



Mums & Tots of Warsaw



Easter in April

How do they celebrate Easter in Poland – Katia tells us how.

Apart from Easter this issue has no theme but there are many good tips and ideas for you and your children.

Many thanks to the mums who send us excellent ideas about what to do with our day.

April hopefully gives us opportunities to get outdoors. We made a list of some of the best playgrounds in Warsaw. Enjoy the holidays and don't forget April 1st is April Fool's Day!

Helle (editor) Katia and Valerie

Activities

Monday

Mums and Tots weekly activities (see Schedule at the end of the newsletter)

Tuesday

The Toddler Play Group meets on Mondays from 10:00am-12:00am at different mums' houses. The first Monday every month it is held in The English Playhouse. Address: ul. Plycwińska 14 A (off Idzikowskiego).
Organizer: Valerie Colloredo

The Tuesday Play Group meets in winter at:
HULAKULA. Ul. Dobra 56/66 (it is on -1. floor).
At 10.00 – 12.00.

(!!! If the weather gets warmer in April we move outdoors. Oonagh will send an email with the information about when and where).

Organizer: Oonagh Yeo

Wednesday

Preschool Play Group: Afternoon playgroup for children between 3 and 5 years of age. Venue: The English Playhouse; siblings are also welcome. From 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm. Address: ul. Plycwińska 14 A (off Idzikowskiego). Cost:10 PLN.
Organizer: Aga Strak

Baby Swim: at SGGW (College of Agriculture) - ul. Ciszewskiego 10, Ursynow. Time: 10:00am - 11:30am. The price for mother & child is 21 PLN per hour.
Organizer: Marie F

Thursday

Mini music: Informal musical playgroup in which mums take part.
Age: newborn to 3 years.
At 10 am – noon in different Mums Homes in Warsaw (see Schedule)
Organizer: Cornelia Preidelt

Friday

Bumps and babies. Age: Yet to be born to 18 months. In different Mums Homes in Warsaw (see Schedule). At 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Organizer: Katia Roman-Trzaska

Friday Morning Playgroup – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Mainly from 18 months. Happy Montessori - Rumiana 14, Wilanow. Cost:12 PLN.
Organizer : Oonaugh Yeo

Event

Mums night out in April

The Mum's night out for April will take place on **Thursday April 12.**

More information soon...



Organizer: Marie Fahrenholz. Mail: mcmeunier72@hotmail.com

M & T Meting

Committee meeting – New activities

Here is a short summary of new activities and events planned at the meeting. Marlolein will send an email with the committee notes.

New Monday afternoon group

Because of the big success of the Wednesday Afternoon Play Group we will try to start up a new afternoon group. It will take place in **Happy Montessori house in Wilanow**. M&T is welcome on Monday afternoon from 2.30 to 5 pm in their garden and in their playrooms.

Coffee, tea, water and snacks will be provided for a small fee per person (12 PLN). The group will start from **Monday April 16!!** It will also be announced by e-mail.

Family Day in June

An M&T picnic is planned on Sunday June 3rd, from 11 to till 5. Valerie will research locations fun for playing, picnicking, walking and barbecuing.

Summer bazaar

An annual event of M&T planned on Friday June 22nd. This event raises money for M&T and charity. Sell your used items like kitchen stuff, toys, clothes etc. There will be a Coffee Corner, a few guest-sellers will be present, etc. More information in an upcoming email.

Next M & T Meeting

Scheduled on May 9th from 10-12, at Helle's place. **Please mark this date in your planner!**

Playgrounds

Outdoor playgrounds in Warsaw

This is a list of some of the best playgrounds in Warsaw. Some you may know others will be an adventure to discover.

The big ones

Plac Wilsona (Zoliborz)

Very well kept playground and adapted for younger and older children, very popular and crowded during the weekends, close to tram stops and metro stop.

Odynca (Mokotow:)

Corner of ul Odynca and Niepodleglosci. Closed park. There is a section for the younger children and another for the older ones. A coffee shop, and Italian restaurant, a Turkish restaurant and a very good vegetarian restaurant are at the entrance if you need drinks or food. A Grycan ice cream parlour is also located here.

Park Ujazdowski (Centrum)

Sunny playground with entrance on the corner of ul Piekna and Al Ujazdowskie. Better suited for children above 18 months, a nice pond with ducks and pigeons to feed.

Park Saski (Centrum)

Adjacent to pl. Pilsudskiego. Nice "rustic" playground with wooden cabanas and swings, big fountain. More adapted for children over 18 months.

Park Skaryszewski (Praga)

Entrance on Al Waszyngtona. A very beautiful park with a good playground suited for younger and older kids.

Smaller ones:

Park Morskie Oko (Mokotow)

Ul Belwederska, close to Blue Cactus, has some attractions for younger and older kids. There is another one off Belwederska closer to the actual street also for smaller.

Ul Pulawska at the level of Madalinskiego, has a small enclosed park for smaller children, but with 2 attractions for older ones.

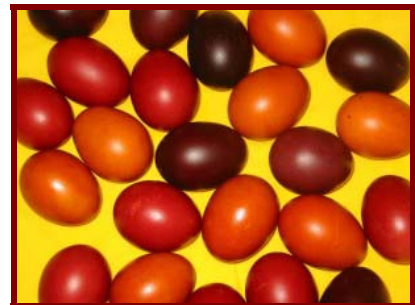
Park Rydza Smiglego (Centrum)

Ul Czerniakow (between the Sheraton Hotel and the River), nice enclosed park, with a section for younger and older children, nice shade in summer, not too crowded.

Easter

Easter in Poland

With warm weather coming early this year Easter promises to be even more colorful than ever. Easter, for Christians the most important holiday marking the death and resurrection of Jesus, a holiday of hope, is marked by many traditional celebrations in Poland. If getting to know the country's traditions and quirks is what interests you then Easter provides a fair share of both.



On Palm Sunday (one week before Easter), which celebrates Jesus' coming to Jerusalem, the tradition is to bring "palemki", e.i., bouquets of dried or fresh flowers, wheat etc to church. The 'palms' are then blessed and often there is a procession. You will see them on that Sunday (and even now) sold everywhere. The "palms" can be small or up to 15 m high as in the most famous Polish Palm Sunday procession in a village Lyse. It is definitely worthy of a day trip, though come early as people from all over Poland travel to see this unique event of huge, beautifully made 'palms'. There is also a large market with traditional, hand made folk stuff. The days after Palm Sunday are more solemn especially Good Friday, marking the death of Jesus. On that evening all around the city there are "way of the cross processions". The biggest one, attended by thousands of Varsavians, starts in the afternoon in Old Town and goes thru its streets. It is definitely an interesting and beautiful tradition worth seeing.

Then comes Easter Sunday and food, food, food. The menu never changes: barszcz, eggs, kielbasa, home made pates, cakes, cakes, cakes (especially "Mazurki", my mothers' secret weapon). Symbolic amounts of food have been blessed in church the day before and before the Easter breakfast (yes, it's called

breakfast though the fat is worthy of 10 dinners!) everyone takes a piece of egg and wishes each other Happy Easter.

Easter Monday is called "Lany poniedzialek" (Wet Monday) and the name is very much true. An old tradition (don't ask me, I knew it once now I just care about staying dry) lets people, strangers too, pour water on everyone. In the villages the girls who got most water poured on them by the boys were considered quite popular;. If you're spending Easter in Polish countryside stay inside in the morning or have your big pail of water ready, go out and have fun!

It's a lovely holiday with spring all around (hopefully) and sunny weather. Enjoy, go for walks, buy tulips and otherwise play outside! Happy Easter!

Event

Easter picnic – Open House

The Warsaw Montessori School is having an Open House, with a live petting zoo (calves, chickens, chicks, rabbits, goats, etc.) on Sunday, **April 1, 2007**. (Children between 5- 9 are welcome with their parents and siblings).

Public attendees will enjoy everything from an Easter egg hunt, to artistic activities, and games. There will also be a tempting international taste fest. Students and parents will bring samples of recipes that will be published in the 2007 Warsaw Montessori School's International Children's Cookbook!

Golf

Ladies Golf day

Are you interested in golf? There is a Ladies Golf day at the First Warsaw Golf and Country Club in Jablonna every Tuesday.

You can either take lessons or play golf with the rest of us. Do you have any questions please contact Rhea Wiatr at this number 600813451

Restaurant

Eating Out

Rubikon www.rubikon.waw.pl is a pleasant European style restaurant housed in a villa in the residential area off ul. Wilanowska in Mokotow. They do Saturday and Sunday brunches with kids menus and outside space in the summer. Good food and good wine!

Art

Empty walls?

www.flyinggallery.com is a virtual art gallery specializing in contemporary pieces in different formats by up-and-coming Polish artists. Once you've browsed their web site you can arrange to view your chosen pieces before you buy.

Shopping

For the home

If you're looking for high design furniture and accessories for the home, Domoteka is a great new designer interiors centre at the retail park at Targowek. The centre have more than 80 shops with products for the entire home. There is also a small play area in the centre (turn right from the entrance).

It takes 20 min. to go there from the city centre. But if you don't find anything worth the price at Domoteka - IKEA is just next door.

<http://www.domoteka.pl>

Hair

Fashion

If you're looking for something different and want to support young Polish fashion designers, The Young Polish Designers Foundation www.ypdf.org has a boutique on the second floor of Promenada Shopping Centre. They have several designers' collections, some of it is even wearable;)

English/French/Polish speaking Hair/Skin/Nail salon

I would like to highly recommend a hairdressing salon which also offers skin and nail treatments - Paris Coiffure in Mokotow. I recently visited them and was very impressed by how welcoming and friendly they were. Paris Coiffure staff speak English, French and Polish.

I have spoken to them about the Mums and Tots organisation and they have offered all Mums and Tots members who quote 'MUMS AND TOTS' a great offer of:

- 10 percent off hair colour
- 10 percent off skin treatments
- 5 percent off hair styling

They are located on ul. Bialy Kamien 7, Mokotow. Telephone 22 898 32 62
www.pariscoiffure.pl

They are easy to find - even I found it first time!! Enjoy! /Clare Schneck


Getaways

Relaxing weekend break

Siedlisko Morena is our favourite place in Poland for a completely relaxing break, yes, even with the kids www.siedliskomorena.pl

In a beautiful setting on a lake in Mazury (near Elk), there's plenty to do to keep the kids amused and for the adults to chill out. It has its own small beach with boats, pedalos and canoes for hire, an outdoor and indoor children's play area, and a lovely indoor swimming pool and gym. Or you can just enjoy relaxing walks along the country lanes by the lake. The food and wine are great, plus there's a range of Clarins treatments for the mummies (and daddies too). They also have apartments with two separate bedrooms if you need the space. /Helen

Add

 <p>HAPPY MONTESSORI HOUSE International Pre-school</p>	<p>Newly opened International Pre-school situated in Wilanów</p>	<p>(+48) 22 427 37 67 0 697 06 05 04 e-mail: hnh@hnh.com.pl</p>
<p>The Happy Montessori House would like to welcome all parents of children aged 2 to 6 years old. We are a newly opened International Pre-school situated in the heart of Wilanów.</p>		
<p>We offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Montessori Curriculum ✦ Beautiful garden and soft play area ✦ Bright classroom and child-sized materials ✦ Wide range of creative and practical life explorations ✦ Warm and friendly atmosphere 		
<p>For detailed information you may visit us at:</p>		<p>14 Rumiana Street, 02-956 Warsaw www.hmh.com.pl</p>



Schedule

Mums and tots Schedule for February / Marts

Monday	<p>The Toddler Play Group - At 10 until noon</p> <p>April 2 The English Playhouse April 9 Easter Monday, no meeting April 16 Marta Cross April 23 Vanessa Schaumloeffel April 30 Valerie Colloredo</p>
Tuesday	<p>The Tuesday Play Group in Hulakula From 10 until noon</p>
Wednesday	<p>Preschool Play Group The English Playhouse. From 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm</p> <p>Please Note: On request from Agniewka Weston of the English Playhouse: NO FOOD is allowed in the classrooms, if your child wants a snack please feed him/her in the "dining room" which is located behind the staircase.</p>
Thursday	<p>Mini Music - At 10 until noon</p> <p>April 5 Host needed April 12 Cornelia Preidelt April 19 Dominika Pasterska April 26 Paola Biondo</p>
Friday	<p>Bumps and babies - At 10:30 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>April 6 - Easter break April 13 - Tomako April 20 – Mariselle April 27 – Marjolein</p>