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DECEMBER 2017

Important Dates/Info

JANUARY TUITION DUE DEC. 1
First-half fundraising fee due
Dec. 15.

Barnes & Noble Bookfair to benefit Mushroom – Dec. 1
In-store and café purchases as well as online (code 12258216)!
(See last page.)

Fall Raffle Package Tickets on Sale – Week of Dec. 4. Purchase counts 100% toward your fundraising fee. (See last page.)

Play it Forward Gently Used and New Toys and Other Items Drive – Dec. 12 and 13. Stuff the truck in our parking lot for kids newborn to 16 years old! (See last page.)

Chipotle Spirit Night – Dec. 12, 5-9pm (See last page.)

MFLC Board Meeting – Dec. 13

Winter Break Dec. 21-Jan. 3

No classes Jan. 15 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

In-house registration for 2018-19 school year will begin Jan. 22

Enrichment Classes

Contact Miss Melissa at
melissa.oprison@gmail.com.

Outside Play – We go outside if it's 25+ degrees & no rain. Kids should be prepared with labeled cold-weather gear.

Proper Shoes – Your child should have proper play shoes (closed toe with a back), especially on movement day.

Ways to Help Mushroom!

- Youcaring.com/mushroom-family-learning-center
- **smile.amazon.com:** Choose Mushroom as your charity.
- *United Way:* Agency #885339.
- **Giant Eagle Apples for the Students program:** School code #5245.
- Tyson Chicken Project A+ labels
- MFLC Scholarship Fund

From the Director ~ Joan Harrison

As the first part of the school year ends, we are reflecting on the time we spent with families during conferences. It was a time to have meaningful connections, to celebrate success and discuss hopes for the future. We would like to thank all families for taking time out of their schedules to participate in these important meetings.

We also appreciate everyone who attended our Thanksgiving feasts. It was such a special time for sharing and giving. The children really realized the idea that the school is much larger than the classroom they attend. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who came in before and on feast day to help the children prepare.

And thank you to our magnificent teachers who are such a huge part of the celebration, from invitations, decorations and food to preparing your children for the presentation. This is such a dedicated staff who care so much for your children. I give thanks each and every day to work with such awesome women.

I can't believe December is already here, bringing us to 2018 right around the corner. This is a short month since we will close for Winter Break December 21-January 2. We will resume classes on January 3. This allows a nice break for our teachers to rejuvenate and for the children to have vacation time with their families.

The holiday season is a time to enjoy family and friends, celebrate traditions and create memories. It is a time to reflect on what is important in our lives.

Each family has its own way of observing the season. Luckily, the holidays provide plenty of opportunities for all of us to be positive role models for our children – showing them that we have consideration for others of different religious, racial and economic backgrounds. Remember, children learn by watching. Seeing us treating others with respect, as well as being generous with our time and talents, will go a long way toward teaching them real values. Here at Mushroom, we will be learning about holiday traditions and sharing with others.

As we enter the winter season and cold months ahead, our parking lot and walkways may be slippery. Walking slowly and wearing weather-appropriate shoes may help prevent a fall. Please hold on to your children and watch them carefully as you enter and exit the school. Always make sure that your child does not run out of the building unescorted. Let's work together to keep our children safe.

We at MFLC would like to thank you not only for choosing our program, but also for the trust, support and love shared with all of us. On behalf of the entire staff, I want to wish all of our families a wonderful holiday season. Happy 2018...and take time to *play*!

Joan

Looking to Make a Year-End Monetary Gift, and Get a Tax Write-Off?

If you are thinking about making a special donation before the end of the year, you might consider the MFLC Scholarship Fund, which helps families who are working through a difficult time. Thanks so much!

See the last page of the newsletter for details on activities & events!

Welcome Future Mushroomer!

Charles Waters, born 11/9 – Congrats to parents Tatum Boswell and Charles Waters, and sister Scarlet (4s PM)!

Big THANKS to...

All the homeroom parents, family members, teachers and students who worked so hard to make our feasts so delightful!

Erin Betler (Sylvie, 4s-AM) for coordinating the Chick-fil-A Spirit Night.

Gina Lipkin (Charlotte, KToo; Henry, 2s) for coordinating the Barnes & Noble Book Fair.

➡ *Before I was a Teacher,
I was a Mushroom Mom...* **MISS LARA**

Almost two years ago, my family experienced an unexpected tragedy. I was living in Harrisburg at the time and was filled with grief and uncertainty about the future. I quickly made the decision to move back home and lean on my family for support. I was incredibly fortunate to have worked with Joan Harrison at Mushroom in high school and immediately knew that my son, Miles, needed to be in Mushroom's loving and caring environment.

Knowing that Miles was in the best hands with Miss Cara, Miss Marlene and Miss Melanie, I was able to invest in myself, begin to heal and start thinking about my future. Shortly after Miles started at Mushroom, Joan approached me about substituting. Substituting at Mushroom was the recipe for happiness and comfort. Going to work with happy kids, an incredible teaching staff and an environment full of love and families was therapeutic.

I am beyond grateful to now be working in the 4s PM class. Miles also attends the K-Too program with Miss Marilyn and Miss Cara. Again, it is such a joy to have Miles at Mushroom and know that the busy, academic morning at kindergarten is supplemented by two afternoons of play, love and kindness. Miles and I are so blessed to be a part of the Mushroom family now and forever.

SAFETY AT MUSHROOM, BOTH IN THE BUILDING AND IN THE PARKING LOT

- ✓ Always make sure that your child does not run through the halls, open or linger by a door, or leave the building unescorted.
- ✓ Children must **never** enter or leave a classroom without a parent/guardian.
- ✓ Families are free to play on the playground before 9am and after 3pm, but not during school hours (for liability reasons, only teachers and students from 9am-3pm).
- ✓ Please be respectful of the Memorial Garden in the front of the school. Children are free to play around the circle with parental supervision, but not in the garden itself.
- ✓ In general, please be respectful, as we share space with Beth El.
.....
- ✓ Parking is not permitted in front or along the side of the school.
- ✓ Please note that there is only one handicapped space allotted close to the school building, and also observe the others near Beth El's community entrance.
- ✓ Don't leave other children unattended in your vehicle or in the lot – call the office if you need assistance.
- ✓ Stay alert and keep kids close to you from the car to the building and vice versa.
- ✓ Drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot, especially when backing out, and be observant of the cars and people around you.

Let's work together to keep our children courteous and safe!

From the Board President ~ Kate Gigliotti-Gordon

Long ago, people found a way to light the darkness. They built fires to keep warm and cook their food. To help them see at night, they learned to make candles and lanterns. Light was so important in their lives that they came to use it in holiday celebrations. In each of these holidays, light plays a significant role, marking and brightening special days. Celebrations of Light now circle the year and the globe.

The contemporary holiday season offers us so many ways to add light to the darkness: sparkling strings of lights adorn homes and businesses, shiny wrapping papers envelope presents, fireplaces crackle with blazing light and warmth, and glittery preschool craft projects and ornaments shimmer throughout our homes. How fortunate we are to enjoy a vibrant preschool community that is brightened by your children's sunny smiles and twinkling eyes every day throughout the year.

With a new year approaching, we can look forward to a radiant 2018 with so much gratitude that our Mushroom community is strong and thriving. We are grateful for the support and participation of all our teachers and families in our Mushroom family. You are the light that keeps Mushroom glowing and growing. Our preschool is a place where glimmers of light radiate on a daily basis. The children are truly all our lights.

As you add your own light to your home and start the countdown to gift giving, please consider participating in this month's MFLC raffle ticket fundraiser. Ticket sales will take place December 4-7. Look for prize details in this newsletter. Give tickets to your significant other, grandparents, or a friend. (A gift to you: 100% of the ticket price goes toward your fundraising fee.) Please also consider being the source of someone else's light by donating to and participating in our Play It Forward gently used toy drive on December 12 and 13. Your donations will help others who may need a ray of light during the hustle and bustle of holiday festivities.

I hope you enjoy the light of the season. All my best wishes to you and your family for luminous holiday celebrations and a brilliant New Year!

Twos Class *Amy, Sheila & Marlene*

Even though giving, sharing, and being thankful truly have no season, we seem to focus on them more this time of year. For your reading pleasure, here's what brings us JOY in the 2s class:

Greeting your children each day! All the planning that we do is made worthwhile when we see how excited they are to come in and get started. We love watching how they try new things and find new interests.

Having a full snack cupboard. We are so grateful for your generous donations. It's wonderful to have leftovers and extras in case someone forgets. Thank you for your wonderful contributions to our family feasts! We really enjoyed spending time with you.

Watching your children grow. Sometimes it feels like the school year has just started. But they've really made so much progress since the beginning! They are comfortable in our classroom. They are getting know their classmates. Some even know everyone's names! They are starting to realize the importance of sharing and taking turns. It's exciting for us to see these developments.

Our wonderful colleagues. We are so fortunate to work with such a great group of people who share ideas and materials. We love sending our children on to these fabulous teachers and hearing stories about them as they continue their Mushroom journeys!

Our sweet alumni. We love seeing all of the children as they've grown up! It's great to have little conversations in the hallway in the morning and after class. We love to reminisce about the days they were in our classes, as well as hear about their new interests and friends. Thank you for taking time to stop by and say hello!

The Mushroom Board of Directors. Being on the board of any nonprofit is a lot of work, but especially a preschool! We appreciate all of the hard work that's put into events and fundraisers and our facilities.

Our marvelous director. Joan keeps track of more regulations and requirements than we can even imagine. She has tons of paperwork to keep up to date. She's the voice on the other end of the phone when our new families come to us and the fantastic tour guide who tells them the ins and outs of our school. Joan listens and offers guidance to teachers and families alike! We are grateful.

Our philosophy. We love promoting "individual growth in a shared environment," where every child makes choices in their learning. We love teaching concepts through play, rather than rote learning or repetitive practice. As K-12 education has become increasingly focused on meeting

benchmarks, we are proud to provide a quality education in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Our Mushroom families! We love each and every one of you and your children. We can't thank you enough for sharing them with us. Their creativity, enthusiasm, diversity, perseverance, individuality, and even stubbornness make each of them a unique person who brings us joy. We appreciate your commitment to their education and to our school. Thank you! ♥

School delay/cancellation

MFLC will follow Mt. Lebanon School District decisions during inclement weather: When MTLSD is delayed, MFLC will be delayed; when MTLSD is canceled, MFLC will be canceled. Delayed start time will be 10 a.m. for morning classes which will dismiss at regular time; afternoon classes will begin on schedule. Please check local TV and cable stations, email blasts and the school answering machine when in doubt.



Threes Class *Jamie, Debbie, April, Melanie & Kelsey*

I remember when my children attended Mushroom Family Learning Center, many years ago. One of my favorite events was the Thanksgiving Feasts. My husband would rearrange his work schedule and grandparents were invited. The buildup of the feast was almost as fun as the actual activity. The students would dress up in turkey hats and sing songs with Miss Theresa, the music teacher. Miss Jane would make stone soup with the students, making our mouths water. The grand finale of the feast always included some daring father, wearing a turkey hat, dancing in front of the class. I so loved watching my children sing, dance and laugh. I enjoyed the joy in their faces when they spotted us walking through the door. The love I felt for my children, as they grew before my eyes, can still bring me to tears. I never missed a thanksgiving feast. In fact, I have been attending the feasts for 16 years!

During the month of November, our focus had been getting ready for the Thanksgiving Feast. We practiced the songs in our classroom and on the stage. We practiced with our school friends during music class and in our classrooms. I enjoy the camaraderie this time of the year brings. It is wonderful to see students from my past and also spend time with the amazing teachers I work with each day. We decorated turkey placemats and glued together turkey hats. We baked corn muffins and discussed things we were thankful for. Traditions from the past continued to flourish through song, dance, laughter and love.

On the day of the feast, the enthusiasm was contagious as the students shared who would be attending the feast from

their families. They could barely contain their excitement, which is why we tried to keep our day very simple. As we walked into the community room, we could see the eyes of the children frantically searching for someone they recognized; someone who belonged to them. In fact, the students were more concerned with seeing their families than they were with walking into a table or chair on their way on to the stage. The smiles on their faces, when their loved ones were spotted, could lighten up the darkest of rooms. There were shouts of hello, or "I love you" words being heard from the stage. The family members had cameras in hand and joy on their faces. The family support was amazing. The children performed at their own level of confidence, and the families were proud. The children danced "like yo daddy" and the families cheered. The final bow was taken and the children were loved.

I am not sure when the Mushroom Feasts started, or what the original menu contained. I do know that I am thankful for the traditions established by teachers long ago. I am glad our school continues to celebrate the wonder of bringing family and friends together. And, I hope some of our traditions will continue long into the future.

During the month of December, we are going to remember these wonderful feelings and share them with others during our Random Acts of Kindness month. Our goal will be to complete 10 Random Acts of Kindness. Stay tuned to find out if we were able to achieve our goals.

Illness: When to Keep Your Child Home . . .

While fever is a good indication of sickness, it is not the only one. If your child is "not himself," has vomited or had diarrhea within the last 24 hours, has a green nasal discharge, or is tired and irritable, something more than a cold is likely to blame. In addition to potentially infecting others, children are also less resistant to other germs when ill. If you have any doubts, it's best to have the child stay home. Of course, a big way to help prevent illness is to make sure children wash their hands upon entering the classroom every day.

Fours Class *Liz, Melissa, Jane & Lara*

November is a great time to focus on being thankful for what we have. We endeavored to be mindful throughout the month of the many wonderful people, places, foods, things, and experiences that enrich our lives. Although "thankful" may be a new word for an abstract concept, it is really just putting a name on what the children naturally feel. In that spirit of gratitude, we set about planning our biggest sharing project of the month: A Feast to share with our families.

At the beginning of the month, we read a book about being thankful. Afterward, I asked the children to share what makes them feel thankful. I love children's responses to this question. Some of their responses were material, such as a new toy. However, most of their answers centered on family,

friends, food, and fun experiences. It is no coincidence, then, that our theme for the month of November, when many of us focus on giving thanks, was "Feast! Family, Friends, Food, and Fun." In revisiting the idea of gratitude each day, we discovered how much we have to be thankful for.

We already knew that our Fours love cooking. This month, they discovered the joy of preparing food for others. It takes a lot of self-control to make pies and brownies but not eat them! In other food related lessons, we learned the difference between healthy foods and treats, and we learned how to set the table.

Another activity this group enjoys is art. We had fun using art materials this month to create decorations for our feast. The children are proud of their classroom and enjoyed making it look especially nice for their families and friends. One of our favorite art experiences was inspired by the book *Setting the Turkeys Free*. This book introduces the idea of using art materials to tell a story. We created our own bedazzled handprint turkeys and wrote simple stories about them. The children especially enjoyed bringing this storyline into their outdoor play. Tag is already one of their favorite games. It was even more fun when the tagger pretended to be Foxy the Fox trying to catch all the turkeys.

We also practiced singing and dancing with Miss Jamie's, Miss Marilyn's, and Miss Cara's classes. Coming together for rehearsals may have added a hectic note to our days, but the sense of community this experience created was well worth the effort. The children were excited to stand on the stage and perform. We hope you enjoyed our little show.

Our dramatic play area was transformed into a doctor's office. This change sparked some more sophisticated role based play as the children became doctors, nurses, patients, receptionists, "x-ray checkers," and "checklist people." It was interesting to examine real x-rays on the light table, too. Of course, the play reflected the children's own lives and interests. We have several students who have recently welcomed or will soon welcome a new sibling, and we had quite a baby boom in our doctor's office!

Throughout the month, our activities focused on manners and hospitality. We learned about the roles and expectations of guests and hosts. While our Fours already have some experience as guests, the role of host is less familiar. As



Dress for Success! Now that the weather is getting colder, we request that you send your children in appropriate outdoor clothing: **warm coat, hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots** when necessary. Items should be labeled and placed in the child's bag. The children go outside every day, weather permitting – no rain and a temperature of 25 degrees or above. Please be sure your kids also have proper play shoes, *especially on movement day*. Thank you!

adults, we have gone through the process of getting ready for a holiday many times. For the children, this may have been their first experience of entertaining friends and family. Whether we celebrate Thanksgiving or another holiday, we all have traditions that bring us together to give thanks for what we have in our lives. Sometimes the preparations seem daunting. Shopping, planning, cleaning, decorating, traveling, cooking, cleaning some more, having guests, visiting—all of these can feel like chores if we let them.

Seeing these experiences through the children's eyes as we made our way through the month helped us see them in a new light. The delight on their faces made the reason for the celebration and the worth of our efforts clear. The food we prepared, the decorations we made, and the entertainment we provided were the children's gifts to you, offered in the spirit of generosity and gratitude. We hope you enjoyed our little Feast!

Next month we will try to make our classroom a low-key respite from the excitement of the holiday season. Our theme will be "Colors, Lights and Shapes of the Season."

December Enrichment Days

Enrichment classes are available for those 4 and older on Mondays and/or Fridays each month, 11:30am-2:00pm. Please pack your child a healthy, meat-free lunch. \$15 per class. **Email Miss Melissa at melissa.oprison@gmail.com to register!**

Days and Themes This Month...

MONDAYS with Miss Sheila

Dec 4 – Bubble Wrap Art and Painting; **Dec 11** – We will make Snowmen with socks and rice!; **Dec 18** – Pudding Parfaits: We will use an "old fashioned egg beater" to make pudding today!

FRIDAYS with Miss Marilyn

Dec 8 – We will make a treasure box, and take part in a school treasure hunt after we read "Max and Ruby's Treasure Hunt" by Rosemary Wells. **Dec 15** – We will learn about the tradition of Christmas trees and make our own tree craft. Merry! Merry!

Fives Class *Cara & Melanie*

Every school year, I love to share the story "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids." Through simple prose and vivid illustrations, this heartwarming book encourages positive behavior as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love. This book explains to children that we all carry an invisible bucket in which we keep our feelings about ourselves. When our buckets are full, we are happy; when they are empty, we are sad. It is important to know that we can fill our own bucket and so can others. We fill buckets by saying nice things to the people around us. We fill buckets by doing nice things for people. It makes a very intangible concept very tangible for the children.

Very organically when I first read this book in class, we began our own daily gratitude routine in the classroom. We have two buckets in our classroom, one holds colorful styrofoam pieces and the other begins empty. Each day before we go to snack, each child takes the opportunity to say what they are grateful for that day and then fill the other bucket with their colorful styrofoam piece. Once we have filled up our gratitude bucket, our class will have a "Fill a Bucket" party to celebrate. It is an integral part of our classroom culture, and I am grateful for how it has always resonated with the children.

Here are some other simple ways to add the "study" of this important value into your family time any time of the year:

1. Share what you are grateful for over candlelight at dinner.

Dinner is a great time to encourage gratitude/sharing about things we are thankful for.

2. Make Thank-You postcards.

3. Play the "What Would You Feel Without It" Game. This game can be done any time during the day; the more silly mood you are in probably the better. Simply ask the kids what would they feel like without various items. They will be surprised how different life would be without some of the things they consider "normal" to have. You may like to begin a discussion about how other people live without such items, if it is age appropriate, to help them remember to appreciate what is sometimes taken for granted in their life.

4. Make a Giving Thanks Jar. Dedicate a jar (decorate one, if you wish) and have little pieces of paper ready to write on beside it. You may want to make a routine of adding cards to the jar, or just let people add items as they wish, each with something you are grateful for. At a specified time, sit down with the family and read the cards together.

5. Put together a Thankfulness Tree or a Gratitude Wreath. Create a large tree and cut out leaves. On the leaves write things you are thankful for. Thankfulness fills us up and reminds us how beautiful is, just like when we add leaves to the Thankfulness Tree. Add leaves to your tree for a few weeks.

6. Make a list of ways you are thankful for your family members. List each family member and three things you appreciate about them. Then write or draw a picture of one way you can show them how thankful you are. Share the list over a family meal so everyone can practice gratitude together.

7. Read books about gratitude and/or make your own Gratitude Book.

8. Draw and write what you are thankful for.

9. Make a collage using pictures of things you are grateful for. Let your child have the camera and take photos of all things they are grateful for. You may like to print out the pictures and then make a collage, or create a collage

online and then print it for them. Most kids love the opportunity to use a camera!

10. Start a Gratitude Journal. Simply get a notebook and add things you are grateful for. Miss Melanie and I are going to put an extra handful of colorful styrofoam pieces into our gratitude bucket for your children, the time we were able to spend together during parent/teacher conferences, and the wonderful Harvest Feast we were able to share together.

"It is not happy people who are grateful, it is grateful people who are happy."

Simple & Fun Activities for Winter Break That Won't Break the Bank!

- ❄️ Involve children in holiday preparations
- ❄️ String popcorn
- ❄️ Bake cookies
- ❄️ Make play dough (We have recipes!)
- ❄️ Turn your playroom into a grocery store, toy store or coffee shop
- ❄️ Go sled riding
- ❄️ Play Hide and Seek or be a Treasure Hunter
- ❄️ Go ice skating
- ❄️ Make a snowman, outside or inside!
- ❄️ Go to the zoo
- ❄️ Go on an alphabet hunt
- ❄️ Go to the library
- ❄️ Make a sand-free sandbox with a bin and some rice or oatmeal
- ❄️ Go on a photo safari and make a book about your neighborhood
- ❄️ Build a fort, clubhouse, obstacle course, construction site...whatever!
- ❄️ Visit the Children's Museum
- ❄️ Put on a show
- ❄️ Ride on one of the Inclines downtown
- ❄️ Have an ice cream taste test
- ❄️ Make a mural
- ❄️ Start a journal
- ❄️ Pretend to be a veterinarian, a scientist, or even an elf!
- ❄️ Visit the Game Preserve at South Park
- ❄️ Make a volcano (without too much mess!)
- ❄️ Draw and design your own cards
- ❄️ Measure with Legos
- ❄️ Get creative with loose parts
- ❄️ Host a kid art gallery show
- ❄️ *Ask your children for ideas and do them together!*

K-Too Class *Marilyn & Cara*

Light is central to every culture's celebrations: Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Ramadan, etc. K-Too will explore light in December with the evolution of the technology humans have used to illuminate their lives, from early fireplaces to LEDs. We will learn about electricity on an atomic level and wire our own little electric house. The children will also disassemble electric appliances with tools to discover the connection between electricity and mechanical parts. We're going to be busy!

Nothing in My Bag Today

Author Unknown

Today I did math and science – I toasted bread, I halved and quartered. I counted, measured, used my eyes, and ears, and head. I added and subtracted on the way; I used the magnet, blocks, and memory tray. I learned about a rainbow and how to weigh.

So please don't say, "Anything in your bag today?" You see, I am learning as I play.

I learned to listen and speak clearly when I talk, to wait my turn, and when inside, to walk; to put my thoughts into a phrase, to guide a crayon through a maze. To sign my name and write it down; to do it with a smile and not a frown. To put my painting brush away.

So please don't say, "What, nothing in your bag today?"

I've learned about a snail and worm, remembered how to take my turn. I helped a friend when he was stuck, learned that water rolls off a duck. I looked at words from left to right, agreed to differ, not to fight.

So please don't say, "Did you only play today?"

"One
kind word
can warm
three winter
months."

– *Japanese Proverb*

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIRS

Mushroom Family Learning Center

Friday, December 1, 2017

**Barnes & Noble
South Hills Village**

- Stop by at 12:30pm for storytime with Miss Jamie!
- Stay and eat lunch in the café after storytime! Any in-store café purchases made on 12/1 will also be credited to MFLC when you mention our bookfair at the register.
- The B&N annual Polar Express storytime will take place on 12/1 at 7pm and is open to all!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/01/17 to 12/06/17 by entering Bookfair ID 12258216 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.

#BNBOOKFAIRS



CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Mushroom Family Learning Center Inc.. Come in to the Chipotle at 1614 Cochran Road in Pittsburgh on **Tuesday, December 12th** between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Mushroom Family Learning Center Inc..



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.



Pittsburgh Penguins Ticket Package Raffle!

Going Out - Drawing January 10, 2018:



(2) Pittsburgh Penguins GOAL ZONE Game Tickets
Friday, February 2nd, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Washington Capitals
PPG Paints Arena - Section 106, Row V, Seats 5 and 6



(2) tickets to Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performance of "From Swing to Rock" at Heinz Hall, February 16-18



\$50 Gift Certificate to Meat & Potatoes Restaurant

With the Family - Drawing January 9, 2018:



\$125 Gift Certificate to Arpino Trattoria Restaurant



\$50 Gift Certificate to The Fresh Market Grocery Store



(15) free games of bowling & \$25 food credit to Sports Haven Bowling Alley

For the Kids - Drawing January 8, 2018:



MWM Photography Family Mini Session



(4) Admission Passes to the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh



\$20 Gift Certificate to Scoops on Beverly Ice Cream Parlor

**Tickets on sale the week
of December 4th!**

Ticket price: \$ 10.00 - 3 chances to win!
100% can be applied to your fundraising fee!
Only 500 tickets will be sold at random on a first come, first served basis. You can resell tickets to family and friends!

Winning number taken from the PA Pick 3 first drawn at 7:00pm on the dates listed above. If an unsold number is drawn, MFLC will pull a purchased ticket stub at random on the following day.

Special thanks to our donors: The Better Family, Arpino Trattoria, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Meat & Potatoes, MWM Photography, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Scoops Ice Cream Parlor, Sports Haven Bowling Alley, & The Fresh Market



Mushroom Family Learning Center's "STUFF a TRUCK" Service Project

**Tuesday, December 12 & Wednesday, December 13, 2017
9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.**

Do you ever feel like you have too many toys in your house? Donate them to Play it Forward Pittsburgh, a gently loved toy donation drive in the Pittsburgh area celebrating its seventh year of collection and distribution!

Clean out your playroom before December 12th, load up the car, and bring your gently used or new items over to Mushroom to be donated to Play it Forward! We will transport all donations to the toy drive at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, where they will be sorted and offered for free to families who are in need of a little help this holiday season, on Saturday, December 17th.

Two Men and A Truck will be donating the use of a 16ft. truck for us to stuff in the Mushroom parking lot during school hours (9:00am - 3:00pm) on Tuesday, December 12 & Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Ways you and your family can help:

- **Donate your gently used and/or new items for children ages 0-16:** toys, books, games, electronics, sporting equipment, bikes, CDs, DVD movies, arts & craft sets, baby items, trucks, dolls, legos, imaginary play, non-toy items for older children ages 12-16 (bath & beauty sets, purses, jewelry & accessories, etc.)



- Please remember to organize, and bag your toys together so pieces don't get separated. Please try to donate complete sets & toys in good condition so they are ready to go to a new home.
- **We cannot accept clothing or stuffed animals.**

- **Donate supplies:** Large garbage bags for sorting & storing, kitchen-size clear or white garbage bags for shopping, ziploc bags in gallon size & larger for organizing toy pieces, boxes, packing tape

- **Volunteer:** Donate your time to help us stuff the truck and/or bring your children down to the Convention Center to help sort and distribute toys. Sign up @ <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10e0f4ba5af23aaf94-2018>

- **Tell others:** Share this information with friends, family and neighbors that might be interested in donating to the toy drive AND any families/moms/dads that you know who may be in need of some gently loved toys this holiday season.

For more information visit:

www.playitforwardpittsburgh.com or www.facebook.com/playitforwardpittsburgh

Mushroom Family Learning Center - 1900 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 - (412) 591-1225 - www.mushroomfamily.org

Watch for information soon on the **KIDS OF STEEL** Physical Activity and Nutrition Program!