Beech Brook

Provides hope and healing to area families

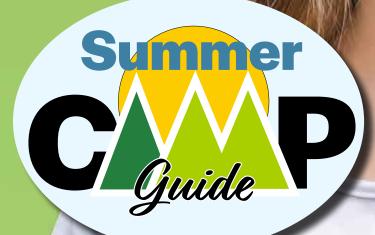
Mommy Chronicles

Montessori School of University Heights Laying a solid foundation for lifelong learning

TODAY'S March 2020 Cuyahoga

A Prom To Remember

Local organization holds special event for children battling cancer



Learn about the Water cycle

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer
District offers educational
and fun activities



Kid's Stuff with Previous Experience®

No Appointment Necessary

Spring Savings Coupon

\$5 OFF

Any Purchase of \$25 or more

Infant to size 14

Regular price only. Expires 4/30/20. One coupon per of

MENTOR COLONIAL PLAZA 7537 Mentor Avenue 440-951-7222

Infant to size 14

Furniture • Toys

Shoes • Equipment

Books • Accessories

Playroom

Mon.-Sat. 10-8 • Sun. 12-5



WESTLAKE 25028 Center Ridge 440-899-1100

Mon.-Sat. 9-7 • Sun. 12-5

Questions about your pregnancy? **Need support?**









Call Help Me Grow at 216-930-3322, 440-389-3322 or 1-800-755-GROW

Visit: www.helpmegrow.org







P.O. Box 7316, Eastlake, Ohio 44097

TodaysFamilyMagazine.com

info@todaysfamilymagazine.com (440) 799-8882

Publisher/Advertising

Kim Miller

General Manager/Editor

Dan Miller

Writers

Deanna Adams Mary Flenner Stacy Turner

ATTENTION:

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not constitute an endorsement by the Today's Family Magazine® staff or our advertisers. All contributors and advertisers assume responsibility and liability for the accuracy of statements and claims in advertisements and press releases. All readers assume responsibility for actions or decisions they may make as a result of reading this publication. We reserve the right to refuse any advertising. Submission of articles does not guarantee publication.

> Copyright 2020, Direct Market Publishing, LLC All rights reserved.

> Today's Family Magazine is distributed free of charge for families living in and around Cuyahoga County.



Like us on Facebook!



Follow us on Instragram!

@todaysfamilymagazine

Photo/image credits:

Cover: iStockPhoto / AaronAmat Page 5: iStockPhoto / Ridofranz Page 26 Calendar: Can Stock Photo sonyanew

Page 27 Athletes: Can Stock Photo WoodysPhotos

contents



Tips on choosing the right camp for your child. PLUS, ads and listings from participating camps.

Be sure to mention you saw them in Today's Family!

Pages 11-25, 28



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Offers fun and educational activities to learn about wastewater treatment

Page 8

plus

Montessori School of University Heights

Providing students a foundation for life Page 4

Beech Brook

Hope and healing for local families Page 5

A Prom To Remember

A special event for northeast Ohio kids battling cancer Page 6

Starting Point

Looking for a preschool or child care center? Start here! Page 10

Calendar of Events

todaysfamilymagazine.com

Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter!



Featuring easy-to-enter contests with great prizes, updates, announcements, featured events and articles, and much more! Visit TodaysFamilyMagazine.com and sign up today! The link is in the upper left corner of the home page.

MONTESSORI

SCHOOL OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

FOUNDED 1968

WWW.MS-UH.ORG

23599 CEDAR ROAD | BEACHWOOD, OH

CALL FOR A PERSONAL TOUR

216-381-8388



THREE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINNING AT AGE THREE



Montessori School of University Heights provides a foundation for life

By Deanna Adams

he Montessori method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, has been utilized for more than 100 years, and continues to increase in popularity. The Montessori approach, based on explorative hands-on learning, individualized self-directed activity, and a noncompetitive, collaborative, multi-age environment, lays a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

The school's mission is to assist each child in becoming the unique person each is created to be. The school provides an environment specifically prepared to meet the young child's developmental needs and encourages children to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually according to each child's own capacity in an atmosphere of peace, love, and respect.

As the children engage with the unique Montessori materials, self-learning and self-development occur.

The children gradually develop an inner discipline, a sense of self-worth, and respect for others and the world in which they live.

Former high school physics and chemistry teacher, Elizabeth "Betty" Hissong, along with her husband, Jack, believed so strongly in Dr. Montessori's mission, and the importance of child-centered early education, that they opened the Montessori School of University Heights in 1968.

Although the school now resides in Lyndhurst—inside the Church of the Good Shepherd—its mission continues to thrive under the leadership of Maria Wood, head of school. "My husband and I became acquainted with this school when our first child was an infant. I was immediately impressed with the peaceful, beautiful, engaging atmosphere. I became an assistant in 1990, when both of our sons were enrolled," Wood recalls. "I took Montessori training and completed my intern-



ship under Betty's guidance. When Betty retired in 1999, I embraced the work of continuing the school's mission."

The school is for children, ages 3–6, which is considered a crucial stage in a young person's educational life. Wood explains that Maria Montessori, an Italian medical doctor, was first to discover that young children between birth and age six have a unique mental capacity that she termed the "absorbent mind." Dr. Montessori described this capacity as the young child's ability to absorb information effortlessly like a sponge absorbs water. The Montessori primary environment is orderly, beautiful, and inviting. No flashing lights, buzzes, bells or whistles. Instead the children explore and learn from real objects made primarily of natural materials, such as wood, cloth, metal, and glass—and, surprising to some, includes china. "We encourage this so that they learn to appreciate beauty and how to handle beautiful items with care,"Wood says. "We want them to experience the delight of aesthetically pleasing materials."

Even at such a young age, children are introduced to a variety of subjects, such as math, language, geography, science, music, and art by exploring the Montessori materials that embody concepts in these areas.

In the practical life area, children build fine and gross motor skills through activities for everyday living including fastening clothes, tying/buckling shoes, polishing, washing, sweeping, sewing, and woodworking, all using real materials.

The sensorial work refines the uses of the five senses. "Our school also serves the spiritual development of the child utilizing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program," notes Wood

Absent from the room are computers, tablets, and televisions. "We believe a child needs concrete experiences with real objects. There is a strong connection between the hand and brain. The young child develops through meaningful interaction with real objects. Through working with their hands the children develop order, concentration, coordination, independence and, as Dr. Montessori states, 'reach a strength of character which is conspicuous."

Since its formation, Montessori School of University Heights has served approximately 600 young children. It's been noted that many former students have used their Montessori foundation to go on to work as doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, social workers, teachers and in other successful professions. "We build a foundation for lifelong learning in the sense that we help nurture the person's curiosity and overall love of learning that carries them through life," Wood says.

While the children receive individual presentations on the Montessori materials, they also develop social skills, grace, courtesy, manners, respect for others, and the ability to relate to others as they work together with the Montessori materials, play together on the playground, and eat together at the snack table. Applications are accepted year-round for children who will be 3 years old by the fall. New children visits are typically held in March or April.

The Montessori School of University Heights is located at 23599 Cedar Road in Lyndhurst. For more information, see www.ms-uh.org, or phone (216) 381-8388.



Dr. Trista is a board certified pediatric dentist. She specializes in treating the dental needs of infants, children and adolescents in a child-friendly atmosphere. Her extensive resume makes her uniquely qualified to help your child achieve and maintain a healthy, bright smile for a lifetime.

Schedule your child's dental exam & cleaning today!

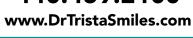
Pediatric Dentist for The Cleveland Clinic, Department of Plastic Surgery, Craniofacial Team

Dr. Trista Onesti is proud to be named a 2019 Pediatric Top Dentist as seen in:

Trista Onesti, DDS

5255 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst

440.459.2100





Hope and healing

Beech Brook provides mental health services, education, support, mentoring, sex education, and fostering for children and families.

By Deanna Adams

Imost everyone needs help with personal problems at some point in their lives, and many times you don't know where to turn. Yet, one phone call could make a difference. That phone call is often to Beech Brook, a premier behavioral health agency located in Pepper Pike.

"We work specifically with families and children, and have partnerships with almost 100 schools throughout northeast Ohio, including Cuyahoga, Summit, Geauga and Lorain counties," says Nancy Kortemeyer, senior director of marketing and communications at Beech Brook. "Early intervention is key. The earlier we can address and help problematic situations, the better for the child's future."

The agency has a long history. It opened as the Cleveland Orphan Asylum back in 1852. Its mission of hope and healing for children and families remains a steadfast tradition. Their services are wide ranging and future focused. The experienced and authorized staff help children and adults through early intervention, and education and support, as well as treatment for those who have experienced severe trauma. The qualified staff members visit schools, homes, daycare centers, foster homes, and many other community settings to offer their services to children and families who need to move forward successfully.

Kortemeyer calls it "moving upstream." Beech Brook president and CEO, Thomas Royer describes that concept. "When we deal only with the aftermath of traumatic events and toxic environments, we are suffering from the results of down-

stream thinking. We are treating the effects but not the cause of the suffering that too many children and families are enduring. We are not keeping our children from drowning.

"With this in mind, we are reshaping the way we approach and do our work at Beech Brook. We will be working every day to identify those who are experiencing unhealthy social determinants of health, to reduce school violence, to keep families together, and as our mission guides us, to help children and families thrive. We are focused not only on treating but on preventing the devastating toll of today's epidemic—abuse, trauma, daily exposure to violence, the toxic stress of living in poverty—and its lifelong impact on our children, our families and future of our community. We are moving upstream."

"We feel so strong about the community needs and our mission," says Kortemeyer, who has worked at Beech Brook for 27 years. "We want to make the biggest difference in young people's lives. We begin with early childhood programs because that's truly the starting point. It's hard for some to believe, but there are children who are expelled in preschool for out-of-control behaviors. So the need is great to get the children help as soon as possible."

Beech Brook offers a wide range of programs concerning issues that include child abuse prevention, education and early intervention, as well as community and home-based treatment programs for at-risk children and families.

Among the 43 specialized programs and services that Beech Brook provides are:

School-based mental health services and support: Beech Brook cur-



rently provides therapy and support services for children, parents and staff in 96 schools in Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain and Geauga counties.

Early childhood services: Through mental health services, child care consultation and parenting classes that help parents understand and support their child's brain development, Beech Brook is trying to help young children overcome problems early in life.

Parent education and support: Beech Brook offers a variety of parenting classes and support services that improve parenting skills and strengthen families.

Family Preservation and Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT): These programs provide in-home, intensive, short-term crisis intervention designed to stabilize and preserve families.

STRIDE (Skill Building, Teaching, Role Modeling, Independence, Development, Empowerment):

This mentoring program pairs a child or teenager with a staff member to provide extra support during stressful times and encourage the child to participate in positive activities.

Sex Education: Beech Brook's Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) programming is designed to help youths, ages 10–18, understand the emotional, social and physical changes that are occurring in their lives. The goal of the program is to educate, inform, empower and motivate these young people to take control of their future by making healthy and responsible choices now and in the years to come.

Then there is the **Foster Care Program**, one of the agency's most challenging missions. "We are always in need of foster parents,"

Kortemeyer says. "Naturally, we'd prefer that children never experience trauma of being removed from their families, but we're here to help when that happens."

Indeed, there are times when children must be taken from their homes, temporarily or permanently, for their own protection. Children come into foster care with problems stemming anywhere from abuse and neglect, exposure to violence, or parental drug and alcohol addiction. "The need for foster parents is even more urgent today, much due to the opioid crisis," says Kortemeyer.

Beech Brook foster parents play an important role in helping these children overcome their trauma. The foster parents provide a 24-hour therapeutic environment where healing can begin. "We provide extensive training and support for foster parents and are in at least weekly contact with them," Kortemeyer notes. "Our case workers and therapists work continually with them to help in all manners."

It's also important to note that Beech Brook also provides services for youth, ages 18–21, who are aging out of foster care through Ohio's Bridges program, which provides the support needed to make a successful transition into adulthood.

Kortemeyer summarizes why Beech Brook's mission of moving upstream is so important. "You can't give a kid back a lost childhood. That's why we want to make a difference early in children's lives, before they are hurt or traumatized, so they can have the best beginnings."

Beech Brook is housed at 3737 Lander Road in Pepper Pike. For more info call (216) 831-2255 or visit www.beechbrook.org.



A Prom to Remember

Local organization sponsors special night for northeast Ohio teens battling cancer

By Stacy Turner

right of passage that many take for granted — high school prom. For kids battling cancer, prom is just one of the things they may need to set aside on their road to wellness. And that's something Jane and Mike Knausz set out to help change.

Wedding photographers by trade, the couple's first experience with A Prom to Remember took place when their daughter, Kim, asked them to volunteer with her at the first A Prom to Remember held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2009. That experience impacted the couple so dramatically that they knew they wanted to bring the experience home to Cleveland.

The couple gathered together with friends to figure out how to host a similar event the very next spring. Ten years later, the event is firmly entrenched in Cleveland, giving area teens battling cancer an opportunity to celebrate their lives and their youth in an environment of accep-

tance and camaraderie.

The event is open to guests who are currently or have recently received treatment for cancer at three area hospitals — Akron Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, and University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Patients aged 12-19 who are receiving treatment or have recently received treatment for cancer are extended invitations to attend the annual gala. Each year, roughly 75 children and their guests attend the special event, which will once again be held at the Ritz Carlton in Cleveland. This year, A Prom to Remember will be held on March 28.

As you would expect, the event garners a great deal of excitement. That night, these special kids are treated like movie stars arriving in limousines, walking the red carpet, and dancing the night away at a fabulous gala created just for them.

Local celebrities come in to make their evening even more amazing with live performances, autographs and pictures. Local police and fire department personnel attend, acting as escorts, and doctors and nurses from local hospitals serve as chaperones making it a parent-free evening for the honored guests. And best of all, the prom is held annually at no cost to the kids or their families.

"With the help of sponsors and donations, we provide everything necessary to make their prom unlike any other," shared this year's event chairperson Marianne J. Sumego, MD, a physician with the Cleveland Clinic,.

Once she learned of the event, she was hooked. "Everyone has day jobs, but make time to help create a memorable event every year. This is a phenomenal organization," she exclaimed. When she learned of Jane's desire to 'retire' from running the event, she knew she wanted to help make sure it would continue.

"Everything from tuxedos for the boys, dresses, hair and make-up for the girls, limousine transportation, prom photos, food, entertainment and much more are all provided for these courageous teens," she shared. She acknowledges that the event wouldn't be possible without the work of a large team of volunteers who begin planning up to a year in

advance.

New and gently used dresses, shoes, wraps, and accessories are collected throughout the year. In mid-February, participants were invited to a dress extravaganza at Our Redeemer Church in Solon, giving young ladies the opportunity to select a gown from the hundreds available to them at no cost. The day after the extravaganza, any remaining items were offered for sale to the public, with all proceeds benefiting A Prom to Remember.

"Our Redeemer Church has been a wonderful new partner, providing a venue for the sale, and helping to set up dresses, shoes, and accessories, even providing food for our volunteers," she marveled.

Local seamstresses volunteer their time to make minor alterations that day, and a wide selection of shoes, wraps, and jewelry are also available, free for attendees and their guests. Volunteers prepare for that event at least two months prior, shared Sumego.

Jackie Custer, a previous A Prom to Remember attendee from Akron Children's Hospital, admitted she was more into sports than shopping.

"But when it comes to prom," Jackie shared, "I was really excited to go shopping!" Her mom, Julie Custer, went to the dress extravaganza with her to help Jackie pick out a dress. "I was just overwhelmed with how many dresses were there," Jackie marveled.

According to Jackie's mom, her daughter's battle with cancer had been long and difficult. In fact, during her treatment, Jackie suffered a stroke. But Jackie battled back. "She's just amazing," Julie shared. "She takes it all one day at a time." Through hard work and determination, Julie learned to walk again, and was thrilled to be able to try out her dance moves at A Prom to Remember.

Reminiscing after prom, Jackie noted, "Arriving at the Ritz Carlton was just absolutely amazing! It made me feel like a star when I saw the Cavs and Browns players. I'll never forget being out there with all the kids who had cancer, and feeling normal." she shared. "Being able to dance...it was a dream come true," she added.

"Brown Aveda has been a fabulous partner, as well. They've been with us since the beginning," Sumego noted. "Not only do they provide hair styling and makeup services for attendees at no charge, the salons also serve as drop-off locations to collect new and gently used dresses, shoes and accessories for eventgoers as well. Sumego noted that gentlemen who attend the annual event are fitted for evening wear courtesy of American Commodore Tuxedo, another long-time event partner.

At each event, the guest list is comprised of patients, doctors and nurses from the participating hospitals, giving young attendees a night away from the watchful eyes of caring parents. Special guests also include celebrity athletes from local sports teams, television personalities, and usually a surprise guest or two. Last year, attendees and volunteers alike were thrilled to meet Cleveland Indians pitcher Mike Clevinger.

Sumego explained, "Everyone who volunteers gets drawn in." Most end up volunteering at the next year's event, just like she did. "It speaks a lot to the atmosphere here," she noted.

Volunteer opportunities are available with needs ranging from business expertise, time, finances, donation of dresses, accessories, and time. Student groups have been formed at Mentor High School and Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High Schools to provide opportunities for local teens to help make the event successful for kids their own age.

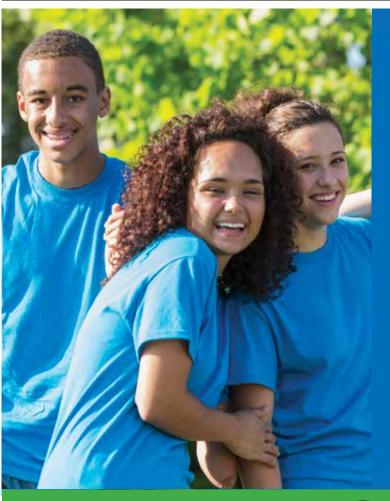
To learn more about the event and how you might help, search A Prom to Remember -Cleveland online, on Instagram, Twitter, or visit A Prom To Remember Ohio on Facebook.

Donations may be mailed to A Prom to Remember, 8827 Mentor Avenue, Suite B, Mentor, OH 44060.



Above: Cleveland Indians pitcher Mike Clevinger chaperones the 2019 event. Below: Students dancing the night away in 2019.





DISCOVER STARTING POIN

SEARCH.

For child care, early education, preschool and out-of-school time programs

About programs and activities for your child or teenager

With experts who'll answer your questions and offer guidance



216-575-0061 | 800-880-0972







starting-point.org/parents.html

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District offers fun, hands-on learning with water education

By Mary Flenner

ave your kids ever asked you what happens when you flush the toilet? Where does it go? Where do the pipes lead? What happens next?

There's a lot of mystery in the world of our sewers, for both adults and children alike. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) wants to lift the veil on the mystery of the underground world of wastewater treatment and teach kids about what they do and why it's important.

The NEORSD offers the Speakers Bureau, which educates students—as well as adults—about the wastewater treatment process and much more. Their experts visit schools and present to students, whether it be an entire grade, a classroom or an environmental club.

Ebony Hood, NEORSD community relations specialist says, "Science is an underserved topic in

our schools. We talk about what it means to have an environmentally-literate community. This topic may be something that teachers aren't comfortable with in a classroom. So often it's educators reaching out to us who love science and want their students to know things like: what is the urban water cycle, where does water come from, where does it go after we use it, how is it treated and who treats it. We're making sure science is brought to the forefront of it all."

Their educators also speak about stormwater, pollution, water quality, water conservation and what fish and bugs can tell us about our water. The NEORSD Speakers Bureau also likes to give kids hands-on experience when they visit, so they engage in lots of fun activities and experiments, all tailored to the age group.

Students get the opportunity to be lab analysts and conduct experiments. Kids can take wastewater through the cleaning process or they



Above: Shaker Heights Elementary 4th grade students capstone project. Exploring the urban water cycle-combine sewer overflow at Edgewater Beach. **Below:** Kids at Camp Clean Water.



may add polymer to a liquid to form a solid. The NEORSD may set up a large group station where students put various items through a test to find out "Is it water?" Students also perform pH strip tests and discuss the importance of safety with toxic chemicals.

"We're connecting what's underneath your cabinets that can be a danger and what it means if those things go down your drain.... Grease and oil down the drain is also a huge issue... so we conduct a lava lamp experiment to illustrate what it means when it goes through our treatment," says Hood.

"For little ones, it's all about learning the properties of water: solid, liquid, gases. We also talk about germs and washing hands. We'll host a mock field trip and go around the building and look for pipes," she continues.

Many students find inspiration from these visits, and the NEORSD also provides career information. "The Sewer District is top to bottom STEM careers, so we're hoping to find a future audience to think about us as a possible job someday. It's a way to have fun with the disgusting

work we do," she laughs. "No one is celebrating the sewers, so we talk about how wastewater treatment is a job someone has to do and how important that job is... what it means to be able to turn on your water and have clean water."

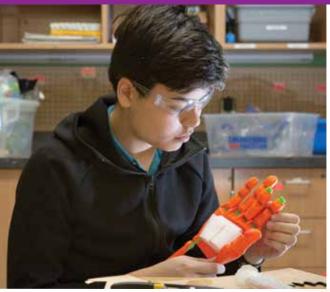
"The other beautiful thing I love about northeast Ohio is that we have a lake. So we discuss what it means to have a great lake and why that fresh water resource matters."

In addition to school visits, they also offer wastewater treatment plant tours for older students and conduct field experiences at on-site locations such as the Doan Brook Watershed.

The NEORSD Speakers Bureau is also a unique option for group leaders, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. If you're a troop leader interested in learning more, their educators can accommodate evenings and weekend requests and often meet at libraries or community centers. They are also available to be used as subject matter experts as judges in science contests.

To get more information about the NEORSD's Speaker Bureau, visit NEORSD.org/speaker or call Ebony Hood at (216) 881-6600 ext. 6811.









CHOOSING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP YOU CAN TAKE FOR YOUR FUTURE

CHOOSE NOW. CHOOSE CMSD.



FREE college and trade school tuition scholarships for four-year CMSD grads!
SayYesCleveland.org

ChooseCMSD.org | **216.838.3675**

Looking for child care or a preschool?

Starting Point can help!

hether you're a mom who works or needs to go back to school, one of the hardest things to do is entrust your child to someone else when you need child care, or a preschool. For many of us, it's a wrenching decision. We want caregivers and teachers who'll give the nurturing care we would give and help our child grow and learn in healthy, constructive ways.

How do you find the right place? Perhaps a neighbor told you about a center, but is it the best choice for you? Who can you trust to give you advice on where to go or what to look for so your child gets the best start?

Luckily, there is a good answer—Starting Point, the most trusted source of information on child care, preschool and out-of-school time care in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Ashtabula counties. Starting Point is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping families find quality care for their children, and its services are free. For 30 years, Starting Point has been the go-to place for information on early childhood care and learning. And we can help you.

There are many types of early childhood programs: child care centers, family child care homes, in-home care, preschools, special needs care and more. Starting Point has developed the most comprehensive listing of early childhood programs



in the area and can help you find the right fit for your child.

The quality of the program matters, too. In the early years, a child's brain has an amazing period of growth. Healthy brain development is influenced by your child's relationships, experiences and environment. You want to make certain your child is in a program that offers the stimulating

experiences and nurturing relationships that lead to later success in school and in life. Starting Point can help you identify quality programs, too.

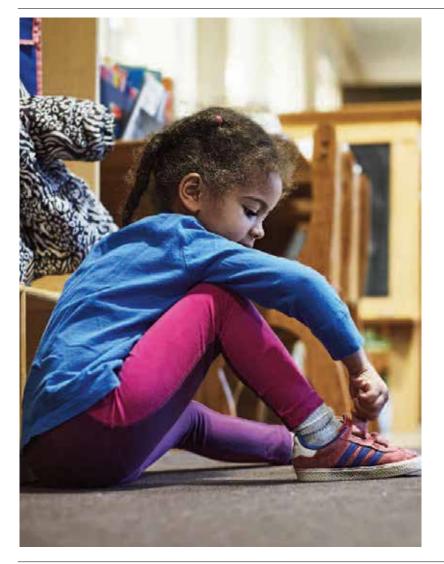
All you need to do is call Starting Point at (216) 575-0061 to reach an early childhood specialist who'll give you the information you need, answer your questions, offer guidance and send you a copy of Starting Point's Good Child Care Book, which contains valuable information on what to look for in a child care or early childhood education program and much more.

Starting Point specialists can also help you find interesting after-school, vacation and holiday activities for your older school-age children.

You can also search for a program online by logging onto www.starting-point.org/parents.html, where you'll also find the Good Child Care Book and information on all the ways Starting Point works to improve early childhood and after-school experiences for children.

Starting Point is a valuable resource for families throughout northeast Ohio. Including you!





Foundations for Lifelong Learning

Saturday, March 14, 2020 • 9:30-11:00 a.m.

A child's preschool experience should build a foundation for their education and lifelong skills of

perseverance, independence, confidence and finding joy in their own interests.

You are invited for an interactive parent-child Montessori experience designed for preschool children from 2 to 4 years of age. Discover how to help unlock the potential of your child through Practical Life activities that you can also do at home.

Please call or email Kate at Cleveland Montessori to RSVP 216-421-0700 or kate@clevelandmontessori.org



CLEVELAND MONTESSORI

12510 Mayfield Road • Cleveland P (216) 421-0700 • clevelandmontessori.org



How to choose a summer camp your kids will love and that you approve

By Kimberly Blaker

hether you're looking for enrichment for your child, a way to keep your child occupied and supervised while you work, or a short reprieve from parenting, there's a summer camp out there that's just right for every family.

The benefits of summer camp.

Summer camp offers plenty of benefits, and many kids thrill at the idea of going away to summer camp. But for some kids, particularly those who are shy, introverted, or homebodies, the thought of going away for a night, let alone a week or more, can be cause for considerable anxiety. For kids who are adamantly opposed, forcing summer camp on them may not be in their best interest.

But for kids who are more than eager – or at the very least willing to give it a shot without too much fuss – summer camp offers lots of opportunities kids aren't likely to experience at home or anywhere else. If you're not familiar with the benefits, summer camp:

- Fosters independence
- Is a place to develop new and lasting friendships
- Helps kids develop new skills
- Leads kids to discover new interests and hobbies
- Provides the opportunity for creative expression

- Gives kids a break from being plugged-in
- · Offers daily exercise
- Improves their self-esteem
- Teaches kids to work with others
- Makes kids feel part of a community
- Prevents or reduces summer learning loss

Getting started in your search.

Before you begin looking into summer camps, first create a list of the criteria you're looking for. Here are some initial things to consider.

- What is your budget for summer camp?
- What is the purpose of sending your child to summer camp?
- Do you want a resident (overnight) or a day camp?
- Are you looking for a shortterm (week or two) or summer-long program?
- Do you want a camp that's very structured or one that provides your child lots of freedom and choices?
- What are your child's interests, such as a particular sport, hobby, or other interest?

Once you've narrowed down some of the criteria, you can begin your search. An excellent place to start is right here in Today's Family and on www. TodaysFamilyMagazine.com! The American Camp Association (ACA) accredits summer camps. So this is another excellent place to look for a camp. The ACA educates camp owners and directors in health and safety for staff and campers as well as program quality. It then accredits camps that meet the organization's standards.

Next steps to finding the perfect summer camp.

Once you've selected a few summer camps that meet your primary criteria and that fit your child's interests, share the choices to see what excites your child. Let your child know up front that you still need to thoroughly investigate the camp(s) before making a final decision. But do keep your child's choices in mind to ensure your child gets the most out of summer camp.

Once you and your child have narrowed the list to a manageable selection, you'll want to investigate the camps further. Several things to consider:

What are the staff's qualifications?

Many summer camps use teens to staff the camps. Teens make excellent mentors and can bring liveliness to summer camp programs. However, the programs themselves should be developed by professionals and have professional oversight to ensure kids are getting the most from the camp programs.

How does the camp ensure your child's safety?

Find out what kind of safety training the camp provides its staffers. Also, is there staff on hand at all times that knows CPR? What are the camp's procedures in the event your child becomes ill, has an accident, or there's an emergency?

What is the daily schedule for campers?

Ask for a daily itinerary, so you know your child will be getting everything you and your child anticipate from the program.

What are the rules?

Each camp has its own set of rules. So, find out whether your child is allowed to call you. If it's a summer-long residential camp, can parents come and visit? Can your child bring along a cell phone or electronics? Also, how much money should your child bring, and how is your child's money managed?

Don't sweat it.

Keep in mind, although there are many great camps, no camp is likely to offer everything precisely the way you want it. Just choose the one that best fits your child and satisfies your most important criteria. Remember, your child will have many summers to come and plenty more opportunities to work in more exciting camp experiences.



Andrews Osborne Academy

38588 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby (440) 942-3600 www.andrewsosborne.org

Andrews Osborne Academy is offering a variety of summer camp offerings beginning in June. Go to their website to register and learn more. You can choose the perfect camp for your child!

This coeducational, independent, college preparatory day, prekindergarten (ages 3 and 4) through 12th, boarding (7-12), and post-graduate school has a 300acre campus and is truly a global village with some of the best and brightest students from down the street, across America, and around the world

With a student-teacher ratio of just 6 to 1, students are active participants in their education and are prepared for college...and the world!

Students have vast opportunities to explore both in and out of the classroom, discover leadership abilities through the entrepreneurial and public speaking programs, and participate in extracurricular activities, all while excelling academically with a rigorous curricu-

To learn more about the school, call or visit their website.

Animal Camp

Hosted by Rising River Farm 6618 Chagrin River Road Chagrin Falls (440) 463-3146 khanimalcamp@gmail.com www.RisingRiver.net

Animal Camp is a unique farm day camp experience for kids ages 5–13. Since 2006 they have honed an interactive, self-directed experience for children.

Kids enjoy and learn about farm animals (horses, goats, bunnies, chickens, dogs, and cats), participate in horseback riding, crafts, and an end of week trail ride.

They offer 10 individual (Mon-Fri) sessions, either all day (9 am-4:30 pm), or half day (9 am-12:30 pm). Campers are welcome to participate in one or multiple sessions.

Kids participating in the all day camp spend the afternoons playing games, crafting, and cooling off in the Chagrin River, which is shallow and located on the property.

They feature "Feed-em-Friday" where kids are permitted to bring carrots to feed the animals.

All activities are supervised by experienced counselors, many of whom are Animal Camp graduates! (Typical ratio camper to counselor is 4:1.)

Horseback riding helmets are provided. Closed toe shoes, water bottle, snack or lunch (as appropriate) are required. Please email Krista with questions. Like Rising River Farm on Facebook to stay up to date!

Camp Carl

8054 Calvin Road, Ravenna (330) 315-5665 CampCarl.life

Kids need camp. Today, like never before, teens and preteens are under tremendous pressure. Selfdoubt, peer pressure, substance abuse, self-injury and a myriad of

harmful voices nag at kids every day. Even kids who have a strong support structure face obstacles. Camp Carl provides opportunities for children and students to pull away and get a breather—to catch a vision for the bigger picture of their lives. Kids need experiences that will challenge them and give them worth, direction, belonging, perspective, significance, connection and LOVE! They believe LOVE matters MOST!

As one of Ohio's leading Christian camps, each summer Camp Carl provides 2,200+ children and students with the opportunity to discover their God-given purpose and potential, experience incredible adventures, foster relationships that could last a lifetime, and not just hear the Gospel but experience the Gospel through their staff. They hire over 110 thoroughly trained college students so that your camper will be surrounded by the finest young Christian role models that colleges around the country have to offer. Check them out! Their open house will be Saturday, May 23 from 1-4 pm.



Imagine summer, think Hawken!

Summer programs for boys and girls ages 4-18.

Hawken Summer Programs provide some of the best summer enrichment opportunities in Greater Cleveland. Campers can choose from a broad menu of programs that are specifically designed to be age-appropriate, fun, and worthwhile.

> Day Camps • One-week Passport Camps • Athletics Camps Innovation Camps • Summer Studies for Grades 6-12

To register and for full camp descriptions visit Exciting adventures await you. summer.hawken.edu or contact us at 440-423-2940 or summerprograms@hawken.edu

summer.hawken.edu

AOA SUMMER

CMMPS



June 8-12

RUN WILD - KIDS FITNESS CAMP

AOA campers will be lead through a series of fun, dynamic training activities and games all week long. It's hard to feel like you're working out when you're having this much fun!

Hours: 9:00 AM - 12 NOON Ages: Rising 3rd - 8th graders



Camp I - July 20-24 / Camp II - August 3-7

AOA TENNIS CAMP I & II

\$60 per day Cost:

AOA Tennis Camp provides a fun learning environment - whether picking up a racquet for the first time in months or for the first time ever, players will be sure to solidify their fundamental skills and improve their game.

Camp I Hours: 9:00 AM - 12 NOON Camp II Hours: 12 NOON - 3:00 PM Rising 5th - 12th graders Ages:



Camp I - June 8-12 / Camp II - June 15-19

AOA BASKETBALL CAMP I & II

\$125 Cost:

AOA Basketball Camp provides a fun, active, learning environment that focuses on teaching fundamental skills, while adding in plenty of fun, small area, game action. No experience in basketball is necessary.

Camp I Hours: 12 NOON - 3:00 PM Camp II Hours: 9:00 AM - 12 NOON Rising 3rd - 8th graders



July 20-24

AOA GOLF CAMP

Cost: \$150

The AOA Varsity Golf Coach will focus instruction on a new skill each day of the week. After learning more about swing fundamentals, putting, and chipping, campers will be ready to take on the coach in fun driving range competitions and even 9 holes of golf on Friday.

12 NOON - 3:00 PM Ages: Rising 5th - 12th graders



June 15-19

AOA VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Content: AOA Volleyball Camp provides a fun, active, learning environment that focuses on teaching fundamental skills, while adding in plenty of fun and game play. No experience in volleyball is necessary.

12 NOON - 3:00 PM Hours: Rising 3rd - 8th graders Ages:



July 27 - July 31

АОА ВООТСАМР

A week-long program full of strength-building, cardio-improving challenges. AOA Bootcamp will help each camper learn their current physical limits, how to set appropriate goals for the future, and how to measure progress towards those goals.

Hours: 9:00 AM - 12 NOON Rising 6th - 12th graders Ages:



Camp I - June 22-26 / Camp II - August 10-14

NE OHIO ADVENTURE CAMP I & II

\$225

Content: NE Ohio Adventure Camp takes kids on a fun, new trip each and every day! This action-packed week of adventure will ensure your camper goes to bed tired, with a smile on their face each night.

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Hours: Rising 3rd - 8th graders Ages:

Daily destinations will be located throughout NOTE: NE Ohio and dependent on weather conditions.



August 3-7

AOA SOCCER CAMP

\$125

Content: The AOA Athletic Director, along with guest coaches and AOA varsity players, will guide campers through a fun week of soccer activities that will cover fundamental skills and introduce game play.

Cost:

\$325

9:00 AM - 12 NOON Hours: Rising 3rd - 8th graders Ages:



July 6-10 & July 13-17

AOA RACEWAY CAMP I & II

Content: Learn to ride 'Razor Crazy Carts' around our very own AOA Raceway. The track will take on a new look throughout the week to challenge all racers. When you're not sending your cart into overdrive, create your own RC Racer with Lego Mindstorms EV3.

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Rising 3rd - 8th graders

NOTE: Priority for enrollment will be given to those not signed up for both AOA Raceway camps





CAMP INFORMATION

- Campers are expected to bring their own snacks and lunches daily
- Before and Aftercare available weekly
- **Sibling discount** = 10% for 1, 20% for 2+

BEFORE & AFTER CARE

8:00-9:00 AM & 3:00-5:00 PM daily

COST: \$20/day

INFO & REGISTRATION

For more information and to register, please go to www.andrewsosborne.org

> **38588 MENTOR AVENUE** WILLOUGHBY, OH 44094 440.942.3600

WWW.ANDREWSOSBORNE.ORG

- andrewsosborneacademy



Registration is now open for Cleveland Play House Summer Academy! We have exciting programs for young people this summer ranging from creative drama to musical theatre! Excite creative potential, and nurture your child's passion for the performing arts

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

clevelandplayhouse.com/academy 216.414.7111





Cleveland City Dance

Home of City Ballet of Cleveland 13108 Shaker Square, Cleveland (216) 295-2222

www.clevelandcitydance.com

You will love watching your child's eyes sparkle as their passion is nurtured in engaging and inspiring camps and classes. Classes for ages 3 and up develop confidence, poise, technique and friendships. Teachers are patient and experienced in these small classes encouraging dancers to do their personal best.

Register early for a magical and exciting summer! Sessions run June 8 through August 8. Choose one to seven weeks.

- Themed camps for ages 3 to 8 such as Winter's Ball, Peter & the Wolf, Adventure of Mother Goose....
- Camps for ages 8 and up including preprofessional, work on mastering technique with friends in ballet, jazz, modern, conditioning, choreography and classical variations, dance history, guest speakers and more.

- Extended day options at no additional charge.
- Adult and children individual class options also available.

Space is limited so call early for more information at (216) 295-2222 or visit their website at www.clevelandcitydance.com.

Cleveland Play House Summer Academy

(216) 414-7111 www.clevelandplavhouse.com/ education

Registration is now open for Cleveland Play House Summer Academy running June 1 – July 17, 2020. They have exciting programs for young people ages 4–18, ranging from creative drama to musical theatre! Excite creative potential, and nurture your child's passion for the performing arts!

For more information email academy@clevelandplayhouse. com or call (216) 414-7111.



MMEROF

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO THIS SUMMER AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL!



DAY CAMPS



ENRICHMENT CAMPS



ACADEMIC CAMPS



SPORTS CAMPS



Registration now open! www.us.edu/summer



Creative Playrooms Montessori & Child Care Centers

Solon: (440) 248-3100 Independence: (216) 524-8008 Maple Heights: (216) 475-6464 Parma: (216) 898-9520 Strongsville: (440) 572-9365 Westlake: (440) 835-5858

The summer camp program at the six Creative Playrooms Montessori and Child Care Centers lets children grow and have fun! A full-day program that offers a comprehensive curriculum for ages 4-11, the Creative Playrooms summer camp calendar runs from the start of summer vacation in June and ends when school begins in August.

Children have the opportunity to take part in activities including computer, cooking, art, music, science, sports, crafts, swimming in on-site pools, and field trips such as the zoo, laser tag, and museums to name a few. Cooks prepare breakfast, lunch and snacks every day (Monday–Friday). On days away from the center, stu-

dents experience cookouts and picnics at area parks.

Creative Playrooms is a studentcentered childcare provider serving the Cleveland area for over 50 years. In addition to summer camp programs, Creative Playrooms offer daily care for younger children ages 6 weeks to school age. Call now to reserve your spot!

En Pointe Danse

516 East Washington Street Chagrin Falls (440) 247-5747 www.enpointedanse.com

En Pointe Danse will be offering summer sessions and dance camps from June 15-August 14.

Classes will be offered in ballet, tap, creative movement, and modern dance for ages 3 through adult.

Princess Camp: Princess Camp for ages 3-7 will include preballet focusing on beginning ballet vocabulary, balance, coordination, and musicality. Students will also create their own costumes and

Summer Ruffing It!

Summer camps for ages 18 months - Grade 8

June 15 - July 24, 2020

For more information go to ruffingmontessori.net or call 216.321.7571



Animal Camp

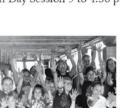
The Best Camp Ever! Is celebrating its 14th year and we are inviting you to be part of the fun!!

10 one week sessions

For kids 5 to 13 years old Morning Session: 9 to 12:30 p.m. All Day Session 9 to 4:30 p.m.

Features: Horseback riding, playing with rabbits, goats, chickens and dogs. Plus crafts and games all day long.

Vist us at: www.risingriver.net Contact Us: (440) 463-3146 khanimalcamp@gmail.com



Open House

Saturday April 18th 3 to 6 p.m. Monday April 27th 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday May 24th 3 to 6 p.m. nday June 6th & 21st 3 to 6 p.m. Rising River Farm 6618 Chagrin River Rd Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



Summer Camp 2020

Montessori and Child **Care Centers**



Register today for a fun-filled summer!

www.CreativePlayrooms.com

- Special field trip excursions to nature centers, bowling and mini-golf
- Educational activities with a focus on science, music and team-building
- Enrichment activities such as swimming, magicians and animal shows
- Themed activities including cooking, gardening and group projects
- **Onsite Pools!**
- All meals and snacks included with tuition!

Solon 440-248-3100 Strongsville 440-572-9365 440-835-5858 Westlake

Parma Maple Hts.* Independence* 216-524-8008

216-898-9520 216-475-6464



En Pointe Danse continued

scrap book for the week. Dancers will present an informal showing at the end of each session.

Summer Intensive: This program is designed for the dancer ages 10 and older who would like the opportunity to continue to develop their dance education and training over the summer. Classes include ballet technique, conditioning, and advanced skills.

Two 2-week sessions July 6-17 and July 20-July 31.

Classes for ages 8–10: For the dancer looking to maintain their dance technique during the summer. Classes include ballet, modern/jazz, strengthening and flexibility. Classes meet three times a week for two weeks.

Adult ballet and tap classes will also be offered.

For more information call (440) 247-5747 or visit their website at www.enpointedanse.com.



Fairmount Center for the Arts

8400 Fairmount Road, Novelty (440) 338-3171 www.fairmountcenter.org

Ages 3 through 15 years can participate in a multitude of art forms sure to spark their creativity, including dance, music, theatre and visual arts camps.

Half-day, full-day, one-day and one-week options are available between June 1 and July 31. Weeklong, full-day camps for ages 5–10 and early childhood arts camps for ages 3-5 introduce campers to all the art forms.

Camps are led by professional faculty, include outdoor explorations, lunchtime, and a Sharing Day program for family and friends at the end of each week.

Half-day specialty camps explore specific art forms such dance, musical theater, ceramics arts, nature arts, Castles and Sand camp and MORE!

Need to drop your camper off early? Fairmount provides supervised care from 8-9 am free of

charge. For complete camp info and to register, call (440) 338-3171, email info@fairmountcenter.org or visit www.fairmountcenter.org/ special-events.

Falcon Camp

Carrollton, OH (800) 837-CAMP www.falconcamp.com

Recognized throughout the Midwest as Ohio's premier summer camp since 1959, Falcon Camp has been chosen as a "Top Ten Camp in USA" and selected as the "Coolest Camp in Ohio."

Falcon offers a beautiful lakefront setting, talented staff and wide variety of activities. Boys and girls ages 6–16 choose their own schedule within a general framework and daily activities are separate with planned coed events. Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, riflery, crafts, tennis, drama, archery and much more.

Falcon has a strong reputation for making sure a camper's first overnight experience is very positive. The noncompetitive

environment is inviting to new campers while their awards system challenges more experienced campers. The 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows individual instruction and attention. Most of all it's great fun!

Falcon has a special intro program for campers ages 6–10. ACA accredited, many references available. Falcon is an outstanding opportunity for fun and learning.

Fine Arts Association Summer Camps

38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby (440) 951-7500 www.fineartsassociation.org

The Fine Arts Association has camps for everyone who loves the arts! There are camps for the littlest campers at age 3 through high school grads. Camps range from one week to six weeks long, both full- and half-day.

Offerings include theatre, visual arts, multi-arts and dance camps for all ability levels. If your camper needs to arrive early or stay late, Fine Arts offers before- and aftercamp care, included in the price



Looking for a summer camp to support a grieving child? Consider one of our Together We Can bereavement day camps for children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Campers will share stories, laugh together, shed some tears and celebrate the life of their special person.

Five-day

Riding Through Grief

Fieldstone Farm 16497 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls June 22 - 26, 9 a.m. - noon

This camp is offered in collaboration with Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center and is for children ages 8-12 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Through riding and working with horses, campers explore grief issues supported by trained counselors.

Three-day

Red Oak

Red Oak Camp 9057 Kirtland Chardon Road, Willoughby

August 4 - 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A three-day bereavement day camp for children ages 6-13 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Transportation available from two locations.

For more information and to register, visit hospicewr.org/camps or Call 216.486.6838.





Fine Arts Association continued

for several camps. Check out all of FAA's summer camps, classes and workshops!

Call to receive a summer class schedule featuring camps, classes, workshops and private instruction in music, visual arts, theatre, dance and music and creative art therapies.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

Camp Ledgewood and Camp Timberlane Peninsula, OH and Wakeman, OH gsneo.org/camplife

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio resident camps are a unique program opportunity that gives girls a powerful experience in independence, social character, and outdoor exploration, all within a safe and supportive environment. All girls ages 5–17 are welcome.

They offer multiple locations for resident and day camp opportunities. Their wide variety of activities include swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, archery, air riflery and

out-of-camp trips.

Camp Ledgewood also offers high ropes, challenge course, and zipline programs that are built on their property. The new Chickadee Program Center at Camp Ledgewood features a discovery kitchen and FabCab, which gives girls the resources to explore a commercial kitchen and the engineering design process!

They pride themselves on giving your girl a unique experience for her to live and grow.

Opportunities for high school students. Financial aid available. ACA accredited.

Great Lakes Science Center

Camp Curiosity: Summer Science Camps 601 Erieside Avenue, Cleveland (216) 621-2400 www.GreatScience.com

Help your kids 'Stay Curious' over summer break with engaging, hands-on fun at Camp Curiosity! Kids make new friends, and memories, while they build STEM skills! Continued on page 18 -



Located in Shaker Heights, HB offers a wide array of summer programming for boys and girls, infants through college.

Visit hb.edu/summer to browse through academic, athletics, adventure, theatre, and specialty camp options to create your own one-of-a-kind experience. We offer flexible scheduling. Call 216.320.8085 for details.

Vacation Camps

MARCH 16-27 & JULY 20-AUGUST 14 Co-ed, Preschool - Grade 8

Summer Programs

JUNE 1-AUGUST 14 Co-ed, Infant through College

HathawayBrown



camp

REGISTER TODAY AT CampCarl.life

Ravenna, OH • (330) 315-5665













Jump Start **4 Gymnastics**

Classes for all ages and abilities!

23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood

Rear of National Biological Building (216) 896-0295

Website: jsgymnastics.com Email: jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com

NEW SIX-WEEK SESSIONS!

- New, lower session fees
- Closed for all religious and national holidays
- All closed holidays are factored into session dates
 - · No makeup classes needed

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Spring 1: Sunday, March 1 - Saturday, April 11, 2020 Spring 2: Monday, April 13 - Sunday, May 24, 2020 Summer: Wednesday, June 17 - Saturday, August 1, 2020

SUMMER CO-ED WARM-UP CAMPS

June 1-5, 2020 and June 8-12, 2020

One-day camps | Ages 4-14 | Sibling discount available

- · Half-day option: 9am-1pm, \$40 per
- Full-day option: 9am-3pm, \$50 per
- · Your choice of days & times

SUMMER CAMPS

August 3-7, 2020 • 9am-3pm

Boys Gymkata Camp & Girls Gymnastic Camp

- Girls ages K-12th grade Boys ages K-7th grade
- Instruction on all Olympic events, gymnastic games, challenge courses, and open gym
- Beginner through competitive gymnastic campers
- \$300 for the week







Science Center continued

Camp Curiosity features more than 30 new camps, offering amazing new challenges and unforgettable adventures for kids in preschool through eighth grade. This year, in addition to its core camps at the Science Center, Camp Curiosity will expand across northeast Ohio and are sure to bring a camp close to vou!

Camps begin June 1 at the Science Center. Neighborhood camp locations will be announced soon.

Register by February 29 for a \$20 off early bird discount. Register by May 1 and receive \$10 off the price. Discounts are also available for multi-week registration and returning camp alumni. Members always save \$20 per

For more information and to register call (216) 621-2400 or visit GreatScience.com.

Hathaway Brown

19600 North Park Boulevard Shaker Heights www.hb.edu/summer (216) 320-8789 abeyer@hb.edu

At Hathaway Brown, the fun doesn't stop when the school year ends. In addition to the flagship Broad Horizons day camp, the school offers a host of athletics, academic, and adventure programs each June, July, and August, many of which are coed. Choose your own adventure at HB this summer and create a full itinerary of learning and fun designed just for you.

New this year: Tiny Trailblazers for children ages 3-4. With programming available June 8-August 14, each week will have a theme based on a children's book. Led by early childhood teachers, children will enjoy engaging academic programming and fun nature-based outdoor play.

HB offers flexible scheduling to meet busy families' needs. Visit www.hb.edu/summer or call (216) 320-8789 to learn more and register today.



Hawken Summer Programs

Gates Mills and Lyndhurst (440) 423-2940 summer.hawken.edu

Hawken Day Camps provide a variety of exciting activities led by experienced professionals. Campers spend their summer learning new skills and building friendships, all in a fun, safe, and nurturing environment.

Camp offerings include Hawklings (ages 4–5), Boys or Girls Day Camps (prekindergarten-grade 5), Boys Sports Camp (grades 4–8), and Girls Lifetime Adventure Camp (grades 4-8).

Passport Camps offer weeklong, full- and half-day opportunities to learn, create, and explore. Camp topics include science, the arts, world language, leadership, culinary, Lego, technology, and mythology.

Hawken Innovation Camps for students ages 7–12, housed inside the new two-story Innovation Lab on the Lyndhurst campus, offer access to this world-class design space where students can learn valuable skills like coding, woodworking, laser cutting, and 3D design with their trained and experienced faculty mentors.

Hawken Athletics Camps offer skill-driven instruction in a variety of sports and provide young athletes the opportunity to hone their skills, improve team play, and learn from the best.

Hawken Summer Studies Program, open to public and private school students, is a six-week program of credit and enrichment for students entering grades 6-12.

Hospice of the **Western Reserve**

Together We Can Grief Camp (216) 486-6838 hospicewr.org/camps

Nature provides the healing backdrop for a summer camp for children ages 6–13 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Together We Can, offered by Western Reserve Grief Services, takes place August 4–6, 9 am to 3 pm, at Red Oak Camp, 9057 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland.

Children explore their feelings through art, music and sharing with other kids who have also experienced the death of someone they



Hospice Grief Camp continued

love. Led by grief support specialists from Hospice of the Western Reserve, the camp is a "safe zone" where kids feel comfortable interacting in a supportive environment. They also have plenty of time to enjoy swimming, rock climbing, archery and kayaking in the afternoon.

Registration for Together We Can at Red Oak is due by July 8. For more information, call (216) 486-6838. Camp applications are available online at hospicewr.org/ camps.

Jump Start! Gymnastics

23700 Mercantile Rd., Beachwood (216) 896-0295 www.jsgymnastics.com

The USA Gymnastic Team paved the road to Rio! Get ready to tumble to Tokyo in 2020 at Jump Start Gymnastics! JS offers gymnastic camps for ages 4–16, boys and girls, and all levels of experience, recreational to competitive.

Gymnastic camp at Jump Start is a great way to explore and

experience gymnastics for the first time, learn new skills, or build a solid competitive base for next season. At Jump Start Gymnastics they coach and teach all levels of new, experienced, or competitive gymnastics. Jump Start Gymnastics's philosophy is that gymnastics is for everyone and a great base for physical fitness and every sport a child is participating in.

Lake Erie Ink: A Writing Space for Youth

2843 Washington Boulevard Cleveland Heights (216) 320-4757 www.lakeerieink.org

Lake Erie Ink Summer Camps kick off June 8th and run through July 31.

Their weeklong, half-day camps offer young people the chance to express their creativity in a range of forms. From comics and 'zines to screenplays and novel writing, there is something for everyone! Their camps are low cost, and they offer scholarships and sibling discounts. Continued on page 20 →



• Eligibility: Camp is open to boys and girls ages 6–14

• Camp Fee: \$185.00

- Early registration discounts and group rates available
- Each camper receives a camp basketball and a camp T-shirt

2020 Boys/Girls Camp at Lost Nation Sports Park

Willoughby June 15–19 | June 22–26

2020 Boys/Girls Camp at John Carroll University South Euclid

June 22–26 July 6–10 | July 13–17 Visit and register on our

website MoranCamps.com. Call (440) 338-8092

for brochure or more info.

CAMP STAFF

MIKE MORAN: Inducted into Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; former head coach at John Carroll University w/ 459 career wins; guided JCU to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament & one Final Four appearance; former VASJ head coach where his teams won 2 state championships.

PETE MORAN: Head coach of John Carroll University.

PAT MORAN: Assistant coach of John Carroll University.

MATT MORAN: Head coach of Lake Catholic.

MARK CHICONE: Former head

MARK CHICONE: Former head coach of both Lake Catholic boy's team and Mentor High School girls

School girls.

TONY REDDING: Head coach
of girls at St. Martin de Porres.
RYAN SCHNEIDER: Head coach
of boys at St. Martin de Porres.
JOHN GIBBONS: Legendary coach.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

SS. ROBERT AND WILLIAM

Spend the summer at SRW! Our teacher-led weekly camps will feature themed activities and crafts.

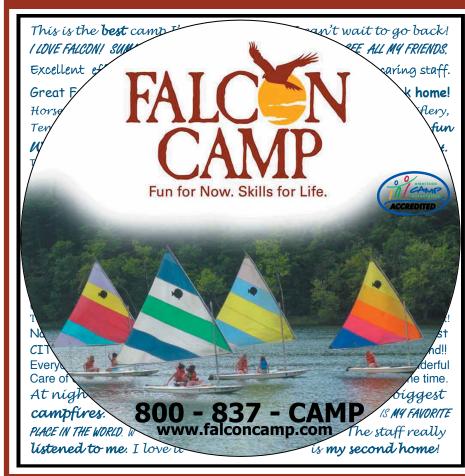
Before- and after-care is available.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED EARLY BIRD PRICING AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 1.

Students entering 1st through 6th grade can register now at:

srweuclid.cc/summer-camps

Ohio's Premier Summer Camp



Traditional Resident Summer Camp (ages 6-16)

- Only 90 miles south of Cleveland Carrollton OH.
- For boys and girls separate activities with planned coed events.
- 2.- 4-, 6- or 8-week sessions
- Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, arts, drama, archery, riflery, nature, sports, fishing and so much more!
- Campers choose own activities within broad framework.
- American Camp Association Accredited Camp since 1959.
- 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows excellent supervision and instruction.

Young Adventurers Summer Camp (ages 6–10)

- Special one week intro sessions includes all camp activities
- Designed to give first time younger campers an outstanding 'first adventure'
- 1:3 staff/camper ratio allows for extra attention with living habits, meals, bedtime and social skills.

AWARD-WINNING!

Top 10 Camp in USA!

-EarlyChildhoodEducationZone.com

Selected as Ohio's "Coolest Camp"

-Philly.com

Program Excellence Award

-American Camp Association Ohio

Best Parenting Award 2019

-Cincinnati Family Magazine

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

at www.falconcamp.com

DON'T MISS OUT!

Camp is filling now!

At Falcon, Good Things Happen by Design.



Lake Erie Ink continued

Kids (Grades 2-5)

- Comics
- Tiny Creatures & BIG Creatures: Build creatures and tell their
- Young Novelists: Dedicate a week to write your story
- Community Connections: Discover unique stories in your community
- Masquerade in Nature's Kingdom: Create art and stories in this hands-on camp with artist, Robin VanLear of Parade the Circle.

Teens (Grades 6-12)

- Write the River: Meet downtown at CPL to discover the stories of the Cuyahoga River
- · Comics & 'Zines
- Screenwriting: Write and film your
- · Comedy Club: Develop and deliver a good joke
- Explore & Express:Travel the city to explore the landmarks we see Drop-in Teen programs happen all summer long.

For more information and to register visit lakeerieink.org.

Lake Metroparks Summer Day Camps

(440) 358-7275 www.lakemetroparks.com

Join Lake Metroparks as they prepare for another fun-filled and adventure-packed summer camp season! They have a summer day camp experience for children ages 4-16! A week in the woods, at the beach or on the farm is a great way for kids to explore the natural

Lake Metroparks day camps are fun, entertaining, educational and affordable! Extended care hours for before and/or after camp hours are offered for certain camps.

Preregistration is required to participate in Lake Metroparks Day Camps and extended care offerings. Register at lakemetroparks. com or call (440) 358-7275.

NOTE: Lake Metroparks has a new registration software system. This system requires all customers to create an account login. username and password in order to access program registration. To create a new account, visit http://

goto.lakemetroparks.com/newregistration-account-setup. If you need assistance, please call registration 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at (440) 358-7275.

The Little Gym of Shaker Heights

20707 Chagrin Boulevard Shaker Heights (216) 752-9049 www.tlgshakerheightsoh.com

Have you ever met a Kid-osaurus or attended a royal ball? If not, keep reading and let the adventures begin!

The Little Gym offers a summer full of fun and excitement with a variety of themes including Dinosaur Adventures, A Royal Renaissance and Pajama Party. Their specially developed curriculum combines physical fitness, imagination and creativity giving your child the opportunity to learn and grow all while having serious fun!

Half-day and full-day camps are available for kids ages 3 to 9 years old. They offer flexibility to match your schedule that is

difficult to find anywhere else. Choose the days and weeks that fit your needs. Camps run Monday through Friday. Sign your children up for one day, multiple days, several weeks or the whole summer!

Call (216) 752-9049 or email tlgshakerheightsoh@thelittlegym. com for more information.

Mandel JCC

(216) 831-0700 ext. 0 J-Day Camps mandelicc.org/daycamps Camp Wise campwise.org

Learn new skills, develop confidence and gain self-esteem, all while having a blast at Mandel JCC camps. By the end of summer, campers will have gained independence and made lifelong friends!

Whether it's on the lake, in the pool, on stage or on their Ninja warrior obstacle course, there's a place for everyone at J-Day Camps! Sign up for as many weeks as you like and with free community busing and free towel

MANDEL JCC CAMPS We Take Having Fun Seriously!





J-DAY CAMPS **GRADES K-9 • BURTON**

J-Day Camps has it all - lake activities, archery, music, theater, sports, ropes course, swimming, specialty camps, overnights and a Ninja Warrior obstacle course!

NEW THIS YEAR:

- FREE Shabbat cookouts every Friday
- · Specialty tracks such as Fishing, Candy Camp, Hip Hop and Canvas Creations
- 7th & 8th Grade Leaders-In-Training



FRANCINE & BENSON PILLOFF FAMILY

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

GRADES K-9 • BEACHWOOD

Our amazing staff will inspire your campers to stretch their imaginations, gain confidence both on and off-stage, develop a sense of self and the importance of teamwork, and expand their theater skills through classes, activities and exploration.



CAMP WISE

GRADES 2-12 • BURTON OVERNIGHT CAMP

Experience an amazing summer! Zip into the woods from our high ropes course, learn a new skill, go horseback riding or swimming, take a spin around the lake on a jet ski – all while making new friends and strengthening old ones. It's all here at Camp Wise!

mandeljcc.org/daycamp • mandeljcc.org/pac • campwise.org • (216) 831-0700, ext. 0

Orange Community Education & Recreation

offers more than 100 opportunities for kids ages 3—14 to explore, learn, create and have fun this summer.

Aquatics * Discovery* Theatre
Preschool * Art * Sports
Weekly Day Camps

Make This The Best Summer Ever!





Registration begins January 27

www.orangerec.com (216) 831-8601



You will love watching your child's eyes sparkle!

Open House: Saturday, March 14, 2020 Includes free classes.

Summer Camps, Classes & Workshops

June 8-19 & July 6-August 8

Visit online or call for complete class schedule, enrollment and program dates.



Home to City Ballet of Cleveland

Cleveland City Dance (216) 295-2222 www.clevelandcitydance.com









Mandel JCC continued

service, The J makes summer easy!

Camp Wise is where memories are made. Campers participate in a range of activities including archery, high ropes course, canoeing, horseback riding and arts.

Located on 325 beautifully wooded acres with its own private lake, it's no wonder campers call Camp Wise the Home of Happiness!

For details on all of the Mandel JCC's camps, visit mandeljcc.org/ daycamps, campwise.org or call at (216) 831-0700 ext. 0.

Mike Moran **Basketball Camps**

Held at Lost Nation Sports Park and John Carroll University (440) 338-8092 www.morancamps.com

The Mike Moran Basketball Camps are the oldest running basketball camps in northern Ohio, with over 40 years of operation. It has always been able to boast about having the most experienced staff of coaches. All the instructors are successful college and high school head coaches.

Because it is always well attended, participants will be working with other players of their same age group and ability level. The Moran Camp has always stressed the teaching and drilling of fundamentals. It is truly a camp designed for young players who want to improve their skills and be able to play competitive basket-

The camp runs all day, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am-3:15 pm. Over the years it has been

acclaimed by many newspapers and organizations as the top basketball camp in the area! This year there are camps at both Lost Nation Sports Park and John Carroll University!

Take advantage of the early registration discount. Visit their new website morancamps.com for easy registration. Call (440) 338-8092 for a free brochure!

Orange Community **Education & Recreation**

(216) 831-8601 jkorsok@orangecsd.org www.orangerec.org

Every day is a day for adventure as Orange Community Education & Recreation presents a summer of fun featuring traditional day camps, enrichment camps, art camps and sports camps for children ages 3-14, June 8-July 31. All camps are close to home on the Orange Schools campus, which features a kid-friendly outdoor leisure pool with a slide and waterfalls, groomed sports fields, playgrounds and hiking trails.

The Open Door Extended Camp program provides before and after-camp care for campers currently in grades Kindergarten through grade 5.

Register for camps at www. orangerec.ce.eleyo.com, or in person at the Pepper Pike Learning Center on the Orange Schools campus, 32000 Chagrin Blvd. Register by April 15 and receive \$25 off the listed price for every camp.

Look for their summer camp guide, available online at www. orangerec.com, and in hard copy at the Pepper Pike Learning Center and local libraries.



216.990.8988



Red Oak Camp

9057 Kirtland Chardon Road Kirtland (440) 256-0716 www.redoakcamp.org

Ropes course and climbing, horseback riding and swimming, canoeing and fishing, science and nature. Whatever your campers' passions, they have it at Chincapin and Red Barn day camps, and at the Red Oak overnight program!

For over 70 years, they've provided the perfect summer place for kids to unwind and connect to nature. They have all of the traditional camp activities like archery, hiking, arts and crafts, and sports, too, plus opportunities for campfires and overnights. New to their program they've added a guided tree-climbing activity for the campers.

At Red Oak, they have activities that excite, delight, and inspire! Camp sessions begin June 8 for children ages 6 through 15. They are located on 87 beautiful acres in Kirtland, a stone's throw from Cleveland. With transportation

offered from Pepper Pike, Red Oak Camp is the perfect choice for your campers this summer. ACA accredited.

Ruffing Montessori School Summer Ruffing It

3380 Fairmount Boulevard Cleveland Heights (216) 321-7571 www.ruffingmontessori.net

Summer Ruffing It (SRI) offers dynamic camps for children ages 18 months-grade 8. Earth-friendly activities take place in a L.E.E.D building with gardens, playgrounds and the adjacent Shaker Lakes. They are small, professionally staffed, well-designed and operated.

- Little Explorers: ages 18 months-3 years.
- A Summer To Grow On: ages 3-6 features indoor games, cooking, art and outdoor activities.
- Creative Arts & Sciences: grades 1-6 offers choice in S.T.E.A.M. activities from which students create personalized schedules. Continued on page 24 →



February 17



Camps Offered JUNE 1 - JULY 31 | Ages 3-15 yrs

- ★ Half-day and full-day camps, 1 day to 1 week durations
- ★ Before Camp Care and Lunch Bunch options, no additional fee
- ★ Complete camp information to be released early February

Ohio Arts

For more info and to register: (440) 338-3171 | www.fairmountcenter.org info@fairmountcenter.org | 8400 Fairmount Rd., Novelty, OH 44072

Ignite the spark of curiosity for your child this summer at Northeast Ohio's STEM HQ!





Interactive, hands-on learning from licensed teachers

Diverse, age-specific themes for fun-filled challenges

Stacked discount opportunities through Leap Year



Reserve Your Child's Spot Today! GreatScience.com | 216-621-2400





Celebrating 21 Years!

Summer Sessions& Dance Camps
June 15-August 14

Princess Camps for ages 3–7 June 15–26 & August 3–7

For more info call: 440-247-5747



Offering classes in Ballet, Creative Movement, Pointe, Tap & Modern Dance ages 3 to adult.

516 E. Washington Street, Chagrin Falls • In The Gallery 440-247-5747 www.enpointedanse.com



Ruffing Montessori continued

Extreme! SRI!: Grades rising
 7th-rising 9th features field trips
 extend music, art, science, and
 outdoor skills into Cleveland's
 wealth of cultural sites, including
 camping under the stars.

Ss. Robert and William School

Home Away From Home Summer Camp 351 East 260th Street, Euclid (216) 731-3060 srweuclid.cc/summer-camps

Ss. Robert and William is excited to offer teacher-led summer programing for students this summer!

Their Home Away From Home Summer Camp will provide students with a nurturing, educational, and fun environment for the summer months. Each week will feature a different theme, with activities and crafts related to the theme. Camps will run from June 1 to August 21. Before- and aftercare are available.

Home Away From Home is available for students entering 1st

through 6th grade in fall 2020. Registration is required. Register for 6 or 12 weeks and receive special bulk pricing! Early bird pricing is available until April 1.

Their Sports Camp will run Tuesday–Thursday from June 2 to July 30. Basketball, volleyball, soccer, and football camps are available. Sports camps are open to students entering 1st–8th grade in fall 2020. Registration is required.

Find out more about their camps at srweuclid.cc/summer-camps.

Snapology of Cleveland

23645 Mercantile Road, Suite H Beachwood (216) 990-8988 www.snapology.com/location/ cleveland

Snapology of Cleveland offers exciting day camps at their Discovery Center in Beachwood and other partner locations! Your kids will love their fun and educational summer offerings!

Campers will enjoy learning about robotics, STEAM, and building with LEGO® bricks while mak-



The Little Gym's summer camps are full of fun, creative missions where kids will exercise their muscles, and imaginations! Plus, flexible scheduling allows you to sign up for several weeks, a single week or even just a day at a time!

NOW ENROLLING SUMMER CAMPS & CLASSES! CALL TODAY!

The Little Gym of Shaker Heights

20707 Chagrin Blvd

216-752-9049

www.tlgshakerheightsoh.com





Snapology continued

ing new friends, and having tons of fun! Half- and full-day options available with before- and aftercare complimentary with full-day enrollment. Sibling discounts too!

Call (216) 990-8988 for more information or visit their website to enroll at Cleveland. Snapology. com. Email them at cleveland@ snapology.com with any questions!

Summer Wind Stables

11770 Chillicothe Rd., Chesterland (440) 729-1849 www.summerwindstables.com www.summerwindtack.com

Summer Wind Stables offers a coed day camp with horseback riding and swimming from June 8 to August 15. The instructors are full-time teachers who have been with them for years.

Camp features two to three groups each week divided by ability level. The advanced group can jump proficiently, and may have show experience. They also have beginner groups that have never ridden before. SWS has 15 school horses for a wide variety of ability levels. Campers ride twice each day for an hour or more each time. They also have a hands-on ground lesson.

Each camper has their own horse for the week, and learns total care of that horse. Parents are invited to join them each Friday for a performance. Campers and regular students will also receive a discount in the on-site tack shop.

They also have year-round lessons, horse training, boarding and leasing of their horses, so you can stay all year if you like.

University School Summer of Adventures

(216) 321-8260 www.us.edu/summer Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 20701 Brantley Road Shaker Heights Grades 9-12 2785 SOM Center Road **Hunting Valley**

University School camps combine fun activities with a truly educational experience!

Summer 2020 programs include many NEW enrichment camps, along with their popular day camps and sports clinics. Sum-

mertime is all about exploring, and US offers many specialized camps, including rocketry, outdoor adventure, engineering and coding, songwriting and theater, entrepreneurship and debate, LEGO and Minecraft, and digital film, video, and photography.

Their one-, two- or three-week Preschool Day Camp engages prekindergarten boys in a creative and stimulating environment. Themes include Blast Off, Coding Fun, and Watch it GO.

US's six-week Boys Day Camp is the place where boys experience teamwork, sportsmanship, athletic and non-athletic skill-building, and pride in a job well done.

Their Coed Day Camp is offered at the end of the camp season.

Sports Camps are for beginning athletes looking for an introduction to a sport, or for student-athletes wanting to take their talents to a higher level.

Summer programs run between June 1 and August 14. Learn more at www.us.edu/summer.

Valley Art Center

155 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls (440) 247-7507 www.valleyartcenter.org/camps

Art is an adventure! Summer camps run June 15-August 14. Valley Art Center is the hub of the visual arts in the Chagrin Valley, providing local communities with art classes, art exhibits and fine art shopping for almost 50 years.

Visit their website for more details on camps and other classes!









Art is an Adventure!

Join Valley Art Center this summer for creative fun!

Summer Camps June 15–August 14

valleyartcenter.org/camps

Summer Wind Stables Tack and Gift Shoppe

11770 Chillicothe Rd., Chesterland • 440-729-1849

Open Mon. - Sat. 10-6; Call for Sun. & Evenings Hours www.summerwindstables.com

BEGINNER THRU ADVANCED LESSONS

- Boarding, Leasing, Training WEEKLY SUMMER CAMPS WITH **SWIMMING & RIDING JUN. 8 TO AUG. 15**
- Party Pony Rides, Pet Sitting

10% Retail

Discount w/ this ad!

Visit Our Tack Shop!

We have all you need for horse and rider!

We safely build strong foundations and confident, accomplished horsemen. Summer Wind Stables, a premier stable in safety, quality of horses and instruction.



Railfest 2020 model train show

It's full steam ahead when the annual Railfest model train show returns to Lakeland Community College on March 14 & 15 from 10 am – 4 pm each day.

Railfest is the largest continuous train show in Ohio and features over 100 dealers with over 400 tables with all scales of trains and accessories for sale and trade, video tapes, train ride information and historical displays. See operating layouts in many different scales.

Admission is \$8.00 per person; \$13.00 per person for a two day pass; and \$13.00 per family per day. Free parking, free shuttle bus.



Food services will be available. Lakeland Community College is located at 7700 Clocktower Drive in Kirtland, near the Rt. 306 exit off

For more information, visit www. Railfest.org, call 440-357-8890 or email railfest@mcr5.org.

Calendar of Eve



Visit www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com for a calendar of events and activities all over northeast Ohio!

If you have an event that you would like to have considered for publication on our site, please email the details and a photo (if you have one) to info@todaysfamilymagazine.com. We'd love to hear from you!



Same great Beech Brook...all new look!

We may have a new look but we've got deep roots in this community. Since our founding in 1852, Beech Brook has continually evolved to meet the greatest needs of our community's most vulnerable children and families in every era.

Today, through our network of behavioral health services, school partnerships, foster homes and our innovative Family Center, we're impact on the future. We won't give up until we've helped build a

That's our Beech Brook promise

Visit www.beechbrook.org to learn more.

3737 Lander Rd. | Cleveland, OH 44124 | 216.831.2255 | www.beechbrook.org

Great Lakes Science Center to open Body Worlds Rx exhibit

Explore the intricate biology and physiology of human health through more than 100 real human specimens when Body Worlds Rx opens Friday, March 20, 2020 at Great Lakes Science Center!

Through the process of Plastination, a complex preservation method that removes the fluids from the body and replaces them with reactive resins and elastomers, the specimens in this special exhibition offer guests the unique opportunity to be inspired and amazed by the inner workings of the human body. From organs and muscles to the nervous system and skeletal structures, Body Worlds Rx is an enlightening dose from a prescription for healthier

The opening in March will mark the second time a Body Worlds exhibition has been featured at the Science Center. In 2005, the Science Center was the second location in North America to host Body Worlds 2 and it proved to be one of the most powerful and popular exhibitions in the Science Center's history, drawing more than 390,000 visitors.

The specimens on display in Body Worlds Rx show impressive comparisons of healthy organs and diseased organs, to reveal the physical impact of disease on the body's systems. Visitors will see how vital organs are positioned in their body and specimens that illustrate common ailments like arthritis, cancer, cardiovascular disease and dementia.

"We are thrilled to bring a Body Worlds exhibition back to Cleveland and introduce a whole new audience



to this extraordinary experience," said Science Center President & CEO Dr. Kirsten Ellenbogen. "Body Worlds Rx gives an unprecedented look inside the most sophisticated mechanism in the world, the human body. And, we are excited that entry to the exhibit will be included with general Science Center admission."

"At the same time we are hosting Body Worlds Rx, we're excited to announce new additions to our permanent hands-on exhibits in the Science Phenomena gallery and new early childhood programs families are sure to love as we look toward our 25th anniversary next year," Dr. Ellenbogen continued.

(Editor's note: The Science Center's fall-winter schedule is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.)

Maple Sugaring Weekends March 7 & 8 and 14 & 15 • 9 am-5 pm

Visitors can take a wagon ride to the Woodland Center to witness the maple production process as sap is collected from a network of tubing and 1,000 taps!

After collection, watch as the sap is boiled and turned into maple syrup and candy. Discover how trees are tapped and see the tubing that connects the taps. Sample maple syrup and candy, make a maple craft, help gather sap and learn how to make maple syrup in your own backyard!

Pancakes served all day in the café (\$7 ages 12 and older; \$4 ages 2 to 11). Farmpark's own maple syrup and candy will be for sale.

All of the regular Farmpark activities are included in admission to Maple Sugaring Weekend. Farmpark admission or membership applies. For more information about Maple Sugaring Weekends, visit lakemetroparks.com/events.

Lake Metroparks Farmpark is located at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road in Kirtland.

26

mommy chronicles

The many layers of March

Gearing up for winter coats, short sleeves and everything in between

By Stacy Turner

harles Dickens must have visited Cleveland when he described, "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

March is one of those in-between months, where you're not really sure what season it is on any given day.

Although the same can be said of much of the weather in northeast Ohio during any given month -- especially this winter, it seems extremely true each March.

It doesn't seem to matter whether is comes in like a lion or a lamb, or whether the famous rodent to our east saw his shadow last month or not. Even so, in March our thoughts turn to springtime and warmer weather. Rain boots are on standby for puddle jumping, even though the snow boots can't be retired just yet. Tomorrow may bring the last chance to make one final snow person or take the last sled down a nearby hill for one more winter thrill. But the resulting snowmelt will create puddles that thrill young kids and bring new life to muddy garden beds that have been dormant through the long, cold winter.

The sun shines brightly, convincing daffodils to sprout, only to be covered a few days later in yet another blanket of snow. The majority of winter seems to have been this way, with Mother Nature equal parts playful and petulant. Now that March has arrived, however, we're ready to fastforward to spring. Now that I've got middle and high schoolers, puddle jumping is passé, and winter coats are optional even on the coldest of days. At this stage, instead of enjoying Dr. Seuss parties with the "Cat in the Hat" or helping to engineer the most effective leprechaun-catching traps, March means added stress over tough coursework and the start of an exciting spring sports schedule.

For spring sports, track athletes are encouraged to 'dress for the weather' for practice after school each day. They hit the track in weatherappropriate running tights and fleece



hoodies with gloves and hats when necessary. Unfortunately, their spring uniforms consist of flimsy little tank tops and shorts, which must be worn for meets, no matter what the weather.

Spectators can dress for the weather as they huddle together through rain, sleet or snow in fleece jackets, rain slickers, or gloves, hats, and puffy coats -- sometimes all on the same day.

Poor athletes must wear their team-sanctioned uniforms, but are mercifully allowed to layer spandex tights and long sleeve tops under to try and keep their muscles warm while waiting for their individual events to take place. It brings to mind Halloween costumes we would intentionally purchase a size larger to accommodate the base layers that are often required for our fickle fall festivities. It's often said that New Englanders are wicked tough; it's a little-known fact that northeast Ohioans really know how to layer.

Luckily, as the calendar progresses, each new day brings us closer to actual spring-feeling weather. The sun warms as we uncover our pale, formerly over-bundled skin and soaks into our cold-weary bones. Here and there, surprisingly warm weather allows both parents and kids the opportunity to remove some layers and revel in the warmth of the sun.

Track meets become more enjoyable when the weather improves; kids laugh and cavort while parents relax and converse. As the season progresses, it's harder to remember the frozen start to the season, as we pack extra Gatorade, adjust our sunglasses, and keep our cameras at hand for the best shots of our athletes shining moments.

Just remember, as base layers are retired and winter skin is exposed, don't forget to layer on some sunscreen.







CHOOSE WOUR

Open House 4-19-20 2-4pm

Camp

Ledgewood Peninsula, OH

Open House 5-3-20 2-4pm

Camp Sugarbush

Camp

Timberlane Wakeman, OH

Open House

Kinsman, OH





Come to our free open houses, meet our camp directors, and see which Girl Scout camp is right for you! These are fun events for the whole family! Take a tour, then stay the afternoon for nature activities, crafts, songs and games, a campfire, and s'mores!

All girls are welcome!

No Girl Scout experience necessary.

800.852.4474

visit gsneo.org/camplife