



September 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

This summer I saw CCP through new eyes — not just as Executive Director, but as a mom. In July, I watched my son cross the stage at preschool graduation. Like so many other parents in the room, I felt it all at once: joy, pride, and that bittersweet tug of realizing how quickly these early years go by.

Each year, graduation is always a reminder of what this time means. Children grow braver and more curious, and parents watch them step into the world with confidence.

And what makes that possible at CCP are the people. Our teachers pour their hearts into every child, creating classrooms that feel full of life and belonging. Their care changes lives, including my own family's, and I'm deeply grateful to them.

One parent recently put it so beautifully:
"CCP has become a place of deep comfort and love. As graduation approached, I found myself emotional — not just because of my son's growth, but because it felt like the end of a truly special chapter for our whole family."

Her words capture exactly how I feel too. As we begin this new school year, I'm hopeful for all the chapters yet to come.

With pride and gratitude,
Teresa Alvarez
Executive Director



Caps Off to the Class of 2025!

In July, our preschoolers crossed the stage with big smiles, proud families, and plenty of photos to prove it. Teachers Ms. Petra and Ms. Josefina were there to call them across the stage for their diplomas, cheer them on, and give a few goodbye hugs too.

This graduating class was extra special for our Director of Early Learning, Guadalupe Perez. This group of kids had just started preschool at CCP when she joined the team. She's known many of these children since their very first day in preschool and watching them cross the stage felt like a full-circle moment.

Here's to a great start in kindergarten and the rest of their learning journeys!



Fresh Starts & Familiar Faces

Getting ready for a new school year is about more than decorating classrooms. It takes planning, teamwork, and, most of all, a deep commitment to showing up for kids.

This August, our staff came together to reconnect and prepare to help children feel seen and ready to learn. From behind-the-scenes prep to joyful first-day moments, here's a look at how we kicked off the year.



Professional Development Week

Before students arrived, our staff had a full week to reconnect with each other and our mission. The week included a site visit to Patagonia Child Development Center, team retreats for both our ECE and FRC teams, and a powerful reflection ceremony guided by Ali Cortes, LMFT.

To wrap up the week, our team gathered at the Leading from Within offices for a full-day retreat. Team-building led by Ulises from Wilderness Youth Project was followed by an afternoon of reflection, creativity, and dreaming together. It was a chance to reconnect with one another, share big ideas for CCP's future, and revisit what our mission really means to each of us.



First Week of School

The energy was high as students returned to campus with new teacher pairings, new classrooms, and art already appearing on the walls by day two. Kids jumped right into play, met new friends, and settled into routines.

The newly refreshed outdoor yards have already become favorite spots for exploring. It's been a joyful, busy, and heartwarming start to the year and we can't wait to see what this new school year brings.



Thank you to our Super Volunteer: Bob Berkenmeier

If you've spent any time at CCP recently, chances are you've seen Bob around campus, quietly fixing, building, or lending a hand wherever it's needed. Bob volunteered all throughout last year and is back again this year.

From hallway projects to classroom touch-ups, his care and consistency have made a huge difference for our staff and students. We're so grateful for Bob and the way he shows up for our community!

Not Every Classroom Has Walls

This summer, our toddler yards got a major refresh thanks to the generosity of **Lynda Fairly** and the **Audacious Foundation**. Board members stopped by to see the transformation: more room to move and more opportunities to explore and connect with nature.

And our kids are already loving it! From mud kitchens to sharing laughs with friends under the trees, they're making the most of every inch. And this is just the beginning.

These upgrades are part of a larger vision to reimagine *all* of CCP's outdoor spaces as nature-rich learning environments where children can build, create, discover, and feel free.

Curious about what's next? Just reply to this email—we'd love to share where we're headed.



Helping Hands Fund: Standing with Families in Crisis

The Helping Hands Fund was created to respond to immigrant families facing the impact of ICE raids and enforcement, so children and parents don't have to face these moments alone. Thanks to this fund, our FRC team has been able to deliver groceries, provide rent and utility support, and walk alongside families through other urgent crises.

And we're not doing it alone. Volunteers have stepped up in powerful ways, showing up for families again and again.

Watch a quick thank you video from one of our volunteers below:



Your impact goes even further right now

Every donation to Helping Hands will be *matched dollar-for-dollar* up to \$25,000, thanks to a generous challenge gift from Richard Finkley and Lynda Fairly.

A Gift Now = Double the Support

Save the Date: Walk the Halls with Us

Join us on **October 16 at 10 AM** for our quarterly Coffee & Community tour! We're opening our doors for a behind-the-scenes look at CCP. Come walk the halls, visit classrooms, and see how we support children and families every day. Whether you're new to our work or have been part of the journey for years, we'd love to show you around.

[Save My Spot](#)

In Case You Missed It: Check Out Our New Website!

Our newly redesigned site is built to better serve current and prospective parents, families looking for support, and community members like you. It's easier to navigate, mobile-friendly, and full of updated info on all things CCP.

[Check It Out](#)

Our Contact Information

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