

TODAY'S family

April 2023

Lake Geauga

**40 years
of serving
Lake County**

Christ Child Society of
the Western Reserve

**Breast milk
dispensary
opens**

UH, OH!

10 reasons why the
Tooth Fairy didn't
come last night

**Greater
Cleveland
Food Bank**

New, expanded location will
help their mission to end
food insecurity

**When your
child feels
discouraged**

**Spring at the
Holden Arboretum**

**Preschool
Guide!**



Indoor Sports and Fun at LNSP East!

LIL KICKERS



Spring session: March 14–June 3
(It's never too late to join!)

- Choose one day per week (Mon, Tues & Thurs 5–6 PM; Saturdays 9–11 AM).
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TODAY'S family

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Geauga County Maple Festival

April 27–30, 2023 • Historic Chardon Square

Join in the fun as Geauga County celebrates the coming of spring and the year's maple syrup crop. For visitors looking for fun there are all the traditional things a festival offers: rides, games, food & great entertainment. Bath tub races, a golf outing, lumberjack competition, kid's tractor pull, arts and crafts, auction, beard and mustache contest, tug of war competition and so much more!

What makes this festival unique is all of the maple-related activities that take place over the weekend like the crowning of the maple queen, the "sap" run, bucket painting, maple candy carving, pancake breakfasts

(with pure maple syrup), and pancake eating competitions.

Area sugar bushes also put their syrup to the test with syrup and maple candy judging. Winning syrups are also auctioned off as part of the weekend entertainment. Food choices include maple candy, maple corn, and the popular maple stirrs available at the log cabin on the square. Grand parades take place on Saturday and Sunday and showcase a lot of the community businesses and events. Admission is free.

For more info and to view the schedule of entertainment call 440-332-7055 or visit maplefestival.com.

Family Kindness Festival

Join in for a magical afternoon that brings kids and parents together to have fun, do good, and be kind---all under one roof! Family Kindness Festival, on Sunday, April 30, from 1-4 pm, at Beachwood High School (25100 Fairmount Blvd. in Beachwood) is a free family event geared for children ages 5-13 years. All ages are welcome to attend, however, children must be accompanied by an adult.

The festival's goal is to reveal that acts of kindness, big and small, add up and can have a meaningful impact on friends, classmates and our communities. This enchanted, one-of-a-kind festival is presented by Senders Pediatrics in partnership with Beachwood City Schools.

Highlights of the day

- Enjoy strolling magicians, inflatables, face painting, balloon magic & ice cream trucks to delight the whole family!
- Interact with Cleveland area non-profit organizations and discover ways to get involved and give back.
- Connect with area children

and teens who have developed awesome ideas to spread acts of kindness in their schools, neighborhoods and communities.

- Participate in the Wigs for Kids Cut-a-Thon or cheer on volunteers who are donating hair to help make wigs for children suffering from hair loss.
 - Engage in crafts for a cause - Participate in a variety of make-and-give-back projects that will benefit many local nonprofit organizations and those they serve.
 - Have fun with Snapology and build cool LEGO brick structures.
 - Experience a professional magic show.
 - Try Rink-in-the-Box: NE Ohio's premier pop-up roller skating box-skates included!
 - Sample Tae Kwan Do mini sessions.
 - Savor ice cold treats from East Coast Custard and Kona Ice Trucks.
Advanced registration is encouraged.
- For a list of participating organizations and to register, please visit senderspediatrics.com/kindness.

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mother's day BRUNCH

Sunday, May 14, 2023 • 9 am

Doors open 9 am • Last reservation at noon

Reservations only online at lamalfa.com/events

Hot Entrees • Carving Station
Salad Bar • Omelet & Waffle Station
Deluxe Pastry Station

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

On a mission to end food insecurity

By Stacy Turner

One in seven Ohioans are currently food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to affordable, healthy food. Cleveland's child poverty rate has been consistently among the highest of large US cities, with one in five children living in poverty. "Many of our neighbors face the difficult choice of whether to buy food or pay for rent or utilities to support their families," shared Jessica Morgan, chief programs officer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. "Our mission at the Food Bank is to ensure that everyone in our community has the nutritious food they need every day."

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank hasn't strayed from that mission since its inception over 40 years ago when a group of civic-minded individuals came together to help resolve the issue of hunger in their community. In its first year, the organization distributed more than 400,000 pounds of food to 100 local partner agencies. Last year, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank distributed 48 million pounds of food to nearly 350,000 people through over 1,000 partner agencies in Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Richland counties.

To address other needs affecting individuals and families in crisis today, the Food Bank operates a community food distribution center, providing food and other critical grocery products to local food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, mobile pantries, and programs for the elderly.

"Our challenge," Morgan explained, "is that our organization serves a variety of communities — from urban areas to the suburbs, as well as rural

and very rural areas. Implementing programs and services in each of these environments looks very different for us."

Some clients served through Food Bank programs are working families with low-paying jobs struggling to make ends meet. Others are seniors on a fixed income who, by month's end, have limited funds left for groceries.

The Food Bank Help Center answers hundreds of calls each day, referring low-income callers to local agencies and assisting them in applying for the SNAP program and other benefits. Last year, the outreach team helped nearly 40,000 eligible people apply for public benefits. "We continue to connect our clients to other nonprofits to address the main drivers of food insecurity: housing, healthcare, and employment," Morgan explained. Assistance is available in person at the new Coit Road location, where no appointment is necessary, or via phone Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

EXPANSION NEEDED

Back in 2018, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank started work on a three-phase expansion plan. "It began, in part because we were running out of space at our existing facility on South Waterloo Road" Morgan noted.

Phase one called for the creation of a new partner distribution hub. The facility was built on land donated to the Food Bank and opened in October 2022 on Coit Road. This new building has way more space which allows the organization to facilitate inbound shipments of food and supplies and to efficiently distribute these resources to the Food Bank's partner agencies.

The new facility also provides 30% more dry storage areas and a whopping 98% more cold storage than available in the former building. Since two-thirds of the foods distributed through the Food Bank are healthy, perishable items, this expanded storage capacity is a win not only for the Food Bank and its partners, but ultimately for the clients they serve. "This new facility is not only crucial to how we work now, but how we'll work in the future," Morgan shared.

The Food Bank's Help Center is also located here, as is the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Kitchen.

The Food Bank Kitchen has been around for 20 years and is one of nearly 200 Feeding America Network facilities spread across the US and Puerto Rico. Each day, more than 6,500 healthy meals are prepared at the Food Bank Kitchen, with 1,700 meals delivered by partner agencies to seniors in their homes and another 1,000 meals delivered to congregate programs in senior centers.

Another 1,300 meals are assembled to be reheated at Kids Café sites, while an additional 2,000 cold meals are packaged daily for sites without the ability to serve hot meals. In addition, from early June through mid-August, the Kitchen provides summer food service to 100 sites across its service area, where 3,000 cold meals and 2,500 hot meals are served each day to school-age children, with 1,200 breakfasts served daily as well.

The kitchen at the new facility is a shiny, new 18,000 square feet space. And while the kitchen currently produces roughly 7,000 meals each day, the new space will allow staff the capacity to produce up to 19,000 meals daily over time. The former kitchen measured a mere 4,000 square feet, producing 4,000 meals per day on-site, with additional meals packaged off-site to meet the organization's growing needs.

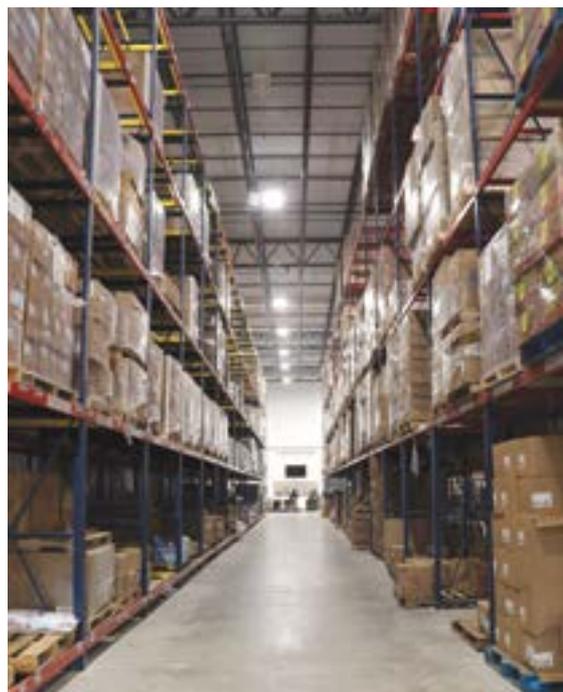
The Food Bank's mission is to end hunger today, tomorrow, and for a lifetime. Access to healthy, nutritious food is the most basic need. But research has shown that the largest drivers of food insecurity are housing, healthcare, and employment, and the Food Bank hopes to address these issues in phase two. To accomplish this, the Food Bank's former facility on South Waterloo is currently being renovated. When it reopens this fall, the building will serve as a community resource center.

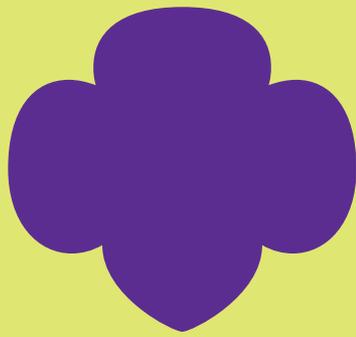
The center will help clients with resources including housing, employment, legal services, and healthcare, as well as help prepare low-income children for kindergarten. The facility will also host a food pantry filled with healthy options, which will provide clients with the ability to select items that support their tastes, health and dietary restrictions. "We're neck-deep in the planning," Morgan explained. But by making these resources accessible at one location, the Food Bank hopes to move people out of food insecurity forever.

While the construction is underway, clients will receive the food they need at partner locations. Food is also distributed to clients at the Municipal Lot in Cleveland twice a month — something the Food Bank implemented during the height of the pandemic. Another food pantry is run by the city of Euclid and operates 20-25 hours per week, as well. To find a location near you, visit www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org.

"Helping people move out of food insecurity -- that's our ultimate goal," Morgan concluded. If you'd like to volunteer, donate, or find out more, visit greaterclevelandfoodbank.org.

To find out what resources are available to you, contact the outreach team at the help center Monday through Friday from 9 am until 4 pm; in person at 13815 Coit Road; or by calling 216-738-2067 or 1-855-738-2067.





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When your child feels discouraged

By Jan Pierce

We parents understand that life comes with a certain amount of struggle. But that doesn't mean we like it. It's hard to watch our children grapple with tough issues—dealing with strong emotions, accepting small failures on the way to success, and learning to make lasting friendships. It's a given, there will be ups and downs in our children's lives.

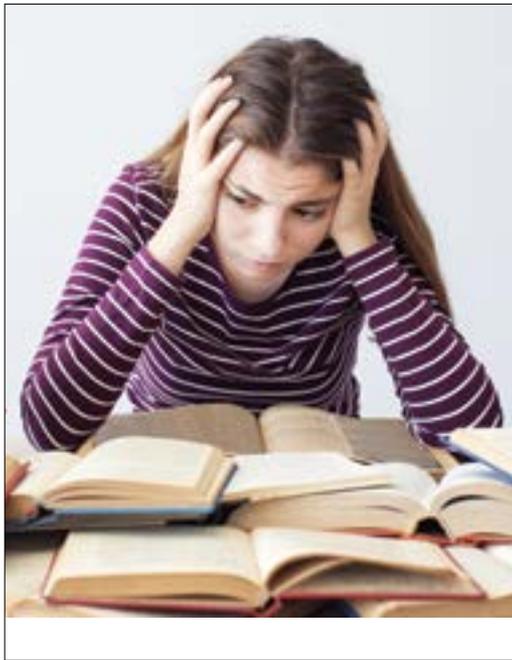
So when we see them struggling with discouragement, we want to step in and help. And that's exactly what we should do. Children are in the process of growing and learning to manage their own lives, but they aren't there yet. As parents we need to have strategies in place when our kids are feeling discouraged.

What can parents do?

The first step is to identify the arena in which your child is experiencing defeat. Most often this comes in the school setting. Children with learning disabilities or attention issues often find themselves feeling unable to cope. But there may be other areas of struggle too, such as sports or social interactions.

While there is no one-size-fits-all way to support children who have become discouraged, here are some ways parents can come alongside and guide them to a place of success.

- **Recognize the signs** that your child is becoming frustrated. These may be manifested in negative talk such as "I can't do it." Or in outbursts of anger. It's important to come alongside your child before negative cycles become a regular pattern.
- **Identify the problem.** If it relates to academic learning determine which subjects or tasks



are problem. Early interventions in school and appropriate testing are often very helpful in assessing needs. Children may have vision or hearing losses, may have communication disorders, may have problems with focusing attention or any number of other learning problems. But all these problems can be addressed.

- **Assure your child he or she is not alone.** Children who are struggling with learning or managing a certain skill often feel they are carrying the burden all by themselves. But your empathy and calming assurance that they will have help is crucial. Letting them know their success is a team effort can offer great relief. The team may include teachers or other professionals or may be simply you and your child. The team is important.

- **First the emotions, then the problem.** No one can tackle a tough problem when they're upset, angry or frightened. You know your child best and know what can help them overcome strong emotions. Take a break, talk it out, take another look together, etc. Sometimes sharing stories of our own learning experiences is helpful and many times finding something to laugh about is the way to break the negative cycle.
 - **Emphasize who they are and not only what they can do.** Your child is much more than the tasks he completes or the grades she gets. Make sure you verbalize the things you love about your child and encourage a broader perspective than just success in school or performance in sports.
 - **Do the hard things in small bites.** Return to the difficult work in short sessions and in small increments. Do one or two math problems, not an entire page. Read one paragraph and let the child read the next. Make it doable and over time the mountain won't seem so huge.
 - **Take a long-term perspective.** All of life involves learning. We're better at some things than others and everyone makes mistakes as they learn. It's good to learn persistence but make the tasks manageable.
- Life can be stressful. Helping our children learn strategies to cope when the going is tough will pay benefits their entire lives.
- For more information on helping our kids cope with stress see:
www.healthline.com: "Coping Skills for Kids"
Mayo Clinic: "Strategies for Stressed Kids and Resilience: Build Skills to Endure Hardship"
Jan Pierce, M.Ed., is a retired teacher and author.

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CSU | Cleveland State University

10 reasons why the Tooth Fairy did not come last night

By Katy M. Clark

It glistened in the soft morning light, the single tear that fell from my 8-year-old daughter's eye as she stood in our bedroom doorway.

"Mommy, she didn't come!" she breathed despondently. Then that single tear turned into a torrent.

Oh, fudge. The Tooth Fairy didn't come last night.

"Uh," I stammered in reply, elbowing my husband awake.

"What happened?" he mumbled.

"The Tooth Fairy didn't come last night," I replied.

"Oh, fudge," he said. Only he didn't say fudge.

How did we let this happen? Quickly I re-viewed the night before. Exhausted by my first girls' night out in three months, I had gone to bed at 10 pm (don't judge) and left the money with my husband. He simply fell asleep before remembering his Tooth Fairy duties.

There were more extenuating circumstances, too. Our daughter's tooth had been wiggly for just a day. That was extremely short notice vs. those teeth that hang on by a (nasty!) thread for weeks. Plus, it had been months since she'd lost her last tooth. Our son, 12, had long since finished losing

his baby teeth. My husband and I were definitely rusty in our duties as well as in the twilight of our Tooth Fairy career.

Still, the plain, hard truth was that we blew it. The Tooth Fairy didn't come.

We sprang out of bed, soothing our daughter (and each other) with hugs and reassuring words. There HAD to be a good reason she didn't come, we told our daughter. In fact, my husband and I, along with friends, family, and the Internet, came up with 10 reasons why the Tooth Fairy did not come last night:

1. The dew was too heavy. Her wings got wet and she couldn't fly.
2. The Tooth Fairy was on vacation and the substitute Tooth Fairy didn't know what she was doing.
3. She couldn't get to your pillow due to your messy room.
4. Too much traffic. She'll leave earlier tonight!
5. She was sick.
6. Spreadsheet error. Your tooth was projected to come out on Friday so she wasn't ready when it came out on Monday.
7. Some Tooth Fairies like snacks. Leave one out tonight and she'll probably come.
8. Oh, look, she dropped the money on the floor over there. She must have wanted you to



keep your tooth as a souvenir.

9. You probably woke up and scared her away, even if you don't remember doing that.

10. She ran out of money and will be back tonight. She's a tiny fairy so she can only carry so much.

My daughter seemed to calm down after she spent the day listening to our reasons why the Tooth Fairy did not come. All was made right with the world the following morning when, hallelujah, the Tooth Fairy DID come.

Moms and dads, may your Tooth Fairy always remember to come. In case she doesn't, may you find these reasons to be a lifesaver!

Katy M. Clark is a writer and mom of two.

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 for teens entering grades 8-10

Photos by Ellie Benedict

Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve

Serving the growing needs of children and youth in Lake County for 40 years

By Stacy Turner

Over 125 years ago, a young woman's act of love for an unborn child started what is today the Christ Child Society.

Mary Virginia Merrick's act of kindness came from a heart made all the more empathetic by her paralysis from a childhood accident. Mary's sincere and simple love of God inspired her to answer the desperate social needs she recognized in Washington, D. C.

Mary overcame the challenge of sparse resources by forming alliances. Her leadership and collaborative efforts served as an inspiration to those around her. Over the years, the work of the Society broadened and evolved. Today, 6,000 members in nearly 50 chapters across 20 states are driven by faith, love, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

Since 1983, the Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve has worked to meet the growing needs of children in Lake County. What

started with eight like-minded women has grown over the past 40 years to include hundreds of members. Each year, they serve thousands of children in Lake County through multiple programs made possible by the generous support of donors and volunteers.

For many, their first introduction to the Christ Child Society is when a new mom receives a hand-crocheted layette — a loving bundle of infant clothing, hooded towel and washcloth, blankets and a book swaddled in a cozy blanket. New moms receive these items through service agencies and healthcare facilities in Lake County.

The Christ Child Society also provides for eye screenings at preschools and nursery schools throughout the county. After the exam, if a child needs glasses and their family is financially unable to pay the cost, the Society provides for them.

In addition, The Christ Child Society aims to foster a love of words through literacy programs. By reading to preschoolers, they hope



to ignite them with a love of reading and the desire to learn. To keep kids engaged when school is out, each year members compile nearly 175 summer reading bags filled with books and fun activities. The bags are gifted to preschoolers to help get them prepared and excited for the coming school year.

During the summer months, the Christ Child Society provides "camperships" that help defray the cost of summer camp experiences. Locations have included 4-H Camp, Camp Red Oak Hospice, Camp Christopher, Camp Ho Mita Koda, Hiram House, and Highbrook Lodge Camp. Last year, the Christ Child Society helped provide these experiences to 160 kids from kindergarten up to the age of 18.

And as Lake County's kids move up to high school and college, the Christ Child Society provides scholarships to graduating seniors at all Lake County public schools for the two or four-year college or trade school of their choosing. Last year, the group awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to Lake County students.

To help fund these valuable programs, CCS volunteers run a resale shop, the Clothing Cottage in Mentor. The Clothing Cottage offers clothing for men, women, and children as well as shoes, handbags, and jewelry. Donations of new,

gently used, and like-new items are accepted during store hours. You'll find the store at 9324 Mentor Avenue in the Pastina Rustic Plaza. The Clothing Cottage is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am–3 pm. For more information, call 440-350-9836.

"We've been very fortunate," shared Bobbie McArthur, president of the Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve. "The community has been so generous to us. We've received donations of Coach bags, and other name brand items, as well as clothing with tags still attached." Since the store's inventory is donated, these items are a bargain for shoppers, while purchases made at the Clothing Cottage help support the Christ Child Society's valuable programming. "As an added benefit," McArthur shared, "all the funds we raise stay in Lake County."

Other fundraising efforts include the Daisy Golf Classic, the Harbor Hogs & Hot Rods summer event, and the Red Wagon Luncheon & Auction. This year's event takes place on April 26 at Regovich Catering and will be hosted by Mark Johnson, chief meteorologist at News 5 Cleveland.

Find out more by visiting www.christchildwesternreserve.org, calling 440-350-9836, or simply stopping by the Clothing Cottage location.

SUMMER BOOT CAMPS

AT LAKE ERIE COLLEGE

ACTING CAMP

June 5–9, 2023 | 10 am– 12:30 pm each day

Limited to 12 students | Cost: \$150 per student

The camp is for high school students who are freshmen to seniors (up to 19 years of age) and have an interest in acting. The five-day camp will teach them basic acting techniques and then use those techniques to create original performance pieces.

SCIENCE CAMP

June 26–30, 2023 | 9 am–3:45 pm each day

Cost: \$250 per student

The camp is for middle school students, grade 6–8, who have an interest in flight and rocket design. During this five-day summer camp students will build paper, balloon and straw rockets.

The camp will culminate with students working in teams to design, test, and launch their own bottle rocket prototype.

GRAPHIC DESIGN CAMP

June 5–9, 2023 | 10 am– 12:30 pm each day

Limited to 12 students | Cost: \$150 per student

The five-day camp will teach the basics of graphic design and introduce participants to industry software (InDesign).

REGISTER FOR THESE IN-PERSON CAMPS AT LEC.EDU/CAMPS

Each student who successfully completes the Acting or the Graphic Design camp will be awarded a \$500 scholarship and one college credit to Lake Erie College when they enroll as a full-time student and major in either Theatre or Visual Communication & Graphic Design.



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Private School Guide

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History of Earth Day



The story of Earth Day is a story of collaboration and cooperation. Fifty-three years ago on April 22, 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans participated in “teach-ins,” marches, letter-writing campaigns and more to bring awareness to the problems of smog, polluted water, pesticide poisoning, and other environmental concerns. Activities were sponsored by local colleges, schools, and community groups, and while many of those involved were high school and college students, older citizens turned out as well from farmers to scientists, teachers to politicians from both sides of the aisle.

Behind the grassroots activities, though, was a bipartisan steering committee sponsored by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, and Congressman Paul McCloskey, a Republican from California. Nelson had been working for conservation efforts in his home state for over a decade but

was inspired by two headline grabbing stories in 1969 to tap into growing environmental concern, the enthusiasm of youthful demonstrators, and the scientific community to affect political change. The two headline stories that motivated him were the Santa Barbara oil spill and the fire on the Cuyahoga River.

The combination of support by Nelson and McCloskey in Washington, and the local groups was a successful strategy. Earth Day activities empowered citizens to engage in actions in their communities, making it personal and relevant. Here in Cleveland there were “teach-ins” at Cleveland State University and nearby Baldwin Wallace College aimed at informing people of environmental issues. There were cleanups and tree plantings at Edgewater Beach, a Vote Against Pollution rally on Public Square, and an anti-pollution march in the Flats.

All of the above activities, along with thousands more around the country led to a concerted effort by Congress to pass legislation that could make real impact. The Clean Air Act passed in 1970 and the Clean Water Act in 1972. They adopted a proposal by President Nixon to create a plan to consolidate environmental responsibilities of the federal government under one agency, a new Environmental Protection Agency, which was adopted in December of 1970. But Earth Day activities continue to this day, encouraging everyday people to speak out and act to preserve and protect this planet we all love.

Search “Earth Day Cleveland Metroparks” for more Earth Day games, activities and info.



Earth Day 2023

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 help restore our planet with a free event at Lake Metroparks.

- Eco-fair with local conservation organizations
- Earth Day Marketplace with locally-made and fair-trade merchandise
- Free tree for each family
- Wildlife programs
- Games and crafts
- Shop in The Nature Store
- Miniature train rides (1 to 3 pm, weather permitting)

April 23, 2023

Noon – 4 pm

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Easter traditions change as the kids get older

By Stacy Turner

Like most family holidays and traditions, Easter has begun changing as my kids get older. In the early days, Easter morning would find our little girls up early, excited to find the baskets the Easter Bunny had filled and hidden for them overnight. As our hunters were small, baskets were hidden in obvious places. But as our seekers got older, the Easter Bunny made more of an effort to stump them. Just when basket hunting flirted on the edge of not fun anymore, my husband would start dropping hints to guide them to their well-hidden bunny booty. Sometimes, “you’re getting warmer,” or “Brrr – so cold!” would guide them along. Sometimes he’d drop hints like, “I heard the dog bark early this morning – maybe the Bunny was by her bed?”

Once they found their baskets, they’d sort through to discover what was inside. Usually art supplies, small toys, and a toothbrush to combat all the sugary candy. Reese’s

Peanut Butter Cups were prized, as were solid chocolate bunnies. Jelly-beans and Peeps were there, too, for a splash of color.

Other than gifting the Peeps to their grandma, who likes them slightly stale and chewy, most years the sugary blobs were left uneaten. One year, we used them to top hot cocoa, but when they melted, it turned a weird, unappetizing color. Another year, they were toasted on a bonfire, and still another year, the vividly colored marshmallows were donated to science. We watched them expand and grow, slowly riding the microwave-merry-go-round like a scene from Willy Wonka. I won’t tell you how it ended, but I do suggest using a paper plate to contain your fun. Often, Peeps got tossed in the trash months later, still as brightly colored as Easter morning. Then they, along with craft supplies and toys were eventually phased out, replaced with teen-friendly options like nail polish, make-up, and hair supplies.

Back in the day, Easter weekend

included a hunt for eggs. In the week prior, I’d fill large bags with colorful plastic eggs containing candy, coins and trinkets. After my husband hid them throughout the yard, the girls and their cousins, friends, or neighbors were released outside to hunt and gather. Once the supply was exhausted, the kids would open their eggs and sort their treasures. These days the girls have outgrown the egg hunt, too, making me nostalgic for the way things were. But maybe I need to look at it from a new perspective.

Before I had kids, I remember a coworker named Veronica talking excitedly about the annual egg hunt her mom had planned for that weekend. It sounded like a big deal, and I mistakenly assumed that her grandmother had planned it for Veronica’s young kids and their cousins. She laughed and said, “We spoil our kids enough. Mom still does this for me and my adult siblings.” In fact, as she explained it, the hunt was more like a contact sport in her competitive family, and something she and all her adult siblings looked forward to each year.

Trash talk was the norm as they were sequestered, waiting for eggs to be hidden. Then the lot burst forth into the front yard in a loud, exuberant gaggle, elbowing each other out of the way to grab as many



eggs as possible. She recalled, with a chuckle, the time she jumped on her brother’s back to steal eggs from his basket. And while the eggs contained candy, lottery tickets, and cash, it wasn’t really about the goodies. It was all about giving a bunch of siblings the chance to become kids again. And of course, bragging rights until next year’s hunt. “Neighbors must think we’re crazy,” she added, laughing, “but we look forward to it all year.”

I’ve since lost touch with Veronica, but it makes me smile thinking that those spirited egg hunts have continued through the years. And her story gives me hope that with time and intention, my family and I will confidently cast off the things, like Peeps, that no longer fit, and create fun new traditions we can all look forward to.



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No tuition for Cleveland Orchestra Youth or Children's choruses

Auditions held in April and May

It's an exciting time to join the Cleveland Orchestra choruses. Audition appointments are now open for The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, The Blossom Festival Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Choruses.

Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre will spend a week with the Cleveland Orchestra choruses, culminating in a concert on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Severance Music Center. Whitacre will conduct The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus in a performance of his 12-movement work *The Sacred Veil*, a collaboration with poet and lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri telling the story of life, love, and loss.

During his time in Cleveland, Whitacre will also hold workshops at Severance Music Center with The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus and local high school and college students.

The Cleveland Orchestra and its choruses continue their long-standing efforts to make music education more accessible for young people in the area. That is why, beginning in the 2023-24 season, the Orchestra is removing another barrier. There is no tuition required to join The



Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus, and The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Preparatory Chorus.

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus auditions will be April 28 and May 18. The Cleveland Orchestra Children's choruses, for students entering fifth through eighth grade in the fall, will have auditions on May 7 and May 8.

"What a perfect time to sing in one of our choruses! I am particularly grateful to our donors who have made it possible for our youngest singers to join us tuition free. Singing at Severance Music Center is the best start I can think of to a lifetime of music-making," said Lisa Wong, director of Cleveland Orchestra Choruses.

Additional information on audition requirements, rehearsal schedules, and performances can be found at www.cochorus.com.

Filmmaking camps offered at CSU

Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers 4 different residential or day camps for teens (aged 13-18) interested in filmmaking. With access to the film school's professional soundstages and production equipment, Odyssey participants learn screenwriting, acting, directing, cinematography, editing, and complete their own individual film projects, including a college admissions interview video.

During the in-person summer camps, students see behind the scenes and learn how the film industry actually works through workshops with special guest artists and in real-world media environments including full soundstages, Mac editing labs, and the vast inventory of film equipment. Expert instructors aided by CSU film student camp counselors help students



hone their skills while finding their creative community and making friends during these activity-packed experiences.

Outside of class, residential students get a preview of college life by staying in Cleveland State University dorms and experiencing Cleveland's robust cultural offerings through scheduled trips and activities.

All meals are provided for residential students and breakfast and lunch is provided for day camp students.

For more information or to register, please email odyssey@csuohio.edu or visit csufilmmodyssey.com.



Q: Why did the fish blush? A: Because it saw the ocean's bottom.

Q: What type of sandals do frogs wear? A: Open-toad!

I saw a movie about how ships are put together. It was riveting.

Why did the taxi driver get fired? Passengers didn't like it when she went the extra mile.

I submitted 10 puns to a joke-writing competition to see if any of them made the finals. Sadly, no pun in 10 did.

My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them, "Just you wait!"

Comic Sans walks into a bar. The bartender says, "We don't serve your type here."

I bought the world's worst thesaurus yesterday. Not only is it terrible, it's terrible.

You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees? Because they're really good at it.

What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.

What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is really heavy, the other's a little lighter.

Have you heard the one about the skunk? Never mind, it really stinks.

How does NASA organize a party? They planet.

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire.

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Spring Discovery Days at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Event spotlights small species • Now–April 16, 2023

Did you know that dwarf seahorses are only about one inch long as adults or that little Eastern musk turtles emit a big odor to deter predators? Have you noticed there is no webbing between a green-and-black poison dart frog's toes or seen the disk on a northern clingfish's belly that lets it suction tightly to slimy or rocky surfaces?

Greater Cleveland Aquarium invites you to appreciate life's little things via videos, contests, daily animal encounters and I Spy with My Little Eye activities during its Spring Discovery Days, now through April 16, 2023.

"While the ragged-tooth sandtiger sharks gliding through the Aquarium's 230,000-gallon shark habitat are always going to make a big impression, we hope guests will stop to appreciate some of the smaller species—from the burrowing garden eels to delicate weedy sea dragons," says Stephanie White, general manager.

Situated inside a historic brick powerhouse, the Flats West Bank

destination's many freestanding habitats offer up-close, child's-eye-, 180- and 360-degree views. "The creative design of these habitats let you get a closer look," says White. "You can watch schooling redhook silver dollars zip around in unison, see a sea star's tiny tube feet move it across the acrylic or identify the thin horseshoe-shaped markings that give the arc-eye hawkfish its name."

In addition to Aquarium activities, on Thursday, March 30 and April 6 & 13, northeast Ohio traveling animal educator Nora the Explorer will give guests of all ages the opportunity to learn about, get close to and even touch some remarkable little critters.

Spring Discovery Days

Now–Sunday, April 16

10 am–5pm (last ticket sold 4 pm)

\$19.95 ages 13+, \$13.95 ages 2–12,

\$0 passholders and kids under 2.

Advance online tickets encouraged for nonmembers.

Get tickled by a cleaner shrimp,

check out Surinam toads' star-tipped fingers and spot the Boesemani crayfish cruising below the Indonesian rainbowfish. Spring Discovery Days' activities give you more opportunity to visit and take a closer look at amazing aquatic animals.

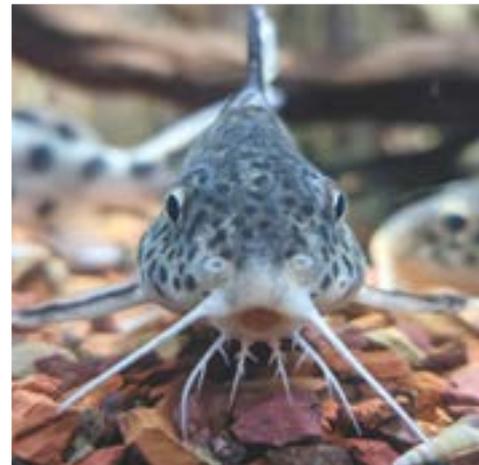
A Little Trivia With a Big Prize

Now–Sunday, April 16

Quiz participants must be age 18 or older. Correct answers do not determine eligibility. One (1) winner will be chosen randomly on 4/17/23 and notified by email. Nontransferable.

Answer three trivia questions about some of Greater Cleveland Aquarium's smaller residents for a chance to win a #cleaquaarium prize pack (\$250 value) including a seahorse plush, a drawstring backpack, a one-year annual pass (or extension on a current membership) and Aquarium-branded gear.

www.greeterclevelandaquarium.com/event/discovery-days-trivia/



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First breast milk dispensary in NE Ohio opens

Pasteurized donor breast milk is now available locally

Breastfeeding Medicine of Northeast Ohio (BFMEDNEO) in partnership with OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank in Columbus, has opened the first non-hospital-based breast milk dispensary in the region. The dispensary, located at 2054 S. Green Road in South Euclid offers pasteurized donor breast milk for the public to purchase.

BFMEDNEO's new milk dispensary service, enables families with a prescription to pick up the processed milk locally. The milk is provided by The OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank, which under the guidelines of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America, provides pasteurized human milk to fragile infants and as a bridge to mother's own milk.

The Milk Bank relies on donations from healthy, lactating women who generously provide milk to help other babies. In 2022, the Milk Bank dispensed 449,382 ounces of milk to 72 hospitals and 205 outpatients in eight states plus Ohio. That is 3,511 gallons of milk. Each ounce of pasteurized human milk will feed three premature infants for a day.

"Some families need to start supplementation while waiting for their milk supply to increase, and while in the hospital after delivery they may have the option to supplement with pasteurized donor breast milk," said Ann M Witt, MD, FABM, IBCLC, founder and director of Breastfeeding

Medicine of Northeast Ohio. She has worked with thousands of mothers throughout northeast Ohio providing medical and lactation support to help mothers achieve their breastfeeding goals.

"Upon discharge there has not been a readily available option to continue donor breast milk. We have seen this need for years, and hear from many families how frustrated they are to not continue to provide exclusive breast milk to their infants," Dr. Witt added. "When the Milk Bank contacted us about the possibility of a dispensary we were very excited."

"Additionally, for those families who have a goal of exclusive breastfeeding and have a delay in their milk production increasing, they will have another option to provide breast milk while figuring out the next steps," Dr. Witt says, "This is truly wonderful news for area women in need of donor milk."

Most dispensaries are in hospitals—in specialty units such as NICUs and not available to the general public. The BFMEDNEO dispensary is accessible to the public. Given that most insurance companies do not cover outpatient donor bridge milk, families will need to pay the processing, handling and shipping fee for the dispensed milk. Pasteurized human donor milk is sold in three oz. bottles. The cost is \$16 per three oz. bottle which includes the milk bank processing of \$12.75 per



three ounces, plus shipping and handling.

In order to receive milk at the dispensary, families can arrange pickup either during scheduled appointments at BFMEDNEO or at a donor milk pickup-only appointment, which are scheduled Monday through Friday, from 1-4 pm. Families will need to complete the forms found on the Breastfeeding Medicine of Northeast Ohio website at bfmedneo.com.

The OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank has 21 milk drop-off sites in Ohio, where milk is accepted from approved donors. Those wishing to donate breast milk should contact the OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank at 614-566-0630 to begin the process today or email them at MilkBank@OhioHealth.com.

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Hey, Can We Talk?

What your 1-year-old should be saying

By Sandra Gordon

When it comes to language development, every 1-year-old sets his own pace. Read on for the latest word on when to worry and when to relax.

“How many words does your child say?” is the hot topic of conversation among parents of 1-year-olds. But keeping a word count can be more nerve-wracking than thrilling if your toddler’s the silent type. Most of the time there’s little cause for alarm. “Just as kids vary in when they begin to walk, there’s a wide range of normal when it comes to speech,” says linguistics professor Katherine Demuth, Ph.D.

The shift from babbling to real words is a slow process that begins shortly after your baby is born. Every time you respond to her cries, you encourage her expressive language. By 12 months, her gurgles and coos have evolved into varied consonant sounds (like m’s, b’s, c’s, and d’s),” says Rhea Paul, Ph.D.,

editor of the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research. “And your toddler’s babbling intonation should go up and down like a sentence and perhaps contain a word or two you recognize,” Dr. Paul says. (For instance: “Ball ooh da?”)

But even if your toddler says only a few actual words — by 15 months, tots typically say three words in addition to “mama” and “dada” — your child comprehends much of what you say. You’ll see this receptive language in action when you ask your toddler to follow simple instructions, like “Pick up your cup.” Your toddler should also be able to recognize her name, point to objects, identify some parts of her body, and wave bye-bye.

Spotting a delay

If your 1-year-old is making only vowel sounds or if he doesn’t seem to understand much, consult your doctor. A hearing impairment is the most common cause of both expressive and receptive language delays. Most newborns are screened for



hearing problems before leaving the hospital, but there are lots of babies who miss their test or who develop hearing loss later, says pediatrician Andy Spooner, M.D. Fluid in the ears or chronic ear infections can affect a baby’s ability to perceive sound and understand speech. If your pediatrician suspects a problem, the pediatrician may recommend seeing an audiologist for a full hearing evaluation.

Otherwise, most doctors adopt a watchful waiting approach until 18 to 24 months. But if your child

still doesn’t say words by this age, ask for a professional evaluation. The language lag could be a natural developmental delay (common among babies born prematurely) that your child will eventually outgrow. Or your toddler may need speech therapy to give his talking skills a helping nudge. A speech pathologist can screen for other culprits, including apraxia, a disorder in which oral-motor muscles cannot form words correctly, and developmental disorders, such as cerebral palsy or autism. “Rest assured that kids talk

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late for many reasons—and not all of them have serious long-term consequences,” Dr. Paul says. “Genetics plays a part too. Toddlers who are late talkers very often have a family member who talked late too.”

Dialogue dos

Many studies have found a strong relationship between how much parents talk with their babies and how quickly kids acquire language. To get your tot chatting:

Narrate your day. Talk out loud about what you’re doing, and ask your toddler questions. “If you’re doing laundry, say ‘Let’s go down to the washing machine. Okay, in goes the soap. Now, the clothes.’ Talk it up, even if you feel silly because your child can’t answer back,” says speech pathologist Pam Quinn.

Be a role model. “If your little one says “ba ba” for bottle, use the correct pronunciation when you reply (“Yes, here’s your bottle”). Elaborate on what she says with an additional word, such as, “That’s a big bottle” — a strategy that not only increases vocabulary but also teaches word combinations. But try not to correct her. “Pointing out mistakes can be inhibiting,” Quinn says. “Even young kids can start to think they can’t say anything right.”

Play dumb. Give your tot a chance to ask for what she wants before answering her need, says speech-language pathologist Denise Boggs Eisenhauer. For example, when you’re rolling a ball with her and you know she wants you to roll it back, give your toddler a confused look and say, “What do I do?” Pausing for a few seconds will encourage her to communicate.

Keep it real. Don’t overly enunciate or speak in one- or two-word sound bites. “Speak in regular sentences to help your child understand how to put words together into meaningful phrases,” says speech-language pathologist Gayle Sorrentino. His constant exposure to language is the key to enhancing his speech development.

Baby Word Count Milestones

Early talking isn’t a sign of superior intelligence, and most late talkers quickly catch up. Here, the language leaps to look for.

12 months: Your baby says one to five words and understands 25 words or more. He uses gestures such as waving and pointing and can follow simple instructions, like “Bring me your shoe.” He sustains interest in looking at simple books.

18 months: Most toddlers are able to understand at least 50 words and say at least 30. Your child understands a variety of familiar names and actions and can say simple words like “hat,” “cookie,” “cat,” and “tree.”

24 months: Your child combines two or three words into sentences, like “What’s that?” or “Me eat apple.” Her vocabulary includes more than 100 words, and she adds a few endings to words, such as “ing” and plurals.

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2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659

Nature's calling at the Holden Arboretum

Get ready to experience spring in all its beauty at the Holden Arboretum. Be on the lookout for colorful blooms popping up all over the grounds and enjoy long hikes on one of their many trails. From on-site experiences to classes and events, spring comes to life at Holden Arboretum. Hours are Tuesday- Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Murch Canopy Walk & Kalberer Emergent Tower Opens Saturday, April 1, 2023

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. The Murch Canopy Walk invites guests on a 500-foot-long elevated walkway that is built 65 feet above the forest floor. This immersive experience takes guests in and out of the forest canopy to experience everything from the middle of a mature forest to a raised view of streams and the forest floor.

Upcycling for the Earth!

On Saturday, April 8, from 9-11 a.m. join in to celebrate Earth Day early by starting seeds sustainably! Children and their guardians will experience the fun of upcycling in the garden with creative containers that are usually thrown away. Participants will leave with five different seed starts, fertilizer, and an at-home germination experiment. You are welcome to bring your own

plastic or carton containers to upcycle, as long as they are at least 2-3" deep and thoroughly cleaned (no metal cans). Cost: \$25 per member, \$40 per nonmember (\$15 per additional child). Register online.

Home-Scale Compost

Join in on Thursday, April 20 from 1-4 p.m. to learn how you can make a difference through composting. Intentionally composting accelerates the natural process of the breakdown of organic matter. Composting reduces landfill waste, saves you from using chemical fertilizers, and introduces beneficial organisms to your soil. Cost: \$35 per member, \$50 per nonmember.

Arbor Day • Free Admission Friday, April 28, 2023

Celebrate trees with one of the best living museums in the country on Arbor Day. Enjoy free admission to the arboretum and a free tree seedling giveaway while supplies last.

Sean Kenney's Nature Connects Made with LEGO® Bricks May 27-September 4, 2023

Nature Connects will feature more than a dozen towering creations that will pop out of garden and trail landscapes creating a magical new world at the arboretum. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance beginning in May



Photo credit: Bob Perkoski

The Murch Canopy Walk and Kalberer Emergent Tower open on April 1, 2023.

"It's in Bloom" Tours

Opening Saturday, May 27, 2023

The most spectacular flowers are in bloom this spring at the Holden Arboretum. Whether you are in the mood for a hike through a woodland forest, a walk around a lake, or a stroll through blooming gardens (or all three!) they have the experiences for you.

Tram Tours

Starting in May, 45-minute tram tours will give guests an overview of the campus and gardens, with a focus on seasonal highlights. You may also learn a little history and information about the scientific work that happens behind the scenes. Visit holdenfg.org for more info.



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Spring Tea 2023 • April 29, 1-3 pm

Join the Lake County History Center on April 29 for their annual Spring Tea. This year's event features the story of Cassie Chadwick, Cleveland's most famous con artist in the early 20th century, with her arrest and trial drawing worldwide attention here in Cleveland. This entertaining story of yesteryear will be presented by Anna Delvey Sorokin.

Over the course of her life, Cassie (one of many aliases) stole approximately \$633,000 (more than \$20 million in today's dollars) and wreaked havoc on Ohio's financial system. Cassie used these enormous sums of money to live extravagantly.

At the age of 22 years old, she was arrested in Woodstock, Ontario, for forgery, but was released on the grounds of insanity. The next year, she married Dr. Wallace S. Springsteen in Cleveland, Ohio and set up her biggest scam. On a trip to New York City, in the posh lobby of the Holland House hotel, she was introduced to her new husband's acquaintance, James Dillon, an Ohio banker who she used to scam millions.

Cassie then became known as the



Cassie Chadwick was known as the world's greatest female swindler.

"Queen of Ohio." She bought diamond necklaces, clothes to fill 30 closets, and a gold organ for her living room. She entertained lavishly - even frittering \$100,000 on a dinner party!

The Spring Tea will be held in the Event Barn at the Lake County History Center at 415 Riverside Drive in Painesville Township. The menu features fresh fruit, scones, finger sandwiches and assorted desserts.

Members are \$20 and nonmembers are \$24. Call 440-639-2945 or visit lakehistory.eventbrite.com to make reservations.



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

Continued on page 19



Nurturing the spirit.
Engaging the intellect.
Inspiring creative thinking.

Children Need a Hershey Montessori Education Now More Than Ever

- Nurturing environment
- Individualized pace
- Self-correcting materials
- Freedom of choice and movement
- Emphasis on language, coordination, nutrition, and socialization
- Active learning in indoor/outdoor spaces
- Supportive staff and parent community

**CONTACT US TO REGISTER OR
REQUEST MORE INFORMATION**

440-357-0918

admissions@hershey-montessori.org

Ask about our financial aid options!



2023 SPRING OPEN HOUSE DATES

Registration is required

Concord Campus

(B-6th Grade)
10229 Prouty Rd.
Concord Township, OH 44077

April 12, 9-11 am

May 10, 9-11 am

Individual tours are available by request or take a virtual tour via our website.



Visit our website at www.Hershey-Montessori.org



HORIZON
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Give your child the tools they need

**Free Preschool
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MENTOR 8303 Tyler Blvd. 440-205-8420	EUCLID 1050 E. 200th St. 216-481-3830	CLEVELAND 2285 Columbus Rd. 216-344-3000
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www.HorizonChildcare.com

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ST. GABRIEL
LEARNING LOFT PRESCHOOL

BEING CHRIST • EVERY DAY • EVERYWHERE

*"The care and support the teachers provide and faith based education help our children to learn about themselves and the world around them. We could not be happier with our educational choice for our family."
~L. Dickinson, parent, Jan '22*



**Give your child the best,
and watch them bloom!
Educating 2-year-olds to
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Call today!
440-354-7574
(part-time preschool 2-5 yr olds)

440-354-7858
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*Please note: Waiting List for
2023-24 school year.*

St-GabrielSchool.org
Concord

PRESCHOOL

Hershey Montessori School

(440) 357-0918

www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Concord Campus

10229 Prouty Road

Huntsburg Campus

11530 Madison Road

At Hershey Montessori School, classrooms are called "communities" where students work in multi-age groups so they can learn from and interact with others of diverse ages and interests. These programs include the Parent-Infant Program (2 months to 12 months), the Young Child Community (12 months to 36 months), Children's House (3 to 6 ½ years), Elementary (6 to 12 years) and Adolescent Community (12 to 18 years). Students are given blocks of uninterrupted time to figure out a problem, to ask questions of their teachers, or share their passion for a subject with another student. They work and learn at their own pace and make choices regarding which activities they want to take part in. When children are given a choice, they are naturally more engaged, interested, and happy to go to school.

For more information call (440) 357-0918, email admissions@hershey-montessori.org, or visit www.Hershey-Montessori.org.

**Horizon Child
Development Center**

8303 Tyler Boulevard, Mentor
(440) 205-8420

1050 E. 200th Street, Euclid
(216) 481-3830

www.horizonchildcare.com

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.

**Mater Dei Academy
Preschool**

29840 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe

(440) 585-0800

www.MaterDeiAcademy.us

Mater Dei Academy's prekindergarten program for ages 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 for ages 3, 4, and 5 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, 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

Part-time preschool (3/4/5 yr olds) with My Buddy & Me classes for 2.5-year-olds; full-time (4/5 yr olds—current wait list for 23-24)

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

PRESCHOOL

St. Gabriel cont'd

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. 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 preschool has been voted #1 preschool in Lake County for four 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. Please note full-time program has a waiting list for 2023-24.



St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program

8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor
(440) 255-9781
stmarymentorschool.org

Children in the St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program will explore their world through a variety of quality curriculum and center-based learning experiences. They offer half-day programs for 3-year-olds, and half-day or full-day options for 4- and 5-year-olds. They also offer a one hour weekly program for 2- and 3-year-olds in the classroom with an adult to help introduce these younger children to a positive early learning environment.

The teachers strive to provide a warm, safe, nurturing, Christ-centered learning environment to promote the spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of children.

For questions Please contact Elizabeth Looman at elizabeth.looman@stmarysmentor.org.



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

Finding a preschool from page 17

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 wheth-

er 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 on our website.

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.

St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program



Ohio licensed preschool, pre-K, and junior kindergarten programs

Our Philosophy

Children in the St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program will explore their world through a variety of quality curriculum and center-based learning experiences.

We strive to provide a warm, safe, nurturing, Christ-centered learning environment to promote the spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of children.

Faculty & Staff

The staff in our program hold master's degrees, bachelor's degrees, and licenses from the state of Ohio.

Curriculum & Programming

- Phonics in Motion®
- Creative Curriculum®
- Use of technology (SMART boards, iPads)
- Library, music, art, STEM and physical education classes
- Social-emotional lessons/activities
- Community service projects
- Community visitors
- Daily prayer and spirituality
- Daily snack is provided for all classes
- Junior kindergarten students experience a hybrid curriculum to prepare them for kindergarten while still fostering social play.

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Looman at elizabeth.looman@stmarysmentor.org.

8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor | 440.255.9781
stmarymentorschool.org



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 12, 2023
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 12 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**

