

TODAY'S **family**

October/November 2020

Cuyahoga

FREE!

**Family
Halloween
events**

**Toy and
gift ideas**

**Fried and Roth
Orthodontics
in Lyndhurst**

Private School Guide

**Every child
needs family**

**Do you have what
it takes to be a
foster parent?**

**Adaptive
Sports Ohio**

**Helping those with
disabilities to participate**

**Girl Scout wins
live-saving award**



Jump Start Gymnastics

23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood
Rear of National Biological Building
(216) 896-0295

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

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Ages 7-17
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Ages 5-8

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TODAY'S family

Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties

P.O. Box 7316, Eastlake, Ohio 44097

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Children must be 4 years old by September 30, 2020 to be eligible.

Your child will love learning with us...

Families have many reasons to enroll their children in CMSD schools. The District supplies devices to students for remote learning, gets families connected, provides technological support and family assistance with social & emotional needs.



Limited English Proficiency families may call **216.838.0140** for assistance.



A CHANCE TO PLAY

Local organization provides adaptive sports opportunities for children with physical disabilities

A chance to play. Most families won't think twice about the phrase. Youth sports is a multi-billion dollar industry, thus most children are provided with ample opportunities to play. Of course, there are still barriers to entry, but what if you're child had no access to sports at all? Without adaptive sports, that would be the reality for children who have physical disabilities that prevent them from participating in able-bodied sports.

Adaptive Sports Ohio provides those adaptive sport opportunities for children and adults with physical disabilities through community-based and interscholastic sports programs, and are now excited to expand those offerings to the Cleveland area.

Headquartered in Wooster, Ohio, Adaptive Sports Ohio now offers programming for athletes in Wayne, Mahoning, Stark, Lucas, and Cuyahoga counties. The newly opened Cleveland office offers an extensive list of programs for veterans, adults, and youth with disabilities that includes wheelchair basketball, power wheelchair soccer, sled hockey, track & field, hand cycling, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair softball, and more. Athletes have the option to play recreationally or compete on one of the many competitive travel teams offered.

Inclusion in school athletics is important for students with disabilities, thus Adaptive Sports Ohio has launched school-based wheelchair basketball programs in six Ohio school districts with plans to scale the program, adding new programs each year. ASO also assists schools with integrating wheelchair track athletes into their high school and mid-

dle school track programs by providing adaptive track training for athletes and coaches across the state and by providing racing chairs for students. The goal is to soon bring these interscholastic programs to schools in Cuyahoga County.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important for the health and well-being of anyone, but it's especially critical for individuals with disabilities. Individuals living with disabilities are more likely to be inactive, socially isolated, and have a greater risk of poor health than their able-bodied peers.

Sports play an important role in the academic success of children. According to the National Federation of High Schools, studies have proven that students who participate in high school athletic programs have higher grade-point averages than those who do not participate. Yet, our most academically vulnerable population, students with disabilities, have a 68% Ohio graduation rate and don't have access to the academic benefit that school sports provide. Adaptive Sports Ohio is working to change that by getting kids with physical disabilities off the sideline and into the game, providing them a path for a more active and healthy life.

If you have a child with a physical disability, or know someone that would benefit from adaptive sports, you can learn more about getting involved by contacting Lizzie Goldsmith, program manager for Cuyahoga County, at lizzie.goldsmith@adaptivesportsohio.org or call (216) 410-6627. You can also find them on Facebook @AdaptiveSportsOhio, or visit adaptivesportsohio.org for more information.



SEASONAL FUN




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Third generation Cleveland dentist joins Lyndhurst orthodontist practice



Dr. Jordan Roth

After more than 10 years away from home, Dr. Jordan Roth is thrilled to have returned to his

hometown of Cleveland to start his career. Born and raised in Cleveland, the Orange High School graduate attended Emory University in Atlanta where he earned his undergraduate degree and continued on to The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, where he graduated in the top of his class. Roth then earned his orthodontics and master's degree in a three-year residency program at Columbia University in New York City.

Growing up in Cleveland, Jordan knew the wonderful reputation of Dr. Marc Fried, a beloved orthodontist practicing for over 35 years and the founder of Smiles by Fried. Many of Jordan's friends were treated by Dr. Fried and loved their experience, with the office's dedication to clinical excellence, five-star service, and an outstanding patient experience. Jordan spent years shadowing Dr. Fried and knew he had found an amazing fit. The two doctors formed a great relationship and mentorship and officially joined forces on August 1, 2019 as Fried & Roth Orthodontics.

Dr. Roth is so excited not only to be joining an outstanding practice, but also to continue in his family's dentistry legacy. The third generation of Cleveland dentists, Jordan follows in the footsteps of his late grandfather, Dr. Lawrence Meckler, and his uncle, Dr. Stanley Meckler who

currently practices on the west side of Cleveland.

It has been a very exciting and eventful first year of practice for Dr. Roth. Fried & Roth's first year has brought a successful business partnership, an office remodel, and an extensive sterilization upgrade to ensure that the office is prepared to continue practicing amid the COVID-19 pandemic. During this year, Jordan also married Lauren, who he met during residency in New York, and they adopted a cavapoo puppy named Henry. Lauren's grandfather is also a retired orthodontist currently residing in New York. The couple had a beautiful wedding at the Shoreby Club in July 2020.

Dr. Roth brings the finest training to treating both children and adults as they progress through traditional fixed braces and clear aligner therapy, such as Invisalign. He continues to further his education and training by being a part of local study clubs, Alpha Omega dental society, Cleveland Society of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association, and the American Association of Orthodontists.

Outside of the office, Dr. Roth is an avid Indians, Browns, and Cavs fan. He enjoys playing tennis, traveling, hiking, biking, skiing, and golfing with his family and friends.

Fried & Roth Orthodontics is located at Brainard Place (1-271 and Cedar Road), 29001 Cedar Road, Ste 607 in Lyndhurst.

Call them at (440) 449-5792 or visit www.FriedandRothOrtho.com.

Every child needs family

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, most of us retreated to our homes. Sequestered with our loved ones we worked and learned together, cooked and ate together, watched a lot of Netflix together, and had family game nights. Many of us rediscovered or came to an even stronger appreciation for the comfort, joy and security of home and family.

But imagine being in foster care, not sure who was going to take care of you, not having a permanent family to help calm your fears and anxiety. Imagine dealing with all that 2020 has brought us without the comfort, joy and security of home and family.

In Cuyahoga County there are almost 3,000 children in county care. More than 600 of those children and teens are in permanent custody. We may be practicing social distancing, but none of us goes through this world alone. Every child needs family.

For children and teens, having adults who can love, guide and reassure them has been essential to navigating remote learning, discon-



nection from friends, and canceled activities. That's why during the pandemic we've continued to work to find permanent families for children in foster care.

This isn't always easy, but we never give up. I truly believe there is a family for every child. For every boy or girl with special needs or unique interests, there is a family to match. You or someone you know could be that match. Visit everychildneedsfamily.com to find out what it takes to adopt and see some of the resilient children who need a family. Or call our recruitment line at (216) 881-5775.

Cynthia Weiskittel, MPA
Director
Cuyahoga County Division of
Children and Family Services



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@todaysfamilymagazine

Watch for regular posts about local businesses and organizations offering virtual, in-home and on-site activities to keep the kids (and you) busy.

Trick-or-Treat Fest at the Zoo

Halloween festival takes over Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Australian Adventure this October

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo today announced Trick-or-Treat Fest presented by Citizens. This year's safe, family-friendly Halloween event will occur at the Zoo on weekends from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning October 9 through October 31.

This year's event includes spectacular live performances in the Zoo's amphitheater, access to Trick-or-Treat Way featuring more than a dozen candy stations located around the Zoo's Halloween-themed Australian Adventure, meet-and-greets with costume characters as well as unlimited rides on the Circle of Wildlife Carousel and entry to the Dinosaurs Around the World exhibit. Guests are encouraged to wear fun (not scary) costumes.

To allow for proper social distancing, attendance to the Zoo and Trick-or-Treat Fest will remain limited and guests are strongly encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance. The Zoo has implemented several additional safety measures



Presented by
Citizens

including handwashing stations and frequent sanitation of Zoo grounds. Guests are required to wear facial coverings during their visit, unless under 6 years of age, or because of an existing condition.

Due to the operational impacts of COVID-19, the Zoo's traditional after-hours Halloween event Boo at the Zoo will not occur in 2020.

General admission for Trick-or-Treat Fest which includes Zoo general admission is \$16 for non-members and \$8 for members. Children under 2 enter free. Tickets are available now at FutureForWildlife.org/TrickorTreatFest.

Pumpkins & Piranhas SEASONAL Fun Days at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

The Greater Cleveland Aquarium is adding new Pumpkins & Piranhas SEASONAL Fun Days on Thursdays & Fridays, October 22, 23, 29 & 30 from 10 am – 7 pm (last admission at 6pm). The Halloween celebration includes added evening hours, underwater pumpkin decorations, costumed staffers and divers and pop-up SEASONALLY themed enrichment in the Tropical Forest aviary, as well as "I Spy" and not-so spooky animal fact activities and a take-home bag for children containing a pumpkin craft, stickers, a temporary tattoo, a Captain NEO activity book, a treat and coloring contest.

"This year will be different, but we're excited to still be able to give guests of all ages the opportunity to get in costume—without a coat or an umbrella—and enjoy a warm, indoor and socially distanced Aquarium experience," says GM Stephanie White. "Hauntauarium is absolutely one of our favorite events and we look forward to its return in future years, but we're simply unable to execute a large-scale trick-or-treat party at this point in time."

The Aquarium's daily clean committed protocols will remain in place during Pumpkins & Piranhas,



including one-way traffic, additional sanitization stations, timed entry and masks for everyone over the age of 2. The Aquarium asks that guests purchase advance tickets. "We'd hate to disappoint anyone who came out in costume on a sold-out day," says White. "We've dramatically reduced our daily capacity to give you the opportunity to get up-close views of piranhas, moray eels, flashlight fish, poison dart frogs, pufferfish, Surinam toads, sea lampreys and other creepy cool creatures without getting close to other guests."

Pumpkins & Piranhas SEASONAL Fun Days are included with regular Aquarium admission (\$19.95 ages 13+, \$13.95 ages 2-12, under 2 and annual passholders free). Tickets go on sale Monday, October 12, 2020.

Call (216) 862.8803 or visit them online at greaterclevelandaquarium.com for more info.

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Aim camera here to learn about clear aligner and esthetic braces

Not-So-Spooky Halloween at Children's Museum of Cleveland



October 31 from 5:30-7:30 pm and Sunday, November 1 from 10 am-noon. Tickets are \$20 for children and \$15 for adults.

Tickets include:

- Six trick-or-treating stations with a mix of healthy snacks, special treats, and fun prizes.
- Special crafts
- Treat bag decorating
- Festive photo booth
- Social distanced dance party

Come trick-or-treating at The Children's Museum of Cleveland!

Their Not-So-Spooky Halloween celebration is a clean & safe place to celebrate the holiday this year.

Show off your costume and enjoy trick-or-treating stations, special Halloween crafts, a family photo booth, and a social-distanced dance party with all your favorite not-so-spooky tunes! Limited attendance, a clean and safe protocol, and mandatory mask wearing for guests over the age of 2 makes for a safe experience. Tickets required!

The event will be held Saturday,

Please note: Face masks covering the nose and mouth are required for all guests over the age of 2 during this event to ensure everyone's safety. Costume masks can be worn in addition to a proper face mask, but are not accepted in place of a safety face mask. Guests may enjoy their Halloween treats in our cafe area, or take them to go. Eating and drinking are not allowed in the exhibit areas.

Local Girl Scout receives national life-saving award

Girl Scout Cadette Natalie Bair, 12, of northeast Ohio, was awarded the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) medal of honor for saving the life of her younger brother during a car ride. The medal of honor is given only to those Girl Scouts who display heroic acts beyond their degree of maturity and training.

Natalie was awarded the medal of honor along with a congratulatory letter from GSUSA's CEO, Sylvia Acevedo. She is being recognized for saving her half-brother, Milo, from choking in the car. Milo was only 17 months old when Natalie saved him.

While driving south on 1-71, Natalie and her family were headed toward Mansfield. Milo started to choke on a cracker while Natalie's mom, Joyce, was driving. Natalie was in the back seat of the van, noticed her brother was choking, and immediately notified her mom who was unable to pull over immediately. Natalie took matters into her

own hands by undoing the car seat Milo was in, taking him out, turning him over, and hitting his back until the cracker came out.

"I tried to find a place to pull over, but it happened so fast. She took care of the situation [so quickly] that I didn't have to stop," said Joyce, in a letter to GSUSA.

Natalie remained calm and quick-thinking to save her brother from choking on the cracker.

"It takes courage to do what she did without hesitation," said GSNEO Chief Executive Officer Jane Christyson. "Natalie's actions saved her brother's life and for that, we are happy to present her with this national award."

Girl Scouts have been honored since 1913 for meritorious deeds that helped save lives. Training in health and safety is a part of the Girl Scout program. A Girl Scout, because of the Promise, Law, motto, and slogan to which she has subscribed, is expected to be resourceful, skilled, and competent –



Natalie Bair

to have presence of mind and to be of service to others. Each situation has many unique factors, and many things are taken into consideration for determining if an act is of unusual bravery beyond that which is expected of a Girl Scout.

For more information on how to join a Girl Scout troop or volunteer, visit gsneo.org.

Just For Laughs!

Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, "Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't even call me."

Whose idea was it to sing "Happy Birthday" while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake.

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!

Since we're all in quarantine I guess we'll be making only inside jokes from now on.

I'm not talking to myself, I'm having a parent-teacher conference.

Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

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A high-quality educational experience in a CMSD kindergarten program is important because we know the majority of a child's brain develops by age five. An early childhood learning experience provides students with nurturing, play-based activities that encourage the development of minds that inquire, think critically and problem solve. Our educators are highly trained to deliver early literacy skills and focus on language-rich programs and social & emotional development skills to help children succeed throughout

their educational career.

All kindergarten classrooms integrate literacy, math, social studies and science practices, and Encore classes include music, physical education and media. Students develop early digital literacy and problem-solving skills throughout the integrated, play-based curriculum. Select schools offer Spanish, computer classes, art and more. CMSD is committed to providing iPads and hotspots to families in need.

Call (216) 838-3675 to speak with an enrollment specialist today!



Lake Metroparks Farmpark's Fall Harvest Weekends

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays through October 18

This fall, Lake Metroparks Farmpark continues the tradition of celebrating the harvest season on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through October 18. Each weekend will have a different focus on some aspects of farming and harvest along with their regularly-scheduled activities and demonstrations as well as music and Farmpark's famous apple slushie.

At Farmpark's Fall Harvest Weekends, visitors can participate in many traditional harvest activities. On all of these weekends, visitors will be able to see apple processing, farm animals, and other harvest activities. The whole family can explore our three-acre corn maze. Farmpark's hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

Corn and pumpkins are the highlights October 9 through 11 and 16 through 18 as they top off the fall harvest experience. Help husk, shell and grind corn, paint a pumpkin, and enjoy the harvest food preparation demonstration.

Farmpark is a family-oriented science and cultural center devoted to agriculture, farming and country life. Farmpark helps our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber and other products that sustain and enhance human life.

Escape to the country to discover where your food comes from!

All fall harvest activities are included with regular Farmpark admission (\$8, with discounts for seniors and children ages 2 to 11); members enter free.

For more info visit lakemetroparks.com/events.

Per the statewide facial coverings order, guests ages 10 and older are required to wear masks when indoors. This applies to any indoor space at Farmpark, including as guests pass through the Visitor Center upon entering and while utilizing any of the restrooms throughout Farmpark. All activities and demonstrations are held outdoors. Facial coverings are encouraged when outdoors, but not required unless you are unable to maintain a six-foot social distance from people who are not household members.

Three-acre corn maze at Farmpark

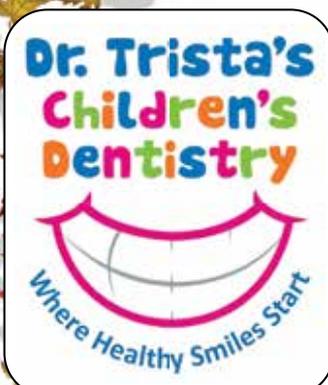
The three-acre corn maze is back at Lake Metroparks Farmpark. To provide a safe experience for all visitors, the maze features double-width paths providing ample space for physical distancing.

The maze is open Fridays through Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm through October 18, weather and conditions permitting. To check the conditions of the maze call (440) 256-2122 or follow Lake Metroparks on Twitter (@lakemetroparks).

The maze is included with Farmpark admission (\$8, with discounts for seniors and children ages 2 to 11); members enter free.

For more maze information visit: goto.lakemetroparks.com/cornmaze.

Farmpark is located at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road in Kirtland.



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PRIVATE SCHOOL

guide

Finding the right private school for your family

By Jan Pierce

You want a top-notch education for your children and choosing the perfect school is probably one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make. Depending on your location, you may find your public schools offer everything you want. If not, you'll need to embark on a search for the right private school.

In general, private schools exist to provide smaller class sizes with greater individual attention to each student and a safe, focused environment free of discipline problems. They tend to set a higher bar than public schools in academics, and build a culture of shared values. They offer a strong sense of community and may tailor lessons to the needs of the student.

In reality, each private school is a world unto itself. It may or may not hold accreditation with a national education association, or hire credentialed teachers. It may have many extracurricular offerings or just a few. It may charge a very large tuition plus additional fees, or may be more affordable, offering scholarships and sliding scales. It may have a long history in your community or be a brand new charter school.

To find the right private school for you, you'll need to consider the following:

1. What are your educational priorities?

Some private schools are faith-based and some are not. You'll want to decide as a family your basic priorities. Is it most important to find high academic standards, or more important to support your family's faith? Do you expect accelerated programs

such as advanced placement classes or extensive access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs? How important are extracurricular activities? Are you comfortable with homework policies and school rules?

2. What is the culture of the school?

In a faith-based setting the culture of the school will place religion at the forefront. There will be religious studies as part of the curriculum. The school may be all boys or all girls. Does this suit your goals? What is the relationship of staff to students? Is it casual and friendly, formal and strict? How are parents involved? What is the balance of academics to sports, the arts, clubs and other activities? Does the culture "feel right" for your children?

3. What role do parents play in the school?

Some private schools make great use of parent volunteer time and emphasize whole family participation in their programs. Others minimize parent involvement to occasional visits or conferences to report progress. Which best suits your family's needs?

4. What are the costs? Are there scholarships available?

It's a sacrifice to pay for your child's education when public schools are free. And there are huge variations in the expenses involved. When researching possible schools, be sure to check not only the tuitions, but also book fees, sports or other extracurricular expenses and possible transportation fees. Check

on scholarships available and the possibility of a sliding scale based on family income.

5. Is the staff credentialed and the school accredited?

Some faith-based schools and newer charter schools don't require their teachers to be credentialed. How important is this to your family? In addition there are many different education associations nationwide offering accreditation. If a prospective school has received accreditation, they've shown the initiative to meet high standards.

6. Is the curriculum up to date?

In this technological age, you'll want to be sure your private school has kept up with the times. Do they offer appropriate college preparation standards in science, math, languages, writing and more? Do they offer a well-rounded education in art, drama and music? Are textbooks current and in good condition? Are computer labs or individual screens available to students?

Continued on page 14

HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED

Plan your visit today:

Upper School Grades 9–12, Gates Mills Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/15/20 | 8:30 am
Open House: Sunday, 11/8/20 | 1:00 pm

Birchwood School Preschool–Grade 8, Cleveland–West Campus
Open House: Sunday, 10/18/20 | 2:00 pm

Mastery School Grades 9–12, University Circle Campus
Parent Visit: Tuesday, 10/20/20 | 12:30 pm
Open House: Sunday, 11/22/20 | 1:00 pm

Lower & Middle School Toddler – Grade 8, Lyndhurst Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/22/20 | 8:30 am
Open House: Sunday, 11/15/20 | 1:00 pm

Events will be virtual if they are unable to be held in person.

To RSVP and for more information, call 440.423.2950 (Lower & Middle School), 216.251.2321 (Birchwood School), 440.423.2955 (Upper School), 440.423.8801 (Mastery School), or visit hawken.edu/admissions.

On-campus and virtual tours are available. Call to schedule!

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(216) 421-0700
www.clevelandmontessori.org
Cleveland Montessori is celebrating over 25 years of serving the children of Greater Cleveland. The school is located in the historic Alta House. Students in preschool through middle school thrive within this unique urban campus inclusive of Little Italy and University Circle. A Cleveland Montessori education looks at each child's individual potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Their students become independent thinkers with compassionate hearts.

The authentic Montessori curriculum incorporates a variety of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom to the culturally rich neighborhood of Little Italy. Their proximity to University Circle provides many extensions for cultural and scientific exploration setting the stage for an experience rich in diversity, growth and joy. Cleveland Montessori operates on a school year calendar,

September to June.

Call to arrange a personal tour or visit their website for more information.

Communion of Saints School

2160 Stillman Road
Cleveland Heights
(216) 932-4177
admissions@
communionofsaintsparish.org
www.communionofsaintsschool.org

Communion of Saints School, formerly St. Ann's, located in Cleveland Heights, is on the corner of Cedar and Coventry Roads. They offer a Catholic education alternative to students residing in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, East Cleveland, South Euclid, and surrounding areas. Their vision is to prepare today's youth for a successful future by providing a foundation in the Catholic faith and moral teachings in conjunction with a rigorous 21st century education.

As a Catholic school, Communion of Saints strives to carry out the mission of the parish. Their

THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE, CREATE, AND PLAY.

JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING VIRTUAL
OR ON-CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE!
www.us.edu/visit

At University School, each boy is inspired and mentored to build on his personal strengths, harness his natural talents and blaze his own path to success and fulfillment.



THE WAY TO GREAT.

(Communion of Saints cont'd)

program is permeated with a spirit of mutual respect while fostering a sense of community among the parish and school families. The curriculum is compliant with the Ohio state standards.

Enrollment for the 2021/2022 school year opens in February. Please inquire about options for tuition aid. Come see what they have to offer!

For information or to schedule a tour, please call (216) 932-4177 or email admissions@communionofsaintsparish.org.

Hathaway Brown School

19600 North Park Boulevard
Shaker Heights
(216) 932-4214
HB.edu

Since 1876, HB has given students the tools they need to confidently embrace all the possibilities that exist for them beyond their Shaker Heights campus. The faculty's dedication to hands-on experiential learning at all levels can be observed every day in the

classrooms, libraries, science labs, theatres, dance studios and art rooms, as well as on the athletic fields.

In addition to the superior academic preparation they receive, at every turn HB students are inspired to become the best people they can be. They encourage girls of all ages and boys in their Early Childhood program to take chances, stretch their minds, work together, and pick themselves up and start over when they need to.

They offer tuition assistance in the form of financial aid and merit awards. Visit HB.edu to learn more and call (216) 320-8767 to speak with an admission representative and schedule your personalized introduction to the school.



Hawken School

www.hawken.edu

Lyndhurst Campus

(Toddler-Grade 8)
5000 Clubside Road
(440) 423-2950

The Birchwood School of Hawken

(Preschool-Grade 8)
4400 West 140th St., Cleveland
(216) 251-2321

Gates Mills Campus

(Grades 9-12)
Mayfield and County Line Roads
in Gates Mills
(440) 423-2955

The Mastery School of Hawken

(Grades 9-12)
11025 Magnolia Dr, Cleveland
(440) 423-8801

Hawken School is an independent, coed day school of over 1,400 students, toddler through grade 12, located on two campuses in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, a campus on Cleveland's west side, and a campus in University Circle that is home to the recently opened Mastery School of Hawken, which takes the

school's problem-based programming to scale.

Hawken was founded in 1915 as an educationally progressive school, and they remain academically progressive - because that's what it takes to prepare students to thrive in a changing world. From recognizing the value of a co-educational environment to designing programs, learning spaces, and innovative schedules that support learning by doing, Hawken boldly adapts to prepare students for a promising future.

Hawken's nationally-recognized programming and non-traditional schedules support partnerships with world-renowned institutions that provide real-world learning opportunities, including honors-level engineering and entrepreneurship programs and STEM internships. These experiences instill in students the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic world.





admissions@Hershey-Montessori.org
www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Is Hershey Montessori School the right fit for your family?

We are grateful for our indoor space and outdoor learning environments that allow for safe, in-person learning. There is no better way to restore the vital human connection that students need. Hershey Montessori School's approach to education allows students to master the skills and abilities needed to adapt as the world changes, careers shift, and the demand on human ingenuity evolves. Hershey is a world-renowned education experience that prepares students for college and for life.

Contact us for information or to schedule a personal tour.

*Ask about our transportation & boarding options!

Birth-Grade 6: (440) 357-0918

Grade 7-12: (440) 636-6290

2020 FALL OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION:

Huntsburg Campus

(7th-12th Grade)

October 17

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Concord Campus

(B-6th Grade)

October 18

1 - 3 p.m.

For more information or to register, please visit our website at hershey-montessori.org/admissions.

Virtual tours are also available on our website.



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Visit our website for info about fall and winter Open Houses

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Preschool through 8th Grade

To register, contact us at 440-442-6766 or office@saintpaschal.com

5360 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights, OH 44143 • www.saintpaschal.com

PRIVATE SCHOOL *guide*

Hershey Montessori School

www.Hershey-Montessori.org
(440) 357-0918

Concord Campus

10229 Prouty Road

Huntsburg Campus

11530 Madison Road

School should be interesting, engaging, educationally sound - and Hershey Montessori School is!

Hershey's redesigned face-to-face learning experience supports the vital human connection that students of all ages need, while providing an enhanced, socially connected, remote learning option for middle and upper School students.

Hershey's on-campus designs incorporate beautiful indoor and outdoor classroom environments that adhere to recommended health guidelines.

For more than 40 years, Hershey's approach to education has allowed students to master the skills and abilities needed to adapt as the world changes, careers shift, and the demand on human ingenuity evolves. The life-trans-

forming outcomes demonstrated by Hershey students, especially through these unprecedented times, reveals why Hershey is revered as a world leader in Montessori education.

Hershey students are inspired to learn, to thrive academically, expand their interests, and develop important life skills.

Contact Hershey to learn more about how this education model can benefit your child.

Laurel School

www.LaurelSchool.org
(216) 464-0946

Lyman Campus

One Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights

Butler Campus

7420 Fairmount Road
Russell Township

Laurel School, founded in 1896, is a nationally recognized college preparatory, independent day school for girls, kindergarten through grade 12, with a coeducational preprimary. Its traditional Lyman Campus is in Shaker Heights and its 150-acre Butler Campus is

Foundations for Lifelong Learning

Wednesday, November 4th at 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Open House

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 a virtual open house. Join us on Wednesday, November 4th at 5:00 p.m. for our Virtual Open House.

Schedule a personal (in-person) tour on Saturday, November 7th or call to arrange a convenient time with our Director of Admissions. (Contact Kate - kate@clevelandmontessori.org / 216-421-0700) Visit our website for the Zoom link to the Virtual Tour and the sign-up for in-person tours. We look forward to seeing you!



CLEVELAND MONTESSORI

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



PRIVATE SCHOOL *guide*

(Laurel School cont'd)

in Russell Township. The Butler Campus is home to competitive athletics and outdoor experiential learning, including northeast Ohio's only outdoor preprimary school.

Laurel's Center for Research on Girls (LCRG) was established in 2007, drawing on the school's long history as a site of pioneering research on girls. LCRG conducts and sponsors original research on girls, harnesses existing research to shape the day-to-day education of girls and connects parents and teachers with research findings relevant to raising and educating girls.

St. Joan of Arc School

498 East Washington Street
Chagrin Falls
(440) 247-6530
www.stjoanofarc.org

For over 50 years, faculty and staff of St. Joan of Arc Catholic School have instilled within each student a life-long desire to learn, lead, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ. Committed to learning and teaching in the 21st century, the experienced faculty and staff of St. Joan strive to develop each student to his or her fullest potential. Technology is incorporated as a part of daily instruction, which may find students utilizing the 3-D printer in the makerspace or working collaboratively with the aid of an ActivPanel. As a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, St. Joan of Arc has been recognized for the education that they provide to students in the Chagrin Valley.

Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School

5360 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights
(440) 442-6766
www.saintpaschal.net

Recipient of the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for nine consecutive years, Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School educates students in pre-K through grade 8. Its mission is to focus on Christ-centered values and to develop the unique potential of each student through a rigorous and engaging curriculum.

Offering a program that prepares students for their secondary education and beyond, the faculty and

staff recognize each student as an individual with unique gifts. They truly care about their students and are dedicated to helping each child succeed and attain his or her academic and spiritual potential.

The academic program is aligned with diocesan, state and national standards. In addition, Saint Paschal Baylon offers daily religion instruction, Spanish (pre-k through 8), fine arts, service learning opportunities, cocurricular activities, gifted education classes, as well as psychological, speech/language, intervention, and learning disability services. Please call the school for more information or to schedule a tour.

University School

www.us.edu

Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8

20701 Brantley Road
Shaker Heights
(216) 321-8260

Grades 9 to 12

2785 SOM Center Road
Hunting Valley
(216) 831-2200

University School is a place where each boy is inspired and empowered to let his true self thrive. With the freedom to explore, create, compete, and play, boys of all dispositions build on their personal strengths, harness their natural talents, and blaze their own paths to excellence with joy, confidence, and integrity.

Boys are curious and eager and learn by doing. At University School, younger boys engage in activities that encourage the development of language and math skills infused with science, language, art, music, physical education, and outdoor play. The curriculum, based on teacher-designed themes, ignites boys' imaginations, allows boys to make meaningful connections in their learning, and generates a lifetime love of learning. The teachers understand boys at each stage of development.

Campus spaces, designed by teachers, are ideal for young, active boys and the hands-on program. The low student-to-teacher ratio is possible because each primary classroom has full-time licensed lead and associate teachers. See for yourself! Join them for their on-campus or virtual open houses this fall.



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Families choose our Pre-Primary program because it fosters a child's sense of wonder, encourages curiosity and inspires a desire to learn. Spend your Saturday morning with us to understand the benefits of a Laurel education for your young daughter or son.

For the health and safety of our community, our Open House will be split into two entry times and **pre-registration is required.** Register today at LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse or call 216.464.0946.

PLEASE JOIN US:

18 months- PreK Coed Open House

Saturday, November 14
9:00-11:00 am

LAUREL

Dream. Dare. Do.

LYMAN CAMPUS
One Lyman Circle
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122



V Villa Angela-St. Joseph
HIGH SCHOOL

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FAMILY**

Join us for our next Virtual Admissions Open House:
October 11, 2020 at 1 p.m.
vasj.com/admissions

For students across **Northeast Ohio**, one of the best girls' schools in the country is **within reach.**

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Middle and Upper School (grades 5-12) Open Houses: Monthly	Infant, Toddler, Early Childhood and Primary School (infants-grade 4) Open Houses: November and December
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Co-ed Infant & Toddler Center and Early Childhood • Girls K-12

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or visit www.OhioEarlyIntervention.org

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(216) 930-3322 or **(440) 389-3322**

Ohio Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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Help me grow.

PRIVATE SCHOOL *guide*

**Villa Angela-
St. Joseph High School**
18491 Lakeshore Boulevard
Cleveland
(216) 481-8414
www.vasj.com

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school and the only school in the world co-sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters and Marianist Brothers. VASJ is committed to helping students grow in their faith, be challenged academically, follow their passions, and create high school memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The family spirit is felt by all who enter the school and makes VASJ a special place to learn and grow. If you're looking for a school that feels like a family, they invite you to join them at an admissions open house to experience the family environment that makes VASJ something truly special. Open houses provide an opportunity to speak with students, teachers and coaches about the school's unique academic, campus ministry and athletic programs. They'd love to have you be part of the VASJ family!

Their next virtual open house will take place October 11 at 1 pm. Visit vasj.com/admissions.

Finding a private school from page 9

7. How well do students transition into or out of the school?

If a particular school offers classes such as K-6 or K-8, do they work closely with a sister high school? What provisions are made to make a smooth transition from one school to another? If students transfer into the school either at the beginning of a year or mid-year, what provisions are made to welcome them? How do children fare when they need to move from this school to another?

find amongst friends and acquaintances?

10. Is the school open to visits and drop-in observations?

All schools need to make sure their campus is secure and will have procedures to follow when visiting. But as a parent, you want to feel comfortable visiting the building to observe or take care of business. You'll want to find a school that makes parents welcome and is proud to show them around.

When you've narrowed your search to several schools, be sure to take the time for a personal visit. Talk with an administrator, take the tour and gather any written information they've prepared for prospective students. Discuss pertinent questions and voice any concerns you may have about your child's specific needs. Above all, gauge your "feel" of the school. Is it the right place for you and your family?

8. Does the school provide transportation?

Do buses transport students to school? Are they available for after-school activities? Does the school coordinate carpools? Are there extra expenses charged for transportation?

9. What is the school's reputation?

Most private schools have a reputation to uphold. Are they the best in college prep? Are they known for a friendly, family community spirit? Who do you know with firsthand information and experience with the school? What recommendations can you

Selecting the perfect private school is well worth the time it takes to research, visit and finally make your selection. This is the place your children will make important friendships, learn and grow, and pave the way to their bright futures.

In Case You Missed It

Visit www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com to access hundreds of family-related articles and events. Our site is keyword searchable and is mobile-friendly. Whatever local family information you need, you will most likely find it in Today's Family.



Touch deprivation: the why behind your unexplained sadness

By Judy Gaman

The skin is the largest organ in the body. It has millions of touch receptors that send signals to the brain each time you touch something or somebody or they touch you. This exchange of information, especially when it involves another human, is accompanied by a neurochemical reaction within the body.

Unfortunately, there is also a different neurochemical reaction that takes place in the absence of touch. It's an understatement to say that we like human connection, the truth is that we need it.

As much as we need human touch, it's the one thing we all seem to be lacking. Between the initial stay-at-home orders and now the social distancing, most people are feeling the effects of touch deprivation. Some people have even expressed a sense of jealousy when seeing people touch in movies or on television shows.

That's because touch is so vital to our ability to thrive.

The scientific argument for the necessity for touch has been proven in multiple research studies, including one where premature babies were massaged for 15 minutes a day, a practice that seemed foreign to the rules of neonatal ICU. This study found that the infants that had regular human contact with massage gained weight 47% faster with no change in nutritional supplementation.

These babies also had more advanced motor skills months later. This is in keeping with the studies that followed WWII where orphaned children, although clothed and fed, failed to thrive. Human touch is a basic necessity to growth and life.

For those that have lived alone

during the pandemic, their risk for depression and even suicide is significantly increased. But, you don't have to be living alone to be feeling as if something significant is missing in your life.

Research on adults shows that touch actually calms the body and brain, making us more compassionate. In a time where compassion is lacking and emotions are high, it could be said that the lack of touch is fueling the fire. Oxytocin, the feel good hormone that comes with touch, normally acts as a fire extinguisher when tempers flare.

While nothing can replace the need for human contact, whether it be a hug from a friend, a pat on the back from a coworker, or a simple handshake, these tips may help keep your touch receptors busy while we all await the green light to normalcy.

- Take a warm bubble bath. The sensation of the bubbles will activate touch receptors all over the body.
- Place a blanket or towel in the dryer and then wrap yourself in it until it reaches room temperature again.
- Pet your cat or dog. If you don't have one, consider getting a pet.
- Go out of your way to give those in your household some extra love taps. Giving a hug is beneficial to both the one giving it and the one receiving it
- Pick a night of the week and make it massage night. The massage will increase oxytocin levels, which in turn will improve mood and your relationship.

Bio: Judy Gaman is an award-winning author. You can receive a free download of her book *Age to Perfection* at <http://book.lovelifelucille.com/agetoperfection>.

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In a safe environment building confidence, poise, friendship & technique



Registrations still open with smaller class sizes.

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CLEVELAND CITY DANCE

216-295-2222

www.clevelandcitydance.com



More than 2,000 sensory awareness kits distributed in east suburbs

Area residents invited to free virtual sensory consults on October 15 via Zoom

Connecting for Kids distributed more than 2,000 Sensory Awareness Kits to 30 preschools, daycare and community centers in Beachwood, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Bedford Heights, Solon and Chagrin Falls during the month of September. The goal of these kits is to help area families identify sensory issues early. These kits have been generously donated by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, Church of the Resurrection and the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Featuring an Ollie the Octopus doll, each kit also contains a card with “sensory red flags” that describe in easy-to-understand terms how families can identify if their child might be at risk.

Anyone who suspects sensory issues is invited to register for a free, 15-minute sensory consult with

a pediatric occupational therapist from Abilities First, LLC and The Mobile OT. The consults will take place virtually via Zoom on Thursday, October 15, from 6:30 – 8:00pm. To sign up for a time slot, visit www.connectingforkids.org/consult. Those who register will be emailed information about how to join the consult using the free Zoom app or by calling in using a toll-free number.

This consult is open to all children ages 18 months–12 years. At the consult, each child will be encouraged to engage in some activities while a parent or family member completes a checklist. At the consult, families will also learn strategies to help their child at home.

According to research statistics found on the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder website, “1 in every 6 children experi-



ences sensory symptoms that may be significant enough to affect aspects of everyday life functions.”

Often, these children are “labeled” as behavior problems, impulsive, overactive or shy. But in reality, sometimes these behaviors can be attributed to sensory processing issues where the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses. The phenomenon may also explain some behaviors such as refusing to wear certain clothing, being bothered by noises or avoiding foods with unusual textures. Once families learn the root cause of these behaviors and know

how to address them, they are given hope.

About Connecting for Kids

Connecting for Kids (CFK) provides education and support to families with concerns about their child. We serve all families, including those children with and without formal diagnoses. CFK offers educational programs, support groups, a Parent Match Program and numerous resources.

For more info about Connecting for Kids, visit: www.connectingforkids.org, email: info@connectingforkids.org or call (440) 570-5908.

Heights Libraries fall events

Little Kitchen
Wednesdays, Oct 7 & 21, Nov 4
3:00 – 3:30 pm

Location: Online, on Zoom

Get your hands dirty in this virtual cooking program. We will make easy recipes for sensory items that your littles will love to use and can help you make. Make it with us or make it later. It's all up to you! Registration begins September 23.

Diversity through the Arts
Saturday, Oct. 10 • 2–3 pm
Location: Online, on Zoom

The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio is offering a Diversity Through the Arts event for students in grades K-5 — virtually! Students will receive instructions for a hands-on art project and a recorded reading of *All Are Welcome Here* by Alexandra Penfold for inspiration. Craft supplies, available for pick up or delivery, and video instructions will be shared starting Sept 26. The live Zoom event on Oct 10 will give kids the chance to show off their artistic creation and join an exciting discussion of inclusion, identity, and diversity.

Join us for socially distanced socializing that celebrates our community! Registration required.

P.E.A.C.E. Park Rocks
Every day, dawn to dusk
Coventry Village Library
(216) 321-3400

This fall, take a socially distant stroll through P.E.A.C.E. Park to look for hidden, painted rocks. You can join the scavenger hunt by visiting the Coventry Branch to pick up your own rock to decorate and hide. Make sure to check out our social media to see if your rock was found! #PeaceParkRocks. All ages, no registration required.

Outdoor Family Storytime
Friday, Oct 23 • 3 pm
Lee Road Library
(216) 932-3600

We're going to ease back into storytimes in the great outdoors at the Lee Road branch! Bring your blankets and masks for stories, songs, and rhymes. We will be on the HKIC lawn, properly distanced and masked. Registration required.

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Plumbing tips to help you save money

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing & DeBord's One Hour HVAC

Over time, plumbing costs can add up. They're a necessary expense in any homeowner's budget, yet there's a lot that can be done to lower the annual cost of your plumbing bills that a lot of people are not aware of. Completing annual maintenance and taking a proactive step to fight against future costly issues are one of the most important things that you can do to save money on plumbing.

Actively look for drips: Drips add up over time—and can also signal a larger problem at hand. Loose valves, cracked pipes, or even flooding are all issues that a few small drips can warn homeowners about. These issues, if left untreated, are far more costly than a simple leak. Dripping water can slowly add up in your energy bill. The water can also cause harmful mold to grow if not quickly handled.

Upgrade your water heater: Heating water requires a lot of energy; by upgrading to a more effective, energy-efficient model, you can save a lot of money over time. Water heater models that are over ten years old might be due for a replacement soon. A good model to consider is an on-demand water heater, which quickly heats water when necessary, rather than continuously heating water throughout the day.



Check your water meter: Take a quick look at your water meter to be sure that your water flow is running normally. Located somewhere accessible outside of your home, your water meter indicates water usage. If water is not running to your home but the meter indicates water is still flowing, that can often be a sign of a major water leak somewhere in your pipes.

Complete routine maintenance: Making sure to treat any issues preemptively—rather than wait

until the issue grows large and costly—is a quick and easy plumbing tip that can help save money. Plumbing repairs can be costly.

Don't DIY: While it may be tempting to try to fix plumbing issues on your own and save some cash, getting the help of a professional can actually save you more time and money overall. Homeowners who attempt to fix projects on their own can often create larger issues. In case of doubt, enlist the services of a trusted plumber who can fix the issue for good.

Cut back on some major plumbing costs by following these easy tips. A little bit of regular maintenance and careful checking of all your plumbing fixtures can go a long way to saving a lot of money. When in doubt, do not try to tackle the issue on your own; invest in a professional service to lower expenses by getting the job done right the first time!

Call Benjamin Franklin Plumbing today at (440) 543-1151 or (440) 286-6002 to schedule an appointment.

Log on to www.DeBordinc.com and/or www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com to learn more and for special offers. See their ad on page 5 of this issue of Today's Family for coupons.

Every Child Needs Family



Together We Thrive

Division of Children and Family Services

More than 200 children in Cuyahoga County need forever families, including the Parker brothers. Please call 216-881-5775 or visit www.everychildneedsfamily.com for more information.

Fall outdoor fun at Holden Forests & Gardens

Experience fall in all its beauty this October at the Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden. Along with soaking up fall colors from new heights on the arboretum's Murch Canopy Walk and Kalberer Emergent Tower, visitors can enjoy a mystery adventure during a Halloween Whodunnit from Saturday, October 3 – Sunday, October 18 and explore the grounds on a Leaf Trail through October. The Botanical Garden will usher in fall fun with gorgeous outdoor fall plants and container arrangements, Children's Strolling Storytime, and a new Holden Halloween House Party activity pack program.

AT HOLDEN ARBORETUM

NEW! Halloween Whodunnit

From Saturday, October 3 through Sunday, October 18, visitors are invited to participate in a not-so-spooky scavenger hunt on the grounds during Halloween Whodunnit, becoming detectives hot on the trail of a thief in their midst. Each child will receive a Halloween

Whodunnit comic booklet upon entry to the Arboretum. Families may use this graphic comic and the included story to follow the Halloween Whodunnit Trail, helping Kid Detectives solve the mystery of the missing bluebird nest while visiting eight decorated vignettes on the grounds highlighting a different spooky plant or animal from bats to snakes and spiders. Free with admission.

Leaf Trail

As northeast Ohio's trees begin to change color, now is the perfect time to sharpen your leaf and tree identification skills! Pick up a brochure at the arboretum and follow the Leaf Trail, an immersive autumn leaf identification activity. Learn how to identify the trees around you by collecting leaves and organizing them by their characteristics, as well as identifying 28 deciduous trees, including tulip trees, dawn redwoods and golden weeping willows, marked with numbered tags on the grounds. Free with admission.



Murch Canopy Walk and Kalberer Emergent Tower

Experience fall color from a new perspective at the arboretum. The Murch Canopy Walk invites guests on a 500-foot-long elevated walkway that is built 65 feet above the forest floor. The Emergent Tower is 120 feet or approximately 12 stories tall and provides a breathtaking view of the surrounding area all the way to Lake Erie. Visiting the structures are now included with membership and general admission.

AT CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

NEW! Virtual Holden Halloween House Parties

Holden Halloween House Parties is a variety of five youth and family programs that offer your children an exciting new approach to tricks and treats! Celebrate the month of October and the fascinating roles that plants play amid all things magical, mysterious and fantastical! Join an online costume theme party on Zoom that comes with a kit full of tricky activities and fun treats. A take-home pack includes an optional on-site scavenger hunt at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Themes include Alien Invaders, Pumpkins and Patches, Zombie Plants, and Magical Plants. Fridays, through October 30, 5–6pm and Saturdays through October 31, 3–4 pm or 5–6pm. Recommended ages: 3–6 years old or 7–10 years old depending on session. Cost per session: \$20 per member child, \$35 per nonmember child. Registration required.

Indoor and outdoor fall horticultural displays

Fall horticultural displays will be showcased throughout the indoor and outdoor gardens at the botanical garden. Perfect for a festive photo op or simply an opportunity to experience fall flora in all its splendor, enjoy seasonal plant displays that will

include mums, cabbage, kale, pansies, cornstalks, pumpkins and more!

NEW! Leaf Trail

Learn to appreciate the beauty of fall color by learning about leaf and tree identification at the botanical garden! Pick up a brochure and follow the Leaf Trail, an autumn leaf identification activity that teaches you how to identify the trees around you, as well as the ten deciduous trees, including sugar maple, paw-paw and river birch, marked with numbered tags on the grounds. Free with admission.

Children's strolling storytime

Join us for a socially distanced, small group program where participants will stroll through much of the garden's campus making stops along the way to progress through a full story. Each walk lasts approximately 40 minutes and is stroller accessible. After most stories, participants will each be stationed at their own table to complete a craft or activity aligned with the theme of the story. Each week features a different theme.

Tuesdays, Oct. 6 and 13.

Session I: 11:15am–12:30pm

Session II: 3:00pm–4:30pm

\$5 per member participant, \$20 per nonmember participant (includes admission). Registration required.

General admission

Advanced timed ticket purchase is required to visit the Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden. Adults are \$15 and children three to 12 years old are \$10. Visit holdenarb.org or cbgarden.org to purchase your tickets. Arboretum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 9am–5pm. Botanical Garden hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am–5pm, Wednesday 10am–8pm and Sunday noon–5pm.

The Hershey Children's Garden closes at dusk on Wednesdays.

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www.HorizonChildcare.com

TOY & GIFT Ideas

World Map 500 Piece Jigsaw Puzzle (Ages 8+)



The 500 piece World Puzzle is a colorful detailed puzzle with all countries included! It is a fun challenge to put this quality puzzle together. Comes in a sturdy box and measures 24"x36".

Visit www.waypointgeographic.com to see their selection of globes, puzzles and other educational items.

1-2-Switch Rated E10+



Throw an impromptu party anywhere with anyone thanks to a new play style in which players look at each other—not the screen!

Bring the action and fun into the real world as you face off in wild-west duels, cow-milking competitions, a copycat dance-off, and more. Each game takes advantage of the Joy-Con controller features of the Nintendo Switch system in different ways.

While the action unfolds off-screen, the audience watches the players themselves instead of the screen. That makes it as hilarious to watch as it is to play – an instant party amplifier!

Mario Kart™ 8 Deluxe Rated E for Everyone



Hit the road with the definitive version of Mario Kart 8 and play anytime, anywhere! Race your friends or battle them in a revised battle mode on new and returning battle courses. Play locally in up to four-player multiplayer in 1080p while playing in TV mode. Every track from the Wii U version, including DLC, makes a glorious return. Plus, the Inklings appear as all-new guest characters, along with returning favorites, such as King Boo, Dry Bones, and Bowser Jr.!

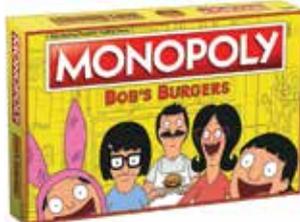
Whatsitsface Ages 3+



If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it. That's now true for stuffed animals with the Whatsitsface line of plush pals. Feeling happy, sad, surprised, amused, angry or sleepy can all happen with a twist of a knob or a flip of a face. Little ones can change the face of Puppy Dog, Kitty Cat or Teddy Bear to reveal six emotional expressions – building their empathy skills while extending creative playtime!

Visit whatsitsface.com.

MONOPOLY® Bob's Burgers Edition Ages 8+



"Chorizo Your Own Adventure Burger" in this classic edition of MONOPOLY®! Buy, sell, and trade locations from "Seymour's Bay" including Jimmy

Pesto's Pizzeria, Wagstaff School, Beville's, and Wonder Wharf. Choose your favorite custom character token to travel around the board and relive your favorite moments from the show. Grab your apron and get cookin' in this custom Bob's Burgers edition of MONOPOLY®!

LittiCity Pretend Play My First Purse Set

Ages 3-8



Girls love princess toys and to imitate their moms. With this Litti Pritti My First Purse Set, you can let your little one enjoy some role-playing fun as she pretends to be a

shopping mom just like you. Inside she will find a wallet, cellphone, pretend lipstick, pretend face powder, four keys on a key ring, car key, ID card, play money and three credit cards. Not only is it the ideal toddler toy for any 3-year-old girl, but it also makes a great girl's purse for kids 6-8. Visit jaxojoy.myshopify.com.



3-in-1 World Globe LED Constellation Map Night Light Ages 3+

The 3-in-1 Globe + Constellation Map + Night Light, includes an illustrated star booklet. States and nations are presented in great de-

tail, and stars come alive at the flick of a switch. Long-lasting, replaceable LED Night Light. Visit usatoyz.com.

Loog Acoustic Mini Guitar Ages 3-8

The ideal first guitar. Designed to make it fun, easy and stimulating for kids to play music. The Loog Mini guitar comes with flashcards that teach you how to form chords and an app that gets you playing songs on day one! The slim neck is perfect for little kids' hands, and because it only has three strings, chords are reduced to the basic triad, just three notes, allowing for an easier and faster learning process. Made with real wood it has perfect intonation, low string action for enhanced playability and classical nylon strings. It is about the same size as a ukulele, but plays, tunes and sounds like a classical guitar.



Visit loogguitars.com.

Mr. Blue My Dancing & Singing Bird Ages 6 months+



This adorable dancing bird will come to life in response to the noises your baby makes. As your child talks, laughs, and sings, this interactive toy

responds by tumbling around and making silly sounds of his own. When the dancing stops, Mr. Blue makes a brightly colored and soft snuggle buddy for your little one to cuddle and roll around with.

Made from BPA-Free materials and CPSC Certified, this wild little creature is completely safe for infants to experience and explore in all the ways that curious babies do.

Dino Crunch Ages 4+



This hungry Dino has an eggstraordinary appetite!

Roll the die to choose which stolen egg to rescue. Carefully reach in and take out the egg, but watch out - you never know

when this T-Rex will roar and leap out at you for a mighty CRUNCH!

Try to rescue the dino eggs before the T-Rex leaps. Gameplay helps develop fine motor skills. For 2-4 players.



There's no party like a Girl Scout Party!

Girl Scouts is a way of life that brings out the best in your girl, and helps her bring out the best in everyone around her. While she's learning about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, she's also discovering new ways to make your family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone.

Whether you want to start a new troop for your girl and her friends that meets online or in-person, join an existing troop, or have questions, send us a note at customercare@gsneo.org, call us at **800.852.4474**, or find us at gsneo.org.

Visit gsneo.org/fun to sign up for a free virtual party!

