

TODAY'S **family**

April 2022

Lake & Geauga

FREE!

**Child
Abuse
Prevention
Month**

**Red
Treehouse**

Helps young families
dealing with illness

**Women
Empowerment
Summit**

**Summer
Camps**

**CHOOSING A
PRESCHOOL**

**GIRL
POWER!**

10 ways to help your
daughter stay safe
and strong



Spring Events

at the Lake County History Center!

Ladies and Gents Who Lunch

Thursday, April 21 • Noon (At the LCHC Event Barn)
Find out about locals who left and became celebrities.
Lunch: Chicken garden salad.
\$17 members, \$20 nonmembers

Boys of Summer

Sunday, April 24 • 4:30 PM (At the LCHC Event Barn)
Presentation/Q&A with Ken Krsolovic, co-author of the book *League Park: Historic Home of Cleveland Baseball, 1891-1946*. Fee includes a copy of the book and a baseball-themed dinner.
Dinner: All-you-can-eat 1/4 lb. hot dogs with condiment bar, pop-corn, nachos, Cracker Jack and soft drinks.
\$40 for first guest, \$20 each additional person in your group

Para X

Friday, May 6 • 9 PM (At the LCHC main building)
Don't miss this opportunity for a paranormal investigation at the former Lake County Poor House! Tickets are limited to the first 40 sold. This event sells out quickly.
\$40 per person

First Annual Derby Fundraiser

Saturday, May 7 • 5 PM (At the LCHC Event Barn)
Join us to watch the Kentucky Derby race and eat southern fare food. There will be auction items and hat & bow tie contests. Place your bet on your favorite horse! Even enjoy a mint julep.
\$75 per person, \$135 per couple

Brewing Up History

Tuesday, May 10 • 6 PM
Learn about early Brewers from Cleveland.
Held at 1922 Coffee and Brew in Painesville Township.
\$40 per person, limited menu

Spring Tea

Saturday, May 14 • 2 PM (At LCHC Heritage Hall)
Enjoy a cup of tea with First Ladies Julia Grant, Ida McKinley and Florence Harding.
Lunch: finger sandwiches, fruit, scones, dessert, tea.
\$18 members, \$20 nonmembers



Ladies and Gents Who Lunch

Thursday, May 19

Theme: Catastrophes
\$17 members \$20 nonmembers

Lushes with Brushes Summer

Thursday, May 26

Theme: Door hanging
\$30 members, \$35 nonmember

For menu details, more info or to make reservations, call 440-639-2945 or visit lakehistory.eventbrite.com.



415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township
(440) 639-2945 • www.LakeHistory.org

TODAY'S family

Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties

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Red Treehouse

Helps young families
dealing with illness

By Deanna Adams

The last thing parents want is a sick child. And when that happens, they often are not aware of all the help and resources that may be available to them. Yet, there is one place that serves as a one-stop resource center with a sole mission to connect families with needed services.

Red Treehouse is a branch of the Ronald McDonald House® of Cleveland, Inc., and partners with Ohio Family and Children First to guide families dealing with children and young adults — prenatal through age 25 — who suffer from illnesses and disabilities. The organization helps them meet their health care needs and overcome the challenges they face.

Among the many resources available through Red Treehouse include everything from sharing knowledge about community organizations, determining financial resources and health insurance, as well as housing, living arrangements and transition planning. They can also provide an emotional support animal, if necessary.

The agency's program manager, Julie Wilson, likens her job to a ship's cruise director, in that she's the one to seek out when searching for answers. "I connect families with all the resources they need to support them in various ways during the most difficult times," she says. "When you're suddenly faced with an ill family member, you often don't know where to turn."

Wilson speaks from experience. She came to her position three years ago by way of a personal battle, when she found herself dealing with the trauma of caring for her critically ill husband. "When he was diagnosed with brain cancer, I was faced with so many challenges. I was suddenly a caregiver and it was a very eye-opening experience," she says. "It's an important and significant role but it's often overwhelming. I soon learned how many organizations are actually out there if only people knew about them."

Red Treehouse, a nonprofit orga-

nization that serves Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and North Central West Virginia, also provides an active online and social media community support system to help those exploring resources and events. This includes links to webinars, workshops, conferences, and educational guides, such as instructions and information for parents of children with a rare disease, along with emergency medical alert accessories and pediatric palliative care when needed.

"Your life really shifts when you go through these kinds of trauma," Wilson says. "It often changes the way you live, the way you see life. That's why, after my husband passed, I felt a strong urge to be purposeful. I wanted to focus on helping people who are experiencing these moments of crisis and feel lost.

"We don't just give support, we give people the essential tools to manage and help deal with all the things thrust upon them. Having connections through many resources really does make it bearable."

Red Treehouse was named as such because it exemplifies strength and resilience and serves as a collection of branches to connect people and resources. As stated on its website, the treehouse is red — the color of "love, energy, power, passion, life and vitality" through which to help children and young adults "achieve positive outcomes and well-being."

Like Wilson, Helen Rapp also came to Red Treehouse in search of guidance with not one, but two family health matters. "As the mother of two grown children with serious medical issues, I know what a valuable resource Red Treehouse is to families," says Rapp. "In 1995 at the age of 11 months old, my daughter Holly had corrective open heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. From the first day we learned of Holly's heart defect and throughout her surgery and early years, we needed access to a lot of information that families can get from Red Treehouse. We needed medical information to understand a condition we knew nothing about, and we needed to find a support group to get us through a very scary period."



That scary period was followed by another soon after when their other daughter, Jane, was born prematurely, which ultimately resulted in her being diagnosed with cerebral palsy. "My daughters, now 27 and 26, are doing very well, but these medical issues became serious challenges to our family and really shaped who we are today. We learned that navigating the systems that you need to help your child with special needs is very complex."

And so, at age 51, Rapp decided to go to law school. "It should not

be this hard for families to access the services their children need to simply live."

Today, Helen Rapp serves as a volunteer at Ronald McDonald House. "As a parent who is probably representative of the families who stay at the House or utilize the wonderful family rooms, I know that Red Treehouse is a critical resource and I'm very proud to have the opportunity to volunteer with the team to make it even better."

For more information on their services, go to www.RedTreehouse.org.

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Girl Power

10 ways to help your daughter stay safe and strong

By Christina Katz

March 8 was International Women's Day, a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. In recent years, it's become clear that the advancement of women's rights can recede if we are not persistent, insistent, and assertive in championing them. One of the ways we remain a country of empowered women is by passing on what we have learned from experience to our girls. So why not take the opportunity to have some important and inspiring conversations with your daughters? Here are some talking points to get your started.

1. Expect equality. Equality is not only for women and girls; it's for every member of a healthy society. So talk to your daughter about parity and fairness. Ask her if she has

gotten the impression that opportunities that should be available to her are not. Ask if she thinks the same opportunities that are available to her are accessible to others. Challenge her to think.

2. Treasure your body. Talk to your daughter about her body. Does she love it? Does she hate it? Does she wish it were different? How are you modeling self-love and self-care for your body? Work together to create more body awareness and acceptance in your family.

3. Be period positive. Ask your daughter how she feels about being female. Does she need help managing her menstrual cycles and moods? Talk to her about what has been helpful for you. If there are consistent challenges or discomforts, seek assistance through traditional or alternative medicines until they are resolved.

4. Live your values. One of our



most important roles as parents is helping our children think for themselves. Talk to your daughters about their values as they grow. Really listen and ask thoughtful questions to help them understand how they think. Respect their beliefs and choices.

5. Speak up and be heard. If you are always speaking on your child's behalf, she is not going to learn to speak up for herself. So, next time she needs to straighten something out with a friend, teacher, or coach, why not talk to her about it and then let her do it herself? Ask how she did afterwards and offer support.

6. Dress to express, not seduce. Girls may seek to express themselves and their burgeoning sexuality through their clothing, but that doesn't mean that they have to flash their assets all the time as if they were up for auction. Explain to your daughter that she will be more likely to draw quality attention if she can keep her assets off continual display. Teach her to walk tall and proud as someone who knows she is worth more than her physical appearance.

7. Never miss a chance to vote. In 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women in the US the right to vote. Talk to your daughter about knowing and voting her own conscience. Let her catch you debating choices and selecting wisely. If she can witness the political process at home, she will be more comfortable asking questions to prepare for her future responsibility.

8. Stay alert and safe. Maybe you have never had a teacher make racy remarks about your figure or had an employer put his hands on you, but it happens. Rules and laws don't keep your daughters safe; healthy boundaries and assertiveness do. Make sure she understands her body belongs

to her, and talk to her about how to steer clear of danger. Have a "safe" word that only you and she know, so she can communicate with you in public settings if she feels uncomfortable. If your daughter struggles with assertiveness, consider martial arts or assertiveness training so she will become a role model rather than the next victim. [North Coast Aikikai in Mentor offers self-defense classes for females of all ages. Call them at 440-622-6485.]

9. Support sisterhood. "Never disrespect a sister" is a good policy. In any situation where a girl is being picked on, singled out, or mistreated, prep your daughter to stick up for the other girl, rather than ignore the situation. Social instincts may discourage her from speaking out, but teach her to be brave and do it anyway.

10. Trust yourself. You may not always agree with her desire for green hair, a triple-pierced earlobe, or raucous music. But if you assume she's always making a mistake, then you are setting her up to second guess herself for the rest of her life.

My daughter recently insisted on wearing Converse® Chuck Taylor shoes with a maxi skirt for a choir performance. I suggested boots. She said they wouldn't look good. I said, try them and see. Once I saw them, I said, "You are right. Your idea looks better." Teaching her to trust herself means accepting you are not always going to be right. But as long as the doors to communication stay open, your mother-daughter relationship will always be in great shape.

Author, journalist, and writing coach Christina Katz is not a perfect mother. But she has accepted the mission to talk to her daughter about tricky topics before her girl turns 18 — no matter how uncomfortable it is to broach any subject.

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Teaching your children to be self-sufficient

By Stacy Turner

One night when I was five or six, a bat got caught between the screen and window next to my bottom bunk. The screaming of my three sisters alerted our father, who stood on my bed, straddling my still-sleeping body to rescue the bat, releasing it outside. Being able to sleep through pretty much anything was my superpower.

In those days, sleep swallowed me like a stone dropped in a lake. But in high school, sleeping so soundly became my kryptonite. That's when it became my responsibility to get up and catch a bus long before my mom and siblings arose. If I overslept and missed it, I'd be very late to school, needing to wait for Mom to drop the younger kids at school on her way to work. To be on time, I'd have to find my own ride to school. I missed the bus only once; afterwards, mom's tough love approach to self-sufficiency helped me win the war on oversleeping. To win each daily battle, I set multiple alarm clocks around my bedroom each night to force myself to wake up and find them just to stop the annoying ruckus. At the time, waking up and getting ready while the house was dark and quiet felt eerie and sad. Now, I can appreciate the self-sufficiency I learned then that would carry me through college and beyond.



Unfortunately, my daughters have inherited my ability to find and disable their alarms while remaining asleep, but only when they're especially tired. My husband and I have agreed it's our job to help them learn to take care of themselves.

Still, on nights I think that sleep might overpower them, I'll set my alarm too, just to make sure they're up after a late night or for an especially early morning start. Most of the time, this measure is unnecessary, as they've become pretty self-sufficient throughout their teen years. But every once in a while, even though I see the light shining under their bedroom doors, I open the door and find them sound asleep, having turned off their alarms, flicked on the overhead light, but succumbed to the siren song of "just five more minutes." They

startle awake and begin to frantically get ready for the day, grateful for my intervention. And I'm happy to set aside tough love in that moment to give them a less stressful start to their day. I guess I can't resist mothering them just a little longer.

Over the years, we've done our best to push them towards self-sufficiency. At a time when they swore to us that no other kids in their school were forced to do chores, our girls learned to clean the bathroom, sweep floors, and wash dishes. Thankfully, now, they're able to cook basic meals. They got a leg up on their friends by driving dad's tractor long before drivers ed class. Meanies that we are, we force them to help pick up fallen branches each spring and pull a few weeds every summer. It's not glamorous, but it's important they learn that as a part of a team, you're sometimes required to do tasks you'd rather avoid, and that many hands can make the task more manageable.

They earn money at summer jobs and learn to budget it to make it stretch throughout the school year to cover the cost of outings with friends. They can go into the bank to manage their funds, even though they'd rather not talk to an actual banker. We help them figure out how to file taxes, advocate for themselves to teachers and coaches, and myriad other new tasks they'd rather not tackle but

Continued on page 8



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Women Empowerment Summit

At Steele Mansion on May 7, 2022

Attorney and consultant Pamela Kurt announces the immediate availability of tickets for the Women Empowerment Summit being held at the Steele Mansion in Painesville on May 7, 2022. She will be joined by additional speakers Laura Croce, Susan Richlak, and Jessie Baginski.

“The focus is on empowering women,” said Kurt, owner and attorney at Kurt Law and her latest project, Best Version You. “Our amazing speakers for the event will be speaking on how to bloom into yourself; wellness, women and awe; and gratitude through wellness.”

Positive community impact

This is Kurt’s third women-focused event through the Best Version You.

“I’ve really enjoyed gathering women together to focus on encouraging and uplifting each other,” Kurt said. “I think something magical happens when we get women from multiple walks of life, from multiple cultures and background, but we all have common experiences. It’s about

collaboration not competition.”

Tickets are \$75 and are limited. Please contact Pam Kurt at pam@bestversionyou.com to reserve your ticket. You can also search for the event and register through Eventbrite.

The event will also include multiple vendor tables, with Morris Chiropractic and Ladies and Gentlemen currently heading the event. Additional vendor spots are open for \$250 and are going fast.

Lunch and cupcakes will also be served.

www.bestversionyou.com

About Kurt Law

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Goodwill in urgent need of donations

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio is asking the public to make a special effort to donate to their nearest Goodwill.

Currently, all Goodwill stores are experiencing a shortage of donations, especially household goods like kitchen wares, small appliances, pots & pans, home decor & knick-knacks. These items ultimately support a network of outreach programs that help thousands in our community.

"We have less than one third of these donations on our shelves than we did last year at this time," explained Bryant Taylor, vice president of donated goods. "These donations and shopping at our stores are vital steps to keeping our 'cycle of success' going."

The cycle of success is Goodwill's way of describing how goods are donated, then sold. Funds from those

sales go to support vital mission programs.

"Revenue from our stores serve as the primary funder of outreach programs that Goodwill offers like employment services, family strengthening programs, rape crisis services and other community outreach," Taylor said.

Housewares include pots, pans, dishes, kitchen gadgets, small appliances, home décor, seasonal items, toys, baskets, pottery, etc.

Individuals throughout the community are encouraged to gather unused items and donate those items at a Goodwill store or donation center. Schools, businesses and places of worship are also encouraged to run donation drives with their constituents during this time of need.

"Your closet, cupboards and storage unit are more powerful than you think," added Taylor.

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Self-sufficiency from page 6

need to figure out. In the process, they're learning they can handle things that had once loomed large and imposing, and they're becoming more self-confident. Because when they're out on their own, they will no doubt face circumstances we haven't thought to prepare them for. Since they've already mastered mundane tasks and succeeded at some hard things, it's our hope they'll be more confident in tackling bigger challenges, too.

No matter what they encounter

or where they end up, we've tried to prepare them to be successful young adults who can take care of themselves. But by helping them out on those rare early mornings, I hope they also learn that they can count on us even when they mess up. And, if a late-night study session or fun evening out makes them too tired to move, I hope they remember my trick with the alarm clocks. No matter what challenges my daughters face, I trust they'll have the skills and confidence to solve them.



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Little weedy sea dragons

at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Greater Cleveland Aquarium invites the public to join them in celebrating the arrival of newborn weedy sea dragons, a species that has proven to be exceedingly difficult to rear. Since the first successful weedy sea dragon hatching in 2001 at the Aquarium of the Pacific, fewer than 20 facilities worldwide have had any level of success with mating and only an estimated dozen of those, including The Aquarium of the Pacific, Georgia Aquarium, Monterey Bay Aquarium and Birch Aquarium, have had fry survive.

A delicate species whose survival has been tested by habitat degradation, weedy sea dragons are native to the cold coastal waters of south and west Australia.

“Weedy sea dragon births are exceedingly rare, and this would be a point of pride for any animal care facility, but it’s a particularly exciting for an aquarium of our size and age,” says General Manager Stephanie White, who has been with the downtown Cleveland destination since it opened a decade ago in



January of 2012.

Greater Cleveland Aquarium plans to put some of the young on public view soon in a temporary exhibit just down the corridor from the adult weedy sea dragons. “It’s been amazing to watch these animals develop and we want to give that opportunity to others if we’re able,” says White.

Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com or call (216) 862-8803 for more information.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child abuse or neglect affects more than three million children annually and causes the deaths of about four children every day. Preventing and reporting child abuse is one of the most important things a community can do for its children. Child abuse can include the following:

Physical abuse is an act inflicted against a child.

Sexual abuse is any sexual activity involving children who are not of the age or developmental capacity to consent to such activity. This includes verbal sexual harassment, fondling of sexual organs, penile or digital penetration, pornography, and exposing a child to sexualized objects and/or materials.

Emotional abuse is chronic acts that interfere with the psychological development of a child.

Neglect is another form of child maltreatment and occurs when a parent or caregiver fails to act on behalf of a child. A child who does not receive adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, safety, or



education may be neglected.

Abuse is preventable. Reporting children who may be at risk doesn’t mean you’re getting someone in trouble. You could be offering them a source of support and resources they desperately need.

So if you suspect something isn’t quite right, or you’re just concerned a family needs help, pick up the phone and call the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services at 440-350-4000 then press 1, or Geauga County Job and Family Services at 440-285-9141.

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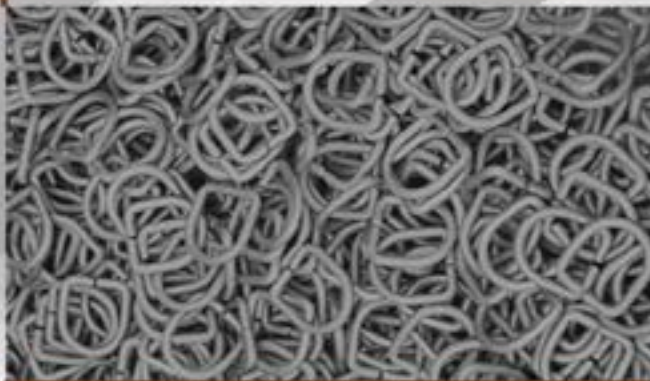
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Celebrate spring at Cleveland Botanical Garden

Experience spring in all its beauty at Cleveland Botanical Garden.

Enjoy a captivating way to enjoy the great outdoors and get in touch with nature. The gardens are awakening in the new season, and you will not want to miss it! Cleveland Botanical Garden hours are Tuesday- Saturday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

The Ron and Lydia Harrington Perennial Playspace

The Cleveland Botanical Garden recently opened a new permanent exhibit for the kids (in all of us). Using the plants and trees native to northeast Ohio and the Cleveland Botanical Garden glasshouses as a jumping-off point, the new gallery will celebrate the importance and variation of plants both locally and around the world. The gallery is hands-on, open-ended, multisensory, and multimodal. While the target audience is families and groups with children, the whimsical yet organic aesthetics are inviting and sophisticated so that even adults can enjoy and appreciate the space.

Spring Egg Hunt

Join in on Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to noon for a classic spring-time tradition, with a sustainable twist. Out with the plastic and in with the new! This annual egg hunt will feature sustainable seed bombs shaped like eggs. Children can hunt and collect 10 colored seed egg bombs and take them home to plant. Once the egg hunt is completed, children will have the opportunity to select a sweet surprise! Visitors can look forward to learning about seed dispersal in unconventional ways—



leaping, twisting, and running! Advance registration is required.

Glasshouses

Visit the Madagascar Spiny Desert Biome or “the eighth continent of the world” without leaving greater Cleveland. This is home to a world-class collection of exotic plants and animals, including iconic “upside-down” trees, yellow-throated plated lizards, and three radiated tortoises.

Additionally, experience the year-round exuberance you can only find in a Central American cloud forest in the Costa Rica Biome. Towering trees, ever-blooming shrubs, and rich vegetation lend a lovely, tropical retreat to all who visit.

Hershey Children's Garden

The Hershey Children's Garden will be open to the public on Saturday, April 16. Help your child disconnect from technology and discover the wonders of nature. As they explore plant and animal life, they'll have a new appreciation for the environment. They can become immersed in hands-on activities like observing honeybees in their hive, searching for fish, frogs, and turtles in the pond, exploring and playing in nature's playground, and so much more!

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Boys of Summer event

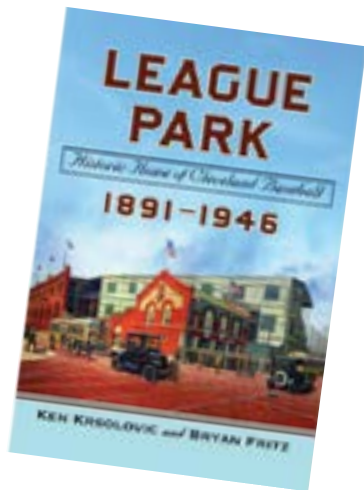
Author presentation and baseball-themed meal

With the number of new Major League baseball stadiums that have appeared over the years, there seems to be a renewed fascination with old ballparks. Many of the new designs have failed in trying to re-create and modernize the nostalgic past of old ballparks. Thus, baseball purists are forced to research the past. Many of these old ballparks have to live on in pictures since most of the old parks have met the wrecking ball.

Cleveland Indians fans have been more fortunate. Cleveland Municipal Stadium is no more, however, the true old-time ballpark which once housed the Indians among other Cleveland sports teams, League Park, still remains. Left to decay, the Park was brought back to life by the city of Cleveland. In 2011 the city broke ground on the field renovation and restoration of existing structures. The project was completed in 2014.

League Park now hosts several games per season from various school and youth organizations.

Who better to tell the League



Park story than Ken Krsolovic, Lake County resident and coauthor of the book, "League Park: Historic Home of Cleveland Baseball, 1891-1946."

He will be speaking at the Lake County History Center on April 24, 2022 at 4:30 pm. \$40 entry includes the book and a meal of baseball fare. Extra guests may purchase a ticket for \$20 after one main guest ticket is purchased.

For reservations, call 440-639-2945 or visit lakehistory.eventbrite.com.

Children read to therapy dogs at Morley Library

On March 17, kids joined furry reading buddies for Morley Library's K-3rd grade reading boost program, Real Readers: Paws 2 Read edition.

Children read aloud to a terrific team of therapy dogs and explored different ways to practice literacy skills at several activity stations.

Check the library's calendar for more fun literacy-building events for families at events.morleylibrary.org/calendar.



Hannah C. reads to Molly the dog.

Celebrate Earth Day, April 24

Earth Day brings about an opportunity for change and a time to explore more about our planet. This year, discover what you can do to save the many species whose survival may just depend upon us and our help.

This FREE event takes place on April 24, 2022 from noon-4 pm at Penitentiary Glen Reservation in Kirtland. Features include:

- Eco-fair with local conservation organizations
- Earth Day Marketplace with local-



Photo by Al Susinskas

- ly made and fair-trade merchandise
 - FREE tree for each family
 - Games and crafts
- Visit lakemetroparks.com for info.



Mother's Day Brunch

Largest indoor brunch
in northeast Ohio

lamalfa.com

WINGATE®
BY WYNDHAM

LAMALFA®

CALENDAR

Finger Paint Fridays

Fridays in April • 10 am–noon
Mentor Headlands Library
4669 Corduroy Road
440-257-2000

Kids can explore their creativity with fingerpainting every Friday at the Headlands Branch. The library will provide paper, paint and aprons. This activity will be self-directed with limited staff assistance. Registration is not required; but space is limited, so children may need to wait their turns.

Easter Treat Bags

Wednesdays, April 6 & 13 • 5 pm
The HUB at Mentor High School
6477 Center Street
440-205-6011

Kids (ages 5–8) can customize a cute bag that's perfect for Easter treats or an egg hunt. Registration is required. Only register for one.

Egg Hunt: Nature Style

Saturday, April 9 • 1–3 pm
The West Woods Nature Center
9465 Kinsman Rd, Novelty
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
Drop in any time between 1–3

pm to celebrate spring by following clues indoors and outdoors to hidden eggs and fun facts. Find all the facts and get a fun prize! Scavenger hunts available for both preschool and school-age children. Registration required.

CD Scratch Art Craft

Thursday, April 14 • 7–8 pm
Willowick Public Library
263 E. 305th St., Willowick
440-943-4151

Create your own unique design on a recycled CD that you can hang up and show off. Ages 11–18.

Spring Egg Hunt

Friday, April 15 • 10 am–1 pm
Wickliffe Public Library
1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe
440-944-6010

Children 10 years old and under may enjoy an independent egg hunt on the library's front lawn, story walk, and take & make crafts.



Family Fun Exploration

Monday, April 18
10 am–noon & 1–3 pm
Claridon Woodlands
11383 Claridon Troy Rd., Chardon
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
Have the day off school and want to get out of the house? Families of all ages can spend some time outdoors on a fun scavenger hunt exploring nature while earning fun prizes! Registration is required for all attending, then plan to drop in any time during program hours to pick up a scavenger hunt card. Mostly outdoors, so dress accordingly. Two skill levels available: 5 and under or 6+. Staff available to assist.

Alien Encounter

Monday, April 18 • 2 pm
Mentor Library Main Branch
8215 Mentor Avenue
440-255-8811
Aliens have made contact with Mentor Public Library! Kids (ages 6 to 12) have received clearance to look at some restricted materials. They'll deconstruct alien eggs, build their own UFO, take

aim with a blaster, make their own stop-motion film, and examine the most mysterious discovery of all ... Registration required.

Geauga Maple Festival

April 21–24, 2022
Chardon Square
www.maplefestival.com
Thursday, noon–10 pm
Friday, 10 am–11 pm
Saturday, 10 am–11 pm
Sunday, 11 am–7 pm
Live music, bathtub races, Pancakes in the Park, rides, food, kiddie tractor rides, clown, tug of war contest, baking contest, beard and mustache contest, maple syrup auction, free shuttle service. No pets, please.

"SymFUNNY" Music Workshop

Monday, April 25 • 3 pm
Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Square, Willoughby
440-942-3200
Explore the symphony with "SymFUNNY!" Learn about music, instruments and even the science of sound with Jeannie Fleming-Gifford, author of "SymFUNNY."



Funded by:



Board of Lake County Commissioners
John R. Hamercheck * John Plecnik * Ron Young

Lake County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program

FOR HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Eligibility Criteria:

1

Directly or indirectly due to COVID 19, at least 1 adult in the household qualifies for unemployment or has reduced income, significant costs or financial hardships;

2

Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; AND

3

Has a household income at or below 80% area median income.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 2-1-1
OR VISIT WWW.FHRC.ORG

Summer Guide

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY ODYSSEY PROGRAM

1375 Euclid Avenue, 6th floor
Cleveland
(216) 687-5087
www.csufilmmodyssey.com

The Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers a variety of immersive summer camps for high school students (aged 13–18) interested in filmmaking.

Through interactive workshops, film screenings, focused activities, and visits from special guest speakers, Odyssey participants learn storytelling, screenwriting, acting, directing, cinematography, editing and more as they create their own original films and projects in a fun and collaborative environment.

With access to the film school's professional soundstages, Mac editing labs, and vast inventory of film production equipment, expert instructors aided by CSU film

student camp counselors help students hone their skills during these activity-packed experiences.

Day camp and residential options are available.

THE FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMPS

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

The Fine Arts Association (FAA) offers full- and half-day camps for the littlest campers at age three through high school grads! From the ever popular Theatre Arts Camp (TAC), to new classes in dance, you can recharge your batteries with FAA! Summer semester camp registration opened on February 7 and summer class registration will open on March 7.

Arts camps, classes, workshops, and private lessons are offered in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and creative arts ther-



Summer Camps and More at LNSP East!

MIKE MORAN BASKETBALL CAMPS



Boys & girls
ages 6–14

Two separate one-week sessions

Monday-Friday • 9:00 am–3:15 pm
June 13–17 / June 20–24

Tuition is \$185.00 per camper per session.
Early bird tuition is \$170.00 for campers registering by May 1!

Register at www.morancamps.com or call
440-338-8092 to request a brochure or for info.

CLEVELAND SOCCER ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP



Full- and half-day camps

July 13–16 / July 25–28

Full-day: \$175, Half-day \$125

Contact Ali Kazemini, camp director,
at Kaz@LNSportspark.com.

Boys and
girls ages
6–13

JUNIOR HOOPERS ACADEMY

Junior Hoopers Academy is a NEWER program for ages 2–5. Classes introduce toddlers to the game of basketball with fun activities that allow them to run, play as a group, shoot and dribble a basketball. They gain basic basketball skills while building fundamentals such as balance and coordination. Classes include activities that are focused on a child development with fun games incorporating parachutes, bubbles, noodles, cones, basic dribbling and more.



Spring session: March 22–May 14 / \$140 per child

Ages: 2–3 (with parents) and 4–5 (without parents)

For info/registration contact: Sarah@LNSportsPark.com

LIL SLUGGERS

Spring session:
April 16–June 18

- Introduction to baseball for kids 2–5 years old.
- 10-weeks, \$160 per child, Saturdays 9 am or 10 am.
- Low student/instructor ratio.

For info/registration contact:
EStrauss@LNSportsPark.com

LIL KICKERS

Spring session:
April 12–June 18

- Child development program based on soccer.
- 10 weeks, \$160 per child
- 50 minutes per session, once a week.

For info/registration contact:
Sarah@LNSportsPark.com



LIBERTY CAMP USA

NOW IN LAKE & GEAGA COUNTIES
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Time Travelers entering 1st – 7th Grade / Fee \$50.00
Young Patriots 8th Grade through College Age / Fee \$20.00



*Meet Historical Heroes • Learning Activities
Travel to the 1700s!*

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2022

Register at www.LibertyCampUSA.com
Reserve the camp of your choice and make payment online.
Liberty Camp USA creates the next great generation of patriots!

HELD AT...

Lake County Liberty Camp USA
July 11-15, 2022

Geauga County Liberty Camp USA
July 25-29, 2022

Lake Metroparks
Hidden Lake Shelter
7024 Kniffen Road
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

*NO MASKS
REQUIRED!*

Chickagami Park
17957 Tavern Road (Rt. 168)
Burton, Ohio 44021
(6 miles south of Burton Square)



38630 Jet Center Dr., Willoughby
North of Rt. 2 off Lost Nation Road
440-602-4000
www.LNSportsPark.com

Fine Arts Association cont'd

apies. From June 6 to August 5, FAA's six-week summer programming offers something for all.

FAA serves Lake County and drives arts programming to all in the surrounding northeast Ohio area. While the pandemic has created several challenges, it has highlighted the importance of making the time to have a creative outlet to express oneself. Whether you are pursuing the arts recreationally or professionally, FAA is the place to create and discover beauty.

Visit fineartsassociation.org to learn more.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT SUMMER CAMPS

(440) 286-9516

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Geauga Park District's outdoor adventure camps – with a focus on connecting kiddos with nature – enter their exciting 10th year in 2022.

Kayaking, hiking, geocaching, biking, fishing, building model rockets, launchin' 'em, and exploring stream life are just some of their anticipated outdoor adventures, depending on which week campers are enrolled.

Registration opens March 20 for the whole summer's worth of camps at geaugaparkdistrict.org.

Watch for offerings for youth entering grades 3–4 the week of July 11; youth entering grades 5–7 the weeks of June 13, 27, July 18, 25, and August 1; and teens entering grades 8–10 the weeks of June 20 and July 11.

Registration also opens March 20 for Junior Naturalist Day Camp the week of June 6 and "X-TREME" adventures for teens July 20 (high ropes) and July 27 (kayaks).

Find more details by following the link at <http://bit.ly/gpdcamps>.



LIBERTY CAMP USA

www.LibertyCampUSA.com

Liberty Camp USA is a week-long day camp in Lake and Geauga counties where campers become "time travelers" and experience the struggles and sacrifices of America's colonists as they fight to gain liberty from the British. They meet the known and unknown heroes, learn that America is a republic not a democracy, and that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are critical pillars that must be protected for America to remain free.

The importance of personal virtue including truth, perseverance, courage, vigilance, and valor are learned as they stand with America's founding citizens.

Time travelers are students entering 1st through 7th grade and young patriots are 8th grade through college-age students who contribute as reenactor assistants. Liberty Camp's goal is to reignite the flame of patriotism in

today's youth by teaching history in a fun and memorable way. Liberty Camp USA is a 501(c). Registration is only \$50.

Registration opens April 1 at www.LibertyCampUSA.com.

LOST NATION SPORTS PARK

38630 Jet Center Drive
Willoughby
(440) 602-4000
www.LNSportsPark.com

Mike Moran Basketball Camps

Open to boys and girls ages 6–14

Session #1: June 13–17

Session #2: June 20–24

- Week-long program (M–F)
 - 9:00 am–3:15 p.m.
 - Weekly tuition is \$185.
 - Early registration discount is only \$170 (by May 1, 2022).
 - All campers receive a T-shirt.
- Call (440) 338-8092 for more information or visit morancamps.com for easy registration.

Lost Nation Sports Park listing continued on next page →

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FILM & MEDIA ARTS

ODYSSEY PROGRAM

FILMMAKING SUMMER CAMPS FOR TEENS

LEARN ACTING, DIRECTING, CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING, PRODUCING, SCREENWRITING, AND MORE FROM THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT THE SCHOOL OF FILM & MEDIA ARTS!

- Create your own original films using professional equipment in our sound stages and Mac editing labs
- Four sessions for ages 13–18
- 1 week and 3-week camps
- Residential and day camp options — Choose to commute or stay in CSU dorms!

MAKE FRIENDS AND GAIN SKILLS FOR LIFE!

ALSO AVAILABLE: ONE-DAY SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS IN SPRING 2022!

For more information or to register, please contact the program coordinator by phone 216.687.5087, email odyssey@csuohio.edu, or visit csufilmmodyssey.com.

Odyssey Program Experiential

Three Week Summer Camp
June 13 – July 1, 2022

Odyssey Intensive:

Acting and Directing

July 11 – July 17, 2022

Odyssey Intensive:

Documentary Production

July 18 – July 24, 2022

Odyssey Intensive:

Screenwriting

July 25 – July 31, 2022



Summer Guide

Lost Nation Sports Park cont'd

Cleveland Soccer Academy Summer Camp

Open to boys and girls ages 8–14

Full- and half-day camps

Session #1: July 13–16

Session #2: July 25–28

• Full-day tuition is \$175.

• Half-day tuition is \$125.

Email Ali Kazemai, camp director, at Kaz@LNSportsPark.com.

MIKE MORAN BASKETBALL CAMPS

Held at Lost Nation Sports Park
Willoughby

(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 basketball. The camp runs all day, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.–3:15 pm. Over the years it has been acclaimed by many newspapers and organizations as the top basketball camp in the area!

Because of this camp's popularity, it fills up quickly. Take advantage of the early registration discount. Visit their new website, morancamps.com, for easy registration. Call for a free brochure!




SUMMER FUN WITH FAA!
CAMPS, WORKSHOPS, AND MORE! REGISTER TODAY!

THE FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION
38660 MENTOR AVE. WILLOUGHBY, OH 44094
440-951-7500 | FINEARTSASSOCIATION.ORG



Mike Moran Basketball Camps

**2022
Boys/Girls Camp
at Lost Nation Sports Park
Willoughby**
June 13–17 | June 20–24
9:00 am–3:15 pm each session

Registration
Phone: (440) 338-8092
Online: MoranCamps.com
Mail: Brochures will be mailed out upon request.

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 two 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 coach of both Lake Catholic boys team and Mentor High 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.

- **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 T-shirt.

**X-TREME DAY
ADVENTURES
AND/OR
WEEK-LONG
NATURE ADVENTURE
DAY CAMPS**

for teens entering
grades 8-10

**WEEK-LONG
NATURE ADVENTURE
DAY CAMPS**

for youth entering grades 5-7

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT'S

2022 summer camps




**REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW!**

Space is limited • 440-286-9516 • Visit <http://bit.ly/gpdcamps> for details



Finding the right PRESCHOOL for your child



By Jan Pierce

When it's time to search for the perfect preschool for your little one, you want to be sure you're making the right decision. If you're lucky enough to have friends who've done their research and are happy with their choice, you're fortunate. You'll have first-hand recommendations.

Be aware of the difference between daycare and a functioning preschool. Daycare facilities provide custodial care, but don't always offer an educational curriculum. Daycares often take children of all ages and offer extended hours. A preschool usually has limited hours and may or may not offer before- and after-school care. In a daycare children of all ages may be grouped together while a preschool offers segregated age groups.

Where to begin

There are many considerations

before choosing, but be sure you start your search early. Many excellent preschools have long waiting lists. In general you'll be looking for a school that provides the following:

- The convenience of proximity to your home and/or your workplace.
- A solid reputation and up-to-date accreditation and licensing. The state has approved the school.
- Clear rules and regulations, health/illness policies, pickup and drop-off times.
- Clean, well-kept facilities with adequate indoor and outdoor play areas.
- Qualified, caring staff.
- Stimulating curriculum and age-appropriate toys.
- A philosophy and climate pleasing to you and right for your child's temperament.

The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young

Children) has a database of accredited preschools you can access at families.naeyc.org/find-quality-child-care. This site lists currently accredited day cares and schools all across the nation and is updated weekly. Spend a little time on their website for top-notch thinking about early childhood education.

Questions to ask

You'll want to do your homework to find the right school for your family. Here are some questions to ask before narrowing your search and visiting several schools:

- Is there currently room for my child? Is there a waiting list?
- What are the fees? How and when are we billed?
- How do you communicate with parents? (phone calls, emails, newsletters, website, etc.)
- What is your staff to student ratio? (NAEYC recommends one adult to every four to nine children as optimal at ages 2-3 and one to eight to ten for ages 4-5.)
- Do your staff members have credentials and training? Are they background-checked? Up to date on CPR? Receiving ongoing training?
- What is your educational philosophy? (academic-oriented, exploration, faith-based, etc. Some distinct philosophies include Montessori, Waldorf, or Reggio-Emilia.)
- What health/hygiene standards are enforced? (immunizations, sick child rules, hand-washing, etc.)
- How do you handle discipline?
- Are meals and snacks provided? Are naps taken?

- What safety precautions are in place? (strangers on-campus, release policies, sign-in/out)
- Can you give me a list of references? (be sure to follow up and call them.)
- Can you provide a sample of your weekly curriculum and activities? How often do you change the activities?

As you gather information you'll be able to narrow your list down to two or three good choices. When you're ready, go ahead and schedule a visit to the school. Decide whether you want to do this with your child or on your own.

You'll be looking for all of the above qualities of a good school, but more than that you want to get a "feel" for the school. Do you feel welcome? Are the children busy and engaged in work or play? Is the facility pleasing to the eye and orderly? Do you get the sense that you'd feel comfortable leaving your child in this school's care? Are the children happy?

Jot down your first impressions and any new information you find during the visit. You may want to use the Preschool Visit Checklist provided on the next page.

If for any reason, you don't feel comfortable with the school environment, trust your instincts and look for another school. It might be preferable to find a safe daycare situation and use that until you can locate a preschool of the highest standards.

You want the perfect preschool and your child deserves it. All the time and effort you put into your search will pay huge dividends in a happy, healthy, and well-cared for child.

FREE PRESCHOOL!

Lake Geauga United Head Start, Inc. is a **FREE** preschool program that prepares children for kindergarten.



- Child must be 3, 4 or 5 years old
- Child must live in Lake or Geauga County
- Family must meet income guidelines

Complete an application today at
www.lguhs.org or call 440-551-9600

Centers in:

Painesville • Willowick • Huntsburg



OUR FUN IS SECOND TO NONE.

We use fun learning activities to help your child become **school-ready**, **career-ready** and **life-ready**. Our wide range of enrichment programs, such as baby sign language, yoga, music, drama, art, chess and foreign languages, allow your child to learn through experience.

INFANT-KINDERGARTEN • BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL • LEARNING GARDEN • OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



THE
GODDARD SCHOOL[®]
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Enroll Today!

CONCORD TOWNSHIP • 440-350-1333
7645 Fredle Drive

GoddardSchool.com

NCA-CASI



The Goddard Schools are operated by independent franchisees under a license agreement with Goddard Systems, Inc. Programs and ages may vary. Goddard Systems, Inc. program is AdvancED accredited. License #305905. © Goddard Systems, Inc. 2021



Now Enrolling For Fall!

Pre-3 (Tuesday and Thursday mornings)
 Pre-4* (Monday, Wednesday and Friday all day)
 Prekindergarten* (Monday–Friday all day)
 *Extended care available



29840 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092
440-585-0800
www.MaterDeiAcademy.us

The Goddard School

7645 Fredle Drive
 Concord Township
 (440) 350-1333
www.GoddardSchool.com

For nearly 30 years, The Goddard School has been a trusted name among parents and families. Their classrooms are safe, nurturing environments for children 6 weeks to 6 years, offering age-appropriate opportunities to explore and discover.

At The Goddard School located in Concord Township, their play-based F.L.EX.® Learning Program (Fun Learning Experience) is grounded in research on how children learn best—children experience the deepest, most genuine learning when they are having fun. It's designed to provide a well-rounded experience and ensure each child becomes confident, joyful and fully prepared in school and in life. For more information call or visit their website.

Horizon Child Development Center

www.horizonchildcare.com
 8303 Tyler Boulevard, Mentor
 (440) 205-8420
 1050 E. 200th Street, Euclid
 (216) 481-3830

Horizon offers a program for children 6 weeks to age 13. They have an enhanced preschool and pre-K program that includes Creative Curriculum. They are the only center in Lake County to receive a grant from ODE to provide free preschool, for qualifying children who are 4 years old, from 9:00 am–11:30 am, Monday through Friday.

Their summer program stimulates enthusiasm through their piano lessons and educational field trips. They believe that given the right to progress, children become empowered to achieve multiple tasks and develop a willingness to learn.

Whether your children are marvelous at math or adore science, Horizon empowers them to learn through their own curiosity and sense of wonder. They provide ongoing professional development by supporting an award-winning program.

Contact their office for more information or to enroll your child.

Lake Geauga

United Head Start
 (440) 551-9600
www.lguhs.org

Lake Geauga United Head Start, Inc. prepares children ages 3–5 for kindergarten through a fun, social, and innovative program.

This free preschool program promotes healthy families by providing these free services:

- Curriculum-based learning
- Hearing and vision screenings
- Developmental screenings
- Disability and mental health services
- Nutrition education
- Family support
- Community resources

Lake Geauga United Head Start began serving families in 1965. Today, Head Start continues to provide a free way for preschool-aged children to begin a fun, exciting path toward a successful future in learning. More than 350 children a year participate in Head Start throughout Lake and Geauga Counties. They have centers in Painesville, Willowick and Huntsburg.

To qualify, your child must be 3, 4 or 5 years old and your family must live in Lake or Geauga county and meet the income guidelines.

Complete an application online at www.lguhs.org or call (440) 551-9600 for more information.

Mater Dei Academy Preschool

29840 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe
 (440) 585-0800
www.MaterDeiAcademy.us

Mater Dei Academy's prekindergarten program for ages 3, 4 and 5 strives to provide a creative noncompetitive environment for the young child. Interaction with other children and adults in an atmosphere of Christian love and concern, promotes the healthy development of each child as an individual. Their philosophy is that learning experiences encourage spiritual, intellectual, social and physical growth.

The preschool program creates a setting where your child will develop a positive self-image and become aware of the fact that he/she is a child of God and will grow in His love while developing skills,



HORIZON
 CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Give your child the tools they need

Free Preschool
Preescolar Gratis

Limited Space Available. Call for details & eligibility.

— FREE TRANSPORTATION —

MENTOR
 8303 Tyler Blvd.
 440-205-8420



EUCLID
 1050 E. 200th St.
 216-481-3830



CLEVELAND
 2285 Columbus Rd.
 216-344-3000



www.HorizonChildcare.com

PRESCHOOL GUIDE

Mater Dei Preschool cont'd

increasing independence and experiencing accomplishments. Small class size allows for individual attention while allowing your child the enjoyment of being a part of a group and accepting the need to share and cooperate. Children develop math and early reading skills, and explore science through experiments.

For more information on their programs, please call the school office or visit their website.

St. Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool & St. Gabriel School

9921 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Concord Township
(440) 354-7574
www.st-gabrielschool.org

Full time (4/5 yr olds) or Part Time Preschool (3/4/5 yr olds) with My Buddy & Me classes for 2.5-year-olds

St. Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool and St. Gabriel School have been preparing graduates for life through faith, learning, and love

for over 50 years. With state-of-the-art facilities and one-to-one technology, the preschool offers developmentally appropriate practices for young children that facilitates a deep love of learning to build a strong foundation.

Through compassion, dedication, and expertise, their teachers ignite learning and see their vocation as a ministry. It requires more than knowledge, but a heart with deep love for the children who God entrusted them with to find their gifts and talents to make the world a better place. Their school is a second home where children learn about the world around them and most importantly their wonder, awe, and love for Jesus and His Creation. The Learning Loft Preschool has been voted #1 preschool in Lake County for three years in a row.

For part-time openings for the Learning Loft Preschool call for a tour at (440) 354-7574. For full-time, 4- to 5-year-old preschool call (440) 354-7858 or visit St-GabrielSchool.org.



Just For Laughs

Some great parenting quotes from unknown sources.

"Before having a kid the most important thing to ask yourself is: Am I ready to watch the exact same cartoon on repeat for the next four years?"

"Hi, my daughter will be late to school because she can zip her jacket by herself."

"The easiest way to shop with kids is not to."

"The best thing about trying to name a baby is realizing how many people you don't like."

"My kid is turning out just like me. Well played, karma. Well played."

"According to my child, the perfect amount of time to stay at the park is five more minutes."

"Hell hath no fury like a toddler whose sandwich has been cut into squares when they wanted triangles."

"Save your voice calling for your kids. Just open a bag of chips and they'll materialize out of nowhere."

"Parenting is mostly just informing kids how many more minutes they have of something."

"Parenthood is a journey except it's just traveling from room to room putting away the same toys all day long."

"I asked my mom if I was adopted. She said, 'Not yet, but we placed an ad.'"

Voted Best of Mentor Preschool!

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~L. Dickinson, parent, Jan '22



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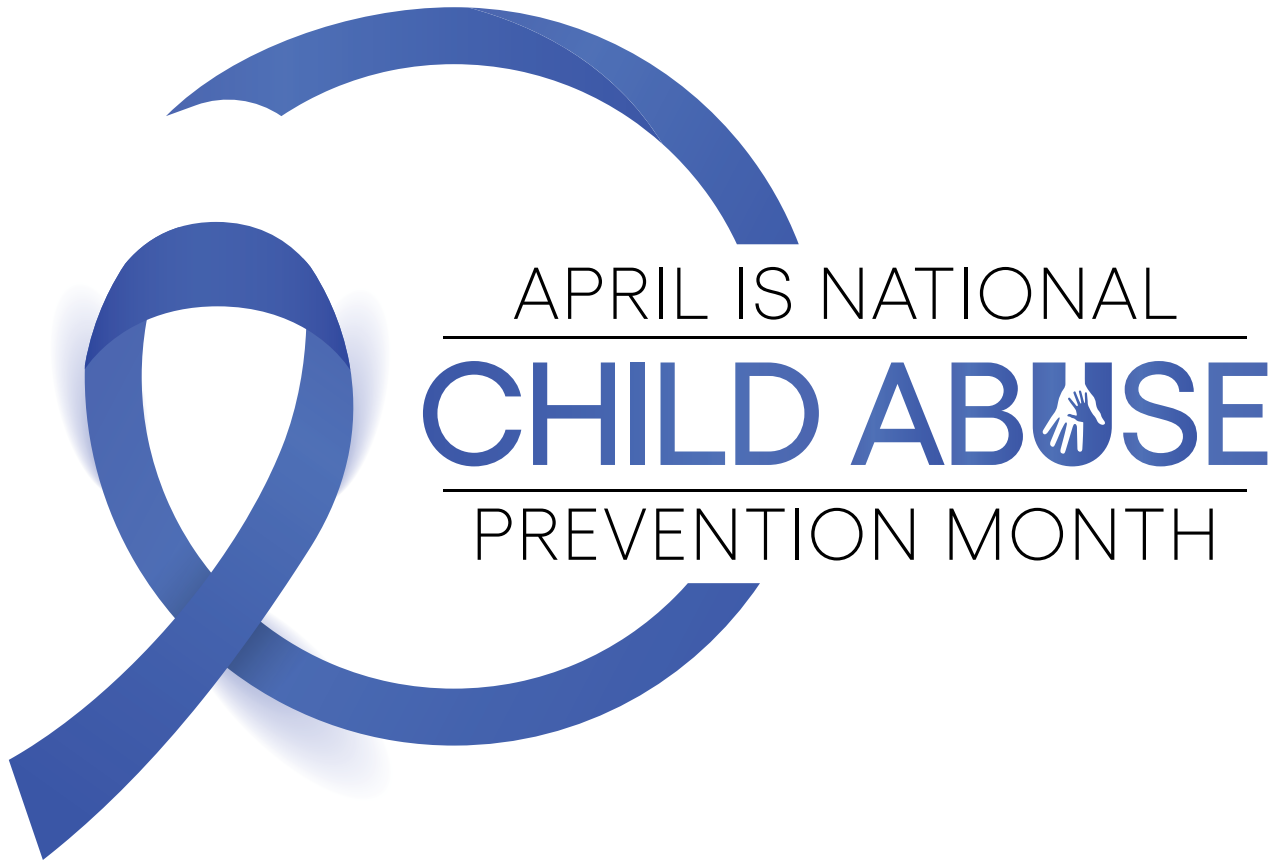
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We are pinning our hopes on you during the community's
BLUE RIBBON PIN & WRISTBAND CAMPAIGN!



Wear a blue ribbon pin or blue wristband every day in April to show your support for Lake County's Children!

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022
is Wear Blue 2 Work Day.**

WB2W is a statewide awareness campaign which encourages Ohioans to wear blue to work, school, or a community event as a show of support for preventing child abuse and neglect. We are hoping that you will still take a stand against child abuse and wear blue on April 13 wherever you are!

If you know of a child who may be abused or neglected, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at:
440-350-4000 or 440-918-4000 (then press 1)

**Lake County Department
of Job and Family Services**

