

Happy Children! Happy Parents! Happy Teachers! December 2017

## PARENT REMINDERS

### Emergency Alert & Snow Day Policies

As we enter the winter season, we would like to take the time to remind all families of our emergency closure policies. Upon the rare decision to close, we will send notifications through Tadpoles.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences Coming Soon

Parent-teacher conferences will be taking place in January. Keep an eye out for more information, including conference sign-up sheets, at your center this month.

Remember, parents can request a conference and are welcome to review their child's assessment portfolio at any time throughout the year. Any questions regarding curriculum or your child's assessment, please see your director.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Holiday Sing-Along Celebration

**Wednesday, December 13**

Families are invited to join us for a holiday party including a festive sing-along (preschool and pre-k) and classroom celebration (toddlers, preschool and pre-k). Your center will provide an event program with details as the event approaches.

### Hanukkah Storytime

**Tuesday, December 19, 10am**

Our center will come together for a special Hanukkah storytime! Families are welcome to join!

### Holiday Party

**Thursday, December 21**

We'll spend the day celebrating the holiday season with games, songs and festive activities throughout the day.

### Night Before Christmas Read Aloud

**Friday, December 22, 10 am**

Our center will come together to enjoy a reading of "The Night Before Christmas". Storytime will be followed by festive classroom activities.

### Kwanzaa Parade

**Tuesday, December 26, 10 am**

Let's celebrate the beginning of Kwanzaa with a joyful parade! Children will create flags to carry and are encouraged to wear Kwanzaa colors (red, green and black). We'll also talk about, and enjoy parts of, a traditional Kwanzaa holiday. Families are welcome to join or you can log into WatchMeGrow to see our parade.

### New Year's Eve Celebration

**Friday, December 29**

Each of our centers will ring in the new year a little early with party hats, music, confetti and a ball drop of our own!

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

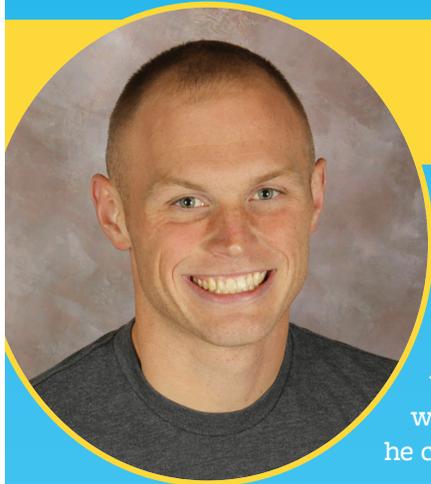
All centers will be closed on Monday, December 25 for Christmas and Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!



# Doodle Bugs! Contributes Thousands of Pounds of Donations to Local Food Banks

All fourteen of our locations participated in our annual holiday food drive. During the collection, families and team members donated thousands of pounds of nonperishable food items to various local food banks in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. This year's benefitting organizations included: Food Bank of WNY, Foodlink, Victor/Farmington Food Cupboard, Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, North Hills Food Bank, and Palm Beach County Food Bank.

This initiative is a wonderful way to introduce children to the joy of giving. It is so inspiring to watch the children get excited about contributing items that will help local families enjoy a holiday meal. Thank you, Doodle Community, for your tremendous support of this campaign.



## Employee of the Month

### Clayton Schmidt

Lead Teacher, West Amherst, NY Center

Clayton began at Doodle Bugs! as a part-time teacher assistant. It didn't take long before he won the hearts of all the children at the center and worked his way up to a full-time lead teacher where he continues to grow and thrive.

Clayton's commitment to children and their families is evident. He does a wonderful job communicating a detailed, personalized report to parents each day. Mr. Clayton respects each child's feelings and is always responsive to their needs. As a result, the minute Clayton walks into the room, children light up with joy. He is a thoughtful, engaging teacher who is well-respected by children, parents and fellow team members.

In addition to Clayton's tremendous impact within the classroom, he enthusiastically participates in various professional development opportunities, is a vital member of our Middle States Association re-accreditation committee, was recently selected to be a mentor for fellow team members and is a Buffalo Bills Playroom caregiver. Also, Mr. Clayton absolutely loves to be Doodle Bug. He is always eager to participate in community events (usually as Doodle Bug!) and does so with incredible charisma and developmentally-appropriate practice. We are so grateful to have Clayton on our team.

## Congratulations!

### 5+ Years

Joy Faulkner (West Amherst)

Jennifer Horner (Admin)

Amanda Jutze (Orchard Park)

Wayne Menclewicz (East Amherst)

Patricia Sciolino (West Amherst)



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