



Father Ryan Arts Center

of Focus On Renewal

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Press Release

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Month of the Young Child Opens in McKees Rocks with Bedtime STOrY ROX

McKees Rocks, PA, March 27, 2013 – Children and parents put your PJs on and get ready to rhyme during Bedtime STOrY ROX, Sunday, April 7 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Father Ryan Arts Center in McKees Rocks. Focus On Renewal (FOR) has partnered with Brightside Academy and the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) to host a FREE month of the young child event filled with fun story time experiences including rhymes, music and movement, art activities and creative dramatics.

“Brightside Academy is proud to partner with the Father Ryan Arts Center to bring quality, artistic and educational programs to the children who participate in the center's activities,” stated Mark Kehoe, Brightside Academy's CEO. “Both of our organizations have the ability to touch a child's life and provide them with skills and confidence for a brighter future.”

In addition to small group activities and give-a-ways, WQED will air a sneak premiere of its brand new PBS episode called “*Curious George Swings into Spring*” (the show does not air on PBS until April 22). Movie goers will enjoy a popcorn treat during the show and get a chance to shake hands and high-five Curious George himself from 2 pm to 3 pm. Each child will receive a 10-page, full-color booklet called Curious George “*Family Activity Booklet*” to take home. “I am so very excited and happy to support this beautiful event,” said Jen Stancil, Executive Director of Educational Partnerships, WQED Multimedia.

Children and parents can explore the Imagination Playground in the center's first-floor art gallery. In this unique indoor play-space, kids get to create and build through the use of a portable, loose-part block system that encourages learning, social development, movement, and FUN! Stop by the café for milk and cookies, fruit and other healthy snack selections or listen to local literacy advocates and children's experts read from their favorite stories in the Bavero Theater from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. “The books selected are fun books that allow children to interact with the story with movement, song, or rhyme because children love to get up and move while listening to a great story,” said Sandi Koebler, Ed.D., Early Literacy Director, PAEYC. All children will receive a free storybook titled “*The Bus for Us*” by Suzanne Bloom to take home to encourage further reading and exploration.

Parents, members of the Sto-Rox Elementary School Kindergarten Transition Team will be on hand to help guide you through the process of registering your child for kindergarten, as well as provide other helpful tips on Kindergarten readiness, said Colleen Hannagan, director of the Sto-Rox transition team.

Bedtime STOrY Rox is sponsored by: Brightside Academy, Focus On Renewal (FOR), Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC), Sto-Rox Elementary Kindergarten Transition Team and WQED Multimedia.

Bedtime Story Rox is produced in collaboration with the following Focus On Renewal programs: Father Ryan Arts Center, Family Foundations / Early Head Start, FOR Sto-Rox Library, and Positive Parenting Family Support Centers.

For more information, please call the Father Ryan Arts Center at 412-771-3052 or visit fatherryanartscenter.org. The Father Ryan Arts Center is located at 420 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks PA 15136.

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Focus on Renewal (F.O.R.) is a non-profit human service agency that has served the McKees Rocks community for 40 years, and is nationally recognized as a model of comprehensive services to low-income people of all ages. The Father Ryan Arts Center, a program of Focus On Renewal, is a multi-level facility in the heart of McKees Rocks committed to providing artistic education, enrichment and entertainment.

Brightside Academy is a leader in child care and early education that provides all families access to an excellent early educational experience. With 20 years of experience, Brightside Academy operates academies in multiple cities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. Brightside Academy is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. For more information, visit www.brightsideacademy.com. Like us at facebook.com/brightsideacademy. Follow us on twitter.com/bsafamily.

The Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) works to support high-quality care and education for young children from birth until age nine across 10 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. PAEYC provides professional development, community resources and advocacy for the needs and rights of children, their families and the individuals who work with them. For more information, www.paeyc.org.