

# CRESS CREEK MOMS & TOTS NEWSLETTER

February 2023

## CHAIRMOM'S MESSAGE

Growing up, my grandparents had an "outside dog." At the time, this idea was so strange to me. A pet that lived their whole lives outside?! But, during a visit to their farm one December, I remember the dog running around, in the middle of their backyard, covered in snow, having the absolute time of his life. He was so incredibly joyful. And it made sense.

After having three boys, I am fully in-tune with the "outside dog" concept. My children are "outside children." Don't worry, I let them come inside from time-to-time. But, they thrive outside. Rain, snow, grass, mud...they love it all. In 2021, we started the 1000 Hours Outside challenge. 1,000 hours is a long time to spend outside- and it took us a long time to complete. But, being outside allowed my family to find animal tracks, build stick forts, play in the mud, climb trees, be adventurous, take risks and get a little messy. We filled the air with chatter and laughter, and often played make-believe until the sun went down.

February weather can be miserable. It's damp and grey and cold. But, I encourage you to find time to be outside. A little fresh air will not only allow your kids to decompress, it's good for you, too! Below are some of our favorite places to be outside:

**Cantigny Park**- my boys love to climb on the tanks. They also have a great playground!



**McDowell Forest preserve** - Located right in our neighborhood's backyard. There are great trails for walking and lots of open space to play in the snow.



**Nike Sports Complex Ice Rink** - As long as the temps are cold, the ice is perfect for skating!



In this month's newsletter, we're recapping the TOCA Family Play Day and the Playroom Cafe play date. We also have some fun events on the horizon, so checkout the save-the-date page.

Happy reading :).

Your friend,  
Meghan

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**Membership:** Molly Ogbomo

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**Kids Events:** Julie Chiu & Roby Callaway

**Adult Events:** Amanda Merrill & Katie Paolicchi

**Marketing & Community Outreach:** Caroline Connell

**Marketing Coordinator:** Sara Olson



CRESS CREEK  
MOMS & TOTS



# TOCA

## FAMILY PLAY DAY

Thank you to our sponsor, TOCA Soccer, for hosting this fantastic day of fun for CCM&T families!



**THANK YOU Julie and Roby**  
**For organizing this event!!**

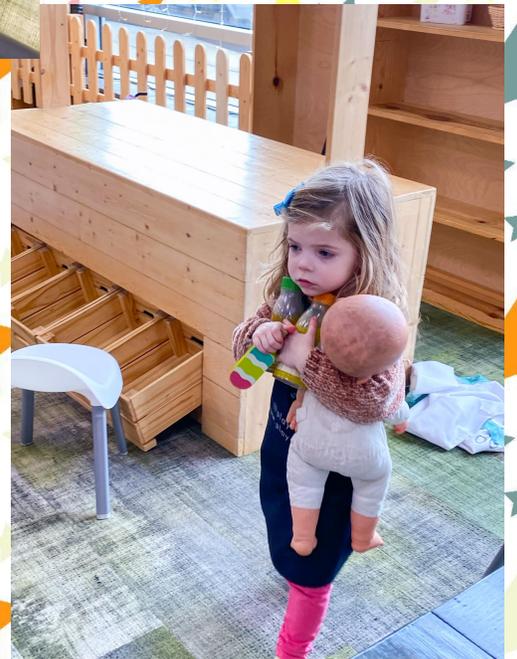






# PLAYROOM CAFE TWO PLAYDATE



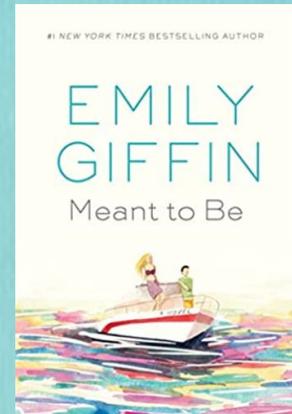


# February Board Pick: Book Recommendations

Name: Katie

Book title/author: *Meant to Be* by Emily Giffin

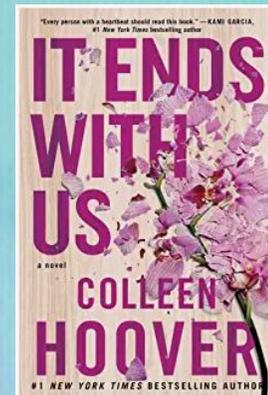
Why I recommend this book: I always look forward to any new release by Emily Giffin (she also wrote *Something Borrowed* which later became a movie starring Kate Hudson). Her books are fun, light hearted and easy to read. They are perfect Beach Reads for Spring Break or by the pool this Summer!



Name: Sara

Book title/author: *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover

Why I recommend it: This book is getting so much hype lately, and really is a great book. It's an easy read and has a mix of moments that keep you on the edge of your seat and feel-good moments, too. I really enjoyed this book and was excited to follow up with reading *It Starts With Us* next.



Name: Caroline

Book title/author: *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano

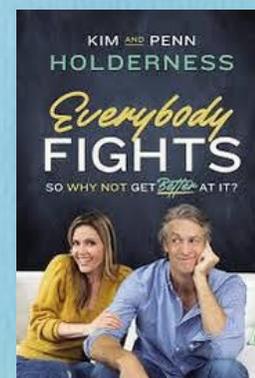
Why I recommend it: This book is the first in a series of three (number 3 just came out last month). It's a murder/comedy and it's funny and a fast read! Highly recommend the whole series!



Name: Julie

Book title/author: *Everybody Fights* by Kim and Penn Holderness

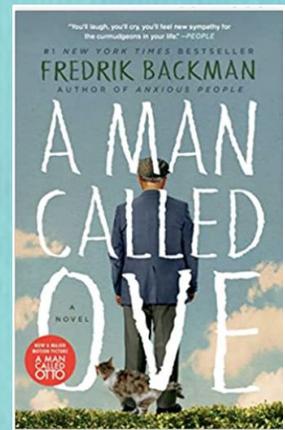
Why I recommend it: This is so funny and refreshing, packed with hilariously relatable stories and antics from the Holderness couple, that you won't even realize how much you're actually learning to improve marital conflict! (Also, listening to the audio book was even better because their voices and banter make you feel like they're in same the room with you!) 😊



Name: Alex

Book title/author: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

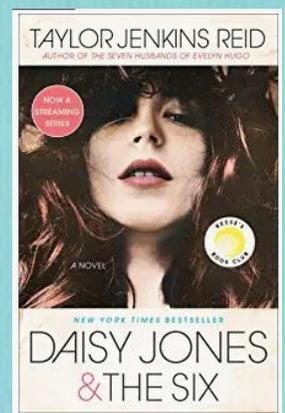
Why I recommend it: This is a wonderful, easy read about a grumpy, old man and some new neighbors that see a different side of him. Some people may recognize this as *A Man Called Otto*, the new movie coming out with Tom Hanks, but this is the original book the movie is based on.



Name: Meghan

Book title/author: *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

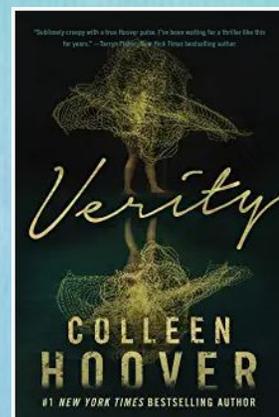
Why I recommend it: This fictional novel tells the story of the rise and fall of a 1970s rock band. It's a quick read (or listen), written like a documentary, in almost all dialogue. Each section spotlight's a different person's perspective, and makes you feel like you're a part of the drama.



Name: Amanda

Book title/author: *Verity* by Colleen Hoover

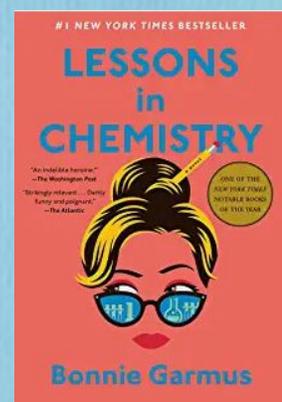
Why I recommend it: This psychological thriller is a page turner! It kept me up at night reading to discover what truths were lies and I thought I had it all figured out, but totally didn't see the ending coming!



Name: Erin

Book title/author: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Why I recommend it: I was rooting for the strong, smart, resilient protagonist Elizabeth Zott throughout every page of this novel. I couldn't put it down! The New York Times summarizes perfectly: "In Garmus's debut novel, a frustrated chemist finds herself at the helm of a cooking show that sparks a revolution. Welcome to the 1960s, where a woman's arsenal of tools was often limited to the kitchen—and where Elizabeth Zott is hellbent on overturning the status quo one meal at a time."



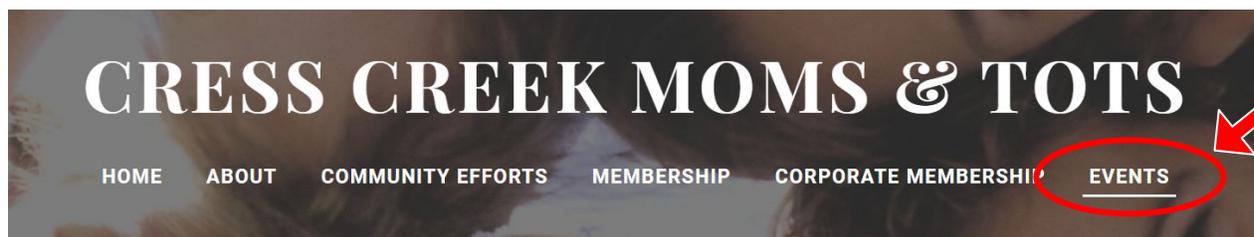
# EVENTS

Check the chart below for a list of our upcoming CCM&T Events. Can't wait to see you there!



<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Casino Night	Saturday, March 4th	Cress Creek Country Club
St. Paddy's Day 5K	Saturday, March 12th Run/walk sign up: <a href="https://saintpaddysday5k.com/">https://saintpaddysday5k.com/</a> Check CCM&T Facebook post for post-run meetup spot!	Downtown Naperville
Story Time	Friday, March 17th	Nichols Library
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 8th, 3:30 PM	Cress Creek Park

Members can register for all events on [ccmomsandtots.org](http://ccmomsandtots.org).  
Click the "EVENTS" tab to find information and RSVP





# Happy Birthday!

## February Birthdays

Kelly Toppa

Amanda Merrill

Michaela Campagnolo

Erica Harouff

Katrina LaMonica

Lynn McQuery

Mary Wilband

## Member Profile Updates

Attention members! Please take a moment to log in to your member profile on [ccmomsandtots.org](http://ccmomsandtots.org) to update your personal information!

Are you expecting a new addition to your family? Add it to your profile!

Has it been a few years since you added your kids ages? Update them in your profile!

Forgot to add your birthday when you signed up? Include it!

Write a few sentences about yourself and your family, too!

The more information in our member directory, the better we're able to connect with each other, and the better the Board is able to plan events that meet the needs of our members. Thanks!!

# CRESS CREEK MOMS & TOTS

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2023-2024 school year!

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about Learning is Fun!

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