

The Play Schools

February 2016 Newsletter

**Hours of
Operation:**
6:30a-6:00p M-F

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Upcoming Events!

- ◆ We will be **CLOSED** on Monday, February 15th for our annual Staff Development Day!
- ◆ Friendship parties: Friday, February 12th from 3:00-4:00pm.
- ◆ February's Community Calendar is focusing on local veteran support!



Happy
Valentines

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Our school is blessed,
Because of YOU!

PATHS TO QUALITY

Last month all of The Play Schools were visited by an official rater of the Indiana Paths to QUALITY program. This is a voluntary quality rating system that requires licensed childcare providers in our state to go above and beyond the minimum state licensing requirements in an effort to provide the highest quality of care to children in Indiana.

We are so proud to announce that our Stoney Creek, Saxony Village, and Arbor Village locations passed these visits with flying colors and have achieved a Level 3 designation! Arbor Village, Saxony Village, and Stoney Creek all were recertified at Level 3 while Legacy received its first Level 3 certification. We wish to publically congratulate and thank each and every one of our staff; from our teachers to our cooks, to our maintenance staff, our Directors, and our administrators. We could not have achieved this wonderful accomplishment without every single staff member pitching in!

We happily received a \$1,000.00 bonus at each Play School site that we spent directly on educational materials for the classrooms. We have been enjoying those deliveries over the past couple of weeks! Take a look around. You have probably seen some of these new additions in our classrooms!

We are so glad each and every one of you is a part of The Play School family. We hope you share in our pride that your children attend Level 3 Paths to QUALITY schools!



To learn more about the Paths to QUALITY program, you can find out more at:

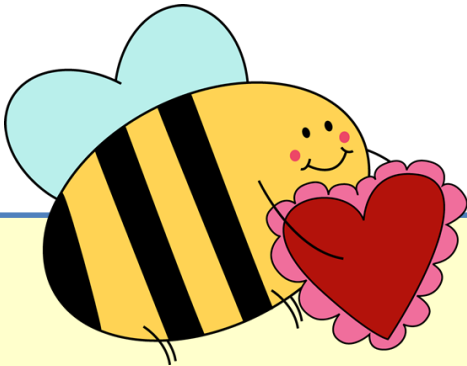
<http://www.in.gov/fssa/2554.htm#>

Housekeeping Items

FRIENDSHIP PARTIES

Our annual Friendship parties will be held in-class on Friday, February 12th from 3:00-4:00pm. While donations are never required, we are always grateful for any ways you consider participating in the fun! If you feel so inclined, sign-up sheets have been posted on your child's classroom door for ways parents can help enhance the parties!

For privacy reasons we **DO NOT** send home class lists. Please simply write "From (your child's name)" on your child's Valentines to his or her friends. It is not necessary to address them individually. Many thanks for any donations you consider making!



THE PLAY SCHOOL 2016 CLOSURES

Please mark your calendars for the following 2016 Play School closures:

*Monday, February 15th, 2016 ~ Staff Professional Development Day /

President's Day 2016

*Monday, May 30th, 2016 ~ Memorial Day 2016

*Monday, July 4th, 2016 ~ Independence Day 2016

*Friday, September 2nd, 2016 ~ Staff Professional Development Day

*Monday, September 5th, 2016 ~ Labor Day 2016

*Thursday, November 24th, 2016 ~ Thanksgiving Day 2016

*Friday, November 25th, 2016 ~ Friday after Thanksgiving 2016

*Monday, December 26th, 2016 ~ In Observance of Christmas Day 2016

*Monday, January 1st, 2017 ~ In Observance of New Year's Day 2017



(All tuition remains the same)

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Let's get reading! Go to Scholastic.com, find "The Reading Club" under the parent link, create an account, and happy reading! Here are your school codes you will enter:

Arbor Village: P4WBB

Saxony Village: L6Z9Y

Stoney Creek: DY6D4

Legacy: NZWYC

**Please make sure you are only ordering under your *Director's name* and NOT a teacher in the school. Thanks in advance for your orders as it helps our schools' libraries grow!



Housekeeping Items (continued)

HSE / NOBLESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURES

**Hamilton Southeastern*: Half Day/Early Release - February 12^h & President's Day/NO School - February 15th

**Noblesville*: Early Release Days - February 3rd and 17th & President's Day/NO School - February 15th

**Carmel Clay*: President's Day/NO School- February 15th



VACATION TIME

Don't forget that each child receives two "tuition free vacation weeks" to use throughout The Play School's calendar year, which for us runs from August to August. These are designed to act as a credit on your account while your child is out of school enjoying family time or experiencing an unfortunate extended illness. A vacation week must be used in one week's time, Monday through Friday, as split weeks are not allowed. Any unused vacation weeks do not roll over to the next year and cannot be used toward a two week withdraw notice from our schools. Please stop by your center director's desk and fill out a vacation slip in advance if you would like to use one of your child's weeks.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It is The Play School's policy to remain open during winter weather. We do NOT close when the local elementary schools close. We will close if local government officials deem the roads too unsafe to travel which is typically stated as a RED travel advisory for the county. This winter we will notify parents and faculty of The Play School's decision to close if that situation arises through:

- PreciouStatus
- Our Facebook Fan Page (The Play School)
- WTHR Channel 13

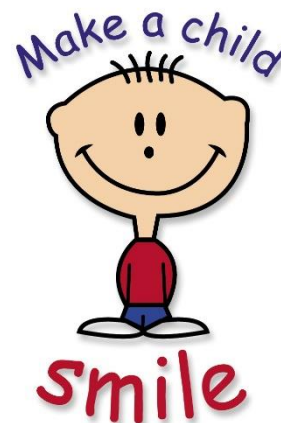


BABIES AND BEYOND

If you are getting ready to do some spring cleaning we are desperately in need of some everyday items for two Play School children in need that we are sponsoring.

Immediate Items Needed:

- Bath Towels
- Serving Bowls
- Blankets
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Hygiene/Paper products
- Spring/Summer clothing for a girl size 6 and for a boy size 6



Any donations you make can be dropped off to your Center Director and we will get these clothes and necessities to good use right away. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



We're on the Web!
Theplayschools.com

Be sure to 'like'
The Play School
on Facebook!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February's Community Calendar

Dear Parents,

In the month of February our ongoing community outreach project will focus on supporting our local veterans. This year we will again partner with Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF) of Indianapolis. At HVAF of Indiana, they help homeless veterans return to self-sufficiency and engage at risk veterans to prevent them from becoming homeless by providing supportive housing, case management, food, hygiene and clothing as well as other essential services.

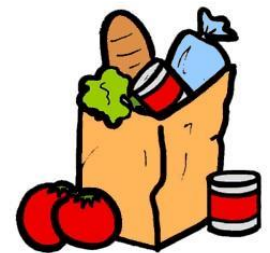
We will have donation boxes located in the front entryway at each school in the month of February. Any monetary donations can be dropped off directly to your Center Director and will be 100% matched by The Play School. To learn more about Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indianapolis, please check them out on the web at <http://www.hvafofindiana.org>. Thank you for helping us to support this deserving cause! Who better to help than our veterans who so selflessly fought for our freedom!

We need your help with the following donations:

- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Crackers
- Manual can openers
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Canned fruit and soups
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Men's boxers and briefs (all sizes)
- Men's undershirts (all sizes)
- Bath towels
- Pillows
- Wash cloths
- Bus passes
- Calling cards
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos
- Shaving cream
- Razors
- Deodorant



dreamstime.com



4 Kidz Only Club Information

We are proud to host the 4 Kidz Only Club each summer! This classroom is for children 5 and older who will be attending elementary school in August of the coming school year (Kindergarten and older). We run this classroom as a camp-like environment. Each program is well staffed with degreed, experienced, and responsible teachers who understand the awesome responsibility involved in taking groups of children off campus for fun and engaging field trips. We are excited to have our PreciouStatus app to communicate with parents and send pictures of our field trips in action throughout the day. The children will also partake in journaling the highlights of their most favorite field trips in Summer 2016 diaries.

Every summer we fill up quickly with returning families whose school-agers love our summer club! School-age children tend to get bored easily with the lazy days of summer and we have found the secret to keeping them happy, safe, and active during the summer months of no school! Our 4 Kidz Only Club schedules 3-4 field trips per week and we stay back at school on most Fridays for board games, cooking units, art & crafts, and other theme-related activities.

Registration forms were sent out mid-January. If you need another form, please see your Director for another copy. ***We must have a form returned by parents for all eligible students no later than Friday, March 25th.*** If you plan on withdrawing from The Play School at the end of May, there is a spot to indicate this with your tentative last day at our school (this can be adjusted closer to that time). If you plan on staying on with us for the summer, THANK YOU for trusting us with your special school-ager! The form, along with one week of the summer tuition fee is due into the office by 3/25/2016 to reserve your child's spot in our summer camp. Deposits are non-refundable and will be applied toward your first week of summer camp in June (less field trip fees for that week). Please note that we will remind you several times between now and March 25th. If any family fails to return the form along with the required deposit, we will assume you have made other summer arrangements for your child and care will end May 27th for HSE/ Carmel Clay and June 1st for Noblesville. Any remaining spots in our program will be opened up to the public who are on our waiting list for summer care on Monday, March 28th.

For those families staying on with us for this summer, you will receive your June calendar in mid-May. We provide a detailed monthly calendar in advance so you know exactly what field trip is planned, including location, cost (field trip fees are extra in addition to weekly tuition), school departure/arrival times, and other pertinent information. You are to post this somewhere conspicuous at home so you'll always know where your child will be venturing out to for the day! If any delays, changes, or edits are made to the scheduled field trip plans, you will always be notified with as much advanced notice as possible. Please remember this is our 28th summer of offering well ran, organized, and safe field trips for the children of The Play School. We promise to take very great care of your child both on and off campus this summer!

Field trips this summer will include: art festival in the park, cooking units, Indiana Civic Theatre for children's plays, IMAX educational movie theater trips, playing and picnics at our local parks, splash pads, bounce houses, Chuck-E-Cheese, Conner Prairie, The Children's Museum, the Indianapolis Zoo, Incrediplax, Bowling, Saxony Beach, the Palladium, Indians & Fever games, Concerts at the Park, Putt-Putt Golfing, and more! SIGN UP SOON AS SPOTS ARE LIMITED!



What's Cooking? Our Lunch Menu



- Monday, Feb. 1:** Chicken Tenders, green beans, applesauce, slice of bread, milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 2:** Homemade Turkey Meatloaf, sweet potatoes, berries, dinner roll, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 3:** Homemade Cheese Pizza, steamed carrots, pears, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 4:** Homemade Chicken Pot Pie, mixed veggies, peaches, biscuit, milk
- Friday, Feb. 5:** Chicken Quesadilla, salsa, banana, milk
- Monday, Feb. 8:** Baked Fish Fillet, steamed broccoli, applesauce, bread, milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 9:** Homemade Chicken and Noodles, peas/carrots, pears, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 10:** Breakfast for Lunch, scrambled eggs, turkey bacon, green beans, banana, French toast sticks, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 11:** Homemade Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, salad, fruit cocktail, garlic toast, milk
- Friday, Feb. 12:** Hamburger, mixed veggies, peaches, milk
- Monday, Feb. 15:** **CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**
- Tuesday, Feb. 16:** Chicken Rainbow Rice, spinach/carrots, brown rice, pears, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 17:** Baked Turkey, yams, peaches, buttery noodles, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 18:** Homemade Spaghetti Manicotti, fruit cocktail, tossed salad, garlic toast, milk
- Friday, Feb. 19:** Grilled Turkey and Swiss Cheese Sandwich, banana, green beans, milk
- Monday, Feb. 22:** Chicken Stir Fry, stir fry veggies, brown rice, mandarin oranges, milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 23:** Beef/Bean/Cheese Burrito, corn, applesauce, soft shell tortilla, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 24:** Chicken Alfredo, linguine noodles, broccoli, peaches, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 25:** Soft Chicken Taco, banana, shredded lettuce, banana, milk
- Friday, Feb. 26:** Tuna/Noodle Casserole, pears, peas, milk
- Monday, Feb. 29:** Chicken Tenders, green beans, applesauce, slice of bread, milk

**WG = Whole Grain (where seen above)
 **Whole grains are automatically served for breads, pastas, waffles, crackers, etc.
 **Canned fruits and vegetables are served at a minimum, replaced as much as possible with fresh fruits and vegetables

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER!

As a family owned business we know and understand the importance of having a well-balanced day between work, school, and home. We pride ourselves in being dedicated to our Play School families as a whole and not just during school hours. If you have ever found yourself struggling with winter-time utility bills, a child with behavioral issues, or just wanting to better yourself as a parent below are a few well-known local resources that could be very beneficial to you! If you would like to know more about these resources or need help attaining information please see your center Director and she will gladly help you and your family!

Family and Child Resources

- **Hamilton County First Steps** is a family centered, coordinated system dedicated to providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers 0 – 36 months of age with identified special needs, developmental delays or those medically or biologically at-risk for developmental delays. www.cibaby.com
- **Early Childhood Assessment Team** is a local program designed for children who are almost three years old and need developmental assessment. 317. 984.1653
- **Prevail** is dedicated to serving victims of crime or abuse in Hamilton County. - <http://prevailinc.com/>
- **Third Phase Christian Center** is a shelter for women and children it is also a food pantry/donation center for families in need. http://www.thirdphase.org/Facilities_and_Programs.htm
- **The Hamilton County Health Department** can help eligible families with immunizations. <http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org/>
- **The Children's Bureau** acts as an advocate for all children and families, focusing on those that are at-risk. They provide a full array of community-based prevention and intervention services and work in partnership with the Department of Child Services and other community organizations statewide. www.childrensbureau.org

Community Resources

- **Good Samaritan Network** is a program designed to help at-risk or underserved families in Hamilton County. GSN's direct services involve emergency or crisis intervention for: housing and utility assistance, food insecurities, car repairs, medical and prescription assistance, as well as educational opportunities for improving individual independence. Gsnlive.org
- Check your local **Trustees Office** for help with utility bills and for food pantries. <http://noblesvilletownshiptrustee.com/> OR <http://www.claytwp.org/> OR <http://www.fallcreektownshipoffice.com/>
- For Additional help with Utility Bills the **Energy Assistance Trustee** line can be reached by dialing #211 from any phone. Anyone who qualifies cannot have their utilities shut off during the winter months. Also, **Community Action Partnership of Greater Indianapolis**, located in Noblesville and can be reached at 317.773.2221.
- **St. Vincent de Paul of Noblesville** is a local food pantry and thrift store that can assist families in need. <http://svdpnoblesville.org/>



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