on the original C.W. Post estate, the buildings provide a link to the past while including all the requirements of a contemporary education (interactive classroom technology, laptops for senior students, athletic facilities, and more).

Co-educational, the school's mission is to help children acquire the academic and social skills necessary for transition to a traditional learning environment. Approximately 252 students, ages 6-16, enjoy an educational experience that is skills rather than grade-driven. A student-to-teacher ratio ranging from 1:1 to 12:1 ensures that each child receives an intensive and extraordinarily customized education. Administrative level advisors, a hallmark of the Eagle Hill program, consistently monitor the academic and social progress of each student in their care.

Students at Eagle Hill enjoy a comprehensive education that encompasses academic studies as well as athletics and activities. Due to a no-cut policy for sports, more than three-quarters of our students participate on varsity and intramural teams.

Historically, 55-65 students ranging in age from 8-16 make the transition each year from Eagle Hill to other independent or boarding schools, as well as public or parochial schools.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

**Easton Country Day School**  
660 Morehouse Road  
Easton, CT 06612  
203-268-5530  
EastonCountryDay.org



*Director:  
Suellen Inwood*

*Director:  
Jody Smith*

**E**aston Country Day School uses its small size and a unique, individual educational approach to ensure each child not only achieves academic excellence in a safe and loving environment, but also learns those skills necessary to be a caring and responsible citizen. We build a relationship with each child. This, and our innovative scheduling methods, gives us the flexibility to place children in classes that fit their academic and social needs and to respond rapidly to change and growth in each child.

Easton Country Day School offers rigorous academics shaped to the individual child in a familial environment that encourages accomplishment, responsibility and acceptance of diversity. Children benefit from our vertical integration of studies, often going to other classrooms to take the level of instruction that they are ready for, regardless of their age. Small classes and a low student/teacher ratio allow each child plenty of individual attention. ECDS teaches children how to learn, preparing them for life beyond school.

We offer a small, highly academic and personalized high school where students help design the best program for their needs and interests.

We seek to enable our students to develop their full academic, moral, creative and physical potential in an environment that fosters respect and loving-kindness where we can encourage the development of accomplished, caring and responsible human beings. Easton Country Day School is accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools.

**Ezra Academy**  
75 Rimmon Road  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
203-389-5500, ext. 17  
www.ezraacademy.net



*Head of School:  
Melanie Waynik*

**Mission Statement:** Ezra Academy, a K-8 Solomon Schechter Jewish Day School, educates Jewish children within a nurturing community to become independent, lifelong learners, committed and knowledgeable Jews and responsible and caring citizens.

Academic excellence is the hallmark of an Ezra Academy education. Ezra's emphasis on differentiated instruction allows each child to learn and be motivated to reach his or her greatest potential. Ezra Academy embraces a balanced approach in its academic philosophy, integrating secular and Judaic studies, arts enrichment, and values-based programming in a stimulating environment. Small student-teacher ratios create a positive framework for learning and growing.

Ezra Academy has students from towns throughout Connecticut. Ezra develops its students into accomplished individuals who go on to high school and college and become active participants in their communities. Graduates are poised to embrace their futures, secure in their academic foundation and Jewish identities. Ezra Academy is accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools and affiliated with the Schechter Network. Tuition assistance is available to applicants through a confidential process whereby an Ezra Academy education is within reach of all Jewish children.

Information is available through our Admissions Office. Contact: Jill Schaefer, Director of Admissions, jschaefer@ezraacademy.net, 203-389-5500 x17.

**Fairfield Country Day School**  
2970 Bronson Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824  
203-259-2723  
www.fairfieldcountryday.org



*Headmaster:  
John R. Munro, Jr.*

**F**airfield Country Day School is an engaged learning community in which every boy excels. Since 1936, Country Day has been at the forefront of boys' education. Boys in grades pre-K through 9 are our focus—we value, appreciate and enjoy their qualities. We know they are active learners and plan our curriculum accordingly. We also know that boys learn through meaningful relationships, and at Country Day, relationships are central to the educational experience—creating role models, fostering learning, and instilling respect for self and others.

Our community is intentionally small, allowing each student to be known as an individual and receive the attention and opportunities he needs to succeed. Dedicated and talented faculty provide a broad-based curriculum of challenging academics, including active, experiential lessons geared toward boys, balanced by a rich selection of music, art, and athletics.

While we pride ourselves on our sense of tradition, we also prepare students with 21st century skills. As a nationally recognized leader in education technology, we integrate new technologies across all grade levels and disciplines.

The success of our program is evident in our graduates. Country Day boys are known for being academically well prepared, being critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborative team members, and leaders—young men of integrity, scholarship, and respect.

**The Foote School**  
50 Loomis Place  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-777-3464  
www.footeschool.org



**S**tudents come to Foote from many different backgrounds and schools, creating a diverse Kindergarten - Grade 9 community that enriches us all. Dedicated, highly qualified faculty and staff establish a happy, productive atmosphere where students flourish with small classes and individual attention. Above all, we nurture a lifelong love of learning and teaching.

**The Campus:** Paths criss-crossing our 17.8-acre campus give the feel of a country setting within New Haven. The campus includes 11 classroom buildings, a 47,000 volume library, science laboratories, two computer labs, a black-box theater, music rooms, arts studios, an activities center, a gymnasium, playing fields, teaching gardens and a wooded area for outdoor education. A state-of-the-art science and technology center will open in September 2012.

**The Curriculum:** Teachers provide careful grounding in verbal and mathematical skills while fostering creativity and self-confidence. Students explore a wide-ranging, imaginative curriculum in literature, history, mathematics (with both individual enrichment and support for students in all grades), science (with a hands-on K-9 program), technology, writing, modern languages, the arts and athletics. The curriculum — which encourages children to build skills, experiment and question — sets high standards, fosters a sense of responsibility, and teaches respect for scholarship and pride in a job well done. Central to Foote's strong academic program is its commitment to a multicultural curriculum designed to help students gain an appreciation of human similarities and differences.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## Fraser Woods Montessori School

173 South Main Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
203-426-3390  
www.fraserwoods.com



Head of School:  
Myriam Woods

Walk through the doors of Fraser Woods Montessori School and you will feel welcomed and inspired. You will find a community of teachers, administrators, students and parents coming together to explore, learn and grow.

A Montessori education at FWM includes a challenging curriculum encouraging competent, responsible, adaptive citizens who are lifelong learners and problem solvers. Our goal is to stir your child's passion for asking questions about their world. That curiosity allows him to go beyond set limits and provides opportunities for advanced discovery and the pursuit of their full potential.

Students learn best in an environment that nurtures their natural fascination with the world. Our curriculum, methodology and materials engage students' curiosity and allow discovery to be both intriguing and challenging. In scientifically designed classrooms you will find materials created to meet children at their unique developmental levels. Through structure and freedom, guidance and inspiration, our students blossom.

We provide an emotionally safe environment where they feel comfortable to take academic and social risks. At FWM, classes in art, music, physical education, language and technology complement the main subject areas of traditional learning and support the annual Cultural Program which gives students an opportunity to work hands-on in the arts.

FWS is state approved, affiliated with the American Montessori Society and accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. Find us on Facebook.

## Great Beginnings Montessori School

148 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
203-254-8208  
www.greatmontessori.com



Head of School:  
Marnee Harke

Great Beginnings Montessori School is an independent preschool and elementary school that provides a comprehensive Montessori education for children 18 months through 9 years old. Montessori principles and practices teach and promote cooperation, sharing and respect for each other and their environment. Each classroom is set up in an open style and is filled with Montessori educational materials and led by a Montessori credentialed teacher.

**Mission Statement:** Developing the potential of the whole child: the spirit, the body and the mind. Great Beginnings Montessori School is a nurturing environment of educators and families which aims to support, through the prepared Montessori environment, the development of each child's potential through activities that promote independence, physical coordination, emotional growth, social competence, cognitive preparation and spiritual nourishment.

Great Beginnings offers three distinct programs: The Toddler Program, for children 18 months to 3 years old; the Primary Program, for ages 3-6, a three-year program that includes kindergarten; and the Elementary Program for children ages 6-9.

## Greens Farms Academy

35 Beachside Avenue  
Greens Farms, CT 06838  
203-256-7514  
www.gfacademy.org



Head of School:  
Janet Hartwell

Greens Farms Academy is a K-12, independent, coed day school serving 690 students from southwestern Connecticut. GFA students excel in academics, arts and athletics. Service learning is integrated into the school curriculum. The school is known for its academic rigor, attention to character and strong sense of community. The World Perspectives Program, launched in 2010, helps all students better understand global issues and demonstrate a commitment to creating a more sustainable future.

GFA has made a conscious effort to build a diverse student body, attracting students from more than 30 Connecticut communities. Students arrive by GFA van, car, bus, bicycle and train — the Greens Farms train station is only a six-minute walk from the school. The campus borders three ecosystems — Long Island Sound, a salt marsh and an Audubon wilderness — providing abundant opportunities for learning in environmental sciences.

GFA fields a wide variety of athletics, extra-curricular activities, off-campus study opportunities and course electives. GFA students distinguish themselves in the arts, winning state and national recognition for their work. GFA scholar-athletes are solid contenders in the Fairchester League of Independent Schools and are sought after by the best colleges and universities. Graduates attribute their success to the close student-teacher relationships, academic confidence and good habits of mind they developed at GFA. They take with them out into the world a sense of the school's motto: *Quisque Pro Omnibus, Each for All.*

## The Gunnery

99 Green Hill Road  
Washington, CT 06793  
860-868-7334  
www.gunnery.org



Head of School:  
Peter Becker

The Gunnery is a coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 300 students in grades 9-12. The school rests on the four cornerstones of character: citizenship, integrity, respect and responsibility. The values of citizenship and social responsibility are reinforced in a small, cohesive community that cultivates maturity, dedication and lifelong accomplishment. A Gunnery graduate is a broadly educated, socially responsible citizen with tested beliefs, strength of character and the courage to act on convictions.

Gunnery students are actively involved in a challenging, educational experience. The traditional college preparatory curriculum, with graduation requirements in English, mathematics, science, language, art and public speaking, encourages every student to develop a commitment to life-long learning. The academic program sets clear standards of excellence, ranging from mastering basic skills and concepts to the development of interdisciplinary understanding, critical thinking and precise communication.

**Unique Features:** The curriculum offers depth and diversity. Honors and Advanced Placement courses, as well as opportunities for independent study, provide an array of options. As technology becomes ubiquitous in our society, the school has chosen to put together a strong technology program that will prepare students for college and beyond. The Gunnery has state-of-the-art network and computer facilities, including two main labs and a well-equipped library. There are wireless connections in all of the dorms.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## Hamden Hall Country Day School

1108 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06517  
203-752-2600  
www.hamdenhall.org



*Head of School:  
Robert J. Izzo*

Hamden Hall Country Day School has been helping students reach their full potential academically, socially, physically and artistically for 100 years. Since our founding in 1912, the school's mission has been to challenge students to develop a strong sense of personal integrity and social responsibility while preparing them for demanding programs at the collegiate level. Hamden Hall is a coeducational college preparatory school that enrolls students in PreSchool through Grade 12 from over 35 communities.

From the school's notable beginnings a century ago as the nation's fourth country day school to its current standing as a hallmark of educational excellence, Hamden Hall continues to focus on the development and integration of the child as an individual. That objective manifests itself on campus in a myriad of ways starting with rigorous academics, extraordinary faculty, extensive extracurricular activities, a commitment to diversity and a premier athletic program promoting sportsmanship and physical prowess.

Further enhancing the educational experience is our state-of-the-art, 65,000-square-foot Beckerman Athletic Center. This \$13 million facility set amid 30 acres of athletic fields is truly a hub for student activity and community collaboration.

Hamden Hall's campus has grown since the school's founding, but underpinning any new outcroppings is the family-like, nurturing environment established a century ago. Our Hamden Hall community is enriched by students, faculty, parents and alumni who immerse themselves in the life of the school.

## Hopkins School

986 Forest Road  
New Haven, CT 06515  
203-397-1001  
www.hopkins.edu



*Head of School:  
Barbara M. Riley*

Hopkins School, the third oldest independent school in the country, is a coeducational, college preparatory day school for grades 7-12. Located on a 108-acre campus overlooking New Haven, the school takes pride in its dedicated faculty and staff.

A community of civility and learning, the school educates students from families of varied ethnic, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds who value education. If there is any common denominator, it is that our students are eager to learn, willing to work hard, and consistently place among the top 10 percent of students in the nation in standardized testing.

The school's curriculum ensures a strong foundation in the liberal arts, exposure to a wide variety of academic disciplines, and rigorous preparation for advanced study. Arts and athletics are integral components of the Hopkins experience, offering many avenues of skill building and self-discovery. Because Hopkins believes that involved citizenship can be nurtured through the cultivation of a range of interests, the school encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities.

The Hopkins program is challenging, but the culture of the school is compassionate and supportive. Here, students build close personal relationships with their teachers and with each other, as they share in the joyful pursuit of learning and growth.

## The Housatonic Valley Waldorf School

40 Dodgingtown Road (Route 302)  
Newtown, CT 06470  
203-364-1113  
www.waldorfct.org



Established in 1989, the Housatonic Valley Waldorf School in Newtown, CT provides a developmental education focusing on the whole child in a holistic, non-competitive environment. The Waldorf movement is one of the world's largest and fastest growing non-sectarian educational initiatives, with 900 schools worldwide. The school serves 120 students, nursery through grade eight, as well as a parent-child playgroup for the youngest children. The mixed-age early childhood classes offer a half-day program for ages 3-6. In the Grade School, a rich curriculum of Spanish and German, handwork, music, gym and eurythmy, in addition to the main academic lessons, is offered beginning in first grade. The goal of the school is to create well-rounded, capable students who love learning for its own sake.

**Mission Statement:** To develop each child's unique capacity to engage meaningfully in the world. Guided by the principles of Waldorf education, the faculty inspires in our students creative thinking, moral sensibility and a passion for learning. We offer a classical education that integrates experiential and artistic learning, in an environment emphasizing academic excellence, respect for diversity and reverence for the natural world. Our faculty, board of trustees and parents work together, with dedication and warmth, to support our school community.

**Unique Features:** Waldorf education seeks to educate the whole child, heart and hands, as well as intellect. The curriculum is designed to introduce each subject at the appropriate developmental stage in the child's life. The class teacher remains with the children from the first through the eighth grade, creating a strong teacher/student bond. Waldorf education is experiential. The arts are used to teach virtually every academic subject.

## Hudson Country Montessori School

44A Shelter Rock Road  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203-744-8088  
www.hudsoncountry.org



*Head of School:  
Mark Meyer*

Hudson Country Montessori School was founded in 1972. With a campus in Danbury, CT and New Rochelle, NY we are one of the largest independent Montessori schools in the country. Reflecting the communities we serve and our own values, we embrace diversity and the inherent potential in each child. Dr. Maria Montessori noted, more than a century ago, that no two students learn at the same pace nor do they necessarily learn best from the same methods. At HCMS, we provide the tools, teachers and support to guide each child to personal and academic success.

Classrooms are specially designed to facilitate experiential learning where individual and small group instruction make each student the focus of the learning experience. Although Hudson provides a rigorous academic program, we also challenge students to develop the interpersonal skills they will need to become strong, compassionate leaders and agents of change.

Our international student body represents more than 30 different countries and nearly every ethnic group and major world religion. The school has students from eight weeks old through eighth grade and offers extended hours for the children of working families. We are accredited by NEASC, AMS and NAEYC.

We work hard to be responsive to the needs of parents and students in an ever-changing society. Our commitment is reflected in the flexibility of our schedule and the quality of our programs. Our success is reflected in the joyful faces of our students as they walk through our doors each morning. Come visit us and see for yourself.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## The Independent Day School

115 Laurel Brook Road  
Middlefield, CT 06455  
860-347-7235  
www.independentdayschool.org



Head of School:  
John Barrengos

The Independent Day School is a co-educational independent school for 3 year olds through grade eight, located on 30 acres of countryside in Middlefield. Since its founding in 1961, families of diverse racial, religious and social backgrounds, from over 30 surrounding communities, have chosen IDS for its enriching, challenging curriculum and its talented teachers, who inspire learning and good citizenship in each student.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to guide young people toward high standards of scholarship and citizenship, an appreciation of the arts and sound physical, social and intellectual growth in a supportive environment. We encourage our students to develop a sense of curiosity. We value hard work and want our students to experience the rewards of self-discipline. Our intent is to create responsible citizens for a diverse and changing world.

### Unique Features:

- Rich and diverse curriculum that contributes to students becoming critical thinkers, creative and enthusiastic learners and exceptional problem solvers.
- Challenging programs that stretch the mind and develop more confident and competent learners.
- Enriching art, music, drama and athletic programs.
- Home of The Middlesex Academy for the Performing Arts.
- Exceptionally talented and dedicated faculty who take an active interest in the students' well being and personal development.
- Community service projects prepare students for active involvement in tomorrow's society.

## Kingswood Oxford School

170 Kingswood Road  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
860-727-5000  
www.kingswoodoxford.org



Head of School:  
Dennis Bisgaard

**Mission Statement:** Kingswood Oxford inspires students to excel and to lead lives of integrity and involvement by nourishing their talents in a community of teachers, friends and families.

At Kingswood Oxford School, we prepare students in grades 6 through 12 to be global thinkers, communicators and leaders who will be ready for a future we can't predict – ready for the challenges, complexities and opportunities of the 21st century. At the heart of our academic program are excellent teachers, coaches and advisors who challenge and motivate students to excel. As an independent day school, we cherish and encourage a strong partnership among faculty, parents and students, which nurtures intellectually curious, independent thinkers and lifelong learners. Our graduates are prepared to become the next generation of ethical citizens and leaders, able to contribute and to advocate for themselves and others.

The curriculum begins with a solid preparation in reading, writing and computation. Students are taught to analyze, collaborate and communicate effectively so they can navigate their academic journeys with increasing independence. Junior and senior years include college-level course offerings, leadership opportunities, outstanding college advising and collegiate athletic advising, a thesis, and international travel programs. Our curriculum and a rich array of artistic, athletic and extracurricular opportunities allow students to explore interests, sharpen fundamental skills and contribute to the greater community.

## Landmark of Ridgefield Academy

20 Portland Avenue, Redding, CT  
203-544-8393  
11 Burr Road, Westport, CT  
203-226-6982  
www.landmarkpreschool.org



Director:  
Ann Hirsch  
(Redding)



Director:  
Siobhan Powers  
(Westport)

At Landmark Preschool, our goal is to encourage young children to explore, discover, and enjoy new challenges. We believe children are curious, capable, and ready to learn at an early age. Our balanced program inspires children of all levels by enhancing their social-emotional, intellectual, and physical development. We dedicate ourselves to helping each child discover his or her intrinsic talents in a stimulating, nurturing, and creative environment.

Landmark Preschool is an independent school serving children ages one through five. We offer a broad range of activities to foster the education, growth and development of the whole child.

Learning at Landmark begins with our "Fun for Ones" program, where our youngest pals can develop language, social and motor skills with their care giver and the guidance of an experienced teacher. Our Twos drop off program is a great first step towards independence as children spend time in our classrooms without a parent. These students learn to socialize with peers, exercise fine and gross motor skills and develop their use of language. Concepts such as colors, shapes, letters and numbers are introduced in this program. The student to teacher ratio is four to one.

In Landmark's Threes, Fours and Fives programs, children enjoy monthly themes and special subjects such as gym, music and Spanish. A typical day may include: art, choice time, literacy and math activities, technology, science, recess, story and circle time. Learning is facilitated by a six to one student to teacher ratio.

## The Long Ridge School

478 Erskine Road  
Stamford, CT 06903  
203-322-7693  
www.longridgeschool.org



Head of School:  
Kris Klein Bria

The Long Ridge School is an independent day school for Beginners, Nursery and Kindergarten through Grade 5, located on 14-woodland acres in northern Stamford. Celebrating 75 years as a leader in early childhood and elementary education, the school is consistently recognized for the expertise and dedication of its impressive faculty.

**Mission Statement:** The Long Ridge School respects children as individuals with innate intellectual curiosity. We believe children should explore, experiment and experience the joy of learning in a caring, exciting and challenging academic community. We prepare each student for lifelong learning through individualized attention, small class instruction and an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum. A cooperative atmosphere based on fairness and respect for individual differences remains essential to our program, which encourages children's social and emotional growth as well as their academic development.

**Unique Features:** The school offers programs for Beginners and Nursery as part of the whole school program. All students benefit from state-of-the-art spaces and specialist classes in science, visual and performing arts, Spanish and physical education.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

## The Montessori School

34 Whipple Road, Wilton, CT 06897  
24 Lois Street, Norwalk, CT 06851  
203-834-0440  
www.themontessorischool.com



Head of School:  
Mary Zeman

Our School's culture is devoted to helping each child grow toward independence by building confidence, competence, self-esteem and respect for others. More than an approach to education, Montessori becomes a way of life. Our program, both in philosophy and pedagogy, is based on the scientific research of Dr. Maria Montessori and on AMI Montessori training, serving children 14 months through 14 years. We have served families in the greater Fairfield County area since 1964.

Our curriculum and goals make way for use of the outdoors, from gardening and hikes in our woods to expeditions in the greater world. We see Montessori as an approach to life which naturally inspires our students to grow in compassion and view themselves as citizens of a greater world. We advocate for physical well-being with athletics, we embrace the fine and performing arts and offer bi-lingual and specialized classes in Spanish, French, Latin and Chinese.

### Mission Statement:

- To respect children as self-directed individuals and foster their growth toward independence and social responsibility.
- To adhere to the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori and maintain the standard of The Association Montessori Internationale.
- To create a joyful, diverse and family-oriented community which provides an atmosphere that supports the growth of the child.
- To inspire the child to live both passionately and compassionately in a global community.

### Unique Features:

With citizenship and kindness as a core to our values and ways, students and parents have taken up the Latin term, Civitas as a description of daily acts of personal consideration and respect for others. We strive to protect a Civitas community in all ways.

## The Montessori School of Greater Hartford

141 North Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-236-4565  
www.msgh.org



Head of School:  
Una Barry

Founded in 1964, The Montessori School of Greater Hartford (MSGH) is an independent school providing the highest quality Montessori education for children ages 15 months to 12 years. MSGH is fully accredited and recognized by both the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools and the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), Montessori's highest accrediting body. We serve approximately 180 children with toddler, primary and elementary programming, and before and after-school care are available. Children enjoy diverse, mixed-age, indoor/outdoor classrooms, and bilingual programming in English and Spanish. Extensive art, music and outdoor opportunities each day bring life to learning in our close-knit, nurturing community. Classrooms are filled with materials that allow children to move, explore, and learn independently at their own pace under the guidance of AMI-trained teachers, and children avail themselves of many opportunities to work collaboratively with peers and engage with the outside community.

**Mission Statement:** MSGH fosters a strong foundation for confident, compassionate participation in the world by nurturing each child's unique gifts, passion for learning and independence. As a community, we enrich families, live our diversity, and embody the AMI standards of excellence.

**Unique Features:** Our Head of School is recognized as a child development expert and regularly provides one-on-one parenting support to augment our monthly Parent Information Series. Specially designed classrooms are in place for toddler and primary children who stay with us until 5:30 p.m. Michelle Thomas is our Artist-in-Residence and we offer Suzuki cello instruction.

## Mooreland Hill School

166 Lincoln Street  
Kensington, CT 06037  
860-223-6428  
www.mooreland.org



Head of School:  
Michael D. Dooman

Founded in 1930, Mooreland Hill School is an independent, coeducational day school serving central Connecticut students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 9. In all that we do — in the classrooms, on the playing fields and on the concert stage, in the science lab and at the greenhouse — we seek to inspire, encourage and challenge our students to reach their full academic, creative, social and athletic potential.

**Mission Statement:** Mooreland Hill School strives to create a unique environment in which all members, students and adults, exist in a learning community characterized by active and spirited engagement in academic, physical and social pursuits. The school encourages close relationships among students of all ages, faculty, staff, and families in an environment of mutual respect. Moral character, a strong sense of community, and an understanding of the responsibility of citizenship are stressed through the curriculum, community service activities, and a partnership among parents, students and the school. We prepare our students for success at the secondary school level and in life.

**Unique Features:** Mooreland's outdoor education program provides opportunities for personal growth outside the traditional classroom. Our Multi-Age Classrooms, Kindergarten/Grade 1 and Grade 2/3, allow young students to learn at their pace to master the essentials. The hands-on education program allows students to articulate and strengthen qualities of character, responsibilities of citizenship, ideals of philosophical and practical leadership, notions of responsible stewardship of the environment and sound decision-making skills.

## New England School of Montessori

40 Quirk Road  
Milford, CT 06460  
203-878-9822  
www.nesmontessori.com



Head of School:  
Maria Zullo

Founded in the fall of 2000, New England School of Montessori is a private, independent school located in north Milford. Affiliated with the American Montessori Society and a member of the Montessori Schools of Connecticut as well as the International Montessori Council, New England School of Montessori offers a wide variety of programs for toddlers (18 months) through sixth grade (12 years).

**Mission Statement:** New England School of Montessori promotes self confidence and joy through active learning, empowering the whole child to become a compassionate world citizen. Our students' potential gracefully unfolds within a multi-age environment, allowing the children to recognize and optimize their individual capabilities.

**Unique Features:** New England School of Montessori offers children from Fairfield and New Haven counties a true Montessori experience. In order to discover the child's own unique learning style, the trained Montessori teacher observes him or her on an individual and regular basis. Classroom curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, history/culture, geography, art, music, grace & courtesy and practical life skills. Regular field trips help to enhance the classroom curriculum. Respect for one's self, each other and the environment is woven throughout the curriculum. The New England School of Montessori assists each child in the development of SELF: Respect, Direction, Motivation, Discipline and Worth. To learn more about the Montessori approach to education, visit us online, call to schedule a tour, or request a tour via email: admissions@nesmontessori.com.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

**Pine Point School**  
89 Barnes Road  
Stonington, CT 06378  
860-535-0606  
www.pinepoint.org



*Head of School:  
Stephen W. Bennhoff*

Founded in 1948, Pine Point School is an independent coeducational day school serving students in pre-school through grade 9. Located in scenic Stonington on 42 acres, minutes away from the Rhode Island border, Pine Point draws students from communities in CT and RI.

**Mission Statement:** Pine Point School is a dynamic partnership of students, faculty and parents of diverse experiences committed to academic excellence. Children are actively engaged in their own learning in a caring and supportive environment. The school stresses the importance of individual accomplishment and the power of collaborative effort. Our mission is to develop in each student an inquisitive, creative and disciplined mind; a firm foundation of core academic skills; a strong sense of responsibility for community and self; an appreciation for both the arts and athletics; and a passion for learning.

**Unique Features:** Strong emphasis on basic academic skills and active learning with an average student/teacher ratio of 9:1. Individual instruction in dance, music, art and physical education. Partnerships with Stanford University, Calvary Music School, Aux 3 Pommes Foreign Language Program and many more. Our facility includes fully equipped science labs, state-of-the-art Library/Technology Center, completely networked campus and an arts building. School-owned research vessel, an international studies program and a robust service learning program. A 2007 National School of Character. The Early Childhood Center opened in 2008.

**The Rectory School**  
P. O. Box 68, 528 Pomfret Street  
Pomfret, CT 06258  
860-928-1328  
www.rectoryschool.org



*Headmaster:  
Frederick W. Williams*

The Rectory School is an independent, coed, junior boarding (5-9) and day (K-9) school, with a diverse enrollment of 252 students.

**Mission Statement:** We identify and understand each student's unique learning style. This is the magic of Rectory. Our student-faculty ratio of 4:1 gives students the attention they deserve and the courses that challenge their abilities. Through our nationally recognized Individualized Instruction Program (IIP), students benefit from daily, one-to-one support and enrichment. Our comprehensive learning environment supports confidence, risk taking and success. In addition, world languages, advanced mathematics, cross-curricular and collaborative learning and ninth grade physics prepare students for secondary school. The entire student body is involved in music, whether in classes or private lessons, and our visual arts program provides an opportunity to explore creativity in various mediums. Finally, every student is involved in athletics. We emphasize physical fitness, fair play and teamwork. Through sports, our students learn new skills and grow to appreciate the role of exercise and health in their lives.

**Unique Features:** Students thrive through individual attention and dynamic instruction. We help young people discover the spark within, igniting a desire to excel. The results are happy, fulfilled, productive youth who reach their potential on campus and beyond. The school community lives the Rectory Creed: Responsibility, Respect, Honesty, and Compassion. We continue to make a profound difference through a school culture that affirms the best within each individual. Our students graduate with confidence, character and commitment.

**The Prospect School at Wooster**  
91 Miry Brook Road  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203-830-3967  
www.theprospectschool.org



*Head of School:  
Dr. Stephanie Bell*

The Prospect School at Wooster located in Danbury, Connecticut serves students ages 7-14 with diagnosed learning disabilities. We are a child-centered school focused on helping each student discover their potential.

The Prospect School, a new division of The Wooster School, opened its doors in September 2011 with its first students. Each child is different and individually talented, and therefore each deserves his or her own tailored educational experience. Our curriculum is predicated upon research-based and multi-sensory instruction. The Prospect School is a wonderful opportunity for parents to place their children in a program that is custom made for each child's unique learning style and education needs.

Parents want their children to do more than survive elementary and middle school – parents want them to thrive. Through collaboration with families and professionals, The Prospect School strives to create a safe, caring environment where your child is taught not only what, but how they need to learn. Our program delivers a completely individualized program that gives every student the personalized, knowledgeable attention they need.

We operate on a rolling admissions basis. For additional Admissions information about The Prospect School and general inquiries, please contact Jordana Levine, Psy.D. at 203.730.6716 or jordana.levine@theprospectschool.org

**Renbrook School**  
2865 Albany Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-236-1661  
www.renbrook.org



*Head of School:  
Armistead Webster, Ph.D.*

Based on the independent school model of education, Renbrook is organized into three divisions: the Beginning School (3s, JK and full-day Kindergarten), Lower School (Grades 1-5) and Upper School (Grades 6-9).

Renbrook's 75-acre campus is comprised of new and historic buildings, athletic fields, ropes courses, nature trails, even a woodland pond for science study. The Mathematics Center is dedicated to middle school math; the 16,600 square-foot Library & Technology Center is heated and cooled with geothermal technology.

Small classes, enriched academics and excellent outcomes are achieved across all grades. All the sciences, math and technology have lab-based facilities. Artists and musicians teach the arts. The physical education program develops skills from the preschool years through fifth grade. Interscholastic sports are offered in Grades 6-9 and the "no cuts" policy lets students play the sport of their choice.

Unique programs include the Math Town project in sixth grade and the seventh grade economics course. Ninth graders prepare for secondary school success through the Freshman Year at Renbrook, a hands-on curriculum comprised of advanced academics, group management projects, and the Trustee Scholars Program.

Renbrook welcomes students of every race, religion, national and ethnic origin. To learn more, call 860-236-1661 and ask for Admission.

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

**Ridgefield Academy**  
223 West Mountain Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
203-894-1800, ext. 112  
www.ridgefieldacademy.org



Head of School:  
James P. Heus

Ridgefield Academy, an independent day school serving students in preschool-grade 8, empowers every child to realize his or her unique potential by bringing together academic excellence, innovative programming and a diverse, supportive community. The campus is located on 42 scenic acres in Ridgefield, CT and draws students from Westchester and Fairfield counties.

**Mission Statement:** To educate and encourage students to become knowledgeable, independent thinkers who are passionate about learning and embrace new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm. We maintain high academic standards and emphasize the importance of responsibility, respect and service to others. We strive to be an inclusive, diverse and close-knit community where our students are valued, supported and inspired to excel.

**Unique Features:** RA offers a broad-based, challenging curriculum enhanced by athletics, the arts and service learning. The school recently renovated its preschool program (2's - 5's) to include a new Kitchen Lab, gardening area and multi-purpose room. The Academy also features a research, writing and media arts facility where students can use the latest technology to develop their writing skills, learn the current methods of research and explore the digital arts through classes such as animation, digital storytelling, film and sound editing.

RA is accredited by the CT Association of Independent Schools, and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the Fairchester Athletic Association.

**Saint Thomas's Day School**  
830 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-776-2123  
www.stthomasday.org



Head of School:  
Fred Acquavita

Saint Thomas's is a small, coeducational, Episcopal day school serving approximately 140 children in Kindergarten through grade six. It is a community of children, teachers and parents working together to foster learning in the context of faith. The smallness of the school allows for a warm, caring atmosphere of trust, encouragement and respect. Small group instruction and a balanced, sequential curriculum enable teachers to monitor and effectively foster the academic progress of each child.

**Mission Statement:** Saint Thomas's Day School is a diverse community of children, teachers, parents and parishioners working together to foster learning in a context of faith and personal commitment. As a mission of Saint Thomas's Episcopal Church, the Day School seeks to broadly educate children by cultivating intelligence while engaging heart and spirit. The school seeks to motivate children of diverse races, creeds and backgrounds to become independent thinkers who appreciate, understand and serve others.

**Unique Features:** Traditions add a rich texture to life at Saint Thomas's. The school is remarkable in its diversity of families and believes that uniforms help them value individual character and personality. There is a wonderful bond between younger and older children. Saint Thomas's children explore their world through an extraordinary series of field trips.

**Saint Bernadette School**  
20 Burr Street  
New Haven, CT 06512  
203-469-2271  
www.saintbernadette.org



Principal:  
Sherry Steines

Saint Bernadette School is the area's foremost private Catholic PK-8 school welcoming children of all ethnicities and faiths. Located on the East Shore of New Haven, Saint Bernadette School has been an integral part of the Morris Cove neighborhood since 1957. The school is dedicated to providing children from age 3 through grade 8 with an education based on academic excellence and technological literacy. Through teaching and modeling, our faculty helps students learn moral values, social awareness and academic integrity. Saint Bernadette School strives to create a multi-cultural environment which prepares students to act locally and globally.

**Mission Statement:** Steeped in the Catholic tradition, St. Bernadette School is an ethnically diverse community serving students from pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Each student is encouraged to strive for academic excellence within a coeducational, safe, nurturing and loving environment where moral values are taught and modeled.

**Unique Features:** Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the State of Connecticut Department of Education • Excellent student-to-teacher ratio • Safe, secure and nurturing environment • Extended Day Program: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. • Foreign Language Instruction • 13,000 volume library • Completely wireless campus • Interactive whiteboard technology in all classrooms • iPads provided and integrated into daily instruction in Middle School • Videography and Podcasting Enrichment programs • State-of-the-art dedicated computer lab for independent use, group instruction and research • Textbooks provided in both print and online versions beginning in grade 3.

**Shoreline School of Montessori**  
675 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-481-5888  
www.shorelineschool.com



Director:  
Regina Satterthwaite

The Shoreline School of Montessori, located in Branford, has been serving shoreline area families since 1985. The school recognizes a child's innate desire to learn. Children, ages 3-6, benefit from mixed-age groups. This important component of the Montessori approach lends a family feel to the group and helps establish a strong community.

**Goal:** Shoreline School of Montessori helps children build a strong foundation for independence and creative learning through the exciting process of discovery using the unique Montessori materials. The school's program is well-balanced, emphasizing academic opportunities equally with creative self-expression and social-emotional and physical development. Their philosophy is that each child is unique and should be helped to develop to their fullest potential at their own pace in a non-competitive atmosphere. Their principles are based on the idea that *when learning starts fun, it stays fun!*

Children remain in the school through kindergarten to complete the important three-year cycle. The classroom is a "prepared environment" where the child is free to proceed from simple activities to more complex ones under the nurturing guidance of highly trained and experienced teachers. The curriculum includes a wide range of areas including practical life exercises, sensorial activities, math, language, geography, art and cultural enrichment (music and French).

# 2012 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SHOWCASE

**Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford**  
 26 Buena Vista Road  
 West Hartford, CT 06107  
 860-561-0700  
[www.ssds-hartford.org](http://www.ssds-hartford.org)



*Head of School:  
 Rabbi Elliot Goldberg*

The Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford provides a challenging and nurturing educational environment infused with Jewish values. Welcoming students of diverse social, cultural and economic backgrounds, we provide individual attention to each student and educate the whole child — intellectually, socially, spiritually and physically. At SSDS, everyone is important. We recognize that each of our students and their families add value to our community and our school.

Challenging courses encourage creative and analytical thinking framed in an environment where each student is respectful and respected. Our faculty recognizes that children have different ways of learning, and utilizes multiple approaches to teaching including the use of state-of-the-art technologies. Our students participate in a wide variety of arts, music, dance and athletic programs. Through our Hebrew language curriculum, students are exposed to a second language at an early age. Middle School students can add a third language, Spanish or Chinese.

Our Early Childhood students (ages 2-4) develop a sense of confidence about learning and joy in playing with others within a supportive intergenerational community. Schechter helps students navigate the challenges of childhood and early adolescence and produces young adults who are knowledgeable, critical thinkers, compassionate souls and have a deep commitment to their Jewish heritage and improving the world.

We encourage you to visit us and see how this vision is realized in our school.

**The Unquowa School**  
 981 Stratfield Road  
 Fairfield, CT 06825  
 203-367-3151  
[www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org)



*Head of School:  
 Sharon Lauer*

The Unquowa School is an independent day school which has offered a traditional liberal arts curriculum with a progressive approach to families of both boys and girls from PreK-3 through eighth grade since its inception in 1917. Both class and school size are kept small to insure individual attention and to maintain a close community of children, faculty and parents. The schoolwide environmental science program includes habitat preservation and a sustainable nutrition component. Fine arts and both Spanish and Mandarin begin in early childhood, physical education occurs daily in each grade and Upper Schoolers participate in sports through the Fairchester Athletic League. High school placement service begins in late seventh grade for both day and boarding high schools. Whether students elect to attend independent or public high school, they find themselves well prepared academically, athletically and socially.

**Mission Statement:** The Mission of The Unquowa School is to develop, educate and prepare our family of children with an unafraid spirit to achieve their personal best in a changing world.

**Unique Features:** Unquowa is a school where children are truly known and parents are actively engaged. Our formal collaboration with The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, The Connecticut Audubon Center and The Fairfield Museum and History Center provides robust resources for the school's "learning by doing" approach and allows students to apply knowledge to purpose.

The Unquowa School hosts a farm camp and a variety of other summer programs on campus and serves as the summer home for Chamber Music Central, a classical ensemble program for students in Middle and High School.

**Whitby School**  
 969 Lake Avenue  
 Greenwich, CT 06831  
 203-302-3900 • [admissions@whitbyschool.org](mailto:admissions@whitbyschool.org)  
[www.whitbyschool.org](http://www.whitbyschool.org)



*Head of School:  
 Bryan Nixon*

New Head of School Bryan Nixon advances Whitby's tradition as an innovator in 21st century education. Since its inception in 1958, Whitby has been at the forefront of child-centered learning as the only pre-K to 8th grade school in America accredited by both the American Montessori Society and the International Baccalaureate. These world-renowned education approaches blend seamlessly to provide students with distinct educational advantages to thrive in a dynamic world.

Through an innovative inquiry-based curriculum, Whitby educates the whole child — cognitively, socially and emotionally — while setting high academic standards. Students engage in their own learning and discover meaningful connections across subjects and with the real world. Whitby incorporates a World Languages program, visual and performing arts, interscholastic sports, health instruction, counselor support, community service and global citizenship activities, and international travel for older students. The result is that graduates find success in both acceptance rates and achievement at highly competitive secondary schools, with 90 percent accepted at their first choice of high school.

Whitby families and faculty come from over 40 countries and speak more than 23 languages to foster cross-cultural learning. This motivated community of parents, students, faculty and staff are part of an internationally-aware culture that nurtures students to be responsible, global citizens.

**Wooster School**  
 91 Miry Brook Road  
 Danbury, CT 06810  
 203-830-3916  
[www.woosterschool.org](http://www.woosterschool.org)



*Headmaster:  
 Tim Golding*

From Pre-Kindergarten through Middle School to College Preparation, Wooster School provides more than challenging academics, competitive sports and innovative arts. Wooster develops the intellectual, athletic, creative, spiritual and ethical growth of students for their benefit and for the good of the world.

Though grounded in the Episcopal tradition, Wooster enrolls and serves families from many faiths, and weekly Chapel is a time for reflection, readings, singing and discussion. Since its founding in 1926, Wooster has been guided by four cardinal principles: intellectual excellence, simplicity, religion and hard work. Racial, social, economic, cultural and religious diversity in the student body, administration and board of trustees is also central to the school's educational mission and values. All faculty, staff, students and parents are expected to contribute to maintaining an atmosphere of respect, trust and honor.

Wooster fields 32 sports teams, competing in a 45-member association as well as in the New England Tournaments. The arts feature professionals who bring their passion and skills to the classrooms in music, fine arts, drama and photography. Situated along the Ridgefield/Danbury border, on more than 100 scenic acres, Wooster's campus provides a peaceful and safe environment in which to learn as well as a variety of natural habitats for observation, experimentation and outdoor fun.

# Independent Schools

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"In the 20th century, education was essentially about the accumulation of information," says Lyons. "Quite frankly, when I was a high school principal, the valedictorian was the one kid in the graduating class who had the most amount of content information committed to memory. In the real world, we don't work that way anymore. It's not who knows the most, it's who does creative, interesting and collaborative things with what they know. We need kids who are creative and analytical thinkers, who are motivated and engaged, and are good with other people, and have an understanding of other people's moods, needs

and motivations."

In this context, an independent education is more relevant than ever. "For me, the real test of our influence over our grads is this: I have less interest in what my graduates know on graduation day; I'm more interested in knowing what they still want to know. I'm more interested in knowing that we have expanded the natural curiosity of childhood, that we have expanded kids' interests in the world around them." ♥

This article originally appeared in the 2012-13 Education Resource Guide (ERG), published by Connecticut



Photo courtesy of The Foote School.

Parent Magazine. Copies of the ERG are available for free at your local library, and can be accessed at [www.CTParent.com](http://www.CTParent.com)'s "Education Resources" page.

For more information on CAIS, visit [www.caist.org](http://www.caist.org).

## Guide to Independent Schools

	Boy/Girl Coed	Enroll- ment	PreK	K-12/ PG	Day	Board- ing	Transp. Avail.	Finan. Aid	Intra- mural	Inter- schol.	Extra Curr	Religious Affiliation
Ben Bronz Academy, W. Hartford, CT	Coed	60		Gr. 2-12	*							
Bi-Cultural Day School, Stamford, CT	Coed	355	*	PreK-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	Jewish
Canterbury School, New Milford, CT	Coed	350		Gr. 9-12	*	*		*	*	*	*	Catholic
Chase Collegiate School, Waterbury, CT	Coed	500	*	K-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Christian Heritage School, Trumbull, CT	Coed	500		K-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	Christian
Cold Spring School, New Haven, CT	Coed	120	*	Age 3-Gr. 6	*		*	*			*	
Connecticut Friends School, Wilton, CT	Coed	50		PreK-8	*		*	*				Quaker
Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT	Girls	777	*	Preschool-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	Catholic
The Country School, Madison, CT	Coed	250	*	Preschool-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Eagle Hill School, Greenwich, CT	Coed	250		Ages 6-16	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Easton Country Day School, Easton, CT	Coed	100	*	PreK-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Ezra Academy, Woodbridge, CT	Coed	176		K-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	Jewish
Fairfield Country Day School, Fairfield, CT	Boys	260	*	PreK-9	*		*	*	*	*	*	
The Foote School, New Haven, CT	Coed	470		K-9	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Fraser Woods Montessori School, Newtown, CT	Coed	210	*	18 mo.-Gr. 8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Great Beginnings Montessori, Fairfield, CT	Coed	N/A	*	Toddler-Gr.6	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Greens Farms Academy, Greens Farms, CT	Coed	680		K-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	
The Gunnery, Washington, CT	Coed	295		Gr. 9-12/PG	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden, CT	Coed	585	*	Preschool-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Hopkins School, New Haven, CT	Coed	660		Gr. 7-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Housatonic Valley Waldorf School, Newtown, CT	Coed	146	*	N-8	*		*	*				
Hudson Country Montessori School, Danbury, CT	Coed	190	*	K-8	*		*	*			*	
The Independent Day School, Middlefield, CT	Coed	220	*	Age 3-Gr. 8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Kingswood Oxford School, West Hartford, CT	Coed	505		Gr. 6-12	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Landmark Preschool, Redding & Westport, CT	Coed	200	*	Age 1-5	*		*	*			*	
The Long Ridge School, Stamford, CT	Coed	150	*	Age 2-Gr. 5	*		*	*	*	*	*	
The Montessori School, Wilton and Norwalk, CT	Coed	250	*	14 mo.-14 yrs.	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Montessori School of Grtr. Hartford, W. Hartford, CT	Coed	180	*	15 mo.-12 yrs.	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Mooreland Hill School, Berlin, CT	Coed	52		K-9	*		*	*	*	*	*	
New England School of Montessori, Milford, CT	Coed	80	*	Toddler-Gr.6	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Pine Point School, Stonington, CT	Coed	275		K-9	*		*	*	*	*	*	
The Prospect School at Wooster, Danbury, CT	Coed	1st year		Age 7-14	*		*	*	*	*	*	Episcopal
The Rectory School, Pomfret, CT	Coed	198	*	K-9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Renbrook School, West Hartford, CT	Coed	435	*	PreK-9	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Ridgefield Academy, Ridgefield, CT	Coed	350	*	PreK-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Saint Bernadette School, New Haven, CT	Coed	140	*	K-8	*		*	*	*	*	*	Catholic
St. Thomas's Day School, New Haven, CT	Coed	156		K-6	*		*	*	*	*	*	Episcopal
Shoreline School of Montessori, Branford, CT	Coed	30	*	PreK-K	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Solomon Schechter Day School, West Hartford, CT	Coed	150	*	EC2-Gr. 8	*		*	*	*	*	*	Jewish
The Unquowa School, Fairfield, CT	Coed	180	*	PreK3-8th	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Whitby School, Greenwich, CT	Coed	350	*	13 mo.-Gr. 8	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Wooster School, Danbury, CT	Coed	350	*	Age 3-Gr. 12	*		*	*	*	*	*	Episcopal

To find out more about these schools, follow the "Education Resources" link on our website.

# Independent School Open Houses

**Canterbury School**  
New Milford (860) 210-3836  
*Class Visit Day*  
Saturday, December 1, RSVP

**Chase Collegiate School**  
Waterbury (203) 236-9560  
Sunday, November 18, 1 p.m.

**Christian Heritage School**  
Trumbull (203) 261-6230, ext. 555  
*Informational Tours*  
Tuesday, November 6, 9 a.m.

**Cold Spring School**  
New Haven (203) 787-1584  
*Tours for Parents, RSVP*  
Tuesdays, Nov. 6 and 27, 8:45-10:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 8:45-10:30 a.m.

**Connecticut Friends School**  
Wilton (203) 762-9860  
Friday, November 9, 1 p.m., RSVP  
*Private tours available.*

**Convent of the Sacred Heart**  
Greenwich (203) 532-3546  
*All School Open House*  
Saturday, November 3, preschool-grade 4,  
noon-2 p.m.; grades 5-12, 2-4 p.m.  
*Early Childhood Sneak Peek*  
Thursday, November 29, 9 a.m.  
*Admission Tour Days*  
Wednesday, November 7, 9 a.m.-noon  
Wednesday, December 12, 9 a.m.-noon

**Ezra Academy**  
Woodbridge (203) 389-5500, ext. 17  
Tuesday, November 27, 10 a.m.  
Thursday, December 13, 10 a.m.

**Fairfield Country Day School**  
Fairfield (203) 259-2723  
November 2 and 3, 9-10:30 a.m.  
Friday, December 7, 9-10:30 a.m.

**Foote School**  
New Haven (203) 777-3464  
Sunday, November 4, 1-3 p.m.

**Fraser Woods Montessori School**  
Newtown (203) 426-3390  
Thursday, November 8, 10 a.m., RSVP

**Great Beginnings Montessori**  
Fairfield (203) 254-8208  
*Elementary Open House*  
Every Wednesday, 10:15 a.m., RSVP

**Greens Farms Academy**  
Greens Farms (203) 256-7514  
*Kindergarten Sneak Peek*  
Wed., Nov. 7, 9 a.m., RSVP (adults only)  
Thurs., Dec. 6, 9 a.m., RSVP (adults only)  
*Middle & Upper School Open House*  
Thurs., Nov. 8, 7-8:30 p.m., no RSVP  
(Families welcome)

**Hamden Hall Country Day School**  
Hamden (203) 752-2610  
*Campus Tour*  
Thursday, November 15, 9-10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, December 6, 9-10:30 a.m.

**Hopkins School**  
New Haven (203) 397-1001, ext. 211  
*Admission Tour Day*  
Wednesday, November 14, 9 a.m., RSVP  
Wednesday, December 12, 9 a.m., RSVP

**Housatonic Valley Waldorf School**  
Newtown (203) 364-1113  
Tuesday, November 6, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 4, 7 p.m.

**Hudson Country Montessori School**  
Danbury (203) 744-8088  
November 8 and 10, 9:30-11 a.m.

**The Independent Day School**  
Middlefield (860) 347-7235  
Saturday, November 3, 1-3 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 6, 9 a.m.-noon

**Kingswood Oxford School**  
West Hartford (860) 727-5000  
*Athletic Open House*  
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m., RSVP

**Landmark of Ridgefield Academy**  
Redding (203) 544-8393  
Nov. 5, 16 and 27, *Tours of the 2s program*  
9:30 a.m.; *tours of the 3s, 4s & 5s programs,*  
10:30 a.m.

**Landmark of Ridgefield Academy**  
Westport (203) 226-6982  
Nov. 5, 16, 20 and 30,  
*Tours of the 2s program* 9:30 a.m.;  
*tours of the 3s, 4s & 5s programs,* 10:30 a.m.

**Montessori School of Greater Hartford**  
West Hartford (860) 236-4565, ext. 26  
*Open Houses every Tuesday and Thursday.*  
*Call for an appointment.*

**Mooreland Hill School**  
Kensington (860) 223-6428  
Sunday, December 2, 1-3 p.m.



## Independent School Directory



### BEN BRONZ ACADEMY

139 North Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 236-5807



For bright dyslexic or learning disabled children, grades 2-12. Students become competent problem-solvers, effective communicators and independent learners. Our goal is to return students to public and private schools in their own communities quickly.

### BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903  
(203) 329-2186, ext. 1310 www.BCDS.org



Known for stellar academics, BCDS combines Jewish tradition and values with innovative curricula, technology and extracurricular activities, producing proud, self-confident graduates who ultimately serve as leaders in their high schools, universities and communities.

### CANTERBURY SCHOOL

101 Aspetuck Ave. New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 210-3832 www.cbury.org



The school has created a community based on Catholic values, where students experience a broad and challenging program in a small school setting. An environment that fosters academic rigor, athletic development, artistic enrichment and spiritual growth.

### CHASE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

565 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708  
(203) 236-9560 www.chasecollegiate.org



An academically demanding co-ed day school in the classic independent school tradition, educating students in Prekindergarten-3 through grade 12, the School serves 477 students in 49 CT communities on a 47-acre campus on the Waterbury/Middlebury line.

### CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

575 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 261-6230, ext. 555 www.kingsmen.org



The mission is to assist parents in fulfilling their God-given responsibility to provide students with an education of spiritual and academic excellence with which to serve God. CHS is fully accredited by NEASC and holds membership in ACSI.

### COLD SPRING SCHOOL

263 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06513  
(203) 787-1584 www.coldspringschool.com



Educating creative, self-confident thinkers, grades preschool-6. Innovative learning environment is responsive to children's natural love of learning, their need to achieve strong academic skills and become part of a socially committed community.

# Independent School Open Houses

**New England School of Montessori**  
 Milford (203) 878-9822  
*Take-A-Look Tuesdays (adults only),  
 9:30-11 a.m., RSVP  
 Private tours available.*

**Pine Point School**  
**Stonington (860) 535-0606**  
*Take-a-Look Days  
 Every Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m., RSVP  
 Private tours available.*

**The Prospect School at Wooster**  
**Danbury (203) 730-6716**  
*Wednesday, November 14, 9:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday, December 12, 9:30 a.m.*

**Renbrook School**  
**West Hartford (860) 236-1661**  
*Preschool Information Fair  
 Friday, November 2, 10-11:30 a.m.  
 All School Open House  
 Tuesday, November 6, 8:45 a.m.*

**Ridgefield Academy**  
 Ridgefield (203) 894-1800, ext. 126  
*Tour-a-Class, RSVP  
 Every Tuesday and Wednesday  
 Preschool-Grade 3, 9-10 a.m.  
 Middle and Upper School, 10-11 a.m.*

**Saint Bernadette School**  
**New Haven (203) 469-2271**  
*Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Private tours available.*

**Saint Thomas's Day School**  
**New Haven (203) 776-2123**  
*Sunday, November 4, 2-4 p.m.  
 Admissions Tours  
 Tuesday, November 13, 9-11 a.m.  
 Tuesdays, December 4 and 11, 9-11 a.m.*

**Shoreline School of Montessori**  
**Branford (203) 481-5888**  
*Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m.-noon  
 Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m.-noon  
 Private tours available.*

**Solomon Schechter Day School**  
 West Hartford (860) 561-0700, ext. 167  
*Private tours available.*

**The Unquowa School**  
**Fairfield (203) 367-3151**  
*Take-A-Look Days  
 Thurs., Nov. 8 (PreK3 & PreK4), 9 a.m.  
 Nov. 15 and 27 (All School), 9 a.m.*

**Whitby School**  
**Greenwich (203) 302-3900**  
*Thurs., Nov. 8, 9:30 a.m. (grades 1-4);  
 10:30 a.m. (grades 5-8), RSVP*

**Wooster School**  
**Danbury (203) 830-3916**  
*Play Date for 3-year-olds  
 Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.*

*If you are interested in attending any of these open houses, please call ahead to RSVP. To schedule a tour at other schools in the area, please reference our Independent School Directory.*



## Independent School Directory



### CONNECTICUT FRIENDS SCHOOL

317-A New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897  
 (203) 762-9860 [www.CTFriendsSchool.org](http://www.CTFriendsSchool.org)



A fully accredited, independent, K-8 school providing students with an education that fosters self-confidence, intellectual curiosity, and compassion for others. The school is small by design; the educational program is dynamic, supportive and engaging.

### EASTON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

660 Morehouse Road, Easton, CT 06612  
 (203) 268-5530 [www.eastoncountryday.org](http://www.eastoncountryday.org)



Easton Country Day School offers rigorous academics shaped to the individual child in a familial environment that encourages accomplishment, responsibility and acceptance of diversity. We offer programs for the highly gifted, and emphasize the fine arts.

### CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART

1177 King Street, Greenwich, CT 06831  
 (203) 532-3534 [www.cshgreenwich.org](http://www.cshgreenwich.org)



An independent, Catholic, all girls, college preparatory school, grades preschool - 12. Founded in 1848, it is part of the Network of 21 Sacred Heart Schools in the U.S. Students educated to be confident, intelligent, compassionate leaders. Financial aid avail.

### EZRA ACADEMY

75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
 (203) 389-5500 x17 [www.EzraAcademy.net](http://www.EzraAcademy.net)



As a K-8 Jewish day school, Ezra Academy weaves together outstanding academics, Judaic studies, and a community made up of students, parents and faculty with a wide range of interests and backgrounds for an exceptional educational experience.

### THE COUNTRY SCHOOL

341 Opening Hill Road, Madison, CT 06443  
 (203) 421-3113 [www.thecountryschool.org](http://www.thecountryschool.org)



Co-ed, Preschool-Grade 8. At the Country School our outstanding program begins with challenging academics, passionate teachers, a dynamic whole child curriculum, and motivated students; offering an Education that Lasts a Lifetime!

### FAIRFIELD COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

2970 Bronson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824  
 (203) 259-2723 [www.fairfieldcountryday.org](http://www.fairfieldcountryday.org)



At FCDS, boys excel. They benefit from our all-boys environment and through curriculum design and faculty expertise. Our Pre-K through grade nine program challenges students to meet their potential and prepares them for continued academic and personal success.

### EAGLE HILL SCHOOL

45 Glenville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831  
 (203) 622-9240 x648 [www.eaglehillsschool.org](http://www.eaglehillsschool.org)



Helping boys and girls (6-16) with language-based learning disabilities acquire the academic and social skills necessary for transition to a traditional learning environment. A low student-to-teacher ratio ensures that each child receives an intensive, personalized education.

### THE FOOTE SCHOOL

50 Loomis Place, New Haven, CT 06511  
 (203) 777-3464 [www.footeschool.org](http://www.footeschool.org)

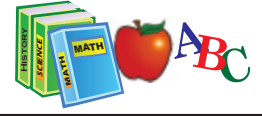


A diverse community of students, grades K-9, from over 26 different towns. Small classes in art, music, drama, gym, and foreign language enrich a strong core curriculum. Beautiful 47,000 volume library, after-school program, sports, and financial aid.

*To find out more about these schools, follow the "Education Resources" link on our website.*



# Independent School Directory



## FRASER WOODS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

173 S. Main St. (Rte. 25), Newtown, CT 06470  
(203) 426-3390 [www.fraserwoods.com](http://www.fraserwoods.com)



Small school community offering individualized attention where respect, personal responsibility & values are part of daily school life. 18 mos.-8th grade, before/after school programs. Members: CAIS, AMS, MSC, ERB.

## HUDSON COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

44A Shelter Rock Road, Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 744-8088 [www.hudsoncountry.org](http://www.hudsoncountry.org)



Pre-K to 8. Child centered environment where students learn to question, explore and discover using progressive methods proven to develop advanced thinking skills, academic mastery and peer leadership. Intl. school. FT/PT, early/late sessions. Summer program.

## GREAT BEGINNINGS MONTESSORI

148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 254-8208 [www.greatmontessori.com](http://www.greatmontessori.com)



We provide a happy and secure mixed-age environment for children aged 18 mos.-12 years. Our programs, based upon the Montessori Method, encourage students to fulfill their developmental potential and become independent, self-confident learners.

## THE INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL

115 Laurel Brook Rd., Middlefield, CT 06455  
(860) 347-7235 [www.independentdayschool.org](http://www.independentdayschool.org)



Challenging academics, enriching programs in fine and performing arts combine traditional instruction with hands-on learning. Programs support habits of good citizenship. After care; summer & theater camp. Age 3 to grade 8; 1/7 teacher/student ratio.

## GREENS FARMS ACADEMY

35 Beachside Ave., Greens Farms, CT 06838  
(203) 256-7514 [www.gfacademy.org](http://www.gfacademy.org)



A diverse, K-12 coed college preparatory day school located in Westport. Rigorous academics, competitive athletics, broad arts and community service programs. AP and Honors courses in all major disciplines. Need-based financial aid.

## KINGSWOOD OXFORD SCHOOL

170 Kingswood Road, West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 727-5000 [www.kingswoodoxford.org](http://www.kingswoodoxford.org)



Coed, college preparatory day school that actively prepares students in grades 6-12 for success in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. We combine a classic day school tradition with a unique culture of involvement and emphasis on 21st century skills.

## THE GUNNERY

99 Green Hill Rd., Washington, CT 06793  
(860) 868-7334 [www.gunnery.org](http://www.gunnery.org)



Founded in 1850, The Gunnery is a coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 295 students in grades 9 through 12. The values of citizenship and social responsibility are reinforced in a small, cohesive community.

## LANDMARK PRESCHOOL

Redding (Georgetown) - 20 Portland Avenue • (203) 544-8393  
Westport - 11 Burr Road • (203) 226-6982 [www.landmarkpreschool.org](http://www.landmarkpreschool.org)



The premiere private preschool for children ages 1-5. A balanced curriculum including math, literacy, foreign language, science, art, music and creative movement. Highly qualified professional educators offering an excellent teacher to student ratio.

## HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

1108 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517  
(203) 752-2610 [www.hamdenhall.org](http://www.hamdenhall.org)



Competitive athletics and extracurricular programs complement a challenging academic curriculum. Small class size creates a stimulating environment encouraging academic curiosity. Extended day, transportation, and financial aid are available.

## THE LONG RIDGE SCHOOL

478 Erskine Road, Stamford, CT 06903  
(203) 322-7693 [www.longridgeschool.org](http://www.longridgeschool.org)



Challenging environment for ages 2 through Gr. 5. Focus on nurturing each child's academic, social and emotional growth. Small classes, individual attention. Science, Spanish, art & music. Interdisciplinary curriculum, active learning process. Member CAIS.

## HOPKINS SCHOOL

986 Forest Road, New Haven, CT 06515  
(203) 397-1001 [www.hopkins.edu](http://www.hopkins.edu)



Hopkins is a coeducational, college preparatory day school that is located in New Haven and that enrolls 660 students in grades 7-12. It educates students from diverse backgrounds to a full measure of their talents.

## THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

34 Whipple Rd., Wilton, CT • 24 Lois St., Norwalk, CT  
(203) 834-0440 x16 [www.themontessorischool.com](http://www.themontessorischool.com)



Our program is rooted in the scientific research of Dr. Maria Montessori and the distinct needs and interests of students at each stage of development. Our approach is experiential, individualized and academically rigorous within a culture of respect and joy.

## HOUSATONIC VALLEY WALDORF SCHOOL

40 Dodgingtown Road, Newtown, CT 06470  
(203) 364-1113 [www.waldorfct.org](http://www.waldorfct.org)



We cherish childhood rather than rush it. In preschool and kindergarten, children learn through imaginative play, art and practical activities. In grades one to eight, academics are taught artistically, generating joy and inspiring creative thinking.

## THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF GRTR HTFD

141 North Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 236-4565 [www.msgh.org](http://www.msgh.org)



Known for its warmth and unique international atmosphere, MSGH offers children ages 15 mos-12 yrs an authentic AMI Montessori education. Multi-age, indoor/outdoor classrooms, bilingual programming, and extensive art and music opportunities. Accredited by CAIS.

*To find out more about these schools, follow the "Education Resources" link on our website.*



# Independent School Directory



## MOORELAND HILL SCHOOL

166 Lincoln St. Berlin, CT 06037  
(860) 223-6428 [www.mooreland.org](http://www.mooreland.org)



An independent, co-educational day school, serving central Connecticut students in grade K-9. Offers students a challenging, integrated curriculum, small class size, a strong advisory system and extensive co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

## SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

20 Burr Street, New Haven, CT 06512  
(203) 469-2271 [www.saintbernadette.org](http://www.saintbernadette.org)



Serving students in Pre-K through Grade 8 since 1957, our co-educational school is NEASC and State of CT accredited. Meeting the needs of students through the use of differentiated instruction, our program educates the whole child in a nurturing environment.

## NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI

40 Quirk Road, Milford, CT 06460  
(203) 878-9822 [www.nesmontessori.com](http://www.nesmontessori.com)



The NESM community enhances the child's natural love of learning. The commitment to the Montessori philosophy is essential to the unique development of students ages 18 months to 12 years (toddler-6th grade). "Within each child is the person he becomes."

## ST. THOMAS'S DAY SCHOOL

830 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 776-2123 [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)



This Episcopal school is a warm and lively community welcoming children from diverse faiths and backgrounds. Curriculum based on the developmental stages of children balances conceptual learning and basic skills. Extended Day.

## PINE POINT SCHOOL

89 Barnes Road, Stonington, CT 06378  
(860) 535-0606 [www.pinepoint.org](http://www.pinepoint.org)



Co-ed day school enrolling 265 students in Preschool thru Grade 9. Recognized for excellence in academics, the arts and personal development. Facilities include science & computer labs, spacious grounds, fine arts. Teacher/student ratio 9:1.

## SHORELINE SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI

675 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405  
(203) 481-5888 [www.shorelineschool.com](http://www.shorelineschool.com)



Since 1985, children ages 3-6 have enjoyed our Montessori program for a high quality early learning experience. Our warm and loving atmosphere helps children learn concentration, motivation, self-discipline and a love of learning. Full member of the Amer. Montessori Society.

## THE PROSPECT SCHOOL AT WOOSTER

91 Miry Brook Road, Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 730-6715 [www.theprospectschool.org](http://www.theprospectschool.org)



The Prospect School at Wooster located in Danbury, Connecticut, serves students ages 7-14 with diagnosed learning disabilities. This a new division of Wooster School, opening in September of 2011, is child-centered, helping each child discover their potential.

## SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

26 Buena Vista Road, West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 561-0700, ext. 167 [www.ssd-hartford.org](http://www.ssd-hartford.org)



A comprehensive Judaic and general studies education in a challenging yet nurturing and inclusive environment. An emphasis on differentiated instruction. Confident learners and creative thinkers who are motivated to make a difference.

## THE RECTORY SCHOOL

528 Pomfret Street, P.O. Box 68, Pomfret, CT 06258  
(860) 928-1328 [www.rectoryschool.org](http://www.rectoryschool.org)



A coed, junior boarding (5-9) and day school (K-9) that celebrates the individual. Devoted to the total development of each student in a supportive environment. Flexible curriculum, caring faculty, small classes, and extensive offerings in the arts and athletics.

## THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825  
(203) 367-3151 [www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org)



• Fairfield County's oldest independent coed day school for PreK3 through Gr. 8 • Traditional curriculum; progressive approach in a small class setting • Fine Arts and Foreign Language in all grades • Physical Education daily, Fairchester Athletics League members.

## RENBROOK SCHOOL

2865 Albany Ave., West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 236-1661 [www.renbrook.org](http://www.renbrook.org)



Renbrook is an independent school for students 3 years through Grade 9; its mission is to help all students fulfill their unique potential. The Renbrook model educates and prepares students for high school, college and life. The student:teacher ratio is 6:1.

## WHITBY SCHOOL

969 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06831  
(203) 302-3900 [www.whitbyschool.org](http://www.whitbyschool.org)



Premier co-ed school for children 18 months-grade 8 readying students to succeed in today's global community of learners. Only school in America accredited by both American Montessori Society and the highly regarded International Baccalaureate (IB).

## RIDGEFIELD ACADEMY

223 West Mountain Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
(203) 894-1800 x112 [www.ridgefieldacademy.org](http://www.ridgefieldacademy.org)



Ridgefield Academy serves students ages 3 – grade 8. Located in Ridgefield on 42 acres, one mile from New York. While maintaining high academic standards, there is an emphasis on the importance of responsibility, respect and service to others.

## WOOSTER SCHOOL

91 Miry Brook Road, Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 830-3916 [www.woosterschool.org](http://www.woosterschool.org)



Wooster School — A coeducational, early childhood through grade 12, college preparatory day school. Our 127-acre campus is located on the Ridgefield/Danbury line. We draw from 44 Connecticut and New York communities.

*To find out more about these schools, follow the "Education Resources" link on our website.*



by KiKi Bochi

With its focus on balance, yoga is often billed as the antidote to life in the fast lane. What parent doesn't need that? This ancient form of Eastern exercise is very popular these days, and for good reason. Anyone can do yoga — even pregnant women and kids. Practiced correctly, it can provide excellent conditioning, exercise and stress reduction.

Devotees to yoga swear by it — it just makes you feel good. Now, there may be scientific support (if you're into scientific theories) for why yoga boosts your sense of well being beyond what you can get from other forms of exercise.

In a recently published paper, medical researchers compared a group that exercised by walking with a group that was assigned to do yoga for 12 weeks. While they may have improved their fitness, the participants who walked had no increase in the neurotransmitter, gamma amino-butyric acid (GABA). Low GABA, which can be caused by stress, has been linked to anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and chronic pain.

In comparison, the yoga group

showed increased GABA levels — a clinical explanation for why yoga, by making you find your center, makes you feel good. The researchers concluded the mind-body benefits could be useful in treating everything from anxiety to heart disease. And, while the study didn't specifically address how yoga helps regular folks who just want to relax and stay fit, the advantages would obviously extend to them, possibly even providing a preventative benefit.

"Yoga is known to improve stress-related nervous system imbalances," said Chris Streeter, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and the lead author of the study, which was conducted with the help of New York Medical College and the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"This paper provides a theory, based on

neurophysiology and neuroanatomy, to understand how yoga helps patients feel better by relieving symptoms in many common disorders."

So, is there a down-side to this 5,000-year-old practice that has become one of today's hottest mind/body trends? According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, there is.

Some of the more strenuous and complicated poses can cause injury to the neck, shoulders, lower back or knees. Those who are pregnant and individuals with severe osteoporosis, high or low blood pressure and inner ear problems are at greater risk.

"Yoga is a popular activity with many benefits," says Raj Rao, M.D., a spokesperson for the academy.

A good yoga program — one that slowly progresses to more difficult poses and more strenuous activity — can lower a person's heart rate, improve muscle





and joint conditioning, decrease pain, and contribute to an overall sense of physical and mental well being, he says. "However, as in any activity, moderation and caution are key."

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 7,369 Americans were treated in hospitals, doctors' offices and emergency rooms for yoga-related injuries in 2010. To avoid injury, the orthopaedic surgeons advise the following:

- Work with a qualified yoga instructor. Ask about his or her experience and credentials.
- Select the class level that is appropriate for you. Start by taking a single beginner or introductory class before signing up for a class series. Also, consider taking yoga more than once a week. People who take just one

class a week are more susceptible to injury.

- Warm up thoroughly — cold muscles, tendons and ligaments are vulnerable to injury. Also, cool down after your session to relax your muscles and restore your resting heart rate and breathing.
- If you are unsure of a pose or movement, ask questions. Your instructor should be able to suggest modifications.
- Know your limits. Do not try positions beyond your experience or comfort level. Beginners should start slowly and learn the basics first, focusing on gentle stretching and breathing rather than trying to accomplish difficult poses.
- Listen to your body. If you experience pain or exhaustion while participating in yoga, stop or

take a break. If pain persists, speak to your doctor.

- Discuss any known injury or other condition with your yoga instructor prior to the class so that he or she can recommend modifications. This is especially important if you are pregnant.
- Wear appropriate clothing that allows for proper movement. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids.
- If you choose to use a yoga DVD at home, look for one that comes highly recommended and starts moderately. ♥

*KiKi Bochi, an award-winning journalist, reads hundreds of reports monthly to bring readers the latest insights on family health and child development.*

*Photos © Ginaellen | Stock Free Images & Dreamstime Stock Photos.*

# Enrichment Directory



## Athletic Development

Great Play —

A Unique New Gym for Kids  
2000 West Main Street, Stamford

203-978-1333 [www.greatplay.com/stamford](http://www.greatplay.com/stamford)  
Started in Stamford and now expanding nationally. The award-winning programs include: intro motor skills (ages 3 and under), motor skills and intro athletics (ages 3-5), and sports skills (grades K-5). All set in our amazing patented Interactive Arena™.

My Gym Stamford

7 Hyde Street, Stamford,  
203-327-3496

[www.my-gym.com/stamford](http://www.my-gym.com/stamford)

An extraordinary program and facility that helps children 6 weeks-13 years develop physically, cognitively and emotionally. Children have loads of fun as they gain strength, balance, coordination, agility and flexibility while developing social skills, confidence and self esteem.

## Dance

Academy of Ballet Etudes

104 Wall Street, Norwalk

203-838-1888 [www.balletetudesct.com](http://www.balletetudesct.com)

Ballet Etudes offers classical ballet training including preprofessional, along with hip-hop, jazz and tap. The company annually performs The Nutcracker and a Spring Gala. There are beginner classes for adults as well as Mommy and Me classes.

*continued on page 46*

# Enrichment Directory



continued from page 45

**Anita Deprey Studio of Dance & Performing Arts Center**  
1096 Silver Lane, East Hartford  
860-569-7276

[www.anitadepreydance.com](http://www.anitadepreydance.com)

A beacon of dance instruction in East Hartford for over 38 years. Miss Anita offers a dynamic family-oriented studio program where students may choose from an assortment of classes. Musical Theater Workshops offered during the summer.

**Connecticut Dance School**  
42 Halley Court, Fairfield  
203-384-2492

[www.ctdanceschool.com](http://www.ctdanceschool.com)

The not-for-profit school is dedicated to the highest standards in dance education. For young children, ages 3-7, creative and pre-ballet classes. A rigorous ballet program for ages 8 & up includes modern and jazz. This school is fully equipped.

**Flash Pointe Dance**  
1981 Post Road, Fairfield

203-259-1600 [www.flashpointedance.com](http://www.flashpointedance.com)

Be Inspired by the Best! Flash Pointe Dance opens its 6th season at our new five studio, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendlier facility. Enjoy jazz, contemporary, lyrical, musical theater, Broadway and rhythm tap, modern, classical and contemporary ballet, break, hip hop, story ballet, pre-school combo classes and more with our exceptional faculty.

**New Haven Ballet**  
70 Audubon Street, New Haven  
203-782-9038

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

New Haven Ballet offers exceptional training for students ages 3 and up and adult classes for students 14+. Studios are located in both New Haven and Guilford.

**New England Ballet**  
200 Boston Post Road, Orange  
203-799-7950

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

New England Ballet promotes arts education and serves the community by giving performing opportunities to dancers of all ages and levels — children through adult. The school is dedicated to bringing children to the arts and the arts to children.

## Gymnastics

**Next Dimension Gymnastics**  
25 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull  
203-372-3222

[www.ndgymnastics.com](http://www.ndgymnastics.com)

Children build athletic skills & confidence while the staff encourages self esteem and skill development. One of the most advanced gymnastics centers in CT with world class equipment & a nationally recognized coaching staff. Preschool/after-school programs.

**Polly's School of Gymnastics**  
550 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford  
203-375-3244

[www.pollysgymnastics.com](http://www.pollysgymnastics.com)

Programs for preschool through advanced high school. Competitive classes and teams, levels 1-8. We teach skills on all equipment and tumbling. Classes geared to help kids learn the correct, safe way to do gymnastics and develop body control.

## Language

**German School of Connecticut**  
Stamford: 203-548-0438

West Hartford: 860-404-8838  
[www.germanschoolct.org](http://www.germanschoolct.org)

The school is a friendly center for German language & culture with a high-quality educational program for all ages and abilities. Students learn, improve & maintain German language skills. Fosters a strong academic growth in a fun, stimulating atmosphere.

**The Korean Language and Cultural Education Institute (KLCEI) at Trinity College**  
300 Summit Street, Hartford  
860-508-2249 [www.klcei.org](http://www.klcei.org)

KLCEI was established to address the critical needs gap for Korean language and heritage education. We try to fill this gap by providing low-cost educational Saturday classes for preschool to adult as well as cultural events for the general public.

- ▶ **SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS: NOW FORMING**
- ▶ **INTRODUCING SMART Board Technology** in our NEW Learning Lab!

## IT'S TIME TO EXPECT MORE!

The Center for Social Enrichment and Educational Development is a state of the art, all-inclusive center for individuals with autism and other related disabilities, providing a wide range of therapies and services.

### INCLUDING:

- Clinical Evaluations
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Learning Lab
- Social Skills Training
- Home Programming
- Counseling
- Parent Training
- Sibling Groups
- Transition Services
- School Consulting
- Use of iPad and SMART Board Technology
- Fully-Equipped Sensory Gym



To find out more information about this exciting program, please contact us at **203-674-8200** or email at [info@seedautismcenter.com](mailto:info@seedautismcenter.com).

30 Buxton Farm Rd, Suite 105, Stamford, CT 06905. Serving all of Connecticut. Conveniently located in Stamford, directly off of the Merritt PKWY.



Like us on Facebook!  
Follow us on Twitter at: [SEEDCenterCT!](https://twitter.com/SEEDCenterCT)

[www.seedautismcenter.com](http://www.seedautismcenter.com)

## LinguaKids

Darien: 203-426-7004

Larchmont, NY: 914-525-0328

[www.linguakids.com](http://www.linguakids.com)

Fairfield County's leading and most extensive language program. French, Spanish and Chinese classes start at 6 mos. and up. Other languages available upon request. Classes offered during the day as well as before and after school programs in over 20 schools.

## Mommy 'n Me

Just Wee Two

Locations in Greenwich, Stamford and Westchester County, NY  
800-404-2204

[www.justweetwo.com](http://www.justweetwo.com)

Ages 8 mos.-3 1/2 yrs. participate in arts & crafts, music, playtime & storytime. Directed by early childhood teachers, each class is 1.5 hours and limited to 10 children with caregiver. Partial separation and 2-hour separation classes also offered.

## Music

Greenwich Suzuki Academy

15 East Putnam Ave., #176, Greenwich  
203-561-6176

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

This is a private Suzuki method music program offering lessons on violin, viola, cello, flute and guitar to children ages 3 and up. We have the most highly trained teachers in the Greenwich/Stamford area. Schedule a free trial lesson today!

The Hartt School Community Division  
200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford  
860-768-4451

[www.HCD.Hartford.edu](http://www.HCD.Hartford.edu)

This division is the community arm of the Hartt School of the University of Hartford, providing comprehensive music and dance instruction for all ages and levels. Programs include individual and class instruction, performances, masterclasses and ensemble experience.

Neighborhood Music School  
100 Audubon Street, New Haven  
203-624-5189

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

Music, dance and drama for children and adults. Private lessons on over 30 instruments; Suzuki and traditional methods. Arts-based preschool and early childhood music and movement, extensive group classes, ensembles and dance. Select programs in Guilford and Woodbridge.

## Rock Climbing

Stone Age Rock Gym

195 Adams Street, Manchester  
860-645-0015

[www.stoneagerockgym.com](http://www.stoneagerockgym.com)

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*continued on page 48*




## The Greenwich Suzuki Academy

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203-674-8200 [www.seedautismcenter.com](http://www.seedautismcenter.com)

The SEED Center is a state-of-the-art, all inclusive therapeutic center for individuals with autism and related disabilities. We offer a multitude of services such as applied behavior analysis, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, social skills training, comprehensive evaluations and home programming. Contact us today for a free consultation.

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## Theatre

Crystal Theatre

12 June Avenue, Norwalk

203-847-4850 [www.crystaltheatre.org](http://www.crystaltheatre.org)

Students grow through education in musical theatre. From acting out storybooks with preschoolers to producing and performing full-blown musicals, Crystal Theatre provides an outlet for creativity and a medium in which to build confidence and ability.

Curtain Call

1349 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

203-329-8207 [www.curtaincallinc.com](http://www.curtaincallinc.com)

Stamford's longest running community theatre offers year-round performances and creative opportunities. Workshops, ages 5-adult, in acting, comedy, improvisation, musical theatre, on-camera, Shakespeare and more. Faculty consists of area professionals.

## Visual Arts

Creative Arts Workshop

80 Audubon Street, New Haven

203-562-4927

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

Creative Arts Workshop (CAW) offers high-quality visual arts education for young people of all ages. Classes are structured around different themes and media. By keeping classes small and providing individual attention, CAW helps each child develop his or her creativity! ♥

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Bookshelf

Create New Worlds with Wordless Books!

by Lisa A. McClure

Wordless books let your imagination soar! They are accessible to everyone, no matter the reading level or language spoken. When authors remove the words, they enable readers to become a vital part of the story and set their imaginations free.

There is more to a story than words. Young readers, parents with low literacy skills, ESL students, and gifted children can look at picture clues and find their own creative interpretations. The subjects are often wondrous dreams and unexpected journeys that inspire further fantasies.

Wordless books help readers of all ages. Pre-readers can understand a book by themselves, and feel motivated to learn. Beginning readers aren't frustrated by a limited vocabulary, and feel encouraged by a successful reading experience. Older readers can explore the details of a story, using them as a foundation for creative writing.

Wordless books are also great for parents, because sharing a wordless book invites an interactive conversation. Research shows that as parent and child discuss the pictures they develop narrative skills, learn story structure, and increase the familial bond. A parent asks, "What do you think happens next?" or "Why would you like to be in this story?" and the story expands beyond the pages of the book!

In the book *Wave*, Suzy Lee captures a young girl's first daring encounter with the sea. The vivid aqua sea becomes a playmate and a source of wonder. Young readers can imagine their own plunge into the waves, and plan their next trip to the ocean.

In *A Ball for Daisy*, Chris Raschka illustrates the exuberance of dogs at play, the comfort of a nap, and the

sadness when a favorite toy is broken. The lack of words increases our identification with the dog, and children will identify with losses in their own lives.

*The Lion and the Mouse*, by Jerry Pinkney, is a lushly illustrated wordless and title-less tale that explains the importance of kindness in this world. Differing viewpoints allow children to imagine themselves as animals in the African Serengeti.

*Chalk*, by Bill Thomson, provides an inviting introduction to creative discussion. Three children find a bag of chalk hanging from a dinosaur-themed playground structure. A hastily drawn sun and butterflies leap off the pavement to brighten the rainy day. But when they draw a Tyrannosaurus Rex, they are chased across the playground. Children will naturally want to speculate on what they would choose to draw, leading to great discussions and play-acting.

In *The Red Book*, Barbara Lehman plays with reality when a young city girl peers into a mysterious book and sees an island boy looking at a picture of her in the city. The lack of words brings readers directly into the story as we peer into the pages with the characters. The book offers an opportunity to continue the adventures in our own minds, in pictures and creative writing.

In Arthur Geisert's *Ice*, pigs plan a voyage to capture an iceberg to cool off their hot island home. Geisert's intricately etched and colored illustrations provide a charming introduction to the pig world, and the wordless format lets the reader dwell on the thousands of tiny details that make each reading of the book a new

experience. Other piggy Geisert titles include *Oops*, *Hogwash*, and the more recent *The Giant Seed*.

No discussion of illustrated books would be complete without Caldecott winners David Wiesner and Chris Van Allsburg. Both author/illustrators allow us to envision fantastical moments. Van Allsburg titles such as *Jumanji*, *Ben's Dream*, and *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* provide hours of make-believe for the reader.

In Wiesner's *The Three Pigs*, pigs literally fly on a page from their own story to enter the pages of other tales, disrupting various fairytale characters with hilarious results. Check out great titles such as *Tuesday* and *Sector 7*, and the more recent *Flotsam*, where a boy finds an underwater camera that shows an enchanted world. Wiesner and Van Allsburg's books are terrific for young and old, yielding spirited conversations and countless whimsical scenarios.

Upcoming Events at the Hartford Public Library

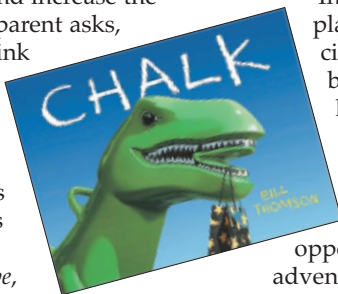
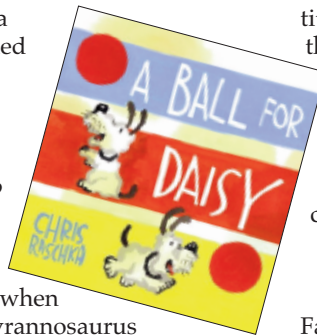
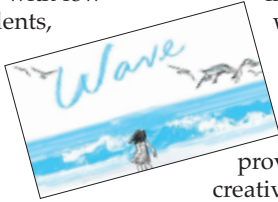
Families can find out more about books, programs, and classes at the 10 branches of the Hartford Public Library! Check out a few of our favorites below.

*Homework Clubs*: Work on school projects and nightly assignments, and engage in literacy challenges to boggle the academic brain! Daily snack and activity. All branches.

*Election Mania*: Vote in a mock election or try a scavenger hunt for election-related information. Discuss Barack Obama's inspirational letter to his daughters, and write a letter to the White House.

See our calendar for other great activities, such as *Make Believe Comix*, *Gingerbread House Competition*, *Cupcake Wars*, *Holiday Edition* and more. Call 860-695-6330 for details, or visit our online calendar for branches, dates and times: [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

Lisa A. McClure is the Youth and Family Services Director at the Hartford Public Library.



# Family Fun Calendar - November 2012

## Editor's Picks

### ***Big Food vs. Little Kids: The Real Story Behind Food Marketing*** **15 Thursday 15** **New Haven**

The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven presents Dr. Marlene Schwartz on Thursday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m. talking about *Big Food vs. Little Kids: The Real Story Behind Food Marketing to Children and What Parents Can Do*. Schwartz will present research documenting the harm caused by food marketing to children, how much marketing is still being done, and the critical role of parent advocates to stand up to Big Food. Admission is free. The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is located at 170 Whitney Avenue. For more information, call 203-432-5050 or visit [www.peabody.yale.edu](http://www.peabody.yale.edu).

### **Blocks of Love Expo** **17 Saturday 17** **Bridgeport**

Get ready for a day of LEGO® fun during CancerCare's Blocks of Love Expo on Saturday, November 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. The event features LEGO Build and Play booths, creation gallery, holiday fashion show, consignment toy shopping, photos with Santa, live entertainment and much more. You can even create a LEGO masterpiece to be displayed during the Expo! Proceeds benefit CancerCare. Admission is \$5. Webster Bank Arena is located at 600 Main Street. For more information, call 203-663-2190 or visit [www.cancercare.org/blocks](http://www.cancercare.org/blocks).

### **St. Jude Give thanks. Walk.™** **17 Saturday 17** **Trumbull and Hartford**

Join St. Jude supporters in Hartford and Fairfield counties and participate in the St. Jude Give thanks. Walk on Saturday, November 17. The walk in Hartford takes place at the Holiday Light Fantasia, and the one in Trumbull is at Westfield Trumbull. Registration for this family-friendly event is free, however, all participants are encouraged to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to help save kids battling cancer and other deadly diseases. Registration for Hartford's walk, at 1130 Maple Avenue, is at 4 p.m., with the walk beginning at 5 p.m. Registration for the Trumbull walk begins at 6:30 a.m. in the food court, and the walk starts at 7:30 a.m. Westfield Trumbull is located at 5065 Main St. For more information, visit [www.givethankswalk.org](http://www.givethankswalk.org).

### **UBS Parade Spectacular** **18 Sunday 18** **Stamford**

There is something in the air when the UBS Parade Spectacular, one of the largest helium balloon parades in the country, returns to downtown Stamford on Sunday, November 18 at noon. See 18 giant, show-stopping helium balloons floating through town. Elmo, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Billy Blazes and Mr. Potato Head will be flying high! Master of ceremonies Alan Kalter will be joined by marching bands, the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band, floats and more. The parade steps off on Summer Street at Hoyt and ends on Atlantic Street. For more information, call 203-348-5285 or visit [www.stamford-downtown.com](http://www.stamford-downtown.com).



Photo by Happyhaha.com.

### ***Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*** **November 20-25** **Hartford**

Discover the magic of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* when it comes to life on stage at The Bushnell in Hartford from November 20-25. The Grinch discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heart-warming holiday classic. Max the Dog narrates as the mean, scheming Grinch



Stefan Karl as The Grinch and Seth Bazacas as Young Max. Photo by Papparazzibyappointment.com.

decides to steal Christmas away from the Whos, an endlessly cheerful bunch, bursting with holiday spirit. Performances are at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday; 11 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$17-\$60. For more information, call 860-987-5900 or visit [www.bushnell.org](http://www.bushnell.org).

# NOVEMBER



☎ = MyKidsFan.com event listing

## 1 THURSDAY 1

**The Last Romance - Waterbury** - On an ordinary day in a routine life, Ralph decides to take a different path on his daily walk, one that leads him to an unexpected second chance at love. 7 Angels Theater, 1 Plank Road. 2 and 8 p.m. \$29-\$39. 203-757-4676. *Through November 11; times vary.*

**Heads or Tails? The Hundred Penny Box and Other Tales - North Haven** - Make "cents" out of this shiny penny craft by learning facts about the Lincoln penny. Pennies and craft provided. Ages 7-11. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 7-7:45 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Adoption Informational Session - Milford** - An experienced CT Adoption and Family Services representative explains the different types of adoptions and answers questions. Panera Bread, 1201 Boston Post Rd. 7 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 860-444-0553. Also at Panera Bread in Manchester and in Bristol.

**A Raisin in the Sun - Westport** - Adults will enjoy this classic story of a black family in 1950s Chicago and their quest for a piece of the American Dream. Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court. 8 p.m. \$25-\$65. 203-227-4177. *Through November 3; times vary.*

**Candy Buyback - Shelton** - Bring in your Halloween candy and the dental office will buy it back. For every pound of candy donated, they will pay \$1 (up to \$5). All candy is shipped to troops overseas. Commerce Park Dental, 27 Huntington Plaza. 203-926-9929. Also at 4702 Main Street in Bridgeport.

**Three Dog Night - Ridgefield** - Don't miss a chance to see one of the most successful bands of all time. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$85. 203-438-5795.

**Theme Tour - Hartford** - Learn how the Stowe Family celebrated Thanksgiving Day, from what they ate to how they showed their gratitude. Participate in a "Make It and Take It" activity and the "I Spy" scavenger hunt. Harriet Beecher Stowe Ctr., 77 Forest St. Museum hours and admission. 860-522-9258. *Daily.*

**All Jazz First Thursday - Waterbury** - Listen to the jazz pianist Jen Allen. Mattatuck Museum, 144 West Main Street. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$7-\$15. 203-753-0381, ext. 10.

**Together at the Table Family Dinner - Westport** - Families can enjoy a communal dinner adjacent to the theater and a casual conversation about *A Raisin in the Sun* before attending a performance. For ages 12 and up. Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court. \$10. 203-227-4177.

**Holidaze: The Real Story of Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas - Guilford** - This special exhibit uncovers the origins and myths of the holidays. Henry Whitfield State Museum, 248 Old Whitfield St. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free-\$8. 203-453-2457. *Wednesdays-Sundays through December 21.*

## 2 FRIDAY 2

**Marie Antoinette - New Haven** - In this humorous and haunting show, idle gossip turns more insidious as France revolts, demanding liberte, egalite, fraternite. Yale University Theatre, 1120 Chapel Street. 8 p.m. \$25-\$76. 203-432-1234. *Through November 17; times vary.*

**Family Fridays - Norwalk** - Storytimes, concerts, games and bilingual activities will be offered — different event each week. All ages. Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Avenue. 10-10:45 a.m. Free. 203-899-2780, ext. 15131. *Every Friday.*

**Jazz and Strings: First Light: A Tribute to Freddie Hubbard - Hartford** - The Hartford Symphony Orchestra will join with trumpeter Jon Faddis in a tribute to this 1971 album, a modern classic. Theater for the Performing Arts at the Learning Corridor, 359 Washington St. 8 p.m. \$20-\$40. 860-244-2999.

**Dr. John & Blind Boys of Alabama - Stamford** - The show explores the connections between jazz, blues and gospel featuring a partnership between two icons, Dr. John and Blind Boys of Alabama. The Palace, 61 Atlantic Street. 8 p.m. \$50-\$80. 203-325-4466.

**1776 - Manchester** - It's history set to music featuring a story based on the events and life-changing themes surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence: freedom, slavery and war. Little Theater of Manchester, 177 Hartford Road. 8 p.m. \$22-\$29. 860-647-9824. *Through Nov. 18; times vary.*

**Really Rosie - Wallingford** - In this musical, Rosie and her friends spend a summer afternoon inventing a musical movie starring themselves. Paul Mellon Arts Center, Choate

Rosemary Hall, 333 Christian Street. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. 203-697-2398. *Through November 4; times vary.*

**New Haven Ghost Walk - New Haven** - Visit haunted places with guides, listen to ghostly encounters and hear tales blended with bits of human interest and historical fact. All ages. Meet at Starbucks, 1070 Chapel St. 7 p.m. \$25. 888-377-4455. Also on November 3 at 7 and 9 p.m.

**How I Became a Pirate - Hartford** - The fun-filled musical adventure is based on the book by Melinda Long and David Shannon. Hartford Children's Theatre, Carriage House Theatre, 360 Farmington Avenue. 7 p.m. \$10-\$22. 860-249-7970. Also on November 3-4 and 9-11; *times vary.*

**Theatre Fest - Fairfield** - This is a black box-style performance of student written, directed and acted one-act plays. The Little Theatre, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue. 8 p.m. Free. 203-371-7908. Also on November 3 at 3 and 8 p.m. and November 4 at 3 p.m.

## 3 SATURDAY 3

**Child's Tour - Hartford** - Take an interactive hands-on tour with a kid's-eye view of the Stowe family home. Props, activities and storytelling are used. Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest Street. 1:30 p.m. Museum admission. 860-522-9258. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

**Fall Bird Walks at Hammonasset - Madison** - See shore birds, songbirds, birds of prey, ducks and waders. Walks geared toward beginners, but all welcome. Binoculars necessary. Begin at the Audubon Shop, 907 Boston Post Rd. 8-10:30 a.m. \$4. 203-245-9056. *Saturdays through November 17.*

**Art Start for Preschoolers - New Britain** - The program helps caregivers and young children to discover art together in the galleries. Hear stories about art and explore line, shape and color. New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street. 11-11:45 a.m. \$3-\$5. 860-229-0257.

**Baroque: Bach to Buenos Aires - Stamford** - The Stamford Symphony Orchestra performs works by Bach, Handel, Dorman, Jalbert and Piazzolla. The Palace, 61 Atlantic Street. 8 p.m. \$22-\$73. 203-325-4466. Also on November 4 at 3 p.m.

☎ **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Hershey Bears. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 7 p.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**Seussical the Musical - Bridgeport** - Favorite Dr. Seuss characters come to life, from the Jungle of Nool to the invisible world of the Whos. Downtown Cabaret Theater, 263 Golden Hill Street. Noon and 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. \$18-\$24. 203-576-1636. Also on November 4 at noon and 2:30 p.m.

**Guy Fawkes Day - Guilford** - There will be scarecrow-making, a parade of scarecrows around the museum, best scarecrow contest, a bonfire and a brief talk and display on Guy Fawkes. Henry Whitfield State Museum, 248 Old Whitfield Street. 1-4:30 p.m. Free-\$8. 203-453-2457.

**Indian Hemp Harvest - Mashantucket** - Join a senior researcher for the annual harvesting of Indian hemp and see demos of hemp fiber processing and twining. Ages 10 and up. Pequot Museum, 110 Pequot Trail. 10 a.m.-noon. \$5-\$10. Pre-register. 800-411-9671.

**Astronomy Night - East Haven** - The Astronomical Society lectures on the basics of astronomy, reviews various meteorite samples and familiarizes guests with various telescopes. Larger telescopes sighted on Saturn and the moon. Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River St. 5:30 p.m. \$6-\$10. 203-467-6927.

**Indigenous Peoples Day - New Haven** - Families explore hunting, gathering and traditional agriculture of indigenous cultures around the world. Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free with admission. 203-432-5050.

**Around the World Creative Kids - Norwalk** - Discover the fine art of decorative Turkish wall tiles and create your own replica mosaic tile to take home. Stepping Stones Museum for Children, 303 West Avenue. 2 p.m. Free with admission. 203-899-0606.

**Performance: United States of North America - Ridgefield** - Erika Harrsch's interactive passport office is a mixed media installation and performance. Apply for a passport, spin the wheel, discover your fate. Aldrich Cont. Art Mus., 258 Main St. Noon-5 p.m. Free with admission. 203-438-4519. Also on 11/4.

**Fairchild Garden Wilderness Trail Hike - Greenwich** - Explore the varied terrain, plant and animal life of the preserve. Hike is 1.5 miles of both level and rolling terrain. Ages 7 and up. Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road. 1-2:30 p.m. \$150-\$5. Pre-register. 203-869-5272, ext. 230.

**Beauty Lou & The Country Beast - Old Saybrook** - Set in the American West, an upset Beauty Lou wishes that a miner would

*continued on page 52*

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# Family Fun Calendar

continued from page 51

look like a beast. Later, they both learn to look beyond appearances to see the beauty inside. Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St. Noon and 3 p.m. \$10-\$14. 877-503-1286.  
**Toy Boat-Making Workshop - Norwalk** - Build and decorate a toy sailboat to take home. The Maritime Aquarium, 10 North Water Street. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5 plus aquarium admission. 203-852-0700. *Saturdays and Sundays.*

**Drop In Activities: Unifying Texts and Phrases - Ridgefield** - Families participate in hands-on activities inspired by the Conflict theme. Children must be with an adult. Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St. Noon-5 p.m. Free with admission. 203-438-4519. *Also on Nov. 4, 10 and 11.*

**Critter Encounters - Westport** - See an amazing bird on the glove, take a trail walk to see what critters you meet and make a craft to take home. Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 2:30 p.m. Free with admission. 203-227-7253. *Also on November 17.*

**First Saturdays - Hartford** - Explore the current and interactive exhibits and enjoy the free family programs from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 860-236-5621.

**Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show - Greenwich** - See educational exhibits on mineral collecting and jewelry making along with a sale of gems, minerals, crystals, fossils and more. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$1-\$6. 914-935-8893. *Also on 11/4 from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

**Super Saturday: Foundations of Drawing - Westport** - Explore materials like charcoal and graphite and draw from direct observation. Westport Arts Center, 51 Riverside Avenue. Ages 5-8, 9-10:15 a.m.; ages 9-12, 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$30-\$35. 203-222-7070.

**Harvest Soup from the Farm - New Haven** - Make a delicious harvest soup using end-of-season gleanings from the fields. Staff leads children and families in a tasting tour of the gardens as ingredients are selected. Common Ground, 358 Springside Avenue. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 203-389-0823.

## 4 SUNDAY 4

👤 **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 3 p.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**YES2 Youth Forum - Norwalk** - Youth and Nutrition: learn ways to enjoy food while making smart choices for your health. Stepping Stones Museum for Children, 303 West Avenue. 3-5 p.m. 203-899-0606, ext. 277.

**Giacomo Gates and the Music of Gil Scott-Heron - Westport** - Gates brings his band to this artistic happening that mixes visual art, music, food and more. Westport Arts Center, 51 Riverside Ave. 3 p.m. \$75 and \$95. 203-222-7070.

**Bohemia - Waterbury** - Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra with guest artists performing works by Debussy, Saint Saens and Ravel. Fine Arts Center, Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Tpke. 8 p.m. \$5-\$50. 203-574-4283.

**An Extraordinary Concert - Hartford** - Select choirs from Canton, Guilford, Lyme/Old Lyme, Manchester, Newington and Westbrook high schools and the Eastern Chamber Singers join with CONCORDA to form a choir of over 150 singers. Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Farmington Ave. 7 p.m. \$20. 860-293-0567.

**Connecticut Veterans Parade - Hartford** - One of the largest in the U.S., the colorful parade honors the dedication and sacrifices of service people from all U.S. conflicts, offering the state's residents a chance to say thanks. Buckingham and Washington sts. 12:30 p.m. Free. 860-986-7254.

**Danbury Concert Chorus - Danbury** - Enjoy the Danbury Concert Chorus, under the direction of Christine R. Howlett. First Congregational Church, 164 Deer Hill Avenue. 3 p.m. Free. 203-748-1716.

👤 **Jamie's Run - Wethersfield** - The great family fitness day includes a flat 5K run around the town green, a 3 mile walk and a kids' run. Pre- and post-race celebration includes live music, inflatables, face painting and refreshments. Standish Park, 51 Francis St. 9:30 a.m., reg. 11 a.m., run. \$8-\$25. 203-481-5933.

**Touch a Truck - Stamford** - Get up close and personal with some cool larger-than-life vehicles. Find out how these trucks work, what purposes they serve and climb inside a few. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free with admission. 203-322-1646.

**Family Program - Middletown** - Learn about Japanese daily

life, school, traditions, holidays and more through activities and games. Compare your life to the people in Japan. Wesleyan Center for the Arts, 283 Washington Terrace. 2 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 860-685-2330.

**I Spy Art Collage - Danbury** - Professional photographer Craig Norton guides kids in making an I Spy art collage to photograph and print out at home. Grades 3-5. Danbury Library, 170 Main Street. 2-3 p.m. Free. 203-797-4505.

👤 **Harvest Hustle - Stratford** - The great community event includes a 5K and 10K road race for runners and walkers to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Short Beach, 1 Dorne Drive. 10 a.m. \$20-\$25. <http://bigboyracing.net>.

**Yellowstone Wolves and Bears - Canton** - Gary Melynyn discusses the wolf reintroduction to the Yellowstone ecosystem and the current wolf status as well as grizzly bear recovery and how it has affected the bear population. Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road. 2 p.m. \$5-\$6. 860-693-0263.

**Michael Amante - Waterbury** - The internationally-acclaimed tenor will be joined by soprano Marissa Famiglietti for an *Afternoon of Romance*. Accompanied by a 22 piece-orchestra, they bring romantic charm to songs from Broadway and opera. Palace Theater, 100 E. Main St. 4 p.m. \$35-\$45. 203-346-2000.

## 5 MONDAY 5

**School House Rock and Read - North Haven** - Montowese School principal Mary Federico will read some of her favorite stories. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 7 p.m. Free. 203-239-5803.

**See Ones - Greenwich** - Toddlers, ages 1-2 with an adult, will enjoy simple stories, songs, movement and finger plays. Introduces children to the world of books. Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Avenue. 10 and 11 a.m. Free. 203-622-7900. *Also on November 26.*

👤 **Zumba for Kids and Parents - Norwalk** - Move and groove to some fun and upbeat music in this Zumba class meant for school-age kids and their parents. Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Avenue. 5-5:45 p.m. Free. 203-899-2780, ext. 15131. *Also on November 19 and 26.*

**Bedtime Stories - Guilford** - Teddy bears and pajamas are welcome at this evening story time for children and their parents. All ages. Guilford Free Library, 67 Park Street. 7-7:30 p.m. Free. 203-453-8282. *Mondays through November 26.*

## 6 TUESDAY 6

**Pajama Storytime - North Haven** - Wear your jammies, grab a teddy bear and listen to some wonderful stories. Ages 4-8 without an adult. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 6:15-6:45 p.m. Free. 203-239-5803. *Also on November 27.*

**Election Day Workshop: Radical Robots - Westport** - Join fellow builders and construct large-scale creatures and machines and make them come alive in 3D form! Ages 6-10. Westport Arts Center, 51 Riverside Avenue. 10 a.m.-noon. \$40-\$45. 203-222-7070.

**Animal Election - Fairfield** - Drop in on Election Day and cast a vote for the coolest, creepiest or craziest animal at the center. A variety of live animals will be on display. Children must be with an adult. CT Audubon Society Center at Fairfield, 2325 Burr Street. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 203-259-6305, ext. 109.

**Fall Programs - Glastonbury** - Learn about the rain stick in Native American culture. Make a rain stick and learn its secrets. Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main Street. Ages 1-3, 10-11 a.m. \$10-\$13. 860-633-8402. *Also on Nov. 7, ages 3-5, 10-11 a.m.; and ages 5-10, 4-5 p.m.*

**Election on the Farm - Stamford** - Cast a vote for 2012-2013's favorite animal. Meet and shake hooves with some of the candidates, try themed, self-guided crafts, scavenger hunts and more. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Rd. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free with admission. 203-322-1646.

**Vacation Day Story and Activity Time - Westport** - Enjoy a fun day with a story and an activity. Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 10 a.m. story; 2:30 p.m. activity. Free with admission. 203-227-7253.

**PJ Library Storytime - Hartford** - Come to the Family Room Parenting Center for play and PJ stories. JCC of Greater Hartford, 335 Bloomfield Avenue. 4 p.m. Free. 860-236-4571.

**Toilet Training Boot Camp - Manchester** - Parents learn how to help their child transition from diapers to the potty chair in a manner that will be fun and easy. This program is for adults. Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main Street. 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 860-645-0577.

## 7 WEDNESDAY 7

**Kindergarten Science - Guilford** - Parents and children see the importance of learning science at a young age. Parents listen to a talk, kids create science crafts, together they do a science activity. For parents and kindergarten kids. Guilford Free Library, 67 Park St. 4-4:45 p.m. Free. RSVP. 203-453-8282.

👤 **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Norfolk Admirals. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 11 a.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**Nature Nursery - Fairfield** - Explore life in the woodlands, pond, field and stream. Ages 2-4 with an adult. CT Audubon Society Center at Fairfield, 2325 Burr St. 10-10:45 a.m. \$10-\$15. Pre-register. 203-259-6305, ext. 109. *Also on November 14.*

**Folklore @ 4 - Norwalk** - During this unique book club, a variety of folklore, fairytales, and fables will be shared by PowerPoint presentation. Ages 5-11. South Norwalk Branch Library, 10 Washington Street. 4-5 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-899-2790, ext. 3.

**Aldrich Buddies Workshop - Ridgefield** - Children, ages 3-5 with an adult, play gallery games, hear a story and do a project inspired by the artwork. Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St. 10-11:30 a.m. \$25-\$30. 203-438-4519. *Also on November 14.*

**Books in a Nook - Guilford** - Listen to stories in a cozy area of the Children's Room. All ages. Guilford Free Library, 67 Park Street. 11-11:30 a.m. Free. 203-453-8282. *Wednesdays through November 21.*

## 8 THURSDAY 8

**Appalachian Spring - Hartford** - The Hartford Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Carolyn Kuan, performs this original orchestration, along with works by Dvorak and Daugherty. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue. 7:30 p.m. \$35.50-\$70.50. 860-244-2999. *Also on Nov. 9-11; times vary.*

**Shatner's World - Stamford** - Experience William Shatner's phenomenal path from classically trained Shakespearean actor to cultural icon in his one-man show. The Palace, 61 Atlantic Street. 8 p.m. \$50-\$75. 203-325-4466.

**Nunset Boulevard - Waterbury** - The Little Sisters of Hoboken are off on their newest adventure, heading to Tinseltown. They are thrilled to perform at the Hollywood Bowl until they discover they are booked into a bowling alley! Palace Theater, 100 E. Main St. 7:30 p.m. \$45-\$75. 203-346-2000.

**Bittersuite: Songs of More Experience - Stamford** - Adults will enjoy this play in song that deals with themes of maturity and middle age and all the highs and lows they bring. Dressing Room Theatre, 1349 Newfield Avenue. 8 p.m. \$14.50-\$29. 203-329-8207. *Through November 18; times vary.*

**Men of Color, To Arms! - Fairfield** - Listen to a discussion on the important turning point in the Civil War when abolitionist Frederic Douglass called Black soldiers to join the Union cause for the promise of freedom. Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road. 7 p.m. \$8. 203-259-1598.

## 9 FRIDAY 9

**Land of the Dead - Middletown** - London, 1599, Shakespeare's play opens and a costumer is bitten by a plague-afflicted madman. The queen seeks safety and life takes a turn for the worse. Oddfellows Playhouse, 128 Washington St. 7:30 p.m. \$8-\$15. 860-347-6143. *Through 11/17.*

**Spring Awakening - New Britain** - This rock musical adaptation of an 1892 German play concerns teenagers experiencing the tumult of their own sexuality and their unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood. Hole in the Wall Theater, 116 Main St. 8 p.m. \$20-\$25. 860-229-3049. *Through Dec. 8; times vary.*

**Owl Prowl - Stamford** - Spend an evening searching for these creatures of the night. Learn about the types of owls that call CT home and some of the adaptations that let them be such great nocturnal hunters. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road. 7-8:30 p.m. \$5-\$8. 203-322-1646.

**Kids Night Out - Milford** - Drop off your child for an evening of nature-based activities including roasting marshmallows, story telling games and learning about the nighttime world of animals. Ages 6-10. Coastal Center at Milford Point, 1 Milford Point Road. 6-7 p.m. \$12-\$20. 203-878-7440.

**Astronomy Night - Stamford** - Enjoy a presentation on Searching for Life on Mars: What has Curiosity Found So Far? Afterward, view the night sky through a 22-inch telescope. Ages 5 and up. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Rd. 7 p.m. Free-\$3. 203-322-1646.

**10 SATURDAY 10**

**Rudolph & the Reindeer Games - Bridgeport** - It's the annual Reindeer Games and a new contestant looks like he might sleigh the competition, until his nose gets him disqualified! Downtown Cabaret Theater, 263 Golden Hill St. Noon and 2:30 p.m. \$18-\$24. 203-576-1636. Sat. and Sun. through Dec. 30.

**Honoring of Nations Veterans Powwow - Mashantucket** - Experience the diversity of Native artists as they express themselves through their art, regalia, song and dance to honor Native nations and their veterans. Pequot Museum, 110 Pequot Trail. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free with admission. 800-411-9671.

**The Frog Prince and Other Tales - Norwalk** - Four enchanting tales of fantasy and imagination come alive with beautifully handcrafted puppets and scenery. Stepping Stones Museum for Children, 303 West Avenue. 2 p.m. Free with admission. 203-899-0606. Also on Nov. 12-16 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Family Breakfast and Animal Show - Greenwich** - Enjoy a family-friendly breakfast and a fun, animal-themed program. All ages. Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road. 9-10:30 a.m. \$25/family. Pre-register. 203-869-5272.

**2012 Festival of Lighthouses Contest - Norwalk** - See 24 hand-crafted lighthouses placed throughout the aquarium. Follow the homemade beacons through the galleries and vote for a favorite. The Maritime Aquarium, 10 N. Water St. Museum hours and admission. 203-852-0700. Through January 21.

**How to be a Pie Ninja - New Haven** - Master the skills needed to bake fabulous pies with a local chef. Learn new techniques and tricks while baking pies to donate to the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. Common Ground, 358 Springside Avenue. 10 a.m.-noon. \$20. Pre-register. 203-389-0823.

**Rooted in Art: Art-in-Nature Series - Milford** - Explore how nature and art are intertwined. Sketch live animals, create a piece of pottery or make a nature journal, delve into the many facets of art in nature. Ages 6-10. Coastal Center at Milford Point, 1 Milford Point Rd. 9-10:30 a.m. \$12-\$20. 203-878-7440.

**Diorama Workshop with the Countess - Hartford** - "Countess" Cynthia von Buhler presents a diorama making workshop for kids. Mark Twain House, 351 Farmington Ave. 10 a.m. Call for ticket information. 860-247-0998.

⊕ **Warren Miller's Flow State - Hartford** - Host Jonny Moseley and world class skiers take you on a tour of the world's most striking mountains. In the movie, you'll see ski and snowboarding action of a magnitude you won't see any where else. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Ave. 6 and 9 p.m. \$22. 860-987-5900.

⊕ **Youth Fun Night - Westport** - Come to the Y for an evening of fun. Swim, play basketball and other games, climb inflatables and make your own sundaes. For students in grades 4-7. Westport Weston Family Y, 59 Post Road East. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$12-\$15. 203-226-8981.

⊕ **Yale Football - New Haven** - Cheer on the Bulldogs when they play Princeton. Yale Bowl, Derby Avenue. Noon. \$8-\$20. 203-432-1400.

**Family-Friendly Bird Count - Greenwich** - Learn about watching and feeding winter birds and how to report your regular backyard bird feeder observations. All ages. Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$1.50-\$5. RSVP. 203-869-5272, ext. 230.

**Yuck Day - Westport** - Learn all about yucky things. Touch a cockroach, feel the tarantula, learn what bats eat and maybe eat a cricket! Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$25-\$30/family. 203-227-7253.

**11 SUNDAY 11**

⊕ **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Connecticut Whale. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 3 p.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**Preparing for Winter - Canton** - Find out how plants and animals prepare for the coming winter season on this leisurely hike along the trails through Werner's Woods. Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road. 1:30-3 p.m. \$2-\$6. 860-693-0263.

**Great Children's Read - West Hartford** - Children's classics and PJ Library books will be read by local personalities. Also, a family sing-a-long, interactive art activities, youth theater sneak preview and a children's book sale. JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 860-236-4571.

**The Berenstain Bears Live in Family Matters, the Musical - Westport** - Using the stories and imagery of three original stories, *Berenstain Bears Live* stresses the importance of honesty, health, safety and family. Ages 4 and up. Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court. 1 and 4 p.m. \$18. 203-227-4177.

**Patty's Green - Old Saybrook** - Earth is a mess and Mother

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8<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**THE PALACE**  
STAMFORD CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LIVE ON THE  
**HARMAN**  
STAGE

**Golden Dragon Acrobats**

**Saturday, November 24, 2012**  
**2:00pm & 7:30pm**

**Tickets:**  
**Adults \$40, \$30, \$20**  
**Children 12 and under \$20, \$15, \$10**

Season Sponsors:  
SEABOARD PROPERTIES INCORPORATED THE WHITTINGHAM FAMILY

Also at The Palace Theatre:

<b>SHATNER'S WORLD... WE JUST LIVE IN IT</b> Thurs., Nov. 8, 2012 - 8:00pm	<b>2ND ANNUAL YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHERS FESTIVAL</b> Sun., Nov. 11, 2012 - 6:00pm	<b>JERROD NIEMANN</b> Sat., Nov. 17, 2012 - 8:00pm	<b>CLAY AIKEN: JOYFUL NOISE TOUR 2012</b> Thurs., Dec. 6, 2012 - 8:00pm
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[www.SCAlive.org](http://www.SCAlive.org)  
**Box Office 203.325.4466**





**PBS Star comes to Connecticut**

Known and loved by millions of families nationwide as "Mr. Steve," Steve Roslonek of SteveSongs, is the co-host of the *PBS KIDS Preschool Destination*. He is also a Connecticut parent!

Roslonek has traveled quite a bit over the last four years, and you won't want to miss Roslonek singing his signature songs, because his next stop is the Nutmeg State!



Don't miss SteveSongs performing live for Connecticut fans.

The music of SteveSongs is educational and entertaining — but seriously good music. He has been writing and performing his award-winning music for the past 11 years. Combining his two passions, music and kids, Roslonek has what he calls "the coolest job ever."

You can catch SteveSongs on Sunday, November 18 in Hartford and on Saturday, December 31 in Middletown. Roslonek will be singing at the

CREC Theater for the Performing Arts in Hartford on Sunday, November 18. Performances will be at 1 and 4 p.m. CPTV has partnered up with the Connecticut Science Center to bring fans an afternoon of music, sing-a-longs, dancing and smiles! Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; VIP tickets for children are \$50 and include a post show meet and greet. The CREC Theater is located at 359 Washington Street.

Parents and kids can say goodbye to 2012 with some magical SteveSongs music on Saturday, December 31 at "Midnight on Main." The annual event features over 100 shows in four blocks! SteveSongs performances will be at 3 and 4 p.m. "Midnight on Main" is located on Main Street in Middletown and will take place from 3 p.m., until midnight. Tickets are \$16-\$20 for adults; and \$6-\$10 for children. For more information, visit [www.stevesongs.com/tour](http://www.stevesongs.com/tour).

# Family Fun Calendar

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Nature has come to clean things up! Disguised as Patty Pockets, she opens a B&B and sets out to spread her simple message, "Take care of Earth!" Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main Street. 3 p.m. \$10. 877-503-1286.

**Disney's Phineas and Ferb: The Best LIVE Tour Ever! - Hartford** - Go on a wild adventure with Phineas and Ferb as they spend the last day of summer creating the greatest invention ever! XL Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza. 1 and 4 p.m. \$29-\$85. 800-745-3000.

**Young Choreographers Festival - Stamford** - Young choreographers, ages 13-18, will have their work performed on stage during the Voices and Visions Young Choreographers Festival. The Palace, 61 Atlantic St. 6 p.m. \$15-\$20. 203-325-4466.

**The Ugly Duckling - Ridgefield** - Three misfit heroes work together to earn their home on the king's estate and find the self-confidence that only friendship and accomplishment can provide in this new musical. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$15. 203-438-5795.

**Paleo-Knowledge Bowl - New Haven** - During this oral competition, students in grades 4-5 work in teams to answer some very difficult questions about paleontology, especially dinosaurs. Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue. 2:30 p.m. Museum admission. 203-432-5050.

**Fun with Felting - New Haven** - Make a variety of fun projects including hats, mittens, bags, pillows and more. Embellish your work. Ages 6 and up. Creative Arts Workshop, 80 Audubon Street. 1-3 p.m. \$27-\$30/adult and child. \$14-\$15/additional family members. 203-562-4927.

**The Civil War Doctor's Wife - Fairfield** - Mary Ann Lewis Bronson watched over the house as her husband marched off to war. Their story comes to life as their great, great granddaughter assumes the role of her namesake. Fairfield Museum, 370 Beach Road. 2 p.m. \$8. 203-259-1598.

**Wreath Ramble - Farmington** - Meander Hill-Stead's meadows and collect goldenrod, purple loosesstrife, evergreen fronds and berries. Then create a seasonal wreath of your own design. Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road. Noon-4 p.m. \$15. 860-677-4787.

## 12 MONDAY 12

**Big Fall Hike - New Haven** - Hike up to Judge's Cave and take the Blue Trail to Baldwin Drive for amazing views. The hike takes about 3 hours and is for hikers of all ages and friendly, leashed dogs. Common Ground, 358 Springside Avenue. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 203-389-0823.

**Family Scavenger Hunt - Fairfield** - Discover the stories of Fairfield's soldiers and more on a special family-friendly scavenger hunt for Veteran's Day. Fairfield Museum, 370 Beach Road. 1-3 p.m. Free with admission. 203-259-1598.

☉ **Family Place Pool Party - Stamford** - Splash in the renovated pool. Enjoy Aqua Zumbatoon, play with the noodles and more. Ages birth-5. JCC of Stamford, 1035 Newfield Avenue. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$5-\$7. Pre-register. 203-487-0974.

## 13 TUESDAY 13

**Fall Programs - Glastonbury** - Hear the story of the *Dream Catcher* and make one to take home. Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main Street. Ages 1-3, 10-11 a.m. \$10-\$13. 860-633-8402. Also on Nov. 14, ages 3-5, 10-11 a.m.; and ages 5-10, 4-5 p.m.

**Unique Shopping Boutique - West Hartford** - A diverse group of vendors will help with all of your personal shopping needs. JCC of Greater Hartford, 335 Bloomfield Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 860-236-4571.

**What's in Your Food? - Trumbull** - Listen to an educational talk on GMOs (genetically modified organisms), review what they are, how they affect health and environment and why products should be labeled. Trumbull Library, 33 Quality Street. 6:30 p.m. Free. 203-452-5197.

## 14 WEDNESDAY 14

**G. Love and Special Sauce - Ridgefield** - G. Love delivers his loping lilt with soul-bearing honesty. The group never misses the beat of their own signature time. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$35-\$45. 203-438-5795.

**Letters From the Front - Hartford** - Travel back to the WW II homefront with a dramatic reading by authors Paul Janensch and Catherine Ladnier from their new play *Dear Eva* based on letters written to friends serving overseas. CT's Old State

House, 800 Main St. Noon-1 p.m. Free. 860-522-6766.

**Back to the Old Neighborhoods - West Hartford** - Travel through 200 years of Jewish history in this guided bus tour through Hartford's neighborhoods. Community Services Building, 333 Bloomfield Ave. 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$20. 860-727-6170.

## 15 THURSDAY 15

**Pumpkin Patch - North Haven** - Help whip up a batch of pumpkin muffins then shake up some homemade butter. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 1:30-2:15 p.m., ages 3-5; 4-4:45 p.m., ages 6-9. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Big Food vs. Little Kids - New Haven** - The talk presents research documenting the harm caused by food marketing to children, how much marketing is still being done and the critical role of parent advocates to stand up to Big Food. Yale Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Ave. 5:30 p.m. Free. 203-432-5050.

**Thanksgiving Story and Craft - Guilford** - Children will hear a story and create a craft to take home with help from a volunteer. Ages 6-8. Guilford Free Library, 67 Park Street. 4-4:45 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-453-8282.

## 16 FRIDAY 16

**Creatures of the Darkness - Fairfield** - Become a night-watcher and look for animals that prefer the cover of darkness. Enjoy a campfire and s'mores. Bring a flashlight. CT Audubon Society Center at Fairfield, 2325 Burr St. 7-9 p.m. \$10-\$15. Pre-register. 203-259-6305, ext. 109.

**Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - Stamford** - The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to life in this musical parable. Kweskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Avenue. 7:30 p.m. \$14.50-\$29. 203-329-8207. *Through December 15; times vary.*

**Super Stars - Milford** - Families can explore the cosmos and learn about the constellations and how to use a telescope in a fun-filled evening of star gazing. Ages 6 and up. Coastal Center at Milford Point, 1 Milford Point Road. 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$5. 203-878-7440.

**The Awesome '80s Prom - Fairfield** - Set during a senior prom in 1989, characters from the '80s, from the captain of the football team to the geek, compete for Prom King and Queen. The Edgerton, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave. 8 p.m. \$5-\$22. 203-371-7908. Also on Nov. 17 and 18; times vary.

**Pizza and Art Fridays - New Haven** - Drop off your kids and they will enjoy a pizza dinner and create a variety of art projects using construction and mixed media. Creative Arts Workshop, 80 Audubon Street. 6-9 p.m. \$34-\$38. 203-562-4927.

**The Hit Men - Bridgeport** - The Hit Men is one great show featuring six original performing and recording members of great mega star acts from the '60s-'80s. Downtown Cabaret Theatre, 263 Golden Hill Street. 7:30 p.m. \$47. 203-576-1636. Also on November 17 at 5 and 8 p.m.

**Candlelight Opening - Avon** - Visit 20 artists in their studios, shop for beautifully crafted gifts in the galleries, enjoy refreshments and help create a community art installation of candles. Farmington Valley Arts Center, 25 Arts Center Lane. 6-9 p.m. Free. 860-678-1867.

**Ann Hampton Callaway - Ridgefield** - The multi-platinum selling singer-songwriter, composer, lyricist, pianist and actress celebrates one of America's most enduring artists, Barbra Streisand. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$40-\$45. 203-438-5795.

**Shaolin Warriors - Stamford** - The Shaolin Warriors bring the remarkable skill, stunning movement and imagery of Kung Fu to the stage. See many forms of Shaolin Kung Fu and get a look at the daily life of the warriors and their Zen philosophy. The Palace, 61 Atlantic Street. 8 p.m. \$27-\$67. 203-325-4466.

**Movie Under the Stars - Westport** - Watch *Madagascar* under the stars outside on the 9x12-foot screen. Bring a blanket and snuggle up with your loved ones. Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 7 p.m. \$20-\$25/family. 203-227-7253.

## 17 SATURDAY 17

**Welcome to Our Home Tour - Hartford** - Take a living history tour with one of Stowe's twin daughters. Get a glimpse into life at the house and discuss what it's like being the daughter of a famous author. Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest St. 10:30 a.m. Museum admission. 860-522-9258.

**Guided Tour of Doll Exhibit - Mashantucket** - Join a 30-minute guided tour of the current exhibit *Neetopaweess: Dolls as Ambassadors of Native Culture*. Pequot Museum, 110 Pequot Trail. 2 p.m. Free with admission. Pre-register. 800-411-9671.

**King of Swing - Hartford** - The Hartford Symphony Orchestra,

joined by guest artists Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, take a New Orleans-style twist on legendary big bands and swing orchestras. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue. 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$58.50. 860-244-2999.

**Visions of Gingerbread IV - Stamford** - See some creative confections, consisting completely of edible materials from the area's finest chefs. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road. Museum hours and admission. 203-322-1646. *Through January 27.*

☉ **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Manchester Monarchs. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 7 p.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**Beading Circle - Mashantucket** - Start a new project or continue a current one. Supplies provided or bring your own. Ages 11 and up. Pequot Museum, 110 Pequot Trail. 1-3 p.m. \$10-\$15. Pre-register. 800-411-9671.

**Around the World Performance Series - Norwalk** - Musician and scholar Latif Bolat performs Turkish mystic Sufi music and opens a window to the Turkish culture with a captivating presentation. Stepping Stones Museum for Children, 303 West Avenue. 2 p.m. Free with admission. 203-899-0606.

**The Polar Express - Norwalk** - Take a magical ride to the North Pole as *The Polar Express* steams onto the giant IMAX screen. The Maritime Aquarium, 10 North Water St. 4 and 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$9.50. RSVP. 203-852-0700, ext. 2206. *Through January 1; times vary.*

**Visions of Gingerbread Tea Party - Stamford** - Decorate your own gingerbread boys and girls and hear stories about the Gingerbread Man and his mischief. Enjoy tea, sandwiches and sweets. Bring a favorite doll or stuffed animal. Child must be with an adult. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Rd. 2 p.m. \$45-\$55. RSVP. 203-322-1646.

**Live Animal Demonstrations and Feedings - Milford** - Meet a new animal and peek into its world. Children must be with an adult. The Coastal Center at Milford Point, 1 Milford Point Road. 12:30 p.m. \$2-\$8. 203-878-7440.

**Germania - Bridgeport** - The Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra performs works by Beethoven and Bruch. Klein Memorial Auditorium, 910 Fairfield Ave. 8 p.m. \$26-\$56. 203-576-0263.

**Drop In Activities: Race, Identity and Immigration - Ridgefield** - Families investigate artistic ideas and participate in hands-on activities inspired by the Race, Identity and Immigration theme. Children must be with an adult. Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St. Noon-5 p.m. Free with admission. 203-438-4519. Also on Nov. 18 and 25.

**Balloon Inflation Party - Stamford** - At this backstage look at the UBS parade, watch the giant helium balloons inflate and come to life — some 60-feet tall! See clowns, street performers and music. Hoyt and Summer streets. 3-6 p.m. Free. 203-348-5285.

**Treasure Island - Simsbury** - The Hampstead Stage Company presents a live theatre production of the classic tale of pirates, adventure and buried treasure. Recommended for families with school-aged children. Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. RSVP. 860-658-7663.

**Behind-the-Scenes Tour - Norwalk** - See how the animal husbandry staff meets the varying food and water needs of the resident animals. Ages 10 and up. The Maritime Aquarium, 10 North Water St. 8:15-10 a.m. \$22.50-\$32.50. RSVP. 203-852-0700, ext. 2206.

**All Aboard with Bill Probert and Friends III - Stamford** - Bill Probert, returns with his LEGO® train exhibit. He will create a 365-square-foot display with several running trains. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road. Museum hours and admission. 203-322-1646. *Through January 27.*

**Jerrod Niemann - Stamford** - Niemann weaves elements of traditional country, jazz and R&B for a fresh new sound. The Palace, 61 Atlantic Street. 8 p.m. \$20. 203-325-4466.

☉ **Hot Coco 5K and Kid's Fun Run - Cheshire** - Run on a rolling course that includes the paved Linear Trail. Norton School, North Brooksville Road, Route 42. 10 a.m. \$8-\$26. 203-481-5933.

☉ **2012 5K Frostbite Run and Walk - Enfield** - Run or walk and support a great cause. Fun for the whole family. Enjoy music, refreshments and prizes. Enfield Street School, 1318 Enfield Street. 10 a.m. \$20-\$25. 860-731-5522, ext. 241.

**This is the '60s - Waterbury** - The ultimate multimedia stage experience explores the events that shaped the music, and the music that helped shape the events of one of the world's most turbulent decades. Palace Theater, 100 East Main Street. 8 p.m. \$25-\$45. 203-346-2000.

**Karla Bonoff & Steve Forbert - Ridgefield** - Enjoy the vocal performances of Karla Bonoff and Steve Forbert. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$40. 203-438-5795.

☉ **St. Jude Give Thanks Walk - Trumbull** - Join St. Jude supporters in this family-friendly walk to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Westfield Trumbull, 5065 Main

Street. 6:30 a.m. registration; 7:30 a.m. walk. Donation. [www.givethankswalk.org](http://www.givethankswalk.org).

⊕ **St. Jude Give Thanks Walk - Hartford** - Join St. Jude supporters in this family-friendly walk to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Hartford Holiday Light Fantasia, 1130 Maple Avenue. 4 p.m. registration; 5 p.m. walk. Donation. [www.givethankswalk.org](http://www.givethankswalk.org).

**Antiques Show - Wethersfield** - Some of the finest dealers present their wares in room-setting appearances. Featured items include furniture, jewelry, paintings, rugs, accessories and more. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7. 860-529-7656.

**CraftWestport - Westport** - See a display of contemporary, fine crafts from over 170 artisans from across the country. Staples High School, 70 North Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free-\$9. 845-331-7900. Also on Nov. 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Festival of Trees and Craft Fair - Shelton** - Do some shopping at over 60 craft vendors, enjoy home baked holiday treats and try to win a favorite tree or wreath. Wesley Village, 580 Long Hill Avenue. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 203-944-8292. Also on November 18.

**Holiday Gift Show - Rowayton** - See original gifts, decorations and ornaments created by award-winning regional artists and crafters. Rowayton Arts Center, 145 Rowayton Avenue. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 203-866-2744. Through December 24; times vary.

**Kids and Keyboards - West Hartford** - Kids, ages 9 and up, can explore various keyboard instruments popular in the 17th and 18th centuries, including the harpsichord, clavichord, portable organ and more. St. Mark the Evangelist Church, South Quaker Lane. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. 860-293-0567.

**CancerCare's Blocks of Love - Bridgeport** - This fun family event features LEGO® Build and Play Booths, LEGO Creation Gallery, a holiday fashion show, consignment toy shopping, photos with Santa, live entertainment and more! Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5. [www.cancercare.org/blocks](http://www.cancercare.org/blocks).

**Exploring Artism - New Haven** - For families with children, ages 5-10, on the autism spectrum. Families learn to look and respond to artwork in the galleries, join group conversations, do an art project and more. Yale Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel, St. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Free. Pre-register. 203-432-2858.

⊕ **Little Manchester Road Race - Manchester** - The event is open to all kids 12 and under and features 1/2-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile races. All finishers will receive a sweatshirt and medal. Bennett Academy Soccer Field, 1151 Main Street. 10 a.m. Free plus two non-perishable food items. 860-649-6456.

## 18 SUNDAY 18

**Sunday Serenades: Four Centuries in France - Hartford** - In conjunction with the exhibition *Medieval to Monet*, enjoy four centuries of music by French composers performed by members of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street. 2 p.m. \$30. 860-244-2999.

**Julliard String Quartet - Westport** - One of the world's most honored ensembles performs works by Beethoven. Westport Arts Center, 51 Riverside Ave. 3 p.m. \$65. 203-222-7070.

**Holiday Craft Fair - Canton** - Start your holiday shopping with nature-related gifts for all ages. Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road. Noon-4 p.m. Free. 860-693-0263.

**UBS Parade Spectacular - Stamford** - As one of the largest helium balloon parades in the country, this parade boasts 26 giant helium balloons, over 35 marching units, bands, floats and Santa! Steps off from Summer and Hoyt streets. Noon. Free. 203-348-5285.

**Connecticut Master Chorale Holiday Prelude Concert - Newtown** - Enjoy *Festival of Carols* plus a variety of festive music with brass ensemble, steel drums, multi-cultural numbers, lullabies, gospel and more. St. Rose of Lima, 46 Church Hill Road. 3 p.m. \$20-\$25. 203-743-0473.

**Thanksgiving is Here - Glastonbury** - In Colonial times, the harvest was brought in and stored away. The house was scrubbed top to bottom. In gratitude, people celebrated the biggest holiday of the year: Thanksgiving! Welles Shipman Ward House, 972 Main Street. 1-4 p.m. \$3. 860-633-6890.

**The Musical Box - Ridgefield** - The Peter Gabriel-era Genesis recreation returns with a performance of the classic album *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway* featuring all of the dazzling spectacle of the original show. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$66. 203-438-5795.

**Little Princess Christmas - Old Saybrook** - Witness the way in which young Sara triumphs over the many difficulties she is forced to endure. She does more than cope: she takes action! Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main Street. 3 p.m. \$10-\$16. 877-503-1286.

## 19 MONDAY 19

**Spectacular Science - North Haven** - Kids have the chance to explore simple science themes through the eyes of a scientist. Each class features a child-friendly experiment. Ages 4-7. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 4:15-5 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803. Also on November 26 and December 3 and 10.

**Adventure Story Time - Canton** - Adults and children, ages 2-5, can participate in a shared story with a craft and short walk. Kids must be with an adult. Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Rd. 1-2 p.m. \$2/child-\$5/family. RSVP. 860-693-0263.

**Nutmeg Book Discussion - Danbury** - During the Monday Munch Bunch, discuss *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick. Grades 4-6. Danbury Library, 170 Main Street. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-797-4528.

**The Littlest Pilgrims - Ridgefield** - This is a musical based on the voyage of the first Pilgrims in the new world. See how the Pilgrims make it through their first year. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 12:30 p.m. \$10. 203-438-5795. Also on Nov. 20.

**Introducing Nathan Pacheco - Hartford** - A featured performer on several national television broadcasts, Nathan Pacheco's voice will open your heart and touch your soul from the very first note. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50-\$49.50. 860-987-5900.

## 20 TUESDAY 20

**Dad and Me: Turkey Tracks - North Haven** - Make tasty appetizers and then gobble them up. Ages 4-8 with dad or male caregiver. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 7-7:30 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Fall Programs - Glastonbury** - Thanksgiving began by giving thanks for the harvest. Think of things you are thankful for to put on your Thanksgiving tree. Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main Street. Ages 1-3, 10-11 a.m. \$10-\$13. 860-633-8402. Also on Nov. 21, ages 3-5, 10-11 a.m.; and ages 5-10, 4-5 p.m.

**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical - Hartford** - The Grinch discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heart-warming holiday classic. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue. 7 p.m. \$17-\$60. 860-987-5900. Through November 25; times vary.

**An American Collector's Christmas - Farmington** - Get a

glimpse into the holiday environment of a well-to-do New England family at the turn of the 20th century. Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Museum admission. 860-677-4787. Through January 6.

## 21 WEDNESDAY 21

**Vacation Drop-Off Days - Stamford** - Drop off your child for a morning of fun. They will visit the nature center and farm animals, take a hike and create some arts and crafts. Snacks served. Ages 4 and up. Stamford Museum and Nature Ctr., 39 Scofieldtown Rd. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. 203-322-1646.

## 22 THURSDAY 22

⊕ **Branford Rotary & Y Family Fun Run & Walk - Branford** - The 5K race/walk course runs through the Pine Orchard neighborhood. Also, costume contest and more kid's activities. Walsh Intermediate School, 185 Damascus Road. 9 a.m. \$7-\$20. 203-481-5933.

⊕ **Turkey Trot - Madison** - Run a 5-mile road race or go on a 2-mile family fitness walk on a very flat course. West Beach, Hammonasset Beach State Park, Route 1. 10 a.m., race; 10:10 a.m., walk. \$20-\$25. 203-318-8190.

⊕ **Manchester Road Race - Manchester** - An exciting 4.75 mile race features world-class runners along with some who dress in colorful costumes. Bands play every half mile. Main Street. 10 a.m. \$20-\$25. 860-649-6456.

## 23 FRIDAY 23

⊕ **Sound Tiger Hockey - Bridgeport** - Cheer on the Sound Tigers when they play the Connecticut Whale. Webster Bank Arena, 600 Main Street. 7 p.m. \$15-\$49. 203-334-4625.

**Harvesting History - Guilford** - Enjoy a special display of reproduction trade items, Make Your Marke quill pen activity, hourly readings of *Pilgrim Cat* and tours of the holiday exhibit. Henry Whitfield State Museum, 248 Old Whitfield Street. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free-\$8. 203-453-2457. Also Nov. 24 and 25.

**Celebrating the Harvest Days - Mashantucket** - Celebrate the harvest and see demonstrations of traditional Native cooking methods. Also, a silent auction and other activities. Pequot  
*continued on page 56*



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# Family Fun Calendar

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Museum, 110 Pequot Trail. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free with admission; \$5 crafts. 800-411-9671. Also on November 24.

**Thanksgiving with Lincoln - Fairfield** - Celebrate Lincoln's legacy, discover 19th century Thanksgiving traditions and enjoy fun, family activities. Fairfield Museum, 370 Beach Road. Noon-3 p.m. Free with admission. 203-259-1598.

**A Christmas Carol - Hartford** - The tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, the heartless miser who discovers the true meaning of the holiday season after a Christmas Eve haunting, comes to life on stage. Hartford Stage, 50 Church St. 2 and 7:30 p.m. \$26.50-\$83.50. 860-527-5151. Through Dec. 29; times vary.

**Winterfest and the Tunnel of Lights - East Windsor** - Take a trolley ride this holiday season. Sing Christmas carols as the trolley makes its way through the Tunnel of Lights. Enjoy hot cocoa at the Visitor's Center. CT Trolley Museum, 58 North Rd. 5-9 p.m. \$3-\$10. 860-627-6540. Through Dec. 30; times vary.

**Drop-In for Colonial Crafts - Ridgefield** - Celebrate the holiday with activities inspired by the Pilgrims. Make a quill pen and create drawings, dip candles and weave placements. Children must be with an adult. Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main Street. 1-5 p.m. Free with admission. 203-438-4519.

**A Grand Victorian Holiday at the Mansion - Norwalk** - Explore the development of the Christmas holiday during the Victorian era in America. Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum, 295 West Avenue. Noon-4 p.m. Free with museum admission. 203-838-9799. Through January 4.

## 24 SATURDAY 24

**Guided Hike to West Rock Summit - New Haven** - Enjoy a hike to the summit of West Rock Park, which offers a stunning view of New Haven and Long Island Sound. Hike is moderate difficulty. For hikers of all ages and abilities. Common Ground, 358 Springside Avenue. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. 203-389-0823.

**Shop Kid Free - Westport** - Shop kid free and drop your children off for a variety of activities including animal encounters, trail walks, crafts and play in the Naturespace. Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-4 p.m. \$30-\$40. 203-227-7253.

**Santa on the Trolley - East Haven** - Children will visit with Santa and receive a free gift. Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate and see antique trolleys decorated for the holidays. Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River Street. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Free with admission. 203-467-6927. Through December 23.

**West Side Story - Waterbury** - From the first note to the final breath, this show soars as the greatest love story of all time. Palace Theater, 100 East Main Street. 2 and 8 p.m. \$49-\$69. 203-346-2000. Also on November 25 at 1 and 6 p.m.

## 25 SUNDAY 25

**Children's Sugar Plum Party - Stratford** - The New England Ballet presents *Sugar Plum Party*, an abbreviated version of *The Nutcracker* choreographed for children. Dancers will meet

and greet the audience after the performance. Stratford Theatre, 2422 Main St. 12:30 and 3 p.m. \$15. 203-799-7950.

## 26 MONDAY 26

**Advent Calendars - North Haven** - Count down the days until Christmas by creating an Advent calendar to take home. Ages 7-12. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Animal Techs Present Mammals - Westport** - Join the Animal Techs as they present everything they've learned in the Animal Tech class for students in grades 5-8. Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane. 4:15 p.m. Free with admission. 203-227-7253.

## 27 TUESDAY 27

**Purple Pizazz - North Haven** - Hear the story of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and design your own tote bag. Ages 5-7. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 4:15-5 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Fall Programs - Glastonbury** - Make your own totem pole with pictures of nature and your own mythical beasts. Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main Street. Ages 1-3, 10-11 a.m. \$10-\$13. 860-633-8402. Also on Nov. 28, ages 3-5, 10-11 a.m.; and ages 5-10, 4-5 p.m.

**Ben Cohen - Fairfield** - One of the world's greatest athletes and founder of the Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation, Cohen talks about the importance of character, respect and equality in creating a kinder world. The Edgerton, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave. 7 p.m. \$15. 203-371-7908.

**Tales for Tots - Greenwich** - The drop-in program, for ages 2-3 with an adult, features stories, songs and fingerplays that encourage a love of books and early language development. Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Avenue. 10:30-11 a.m. Free. 203-622-7940.

## 28 WEDNESDAY 28

**Improv - Fairfield** - Sacred Heart Improv Troupe presents *The Awkward Handshakes* featuring various improv games. The Edgerton, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue. 10:10 p.m. Free. 203-371-7908.

**Dinner Discussion Book Club for Kids and Parents - Norwalk** - Read and talk about some good books with other kids. Bring dinner, dessert provided. Call to find out the name of the book. Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Avenue. 4-5:15 p.m. Free. 203-899-2780, ext. 15131.

**Gaming @ The Library - Westport** - Play Wii, Xbox and board games. Grades 3-8. Westport Library, 20 Jesup Road. 4-4:45 p.m. Free. 203-291-4800.

## 29 THURSDAY 29

**Miracle on 34th Street - Waterbury** - Kris Kringle takes on the cynics in this holiday musical spreading a wave of love throughout New York City and proving that Santa Claus is not a myth! 7 Angels Theater, 1 Plank Road. 8 p.m. \$30. 203-757-4676.

Through December 23; times vary.

**Let's Do Take-Out with Pete's a Pizza - North Haven** - Turn a blah day into a Pizza Party with this story by William Steig. Make your own personal pizza with cookie dough, chocolate and candy toppings. Ages 5-7. North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street. 7-7:45 p.m. Free. Pre-register. 203-239-5803.

**Pachelbel and Tchaikovsky - Hartford** - The Hartford Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Joel Smirnoff, performs some of the most memorable string compositions in the world. The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$35.50-\$67.50. 860-244-2999. Also on Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2; times vary.

**Special Lecture - Norwalk** - Arctic explorers John Huston and Toby Thorleifsson (who walked across hundreds of miles of frigid Arctic wilderness) share tales of past exploits and plans for an upcoming expedition. The Maritime Aquarium, 10 North Water St. 6 p.m. \$5-\$17. RSVP. 203-852-0700, ext. 2206.

**A Merry Mulberry Street Musical - Stamford** - In this heartwarming and musical romp, join two families during the 1944 holiday season and watch what happens while the boys are overseas. Kweskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Avenue. 8 p.m. \$14.50-\$29. 203-329-8207. Through December 16; times vary.

**Huck Finn - Middletown** - The Junior Rep presents the story of Mark Twain's hero Huckleberry Finn and his friend Jim. Oddfellows Playhouse, 128 Washington St. 7 p.m. \$8-\$15. 860-347-6143. Through December 1.

**The Center for Women Annual Gift Show - Stamford** - See dozens of vendors selling clothing, jewelry and one-of-a-kind gifts. Proceeds benefit JumpStart, the JCC's early education program for children with special needs. Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue. 6-10 p.m. Free. 203-487-0941.

**Salons at Stowe: Bullied No More - Hartford** - Learn strategies for taking a stand against bullying, for the bully, the bullied and the bystander. Join the discussion. Stowe Center, 77 Forest Street. 5-7 p.m. Free. 860-522-9258.

## 30 FRIDAY 30

**Firelight Festival - Guilford** - Enjoy festive luminaries, roast marshmallows, sip hot cider and hot chocolate, explore the house after dark, see the holiday exhibit and handcraft natural holiday ornaments. Henry Whitfield State Museum, 248 Old Whitfield St. 4-8 p.m. Free-\$8. 203-453-2457.

**Creatures Feature - Fairfield** - Learn interesting facts and stories about the center's animals. Get up close with mammals, reptiles, amphibians and creepy crawlies. All ages, children must be with an adult. CT Audubon Society Center at Fairfield, 2325 Burr St. 4-4:30 p.m. Donation. 203-259-6305, ext. 109.

**Holiday Lights - Bristol** - See a holiday light show featuring thousands of lights dancing to holiday music. Enjoy cookie decorating, carolers, Santa, rides and more. Lake Compounce, 822 Lake Ave. 5-9 p.m. Free-\$14.99. 860-583-3300. Fri., Sat. and Sun. through Dec. 23; times vary.

**Steven Wright - Ridgefield** - Adults will enjoy Wright's trademark wit, absurdist one-liners, his ironic deadpan comedy and bizarre observations. Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 East Ridge. 8 p.m. \$60. 203-438-5795.

**Jupiter in the Winter Sky - Stamford** - Head to the observatory and enjoy a presentation on Jupiter in the Winter Sky. Then view the night sky through the 22-inch telescope. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road. 7 p.m. \$2-\$3. Ages 5 and up. 203-322-1646.

**Holiday Express Train Show - Fairfield** - Everyone will delight in the magic of the model trains winding around a winter wonderland of spectacular trees and beautiful holiday scenery. Fairfield Museum, 370 Beach Road. 7-9 p.m. Free-\$3. 203-259-1598.

**Christmas Fair - Monroe** - See cards, wrapping paper and bags and a variety of home decorations and ornaments. Also a huge selection of gifts, English muffin bread and homemade jams and jellies. Monroe Historical Society, 311 Wheeler Rd. 5-8:30 p.m. 203-445-1082. Through December 2; times vary.

**New Canaan Holiday Stroll - New Canaan** - Enjoy holiday caroling and the arrival of Santa Claus on Old Faithful Fire Engine. Santa helps light the holiday trees. Elm Street. 6-9 p.m. Free. 203-966-2004. Also on December 1 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Gingerbread Day - West Hartford** - Kids and adults can construct a homemade creation from fresh gingerbread, icing and delicious candies. Noah Webster House, 527 South Main Street. 6:30 p.m. \$12-\$15. Pre-register. 860-521-5362, ext. 21. Also on December 1 at 10 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.

**Discover Dance: Nutcracker Suite - Simsbury** - Children, ages 2-5, hear excerpts from *The Nutcracker* story, dance to music from the ballet and meet characters from Hartt's *Nutcracker*. Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Free. 860-658-7663. ♥

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# Fun Ways to

# Celebrate Thanksgiving

by Tania Cowling

*Thanksgiving is a special time to remember our country's humble beginnings, a time to gather with family and friends to say, "thank you" for our good fortune. Through these fun activities, children can learn to appreciate the things they have and to give thanks and blessings for a wonderful life.*

### **A Book of Gratitude**

Thanksgiving offers a great opportunity to take stock of all the good things in our lives. What better way than to create a catalog? Make a simple book by having your child glue magazine pictures or snapshots to construction paper. Or, the child can use his/her own artwork. Included could be family, food, pets, house, toys and so on. Don't make this a project your child does alone. Parents should create their own book, too. After all, don't we all have things for which to be grateful?

### **I'm Thankful Tablecloth**

Let the children get involved in holiday preparations by decorating the tablecloth for Thanksgiving dinner. Purchase a paper tablecloth from a party supply store. With crayons and markers, the kids can draw pictures of things they are thankful for and also symbolic pictures of the holiday. For a permanent keepsake, use a white fabric table covering along with fabric crayons or markers. Make sure to follow the package directions to heat-set the decorations. Don't forget to mark the date on this cloth. Another touch is to have the kids trace around their hands and write their names inside the handprint.

### **Make a Gratitude Garland**

Thanksgiving is in November, which is the time when autumn leaves are abundant. Have the children cut leaves from construction paper in fall colors, such as orange, yellow, red and brown. Give family members and guests a leaf and invite them to write on it what they are thankful for with a black

marker. The children can use tape or a stapler and string these onto a long length of ribbon. This garland can be hung along a staircase, unlit fireplace, or on the wall for a decoration of blessings.

### **A Thankful Turkey**

This craft will use your child's handprint and footprint, which is a nice way to record their growth as the years go by. To begin, using construction paper, trace around your child's foot and then around each hand. I suggest brown for the foot that will be the turkey's neck and the handprints in fall colors, which will become the turkey's tail feathers. The children can write things they are thankful for on each finger. Cut these pieces out.

To assemble, glue the footprint onto a lunch-size paper plate that has been colored or painted brown. Behind the plate, attach the handprints, with the fingers pointing up and showing, as the tail feathers. Draw facial features (eyes and waddle) with crayons or markers.

### **ABC Game of Gratitude**

As the family sits around the Thanksgiving dinner table, play this game of gratitude using the alphabet. The first player starts with the letter A, and makes a statement like "I am thankful for apples that are in our apple pie dessert." Then, the next person uses B and may say, "I am thankful for my baby brother." Continue around the table with each person using the next letter. Can you get through the entire alphabet?

### **Native American Feather Awards for Good Deeds**

Native Americans were given feathers for each achievement attained. Your children will love to earn some too. Make a construction paper headband that fits around your child's head and staple the ends together. Set up a chore or project list at home. Parents can cut out paper feathers in fall colors. Fasten a feather onto your child's headband for each good deed they have completed. The kids will be proud to wear this headdress of honor!

### **A Snack of Gratitude**

The ingredients of this snack mix have symbols that relate to the first Thanksgiving when the Pilgrims and Native Americans shared their blessings together. Mix several cups of each ingredient together in a large bowl to make this snack mix for everyone to enjoy.

*Bugles (brand) Corn Snack* — they are shaped like cornucopias, also called horn of plenty.

*Knot-shaped Pretzels* — these look like arms folded in thanks and prayers.

*Candy Corn* — Pilgrims were only allotted five kernels of corn per day, as food was scarce.

*Dried Fruit (raisins, cranberries, apricots)* — Thanksgiving is a celebration of the fall harvest.

*Sunflower or Pumpkin Seeds* — these represent hope for a bounteous harvest next season. ♥

*Tania Cowling is a former teacher, author of teacher resource books and freelance writer.*

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## BRANFORD

### Child Development Center

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www.cdcb Branford.com

An outreach of the First Congregational Church of Branford. We provide quality childcare services for ages 6 weeks-6 years. Full-time and part-time hours. Open 7 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Professional staff, low child/staff ratios.

### Learn & Play Christian Early Learning Center

Robin Costa, Director  
811 East Main Street, (203) 488-4028  
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An outreach of the United Methodist Church of Branford, we provide a superior Christian experience and loving atmosphere for infants to 5 year olds. Full-time, part-time, year-round program. 7 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

### Pine Orchard Nursery School

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675 East Main Street, (203) 481-5888  
www.shoreschool.com

Children have fun while learning in our engaging, learning-oriented classroom. Individualized program for 3-6 year olds (through kindergarten). Nurturing, professional staff. Science, math, art, French, more. Affiliated with AMS.

### Tabor Christian Community Preschool

Diane Swartz, Director  
45 Tabor Drive, (203) 483-9420  
www.TaborPreschool.com

Tabor offers classes for children ages 2 yrs. and 9 months to 5. We offer before school care and extended hours. Tabor was voted 2012 Best Preschool in Branford by The Patch's Readers Choice Poll.

## BRIDGEPORT

### St. Mark's Day Care Center, Inc.

368 Newfield Avenue, (203) 335-3828  
www.stmarksdaycarecenter.com  
Ages 6 weeks-12 years. F/T, Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Before and after school with F/T Summer Program for ages 6-12 yrs. Child Nutrition Program; Creative Curriculum; Ages & Stages Assessment; NAEYC Accredited thru 2015.

### St. Paul's Child Development Center

Priscilla Henschman, Director  
1475 Noble Avenue, (203) 384-6023  
www.stpaulscdc.com  
NAEYC accredited preschool program, offering a safe, nurturing and developmentally appropriate curriculum, caring for 3-5 year olds. Open year round, full/part time and summer camp. 7:30-5:30.

### Sugar Plum Nursery School

1105 Laurel Avenue, (203) 576-1276  
Year-round full/part-time programs including summer, Pre-K & Preschool. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Financial assistance available. Developmentally appropriate curriculum, ages 3-5. Nurturing children since 1974. NAEYC accredited.

## BRISTOL

### Imagine Nation Preschool Learning Center

Coral Richardson, Principal, coral@bbgc.org  
1 Pleasant Street, (860) 582-1480  
Come join our Imagine Nation Preschool Learning Center. NAEYC accredited and School Readiness funded.

### Whiz Kids Child Development Center

Nancy Raducha-Greenfield, Director  
815 Pine Street, (860) 584-8687  
www.whizkidsdaycare.com  
Custom designed 7,500 sq. ft. childcare facility offers infant, toddler, preschool, nursery school and school age programs. Program incorporates music, library and gymnastics. Summer camp available. NAEYC accredited.

## BROOKFIELD

### Christian Life Academy/ Little Blessings Child Care Center

Alden Hall, Director  
133 Junction Road, (203) 775-5191  
www.brookfieldcla.org  
Quality, developmentally challenging curriculum in a warm, nurturing environment. Pre-school classes for ages 3-5. Children in our Little Blessings Center for childcare 18 months-4 years. Full and part-time competitive rates.

### Montessori Community School at Brookfield

Carol Ingber, Director  
P.O. Box 5255, 21 West Whisconier Road, (203) 775-4016  
www.mcsbrookfield.com  
Ages 2.9 - 6 years. Half and full day/kindergarten program with Spanish for all children. Certified staff. Beautiful classrooms and outdoor environment. Affiliated with AMS.

## BURLINGTON

### Joni's Child Care & Preschool

3 Eastview Drive, (860) 677-5878  
www.jonischildcare.com  
Our program mission is to create a healthy, happy and safe child care environment based upon positive reinforcement and respect. NAEYC accredited.

## CANTON

### Joni's Child Care & Preschool

3 Eastview Drive, (860) 677-5878  
www.jonischildcare.com  
Our program mission is to create a healthy, happy and safe child care environment based upon positive reinforcement and respect. NAEYC accredited.

## CHESHIRE

### Boulder Knoll Montessori School

Nancy Maznio, Director  
660 Boulder Road, (203) 272-5893  
www.boulderknollmontessori.com  
Located in a country setting, Boulder Knoll offers children ages 3-6 a full day Montessori preschool and kindergarten program. Also, yoga, music, nature and an outdoor classroom contribute to the development of the "whole child."

### Cheshire Nursery School

Jan Romo & Suzanne Miller, Directors  
200 Mansion Road, (203) 272-5435  
www.thecheshirenurseryschool.com  
Professional teachers encourage exploration and growth with 3-5s and kindergarteners. We strive to enhance each child's curiosity and love of learning, a.m. and p.m., extended 1/2 day programs.

### 1st Church Preschool

Brenda Ward-Kelley, Director  
111 Church Drive, (203) 699-1169  
www.1stchurchpreschool.org  
Offering morning preschool and extended care for children 3 through kindergarten age. Hands-on learning, literacy-based curriculum, low child:teacher ratios, and a professional, nurturing staff. Summer program. NAEYC.

### Little Scholars Early Education

Kelly Hite, Director  
1481 Highland Avenue, (203) 699-9900  
www.littlescholarsofcheshire.com  
We create a safe, educational environment for children 8 weeks to 10 years of age. We offer flexible scheduling in our clean, modern, free-standing facility. Schedule a tour today.

### Stork Club, Inc.

1311 Highland Avenue (Rte. 10), (203) 272-1637  
www.storkclubs.com  
Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

## CHESTER

### Circle of Friends Montessori

Dawn Niles, Director  
25 West Main Street, (860) 526-9995  
www.montessoricof.org  
Primary and elementary classroom for children 3-9. Sign language, art, music, French, gardening and more. Let our hands-on classroom develop your child's curiosity!

## CROMWELL

### Northwest Children's Center

Suzanne Rutner, Director  
34 Coles Road, P.O. Box 131, (860) 635-3485  
www.northwestchildrenscenter.com  
Infants: 2 mos.-2 yrs. Toddler 2s. Preschool 3-5 yrs. Private full & 1/2 day a.m. K. Before/after school, alumni only. Summer programs. Est. 1983. Open 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. M-F. Degreeed teachers. Discovery learning approach. NAEYC accredited.

## DANBURY

### Hudson Country Montessori School

Mark Meyer, Head of School  
44-A Shelter Rock Road, (203) 744-8088  
www.hudsoncountry.org  
Teachers work in partnership with families to facilitate development. F/PT programs give children a strong foundation in academics, character, a lifelong love of learning, success skills and a sense of purpose. Infant to Grade 8.

### Immanuel Lutheran School

Nate Palkewick, Principal  
18 Clapboard Ridge Road, (203) 748-7823  
www.immanuel.lutheranschool.org  
Providing caring, challenging, Christian education for Danbury-area residents since 1981. Pre-K through 8th grade students receive top education from certified teachers with a master's degree. Full-, half-day and more.

Call 203-483-1700 to have your location listed in this directory

### Wooster School Pre-Kindergarten Program

Rae-Ann Allen, Head of Lower School  
91 Miry Brook Rd., (203) 830-3941  
www.woosterschool.org  
Age-appropriate activities nurture the cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, aesthetic and ethical development of students. A strong foundation for each child's pursuit of joyful, lifelong learning. Extended day care avail.

### EAST HARTFORD

**St. Christopher School**  
Kathleen Madej, Principal  
570 Brewer Street, (860) 568-4100  
www.saintchristopherschool.org  
St. Christopher School offers a variety of excellent preschool programs. Each is designed to meet the specific needs of both the students and the parents. All programs are directed by certified preschool teachers.

### EASTON

**"Little Phoenix" Pre-School & Daycare**  
Division of **Easton Country Day School**  
Wendy Shambra, Managing Director  
660 Morehouse Road, (203) 268-5073  
www.EastonCountryDay.org  
Preschool AM classes for 2, 3 & 4 year olds and day care in a fun filled and nurturing environment for ages 3 months and up. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Member: CAIS.

### ENFIELD

**Bright Horizons Children's Centers**  
Cyndi Gallant, Director  
5 Bright Meadow Boulevard, (860) 741-6648  
www.brighthouse.com/brighthouse  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

### Lego Creative Child Care Center

Laura Grodovich, Director  
561 Taylor Road, (866) 933-2252  
www.cclc.com/lego  
Lego Creative Child Care Center provides children 6 weeks to 12 years of age with an enriched learning environment that encourages social & emotional growth, and promotes a strong educational foundation for the future.

### Little Angels Catholic Pre-School

Marilyn Flanagan, Director  
424 Hazard Avenue, (860) 745-6135  
www.mylittleangelspreschool.com  
Our accredited program is designed for a child's first exploration into a school experience. We have certified and experienced early childhood teachers.

### Little Punkin' Patch Child Care

Kerrie Hodge, Director  
284 N. Maple Street, Unit 4, (860) 265-7903  
www.littlepunkinpatchkids.com  
We educate children 6 weeks-12 years old by delivering customized programs tailored to meet the unique needs of each age group. We offer both part-time and full-time enrollment options. Open Mon.-Fri., 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### FAIRFIELD

**Child Development Center of the Jewish Home**  
Mary Zarrilli, Director  
175 Jefferson Street, (203) 396-1005  
www.jhe.org/childcare  
Our program exemplifies excellence in infant/toddler care and preschool education for children of all denominations. Enrichment programs include music and fitness. CT licensed, 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., M-F, ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

### A Child's Garden

Michele Linane & Terri Levesque, Directors  
100 Mona Terrace, (203) 259-1327  
www.achildsgarden.net  
Ages 6 weeks-5 years. Full-time & part-time programs that provide childcare for working parents and the social and educational experiences required for children entering kindergarten. Alternative Kindergarten and Enrichment.

### Clockwork Learning Center

Lynn Martin, Director  
233 Bennett Street, Black Rock, (203) 335-4200  
www.clockworklearning.com  
Nestled in the Fairfield end of Black Rock, our quality day-care center offers care and education for infants through PreKindergarten ages. Phone the center or go online to book a tour.

### Congregation B'nai Israel Early Childhood Center

Alexa Cohen, Director  
2710 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, (203) 335-5058  
www.congregationbnaisrael.org  
We offer FT & PT programs with lunch, enrichment & summer program. Classes from birth to 5 in a nurturing environment. Developmentally appropriate activities. Experienced teachers. Nut-free. Fairfield/Bridgeport line.

### Curiosity Corner Pre-Preschool

Ms. Dee, Director  
James Street, (203) 259-1286  
curiosity-corner@hotmail.com  
Well-established, creative and nurturing 2s program located in the beach area. Program follows the Fairfield Public Schools schedule, Sept.-June. Tues./Thurs. or Wed./Fri. from 9:30-11:30.

### Early Childhood Dept./JCC of Eastern Fairfield

Ellen Winston, Director  
4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, (203) 372-6567  
www.jccs.org  
Full day & part day preschool. Music, gym and swim included in program in warm, rich environment. Three playgrounds, indoor gross motor room, varied enrichment classes. Summer programs, too.

### Fairfield University - Early Learning Center

Joyce Abate, Executive Director/President  
1073 North Benson Road, (203) 254-4028  
www.fairfield.edu/elc  
Fairfield University's Early Learning Center, a child care and early education program located on campus, currently has full-time and part-time openings available for preschool children ages 2 to 6 years from the regional community.

### Fairfield YMCA Preschool and After School

Terry McLaren, Director  
841 Old Post Road, (203) 255-2834  
Nursery school for 3-5 year-olds includes swim lessons. Playdays — morning program for 2-year-olds. Afterschool for K-5, all Fairfield Public School transportation included.

### Great Beginnings Montessori School

Marnie Harke, Head of School  
148 Beach Road, (203) 254-8208  
www.greatmontessori.com  
Offering a full Montessori program in beautiful classrooms in downtown Fairfield. Located in the First Church Congregational building. We serve 18 months-9 yr. olds. Toddler, primary and lower elementary available.

### K'tanin Preschool at Congregation Beth El

Sheila May, Director  
1200 Fairfield Woods Road  
(203) 374-5544 www.congbethel.net  
Warm and nurturing environment with experienced teachers encouraging curiosity, creativity, independence and intellectual growth. Judaic/secular integrated curriculum. Ages 1-4.

### Presbyterian Nursery School

Kathy Lynch, Director  
2475 Easton Turnpike, (203) 372-0855  
www.presbynurseryschool.org  
A creative environment for 3s, 4s and PreK classes. Enriched curriculum includes art, language, math, science, music presented by a devoted and experienced staff.

### Pumpkin Preschool of Fairfield

Mrs. Donnajean Pond, Executive Director  
449 Grasmere Avenue, (203) 255-7505  
www.pumpkinpreschool.com  
Progressive early learning center fostering optimum education. Music, arts, science, outdoor playgrounds, computer, reading, writing, language enrichment, French, Spanish, dance. Field trips! Ages 6 wks.-8 yrs. Open 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

### Southport Congregational Preschool and Toddler Program

Barbara Kick Terrell, Director  
524 Pequot Avenue, (203) 255-1312  
scpreschool04@sbcglobal.net  
Our primary goal is to teach socialization skills. We maintain age-appropriate learning goals to encourage social development, motor development, and verbal and cognitive skills. Art, music, creative movement and science.

### Teddy Bear Corner

Dawn M. Tagliavia, Director  
273 Villa Avenue, 414 Greenfield Street,  
435 Old Stratfield Road  
(203) 330-0302, www.teddybearcorner.com  
Developmentally appropriate hands-on program. Ages 6 wks.-5 yrs. Snacks and diapers included. Beautiful/secure playgrounds. Caring & qualified teachers certified in first aid/safety/CPR. Open year-round, Mon.-Fri., 7-5:30.

### The Unquowa School

981 Stratfield Road, (203) 367-3151  
www.unquowa.org  
Coed PreK-3 through eighth grade. The preschool program focuses on functional constructive play and dramatic movement. The Early Childhood Program includes music, physical education and Spanish.

*continued on page 60*



**I go to school  
at Joni's!**

**Burlington • 860-404-0177  
Canton • 860-693-1693  
Farmington • 860-677-5878  
Hartford • 860-549-2422  
Harwinton • 860-485-9389  
Windsor Locks • 860-623-8156**



**Joni's  
CHILD CARE  
& PRESCHOOL**

**www.jonischildcare.com**

## Child Care & Preschools

continued from page 59

### FARMINGTON

#### Educational Playcare

Adrienne Ricciardi, Director  
360 Colt Highway, (860) 678-8659  
www.educationalplaycare.com

Discover the difference a high quality program makes! NAEYC accredited. Childcare, preschool, kindergarten, school age and summer camp. Full & Part time. Breakfast, lunch & snacks. Serving the Farmington Valley since 1986.

#### Joni's Child Care & Preschool

3 Eastview Drive, (860) 677-5878  
www.jonischildcare.com

Our program mission is to create a healthy, happy and safe child care environment based upon positive reinforcement and respect. NAEYC accredited.

### GLASTONBURY

#### Bright Horizons Children's Center

Debra Tobin, Director  
Village Place, 22 Village Place, (860) 633-5553  
www.brighthouse.com/village

Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

#### Stork Club, Inc.

586 New London Turnpike, (860) 659-3002  
www.storkclubs.com

Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

### GREENWICH

#### Convent of the Sacred Heart

Catherine Cullinane, Director of Admission  
1177 King Street, (203) 532-3534  
www.cshgreenwich.org

Developmental program for 3 & 4 year old preschool girls in a nurturing and stimulating environment. The girls are introduced to religious education, art, library, computer, PE, science and music.

#### Family Centers

Megan Sweeney, Director  
40 Arch Street, (203) 869-4848  
www.familycenters.org

Family Centers offers full-time care for young children at four NAEYC accredited sites. Services available for children 6 weeks to 5 years.

#### Preschool at St. Barnabas Center

Mary Basso, Director  
954 Lake Avenue, (203) 661-9715  
www.preschoolatstbarnabaschurch.org

Programs for 3-5 year olds. Our literature-based curriculum encourages language development, the investigation of science, math and art. Low student:teacher ratio allows the professional staff to meet the needs of every child.

#### Whitby School

Ms. Nadia Meier, Director of Enrollment and Admission  
969 Lake Avenue, (203) 302-3900  
www.whitbyschool.org

Innovative Montessori and Int'l Baccalaureate school for children 18 months-grade 8. Whitby's global community of learners is engaged in learning and inspired by their own discoveries, creating high achievers ready for their future.

### GROTON

#### Bright Horizons at Groton

Joanna Stamp, Director  
40 High Rock Road, (860) 449-9446  
www.brighthouse.com/groton

Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

### GUILFORD

#### The Children's Garden

Pat Wojciechowski, Director  
900 Village Walk Plaza, (203) 458-2273  
www.childrensgardeninc.com

Our Guilford facility is licensed to provide care for 44 children. Our center is designed to provide a safe, fun and nurturing environment for your child. Accepts Care 4 Kids. Sibling and Yale discounts. Drop in Care offered.

### HAMDEN

#### Alphabet Academy-North Campus

Mireille Esponda, Director  
2389 Dixwell Avenue, (203) 361-3340  
www.TheAlphabetAcademy.com

Children thrive in our creative environment as our amazing teachers nurture innovation, contemplation and confidence. From fresh, organic meals to inspired art opportunities, we'll prepare your child to expect the best.

#### Alphabet Academy-South Campus

Kimberly Garley-Erb, Director  
605 Benham Street, (203) 230-9991  
www.TheAlphabetAcademy.com

Children thrive in our creative environment as our amazing teachers nurture innovation, contemplation and confidence. From fresh, organic meals to inspired art opportunities, we'll prepare your child to expect the best.

#### Carrot Patch Early Learning Center

Suzanne & Nicole Miller Stevens, Directors  
235 Johnson Road, (203) 248-5433  
www.carrotpatchkids.com

Professional staff encourages exploration and growth. We strive to enhance each child's natural curiosity & love of learning. Nestled in a wooded setting. Architect-designed playground provides many rich learning opportunities.

#### Cuddle Time Daycare Center

Maria Anthony, Director  
700 Hartford Turnpike, (203) 230-8449  
www.cuddletimedaycare.com

We provide a safe, stimulating environment for children ages birth to 5. Full day preschool available. Open M-F, 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Accepting FT/PT enrollment. Call for a private tour.

#### Hamden Hall Country Day School

Janet B. Izzo, Director of Admissions  
1108 Whitney Avenue, (203) 752-2610  
www.hamdenhall.org

A Pre-K - Grade 12 school with emphasis in the early years on instilling curiosity and excitement about learning in a warm, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment. Transportation and school enrichment programs.

#### K'tanim Nursery School at Temple Beth Shalom

Sheryl Sadinsky, Director  
1809 Whitney Avenue, (203) 288-7748  
www.tbshamden.com

NAEYC accredited programs for 2-5 year olds. Mon-Fri. Flexible scheduling, high quality learning experiences, school readiness, warm nurturing environment, experienced staff, new extended hours.

#### Laurel Oaks Adventist School

Neil Clauson, Principal  
14 West Shepard Avenue, (203) 248-3251  
www.newhavensda.com (click on "Church School")  
Located in a wooded pastoral setting, a Pre-K to Grade 8 school that offers a rich, family-oriented program designed for spiritual, mental and physical nurturing. Students gain knowledge and skills for a lifetime of learning.

#### Sunshine Preschool

Leslie Reyes, Director  
20 Augur Street, (203) 562-5840  
www.sunshinepreschool-hamden.com

A nurturing, safe and warm environment where infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop a love for learning through creative, hands-on activities, exploration and self-discovery. Open 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., year-round, FT and PT.

### HARTFORD

#### Breakthrough Magnet School

Julie Goldstein, Director  
290 Brookfield Street, (860) 695-5704  
www.magneteducation.org

Open to all students in Connecticut, free of charge. Beginning at age 2 (3 by December 31, 2012). Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Enrichment program runs Monday-Thursday, 3-4 p.m.

#### Capital Community College Laboratory School

Suzanne Rocco-Foertsch, Director  
950 Main Street, (860) 906-5238  
www.ccc.commnet.edu

The Lab School offers a preschool program within the college that serves children from 3-5 years old. It also assists in training Early Childhood students. It is NAEYC accredited.

#### Environmental Sciences Magnet School

@ Mary M. Hooker  
Kirsten Devlin, Director  
440 Broadview Terrace, (860) 695-3825  
www.magneteducation.org

Open to all students in Connecticut, free of charge. Beginning at age 2 (3 by December 31, 2012). Hours: 8:45 a.m.-3:10 p.m. Extended day program runs 3:10-4:30 p.m. A comprehensive program.

#### Hartford Area SDA PreSchool/H.A.S.D.A.S.

Hance Philippe, Director  
474 Woodland Street, (860) 724-5777  
www.hasdas.com

A safe & Christian atmosphere, offering creative learning. Kindergarten readiness. Licensed, modern facility; experienced staff; discounted tuition; and meals provided. Ages 3-5. Call or come in today! Open 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### Joni's Child Care & Preschool

3 Eastview Drive, (860) 677-5878  
www.jonischildcare.com

Our program mission is to create a healthy, happy and safe child care environment based upon positive reinforcement and respect. NAEYC accredited.

#### Montessori Magnet School @ Annie Fisher

Yasmin Binns, Director  
280 Plainfield Street, (860) 695-3563  
www.anniefisher-montessori.com

Open to all students in Connecticut, free of charge. Beginning at age 2 (3 by December 31, 2012). Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-11:15 a.m. Based on the successful educational methods of Dr. Maria Montessori.

#### Noah Webster Micro-Society Magnet School

Michele Rapp, Director  
5 Cone Street, (860) 695-5384  
www.magneteducation.org

Open to all students in Connecticut, free of charge. Beginning at age 2 (3 by December 31, 2012). Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-2:40 p.m. Before care begins at 7:30 a.m.; optional aftercare ends at 5:30 p.m.

#### R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts

Tracy Saperstein, Director  
65 Van Block Avenue, (860) 695-4196  
www.magneteducation.org

Open to all students in Connecticut, free of charge. Beginning at age 2 (3 by December 31, 2012). Hours: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. A performing arts theme-based school where students develop talents & interests.

### HARWINTON

#### Joni's Child Care & Preschool

3 Eastview Drive, (860) 677-5878  
www.jonischildcare.com

Our program mission is to create a healthy, happy and safe child care environment based upon positive reinforcement and respect. NAEYC accredited.

Call 203-483-1700 to have your location listed in this directory

## MADISON

### The Country School

341 Opening Hill Road, (203) 421-3113  
www.thecountryschool.org  
Coed, preschool to grade 8. At The Country School our outstanding program begins with challenging academics, passionate teachers, a dynamic whole child curriculum and motivated students. An Education that Lasts a Lifetime!

### Temple Beth Tikvah Nursery School

Bernadette Stak, Director  
196 Durham Road, (203) 245-8039  
Bern52@aol.com  
Temple Beth Tikvah students are encouraged to explore, create, climb, laugh, sing, play and learn. Programs include music, nature and art enrichment. Flexible schedule open to all.

## MANCHESTER

### The Children's Place

Holly Cassano, Director  
452 Tolland Turnpike, (860) 643-5535  
www.thechildrensplaceinc.com  
Every day is a learning experience. Serving ages 6 weeks-6 years. Low staff:child ratios. 30 yrs. of excellence. Full & PT programs. 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

### The Learning Center

Polly Buvelot, Director  
501 West Middle Turnpike, (860) 643-8639  
www.LearningCenterCT.com  
Providing quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Offering a hands-on and age-appropriate curriculum focusing on learning through play. Transportation provided for B&A school programs. Open 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## MANSFIELD

### Mount Hope Montessori School

Avery Lenhart, Director  
P.O. Box 267, 48 Bassetts Bridge Road, (860) 423-1070  
www.mounthopemontessori.com  
Serving children ages 3-6 in a loving, nurturing community. Mount Hope is dedicated to the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori and has been helping children help themselves for over 51 years.

## MERIDEN

### Pre-K Program at Meliora Academy

Lynne Guilmette, Director  
470 Murdock Avenue, (203) 237-5710  
bdesct@aol.com  
Pre-K Program for typical and children with ASDs, developmental or language delays. Emphasis on social skills, functional language/communication, functional play skills and relatedness. Full and half day options.

### Stork Club, Inc.

186 Pomeroy Avenue, (203) 235-8461  
www.storkclubs.com  
Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### Independent Day School

John Barregos, Head of School  
115 Laurel Brook Road, (860) 347-7235  
www.independentdayschool.org  
IDS is a caring environment where excellent teachers guide young minds ages 3 & 4. Hands-on and thematic learning, developmentally and age-appropriate activities. Extended day 12:00-3:05 p.m.; after care program 3:05-5:30 p.m.

## MIDDLETOWN

### SmartEarly Learning Centers

Kristin Berry, Director  
861 Middle Street, (860) 635-0544  
www.SmartEarly.com  
NAEYC accredited center offering highest quality early care and education for infants-preschool. Individualized SmartEarly curriculum for each child where degreed, certified teachers observe and share your child's progress.

### Town & Country Early Learning Centers

Judi Kenney, Director  
195 South Main Street, (860) 347-1400  
www.townandcountryelc.com  
NAEYC accredited offering: a Wholistic educational experience in a nurturing environment; an individualized curriculum: "The Building Blocks of Learning"; degreed teachers, certified pediatric first aid & CPR; highest standards.

## MILFORD

### Great Beginnings Preschool

Melanie Hamilton, Director  
100 Washington Street, (203) 874-5000  
www.greatbeginningspreschool.com  
A unique learning environment for ages 3-5 that inspires creativity, building a joy of learning and a foundation of core values for future leaders. F/T: 7:30-5:30; Half day: 9-12. Yoga, nature classes, art, music, movement and more!

### Little White House Learning Center

Judy Drapp, Director  
69 Woodmont Road, (203) 877-5167  
www.littlewhitehouselearningcenter.com  
Over 45 years of experience. 6 wks.-8 yrs. 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m., year round, F/PT. We focus on children's education, socialization & development. Transitional kindergarten for children born in the fall who aren't ready for kindergarten.

### Once Upon A Time Development Center

Gina DeLuca, Director  
326 West Main Street, (203) 882-0983  
www.onceuponatimedc.com  
Open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ages 6 wks. through Pre-K. Low staff to child ratios. PT and FT programs. We offer an enriching environment, developmentally based curriculum with a learning through play philosophy.

## MONROE

### Magic Kingdom Day Nursery & Kindergarten

101 Cutlers Farm Road, (203) 261-0130  
www.magickingdomdaycare.com  
We provide & promote the development of your child's emotional, social, physical, creative & intellectual skills in a loving and caring environment. FT & PT programs for children 2.9 years old-12 years old. 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Tiny Treasures, DLC

Cheryl Iannucci, Director/Owner  
51 Shelton Road, (203) 459-1444, (203) 521-9273  
Email: tinytreasuresmonroe@yahoo.com  
A warm, loving, educational environment. Truly a school where every child counts! FT/PT preschool program, infant/toddler program, before/after program. \*5% DISCOUNT on first month's tuition for mentioning this listing.

## NEW CANAAN

### New Canaan Community Nursery School

Pamela Turner, Director  
77 Old Norwalk Road, (203) 966-3010  
www.nccns.org  
NCCNS offers quality early education for children ages 3-5. A broad range of experiences are offered and geared to the developmental needs of each child. NAEYC accredited.

### New Canaan Country School

Nancy R. Hayes, Director of Enrollment Management  
545 Ponus Ridge, (203) 972-0771  
www.countryschool.net  
An independent school for Beginners through grade 9, NCCS offers outstanding academics taught by exceptional faculty in a creative and engaging environment. Stunning 75-acre campus, state-of-the-art academic facilities.

### New Canaan Nature Center Preschool

Marianne Kay, Preschool Director  
144 Oenoke Ridge, (203) 966-9577, ext. 16  
www.NewCanaanNature.org  
The mission is to provide the highest quality early childhood educational environment that meets all children's developmental needs. We utilize nature, science and our 40-acre campus to build each child's foundation for success.

## NEW HAVEN

### Lil Cupcakes Daycare

Jo Queen, Director, lilcupcakesdaycare@hotmail.com  
125 Westerleigh Road, (203) 814-6953  
Warm, nurturing childcare in a home setting for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. Flexible hours Mon.-Fri. We offer a safe, fun environment for your Little Cupcakes!

### Preschool Classroom at Cold Spring School

Jeff Jonathan, Director  
263 Chapel Street, (203) 787-1584  
www.coldspringschool.org  
A five day a week, full-day program for three and four year old children. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. program with optional, extended day program.

### The Preschool at Neighborhood Music School

Christine Missakian, Director  
100 Audubon Street, (203) 624-5189, ext. 23  
www.neighborhoodmusicschool.org  
Ages 2-5 thrive in our uniquely arts-based programs, which provide a nurturing environment full of creativity, intellectual development and community spirit. Preschool, 8:30-3:30 (half-day available). Toddler Program, 8:30-11:30.

## NEWINGTON

### Bright Horizons at Newington

Amy Raymond, Director  
2800 Berlin Turnpike, (860) 667-0080  
www.brighthouse.com/newington  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

*continued on page 62*



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Hamden**

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Exploration Center**

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based curriculum

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**(203) 248-5433**  
**www.carrotpatchkids.com**

## Child Care & Preschools

continued from page 61

### KIDCO

Maria Bomely, Director  
2175 Berlin Turnpike, (860) 667-7191  
www.kidcoweb.com

Providing quality care for children 6 weeks-12 years. Spacious classrooms, indoor gyms, expansive outdoor play areas, video monitoring, secured entrances. Hours 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. NAEYC accredited preschool.

### Saint Mary School

Nicole Kelly, Teacher; Marge McDonald, Principal  
652 Willard Avenue, (860) 666-3844  
www.stmaryngtn.com  
PreK 3 — MWF 1/2 day; PreK 4 — M-F full day or 1/2 day option. Extended care available before and after school. Call for more information, 860-666-3844.

## NEWTOWN/SANDY HOOK

### Children's Adventure Center

Judy Sims, Director  
14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, (203) 426-3018  
www.childrensventurecenter.com  
NAEYC accredited program for children ages 3-5, fostering the social, cognitive, physical and creative skills of young learners. Our focus is on pre-reading, writing, math and relationship building with enrichment programs.

### Fraser Woods Montessori School

173 S. Main St. (Rte. 25), (203) 426-3390  
www.fraserwoods.com  
Unique classroom environment, multi-age classes, individualized learning. 18 months to 8th grade. Half & full day programs. Before/after school programs. Founded in 1968 as Newtown Montessori School.

### Housatonic Valley Waldorf School

40 Dodgingtown Road, (203) 364-1113  
www.waldorfct.org  
We cherish childhood rather than rushing it. In preschool and kindergarten, children learn through imaginative play, art and practical activities. In Gr. 1-8, academics are taught artistically, generating joy and inspiring creativity.

### The Learning Experience

Cara Bellamy, Director  
274 South Main Street (Rte. 25), (203) 304-9130  
www.thelearningexperience.com  
Ages 6 wks. to 5 yrs. FT & PT, before and after school programs, 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Quality child care and an exciting learning experience. Safe, state-of-the-art center. Acclaimed Fun With Phonics™ program. Caring staff.

### Misty Morning Children's Center

Tracy Lefebvre, Director  
10 Commerce Road, (203) 270-6771  
www.mistymorningcc.com  
Loving care & learning experiences for infants, toddlers, preschoolers & kindergartners. Children's House: 6 wks.-K, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., FT/PT. Clubhouse: 1st-7th. Before and after transportation.

## NORTH BRANFORD/ NORTHFORD

### SmartEarly Learning Centers

Kathy Lilley, Director  
274 Branford Road, (203) 483-9000  
www.SmartEarly.com  
Brand new state-of-the-art center offering highest quality early care and education for infants-preschool. Individualized curriculum for each child where degreed, certified teachers observe and share your child's progress.

## NORTH HAVEN

### Sunny Side Up Early Care Learning Center

Nanci Dower, Director  
76 Maple Avenue, (203) 239-7395  
www.SunnySideUpEarlyCare.com  
Year round preschool with childcare hours. Open 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Infants, toddlers, Pre-K, young 5s. Developmental program with trained professional teachers.

### Village Integrated Pre-School

Karen Martin, Director  
31 Temple Street, (203) 234-7611  
www.aces.org/schools  
Full and part-time openings for 3 and 4 year olds in full day preschool. M-F, 7:30-4:30, certified teacher: masters in Early Childhood and Special Education; CDA trained teacher assistants.

## NORWALK/ROWAYTON

### Apple Tree Preschool

Gerri Calka Flewellyn, Owner/Director  
131 Strawberry Hill Avenue, (203) 866-8933  
For more than 40 years we have prepared ages 3-4 for the challenges of school. The curriculum includes music, creative development, language, number readiness, social development, pre-reading skills and more. 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### Five Mile River Nursery School

Lauriston T. Avery, Director  
5 Pennoyer Street, (203) 838-4266  
www.fivemilerivernurseryschool.com  
An NAEYC accredited, private, non-profit preschool offering part-day, enrichment and summer programs for 2s, 3s and PreK. Our warm, child-centered environment focuses on experiential learning with qualified teachers.

## OLD SAYBROOK

### Beach Babies Learning Center

Allison McCarthy, Director  
210 Boston Post Road, (860) 388-3737  
www.beachbabiesllc.com  
Childcare and preschool for children ages 6 weeks old to 6 years old. Designed with our own children in mind.

### The Children's Tree Montessori School

Marci Martindale, Director  
96 Essex Road, (860) 388-3536  
www.childrenstree.com  
Providing children ages 3-12 and their parents with an alternative to traditional education. We offer a nurturing, child-centered environment where children develop independence, respect and a lifelong love of learning.

## ORANGE

### Bright Horizons at Orange

Anne Recchia, Director  
284 Silverbrook Road, (203) 799-8033  
www.brighthorizons.com/orange  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

### Bright Horizons at Yale West Campus

Erin Aschbrenner, Director  
117 Frontage Road, (203) 795-3564  
www.brighthorizons.com/yalewestcampus  
Developmentally appropriate programs, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6+ wks. Exit 41 on I-95. NAEYC accredited.

### Stork Club, Inc.

801 Baldwin Road (Rte. 34), (203) 891-0599  
www.storkclubs.com  
Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

## PLAINVILLE

### Great Beginnings

Karen Shackford, Director  
15-17 Cooke Street & 195 East Street, (860) 747-1679  
www.greatbeginningsdaycarecenter.com  
"A great beginning lasts a lifetime." Celebrating 27 years in the early childhood profession! Our goal is to provide each age group with the highest level of quality child care available in a group learning environment.

Call 203-483-1700 to have your location listed in this directory

## REDDING

### Kids Time Preschool and Daycare

Diane Quinn, Director of Admission  
32 Portland Avenue, (203) 544-1266  
www.kidstimepreschool.com  
Offering full-time and part-time day programs ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Developmentally rich curriculum. Literacy, math, language and handwriting. Offering before and after school care to 12 years.

### Landmark Preschool

Kimberly Swabsin, Associate Director of Admission  
20 Portland Avenue, (203) 544-8393  
www.landmarkpreschool.org  
A place where learning is a joyful experience! A private preschool for early learning serving ages 1-5. Balanced curriculum offers literacy, math activities and science. Foreign language, art and gym. Before/after care. CAIS accredited.

## RIDGEFIELD

### Ridgefield Academy

Julie Crane, Director of Admission  
223 West Mountain Road, (203) 894-1800  
www.ridgefieldacademy.org  
RA is a coed preschool through grade 8 day school serving academically motivated students with diverse backgrounds on 42 acres in Ridgefield. The school draws students from Westchester and Fairfield counties.

### Ridgefield Montessori School

Catherine Tango, Director  
96 Danbury Road, (203) 438-4506  
www.ridgefieldmontessori.com  
Preparing today's children for tomorrow's world. New and expanded "Green" location offering individualized attention where respect, independence and confidence are a part of daily school life. Infants-full day kindergarten classes.

## ROCKY HILL

### Stork Club, Inc.

588 Cromwell Avenue (Rte. 3), (860) 563-9096  
www.storkclubs.com  
Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

## SHELTON/HUNTINGTON

### Bridge to Early Learning

Cheryl Alter, Director  
917 Bridgeport Avenue, (203) 255-7514, ext. 304  
www.bridgeetopreschool.com  
Come experience our high quality early education with developmentally appropriate curriculum for children 18 months-4 years. Flexible FT/PT schedule, 1-5 day enrollment options & summer programs.

### Bright Horizons at Enterprise Corporate Towers

Kim Hulton, Director  
Three Corporate Drive, (203) 926-1398  
www.brighthorizons.com/ect  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

### A Child's Garden

Sandra Miklus & Tanya DiCarlo, Directors  
20 Ivy Brook Road, (203) 402-0334  
www.achildsgarden.net  
Ages 6 weeks through 5 years including kindergarten. Full time and part time programs that provide childcare for working parents, and the social and educational experiences required for children entering kindergarten.

### Happy Day Preschool/Shelton Community Ctr.

Cynthia Tonucci, Owner  
41 Church Street, (203) 925-0545  
Proudly serving children and families since 1979. Ages 6 weeks-6 years. Full-time and part-time schedules. Open year-round. Professional staff. Gym and library on premises. Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

### **Pumpkin Preschool of Shelton**

Mrs. Joan Carr / Mrs. Melissa Zaccagnini, Directors  
100 Beard Sawmill Road, (203) 926-1800  
www.pumpkinpreschool.com  
Progressive early learning center fostering optimum education. Music, arts, science, outdoor playgrounds, computer, reading, writing, language enrichment, French, Spanish, dance. Field trips! Ages 6 wks.-8 yrs. Open 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

### **Susanna Wesley School**

Roberta Cenci, Director  
338 Walnut Tree Hill Road, (203) 925-1076  
www.susannawesleyschool.com  
Serving the community for over 40 years. Our school offers a variety of programs: A.M., P.M., Ext. Day, KClub and Toddler Time for 2 to 5 year olds & summer program. Experienced teachers. Daily music & creative movement.

### **Wonder Years Learning Center**

Laura Lipinsky, Director  
188 Rocky Rest Road, (203) 929-0708  
www.wonderyearsct.com  
Nature based educational curriculum. Bright, spacious classrooms and warm, loving teachers. Quality and affordable child care. Offering full-time and part-time programs for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Open 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

## **SIMSBURY**

### **The Children's Center**

Wendy Bestor and Sheryl Desrochers, Directors  
197 Bushy Hill Road, (860) 651-8296  
www.simsburychildrenscenter.com  
Developmental preschool offering three hour classes for both 3s and 4s, kindergarten enrichment and extended hours from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### **Educational Playcare**

Kim Phillips, Director  
1 St. John's Place, (860) 651-9339  
www.educationalplaycare.com  
Discover the difference a high quality program makes! NAEYC accredited. Childcare, preschool, kindergarten, school age and summer camp. Full & Part time. Breakfast, lunch & snacks. Serving the Farmington Valley since 1986.

### **The Master's School Preschool Program**

Deborah DeBisschop, Director  
36 Westledge Road, (860) 651-9361  
www.masterschool.org  
The Early Childhood Program (ECP) is a nationally accredited Christian program. During this stage of wonder and discovery the ECP provides high-quality programs for 3 and 4 year olds based on the CT Preschool Benchmarks.

## **SOUTH WINDSOR**

### **The Learning Center**

Nita Proteau, Director  
1250 Ellington Road, (860) 282-8020  
www.LearningCenterCT.com  
Providing quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Offering a hands-on and age-appropriate curriculum focusing on learning through play. Transportation provided for B&A school programs. Open 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### **South Windsor Public Schools Preschool Outreach Program (POP)**

Eli Terry, School POP Team  
569 Griffin Road, (860) 648-5019  
www.southwindsorschools.org  
Seeking resident community models to participate w/ special education preschoolers in the areas of play, language, social & adaptive behaviors. Language-based program incorporating CT Frameworks for Preschool. \$1500 yearly.

## **SOUTHBURY**

### **Clockwork Learning Center**

Alicia Doyon, Director  
800 5th. Main Street (rear), (203) 262-1383  
www.clockworklearning.com  
Convenient to greater Southbury, and located just off 84, our quality daycare center offers care and education for infants through PreKindergarten ages. Phone the center or go online to book a tour.

**These childcare facilities are also listed on our website: [www.ctparent.com](http://www.ctparent.com)**

## **SOUTHINGTON**

### **Southington Community YMCA Learning Ctr.**

Katie Sherman, Director  
30 High Street, (860) 621-8130  
www.southington-cheshireymca.org  
Providing the highest level of quality and safety in programs that support children socially, emotionally, cognitively, physically and artistically. Serving children of preschool, kindergarten, elementary and middle school age.

### **Stork Club, Inc.**

1348 West Street, (860) 276-1031  
www.storkclubs.com  
Complete childcare, nursery school and before/after school programs with transportation provided. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 9 years.

### **Village Green Nursery School**

Nan Sheridan, Director  
37 Main Street, (860) 628-6958  
www.vgns.org  
A caring, developmentally appropriate, learning environment. Many opportunities for family involvement. Excellent teacher/child ratio. Morning and afternoon 3 & 4 year old programs.

## **STAMFORD**

### **Bright Horizons at First Stamford Place**

Betsy Mercein, Director  
300 First Stamford Place, (203) 323-1972  
www.brighthouse.com/stamford  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

### **Bright Horizons at High Ridge Park**

4 High Ridge Park, (203) 321-1681  
www.brighthouse.com/highridge  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

### **Bright Horizons at Long Ridge Child Devel. Ctr.**

Gerri Degnan, Director  
778 Long Ridge Road, (203) 461-8653  
www.brighthouse.com/lrr  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

### **Brookdale Nursery School**

Karen Cardilli, Director  
20 Brookdale Road, (203) 329-9945  
www.brookdalenurseryschool.com  
Located in North Stamford since 1974, Brookdale focuses on social and academic skills. Nurturing teachers follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum for 2, 3 and PreK classes. Sept.-June, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Camp until mid-July.

### **Childcare Learning Centers**

Barbara Garvin Kester, CEO  
64 Palmer's Hill Road, (203) 323-5944  
www.clcstamford.org  
CLC offers the largest school readiness comprehensive early childhood education and care program to nearly 1,000 children between birth and 5 years of age. Fees are on a sliding scale. NAEYC accredited.

### **Italian Center Nursery School**

Cathy Turcio, Director  
1620 Newfield Avenue, (203) 322-6941, ext. 115  
cturcio@italiancenter.org  
Our fully licensed Nursery School provides 3 and 4 year olds with a great environment for both learning and play. Our preschoolers have access to the gym, indoor pool and outdoor playground. 9-12, extended day program avail.

### **Levana's Home Day Care**

Levana Dan, Director  
34 White Birch Lane, (203) 329-7748  
LDAN8349@aol.com  
Since 1992. Providing care for infants to 4 years old. Stimulating and educational environment for every age group. Art and music program. Food provided. Licensed, insured, CDA and CPR. Open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m./flexible.

### **The Long Ridge School**

Kris Bria, Head of School  
478 Erskine Road, (203) 322-7693  
www.longridgeschool.org  
Founded in 1938, providing a warm start for 2s, 3s & 4s as part of an independent school for K-Gr. 5. Theme-based studies focus on exploration of ourselves and our world in a community rich in literature, music, arts and earth science.

### **Noah's Ark Nursery School**

(Affiliated with Zion Lutheran Church)  
Eileen Muller, Director  
132 Glenbrook Road, (203) 357-7330  
A Christian learning experience in a nurturing environment for 3 & 4 year old children. Hours are 9 a.m.-12 noon. Registration is non-discriminatory. Teachers are CPR & first aid certified.

## **STRATFORD**

### **Helen King Reynolds Private School**

Lynne Goetz, Director  
868 East Broadway, (203) 375-1687  
www.helenkingreynolds.com  
Learn through play! We educate the whole child with developmentally appropriate curriculum. Nurturing staff, great staff/child ratio. Half-day programs for 3s and 4s. NAEYC accredited.

**Call 203-483-1700 to have your location listed in this directory**

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**Magic Kingdom**  
Nursery School  
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Day Care  
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[www.MagicKingdomDayCare.com](http://www.MagicKingdomDayCare.com)  
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## Child Care & Preschools

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### STRATFORD, CT.

#### Sterling House Preschool

Priscilla Choquette, Director  
2283 Main Street, (203) 378-2606

A place where children feel safe, wanted, & a part of a community. Programs for 2-5. Part/full day, multi-age groups. Celebrating 80 years service to our community. Happy children make great learners. NAEYC accredited.

### SUFFIELD

#### Bright Horizons at Suffield

Jennifer Roy, Director  
228 Mountain Road, (860) 668-5653  
www.brighthorizons.com/suffield

Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

### TRUMBULL

#### B'nai Torah Nursery School

Joan Watnick, Director  
5700 Main Street, (203) 268-0227  
www.bnaitorahct.org/nurseryschool

Nurturing & educating 2, 3 & 4 yr. olds since 1982. We build confident eager learners. Small classes provide social interaction & individualized attention by experienced teachers. Art, music, cooking, drama, gym. Summer camp.

#### Bright Horizons at Trumbull

Marisa Rothbard, Director  
126 Monroe Turnpike, (203) 459-8610  
www.brighthorizons.com/trumbull  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early education and preschool programs for children ages 6 weeks and up.

#### Cornerstone Children's Center

Lisbeth Olsen Condo and  
Margaret Conley Heffel, M.S.Ed., Owner/Operators  
16 Hickory Street, (203) 261-0499  
www.cornerstonekids.com  
Comprehensive early care and education — just around the corner. Caring for children through age 6 since 1996. Developmentally appropriate curriculum. Lunch, snacks, diapers, wipes and formula included. FT & PT and flex.

#### Holy Cross Christian Preschool

Michele Glennon, Director  
5995 Main Street, (203) 268-6471  
www.holycrosstrumbull.org  
A stimulating learning environment that helps each child reach their full potential. Full day & part day programs available. Open year-round 7:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Serving children ages 3-5.

#### Laurel School for Young Children

162 Beardsley Parkway, (203) 374-6611  
Individual classes for children, infants to age 5. Language arts, music, phonics. Certified teachers, a traditional philosophy and progress reporting. Affiliated with Yale Child Study Center. Year round program, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

#### Long Hill United Methodist Children's Center

Maria Stein, Director  
6358 Main Street, (203) 268-8434 www.lhumcc.com  
High quality early education with developmentally appropriate curriculum for 3s & 4s. FT/PT. Weekly music & gym program, Mommy & Me, Lunch Bunch, enrichments in science, cooking & fit kids.

### UNCASVILLE

#### Eagleview Child Development Center

Kristen King, Director  
2 Crow Hill Road, (860) 862-9777  
www.brighthorizons.com/eagleview  
Developmentally appropriate programs, a loving, skilled faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, 21st century technology, emergent curriculum, flexible FT/PT early ed. and preschool programs. Ages 6 wks and up. NAEYC accredited.

### WALLINGFORD

#### Creative Beginnings Learning Center

Suzanne Stevens, Director  
3 Technology Drive, (203) 294-1546  
www.creativebeginningslearningcenter.com  
Ages 6 weeks - 10 years. Full-day kindergarten; exciting curriculum for all ages. Experienced and educated teachers. Center with keypad access for peace of mind. Newly designed, spacious playground.

#### Jumpin' Beans Day School

JoAnn Holstein, Director  
950 Yale Avenue, (203) 265-1544  
www.jumpinbeansdayschool.vpweb.com  
21 years of dedication to excellence in the early care and education of young children. Infant, toddler and preschool programs. Qualified, nurturing staff. Security cameras, secure entrances. CT Care 4 Kids program accepted.

### WATERBURY

#### Chase Collegiate School

Patricia Belle Calgagni, Lower School Head  
565 Chase Parkway, (203) 236-9560  
www.chasecollegiate.org  
The Pre-K curriculum at Chase is relevant, well planned to meet developmental and intellectual needs, and, most importantly, fun! Classrooms are colorful learning environments where teachers encourage students to explore.

#### Little Lambs Learning Center

Kathy Cordani, Director  
3211 North Main Street, (203) 592-5264  
www.littlelambslearn.org  
Full time preschool. New facility. CT certified teachers. High quality developmental & educational programs. Facilitating intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth.

### WATERTOWN/OAKVILLE

#### Jumpstart Therapy & Fitness Network

Catherine Risigo, MS, OTR/L  
900 Main Street, Oakville, (860) 945-1301  
www.therapyunlimited.com  
Run by certified teachers and therapists, Jumpstart playgroups enhance children's development by challenging them in a fun environment. Take a moment to work out, relax or do errands. For children 6 months to 6 years.

### WEST HARTFORD

#### Lollipop Tree Nursery School

Jon Scher, Director  
160 Mohegan Drive, (860) 236-5748  
www.lollipopnurseryschool.com  
A safe and nurturing developmentally appropriate learning environment for children ages 2-PreK. Children learn through play, exploration and self discovery. At Lollipop Tree Nursery School, Learning is FUN!

#### Montessori School of Greater Hartford

Una Barry, Head of School  
141 North Main Street, (860) 236-4565  
www.msgh.org  
Highly trained, seasoned teachers nurture the development of each child in a culturally diverse, authentic AMI Montessori community. Serving ages 15 months-12 years. Recognized by AMI/ Accredited by CAIS. Est. 1964.

#### Noah's Ark Childcare & Preschool

Leah Bratton, Director  
701 Farmington Avenue, (860) 232-5038  
www.cbict.org  
We provide a safe, loving, family-oriented environment for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Preschool only program also available.

#### Our Children's Center, Inc.

Barbara Battaglio, Executive Director  
90 North Main Street, (860) 561-0569  
www.occd daycare.org  
Non-profit, early childhood daycare center for ages 8 weeks-5 years, PreK. Main goal: small classes w/many dedicated teachers. Ratios — 8 infants: 3.5 teachers; 8 toddlers: 3 teachers; PreK, 10 children: 2.5 teachers.

### Renbrook School

Armistead C.G. Webster, Ph.D., Head of School  
2865 Albany Avenue, (860) 236-1661  
www.renbrook.org  
The Beginning School offers a preschool program for children ages 3 and 4 and full-day kindergarten. Experienced teachers provide a developmentally appropriate curriculum in a hands-on, academic environment.

### WEST HAVEN

#### Discovery Daycare and Preschool

Karen Schlemmer, Director  
225 Meloy Road, (203) 931-7750  
www.discoverydcp.org  
Open year-round, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. FT/PT programs. Ages 3-5. Developmentally-based, academic curriculum in a loving Christian environment. Kindergarten Readiness program. CT Care 4 Kids accepted.

### WESTBROOK

#### Valley-Shore YMCA Little Giants Preschool

Mary Lewis, Director  
201 Spencer Plains Road, (860) 399-9622  
www.vsymca.org  
We offer a preschool program for 3 & 4 year old children with half- or full-day options. Swimming and gym time complement our age-appropriate classroom activities. Mention code 'VSYMCA' for a registration discount.

### WESTPORT

#### A Child's Place

Sandy Seres, Director  
90 Hillspoint Road, (203) 227-1940  
www.a-childs-place.org  
An accredited child-education center offering 10-month preschool for 2s, 3s and 4s, full-day (7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.) year-round programs, and a summer program. It features a high teacher:student ratio and large indoor & outdoor facilities.

#### Christ & Holy Trinity Preschool

Moira O'Connor, Director  
45 Church Lane, (203) 226-4616  
www.chtpreschool.com  
For over 30 years, our program has brought together families from all backgrounds. With hands-on music, science, art & exploration, our nurturing, play-based environment inspires children to develop a love of learning. Ages 2-5.

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*Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted* is packed with non-stop laughs, zany action and wildly comedic adventure. All your favorite zoosters are back as Marty, Alex, Gloria and Melman make their way back home to New York City by joining a traveling circus to blend in as they cross Europe.

But a pesky French animal control officer and their new circus friends create hilarious European adventures unlike anything you've ever seen! The sensational, all-star cast of voice talent includes Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Cedric the Entertainer, Martin Short and more. The DVD delivers hysterical entertainment that the whole family can enjoy. Rated PG. The DVD is available for \$29.98.



Join Scooby Doo and his friends on an exciting circus-themed adventure with the animated feature length film *Big Top Scooby Doo!* When the Brancusi Circus comes to town, Fred, who has always had dreams about performing under the big top, jumps at the opportunity to visit the show. After Scooby and the gang arrive, they learn the circus performers have been terrorized by a werewolf who has not only frightened them but has also stolen jewelry from circus spectators.

Desperate for help, the circus ringleader turns to Scooby-Doo and his pals, who go undercover as circus performers. Will they be ready to face a frightening team of circus-themed werewolves? The DVD is available for the suggested retail price of \$19.98.



There's a mystery engine on the Island of Sodor! Travel on an exciting journey with Thomas and his engine friends in the all-new movie adventure, *Thomas & Friends®: Blue Mountain Mystery – The Movie*. When trouble strikes at the Blue Mountain Quarry, Thomas is sent to help his Narrow Gauge engine friends. He catches a glimpse of a small engine trying to hide, yet no one will provide any clues to the engine's identity. Thomas is determined to get to the bottom of

the mystery, but discovering the truth is harder than he imagined! Will Thomas be able to save his new friend? Or will the mysterious engine be sent away from Sodor forever? The DVD is available for the suggested retail price of \$19.98.



Enjoy all-new adventures and join teenage genius Tony Stark in *Iron Man: Armored Adventures Season 2 Volume 2*. The six explosive episodes prove that anything is possible when you're a super hero! The DVD follows Stark, heir to the billion-dollar corporation, Stark International, as he battles the enemies of world peace with his revolutionary armor technology. He uses his invincible suit and technical know-how to protect those who fall prey to tragedy, corruption and

conspiracy. With help from his friends Rhodey and Pepper Potts, Stark's activities as Iron Man result in nonstop high-octane action. The DVD is available for the suggested retail price of \$14.93.



Preschool favorite Angelina and her sister Polly dance up a storm of fun and family bonding when *Angelina Ballerina®: Superstar Sisters* arrives on DVD November 6. Stay in step with Angelina and Polly in this five episode collection. Will Princess Polly be able to forgive her sister when Angelina breaks her special music box? Angelina's sisterly instincts kick in when Polly goes missing and proves she can be a big inspiration to help Angelina finish Ms. Mimi's important assignment.

Come along as the sisters, spin, twirl, sparkle and shine together in this heartwarming collection of sisterly stories. Bonus features include Polly's Picture Matching Game and "I Will Be A Star" karaoke music video. The DVD is available for the suggested retail price of \$14.98.



Everyone's favorite dino-mite pal is back with the perfect prescription for family-friendly fun when the all new *Barney®: Let's Go to the Doctor* DVD arrives on November 6. Let Barney and his friends show that going to the doctor is important to growing up happy, healthy and strong. Learn all about brushing teeth, washing hands, exercising and more. It's check-up time! Barney teaches that doctors are our friends and shows how pediatricians, dentists and veterinarians keep people and animals healthy and strong. Join Barney, BJ™, Baby Bop™ and Riff™ as they make learning about healthy habits fun for everyone. It's just what the doctor ordered! The DVD is available for the suggested retail price of \$14.98.



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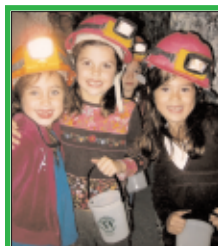


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