

April 2010

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California Kids! Family Fun Guide

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Distribution/Subscriptions: George Macko

California Kids! is published monthly and distributed to more than 1,000 locations in the Sacramento Valley, including all of Sacramento County, and portions of Yolo (Davis and Woodland), Placer (Auburn, Newcastle, Rocklin and Roseville), El Dorado (Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Placerville), and Nevada (Grass Valley, Nevada City) counties.

Subscriptions are available for \$30/year. Mail prepaid check or money order to California Kids!, 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Make sure to specify the person and address to which you wish issues to be mailed.

Deadlines for advertising and calendar listings are the 25th of the month prior to publication. Calendar listings should be mailed to 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818, faxed to (916) 429-9906, or e-mailed to kathleen@valcomnews.com.

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Egg-stravaganza!

Hop down the bunny trail with Peter Cottontail and celebrate spring with family at friends at Fairytale Town's annual Spring Eggstravaganza. The event is set for Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and offers egg hunts, puppet shows, hands-on arts activities and photos with the big Rabbit himself!

Egg Hunts will be held promptly at noon, 1, and 2 p.m. each day and guests are encouraged to bring a basket for collecting eggs. The Egg Hunts are separated by age groups. Children three and under will hunt on the main lawn in front of the Mother Goose Stage, ages four to six will find eggs in the Pooh Corner, and those ages seven to 12 will track eggs behind King Arthur's Castle! Each child will return their eggs to Mr. McGregor's Garden to receive a prize - no matter how few or how many eggs they find! (This activity is included in park admission.)

After the Egg Hunts, guests are invited to the Children's Theater to see the puppet show, Bunny Boot Camp. The zany comedy includes heroic characters, devious villains, and madcap chase scenes. The puppet show is also a safe place to



give a child their first experience seeing live theater, and helps build interest in stories and reading. Most activities for the Spring Eggstravaganza event are included in paid park admission. Tickets for Puppet Art Theater performances are an additional \$1 for members, \$2 for non-members, with showtimes at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

After seeing a show, head on over to the Mother Goose Stage where you can take a photo with the Big Bunny of the season (\$5

additional charge), or participate in a variety of age-appropriate spring art activities, which you can take home as a souvenir.

Fairytale Town is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (weather permitting), and event activities take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Park admission is \$4.50 per person, ages 3 and up. Children 2 and under are free of charge.

For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit www.fairytaletown.org.

Matinee Performances

Fairytale Town's own repertory company of young actors returns for a third season of original and innovative family entertainment. "The Little Mermaid and the Yellow Submarine," promises to be a major production in both size and scope. A cast of 25 young actors between the ages of 5 and 19 gather together to enact a creative new adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen classic fantastically re-imagined as a "Lost Adventure of Sgt. Pepper." It features eleven mystical mermaids, seven sappy sailors, three environmentally incorrect witches, miscellaneous sea urchins and even a pesky puppet or two—not to mention a soundtrack by a certain Lonely Hearts Club Band. A loving tribute to 1960's pop culture clashing with twenty-first century eco-savvy silliness, this wondrously weird production promises a parade of dazzling color and eccentric accents across the universe and under the psychedelic sea.

"The Little Mermaid and the Yellow Submarine" starring the Fairytale Town Troupers opens April 10, with matinee performances in the Children's Theater at Fairytale Town. Tickets are only \$1 (Fairytale Town Members receive a 2-for-1 discount) in addition to paid park admission. Children two and under are free. Saturday matinees are scheduled for 12:30 and 1:30, Sunday performances are at 11:30 and 12:30. Performance dates are April 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25.

The Children's Theater at Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento, in William Land Park. General Admission to Fairytale Town is \$4.50 weekends and holidays. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or mail@fairytaletown.org.

Outdoor Nature Programs

Looking for Eggs in Nature- Sunday, April 4, 1:30 p.m.

Join the fun at Rancho Del Oso Nature and History Center for a special nature walk for children who like to look for eggs in nature. Search for frog eggs, insect eggs, newt's eggs and other "special" eggs. The hike will be about a half-mile in length. This event is fun for all ages.

Rancho del Oso is located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1. Turn right before the Waddell Bridge, there is a sign marked "Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center" on the right side. Please watch for newts on the road each spring.

Tidepool Exploration at Waddell Beach - Sunday, April 18, at 9 a.m.

Low tide is at 9 a.m., so meet at the Waddell Beach parking lot and walk about a mile to the tidepools. Spring is a great time to see colorful nudibranchs (sea slugs), octopus and a wide variety of crabs. Families are welcome. Please wear layers of clothes and sturdy shoes or boots that can get wet. Participants will gather back at the nature center afterwards to warm up with hot chocolate, tea or coffee around the fire and learn more about what they have seen. Meet at the Waddell Beach parking lot off of Highway 1, just south of Año Nuevo State Reserve. More information is available at (831) 427-2288.

Located 16 miles north of Santa Cruz along Highway One, at Waddell Creek. For more information, call (831) 427-2288.

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Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring **Donna Gephart**

By **Patricia M. Newman**

Donna Gephart's first novel, *As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother is Running For President!*, was the recipient of the 2009 Sid Fleischman Humor Award. When she reflects on what drew her to humor, she recalls, "The big family dinners where my aunts and uncles and cousins and everybody would be sitting around the table laughing our heads off and telling stories and pigging out." She also read the humor columnist Erma Bombeck, as a kid—even though Bombeck's column was written for a more mature audience. "I was interested in humor even back then," she says.

Somewhere between the ages of eight and ten, her mother made a fuss over something she had written and Gephart knew she wanted to be a writer. However, the path to writing for children was long and circuitous, with stops at writing greeting cards, magazine articles, and short stories. Gephart had always enjoyed reading children's books to her two sons, but when they began to veer away from the children's section, she stayed.

At first, Gephart floundered in the world of children's



literature. "I knew no one. I knew nothing," she says of the business. She stumbled onto a critique group of like-minded children's writers. One of the members told her about an editor searching for mother-daughter short stories for a soon-to-be published anthology. Gephart fired off a submission about a girl whose mother's political career kept her away from home a lot, incorporating her own love of politics and a story she'd heard about President and Mrs. Clinton and their daughter Chelsea. The anthology editor said the story did not fit her needs, but suggested Gephart turn the story into a novel.

Feeling more confident, Gephart then mailed a query letter to an agent about a different middle-grade novel she had written and included one line about some of her other work: "I'm also writing a book about a shy, awkward, gawky girl who wants to stay out of the spotlight, but she can't because her mom's running for President." The agent rejected

the original novel, but expressed interest in the book about the candidate's daughter. Gephart says, "I didn't have a book."

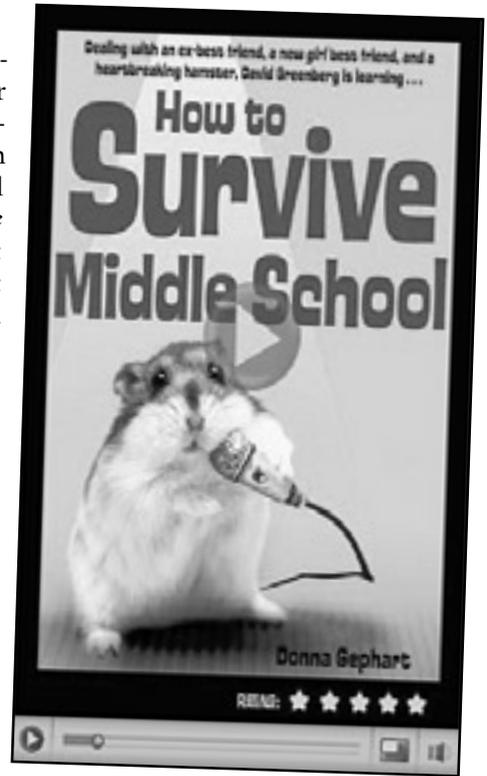
She did what all writers do whose bluff had been called. She got to work and turned in 340-page book centered on a romance. The agent requested a revision that focused more on what it felt like to be the daughter of a Presidential candidate. Gephart researched and revised for four months and the agent sold the book in three weeks. To celebrate the publication of *As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother is Running For President!*, Gephart posted a "Welcome Baby" stork sign on the lawn outside her home to announce the new arrival (weight: one pound).

In her newest book, *How I Survived Middle School*, Gephart relives some of her own problems in middle school. "Those feelings definitely came through in [this book]," she says. But the germ of the idea actually came from her younger son when he began middle school. "He hated school, hated himself," she says. "It was such a departure from how he was in elementary school. It was so hard to watch." At that time, she attended a writer's conference and confesses to tuning out the speaker to make a list of challenges that middle school students face. Eventually the

list became the brainchild of a character named David Greenberg, a funny Jewish kid whose role model is Jon Stewart of *The Daily Show*. Gephart thought David might possibly write a book to help others survive middle school. "That morphed into—well maybe he can create videos [starring his pet hamster, Hammy] and put them on YouTube to help other kids and himself survive middle school."

Gephart works from her home in south Florida, dividing her time between writing and family. She prefers to create in the morning when she is fresh, leaving revision, promotion and other business-related activities for the afternoon. Usually she ends her writing day when her sons (now 15 and 17) return home from school, but there are times when deadlines loom and she's forced to work evenings and weekends.

"My editor has a gift for seeing what's missing," she says. For *As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother is Running For President!*, Gephart's editor mentioned that Vanessa, the main character, does not have a best friend, so Gephart wrote one for her. "*How to Survive Middle School* went through three BIG revisions," Gephart says. "[Each time my editor] drew more and more



out from me and from the story. Ultimately, she was right on target and [her comments] always helped the whole."

Gephart says, "Before my teen years, I did not have a lot of friends. The library was my second home and books were my friends...Children's literature is so important. It provides a friend for a child and the context to understand [himself] and the world better, and a strategy for coping [within the confines of] a safe environment."

Next month: Aaron Zenz

Patricia Newman is the author of Jingle the Brass (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Her newest book, Nugget on the Flight Deck (Walker), is now available. Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com to watch the trailer.



MORE ABOUT DONNA GEPHART

How to Contact Donna Gephart

Website: www.donnagephart.com

SELECTIONS FROM Donna Gephart's Library

How to Survive Middle School, Delacorte, 2010.
As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother is Running For President!, Delacorte, 2008.

Upcoming

Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen, Delacorte, TBA.



Annual Earth Day Whale Festival

The 14th Annual Earth Day Whale Festival! will be held, Sunday April 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Leo Carrillo State Park (located at 35000 West Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, California 90265) Border of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

This event celebrates the annual migration of the California gray whale and its successful return from the brink of extinction. Whale appreciation and environmental awareness are the themes of the day. Live entertainment, environmental conservation information booths, whale-watching stations, arts and crafts for children, activities, music and food are all a part of the day's events. Experienced naturalists will be on hand to help participants spot and identify gray whales and bottlenose dolphin right from the beach! Parking for the public is \$12. Sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association.

For more information call (805)488-1827 x106 or visit www.earthday-whalefest.org.

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Creek Week

Friday, April 9, through Saturday, April 17, be part of an area-wide volunteer effort to improve our creeks by collecting and removing trash and invasive exotic plants. For information, go to: www.creekweek.net.

Sacramento Earth Day Festival

The 4th Annual Earth Day Festival will be filled with diverse business, non-profit, cultural and government vendors with practical information, goods and services for saving money, living healthier, and protecting the environment. There will also be entertainment, activities and cuisine.

Bring the kids, Sunday, April 11, from 12 to 5 p.m., at Southside Park, located at 8th and T Streets, Sacramento. Admission is free to this event.

April 22 isn't just another Thursday it's Earth Day!

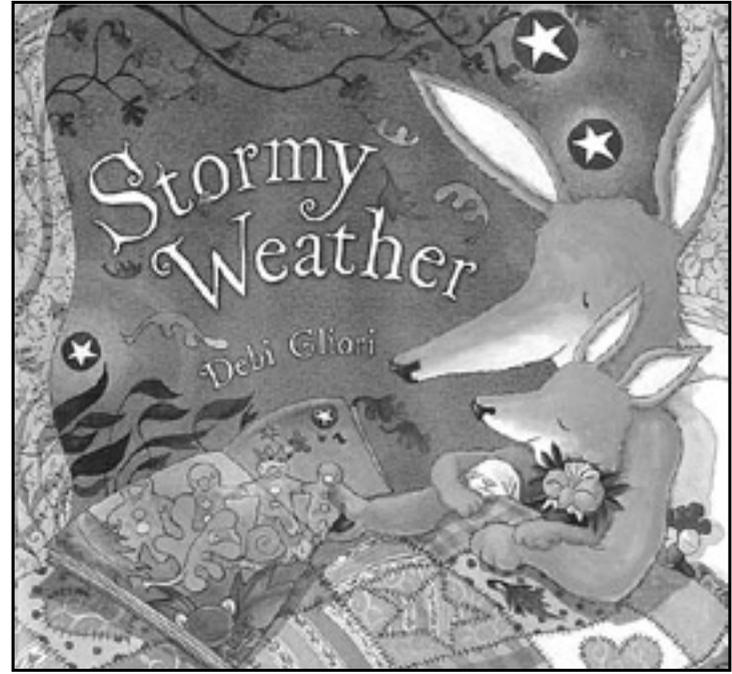
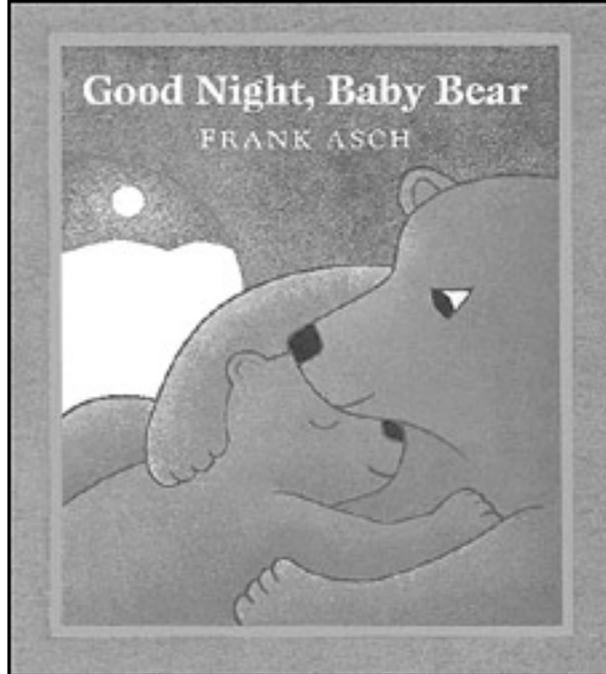
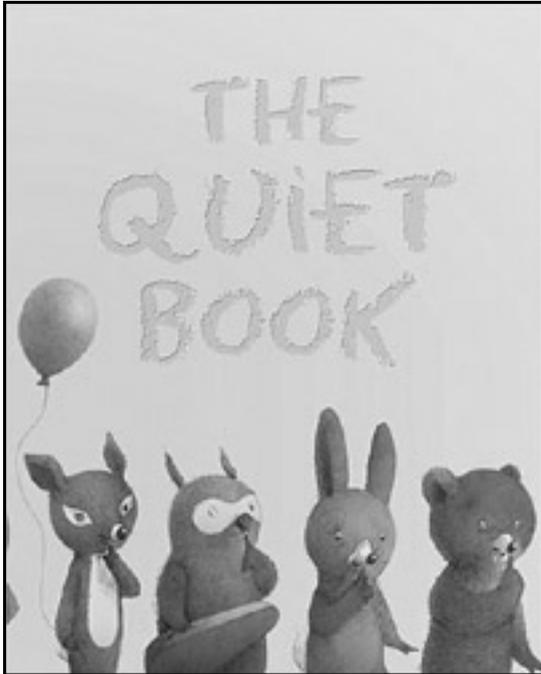
This is a day to think about our home, Planet Earth, and ways we can all help make it a nice, clean, safe place to live. Here are some words that relate to Earth Day; try to find them in the puzzle. Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and upside down. Good luck!

B E N A M A J R X C M E P N P X E B T
 K B W C H M D E G L P D O H P T C H X
 N Y W S Q F E C B E V H D Z S J D H Z
 T L I E P W P Y W A D C O A O C N P I
 Y F C L Y O F C W N Q L W S Q N A K R
 A Q P A W E X L T X S M Q N P G E E X
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 I S D S D R P J E K A P R O T E C T H
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 G A I F Y G H D V I I N H K C M S E I
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Pollution
Protect
Recycle

Rivers
Sky
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water



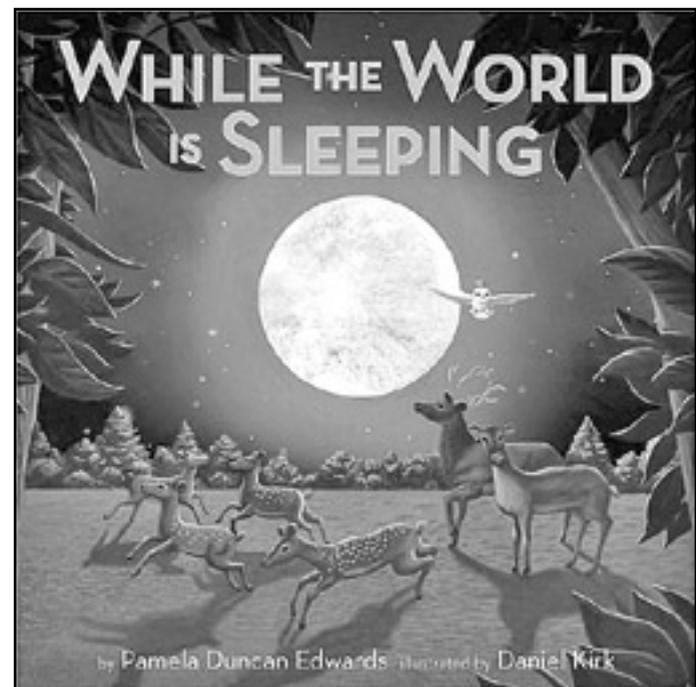
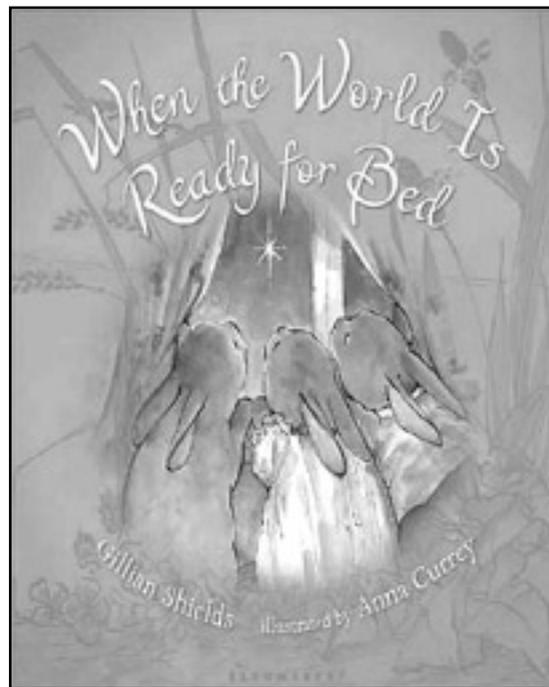
The Book Report Bed Time Stories

By **Connie Goldsmith**

Every parent has struggled to put a cranky toddler to bed – it’s practically a rite of passage. Reading a bed time story together helps. It can smooth the way to sleep and sweet dreams. Bed time story time is a standard ritual for many families. If you’re not reading to your child at bed time, give it a try – it might just work. It can also instill a life-long love of reading. The classic bed time tale, “*Good Night Moon*,” is not the only bed time book out there. Take a look at one of these to send your little one off to sleep.

“*When the World is Ready for Bed*,” by Gillian Shields, illustrated by Anna Currey. (Bloomsbury). “When the world is ready for bed, the sky grows dark, the sun glows red,” this most charming book opens. Mama Bunny calls her little bunnies in from play. The story takes the family through an evening that toddlers can identify with. Supper first, followed by picking up toys. Then, quality time with Daddy Bunny. Bath time. Bed time story with Mama. Kisses, hugs, and prayers. Finally, baby bunnies curl up under a blue flowered quilt, drifting off into happy dreams while holding favorite cuddlies close. The art is inviting, warm, and soft, and the flop-eared bunnies may well be the world’s cutest!

“*Stormy Weather*,” by Debi Gliori. (Walker). If your children are sometimes a little bit afraid of going to bed, this gently reassuring book will calm their fears. Even when storms rage and thunder booms, animal parents around the world love and protect their babies. The story follows Mama Fox as she reads about animal families to Baby Fox. From polar bears to owls, otters to snails, parents cuddle their babies and get them ready for bed. “From north to south and east to west, from cave to berg and twig to nest, a sleepy hush across the world, small creatures in their beds are curled.” The rhyme is perfect and soothing. The stunning watercolor



and ink art contrasts stormy night backdrops with warm earth-toned family homes. This story is sure to give your child that happy, tucked-in feeling so important to falling asleep. **

“*The Quiet Book*,” by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Renata Liwska. (Houghton Mifflin). This book says a lot in a few quiet words. There are many kinds of quiet, and parents and kids alike will recognize most of them. Some kinds of quiet are glad quiet, such as, “Don’t scare the robin quiet,” and “First snowfall quiet.” Others, not so much! “Thinking of a good reason you were drawing on the wall quiet,” and “Do iguanas bite? quiet.” But perhaps the best kinds of quiet are the getting ready for bed kinds: tucking in Teddy, bedtime kiss, and finally, “Sound asleep quiet.” The adorable animal drawings are executed in muted tones, making them a perfect fit with this quiet book.

“*While the World is Sleeping*,” by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Daniel Kirk. (Orchard Books). Just after mom puts her little girl to bed, a giant white owl glides to the window. “Climb aboard and hold on tight, as I spread my wings in flight. We will journey through the night, while the world is sleeping.” The child and owl soar through the night brightened by a full moon. They fly over farm and forest, river and woods. They see what animals are awake at night and what they do while the world is sleeping. The close-ups

of animal faces are enchanting. This book is as much an introduction to nocturnal nature as it is a bed time story. The bold gouache art fills each page, bringing the reader into the scene. You’ll wish you could fly too!

“*Goodnight Baby Bear*,” by Michael Shoulders, illustrated by Teri Weidner. (Sleeping Bear Press). Baby Bear has a large happy family. They all love Baby Bear more than honey oatmeal raisin cookies. And they *really* love honey oatmeal raisin cookies. Momma takes Baby Bear for a picnic in the garden. Daddy and he play farm and plant a tree. Brother Bear takes Baby Bear to the beach, while Aunt Grace takes him to the aquarium. And let’s not forget Uncle Roy and Nana. But no matter what happens, each day ends the same way. The little bear is tucked into bed and, “Baby Bear gets one honey oatmeal raisin cookie and picks one special book.” Each page is filled with watercolor and colored pencil vignettes of Baby Bear’s adventurous days and comfy nights. And guess what cookie recipe is on the last page?

**** Reviewer’s pick of the month**

Connie Goldsmith lives and writes in Carmichael. Her juvenile nonfiction books, “*Cutting Edge Medicine*,” “*Meningitis*,” and “*Superbugs Strike Back: when antibiotics fail*,” can be found at online booksellers, and in school and public libraries. Her newest books about hepatitis and malaria are due out this spring.



Thar's (Still!) Gold in Them Thar Hills!

Special to California kids from Beth Callahan

Many Californians happily live, work, travel, and play on the former sites of California's 1800s Gold Rush, never imagining the nearby riches that still remain undiscovered. Although gold is no longer found in the fabled quantities of those heady days, far fewer folks search for it as well. Some of those who do are more successful than you might imagine.

Jerry Levitt is a self-described "sourdough" who has been mining gold for almost 30 years. While he has claims in both Alaska and Northern California, some of his richest finds have come from the South Fork of the American River. "Anyone can try their luck on the American River across from Coloma Park," he advises. "That's still a great place to pan. Kids often pull out fingernail-sized nuggets."

And when you find gold, be quiet about it! Jerry says that real 49ers never cried, "Eureka!" "Why would you do that?" he asks. "Someone would know who to rob!" Instead, successful gold panners would quickly stick the gold nuggets in their mouths and keep them under their tongues until the end of the day. "The smart ones never said a word to anyone about their findings," says Jerry. Even today, when people ask if there's any gold left to find, many modern miners will say, "NO!" (But if they mumble, it might be because they have gold nuggets under their tongues!)

Retired from the State Board of Equalization, Jerry also has some tax advice for modern gold hunters. "Gold that you find - it's called 'bullion' - is tax-free to the finder. But if you sell it, successive buyers have to pay taxes on it." At one time, Jerry's hobby yielded enough tax-free gold to pay for an annual one-month vacation on Waikiki Beach!

Jerry will be sharing his gold-panning expertise and stories with visitors to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center on April 10 and 11. Troughs will be filled with water and sand, and salted with genuine semi-precious stones and minerals, including real gold. Tenderfoot miners



can rent a "claim" at the trough for \$3, and Jerry will show them the finer points of panning. Glass vials are provided to take home the treasure should miners decide against hiding their findings under their tongues. For those who would like to own and wear genuine Sacramento-area gold nuggets, Jerry's gold is available at the Museum Store in the form of beautiful jewelry and belt buckles, all handmade by the miner himself.

The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission to the center is \$6 adults (18+), \$5 seniors (60+), \$5 teens (13-17), \$4 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under). These events are appropriate for ages 4 to 12 years old. For more information, call (916) 575-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org

April Weekend Activities

Dinosaur Eggstravaganza - April 3 - 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Looking for unusual eggs? How about prehistoric egg fun for everyone! See real dinosaur eggs in the Gee Whiz Geology exhibit. Special presentations include a visit with "Roy Chapman Andrews," the real-life model for Indiana Jones and the man who discovered that dinosaurs laid eggs. A playlet about famous paleontologists occurs throughout the day. 12 and under: Each child will receive a plastic egg with a baby dinosaur inside. Today's make-and-take activity is a paper Protoceratops egg.



brings home a gold-panning activity sheet.

Dinosaur Stamp-A-Rama - April 17-18 - 12:30 to 3 p.m. Make your own dinosaur fact book! Children 12 and under use a dozen different dinosaur stamps and match them up with interesting prehistoric facts to construct a personal take-home memento. Remember to bring your camera for the many photo opportunities available in the Gee Whiz Geology exhibit, features rocks, crystals, dinosaurs, volcanoes, and fossils.

Celebrating the Grand Canyon - April 24-25 - 12:30 to 3 p.m. Did you know it took the Grand Canyon 3-6 million years to form? Or that it was formed by the power of water? The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is highlighting sedimentary rocks this weekend by featuring our country's most famous canyon. Each child 12 and under gets a Grand Canyon postcard to take home and a sticker craft activity to complete while visiting the museum.

The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center will be closed on Sunday April 4. The Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission to the center is \$6 adults (18+), \$5 seniors (60+), \$5 teens (13-17), \$4 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under). These events are appropriate for ages 4 to 12 years old. For more information, call (916) 575-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org

Eureka! Gold Panning Weekend - April 10-11 - 12:30 to 3 p.m. Thar's gold aplenty this weekend! Stake your claim at the Discovery Museum's gold panning event. Rent a pan for \$3 a person to try your luck at finding gems and semi-precious stones in our sluice boxes, and your findings are yours to keep! A real gold miner will show you the ropes and answer gold-hunting questions. Don't miss seeing the large gold specimens in our Gee Whiz Geology exhibit, which were found right in this area! Everyone 12 and under

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Fly by Butterfly

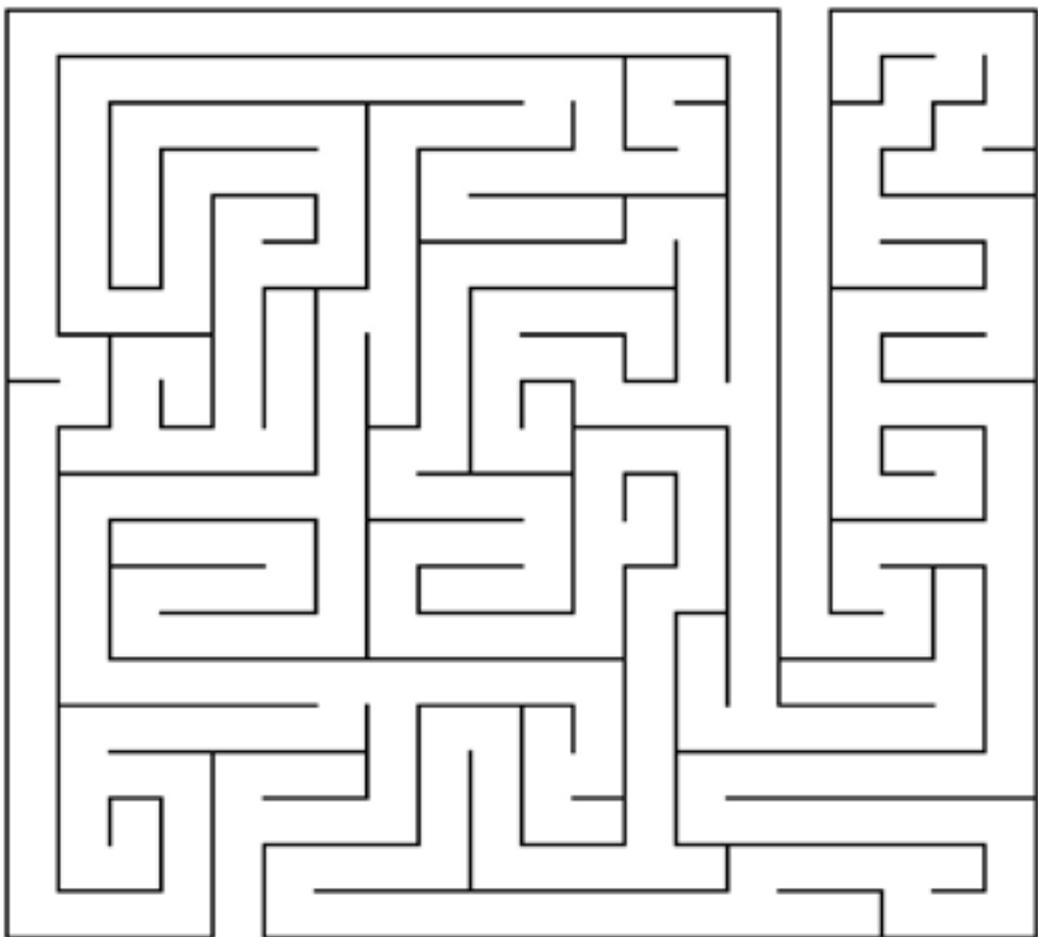
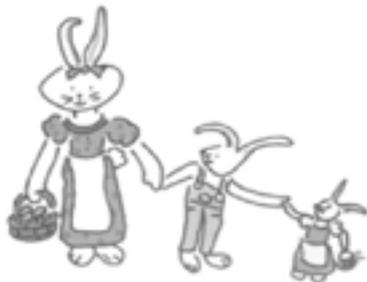
What is a Pipevine Swallowtail? Find out as you explore the life cycle of the butterfly and create your own coffee filter butterfly on Sunday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m., at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Then take a walk throughout the Nature area and investigate the Pipevine Swallowtail's world.



Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located in Ancil Hoffman Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. This is a free program, but there is \$5 per car entrance fee to the park. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.



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History Comes Alive at Sutter's Fort!

The 2010 season of "History Live," a vibrant and interactive historical experience, runs to June 30, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and July 1 to 31, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.

Visitors have the opportunity to meet pioneers who left their homes and braved the journey to Sutter's Fort at the dawn of the California Gold Rush. Hands-on activities led by experienced docents change daily and include blacksmiths, bakers, doctors, vaqueros and more at this midtown Sacramento historic park. Most people think of a "fort" as a place meant to keep people out, but John Sutter's Fort was a central gathering place for a diverse group of people. Farmers, merchants, weavers, gunsmiths, candle makers, all sought their fortunes in the Sacramento Valley. During the special "History Live" program, visitors are encouraged to meet, ask questions and talk with individuals who made California what it is today.

In fact, talented craftsmen and women started their new lives with very little managed to build thriving homes and businesses from their starts at Sutter's Fort. Experienced sailors ran ships up and down

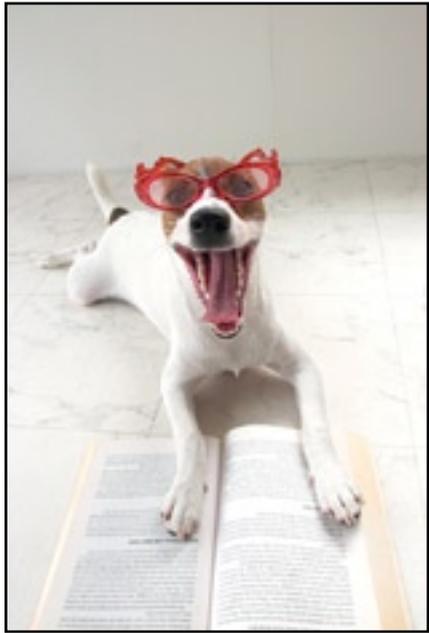
the Sacramento River shipping the bounty of the inland valleys to the towns on the coast. Special "History Live" characters include those who built California and offer an opportunity for visitors to see, hear and talk with these early pioneers of our state. In addition to the "History Live" activities, visitors are also invited to stay the day and experience all that Sutter's Fort State Historic Park has to offer.

Admission: Adults \$6; Youths ages 6 to 17 \$4; Children 5 and under are admitted free

About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26th and 28th Streets (2701 L Street), the Fort offers special events, Living History and Demonstration Days programs throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first European settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/parks.ca.gov.

SPCA Book Sale

The Sacramento SPCA will hold its Annual Spring Book Sale featuring thousands new and used books at dog-gone great prices on Saturday, April 10 to Sunday, April 18. Hours are Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



The sale will include thousands of bargain books in 45 categories, including fine and collectible books, religion, literature, humor, history, military, animals, mystery, romance, children's, westerns and a special selection of premium art books, many of them new, and all priced far below internet comparables.

The sale will be held at the Marketplace at Birdcage, 6187 Sunrise Boulevard (next door to CVS Pharmacy) in Citrus Heights. For more information, call (916) 383-7387, ext. 9102 or e-mail azablah@sspca.org.



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Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!

Camps for Everyone

Summer camps, like people, are not all alike. The most obvious difference is between day and resident camps, but many other features distinguish individual camps. Some camps specialize, either in particular groups or in special interests such as music. Here's a listing of some of the most popular types of camps available in Northern California, courtesy of the American Camp Association® (ACA), Northern California.

Special populations - There are camps for disabled children, as well as for children with cancer, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, asthma and other challenges.

Specialty camps - At least one camp is totally devoted to baseball, another to music and another to horsemanship.

Special activities - In addition to the traditional outdoor activities, some camps offer a variety of special-interest programs. For example, some emphasize the arts, giving instruction on dance, drama, music – even circus performing. Environmental programs include organic gardening,

astronomy and tide-pool exploration. Sports can include rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, gymnastics, water-skiing, aquatics, wind surfing, skateboarding and karate. Camps can be instructional, too, offering classes in computers, for example.

Family camps - In some cases, entire families can go to camp together. For many, it is the best of all worlds, enabling parents to enjoy the camp experience with their children and yet have time on their own.

Whatever the camp specialty, it is generally recognized that campers learn new skills, increase their self-esteem, develop social skills and enhance their self-confidence.



To find an ACA-Accredited® camp and to access other resources including a list of local camp fairs, visit www.ACAnorcal.org, call (916) 333-5344 or e-mail info@acanorcal.org.

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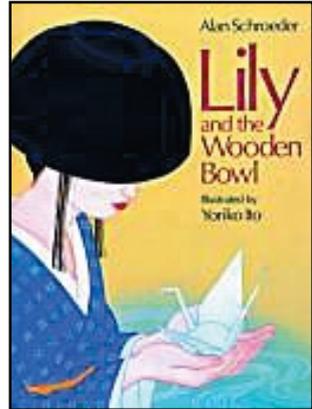
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Meet children's author Alan Schroeder

Alan Schroeder, author of several biographies for children, will appear at a free family program at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 13, at North Natomas Library, 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento.

He is the author of several picture books, including *Lily and the Wooden Bowl*, *Minty*, and *Carolina Shout*. Copies of Schroeder's books will be available for purchase and signing at the program conclusion. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.



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Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!



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Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!

California State Indian Museum Indian Arts & Crafts Market

Native artisans come from all over California to participate in this event. On April 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy shopping for artwork, baskets, gourds, jewelry, soapstone and elk-horn carvings, drums, and much, much more. Admission is \$7 for adults (18 & older), \$5 for youth (6-17), and free for children ages 5 and under.

California Indian cultural items in the museum include basketry, beadwork, clothing and exhibits about the ongoing traditions of various California Indian tribes. Descendants of the first Californians, tens of thousands of them, still live in California and still cherish and carry on their unique cultural heritage. Indigenous people have donated many photographs of family, friends and memorable times for use in the museum. A



section of the museum features a hands-on area, where visitors can try their hand at using Indian tools, such as the pump drill, used for making holes in shell beads and other materials; the mortar and pestle and soap root brush, made from the soap root plant, all used for grinding acorns.

For more information please visit www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum

The California State Indian Museum is located in the downtown area of Sacramento at 2618 K Street. Traveling on I-80, from San Francisco, take

Business 80/Hwy 50 east. Take the Business 80 exit (north towards Reno) to the N Street exit. Travel straight on 30th Street, then turn left under the freeway at L Street and travel on L Street to 26th Street. Bus parking is available on L Street by Sutter's Fort. Metered automobile parking is available on 26th and K Streets.



Photos courtesy State Indian Museum

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How to Choose a Summer Camp

Special to California Kids

Research shows that children who go to camp improve socially, physically and emotionally. Camp is a great place

for children to unlock their potential and discover the world. This special environment helps young people develop positive self-esteem and enhance their social skills while having fun.

And today there are camps to meet every interest, price range and schedule.

Yet, with so many camps, how do you select the "right" one for your children?

The American Camp Association® (ACA), Northern California suggests that the first step is to match the camp to your child's interests, needs and maturity level. Include your child in the decision-making process and consider the following:

- Does your child have particular interests, such as rock climbing, music or aquatics?

- In addition to the traditional offerings, many camps offer a wide variety of activities ranging from karate to circus performing. Consider camps that include your child's special interest in their program mix, or even consider a camp specializing in that activity.

- A traditional camp means a wide variety of activities and a chance to try new activities. A specialty camp concentrates on one or two activities, helping the camper increase proficiency in that area, while often still offering some traditional camp activities.

- Does your child function better in a competitive or a cooperative learning environment? Although, to a large extent, all camps (like the rest of the world) are both, the camp director can tell you which environment predominates.

- Where do you want your child to go to camp? A local camp is

easier to evaluate and visit, with minimal travel costs and likely contact with local children. Going far away exposes the camper to a different experience, promoting independence.

- Is your child shy or outgoing? If extremely shy, perhaps a smaller camp setting would be preferable. Gregarious campers, on the other hand, might enjoy a larger camp setting. Whatever the personality type, however, remember that camps are, by nature, a place where everyone is welcome.

- Does your child function better in a controlled or a flexible environment? If the former, look for a camp where most, if not all, activities are scheduled. If the latter, look for one where campers can choose at least some of their daily activities.

- Does your child have special physical or mental needs? If so, you might consider a camp where the facilities and programs are geared for children with illnesses or disabilities. Typically the staff understands the campers' challenges and is trained to gear activities to their abilities.

- Would your child do better in a co-ed camp or a girls only / boys only environment? A

See Summer Camps, page 19



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Summer Camps

Continued from page 18

single-gender camp means more opportunities to “be yourself” without competing with (or trying to impress) the opposite sex. A co-ed camp more accurately mirrors the everyday world.

- How long do you want your child to be at camp? Sessions run anywhere from a few days to eight weeks. A short session gives the first-time or younger camper a chance to “sample” the camp experience. A longer session provides multiple opportunities for learning, progression and enrichment.

- Would you like to share the camp experience with your child? If so, consider a family camp.

- What is the cost? Is the price all-inclusive or are there charges for “extras” such as

transportation, overnights, swimming lessons, horseback riding and field trips?

Day or Resident Camp?

Also consider whether your child would be more comfortable in a day or resident camp. The ACA has specific standards for each, and each requires a slightly different set of criteria.

If considering a residential camp, ask yourself:

- Is my child ready to sleep away from home for an extended period?
- What locale do I want to consider (e.g., mountains)?
- How rustic do I want the camp to be?
- Can I stay in touch with my child during camp? Does the camp allow mail, phone calls or e-mail? Does it have parental-visitation days?

- How will the camp meet my child’s special dietary or physical needs?

If you are considering a day camp, ask yourself:

- If transportation is offered, where is the closest pick-up location?
- Does the camp have an express bus that transports children quickly?
- If before- and after-camp care is offered, who is with the children and what activities take place?
- Is lunch served or do campers bring their own sack lunches? Are snacks and drinks provided?
- Are campers in a group with a counselor all day? Or are the campers free to go from one activity to another



with appropriate supervision?

- Is an open house offered before camp starts where you can meet your child’s counselor and van/bus driver?
- Can you drop by for visits or is there a special parental-visitation day?

The next step in choosing a camp is to research your options. A great place to start is the ACA’s online searchable database of ACA-Accredited® camps in California. The information is available at www.acanorcal.org. For more information about summer camps in general, visit www.CampParent.org and www.ACAcamps.org.

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Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!

April activities at Big Basin Redwoods State Park

All walks Start at Park Headquarters

Redwood Loop Walk- Every Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this one-hour walk. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Sempervirens Saunter - Saturday, April 3, at Noon

This moderate five-mile, four-hour loop walk will take you back in time to the origins of California's oldest state park. Discover the redwoods and other treasures that inspired the movement to save the trees. Docent Doreen Devorah

will share stories of the park's first human inhabitants, pioneering homesteaders and early redwood conservationists. We'll enjoy views of Slippery Rock and Sempervirens Falls. Bring water and snacks. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Footsteps of the Pioneers - Sunday, April 4, at Noon

Docent Eva Fewel will guide you on this easy, three-mile, two-hour roundtrip walk to the site of the old Maddock Cabin. Enjoy a beautiful walk through the redwoods and hear stories of the early settlers and their life deep in the forest. Bring water. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Ocean View Summit Hike - Saturday, April 10, at 10 a.m.

Join docent David Auerbach on one of our most diverse hikes—by mountain streams, oak woodlands, chaparral and redwoods. You'll discuss forests, flowers and fires on a six-mile, four-hour hike. This somewhat strenuous ascent is rewarded

with ocean views on a clear day. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Berry Creek Falls Hike - Sunday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m.

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 12-mile-loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin—65-foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Docent Bill Rhoades will be your guide on this six- to seven-hour hike. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Wildflower Walk! - Saturday, April 17, at 10 a.m.

Join docent Scott Peden to learn to identify the companion plants of the redwood forest. This is a wonderful way to enjoy the season in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Bring along a field guide if you have one. This is a four-mile, four-hour walk. Bring water, lunch

and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Shadowbrook Stroll - Sunday, April 18, at Noon

Docent Doreen Devorah will show you a less-traveled trail that takes you by Union Creek, to the Sempervirens Falls and back through the redwoods. This is a four-mile, three-hour hike. Bring water and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Footsteps of the Pioneers - Saturday, April 24, at Noon

Docent Doreen Devorah will guide you on this easy, three-mile, two-hour roundtrip walk to the site of the old Maddock Cabin. Enjoy a beautiful walk through the redwoods and hear stories of the early settlers and their life deep in the forest. Bring water. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park is located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 (831) 338-8883

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CAPITOL CITY IS MY CITY SUMMER CAMP 2010

OUR 9TH ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP IS AN 8AM-6PM PROGRAM FOR K-6TH GRADE STUDENTS .OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A SAFE PLACE TO SPEND THEIR SUMMER. TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMP AVAILABLE FOR 7-8th GRADERS.

Credentialed Teachers lead the morning session with Language Arts, Science and Math curriculum. The afternoons are filled with fun and exciting programs such as swimming, karate, dance, fitness & much more. In addition, our state of the art computer lab provides tech skill building and learning for all ages.

Orientation Date
Wednesday June 2, 2010
6pm at RFDC
Availability is first come first serve!

Cost
\$700 for (7) seven weeks
(Child Action & S.E.S Funding Accepted)
50% deposit is due May 1, 2010
Space is limited to 90 students!
Partial Scholarships are available.
For more information call 916-646-6631
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ROBERTSFDC.COM

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•UC Davis
•Rivercats Games
•State Capitol
•Local Restaurant tour
And More.....

SIGN UP TODAY



Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide! Summer Guide!

Need something fun to do with the kids on Easter? Take them on a family camping trip

One park will have an Easter egg hunt with more than 6,000 eggs, while another offers Easter egg bowling and a flashlight Easter egg hunt at night.

One of the biggest events appears to be slated for Newport Dunes Waterfront RV Resort and Marina in Newport Beach, which will host its third annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3, with more than 6,000 candy and toy-filled Easter eggs.

Here's a sampling of other California parks that are planning fun Easter related events for families with children:

Campland on the Bay in San Diego: This park will host an Easter egg hunt at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 3.

Manchester Beach / Costanoa KOA: This park will have several Easter related activities on April 2 to 4, including an Easter egg coloring contest and an Easter egg hunt.

Marina Dunes RV Park in Marina: This park will have its 4th annual Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 4.

Mission Bay RV Resort in San Diego: This park will have an Easter egg hunt on April 4, with prizes for children who find the golden eggs. There will also be photo opportunities with the Easter bunny.

Mt. Gate RV Park in Redding: This park will have an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3. Some eggs will also be filled with treats for pets and owners. An Easter egg coloring contest will be held at the park clubhouse after the hunt.

North San Francisco / Petaluma KOA: This park will have several Easter related activities from April 2 to 4, including an Easter egg hunt, pictures with

the Easter bunny, and fun activities with the park's baby goats and lambs.

Shady Oasis Kampground in Victorville: This park will have an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m., April 4.

Smithwoods RV Park in Felton: This park will have Easter related activities on Easter weekend, including egg coloring and an Easter egg hunt.

Stockton KOA: This park will have Easter-related activities April 2 to 4, including Easter egg coloring, Easter egg bowling and a flashlight Easter egg hunt at night.

To see the latest listings of campgrounds and RV parks and resorts with Easter activities as well as Easter related activities in communities across the state, visit www.Camp-California.com.

Contact information for other campground industry sources is provided below:

Campland on the Bay, San Diego, Kimberly McAnally, (858) 581-4200 or www.campland.com

Manchester Beach KOA, Manchester, (707) 882-2375 or www.manchesterbeachkoa.com

Marina Dunes RV Park, Marina, (831) 384-6914 or www.marinadunesrv.com

Mission Bay RV Resort, San Diego, (877) 219-6900 or www.missionbayrvresort.com

Mt. Gate RV Park, Redding, (530) 275-4600 or www.mt-gatervpark.com

San Francisco North/Petaluma KOA, Chris and Pauline Wood, (707) 763-1492 or sfkoa@aol.com or www.petalumakoakampground.com

Shady Oasis Kampground, Victorville, (760) 245-6867

Smithwoods RV Park, (831) 335-4321 or www.smithwood-srvpark.com

Stockton-Delta KOA, Scott Haar, (209) 369-1041, Ext. 4669 or shaar@koa.net or www.stocktonkoa.com

Town and Country Lutheran SUMMER FUN CAMP

Dates: June 14 through August 13
Hours: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm
Ages: Students who have finished Kindergarten and going into Sixth Grade

Academic Program • Arts and Crafts • Field Trips

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California Kids! Family Fun Guide

CALL FOR INFORMATION! 429-9901

2010 Children's Summer Art Classes

For All Local Young Artists: June 14 - August 6, 2010

Learn basic techniques in Fine Arts & Sculpting: drawing, painting, collage, pastels, & printmaking.

Grades 1-6 **Fine Arts Classes**

Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am

Two groups: Grades 1-3 & Grades 4-6

Tuition \$65.00 per week

A different class each week – no repeats!

BEGINS June 14 thru August 6, 2010

Limited Space: Register Early!

Applications available by mail or at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center or on our website. Registration includes all art supplies and snacks.

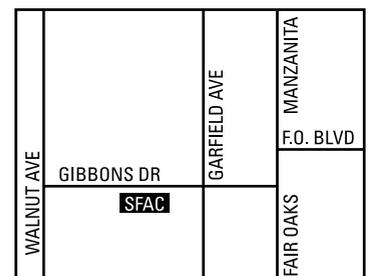
Come Visit Our Center:

We have ongoing gallery exhibits free to the public. Join our art classes, workshops, & art clubs. Free day and evening demonstrations. We have lots of brochures & information for you at the Center.

If Interested:

Call the SACRAMENTO FINE ARTS CENTER
916.971.3713

This is not a program of the San Juan Unified School District and San Juan accepts no liability or responsibility for this program.



SACRAMENTO FINE ARTS CENTER Inc.

5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael, CA 95608

T: 916.971.3713 F: 916.971.1538

email: sfac@SacFineArts.org

www.SacFineArts.org

Hours: Tues-Sat 11am-3pm

Nonprofit Organization





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Home Away From Home:

Finding High-Quality Child Care in FIVE Simple Steps

Special to California Kids

When your child is away from home, you need to know she is in a safe, loving, nurturing and stimulating environment. Studies show high-quality child care supports a young child's learning and helps her develop socially, emotionally, and physically. But how do you know if your child is receiving the right care?

Leaving a child under the care of someone else can be a struggle, except when you are confident you have a high-quality child care provider. That's why First 5 Sacramento recommends parents **Find, Investigate, Visit and Evaluate (FIVE)** when choosing a child care provider:

Find high-quality care that is best for your child based on your family's specific needs. There are many different types of care to consider, including:

Family Child Care Homes — This type of care takes place in the child care provider's home.

Child Care Centers — Most of the time, child care centers are bigger than family child care homes and can be run by an individual, business, school, church or public agency.

In-Home Care — In-home care is when someone comes to your home to care for your child. It can be a friend, relative, nanny or baby-sitter.

Home Care Providers — Home care providers take care of their own children and children from other families. Children go to the provider's home for care.

Investigate potential providers. Once you decide on the type of child care and are ready to choose a provider, be sure to ask them plenty of questions about their qualifications and style of care, including:

What's their previous experience in child care?

Is the center/home licensed?

What types of activities are scheduled?

What is the provider's approach to discipline?

Asking these questions and more will give you an idea whether a provider is the right fit for you.

Visit the center or home when children are there. Make sure to:

Watch how the staff interacts with the children

Observe the surroundings and make sure the area is clean, safe, and filled with appropriate equipment and toys.

Talk to parents of children who go there about

their experiences with the provider.

Evaluate and interact often with your provider. Once you have found a quality provider:

Develop a partnership with the provider regarding your child's development

Have regular meetings to hear updates on your child's activities and progress

Share stories about your child

After you **Find, Investigate, Visit and Evaluate**, you can rest easy knowing your children are

in a place where they are able to grow up safe, healthy and ready to enter school learning.

First 5 Sacramento encourages parents to use resources available to them. For local childcare resources and referrals call our community partner ChildAction, Inc. at (916) 369-0191 or online at www.childaction.org. Child Action, Inc. will help you navigate these child care decisions to select a place that is best for you and your child.

First 5 Sacramento Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically

in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$17 in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. For more information about First 5 Sacramento's programs and services, call 916-876-5865 or visit online at www.First5Sacramento.net.

Easter Egg Hunt

Can you find which Easter egg appears only once?

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

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April 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m.

Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium
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TICKETS: \$15 general
 \$10 students

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Funded in part by the Sacramento Cultural Arts Awards Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento.



Have fun coloring!

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



Calendar of Events

April 10, Balloon Animals, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Magician Jon Lopez will demonstrate how to make simple balloon animals and balloon sculptures at the Carmichael Library. Kids will take away balloons to create their own balloon animals and shapes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 13, Balloon Animals, 6:30 p.m., 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt. Magician Jon Lopez will demonstrate how to make simple balloon animals and balloon sculptures at the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library. Kids will take away balloons to create their own balloon animals and shapes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 15, Balloon Animals, 4 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. Magician Jon Lopez will demonstrate how to make simple balloon animals and balloon sculptures at the Arcade Library. Kids will take away balloons to create their own balloon animals and shapes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 15, Magic Performance, 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Learn to mystify your family and friends with easy-to-learn magic tricks at McKinley Library. Kids will get individual instruction and learn a variety of magic tricks from magician Trevor Wyatt that can be mastered in a short time. The best part of the program is that you did it yourself. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 22, Balloon Animals, 4:30 p.m., 4799 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento. Magician Jon Lopez will demonstrate how to make simple balloon animals and balloon sculptures at the Colonial Heights Library. Kids will take away balloons to create their own balloon animals and shapes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

improve our creeks by collecting and removing trash and invasive exotic plants. For information, go to: www.creekweek.net.

April 10, Go with the Flow, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Why are water striders, backswimmers and diving beetles so important to the health of a creek, pond or river? Join a naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and learn how to get involved in caring for our waterways. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

April 11, Family Hike, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Discover the many plants and animals that live along the American River while enjoying the sights and sounds of Spring at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

April 18, Habitat Improvement, 8 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. The Effie Yeaw Nature Center area needs some special care. Join staff member, Jack, in making improvements that will benefit the riparian woodland. Call Jack at (916) 967-0777.

April 24, Wildflower Walk, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join Natural Resource Specialist, Mary Maret, at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for a special guided walk to see Nature's spring floral display in the Nature Preserve. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Special Events

April 3, Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m., McKinley Park, Sacramento. The East Sacramento-Midtown Kiwanis Club will host a pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m., and Easter egg hunt at McKinley Park's Clunie Clubhouse. Come enjoy a free egg hunt, carnival games, and a breakfast benefiting the McKinley Park Playground.

Living History Day at the Capitol

On Saturday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., step back in time at the California State Capitol and witness volunteers and staff of the Capitol Museum costumed in the attire of the period re-enacting scenes in response to one of America's greatest disasters – the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Meet Governor George Pardee as he receives a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt offering \$1 million for disaster relief. Attorney General Ulysses S. Webb, Secretary of State Charles Curry, and Treasurer Truman Reeves will be on hand to help the refugees, some of whom camped out on the Capitol grounds and

at Sutter's Fort. Meet the women of Sacramento who assisted the San Francisco families to obtain meal tickets, clothing and blankets.

Guided tours run every 15 minutes from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The California State Capitol is located at 10th and L Streets, Sacramento. This glimpse into turn-of-the-20th Century California history is free for everyone. For more information, call (916) 324-0333.

"Earthquake Day" Living History Event is sponsored by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association and the California State Capitol Museum, California State Parks

April 7, Music Makes the World Go Around, 3:30 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Listen to music from around the world as musical instruments from around the world, are created from recycled materials. Instruments include rain sticks, maracas, flutes, drums, kazoos, and box guitars. So, join the fun at the Elk Grove Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 7, Family sing-along, 4 p.m., 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. Singer-guitarist, Ken Cooper, will present a free family sing-along performance at Southgate Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org

April 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, Children's Performance, 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Bring the family to Fairytale Town for "The Little Mermaid and the Yellow Submarine: A Lost Adventure of Sgt. Pepper?" The performances will run Saturdays at 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., and Sundays, 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$1 in addition to paid park admission. For more information, call (916) 264-5233 or visit www.fairytaletown.org.

April 21, Music Makes the World Go Around, 4 p.m., 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento. Listen to music from around the world as musical instruments from around the world, are created from recycled materials.

Instruments include rain sticks, maracas, flutes, drums, kazoos, and box guitars. So, join the fun at the Elk Grove Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April 21, Food Preservation Demonstration, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento. The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers offers a demonstration: Winter and Spring Vegetables. There is a \$3 fee, and no advanced reservation is required. The demonstration will be held in the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

April 22, Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m. (for Friends of the Library members), Book Sale, Friday, April 23, 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Find bargains of gently-used books at the Friends of Elk Grove Library's Spring book sale. Choose from hundreds of used book-theme titles, including mystery, adventure, romance, sci-fi, biographies, history, geography, travel, philosophy, and health. Plus, there will be numerous children's books available. Hardcover books are \$1 each, paperbacks are 50 cents each, and most children's books are 10 to 25 cents each. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org

Nature Events

April 9 - 17, Creek Week, Call for areas and times. Be part of an area-wide volunteer effort to



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Calendar of Events

Storytellers & Puppetry

April 13, Visiting Children's Author, 4:30 p.m., 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento. Alan Schroeder, author of several biographies for children, will appear at a free family program at North Natomas Library. He is the award-winning author of several picture books, including *Lily and*

the Wooden Bowl, *Minty*, and *Carolina Shout*. His first book, *Ragtime Tumpie*, was chosen as an American Library Association's Notable Book, a Booklist Children's Editors' Choice, and a Parents' Choice Award winner. Copies of Schroeder's books will be available for purchase and signing at the program conclusion. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org

First Mondays of each month, Dog Program, 6:30 p.m., 9845

Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento. Join the fun the first Monday of each month at the Rancho Cordova Library for "Reading with Dogs," with Lend a Heart Pet Therapy. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m., 8962 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. This program is being offered at the Elk Grove Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

April Activities at Wilder Ranch State Park

Wilder Ranch Garden Planting Day-- Plant a Seed for Earth Day

Saturday, April 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Help plant the organic heirloom vegetable garden at Wilder Ranch State Park. Planters of all ages are welcome. Children can plant and bring home their own sunflower or heirloom bean, and everyone can enjoy living history demonstrations while helping to plant a little history in the Wilder Ranch Heirloom Garden in honor of Earth Day.

The garden is part of the circa 1900 dairy ranch atmosphere of the park. Bring yourself, your family, your friends, plus a pair of gardening gloves if you have them. Snacks, drinks, tools and seeds will be provided. For more information, call (831) 426-0505. Wilder Ranch is located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1.

Wilder Ranch Living History Demonstrations: Some weekend days, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Step back in time to visit a circa 1900 dairy ranch in Santa Cruz County at Wilder Ranch State Park. Play Victorian Games or bring a picnic to enjoy on the front lawn, visit the farm animals and see what activities are taking place on the ranch this weekend. You may learn about hand quilting with master quilter, watch blacksmithing, or learn about the Meder Family voyage to California. Call (831) 426-0505 for specific days and activities.

History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area

Saturday, April 10, 9 a.m.

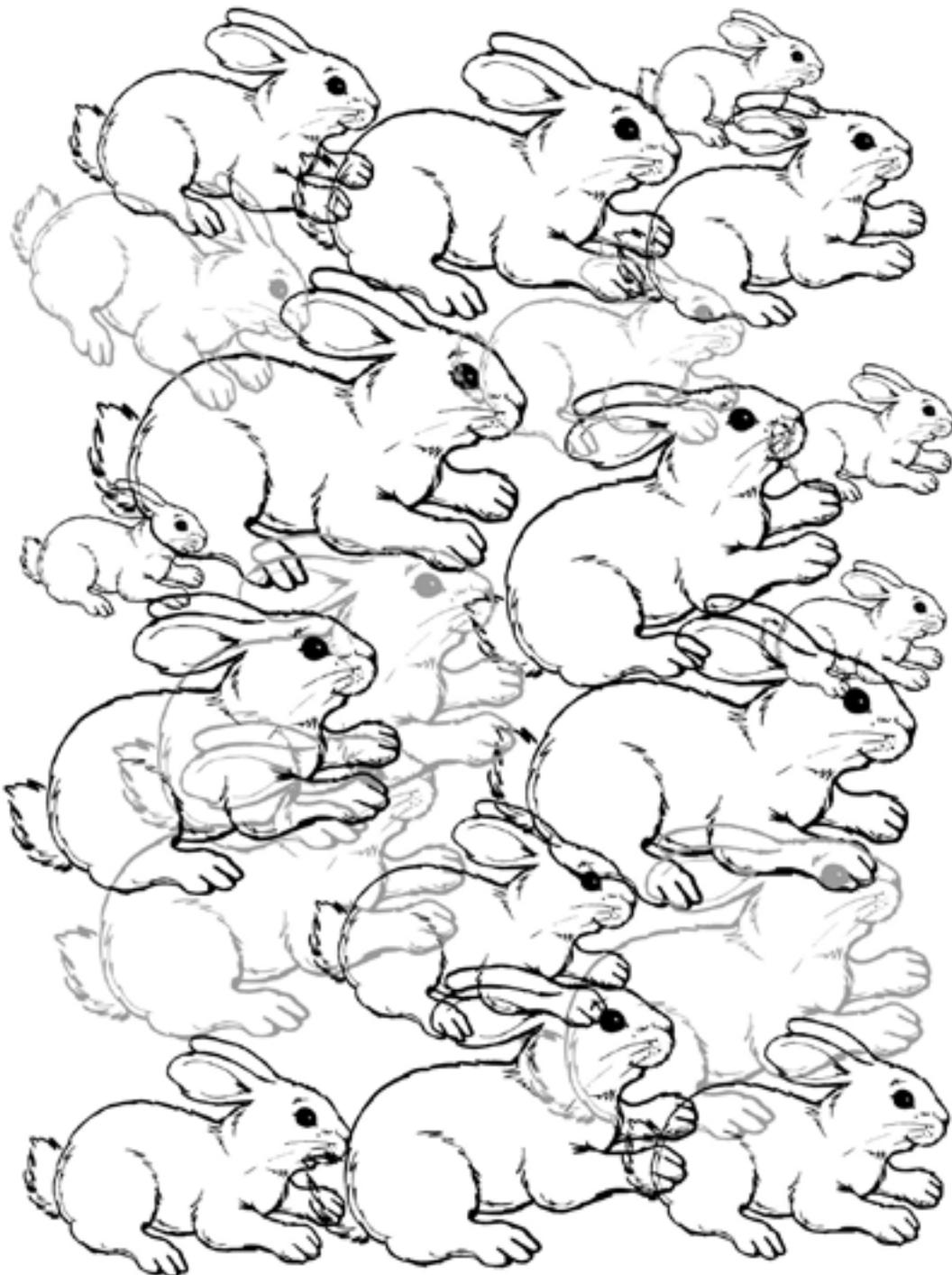
This challenging guided three-hour hike will explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet at the Wilder Ranch interpretive center. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water. Hike is canceled if rain.

Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks - Saturdays, April 3, 17 and 24, 11 a.m.

On these two-hour natural history excursions you will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch interpretive center. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow. Walk is canceled if rain.

Wilder Ranch State Park is located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 (831) 426-0505.

How Many Bunnies Can You Count?



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

HUBBLE 3D blasts off!

For nearly 20 years, the Hubble Space Telescope has dazzled us with unprecedented views of the cosmos—from the splendor of our celestial neighborhood to galaxies billions of light years away. Now on April 23, at Esquire IMAX Theatre, audiences will blast off alongside the Atlantis STS-125 crew, witness up-close some of the most challenging space walks ever performed, and experience virtual star travel via breath-taking, never-before-seen 3D flights through Hubble imagery. Recounting the amazing journey of the most important scientific instrument since Galileo's original telescope, Hubble 3D will immerse moviegoers in the great wonders and astounding beauty of our universe.

"It's been said that The IMAX Experience® is the next best thing to being in space, and with IMAX 3D, the audience really is there," said Producer/Director Toni Myers. "Fifteen years ago we made a film about

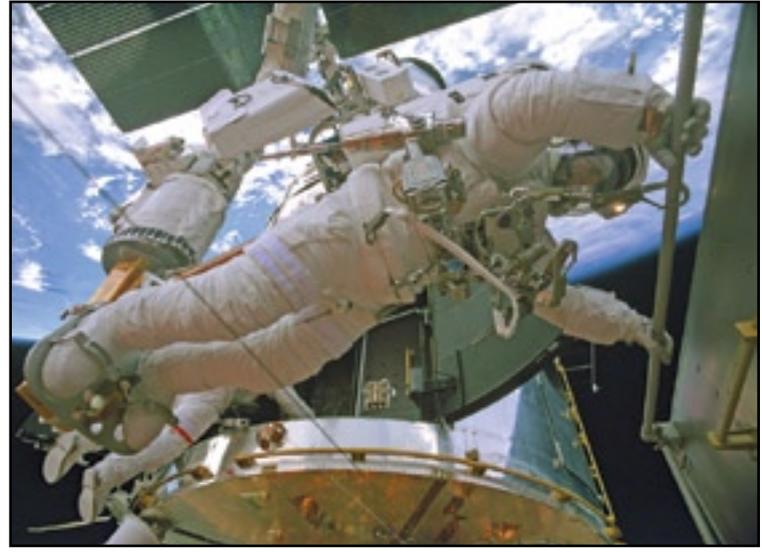
space exploration that included Hubble, when it started sending back the first images. Today, we have Hubble's entire phenomenal legacy of data to explore. With IMAX 3D we can transport people to galaxies that are 13 billion light years away—back to the edge of time. Real star travel is here at last."

Through the power of IMAX 3D, Hubble 3D will enable moviegoers to journey through distant galaxies to explore the grandeur and mysteries of our celestial surroundings, and accompany space-walking astronauts as they attempt some of the most difficult and important tasks in NASA's history. The film will offer an inspiring and unique look into the Hubble Space Telescope's legacy and highlight its profound impact on the way we view the universe and ourselves.



Hubble 3D is an IMAX and Warner Bros. Pictures production, in cooperation with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The film has been rated G and has a running time of 43 minutes.

The Esquire IMAX Theatre is located at 1211 K Street in downtown Sacramento. For information on tickets and show times, call (916) 443-IMAX (4629) or visit the website at www.imax.com/sacramento.



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Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!



Mystery Box

This is a great game for the beginning of a party, when you are still waiting for guests to arrive and you need to keep individual children amused.
Age: 4+

You will need:

A variety of objects
A large cardboard box
A tablecloth or towel
A paper and pencil for each player

You will need to:

Assemble a number of objects (you can decide on a theme or make the objects totally random) and place in a large cardboard box. Cover with a tablecloth or towel so that nobody can see into the box.

Play:

Give each player a pencil and paper and ask them to feel inside the box and identify the objects. When everybody has had a turn compare notes and award a prize to the person who has correctly identified the most.

Hints:

You could have a toy box and include a plastic animal, a toy car, a Barbie doll, a cuddly dog, a rattle, a skipping rope (tied up) and a marble.

You could have a holiday box and include some sun-tan cream, a pair of sunglasses, a swimsuit, a book, a drink can, a seashell and a flip flop.

Balloon Pop

Noisy, frantic, and lots of fun!
Age: 6+

You will need:

Small pieces of paper to insert into balloons
Balloons (2 to 4 per child)
Small prizes (and perhaps one big prize)

You will need to:

Mark some of the pieces of paper in some way to signify that they will be rewarded with a prize. You should allow about one prize per ten balloons, and 2 to 4 balloons per child. Roll the pieces of paper tightly and then push through the necks of your balloons, and blow the balloons up. Gather the kids together.

How to play:

When you give the signal, the children rush to pop the balloons and see if the paper inside them awards them a prize. No teeth or sharp objects allowed!

Hints:

Watch carefully to make sure all the children are happy. Some kids don't like the sound of balloons popping and can get upset. It can be fun to have one "grand" prize and 2 or 3 smaller prizes.

Hey Kids of All Ages!!!

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Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!

Anagram Challenge

This is a very adaptable game, which can be fun at a party, mixed age gathering, a rainy afternoon or a plane journey! It takes a little preparation.
Age: 6+

You will need:

Letter tiles - lots! Use tiles from an existing game (such as Scrabble) or make your own by cutting pieces of card into small squares and lettering them.

How to play:

Depending on the number of players, you may want to divide the children into teams. If you have many more than 3 or 4 teams you will need an awful lot of tiles! Mix up the age groups if appropriate. Choose a collection of words for your challenge, which you believe that each child or team will be able to unscramble. Younger children will need simple words and fewer of them; older age groups can probably cope with 5 or 6 longer words

at a time. You should try to theme each group of words.

For example:

For young children, farmyard animals - duck, cat, dog and cow
For older children, farmyard animals - duck, cat, dog, cow, goose and chicken

For mixed age groups, including adults, animals - goose, chicken, giraffe, lion, antelope.

Give each player or team a stack of the letters that will form their words, and a hint to get them started. Your hint could apply to the

group ("you will find all of these on the farm") or specific to one word ("it has two stomachs").

The first player or team to unscramble all their words wins.

Hints:

This game can become quite addictive! Once children understand how to play, they can set each other challenges. Suggest they pick a 5, 6 or 7 letter word (as appropriate to their age) and find the correct letters, then simultaneously hand the letters to another player and see who can work out their anagram first. If a player makes another word - as long as it is correct - that still counts!

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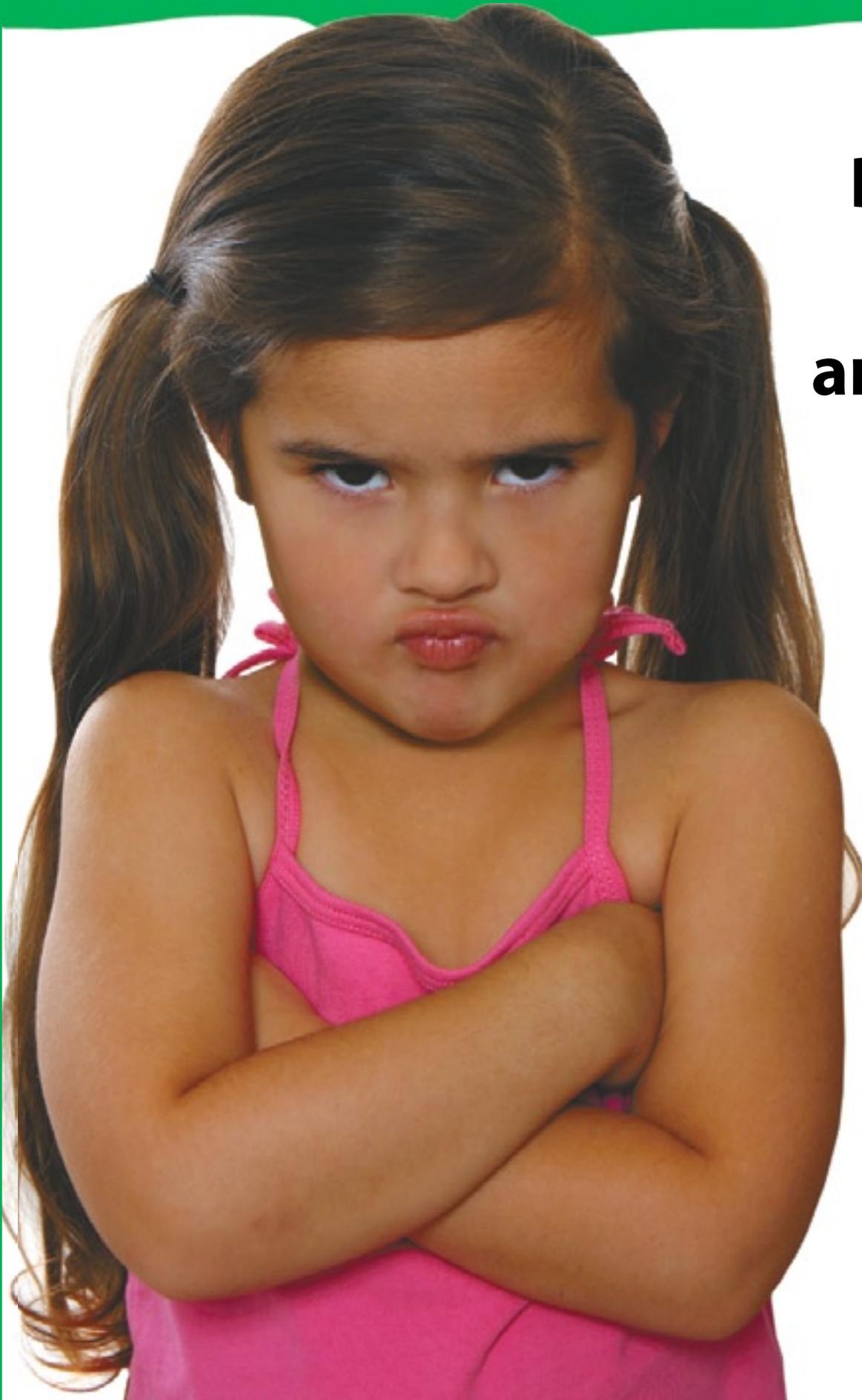
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