



# LPA

November 2011  
Newsletter

Bringing local families with young children together  
[www.littletonparents.org](http://www.littletonparents.org)

## Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER

Sun, 12/4: Littleton Common Tree Lighting, 4:30

\*More events will be finalized after the holidays, please watch your email for Evites!\*

### JANUARY

TBA: LPA Board Meeting

TBA: Winterfest Party

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## Littleton Tree Lighting and Toy Drive

The LPA invites you and your family to join us at the Littleton Common Tree Lighting event on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30**. The Tree Lighting is a great evening to gather with your community, sing carols and await the arrival of Santa as he lights the common! The event usually lasts about an hour, with Santa arriving around 5:15!

At the Tree Lighting, the LPA will be holding its annual Toy Drive, benefiting the Loaves & Fishes 'Shop for your Kids Night'. The LPA will be collecting new, unwrapped toys. If you are able, please consider a toy donation to help out local families who need a little extra help this year.

For more information on suggested donations, see

[http://www.loavesfishespantry.org/cms/index.php?layout=main&cslot\\_1=77](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org/cms/index.php?layout=main&cslot_1=77)

Join us at the LPA table on the Common for some Hot Cocoa and to drop off your toy donation!



Image courtesy of Littleton Independent

## [Recent LPA Events](#)



### *Preschool Event*

For the first time in Littleton, parents had an opportunity to meet and get information about numerous Preschools and Day Cares from in and around town. The event was held at the Middle School and 15 Preschools and Child Care organizations set up their booths with pictures, brochures and promotional gifts. Children accompanying their parents were able to spend time playing at the kids corner, allowing parents to focus on browsing.

The following businesses and organizations were present:

[The Goddard School](#)

[My School](#)

[Next Generations Children's Centers](#)

[Jewish Community Centers](#)

[Bright Horizons of Boxborough](#)  
[Acton Barn](#)  
[Acton Children's School](#)  
[Acton Cooperative School](#)  
[Westford Preschool at St. Mark's](#)  
[Roudenbush Preschool](#)  
[Shaker Lane Preschool](#)  
[Village Nursery School](#)  
[Learn and Play Preschool](#)  
[Nashoba Valley Children's Center](#)

LPA sponsored this event and all donations from participating vendors will be used to buy new books for the Children's Room at the Reuben Hoar Library.

We hope to continue to host this event on an annual basis!

### *Make-a-Plate*



On Friday, 11/11, about 15 families came to the Couper Room at the Reuben Hoar Library for the LPA's Make-a-Plate event. Children used washable markers to draw designs on a large tissue paper circle templates.

The templates will be sent away and the designs will be cooked onto a melamine plate. The plates are food and dishwasher safe and will last for years. The plates will be ready in a few weeks, just in time for the holidays!

## Apple Picking Trip



On a sunny Saturday morning, a number of LPA families met at Honey Pot Hill Orchards in Stow for some traditional fall apple picking. Before the picking began, we gathered near barnyard animal pens. This gave parents time to catch up over coffee and fresh cider doughnuts, while the kids enjoyed feeding the goats and pigs, and seeing the rabbits, chickens and sheep.

Then, it was off to the four corners of the orchard via the hayrides to fill our bags with fresh Cortland, Empire, Honeycrisp and Royal Gala apples. No doubt one or two of the tasty apples were eaten along the way! A great time was had by all!

## LPA Halloween Party



On Saturday, October 29th at 3:30 the LPA held their annual Halloween Party at the Middle School. Despite the impending snowstorm..... it was a big hit! This is one of the LPA's biggest and most fun events.

Children came dressed in terrific costumes to take part in making spooky bats and ghosts, creating Halloween jewelry, decorating Halloween cookies and dancing to some scary music. The trick or treating parade through the "haunted houses" made for some great fun. It is such a great event as the parents get to catch up and chat while the children are having a blast celebrating Halloween. We look forward to next year's Halloween bash!

## Tag Sale Donation



Thank you to all who participated in, volunteered, and donated time and toys to the LPA Tag Sale! Because of all of your efforts, we're pleased to announce that we will be donating **\$660 to the kindergarten class at Shaker Lane!**

It was a wonderful year, and we couldn't have done it without you!

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!**



First Connections is a non-profit, family support organization that provides comprehensive services to families with infants and young children. Created in 1994 as part of the Massachusetts Family Network initiative, First Connections serves a large geographic area that encompasses twelve metro-west communities, including Acton, Bedford, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Harvard, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury, and Westford as well as Hanscom Air Force Base.

The mission of First Connections is to assist parents, through free or low cost education and support, in developing the skills they need to be involved and effective parents and to connect these parents to each other and to their communities.

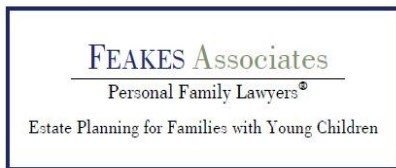
Here is a link to their Fall Newsletter:

<http://www.firstconnections.org/uploadDocs/Fall2011news1.pdf>

## Supporters

Do you have a local business and would like the opportunity to reach the members of the LPA? If so, you may be interested in signing up as an LPA Supporter. As a Supporter, you will get your Logo and Business Info on our website and newsletter, like the ones you see below. If you have questions or would like to become a Supporter, please contact Arpita at [littletoncommunity@gmail.com](mailto:littletoncommunity@gmail.com).

Please click on each Supporter logo for more information:



The Littleton Parent Association (LPA) brings families of young children together and is supported by First Connections. We are a volunteer organization made up of families with young children living in Littleton, MA and surrounding towns, dedicated to providing resources and fostering connections within the membership and the community.

- \* We invite you to join us at an event!
- \* Spread the word to your neighbors and friends!
- \* Come to the next Board Meeting to share your ideas!
- \* 'Like' us on Facebook!



# Kids Craft and Cooking Corner

This Month's Theme: HOLIDAYS!!



## Crafts



### Peppermint Tree (<http://familyfun.go.com>)

**Materials:** Double-sided foam tape, 9- by 4-inch Styrofoam cones, bags of individually wrapped green striped mints, individually wrapped multicolored sour balls or jawbreakers, yellow paper, yellow lollipop

**Instructions:**

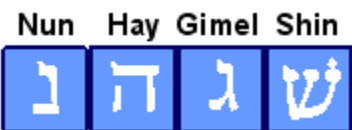
1. Apply strips of double-sided foam tape to the Styrofoam cone, as shown at left, until virtually the entire surface is covered.
2. Now your child can attach the wrapped mints to the exposed tape, starting with one row around the bottom and working his way up. For the best coverage and color, he should stick each mint to the tree by the rounded edge rather than with the flat surface facing out. Encourage him to mix in a few multicolored sour ball or jawbreaker lights as he goes.
3. For a tree topper, cut a star out of the yellow paper, tape the lollipop to it, and then push the lollipop stick straight down into the cone.

### Milk Carton Dreidel (<http://crafts.kaboose.com/milk-carton-dreidel>)

**Materials:** 1 small, single size paper milk carton, Masking tape, Kitchen knife, Acrylic paint, 1 Popsicle stick, Glitter pen

**Instructions:**

1. Close the spout on the container and tape it shut using a small piece of masking tape.
2. Using a kitchen knife (parents, please do this part for your children) cut a small incision into the bottom center of your container, just long enough to put a Popsicle stick through.
3. Paint the entire milk carton whatever color you choose. If the paint looks streaky, do another coat.
4. Wait an hour to make sure the paint is completely dry and then add the letters Nun, Hay, Gimel and Shin with glitter pens



## Recipes

### Miniature Gingerbread House (<http://crafts.kaboose.com/miniature-gingerbread-house.html>)

**Materials:** 7 graham crackers, Assorted small candies for decorating, Ribbon, Pastry bag and tip or Ziploc bag and scissors, Frosting for glue (1/2 pound confectioner's sugar, 3 tbs. butter/margarine, 1/2 tsp. Vanilla, 1 1/2 - 2 tbs. Milk)

**Instructions:**

- Make frosting glue by mixing all ingredients together. Add more sugar if too runny.
- If you have a pastry bag, place frosting in bag and use a small tip. You can use a Ziploc bag cutting a small hole in the corner.
- Place one graham cracker flat on the table, squeeze a little frosting around all edges. You may need an extra pair of hands.
- Place one cracker on each side standing up. It now looks like a box without a top.
- Carefully squeeze more frosting on all outside corners from top to bottom and around the bottom of the box.
- Let stand for a short while to let frosting harden a little. This will make working with the roof a little easier.
- Now squeeze frosting on two of the top edges of the box and place the last two graham crackers in a V shape on as the roof. Looks like a triangle on a box now from the side. It may overhang if you can get the frosting to hold for you.
- Squeeze frosting along the top of the roof where crackers join. Let stand again until frosting hardens a little.
- Now comes the fun part - with leftover frosting, cover the roof to look like snow. (two sides are left open) Then squeezing small amounts on candy, place candy on the house to decorate. You can use the frosting to add things like doors and windows. Just use your imagination.