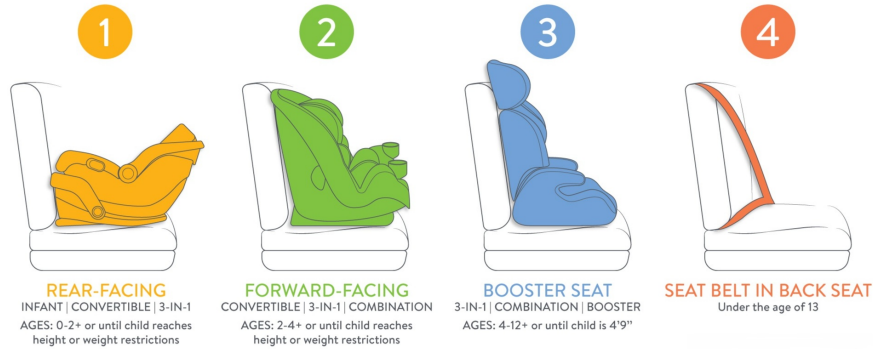


# Montessori Center of Downriver - December Newsletter

## Car Seat Safety



### Car Seat Safety - An Important Note From Ms April

As parents and guardians, we spend a lot of time worrying about our kids: Are they happy? Are they healthy? Are they meeting milestones? But one important aspect of their lives that we sometimes take for granted is their car seat. This has been very close to my heart since my older daughter lost a friend in a car crash. I want to make sure that all of our kids here at MCOB are as safe as possible as we go into the travel-filled holiday season.

No one likes to think about this, but road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. A properly installed and correctly used car seat can reduce your child's risk of death by 71%, but over half of all car seats are not installed or used correctly.

Rear-facing as long as possible is another way to keep our kids safe. The AAP recommends rearing facing until at least two, but preferably beyond. Car seat research has shown that children up to 2 years are about 75% less likely to die or sustain serious injury in a rear-facing car seat than a forward-facing one. That's because a rear-facing seat spreads the crash force more evenly across the back of the car seat and the child's body. It also limits the motion of the head, reducing the potential for neck injury, and keeps the child more contained within the shell of the child restraint. Rear facing is actually safer for everyone, even adults (it would make it a little hard to drive though!).

For a good visual, please watch this video [comparing the effects on the spine of forward and rear facing](#).



### Get a Free Car Seat!

[The Children's Hospital of Michigan's Injury Prevention Program](#) provides safety information, devices, and materials to keep children safe. The Injury Prevention Online Workshop focuses on the leading causes of unintentional and preventable injuries to children.

Attendees can receive a free smoke alarm, convertible car seat, and hot water tester.

### Further Reading

1. <https://ucsg.safekids.org> (Find personalized info by child's age and weight)
2. <https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips>
3. <https://ucsg.safekids.org/basic-tips/right-fit/>
4. <https://csftl.org/why-rear-facing-the-science-junkies-guide>
5. [Find a car seat technician](#)

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### In the Classroom



#### Mrs. Ashley's Class

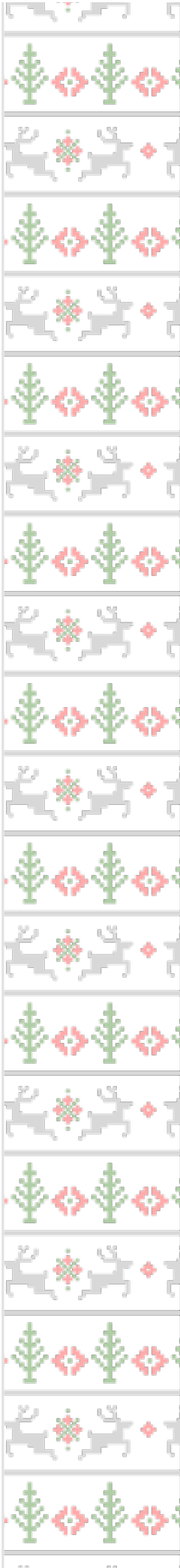
In December, Mrs. Ashley's class will be learning about the food groups!

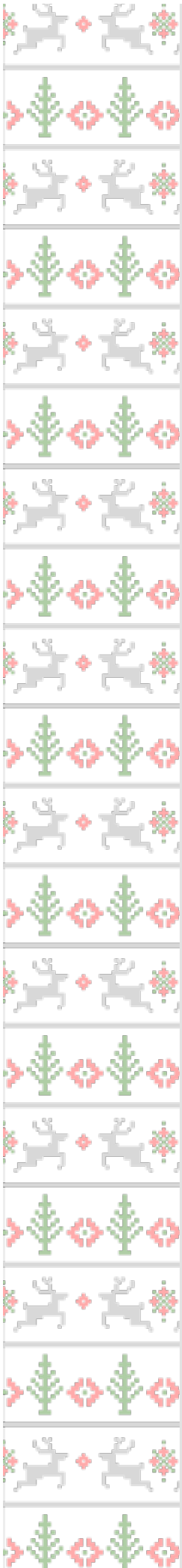


#### Mrs. Dona's Class

In December, Mrs. Dona's class will be learning about Europe and the different ways that people celebrate Christmas. They'll be baking and decorating Christmas cookies, and they'll also be learning about why it snows. They'll learn the water cycle song and do experiments!

Please remember to bring in winter coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and snow boots as we go outside daily when possible.





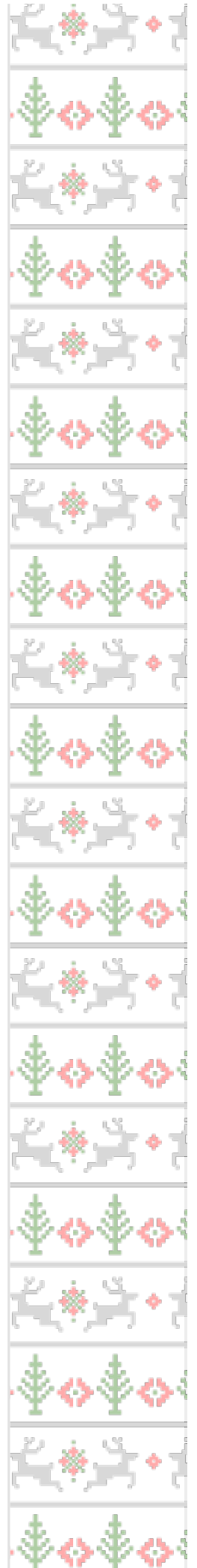
**Ms Mandi and Ms Donnette's Class**

In December, Ms Donnette and Ms Mandi's class will be continuing their exploration of North America, including learning more about the nature, foods, and different North American cultures.

They'll also be doing more science experiments and exploring different art mediums.

**Mrs. Melissa's Class**

In December, Mrs. Melissa's class will be learning about farm animals!



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## Dates to Remember

**December 22nd:** Last day of school

**December 25th - January 7th:** School is closed for Winter Break

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## Giving Back: We're Collecting Donations

This holiday season, we as a staff have decided we'd like to give back to the local community. We have chosen [Alternatives For Girls](#), a local organization whose mission is to help girls and young women experiencing homelessness and other risks avoid violence, early pregnancy, and exploitation; and help them to explore and access the support, resources, and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong, and to make positive choices for their lives.

If you'd like to join us in making a donation, we will be placing a box in the vestibule next week. We plan on dropping off the items over winter break. A detailed list of items needed, along with a link to their Amazon wish list, can be found [here](#).

Alternatives For Girls (AFG) appreciates the many donors who are interested in helping the young girls and women we serve.

### AT THIS TIME, WE ARE ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING **NEW** ITEMS:

- Women's warm clothing: tennis shoes, jeans, yoga pants/sweatpants, sweatshirts, etc. (S-2X)
  - Kids and adult boots (all sizes)
  - Women's bras, socks, and underwear
  - Gift cards \$20-\$30 (Kroger, Meijer, Target, CVS, Walgreens, Gas, Lyft/Uber)
  - Baby clothes: sleep sacks, onesies, socks, pants, pajamas, long sleeves, short sleeves, bibs, baby blankets, etc. (all sizes)
  - Diapers (all sizes)
  - Snacks, juice, and cases of water
  - Hair care products for African-American hair
  - Duffie bags and backpacks
  - Houseware items (dishes, utensils, bedding, cleaning supplies)
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## Local Events and Resources

### Island Glow

Dec 1, 5-8pm

Macomb St, Grosse Ile

The 21st edition of Island Glow is back! Join us for an evening of holiday fun on Macomb Street:

5pm to 6pm - At the Commons: Hot Chocolate provided by the Music Boosters, live Music by River's End Brass and the Grosse Ile Marching Band

7pm - At the Commons: Santa Arrives! Santa Stroll on Macomb Street

7:30pm - Lyons Park: Tree Lighting, hot Chocolate provided by the Music Boosters, and treats provided by Elliott's Bakery.

### Dance Performance: Ballet Folklórico De Detroit

Bloomfield Township Public Library (1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Township)

December 2, 2-3:30pm

Discover the traditional dances of Mexico! This Detroit-based community group is comprised of passionate dancers who dedicate their time and talent to preserve Mexican culture and heritage by offering dance instruction to those who wish to grow in the Mexican Folkloric Arts while providing youth the opportunity to be a positive influence in their community. Free. All are welcome. No registration is required.

### Noel Night

Saturday, December 2nd, 5-9pm



Noel Night is an open house of the Midtown Detroit and Cultural Center districts that celebrates diverse holiday traditions amid the state's premier arts and cultural institutions, historic churches, galleries, and a growing circle of small businesses. Noel Night features: Live music performances and other interactive holiday experiences; holiday shopping at local businesses and pop-up winter marketplaces; make-and-take activities for families; visits with Santa throughout the Noel Night footprint; lots of restaurants and bars to visit; food trucks and hot beverage stands; and free shuttle bus service.

### **Taylor Winterfest**

December 2nd  
Heritage Park

Winterfest features a parade, which starts at the Taylor Recreation Center (22805 Goddard Rd) at approximately 5pm. The parade route will end at the Sheridan Pavilion, where free family activities, the tree lighting by Santa, and firework finale display will all take place.

### **Christmas in Downtown New Boston**

December 3rd, 4-8pm

Features a Christmas Tree Lighting, visit with Santa (Santa arrives at 5:30pm), carriage rides, street vendors, refreshments, and pictures with alpacas. Children also get to choose an ornament from the children's tree!

### **Santa at the Fire Station**

Trenton Fire Station  
December 3rd, 3-5pm

Pictures with Santa and light refreshments, all free!

### **Northern Lights**

Sunday, December 3rd  
8am-10pm

Location: Beacon Park (1903 Grand River Avenue, Detroit)

Beacon Park is undergoing a magical, winter makeover! Guests of all ages are invited to stop by any time during park hours all season long to take in the beauty of the "Northern Lights" installation.

During "Northern Lights," Beacon Park will shine bright with larger-than-life light features, including a 15-foot infinity snow globe, a gigantic walkthrough snowflake, gleaming polar bears, sparkling presents and more! Together, the decorations glow with 125,000 dazzling LED bulbs, all 95% recyclable.

This installation is FREE and open to the public.

### **Wyandotte Bacon Library**

Gingerbread House Construction In-Person

It's Gingerbread House time! Reserve your space online to create a candy house.

Tuesday, December 5th  
4-5pm and 5:15-6:15pm

### **Menorah in the D 2023**

Campus Martius, Detroit  
December 7, 5pm

See the lighting of the 26 ft. Detroit Menorah and enjoy a fire show and strolling entertainment, complimentary hot soup, snacks, and cider; Chef Cari's kosher food truck; a giveaway and meet and greet with the Detroit Pistons Extreme Team and Hooper; photo ops with Dreidel Man & the dancing dreidels; and crafts, games, and treats for kids.

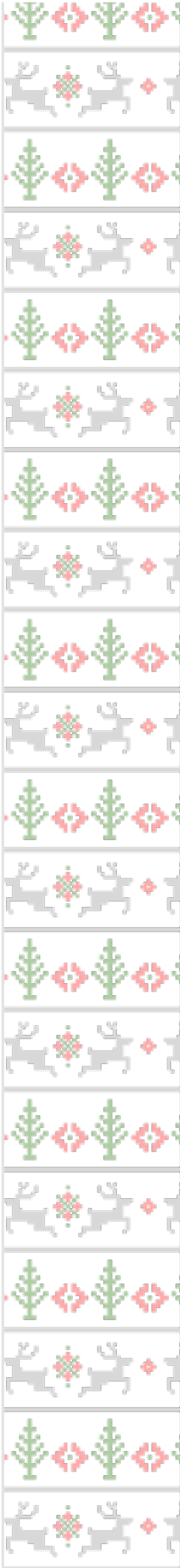
### **Sensory Friendly Visit with Santa**

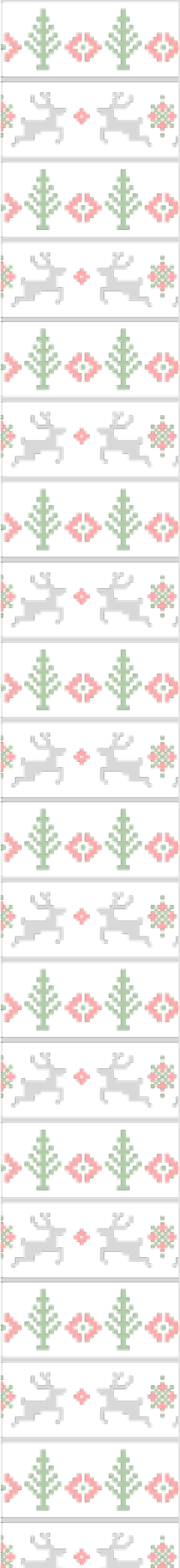
Brownstown Community Center  
December 9th, 1-3pm

This free event is for neuro-diverse individuals and their families or caregivers. Meet with Santa on your own terms. There will also be treats and activities.

### **Santa Skate**

Trenton Kennedy Ice Center  
December 16, 2-4pm





Ice skating with Santa!

### **Monroe Midway**

Experience winter fun at the Midway with the arctic slide, winter bumper cars, an indoor arcade, and puck-putt this holiday season! It's all happening at the Monroe Street Midway (across from Campus Martius Park). Entry and most activities are free.

### **Detroit Institute of Art Drop-in Workshops**

Free with general admission, which is FREE for residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

#### *Printmaking Notecards*

Use foam printing plates, water-based inks and a wooden stylus to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind hand-pulled prints on paper. Fold in half to make a card. Envelopes are provided!

Friday, Dec 1

6-8:30pm

Saturday, Dec 2

12-4pm

Sunday, Dec 3

12-4pm

#### *Drawing with Scissors*

Fold, snip, unfold, snowflake! Bring the beauty of winter indoors as you learn to make old-fashioned paper snowflakes.

Friday, Dec 8

6-8:30pm

Saturday, Dec 9

12-4pm

Sunday, Dec 10

12-4pm

#### *Bojagi*

Generations of Korean artists have made patchwork cloths called bojagi (say: boh-jah-ghee). Traditionally, they created these cloths from fabric scraps found at home, carefully sewing them together by hand.

Bojagi could be used to cover food, wrap gifts or precious items, or carry everyday things. Today, contemporary artists are reengaging with this tradition, investing bojagi with new meanings.

Friday, Dec 22

6-8:30pm

Saturday, Dec 23

12-4pm

#### *Tongue Depressor Puppets*

Use fabric, yarn and felt to turn a tongue depressor into a character worthy of its own puppet show!

Wednesday, Dec 27

11am-3pm

Thursday, Dec 28

11am-3pm

#### *Hand Puppets*

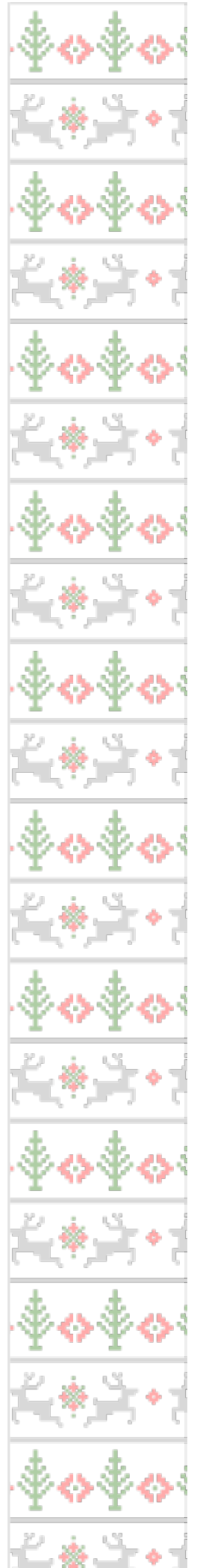
Learn to make a hand puppet from various materials in the studio. Bring your imagination! No experience necessary.

Friday, Dec 29

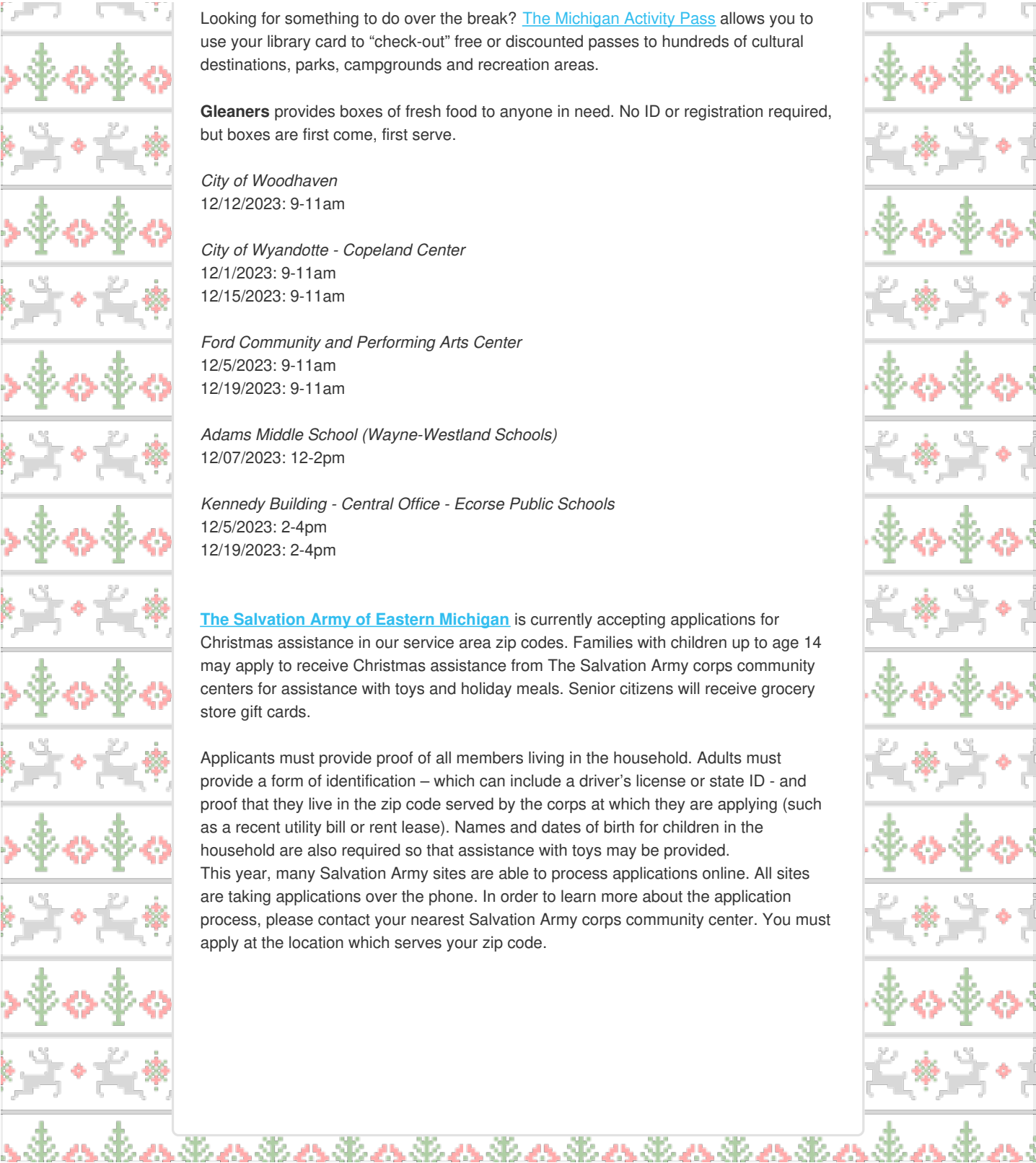
11am-8:30pm

Saturday, Dec 30

12-4pm







Looking for something to do over the break? [The Michigan Activity Pass](#) allows you to use your library card to “check-out” free or discounted passes to hundreds of cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds and recreation areas.

**Gleaners** provides boxes of fresh food to anyone in need. No ID or registration required, but boxes are first come, first serve.

*City of Woodhaven*

12/12/2023: 9-11am

*City of Wyandotte - Copeland Center*

12/1/2023: 9-11am

12/15/2023: 9-11am

*Ford Community and Performing Arts Center*

12/5/2023: 9-11am

12/19/2023: 9-11am

*Adams Middle School (Wayne-Westland Schools)*

12/07/2023: 12-2pm

*Kennedy Building - Central Office - Ecorse Public Schools*

12/5/2023: 2-4pm

12/19/2023: 2-4pm

[The Salvation Army of Eastern Michigan](#) is currently accepting applications for Christmas assistance in our service area zip codes. Families with children up to age 14 may apply to receive Christmas assistance from The Salvation Army corps community centers for assistance with toys and holiday meals. Senior citizens will receive grocery store gift cards.

Applicants must provide proof of all members living in the household. Adults must provide a form of identification – which can include a driver’s license or state ID - and proof that they live in the zip code served by the corps at which they are applying (such as a recent utility bill or rent lease). Names and dates of birth for children in the household are also required so that assistance with toys may be provided. This year, many Salvation Army sites are able to process applications online. All sites are taking applications over the phone. In order to learn more about the application process, please contact your nearest Salvation Army corps community center. You must apply at the location which serves your zip code.