

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY–SEPTEMBER 2010

PHILADELPHIA, PA —Please Touch Museum kicks off the summer season with tons of family fun. During August, families can cool off inside the museum and enjoy late museum hours every Thursday when the museum is open until 8 p.m. Target First Wednesdays continue throughout the summer with \$2 admission from 5–7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Music from around the globe will fill the museum for the first annual World Music Festival, July 9–11. Through July 12, catch the Playhouse show “Pinch Bear” before “Gram Adele” returns to the stage July 16–September 6. The museum’s new “You & Me Playdates” are available throughout the summer, encouraging kids and their grown-ups to play and imagine together using a variety of activities and props.

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

JULY

Through July 12

Please Touch Playhouse presents “Pinch Bear”

Born from the dust of a falling star, Pinch Bear is so named because people can't help but pinch her cheeks, she's that cute. Soon Pinch Bear wants more than to be just “cute” and sets out alone to prove herself. The show is highly interactive and runs approximately 25 minutes. 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.

You & Me Playdates

Throughout the summer

Please Touch Museum launches a new series of You & Me Playdates this summer, offering parents and children an opportunity to join together to create music, art, puppetry and creative dramatics in joyful and innovative workshop sessions facilitated by museum educators. Each Playdate lasts one hour and all prices include museum admission for one child and one adult (there is no museum admission fee for member families). Additional fees apply for each additional child. To reserve a space in any session, call 215-581-3178.

July 5, 12, 19 and 26

You & Me Playdate: “You, Me & Playhouse”

These sessions offer special in-depth dramatic activities and games centered on the themes of the museum's theater performances. The hour-long “Playhouse Playtimes” feature guaranteed first seating to the 11 a.m. Please Touch Playhouse show, followed by an interactive program led by a Playhouse performer. Kids and their grown-ups are encouraged to play and imagine together using a variety of activities and props. Sessions for kids ages 3-8 are held on July 5 and 12 featuring the theater show *A Beary Small World*; and July 19 and 26 featuring *Soup's On*. Price per session is \$75 for members and \$105 for non-members. Additional fees apply for each additional child. To reserve a space in this session, call 215-581-3178.

Celebrate 4th of July at Please Touch Museum

Pinky the Puppet will be strolling the gallery floor at 11:00 a.m., while dressed the part in red, white and blue! Join in the parades in Hamilton Hall at Noon and 4:00 p.m. and stop by the Program Room all day for “Across the USA” art activities, plus story times in the Story Castle featuring books about the history of America and American geography!

July 6

Celebrate artist Frida Kahlo's Birthday

Express what is special about you through the “Self-Face Paint” activity in honor of Kahlo’s birthday all day in the Program Room.

July 7

Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.

Come in for some 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 is just \$2 from 5–7 p.m.

July 9

Otto the Dog appearance in celebration of Todd Parr’s Birthday

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

July 10, 17, 24, and 31

You & Me Playdate: “You, Me & Puppetry”

These hour-long playtime sessions provide a fun, family-friendly course in puppeteering. Sessions introduce children and their grown-ups to rod puppets, shadow puppets, marionettes and more. The hour-long sessions are held at 9 a.m. for children ages 5–9. Registration for one adult and child for all four sessions is \$100 for museum members and \$180 for non-members; individual sessions are \$35 for members and \$57 for non-members. Additional fees apply for each additional child. To reserve a space in this session, call 215-581-3178.

July 9–11

World Music Festival

Please Touch Museum’s World Music Festival is a three-day celebration of music from around the globe. Music is an inspiring and stimulating language that *all* people understand! Special guests include an Irish ensemble, a polka group, and a Taiko drum ensemble. Come hear the cool sounds of the Jamaican pan drums or the heavy beats of the Balkan brass. The new and exciting sounds will be sure to get your feet tapping and body moving!

July 12

50th Anniversary of Etch-A-Sketch

Play with the past as you use Etch-A-Sketches to create artwork in the Program Room all day today.

July 14

Amelia Bedelia appearance in celebration of Peggy Parrish’s Birthday

Meet Amelia Bedelia in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

July 16- September 6

Please Touch Playhouse presents “Gram Adele”

Gram Adele is one wise, old, magical woman. One day, while she is away, her helper uses a musical spell that he has overheard. He can make the big, black magic soup pot cook but can he make it stop? The show is highly interactive and runs approximately 25 minutes. 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.

July 16

Elaine Wideman-Vaughn Birthday Celebration

The museum’s Portable Play programs will be featured in the Program Room to help visitors learn about longtime staff member, Elaine Wideman-Vaughn, and her contributions to Please Touch Museum.

July 17

Rainforest Rhythm exhibit re-opens

The popular nature-inspired exhibit returns, inviting children to make music on nature-inspired instruments and explore music from around the world! Children can spin segments on a rain stick log and hear the gentle sounds of a tropical waterfall or create a symphony of sounds—their own “jungle jam session”—by beating out rhythms on drums made to resemble fallen trees. The 2,800 square foot exhibit will be open through Thanksgiving 2010.

July 19

(If You Give a Pig (a Pancake) appearance in celebration of Laura Numeroff’s Birthday

Meet Pig in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

July 22

PBS Kids Sprout Host Appearance

Meet popular TV host Kelly today at 10 a.m. as she reads a book to children!

July 19-23

Grandparent Days: You're never too old to PLAY!

Grandparent Days at Please Touch Museum offer 1 FREE grandparent admission with 1 paid child mission from July 19 to 23!

July 25

National Carousel Day

Artist in Residence Lauren Nemchik will unveil an addition to the museum's collection with an oil painting featuring the Lead Horse of the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel. The artist will spend the day in the Program Room painting carousel horses with kids. Storytimes will feature horses, shapes and fair-themed books, while musical programming will feature a special unicorn marionette in the Carousel House. Look out for Pinky the Puppet who will join kids on a spin on the museum's carousel!

July 28

Peter Rabbit appearance in celebration of Beatrix Potter's Birthday

Meet Peter Rabbit in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

AUGUST

August 2, 9, 16 and 23

You & Me Playdate: "You, Me & Art"

This four-week "Messy Monday" workshop series encourages grown-ups and children to create art together! And remember: It's okay to get a little messy! Hour-long sessions are held August 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 10 a.m. for children ages 8 and under. Registration for one adult and child for all four sessions is \$100 for museum members and \$180 for non-members; individual sessions are \$35 for members and \$57 for non-members. Additional fees apply for each additional child. To reserve a space in this session, call 215-581-3178.

August 4

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 is just \$2 from 5-7 p.m.

August 5

Museum open until 8 p.m.

August 6

Celebrate artist Andy Warhol's Birthday

Pretend you're in Warhol's print studio as you create fun and funky gelatin prints in the Program Room all day today!

August 7

Appearance by PBS character Angelina Ballerina

Meet your favorite TV/book series character as part of the museum's Dancing Days programming!

August 12

Museum open until 8 p.m.

August 19

Museum open until 8 p.m.

August 25

Olivia appearance in celebration of author Ian Falconer's Birthday

Meet Olivia in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; then, connect art and literacy with an *Olivia* inspired activity in the Program Room!

August 26**PBS Kids Sprout Host Appearance**

Meet popular TV host Sean today at 10 a.m. as he reads a book to children!

August 26

Museum open until 8 p.m.

August 29**Stroller in the Park**

Please Touch Museum's 1st Annual Stroller in the Park is a playful twist on a traditional 5K walk in Fairmount Park, created exclusively for families with young children! This family-friendly event supports the Museum's *Get Up and Grow™* healthy lifestyles initiatives, promoting lifelong habits that result in healthier, happier families.

Registration begins June 4, 2010. Stroller in the Park registrants will receive exclusive morning access to Please Touch Museum on August 29, 2010. Family pricing and sponsorships available. More info at <http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org/events/stroller/>

August 31**Celebrate Maria Montessori's Birthday**

Learn about the Montessori style of education that Please Touch Museum's play philosophy is based on as you engage in specially designed educational activities in the Program Room.

SEPTEMBER**September 1****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.

September 7**Celebrate artist Jacob Lawrence's Birthday**

Create art inspired by African-American narrative artist Jacob Lawrence in the Program Room today.

September 16**Curious George appearance in celebration H.A. Rey's Birthday**

Meet Curious George in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

September 23**PBS Kids Sprout Host appearance****September 26****National Day of Play**

Celebrate the National Day of Play at Philadelphia's premier play institution! Whether it's playing an instrument, creating a work of art, reading a story, or playing dress up, there's no wrong way to play. Unstructured, open-ended play is an important part of healthy development for all children, and central to Please Touch Museum's mission of creating learning opportunities through play. Join in this special day to celebrate the value and importance of play!

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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.