



www.navypier.com

CONTACT:

Delores Robinson/ Navy Pier/ 312.595.5031

Alice Hosty/ Navy Pier/ 312.595.5364

Natalie Krieger/ CCM/ 312.464.7727

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CABIN FEVER BREAKS HERE! NAVY PIER® PRESENTS NEW ENTERTAINMENT
TAILOR-MADE FOR TODDLERS DURING "TODDLIN' THURSDAYS"**

***Featuring Special Appearances by Popular Television Characters Bob the Builder™,
Piggley Winks™, Spider Man™ and Many More Fun Characters at Navy Pier***

Chicago (January 24, 2008) – EVERY THURSDAY through March 27, 2008 from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Family Pavilion Stage is reserved for *Toddlers* to gaze and be amazed by an *All-Star cast of characters*. **Bob the Builder™**, **Piggley Winks™** and **Spider-Man™** are among the initial casting call of characters chosen from the most popular television series, comic books and movies to kick-off the ***new season of Toddlin' Thursdays at Navy Pier.***

Toddlin' Thursdays starts with a bang as *Bob The Builder* begins the new season of Chicago's most talented childrens' characters and entertainers that will be showcased in the "NEW" Toddlin' Thursday's entertainment series at the Family Pavilion Stage. Enjoy special programming tailor made for toddlers starting this *Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.* *Bob the Builder will make a 30 minutes appearance at the top of each hour to meet and greet toddlers and children.* Bob the Builder always has the right tools, no matter what the job!

The toddler-friendly fun intensifies with performances by *Those Funny Little People* who will have children laughing and dancing at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the Family Pavilion Stage. Chicago's most talented children's entertainers and educators thrill toddlers with "live" interactive performances, special programs and exciting exhibits every Thursday through March.

THERE IS EVEN MORE FREE FUN on the weekends! Kids' favorite **CARTOON CHARACTERS** will make 30 minutes appearances at the top of every hour from 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday to meet and greet kids in the Family Pavilion! Come, enjoy and get great photos of your kids with their favorite televised characters.

Come to play and stay all day with a visit to the Chicago Children's Museum **Kraft® Free Family Night**. FREE ADMISSION for the whole family from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (groups of 15 or more need to register by calling 312/464-7735.) CCM offers innovative, daily drop-in programs that support the developmental needs of ages five and younger. Each *Early Learning Experience* encourages children to follow their own interests and set their own pace, as they explore the world around them.

-more-

Early Learning Programs take place in the regularly changing environments of the Pritzker Playspace and the fully equipped Kraft® Artabounds Studio.

CCM caters to early learners with two dedicated exhibits– *Treehouse Trails*, which magically transports the youngest visitors to the great outdoors, and *Kids Town*, a miniature cityscape built just for kids ages five and younger!

CCM OFFERS FREE ENTERTAINMENT & HEALTH SCREENINGS! Every Thursday night, listen to stories that transport you here, there and everywhere, and share in activities that bring the stories to life in *Tots, Tales & Tunes* at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Experience a selection of multi-sensory, drop-in programs that spark young children’s imaginations in *Super Sprouts* from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The Department of Specialized Services at Chicago Public Schools will provide **Free Developmental Screenings** for children birth through age five from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. on February 7 and March 6, and **Free Vision Screenings** by Prevent Blindness America on February 21 and 20 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

FOR MORE FREE FUN ON MONDAYS, visit the Chicago Children's Museum for **Target® Free First Mondays** for FREE admission for ages 15 and under all day long on the first Monday of every month! CCM features special reading activities and performances for families– all created to connect learning to play and instill an early appreciation for reading. PLUS enjoy renowned Chicago children's performer **Mindy Hester & Her Band** performing their clever kids' songs and rock parodies at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday, February 4 and Monday, March 3, 2008 on the Family Pavilion Stage.

Hours of Operation

Chicago Children’s Museum, one of the most popular children's museums in the United States, is an educational oasis with a galaxy of creative activities, live demonstrations, interactive exhibits, hands-on activities and fun family projects. Varieties of special programs are featured daily. Admission: \$9 adults and children over one; Seniors \$8; Free for members.

Museum Hours

Sunday – Wednesday and Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Navy Pier is located at 600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. As the Midwest's #1 tourist and leisure destination, historic Navy Pier® is one of the nation’s most unique recreation and exposition facilities, attracting more than 8.6 million visitors a year and adding \$1.2 billion to the Illinois economy. Navy Pier is operated by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority. www.mpea.com

Navy Pier Winter Hours

Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

###