

Wood County



December 2011

Family Support Newsletter

Help Me Grow News

Shopping, decorating, wrapping, baking is there enough time?!?!? Slow down for a few minutes with a cup of hot cocoa and look through this newsletter. Emily's article this month is a must read. She always has an uplifting message for us all. Another activity you don't want to miss is the webinar, "Holiday Stress: Thoughts, Tips and Reflections for Parents". This was originally presented live on Nov. 22nd, but the Family Information Network through Akron Children's Hospital is making this webinar available to you anytime via streaming. That means if you want to watch this recorded session at 7:00 am or 2:00 am, you can! I have attached the flier with instructions on connecting. I highly recommend this session. Dr. Geoffrey Putt provides a humorous and informative message.

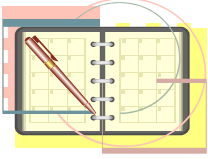
Our Parent Advisory Committee will be planning another fun, family activity for after the first of the year. We would love to hear your ideas and welcome you to join our group. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!!!!

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Connect with other HMG families by logging onto:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Wood-County-parent-support-group/>

Or check out our Facebook page - "Wood County parent support group"



Mark your calendar . . .

December 14

ODH Vision Clinic @ Dr. Brodie's office
955 Commerce Dr., Perrysburg
Call (419) 931-2020 for appointment

December 21

HAPPY HANUKKAH !!!

December 25

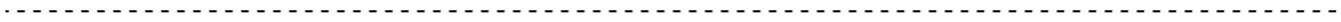
MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

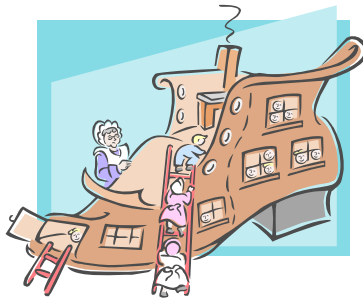
January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

January 18

"Nutrition for Young Children with Special Needs"
Live Webinar 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Go to www.akronchildrens.org/fin to register





Postcards from the Shoe

By: Emily S. Klocko

Let the reindeer go and the snow fly it's the holiday season whether we are ready or not. I am a Holiday nut. I can't wait to get out our Christmas decorations and I am guilty of displaying my holiday enthusiasm prior to Thanksgiving. I don't think the holiday season is ever long enough and when the ball drops to signal a new year I get pretty depressed and sad to see another holiday season go by. Most of my kids have inherited my holiday madness. They too are eager to spread Holiday Cheer and are intoxicated with everything from decking our halls to the food and festivity. Yet this mom of many always struggles with one big issue, Santa Claus. I love him and all he does for our family. I do believe in the "unbelievable" I have been a recipient of his aura.

As a parent we never want to mislead our children and I have some friends who even encourage their children to not believe in Santa. Well, I guess these opinions of parenting are as personal as religion or nutrition or even punishment. But this is what I think, children need to believe in the "unbelievable." They need to be open to goodness, charity, spirit and spreading happiness. Where would our world be without dreamers who invent the un-inventible or cure the incurable? If we don't encourage our children to bank on the unknown then how will they have magic in their life or more critical, how they will learn to create hope or magic in someone else's life. In this world where everything can be found on the worldwide internet and you can Goggle an answer to any question why can't we foster even for a little while the notion that some things, beautiful things cannot be explained.

Yesterday in Wal-Mart we saw a Santa. My little ones were awed by his presence and my 8 year old I know for a fact is defiantly on the fence. Oh she was delighted by the candy cane and when she gave me that questioning look and I smiled and said, "Santa is everywhere. You never know when you might see him." Well then the questions started coming, how did he get here? Where were his reindeer? Is that really Santa or just a guy in a suit? These are very hard questions to answer and again, I don't like to lie so here is how this mom of many responds.

I still believe. I believe in the spirit and goodness of Santa. I think he comes to us in many forms. I pose these questions, how is it that only at this time of year do we get the extra stuff done? How is it that for a little while everything seems more possible? How is it that people find it in their hearts to be more generous and helpful? These are hard questions for little people to answer but these are the questions I often ask myself. How is it that we as adults make more sanctions to be generous or giving of ourselves and our time? This is the answer, there is a little Santa Claus in all of us and that is what I want to give my children, the ability to give and spread good spirit, to believe in what is often to impossible to process.

I also always follow up my response with, "if you don't believe you don't receive." To my critics this may seem harsh but in this hard and scary world I want my children to believe in others. If you cannot be open to the possibility of magic and wonder then you will never receive the "gifts" others have to offer. Some "gifts" do not just come under trees or wrapped in pretty packages. Children are visual, tangible learners so when they are little they associate gifts with tangible things like toys. Yet, as they grow they will understand about the "gifts" that I was really referring too. As I look into the faces of all my children I believe.....I believe that they will spread happiness and goodness in the world. I believe, because every year I see miracles and gifts that I never asked for and often cannot explain. I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season, may 2012 be greeted with wonder and excitement and please know that is mom of many here in the shoe knows how hard life can be but....I still believe!

