In our 101st year, after having paused to reflect during our Centennial celebrations and NYSAIS self-study last year, C&C moved confidently into its second century, bringing our focus back “home” and building on the tradition of learning—and sharing what we learn—from children.

As a fitting closing to our Centennial celebrations, we hosted a conference for educators in October. C&C teachers led 11 hands-on workshops for fellow staff members as well as nearly 50 educators from over 20 schools.

Our Block Connection workshop went public once again, with Director of Lower School Jane Clarke and IIIsD Group Teacher Debbie Severin consulting with Brooklyn’s PS130 on their new block room. Two workshops for educators from PS130 were held at C&C, and Jane and Debbie visited their space to advise on layout.

Our School welcomed 171 outside educators—including teachers from Japan, Iceland, and the Czech Republic—for visits, and we had 20 Student Teachers at C&C, proof of our teachers’ commitment to mentoring beginning educators.

C&C continues to educate parents on our program, history, and finances.

In addition to Group Nights, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and our yearly Meet the Grads event in February (password C&C), we began a series of Book Group Meetings this year, discussing I Learn from Children, Mind in the Making by Ellen Galinsky, and Sticks and Stones by Emily Bazelon. The PA organized parent-led discussions covering technology and media and “All Things Food.”

Our Directors continued to inform parents on key program points via our online community. The topics of math, building a sense of self, drawing, and experimenting were viewed through Jane Clarke’s lens in her “Walkabout” series. Alex Ragone’s “From the Middle/Upper School” blog commented on topics such as technology and social justice.

Currents outlined how C&C Student Support Team members communicate and strategize with one another, teachers, and parents to ensure the most effective learning environment for each Group and individual student from the IIs through the XIIIs.

The May Parents Meeting featured a presentation on the School’s finances by C&C’s Board Chair Fred Knecht and Finance Committee Chair John Kolz, covering C&C’s finances and development goals, efforts to build the endowment, how tuition money is spent, and how the Annual Fund and Spring Benefit support important school initiatives.

Along with educating others, we continued to learn.

Faculty and Staff started their year with summer book discussions: Far from the Tree by Andrew Solomon, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck, Quiet by Susan Cain, The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg, Predictably Irrational by Dan Ariely, Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ by Daniel Goleman, and Sticks and Stones by Emily Bazelon.

Eighty-eight members of our faculty and staff participated in the Undoing Racism workshop that was held over three days at C&C. In addition, 70 of our faculty and staff attended 85 additional workshops throughout the year.

Our commitment to Diversity remains the same year after year, but planned events like the Undoing Racism workshop, along with the current news from our community and across the country, put issues of social justice front and center in 2014-2015.

The Parent Diversity Group held two new and informative events. A screening of I’m Not a Racist...Am I? at the annual Joint PA/Diversity Meeting in March featured 12 diverse students from NYC high schools discussing race over a period of
a full year. The Whiteness Project, an interactive investigation into how Americans who identify as “white” experience their ethnicity, was presented by guest speaker (and C&C uncle) Whitney Dow in May.

Teachers continue to offer unique experiences to their students.

Teachers welcomed over 30 speakers into their classrooms, from storytellers and scribes, to Klezmer musicians, and even our own Maintenance crew—Rodney Frederick visited the IIs to show the tools he uses to build the blocks in our Yard.

Our Afterschool and Sports Programs were very active this year. Add-Ins enrollment was at an all-time high in the spring (201 students!), when 30 Add-Ins were offered. Sports highlights included volleyball and softball tournament championships, and the XIIIs/XIIIs Girls Basketball overtime tournament victory against Mary McDowell! The Running Club hosted its first annual Fun Run for students and families—a great success.

Even after the amazing outpouring of support from this community during our Centennial celebrations, families came together once again to give back to the School and the greater community. We realized that there was “No Place like Home” and held our Spring Benefit at the School. The food tasted fantastic, the entertainment surprised everyone (and featured our own Director of Admissions Elise Bauer and Director of Auxiliary Programs Nina Farrell), and we raised $107,000 for financial aid, our best Fund-an-Item ever.

C&C’s 4th Annual Family Service Day brought our community together to help the greater community. Over 250 sandwiches and close to 300 cookies were handed out to Daisy’s Food Pantry guests. In addition, families’ hard work supported Women In Need, NY Foundling, Judith White Senior Center, Reach Out and Read, and Animal Haven.

Looking to expand the vision of our founder, Caroline Pratt, we added new technology to C&C’s program this year. 3D printing has been incorporated into students’ work. Technology Integrator and Support Ian Klapper brought this new technology online for students to experience new forms of expression, yielding (among many other objects) a dynamic Viking chess set made by the Xs.

The XIIIs expanded their newspaper (dubbed The Newspaper: Journalists in a Crowded Room) into multimedia, with videos for our online community, and a new, XIIIs-run Instagram account to supplement the print edition.

Despite the focus on moving forward in 2014-2015, there was still time for reflection in our 101st year. We unveiled an updated Archives section of our website. The new section goes into greater detail on the types of historical treasures our extensive Archives hold, and features an online presentation of our Centennial Archives Exhibit.

We hosted former C&C teacher and advisor Harriet Cuffaro in celebration of a Festschrift recently published in her honor as part of Bank Street’s Occasional Papers Series, to commemorate her lifelong commitment to the field of education, to teachers, and to children. The Festschrift features a contribution from Jane Clarke.

We released two Alumni Video Profiles that shed light on the long-term impact of a C&C education: Hilary Knight ’40 and Dahlov Ipcar ’31.

Our founder, Caroline Pratt, came to life in a wonderful (and overdue!) exhibit of Thomas Hart Benton’s groundbreaking mural “America Today,” newly installed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The largest graduating class so far, this year’s XIIIs were accepted to an impressive range of high schools. Our XIIIs will attend Beacon, Brooklyn Latin, Columbia Grammar and Prep, Fieldston, Friends Seminary, Grace Church, Kaufman Special Music School, LaGuardia, LREI, Millbrook, Moses Brown (RI), NYC LAB School, Packer Collegiate, Poly Prep, Putney School, Spence, Saint Ann’s, Wildwood (CA), and Xavier.

If our 101st year is any indication, C&C’s second century will be even more successful than its first.