



# Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



Volume Four, Issue Three

November 2008

## Mark Your Calendars

- No Playgroup on Tues., Nov. 4
- No Playgroup on Tues., Nov. 25 and Thurs., Nov. 27

## Tea for Two

Don't forget to bring your favorite stuffed bear to our Teddy Bear Tea Party on Thursday, November 20! We'll have a "beary" good time introducing our special bears to the rest of our Playgroup friends and having them join us for juice and cookies, bear art, stories and songs. There's nothing frilly about this tea party—everyone is welcome!

## Feet Looking for Favorite Shoes

We had a little boy who had to go home barefoot after Playgroup last Tuesday because his shoes disappeared from the carpet in the front room at some point during the morning! If you were at Playgroup that morning, please take a moment to check any purses, bags, diaper bags, strollers, etc. that you had with you that morning for a pair of grayish Merrill slip-ons that would fit a four year old. We are guessing that they accidentally went home with someone, but the family would very much appreciate their quick return. If you locate them, you can simply put them on the red carpet near the door on your next visit to Playgroup.

## Thank You for Your Support

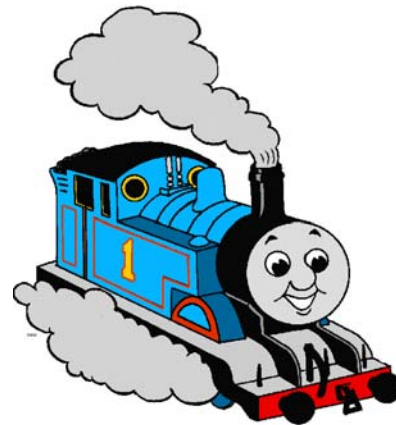
Thank you to the Vincent family for their recent donations to Playgroup!

Thank you also to the families who brought food for the Costume Party! We had a great spread of treats that the children really enjoyed and that were a cinch to clean up.

## Come Ride The Rails with Thomas!

On July 9, 2009 Thomas the Train will chug into Billings to help celebrate the 100th year anniversary of The Depot. The full-scale replica will be on the tracks behind The Depot complex for three days (July 10-12).

The event is sure to be fun for all ages as the famous train gives twelve rides a day. In addition, there will be games, music, food, and Thomas the Train merchandise. Tickets will go on sale at a later date. An announcement will be made here when we have more information.



In the meantime, **we are looking for volunteers to help with the event.** Because we all have young children, meetings will be kept to a minimum. Email will be the main source of communicating to get things done. If you are interested in getting involved and having lots of fun, please contact Tamra Millikan at 671-1771 or email [tjmillikan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmillikan@gmail.com).

## Thought for the Month

"Richer than me you never will be, for I had parents who read to me."

--Unknown

*Have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Having Fun with Felt

On Tues., Nov. 18, Heather Monsen with Story Time Felts will have her collection of felt boards and felt story sets on display. These sets provide hours worth of fun and creative play for young children and make great, affordable gifts for the holidays. Each purchase will earn points toward free felt sets for Playgroup!

## Good Books for November

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.

## Successful Fall Sale

We are happy to report that we earned \$186 at the Kids’ Stuff Consignment Sale this fall! All of the money will be put toward providing supplies for Playgroup. Thanks again to the families that contributed items for us to sell. 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!

## Recipe for Awesome “Oobleck”

If you loved the orange “goo” in the sensory table at the Costume Party, you will love having the recipe to recreate all the fun at home! This is easy to make and easy to clean up too. A great literary accompaniment to the fun (which in fact provided the inspiration for the concoction) is Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss, available at the public library.

### Oobleck

1 ½ c. corn starch

½ c. water

Food coloring (optional)

Mix corn starch and water (and food coloring, if desired) in a small bowl with a spoon until smooth. Dough will become somewhat stiff as mixing is completed.

Dough should feel solid when left to sit in the bowl but will become runny when it comes into contact with hands. Dough will re-solidify when play is complete. Cover and store in the refrigerator.

## Do you Hear? It’s Nature Calling!

Come join us for an event designed to provide inspiration for getting our children away from electronic media and back out into the natural world! In January, we will beat the winter doldrums with a reading circle focused on the book, Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv (available at the public library). If you have questions or would like to participate, please talk with Julie. More details will be forthcoming.

