

# TODAY'S **family**

November 2023

Cuyahoga

FREE!

## Parenting Beyond The Screen

Virtual series to help  
you navigate the  
digital landscape

## Educational Testing

A crucial step in helping  
your child reach their  
full potential

## Ohio's Center for Oral, Facial and Implant Surgery

## Candy Land Gone To The Birds

Popular holiday  
adventure returns

## 7 Reasons to be Thankful for Teens

A Thanksgiving humor essay

## Beary Merry Handmade Arts & Craft Market

November 29–30





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# Ohio's Center for Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery

By Deanna R. Adams

Having any type of surgery is always a bit intimidating, even scary. That's why a trusted surgeon—and a calm, friendly atmosphere to ease your fears—is as important as the surgery itself.

When it comes to procedures of the face and mouth, Dr. Keith M. Schneider, DMD, not only has the experience as an oral and maxillofacial surgery specialist and periodontal surgeon, but grew up with the business.

"My father, Dr. E. Karl Schneider, began his oral and maxillofacial surgery practice in 1975 in Willoughby before moving into the Mentor area in 1981," he says. "I've been running the practices now since 2012 and am happy to be working alongside Dr. Donald P. Lewis, Dr. Jill M. Weber, and Dr. Nishant Joshi."

With three offices in Mentor, Highland Heights, and Bainbridge, Ohio's Center for Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery offers myriad services that include dentofacial anomalies, facial reconstruction, abscess or cyst drainage or aspiration. They also address cracked teeth, dental bridges and veneers, along with more common procedures such as the removal of wisdom teeth, and the placement of dental implants. "Wisdom teeth are most commonly removed between the ages of 16-30," says Dr. Schneider. "There is a high risk of issues that arise later in life if they're left in place."

He adds that dental implants are most often placed in those between the ages of 30 and 80 and the practice provides a range of options that

include replacement of individual teeth to full mouth replacements. Patients may get their teeth replaced in one day. "We can care for patients of all ages, from age 1 to over 100," he says.

Aside from these services, Ohio's Center for Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery provide adjunctive procedures for pediatric and orthodontic colleagues. This includes removal of baby teeth, impacted canine teeth, and removal of teeth for crowding, as well as working with root canal specialists when teeth cannot be saved. The practice is on staff at eight medical centers: Hillcrest Hospital, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Beachwood Medical Center, Ahuja Medical Center, Geauga Medical Center, West Medical Center, and TriPoint Medical Center. This includes adult and pediatric treatment centers.

For those interested in esthetic procedures, they will perform facial surgeries to correct small or misaligned jaws, the placement of facial implants, as well as facial fillers and Botox.

"We want patients to feel comfortable in our care, from the first staff member they encounter, all the way to recovery," says Dr. Schneider. "We take time to ensure a proper diagnosis and that the treatment being performed is necessary. We provide a full range of anesthesia options to ensure that the procedures are comfortable and painless."

Patients are provided comfortable blankets and even get to choose what music they'd like to hear through the procedure.



When it comes to medical and dental benefits, there are treatment coordinators to help patients with a clear financial plan. "People deserve to know what to expect and be able to make plans for a smooth procedure throughout. That includes recovery because postoperative expectations are just as important."

There is a 24-hour call service for those wishing to discuss and evaluate any concerns. A telehealth service is also available for those who are unable to make an office visit. In addition, they arrange same-day surgical appointments, when possible,

allowing for other family and work schedules.

"From the moment a patient walks through our doors, we want to provide them with the best care, and comfort for patients who are anxious of whatever procedure they're having," Dr. Schneider says. "And we're always accepting new patients to treat the needs of both adults and children."

Visit their website, [www.ohsurgery.com](http://www.ohsurgery.com) or call 440-255-3700 (Mentor), 440-771-7070 (Highland Heights), or 440-708-7080 (Bainbridge) to book a consultation.

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**Handmade Arts & Crafts Market**

Wednesday & Thursday  
November 29 & 30  
11:00 am – 9:00 pm

**Lavera Party Center**  
32200 Chardon Road  
Willoughby Hills

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# Are You Concerned About Your Child's Learning Skills and Ability to Keep Up with Peers?

Why educational testing might be right for your child

By Senders Pediatrics

Every parent wants the best for their child, especially when it comes to their education. It's natural to be concerned about your child's learning skills and their ability to keep up with their peers. In today's competitive world, academic success is often seen as a key determinant of future opportunities and achievements. If you're experiencing doubts about your child's progress or suspect they may be facing learning challenges, educational testing could be the right step to take.

Educational testing is a comprehensive process designed to assess a child's cognitive abilities, academic skills, and overall learning potential. This process is typically conducted by trained professionals, such as educational psychologists or special education experts. It involves a range of assessments, including standardized tests, interviews, observations, and sometimes even medical evaluations, depending on the concerns raised.

One of the primary reasons why educational testing might be right for your child is to identify any learning disabilities or developmental delays. Learning disabilities, dyslexia, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), can significantly hinder a child's academic progress. Without proper identification and intervention, these conditions can persist into adulthood and affect various aspects of life, from school perfor-

mance to self-esteem.

Additionally, educational testing can pinpoint your child's strengths and weaknesses. It's not just about identifying problems but also recognizing areas where your child excels. This information can help you and your child's educators tailor their educational experience to maximize their potential. For example, if the testing reveals that your child has advanced math skills, they can be provided with more challenging coursework to keep them engaged and motivated.

Moreover, educational testing can be a valuable tool in advocating for your child's needs. If the testing results indicate that your child requires specialized support or accommodations, you can work with their school to develop an individualized education program (IEP) or a 504 plan. These plans can provide your child with the necessary resources and adjustments to succeed academically, regardless of their learning challenges.

Furthermore, educational testing can alleviate the stress and uncertainty that both you and your child might be experiencing. If your child is struggling in school, it can lead to frustration and a decline in their self-esteem. By understanding the root causes of their difficulties through testing, you can take proactive steps to address these issues and provide the necessary support.

In conclusion, if you have con-



cerns about your child's learning skills and their ability to keep up with their peers, educational testing can be a crucial step in helping them reach their full potential. The first step is always to meet with your child's teacher and voice your concerns. School systems are equipped to conduct educational testing. At times, your school system may not agree to test your child. In that case, you may need to contact professionals outside the school. Dr. Rebecca Boyle from Senders Pediatrics in South Euclid conducts educational

testing. She has an M.Ed. in School Counseling and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy. She is a licensed professional counselor, a licensed school counselor, and a marriage and family therapist. She has over 30 years experience in the public school system both as a special education teacher and as a school counselor. She has a similar amount of experience with educational testing. Her life's work has been in helping children achieve success in school. Please contact her at [bh@senderspediatrics.com](mailto:bh@senderspediatrics.com).

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### Six-Week Sessions

- 1-hour class, 1x per week = \$140 per session
- 1.25-hour class, 1x per week = \$165 per session

**Winter Session 1: Nov. 12, 2023–Jan. 13, 2024**

Closed November 21–26 and December 21–January 3.

No make-up classes needed.

All off days are factored into the calendar session.

### Private Lessons

**Jump Start is offering:**

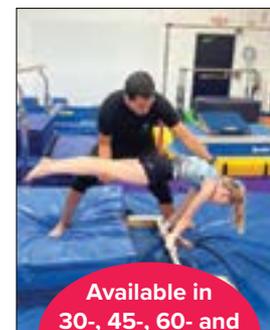
- Individual private lessons
- Semi-private lessons
- Small group lessons

Perfect for gymnasts, cheerleaders, dancers, Gymkata ice skaters, and Gymnastic Strong conditioning training.

**Saturdays 12:30–6:00 pm**

**Sundays 2:30–6:00 pm**

Email your requested day & time to:  
jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com



Available in  
30-, 45-, 60- and  
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sessions!

**60-minute lesson for 1 gymnast = \$65**

2-6 gymnasts = \$35 per gymnast

**45-minute lesson for 1 gymnast = \$55**

2-6 gymnasts = \$30 per gymnast

**30-minute lesson for 1 gymnast = \$45**

2-6 gymnasts = \$25 per gymnast

Ages  
5-14

### Tumbling Turkey Friendsgiving Camp

**Wed., November 22 • 10 am–2 pm**

Preregistration is required.

**\$60 for the first child registration**

Each additional sibling, relative, or friend registered and paid from the same account receives a 50% discount!

**Stay for Open Gym • 2–3:30 pm**

All ages • \$10 per participant

Preregistration is required.



### Birthday Parties



Jump Start is a great place to celebrate that special occasion! Our coaches will tailor the party activities to the age of the birthday child. All of the guests are sure to enjoy our gymnastic games and equipment, including our 50 feet of trampoline and

in-ground foam pit! Party guests will enjoy organized and loosely-structured instruction on the gymnastic equipment.

**TWO OPTIONS!**

**A full hour-and-a-half of gym time**

\$195 for 10 children & \$15 for each additional child

**An hour of gym time and a half-hour of celebration time**

\$195 for 10 children & \$20 for each additional child. JSG provides white paper plates, forks, tablecloths, napkins, and clean-up.

### The Jump Start Difference

- USAG Excel & Optional Teams
- Twister Program
- Flip Stars and Jump Start Teams
- Youth & Adult Open Gyms

**Call to learn more about these great programs!**

# Jump Start

## Gymnastics

23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood  
Rear of National Biological Building

**(216) 896-0295**

Website: [jsgymnastics.com](http://jsgymnastics.com)

Email: [jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com](mailto:jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com)

## Wild Winter Lights

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's biggest holiday celebration

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is transforming into a winter wonderland for the fifth consecutive holiday season with the return of Wild Winter Lights. This year's event features hundreds of dazzling displays along the holiday trail through Cleveland Metroparks Zoo beginning November 14.

Wild Winter Lights features over 1.5 million lights across holiday-themed areas including Enchanted Forest and Santa's Workshop, where guests can take photos with Santa Claus. For the first time ever, Wild Winter Lights will also feature two dynamic musical light shows featuring an enchanting 50-foot tree as well as a show on Waterfowl Lake.

Guests can again experience this year's Wild Winter Lights on foot or in their personal vehicle on select dates at the Wild Winter Lights Drive-Thru Experience.

Additional highlights of this year's event include carousel rides, costumed characters, model train displays and ice carvers. Guests can also enjoy holiday treat offerings



from Jack Frost Donuts, Kernels by Chrissie and hot chocolate as they experience the festival.

Wild Winter Lights as well as the Wild Winter Lights Drive-Thru Experience runs from 5:30–10:30 pm on select dates from Tuesday, November 14 through Saturday, December 30.

Tickets are limited, and advance online reservations are strongly encouraged. Tickets purchased in advance are \$19 for members and \$22 for nonmembers, or a four-pack for \$60 for members and \$70 for nonmembers. Children under two are admitted for free. Tickets for the drive-through experience must be purchased in advance and are \$45 per car for Zoo members and \$55 per car for nonmembers. Reserve your spot at [FutureForWildlife.org/lights](http://FutureForWildlife.org/lights).

## Great gift ideas for the animal lover on your list

If you're looking for great giving ideas for the animal lover on your list, look no further. The Cleveland Zoological Society suggests these five easy ways to give a gift that also gives back.

Visit [ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday](http://ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday) and cross a few people off your nice list!



The Zoo's group of capybaras can all be seen on exhibit together on the second floor of The RainForest.

### 2024 ZOO SOCIETY CALENDAR

When you give a gift of \$100 to the ZooFund, you'll also receive a 2024 calendar featuring your favorite animals. It's a great holiday gift for that special animal lover in your life. Available while supplies last.

### ZOO GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Give them a gift they can use all year long. Use the code BEAR23TF online for a 15% discount.

### SUPPORT A SPECIES — CAPYBARA

Hard to find a gift for someone who has everything? Donate to the Support a Species program! Learn

more how you can help and your loved one will love the gesture of supporting our mission.

### SHOP AT THE ZOO GIFT SHOP

From plush to sustainably grown coffee, you can find an array of gifts and stocking stuffers for friends and family of any age. Members always receive a 15% discount!

For more information on any of these holiday ideas, visit [ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday](http://ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday).



**Cleveland Zoological Society**  
CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

## GIVE A ZOO MEMBERSHIP

### Buy online and save 15%

Give a gift they can enjoy all year long! Visit [ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday](http://ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday) to view membership benefits and to purchase your gift membership today! Use the code **BEAR23TF** when checking out to receive your discount!

[ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday](http://ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday)

\*Valid for NEW memberships and NEW gifts only. Not valid on Senior Plus memberships or Total Experience Membership Package. Offer Expires 12/31/23. May not be applied to previously purchased memberships.

The membership program is presented by PNC

# Beech Brook presents: “Parenting Beyond the Screen”

## Navigating the digital landscape with confidence

In an age where technology plays an integral role in our daily lives, parents face the ever-evolving challenge of guiding their children safely through the digital landscape. To address this critical need and empower parents with the knowledge and tools necessary to foster safe, educational, and healthy online experiences, Beech Brook is excited to introduce their new virtual parenting series: “Parenting Beyond the Screen.”

This new series aims to equip parents with the knowledge they need to navigate the digital world with confidence. Topics will include online safety, cultivating healthy digital habits, and nurturing strong family relationships in the digital age. Classes are being developed and taught by Beech Brook’s assistant clinical director, Rachel Humphrey, LISW-S.

Here is information about the next program with more classes in development:

**Power of Relationships:  
Talking Online Safety  
Wed., November 29, 2023**

- Prepare for your child’s teenage years in the digital era.
- Discover strategies for introducing safe social media use.
- Encourage open discussions about potential risks and establish clear boundaries to ensure online safety.
- Create a safe and healthy online environment.
- Learn how to model responsible and healthy online behavior to help shape your child’s approach to social media.

Two time slots for different age groups are available to accommodate busy schedules:

For parents of K–6th graders

- ◆ Afternoon Session: Noon–1:00 pm
- ◆ Evening Session: 8:30–9:30 pm

For parents of 7th–12th graders

- ◆ Afternoon Session: 1:30–2:30 pm
- ◆ Evening Session: 7:00–8:00 pm

Cost of the class: \$15



All classes will be recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registers, ensuring that parents can access the valuable content at their convenience.

To register for the “Parenting Beyond the Screen” virtual parenting series or for more information,

please visit [www.beechbrook.org/parenting-beyond-the-screen](http://www.beechbrook.org/parenting-beyond-the-screen).

Beech Brook helps children and families thrive by promoting healthy child development, strengthening the ability to overcome adversity, and enhancing family health and stability.

**Add a SPLASH OF WONDER to your Holidays @CLEAquarium**

**Hunger Network Donation Drive - November**

**Scuba Claus Merry Meet & Greets - December**

**Open 10am – 5pm daily**

Tickets, gift certificates & annual passes available at [greaterclevelandaquarium.com](http://greaterclevelandaquarium.com)

**Beech Brook presents PARENTING BEYOND THE SCREEN**

For parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade

Join this new virtual parenting class and learn how to safely guide your children through the digital landscape as they approach their teenage years, fostering healthy and educational online experiences.

**Power of Relationships: Talking Online Safety**  
Wednesday, November 29

**REGISTER AT:**  
[www.beechbrook.org/parenting-beyond-the-screen](http://www.beechbrook.org/parenting-beyond-the-screen)

Sessions will be recorded and the recording will be sent to everyone who registers.

**TWO SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:**

- Parents of Kindergartners - 5th Graders:  
12:00 - 1:00 pm  
8:30 - 9:30 pm
- Parents of 7th - 12th Graders:  
1:30 - 2:30 pm  
7:00 - 8:00 pm

**COST: \$15**

## 37<sup>th</sup> annual Beary Merry Handmade Arts & Crafts Market

The Beary Merry Show will take place on Wednesday, November 29 and Thursday, November 30, 2023 from 11 am–9 pm at their new location, Lavera Party Center in Willoughby Hills.

Beary Merry showcases over 60 talented artisans from Ohio and Pennsylvania, displaying unique, handmade/crafted holiday gifts for your shopping pleasure, with a raffle extravaganza to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure Northeast Affiliate. The raffle consists of over 60 baskets for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Raffle includes lottery tickets, spa packages, dinners, toys, family fun, holidays and much more.

Delicious lunch and dinner prepared by Lavera will be available for purchase. As a corporate sponsor, Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations of Eastlake is sponsoring the hourly door prize drawing.

In addition, LaVera will be catering family takeout dinners on Wednesday November 29. The preordered dinners (for four to six people) will cost \$55 with \$10

donated to Susan G. Komen. The dinners must be ordered in advance online at [www.la-vera.com/beary-merry](http://www.la-vera.com/beary-merry). The delicious menu consists of chicken piccata, tossed salad with house dressing, cavatelli, with Lavera's signature red sauce, green beans almandine, and rolls and butter.

The Beary Merry Show is a drop-off location for Asa's Angels Outreach Drive for Kids, an annual program for families in need during the holidays. Asa's Angel's distribute over 15,000 toys, helping more than 3,000 families. The goal is to make all children smile on Christmas morning and you can to help achieve that goal! Bring a brand new toy to the show to make a child happy this Christmas.

If you have questions, please contact Delene Wojtila 440-487-0661, or email [Thebearymerryshow@gmail.com](mailto:Thebearymerryshow@gmail.com). Follow them at [www.facebook.com/BearyMerryShow](http://www.facebook.com/BearyMerryShow).

Admission to the show is \$4.00

Lavera Party Center is located at 32200 Chardon Road in Willoughby Hills.

## Christmas Connection is coming to Cleveland's I-X Center Nov. 17–19

The magic of the season will come alive at Christmas Connection, a three-day holiday market being held November 17–19 at the I-X Center.

Features and attractions include:

- More than 500 exhibitors
- New this year! Charmed Boutique will be hosting three spectacular holiday fashion shows featuring the latest trends and styles to elevate holiday party and wardrobe style.
- The spirit of Christmas will envelop guests as they walk down the decorated entryway to the tallest Santa in Cleveland – 30 foot – waiting to greet them!
- Live entertainment on the stage where guests can relax and kick up their feet and sing along to festive entertainment.
- Visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Elves in SantaLand. Kids can also bring their letters to Santa to mail in the Santa Mailbox.
- Take a break from shopping to rest your feet and catch up on a classic Christmas movie in the movie area.



- Kids can shop in the Sugar Plum Shoppe featuring over 3,000 pre-wrapped gifts (under \$9.00 each), perfect for pint-sized wallets.
- Stop by the Halle Bros Co. booth to meet Santa's Keeper-of-the-Keys, Mr. Jingeling.

ClevelandChristmasConnection.com will have all the latest show info.

Hours are Fri., November 17 and Sat., November 18, 10 am–8 pm and Sun., Nov. 19, 10 am–5 pm.

Tickets are \$14 for general admission at the box office (adults), \$12 for general admission online at [ClevelandChristmasConnection.com](http://ClevelandChristmasConnection.com) (adults). Children 12 and under are free.

Parking is \$10 per vehicle.



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**216.421.0700**

# 7 Reasons to be Thankful for Teenagers This Thanksgiving

By Katy M. Clark

Thanksgiving is a holiday that gets better as the kids get older. Sure, those turkey drawings traced around pudgy preschoolers' hands were sweet. So was hearing my elementary schooler talk about the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock. And watching the little ones dine at the kids' table at Grandma's house was adorable, too.

But Thanksgiving with my kids now that they are teenagers? It rocks. Here are seven reasons why.

**1) Teens sleep in**

Gone are the days of 5:30 am wake-ups to watch Paw Patrol or play Candy Land. I can sleep in on Thanksgiving or, if I want to get up early to start cooking, I can get up when I'm ready—and not because someone is poking me in the eyeball.

**2) They care about the menu and like the food**

My kids want to know if the stuffing is sweet or savory and whether I'm serving that green bean casserole they liked so much last year. Not only are they interested in the Thanksgiving menu, but they're interested in eating everything we're having. This is in stark contrast to the Thanksgiving when my son was four and ate nothing but brown sugar. Now he eats everything on his plate, even items that touch each other!

**3) Teens can help out and clean up**

Yup, the big kids can be trusted to put Grandma's



lace tablecloth on straight. They can handle the crystal and china with care, light the candles without setting the house on fire, and fold the napkins with sophistication. My teens can also clear the table and do the dishes now. Sure, my kids were able to wash the dishes when they were younger, but they also fumbled my wedding china and dinged the gravy boat unless I supervised.

**4) The conversation is more meaningful**

Celebrating Thanksgiving with teens means I can have meaningful conversations about gratitude. It was cute when they were little and gave thanks for cartoons and their goldfish, but now it's amazing to hear them voice appreciation for relationships, health, faith, and the freedom of our country.

**5) I can nap again!**

The only nap I have to worry about this year is my own. While I indulge in some post-turkey

shut-eye, I don't have to worry that my kids are running into the street or licking the electrical outlets. Heck, they might even join me in a snooze on the other end of the couch.

**6) Teens can stay up late and put themselves to bed**

Now that my kids are older, we can watch a movie after dinner and stay up as late as we want. It's 10 pm? Bring it, Home Alone! I don't have to worry about running a bath, washing hair, reading stories, or doing any of the other steps that made up their bedtime routines when they were little. Going to bed on Thanksgiving means saying, "Goodnight, I love you!" no matter who falls asleep first. (Okay, it's me.)

**7) It's a low-key, stress-free holiday**

Thanksgiving with teens is relaxed. It's not Christmas, with its intense build-up and piles of gifts. And it's not Halloween, with drama over who is too old, or too cool, to go trick-or-treating. It's Thanksgiving, which means I get to spend the day with the family I love, eating good food, and being grateful for it all.

This year as we gather to give thanks, I'm grateful to be celebrating Thanksgiving with teenagers. It doesn't get any better than that.

*Katy M. Clark is a writer and mom of two who embraces her imperfections on her blog, Experienced Bad Mom.*

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2024

## HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS STARTS IN DECEMBER

At CMSD, parents and students choose from among 30 unique high schools to find the one that fits their child's interests and passions.



**DECEMBER 6**

East Professional Center  
1349 E 79th St  
Cleveland, Oh 44103

**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE FAIRS**

Attend a CMSD High School Choice Fair and meet with school representatives to learn more. Space in some schools is limited. Submit your choices by the deadline.

**DECEMBER 12**

Max S. Hayes High School  
2211 W 65th St  
Cleveland, OH 44102

**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

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## Frost: An Ice-Capped Garden Experience opens November 18



Get ready, northeast Ohio's newest winter show is opening this November at the Cleveland Botanical Garden and it is going to be cool.

Frost: An Ice-Capped Garden Experience will completely transform indoor and outdoor gardens creating an ethereal wonderland of towering ice arches, dazzling light installations, a tunnel of flowers, larger-than-life animals, more than 500 poinsettias, seasonal soundscapes and much more to create a completely immersive new world for the holiday season.

Frost will open to the public on Saturday, November 18 and run through Sunday, December 31.

Frost invites you to explore a dozen different themes including Jingle Jungle, Solstice Stroll, and Lake

Effect Lodge while Icicle Alleys connect the entire wonderland experience. Then enter Blizzard Ballroom, a winter storm of lights and weather before moving to the Frost Portal — a tunnel of illuminated flowers that leads to the Realm of the Winter Spirit, an enchanting world glistening with ice.

Kids can test out an icicle xylophone, weave through a tunnel of mirrors and frozen arches, roast marshmallows, listen to stories and enjoy a variety of wintry activities and interactive displays.

Special nighttime hours will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 9 pm. Frost will incorporate classic favorites like the gingerbread house competition and evergreen trees decorated by local garden clubs.

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, October 3. Advance tickets are recommended at [holdenfg.org](http://holdenfg.org). Walk-up tickets will be available.

### Nonmembers Weekday

Adult \$23 / Children (3-12) \$16

### Nonmembers Weekend

Adult \$26 / Children (3-12) \$18.

## Country Lights Drive-Thru

Lake Metroparks Farmpark

Nov. 30, Dec. 1-3, 7-10 & 14-22 • 6-8:30 pm

A magical evening is in store at Lake Metroparks Farmpark! Enjoy the spectacular beauty of lighted displays from the warmth of your own vehicle during Country Lights Drive-thru.

Country Lights Drive-thru runs November 30, December 1-3, 7-10 & 14-22, with time slots at 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30 pm. Advance tickets are required and sold online only at [goto.lakemetroparks.com/country-lights-drive-thru](http://goto.lakemetroparks.com/country-lights-drive-thru). Ticket sales begin October 28 for Lake County residents and Farmpark members. Open sales begin October 29.

Ticket cost is \$27.50 per carload (maximum of three drive-thru tickets per family or Farmpark membership). Visa, Mastercard and Discover payment only; Lake Metroparks gift cards are not accepted for ticketed events. All ticket sales are final. No refunds, exchanges or adjustments. Lake Metroparks is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets.

Wooden toy kits will be available



for prepurchase for \$5 each during purchase of carload ticket. Kits will be picked up at the event and taken home to assemble. Kits do not include paint or glue.

Tickets purchased online will be emailed to you. Tickets can be scanned directly from your mobile device at the event or you may print them out and bring them with you. Please remember to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to your ticket time.

This event runs rain, snow or shine. In the rare occurrence of extreme weather on your event date, follow Lake Metroparks on Facebook and Twitter for an event cancellation announcement.

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## Candy Land Gone to the Birds returns November 18–January 1

Join in for a whimsical holiday adventure: Candy Land Gone to the Birds presented by Dollar Bank at Penitentiary Glen Reservation! Relive your childhood memories with a bird-themed twist on the popular board game. Experience the magic as you become the playing piece, moving from space to space on a life-sized game board and explore enchanting displays of familiar feathered friends in colorful habitats at every turn.

Enter the make-believe Wild Bird Clinic on your adventure and lend a helping hand to wildlife. As you near the end of your journey, climb up the tower for a bird's-eye view of the game board and spot some amazing wildlife. Then slide down the spiral slide and play all over again!

While at Penitentiary Glen Reservation, discover a world of nature-themed adventure at the Nature Center. Enjoy scavenger hunts, crafts, special activities, wildlife programs on weekends, and more. Plus, receive a keepsake holiday key.

Wild Weekends feature an outdoor campfire with s'mores from noon to 3 pm on Saturdays (Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30). During the campfires, staff from the Lake Metroparks Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center will present live animals at 1, 2 and 3 pm near the shelter. On Sundays (Nov. 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10 and 17), meet-the-keeper chats will be held in the Wildlife Center Yard at 1, 2 and 3 pm.

Candy Land Gone to the Birds! begins November



18 and is open 10 am–5 pm daily through January 1. The exhibit will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Admission is free for all ages. Registration is not required. Additional information can be found at [goto.lakemetroparks.com/candyland](http://goto.lakemetroparks.com/candyland).

### Other activities at Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Snowshoe rentals are available for the whole family, weather permitting. Hike more than eight miles of scenic trails, go birding or interact with nature in Nature Play, a children's outdoor play space. Inside the Nature Center, discover interactive exhibits including Life Cycle Secrets and Come and Play plus watch for birds, squirrels and more through the Window on Wildlife.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation is located at 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd. in Kirtland. For park info, visit [goto.lakemetroparks.com/penitentiary-glen](http://goto.lakemetroparks.com/penitentiary-glen).

## Cleveland Orchestra Family Concert & Music Explorers Series

The Family Concert Series each have a different theme with performances designed to engage and entertain children ages 7 and up, and all last under an hour.

Next up in the Family Concert series is "Around the World with The Cleveland Orchestra," on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00 pm. Cleveland is home to more than 120 ethnic groups, each bringing their own traditions, religions, art, food, and, of course, music. This concert celebrates that rich cultural diversity through music—a language that unites us all.

The Music Explorers Series is an ideal way for children and families to learn about the orchestra's instruments, one by one. Programs feature Cleveland Orchestra musicians, special guests, and an engaging host who encourages audiences to sing, clap, and move to the music. Each half-hour adventure features brief musical selections and instrument demonstrations created to inspire and entertain young children, ages 3 to 6.

The Christmas Brass Quintet will be presented on December 15 and 16, with Cleveland Orchestra brass musicians in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Concert Hall.

Visit [clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com) for dates for all the shows in each series.

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# Words Have Power, So Listen Well

By Stacy Turner

Talking about ideas, thoughts and feelings can be difficult, whether you're a child, a teen, or even a full-grown human. People require time and space to process what's going on inside, and then to choose the right words that best convey their thoughts or ideas. In the rush of busy schedules, and the hectic pace of the coming holiday season, it can be hard to grant time or space to really hear what's being said.

For young people, the words they choose to share have power, giving meaning to sometimes messy feelings, even when limited vocabulary or life experiences give them few examples to draw from. Often, their unconventional descriptions have a way of cutting straight to the heart of the matter at hand, leaving little room for misunderstanding.

My older daughter, when asked to describe her first day as the new kid at school put it to me this way. "It felt like I was trapped all day in a room full of farts." Yikes! Sure, that mental image made us giggle, but it also highlighted her feelings of being alone and out of place, stuck in an unpleasant situation. I'm happy to report that although day one wasn't exactly stellar, she grew to love her new school and the friends she made there. Perhaps her ability to share those uncomfortable feelings



helped her work through them and move on to the better times that were to come.

My younger daughter is also adept at using unusual verbal images to make her point. Recently, while we were talking about where she might go to do homework after school and before an activity, I suggested the nearby public library. She quickly ruled out the dated, unwelcoming building, telling me that going inside "feels like a toothache." She decided to visit the local coffee shop instead, favor-

ing the natural light, non-musty atmosphere, and the availability of caffeine to get her homework done that day.

Even as an adult with a college degree and a supposed better grasp on vocabulary, I often find myself resorting to the same technique of using visuals to relay my thoughts or feelings. Like when I'm feeling unwell, but not sick enough to stay in bed. Sometimes a long hot shower is enough to rid myself of that thick-headed feeling. And a serious dose of Crest gets rid of the tiny sweaters all my teeth seem to be sporting. Sure, it may be a silly example, but I bet it got the point across and helped you understand what I'm trying to say.

Who knows, maybe making unorthodox descriptions is hereditary, but I think this skill is something we each use from time to time when trying to share a thought or idea out loud with someone else, to try and help them understand. Isn't that what we all hope for – to be heard and understood?

As the falling leaves signal the change of season, we'll each have opportunities to gather with friends and family of varying ideologies and viewpoints. Maybe instead of walking into those exchanges with preconceived notions, we choose to take a breath and listen first. And maybe that extra effort will help us better understand what it is that they're trying to share.



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# Fun Thanksgiving Facts

## Pumpkin pie was not served at the first Thanksgiving meal.

The Pilgrims didn't have ovens for baking and they lacked the butter and flour necessary for pie crust. Culinary historians believe the first Thanksgiving meal consisted largely of seafood, like mussels, lobster, and clams. Diners almost certainly ate venison and likely some assortment of wild fowl—turkey, duck, goose and swan.

## An estimated 240 million turkeys will be raised in the U.S. this year.

Of the 240 million turkeys raised this year, 45 million—or 18 percent—will be baked, grilled, and fried this Thanksgiving.

## The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, but it wasn't observed as a national holiday until 1863.

Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb," wrote letters for 17 years campaigning to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Finally, President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday 240 years after the tradition started in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

## The TV dinner was invented thanks to Thanksgiving.

In 1953, a Swanson employee accidentally

ordered too much turkey—260 tons too much! The frozen turkeys were taking up space in 10 refrigerated train cars when a company salesman suggested preparing and packaging the turkey with sides in compartmentalized aluminum trays. Swanson sold 5,000 TV dinners in 1953. The following year, they sold 10 million!

## There weren't any balloons at the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1924.

The first parade featured Macy's employees, floats, and animals from the Central Park Zoo. Large animal shaped balloons made their first appearance in the parade in 1927.



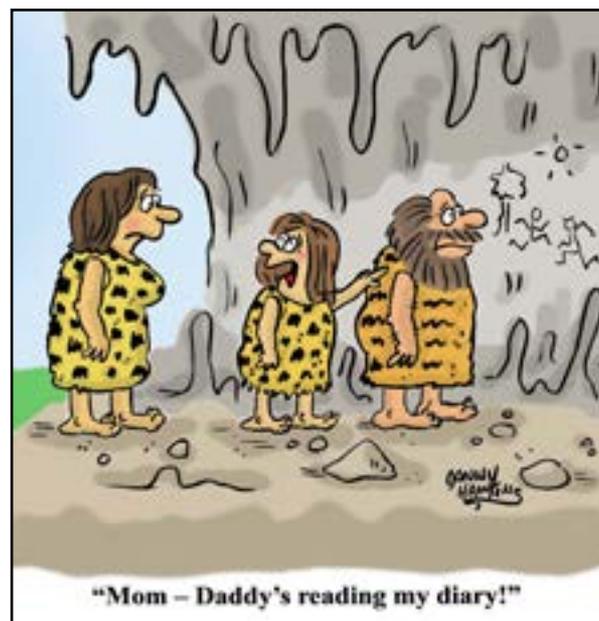
## Cranberries aren't just for eating.

Native Americans used cranberries to treat wounds and dye arrows. You can also find them in many holiday crafts including creative center pieces, wreaths and garlands.

## Big Bird's costume on Sesame Street is made of turkey feathers that have been dyed yellow.

The American Plume & Fancy Feather company is responsible for making Big Bird's suit which includes 4,000 turkey feathers.

# Just For Laughs!



"Mom - Daddy's reading my diary!"

## "Dad Jokes" Thanksgiving Edition

### When is turkey soup bad for your health?

When you are the turkey.

### Who doesn't eat on Thanksgiving?

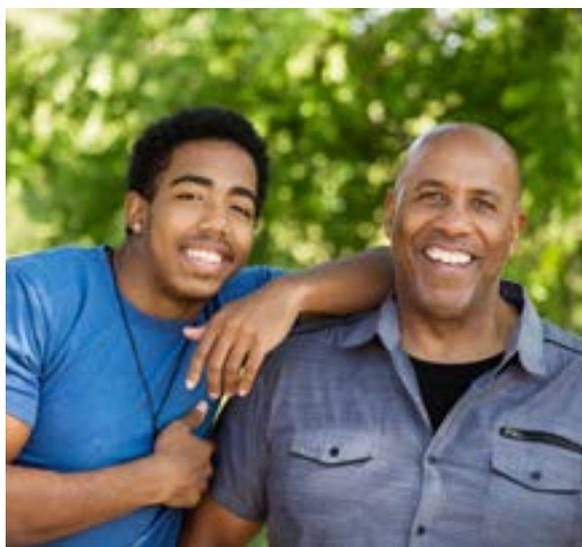
A turkey, because it is always stuffed.

### Can a turkey jump higher than a house?

Yes, because houses can't jump!

### What did the salad say to the butter who kept making jokes? You're on a roll.

### What would happen if a cranberry became sad? It would turn into a blueberry.



*There's more than one way to become a family.*



More than 250 children in Cuyahoga County need a forever family. Teens, sibling groups and special needs children are waiting for you to welcome them into your family. For more information call 216-881-5775 or visit [EveryChildNeedsFamily.com](http://EveryChildNeedsFamily.com)



Cuyahoga County  
Division of Children and Family Services



# Adoption: An Alternate Path to Parenthood

The perception of adoptive parents may be of a loving wife and husband who are unable to have children of their own. The couple go to a private adoption agency, shell out tens of thousands of dollars and, after what could be a years-long waiting period, bring home the newborn son or daughter they've always dreamed about raising.

Working with a private adoption agency with the goal of adopting an infant is an admirable approach to offering a home to a child in need. But some folks—married or not—find the process to be too costly and drawn out. Fortunately, there are other avenues for adoption, especially if prospective parents are open to providing forever homes for youngsters with special needs, older children, sibling groups or children of different races or ethnicities.

November is National Adoption Month, a 30-day platform for raising awareness and bringing attention to the need for permanent families for minors in foster care. It is an initiative of the Children's Bureau, which is part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

"National Adoption Month is a celebration of those members in our community who have taken a chance on children and made them a member of their family," says Eugene Tetrick, supervisor of the Substitute Care Unit (foster care/adoption) for the Lake County Department of Jobs and Family Services. "These people had the courage and determination to 'change their normal' by bringing a child in need into their home."

Beverly Torres, senior manager for permanency support (adoption) at the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, says many children are in county custody because of abuse, neglect, a parent's mental health issues and other reasons. "When they can't be safely reunified with their caregivers and when parental rights are terminated, we owe these kids a family. November highlights foster care, and especially adoptive care, for our families and children."

In honor of National Adoption Month, Today's Family answers questions about adopting youngsters currently in the foster care system.

## What is the difference between fostering and adopting?

Foster parents are state-certified caregivers, who provide a temporary home for children while social service agencies attempt to reunify youngsters with their families. If reunification with birth parents does not happen, the public agency holding temporary custody of the child receives permanent custody of them, matches them with an adoptive family (most often in the dually licensed foster/adoptive home they are currently in) and works with the adoptive family to finalize an adoption through probate court.

## Who is eligible to adopt children in foster care in Ohio?

Prospective adoptive parents must be at least 18 years old, have sufficient income to meet the child's



Jaylen, 17, is an affectionate, pure soul. He is mostly nonverbal, however, he does use a talking device that allows him to communicate his needs and wishes. He loves giving hugs, high fives, and other forms of physical affection. He loves going on his weekly outings to Taco Bell, Burger King, and Chick-fil-A. He is very organized, clean, able to do chores, and takes pride in his appearance.

Jaylen would benefit from a patient, loving family, that will nurture him and help him thrive. Call (216) 881-4657 or (216) 881-4662 today to begin the process of making his life, and yours, more fulfilled.

basic needs and be in good physical, emotional and mental health. They may be single, married, part of a same-sex couple or the child's older sibling. If part of a couple, they must be in a stable relationship for at least one year. Education level, religion and home ownership are not factors.

## How great is the need?

Every day, children throughout Ohio enter the custody of children services. This results in 2,000 to 3,000 children at any given moment waiting to be adopted in Ohio. The need for adoptive families is great and every child deserves a forever family.

According to Torres, Cuyahoga County has permanent custody of 900 children. The county has potential adoptive parents for about two-thirds (slightly more than 600) of them; the remainder are still in need of forever families.

Tetrick adds, "From 2020–2023 we finalized adoptions for 29 children. With those adoptions, our foster homes close as their families are now 'complete' when the adoption is finalized. Therefore we are continuously trying to recruit new families to replace the ones that left after they completed their families."

And the need is definitely very real as Lake County has 105 children in their custody in 2023.

## So many people wish to adopt. Why haven't these children found forever families?

It's important to match youngsters with families who are committed to meeting the children's specific needs for the long term. Many children in foster care deal with physical, psychological or behavioral concerns as they all have been exposed to abuse and/or neglect.

"Any time a child moves from one home to another, it's a traumatic experience," Torres explains.

"Some adoptive families are looking for a specific type of child. When kids come into our custody, they are experiencing a trauma in their life, a separation, a loss. That comes out in different ways for different children. Sometimes they've been removed from their home because of mental-health issues within the family that are not being managed in a healthy way, and that child is experiencing the same mental health issue. The specific needs of our children dictate the kind of families we're looking for."

Placing older children, such as teenagers, can be challenging because some people prefer to adopt infants or toddlers. Keeping siblings together can also be difficult if families wish to adopt one child at a time.

## What is the cost?

"Oftentimes, those who become licensed as foster and adoptive parents through the county are looking to grow their family through adoption as the costs of private adoptions are too expensive," Tetrick says. "Some costs involved in the adoption process are court costs for the adoption and paying for updated birth certificates, which are minimal comparatively to private adoptions. Adoption of a child in the custody of Lake County costs less than \$200."

Cuyahoga County's Torres says a required fire inspection may run \$30-\$100. If the compulsory home study visit reveals the need for making home improvements to meet Ohio mandates, there may be costs associated with those upgrades.

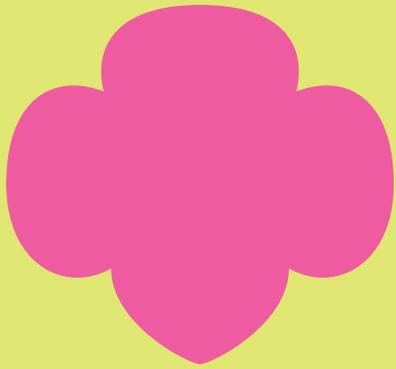
By comparison, voluntary adoption of a newborn at a nonprofit organization in Ohio typically costs \$10,000-\$25,000, according to the Franklin County Law Library website.

## I want to adopt a child currently in foster care. Now what?

Start with contacting the county agency. Cuyahoga residents may call 216-881-5775 or visit <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/adoptable-kids>.

Those in Lake County may dial 440-350-4218 and those in Geauga County may call 440-285-9141.

According to Torres, prospective adoptive parents are required to attend preservice training to become licensed as a foster or adoptive parent. Once licensed, they will complete an application and undergo a home study, which includes a fire inspection. Following approval, the county agency will work to match the adult and child. After a match is made, an adoption assessor and the child's social worker will present the prospective adoptive parent with the child's social, medical and educational records, photographs and other pertinent information. The adult and child will then have preplacement visits in the adoptive home and the child's current home. After the child moves in with the adult, a judge or magistrate can finalize the adoption. Classes, support groups and referrals to community agencies will then be available to the new family.



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