

CREATIVELY SPEAKING

Loving, Nurturing & Educating Children Since 1968

December 2019

ELA CREATIVE PLAYROOMS

Vol. 12



**ELA Creative
Playrooms
Montessori Schools
&
Child Care Centers**
32750 Solon Road
Solon, OH 44139
(440) 349-9111

www.creativeplayrooms.com

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

This month Winter Programs for Pre-Kindergarten, Montessori & Kindergarten will be held. See your Director for dates & details

December 21:	Last day of class for Montessori & Kindergarten before Winter Break (Centers are open for child care)
December 20:	Kindergarten Progress Reports sent home
December 23:	Hanukkah Begins
December 24:	Christmas Eve CLOSED AT 2PM
December 25:	Christmas Day CLOSED
December 26:	Kwanzaa Begins
December 31:	New Year's Eve CLOSED AT 2PM
January 1st:	New Year's Day - CLOSED

From the Regional Director's Desk - Debbie P.

As the first half of the school year ends, the children are excited for the holiday season and their winter programs. The children have been practicing their songs and we look forward to seeing some of their special talents. We hope to make these events memorable for your children and family.

Each center will have a Giving Tree displayed for donations of new hats and mittens for children in need. Everyone is encouraged to hang one item on the tree. This is the season of giving so please remember those less fortunate.

Finally, the school age children look forward to exciting theme days and activities during the winter break!

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

- Please note the parking lot speed limit is 5MPH. You need to use caution and watch for children entering/exiting vehicles and buses.

- As the weather gets colder, please do not leave your cars running in the parking lot. Also, hold your child's hand as you cross the parking lot.

What's Happening Around Us...

Submitted by Center Directors

Independence - Donna K.

We are planning a Holiday Happiness week. This will be a week consisting of fun holiday themes and activities to add to the excitement of the holiday season. A few of the activities planned will be dreidel drop, candy cane countdown, decorating holiday cookies, musical presents, handprint wreaths. The Montessori children are waiting anxiously to use the snow shovels. The children will be taught how to shovel the snow on the sidewalk. This will make it safer for the children and the parents as they enter and exit the center.

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Camilla T., our employee of the month. Miss Camilla has been employed at Creative Playrooms for almost 2 years. She is the supervisor of the Toddler room and is a huge asset to our center. She is always willing to give 110% and she works very hard. The children and the parents love her! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication Miss Cami! In her spare time she loves spending time with her children.

Infants

Sensory-Touch Santa's beard
Gross Motor-Snowball basketball
Fine Motor- Cotton balls on Santa's hat

Toddlers

Theme: Happy holidays
Language-Patterns
Practical Life-Wrap presents
Gross Motor-Musical Santa Hats
Art-Decorate the Christmas tree
Science-Scents of the season

Montessori

Monthly Themes: Holiday Happiness
Sensorial-Singing holiday songs
Geography-United States map
Language-Letter Matching
Math-Counting and sorting
Practical Life-Wrapping presents, frosting cookies
Science-Scents of the season
Art-Reindeer puppets, Santa hats, Handprint wreaths, pine cone Christmas trees



December - Lisa W.

What a Season of Joy and Anticipation for the Holiday Season. Enjoy the time with extended family and the surprise and joy of children unwrapping presents. Please watch for further details on the date of our Holiday Program. The Pre-Kindergarten children will be performing Holiday songs and poems. We look forward to the school-agers and days off of school. We will also still be going outdoors, so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We wish all our staff and their families a Wonderful Holiday!

Infants: Gross Motor-Tummy Time Activities, walking toys, soft blocks, stacking
Fine Motor: Grasp and Hold rattles, peg puzzles, self-feeding
Sensory: Discovery bottles/textures, bubble play.

Toddlers:

Topics of Study: Holidays, Christmas Fun, Families,
Practical Life: Holiday Cheer, decorate for Christmas
Gross Motor: Musical Presents, snowflake bowling
Science: Mixing colors

Preschool:

Topics of Study: Holiday Foods, Christmas Arts and Crafts,
Arts: Candy canes, Santa Claus, fingerpaint Christmas trees,
Language Arts: letters C & H,
Gross Motor: Outdoors, stand tall like a tree, touch the colors.
Math: Matching Santas, Counting ornaments, Numbers 10, 11, 12.

Pre-Kindergarten:

Topics of Study:
Children around the World, Christmas Around the World, Winter Holidays, Dinosaurs.
Art: Necklaces, Lanterns, Fans, Place mats, bookmarks, wreaths, Christmas cards, brown paper dinosaurs, dinosaur finger paint, Shoesaratops,
Language: Journals, Letters K & L., fingerplays, poems, fact-a-dacty
Math: Number 10 & 11, compare and measure, find the number.
Gross Motor: spin like a dreidel, balancing skills, bull fighting, T Rex Tag

School-Age:

Holidays Around the World
Cooking: Gingerbread cookies.
Games: Find the Present, spin the dreidel
Art: Parent holiday gift



PARMA- Melissa L.

We would like to thank our families and friends for an amazing year. The teachers and children are preparing for our Winter program so keep a look out for the date and time. Holiday parties and a visit from Santa will also be taking place. As tradition, we will be putting up our giving tree in the lobby to collect hats, gloves, and scarves to donate to a local shelter. We truly appreciate any donations. We will be closing at 2:00 on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The center will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Ms. Manpriet for being chosen as Employee of the Month for December. Ms. Manpriet has been with the company since August and works in our Pre-Kindergarten room. She always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Thank you, Ms. Manpriet, for your continuous dedication to our families. Please help us congratulate her!

Infants:

Sensory: Frost & taste the cookie,
paint with pudding

Gross motor: Roll the snowball,
Unwrap presents

Fine Motor: Color the Christmas tree,
Paint presents

Toddlers:

Practical Life: Count candy canes, make snowballs

Gross Motor: Pass the present, snowman bowling

Language: Sort the cookies, Reindeer puppets

Science: Color mixing, Holiday scents

Art: Turkey paper plate, leaf rubbings

PS/PK:

Gross Motor: Build a snowman, obstacle course

Language Arts: Letters N, O, P, Q, color Green, numbers 11, and 12

Science: Crayon rubbing, Painting with ice cubes

Art: Santa hats, star scene, and presents

After school

Winter Holidays, Present Making, The Gift of Giving

Cooking: Invent a new pancake, marshmallow cocoa

Games: Pass the present, snowball toss, Pictionary

Art: Snowflakes, weaving placemats

MONTESSORI

Happy Holidays! December is full of holiday cheer! The children have been working so hard in preparation for our winter program. In class, we will travel around the world to learn about how different cultures celebrate holidays. We will explore Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and much more.

Sensorial: Color Box

Geography: Our state of Ohio

Language: Movable Alphabet

Math: Telling Time

Practical Life: Tonging Presents

Science: Coloring Mixing

Art: Rudolph, Christmas Trees, Ornaments, and Wreaths

PARMA POOL NEWS

This month we will be learning how to dive for objects under water. We will also be practicing back floating and kicking. As always we will discuss how to be safe in the pool and around it as well.



Solon- Kathleen M.

December is an exciting and busy month! We will have our Winter program held at Solon High School. We will also have a pajama and book drive, watch for the display in the front lobby. There will be a special visit from Santa this month too. Please remember we are closing at 2:00 PM on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and we will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month we would like to recognize Nicole B.! Nicole has been with the company for 20 years and we are so grateful to have her. Nicole has been working hard with our step-up to quality process and is well known by children and families in all classrooms. We can always count on Nicole to have a smile and assist where needed. Thank you Nicole!

Infants:

Sensory: Finger paint/handprint projects

Gross motor: Soft block play

Fine Motor: Reaching for toys

Toddlers:

Practical Life: Winter Animals

Language: Saying our names

Science: Exploring trees, touching snow

PS/PK:

Themes: Trees

Gross Motor: Throwing and catching

Language Arts: Letter Recognition and writing

Science/Cooking: Exploring trees, exploring snow, winter trail mix

Art: Holiday projects

After school:

Fall Fun! Cooking

Games: Charades, Pictionary, Uno

Art: Chalk, Making holiday cards

MONTESSORI

During the month of December, our Montessori children will be learning about Holidays we celebrate. They will explore different Holidays that they celebrate within their classroom. They are also excited to perform in the Winter Program.

Monthly Themes: Trees, Holidays

Sensorial: Describe ever green trees

Geography: Where different trees grow

Language: Writing holiday cards

Math: Numbers to 15

Practical Life: Decorating for the holidays

Science/Cooking: Exploring parts of a tree

Art: Holiday Projects

SOLON POOL NEWS

This month we will be learning how to kick our legs in order to tread water. We will continue to practice blowing bubbles underwater and float on our back.



Strongsville - Stephanie A.

Happy Holidays! This month we will be in the spirit of giving while having our annual pajama and book drive. Please help us donate new pajamas and books to children in need! The children will also be creating handmade holiday gifts for their parents and preparing for the Winter Program. Pre-K and Montessori's program will be Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm and Kindergarten's program will be Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm. Our center will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day so we may spend time with our families.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Ms. Andrea for being chosen Employee of the Month for December! Ms. Andrea is a floating teacher that puts her all into each room she is assigned to. She always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Thank you, Ms. Andrea, for your continuous dedication to our staff and families. Please help us congratulate her!

Infants

Sensory: Exploring Winter through snow, items

pinecones, fuzzy materials, tinsel,

Gross motor: Pull toys, walk behind toys

Fine Motor: Finger painting
boughs

Toddlers:

Practical Life: Bundling up outside play, Winter clothing

Gross Motor: Hop, skip, jump, tumbling

Language: Color matching, shapes in the classroom

Science: Sensory bottles/bins, snow, pinecones, pine

Art: Penguins, snowflakes, wreaths

Preschool/PreKindergarten

Gross Motor: Scarf Dance, Reindeer Dance, Musical Chairs

Language Arts: Holiday words, Memory Card Game, What are you wearing?

Science: Textures, different dyes, Winter

Art: Clothes collage, paper plate Santa's, handprint trees, stencil ornaments, marble paint

Before & After School

Cooking: Decorating sugar cookies

Games: Pin-The-Nose-On-Rudolph, Snowmen Tic-Tac-Toe

Art: Holiday decorations and ornaments

MONTESORI

The Holidays are upon us and the children are so excited! All the four and five year olds are practicing for our Winter Program. The children are enjoying decorating the room for all the festivals of lights this time of year. We are planning a "messy crafts" and fun classroom activities. Safe and happy holidays to all!

Monthly Themes: Christmas Around the World, Festivals of Lights, Winter Solstice, Clothing

Sensorial: Red Rods, Smelling Tubes, Texture

Geography: Europe, Christmas Around the World, Hannukah, Kwanzaa

Language: Adjectives, and descriptive language, K-R letter booklets

Math: Counting backwards, skip counting, bead bars

Practical Life: Decorating a tree, wrapping a gift, sorting

Science: Winter, how fabric is made, natural dyes, baking **Art:** Seasonal art, nature art, messy craft day

KINDERGARTEN

One of the many joys of teaching is being able to see the excitement in the children during the holiday season as they share their family traditions and stories. Please mark your calendar with the following dates...Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 Holiday Program (children need to arrive at 6:30), Friday, December 20th Class Holiday Party, Friday, December 20th Winter Break begins after class and resumes January 6th. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Themes: Gingerbread, Holiday Traditions and Special Occasions

Math: Graphing and sorting

Language: Letters L, M, N, sight words, word parts

Science: Snow and ice

Social Studies: Holiday traditions in other cultures

Art: Gingerbread people, elves

WESTLAKE—Sarah M.

We want to wish all of our families a magical holiday season! This month in Westlake will be full of celebrations—from our Holiday concert on December 16th, to the classroom celebrations and Polar Express Day on December 20th. We'll also continue to collect for our 6th annual Pajama and Book Drive through the 13th--please consider helping us collect items for *Pajama Program* this year. Finally, don't forget that we will be closing at 2pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This holiday season, we are thankful for all our wonderful staff. Each and every one of you make a difference in the lives of the children you work with. Thank you for all that you do!

Infants

Sensory: rolling sensory bottles and observing the objects move inside them

Gross motor: taking turn crawling through the tunnel

Fine Motor: putting puppets on our hands

Toddlers

Theme: Snow

Practical life: dressing, hats, gloves, jackets, "dress the baby"

Gross Motor: balls, "stop & go!"

Language: "soft", "white", 2 new snow songs

Science: snow from outside, "soft", our warm hands melt the snow

Art: white paint on blue paper; painting/dotting with q-tips



Westlake (continued)

Preschool/PreKindergarten

Themes: winter/snow; Holidays around the world (Kwanzaa, Hanukah, New Year's, etc.)

Gross Motor: new music, different ways of traveling through snow

Language Arts: The letters M/N/O/P, sounding out words that start with those letters, trying new words in other languages

Science: Hot & Cold discussion—critical thinking (solid, liquid, gas)

Art: creating art inspired by famous artists (Matisse, Rockwell, Picasso)

MONTESSORI

Holiday Show 12/16, Holiday Class Party 12/20, Holiday Break begins 12/23—Daycare Provided; No Montessori instruction.

Monthly Themes: Hanukah, Christmas, Holidays Around the World,

Sensorial: bells, yoga

Geography: Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Christmas Holidays

Language: Letters to Santa; Review

Math: Teen board, gift #'s match

Practical Life: wrapping a present, make peppermint playdough

Science: parts of a reindeer

Art: stockings, Menorahs, ornaments

STEAM

Monthly Themes: Forest Animals, Christmas

Science: ice/snow melting experiment, forest habitat, animal sort

Technology: binary code Christmas ornament

Engineering: gumdrop bridge, using triangles to construct a Christmas tree

Arts: singing for holiday show, ice lanterns, yarn-wrapped ornaments

Math: graphing Kwanzaa symbols, Menorah counting activity, what I like most about Christmas, pictograph, forest animal patterns

POOL NEWS

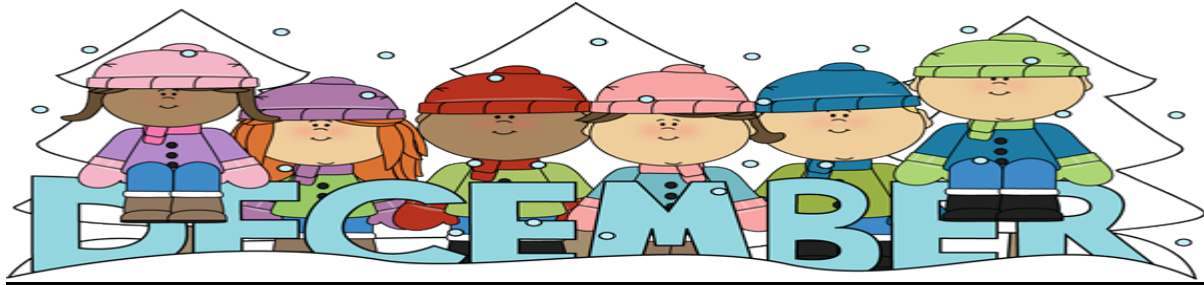
This month we will be working on proper arm movements to move through the water quickly. We will also be learning how to float on our backs and fronts.



DECEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**SHARING THE JOYS THAT BLOSSOM EACH YEAR IN YOUR DEVOTION
TO ELA CREATIVE PLAYROOMS MONTESSORI & CHILD CARE CENTERS!**



BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

CORPORATE

None

Brian H.

13 Yrs.

INDEPENDENCE

None

MAPLE HEIGHTS

Ron M.

12/23

Christina R.

4 Yrs.

Antonia W.

2 Yr

PARMA

Melissa L.

12/18

Eileen P.

12/16

Laura T.

12/16

Melissa L.

3 Yrs.

SOLON

Kathleen M.

12/30

Rebecca M.

12/22

STRONGSVILLE

Julie R.

12/26

Stephanie A.

3 Yrs

Brenda L.

14 Yrs.

WESTLAKE

NONE