



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR
JANUARY – MARCH 2011**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Please Touch Museum®, the Children's Museum of Philadelphia, rings in the New Year with a full lineup of exciting, hands-on exhibits, events, and programming, including *Access/ABILITY*, a national exhibit highlighting the everyday challenges faced by people with disabilities. Target First Wednesdays continue in 2011 with \$2 admission from 5-7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. Kids and grown-ups can celebrate the importance of art with Art from the Heart Month in February and the Rhythm Romp and World Music Performance Series' return to get those feet stompin' and bodies rockin'! "North Wind" runs through January 23 in the Please Touch Playhouse followed by the ever-popular, "How the Sun Was Returned to the Sky" beginning on January 28 and "There's Something Under My Bed" on March 7.

All events, unless otherwise indicated, are free with museum admission.

Please note: Please Touch Playhouse is dark on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will be dark January 24 – 27 and March 3 and 4.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day – Please Touch Museum is OPEN from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Through January 2

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 Lit Brothers Department Store at 8th and Market Streets from 1962 until 1975.

Through January 23

Please Touch Playhouse presents "North Wind"

Diamond is sick in bed and his folks are worried about him. But that night, while a mighty thunder storm rages and he sleeps and dreams, Diamond makes a new friend who is unlike any one else he has ever met. A friend who can quite literally show Diamond

the whole world in a single night, Diamond has met North Wind. She wraps her arms about him and takes him sailing high into the night skies to show him the wide world as only she has seen it. Based on the groundbreaking novel Back of the North Wind by George MacDonald.

Wednesday, January 5
Target First Wednesdays

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.

Saturday, January 15 – Monday, January 17
Rhythm Romp Performance Series

If drums are your thing, then you'll love the 3rd annual Rhythm Romp performance series! Come feel the beat and move your feet with live musicians in Hamilton Hall at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Kids will have all sorts of instruments for their eyes and ears to enjoy! And don't miss the End of the Day Parade happening at 4:45 p.m. – it's the little ones' turn to show off their marching skills and close out the day with a bang!

Saturday, January 22 – Sunday, April 24
Access/ABILITY exhibit

From January through April, Please Touch Museum will host *Access/ABILITY*, a traveling exhibit designed for children ages 5-12 and their families. This 1,200-square-foot, hands-on disability awareness exhibit presents people with disabilities participating in everyday activities and settings that are familiar to children. Visitors will have a chance to learn phrases in American Sign Language, type their names in Braille, try a hand-pedaled bike and take part in a multi-sensory City Walk. This exhibit will be accessible for children and families with physical, visual and hearing impairments and will raise awareness and provide important experiences for museum visitors.

Access/ABILITY was created by Boston Children's Museum and is sponsored nationally by MetLife Foundation. The exhibit is sponsored in Philadelphia by the Widener Memorial Foundation in Aid of Handicapped Children and is supported by Inglis Foundation.

Saturday, January 22
Expectant Moms (and Dads) Bootcamp

Please Touch Museum is partnering with *Save-A-Tot* and *Family Wellness Solutions* to present *Expectant Moms (and Dads) Bootcamp*. The program will conquer some of the most exciting and pressing new mommy and daddy questions and help you prepare for the amazing and exciting changes your family is about to experience! The event will feature complimentary gift bags for each registered family, hundreds of dollars worth of amazing door prizes and a continental breakfast buffet. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 per couple and can be purchased at

<http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org/events/bootcamp>.

Friday, January 28 – Friday, March 4

Please Touch Playhouse presents “How the Sun was Returned to the Sky”

Spirit has stolen the Sun and hidden it on Spirit Mountain and left all the people of the world cold and in the dark. And all the people of the world get really tired of being cold and in the dark and so go to the smartest animal they know to bring the Sun home. “By the teeth in my head, by the fur on my tail, I’ll bring the Sun home, I will not fail,” vows Coyote. And so he and Muskrat, Raccoon, Fox and Skunk, his intrepid band, set out to trick the fearsome Spirit and bring the Sun with its warmth and light back to Earth.

Saturday, January 29

Max appearance to celebrate author Rosemary Wells’ birthday

Meet *Max* from the *Max and Ruby* book series in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 1 – Monday, February 28

Art from the Heart Month

Art from the Heart celebrates arts education and the power that art has to bring people together. Families are encouraged to take this opportunity to spend quality time together creating, viewing and learning about art. Each weekend visitors have the opportunity to interact with a different Artist-In-Residence. Kids and grown-ups can learn about the process of creating art from the artists themselves or try out a new technique using unique materials in our Program Room.

Wednesday, February 2

Target First Wednesdays

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.

Tuesday, February 15

Clifford appearance to celebrate author Norman Bridwell’s birthday

Meet *Clifford the Big Red Dog* in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 19 – Monday, February 21

World Music Performance Series

Prepare for new and exciting sounds to get those feet tapping and body moving with the World Music Performance Series at Please Touch Museum. Kids can take a listen to some of the many ways to make music at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. in Hamilton Hall. Maybe you can try some new dance moves as well. It’s a fun way to celebrate all the unique and wonderful cultures of the world!

MARCH

Tuesday, March 1 – Thursday, March 31 Puppet Celebration Month

Join Please Touch Museum in celebrating the art of puppetry all month long! The museum will host a variety of guest puppeteers and showcase museum puppet favorites as well as introduce special new Please Touch Museum Puppet Pal programs and performances. A variety of creative educational puppet related programming throughout the month will be sure to delight all ages and inspire the next generation of puppeteers.

Wednesday, March 2 Target First Wednesdays

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.

Wednesday, March 2 Cat in the Hat appearance to celebrate author Dr. Seuss' birthday

Meet *The Cat in the Hat* in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9 – Saturday, April 30 Please Touch Playhouse presents "There's Something Under My Bed"

Meet Sam. He's three and a half. And for some time now, Sam's had a bit of a problem. Every time Sam has to go to sleep, he has the sneaking suspicion there is something under his bed. And it happens every night. "It's just the dust bunnies," his big people say. But Sam knows better and so he hatches a clever plan to lure the "monster" out to finally rid himself of the terrible thing that won't let him sleep.

Monday, March 7, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn: The 1876 Centennial Exhibition \$36

Please Touch Museum isn't just for kids anymore! Enjoy the museum's Lunch & Learn lecture series, featuring illustrated talks and behind-the-scenes tours of Memorial Hall. Join Please Touch Museum's Curator of Collections for a lunch provided by Max & Me Catering, a lecture and a tour highlighting the history, art, and architecture of Memorial Hall, a National Historic Landmark that served as the Art Gallery of the 1876 Centennial and first home to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

More than ten million people came to Philadelphia during the summer of 1876 to experience a World's fair and celebration the nation's 100th birthday. How are Thomas Edison, Frank Lloyd Wright and the Statue of Liberty connected to the Centennial? What role did Memorial Hall play? Where was Thomas Eakins' masterpiece, *The Gross Clinic*, displayed during the Fair? The lecture is followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the building.

Reservations: 215-581-3168

Wednesday, March 30
Celebrate artist Vincent Van Gogh's birthday

“Scrubby Brushes and Starry Night” activities in the Program Room.

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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 Monday through Saturday 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 our web site at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.