

The Play Schools

February 2018 Newsletter

Hours of Operation:
6:30 am - 6:00 pm M-F

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Director: Krista Roberts

The Play School at Legacy
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Director: Megan McIlwain

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Upcoming Events!

- ◆ All Staff Professional Development Day- We will be **CLOSED** on Monday, February 19th, 2018!
- ◆ Friendship Parties: Wednesday, February 14th from 3:00-4:00pm.



... gifts we give to children.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February's Community Calendar

Dear Parents,

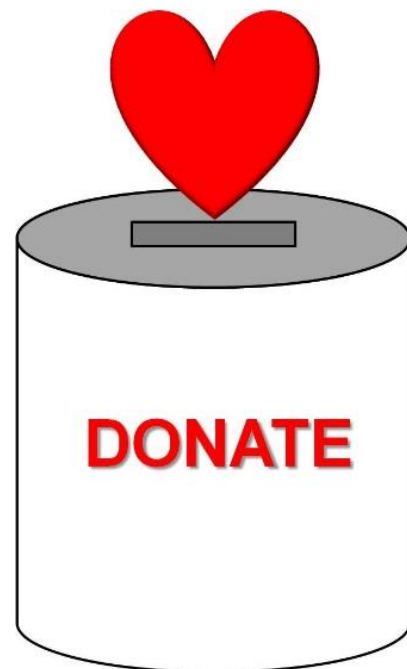
In the month of February, our ongoing community outreach project will focus on supporting our local veterans. This year we will again partner with Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF) of Indianapolis. At HVAF of Indiana, they help homeless veterans return to self-sufficiency and engage at-risk 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 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:

- Peanut butter
- Crackers
- Jelly
- Spaghetti and canned sauce
- Canned fruit / vegetables / meat
- Socks (all sizes)
- Soup
- Macaroni and cheese
- Wash cloths



Housekeeping Items

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Play Schools will announce and hold annual school-wide teacher conferences in June. In addition, please know that we conduct conferences upon request at any time of the year as well. At The Play School, we strive to create a comfortable and approachable environment where you can contact your teachers or your Center Director at any time should you have questions, concerns, praises or feedback. We view all our families and staff as an extension of our family so please let us know how we can help you and make your experience at The Play School meaningful.

WHO NEEDS THE BEACH!?!

We will still be here basking in the fun at The Play School! We are finalizing our Big Kid's Spring Break calendar. We have prepared a packet of information that provides details of what our 4Kids Only Club entails (Elementary Age Program). In the packet, you'll find learn about the types of experiences we have planned, the teaching teams we have in place, and the safety measures we take to ensure the kids are not only having a blast, but are safe always. For those of you who are heading to warmer climates in the next couple of months, please reach out to your Center Director so we can get an early idea of classroom needs. As always, thanks for being a part of The Play School.



THE PLAY SCHOOL 2018 CLOSURES

- Monday, February 19 ~ Staff Professional Development Day / President's Day
- Monday, May 28 ~ In observance of Memorial Day
- Wednesday, July 4 ~ In observance of Independence Day
- Friday, August 31 ~ Staff Professional Development Day
- Monday, September 3 ~ In observance of Labor Day
- Thursday, November 22 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 23 ~ In observance of Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 24th ~ In observance of Christmas Eve
- Tuesday, December 25 ~ In observance of Christmas
- Monday, December 31 ~ Closing early at 3:00 pm for New Year's Eve
- Tuesday, January 1 ~ In observance of New Year's Day



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

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!



(All tuition remains the same)

Housekeeping Items (continued)

CUBBY ITEMS

Items in a child's cubby need to fit in a book bag that hangs on our cubby hook. We have learned over the years that plastic bags are not a good idea.



SAY CHEESE!



Spring Picture dates have been set.

Tuesday, 3/6 - Arbor Village

Wednesday, 3/7 - Saxony Village

Thursday, 3/8 - Legacy

Watch for more details coming soon in the month of February.

Dear Families;

We are grateful to have the privilege of serving you and your family. Please know we want you to feel comfortable approaching us with questions, concerns, or suggestions. After all, this is all about your precious child. If you have information to share, we value your feedback. It is so very important. Thank you so much and if there is anything we can do for your family, please let us know.

Ms. Rita

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'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 in the front entry.

The two weeks of annual vacation time started over on Monday, August 7th for all enrolled children. Therefore, all children have two weeks to use for the 2017/2018 year. Unused weeks from 2016/2017 do not roll over.

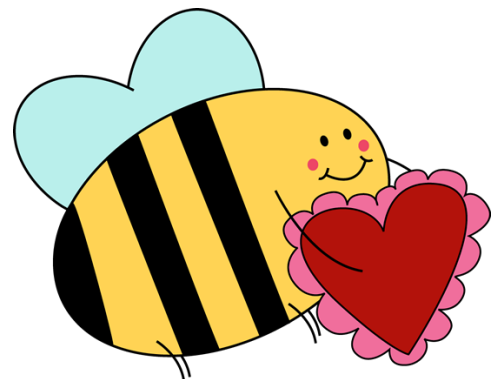
We are most grateful for any absence notifications as this may lead to some additional time off for our teachers to spend with their loved ones. If your child will be out for even a day or two, please notify the office in advance. We appreciate you taking the time to keep us in the loop regarding your child's attendance.

FRIENDSHIP PARTIES

Our annual Friendship parties will be held in-class on Wednesday, February 14th from 3:00-4:00 pm. While donations are never required, we are always grateful for any contributions. Sign-up sheets have been posted on your child's classroom door offering ways parents can help enhance the parties.

For privacy reasons, we DO NOT send home class lists.

Please simply write "To: My Friend. From: (your child's name)" on your the Valentines. It is not necessary to address them individually. Many thanks for all that you do to make these festivities such a celebration.



We're on the Web!
Theplayschools.com

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

THE
PLAY SCHOOL
 Where Every Child is a Star!

~PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR 30 YEARS~

It is a great privilege to be a part of your family's formative years! We honor this great responsibility in everything we do at The Play School, and we want to be a resource for you as you navigate through the ages and stages of your child(ren)'s education. This year, Ms. Rita will graduate her 30th year of preschoolers! In this month's parent newsletter, we want to provide you with information about The Play School's preschool program and all that goes into ultimately preparing your child(ren) for kindergarten. It starts with making sure our school is comprised of the most loving, educated, and passionate teachers for your child(ren). Included below is a chart that highlights the cumulative education of our amazing Play School preschool teachers. I hope that it will give you a tremendous level of comfort that you have chosen the best early education program for your child.

Ms. Tammy (3s) Childhood Development associate degree	Ms. Gail (3s) associate degree in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Carissa (3s) bachelor's in Elementary Education and Early Childhood
Ms. Lindsay (3s) associate degree in Early Childhood and CDA	Ms. Brittany (3s) master's in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Jennyfer (3s) associates degree in Early Childhood
Ms. Abby (4s) bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Vanessa (4s) Childhood Development associate degree	Ms. Kim (4s) bachelor's in Elementary Education
Ms. Amy (4s) bachelor's in Child Development & pursuing master's in Education	Ms. Shar (4s) pursuing Childhood Development associate degree	Mr. AJ (4s) pursuing bachelor's in Education
Ms. Abby (PreK 5s) bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Jenna (5s) Childhood associate degree equivalent	Ms. Anastasia (5s) bachelor's in Elementary Education
Ms. Cynthia (PreK 5s) bachelor's in Business Education	Ms. Kara (5s) bachelor's in Elementary Education	Ms. Rosi (5s) Spanish Education degree

Kindergarten-readiness is about more than just ABCs and 123s. Kindergarten success depends as much on social-emotional readiness as it does on the cognitive skills they have gained along the way at home and at The Play School. In Kindergarten, teachers use three main instructional routines: whole class instruction (circle time); learning centers (free choice centers) and seat work (direct instruction time). Every day, our preschool 3s, 4s and 5s classroom time includes each of these. You can be sure your child has already been introduced to, and comfortable with, these instructional routines.

KINDERGARTEN SKILLS BEGIN AT PRESCHOOL

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Follows daily routines | • Completes a simple task |
| • Follows directions | • Ability to follow classroom rules |
| • Asks for help | • Accepts guidance and limits from adults |
| • Listens to gather information | • Takes care of personal needs (e.g. toileting, blowing nose, washing hands) |

<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>Calendar</u>
Count to 100	All numbers and letters	Beginning Sounds, A-Z	Days of the Week
Counting by 2s, 5s and 10s	Sight Words	Rhyming	Months of the Year
Add numbers within 10	Inventive Spelling to go along with pictures	Word Families	Weather
Measuring	Labeling	Comprehension of Stories	Ordinal Numbers
Shapes and Colors	First and Last Name	Sight Word Recognition	Morning Meeting & Relationship Building
Patterning	Small Gross Motor Development	Guided Reading - Levels A & B	*Also done in Spanish

Preschool is an exciting time! We look forward to working together to ensure your child meets the physical, social and cognitive milestones that take place in these early years of development. Along with all the directors and teachers at The Play School, we thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your special child(ren)!

Sincerely,
Rita Hafner, Katie Guerra and Amanda McKeon, Owners

What's Cooking? Our Lunch Menu



Thursday, Feb. 1: Homemade Baked Ziti, romaine salad with light ranch, fresh cherry tomatoes, milk

Friday, Feb. 2: Grilled Turkey/Cheese, WG bread, steamed peas, orange slices, milk

Monday, Feb. 5: Chicken Tenders, WG breading, green beans, applesauce, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Homemade Spaghetti, WG noodle, meat sauce, peas, fruit cocktail, milk



Wednesday, Feb. 7: Turkey Burgers, WG bun, cheese slice, steamed broccoli, orange slices, milk

Thursday, Feb. 8: Homemade White Chicken Chili, corn, pears, cornbread, milk

Friday, Feb. 9: Homemade Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, orange slices, milk



Monday, Feb. 12: Turkey Pepperoni, WG crust, Corn, peaches, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 13: Homemade Pasta Ham Bake, diced ham/cheese, penne pasta, peas, grapes, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 14: Homemade Pasta Ham Bake, diced ham/cheese, penne pasta, peas, grapes, milk

Thursday, Feb. 15: Homemade Chicken Alfredo, WG pasta, chicken/sauce, steamed broccoli, diced pineapple, milk



Friday, Feb. 16: Turkey Breast w/ Gravy, WG roll, sweet potato, green beans, milk

Monday, Feb. 19: CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tuesday, Feb. 20: Breaded Chicken Breast Patties, WG bun, salad, cherry tomatoes, light ranch, milk



Wednesday, Feb. 21: Pepperoni & Cheese Breadsticks, pizza sauce for dipping, salad with light ranch, mandarin oranges, milk

Thursday, Feb. 22: Homemade Mac n Cheese, green beans, grapes, milk

Friday, Feb. 23: Homemade Chicken and Rice, brown rice, mixed veggies, pears, milk

Monday, Feb. 26: Ravioli, WG pasta, meat sauce, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges, milk



Tuesday, Feb. 27: Soft Shell Burrito, beef, bean, cheese, WG shell, corn, applesauce, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 28: Homemade Chicken and Noodles, WG noodles, mixed veggies, banana, milk

**WG = Whole Grain

**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



4 Kidz Only Club Information

We are already preparing for our annual 4 Kidz Only Summer Club for school-age children, Kindergarten and older. Every summer, our school-age Before and After Care program turns into a "camp-like environment" where your child can enjoy safe and engaging field trips off-campus three to four days each week. This is a well-structured, field trip program that is staffed full-time by three consistent, highly competent Play School teachers who respect and understand the awesome responsibility of taking your child out into our local community. Examples of field trips include:

- Bowling
- Swimming
- Movies
- Pottery
- Parks
- Splash pads
- Gymnastics
- Sports camps
- Bounce houses
- The Indianapolis Zoo
- Conner Prairie
- Animal Exploration, and more!



This year, we are focusing our summer plans on *fresh air, movement, field trips, EXPERIENCES, new discoveries, and socialization!* The Play School is going on a "technology diet" this summer! We want the children to socialize with each other, continue to develop kindness, and build on the friendships that already exist within our school while building new connections with other children their age. We can't achieve these goals if the children are constantly immersed in technology. We know that most kids get plenty of exposure to technology at their elementary schools or homes and we simply want to have a "technology time out" at The Play School in order to offer variety in their long summer days! If you're ready for your child to have a hiatus from handheld devices, The Play School's 4 Kidz Only Summer Club is the perfect environment for your school-ager!

Our program's space is limited due to state licensing ratios and available spots on our Play School private buses. Due to its popularity and terrific reputation, this program consistently fills up in advance each and every summer. We open registration in March for the upcoming summer to our currently enrolled families. A deposit equal to one week's tuition is due, along with a registration form that we will soon send out, to hold your child(ren)'s spot. Since the deposit is held separately in your family's Play School account and will be applied toward the first week's tuition, the only thing that will be due the first week will be field trip fees and the Summer Supply Fee. Once the initial registration period (exclusive to currently enrolled Play School families) has closed, we will open any remaining spots to the public until we have reached our summer program maximum. Please don't delay as we don't want your child to miss out on all the great activities we have planned for the summer of 2018!

Your Directors will be sending out Summer Registration forms with more information soon. Be on the look out! As always, should you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact your Center Director. We are looking forward to a great 2018 summer together!

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
- WTHR Channel 13

**HSE / NOBLESVILLE / CARMEL CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURES**

***Hamilton Southeastern:** No School: February 19

School in Session for Snow Day: February 20

Spring Break: March 30 - April 6

***Noblesville:** School in Session for Snow Day: February 19

Spring Break: March 26 - April 6

***Carmel Clay:** No School: February 19

Spring Break: March 30 - April 6

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE FRONT OFFICE IF YOUR SCHOOL-AGER WILL NEED FULL-DAY CARE DURING SPRING BREAK.

Other Administrative Contacts

Amanda McKeon

Director of Operations/Owner

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Sarah Ritter

Regional Assistant Director

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Katie Guerra

Fiscal Director/Owner

Email: Katie@theplayschools.com

Rita Hafner

Administrator/Founder

