



P.A.R.K. NEWS



Programmed After-school Recreation for Kids!

DECEMBER 2018

RECREATION SUPERVISOR NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- Monday, Dec. 17: January tuition due
- Monday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 2: Winter break - no school or P.A.R.K.
- This is a good time to review your parent handbook and program policies. Please also update any information listed on your child's emergency medical form.

Winter Weather

Inclement Weather Days

Winter weather can close schools for the day and P.A.R.K. does not operate on inclement weather days. Please make sure you have other arrangements lined up for childcare on snow days.

Cold-weather Gear

If the weather remains above 20 degrees (including the wind chill factor), we continue to take the children outdoors for large-muscle activity after school each day. Please be sure that your child dresses in layers as needed, wearing a winter coat, gloves, boots and a hat each day for outside activities.

Athletic Shoes

P.A.R.K. is designed to keep children active! We spend a lot of time on our feet playing and participating in physical activities. We find that when children arrive at P.A.R.K. without athletic shoes they lose opportunities to join in all the fun with other participants. If they arrive in boots or sandals, packing athletic shoes lets them be involved in all activities.

Inspire Confidence

~Family Day Tool Kit

Remind your children of their best qualities as they need to hear what makes them special. Children feel more valued when you tell them what they do well, so celebrate accomplishments, even small ones. Giving praise for strengths and effort makes them more confident and prepares them for bigger challenges. Placing value on their positive qualities, not just achievements, also helps build resilience and self-worth in the face of failure.

12 Points of Attitude

~ Helene Gerber, Western Cape, South Africa

1. It is your attitude towards life that determines life's attitude towards you. Despite many people's belief to the contrary, life plays no favorites.
2. You control your attitude. If you are negative it is because you have decided to be negative and not because of other people or circumstances.
3. Act as if you have a good attitude. Remember actions trigger feelings just as feelings trigger actions.
4. Before a person can achieve the kind of results he/she wants, he/she must first become that person. He/she must then think, walk, talk, act and conduct himself/herself in all affairs as would the person he/she wishes to become.
5. Treat every individual as the most important person in the world.
6. Attitudes are based on assumptions. In order to change attitudes one must first change one's assumptions.
7. Develop the attitude that there are more reasons why you should succeed than reasons why you should fail.
8. When you are faced with a problem, adopt the attitude that you can and will solve it.
9. We become what we think about. Control your thoughts and you will control your life.
10. Radiate the attitude of confidence, of well being, of a person who knows where he/she is going. You will then find good things happening to you right away.
11. In order to develop a good attitude, take charge first thing in the morning. Do you say, "Good morning, Lord" or "Good Lord, morning?"
12. Read these 12 points every day for the next 30 days and see how your life changes.

Attitudes are more important than facts.



The City of Grove City • Parks and Recreation Department

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BOLTON CROSSING NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- Monday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 2:
Winter break - no school or P.A.R.K.
- If your child will not be at P.A.R.K., call the Bolton Crossing P.A.R.K. cell phone at 614-981-0779.
- We still go outside to play, so please have your child bring or wear the necessary clothing!

Fun Things to Do in Central Ohio

- Go see Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.
- Visit Mad River Mountain.
- Attend fun Christmas plays and shows.
- Help out at homeless shelters.

Book Drive

Our December project is to help kids less fortunate by giving them something fun to do at the shelters. If possible, we ask families to bring books to be taken to shelters around Columbus.

December Holiday Party

Our fun holiday party for the kids is Friday, Dec. 21 complete with a bunch of fun crafts and goodie bags for the kids! Volunteers to bring snacks and drinks for our fun day are welcome. Thanks in advance.

Crafts for December

We will do many fun Christmas experiments and food and art crafts! Food crafts are so popular, we tell the children that if they go to their baskets that day (due to concerns with behavior), they cannot participate.

December Games

We will play some different games this month. We try to get all the children to participate in our games so they get some physical activity, however, we do not make them if they really do not want to.

Recipe of the Month: Red Velvet Hot Cocoa

Ingredients:

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 dash water
- ¾ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. red food color
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2-4 tbsp. whipped cream cheese, room temperature

Directions:

In a stand mixer, combine the heavy cream and sugar. Whip on medium speed with the whisk attachment for 2-3 minutes. Just before peaks form, add the cream cheese and whisk for another 2 minutes. Taste and add more cream cheese to taste. Be careful not to over whip though or you'll have butter!

In a medium saucepan, warm the milk over medium heat. Add a splash of water and the chocolate chips, constantly stirring gently. When almost melted, add the red food color and stir. When the chocolate chips are thoroughly melted, pour the hot chocolate into mugs and top with the whipped cream.

Have a wonderful Winter break!



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BUCKEYE WOODS NEWSLETTER

December

Ho! Ho! Ho! December is here, the last month of 2018. Where has this year gone? We can tell you it has been full of games, crafts, fun activities and getting to know the kiddos including what they like doing. We are all different in what we enjoy. When it comes to games and crafts, everyone has a “do I have to?” activity. We ask that they participate in the games, if only for 5 or 10 minutes. They do need to “move it, move it” after being in class all day. Group games large and small are always adjusted to fit the abilities of our children. We want them to enjoy playing games and not be discouraged if they are not on the same level as another child. It is very important to us that they have fun.

Reminders

- Parents, I need to emphasize with you that YOU MUST SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT EVERY DAY. When picking up your child, please sign them out and acknowledge to a leader that you are there. Wave or say “I got it” or “See you later” - just get our attention if we are assisting another child or involved in an activity.
- Grove City Christmas Celebration: Town Center, Saturday, Dec. 1
- Monday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 2: Winter break - no school or P.A.R.K.

Poem

It's Christmas time for one and all.
 Let's watch as the snowflakes fall.
 They all are different, not at all alike
 And make the night seem oh so bright.
 The lights are on all over town,
 Just waiting for the singing sound
 Of children's voices filled with joy
 Just waiting for their brand new toy.

Activities

For December, these are some of the activities your children will participate in:

- Paper plate Christmas trees
- Melted snowman
- Rudolph hand print
- Snowflakes
- Poinsettia prints
- Cinnamon applesauce ornaments

As you can see, we have many different activities to fill our December. Our craft time starts at 4:15 p.m. and usually takes at least 20 minutes. So if your child is interested in a craft, this gives a time frame to let them participate.

Story Adventure

During our Story Adventure, we have guest readers who seem to enjoy sharing and reading to an audience. Fourth graders who want to read to the group may bring a favorite book from home or the school library.

Christmas Program

We are planning a Christmas program for 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19. Our children will sing favorite Christmas songs and have fun, so mark your calendar for “Our P.A.R.K. Christmas Carols.” I am sure you will not want to miss out on our kids’ performance!

Season's Greetings

May your Christmas and New Year be filled with memories of the past year and laughter that you always hear. Remember Christmas' past and hold them close to your heart. Have a very merry Christmas and the best of the new year. Happy 2019!

~ Elaine, Sommer, Vicky, Amelia and Jacob



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HIGHLAND PARK NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- Monday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 2: Winter break - no school or P.A.R.K.
- If your child will be absent, call the P.A.R.K. site cell phone at 614-571-9624.
- Be sure to sign your child out daily.
- Make sure your child brings something to eat and drink for our daily snack time.
- It is getting cold out - make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as we go outside each day as long as weather permits.



Parent Table

Sign your child out at the parent table unless we are outside. If we are outside, PLEASE see a leader before leaving with your child.

The craft and game of the day are posted on the whiteboard to stimulate conversation with your children about their day. Any other important information is also here; any parent information handouts are with the leaders.

Jokes of the Month

- Q. Why is it always cold at Christmas?
A. Because it's in Decembrrrrrrr.
- Q. When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?
A. In the dictionary.
- Q. Who says, "Oh, oh, oh?"
A. Santa Claus walking backwards

Art Projects

Art projects to look forward to are: snowmen, tree cones and reindeer food.

Animal Shelter Supply Drive

We are hosting an animal supply shelter drive. The weather is cold not only to us, but also for animals. Some suggested items for donation are:

- Creamy-style peanut butter
- Large bath/beach towels
- Baby or twin-sized blankets, comforters or flat sheets
- Grooming tools
- Durable toys like Kongs® and Nylabones® puzzle toys and larger balls



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J.C. SOMMER NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- Call the J.C. Sommer P.A.R.K. cell phone at 614-571-9620 if your child will be absent from P.A.R.K., or if he/she is participating in an activity that will delay arrival to P.A.R.K. (e.g., tutoring or choir outings).
- Make sure your child brings something to eat and drink for our daily snack time.
- If your child does not wear gym shoes to school, make sure they have a pair to change into for P.A.R.K. activities.
- We go outside daily, so make sure your child has weather-appropriate apparel.

December Activities

Our game theme for the month is basketball. During open gym on Fridays, students can pick stations in the four corners of the gym.

Every day for our art activity, the students can create a different tree ornament to take home and share.

December Kids Corner: Christmas Poems

Andrew's Poem

On the first day of Christmas,
my friend gave to me...
one teddy bear.

On the second day of Christmas,
my friend gave to me...
a toy car.

On the last day of Christmas,
Santa gave to me... a puzzle.
The End

Myrical's Poem

One night I woke up with a
click clack and a rick rack.
I wondered who it was.
I stayed in my bed with the
covers over my head.
I went for a peek with a big eek.
It was Santa Claus!
He told me to go back to sleep
with not even a peep.
And so that's what I did.
The End

Harmani's Poem

On Christmas Eve, I hung my
stocking in front of me.
I make my way to my bed and
I put a camera by my stocking
so if he comes I'll always know
the day I saw Santa Claus.

Lilly Frazzitta's Poem: Christmas Morning

I ran down the stairs.
I go to the tree.
I look at my gifts.
What could they be?
I shake one gift then another.
The last one I shake gives
a little shuffle.
I open the gift.
I look at the tree.
Wow! It's a toy Barbie!

Taylor's Poem: Christmas Eve

Christmas is when your
stockings are full.
Christmas is when snow goes
plunk on the ground.
Christmas is when presents
are all around the tree.
Christmas is when Santa
comes.
Christmas is when you have
lots of fun.

Kason's Poem

Christmas day it is for spending
time with your family. And for
celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Lily Furniss' Poem: One Christmas Morning

I run down the stairs.
I run very fast.
I am so excited, I don't even
look back!
I look at the tree.
And there are my presents
all waiting for me!
I open my presents and
to my surprise,
I see it looking at me with
its big, shiny eyes!
It is a stuffed animal
so fluffy and cute.
I knew it was all I wanted.
Woo-hoo!

Ollie Jividen's Poem: Santa's Bad Twin

Santa was making toys in
his workshop, when one day
Santa's said, "OH, NO! My bad
twin." Elves were scared. Toys
were smashed. Splat...

Ava's Poem: Christmas Morning Joy

Wake up, wake up - it's
Christmas morning.
Cannot wait to see all the
presents!
Let's go, let's go. Let's play in
the snow!
Let's make a snowman, a
snow angel,
Have a snow ball fight!
Come in, come in.
It's time to go to Grandma's
house for Christmas lunch.
Christmas lunch - the yummy
food, the delicious cookies,
and more presents too!
Bye-bye, time to go home.
Does Christmas have to end?
(Thinking)

Braxton's Poem

Santa is scary for nothing.
But he gives me presents.



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MONTEREY NEWSLETTER

Crafts

This month we have a whole bunch of festive holiday craft decorations planned that will look great placed around your home for the season! Some examples of our upcoming crafts are Popsicle-stick reindeer, glitter pen stars, snow paint snowmen and a chalk Christmas light picture.

Absences

Remember, it is policy that you inform P.A.R.K. leaders of your child's absence, so we do not spend time trying to find him/her. Call Monterey P.A.R.K. at 614-571-9622 and leave us a message explaining your child will be absent each day they are out. For planned absences, you can inform a P.A.R.K. leader of those days in person. Failure to report your child's absence is a \$20 fine for each occurrence per our tracking policy.

Random Acts of Kindness

Each day this month, everyone here at Monterey P.A.R.K. will participate in a Random Act of Kindness (R.A.O.K. on our calendar). Examples of kindness are: play with a new friend, give high fives, help read to a younger friend and make a special craft to show the school staff how much we care about them! Be sure to ask your child what kindness activity we did each day.

Weather

As a reminder, we go outside throughout the winter as long as the temperature with wind chill is 20°F or higher. Please be sure your child is prepared for the cold weather with coats, hats, gloves and scarf.

RECIPES FOR THE MONTH

This month have a little Grinch-y fun with these Grinch treats. Maybe even watch "The Grinch" while you enjoy!

Grinch Cookies

- Prep Time: 5 minutes • Cook Time: 8 minutes

Ingredients:

- 17.5-ounce packet Betty Crocker® sugar cookie mix
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 6-8 drops green food color
- 3/4 package Andes® mints, chopped
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, stir cookie mix, butter, food color and egg until soft dough forms. Stir in chopped mints and chocolate chips. Using small cookie scoop or teaspoon, drop dough 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 10 minutes or until set. Cool for about 3 minutes; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

Grinch Punch

- Prep Time: 5 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 quart lime sherbet
- 2 liter bottle lemon-lime soda (7•up, Sprite, etc.)
- Sugar (optional)
- Green food color (optional)

Instructions:

Combine sherbet with enough soda to create a frosty slush. Mix sugar and food color to make green sugar; spread onto plate. Dip glass rim into water and then dip into sugar. Carefully pour slush mixture into the glass and serve.



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RICHARD AVENUE NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- If your child will be absent, call the P.A.R.K. site cell phone at 614-571-9623.
- Ensure your child brings a snack and water bottle daily.
- Remember to sign your child out every day.
- Monday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 2: Winter break - no school or P.A.R.K.

Be Ready for the Weather

As winter approaches, make sure your child is dressed for the weather in a winter coat with a hat, gloves and scarf. We go outside daily as long as the temperature, including the wind chill, remains above 20 degrees.

December Birthdays

- Haley..... Dec. 6
- Abbie..... Dec. 11
- Liam..... Dec. 17
- Avery..... Dec. 18
- Carson B. Dec. 22
- Parker Dec. 29
- Zackory Dec. 30



P.A.R.K. It Forward

During December, we are collecting new scarves, gloves, mittens and hats in both child and adult sizes to be donated to help local families in need.

Art Projects

Throughout December we will work on holiday art projects to decorate your house for the season! Our themes are Ornament Week, Festive Holiday Week and All About the Reindeer Week.

Recipe of the Month: Red Velvet Hot Cocoa

Ingredients:

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 dash water
- 3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. red food color
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2-4 tbsp. whipped cream cheese, room temperature

Directions:

In a stand mixer, combine cream and sugar. Whip with whisk attachment on medium for 2-3 minutes. Just before peaks form, add cream cheese; whisk another 2 minutes. Add more cream cheese to taste. Do not over-whip or you'll have butter!

In a saucepan, heat the milk over medium heat. Add a splash of water and chocolate chips, constantly stirring gently. When almost melted, add the red food color; stir. Once chocolate chips are thoroughly melted, pour the hot chocolate into mugs. Top with whipped cream.

Christmas Jokes

- Q. Who delivers Christmas presents to cats? A. Santa Claws
- Q. How do elves get to the top floor of Santa's workshop? A. They use the elf-elator.
- Q. What can you get if you eat Christmas decorations? A. Tinselitus.
- Q. Why is it always cold at Christmas? A. Because it's in Decembrrrrrrr
- Q. What do you call Santa if he goes down a lit chimney? A. Crisp Kringle
- Q. Who says, "Oh, oh, oh?" A. Santa walking backwards
- Q. Which Christmas carol do parents like the most? A. Silent Night
- Q. What kind of music do elves listen to? A. Wrap
- Q. What type of potato chip is Santa's favorite? A. Crisp Pringles
- Q. Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? A. RUDE-olph



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