Berkshire Museum presents WeeMuse: Welcome to Kindergarten! an Evening of Kindergarten Readiness

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child

[PITTSFIELD, MA] — Start getting ready for that first exciting day of kindergarten at the Berkshire Museum from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2015, during the third annual WeeMuse: Welcome to Kindergarten! Designed for families with children who are preparing to enter kindergarten, the event includes activities, music, and games. Presented in partnership with Pittsfield’s Transition Team, the Berkshire United Way, and Pittsfield Public Schools, the event is free and open to the community. Welcome to Kindergarten is sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union.

Welcome to Kindergarten is an opportunity for families and children to gather information needed to start school, including participating in activities that model a typical kindergarten experience. Youngsters will be able to experience storytelling, a teddy bear picnic, play-dough sculpting and shoe-lace tying, and a variety of math, science and art stations. Professionals dedicated to the growth and development of young children will also be present to answer any questions families have about development milestones, kindergarten readiness, and kindergarten registration.

The Week of the Young Child

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has declared April 13 to 17 the Week of the Young Child, and in honor of the occasion, Berkshire Museum is offering special activities and programs for early learners every day at 10:30 a.m. in the Berkshire Backyard gallery. Included with regular Museum admission.
Monday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
It’s all about the Dough...Sensory Play!
Explore and create all kinds of play-dough, from salt dough to the ‘incredible edible’
dough.

Tuesday, April 14, 10:30 a.m.
April Showers Bring May Flowers
Explore the life cycle of a seed and discover all the ingredients needed to make a
healthy garden grow. At the end of this program, each child will take a home a potted
plant.

Wednesday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.
Leonardo DaVinci’s Birthday
It’s Little Inventors Day! Explore Spark!Lab and have a photo taken with your newest
invention or creation. Get your name, age, and invention photo placed on our wall of
fame.

Thursday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.
Le Petit Artist!
Participants will create little works of art using crayons, pencils, chalk, and water
colors. When the pieces are complete, we will decorate a frame to showcase our
artwork and take home to be displayed for friends and family.

Friday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.
WeeMuse Adventures: Chuck Leads the Way
Our favorite tortoise, Chuck, will accompany us in Berkshire Backyard for some stories,
activities, and exploration of Berkshire Backyard creatures.

About the WeeMuse program
For more than three years, the Berkshire Museum has been developing the WeeMuse
program focusing on early learners. As part of the WeeMuse program, the Museum
published *In Kindergarten*, a book designed to help families prepare their children for the important and exciting transition to kindergarten. *In Kindergarten* is distributed free to every child registered to enter kindergarten in Berkshire County. Publication of the book was funded in part by Berkshire Bank.

Developed in collaboration with key community partners including Berkshire County Head Start and Pittsfield’s Transition Team, made up of early childhood educators and childcare providers dedicated to helping children get ready for school, WeeMuse serves pre-school children and their families in Berkshire County. WeeMuse places a strong emphasis on literacy skills.

**WeeMuse** is just one component of the educational programming at the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate in Western Massachusetts. The exceptional educational programs already in place at the Museum provide more than 16,000 educational experiences for students and teachers each year.

**About the Berkshire Museum**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit [www.berkshiremuseum.org](http://www.berkshiremuseum.org) or call 413.443.7171.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian’s resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. The family-friendly exhibition *If/Then: A Topsy-Turvy World of Creativity* is on view through May 3. *Objectify: A Look into the Permanent Collection* is currently on view. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab,
Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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