



Children's Centers



DOODLE DAYS!

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | MAY • JUNE 2011
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Spring Fever: May & June are Marvelous Months at Doodle Bugs!

Despite April's (snow!) showers, May flowers are blooming and hints of summer fun are wafting in the air. May and June are marvelous months at our centers, filled with the busy excitement of wrapping up the school year and preparing for a spectacular summer. Can you believe that Summer Camp 2011 is just around the corner?

Everyone at our center, from our littlest cuddlebug, to our oldest schoolager, is looking forward to getting outside to enjoy the many splendors of Spring. Outdoor play is an important part of our program, so we'll all enjoy the fresh air each and every day – if Mother Nature cooperates, of course.

In addition to enjoying the sunshine on the playground, we'll bring lots of educational activities outdoors too! Our teachers have already planned some fantastic hands-on learning experiences to complement our May & June curriculum themes. Everyone is also excited about our series of special events (see details inside!) – parades, performances and family events add to the fun!

In June, our Pre-K students will be especially busy preparing for graduation; in addition to rehearsing for their graduation night performance, they'll work hard on their yearbooks and other important projects. **Pre-K parents, please be sure to check the events listings in this newsletter for important, site-specific graduation information.**

As always, our doodle days will continue to be filled with laughter, learning, and lots of fun. Be sure to browse through the rest of this newsletter so you're up-to-date on everything that's happening during the next few months! 🌸

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CENTER NEWS & VIEWS

DOODLE BUGS! IS FRANCHISING!

The doodle community is growing. Doodle Bugs! is now offering franchise opportunities in NY, NJ, CT, MA, OH, PA, NC and FL. Please visit www.doodlebugsfranchise.com more information.



Doodle Bugs! Webster Center



Doodle Bugs! Directors as Leaders

Thank You!

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” — G.K. Chesterton

The Lancaster center extends special thanks to the families and faculty members who participated in our recent Movie Night. Lots of doodle friends gathered together (most in their jammies!) to watch a special screening of Up!

The Webster center extends many thanks to the families who supported our DoodlePaloosa – what a great turnout to celebrate Music in our Schools Month! Special thanks to Paul DeLoria for sharing his musical talents, too!

The Henrietta center extends many thanks to the families who generously supported the Scholastic Book Fair. Your kindness and love of literacy is deeply appreciated – every teacher’s wish list was fulfilled, adding so many amazing new titles to our classroom libraries!

The Henrietta team also extends special thanks to Christine Merkel for sharing her musical talents to celebrate Music in our Schools!

The West Amherst center appreciates the generous donations of books from Jill & Sean Rautenstrauch, Lisa & Richard Cazes, Debbie & Jason Herman, and Colleen & Dan Brick. Thanks so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness!

Directors As Leaders

Several doodle directors participated in a full day of professional development at the 5th Annual ‘Directors as Leaders Conference’. Training topics, designed for early childhood leaders, included program development, recruitment & retention, and quality assurance. Doodle Bugs! has supported the ‘Directors as Leaders’ initiative since its inception, through both committee involvement and event participation.

The Orchard Park center hosted the March ‘Directors As Leaders’ networking lunch on March 30th, inviting local child care center directors to tour the center and participate in lunchtime training. Many thanks to Jill Boeck, Education Director of the Child Care Resource Network, for facilitating the training session.

Family Referral Program

Ask your director today about our new family referral program to find out how you can receive \$200 tuition credit.

FALL

ENROLLMENT



Secure Your Spot Today for Preschool, Pre-K & After School Programs

Enrollment applications are now being accepted for the 2011-12 academic year. We're proud to implement the Bravo! Early Childhood Curriculum, an innovative program that combines theme-related age-appropriate classroom experiences, amazing enrichment programs and our series of center events. Our curriculum is aligned with NYS Learning Standards, ensuring that children build essential skills through play. At Doodle Bugs!, learning is hands-on fun!

Preschool (3 year olds)

Doodle Bugs! provides preschoolers with the ideal environment for learning through play! We happily support children's growth and development as we build a caring community of learners. Preschool highlights include:

- Weekly Tae Kwon Do classes
- Weekly Doodle Dance & Fitness classes
- Introductory Spanish & computer instruction
- Daily 'Happy Hour' – open-ended, creative learning experiences!
- Introductory 'Handwriting Without Tears' program
- Portfolio Assessment
- Play-based math, science, literacy & more!

Pre-K (4 - 5 year olds)

Doodle Bugs! Pre-K graduates are noticeably well prepared for future school success. The Bravo! Early Childhood curriculum provides meaningful opportunities to build academic skills through play. Above all else, our staff is responsive to children's varying needs and abilities, which builds each child's confidence and instills a love for learning! Pre-K highlights include:

- Kindergarten Readiness Folders and Portfolio Assessment
- 'Handwriting Without Tears' program (used in most elementary schools!)
- Weekly Tae Kwon Do classes
- Weekly Doodle Dance & Fitness classes
- Introductory Spanish & computer instruction
- Daily 'Happy Hour' – open-ended, creative learning experiences!
- Play-based math, science, literacy & more!

After School (5 - 12 year olds)

We understand that your family's need for safe, supervised care extends well into your child's elementary years! We are happy to provide fun, hands-on recreation activities (sports, computers, theater, crafts and more!) are available in the educational, high-interest environment you've come to expect from Doodle Bugs!.

We're also happy to provide transportation to and from many elementary schools. Most district schools will bus to/from our centers (just call the bus garage) and the Doodle Bus transports for many schools too. Contact the center director to discuss the details – we'll do our best to accommodate your needs.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Several doodle team members generously donated their time to volunteer at the 2011 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference in Rochester. The conference, held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, focused on providing educational workshops related to research, advocacy, and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families.



Doodle Bugs! West Amherst Center



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Accreditation Focus

The heart of the accreditation process is a genuine commitment to our mission – building a community of happy children, happy parents and happy teachers. MSA standards require evidence of this commitment in all facets of our program including assessment, curriculum, health & safety, nutrition, parent relationships, administration, facilities, and finances.

You can learn more about how our program meets MSA high-quality standards by asking to see your classroom's 'MSA Portfolio' – an up-to-date collection of classroom-specific evidence. Each center maintains a 'Center Portfolio' to demonstrate overall program quality. We're also happy to feature the following outstanding classroom contributions:

Classroom Spotlight: Pre-K at Penfield

Contributed by Lindsay Leusch, Rochester Curriculum Specialist

Classroom 12 provides a fantastic example of how our talented teachers use the Bravo! Curriculum to facilitate learning through meaningful play-based experiences:

After an introductory lesson, students independently explore the materials and activities presented in the 'Handwriting Without Tears' program. HWT is a multisensory, play-based approach to teaching handwriting skills.

Related MSA Indicator:

Teachers enable children to try things on their own to support their growing competence.



Performances and puppet shows are quite a bit in classroom 12! Children are consistently encouraged to explore the creative arts.

Related MSA Indicator:

The curriculum encourages creative expressions, promotes appreciation for visual and performing arts, and supports development of artistic skills suitable to children's maturity.

Children work cooperatively in small groups, to achieve a common goal. Planning, critical thinking and problem solving help them eventually share in the joy of accomplishment!

Related MSA Indicator:

Teachers encourage young children to become increasingly independent in their use of materials and equipment.

Classroom Spotlight: Preschool at Orchard Park

Contributed by Kate Voss,
Orchard Park Director Assistant

It is a pleasure to feature Classroom 9's 'doodle day' – a lovely example of the ways learning occurs naturally in a play-based, child-centered environment:



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."- Dr. Seuss

Related MSA Indicator:

Children are actively involved in learning that is appropriate for their ages, experiences, cultures, and skills.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

Doodle Bugs! is proud to support early age accreditation by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools (MSA).

In 2006, our sites in Cheektowaga, East Amherst, West Amherst and Williamsville (now Clarence) were the first early childhood centers in WNY to achieve the prestigious MSA accreditation; these sites hosted a successful mid-point visit in May 2010.

Our newer centers in Lancaster, Orchard Park, Penfield and Webster are completing their self study and will host a team visit this fall.



"To learn to read is to light a fire, every syllable that is spelled out is a spark" –Victor Hugo

Related MSA Indicator:

Teachers plan and guide learning experiences that encourage development of children's higher-order cognitive and language abilities, such as thinking, reasoning, and problem solving.



"Art is literacy of the heart" –Eliot Eisner

Related MSA Indicator:

The curriculum encourages creative expression, promotes appreciation for visual and performing arts, and supports development of artistic skills suitable to children's maturity.

YOUR DOODLE BUGS!



West Amherst Center



Lancaster Center



West Amherst Center



Webster Center



Henrietta Center



Cheektowaga Center



Penfield Center



Webster Center



East Amherst Center



Orchard Park Center



West Amherst Center



Penfield Center



Cheektowaga Center



Clarence Center



Cheektowaga Center



East Amherst Center



Lancaster Center



Penfield Center



Henrietta Center



Clarence Center



Orchard Park Center



Henrietta Center



East Amherst Center



Clarence Center



Doodle Bugs! Clarence Center

T.E.A.M

Together Everyone Achieves More!



“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers... (and) with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings.” – Carl Jung

March Employee of the Month

Families and coworkers who spend time in Jill’s classroom consistently express their appreciation for her warm welcome. Jill’s kindness touches their hearts and eases their minds, making them feel ‘at home’ at the center.

a tremendous asset to the Henrietta team. Many thanks, Jill, for a job well done; the doodle community is truly a better place because you CARE. 🌸

Jill understands that caring for young children is both a privilege and a tremendous responsibility. She approaches each day with a positive attitude and a genuine interest in building a community of happy children, happy parents and happy teachers.

Jill’s maturity, professionalism and always pleasant demeanor make her



Jill Martorana - Henrietta Center Infant Teacher

“Kindness is the language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” – Mark Twain

April Employee of the Month

With kind words and a heartfelt smile, Jessica warmly welcomes everyone who walks in the door of the West Amherst center. Her commitment to building a community of happy children, happy parents and happy teachers is evident in every interaction!

Jessica is both flexible and dependable, in addition to being warm, dedicated, and responsive. Her genuine interest in making personal connections and helping everyone feel ‘at home’ at the center is appreciated by the entire team.



Jessica O'Donnell - West Amherst Center Assistant

Thank you, Jessica, for consistently demonstrating the ‘doodle difference’. Doodle Bugs! is a better place because you truly CARE. 🌸

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mr. Doodle Bug extends his congratulations and many thanks to the following team members who celebrated their employment anniversaries in May and June:

1 YEAR

- Sara Donals (Henrietta)
- Katie Dyrek (Lancaster)
- Daniela Guzman (Clarence)
- Beth Golembiewski (West Amherst)
- Rachel O'Mara (Clarence)
- Chelsie Rader (Penfield)
- Linda Rowley (Penfield)
- Amanda Shea (Orchard Park)
- Danielle Sikes (Cheektowaga)
- Alexandria Smith (Orchard Park)
- Adrienne Stachura (Cheektowaga)
- Kelsey Stempien (Cheektowaga)
- Sarah Vaillancourt (West Amherst)
- Jill Walters (Webster)
- Lauren Zsolnay (East Amherst)

2 YEAR

- Emily Holden (East Amherst)
- Alexandra Baule (Cheektowaga)
- Krista Brown (Cheektowaga)
- Elizabeth Roggie (Penfield)
- Megan Gaske (Clarence)
- Carla Reeves (West Amherst)

3 YEARS

- Molly Grefrath (East Amherst)
- Jill Martorana (Henrietta)

4 YEARS

- Lana Gelin (Webster)

6 YEARS

- Nicole Quigley (East Amherst)

8 YEARS

- Maria Caci (East Amherst)

SUMMER CAMP

The World's Best Summer Vacation!

Your child can spend one week or the entire summer participating in our exciting summer camp. Doodle Bugs! provides a safe, supervised environment that keeps children active through creative learning and fun activities.

School Age Summer Camp (Ages 5-12)

Daily Clubs

Garden Club: Gardeners plant and tend to our outdoor gardens, harvesting the crops to create unique recipes and run a Farmer's Market.

Sports Club: Team members and peer coaches enjoy team-building activities & organized sports and games, including basketball and soccer.

Swim Club: Campers dive right in and enjoy swimming at local town pools.

Science & Technology Club: Wonder how that works? Want to take that apart? Creative campers start their experiments here!

Theater Club: Whether you are a performer, a script writer or a set designer, every camper takes a starring role in this club's weekly productions.

Special Events

Awesome weekly themes feature amazing special events! Camper favorites include parades, carnivals, bake sales, car washes and more! Doodle Day Camp is never the same day twice!

Leap Ahead Summer Camp (Ages 3-5)

Successful Learning Approach

Doodle Bugs! learning approach has been very successful in providing children with a noticeable head start in kindergarten. Every morning starts off with Circle Time, which includes songs, music, show & tell, poems, and group discussions. Teachers then facilitate interesting, developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor learning experiences, designed to engage children's minds and bodies.

Leap Into Literacy

Leap Ahead Summer Camp develops reading and writing readiness skills through a variety of interactive learning experiences. This purposeful focus on literacy includes journaling, DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), guided dramatic play, and phonetic/phonemic awareness games.

Learning Centers

Leap Ahead Summer Camp includes daily opportunities to explore classroom learning centers, including Math, Science, Art and Blocks. Learning centers reinforce important kindergarten readiness skills through age appropriate play.

Special Events

Awesome weekly themes include amazing special events. Camper favorites include parades, carnivals, bake sales, car washes and more! Doodle Day Camp is never the same day twice!

SUMMER CAMP DISCOUNT

Summer Camp 2011 is just around the corner and is sure to be the best summer adventure yet. Return your Summer Camp Contract by June 1 to receive the Early Bird Discount! 🍀



Doodle Bugs! Webster Center



Itinerary

- **Sloppy, Slimy Fun!**
Your Hometown
June 20 - June 24
- **Camelot**
London, England
June 27 - July 1
- **The Amazing Race**
Tokyo, Japan
July 4 - July 8
- **Doodle Chef**
Rome, Italy
July 11 - July 15
- **Survivor**
Sydney, Australia
July 18 - July 22
- **Doodle Safari**
Kenya, Africa
July 25 - July 29
- **The Last Olympian**
Athens, Greece
August 1 - August 5
- **Art Mania!**
Paris, France
August 8 - August 12
- **Arthur Goes Green**
Amazon, Brazil
August 15 - August 19
- **Lights, Camera, Action!**
Hollywood, California
August 22 - August 26
- **Home on the Range**
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming
August 29 - September 2



Doodle Bugs! Orchard Park Center



MAY EVENTS



Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 5

Our center will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a variety of activities, including making a pinata, participating in a traditional a Mexican Hat dance, and enjoying our favorite Spanish-language games. Don't forget your sombrero!



Mother's Day Celebration May 5 & 6

Mr. Doodle Bug cordially invites every child's mom (or another special guest) for a special classroom visit on May 5th and 6th. The children are looking forward to participating in classroom activities with their special visitors, showing off their Magical Moms display, and presenting their homemade gifts. For your family's convenience, this is a FULL DAY celebration – guests are welcome to visit at any time during the day, on either date (or both!).



Teacher Appreciation Week May 9 - 13

Parents are encouraged to put the spotlight on a spectacular team member by completing a Smile Award this week. Tell the entire doodle community about the ways your child's teachers make him or her (and you!) smile! Awards will be posted throughout the center all week long, to recognize our team's many talents.



Let's Get Physical May 26

May is National Physical Fitness Month! Fitness fun is always a priority at our center, but today's celebration is extra special. We're all participating in our annual Exercise Event at 10:00 AM, when each classroom will stop and 'give us 10' - 10 jumping jacks, 10 sit ups, 10 belly laughs and more! Lots of music & movement and some healthy treats will add to the fun throughout the day.



Zoo Parade May 27

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! As part of our Zoo unit, each classroom will be creating a float for our annual Zoo parade! It's sure to be a roaring good time, so join us at 10:00am and let the wild rumpus begin! For your family's convenience, each classroom will parade through the playground(s) so you can log in to Watch Me Grow to watch the parade.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS!



Doodle Dance & Fitness Year-End Performances

"Creative movement and dance represent the education of the whole child, in the deepest sense." Everyone loves Doodle Dance & Fitness classes. They've danced, wiggled, tumbled and giggled all year long and can't wait to show you what they've learned! Please join us for our year-end performances, a genuine celebration of fun & fitness; classroom specific performance dates and times will be posted on the parents' boards soon!



Tae Kwon Do Year-End Performances

Tae Kwon Do is the perfect combination of fitness and fun! The children are especially proud of the progress they've made in this year's Tae Kwon Do classes. Please join us to celebrate their successes and give them a well-deserved round of applause; classroom specific performance dates and times will be posted on the parents' boards soon!

JUNE EVENTS



Ocean Life Extravaganza June 6 - 10

Our two-week unit on Ocean Life includes lots of light-hearted, hands-on fun and games to supplement the theme. See your child's teacher for details on the following events: Jellyfish Limbo (Monday); Octopus Relay (Tuesday); Mermaid Says (Wednesday); Sing-A-Long (Thursday); Under the Sea Parade (Friday).



Flag Day Celebration June 14

It's a grand old flag, it's a high-flying flag... In recognition of Flag Day, each classroom will show their patriotic pride with a handmade flag. Don't forget to wear red, white & blue!



Father's Day Celebration June 16 - 17

Mr. Doodle Bug cordially invites every child's dad (or another special guest) for a special classroom visit on June 16th & 17th. The children are looking forward to participating in classroom activities with their special visitors, showing off their Fabulous Fathers display, and presenting their homemade gifts. For your family's convenience, this is a FULL DAY celebration – guests are welcome to visit at any time during the day, on either date (or both!).



DOODLE DETAILS

Save the Date!

Pre-Kindergarten Graduation 2011 June 23 - 24

June 2011 marks the 19th annual Doodle Bugs! graduation celebration. We're so proud of our pre-k students, who have spent their doodle days laughing, learning, and having lots of fun. We're equally proud of our teaching team, for helping the children learn and grow. Doodle Bugs! graduates are ready for future school success because they love to learn!

Family and friends are cordially invited to join us for the celebration – don't forget the Kleenex because this is always a joyfully emotional occasion!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

To supplement our study of Healthy Habits, the West Amherst center hosted a visit from Abigail Andrew and Poreeh Jarswal (University at Buffalo students), who visited our Pre-K classrooms to talk to the children about nutrition, exercise and making healthy choices. The interactive session was fun for everyone involved!

Cheektowaga	Friday, June 24th at Como Park Elementary
Clarence	Friday, June 24th at Clarence Middle School
East Amherst	Thursday, June 23rd at Transit Middle School
Henrietta	Thursday, June 23rd at Doodle Bugs!
Lancaster	Thursday, June 23rd at Hillview Elementary
Orchard Park	Thursday, June 23rd at Orchard Park Middle School
Penfield	Thursday, June 23rd at Scribner Rd Elementary
Webster	Thursday, June 23rd at Plank School
West Amherst:	Thursday, June 23rd at Heritage Heights Elementary

Please note that all processions will begin promptly at 7:00PM; graduates should arrive at 6:45PM. Need more information about the location? Please see the center director. 🍀

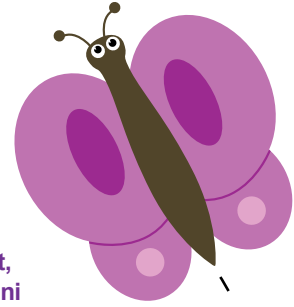
UPK News

Doodle Bugs! has been selected to provide Universal Pre-K for eligible students at our Clarence, East Amherst and Webster locations, in collaboration with the Clarence, Williamsville and Webster Central School Districts, respectively. Families of students who will be 4 by December 1st and are residents of the collaborating districts should contact the Center Director for more information about the district's enrollment process.

Please Note, if UPK is not offered at your Doodle Bugs! location, please don't worry - our UPK classrooms implement the same Bravo! Curriculum as our traditional Pre-Kindergarten classrooms. Every Doodle Bugs! Pre-K classroom follows the same curriculum (which is aligned with NYS Learning Standards) and meets the standards for MSA accreditation. All students are noticeably well prepared for kindergarten. Please ask the Center Director for more information!



FOR KIDS ONLY!



Just Jokes!

Q. What did the bee say to the flower?

A. Hello Honey!

Q. Can bees fly in the rain?

A. Not without their yellow jackets!

Q. What are the smartest bees?

A. Spelling Bees!

Q. What do bees chew?

A. Bumble gum!

Q. What do you call a bee born in May?

A. A maybe!

Spring in a bottle!

If it feels like spring's taking too long to sprout, liven up a winter windowsill by making this mini greenhouse -- a recycled take on a cloche, traditionally used outdoors to protect early plantings.

Materials:

- Clear 2-liter soda bottle
- Small flowerpot
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Saucer
- Craft stick marker



Instructions:

- 1) Cut the top off a clear 2-liter soda bottle (*Ask an adult for help!*).
- 2) Find a flowerpot that fits inside the dome and fill it with soil.
- 3) Plant the seeds according to the packet directions.
- 4) Place the pot on a saucer and poke in a craft stick marker.
- 5) Slip the dome over the pot and water regularly!

Tips:

Consider planting herbs, such as parsley and basil, that can be transplanted outside once the weather warms, or grass, which grows fast and is fun to trim with scissors.

Can you find these words?

R	A	L	F	M	S	A	E	S	BLOSSOM
E	M	R	E	W	O	L	F	O	BASKET
H	M	O	S	S	O	L	B	U	FESTIVAL
T	T	I	T	A	F	A	A	T	FLOWER
O	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	SUNSHINE
M	K	S	V	S	W	E	S	I	MOTHER
L	S	F	A	T	H	E	R	D	FATHER
B	A	P	L	A	Y	H	N	E	OUTSIDE
T	B	G	A	M	E	S	O	O	PLAY
									GAMES

How many butterflies are in the newsletter?

Decorate the Flowers!

