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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Slip-and-slide into summer fun with Children’s Museum of Atlanta’s July programs**

*Families can celebrate summer with programs on Independence Day, Tanabata and National Ice Cream Day*

**ATLANTA** **(June XX, 2018)** – *All aboard for summer celebrations!* **Children’s Museum of Atlanta** is heating up summer fun with special events and exhibits for little ones to learn and grow through the power of play. Throughout **July**, families can explore the magical realm of the feature exhibit *The Amazing Castle*, celebrate the nation’s independence on the Fourth of July, discover the traditions of the star festival on Tanabata, learn all about emotions on World Emoji Day and more! Whether making ice cream on National Ice Cream Day or learning how to meet new friends during Tools for School, kids will discover a variety of activities and opportunities at Children’s Museum of Atlanta.

**July Special Programming**

 **Celebrate Independence Day**

*Wednesday, July 4*

Kids are invited to join the celebration of stars and stripes at Children’s Museum of Atlanta’s positively patriotic party on Independence Day! Families can commemorate the country with special events and performances to highlight the star-spangled holiday. Throughout the day, little ones can create red, white and blue geometric paintings in the Art Studio and discover the result of mixing together the colors of the flag with Professor Labcoat at the Science Bar. In addition, Uncle Sam will lead a high-flying musical parade and kids can visit the stage to learn some of the country’s treasured songs like “You’re a Grand Old Flag”!

* **Independence Day Parade**

 *11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*

* **Fourth of July Sing-Along**

 *1 p.m. and 4 p.m.*

* **Super Spectacular Science Show**

 *noon*

* **Storytime**

*3 p.m.*

* **Science Bar**

 *10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

* **Art Studio**

 *10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\**

* **Build It Lab**

 *11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\**

 *\*Last class at 4 p.m.*

**Celebrate Tanabata: A Cultural Exploration**

*Saturday, July 7*

The annual festival of Tanabata is a Japanese holiday celebrating the meeting of two star-crossed deities, Hikoboshi and Orihime, who are separated by the Milky Way Galaxy and only allowed to meet once a year. Children’s Museum of Atlanta and Atlanta’s Nakato Japanese Restaurant representatives will bring this colorful festival of stars to life by offering authentic origami classes in the Art Studio and the opportunity for families to march in a traditional Tanabata lantern parade. Little ones can learn more about the lunar holiday and rich cultural history by listening to Japanese children’s stories at Storytime and engaging in the tradition of writing Tanabata wishes of good fortune.

* **Tanabata Lantern Parade**

*11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*

* **Super Spectacular Science Show**

*noon*

* **Japanese Children’s Stories Storytime**

*1 p.m. and 3 p.m.*

* **Writing Tanabata Wishes**

*4 p.m.*

* **Sensory Friendly Saturday**

*9 a.m. – 10 a.m.*

* **Science Bar**

*10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

* **Art Studio**

*10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.\**

* **Build It Lab**

*11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*\*
*\*Last class at 4 p.m.*

 **National Ice Cream Day**

*Sunday, July 15*

Nothing beats the heat like ice cream in the summer! Families can visit the Museum for National Ice Cream Day and take a break from the sun for a cool treat. Children are encouraged to stop by the Science Bar at the top of every hour, between 11 a.m.-2 p.m., to discover the science behind making ice cream with Professor Labcoat. In addition, families can embark on a scavenger hunt and cooking class with Eat a Georgia Rainbow to explore the foods that are harvested in Georgia throughout the year. Little ones can also get moving with programs like Music & Movement and dance along to the Mini-Musical.

* **Music & Movement**

*11 a.m.*

* **Mini-Musical**

*Noon and 2 p.m.*

* **Storytime**

*1 p.m.*

* **Super Spectacular Science Show**

*4 p.m.*

* **Eat a Georgia Rainbow**

*3 p.m.*

* **Science Bar**

*11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

* **Art Studio**

*10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.\**

* **Build It Lab**

*11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*\*\*
*\*Last class at 2 p.m. due to Eat a Georgia Rainbow*

*\*\*Last class at 4 p.m.*

**World Emoji Day**

*Tuesday, July 17*

Celebrate World Emoji Day at Children’s Museum of Atlanta! Little ones can join the Imaginators for themed programs to learn all about understanding and communicating emotions. Visitors can create their own paper plate emotion wheel of emojis in the Art Studio and kids will learn to express themselves through dance during Music & Movement.

* **Mini-Musical**

*11a.m. and 1 p.m.*

* **Super Spectacular Science Show**

*Noon*

* **Music & Movement**

*2 p.m. and 4 p.m.*

* **Storytime**

*3 p.m.*

* **Science Bar**

*10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

* **Art Studio**

*10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.\**

* **Build It Lab**

*11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*\*
*\*Last class at 4 p.m.*

**Tools for School Day**

*Saturday, July 28*

Ready, Set, School! It is almost time for the first day of school again and Children’s Museum of Atlanta is ready to help the little ones prepare for another year of learning. During Tools for School Day, kids will set goals for the year and participate in a special shoe-tying instructional workshop. While enjoying the back-to-school themed programs, families are invited to a special musical “Big Hearts” which teaches the importance of standing up for new friends and making sure everyone feels included.

* **Mini-Musical: “Big Hearts”**

*11a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.*

* **Super Spectacular Science Show**

*Noon*

* **Storytime and Shoe Tying Workshop**

*1 p.m. and 3 p.m.*

* **Science Bar**

*10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

* **Art Studio**

*10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.\**

* **Build It Lab**

*11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*\*
*\*Last class at 4 p.m.*

**Feature Exhibit: *The Amazing Castle***

*Through September 9*

*The Amazing Castle* transports families to a magical place in time where little ones can explore a happy, peaceful community where every citizen has a particular job to complete. Featuring eight themed areas, kids can don costumes and engage in role play, prepare royal meals, entertain guests in the Royal Puppet Theatre and more! Throughout the exhibit, Children experience the interconnectedness of individuals as they interact with friends, family and new acquaintances.

*The Amazing Castle* was created by Minnesota Children’s Museum. Local sponsorship is provided by Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs.

For more information about The Amazing Castle daily programs, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org/calendar.](http://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/calendar/)

**About Children’s Museum of Atlanta:**

Children’s Museum of Atlanta is the only educational venue of its kind in Atlanta, presenting educational programs and exhibits designed for young children ages 0-9. The Museum’s mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning for all children through the power of play. With six permanent learning zones consisting of bright, creative and hands-on exhibits, the Museum supports inventive play-based exploration and experiential learning focused on the whole child. Core competencies for literacy, math and science are promoted throughout all exhibits and programming in alignment with the state and national Core Performance Standards. The Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers parties, memberships, field trips, summer camp and private events.For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](http://www.childrensmuseumatlanta.org) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**Museum Admission:** Plan ahead and save! Families can purchase timed tickets online in advance to save money and guarantee entry to the Museum. Babies under 12 months and members are admitted for free. All daily programs are included in price of admission. Group rates and military discounts are available. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](http://www.childrensmuseumatlanta.org).

**Museum Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, \*\*Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.

\*\****As part of its summer hours,*** ***Children’s Museum of Atlanta will be open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. now through July 31, 2018***

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/childrensmuseumatlanta>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChildMuseumATL>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/childrensmuseumatlanta>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cmatlanta>

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