

December 18, 2009

# The PEIRCE LINK

A Near-Weekly Publication of the Peirce PTO

Absent/Tardy: (617) 559-9650

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<http://www.k12.newton.ma.us/Peirce/>

Patience Equality Inclusion Responsibility Cooperation Effort

## Calendar

### December

22 PTO sponsored faculty luncheon 12:30PM in the gym

24 December Recess – NO SCHOOL

### January

4 School back in session

8 CAP parent informational meeting, Grades K, 2 & 5, 8:35-10AM in the Peirce Art Room

### February

22-26 Principal finalists will visit schools

**Note: The delivery day for Peirce Link is changing to Thursdays at 5:30PM as of January 2010.**

## Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Peirce Families,

Thank you so much to committee co-chairs Debbie Drucker and Kristen Fitzgerald for organizing the Mom's Night Out on November 19. It was a blast! A big thank you to Shelby and Miceal Chamberlain, who offered their beautiful home to host this social event.

Thank you also to Temple Street neighbors Paul Friedberg and Maddie Krauss for hosting the second annual Dad's Coffee at their home on Friday morning, November 20. The warm coffee was a welcome refuge from this drizzly weather day.

The process for selecting our new permanent principal at Peirce is well underway. Thank you for the strong participation rate on the online Principal Survey. On behalf of the Peirce community, we'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to Lisa Gordon and Gwen Bloch for volunteering to participate on the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) which is an advisory role to the Superintendent, who will appoint the principal. The SAC will engage in a process which will take into consideration the needs of Peirce School as it crafts interview questions, chooses candidates for interviews, and suggests finalists to the Superintendent. Since this selection process is confidential, please help Lisa and Gwen with their roles by not inquiring about the candidates who they will be interviewing.

The Peirce Auction on Saturday, February 6 is just around the corner and approaching fast! This biennial event is our most significant contributing fundraising event at Peirce. We rely on the Auction for all of our PTO programs such as the Creative Arts & Sciences enrichment program, computers and technology for our classrooms, and playground maintenance. The Auction Committee is still looking for airline miles, and hotel points if you can help - but secure the babysitter and just be sure to get involved in any way you can! Thank you to the parents who have already generously made donations to the auction, and to the amazing and tireless Auction Co-chairs Donna Giovannini and Mia Wenjen and all the committee volunteers.

Some great news from the Peirce community: this year's PTO family membership participation rate is about 50 percent. Thank you to everyone who supported the membership drive this year and a big thanks to Shelby Chamberlain who has done a superb job spearheading this drive.

As a reminder this holiday season, please adhere to the Newton School Committee's policy regarding no gifts to teachers. If you wish to express your gratitude to a faculty member; cards or notes are greatly appreciated and other alternatives include purchasing a book for the library, or making a donation to the Newton Schools Foundation. Each of these can be dedicated to honor a special staff member. We thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

Respectfully,

Jody Klein, Janet Clay and Penny Macht

## Creative Arts & Sciences

**POTATO HILL POETRY** - On Tuesday, December 8, each of the fourth grade classrooms was visited by Andrew Green, of Potato Hill Poetry. This visit was part of a poetry residency conducted by Mr. Green which began on November 19. The residency will conclude with a last visit on December 21.

Mr. Green, a former teacher, is a poet who makes poetry accessible to students through his programs. Mr. Green's focus is to create exercises to help students see and hear the joy of language. He discussed his own writing process and showed the students different types of poems and note-keeping journals. He also read some of his own poems, as well as works of other poets to demonstrate to the students the variety of forms that poetry can take, from rhymed meter to prose poems.

Mr. Green engaged the children and encouraged them to "get small" with their writing. He described and gave examples of "zooming in" with a video camera when describing small pleasures or activities the children might write about. He also gave the children poetry pointers to guide them with their writing. At the end of each session the children wrote their own poems. A testament to Mr. Green's talent is their great enthusiasm to then share their poems with the class. He made the children feel that poetry is for everyone! This program was brought to your children by the Creative Arts and Sciences Committee and was funded by your generous contributions to the PTO. Thank you for your support.

## School News

**WORD OF THE WEEK** – Precise (adjective): Very accurate or exact.

**REUSABLE SANDWICH and SNACK BAG SALE - DEADLINE EXTENDED!** Did you know that every day over 20 million plastic baggies go into our landfills? As part of the green initiatives of the Peirce Social Action Committee we are selling reusable snack bags and sandwich bags with the Peirce logo on them that your children can use for their lunches. We've extended the order deadline to Friday, December 18. Place your order today! All proceeds will benefit the PTO's green initiatives. The reusable bags are made from certified food-safe cotton fabric with a moisture-proof lining, they are washable and dishwasher safe, lead free, bpa free and pththalate free. See the attached flyer for a picture and order form or visit the Social Action Committee bulletin board.

**MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY - Welcome to the December issue of "Make Every Day Earth Day" sponsored by the Peirce Social Action Committee.** Each month we will focus on "green living" and share helpful tips and practices you can use! We'd like to hear from you about your "green living" ideas or "green" family practices. We'll publish your suggestions each month!

**Holiday Tips for Holiday Entertaining: Can holiday cooking and entertaining be “green?” Yes it can!** Of course, you must use sustainable foods to achieve “green gourmet” status. Commercial farming and factory processed foods harm the environment and the many people and animals involved in the production process. Sustainable agriculture involves food production methods that are healthy and not harmful to the environment. You can make any meal a sustainable feast by using locally grown produce, locally and/or organically raised meats, and other unprocessed ingredients. For sustainable food recipes and to learn more about sustainability visit this website: <http://www.sustainabletable.org/home.php>

**Try hosting a “green holiday party.”** Follow these simple tips: Abandon the paper products, plastic-ware, and paper or artificial decorations. Instead use real plates and silverware, decorate with natural garlands and plants, and use sustainable candles made from soy. Send out invitations and holiday cards by e-mail and save cards and wrapping paper you receive for future use. Also, serve sustainable fare that includes vegan recipes. For more tips on being green this holiday season visit this website:

<http://us.oneworld.net/article/359135-green-holiday-tips>. **Social Action Committee Bulletin Board:** Visit our Social Action Committee bulletin board located near the auditorium. Look for helpful, environmentally friendly ideas for you and your family. Please send your “green” ideas, suggestions, or family practices for publication in future “Make Every Day Earth Day” issues to April McCabe at [staprel@yahoo.com](mailto:staprel@yahoo.com) Our next issue will focus on environmentally friendly family time!

**COMING SOON: THE 2010 PEIRCE AUCTION AND CASINO NIGHT** - February 6, 6:30-10:30PM at the Neighborhood Club. Thank-you to all who have contributed. We are still looking for various items including American Express points and frequent flying miles. This year, there will be an online auction starting January 25 and ending February 5. Most items listed on the online auction will be SOLD prior to our live event. On February 6, join the rest of the Peirce Community for Casino Night our Winning Event!! That night we will be auctioning off some very special items including:

- **Your Child’s Classroom Art Project**
- **Opening Day Tickets to the Red Sox**
- **And other fabulous items such as sports tickets, dinners, & vacation homes**

**Ever Been on a Real Live Cattle Drive? Yup, you can win that too!**

Remember, you can help sponsor this event with your donation or by helping to underwrite a portion of the event costs. Please call us today, we cannot do this without you! You can reach Donna or Mia at [donnagiovannini@gmail.com](mailto:donnagiovannini@gmail.com) or [MWenjen@aquent.com](mailto:MWenjen@aquent.com)

**NEWTON COMMUNITY ED CLASSES AT PEIRCE** - Registration is now underway for winter classes with Newton Community Education. Coming up at Peirce we have **Mad Science** on Mondays, and **Chess** and **Girls Chemistry** on Thursdays. Check out our winter Saturday programs for families and just for kids: they include **Chocolate with a Twist**, **Slippery Science**, **Math Mania Weekend Adventure**, **Indoor Soccer**, **Adult-Child Pottery**, and more. We have lots of classes for older elementary and middle schoolers too, like **Web Design**, **Game Design**, **Karate**, **Robotics**, **Sewing**, and more, plus two new programs for pre-schoolers: **Create a Fairy Tale** and **Basketball**. If you’re looking for something for your kids to do during February or April vacation, consider **Digging the Egyptians**, **Basic Engineering**, **Create a TV Show**, **Splat Paint**, or the ever popular **Domino Physics** and **Marble Machine Madness**. In addition we have a wide variety of classes at other elementary schools, and we welcome kids from all schools at all of our classes. For more information or to register, call our office at **617-559-6999** or visit our website at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org)

**FROM THE HEALTH ROOM** - Frequent hand washing helps prevent everything from the common cold or stomach bug to influenza, including H1N1 flu. School nurses have been teaching good hand hygiene at school. Parents can help by reinforcing these important messages at home.

- Wash your hands by rubbing them vigorously with soap and water for 20 seconds. Kids can practice this timing by singing “Happy Birthday” twice.
- When soap and water are not available, use waterless hand sanitizer. Squirt into your hands and rub them together until it is dry. Sanitizer should not be used when hands are visibly dirty. Hand washing should occur then.
- Wash your hands often, especially after using the restroom and before eating.

- Practice coughing or sneezing into your sleeve (elbow or upper arm) instead of your hands. This prevents spreading those germs when we touch things with our hands.
- Avoid touching your face to prevent introducing germs into your body through your nose and mouth.

For more information about hand washing, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HandWashing/>

**WINTER & SPRING GRADES 4 & 5 CONCERT DATES** – Mark your calendars now. The date for the Winter Concert (Grades 4 & 5) is February 3 (10:00AM and 7:30PM) with a snow date of February 10. The date for the Spring Concert (Grades 4 & 5) is June 10 (10:00AM and 7:30PM).

**NEWTON SCHOOLS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER** – Help earn money to support building 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms while you shop online. Shop at the websites you know and trust. Pay the same price you normally would and eScrip will contribute up to 16% of your purchase to the Newton Schools Foundation. All you need to do is register and download "Autoearn" to accrue donations automatically. Log onto [www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org) and click on the eScrip Online Mall logo. Go to "sign up" and follow the instructions. Designate Newton Schools Foundation to receive your contributions by entering Group ID 500023242 or enter "Newton Schools Foundation", Download, "Autoearn" to accrue contributions automatically.

**PEIRCE LINK DEADLINE CHANGE** - In an effort to consolidate and facilitate the communications process to our Peirce community, as of January 1, 2010, Peirce Link will be delivered each **Thursday** of the week, instead of every Friday. We expect the earlier weekly delivery date will allow for more timely notification of information and higher readership as we realize that many families are busy with extracurricular activities and/or are traveling on the weekends.

## Community News

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**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** - Mayor Cohen welcomes everyone to celebrate the Holidays with your friends and neighbors on Sunday, December 20 from 1:30 - 3:30 at Newton City Hall. Enjoy the free entertainment and activities for children that are fun for the whole family. You can see the American Chinese Art Society, singer Wayne Potash, the Gerwick Puppets and storyteller Tom McCabe. Also, there is face painting and free refreshments. For more information, see [newtoncivicpride.org](http://newtoncivicpride.org) or contact us at 617-527- 8283. The Holiday Open House is sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, Arts in the Parks, Newton Parks and Recreation Department and the Newton Civic Pride Committee.

**JOIN MAYOR-ELECT SETTI WARREN** - at the Hyde Community Center on December 31 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM for a day of community service and family fun. As a kick-off to the Newton Inaugural Celebration, Newton residents will gather at the Hyde gym, 90 Lincoln St. in Newton Highlands, to make food baskets, assemble gift packages for soldiers, and sew quilts for Second Step families. Outside, on the Hyde playground, a group of volunteers will build a community ice skating rink. We are also asking residents to bring canned goods and gently used children's books and clothes for those in need. This event is a joint partnership between the City of Newton and many Newton non-profit organizations. To volunteer (even an hour or less!), or create a community service project, please call John Rice at 617-201-7088.

**HELP KEEP SIDEWALKS SAFE DURING WINTER** - Many people in our community depend on being able to walk year round, including children walking to school or the bus, neighbors who can't drive and mail carriers. If you need help keeping your sidewalk clear, here is a list of volunteers and commercial contractors who can help you: [www.newtonma.gov/show](http://www.newtonma.gov/show) or call 617-796-1000. Optionally, go to: <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/DPW/winter.htm#CITY%20ORDINANCES> for flyer. Rather do it yourself? Then, please: Shovel your sidewalk to the bare pavement. Clear a three to four foot wide path. Chop or melt ice. Help --- or get your kids to help -- neighbors who can't shovel because they are elderly or disabled. Please don't push snow from driveways or walks onto the sidewalk...it's a \$25 fine! Questions? Contact Lucia Dolan: [luciadolan@rcn.com](mailto:luciadolan@rcn.com). (A reminder from: The Bike/Pedestrian Task Force, Newton Safe Routes to School Task Force, League of Women Voters, and PTO Council).

**AQUATICS AT THE JCC** - The Aquatics Department at the JCC in Newton will be having an Open House for new swim class participants on January 3 from 1-4PM. We will be doing half-hour swim class samplers for children ages 6 mos-12 yrs. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Korrinn at 617.558.6468. Light refreshments will be served.

**WINTER VACATION SOCCER CLINIC AT BOSTON COLLEGE** – The Women's Soccer staff invite girls aged 6-14 to join them for a soccer clinic at BC. The program runs December 28-31 from 12PM-5PM. The focus is on fun and development. Come and join the BC players and coaches for a great soccer experience. For information on all our programs and registration please visit: [www.bceagles.com/camps](http://www.bceagles.com/camps) or call 617-552-0982 or email [soccer.clinic@bc.edu](mailto:soccer.clinic@bc.edu)

**APRIL VACATION CAMP** - The Paul Green School of Rock (<http://www.schoolofrock.com/boston>) has begun accepting registrations for our 2010 April Break Rock Star Boot Camp (4/19-4/23). This day camp runs 9:00AM to 3:00PM w/ the option for early drop-off/late pickup at no extra charge, and is open to student musicians ages 6-17 who play bass, guitar, piano, drums, or sing. Please call 617-923-3434 for details.

**NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES** – See attachment for many Newton Parks and Recreation school vacation programs.

## Classifieds

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**BABYSITTING AND DOG WALKING** - Ari Appel, Peirce graduate and Newton North 9<sup>th</sup> grader offers babysitting, dog walking, and homework help services. Call or email for more information at (617) 610-2423 or [arisappel@gmail.com](mailto:arisappel@gmail.com).

**HANDYMAN AL** - Handyman Al can do all your electrical and house hold needs. Please call 617-244-5157 or go to [www.therealhandymanal.com](http://www.therealhandymanal.com)

**AFFORDABLE TUTORING SERVICES IN MATH** - If your child is struggling in math, or if they need to be challenged, I'd be happy to tutor them. I'm a senior at Newton South High School with excellent grades in math and a perfect score on the SAT math section. Can tutor any level from basic arithmetic to calculus. Can work with students at all different skill levels; ages 5-17 and will tutor at your home or in public place. Available weekdays after 3PM and weekends all day. Contact Ben at 617-259-0377 or at [ben29@rcn.com](mailto:ben29@rcn.com)

**ACTIVEMINDS TUTORING** - Effective, Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation (MCAS, SSAT, ISEE, SAT...). Sign your child up for academic success and receive a free lesson! Call: (617) 663-5700 during business hours, or (617) 227-2225 Eve/Wknds. Please visit our web site at [www.activemindstutoring.com](http://www.activemindstutoring.com).

**PIANO INSTRUCTION** - Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sight-reading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: [piano566@comcast.net](mailto:piano566@comcast.net).

**DANCE CLASSES** - All That Jazz Dance Studio announces new classes starting up in January!

•Tuesdays 4:00-5:00- Creative Movement/Tap, ages 2-4 •Fridays 12:30-1:30- Adult Hip Hop  
•Sundays 2:00-3:00- Tap Workshop, ages 8-11 •Sundays 3:00-4:00- Lyrical Hip Hop Workshop, ages 12 and up  
•Sundays 4:00-5:00- Boys and Girls BreakDance/Hip Hop, ages 6-8. Please call Miss Deb Lifson Vogel at 617-641-0784 or email [missdeb@allthatjazznewton.com](mailto:missdeb@allthatjazznewton.com) to register! All That Jazz Dance Studio, 232 California St. in Newton. [www.allthatjazznewton.com](http://www.allthatjazznewton.com).

**BEADAZZLED BIRTHDAYS** - Host a jewelry party for your child! A beader/certified teacher will come to the place of your choice and teach jewelry making for birthdays, holiday parties, girl scouts, or any other special event! All supplies are included; ages 7+ is recommended. Please visit [www.beadazzledbirthdays.com](http://www.beadazzledbirthdays.com) for more information!"

**FOR SALE-** Great gifts for the holidays! Spartan Rod Hockey Game, looks brand new, 32"W, 41"L; 35"H, \$100; Pockey 2 games in 1--air hockey one side; flip over and it's a pool table, also has mini ping pong, 30"W, 60"L, 32"H, \$100; Game Boy Advance SP with case and 18 games, \$80. Call 617-965-9671.

**EIGHTH GRADER SEEKING BABYSITTING JOB** – After school (3:00 PM) and on weekends. Peirce alumna and former EDP volunteer. Kathryn Adelson 857-636-2718 or [k.adelson@verizon.net](mailto:k.adelson@verizon.net).

**FREE DIABETES SUPPLIES** - Are you diabetic or know someone who is diabetic? Elaine Raposa who works for Advanced Diabetic Solutions and they offer free blood test strips and lancets for your diabetic needs. Also, they offer free shoes with orthotics made for you. Call her at 508 265-2040 or email at [eraposa@advanceddiabeticsolutions.net](mailto:eraposa@advanceddiabeticsolutions.net)

*Submissions may be made by email only to [newtonpeirce@yahoo.com](mailto:newtonpeirce@yahoo.com)*

***Submission deadlines are Wednesday, by 5:30PM.***

**DEADLINE WILL BE CHANGING TO TUESDAY, BY 5:30PM AS OF JANUARY 2010.**

*For fairness and reliability, we strictly adhere to this deadline.*

Coordinating Editor: Roberta Martone Pavia.

Editors: Alexa Dulchinos, Lisa Gianelly, Sarah Kish, Katya Salkever, and Holly Umina



## Dear Newton Community-

As many of you know, Jeff Beatrice, a gifted coach and father of eleven, died unexpectedly last month. He leaves behind his wife, Elinor, and seven children within the Newton Public Schools ranging from a kindergartener to a senior in high school. With Jeff's passing, a huge void was left financially for the family. Not surprisingly, the Newton community has rallied to support this family in a myriad of ways. In an effort to streamline these efforts a group of concerned citizens has pledged to work together to find ways to support the Beatrice Family Fund. Our hope is that our collective efforts will allow the family to remain together in their home.

To that end, we have developed a number of ways that the greater Newton community can help in our efforts.

1. Financial donations can be sent to:  
The Beatrice Family Fund  
c/o The Village Bank  
307 Auburn Street  
Auburndale, MA 02466
2. To help Elinor and the family with meals and other tasks please visit  
<http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/619171/login/>
3. There are a number of upcoming fundraisers including:
  - **Newton Elks Fund-raiser:** The Newton Elks is hosting a fund-raiser for the Beatrice Family Fund on Saturday, November 14 from 7pm-12 midnight. There will be food, a disc jockey and a cash bar, as well as a raffle for Patriots-Jets game and other silent auction/raffle items. Tickets are \$25 (adults only). It will be held at Newton Lodge of Elks, 429 Centre Street, Newton MA. To purchase tickets to this event, contact John Davis at: 617-435-1791 or [Johnnyrotten1@comcast.net](mailto:Johnnyrotten1@comcast.net)
  - **Patriots Raffle Tickets:** In addition to the event, John Davis has offered his tickets for the Patriots-Jets game on November 22nd. We're selling 500 raffle tickets at \$25.00 each. We need both buyers and sellers. The drawing is Saturday, November 14th at the Newton Elks Lodge, 429 Center Street. You don't have to be present to win. We need help selling the Pats-Jets raffle tickets. Please contact Matt Kenslea at: [mkenslea@harvardbusiness.org](mailto:mkenslea@harvardbusiness.org)
  - **Veterans Day Event:** There will be Sports-a-Thon event at Ablemarle field on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm where softball, baseball, Pop Warner and some basketball teams will play and contribute funds to the Beatrice Family Fund. IF YOU CAN (and kids are welcome) VOLUNTEER TO HELP, please contact--Amy McMahon at [amymcm@rcn.com](mailto:amymcm@rcn.com) or call: 617-527-1404. Volunteers are needed in concessions, trash pick up, and clean up at the end of the event. We also need more food donations for concessions: baked goods, fruit, granola and cereal bars, juice. Can you help? If so, contact: Nina Levin at [nina.levin@rcn.com](mailto:nina.levin@rcn.com).
  - **Anyone interested in helping with fund-raising,** please contact: Amy McMahon ([amymcm@rcn.com](mailto:amymcm@rcn.com)), Katie Slocum ([kathry@slocum.com](mailto:kathry@slocum.com)), Meryl Appelbaum ([mitchelappelbaum@comcast.net](mailto:mitchelappelbaum@comcast.net)) or Tracy Clark ([samalama@rcn.com](mailto:samalama@rcn.com)) with your ideas and contact info.
4. Share The Beatrice Family story with friends and family (every amount will make a difference).

For more information about this family please visit our website at [www.beatricefamilyfund.com](http://www.beatricefamilyfund.com).

Thank you for your support. It is times like these that we all feel so fortunate to live in such an amazing community.

**Best,  
The Beatrice Family Steering Committee**

## **Newton Parks and Recreation Dept. 2009 December School Vacation Programs**

### **Family Trip to Edaville Railroad - December 27**

Join us on an exciting trip to Edaville USA in Carver, MA. The Festival of Lights features millions of lights and displays in a spectacular holiday celebration. Visitors can ride the heated train past an explosion of holiday lights and decorations, listen to carols, and enjoy all of the outdoor rides and attractions that make Edaville USA a New England tradition! Bus leaves from the Albemarle Field House. 2:30 – 8:30 PM \$30.00

### **Family Movie Night at West Newton Cinema - December 29 & 30**

Enjoy a movie, popcorn and drink all for only \$6.00. Tickets will be sold starting at the West Newton Cinema on the day of the event. This is a popular event and tickets may sell out.

### **Puddlestompers – December 28, 29 and 30**

A drop off program for 3 – 6 year olds. 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Explore the beauty and quiet of winter in this indoor based program. Learn about how animals survive the winter and why evergreens keep their leaves. Look for animal tracks and other signs of winter activity. Each day will explore a different aspect of nature in winter. Located at Nahanton Park.

### **Fun-tastic Vacation Program - December 28, 29, 30 and 31**

For Grades K – 2 at the Newton Centre Hut and  
For Grades K – 6 at the Lower Falls Community Center

It's like summer camp in the winter. Several different activities to choose from each day including sports, arts and crafts, gym activities, inside games, cooking, outside games, special events and more. Be sure to bring a lunch and snack each day. 8:15AM – 3:30PM with extended day available to 5:30PM \$45.00 per day or \$160.00 for all 4 days. Add \$12.50 per day for extended day.

### **Thundercat All Sports Clinic – December 28, 29, 30 and 31**

Half Day Program for Ages 5 – 7  
Full Day Program for Ages 7 – 12

For the sports enthusiast. Play a variety of games including basketball, floor hockey, soccer, and more – all in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Located at Pelligrini Park. Be sure to bring a lunch and snack each day.

Half Day Program - 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon      \$120.00 res      \$130.00 non res  
Full Day Program - 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM      \$160.00 res      \$170.00 non res