

CREATIVELY SPEAKING

Loving, Nurturing & Educating Children Since 1968

January 2012

CREATIVE PLAYROOMS

Vol. 1



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- January 1:** New Years Day
- January 2:** New Years Observance (Centers closed)
- January 3:** Kindergarten Classes Resume
- January 16:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 18:** Montessori Parent Meeting (6:30-7:30pm)
- January 23:** Chinese New Year Begins

Creative Playrooms Montessori Schools & Child Care Centers

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From the Regional Director's Desk ~ Debbie Pack

Happy New Year! With half of the school year behind us, it is time to focus our efforts on the remainder of the school year. The directors and teachers will work together to ensure we are providing the best program possible and helping the children to be successful. Don't forget to check your center for the extra curricular programs offered in addition to our daily curriculum and activities.

Watch for upcoming information regarding our Kindergarten Open House next month!

Special thanks to Joan Wenk for the ongoing upgrades and purchases for the centers. Your continual improvements help keep Creative Playrooms the best in child care!

- Please observe the 5MPH speed limit in our parking lots and use caution during snowy weather. Also, be sure to enter/exit using the appropriate driveways.
- As the weather gets colder, please do not leave your cars running in the parking lots. Also, hold your child's hand as you cross the parking lot.
- Reminder: Personal cell phones are not permitted in our centers.

What's Happening Around Us...

Submitted by Center Directors

Independence ~ Donna Kupiecki

Happy New Years to all our friends and families! We will be celebrating Frosty the Snowman's birthday on January 8, 2012. The children will be creating special art and doing fun cooking projects that day. There are many games and activities planned.

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Jessica Vunovich! Miss Jess has been back with Independence Montessori for almost a year. She enjoys working with the Toddlers. She is always willing to help decorate the lobby and both Infant classrooms for the seasons and the holidays. Jess always has a positive attitude and is a team player, not only in the Toddler classroom, but throughout the entire center. Three words families would use to describe her are caring, outgoing, and personable. Thank you, Miss Jess - your hard work, dedication and commitment are always greatly appreciated.

Maple Heights ~ Lisa Woodward

January brings a new year and a focus on how to better ourselves and bring peace into our world and our community. January will bring learning about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he worked diligently for civil rights and made positive progress for the civil rights movement. This month will be a time to carry over the peace we learned about in December and make our lives and others lives more peaceful.

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Lakisha Humphrey. Lakisha will celebrate five years with Creative Playrooms this month. She does a wonderful job with the curriculum and works diligently on making special art activities in the classroom, as well as keeping up with her beautiful classroom bulletin boards. Thank you, Lakisha for your hard work and dedication to Creative Playrooms.

Parma ~ Gina Kraus

Happy New Year! Our Montessori class will be celebrating Chinese New Year by creating lanterns, dragons, and learning a few words in Chinese. We will also be celebrating Frosty's birthday! There will be special art projects, cooking, and science, too.

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Katie Wheelis, our employee of the month. Ms. Katie has been a Creative Playrooms employee since November 2009. As a Bus Driver and After School teacher, she is a major asset to our program. Ms. Katie understands the importance of being a care giver and does everything necessary to make her bus safe while taking the children to and from school, field trips, and keeping the oldest group of children entertained in the evening with fun games, crafts, and cooking projects. Three words the families would use to describe her are friendly, caring, and happy.

Solon ~ Kathleen Milliken

January brings Happy New Year wishes! This month the center will be learning about the Lunar New Year. Our classrooms will be creating winter snow scenes and displaying them in our art room. Please be sure to drive 5mph in the parking lot. They get slick in the winter and we want to avoid any accidents. Please remember that cars are not to be running in the parking lot and children should **never** be left unattended in the car. Thank you to all the families for their generous gifts to the giving tree and food drive. Remember we do go outside daily, weather permitting. Pack your children's outdoor clothing for winter play.

Employee of the Month

Thank you to Sarah Kelley. This is Sarah's third year as our Kindergarten teacher. Sarah's commitment and dedication to the classroom make an excellent learning environment for the children. Both children and parents genuinely enjoy Sarah. She is currently working on her Master's Degree. Sarah has been married for over a year and enjoys decorating her home and traveling to see friends and family in her spare time.

Strongsville ~ Dawn Holbrook

Welcome to 2012! The winter programs were a huge success. Everyone sang their little hearts out. I would like to thank our teachers for their dedication and hard work this past year. They are the backbone and heart of this school.

As the snow falls, please be mindful of the 5 MPH speed limit in the parking lot. Use caution and hold your child's hand when walking to and from the building.

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Sharon Innocenzi! Sharon has been with Strongsville Montessori since December 2001. She is the Preschool Supervisor and a teacher of many, including new staff. Sharon says she loves teaching because she is a kid at heart. She creates a fun learning environment by adding entertainment to education. Three words the families would use to describe Sharon are silly, energetic, and very patient.

Westlake ~ Susan Frazier

Welcome to 2012! We hope everyone had a safe holiday season, enjoyed some quality time off with family and friends, and is ready for a fun year at Westlake Montessori & Child Care Center. This is the month we update each child's Emergency Transportation Authorization forms. We have new forms to complete this year. They will then be put in your child's file the week of January 9th. Everyone who returns their form before Wednesday, January 18th will have their name entered into a drawing to win a \$25 tuition credit prize! Remember each child must have a current, valid medical form on file to be in attendance at the center. This is a state rule we must follow. Be sure to keep your child's file current.

Employee of the Month

We begin 2012 by recognizing the fantastic work Samantha Skvarek has done at Westlake Montessori since she started here 18 months ago. Miss Sam brought her high energy performance to the Pre-K room last November and led the children in their winter holiday program. She trains to run in marathons and attends school to fulfill her goal of becoming a nurse. Congratulations Miss Sam!

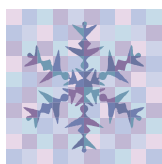
January Curriculum Ideas & Classroom Themes

Infant Info - Themes: Cold, Snow, Bubbles

Sensory:	Mirror Play, Pudding Fun, Puppets, Hard/Soft, Fuzzy
Gross Motor:	Kick the Ball, Crawling, Stacking Blocks, Bowling, Rolling the Ball
Fine Motor:	Puzzles, Cheerio Pick-Up, Color the Circle, Tissue Toss
Audio/Visual:	Beat the Drum, Body Awareness, Clapping, Animal Sounds



Jr. Toddler Tidbits - Themes: 2012, Snowflakes, Artic Friends



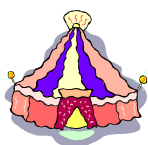
Practical Life:	Restaurant, Shovel the Snow, Wash Hands, Fold the Blankie, Sweeping
Gross Motor:	March, Bowl, Ball Pit, Parachute, Color Hop, Tunnel Time
Language:	Letter I & J, Number 5, Blue Diamonds
Science:	Bug Stackers, Memory Search, Magnets, Sensory Bottles
Art:	Water Colors, Glitter Snowflakes, Footprint Penguin, Dragon Kite

Sr. Toddlers/Preschool Posting - Themes: Snowflakes /Icicles, Wheeling About, Once Upon a Time

Art:	Wheel Painting, Snow Drip, Castle in the Sky,
Science:	Melting Snow, Water Colors, Snowflake Patterns
Cooking:	Graham Cracker Cars, Stop Light, What is a Snowflake?
Language art:	Letter Review, Counting, Matching the Mittens
Practical Life:	Mechanic, Princesses, Snowplower, Set the Table
Manipulatives:	Connectors, Building Towers, Lincoln Logs



Pre-K Publication - Themes: Brr! It's Cold, In a People House, At the Zoo, Big Top, Special Day Celebrations



Language Arts:	Letters P, Q, R, & S, Number Practice, Beginning Rhyming
Science:	Animal Cookies, Popcorn Balls, Melting Snow, Sink & Float
Music/Movement:	Yoga, Winter Pokey, Frosty Celebration
Art:	At the Big Top, Animal Dotter, My Family, Snow Paint, Snowman Decorations

Before & After School Social Corner - Themes: Alice in Wonderland - Disney

Backyard Science:	Snow Melt, Magic Stones, Rabbit Hole Hunt, Lunar Celebration
Cooking:	Tea Test, Un-Birthday Cakes
Games Galore:	Card Houses, Through the Looking Glass, Un-Birthday Party Games
Art:	Cat Print Painting, Clay Tea Cups, Party Hats, Tye-Dye Paint



MONTESSORI MATTERS

Independence Center

Themes: Martin Luther King, Jr., Arctic and Antarctic, Chinese New Year

This month we will share books we might have received for holiday presents. Arctic animals with fun facts will expand our study of Antarctic. Chinese tasting and red lanterns will help us celebrate Chinese New Year. Martin Luther King, Jr. will inspire discussions on freedom and peaceful equality.



Sensorial:	Ice and Temperature
Geography:	North and South Poles
Language:	Eskimos, New Letters, Thank You Letters
Math:	Counting Penguins, Whole & Half
Practical Life:	Chinese Tasting, Chop Sticks
Science:	Arctic Animals, Chinese Zodiac
Art:	Penguins, Eskimo (Totem Pole), Chinese Lanterns



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Parma Center

Themes: Chinese New Years, Lanterns, Dragons and Chinese Heritage

The children are continuously asking questions, as well as challenging themselves. It seems as if they cannot absorb enough information to satisfy their growing curiosity. Hands on activities in our Montessori classroom invite the children to explore their natural curiosities and discover the connection between learned concepts and the world around them. The process of discovering these connections provide opportunities for the children to create their own learning. This is extremely important for building their understanding of their world.



Sensorial:	Polygon Tray
Geography:	China
Language:	Homonyms
Math:	Ordinal Numbers
Practical Life:	Soap Grating
Science:	Water Displacement
Art:	Penguins/Snowflakes



MONTESSORI MATTERS

Solon Center

Themes: Cold Weather Animals, Music, Martin Luther King, Jr., Chinese New Years

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2012! We are looking forward to a fun-filled learning year. This month we will be learning about cold weather animals, Martin Luther King, Jr., and winter treats to name a few things. Please keep checking the new News Board and your child's cubbie for important information.



Sensorial:	Hexagonal Box, Pattern Play
Geography:	Winter, Landforms
Language:	Writing, Opposites, Letters Nn, Oo, Pp, Qq, & Rr
Math:	Dot Game, Addition Strip Board, Numbers 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18
Practical Life:	Tying Shoes, How to Clean a Placemat
Science:	Fish, Parts of a Seed
Art:	Chinese Lanterns, Friendship Pins, Dr. King Coloring Book



Strongsville Center

Themes: Let it Snow, Winter Animals, Winter Activities, Happy New Year

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. This month we will be learning about winter animals and where they live. We will be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.



Sensorial:	Letters & Numbers in Sand
Geography:	Maps
Language:	Sounds of Letters
Math:	Counting Items
Practical Life:	Table Setting
Science:	Magnets
Art:	Paper Mosaics



Westlake Center

Themes: Antarctica, Winter Animals, Fish and Snow

Happy New Year! This month the class will travel to Antarctica. We will talk about winter animals and learn all about fish. In Math we will continue our basic works as we add more challenging works with place value and our bead material. In Language we will work with object boxes, M, N, and O, and continue with rhyming and story sequencing. The students will discuss MLK, Jr., read books, and make a project focusing on peace and understanding differences. We will have a parent meeting on January 18th; 6:30pm - Language.



Sensorial:	Hot/Cold
Geography:	Antarctica
Language:	Letters M, N, & O
Math:	Place Value
Practical Life:	Mitten Match
Science:	Parts of a Fish



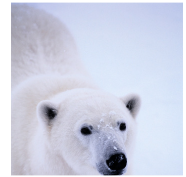
KINDERGARTEN KORNER

Maple Heights Center ~ Ms. Elyse Cox

Themes: Penguins, Snow & Polar Bears, Martin Luther King, Jr./Obama, Healthy Bodies

Wow, can't believe that it's already 2012! January is sure to be an exciting month. In Math, our class will be learning to count and order numbers to 20. In Language, we will continue to learn our sight words, with emphasis on the words you, are, and my. We will also begin to relate pictures to our words. In Science we'll be learning about people and animals.

Math: Numbers 6 to 20, Comparing Measurements
Language: Letters Cc, Tt, Oo & The Words You, Are, & My
Science: Animals, Our Earth
Social Studies: Goods/Services, Buyers/Sellers, Martin Luther King, Jr.



Parma Center ~ Mrs. Nicole Tokar

Themes: Snowmen, Penguins, Martin Luther King, Jr., Our Amazing Bodies

January...a time of snowflakes, snowmen, hot chocolate, and sled riding. Happy New Year from the Kindergarten room! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Classes resume on January 3, 2012. We will be learning about measurements in Math and cold weather animals in Science. We will be talking about Martin Luther King, Jr. in Social Studies.



Math: Comparing Measurements
Language: Word Families & Sentence Structure
Science: Life Science
Social Studies: Black History & MLK, Jr.

Solon Center ~ Mrs. Sarah Kelley

Themes: Penguins, MLK, Jr., Snow & Polar Bears, Healthy Bodies



Please remember these special dates for our Kindergarten class - January 3 - classes resume after winter break; January 6th and 13th - our class will be taking a field trip to the library; and on January 16th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - there will be no class, however the center will be open for child care.

Math: Penny, Nickel & Dime Unit, Use Numbers to 20, Measurements
Language: Letters O, F, R, P, Determining Fantasy or Reality in Literature
Social Studies: MLK, Jr., Chinese New Year, Learning Our Home Address
Science: Continue Physical Science Unit (Water Study), Healthy Bodies, Begin "Moving Right Along" Unit: Wheels, Gravity, Magnets

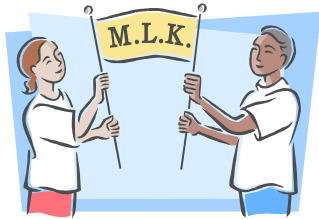


KINDERGARTEN KORNER

Strongsville Center ~ Mrs. Sue Kemp

Themes: New Years, Penguins, Martin Luther King, Jr., Snow, Polar Bears

Happy 2012! We are excited to start a new year full of education and fun. This month the children will start reading simple sentences and clapping out syllables. Please continue to work on sight words and read with your children at home.



Math:
Language:
Social Studies:
Science:

Measurements
Letters O, P, & Q
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Winter Animals



Westlake Center ~ Mrs. Emily Harter

Themes: Snow, Penguins, Winter

Happy New Year to all! I hope you had a safe and restful holiday. This month in Kindergarten, we can't wait to ring in 2012. We will be learning all about diagraphs and punctuation in language. Our focus in math will be writing numbers and measurements.

January is sure to be a wonderful and fun-filled month.

Math: Numbers, Measurements, Money
Language: Diagraphs and Punctuation
Social Studies: Continents, Geography
Science: The Water Cycle



Pool News ~ Westlake

(A different center is highlighted each month)

It's great to be in a heated pool in January - no Polar Swim for us!



This month our newer students will be working with bobs, bubbles, and floats while our more experienced swimmers review floats, kicks, and the crawl stroke.



Employee Spotlight Robert (Tim) Grant

Mr. Tim has been employed by Strongsville Montessori & Child Care Center since February of 2004. He is our lead bus driver. Tim fills a vital role in our company. He enjoys taking the children to school and hearing about their day when he picks them up.

In Mr. Tim's spare time, he likes to rebuild old cars and take his "Hot Rod" to car shows.



~~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!

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

CORPORATE

Bill Spreitzer 01/20

Bobby Hyrb 9 Yrs.
Tina Merolla 11 Yrs.

INDEPENDENCE

Susan Stoika 01/08

Donna Kupiecki 21 Yrs.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

Carolyn Qadir 01/11

Lakisha Humphrey 5 Yrs.
Michelle Spencer 12 Yrs.

PARMA

Delores Byrd 01/02
Terria Hines 01/23
Joe Wasen 01/23

Delores Byrd 7 Yrs.
Tiffany Urbach 5 Yrs.

OLON

NONE

Sue Preston 9 Yrs.
Trina Wilson 1 Yr.

STRONGSVILLE

Diane Hamulak 01/22
Dawn Holbrook 01/29
Jennifer Keck 01/25
Kandice Yatsko 01/13

NONE

WESTLAKE

Nicole Shank 01/23

NONE