



# Autumn EXCL News

A Note from the Director:  
Vincent D. LaFontan, MHA  
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Welcome back to EXCL! The 2011-2012 school year is now well underway and we are very excited about the many new programs and activities we have planned. Our theme this year is “EXCL Explores Nature” and as you may have already seen this fall we will be enjoying and exploring the outdoors more than ever before. Many children visited local orchards and farms over the past two weeks and

everyone contributed to “Natures Open House” at Winding Trails on October 1st. Make sure you take a look at the “Floating” Fairy House that the EXCL West Woods children contributed to the event—it was the big attraction!

You may also have noticed some new faces at the EXCL sites this fall, as a number of EXCL staff members have been moved within district to

meet changing enrollment trends at individual schools. I encourage all EXCL parents to meet their individual site supervisors in person, to learn about all the up-coming program offerings to happen at individual schools this year.

Thank you for your continued participation with Farmington Extended Care & Learning. I hope everyone “EXCL’s” at school this year!

Vince

## “Fall” Into Fun with East Farms EXCL

Karen Marino, Site Supervisor  
860-676-1522



What a fabulous start the East Farms EXCL program is off to this year! I would like to take the opportunity to welcome both our returning and new families. Our students have been continuously demonstrating to us how they “EXCL” when it comes to exploring nature. We are now learning about fall and apples. We are graphing our favorite types of apples and learning how apple trees grow. Students in our extended kindergarten and after school programs real-

ly stretched their creativity in constructing our fairy cottages and mill for the Nature’s Open House event at Winding Trails this year. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, we took a trip to Indian Rock Preserve to learn about apples and their many uses. We even made our own cider! On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will join thousands of students across America to celebrate “Lights on After School” – an initiative to help keep children safe in a fun, educational environment and support working

families. For this event, our kindergarteners will be creating cards and small gifts for patients at CCMC, and our first through fourth graders will be working cooperatively to solve a staged crime scene. Our enrichment classes have been thriving as well – this season we offered students the opportunity to play golf, learn Chinese, create and develop their own play, and learn how to take act safely while home alone. Stay tuned – so much more to come!



## PRESCHOOL PRESS

MARIA BAKER, SITE SUPERVISOR

860-674-1606

Farmington Collaborative Preschool has had a great start to the 2011-2012 school year. We have been busy getting to know about each other and our families and beginning our fall activities. We are having a great time preparing for our first event, Nature's Open House at Winding Trails. Children are collecting nature items at home and at school that will be

used in creating a variety of fairy houses that will be displayed at this event. In honor of Lights on After-school on October 20, 2011, we are hosting a Fall Festival here at FCP. Children will enjoy activities like making apple crisp, eating donuts from a string and much more! We are looking forward to bringing nature back to the classroom with our EXCL

Explores Nature theme for 2011-2012. Fall is a great time of year that brings many exciting activities and experiences exploring nature. We will enjoy activities such as leaf rubbings, a field trip to an apple orchard, learning about pumpkins and many more. Have a great fall season!



### Fall Fun at West Woods EXCL

Bryan Zerio, Site Supervisor  
860-284-1250

West Woods EXCL would like to welcome back all students and families! We would also like to thank students and families for a great start to the 2011-2012 school year. EXCL has been outside maintaining the existing walking trail and creating a new trail behind the school. This outdoor activity was designed to get students excited and involved in EXCL's district wide theme for this year which is "EXCL Explores Nature." Sticking with our theme, West Woods EXCL

visited Lyman Orchards on September 29<sup>th</sup>; students explored a corn maze and picked apples. The students had a blast and every student made it through the 4 acre maze. West Woods EXCL participated in "Nature's Open House" at Winding trails on October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. A small group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls designed and created a floating fairy island to display amongst 80 other fairy houses. The floating island was the first island to ever be entered into the tour! Congratulations on a job

well done. October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 is Lights on After School, a celebration of after school programs nation wide. This year we will be hosting a scary story reading tour through the back path at West Woods. Students are taking classic scary stories from Edgar Allen Poe and Irving Washington and rewriting them as a more modern tale. Students will also be turning the back path into a forbidden forest using props and costumes.



### Important Dates

11/8/11—Teacher Professional Development Day

11/11/11—Veterans’ Day

#### Thanksgiving Break

11/23/11—EXCL closes at 3:00 p.m.

11/24 & 11/25—EXCL is closed

**Union EXCL**  
 Meghan McGrath, Site Supervisor  
 860-675-4881



Our school year is getting off to a great start. Union EXCL will be exploring nature this year! We have several new faces and some familiar faces joining Union EXCL. Check out our staff board to learn what we love about the outdoors and nature. We have started to plan some EXCLent activities for this fall season. We will be apple-picking, pumpkin picking, and exploring the outdoors throughout the year! Our students and staff have completed a Fairy Boathouse for

Nature's Open house at Winding Trails. Our annual Lights on After School event is coming up on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm. We will have a “Fall Festival” with crafts, face painting, and spooky snacks to enjoy! Come enjoy the fun and excitement of this wonderful event to promote the need for after school programs across the country. We are offering some great enrichment classes to get involved in after school. We have TGA Golf starting up, Hartford Children's

Theater is creating a play, bowling at Laurel Lanes in Plainville, learn a new language with Intro to Chinese, and the American Red Cross will be teaching us all we need to know about being in charge. You can sign up online through Farmington Continuing Education at [www.fpsct.org/fce](http://www.fpsct.org/fce). Also, come join our before school sports program offered by David Avezzie. The program will run from 7:25-8:30 am. We look forward to a great year exploring nature and meeting new friends!

### West District Happenings

Sarah McCormack, Site Supervisor  
860-675-1874



West District EXCL is well underway and have gotten off to a GREAT start! We have enjoyed getting to know you and your children over the past few weeks. We've been busy planning activities and enjoying the outdoors and nature which is EXCL's district wide theme this year. On September 29th, our first full day program, the children enjoyed a field trip to Hickory Hill Orchard in Cheshire. They enjoyed a hay ride, picked apples, and had a snack of cider and donuts, despite

the rain we had a great time! We also have been busy with building the fairy houses that will be on display once again at Nature's Open House at Winding Trails on October 1st and 2nd. Our “extra special activities”, this fall at West District will be Create a Play with Hartford Children's Theatre, TGA Golf, and Introduction to Chinese. Please check the Friday folders to sign up on line for these classes through Farmington Continuing Education. Save the date for our

annual “Lights on After School” celebration on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Lights on After School, is the national celebration to celebrate after school programs and the important roles that they play in the lives of families and the community. This year we will be writing messages about after school and placing the messages in a balloon and then releasing them. You're welcomed to join us on this day to write your own message. The balloons will be released at 4:30.



## Farmington Public Schools

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The Farmington Extended Care & Learning (EXCL) provides services to Farmington children and families. Integrated into the Farmington Public School system, EXCL promotes a seamless continuum of education for children. Programs are offered in all four elementary schools and at West Woods Upper Elementary School. The Farmington Collaborative Preschool is located at Irving Robbins Middle School. Our goal is to provide a fun, safe, enriching environment for every child. Through our curriculum and planned activities we allow and encourage children to increase their cognitive abilities and foster self esteem, while developing team spirit with a sense of cooperation and fair play, and enhance their physical development through challenging games and skill. For more information on how to get your child involved please call 860-404-0112.



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We're on the Web! - [www.fpsct.org](http://www.fpsct.org).

Click on your child's school for more information

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### Meet an EXCL All-Star

#### Alek Coulombe

Alek has worked for EXCL since August 2010 and is currently a group leader at East Farms. He graduated from Farmington High School and is currently attending Tunxis Community College where he is studying general studies. He has received awards in varsity football and baseball. Some of his favorite things to do with the children is the yearly dodge ball tournament, summer camp and "EXCL Kid's Give Back". In his spare time he enjoys teaching children new types of sports.

### Fun Fall Noah Wallace 860-676-2766

Noah Wallace EXCL has had a wonderful opening to the school year! We have been very busy this fall, planning and building our fairy house that was displayed at Winding Trails, and getting ready for our "Lights on Afterschool" celebration on October 20, 2011, when we celebrate the importance of after-



school programs in our community with a fall celebration! The children certainly enjoyed the apple picking we did last week, a big thank you to Bushy Hill Orchards for the great tour of their orchard. Much fun was had by all! We have also been busy practicing for the annual Veteran's Day Dodge Ball Tournament that will be



held on the full day program on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Our "Extra Special Activities" are ongoing; this fall we have a theatre class with the Hartford Children's Theatre, golf with TGA, and bowling in early November. Please look for our winter and spring classes forming soon in the Kids Corner of the Farmington Continuing Education catalog.

