

CREATIVELY SPEAKING

Loving, Nurturing & Educating Children Since 1968

January 2020

CREATIVE PLAYROOMS

Vol. 1



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- January 1: New Year's Day Observance (Centers Closed)
January 6: Kindergarten & Montessori Classes Resume
January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Centers Open)
January 20: No Classes Montessori & Kindergarten (centers open)
January 24: Kindergarten Report Cards Sent Home



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From the Regional Director's Desk ~ Debbie P.

Happy New Year! We are ready to focus our efforts on the remainder of the school year. The center directors and teachers will work together to ensure we are providing the best program possible and helping your children to be successful.

Watch for upcoming information regarding our Kindergarten Open House next month!

Please observe the 5MPH speed limit in our parking lots and use caution during snowy weather. Also, be sure to enter/exit using the appropriate driveways.

Please do not leave cars running in the parking lot while you enter the building.

What's Happening Around Us...

Submitted by Center Directors

INDEPENDENCE CENTER - Donna K.

Happy New Year! We have a fun filled month planned of winter activities for the children. We will have a noon New Years Eve Party on New Years Eve. The end of the month we will be having a Frozen party!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Laura R. our employee of the month. Miss Laura has been with Independence Montessori since February 2019. She enjoys working with the Montessori children. She is always willing to help. Laura has a positive attitude and is a team player throughout the entire center. When Laura is not at work she enjoys spending time with her son Landon. Words families would use to describe her are outgoing and caring. Congratulations Miss Laura! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment are always greatly appreciated.

INFANTS

Sensory - Touch Snow
Gross Motor - Throw the snowball
Fine Motor - Decorate the snowman

TODDLERS

Theme - Winter
Language - colored snowflakes
Practical Life - Shove the snow
Gross Motor - Paper snowball fight
Art - Winter collage
Science - Sorting snowflakes

MONTESSORI

Theme - Winter
Sensorial - Snowflakes
Language - Upper and Lowercase letters
Geography - World Puzzles
Math - Counting snowflakes
Practical Life - Building a snowman
Science - Icicles
Art - Snowman puppets, watercolor mittens



MAPLE HEIGHTS - Lisa W.

January brings the winter snows and gray skies to Cleveland, but inside we are warm, cozy and having so much fun with winter activities. We look forward to celebrating the New Year of 2020!! We will also celebrate Chinese New Year's and Frosty the Snow Man's Birthday. We will continue to go outdoors and enjoy the snowy weather, catch snowflakes and make snow angels.

Our employee of the month is Lakisha H. She will celebrate 14 years with Creative Playrooms! Lakisha works with the school-age children, and can be found helping out in other classrooms, or helping out a new family. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to our center.

Infant Room

Gross Motor: Tummy time, exercising our bodies, push toys, soft block building and dancing to the beat of the music.

Fine Motor: self-feeding, using a spoon, grasping snacks. **Sensory:** snow play, discovery bottles, texture balls.

Toddlers: Topics of Study: Snowflakes, playing in the snow, Mittens.

Practical Life: Shovel the snow, make a snowball, roll the snowball, zip your coat.

Gross Motor: Snowflake Bowling, pass the mitten, Musical snowflakes.

Science: Science trays, hot and cold, color bottles.

Art: lace the mitten, paint the sled, paper snowflakes, winter collage.

Preschool:

Topics of Study: Winter, Snowflakes are falling, Mittens, Things we do in Winter.

Language Literacy: Poems of winter, winter words, fingerplays, writing our names.

Creative Art: Painting with sponges, chalking winter scenes, making snowflakes.

Gross Motor: Throwing paper snowballs, freeze tag, hockey.

Math: Mitten matching with colors and shapes, counting to 15 using mittens.

Pre-Kindergarten: Topics of Study: Winter Animals, Snow people, mittens, folktales.

Language: Journals, fingerplays, poems, letters k,l,m, flannel activity.

Math: Mitten match, numbers 11, 12, 13, shape sequence, sizes-small, medium, large.

Blocks: Making igloos, caves.

Art: Mitten puppet, snow painting, q-tip snowflake, tracks in the snow, finger painting.

Gross Motor: penguin relay, pass the ice, mitten scramble.

Sensory: snow and ice with mittens on and cotton ball blowing.

School-agers: Topics of Study: Winter, Winter Festivals, Weather

Art: make a snowflake, watercolors, weather fun.

Gross Motor: hide the mitten, catch the snowflake, cotton ball blow contest.



PARMA- Melissa L.

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a great holiday. This month we are planning fun filled activities around our Winter theme. Thank you to those who donated to our giving Tree. Please remember with the change in the weather to drive cautiously through the parking lot.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Ms. Jessica for being chosen as Employee of the Month for January. Ms. Jessica has been with the company since October of 2017 and works in our Montessori and School-age room. She always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Thank you, Ms. Jessica, for your continuous dedication to our families. Please help us congratulate her!

Infants

Sensory: Taste cold popsicles, smell peppermint, and sensory blocks

Gross motor: Roll the ball, riding toys, and bowling snowmen

Fine Motor: Touch the snowball, paint a snowman, and puzzles

Toddlers

Theme: Snowflakes, playing in the snow, mittens

Practical life: make a Snowman, Zip your coat, shovel snow

Gross Motor: Pass the snowball, musical mittens, parachute

Language: ABC book, number puzzle, color matching

Science: Hot or Cold, frozen balloons **Art:** Snowflakes

PS/PK:

Themes: Buildings and Clothes

Gross Motor: Clap the beat, words in motion

Language Arts: Letters R, S, T, U, color Red, numbers 13, and 14

Science: Icicles, and science trays **Art:** Lace the mittens, paint the sled, Winter collage

After school

Theme: Cultures of the world

Cooking: Gingerbread cookies, making pudding

Games: Pass the present, snowball toss, Pictionary **Art:** Snowflakes, weaving placemats

MONTESSORI

Winter is upon us and it's time to stay warm. We will be working an amazing Science experiments, learning about animals in the artic, and creating winter art.

Monthly Themes: Winter, Artic animals, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sensorial: Constructive triangles **Geography:** Artic animals

Language: Moveable alphabet **Math:** Introduction of Time **Practical Life:** Nuts and Bolts

Science: Melting Snow **Art:** Igloos, penguins, snowflakes, polar bears



Solon- Kathleen M.

Happy 2020! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Thank you to all of our families for your generosity throughout the holiday season. We are teaching kids about dreams and what they would like to be when they grow up.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month we would like to recognize Brenda E. Brenda is our building opener and is here each day to greet each of the families and welcome them to school. Brenda has been with Creative Playrooms for 16 years! Thank you for all of your hard work Brenda!

Infants

Sensory: Finger paint/handprint projects

Gross motor: Soft ball roll, using pincher fingers Fine Motor: Self feeding

Toddlers

Practical life: Kitchen and Dress up Play

Gross Motor: "Snow Ball" throw Language: Animals and their sounds

Science: Exploring trees, touching snow Art: Painting with frozen water colors, snow paint

PS/PK:

Gross Motor: Building a snow man with boxes

Language Arts: Letter Recognition and writing

Science/Cooking: Exploring snow, make ice grow

Art: Snow owl painting with cotton balls, doily snowmen, snow flake creation

After school

Winter Wonderland

Cooking: Pretzel and marshmallow snowflake, make a snowman

Games: Marble Race, Frosty Snowball Toss (using cotton balls), Charades

Art: Ice Color Painting, create your own sled ramp, build your own sled

**Please sign up for the Solon Public Schools days off if your child will be in attendance.

MONTESSORI

During the month of January, our Montessori children will be exploring snow and all of the wonderful things that happen in the winter. They will be learning about different polar animals, their habitats and what they need to survive. The children will be participating in science projects to explore the season further.

Monthly Themes: Winter and Snow

Sensorial: Fake snow sensory play, snow sparkle play-do

Geography: Learning where cold weather animals live

Language: Drawing a favorite winter scene **Math:** Tens Number Rods

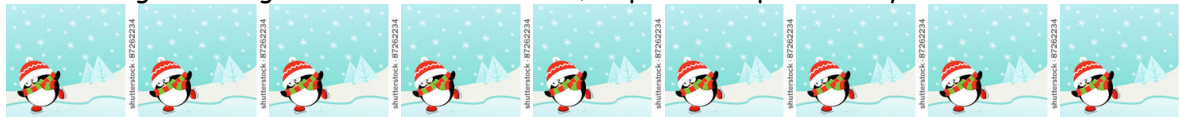
Practical Life: Dressing for the weather

Science/Cooking: Snowflake matching with magnifying glass, snowstorm in a jar,

Art: Winter animals, snowmen and snow globes

SOLON POOL NEWS

This month the children will be working on back floating. Mr. Michael will be working on scoops as well. We will be doing swimming assessments this month, so please keep a look in your child's bin in February.



Strongsville- Stephanie A.

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season spent with loved ones! Our teachers are ready to get back in the swing of things now that the holiday season is over. January brings not only cold temperatures and snow, but an opportunity for the children to explore the outdoors. Please make sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves, and boots as they do go outside daily if temperatures allow (25 degrees and above). Please note: snow boots should not be worn in the classrooms. Please bring a pair of shoes for your child to change into.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Ms. Megan for being January's Employee of the Month! Ms. Megan has been an amazing asset to our Toddler 1 classroom. She has a warm and caring nature and always has a smile on her face. Ms. Megan enjoys planning art projects and fun classroom experiences for the children in her care. Thank you, Ms. Megan, for your dedication to our children and families!

Infants

Sensory: Winter themed sensory bins with fake snow

Gross motor: Utilizing our new foam jungle to further develop our gross motor skills

Fine Motor: Working on our ability to hold chubby crayons to scribble and color

Toddlers

Themes: Winter Wonderland

Practical life: Hats, mittens, and scarves

Gross Motor: Indoor snowballs and blue cup knock down game

Language: Books and pictures about Winter

Science: Winter sensory bottles Art: Snowmen and snowflakes

PS/PK:

Themes: Brr...It's Cold Outside, Winter Animals, Winter Clothes

Gross Motor: Snowflake hop, snowball toss, move like an animal, winter clothes hunt, snowman roll, marshmallow race

Language Arts: Letter hunt, winter bingo, alphabet snowball throw game, white sand writing, winter rhyming

Science: What happens to snow inside, color mixing with snow, melt ice with snow

Art: Snowflakes, snowman, snowball painting winter storm, clothes collage, mittens, ice cube art

Before & After School

Themes: Snowman, Snow Woman, Snowflakes

Cooking: Pin the scarf on the snowman/snowlady

Games: Inside snowball toss, Dancing snowflakes Art: Penguins at Night, Sparkle Snowflakes



STRONGSVILLE MONTESSORI (continued)

A happy and prosperous 2020 to all! We hope that everyone had wonderful festival of lights and is looking forward to the new year. The classroom is becoming more normalized after the holidays and we are settling into to more advanced works. Work, work, work!

Monthly Themes: Winter, New Year, Clothing, Europe

Sensorial: Color box 2 and 3, geometric triangle boxes

Geography: Europe, Clothing from different parts of the world

Language: Vowel sounds

Math: Gold bead lesson, number placement, teens sequin board

Practical Life: Folding clothes, dressing frames

Science: mammals, reptiles, amphibians

Art: Seasonal and Winter art, texture and fabric

KINDERGARTEN

I am so excited to start a new year with the Kindergarten class! Happy 2020! I am so proud of the children for their success with sight words and reading so far. Please continue to work on letters and sounds with your child daily.

Themes: Penguins, snow and polar bears, Martin Luther King Jr, and healthy bodies

Math: Finish up unit on graphing and look at # 11 to 20

Language: Letters O, P, Q, R, new sight words, word families

Science: Explore penguins and polar bears, look at snow

Social Studies: Talk about Martin Luther King Jr

Art: Arctic Animals



WESTLAKE- SARAH M.

Happy New Year! The pajama/book program was a success; a big thank you to all of the parents that donated pajamas and books! We will be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 20th. The Preschool, PreK, and Montessori classes will be celebrating the 100th day of school on the 31st. Please remember that the speed limit for the parking lot is always 5 mph and to be extra careful on bad weather days.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Our employee of the month is Linda W. Linda has been a valuable member of our Creative Playrooms family since August of 2011. She is a caring and attentive teacher who is excellent at making connections with those in her care. We would also like to recognize Ms. Linda for smoothly transitioning our Infant II friends into a new classroom late last year.

Infants

Sensory: Sensory boards

Gross motor: ball rolling, catching Fine Motor: Shape sorter, puzzle time

Toddlers

Theme: Winter Fun

Practical life: Winter Wear

Gross Motor: Dance like snowflakes, Snowball games

Language: Winter words

Science: The Winter Season

Art: Snowmen and igloos

PS/PK

Themes: New Year, new me, Earth & geography, biomes

Gross Motor: Animal movements, balance, skipping

Language Arts: Alphabet identification, sight word practice

Science: STEAM, environments, biomes(create your own), sorting animals into their environments

Art: creation biomes, self-portraits

MONTESSORI

Monthly Themes: Buildings/Construction, Fish/Ocean, Artic/Antarctica

Sensorial: snow bin, ice chisel, triangle boxes

Geography: Artic/Antarctica

Language: Letters M,N,O,P and new sight words

Math: Adding with beads, Teen numbers
trucks, tonging rocks

Practical Life: Alphabet soup, soil and construction

Science: parts of fish, ocean habitat

Art: Fish art, jellyfish, ice cube art



Westlake (continued)

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STEAM

Monthly Themes: Antarctica, Artic Animals, Fish, Architecture

Science: Melting icebergs, penguin habitat, how blubber keeps animals warm

Technology: shape building snowmen

Engineering: snowball launcher, penguin fort, building with different materials

Arts: Fish fork painting, ocean collage

Math: Fish sorting, penguin patterns, building pyramid shapes

POOL NEWS

Happy New Year! This month we will be learning and playing all different types of pool games! Marco Polo, Sharks and Minnows, Racing games and more!





**~~HAPPY BIRTHDAY~~
~HAPPY ANNIVERSARY~**



BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

INDEPENDENCE

Susan S. 01/08

Donna K 29 Yrs.
Kira St. 1 Yr.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

Keyona Y. 01/23

Lakisha H. 13 Yrs.
Michelle S. 20 Yrs.
Nautica G. 1 Yr.

PARMA

Jessica C. 01/09
Joe W. 01/23

Eileen P. 3Yrs.

SOLON

Sharmelle M 01/04
Sarah W. 1/5
Taeir A. 1/19
Brooklyn B. 1/21
Christina M. 01/28

Maggie Y. 5 Yrs.

STRONGSVILLE

Julia B. 01/31
Mary . 01/26

WESTLAKE

Jessica P. 01/30
Mary F. 1/26