

Citizens of the World Charter School



Parent Newsletter

Vol. 1

JULY 20, 2010

Hello CWC Families!

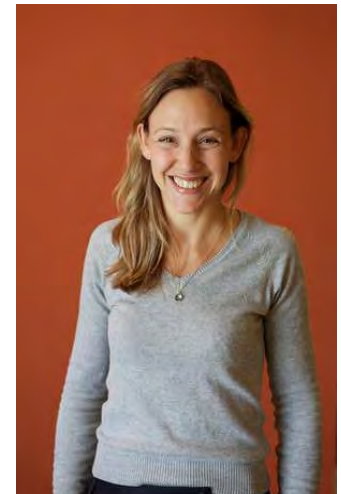
I am so excited to be writing our first official family newsletter! It's been an exciting few months, from getting our charter approved to the work this spring, starting student enrollment and hiring our incredible staff. Amy Dresser Held, the Executive Director and I, have been full-time since July 1 and have been working hard at our temporary headquarters. Personally, it's been so wonderful to begin, in earnest, forming a leadership team with Amy, who is an incredibly experienced and thoughtful charter leader. I know she will do everything to help CWC fulfill its educational mission, in this our first year and beyond.

What you'll find in this newsletter and in the attached packet are important items we want to make sure you look through with your family regarding when school starts, upcoming events and other updates about our staff, the development of our program and our new site. In the packet, you'll also find the [next round of enrollment forms](#) that we'll need back from you in August. Please take a look and follow the included directions.

Looking forward to seeing and meeting you all in the coming weeks/month, as we begin to solidify our Citizens of the World community.

Warmly,

Marissa Berman, Founding Principal
marissa@citizensoftheworld.org



Our Growing Team:

We are excited to report that all of our Lead Teachers for both Kindergarten and 1st grade have been hired! Although they are all busy this month, traveling the world and taking some well needed relaxation time prior to school starting, there will be opportunities to meet all of them before the first day of school.

Hopefully between the Family Festival, the work parties to get our site ready and more, you will get a chance to personally meet all of them. Let me say that everyone I extended offers to accepted jobs at CWC – which means we have a wonderful top-notch group of experienced teachers who are thrilled to be a part of the Founding Team at CWC. All of them will truly help to bring our vision into a reality. I'm also excited to say that we've hired amazing Art and PE teachers while we're finishing up the process for finalizing Teaching Assistants and Music.

We're also so pleased to report that **Lily Aure**, a CWC parent for 2012, is contracting with us now to do some much needed administrative support. Many of you have already spoken with Lily. Please don't hesitate to reach out to her to ask questions you might have.

I look forward, in my next newsletter, to presenting short bios on each one of our staff members and formally introducing you to the CWC team!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, August 15: First Annual Family Festival, Location: CWC at Le Conte Middle School, Time: 2:00 pm
* See Attached Flyer
- Sunday, August 29: Work Party #1
Location: CWC, Time: 11 am – 4 pm
Come help with classroom set-up and site preparation projects. More info to come. Wear your overalls and come ready to work!
- Sunday, September 5: Work Party #2
Location: CWC, Time: 11 am – 4 pm
- Wednesday, September 8: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! 8:30 AM – See you there!
- Additionally, we will be planning park play dates, potlucks and other community building events for both kids and adults in August and September. Stay tuned!
- In early August, an approved calendar for the entire school year will be provided.

*******MARK YOUR CALENDARS*******

CWC CONTACT INFO:

Although we'll be moving into our site soon, we want you to know how to find us before then. See contact information below:

- ❖ Principal: Marissa Berman
marissa@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ Executive Director: Amy Dresser Held
aheld@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ Administrative Support: Lily Aure
lily@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ We are also checking voicemail regularly at the following phone number:
323-454-2220.

CWC SITE UPDATES!

As you can imagine, we've been quite busy getting our site ready and finalizing our co-location agreement with LAUSD. In our regular visits to the site in the past weeks, we've found furniture being removed, deep cleaning of classrooms happening and work with contractors beginning. The largest scale construction projects we have going on this month and next are: 1) the installation of fences, interior and exterior partitions to separate CWC from the main Le Conte campus, 2) the build-out of CWC's separate drop-off/pick-up area, 3) the conversion of Le Conte bathrooms for use of younger students. Yesterday, I found several of the rooms not only having been cleaned deeply but hard wood floors waxed and buffed – shiny and stunning! This work will continue into August and we'll have continuous updates to share. In the meantime, a few photos below of the progress:



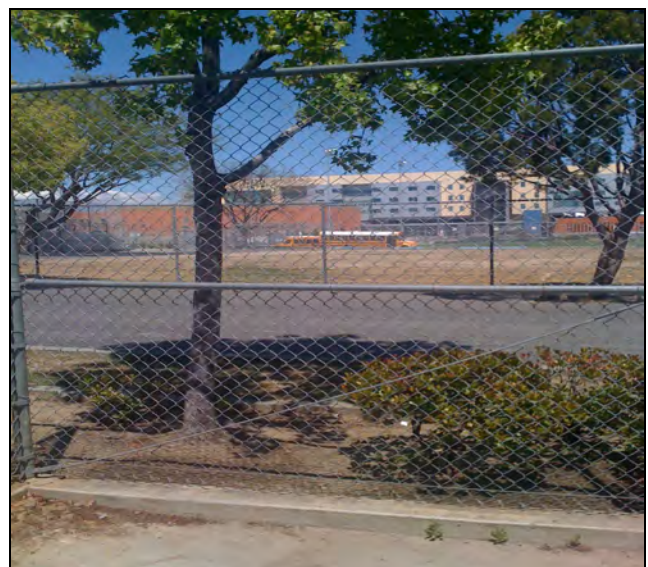
CWC courtyard site & future location of fenced partition



Contractor measuring the new height of bathroom sinks



Clean classroom with newly waxed floors



Location of pedestrian gate to create separate access to field



INTRODUCING PLAYWORKS AT CWC

We are so excited to announce that CWC will begin an official partnership with Playworks, an amazing national non-profit based in the Bay Area. Playworks, who opened their LA office last year, places well-trained “coaches” in public elementary schools to run recess/play-time as well as provide thoughtful PE/classroom game instruction time. Their program transforms both recess and PE time into being safe, healthy, positive and inclusive playspaces, helping kids return to the classroom ready to focus on learning. Existing schools that have brought Playworks on have found a dramatic reduction in behavior and discipline issues.

With the structures and resources they provide, Playworks Coaches embed thoughtful skill building for students related to conflict resolution and cooperative learning, two important elements of CWC’s comprehensive “Peacemaking” program. CWC will have a full-time Playworks Coach of our own to be a part of our staff in this important first year! Our entire staff will benefit from the Playworks training, in particular the Teaching Assistants who will also be spending time with students during both morning and mid-day recess.

Also very exciting – our Playworks Coach will be running CWC’s AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM. This program will incorporate the same elements noted above, as well as additional enrichment activities that make after school programs a rich, creative and fun space for kids. Although the financials are still being worked out, we hope to provide access to this after school program for all families at a very low rate. This will help to ensure that all families can access this service equitably.

More information about our particular Playworks Coach in our next newsletter. In the meantime, you can learn more about this cool organization at: www.playworks.org

FIRST DAY AND GENERAL DAILY SCHEDULE:

- *The FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is SEPTEMBER 8th and will run from 8:30 – 1:30.
- * School will always begin at 8:30 AM, with drop-off to classrooms starting at 8:15.
- * On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays school days end at 3:15 except for the first three days of school.
- * On Wednesdays there are shortened days and school ends at 1:30.
- * ALL FIRST THREE DAYS OF SCHOOL ARE EARLY DISMISSAL AND END AT 1:30
- * Detailed information about the timing of Morning and After School Care coming soon!

Things you can do to prepare your child for the first day of school:

- Read with them 15-30 minutes per day. Even if they can’t read words, have them tell stories in books by looking at pictures.
- Give them opportunities to practice writing their name and stories from the summer. If students are resistant, have them dictate and illustrate stories you record for them.
- Play fun counting games (great for long car rides!) to give them continued practice with regular and skip counting (by 2’s, 5’s, 10’s).
- Play “I Spy” games to identify shapes, letters and numbers out in the world.
- Increase jobs your child can participate in at home – cooking, gardening, cleaning.
- As we funnel information to you, continue to walk your child through the structure of the school day. Given this information ahead of time, will help to maintain their calm and excitement about school!!

Citizens of the World Charter
School

August 15th 2:00–4:30 PM

★ First Annual Family Festival

Dear Citizens of the World Charter
School Families,

We are gearing up for our First Annual
Family Festival for all the families of
Citizens of the World Charter School!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday
August 15th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
at 1316 N. Bronson, Hollywood, CA
90028, our new home at Le Conte
Middle School.

We will have a bouncy house, face
painting, cookie decoration, art
projects for all the kids to help us
'beautify" our new space, food, drinks
and MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

This will be a wonderful opportunity
for all of us to have some summer fun
and get to know one another.

Thank you so much and see you all on
August 15th!

LOCATION: 1316 N. Bronson,
Hollywood, CA 90028, our new
home in Le Conte Middle School

**Contact person: Diana Harlin,
Founding Parent**



CITIZENS
OF THE WORLD
CHARTER HOLLYWOOD

A PUBLIC SCHOOL



REQUEST FOR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

At the start of the school year, CWC will need to collect immunization records for each student. These immunization records will become a part of the student's permanent record (cumulative folder). Copies can be made of the Yellow California Immunization Record card you might have for your child or another official immunization record from your physician. If a child is exempted from any immunizations for medical reasons, a doctor's written statement is required explaining which specific immunizations are exempted and the specific nature and probable duration of the exemption. If a child is to be exempted for reasons of personal belief, the parent or guardian must sign, upon the start of the school year, an affidavit.

WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION SLIP

I, _____, hereby give my permission for my child(s), _____, to participate in walking field trips around the neighborhood of our school, Citizens of the World Charter School - Hollywood, for the school year 2010-2011. I understand that such walks will be well supervised by CWC staff and have educational value.

Date: _____

*** Please note that families will be notified of such walking field trips ahead of time. If, for any reason, as parents or guardians need to take their child(s) out of school while the school day is still in session, it is important to provide written notification of this ahead of time to ensure that students will not be "off-campus" during such a time. Additionally, separate permission forms will always be used when any form of transportation, other than walking, is necessary.

- See back side of page -

FAMILY DIRECTORY INFORMATION

- I grant permission to Citizens of the World Charter School staff to use our family information (last name, parent/guardian names, child's name, address, and telephone number) for use in a schoowide directory/roster. I understand this information will not be released to any other outside organization without further consent.
- I do not want our family's information included in a school directory/roster.

ACADEMIC STUDIES PARTICIPATION

CWC might sometimes participate in or initiate academic studies related to our educational program. Do you grant the following permission?

- I grant permission for my child(ren) to participate in academic studies related to CWC's educational program. I understand that my child may be interviewed, fill out surveys, and/or participate in other data collection methods by outside, school-approved researchers. I understand that my child's individual name, data, and/or other identifying data will never be released or used within any study facilitated or sanctioned by the school. I understand that such studies benefit CWC and other schools with a similar educational program/philosophy.

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

CWC will sometimes use photographs or video of our students on our website or in print materials related to the school. Do you grant the following permission?

- I give permission to Citizens of the World Charter School to use images of my child(ren) including photograph and video images, for such purposes as the CWC website, classroom and school activity displays, fundraising, and publicity activities. I understand that my child may be photographed by staff, parents, and others during school events, and that use of these pictures benefits the school and the CWC community.

CWC Class Placement Input Form

As a staff, we value family input in creating well-balanced classroom communities. In order to make this decision, we will consider the educational and emotional needs of each child. While we do not honor specific classroom teacher requests, this form is intended to assist the staff with the placement process. *****Please complete this form for each incoming CWC student in your family and return it by mail to the address below. If you need additional space to write, please use the back. Thank you for your input!

Student's Name:	Incoming Grade:	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):	Primary Language:	Ethnicity:	Gender:
List any siblings and their ages/gender:		Please describe your child's strengths and interests:		Please describe your child's academic, social, and emotional needs:	
What is your child's prior school or childcare experience? Please describe those prior settings for us:		Does your child have a current IEP in RSP or Speech and Language? Please specify their needs.		Please provide any critical information teachers should consider in your child's placement (i.e. any students that you feel your child works well with or from whom he/she should be separated):	
TO RETURN THIS FORM TO US YOU CAN:					
1. MAIL IT TO OUR P.O. Box at Citizens of the World Charter 419 N. Larchmont Blvd., #42 Los Angeles, CA 90004		- OR -		2. Bring it by the August 15th Family Festival at our new site on Le Conte's campus	

GENTLE BEGINNINGS AT CWC: **The First 3 Days of School**



While we gather input from you about your child on the Class Placement Input Form, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about how we are going to start the school year. As you know our first day of school is Wednesday, September 8th. That week, for our first three days, school will be from 8:30 – 1:30, with an early dismissal time.

It will be helpful to think of these first three days of CWC as a sort of orientation for both you and your child. Below is an explanation of how we are planning to approach these three days of orientation so that we are as well positioned as possible to have a wonderful school year.

Prior to the first day, your child will NOT be assigned to a classroom teacher/specific classroom yet. Instead, he or she will be assigned to a grade level color group (i.e. all kindergarten students will be in one of three color groups) that they will stay in for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that first week of school. We will make these color groups as balanced as possible, based on gender and information we have about your child before the start of school. During those first three days, students will spend time in their color group, rotating amongst the different classrooms and Lead Teachers at their grade level. For instance, the “yellow” Kindergarten group would spend one day in each of the three Kindergarten classrooms, having opportunities to get to know the whole Kindergarten teaching team. The same would go for 1st grade, which will also be split up into similar grade-level color groups. Throughout the course of these three days, students will be participating in a number of rich community-building and start-of-the-school-year activities, all of which will provide a calm and thoughtful orientation for children at the start of the school year.

Most importantly, during those three days, the CWC team of educators will be getting to know your students more, working with them closely while also doing a first round of observation and initial assessments. This is a crucial part of our educational model. Getting to know your child individually and understanding, developmentally speaking, how best to meet their needs and support them as learners will be, in large part, how we approach teaching and learning at CWC. After Friday at 1:30, when school gets out, we will use all of the information we gathered in the first three days as well as input you have supplied on the Class Placement Input Form to create mixed and balanced class groups where students will be assigned to a specific Lead Teacher and Teaching Assistant for the year. This is NOT in any way a mechanism for us to create leveled classroom groups (i.e high, medium, low), but again to make sure each class group is as balanced as possible, as this will only help to further ensure that your child has a successful and happy first year at CWC in an optimal learning environment. Although, in the future, we will only do this for incoming Kindergarten students, we will be doing this as well with our 1st grade students this Fall, as everyone is new to CWC this year!

Ahead of the first day of school, we will make sure to clearly communicate which color group your child is in and where you can drop them off on the first, second and third day of school. After Friday afternoon, we will quickly blast to all families their child’s classroom assignment as well as clearly post it around the school that next Monday morning. Please know that we will absolutely make sure that everyone knows where they are going and that the transition is a smooth one for all.

With care,
Marissa Berman, Founding Principal