



Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



Volume Five, Issue Two

November & December 2009

Mark Your Calendars

- No Playgroup on Tues., Nov. 3.
- No regular Playgroup on Thurs., Nov. 12 due to the Alberta Bair Theater trip. Information will be emailed to the group signed up for the theater trip closer to the trip date.
- No Playgroup on Tues., Nov. 24 and Thurs., Nov. 26.
- The fall session of Playgroup ends on Thursday, December 17. There will not be Playgroup on December 22, 24, 29 and 31. The Winter/Spring session will begin Tuesday, January 5.

Join in the Fun--Sharing is Caring!

Join us on Thursday, December 3 as we spend the morning thinking of others! Bring in a non-perishable food item to donate to the Billings Food Bank along with a tray of two dozen homemade treats for a cookie swap among Playgroup families! (Please no nuts or nut butters.) We will have a special art activity that's "for the birds," and after playtime, we will read stories and sing songs related to sharing and caring about others. Participation in the cookie swap is optional. If you wish to participate, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at Playgroup when it becomes available.

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you so much to those who have provided volunteer help before and after Playgroup!

A big thank you goes to the families who brought food for the Costume Party! We had a great spread of healthy, light treats that the children really enjoyed and that were a cinch to clean up.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

This holiday season, local children can receive a phone call straight from the North Pole! If your child is old enough to be able and willing to talk on the phone, and you would like to have him/her receive a phone call from Santa, send a letter in early December with your child's name, age, names of siblings and pets, and a few Christmas wishes to "Billings Parks and Recreation Dept., Attn: Santa, 390 N. 23rd Street, Billings, MT 59101. No faxes or emails will be accepted. Call 657-8371 or watch the newspaper for more information.

Be Thankful for Good Books

A Turkey for Thanksgiving—Eve Bunting

Today is Thanksgiving—P. K. Hallinan

Over the River and Through the Wood—
Lydia Maria Child

The Very First Thanksgiving Day—Rhonda
Gowler Greene

Berenstain Bears and the Prize Pumpkin—
Stan & Jan Berenstain

This First Thanksgiving Day—Laura Krauss
Melmed

Thanksgiving Is--Gail Gibbons

K-Readiness Calendars Available

The "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" calendars being distributed by the United Way of Yellowstone County are now available for pick-up at Playgroup. The calendar is full of daily activity ideas and many resources for children and their caregivers. If you have a four year old or pre-kindergarten five year old, please ask Julie for a free calendar.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Successful Fall Sale

Thanks again to the families that contributed items for us to sell at the Kids' Stuff Consignment Sale this fall! All of the money earned will be put toward providing supplies for Playgroup. (Total amount has not yet been reported.) Please consider donating items for the sale which will be held next spring. This is a SUPER easy fundraiser for us. Each person who contributes items will receive a pass to get into the preview sale Thursday afternoon, which is ahead of the general public!

Looking for Winter/Spring Ideas

If you have ideas for activities for the Winter/Spring 2010 session, please feel free to share them with Julie before December 15.

Thought for the Month

Here's a list of inexpensive "gift" ideas for the upcoming holiday season. Many, like "F", "T", and "Y", are especially relevant this time of year.

Children Need ... by Meifi Stewart

APPRECIATION, for all they bring into our lives.

BALANCE, somewhere between too little and too much.

COMMITMENT, it's the little things we do each day that matter.

DREAMS, to touch the future.

EMPATHY, remember what it was like to be a child.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS, everyone needs someone to love.

GUIDANCE, actions speak louder than words.

HEALTHY HABITS, to nurture body, mind, and spirit.

INSPIRATION, to explore beauty, wonder, and mystery.

JOY, sprinkle laughter and happiness daily.

KINDNESS, to learn to care for others as they are cared for.

LIMITS, set boundaries and fair consequences.

MENTORS, to give wings to their aspirations.

NATURE, to delight in rainbow butterflies and shooting stars.

OPPORTUNITIES, to discover what truly makes their hearts sing.

PLAY, the "work" of childhood.

QUIET TIME, to recharge their batteries.

RESPONSIBILITIES, to build self-esteem and self-confidence.

SECURITY, feeling safe is essential for growth.

TRADITIONS, keep the family tree alive and sprout new branches.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, for who they are, not what they do.

VALUES, live yours and encourage them to find theirs.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, "you can do it, I believe in you".

XOXOXOX'S, hug and kiss them each and every day.

YOU, your presence more than your presents.

ZZZZZZ'S, a good night's sleep.