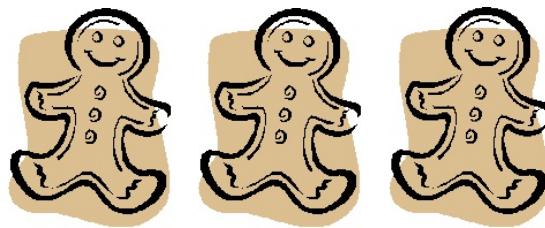


Leader's Corner

Happy Holidays everyone!

December is such a busy time of year but it is so much fun too! I hope you are all able to make the most of the great family holiday activities State College has to offer, there are so many neat events! We have some of our own events too which I hope you are able to come along to. Please join us for our Holiday Party on December 9 with a special appearance by Santa no less! I know the kids will all have a blast, although, this year I'm starting to think I'm going to enjoy things more than my kids, its great seeing them so excited! Also, our Moms Night Out this month will be a Cookie Exchange with some healthy competition thrown in for good measure with several prizes including tastiest and best looking cookie.



There are a few volunteer position changes this month and of course I have many thank yous too. The Book Club Coordinator position is now available. Heather, who kindly remained as co-leader past her term, is now organizing activities with Melissa M. This means there is just one co-leader for now. I really want to thank Heather for helping me so much with this position and being flexible to change over to activities. I know Melissa and Heather will plan great activities for us all, and without that hard work we wouldn't be having the wonderful events that our group offers.

Secondly, Jamie W. is our new playgroup volunteer, again a huge thank you to both Jamie and also Jennifer B. for organizing countless playdates for our group. Lastly, Betha is going to remain as treasurer, yippee, which is very much appreciated! Of course I feel I should thank everyone else that helps our group and makes it what it is; it makes all the difference to have such good support.

I hope to see you at our events this month and wish you all the happiest of holidays!

Nicki

OUR MISSION: Mothers & More of State College is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of mothers through support, education and advocacy. We address mothers' needs as individuals and members of society, and promote the value of all the work mothers do.

New Members

Melinda Turner and her husband Greg have two children, Aaron 2.5 and Rachel 3 months. Originally from southern Maryland, Melinda moved to State College in 2001 to attend graduate school at PSU. She previously worked for the PA Game Commission and then full-time for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, before becoming a SAHM in 2009. Last fall she took on a part time position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Fish and Wildlife biologist. Melinda is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys various outdoor activities including fishing, biking, camping and canoeing. She is also active as a volunteer with Clearwater Conservancy, and has served on their board of directors for the past five years. Welcome Melinda!

Alison Weinschenk and her husband Jeff have three sons, Evan 4.5, Dylan 22 months and Jack 3 months. They have lived in the area for seven years, after previously living in Seattle. Currently a SAHM, Alison previously worked in public accounting. In her free time, she enjoys shopping, scrap booking and running. She is looking forward to meeting everyone! Welcome Alison!

Planning Meeting

Friday, December 2, 9:30am - 11:00am at Betha C's Home

Bring your kids, socialize and help plan upcoming activities. **ALL members are welcome.** The monthly planning meeting is just like a "regular" playgroup plus we take a few minutes to talk about upcoming group activities. This is a great way to get to know other Moms and for our kids to have fun together.

Playgroups

All ages welcome. RSVP to the hostess so she will know how many to expect.

Friday	December 2	9:30am	Betha C's Home
Monday	December 19	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Nicki R's Home

Contact Playgroup Coordinator Jamie W. if you are interested in hosting a playgroup.

Upcoming Event - Preschool Fair

Saturday, January 7, 10:00am - Noon at State College Friends School, 1900 University Dr.

We need your help to make our 5th annual Preschool Fair a success! Volunteer sign-ups will be discussed at the planning meeting. We will need lots of help getting the word out, so please let us know if you are able to help before and on the day of the event. Contact Melissa M. or Nicki R. for more info.

Activities

Centre Elite Gymnastics Class

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 9:15am - 10:00am, 2120 Old Gatesburg Rd.



Following the successful demo class in November, Centre Elite Gymnastics is holding a special weekly class for our group. Recommended for ages 3-5. Limited spaces available for new students. Special discount rates apply for the rest of 2011.

<http://www.centreelitegymnastics.com>

Paint your own Pottery at 2000 degrees

Friday, December 2 at 3:30pm, 202 W. College Ave, at the corner of Fraser St. and College Ave.

Come out to make some gifts to give or keep. Please arrive at 3:30pm to allow time to get seated so we can start at 3:45pm. <http://www.2000degreespottery.com>

Holiday Party

Friday, December 9, 3:15pm - 5:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Harkins Hall, 205 South Garner St.

Please come to our annual holiday party! Wrap a book for each of your children, labeled with their name. Santa will be making an appearance (shh it is a surprise for the kids so please do not tell them he will be coming) and handing out the books to all of the kids. Also, in the spirit of giving, please bring a new, wrapped book to donate to Parenting Plus. Parenting Plus distributes these books to needy families in the area. Please attach a label and an age and sex for whom the book is intended.



Holiday Sing Along at The Village

Friday, December 16th at 10:15am, The Village at Penn State



Come join us for our monthly visit with our friends at the Village of Penn State. A fun Holiday Sing-A-Long will be coordinated by Betha. Come with your singing voices and feel free to bring any extra instruments that you may have at home. Contact Jennifer B. or Jamie W. with any questions.

Mom's Night Out - Cookie Exchange

Thursday, December 15, 7:30pm, Nicki R's home

Please join us for our annual cookie exchange which is sure to be a lot of fun!

Each participant is to bake a single type of cookie, candy or fudge so that everyone at the exchange ends up with 6-8 cookies of each type. Your goodies should be packaged in baggie packs or something similar, 6-8 per participant.

In past years there have been 15 or so participants so you will need to bake a lot of cookies! It is great way to prepare for the holidays! Plus you will need to bake extras for tasting, yum! We will have a competition with gift card prizes for the best tasting and best looking cookie, plus extra door prizes.

If you would like to participate in the exchange but are unable to attend you may drop your cookies off at Nicki's house on the 15th and they will be exchanged for you.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP by December 9 so that we all have enough time to plan and bake our treats.

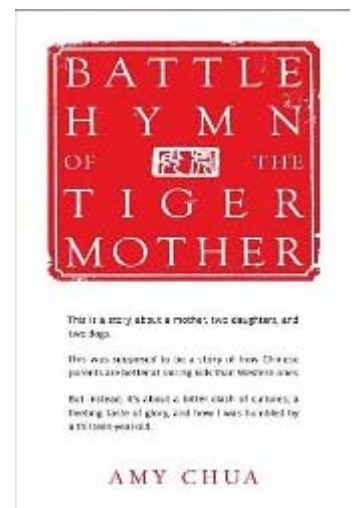
Mommy Reads Too!

Battle Hymn of the Tiger by Amy Chau

Tuesday, December 20, 7:30pm, Melissa M's home, bring a snack or bottle of wine to share.

An awe-inspiring, often hilarious, and unerringly honest story of one mother's exercise in extreme parenting, revealing the rewards-and the costs-of raising her children the Chinese way.

All decent parents want to do what's best for their children. What *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* reveals is that the Chinese just have a totally different idea of how to do that. Western parents try to respect their children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions and providing a nurturing environment. The Chinese believe that the best way to protect your children is by preparing them for the future and arming them with skills, strong work habits, and inner confidence. *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* chronicles Chua's iron-willed decision to raise her daughters, Sophia and Lulu, her way-the Chinese way-and the remarkable results her choice inspires.



RSVP to Melissa M.

Coming up in January: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

What do you want to read in 2012? Send suggestions to Melissa M.

Community Events

Penn State Thespians: Winnie the Pooh!

December 1 at 7pm, December 3, 11am and 1pm

Join the Penn State Thespians as they proudly present their Winter Children's show featuring the adventures of Winnie the Pooh and his friends! Schlow Community Room. No registration necessary.
<http://www.schlowlibrary.org>

Boalsburg Hometown Christmas

Friday December 2 & Saturday, December 3

Activities on Friday include: Cookie Contest, Caroling, and Tree Lighting. On Saturday the fun continues with Breakfast with Santa, Christmas Parade, Tours of the Boalsburg Heritage Museum, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Cookie Sale, and Children's Story time.
<http://www.boalsburgvillageconservancy.org/>

Winter Tyke Hikes at Millbrook Marsh

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 10:30am and 12:30pm

This program will offer 1 hour of activities inside the new Spring Creek Education Building and an outdoor walk. Please dress for the weather since part of the program will be outside. Advance Registration required. Fee is \$6 for SC residents.

<http://crpr.centreconnect.org/Millbrook/Programs/Fall11-YouthPrograms.html>

Festival of Trees

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Sunday, Dec. 11, PSU Ag Arena

The Penn State Ag Arena is turned into a Winter Wonderland with over 100 decorated trees. Proceeds will help support the 40 Centre County United Way Partner Agencies. Businesses and Organizations in Centre County purchase and decorate live trees, which are displayed for the community to enjoy. Event takes place over 4 days. Special events include craft vendors, breakfast with Santa, children's arts and crafts, food, entertainment and more!

<http://http://ccunitedway.org/volunteer-opportunities/united-way-opportunities-2/festival-of-trees/>

30th Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas

Friday, Dec. 9 - Sunday, Dec. 11

Offers a taste of Christmas Past with an Historic Homes Tour, an Arts & Crafts Show, horse-drawn buggy rides, gingerbread house contest, breakfast with Santa and a Victorian Tea Party.

<http://www.visitbellefonte.com/>

Ride the Polar Express!

Saturdays, December 10 & 17, 11am - 3pm,

Sundays, December 11 & 18, 2pm - 4:20pm

The Polar Express leaves from Schlow Library two weekends in December. Families can hear the story read in the Children's Department and receive tickets to ride the trolley to Santa's Workshop. Sign up for one session. The story is read every 20 minutes. Children will receive a small drawstring bag with a bell and a coin they can spend at Santa's Workshop at the PSU Theater. Photos with Santa also available.

<http://www.schlowlibrary.org>

No School Days at Schlow Library

December 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30, 11am - 2pm

Drop by the Children's Dept for this craft activity on your day off school. No registration necessary.

Thurs, Dec. 22 - Happy Holidays Cards

Friday, Dec. 23 - Snowflake Art

Tues, Dec. 27 - Shimmering Shelvesicles

Wed, Dec. 28 - Foot Print Penguins

Thurs, Dec. 29 - New Year's Fortune Cookies

Fri, Dec. 30 - New Year's Party Masks

<http://www.schlowlibrary.org>

First Night State College

Saturday, Dec. 31, Downtown State College

Great fun for the entire family. Outstanding displays of carved ice sculptures. Musical and vaudeville performances. Carriage rides, Art workshops for children. 5K run/walk.

<http://www.firstnightstatecollege.com/>

Leadership Positions

Leader

Nicki Rusca

Newsletter editor

Tory Jenkins

Treasurer

Betha Christopher

Moms-in-Need

Elizabeth Hay

Community Service

Julia Ross

New Member Coordinator

Casey Behrer

Listserve

Melissa MacNeely

Giant Card Fundraiser

Franny Wales

Playgroup Coordinator

Jamie Winfield

Book Group

Melissa MacNeely

Kid & Family Activities

Melissa MacNeely

Heather Wagner

Public Relations

Nicki Rusca

Tory Jenkins

Mom's Night Out

Tina Maggi

Miriam Powell

Fundraising

Our primary fundraiser is gift cards from Giant. This fundraiser is ongoing. If you regularly shop at Giant, this is an easy way to give back to Mothers & More. These gift cards can also be redeemed towards gift cards for many national chain restaurants and stores. We are able to keep 5% of the money raised to fund our programs and our community outreach.



How to help:

- An e-mail is sent out once a month asking who would like to participate and for what amount.
- Arrangements are made to deliver your gift card to you.
- You may pay for your gift card in advance or when it is delivered.

If you have any questions, please contact Franny W.

Moms-in-Need

Our group provides support, friendship and help. Please let Elizabeth H. know if you or another member is in need of meal deliveries following the arrival of a new baby or other situation.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Book Group Coordinator

Create monthly event invites online, help select future book titles.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Centre Elite Gymnastics 9:15am	2 Planning Meeting / Playgroup 9:30am Betha C. Pottery Painting 3:30pm 2000 Degrees	3
4	5	6	7	8 Centre Elite Gymnastics 9:15am	9 Holiday Party 3:15pm Grace Lutheran Church	10
11	12	13	14	15 Centre Elite Gymnastics 9:15am Cookie Exchange 7:30pm Nicki R.	16 The Village at Penn State 10:15am	17
18	19 Playgroup 3pm Nicki's R.	20 Book Club 7:30pm Melissa M.	21	22 Centre Elite Gymnastics 9:15am	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This newsletter is published monthly by the State College, PA chapter of Mothers & More. If there is any information you would like to see included in the January newsletter, please contact Tory J. by December 20th.