

Newsletter

Monthly News Letter
Issue No. 7 (February 2026)



February Highlight: Celebrating Excellence in Early Childhood Education!

Daycare Program



We are thrilled to announce a major milestone for our team! Three of our phenomenal educators, Ms. Ada, Ms. Sarain, and Ms. Yahaira have officially earned their Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials.

This nationally recognized certification represents the gold standard in early childhood education. It is a powerful testament to their tireless work ethic and their mastery of the craft. A special round of applause goes to Ms. Yahaira, who has now achieved her second CDA credential!

Their dedication to professional growth directly enriches the lives of the children we serve, ensuring every "bright mind" in our care has a world-class foundation. Please join us in celebrating this outstanding achievement!

RESOURCES AND UPDATES

February Closures

Feb 16 - President's Day



Pantry Open

Feb 6, 13, 20, and 27

Must Bring ID and ID for everyone in your household

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Childcare Lead Teachers –
With CDA or Certification

- Childcare Assistant Teachers

- Youth Counselors

- Lifeguards

Scan to apply!



Save the Date: The Belle Center: Then. Now. Next

We are thrilled to invite you to a landmark celebration in the history of The Belle Center. Please join us for an evening of elegance, reflection, and vision as we look toward the next 50 years.

**Friday, November 6, 2026
The Atrium @ Rich's - 6:30 pm
1 Robert Rich Way, Buffalo, NY 14213**

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Program Updates



The Belle Center
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DAY CARE

Building Hearts & Heights!

February is a busy month of celebration and discovery here at the daycare! From honoring history to exploring the future of engineering, our classrooms are buzzing with energy. Here is a look at what we have planned.

February Activities

- This month, our little learners are becoming mini-architects! Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) focus is Structural Engineering, specifically how to build strong towers and buildings.
- **Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse):** We are kicking off the month by welcoming the Lunar New Year! Children will explore vibrant traditions and create crafts reflecting the year of the horse.
- **Valentine's Day (February 14th):** Love and friendship are in the air! We'll be hosting classroom card exchanges and decorating Valentine's Day cookies! It's a wonderful time to teach our little ones about kindness and appreciation for one another.
- **Presidents' Day (February 16th):** Our program is closed on President's Day, however we will spend the whole week learning about leadership and history through age-appropriate stories about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Health & Safety Reminders

Sickness: To keep our community healthy, we kindly ask that if your child is feeling unwell, please notify the daycare and keep them home until they are feeling better. Children should be symptom-free and fever-free without the use of medication for at least 24 hours before returning.

Updated Records: For the safety and compliance of our center, please ensure all personal information is up to date. Additionally, if your child has recently received immunizations, please provide updated shot records to the director as soon as possible.

FEBRUARY



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM

Connection, Curiosity, & Creativity

February is all about relationships, emotions, and community at the Belle Center! This month, youth will explore what healthy connections look like, whether that's with friends, family, or themselves, or while continuing to build confidence, creativity, and emotional awareness.

Creative Expression Activities

Art and movement-based activities allow youth to express feelings like joy, pride, calm, and even frustration in safe and meaningful ways.

Self-Love & Wellness Moments

Activities centered on self-care, mindfulness, and celebrating individuality

Healthy Relationships & Communication

Guided discussions and interactive kahoot games focused on respect, boundaries, and self-worth.

Our Goal for February 2026!

Our goal this February is to help youth feel seen, supported, and empowered while fostering a space where they can connect authentically and grow together.

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Our Journey: Progress & Purpose



REFLECTING ON 50 YEARS

Carrying on a Legacy of Goodness: The Story of The Belle Center

Many of us walk through the doors of The Belle Center every day, but do you know the story behind the name? Our center stands as a living tribute to Father Vincent L. Belle, a Buffalo native whose life was defined by humility and an unwavering commitment to his neighbors.

A Life of Service

Born and raised in Buffalo, Father Belle was a product of our local schools (PS 83 and Kensington High) before being ordained in 1948. As Assistant Pastor at Holy Cross Church, he became a beloved figure on the West Side. His pastor, Monsignor Gambino, once remarked that Father Belle possessed "only goodness and humility in his manners, work, and personality." He was most known for his devotion to the sick and homebound. Tragically, it was during this mission of service on New Year's Day in 1960 that Father Belle's life was cut short. At just 37 years old, he was killed while preparing to bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass.

From Tragedy to Community Strength

In the wake of his death, the grieving West Side community chose to turn heartbreak into hope. They resolved to build a center that would continue Father Belle's work of uplifting others. By 1976, The Father Vincent L. Belle Community Center opened its doors at the corner of Busti and Maryland just a few hundred yards from where Father Belle lived and served.

Evolution of a Legacy

For over four decades, The Belle Center has remained a resilient pillar of the Lower West Side. While the neighborhood has changed, our mission to meet its evolving needs has remained constant. Today, The Belle Center is more than just a building; it is a testament to a community that chose to honor a man of peace by creating a place of opportunity. We are proud to carry his name and his spirit into the future.

DONATE TO THE BELLE CENTER

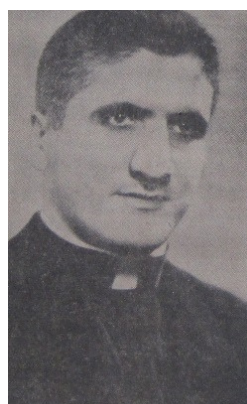
Our mission is to offer innovative, educational, social and community building services for children, youth, senior citizens and families living in Western New York.

In order to meet our mission and provide services to our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we would not be able to serve our community each year.

Remember every donation makes a difference, regardless of size. We thank you in advance for your kind considerations.

Investing in a Positive Light for Buffalo!

Donate Today!



Father Vincent L. Belle

