

Summer Round Up

The MUSA Little Lambs 2014 Summer Program ran from 6am-6pm, June through August. Participants had a blast playing and learning in the summer sun. Youth looked forward to weekly water play, where they brought their bathing suits and splashed through sprinklers and swimming pools in the courtyard. MUSA Little Lambs also participated in fun, summer-oriented daily activities and learned about the season through songs, books, and circle time. One summer highlight was a field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, where the Little Lambs were especially excited to see the polar bears, monkeys, and fish. To cap off the summer, the Little Lambs attended MUSA's End-of-Summer Picnic which was held for all MUSA participants big and small at Northmoreland Park in Westmoreland County. The Little Lambs played games, ate hamburgers off the grill, and ran for hours through the park.

Thank to all of our MUSA families that helped to make this summer a success. Next summer, MUSA Little Lambs can look forward to increased programming opportunities that are sure to be a blast. Be on the lookout for summer enrollment information in March 2015!



MUSA Little Lambs at the Zoo

MUSA Listserv

The MUSA listserv is a weekly email that is sent out to parents at each of our programs. Emails will include information on program/school closing, special events, program updates and more.

It is important that our families are able to receive timely information. Please consider submitting your email address to Sam Kovacs at Little Lambs to be included on the listserv.

Website and Facebook Page

MUSA's website and Facebook page have been revamped! Be sure to check out www.musasv.org for program and enrollment information. 'Like' our Facebook page, MUSASV1, for pictures and information regarding closings and program schedules!

Little Lambs Program Staff

MUSA Little Lambs Program Director Alissa McNeil began her maternity leave on Thursday, October 30th. We would like to congratulate her and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Camden, on Friday, October 31st. Alissa is enjoying time with her family and hopes to return to MUSA soon. Congratulations Alissa!

With Alissa on leave, MUSA Little Lambs is in good hands with Sam Kovacs serving as the Interim Program Director. Miss Sam has been with MUSA for one year and has done a wonderful job ensuring that the Little Lambs continue to have positive learning and growth opportunities.

Miss Nikki Fechter is approaching her one year anniversary with MUSA Little Lambs and has been an incredible asset to the program. Miss Nikki is a calming presence who excels at teaching youth with patience and kindness. We appreciate all of our hardworking staff who make Little Lambs a great place for children to learn and grow!

Halloween 2014

MUSA Little Lambs celebrated Halloween with fun costumes, delicious treats, and a parade through the building.



Keystone STARS Update

MUSA Little Lambs is currently a Keystone STARS Level 2. MUSA will begin working towards a Keystone STARS Level 3 in January 2015. This means increased program quality and higher learning standards. For more information on the Keystone STARS program, visit www.pakeys.org.

Classroom Changes

MUSA Little Lambs believes that it is important for children to enter kindergarten with a strong foundational knowledge of letters, numbers, colors, and seasons and holidays. MUSA Little Lambs has made several classroom changes to ensure that all of our youth will be prepared for kindergarten. The Little Lambs' schedule now includes more time for reading aloud, which is proven to be an effective method for preparing children to read on their own. In addition, MUSA Little Lambs' circle time has been revamped to include 'exploratory' components, leading participants on an in-depth exploration of classroom materials as they relate to the letter of the week. MUSA's preschoolers have also been spending an increased amount of time working on writing their names and learning about numbers. Over the past month, the Little Lambs have also closely examined the Thanksgiving holiday and have learned about the Pilgrims, Native Americans, and concepts such as 'generosity.'

Daily Sheets have a new and improved layout to make it easier for you to assess your child's daily progress. Please be sure to check your child's mailbox each day!

If you have any particular topics that you would like us to work on with your child, please do not hesitate to contact Sam Kovacs at (412) 461-1800 or at SKovacs@musasv.org.



Parent Resource Corner

MUSA Little Lambs works daily to foster a love of reading in your children. MUSA parents are encouraged to continue these reading practices at home. Studies show that reading regularly at home not only improves a child's reading ability, but it improves math skills as well!

Try to set a winter at-home reading goal for your child. Have fun helping them to design a chart that lists how many books they want to read with you at home each week. Have your child cross off the goals on the chart as they accomplish them, allowing them to see their progress. When they accomplish a goal, say...reading three books at home...allow them to choose a prize. Prizes can be as small as a sticker or letting them watch an extra 20 minutes of their favorite TV show.

For great parenting resources that address everything from child development to budgeting tips, visit Pennsylvania's Promise for Children at: www.papromiseforchildren.com.

Meet Our New Friend....

MUSA Little Lambs is excited to introduce Nonnie, our classroom Elf on the Shelf! Nonnie is Santa's helper, who delivers him messages straight to the North Pole! A little mischievous, Nonnie loves to hide in silly places throughout the classroom each night, to be found by the children in the morning.

MUSA Little Lambs uses Nonnie as a learning tool to motivate and excite children during the holiday season. The children are eager to look for where Nonnie is hiding each morning, but must use only their looking eyes, as Nonnie will lose her magic if she is touched! In addition, Nonnie encourages children to follow rules and set good examples in the classroom. MUSA teachers talk daily with the children about behaviors that Nonnie likes to see, such as respect, kindness, generosity and compassion for others.



Upcoming Events

MUSA Holiday Party

MUSA's annual family holiday party will take place on Thursday, December 18th, from 6:30-8:30pm. The party will be located in the Steel Valley Council of Governments Gymnasium at 1705 Maple St. Homestead, PA 15120.

There will be a special holiday performance by each program. In addition, all MUSA youth in attendance will receive a gift from a surprise visitor. Family members are welcome to attend. There will be plenty of pizza and cookies for all!

Please RSVP by December 10th!

CCIS

MUSA accepts CCIS funding (Child Care Information Services) at Little Lambs. CCIS is a state-funded subsidy that covers a portion of child care costs for parents who are working or attending an education program.

To see if you qualify or for more information, call CCIS at (412) 261-2273. Call now for spring or summer funding as CCIS availability fills up quickly!

Happy Holidays!

