



Office of General Services

For Immediate Release: 02/23/2017

Contact:

Heather Groll | heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov | (518) 474-5987

STORYBOOK FUN WITH CURIOUS GEORGE WILL APPEAR MARCH 4 AT THE 2017 HANNAFORD KIDZ EXPO AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

Come Meet Peppa Pig & George™ and Join the Celebration

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the 12th annual Hannaford Kidz Expo will take place on Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for this event, which attracts thousands of children and parents to the Empire State Plaza.

“The Hannaford Kidz Expo is chock full of entertainment and exciting, educational, and healthy activities for kids of all ages,” Commissioner Destito said. “We are all looking forward to seeing the big smiles that will appear on children’s faces this year when they see Curious George and get to meet Peppa Pig. I am happy that we are able to partner with Hannaford Supermarkets and all of our generous sponsors to offer this free, family event.”

“Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to once again partner with the New York State Office of General Services to make possible an event that encourages families to learn, grow and stay active together,” said Hannaford Supermarkets Community Relations Specialist Brian Fabre. “We look forward to welcoming families to the Empire State Plaza to enjoy a fun-filled day of exploration and education.”

Kids will find activities galore – many of them focusing on a healthy and active lifestyle. There will be meet and greets with children’s characters, theater performances, bounce rides, arts and crafts, mini-golf, and even reptiles. Parents will find information from all of their favorite vendors in one convenient location: summer camps, health care, sports

clubs, photographers, schools, dance studios, and amusement parks, just to name a few. Also, a variety of food options will be available.

Exciting Activities for All Ages

Among the new and featured attractions for the 2017 Hannaford Kidz Expo are:

Storybook Fun with Curious George (The Egg's Hart Theatre) – Curious George has captured the heart of generations, whether through the popular books by Margret and H.A. Rey or through the animated television series that airs on PBS. This special appearance features the beloved George in a high-energy, interactive performance your children will love.

Come Meet Peppa Pig & George™ (Meeting Room 7) – It's going to be an oinktastic day when Peppa Pig and her brother George come to town. Don't miss your opportunity to meet and take photos. Peppa and George love adventure and inspire kids to have fun, make friends, and learn along the way. Come join the celebration!

Hannaford and CLYNK – Recycling Today for Tomorrow (Meeting Rooms 3– 4) – Hannaford Supermarkets and CLYNK have partnered to show kids how easy and fun recycling can be. Stop by to play the bottle toss or bottle stand activities, picture bingo, trivia, and so much more. Prizes for kids and coupons for adults will be available throughout the day. Find out how easy it can be to make change with CLYNK and Hannaford Supermarkets.

Dance Flurry Music and Movement Games (Meeting Room 6/Convention Hall) – Join in simple singing, clapping, and circle games taught by Family Dance Leader Paul Rosenberg, accompanied by live fiddle music from Tame Rutabaga.

School of the Albany Berkshire Ballet (Meeting Room 6/Convention Hall) – Presenting performances by students of the School of the Albany Berkshire Ballet. The school was founded by Madeline Cantarella Culpo, artistic director of the Albany Berkshire Ballet, with the goal of providing personal attention and training to students and professional dancers. Classes are offered at all levels and include modern, jazz, tap, and Broadway dance in addition to classical ballet. Graduates have gone on to dance at many prestigious colleges and with professional companies.

***The Little Mermaid* presented by Debuts Theater Company (Meeting Room 6)** – Debuts was founded in 1998 and to this day strives to stimulate and encourage interest in the dramatic arts. The goal of the company is to instill the concepts of commitment and discipline in youngsters while inspiring their appreciation of the distinctly American art form known as the Broadway musical. Here they perform the story of Ariel, a 16-year-old mermaid princess dissatisfied with life under the sea and curious about the human world, in *The Little Mermaid*.

Toddler Zone (Base of The Egg) – An area for your little ones to call their own. Located at the Base of The Egg, this area has been specially designed to feature

vendors and activities catered to meet the needs of our youngest guests. Featuring small bounce rides, the Albany Public Library, fitness activities, and more.

Also, the Empire “Skate” Plaza Ice Rink will be open for free skating from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., weather permitting, and skate rentals are available.

Paid visitor parking will be available in the V-lot under the Empire State Plaza for \$5, and free parking will be available in the East Garage on Philip Street off Madison Avenue.

More information about this year’s Hannaford Kidz Expo and other events at the Empire State Plaza, visit us online at www.empirestateplaza.org or Empire State Plaza Events on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @PlazaEvents, or call the OGS Convention & Cultural Events Office at (518) 474-4759.

In addition to Hannaford Supermarkets, sponsors include: NY’s 529 College Savings Program, NYSUT, SEFCU, f.y.e., Mildred Elley, Orange Motors, Albany JCC, BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Renaissance Albany Hotel, The Spot, Capital District Parent Pages, Times Union, Albany.com, AllOverAlbany.com, 107.7 WGNA, and Hot 99.1.

###