



SCRIBES & SCRIBBLERS

OCTOBER 2023 NEWS

The mornings are getting cooler, the leaves are starting to change color and cornstalks and scarecrows have appeared at our entrance...Fall has officially arrived! This is just the beginning of the holiday season, and if this is your first at Scribes you are surely in for a treat! We love to celebrate BIG around here and we are so excited to share all the festiveness with all of you! Be sure to walk down our hallways and check out the decorations Mr. Steve has proudly displayed...as we get closer to Halloween, we will even have some "spooky" stuff out! Please remind children that our decorations are for our eyes ONLY and are NOT to be touched! Thank you!

ANNUAL PAPERWORK UPDATE

Child ENROLLMENT FORMS and MEDICAL STATEMENTS are required to be updated yearly, per ODJFS Licensing Rules. If you received an ENROLLMENT & HEALTH INFORMATION FORM or FAMILY INFORMATION FORM on your child's cubby, please complete it IN ITS' ENTIRETY (including signatures and dates) and return them to the Office ASAP. If you received a MEDICAL STATEMENT FOR CHILDCARE, please schedule an appointment with your child's Dr and have them complete the form, attach a CURRENT immunization record and return it to the Office ASAP. Failure to complete annual paperwork updates will result in disruption or termination of childcare services, as we are REQUIRED to have these updates for State Licensing Compliance.

MIDLAND FUNDRAISER

Our Fall Fundraiser, "Holiday Wishes," is underway! All families have received a catalog and are encouraged to share with friends and family. There are fun kitchen and home décor items, holiday gift wrap and sweet treat like cookies and candies! Use our Group ID FS4531382 to register your child and get your individual Seller ID! Then follow steps online to text, email or share your unique Seller ID on social media! Prizes are awarded for selling items, sell just 1 item to get a 2" Ducky Eye Popper! Sell 12 or more items & receive 3 FREE Rolls of Holiday Gift Wrap! Orders may be placed online with Credit or Debit Cards or in person via paper orders and cash/checks payable to "Scribes & Scribblers." Orders are due by Wednesday, October 11th.

FIREFIGHTER VISIT

Did you know that October is Fire Prevention Month? On Thursday, October 12th at 10AM members of The Middleburg Hts Fire Department will be visiting Scribes. All of our friends will go to the gym to learn about fire safety and see all the gear the firefighters wear to keep them safe while they put out fires. Sparky The Fire Dog will also be here, as well as a Fire Truck and an Ambulance! This will be a "touch-a-truck" type event, where kids can explore both vehicles (barring any emergencies that may come up that require the firefighters to have to leave). We can't wait!



BRIGHTWHEEL REMINDERS


Parents have the ability to enter and edit personal info such as name, birthdate, address, phone number and authorized pick-ups. Please be sure to check your child's profile in Brightwheel and make any changes or updates if necessary. Also, please remember that tuition is due EACH MONDAY; families may pay in advance of services but all payments must be made at least weekly. Tuition is due regardless of attendance or if the building is closed (unless otherwise announced). Failure to pay tuition in a timely manner could result in late fees and possible interruption or termination of childcare services.

TUITION INCREASE

At Scribes & Scribblers we pride ourselves on offering top-notch care in a one-of-a-kind environment where kids can learn and grow at their own individual pace while engaging in developmentally appropriate, meaningful activities. We go above and beyond the base requirements and are always looking for new ideas and opportunities to improve our curriculum to meet the needs of the children enrolled in our school. Scribes participates in the Step Up To Quality Program, which is a rating and improvement system administered by ODJFS. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet *quality program standards* that exceed both preschool and school-age licensing health and safety regulations. Because we participate in the SUTQ Program, we are able to provide care for children who receive assistance from ODJFS, which enables more families the opportunity to enroll their children in a quality childcare program. This July, ODJFS increased the poverty level for the amount of funding offered to families and providers. This is wonderful for everyone involved, as childcare centers nationwide are still suffering the aftereffects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, from staffing shortages to increased costs of everything from utilities to food and supplies. At Scribes we strive to maintain one of the most affordable tuition rates in the area. Because of this, we realized that our current tuition rates are lower than the increased amount provided by the county and we are losing money in every program. We were notified by ODJFS and our accountants that we must increase our private pay tuition rates to meet the amount the County will pay us in order to maintain our star-rating and continue providing care for publicly funded families. In an effort to remain on the lower end of the pricing spectrum but still be able to retain our staff and continue with all the wonderful "extras" that make Scribes unique in this industry, we will be introducing a tuition price increase effective Monday, October 16th, 2023. We understand and acknowledge that it is never easy for our families to absorb an increase in tuition, however, we simply have no choice at this time. We promise that Scribes will continue to offer a fair and responsible rate that still allows us to retain longevity with our staff and the care you have become accustomed to. Please remember that tuition is all inclusive, meaning that all snacks/meals/beverages are provided, as well as daily care by degreed/licensed/trained professionals for up to 11 hours at no additional cost to families. We have included a breakdown of daily program cost to put things into perspective, as many don't always look at tuition cost this way. No, we do NOT offer hourly or part time care or tuition rates, but we wanted to show families what the breakdown is for informational purposes and hope this explains things in a relevant manner.

- Infant Program: \$255/week *(averages to \$51/day for up to 11 hours of care)
- Toddler Program: \$235/week *(averages to \$47/day for up to 11 hours of care)
- Preschool Program: \$215/week *(averages to \$43/day for up to 11 hours of care)
- Pre-Kindergarten Program: \$215/week *(averages to \$43/day for up to 11 hours of care)
- School-Age AM/PM: 1 child: \$125/week *(averages to \$25/day, includes fuel charge)
 - *Play Day: \$18/day
 - 2 children: \$187.50/week *(averages to \$37.50/day for 2 children, includes fuel charge)
 - *Play Day: \$36/day
- Camp Scribes: \$215/week (SA Summer Camp 2024)

HALLOWEEN DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



It is almost time for our Halloween Door Decorating Contest! Each classroom will pick a theme and decorate the "hallway" side of their door. Beginning Friday, October 20th families are invited to walk down the halls and check out ALL the doors, Babyland thru SchoolAge, then cast their vote for their favorite in the box outside the Main Office. The classroom who receives the most votes will win a PIZZA PARTY!!

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT DAY

Did you know that our teachers are required to complete Annual Professional Development and Health and Safety Trainings? Just like teachers in school districts, we are mandated to attend specific trainings selected by ODJFS to ensure that we stay current on Developmentally Appropriate Practices for the education of young children. All of our staff spend time after work and on weekends completing necessary in-service trainings, as there are simply not enough hours in the day to do so. We attend both online and in-person workshops, and are looking forward to our favorite in-person seminar hosted by Appelbaum Training Institute that is coming up in a few weeks!

On FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th, Scribes will be CLOSED, in order for our teachers to attend our first ever "Curriculum Development PD Day." As a Center, we use "Teaching Strategies: Creative Curriculum" in each of our classrooms. Creative Curriculum allows teachers to create individual and group activity plans that align to stages of development by identifying the differing abilities of children and recognizing that they are a progression. Teachers then develop and implement their activities based on the interests and individual needs of each child in their classroom to help them build upon what they know and learn new skills. On this Curriculum Development Day, Teachers will meet with Curriculum Coordinators to ensure they are utilizing Teaching Strategies and the Creative Curriculum effectively and allow staff to discuss and brainstorm ideas together, in the classroom environment. This will also be a time where Management and Teachers will meet to discuss and create Individual Professional Development Plans, which are a requirement of participation in the Step up To Quality Program. We are excited to learn and share what each teacher is doing in their class and get new ideas for more learning opportunities in every program!

PICTURE DAYS ARE COMING!



We are so excited to announce that HAPPY FEET PORTRAITS will be returning to do our Fall pictures! Photographers will be at Scribes on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH & WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH! ALL children enrolled in Babyland thru Pre-Kindergarten will be photographed individually and with siblings; if a child enrolled in Babyland thru Pre-K has a sibling in SchoolAge, the siblings WILL be photographed together. SCHOOLAGE CHILDREN WILL NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED UNLESS THEY HAVE A YOUNGER SIBLING.

We will let families know which day your child will be photographed. Siblings will be photographed together and separately the same day. All poses are included in 1 package to make it cost-effective for families. Parents will not be required to complete any paperwork ahead of time, children will be signed in as we bring them down to the photo area. Photos and package pricing information will be made available the same day as Picture Day. Scribes will NOT be responsible for collecting any monies; all proofs are viewed and purchases are made online. Parents will receive access codes to make purchases by 8:30pm on Picture Day. The photo order deadline is 1 week after you child's Picture Day. Orders received after the deadline may result in a price increase. All photos are delivered to the shipping address entered on the order within 7-10 business days. Digital photos are delivered via email within 2 business days. A picture of the backdrop will be posted on Class Dojo next week so families can choose outfits accordingly. Please remember, ALL CHILDREN (& STAFF) WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED on their specific class date! Class photos and Staff ID Photos will also be taken!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 11th: Midland Fundraiser Due
October 12th: NO SCHOOL BERA (play day at Scribes)
October 12th: Firefighter Visit 10 AM
October 13th: SCRIBES CLOSED: TEACHER CURRICULUM DAY
OCTOBER 16TH: NO SCHOOL BERA (play day at Scribes)

October 18th & 19th: Picture Days
October 24th & 25th: Pumpkin Hunt Days
October 30th: Family Great Pumpkin Dance 4:30PM
October 31st: Great Pumpkin Class Dance Party 10AM
& Scribes closes at 5:00 PM



PUMPKIN HUNTS

Our Annual Pumpkin Hunt is right around the corner!! Mr. Steve sets up a super fun fall display in our "backyard," complete with a hay tunnel, scarecrows, hay bales, a GIANT hay pile...and LOTS of pumpkins of course!! Each class will be assigned a time in the morning on either TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th or WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th where they will get to "hunt" for pumpkins! We start off by taking a class photo in front of the fall scene. Then the kids (and teachers) get to crawl through the hay tunnel and play a fun pumpkin game with Mr. Steve (where there is LOTS of running involved)! Everyone will get to jump in the giant hay pile and dig for treats with their friends and teachers and basically have a giant hay fight. Lastly, each child will then get to choose their own pie pumpkin to take home with them! Specific class dates and times will be posted in Class Dojo closer to pumpkin hunt days. Please take note of the date of your child's pumpkin hunt and be sure to dress them in weather-appropriate clothes that can get wet/dirty. Boots are a great idea, or old shoes at the very least, as our field can be dewey and muddy in the mornings and this is DEFINITELY a messy event! (Seriously, we all go home with hay falling out of our clothes, so old clothes are a MUST! Also, a word of advice...avoid fleece coats/sweaters on pumpkin hunt days as hay LOVES to stick to fleece and tends to get very itchy as the day goes on).



THE GREAT PUMPKIN FAMILY DANCE PARTY

At Scribes we sure love a good dance party! And every year at Halloween-time The Great Pumpkin travels on his wagon from his pumpkin patch to Scribes to host the BEST Halloween Dance Party ever! Families are invited to dress in costume and join us in the gym on MONDAY, OCTOBER 30th from 4:30-5:30 PM! We will have apple cider and popcorn for kids and grown-ups to enjoy while The Great Pumpkin plays his favorite tunes. A prize will be awarded to one lucky family who has the most Halloween Spirit!

HALLOWEEN DAY INFO

Halloween is TUESDAY, October 31st. ALL of our friends, big and small, are invited to dress up in their costumes that day! Teachers will post specific costume and party info on their Class Dojos, so stay tuned for updates! Please remember that masks that impair vision and weapons of any kind are not permitted at Scribes. Staff will also be participating in a Costume Contest for CASH PRIZES! Photos will be posted on our school story on Class Dojo so that families can vote for their favorite staff costume! Parties will take place in the morning and right after nap time. We will also be having our annual KID DANCE PARTY with THE GREAT PUMPKIN from 10-10:45AM. Reminder, SCRIBES WILL CLOSE AT 5:00 PM ON HALLOWEEN to allow our staff to get home and get their children ready for Trick or Treating!



KIDS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS

Let's face it, kids can be funny little humans. If you catch your kiddo saying something hilarious, fill out a form on the Parent Info Table and turn it in to the tuition mailbox. Here

are a few funny kid quotes from our staff:

River, age 3: After putting on his jacket all by himself, River said "Look! I have ARM PITS!"

Reign, age 3: After grabbing several tissues to wipe her runny nose, Ms. Angela asked "How many noses do you have?" Reign, without hesitation and with all the sass of a grown woman responded "...like 16!"

Carly, age 4: "You don't want me to get bigger, right?! That means I don't have to eat my vegetables!!!"

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

If any families or teachers would like to nominate a Scribes Staff Member for Employee of the Month, just write a note telling us why you think that person deserves to be nominated and drop it in the tuition mailbox. The winner will get a gift card to their favorite restaurant, special parking privileges and a certificate with their note attached displayed in the hallway for all to see!