

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY–MARCH 2010

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Please Touch Museum, the Children's Museum of Philadelphia, kicks off 2010 with loads of interactive fun! "Exploring Trees Inside and Out," a new traveling exhibit introducing kids to nature, opens January 23. The Please Touch Playhouse presents a visitor favorite, "The Building Show" through January 25, and "Scat Cat's Junior Jazz Jamboree" takes the stage during Junior Jazz Festival in February. Target First Wednesdays continue throughout the winter months with \$2 admission from 5–7 p.m. on every first Wednesday of the month, offering families some extra playtime before bedtime. All events, unless otherwise indicated, are free with museum admission.

JANUARY

January 1

New Year's Day – Please Touch Museum is **CLOSED**

Through January 3

Enchanted Colonial Village

Please Touch Museum celebrates the holiday season with a trip to the Village – the Enchanted Colonial Village! Each year, Please Touch invites families to share the magic and motion of holidays past and make new memories as they visit this Philadelphia staple. The scenes made their home at the Lit Brothers department store at 8th and Market Streets from 1962 until 1975.

Through January 25

Please Touch Playhouse presents "The Building Show"

One of the Playhouse's visitor favorites is back with a new and improved set! Big Blue and his furry gang star in this madcap puppet fest. Whether building words, houses or sandwiches these hairy harbingers of comic carpentry are never mortar-fied enough to do anything but raise the roof. Note: Performances are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

January 4

Celebrate author Louis Braille's Birthday

Special storytimes today! Check the "Today's Fun" signs on the gallery floor for details.

January 5

Change in Playhouse performances

Starting today through January 31, the Please Touch Playhouse will be dark on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Theater shows will be performed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

January 6

Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.

First Wednesdays allow visitors extra playtime before bedtime! Enjoy the museum's exhibits, programs and theater shows at an affordable price: Admission for guests over the age of 1 will be just \$2 from 5–7 p.m.

January 9

New Story Castle opens!

Please Touch Museum celebrates the grand opening of a new program space designed to celebrate storytelling and

creative, dramatic learning. The Story Castle looks like a castle straight out of your favorite fairytale, but inside you'll find daily story times, appearances by children's book authors and characters, musical storytelling and Creative Dramatics programs. To celebrate the opening, there will be a meet & greet with Cinderella and fun PTM puppet appearances! The Story Castle is located inside the Kids Store and is open 7 days a week.

January 18

Please Touch Museum is OPEN

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., children will have the chance to create a large mural in Hamilton Hall, which promotes diversity and collaboration.

January 23

NEW "Exploring Trees Inside and Out" Exhibit opens!

(Open through May 2, 2010)

Family members of all ages can discover the wonders of trees at Please Touch Museum in the Nature Explore Traveling Exhibit, "Exploring Trees Inside and Out," opening January 23. The national traveling exhibit is sponsored by Doubletree Hotels and will remain at Please Touch until May 2, 2010.

The Nature Explore Traveling Exhibit contains pieces and parts of a tree – in larger-than-life scale – which enables visitors to take a walk through the inside of a tree trunk and through the veins of the leaves. Visitors will also experience the sights, sounds and scents of trees in a fun, interactive way, and will leave the exhibit with a greater understanding and appreciation of trees and the key role they play in our daily lives.

January 27

Celebrate author Lewis Carol's Birthday

To honor this author's birthday, there will be special appearances by characters from the book Alice in Wonderland!

January 28

Celebrate artist Jackson Pollock's Birthday

To honor this artist's birthday, kids will get to do a special art activity, in which they drop, swirl and spray paint onto their 'canvases' in the Program Room all day today.

January 29

Celebrate author Rosemary Wells' Birthday

Special appearance by Max and special storytimes. Check the "Today's Fun" signs on the gallery floor for details.

Weekly Fun all month long:

Toddler Storytimes

Join us at 10 a.m. in Fairytale Garden for highly interactive and entertaining storytimes for our youngest visitors! Times and locations vary; Check the "Today's Fun" signs on gallery floor for more details.

Musical Playtimes

Join us for daily musical playtimes featuring dress up, instruments and more in a small interactive group setting. Times and locations vary; Check the "Today's Fun" signs on gallery floor for more details.

Creative Dramatics Playtimes: "Kinetic Construction"

Calling all builders and construction workers: We need everybody to lift, haul, build, and play! Come build with blocks, work with tools, and move your body! Pretend to be a big machine constructing a new house or bridge, or a busy beaver building a dam. Times and locations vary; Check the "Today's Fun" signs on gallery floor for more details.

FEBRUARY

18th Annual Junior Jazz Festival all month long!

The only event to introduce young children to the wonderful world of jazz through live music, dance and theater performances, Please Touch Museum's Junior Jazz Festival has become a fan favorite over the years. The museum

will adopt a groovy jazz club atmosphere for a month's worth of concerts and special activities that focus on musical expression and the history of jazz. Special performances by local kid-friendly jazz musicians start the weekend of January 30th and continue every weekend in February. Look out for special meet & greets throughout the month with popular Scat Cat, too!

February 1–26

Please Touch Playhouse presents “Scat Cat’s Junior Jazz Jamboree”

In conjunction with the museum’s Junior Jazz Festival, this interactive show tells the “tail” of an everyday alley cat who happens upon “Max Roach” who teaches her the history of jazz. Max also introduces her to some of the well known artists who made it popular – Stingray Charles, Duck Ellington, and Piggy Lee! The show is highly interactive and runs approximately 25 minutes. Showtimes are Mondays-Fridays 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

February 1

Celebrate author Langston Hughes’ Birthday

Special “Poet’s Corner” readings and percussion instrument fun in the Program Room today! Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on the gallery floor for details.

February 3

Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.

First Wednesdays allow visitors extra playtime before bedtime! Enjoy the museum’s exhibits, programs and theater shows at an affordable price: Admission for guests over the age of 1 will be just \$2 from 5–7 p.m.

February 15

President’s Day— Museum is OPEN

February 15

Celebrate author Norman Bridwell’s Birthday

Special appearance by Clifford and special storytimes today! Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on the gallery floor for details.

February 15

Children’s Prints Exhibit opens at Free Library of Philadelphia

On display through March 12

Please Touch Museum will be participating in the group “Prints Link Philadelphia’s” Children’s Prints Exhibit at the Main Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia from February 15–March 12, 2010. A total of 22 cases will be displayed on the library’s first floor, of which two will showcase selected ‘monoprints’ done by Please Touch Museum visitors during January in the museum’s Program Room.

“Prints Link Philadelphia” is a coalition of community arts organizations, art centers, museums, teaching artists, and pre-k through higher education art educators who are interested in promoting printmaking for children and teens in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. We are planning multiple exhibitions and events to coincide with Philagrafika’s symposium in 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.philagrafika2010.org/>.

February 22

Celebrate artist Horace Pippin’s Birthday

To honor this artist’s birthday, kids will get to do a special drawing with crayons activity in the Program Room today.

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Musical Playtimes

Join us for daily musical playtimes featuring dress up, instruments and more in a small interactive group setting. Times and locations vary; Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on gallery floor for more details.

Creative Dramatics Playtimes: “Snow Day”

Everyone loves a snow day; because there are lots of fun snow games to play!

Join us to revel in the wonder of winter activities such as (friendly) snowball battles and snowman building; plus travel to the north and south poles to swim, sled and slide with polar bears and penguins. Times and locations vary; Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on gallery floor for more details.

MARCH

March 2

Celebrate author Dr. Seuss’ Birthday

Special appearance by Cat in the Hat and special storytimes today! Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on the gallery floor for details.

March 3

Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.

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March 5-7

Rhythm Romp!

Rhythm Romp 2010 will introduce children to the fun world percussion instruments, with special performances by both ensembles and solo artists who perform a variety of percussion instruments. Guest artists will include Darius Mills II from Washington D.C. performing drum set, Mike DeCastro performing Latin percussion, the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble, UARTS Percussion Ensemble and Rumble Ensemble, among others.

Another highlight includes a “Percussion and Numbers” clinic for kids, which will use drums and percussion to help teach children how to count and do basic math in a fun, exploratory way!

Be sure to check www.pleasetouchmuseum.org for all performance dates and times.

March 5- May 9

Please Touch Playhouse presents “There’s Something Under My Bed”

This is the story of three-year old Sam who has the sneaking suspicion that there’s something under his bed. Even though Sam’s parents tell him it’s probably just a dust bunny, Sam devises a plan to lure the “monster” out so he can finally get some sleep.

The show is highly interactive and runs approximately 25 minutes. Showtimes are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. (There will be no Playhouse shows on Tuesdays and Thursdays.)

March 7

Celebrate artist Piet Mondrian’s Birthday

In honor of this Centennial artist’s birthday, there will be a special “GeoArt” activity in the Program Room, which includes a few art experiences that introduces children to shapes and lines—geometric collages, color forms and more!

March 21

International Day of Puppetry

In celebration of this worldwide Day of Puppetry, Please Touch Museum will have a Puppet Play Date! Join us for puppet activities in the Program Room, visits from Pinky and other Please Touch Puppet Pals and the unveiling of a brand new member of the PTM puppet family! Make sure to also catch a performance of the interactive puppet show There’s Something Under My Bed in the Playhouse at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. today.

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Musical Playtimes

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Creative Dramatics Playtimes: “Puppet Parade”

Lend a hand and practice your puppeteering proficiency! Come to the Puppet Parade Playtime to explore many different types of puppets. Discover and proclaim your very own puppet personality! Times and locations vary; Check the “Today’s Fun” signs on gallery floor for more details.

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Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children’s museums, Please Touch is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.