

# Parents as Teachers

## Reflections from the Coordinator

*"Children learn as they play.*

*Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn."*

Play is more than just fun—it's how young children learn best. Through play, children practice problem-solving, develop social skills, build language, and strengthen their bodies. Whether they are stacking blocks, pretending to cook, running outside, or playing a game with friends, they are developing important skills for school and for life.

When children play, they are learning to:

- **Be creative and curious** – exploring new ideas and trying out solutions.
- **Build relationships** – learning how to share, cooperate, and express feelings.
- **Grow stronger** – developing balance, coordination, and healthy habits.
- **Develop confidence** – practicing independence and making choices.

Play is a gift you can give your child—time, space, and encouragement to explore, imagine, and discover. Even a few minutes of play together each day strengthens your bond and supports your child's growth.

Playgroups are one place set aside for you to enjoy open ended play with your child. We have loved having so many of you back in our playroom whether during the week, on an evening or Saturday morning. If you have not yet been, I encourage you to check out the playgroup section of the newsletter to see how you can take part! We also hope you will join us for a special night with your child we like to call Pajama Time Storytime. Come in your pjs and enjoy songs, stories and I Love You Rituals with your child.

We also want to share that our beloved program administrative assistant, Amy Mertz will be retiring after 17 years with our program. I know you will join me in wishing her well as she has left a mark on our program and our hearts. She will be dearly missed.

As always, please let me know if you have any needs, questions or concerns. We wish you well!

*Michelle Kelly*

### Calendar

Pajama Storytime  
Thursday, October  
9th Two sessions:  
5:30-6pm &  
6:15-6:5pm

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## NOVEMBER PLAYGROUPS

BV PAT is excited to welcome families back to our playroom. In-person playgroups offer many benefits including connecting with other families, new activities for children to explore and children learning to interact with each other.

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 2-4 week sessions. In November, families have the opportunity to sign up for a group that will meet weekly at the same time for 3 weeks. You can choose to sign up for a group with children that are similar age to your child (Baby Play, 1-Year-Olds or 2-Year-Olds) or you can choose our multiage group (birth to 36 months) if you have more than one child under 36 months of age or would like your child to be around children of all ages.

### **NOVEMBER PLAYGROUP SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED ON OCTOBER 7th**

#### **Each group will be limited to 10-18 children.**

- Only one adult per child may attend. A nanny or grandparent is welcome to bring child in place of parent if necessary.
- No siblings are allowed in the Baby Play, 1-Year-Old or 2-Year-Old playgroups. Siblings under 36 months of age are allowed to attend the multiage playgroups, evening and Saturday playgroups. Non-walking/crawling babies are an exception.
- All adults must show a valid state issued photo ID or passport to enter any BV building. Please plan to bring ID with you every time you come to playgroup or you will not be allowed to attend.
- Strollers and car seats are not allowed in the playroom, please plan to wear or carry your baby while in the playroom when not on the floor playing.
- If a session is full please add your name to the waiting list. Waiting list families will receive priority registration for the next month.
- If you miss two sessions in a row, your spot will be given to the next family on the waiting list.
- Please stay home if you or your child is ill.

#### **November Playgroups**

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months) - Tuesdays: 9:15-10am on 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months)– Thursdays: 12:15-1pm on 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Wednesdays: 10:15-11am on 11/5, 11/12, 11/19

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Thursdays: 9:15-10am on 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Tuesdays: 10:15-11am on 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Wednesdays: 9:15-10am on 11/5, 11/12, 11/19

Playgroup for 1's and 2's (0 to 36 months) - Thursdays: 10:15-11am on 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

Saturday Playgroup 11/8 9:15-10am

Evening Playgroup Wednesday, 11/5 5:30-6:15pm

## Pajama Storytime

Join us Thursday, October 9th for a Pajama Storytime and enjoy bedtime songs, stories and fun! Have your child wear their favorite pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal. The suggested age for this storytime is 18 months and older. The Hilltop playgrounds will be open after this event. Two sessions to choose from: 5:30-6pm or 6:15-6:45pm. Registration is required and space is limited to 20 families. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

## Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA

Hello PTA Families!! A quick reminder that Stock the Breakroom is going on through September 28th. Your contributions help **stock the breakroom** of our amazing teachers, parent educators, support staff and MORE. Whether you have a child in the early childhood program, or participate in the Parents as Teachers program, this is a way to thank your educator for their time, talents and support. Who doesn't love a good snack?!

As you're doing your grocery shopping over the next week or so consider signing up to grab and send in an item or two. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. Breakroom snacks may be brought to the office anytime between Tuesday, September 9th and Friday, September 28th. The next time you attend a playgroup works great too. Can't make it to the school but still want to give? You can make a donation to the PTA [HERE](#). Find the dropdown that says "Staff Appreciation" and the funds given will be used to purchase something off of the list. Thank you for your generosity and loving on those teachers! Also, we are still *searching* for an **Outings Coordinator**! This role can be coordinated entirely from home and I'm here to help.

Your role would be to determine location and create the sign up. I would love to have someone in place to get an outing on the calendar for October. In the past, outings have consisted of local parks (i-Lan, Stillwell Park, Arthur & Betty Park--my family calls it the "tractor park"), Lenexa Splash with Me, Deanna Rose, Powell Pumpkin Patch, the library for story time etc. The options are TRULY endless. If this position interest you, would you please email our Vice President, Kristen Byers at: [parentsasteachersvp@gmail.com](mailto:parentsasteachersvp@gmail.com)

Not a PTA Member? Click [HERE](#) to join!

## Kansas City's Pumpkin Patch Guide



October is a great chance to plan a family outing to one of the many fall festivals or Pumpkin Patches in our area. Set yourself up for a good day by choosing a time that your child will be well rested and pack water and snacks. Plan to allow time for them to wander and walk with you to get new hands-on experiences. Check out KC Parent Magazines list [HERE](#).