

DECEMBER 2017

COUNTY **KIDS**

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Merry Christmas!
cover by **Prelude Photography**

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COUNTY KIDS

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PHOTO BY EARL LINABURG

CANDY LAND has gone WILD!

Northeast Ohio's "Wildest" holiday tradition is back!
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Northeast Ohio's "Wildest" holiday tradition is back! CANDY LAND Has Gone WILD! is an indoor, life-sized game board; set up like the iconic board game CANDY LAND, but with a "natural twist". As visitors draw a card, they become the game piece and move along the game board from space to space. As they play along, their travels take them through a beautifully decorated wonderland where they can discover the many natural wonders nature gives throughout the year.

CANDY LAND Has Gone WILD! is free for all ages. The game is played inside the nature center at Penitentiary Glen Reservation, located at 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd. in Kirtland. The exhibit is open noon to 5 pm daily November 18 through January 1, 2018, with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day when the exhibit closed. The exhibit is open until 1 pm

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Your adventure continues with hands-on activities both indoors and out.

Children will enjoy scavenger hunts, making a craft and working on seasonal activity pages!

Join us for these special free activities on weekends during the Candy Land has gone WILD!

December 2 – Train rides (weather permitting)

Saturday Campfire with s'mores (1:00-3:00 pm) – December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Saturday Animal chats (1:00 and 3:00 pm) – December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Sunday Wildlife Keeper chats (1:30 and 2:30 pm) – December 3, 10, and 17.

Nature Play outdoor play area will be open with an acre of fun, weather permitting.

Visit the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center animal rehabilitation facility to learn about

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LAKE METROPARKS FARM PARK

Santa's Toy WORKSHOP

December
26-31*
11 am to 3 pm



LAKEMETROPARKS.COM



Children ages 2 to 11 can build a wooden toy with an elf in Santa's Workshop!

Farm park admission applies plus \$2 per toy.
*Closes at 2:30 pm on Dec. 31

School Days Off at the Lake County Y

Kids Enjoy Fun and Field Trips on Days Off during Winter Break

Children ages 6-12 are invited to spend their Winter Break school days off at the Lake County YMCA branches where they can enjoy time with friends, swim and discover something new.

Lake County Central Y in Painesville is hosting School Days Off activities on December 21-22, Dec 26-29 and January 2-5. Various activities and short trips to Fun-n-Stuff, Splash Lagoon, Atlas Cinemas, snow tubing at Brandywine and Chuck E Cheese are planned. For information on dates of a specific activity planned during Winter Break school days off, contact Elisa Hennies at 440-352-3303. Additional activities planned at Scores Bowling on Jan 15.

Lake County West End Y in Willoughby is hosting School Days Off activities on December 21-22, December 26-29 and January 2. Various activities and short trips to Sky Zone, skating and laser tag, Splash Lagoon, and bowling are planned. For information on dates of a specific activity planned during Winter Break school days off, contact Erin Litwiler at 440-946-1160.

Lake County East End Y in Madison is hosting School Days Off activities on December 21-22, Dec 26-29 and January 2. Planned activities include field trips, sports, games, swimming and more. For information on dates of a specific activity planned during Winter Break school days off, contact Daytona Boyer at 440-428-5125.

School Days Off are open to everyone, from 9:00am to 4:00pm with extended care from 7-9am and 4-6pm. Registration rates vary by YMCA branch and additional discounts are available for multiple children enrolled at West End Y.

For child registration for the Winter Break Schools Days Off contact the Lake County YMCA by phone 440-354-5656 or visit www.lakecountyyymca.org.



Winter spectacular Glow returns to Cleveland Botanical Garden

One of Northeast Ohio's favorite holiday traditions – Cleveland Botanical Garden's Glow – is now open, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017.

Located at Cleveland's University Circle, the Botanical Garden will be transformed into a festive winter wonderland full of seasonal cheer. A 20-foot-tall decorated fir tree surrounded by whimsical gingerbread houses and colorful winter plants will greet visitors as they enter Glow.

Children can climb aboard the Garden Express train for a ride through the gardens, make crafts at Evergreen Adventures, or create their own gingerbread house for an additional fee in Glow Village.

Adults and children alike will marvel at the new model train display featuring 220 feet of brass G-gauge tracks that will wind through a miniature tropical forest and a Cleveland neighborhood.

Nighttime visitors to Glow will experience an entirely new outdoor lighting display along with new colorful lighting in the

Glasshouse.

Glow runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 31 with the following daily hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 10am – 6pm; Wednesday & Friday: 10am – 9pm; Sunday: Noon – 6pm; Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve: 11am – 3pm; Closed Mondays (except for Monday, December 18 from 10 am – 6 pm), and Christmas Day.

Glow admission is free for members of the Cleveland Botanical Garden and Holden Arboretum. Nonmember admission is \$16 per adult, \$12 per child age 3 to 12, and free for children 2 and under. Heated indoor parking is available for a fee. Admission includes full access to the Botanical Garden, including the Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse and outdoor grounds.

Glow tickets are available online or at the Botanical Garden ticket desk. Advance ticket purchase is not required. The Botanical Garden is located at 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio. For complete details about Glow, visit cbgarden.org/glow.

St. Gabriel Re-Introduces Live Nativity

The community is invited to join St. Gabriel's Live Nativity on December 9 & 10.

Live animals and people will depict the beautiful scene of Jesus' birth for an Advent activity that is sure to rouse the true spirit of Christmas. This age-old tradition started by St. Francis of Assisi in the 1200's is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas for children of all ages. The times of the Live Nativity coincide with the weekend Masses: Saturday, December 10 at 4:30pm with Mass time at 5:00pm; Sunday 7am-2pm & 4-7pm with Mass times: 9:30, 11:30, 5pm.

For more information log on to www.St-Gabriel.org for registration or call 440/352-8282.

GLOW
 MAKING YOUR HOLIDAYS BRIGHT
 @CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

NOV. 24 – DEC. 31

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CLEVELAND
botanical garden

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The Fine Arts Association

38660 Mentor Avenue Willoughby, Ohio 44094

CANDY LAND has gone **WILD!**

Open through
January 1, 2018

Exhibit open daily noon to 5 pm
at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

• Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Open noon to 1 pm Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve



"Play just like Candy Land, but with a natural twist!"

An indoor magical wonderland brings a favorite family game to life! Take a turn on the life-sized game board and explore nature through the year.

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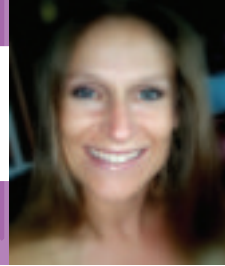


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Family Matters
with Amber

A Quest for Answers After Adoption

Normally in December I write about ditching our New Year's Resolutions and ask readers to replace them with My One Word; an annual plan invented by the folks at MyOneWord.com. I'm pretty passionate about that movement, but there's something that's been on my mind and heart for many months now and I've been waiting six months to find the time to work on and share it. What better time than at the holidays, when family is so important but sometimes absent, and when giving is in everyone's hearts?

I have a story that I don't tell too often. When I was a little girl, one of my favorite shows was Bewitched. The mommy was a housewife and a witch. But she was a good witch and was able to clean her whole house with just a twitch of her nose. I daydreamed that she was my mother and I was Tabitha, her daughter. While most eight year old girls probably fantasized about being a fairytale princess, I was playing make believe with every blonde mommy on television and in the stores that my dad and I shopped at. I suppose when you're a little girl without a mama, a handsome prince isn't exactly at the top of your wish list.

Truth be told, I had a mother, and I still do. But when I was a little girl, she didn't want me. I didn't know exactly why until I actually found the guts to ask my father. I was thirty-two years old and always just figured I was that bad of a kid. The storyline from the night my family split apart is ugly, not violent or dramatic, thank goodness, just sad. My dad and I left with just the clothes on our backs. When I had a chance to ask my mother about her own actions, her reasons matched my father's explanation. I was glad their stories matched, and I understood it all, but that didn't make it any less painful. Sure, I always had my father, but what little girl wouldn't want her mother?

It's been a struggle over the years. Kids teasing 'You have no mommy'. Feeling abnormal in the eighties being raised by a man; people thought that was weird. Being a girl; getting your period, learning

about emotions (not really lol). Parenting without motherly support, always missing some sort of guidance, cue or comfort. Thank goodness for my father who always wanted me (even before I was born), and my aunts and uncle, and especially my grandparents (R.I.P.), where my Nanny proved to be the best stand-in mom, with a heart of gold and a soul sent from heaven. I had a good life. Challenging, traumatizing, but good considering the alternative.

For many years I wondered, 'Who does that? Gives birth to a baby, then gives it away?'. I learned that a lot of people do, and it's not wrong when it's in the best interest of the child. We have to realize that not everyone can be a parent, and for various reasons. My mother couldn't, and didn't. Some parents don't have the financial means and others can't do it physically or mentally. We try to understand that a parent gives up a child, albeit to another parent, a relative or to a perfect stranger in an adoption process, all for the betterment of the child and I believe it's the right thing to do. In their heart the parent knows that the child will grow up perfectly fine, healthy and happy; successful and well rounded. Better than if they kept them. My mother believed that, and I know she was right.

But still, in almost all cases, like mine, there are so many questions for the child which go unanswered. Things left undone. Missing pieces of a puzzle. When I was a little mine started with, "What does my mommy look like? I have blonde hair, so she must have blonde hair too... OH could THAT be HER?"; hence the Bewitched daydreams. I wasn't shown pictures, and I couldn't remember her, so I just wanted someone to tell me something.

I continued to grow up wondering many things besides just what my mother looked like. I was curious about who she was, how she would handle certain things, if she lived near us and many times I needed medical background in-

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ADOPTION FROM PAGE 4

formation which would have been helpful to me. I didn't have those answers. Luckily, today I can say that I'm no longer searching. I know who she is, where she lives, and I have just enough medical background to get by and I've been able to move on. But there are so many others who don't have the answers...and are still looking.

One person I know in particular is Kevin Gladish. His story starts in Cleveland, Ohio, and I first learned of him in the Euclid Observer this year. The article shared his desire to find out more about his roots, information about his mother who gave him up for adoption in 1972, and anything else about his biological family. I was so moved. Never even considering my own life, since I had not been adopted, I never related my situation to an adoptee's. Until the day I sat down and talked with him. Then it became clear that there had some parallels and I remembered Bewitched and my own ordeal. I was moved even more. No matter the age, that emptiness is so hard to get past.

Kevin is what's known as a Late Discovery Adoptee (LDA); he didn't actu-

ally find out the truth until he was forty-three years old. His adoptive parents never wanted him to know (though he'll tell you that he knew for many years in his heart but just wanted to hear it from them). "The Story with No Beginning" is the main title of Kevin's blog and journey (Kevin's full story can be read @ <http://kevingladish.blogspot.com/>). He is still seeking answers to his many questions.

Kevin has some details, but not all. In Chapter 4: "This Is What Really Happened", on Kevin's blog, he describes his mother and what he knows about her in the beginning. Judy was her name. She was twenty-three when he was born on April 26, 1972 at St. Ann Hospital in Cleveland. She was 5'3" tall and 120 pounds with short, dark brown hair, hazel eyes and a medium complexion; dimples and glasses. He goes on to explain the details he has. One can probably understand Judy's thoughts and situation at that time and Kevin does an incredible job of detailing her story as he knows it on his blog. One of the details he knows is that Judy was also adopted. Years later, in 1972, her own son would spend time at the same infant home as she did

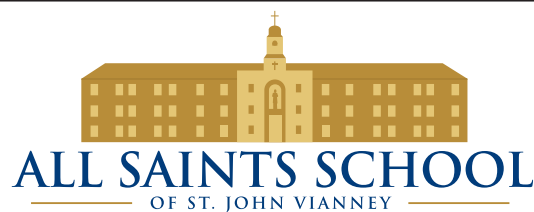
(DePaul Infant Home). Kevin has more particulars, like Judy's maiden name was Sobocinski, but most would know her as Judy Wilson. While helpful, these details are mostly facts like dates, times and heritage. What he doesn't have, and which he wants, is the backgrounds of his parents, interests, life paths they took, other relatives he may have. Those things that we just can't describe, but make the difference in knowing where we come from.

In 2015, Kevin was able to receive a copy of his actual birth certificate. It was a pivotal time, not only for him, but for all adoptees in Ohio. This is because the law sealing their real birth certificates was changed and the ban on seeing one's own biological parent's names was lifted. Decades of persistence from Betsie Norris, the Executive Director of the Adoption Network Cleveland, made this possible. (Watch the short documentary @ <https://youtu.be/g6DkbGU4kLY>). This offered more hope in his search, even though soon after he would hear that Judy passed away in 2007. As Kevin and I discussed, wanting answers isn't to see if parents are (or were) doctors, lawyers or celebrities, it's about trying to find out enough back-

ground information to move on, whether that is medical, personal, or circumstantial, the more pieces to the puzzle we have, the more it helps us put our lives together and move forward with a clearer picture. So far, he's only been able to learn of one cousin.

This is why I hope that you'll take a few minutes to sit down and read his well-written and compelling story, recall your own past and if you are close in age, or lived in the areas his family did, and/or any of the details that I shared with you (or you read in his blog) ring a bell, or maybe you think you know someone who might have access or information relating to this story, or the people in it, please contact Kevin (@ kevin.gladish@gmail.com). His wish? It's the same as Family Matters with Amber: to help people know other people are not alone. Because we're not.

Be blessed today in your family, and knowing your life story and the answers you own, or be comforted in knowing you aren't the only one; it's normal to question and not feel whole until you get the answers, and the feeling that people care. For more inspiring stories visit www.familymatterswithamber.org.



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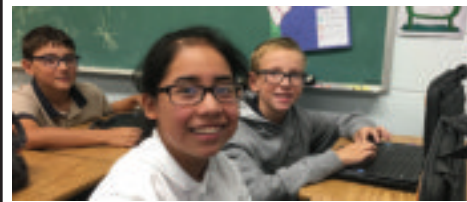
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Liturgy and Sacraments - All Saints Avg. 94% (National Avg. 69%)
Life in Christ (Morality) - All Saints Avg. 96% (National Avg. 79%)
Christian Prayer - All Saints Avg. 95% (National Avg. 73%)

OPEN HOUSES

Sunday - January 28, 2018 • 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Wednesday - January 31, 2018 • 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday - February 18, 2018 • 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

If you can't make it to one of our open houses, please call for a private tour.

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SANTA PHOTO HOURS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM
11 AM - 6 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM
11 AM - 6 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM
11 AM - 6 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM	10 AM - 9 PM
9 AM - 6 PM	CHRISTMAS					

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Christmas Open House Sat. Dec 16 9am-5pm. Take a break for the holiday rush. Come in for Christmas cake, cookies and punch and relax for a few minutes at your library.

Candyland Families are invited to make their way to the Candy Castle in life-size version of the classic Candy Land game at the library. Drop in Sat. Dec. 2 between 11am - 1pm.

MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Main Library

8215 Mentor Ave.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-8811

Mentor-on-the-Lake

5642 Andrews Rd.
Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060
(440) 257-2512

Headlands

4669 Corduroy Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 257-2000

www.mentor.lib.oh.us

Elf on the Library Shelf Dec. 1 through Dec. 22 Main Branch in the Children's Department Find the elf hiding on the library's shelves. Drop by the Children's Department at Main Branch to participate in this fun hide-and-seek game. Children can play daily for a small prize. All ages welcome.

Deck the Halls Family Story Time Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m.; and Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Families can get together for Mentor Public Library's special seasonal story times. Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and a simple craft. Open to all ages. No registration necessary.

Make a Craft Monday, Dec. 4 Main Branch. Kid can stop by the Children's Department any time throughout the day (while supplies last) and get creative with one of the library's monthly crafts. No registration is necessary.

Hand-Painted Christmas Ornaments Monday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Kids can create a unique holiday ornament to keep for themselves or give as a gift. They'll use a variety of techniques to spice up their ornaments.

Comics Club Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Children, eight to 12 years old, are invited to join the Comics Club to read, discuss, and make their own comics. Club members will meet the first Tuesday of every month. Registration is required.

American Girl Book Club Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m. Meet Julie. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Girls between the ages of six and 12 years old meet once a month for a craft and a snack for each of the historical American Girl dolls. Each month will focus on a different doll. Be sure to read "Meet Julie" before this program. Registration is necessary



each month.

Time Travelers Club—Retro Video Games Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Teens can come to the library and try out games, crafts, and other activities that were popular in the past. This month, they'll play retro video games. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Minecraft Club Thursday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Join the library's Minecraft Club where you can mine, explore and share strategies in the wide world of Minecraft. Each session will feature a new challenge. Kids must bring their own charged laptop, tablet or mobile device and have an active Minecraft account. The club is for children from ages eight to 12. Registration is required.

You Can't Catch Me Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Kids from ages three to seven can enjoy some tasty stories and decorate cookies. Let's hope the cookies don't run away. Registration required. Due to room accommodations, there will be a limit of one adult per child.

Family Afternoon Movie Saturday, Dec. 9, at noon Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Bring the whole family to the library for an afternoon movie. On the second Saturday of each month, the library will show a family movie and provide popcorn. All movies will be rated G or PG. Find out which movie will be playing each month in the Children's Department. This event is for families with children 13 and younger. Ages 8 and younger must have parent supervision. No registration required.

LEGOmania Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Stop by the Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch to get creative with the library's Legos. Each session will feature a theme, but kids are free to build whatever they want. All ages are welcome, but children younger than eight must be accompanied by an adult.

Mentor Headlands Annual Christmas Program Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Holiday songs, stories and crafts for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Registration required.

Rock the Mic Club Monday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room A monthly club that meets on the second Monday of each month where kids can come and practice speaking in front of their peers, tell jokes, play an instrument, sing, practice for a school report, or perform a monologue. This club will build self-esteem and confidence while having fun. A snack and drink will be provided.

Bingle Jells Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Mr. Dennis will present a merry, holiday-themed show featuring magic and puppetry. The show features a musical by Vern the Bird and a Magical Washing Machine that launders Christmas stockings. Kids can also help Rudolph find his missing red nose.

Christmas Celebration Rhyme Time Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Come to the Lake Branch for a monthly preschool story time.

Wordplay Creative Writing Club Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 4:30 p.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Get creative with words. Every month, kids from third through sixth grade can play games, write and share their stories. Bring your imagination and the library will supply the pens, paper and snacks.

Rock 'N Roll Holiday Style Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Offsite at the Headlands Community Center Get in the holiday spirit with the Travelin' Man Band and rock out to some holiday favorites at the Headlands Community Center, 9096 Lake Overlook Drive, across the street from the Headlands Public Library. All ages welcome.

Harry Potter Holiday Party Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Celebrate the holidays Harry Potter-style at the Lake Branch. Enjoy refreshments, trivia, and DIY Harry Potter ornaments. Registration required. For kids, eight to 12 years old.

Studio MPL Art Club Thursday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. Main Branch in the Children's Story Room Join Mentor Public Library's art club for kids (from first through fifth grade.) Each month,

Studio MPL makes a different fun art project. **Lake Branch Minecraft Club** Sat., Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch You can mine, explore and share strategies in the wide world of Minecraft. Each session will feature a new challenge. Kids must bring their own charged laptop, tablet or mobile device and have an active Minecraft account.

Let's go Lego Club Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Kids can get creative with Lego bricks, either following a monthly theme or doing their own thing. The library will supply the Lego and Duplo bricks, so kids only need to bring their imagination. Children younger than eight must be accompanied by an adult. No registration is necessary.

Write On: A Writing Club for Teens Monday, Dec. 18, at 4:30 p.m. Main Branch in the Frances Cleveland Room A monthly creative writing club for teens. Each month focuses on a different prompt. It's a fun way to expand your creative writing, get some great ideas, and meet other teen writers. All writing levels welcomed, and snacks will be provided.

Holiday Crafting Party Monday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Peppermint candy never looked (or tasted) so dandy. Teens (12 to 18 years old) can enjoy a nice treat while making festive crafts and decor for their favorite holiday.

Clashing Controllers Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Get your game on. Challenge your friends at this monthly video game tournament held at the Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

MPL Arcade: Video Game Club Thursday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Come to the library for an afternoon of gaming with the newest video game club, MPL Arcade. The library will have age-appropriate games available to play on the Wii U, as well as fun board and tabletop games. For kids in third through sixth grade. Registration is required.

Jumanji Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 2 p.m. Main Branch in the Village Room Can you make it to the Golden City? Kids in first through fifth grade can face an action-packed obstacle course and other fun challenges that await those who dare to play Jumanji. Kids can also make a personalized board game to take home. Registration required.

Color Me—Headlands Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m. Mentor Headlands Branch Looking for some quiet time? Bring the family to a calm evening of coloring at the Headlands branch. Supplies provided.

Happy Noon Year Sunday, Dec. 31, at 11:15 p.m. Main Branch in the James R. Garfield Room Kids (three to 10 years old) can watch the ball drop at noon on New Year's Eve at the library. They can celebrate with music, games, dancing, snacks, and of course, a balloon drop. Come dressed in your best attire and let the fun begin. Registration is required for the party and opens on Dec. 17..

MORLEY LIBRARY

184 Phelps St.
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www.morleylibrary.org

Holiday Scavenger Hunt –December 1 - December 15: Kids aged 12 and under can participate in a fun, FREE picture Scavenger Hunt in the Children's Room. Find all 10 pictures hidden around the Children's Room and turn in your sheet for a free, small prize from the treasure chest. Limit once per child, please.

The Polar Express – December 2, 10am-12pm, Meeting Rooms A&B: For children aged 3-8 and their parents. Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with the classic children's movie, The Polar Express. Kids will be decorating cardboard box train cars and watching the movie "drive-in" style, then taking the cars home after the movie. Light snacks will be served. Registration is required as space is limited. Registration begins Nov. 18. Parents must stay with children.

Monkeying Around –December 6, 4:15 - 5:00pm, Story Room: For kids grades K-3rd. Did you know that December 14th is National Monkey Day? Help us celebrate early and learn all about monkeys! Make a fun monkey craft and play a game with friends. Registration is required.

KIDS CRAFTERNOON – December 7 & 21, 3pm-7pm, Children's Room Rotunda: Make a FREE kids craft! Dec 7: Make a hot chocolate charm necklace. Dec 21: Make a holly necklace. All ages welcome, but very young children may need help. As supplies last. Drop in – no registration needed!

Decorate a Candy Tree –December 9, 10am-12pm, Meeting Rooms A&B: For families with children aged 12 and under. Drop in to decorate your own frosting and candy tree and take it home with you! We'll use green frosting to cover sugar ice cream cones and then add assorted candies. Cover-up recommended, as this could get messy! All supplies provided. No registration needed. Limit one tree per child, please.

Holiday Storytime – December 12, 6:30-7pm, Story Room: Enjoy holiday stories, songs, and a flannelboard. For families with children aged 5 and under. No registration needed.

Wimpy Kid Book Club – December 14, 4:15-5pm, Story Room: For tweens aged 9-12. Join us to talk about Jeff Kinney's new book, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway. Share your thoughts, make a craft, and play a fun game! Stop by the Children's Room desk to pick up a copy of the book and register.

Holiday Happenings –December 16, 11-11:45am, Story Room: For families with children aged 12 and under. Enjoy a story, make a fun holiday craft, play reindeer games, and nibble a holiday-themed treat! No registration needed.

The Construction Zone –December 19, 4-5pm, Story Room: What will you build today? Make a LEGO creation, test your marble race track skills, and have your picture taken

for the new Construction Club wall. All ages welcome. Parents must stay with children aged 5 and under. No registration needed.

Board Game Bonanza – December 27, 1-3pm, Story Room: Unplug and have fun! For families with children aged 12 and under. Drop by to play some classic board games and beat winter break boredom. We'll have a variety of games for children of different ages. No registration needed.

Family Afternoon Matinee –December 28, 1-3pm, Story Room: We'll be showing Disney's Short Films Collection, so stay for one or stay for all, whatever fits your schedule. No registration needed. Snacks and covered beverages are allowed. Parents must stay with children aged 8 and under.

New Years Noon! – December 30, 11:30am - 12:15pm, Story Room: For tweens aged 9-12. Ring in the New Year with us in style! We'll count down to noon and celebrate with snacks and party-poppers. Registration is required and begins December 16.

Finger Knitting Is Easy! – December 12, 6-7:30pm, Activity Room: Teens, this is a quick and easy way to begin knitting. Make a rope scarf or beanie hat in minutes! Register.

Teen Craft Night: Polymer Clay – December 5, 6-7:30pm, Activity Room: This type of clay can be used to create charming decorations or ornaments for the holidays. We'll have an array of colors available as well as tools to add detail to your work. Register.

Teen Gaming Night – December 14, 4-5pm, Activity Room: We'll have PS4 games along with a selection of board games. Bring friends! We'll have snacks!

PERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

3753 Main St., Perry 44081
440-259-3300
www.perrypubliclibrary.org

Crazy 8s Math Club for Grades K-2 - Mondays, Nov.27 - February 5 - 4:30-5:30 pm

Crazy 8s Math Club for Grades 3-5 -Tuesdays, Nov. 28 - February 6 - 4:30-5:30 pm

These free, recreational, after-school math clubs are nothing like your usual math club and are not tutoring programs. For 8 weeks, kids will build glow-in-the-dark structures, crack secret spy codes and play games like Toilet Paper Olympics. Registration required as space is limited

Drop-in and Play! -ages 0-5 with a caregiver - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, November 28 - February 1 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm : Get out of the house and drop-in and play! Meet new friends and try out our special collection of fun and educational toys. There will be different craft / art project each week too. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free Family Art Class: Decorate A Cookie Plate - Saturday, December 2, 11:00 am Join artist Nancy Brotz in decorating a holiday cookie plate. Ages 4 and up welcome - 8 and under with an adult please. Registration required as class is limited to 20 participants. NOTE: We will be using rubbing alcohol and

permanent markers. Registration required as space is limited

Drop-in and Read with Dugan the Dog - Saturday, December 2 - 11:00 am / Wednesday, December 6 - 7:00 pm / Wednesday, December 13 - 7:00 pm: School-age children in grades K-5 are invited to read aloud to a trained therapy dog on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings through December and January. No registration is needed.

Participants may drop in any time during the hour. More than one child may read at a time depending on the availability of dogs and handlers. Time slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children are invited to bring a favorite book from home to read aloud to their companion or choose one off the library shelf.

Teens & Tweens Hot Chocolate Candles - Thursday, December 7, 4:00 pm : Come make a delicious smelling hot chocolate candle to keep for yourself or give as a gift. Free and open to grades 5-10.

Gingerbread House Contest - Enter your home made, edible gingerbread house in our contest. Entries will be due by 7:00 on December 7th and displayed for a week in the library. Patron voting for the best gingerbread house will be held from 12/8/17 thru 12/14/17. We will have 2 categories, Teens, grades 5 thru 12 and Adult 18 and older. The winner from each category will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card!

Drop-in Holiday Craft - Saturday, December 9, 11:00 am -2:00 pm: Drop in and make an ornament for our tree or yours! Free - All ages welcome.

Bedtime Story Time - Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 pm: For children ages 0-5. Snuggle up in your favorite adult lap and hear some cozy holiday stories. There will be a craft and milk and cookies too! Feel free to wear your pajamas, bring a blanket, or a teddy bear. Registration is appreciated, drop-ins are welcome.

High Five Club - For children of all ages! Check out 5 books each week and earn a free book through January 31

WICKLIFFE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe, Oh 44092
(440) 944-6010
www.wickliffe.lib.oh.us

Book Bugs Fridays at 10:00 am, December 1-December 22 Children up to age 6 with a caregiver, join us for stories, activities and fun!

Tales for a Dog First Saturday of every month @ 9:30 or 10:00 am, 12/2, 1/6, 2/3 Readers completed Kindergarten and older, come share a story with a certified therapy dog. Pre-register or drop-in.

Lego Club Second Saturday of every month at 2:00 pm, 12/9, 1/13, 2/10 Children Kindergarten and older, stop by for some building challenges and fun! Drop-in.

Family Reads On-the-Go! 3rd week of the Month, during open hours Pick-up a copy of next month's family friendly book (to be read at home together) and activity pack-

et. Call to pre-register.

Crafty Kids First Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm, 12/5 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade, join us for stories and crafty activities. Registration requested.

Junior Chef Second Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm, 12/12 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade, join us for stories and creative cooking for kids. Registration requested

Book Blast Third Tuesday of the month at 3:15 pm, 12/19 Children Kindergarten through 4th grade, explore a new book series each month through sample reading and activities. Check out a book from the series and discuss the next month. Registration requested.

Spanish Amigos Wednesdays 12/6/17-3/21/18 from 6-7 pm (no class on 12/27, 1/3) Do you want your child to learn more about the world around them? Wickliffe High School Spanish V Seniors will be leading this weekly series, exposing your Kindergarten - 4th grader to the Spanish language and culture through activities, games, food, and fun!

Noon Year's Eve Saturday, December 30 @ 11:00 am Count down to Noon with activities, crafts and fun! Registration requested.

Tween Time Wednesdays @ 2:30 PM, December 6-20 Children 5th-8th grade, join us for snacks, socializing and fun activities. Registration requested.

WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Eastlake Public Library
36706 Lake Shore Blvd.
Eastlake, OH 44095

(440) 942-7880 x. 105

Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Sq.

Willoughby, OH 44094

(440) 942-3200 x. 104

Willowick Public Library
263 E. 305 St.

Willowick, OH 44095

(440) 943-4151 x. 116

(440) 516-0843 TTY

Willoughby Hills Public Library
35400 Chardon Rd.

Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

(440) 942-3362

www.welibrary.info

Miracle on Erie St. with Flower Clown Stop by for a variety of holiday crafts when you come to Historic Downtown Willoughby for the Miracle on Erie St. event! Flower Clown will present a magic show at 1:30 pm! Saturday, December 2, 10 am-2 pm. Willoughby Library

Library Fun House Join other students for board games, puzzles, crafts, puppet play and other fun activities. Grades K-6. Saturday, December 2, 11 am-12:30 pm Willowick Library

The Basement Writers Bring your writing and ideas to share! Give and receive feedback as well as bounce ideas off of your peers. All writing welcome, fanfiction to original works. New to writing? We've got prompts! Saturday, Dec. 2 and Dec. 16, 1-3 pm Willowick Library

Merry Christmas Storytime and Craft Get ready for the holidays with magical stories and a holiday craft! All ages welcome! Monday, December 4, 7 pm Willowick Library

Christmas Craftapalooza Stop by the library anytime to make and take a variety of Christmas themed crafts! Tuesday, December 5, 10 am-8 pm Willowoughby Library

Homeschool Art for Teens Do you want to learn more about art? Love to create art but never get the chance? Join us to meet other art-loving teens and learn about different artists and styles. Homeschool grades 6-12. Ages 11-18. Tuesday, December 5, 10 am-12 pm Eastlake Library

Special Needs Storytime This storytime, specifically for children with special needs, features stories, rhymes, songs and other engaging activities in a welcoming environment. All ages welcome! Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 pm Eastlake Library

Thursday, December 28, 10 am Willowoughby Library

Teens Make Stuff @ the Willowoughby Library: Snacks Come to the Willowoughby Library and make simple snacks and desserts. Ages 13 & up. Wednesday, December 6, 7-8 pm Willowoughby Library

Polar Express - All Aboard! Snuggle up in your pajamas and come enjoy the movie Polar Express. Refreshments will be served. Thursday, December 7, 6-8 pm Willowoughby Hills Library

Homeschool Science Adventures Each month we will cover an aspect of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with hands-on activities. Ages 6+ only. Thursday, December 7, 10 or 11:30 am Willowoughby Library

Teen Art Club Do you love to create art but never get the chance? Join other art-loving teens for Art Club where we will focus on a different artist or style. Grades 6-12. Ages 11-18. Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30-8:30 pm Eastlake Library

Barks for Books Practice your reading skills by reading to a therapy dog! Grades K-5. Saturday, December 9, 9:30 or 10 am (Choose one time slot) Eastlake Library

LEGO Club We provide the LEGOs, you provide the imagination in our LEGO club! All ages welcome!

Saturday, December 9, 2-3:30 pm Willowoughby Library

Saturday, December 9, 2-3:30 pm Willowick Library

Saturday, December 16, 1:30-3 pm Eastlake Library

Saturday, December 16, 2-3:30 pm Willowoughby Hills Library

Special Needs LEGO Club This LEGO Club is specifically for children with special needs. We provide the LEGOs, you provide your imagination. All ages welcome! December: Star Wars LEGO club. Saturday, December 9, 10:30 am-12 pm. Willowick Library

Gingerbread House Decorating Design and construct your own gingerbread house for the holidays! Tuesday, December 12, 7-8:30 pm Willowick Library

Movie Night at the Hills Watch movies recently released on DVD up on the big screen with free popcorn. Doors open at 5:30 pm with the movie starting at 6 pm. Outside snacks and drinks are permitted. Wednesday, December 13, 6-8 pm Willowoughby Hills Library

Teen Card Night @ the Library Bring two or more friends and your Yu-Gi-Oh and/or Pokemon cards to the Willowoughby Library where you can battle each other and maybe someone new. Ages 13 & up. Wednesday, December 13, 7-8:30 pm Willowoughby Library

Willoughby Otaku Anime Club Join fellow Otaku at the Willowoughby Library to watch anime, discuss anime and manga and draw our own characters. You can even cosplay if you want. Refreshments served. Ages 13 & up. Saturday, Dec. 16, 1-4 pm Willowoughby Library

Homeschool Computers and Research This four month series of classes will teach your child computer and Internet basics, as well as research and library skills. Registration begins Aug 14. Ages 10 & up. Thursday, December 21, 10 or 11:30 am Willowoughby Library

Learn and Play Chess Club Join us for an informal gathering of chess enthusiasts, including instruction and play, fun and refreshments! No registration needed. All ages and chessboards welcome. Saturday, December 30, 12-4 pm Willowoughby Library



PHOTO BY EARL LINABURG

Farmpark Toy Workshop

December 26 through 31* • 11 am to 3 pm
(Closes December 31 at 2:30 pm) Workshop fee: \$2

The Farmpark Toy Workshop is the place where memories are built! It is open 11 am to 3 pm December 26 through 31 (workshop closed at 2:30 pm on December 31). The fee is \$2 per toy with paid regular Farmpark admission.

Children (ages 2 through 11) select from a wall full of wooden toys the one they want to build and sit down with one of Santa's elves to put the toy together, complete with drills, power screwdrivers, and of course hammer and nails. The children then paint and glitter their new toy. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the memories of your child hard at work.

Regular Farmpark admission applies; children under 2 and Farmpark members are free. For more information about Farmpark or memberships, call 440-256-2122 or visit lakemetroparks.com. Lake Metroparks Farmpark is located at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road in Kirtland (44094).

St. Gabriel School Hosting Kindergarten Meet and Greet

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Concord Township.
Families with preschoolers who are eligible to enter Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year are cordially invited to our Kindergarten Meet & Greet on Thursday, December 14 or Friday, December 15. Families will have an opportunity to meet our amazing Kindergarten team, join our attending Kindergarteners for some fun activities, and ask questions regarding our school. Come and discover a world of difference in faith based learning!
All families must register by logging on to www.St-GabrielSchool.org for times and availability or call 440/354-7858.



the **Y**
**LEARN
THRIVE**



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In Child Care at the Y, parents feel confident their kids are in a safe, caring and educational environment and . . . the kids can't wait to see their "teachers" and play with friends.

CENTRAL Y (Painesville) Preschool, School-Age Painesville City 440.352.3303	EAST END Y (Madison) Preschool, School-Age Madison 440.428.5125	WEST END Y (Willoughby) Preschool, School-Age Willoughby 440.946.1160	PERRY CHILD CARE CENTER Infant, Toddler, Preschool School-Age Perry 440.259.4596
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For more details visit us online at www.lakecountyyymca.org



Spread the Joy collection helps replenish local food pantries

Lake County YMCA Branches Collect PB&J

All Lake County YMCA branches will be collecting peanut butter and jelly from its members and the community throughout the month of December to replenish local food pantries in January.

"Last year we were able to collect 3,270 jars of peanut butter and jelly which was distributed to over 10 local food pantries including McKinley Community Center, Madison Food Bank, local church food pantries, Willoughby Food Pantry, and End 68 hours of hunger. By helping to fill their pantries with PB&J they can spend precious resources on other important needs. It was another record year for our collection and we hope the support this year is as strong," said Margaret Warner, Healthy Living Director of the Lake County West End Y.

Any size peanut butter and jelly donations are accepted at the Lake County Central Y in Painesville, at the West End Y in Willoughby, and at the East End Y in Madison.

"The Lake County Y is dedicated to supporting individuals and offering help in trying times, including feeding the needs of our community. The Christian Emphasis Committee at West End Y started the collection six years ago and now the whole association is involved which allows us to make a much greater community impact. Our community grows stronger each year as evidenced by the growing support of this program and others at the Y," added Warner.

For more information regarding the Spread the Joy food collection contact the Lake County West End Y at 440-946-1160.

DECEMBER

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 30

Chardon Square Christmas Lighting

Thursday, November 30th, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Christmas is a special time on the Square. Main Street and the Park are decorated for the holiday with a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, complete with musical entertainment and a special visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Hot apple cider and ginger snaps are served. chardonsquareassociation.org

DECEMBER 1-17

Disney's The Little Mermaid A beautiful mermaid discovers love outside her underwater kingdom. Rated G Corning Auditorium at The Fine Arts Association, 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby. \$15/Children ages 10 and under; \$23/Seniors & Students ages 11 and up; \$25/Adults, reserved seating. Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Call 440-951-7500 or visit www.fineartsassociation.org for further information.

DECEMBER 2

Holiday Fun & Gift Making Workshop Kids ages 5-10 create three holiday gifts, including a one-of-a-kind picture frame, a 2018 calendar and an awesome tote bag. Cookies and milk are included in the workshop fee. The Fine Arts Association, 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby 1:00-4:00 p.m. Cost: \$38 Call 440-951-7500 or www.fineartsassociation.org.

DECEMBER 2

Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market - Winter Marke Winter Market is at 16540 Chiillicoth Road in Bainbridge. a producer-only market located in Lowe's Greenhouse and Gift Shop. Here you will find many of the quality products sold at the summer market. The market runs November 4 through March 17th (except Dec 23 and 30) from 9:00 AM to Noon. Pastured meats, free-range eggs, winter vegetables, honey, maple syrup and bakery are just a sample of what is offered -Lowe's Greenhouse and Gift. www.geaugafarmersmarket.com

DECEMBER 5

Free Family Skate

7:30pm - 9:00pm. Mentor Civic Ice Arena, 8600 Munson Rd, Mentor. This special free event follows the City of Mentor Tree Lighting ceremony. Keep the celebration going by coming to the Mentor Ice Arena

for a free Family Skate! Enjoy skating, hot chocolate, cookies, music and Santa!

DECEMBER 6-14

Santa's Wild Workshop in the Woods

Wildwood Cultural Center 7645 Little Mountain Road - Mentor 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm December 6, 8, 9, 13, 14. Catch the Wildwood Express to Santa's Magical Workshop! Here, your children will build a toy with Santa's Elves, decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus and hear to Santa read a story. Visit the train layout provided by the Ohio Toy Train Society and get your face painted too! Bring your cameras to capture that magical moment. Ages 3 - 12, with a parent. Resident: \$14/child. Nonresident: \$17/child 440-974-5735

DECEMBER 9

Brass Band of the Western Reserve-Holiday Pops Concert

This vibrant brass band presents a wonderful array of holiday music including "Little Drummer Boy," "White Christmas," and Mel Tormé's "The Christmas Song." A musical delight for the entire family! Corning Auditorium at The Fine Arts Association, 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby. 7:30 p.m. \$20 all tickets, reserved seating Call 440-951-7500 or visit www.fineartsassociation.org for further information.

DECEMBER 17

Holiday Family Skate

Mentor Civic Ice Arena, 8600 Munson Rd, Mentor. Bring the family to the traditional Holiday event. Sun, December 17, 1:30pm - 3:30pm Skate to holiday tunes and visit Santa. Studio rink open for skaters under 8 years old. Cost \$4/\$2 skate rental.

DECEMBER 20

Christmas Roller Skating Party

You are invited to our Christmas Roller Skating Party on Wednesday, December 20 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. There will be games, and

prizes! Bring your family and friends for this Ho, Ho, Ho good time! Skaters admission is only \$5 and skate rental is available for \$3. Mentor Skateland is located at 5615 Andrews Road in Mentor on the Lake, OH. Mark your calendar now! Don't miss out on the Christmas skating fun! www.mentorskland.com Alllllll Skate!

This is a cash only facility

DECEMBER 21

Celebrate The Winter Solstice

Penitentiary Glen Reservation, 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland Celebrate the beginning of the winter season. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Prepare to have fun both indoors and out while enjoying the history and traditions of the winter solstice—the longest night of the year. Activities for all ages, including a night hike, campfires, treats and more (weather permitting). Dress for the weather.

DECEMBER 31

Snö Year's Eve Party

Bring the littles out to the Snö Chalet for a family celebration and evening full of fun to welcome 2018. Enjoy snow tubing with tow lift and ice skating, (weather permitting), indoor/outdoor activities, music and dancing from 7 pm until 10 pm; then get ready for the countdown with noise makers, hats and party favors to ring in the New Year with a bang! The balloons drop at 10:15 pm with a post countdown brunch served until 11 pm. You and your family will have ample time to travel safely home or, consider taking advantage of state park lodging at the Punderson Manor House, cabins or winter camping and join us for waffles and winter fun on New Year's Day. Your holiday memories are waiting to be made here at the Snö Chalet. Adults \$20 Child/Youth \$10. Advanced reservations required. Visit sno-chalet.com for details. 440-773-2520

CANDYLAND FROM PAGE 2

and meet native Ohio wildlife up close, including a red fox, a bald eagle and many other birds of prey. Make this year's gift a wild one! The "Adopt an Animal" program provides a unique, thoughtful gift idea that helps to cover the cost of animal care! Ask at The Wildlife Center for more information.

Take an adventurous walk through the park on snowshoes (rentals available through the season with at least 4" of snow and as weather permits).

Adults (\$3/hr. or \$12/day) Children (\$1.50/hr. or \$6/day)

Explore more than 8.5 miles of hiking trails open year round.

For more information about CANDY LAND Has Gone WILD! or the activities, programs and amenities at Penitentiary Glen Reservation, visit lakemetroparks.com or call 440-256-1404.



ST. GABRIEL S C H O O L

BEING CHRIST • EVERY DAY • EVERYWHERE
through teaching, learning, leading, and serving.

St. Gabriel School
Please call **440/354-7858**

St. Gabriel School Offers:

- Christ-centered, loving, and educational environment emphasizing service to others
- Enhanced learning through 1:1 personal computers
- Rigorous curriculum, advanced technology & differentiated instruction for optimal learning
- A wealth of extracurricular activities for further growth & development
- High School preparation for a variety of choices available to our families in the tri-county area.
- Full day Junior Kindergarten that offers Kdg. prep in a loving & fun environment!

Tradition Infused with Innovation!

*Celebrating over 50 years of exceptional education,
sharing faith, and spreading God's Love!*

*Proud to be credentialed in
STEM and STREAM by the
Ohio Department of
Education and the Catholic
Diocese of Cleveland*



*Parent & Parish
Support*



*Kind and compassionate
teachers and faculty*



*Excellence in Early
Childhood Education*



*Weekly student
led liturgies*

See for yourself the high quality of faith formation and education that Learning Loft Preschool, St. Gabriel School, and our loving community provide for each child entrusted in our care.

Preschool • Elementary School • Middle School

Kindergarten Meet & Greet

December 14 or 15

For children eligible for Kindergarten 2018-19, please register online

Learning Loft Preschool Open House

My buddy & Me (2yo with adult)—Pre-Kindergarten

January 14, 10am-1pm

Catholic Schools Celebration Open House

Both Preschool and School

Sunday, January 28, 12:30-2:30pm,

Join us for Mass at 11:30

Monthly Open Houses, JRK –8th Grade

Tuesdays at 9am

Feb 13 • March 13 • April 17

Register On Line at www.St-GabrielSchool.org or

Call 440/354-7858 (school) 440/354-7574 (preschool)

Learning Loft Preschool

Please call 440/354-7574

St. Gabriel Learning Loft Offers:

- Christ-centered, loving community and environment
- SMART Boards in every room
- Center based learning
- Spanish classes
- Degreed, certified teachers
- Specialized curricula, including, but not limited to *Handwriting Without Tears* and *Phonics in Motion*
- Kindergarten preparation

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road • Concord Township, Ohio 44060

440/354-7858 • www.St-GabrielSchool.org