

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Dear Families,

The CAC of Pike County Early Childhood Program has issued this parent newsletter a month early to share some great opportunities with you.

Please call the Community Action Committee of Pike County at 289-2371 for any further information.



CAC Offering Free Tax Preparation

The Community Action Committee of Pike County is offering free tax preparation. Did you know you may qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)? If you earned less than \$40,363 and you have two or more children, EITC could be as much as \$5,036. If you earned less than \$35,535 and you have one qualifying child, EITC could be as much as \$3,050. If you earned less than \$13,460 and you have no qualifying child, EITC could be as much as \$457.

As soon as you receive your W-2 forms, call 289-2371 to schedule an appointment.



The Community Action Committee of Pike County can also help you complete your financial aid application if you are thinking of going to college. Financial aid is required to be completed annually if you are going to college and offers free grants and/or student loans to eligible individuals.

If you are having the Community Action Committee of Pike County help you do your taxes, make an appointment at the same time to get your financial aid application completed by calling 289-2371.

The financial aid application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Help Children Learn Writing Skills

Scribbling and drawing are ways that children learn to write. They are developing the muscle strength and coordination needed to control pencil movements needed later to form letters. Give your child plenty of opportunities to experiment and practice writing. Every child develops at his/her own individual pace. Make a box of writing supplies for your child to use such as paper, junk mail, greeting cards, note cards, note pads, pencils, pens, markers, and crayons to encourage more-writing skills.

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New PIPP Program for Pike Natural Gas

Pike Natural Gas Company (Pike) has a new PIPP Plus program that took effect November 1, 2010.

The PIPP Plus Plan has a new benefit for lower income customers who make their required monthly PIPP payments by the due date each month. The new benefit is an arrearage crediting program which means that if you pay your full PIPP Plus required balance due on time, do not miss any payments, and have not had your service previously disconnected for non-payment, you will eliminate the entire balance you owe Pike Natural Gas and will start each year owing only your

payment amount.

To be eligible for the program this year, you must make at least 7 timely payments. If you make at least 7 timely payments of all your PIPP bills for this time (Nov.1, 2010-July 21, 2011), you will receive a credit for 75% of your arrearage. If you make timely payments of all your PIPP bills for this 9 month period, you will have 100% of your PIPP arrearage eliminated.

If you have any questions, please contact customer service at 740-947-5121.

Are You Laid Off from Masco?



As of January 6, 2011, Masco Employees have been approved for TRADE services by the Department of Labor. These services may include, but not limited to: weekly cash benefits received by employees in training after severance or unemploy-

ment benefits have been used, reimbursement for job interview expenses, training or skill upgrade, relocation allowances if new job is 51 miles or more from home, Health Care Tax Credit, and re-employment trade adjustment assistance. Each

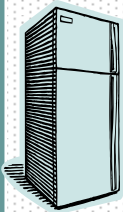
employee must attend a Benefits and Rights Information Session to begin the TRADE process.

Interested individuals can contact Masco Transition Center at 947-2685 Monday-Friday from 8:00am-6:00pm or visit the center located at the YMCA.

A.E. P. Ohio Efficiency Program

Any A.E.P. Ohio Customers that are eligible for the Home Weatherization Program, HEAP, or who are on PIP are eligible for the A.E.P. Ohio Low-Income Efficiency Program. Services include: refrigerator and freezer metering to test efficiency, changing light bulbs to high efficiency CFL's, inspections of window air conditioners, and other measures to increase the energy efficiency of your home.

For more information, call the Community Action Committee of Pike County Energy Program at 289-2371.





Upcoming Parent Activities

Piketon Parent Meeting

Wednesday, February 23 from 12:30-1:00 pm at CAC. Topic for meeting: Budgeting Money for Groceries and Family Activities.

Idaho Parent Meeting

Wednesday, March 9 from 12:30-1:00 pm at Idaho. Topic for meeting: Budgeting Money for Groceries and Family Activities.

Parent Discussion Groups

Wednesday, February 23 from 1:00-3:00 at CAC & Wednesday, March 9 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Idaho. **Free goody bags to all parents who attend.**

Policy Council Meetings

Friday, February 11 and Friday, March 11 at CAC at 12:00 noon. All parents are invited to attend.

Head Start Home-Based Socializations

Friday, February 4 & 18 & March 4 & 18 from 9:30-12:30 at CAC.

Early Head Start Home-Based Socializations

Friday, February 4 & March 4 from 10:00-12:00 at Idaho.

Thursday, February 10 & March 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Idaho.

Thursday, February 17 & March 24 from 1:00-3:00 at Idaho.

The Incredible Years Parenting Classes

Every Friday starting April 1 from 1:00-2:00 pm at CAC. Bring a friend.

Family Reading Night

Tentatively scheduled at the Piketon and Idaho sites for Tuesday, March 15 from 5:30-7:30 pm in the preschool classrooms.

Wind Sock

Decorate a cardboard tube in any way that your child wants. Cut long strips of crepe paper to make streamers. Tape the strips near the bottom of the tube. Punch two holes near the top of the tube on opposite sides. Thread a long piece of string through the holes and tie it to the tube. Hang on a branch on a tree and see which way the wind blows.



Solar Snacks

Cover a cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Cover the foil with plastic wrap and tape it to hold it in place. Spread a thin layer of applesauce on the plastic wrap. Cover it with cheesecloth and put it in the sun to dry for several hours to make fruit leather.



Go Fishing

Tie a piece of fishing line or yarn to a stick. Tie a small magnet to the end to make a hook. Cut out different colored fish shapes with letters on them and put magnet strips or paper clips on them. Your child can learn colors, letters, and numbers with this fun game.



February Menu

Menu is only for Idaho, Piketon, & ECFC sites

Monday, February 7**Breakfast**-Milk, Pancakes, Peaches**Lunch**-Milk, Chicken & Biscuit, California Mix, Spinach, Tropical Fruit Blend**Snack**-Rice Krispie Treat, Milk**Tuesday, February 8****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Egg Patty, Toast**Lunch**-Milk, Hamburger, Lamingtons Treat, Oven Fries, Peas, Jello w/Pears**Snack**-Juice, Ritz Crackers, Cheese Slices**Wednesday, February 9****Breakfast**-Milk, Mini Wheats Cereal, Juice**Lunch**-Milk, Fish Square on Bread, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Peach Cobbler**Snack**-Milk, Fruit, Cottage Cheese**Thursday, February 10****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Waffles**Lunch**-Milk, Roast Pork, Stuffing, Bread, Carrots, Lima Beans, Applesauce**Snack**-Quaker Life Cereal, Milk**Friday, February 11****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Egg McMuffin**Lunch**-Milk, Roast Beef w/Gravy, Bread, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Orange Slices**Snack**-Juice, Pizza Snacks**Monday, February 14****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Wheaties Cereal**Lunch**-Milk, Potato Soup, Roast Beef Sandwich, Carrot Chips w/ Dip, Crackers, Pears**Snack**-Fruit & Cereal Bar, Milk**Tuesday, February 15****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Toast, Cheese Omelet**Lunch**-Milk, Spaghetti w/Sauce, Cheesy Garlic Biscuit, Cole Slaw, Fruit Cocktail**Snack**-Juice, Oyster Crackers, Cheese Wedge**Wednesday, February 16****Breakfast**-Milk, Mixed Fruit Cup, Toast**Lunch**-Milk, Ham Sandwich, Scalloped Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Cake**Snack**-Total Cereal, Milk**Thursday, February 17****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, French Toast**Lunch**-Milk, Chicken & Noodles, Bread, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Bananas**Snack**-Juice, Deviled Eggs, Ritz Crackers**Friday, February 18****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Cornflakes Cereal**Lunch**-Milk, Meat Loaf, Bread, Corn, Brown Rice, Pineapples**Snack**-Milk, Graham Crackers**Monday, February 21****No School-Agency Closed-Holiday****Tuesday, February 22****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Corn Chex Cereal**Lunch**-Milk, Beef Stew, Biscuit, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges**Snack**-Milk, Fig Bars**Wednesday, February 23****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Cheese Omelet, Toast**Lunch**-Milk, Chicken Parmesan, Bread, Sweet Potato Fries, Peas, Vanilla Pudding**Snack**-Juice, Goldfish Crackers**Thursday, February 24****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Cheerios Cereal**Lunch**-Milk, Mini Meatballs in Sauce, Salad, Bread, Corn, Mixed Fruit**Snack**-Milk, Waffles**Friday, February 25****Breakfast**-Milk, Bananas, Oatmeal, Toast**Lunch**-Milk, Ham-Macaroni & Cheese Bake, Bread, Mixed Vegetables, Beets, Peaches**Snack**-Juice, Egg Salad Sandwich**Monday, February 28****Breakfast**-Milk, Juice, Wheaties**Lunch**-Chicken Salad Sandwich, Broccoli Soup, Carrots, Fruit**Snack**-Milk, Peaches, Yogurt