

The Play Schools

December 2016 Newsletter

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

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UPCOMING DATES!

* Monday, December 26th CLOSED in observance of Christmas Day

* Monday, January 2nd CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We want to wish all of our Play School families and faculty a very happy holiday season! As we bring 2016 to a close, we want to thank all of you for being a part of our schools and making this a special place to be.

From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~Ms. Rita, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Katie / Owners



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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

HO HO HO...it's that time of year for our annual after-hours, family-friendly celebration!

We will be hosting our annual *Breakfast with Santa* at our schools for our Play School families and staff. All siblings of enrolled Play School children are welcome as well so bring the whole family. There will be games, prizes, arts & crafts, light refreshments, and a picture with Santa Claus. We hope everyone can join us for this celebration!

Santa's Workshops will be held:

- Saxony ~ Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00a-11:00a
- Legacy / Stoney Creek ~ Saturday, December 10th from 9:00a-11:00a
**Both Legacy and Stoney Creek's party held together at The Play School at Legacy (14454 Community Drive, Carmel, 46033)*
- Arbor Village ~ Saturday, December 17th from 9:00a-11:00a



To ensure that we have enough refreshments, games, prizes, and crafts please RSVP to your Director no later than Friday, December 9th. We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

KANS FOR KIDS

We have already collected a lot of canned goods and other non-perishable foods for LOCAL food pantries and families in need during the month of November. We will continue to collect food through the beginning of December. The class with the highest collection average as of December 9th will win a class party in the New Year. Collection boxes are located in the front entryway and marked with each classroom's name so make sure to find your child's specific classroom box. Thank you again for your generous donations and keep them coming!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child was a huge success this year! We were able to send 114 boxes filled with toys, candy, school supplies, personal notes, and hygiene items across the world to less fortunate children. We truly are blessed to be able to bring such joy to a young child who does not always receive a gift around the holidays. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your generosity and kindness this holiday season.



COATS FOR KIDS



We have been collecting coats last month and will to donate them as long as they continue to come in. These were delivered to LOCAL FAMILIES in need and about 50 new and used adult and children's coats have been donated this far!



HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

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. 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



HSE / NOBLESVILLE / CARMEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURES

***Hamilton Southeastern: Winter Break:** Monday, December 19th - Monday, January 2nd

***Noblesville: Winter Break:** Friday, December 23rd - Friday, January 6th

***Carmel Clay: Winter Break:** Monday, December 19th - Monday, January 2nd





HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS (continued)

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!

VACATION POLICY

The Play Schools generously offer our families two weeks of "tuition free vacation time" annually from August to August. You must notify your director of your child(ren)'s absence in advance and it must be a full week at a time (no split weeks). Vacation weeks cannot be used toward your required two week notice if withdrawing from our school. Vacation slips are located in the front entry.

The two weeks of annual vacation time starts over August 2017 for all enrolled children.



THE PLAY SCHOOL 2016/2017 CLOSURES

Please mark your calendars for the following 2016/2017 Play School closures:

- Monday, December 26th, 2016 ~ In observance of Christmas Day
- Monday, January 2nd, 2017 ~ In observance of New Year's Day
- Monday, February 20th, 2017 ~ Staff Professional Development Day
- Monday, May 29th, 2017 ~ In observance of Memorial Day
- Tuesday, July 4th, 2017 ~ In observance of Independence Day
- Friday, September 1st, 2017 ~ Staff Professional Development Day
- Monday, September 4th, 2017 ~ In observance of Labor Day
- Thursday, November 23rd, 2017 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 24th, 2017 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 25th, 2017 ~ In observance of Christmas
- Monday, January 1st, 2018 ~ In observance of New Year's Day

(All tuition remains the same)

WINTER BLAST PARTIES

Our Winter Blast parties will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 3:00 pm!! This is such a fun event for the kids!! All the classrooms from Toddlers to Big Kids will participate!! There will be a sign-up sheet on the classroom doors soon so keep an eye out if you would like to bring something to share. As always, donations are not required, but are appreciated. Thank you all so much for everything you do as parents to support the classrooms!

REFERRAL PROGRAM

There is no bigger compliment than when a family joins The Play School because of your support and kind words about us. For every family that enrolls due to your referral you will receive a \$100.00 tuition credit on your account after the new family's 4th consecutive week with one of our schools. This applies to new families only and must be mentioned at time of enrollment. Thank you again for supporting our schools!

CLASSROOM DONATIONS

Are you doing an end of the year purge at your home or office?

We are ALWAYS looking for donations of:

- Scrap paper
- Sports equipment (balls, bats, Frisbees, cones, bean bags, scarves, etc.!))
- Anything arts and crafts related (popsicle sticks, sequins, buttons, newspapers, magazines)

Thank you in advance for your donations!



NEW AND UPDATED SAFE SLEEP REGULATIONS

Every October we focus our community calendar on SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) which is something that is very near and dear to our hearts as the owners of The Play Schools. The Play School always makes a charitable donation in October to help funding towards research and to help ensure all parents are able to have safe sleeping areas for their infants. This past October the American Academy of Pediatrics released new advice for parents to help protect their newborns from SIDS. We place SIDS prevention as one of the most important aspects of our infant programs here at each of our schools. We would like to share with you the newest findings to ensure you know the safest information for your child while at home.

Important Rules for Infant Care:

- *The infant is always placed to sleep **on their back** on a firm sleep surface such as a safety-approved crib mattress, in a safety-approved crib, porta-crib, or play yard. The infant should **never** be placed to sleep on a sofa, chair, or adult bed.
- *There should be no soft or loose bedding placed underneath the infant; the mattress should fit snugly in the crib and the crib sheet should fit tightly around the mattress.
- *No toys, soft bedding, crib gyms, mobiles, or mirrors should be in or attached to an infant's crib.
- *The infant is kept away from any area where smoking has occurred.
- *When the infant is awake and **being watched by a caregiver**, it is desirable to place him or her on the stomach for "tummy time".
- *If the infant falls asleep on another surface (car seat, swing, carrier) they should be immediately removed and placed in a safety approved crib, porta-crib, or pack and play.
- *Do not swaddle infants using blankets. Swaddling is not recommended in child care. (If you do swaddle infants under 3 months then use a safe swaddler and not a blanket.)
- *The infant is not placed to sleep with a bottle.

In Addition:

Pacifier use: Consider offering a clean dry pacifier when placing the infant down to sleep for naps or at night.

- *The pacifier does not need to be re-inserted if it falls out
- *If infant refuses the pacifier, he or she should not be forced to take it.
- *For breastfed infants, delay pacifier use until 1 month of age to ensure good onset of breastfeeding.
- *The pacifier should not be clipped or attached to the infant or the crib (strangulation hazard).

New Crib Standards:

Beginning July 28, 2011 all cribs manufactured and sold (including resale) must comply with new and improved federal safety standards. The new rules, prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing. Cribs manufactured before July 23, 2010 are not likely to be compliant and cribs manufactured between July 24, 2010 and June 27, 2011 are not guaranteed to be compliant either.

New Play Yard Standards:

Effective February 28, 2016

- *Side rails should not form a sharp V when the product is folded.
- *Corner brackets should be strong in order to prevent sharp-edged cracks and to prevent a side-rail collapse.
- *The mattress should be sturdy on the play yard floor to prevent children from getting trapped or hurt.
- *There should be no tears in the mesh or fabric and there should be no missing parts, protruding or loose screws or other hardware.
- *No cracks or stress whitening in plastic parts (especially corner brackets)

We're on the Web!
Theplayschools.com

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

facebook



What's Cooking? Our Lunch Menu



Thursday, December 1: Chicken and Rice Casserole, brown rice, peas/carrots, peaches, milk

Friday, December 2: Hamburger, corn, applesauce, WG bun, milk

Monday, December 5: Cheesy Mac/Cheese, diced ham, steamed broccoli, apple slices, peanut butter dip, milk

Tuesday, December 6: Hamburger Casserole, tater tots, corn, mandarin oranges, WG bread slice, milk

Wednesday, December 7: Creamed Turkey, turkey breast, yams, peaches, WG bread slice, milk

Thursday, December 8: Chicken and Noodles, peas/carrots, grapes, milk

Friday, December 9: Cowboy Beans, pork & beans, green beans, pears, cornbread, milk

Monday, December 12: Chicken Alfredo, chicken/sauce, linguine, broccoli, applesauce, milk

Tuesday, December 13: Baked Ziti, sausage/marinara, peas, mandarin oranges, ziti pasta, milk

Wednesday, December 14: Beef/Cheese Burrito, corn, diced grapes, soft shell, milk

Thursday, December 15: Meatloaf, hamburger, peas/carrots, pears, WG bread slice, milk

Friday, December 16: Grilled Chicken Patty Sandwich, green beans, peaches, WG bun, milk

Monday, December 19: Baked Fish Fillet, mixed veggies, apple slices, WG bread slice, peanut butter dip, milk

Tuesday, December 20: Chicken/Cheese Burrito, shredded lettuce, diced grapes, soft shell, milk

Wednesday, December 21: Chili, beef, beans, corn, pears, crackers, milk

Thursday, December 22: Grilled Ham/Cheese Sandwich, peas/carrots, peaches, grilled bread, milk

Friday, December 23: Tuna Noodle Casserole, tuna/sauce, noodles, peas, diced grapes, milk

Monday, December 26: CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27: Homemade Spaghetti, meatballs/sauce, peas, fruit cocktail, garlic toast

Wednesday, December 28: Homemade Cheese Pizza, raw veggies, apple slices, ranch dip, crust, milk


Thursday, December 29: Chicken and Rice Casserole, brown rice, peas/carrots, peaches, milk

Friday, December 30: Hamburger, corn, applesauce, WG bun, milk

**WG = Whole Grain (where seen above)

**Whole grains are served for breads, pastas, cereals, waffles, crackers, etc.

**Canned fruits and vegetables are served at a minimum, replaced as much as possible with fresh fruits and vegetables



Small Business Spotlight

Did you know that The Play Schools are NOT a franchise? We are privately owned by a small, LOCAL family that has been proudly serving Hamilton County families for over 25 years now. We are always most sincere when we thank you for supporting our little family and our proud to support our Play School families who locally own and operate their own businesses, as well! We would like to take this opportunity to showcase one of our Play School families.

Call Ace Construction and Handyman Service for all your construction and home improvement needs! A locally owned company, Frank McKeon (Owner/Operator) is a US Veteran who lives in our community. Free estimates! (765) 714-0963



Other Administrative Contacts

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