

# CREATIVELY SPEAKING

Loving, Nurturing & Educating Children Since 1968

February 2012

CREATIVE PLAYROOMS

Vol. 2



## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



- February 3:** Kindergarten Report Cards Sent Home
- February 14:** Class Valentine Parties
- February 27:** Montessori Education Week

### **Creative Playrooms Montessori Schools & Child Care Centers**

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### **From the Regional Director's Desk ~ Debbie Pack**

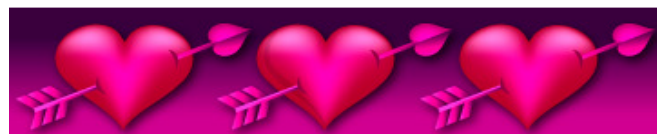
Is your child going to be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2012? If so, then it's time to start thinking about Kindergarten. Check with your center for open house dates to introduce our families and the community to our Kindergarten program. We have state-chartered programs taught by the best teachers. Also inquire about First Grade! I look forward to welcoming new families for the 2012-13 school year.

We will celebrate Montessori Education Week February 27-March 2, 2012. Each center will highlight its program with special events, including an open house. I hope each of you will participate in the week long activities.

What a better way to get through the winter than to think about summer! Later this month the directors will begin preparations for Summer Camp. We look forward to planning a fun and exciting camp!

Remember, the speed limit in our parking lots is 5 MPH. Please drive with caution and be aware of children exiting school buses and our center vehicles. Also note, the separate entrance and exit driveways. Cars are not permitted to be left running in our parking lots!

All parents must have a key fob to enter the building, along with a white identification card for classroom pick-up.



## What's Happening Around Us...

Submitted by Center Directors

### Independence ~ Donna Kupiecki

Happy February! This new year is flying by! This month we will have special visitors from a local dentist's office to talk about the importance of dental health! Tuesday, February 14 will be our classroom Valentine's Day parties. There will be sign-up sheets in your child's classroom prior to the party! We will be having an open house on Wednesday, February 29 from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The last week of February is Montessori Education Week; this week we talk about Maria Montessori and make special pink tower snacks!!

#### Employee of the Month

Welcome to our staff Ms. Mandy! Mandy came from our Solon school and is currently working in the Montessori classroom. She does a great job working with her group teaching them Spanish, letters, and numbers! Ms Mandy is a great addition to our team. Thanks again Mandy for all of your hard work!

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### Maple Heights ~ Lisa Woodward

February will bring opportunities for our children to see continued changes in the world as we study African American history. We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and concentrate on peace and love. We will host our Kindergarten open house as we enroll for the 2012-2013 school year, and look forward to Kindergarten report cards on February 3, 2012.

#### Employee of the Month

Congratulations Michele Spencer, who celebrated twelve years with Creative Playrooms in January. Michele is a loyal and dedicated employee. She enjoys her time with the infants, holding, rocking, and nurturing them. In Michele's spare time she enjoys shopping and spending time with her family and friends.

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### Parma ~ Gina Branco

This month we will be educating our families about the importance of Montessori Education. We will begin enrolling for our Kindergarten and Montessori programs for the 2012-2013 school year. Please join us during our Montessori Education Week for special theme days and our Montessori and Kindergarten Open House. We will also be celebrating several other special occasions, such as Black History Month, Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day. The children have many fun activities planned for all of these special days.

#### Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Michele Moser, our employee of the month. She has been a Creative Playrooms employee since August 2001. As the center cook, she is a major asset to our program. Ms. Michele understands the importance of preparing healthy food for the children on a daily basis. She takes great pride in knowing all the children and any special dietary needs they may require. Three words the families would use to describe her are friendly, caring, and happy.

### Solon ~ Kathleen Milliken

Will the Groundhog see his shadow? The Solon Pre-Kindergarten children are guessing if spring will come soon. This month is very busy as we celebrate Valentine's Day and talk about feelings and friendship. We will be learning about the Presidents of the United States of America. Our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes will be learning about our "eyes", and the Solon Civic Club will be coming to visit. Please remember to send in a pair of winter clothing for your children. We will begin our spring assessments during this month.

#### Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Sharon Ross; she's been employed at Creative Playrooms since 2005. She worked in our Pre-Kindergarten room and is currently an assistant in our Montessori room. Sharon is a very creative person and is passionate about her work with the children. She always has a great idea for her classroom and is ready to share with others. Sharon is an avid exerciser, enjoys walking, and likes to travel.

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### Strongsville ~ Debbie Pack

It's hard to believe the month of January is already behind us. February is packed with a wealth of learning for the children. They will be learning about Buckeye Chuck, as we celebrate Groundhog's Day on February 2. Will this furry little guy see his shadow and bring us six more weeks of winter? Next they will delve into the topic of Presidents Day, and all the important events of our fore fathers that helped mold our country into what it is today. On February 14, the children will enjoy a lot of delicious treats as they celebrate Valentine's Day. Please remember if your child is passing out Valentine's, they should have one for every child in their classroom.

#### Employee of the Month

Congratulations James Lukco! James has been with Strongsville Montessori since November 2011. As a Driver, he has one of the most important jobs for our program. James enjoys driving the children to and from school. He gets to hear all about the children's day at school. In his spare time, James enjoys spending time with his wife and family.

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### Westlake ~ Susan Frazier

Thank you to all our parents who completed their children's enrollment forms in such a timely manner!

What is so good about February? Chinese New Year, Groundhog's Day, Presidents Day, Valentines Day, and Montessori Education Week! We have lots of reasons to celebrate this cold and snowy month; there's always a lot going on in our classes.

Be sure to visit our Montessori and Kindergarten Open Houses on Tuesday, February 28th, at 6:30pm. Learn more about the programs and meet the teachers.

#### Employee of the Month

This month we feature Katie McConnon. Miss Katie has been an assistant teacher in the Kindergarten class, summer camp teacher, and is currently an assistant in the Montessori program. She is the proud mother of two year old Liam, and is expecting her second child this spring. Miss Katie brings a lot of energy to her work in the classroom, and we are delighted to recognize her as February's Employee of the Month!

# February Curriculum Ideas & Classroom Themes

**Infant Info - Themes:** Valentine's Day, Animals, Happy/Sad

**Sensory:** Mirror Play, Cool Whip Fun, Smell Pumpkin, Textures  
**Gross Motor:** Dancing, Stretching, Jump, Basketball, Crawling  
**Fine Motor:** Stacking, Cheerio Art, Rough, Finger Paint  
**Audio/Visual:** Pat-a-Cake, Beat the Drum, Puppet Play, Stories



**Jr. Toddler Tidbits - Themes:** Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Healthy Teeth



**Practical Life:** Wash your Hands, Dress Up, Dress Boards, Dust the Furniture  
**Gross Motor:** Parachute, Car Mat, Bowling, Large Mats, Tunnel Time  
**Language:** Letters K & L, Number 6, Triangle, Color Purple  
**Science:** Animals, Magnets, Heart Match, Color Sort, Little People  
**Art:** Water Colors, Painting, Eye Color, Paper People

**Sr. Toddlers/Preschool Posting - Themes:** Teeth Tips, In the Mail, Teddy Bear Games

**Science:** Sweet Messages, Jam Berry Snack, Heart Science  
**Language Art:** Letters Q & R, Numbers 13 & 14, Mail, Seuss Central  
**Practical Life:** Teddy Bear Days, Positively Postal, Post Office  
**Gross Motor:** Balloon Balls, Hopscotch Game, Eye Spy



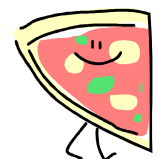
**Pre-K Publication - Themes:** Celebrations, Mixed Up Crazy, Rainbow, The World's a Color



**Language Arts:** Letters U, V, W, X, & Y Numbers 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25  
**Science:** Wave Bottles, It's a Storm, Water & Ice, Snack Baskets  
**Music/Movement:** Birds are Flying, Mother May I, Five Little Monkeys, Around the World  
**Art:** Shaving Faces, Great Grapes, Slimy Faces, Decorate the Teacher, Ticky Toe Painting

**Before & After School Social Corner - Themes:** Toy Story 1, 2, 3

**Backyard Science:** Sandbox Dig, Potato People, Woodies Sheriff Badge, Buzz Rocket Globes  
**Cooking:** Pizza Faces, Rice Krispie Kritters, Friendship Salad, Alien Cupcakes  
**Games Galore:** Flying Monkeys, Dominos, Limbo  
**Art:** Sand Art, Create a Cowboy Vest, Happy Hands, Bean Bag Penguin, Alien Masks



# MONTESSORI MATTERS

## Independence Center

**Themes:** Dental Health Month, Black History Month, Montessori Education Week, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, and 100 Days of School

February is an extremely busy month. It's a month of red hearts, Valentines and post office envelopes. We will be observing Groundhog Day by making our own weather predictions. The dentist will visit, and we will brush up on the subject of healthy teeth. Montessori Education Week will enhance our knowledge of our "special" classroom materials. All month we will discuss famous Black Americans - inventors to President.



<b>Sensorial:</b>	Matching Valentine Cutouts
<b>Geography:</b>	Continent of Africa
<b>Language:</b>	Following Directions
<b>Math:</b>	Everything "100", Counting Candy Hearts
<b>Practical Life:</b>	Cleaning Tables, Community Helper-Mailman
<b>Science:</b>	Shadows & Light, Heart Health
<b>Art:</b>	Valentine Boxes & Valentines, Groundhog pop-ups



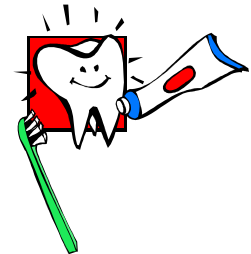
## Parma Center

**Themes:** Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, the Post Office, Dental Health

February is a time for giving Valentines and showing pride for the red, white, and blue. The class will be celebrating President's Day through songs and poems. We are hoping the groundhog doesn't see his shadow and that spring is right around the corner! We will be having a Valentine's Day party. Please have your children only sign their names to their Valentine cards. As always, we encourage the parents to join the fun!



<b>Sensorial:</b>	Weight Cylinders
<b>Geography:</b>	World Landmarks
<b>Language:</b>	Sh, Th, Ch
<b>Math:</b>	Penny/Dime Lesson
<b>Practical Life:</b>	Napkin/Mat Rolling
<b>Science:</b>	Food Groups
<b>Art:</b>	Tissue Paper Heart Collage



# MONTESSORI MATTERS

## Solon Center

**Themes:** Winter Treats, Groundhog Day, Post Office & Mail Delivery, Hearts & Valentines, The Dentist, Montessori Education Week

This month we will be learning about mail and how it is delivered, as well as Dental Health. We will be celebrating and learning about Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day. Please join us the last week of the month for our Montessori Education Week.



<b>Sensorial:</b>	Nesting Dolls, Geo Board
<b>Geography:</b>	Europe, Flags
<b>Language:</b>	Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Write a Letter to our Families
<b>Math:</b>	18, 19, 20, 1, 2, Counting Teeth
<b>Practical Life:</b>	Role Play: Letter Carrier, Dentist
<b>Science:</b>	Reptiles, Life Cycles



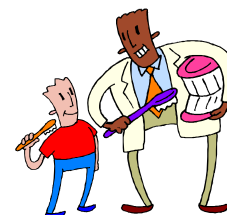
## Strongsville Center

**Themes:** Valentine's Day, Reptiles, Dental Health, Our Favorite Season

February is jam packed with learning and activities related to Valentine's Day and President's Day. The Montessori children are certainly busy workers. It's fun to watch them grow up. Our Valentine's Day party will be held on the 14th. Please bring in store bought treats with the ingredient label attached. Help your child write their name on the back of their Valentine cards.



<b>Sensorial:</b>	Long Stairs (Red Rods), Color Box 1, 2 & 3
<b>Geography:</b>	Puzzle Maps, Geography Folders & Flags
<b>Language:</b>	Letters & Their Sounds, Movable Alphabet
<b>Math:</b>	Tens Board & Hundred Board
<b>Practical Life:</b>	Walking on the Line
<b>Science:</b>	Heat, Light, & Health



## Westlake Center

**Themes:** Valentine's Day, Our U.S.A. Presidents, Reptiles, Black History & Dental Health

This month is very exciting because we celebrate Montessori Education! In addition to the above themes we will learn all about Maria Montessori and celebrate with fun activities all week including a parent breakfast and open house! In Science we're going to make our own toothpaste. New works will continue to be introduced in language using our pink material and P, Q, R objects. Be sure to check out our Valentine's Day art.



<b>Sensorial:</b>	Heart Stair/Heart Size Gradation
<b>Geography:</b>	Europe, Play dough Continent
<b>Language:</b>	Letter P, Q, R, Vowel Sort
<b>Math:</b>	Coin Value, Coin Rubbings, Long Chains
<b>Practical Life:</b>	Polishing Pennies
<b>Science:</b>	Parts of the Turtle
<b>Art:</b>	Hole Punch Hearts, President Silhouettes, Valentines



# KINDERGARTEN KORNER

## Maple Heights Center ~ Ms. Elyse Cox

**Themes:** Groundhog Day, 100th Day of School, President's Day, Valentine's Day and Dental Health

Math is going to be busy this month. We start off comparing numbers, length, weights, capacities, areas, and temperatures. In Language, we will take a look at the letters Tt, Kk, Cc, Ff, and Rr, as well as short a, i, and o. We will be learning about our Earth in Science. Social Studies will truly be exciting as we celebrate our 100th day of Kindergarten.

**Math:** Money, Numbers Beyond 20, Measurements  
**Language:** Letters Tt, Kk, Cc, Ff, & Rr, Short a, i, o  
**Science:** Earth: Land, Water, Resources, Recycle, Exploring Weather  
**Social Studies:** 100th Day of Kindergarten, Our Presidents



## Parma Center ~ Mrs. Nicole Tokar

**Themes:** Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, 100th Day of School, Dental Health

February, a month full of friendship, love, special greetings, hearts, and chocolate. The kindergartners are celebrating their 100th day of school on February 3rd! They will be doing many activities to explore 100. Please watch for the list of activities for the children to participate in. In Math, we will be working on numbers beyond 20. The children will also be given their own personal clocks to explore time.



**Math:** Time  
**Language:** Sentence Structure  
**Science:** Health & Nutrition  
**Social Studies:** U.S. Presidents

## Solon Center ~ Mrs. Sarah Kelley

**Themes:** Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Dental Health, Dr. Seuss Read Across America Week, 100th Day of Kindergarten



February 3rd, report cards will be sent home. We will have parent volunteers reading to us the week of 2/27 to 3/2. On February 20th the center will be open, but there will be no Kindergarten class due to President's Day. Our Valentine's Day party will be on February 14th.

**Math:** Use Numbers Beyond 20, Value of Coins, Telling Time  
**Language:** Letters L, P, & U, Developmental Spelling, Blending Letters  
**Social Studies:** Economics: Wants vs. Needs  
**Science:** Our Earth, Land Forms, Recycling, Bodies of Water, Soil, Rocks

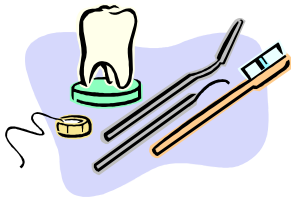


# KINDERGARTEN KORNER

## Strongsville Center ~ Mrs. Sue Kemp

**Themes:** Groundhog Day, 100th Day of Kindergarten, President's Day, Dental Hygiene

February is a time to celebrate friendship and love. We will be celebrating our 100th day of Kindergarten this month. As the day gets closer look for a special note coming home for details. We will begin to work on word families, as well as syllable sounds. We look forward to a visit from the dentist early this month. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, February 3rd.



**Math:**

**Language:**

**Social Studies:**

**Science:**

Measurements, Numbers Beyond 20

Letters S, T, U, V, Word Families

Dentist, Presidents, Black History

Shadows



## Westlake Center ~ Mrs. Emily Harter

**Themes:** Hearts, Presidents, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Healthy Teeth

February brings a month full of fun for the Kindergarteners. We are very excited for the fun celebrations this month brings: Valentine's Day and Presidents Day. Our classroom Valentine's Day party will be held on the 14th. We'll be working on punctuation, objectives, and verbs in reading this month.

**Math:**

**Language:**

**Social Studies:**

**Science:**

Measurements, Telling Time

Diagraphs, Punctuation, Guided Reading

Presidents, U.S. Government

Dental Health



## Pool News ~ Parma

(A different center is highlighted each month)

This month we'll be learning about "Safety by the Pool". We will be working with life jackets, getting help and the reaching assistant.



The older children will be working on their huddle and helping positions, and trading arms. The School Age children will be working on team skills, such as basketball, volleyball, and teaming up to play ring hunt.



## Employee Spotlight Lynn Hudak

Congratulations to Ms. Lynn Hudak! Ms. Lynn has been a Creative Playrooms employee since February 2004. As the Pre-K Supervisor, she is a major asset to our program. Ms. Lynn understands the importance of being a care giver and does everything necessary to make her classroom safe while teaching the children kindergarten readiness skills, as well as entertained with fun games, crafts, and cooking projects.



# ~~HAPPY BIRTHDAY~~

MAY TODAY BE AS EXTRAORDINARY AS YOU!

# ~~HAPPY ANNIVERSARY~~



SHARING THE JOYS THAT BLOSSOM EACH YEAR IN YOUR DEVOTION  
TO CREATIVE PLAYROOMS MONTESSORI & CHILD CARE CENTERS!

## FEBRUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### CORPORATE

NONE

NONE

#### INDEPENDENCE

Debbie Miadech 02/16

NONE

#### MAPLE HEIGHTS

Elyse Cox 02/11  
Marquetta Pruitt 02/05

Victoria Johnson 7 Yrs.  
Michael Powers 1 Yr.

#### PARMA

Carey Baskiewicz 02/27  
Laura Rinaldo 02/08  
Tracy Weldon 02/19  
Jessie Wentz 02/07

Lynn Hudak 8 Yrs.  
Nicole Tokar 4 Yrs.

#### OLON

Linda Kubica 02/28  
Ileen Mercurio 02/25  
Sarah Ulisse 02/26

Rachel Brown 6 Yrs.

#### STRONGSVILLE

James Lukco 02/27  
Katherine Menoes 02/21

Tim Grant 8 Yrs.  
Sue Kemp 24 Yrs.  
Kathleen Walker 1 Yr.

#### WESTLAKE

Emily Harter 02/11  
Jillian Williams 02/01

Krystal Eisnicher 4 Yrs.  
Kallen Kaminowski 1 Yr.