

# The Potter's House

Child Development Center & Kindergarten



## From the director



Dear Parents,

What do you think of when you consider a traditional Thanksgiving? Celebrating special days together creates wonderful, lifelong memories, establishes cherished traditions, and helps us to strengthen our relationships with those we love. We hope that all of our Potter's House families will enjoy their own particular mode of celebration! It will be great fun to learn about the heritage of our Thanksgiving holiday here at preschool.

Now, if you desired a genuinely traditional Pilgrim Thanksgiving, you would begin your day with a bowl of popcorn and some milk for breakfast, made in the same cauldron used for washing your clothing and making lye soap, arranged above the bonfire you build. The majority of food eaten by the early Pilgrims was cooked a long time so that it would be soft and easy to eat. This was

important since bearing and raising children leached the calcium from the women's bodies, and adult Pilgrims had few teeth.

There may not have been any actual turkey to eat at the first Thanksgiving, but there would have been plenty of meat. Possum, venison, rabbit, fish, quail, and possibly a beaver or two would have rounded out the meal.

Children would have quite a bit of responsibility as well, since they would be cooking and serving. It is thought that Pilgrim children may not have been permitted to sit at the table. Instead, they stood by the adults during mealtimes, ready to "fetch" things, and they ate whatever the adults decided to share! In Pilgrim society, two or three people ate from the same "trencher," a rectangular wooden tray. Knives and spoons were used, but forks weren't yet invented.

Since there was no flour, dessert would have been very simple. No cakes, no pumpkin pies, and no ice cream, of course. But there would have been plenty of dried apples with honey or cornbread sweetened with cranberry relish. At the end of the meal, entertainment would have been astonishing, as Native American Indians painted their bodies and danced around a blazing fire of cornstalks!

However you choose to celebrate, we trust you'll enjoy every moment. Make Thanksgiving "yours" by initiating traditions that represent your family, your heritage, and your legacy. We encourage you to express your gratitude to God and to those who impact your life, and to count your blessings. Please know that all of us at The Potter's House are thankful for each and every one of you, and we consider each family to be a genuine treasure. 😊

## Meet our staff...

Renee Lawson is the Co-Director here at The Potter's House. Her journey began with us in 1997 while attending Ross High School. She taught 4 year old preschoolers in the morning and conducted the afterschool program for Kindergarten and School-age children. In 2000 she concluded her time with us to attend Lee University, receiving her BS in Health Science! A few short years later in 2005 she returned home and joined our administrative team. Her vision and passion has always been for

center growth. With a lot of team work and the Directors visionary leadership the Potter's House more than doubled its enrollment in 4 short years! Renee just celebrated her 7 year anniversary with husband Anthony. They have 2 daughters, Rose 3 ½ and Marin 5 months. Her favorite scripture is Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (NIV) Renee says, "This scripture has carried me through many tough times in life. Sometimes you just need to take a deep breath and BE STILL... The Lord is in control, He is the God of the universe and He is in love with you, He cares about you!"



## The Potter's House

November, 2014

### From Potter's House to Yours

- Check out this month's Creative Curriculum activities at the Reception Desk
- Check out the Step Up to Quality system online at : [earlychildhoodohio.org](http://earlychildhoodohio.org)
- Extra copies of the Early Years newsletters are available at the Communication Table

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# Monthly Study/Activities: From Potter's House to Yours

Stop by the Reception desk to peruse the November study folder. Many of the themed activities your child is enjoying will be included there. Some of the favorites include:

- \*Blessing Wall
- \*Thanksgiving Collage
- \*Making butter from cream
- \*Turkey Walk
- \*Thanksgiving Countdown
- \*Turkey Scramble
- \*Grow corn
- \*Pilgrim & Native American Indian hats
- \*Turkey Letter Gobbler

## Thanksgiving

The year has turned its circle,  
The seasons come and go.  
The harvest is all gathered in  
And chilly north winds blow.  
Orchards have shared their  
treasures,  
The fields, their yellow grain,  
So open wide the doorway-  
Thanksgiving comes again!



On Thursday, November 20, our full time Potter's House friends will celebrate with a traditional, "homemade" meal, complete with roasted white turkey breast and mashed potatoes made from scratch. Many of the children will wear the Pilgrim hats or Indian headbands made in class. Check Facebook for pics!

On Tuesday the 25th and Wednesday the 26th, our part time program will enjoy a pot luck Thanksgiving Dinner in the classrooms. Sign up sheets will be made available by the teachers so that each family can contribute something to the meal. We regret that we only have room for one adult to accompany each child.

## Letter Emphasis

11/3	Letter H,h
11/10	Letter I,i
11/17	Letter Review: G,H,I
11/24	Letter Review: J,j

Your child will take home a "letter" bag on the first day of each week. Please help your child look for something from home that will fit in the bag that begins with the week's letter. The items will be presented during "Show and Tell" at large group time at school.

We are continuing to use our Alphatales series of books, which emphasize both letter recognition (phonetic awareness) and the sounds they make (phonemic awareness.)

## Bible Theme

This month's theme: **We Are Thankful God Provides**

- 11/3 Families (God Gives Hannah a Baby) I Samuel 1
- 11/10 Homes (God Gives Elisha a Home) 2Kings 4:8-17
- 11/17 Friends (Faith in a Fiery Furnace) Daniel 3
- 11/24 Food (God Gives Elijah Food) I Kings 17:7-16

### Monthly Memory Verse:

Psalm 100:4 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name!

## Save the Date!

### 21st Annual Potter's House Christmas Program

Thursday, December 4 in the Princeton Pike Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. parents escort children to classrooms,

6:30 p.m. program begins in the main church sanctuary

Parents, we appreciate your participation as we combine part time and full time programs for this year's presentation!

Please Note: Time has changed from previous newsletter.



## Interest Areas: Sand & Water

While sand and water play can delight the senses, it also can challenge children's minds and promote all areas of development. Here are some examples:

**Mathematics:** Teach number concepts by having children count how many measuring cups of sand are needed to fill a pail. Reinforce one-to-one correspondence by helping children cooperate with the rule that only so many children can play at the water table at a time. Use terms such as more, less, and same to describe quantities.

**Physical:** Small muscles are strengthened as the children mold wet sand and scoop water. Fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination are developed as the children use tools like funnels, sieves, and basters.

**Language:** Vocabulary grows as children learn words like *grainy*, *sprinkle*, *shallow*, and *sieve*. They write letters in sand and use alphabet molds to create letters and words.

**Cognitive:** Engaging in observing, classifying, comparing, measuring, and solving problems builds cognitive ability. Children learn about volume and capacity, and cause and effect, and that water can be poured as a liquid, or can be frozen.

## Licensing...Did you know

All medical and health conditions of each child should be discussed upon enrollment into a childcare program, so that caregivers can appropriately and competently monitor each child's health throughout the day.

1. An administration of medicine form must be completed by the parent before any medication can be dispensed at the center. If the medication is not prescribed by a physician, with a pharmacy label, then Box 2 must also be completed by the physician.

\*sunscreens, lotions, diaper creams, eczema remedies, eye and ear drops, etc. all require this form as well.

\*our office staff will be happy to assist you in this process. We can fax paperwork to your physician if necessary, to speed up the process.

\*all medications must be current...expired medications are not permitted and are considered a serious infraction of the rules.

2. Please remember that medication can never be administered for fever reduction. A fever indicates a contagious infection, and requires that the child be kept home until fever free w/out meds.

3. Conditions such as asthma, food allergies, and other serious medical/health issues will require a medical care plan, with training for all staff who are assigned to your child's care.

## Infants & Toddlers

Thank you, parents, for participating in our efforts to keep our youngest friends healthy and safe. We appreciate that you use the blue shoe covers offered in the nursery. As PH staff, parents, and even the church implement this procedure, the amount of dirt and allergens introduced to the children is greatly reduced. This simple practice contributes to the overall health of the boys and girls who enjoy learning and playing each day at The Potter's House nursery!

Developing self control...begins at birth and continues across our lives. Young children learn self control through interactions with peers and guidance from parents and loving adults. A young baby learns to self soothe, helping her cope while waiting for mommy to prepare to feed her. A dad replaces a TV remote with a soft ball, giving his 9 month old baby something safe to explore with his hands. Toddlers begin to respond to simple directions: "No hitting. Hitting hurts." When overwhelmed with strong emotions, labeling the child's feelings helps the child to feel understood, which lends to calming down. Supporting children by saying, "Go to Janie and ask her to give the toy back," helps children practice learning to solve their own problems later in development. Self control is an important life skill and is best and most easily learned when the loving people in a child's life have realistic expectations, goals, and support in place, right from the beginning!. All other learning is contingent upon being socially and emotionally prepared to learn. It is our honor to partner with you in your child's development of self control and related social emotional growth.



## Home Support



### Stuff the Turkey

This month, the entire Potter's House program will participate in a project that will help the children learn that they can impact the world around them for good, even at a young age!

1. Please select some non perishable food items that you and your family would like to donate to those less fortunate.
2. Bring your item/s and allow your child to place them in the turkey box, counting each one as you place it in the box. It's okay if you have only one item...just be sure to count them.
3. If you have time, perhaps at the end of the day when you pick up, ask your child to count all the items with you in the box. This will assist them in developing their skills with one-to-one correspondence.
4. The teachers will also be counting and sorting the items with the class to develop one-to-one correspondence and classification.
5. All food items will be donated to local food banks!

## Part Time: Ms. Pam, Ms. Angela & Ms. Jolene

Ms. Jolene:  
Be looking for....

\*Thankful Things journaling  
(Encourage gratefulness by helping your child name things they are thankful for. The smallest things are welcomed! It is a pleasure to be around people who are grateful.)

\*Classroom Cookbook project. Dictate what your child says about his/her favorite family recipe, so Ms. Jolene can add it to her cookbook.

Ms. Pam will be implementing a new strategy for the welcome time each morning. As children enter the classroom, they will be invited to engage in a project at the tables. Free play in the interest centers will be provided a bit later in the morning. Beginning the school day at the tables will help the children to maintain self control in order to transition in a competent, prepared manner for the morning meeting/circle time. Thanks for your support, parents!

Ms. Angela would like to thank all the families for their tremendous participation in the recent pumpkin patch field trip. Everyone had such a good time in the corn maze, making a scarecrow, enjoying a hay ride, and picking pumpkins. These are memories that will last a lifetime, and it is wonderful to be able to share that experience with the families we love so much. We look forward to a Thanksgiving meal together this month! More details as the date draws near.

## Happenings in the House

### The Potter's House

6101 Princeton Glendale Road  
Liberty Twp., OH 45011

P: 513.785.2855

F: 513.785.2857

Email: [thepotters\\_house@hotmail.com](mailto:thepotters_house@hotmail.com)

Partnering to develop your child's  
God-given potential



Stay Con-  
nected! Share/  
Like our posts  
on

**The  
Potter's  
House**  
Child Development Center

Our Giant Pumpkin Win-  
ner!  
The Wampler Family!  
Prize: \$25 gift card to  
Chick-fil-A



You are cordially invited to join Prince-  
ton Pike Church of God for all the many  
worship and outreach opportunities made  
available!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
(children's programs available)  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Nights 7:00 pm  
(children's programs available)

\*You can work off some stress in the  
gym with Zumba on Tuesday and Thurs-  
day evenings at 6:15(\$5.00 fee)

\*Men's Small Group Ministry  
Every Thursday evening 7-8:00 pm, room  
104 (Entry 7)

Saturday, 11/15: Dennis Swanberg,  
Christian Comedian-Ministry of Encour-  
agement  
6:00-8:00 p.m. concert in sanctuary

Sunday, 11/16 at 10:30 am for the morn-  
ing service Dennis Swanberg, Minister of  
Encouragement (Christian Comedian)

Tuesday, 11/25, from 7:00-8:00 pm  
Thanksgiving Candlelight Service in the  
sanctuary

Save the Date:  
12/4/2014...

Potter's House Christmas Program  
6:30—Full Time and Part Time  
preschoolers and Kindergarten



### Ebola Facts

Recently, The Potter's House received an email from the State of Ohio, informing us that our typical health precautions will adequately keep our children healthy, aiding in the prevention of even the Ebola disease.

\*Ebola is not spread through air or water, only through direct contact with the body fluids of an infected person.

\*The Ebola virus can be killed with soap and water, heat, or a disinfectant or sanitizing agent.

\*Ebola starts with a sudden fever with potential headache, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, weakness, muscle pain, unexpected bleeding

\*Incubation period is 2-21 days, with 8-10 being the most common.

\*It is estimated that even currently, the flu will cause far more illnesses and deaths around the globe than Ebola. So get that flu shot!

#### Precautions:

1. Wash hands with soap for 20 seconds often 2. avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth 3. avoid kissing/hugging/sharing utensils with people who are sick 4. disinfect frequently touched surfaces 5. stay home when you are sick and consult with your doctor.

### Enterovirus Facts

Hundreds of children have been treated in hospitals for this respiratory illness recently. It was initially isolated in 1962, but rarely reported since then.

\*Enteroviruses are spread by close contact with an infected person, and by touching surfaces or objects that have the virus on them, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

\*Most children who have enteroviruses have mild symptoms and need no more medical care than the common cold. Children with asthma or prior history of wheezing may require treatment.

\*Children with high fever and cold symptoms lasting longer than 7-10 days should talk with their pediatrician. Those with difficulty breathing should seek emergency care.

#### Precautions:

1. Wash hands with soap for 20 seconds often 2. avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth 3. avoid kissing/hugging/sharing utensils with people who are sick 4. disinfect frequently touched surfaces 5. stay home when you are sick and consult with your doctor.