February 2019
NEWSLETTER

Partnering with the Schoenbaum Family Center and Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy to improve children’s well-being through research, practice, and policy.

Severe Weather Information

The Schoenbaum Family Center is a university building and follows Ohio State’s closure policies. When checking for school closings on local radio, television and internet sites, look to see if Ohio State main campus is closed. In case of severe weather closure, our automated system will send each family a text/email informing them of closure.

April 22: Opera Columbus performing The Ugly Duckling

Children and families will have the opportunity to enjoy this operatic outreach production of the Hans Christian Andersen children’s story at 10 a.m. on April 22nd. The Ugly Duckling doesn’t fit in with the other ducklings because she looks and sounds different than they do. But when she saves the other ducklings from the Big Bad Wolf after learning about his tricks, the others learn to love the Ugly Duckling for her intelligence and bravery, and begin to truly appreciate her for who she is.

Kass Family Book Club: Giveaway Books

Don’t forget to check your child’s mailbox for the monthly Kass Family Book Club book. Infant and Toddler families, look for Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina. Help the Peddler get his hats back from the monkeys! Preschool families, look for The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson. Mouse tells the creatures in the woods about the Gruffalo, with terrible claws, turned-out toes, and a poisonous wart at the end of its nose, but not to worry there is no such thing as a Gruffalo!

Events

BROWN BAG FAMILY WORKSHOP
READY OR NOT KINDERGARTEN, HERE I COME!
Friday, February 15, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Bring your lunch and learn about kindergarten eligibility and the registration process as well as important kindergarten readiness skills.

COFFEE TALK
Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Drop off your child and enjoy coffee and a snack with staff and other families in the library.

STORY TIME AND SONGS IN THE LIBRARY
Wednesdays from 4:40 – 5:20 p.m.
Join your child for stories, snacks and sing-a-longs.

February 20: 4:40—5:20 p.m.
Parent Discussion Series Nutrition and Mealtimes Event

Join us on Wednesday, February 20th from 4:40 to 5:20 p.m. in the library as we incorporate healthy food and mealtimes choices into our weekly Story Time and Songs.
From SFC Librarian Kari Welch

Literacy Tips

Many of our friends are getting ready to head off to kindergarten in the fall. Did you know that you started to prepare your child for kindergarten, even before their first birthday? Kindergarten readiness starts during the bedtime stories you read with your child each night. Reading with your child is the best way to help them learn crucial skills such as print knowledge, vocabulary, and phonological awareness. You can extend this learning to play time, dinnertime, and bath time by singing songs and using your environment to challenge your child to find the letters of the alphabet.

Fun ways to practice important kindergarten readiness skills:
- Have your child find the letters of their name as you take a walk
- Encourage your child to help you make and check off items on your grocery list
- Use shaving cream to practice writing letters
- Have your child help you find the ingredients you need for dinner
- Use your child’s favorite toys to practice telling stories

Kindergarten Enrollment Process for Columbus City Schools

We had a very informative parent discussion on January 24th regarding kindergarten transition. If you are a resident of Columbus, and your child will be 5 on or before September 30, 2019, he/she will be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten next year.

The chart on the next page outlines the steps if you are interested in enrolling in your assigned school or entering into the CCS lottery for school choice. The SFC staff is ready and willing to support this process.

Please call 247-7007 or email SFC Social Work Intern, Mara at law.173@osu.edu with any questions. If you do not live in the Columbus City Schools district and would like enrollment or elementary school transition support, Mara and our Family Support office can help with information regarding other local districts as well.
Columbus City Schools Kindergarten Enrollment Process

**Step 1**
- **If you want your child to attend your assigned school, you can skip this step! To learn your child’s assigned school call the CCS Factline at 221-FACT.**
- Look up the factsheets about CCS elementary schools here: [www.ccsoh.us/FastFacts.aspx](http://www.ccsoh.us/FastFacts.aspx)
- Go to the elementary school fair at Africentric Early College on 2/7/19 (6:00-7:30) to meet principals and ask questions
- Call a school and schedule a tour

**Step 2**
- Complete the SpeedyPass enrollment on the CCS website [www.ccsoh.us/Enrollment.aspx](http://www.ccsoh.us/Enrollment.aspx)
- After you complete the speedypass, you will be prompted to schedule an appointment at the central enrollment office located at: 430 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, 43215 614-365-4011

**Step 3**
- Attend your appointment at central enrollment! Your child is not enrolled until you attend this appointment!
- Bring the following items with you to your meeting:
  - Parent photo ID
  - Child birth certificate
  - Address verification
  - Child immunization record
  - Custody/legal paperwork, if applicable
  - You do not need to bring your child to the meeting unless he/she is bilingual

**Step 4**
- If you want your child to attend your assigned school, you are done!
- If you want to enter the school lottery, fill out an application online via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You will receive your GUID (access key) information to create a Parent Portal account.
  - Applications are available starting 2/4/19
  - Applications are due by 3/29/19
  - Only list the schools you want. You do not have to list three choices.

**Step 5**
- Wait for an email or phone call that your lottery results are available to be viewed on the Parent Portal.
- You must accept an offer for placement at a school within two days.

**Step 6**
- Secure childcare for before and after school, if needed.
- Work with your child at home to prepare them for kindergarten using the preschool to kindergarten transition checklist.

DONE!
Questions? Contact Barb Reed on the CCS Factline: 614-221-3228 or stop by Family Support Services room 133 or call 614-247-7007