

News and Notes

Updates and briefs from around the area

By Ithaca Child

World

Breastfeeding week

The 2014 World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-9) is coming up! Ithaca celebrates it this year August 5th 9am -1pm at the DeWitt Park Farmers Market. This year's theme 'Breastfeeding: a winning goal for life' emphasizes the impact and importance that breastfeeding can play on baby and mother. Representatives of WIC, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), La Leche League (LLL) and

Ithaca Breastfeeding Coalition will be there to connect community members to breastfeeding resources and to raise awareness of NYS breastfeeding laws. This Family-friendly event will coincide with story hour from Tompkins County Public Library (TCPL), and WIC will have fun child friendly, signs and activity books.

Belle Sherman Haudenosaunee Mural Project

Last year, to commemorate the anniversary of the Two Row Treaty, there was a call-out for mural art. Belle Sherman 4th graders entered the contest. Brandon Lazore, the winning



Photo provided

Belle Sherman school students get to check out Iroquois Flutes

artist of the Seneca Street Longhouse mural, visited Belle Sherman to explain his design. The students were captivated by the images and the stories they told. High student engagement was also evident in the detailed drawings the students created. These longhouse drawings were created from memories of Ganondagan, a historic Iroquois Village in Victor, N.Y.. Since fourth graders study New York State

history and its native people (The Haudenosaunee, also called the Iroquois or People of the Longhouse), this sparked the Belle Sherman 4th grade to apply for an IPEI Grant for the 2014-2015 school year.

The grant was approved and the "Voice of the Haudenosaunee" came to life. The project included a series of

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At last! By the time you are reading this school will be either out already or almost out. Summertime! Now's the chance for kids to have a little time to themselves. Some will sleep in a little bit. Others will head off to jobs, camp, or any of a myriad of other activities. Yet, for all there is to do, the age old question of, "what's there to do? I'm bored," is liable to come up at least once over the next few weeks. Here in Central New York, there is a vast amount of options for things to do over the summer. We invite you to explore our pages for ideas. You'll find some fun and interesting stories, calendar listings for things to do, and a listing of area Summer Camps and Programs. There's also some options for moms and dads to do at points too because every now and then you may have a babysitter and get a night out!

So, no matter the age of your child or their interests, we hope you find our issue helpful in deciding what you want to do this summer and I thank you for reading Ithaca Child. Sincerely, Jim Graney, Publisher



Helping Toddlers Embrace Their Inner Artists

by Rachael Moshman

I worked with children under five for years as a preschool teacher and childcare center director. I came up with dozens of fun and easy crafts to keep children engaged each month. The most popular crafts are the ones that allow children to be creative. Give them crayons, paint, paper and glue and let them go at it.

Here are some ideas to get you and your child started:

Use wrapping paper.

Buy it on clearance when it is super cheap after Christmas. Tape large sheets of it to a table or the floor with the white side facing up. Then let your child scribble away with markers or crayons or have at it with paint.

Turn toys into tools.

Dip the wheels of toy cars into paint and roll them over paper. The tracks make really cool designs. Use blocks as stamps. My daughter has a dish in her play kitchen with separated sections that makes it a perfect receptacle for paint.

Make collages.

Make a paste out of flower and water. Give children magazines, junk mail or newspapers. Let them rip them up and then glue them on a whole sheet of paper however they want. This is an activity I suggest to parents when their children are struggling with fine motor skills. Ripping and tearing are great ways to strengthen little pinches.

It's important to remember that this is your child's art project. You may want everything you produce to look like it came right out of a Martha Stewart magazine, but your child isn't going to have fun or learn if you're dictating how to do the project.

Yes, I said learn. Children learn through fun activities, including arts and crafts. Your child is developing skills in fine motor development, spatial reasoning, problem solving, sorting, decision making and so much when they do arts and craft projects. Your job is to provide the supplies, make sure they are safe (use nontoxic products) and encourage your little artist to do their thing - whatever that may be. It's important to be flexible and okay with cleaning up a big mess afterwards - it's worth it!

Rachael Moshman is a mom, freelance writer, blogger and family advocate. She is zero artistic talent, but loves encouraging it in others. Find her at www.rachaelmoshman.com.