



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

Ring in the New Year with Philly Family Pride

Join PFP at one of our biggest events of the year - PFP's New Year's Day Vegetarian Potluck Brunch - on **Sunday, January 1, 2012** from 11am to 2pm.

Again this year we'll be at beautiful [Mishkan Shalom](#), located at 4101 Freeland Avenue just off Shurs Lane below Ridge Avenue in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia.



This year's brunch includes:

- **free face painting** for the kids;
- community service project stuffing breakfast bags for "Aid for Friends;"
- Lego building table;
- hula hoop contest; and
- bingo for the whole family with fun prizes.

We will also hold our board election for 2012, and our **silent auction fundraiser**.

The event is **free** for PFP members or just \$10 per non-member family. (Membership renewals are welcome at the brunch, so remember to bring your checkbooks!)

New this year - a **Mac and Cheese contest!** So you may bring a vegetarian dish of your choice to share that serves 6-8, or bring your best mac and cheese dish and enter to win bragging rights for the yummiest!



We look forward to celebrating the New Year with your family!

Visit the **Philly Family Pride Cafe Press** store for holiday shopping needs: PFP adult and kids t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, onesies and more! www.cafepress.com/PhillyFamilyPride

Fall Events Popular with PFP Families

On Saturday, November 5, PFP families met up in the Wissahickon for a **Fall Hike**.



While those with strollers and younger kids meandered on Forbidden Drive, hike leader Lee Chudzinski took the older kids on a more challenging path up in the woods.

Look for more events in the spring as part of the Active Living Series.

The following day, on Sunday, November 6, 35 PFP'ers were amazed at the fantastic **Gazillion Bubbles show** at the Merriam Theater.

Highlights from the show included square bubbles (who knew this was possible?) and a gazillion bubbles falling from the ceiling onto the audience for the finale. Before the show, a group of families enjoyed lunch and small talk at More Than Just Ice Cream.

The following weekend, we held a series of **Neighborhood Potlucks**. The largest group met at Lauren Weil's home in New Hope, PA (pictured).

Thanks to hosts Lauren in New Hope, Tom in Mt. Airy, Andrew and Lee in Wyncote, Amy and Mary Ann in Center City and Marla and Jenn in Media. If you'd like to host in the spring, [e-mail Stephanie](#).

Finally, on Saturday, November 19, the **Infant/Toddler** group met up at Smith Playhouse in Philadelphia and enjoyed exploring every corner: from the climb-on train to the blocks to the doll house.



Reminder: Please renew your membership today!

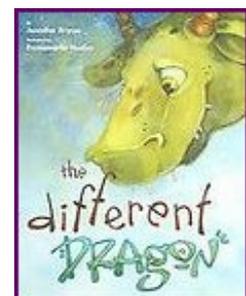
We went green AND saved money by **e-mailing our membership renewals**. If you've been putting off renewing, please do so today! You can renew electronically with [Paypal](#) or [send us a check](#). If you are attending the [New Year's Day Brunch](#), you can renew then as well.

Please renew by January 1 and keep PFP strong. (If you joined after October 10 this year, your membership is good for 2012. If you're not a member, [join today!](#))

Philly Family Pride now on eBay!

PFP is trying something new - selling donated items on eBay! We've started by [listing 10 items](#) - everything from a signed hockey puck from a Philadelphia Flyer to Paul Smith sunglasses to books for kids of LGBT parents.

All the proceeds benefit PFP, so [check out our listings](#), bid on your favorites (or buy it now) and check back frequently as we add new items!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 1, 2012: Make plans now to attend our annual [New Year's Day Potluck Brunch](#), held again this year at Mishkan Shalom in Roxborough, 11am - 2pm.

Saturday, January 21: Meet up with other PFP families at the [Adventure Aquarium](#) in Camden, NJ. There's a special PFP member price of \$12/adult, \$10/child. Kids under 2 are free.



Sunday, January 29: Dads, Pops and prospective dads get together for the first [Dads Potluck](#) of 2012 in Yardley.

Saturday, February 4: Get a free [ice skating lesson](#) at the River Rink at Penn's Landing and discounted skating tickets with your PFP membership.

Keep an eye on your e-mail and our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#) for more upcoming events in 2012.



Toy Shopping Tips for a Safe Holiday Season

Thousands of toys are on the market, each promising to educate or entertain our children. Unfortunately, not every toy is safe. Toy buyers can help protect children from injury by being careful, vigilant shoppers.

According to local consumer group, PennPIRG, here are some things parents can look out for this holiday season. You can also visit their web site at www.toysafety.net or <http://toysafety.mobi/> from your smart phone.



1. Choking

Choking is the most common cause of toy-related deaths. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), at least 41 children aspirated or choked to death from 2005-09 on balloons, toys, or toy parts.

Bigger is better: Do not buy small toys or toys with small parts for children under age 3. If a toy or part of a toy can pass through a toilet paper tube, don't buy it for a child under age 3, or any child who still puts things in his/her mouth.

Read and heed warning labels: Toys with small parts intended for children between ages 3 and 6 are required by law to include an explicit choking hazard warning.

Never give young children small balls or balloons: Small balls, balloons and pieces of broken balloons are particularly dangerous, as they can completely block a child's airway. Balls for children under 6 years old must be more than 1.75 inches in diameter. Never give latex balls to children younger than 8 years old.

2. Magnetic Toys With Powerful Magnets

New, powerful small magnets used in most magnetic building toys, toy darts, magnetic jewelry, and other toys can fall out of small toys and look like shiny candy. If a child swallows more than one magnet, the magnets can attract each other in the body (in the stomach and intestines) and cause life-threatening complications. If a child swallows even one magnet, seek immediate medical attention.

3. Watch or "Button" Batteries

Keep watch or "button" batteries away from children. If swallowed, the battery acid can cause fatal internal injuries.

4. Noise

Children's ears are sensitive. If a toy seems too loud for your ears, it is probably too loud for a child. Take the batteries out of loud toys or cover the speakers with tape.

5. Strangulation Hazards

Mobiles: Keep mobiles out of the reach of children in cribs and remove them before the baby is five months old or can push him/herself up.

Cords: Remove knobs and beads from cords longer than one foot to prevent the cords from tangling into a dangerous loop.

Drawstrings: Clothing with drawstrings on the hood can get caught on fixed objects like playground equipment and pose a strangulation hazard.

6. Lead and Other Toxic Chemicals

Some children's toys and cosmetics may contain lead or other toxic chemicals, including phthalates. While most lead and phthalates are being phased out of toys beginning in 2009, older toys may still contain them.

Toys with PVC Plastic: Avoid toys made of PVC plastic which could contain toxic phthalates posing developmental hazards; choose unpainted wooden or cloth toys instead.

Lead: The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), PIRG and children's health groups have found high levels of lead paint on toys, as well as high levels of lead in vinyl lunchboxes and bibs, and in children's costume jewelry. All lead should be removed from a child's environment, especially lead jewelry and other toys that can be swallowed. To test jewelry for lead, use a home lead tester available at the hardware store, or simply throw costume jewelry made with such heavy metals away.

Other chemicals: Read the labels of play cosmetics and avoid products with xylene, toluene, or dibutyl phthalate.



Suggestions for what else we should include in our newsletter? Want to sponsor our next issue?

Contact Stephanie Haynes, PFP Community Coordinator at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

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Send a check to our address or give through the [Paypal link](#) on our web site. Thanks so much!



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