

November 2010

California Kids!

Happy
Thanksgiving

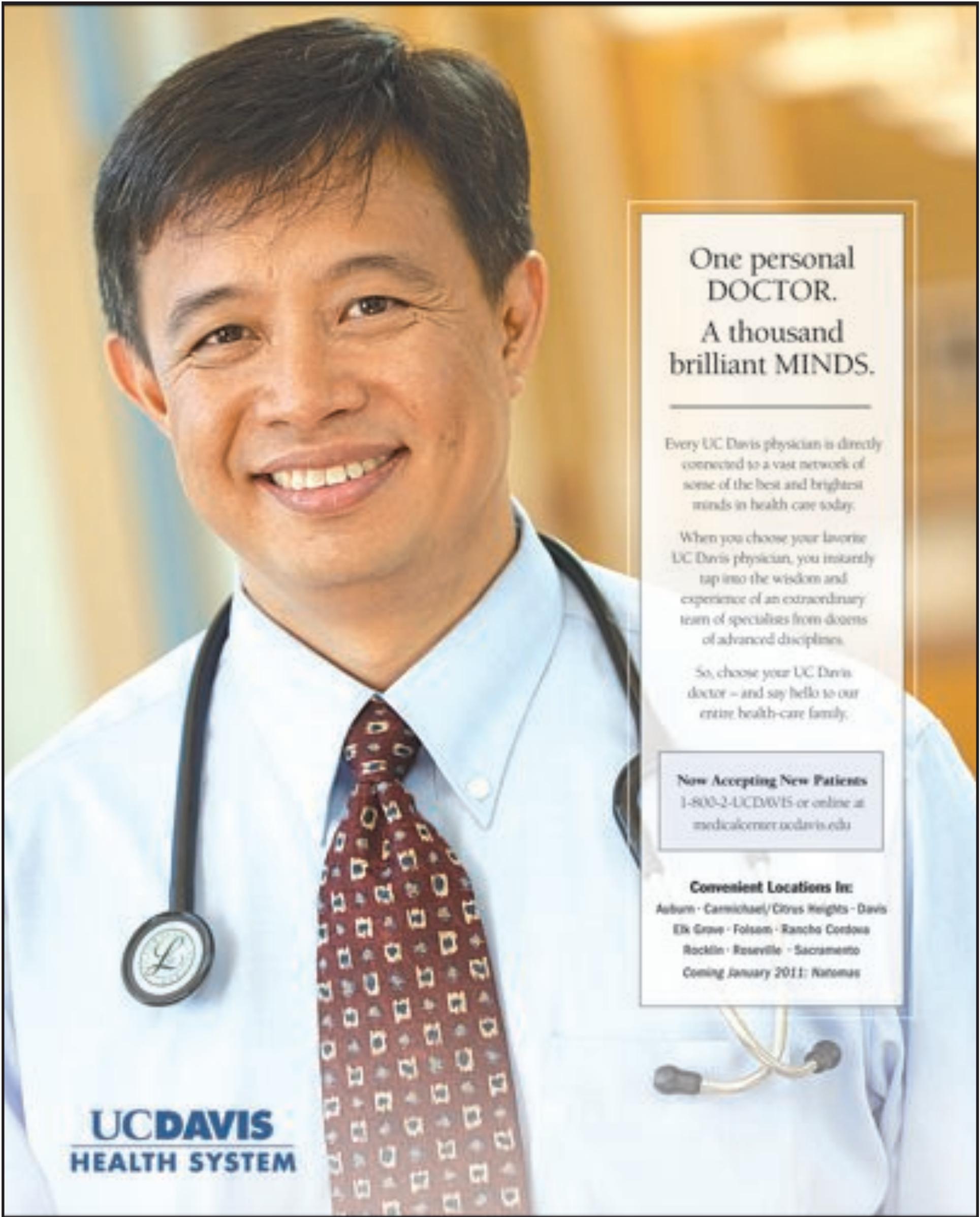


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Local Family Devastated After Tragic Car Accident... Three Boys Spend Time in Foster Care; Family Fighting Leads to Bitter Feud in Public Court

Redondo Beach, CA - On July 31, 2006, the Barber family was in a tragic car accident. Parents Melanie and Casey died. Their family was thrown into a nightmare.

This is a true story. Mel and Casey had talked about naming guardians to provide for the care of their sons and the money they'd leave behind. They never got around to it. They likely thought their family would be able to work out who would care for the boys and their money, with love and grace, if anything happened.

That's not what happened. After the accident, the boys were in the foster care system for a short time. Since then, over 1,000 pages of court documents have been filed, 9 lawyers, and tens (or even hundreds) of thousands of dollars later, the boys will live with their aunt Janine and their money will be managed by a professional charging \$100/hour until they turn 18.

Is that what Melanie and Casey would have wanted? If they had known what would happen, they would have done everything they could to protect their kids, if only they



had known how easy it would have been to take care of it.

Learn from their experience! It's Easy to Protect Your Family and Your Assets with the guidance of a Personal Family Lawyer™.

Don't be one of those people who think they know what to do and leave their loved ones with a complicated mess. **Most LAWYERS don't even know** what's necessary to keep your kids in the hands of people you know and trust.

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Readers of *California Kids*, who own their own home and have minor children, can **meet with a Personal Family Lawyer™ for an absolutely free personal Family Wealth Planning Session** (normally \$750). If you already have a plan in place, but want to make sure it adequately protects your kids (most don't!), ask for your free plan audit (normally \$950).

To schedule your free Family Wealth Planning Session, **call 916-685-1225**. Your session must be scheduled by December 1, 2010. So call 916-685-1225 and **mention California Kids** now.



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Free admission days at Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town gives thanks to the Sacramento community by offering Free Admission to the public on Friday, November 26, the day after Thanksgiving, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weather permitting). In return, Fairytale Town is encouraging families to bring canned and packaged goods for donation to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services: Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive, in exchange for free admission.

Also as a special Winter Holiday Gift, Free Admission is offered on Friday, December 24, (Christmas Eve) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's a great way to let children run off some steam before the holiday festivities begin.

Spend a few leisurely hours in the crisp winter air and let the hustle and bustle of the season pass you by. Relax with your family and let your imagination run wild and around the 25 oversized storybook playsets and exhibits. Say hello to Mary's Sheep, meet Peter Rabbit & family, see the Three Pigs, the Three Blind Mice, and the Three Billy Goats Gruff, pet Eeyore the Donkey and Moo-Lawn the Cow (who jumped over the Moon). Parents and children alike can explore the Crooked Mile, King Arthur's Castle, Cinderella's Pumpkin Coach, Sherwood Forest, or the Yellow Brick Road.

For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit our website at www.fairytale-town.org. Fairytale Town is located in William Land Park at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

Discovery Museum Events

Warts Up? - November 6 and 7, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Hop on over to the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center for a frog-and-toad-filled weekend. Learn all about the differences between frogs and toads! Examine frog skeletons in the Bone Zone exhibit, and meet Bud (the giant African frog - who has fangs!) at the Creature Feature (noon and 2 p.m.). Visit Prince (the fire-bellied toad) in the Nature Hall. Kids 12 and under can construct a frog "tooter" mask as a take-home craft.



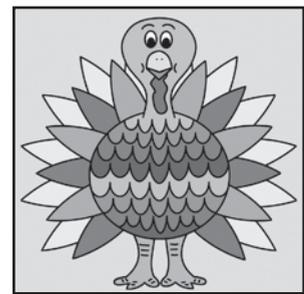
Something to Chew On - November 13 and 14, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Got teeth? A healthy smile? Smiles are easy to find this weekend at the Discovery Museum. Bring the entire family to have fun learning about healthy teeth from our visiting dental professionals. (The Tooth Fairy will be visiting, too!) Using their new knowledge, kids can turn the tables and enjoy being "the dentist" in the Bone Zone's doctor office. Bring a camera to remember those little ones dressed in white lab coats. Lots of smiles are in store!



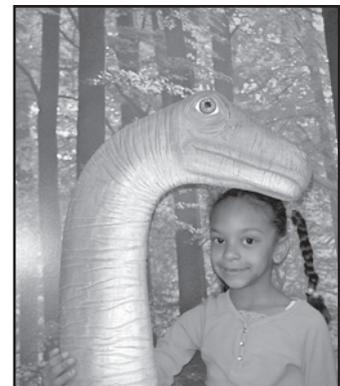
Gobble-gobble! Weekend - November 20 and 21, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

It's that time of year to pay homage to our fine-feathered friend, the turkey. Bring your friends and family to the museum this weekend for some Thanksgiving fun. Learn about wild and domesticated turkeys. There is a turkey craft for kids 12 and under. All visitors can participate in the Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt around the museum acreage, looking for answers to some tricky turkey questions. There will be plenty of turkey fun for everyone!



Dinosaur Days - November 26 to 28, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Have some prehistoric fun at the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center. There is so much to do this holiday weekend! The classroom display has dinosaur specimens for you to touch and explore. The Bone Zone exhibit caters to all ages with skeletons, skulls and bone health. Children 12 and can create a Tyrannosaur Paper Skeleton craft to take home as a souvenir.



The Discovery Museum Science & Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission is: \$6 adults (18+), \$5 seniors (60+), \$5 teens (13-17), \$4 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under). Activities are ages appropriate for 4 to 12 years old. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit website: www.thediscovery.org or contact email address events@thediscovery.org.

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Get Silly on Thanksgiving!

Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

Pilgrims!

Why do turkeys always go, "gobble, gobble"?

Because they never learned good table manners!

What key has legs and can't open doors?

A turkey!

What happened when the turkey got into a fight?

He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

What did the Turkey say before it was roasted?

Boy, I'm stuffed!

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

The outside!

Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building?

Yes. A building can't jump at all!

What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner?

The TurKey!

What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving?

The turkey trot!

Why did the turkey play drums in his band?

Because he already had drumsticks!

Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?

The turkey, because he's already stuffed!

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?

"Quack, quack, quack!"

What's blue and covered with feathers?

A turkey holding its breath!

What do you get if you cross a turkey with an octopus?

Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving!

What's the best way to stuff a turkey?

Serve him lots of pizza and ice cream!

What type of music did the Pilgrims like?

Plymouth Rock!

What's the best thing to put into pumpkin pie?

Your teeth!

What smells the best at a Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose!

What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving?

The letter G!

When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

In the dictionary!

Holiday Art & Craft Festival

Find unique gifts for everyone on your list at the Crocker Art Museum's annual Holiday Art and Craft Festival. More than 80 artists and craftspeople will offer a variety of items in a range of prices. Have your photo taken with a Victorian Santa and enjoy delicious cuisine at the Ambrosia Café. Free Parking. Admission is free for members, \$6 for nonmembers and \$3 for students and seniors.

The festival will be held at the Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento. The dates and times are:

Friday, November 26, 1 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 27, 10 a.m to 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 28, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Family Holiday Art Extravaganza

Get ready for the holidays! Families are invited to this free program at the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op, Sunday, December 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. Children (ages 2 and up) and their parents will use recyclables and household objects to make one-of-a-kind gift tags, ornaments, and wrapping paper. Please bring a non-perishable food item or a new toy to donate to Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. This is presented by One Village.

Pre-registration is required. Please register your child or children only; adults may attend with a child, but need not register. Register at the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op. 916-455-2667 or online at www.sacfoodcoop.com

Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op is located at 1900 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 736-6800 x 173 or visit www.sacfoodcoop.com.

Fall is Here!

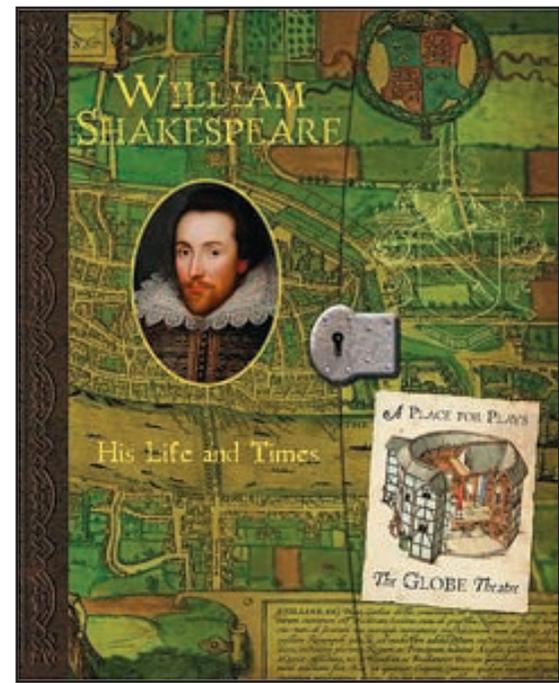
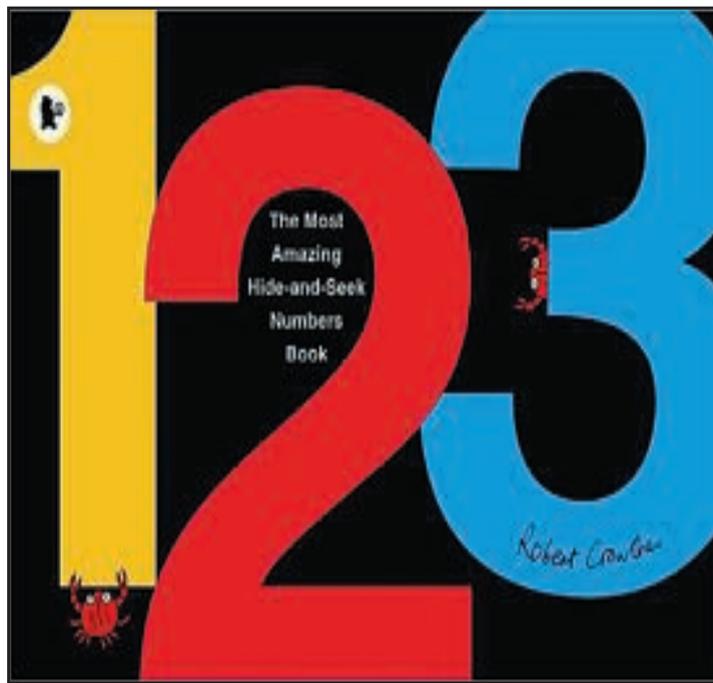
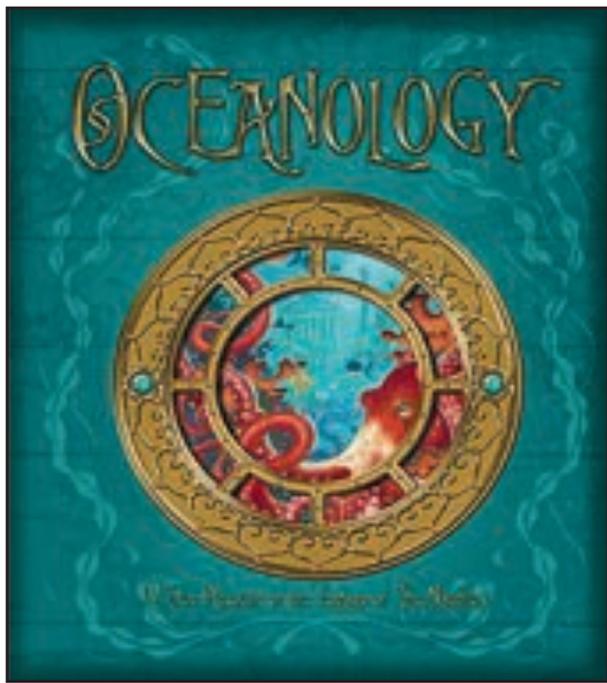
You can feel it in the first few chilly mornings, you can hear it in the rustling leaves: Autumn is here! It's a time to enjoy many other sights, sounds, and smells that make the season so special. Put on a warm sweater, grab a cup of cider, and have fun searching for the hidden words related to Autumn. Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward and upside—down.

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

Apple Cider
Apple Pie
Autumn
cake
corn
cranberry
Dressing
Falling Leaves

Family
Football
Gravy
Honey Ham
Leaves
Mashed Potatoes
Mittens

Pilgrim
Pumpkin Pie
Rake
Thanksgiving
Turkey
Vegetables
Warm Dinner Rolls
Yams



The Book REPORT

Keep Them Busy at Thanksgiving!

By **Connie Goldsmith**

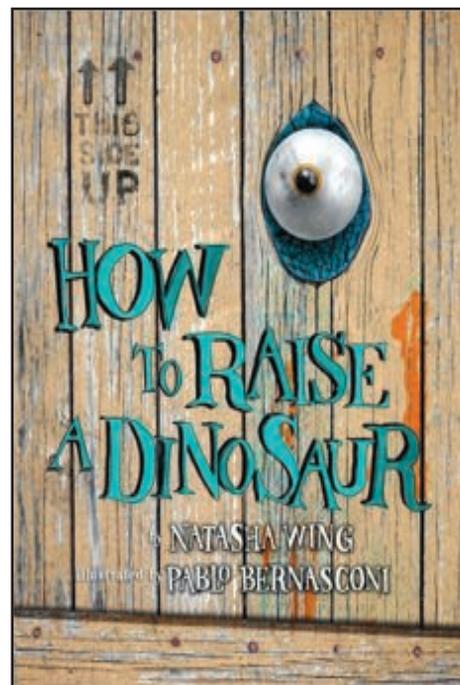
In spite of living in an often troubling world, most of us have much to be grateful for. Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to show appreciation for the good things in our lives – the love of our family and the joy of our friends. Start a new tradition in your family – give a new book to your children. Below are some interactive books to keep over-enthusiastic helpers out of your hair while you prepare a Thanksgiving feast fit for a king.

“*William Shakespeare: His Life and Times*,” by Kristen McDermott and Ari Berk. (Templar). This resplendent book is suitable for all Shakespeare aficionados. It’s a perfect coffee table book for all ages even though published by a top children’s publisher. Designed as a scrapbook for Shakespeare’s daughter, the book is packed with fascinating activities: envelopes holding theater tickets, tiny fold-out books, lift-up flaps, playbills, and a cross-section of the Globe Theater. The book includes a brief biography of Shakespeare and offers a wealth of information about his times: love and war, fairs and feasts, the ways of court, and more. The portfolio-like volume snaps shut with a satisfying magnetic click and will provide hours of entertainment.

“*Encyclopedia Mythologica: Gods and Heroes Pop-Up*,” By Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. (Candlewick Press). This

is another spectacular book for a variety of ages, especially for anyone interested in ancient culture and world mythology. Six magnificent spreads with giant pop-up figures depict gods and heroes of the world. First is the jackal-headed Egyptian god Anubis. The second spread features denizens of Mount Olympus, followed by Jason’s ship, the Argo. Thor, Pele, and the Aztec plumed serpent Quetzalcoatl come next. Each page has several smaller booklets or pop-outs, filling in fascinating details of the main characters. The color, shape, and quality of the paper art are magnificent. Younger readers may need supervision to protect the intricate pop-ups from damage. Watching how the figures fold as the page closes is intriguing.

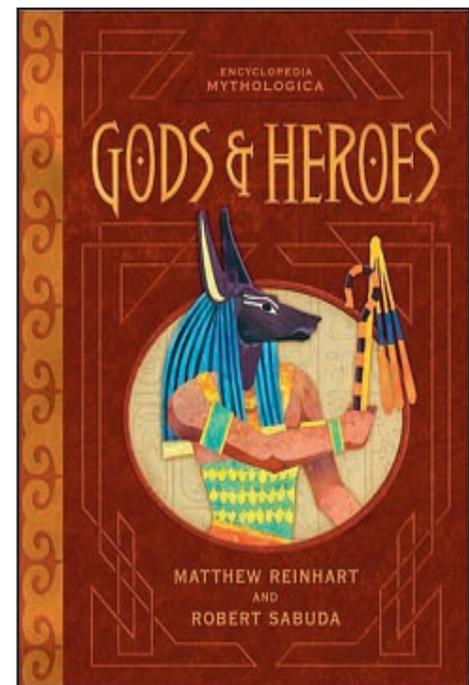
“*Oceanology: the True Account of the Voyage of the Nautilus*,” by Zoticus de Lesseps, 1863. (Candlewick). What if Captain Nemo had been real and Jules Verne based, “*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*,” on the diary of a young lad who worked aboard the *Nautilus*? That’s the premise behind this extraordinary book. The submarine *Nautilus* had a top speed of 40 knots and could dive to great depths. This book is stuffed with fold-out pages, lift-up flaps, and a 3-D giant squid on the cover. Explore the ocean’s wonders, its creatures, and the lost city of Atlantis. There’s even a game to play tucked inside a leather-like pouch. Find the gold “coin” folded inside a secret spot.



Locate sunken treasure and ancient shipwrecks. Ocean lovers could spend hours perusing this lovely book. ***

“*How to Raise a Dinosaur*,” by Natasha Wing, illustrated by Pablo Bernasconi. (Running Press). For the younger set, eye this ‘how-to’ book! What kid wouldn’t want a dinosaur for a pet? The story opens: “Are you thinking of getting a pet? Then you’ve come to the right place.” You learn that pet-hood goes beyond cats, dogs, and hamsters. Heavy pages with nifty fold-out features are sure to entertain dino enthusiasts. Open the back of the delivery truck to see the food and many toys that a dino requires. Learn how to select the perfect dino pet, how to feed it, and take it for a walk. Some pages have “dino-bites” at the edge, suggesting that the pet dinosaur has a bit of a temper if the owner doesn’t love it enough! This book is a hoot and a half, but at the same time, helps children understand that pets of every size need a lot of care.

“*1-2-3: The Most Amazing Hide & Seek Numbers Book*,” by Robert Crowther.



(Candlewick). This is a phenomenal interactive counting book. Bold black easy-to-read numbers hover over heavy white paper. The color is in the activity. Pull the tab on #1 to see one brown spider. Turn the flap on #2 to see two swimming swans. Three green caterpillars crawl around #3 when the tab is pulled. Flap #5 shows 3-D gold fish. Crabs crawl out from #8, while #9 has both a flap and a tab! And for #10, butterflies fold out to fill the entire page. The numbers go from 1-20, then count up by 10 to 100. Watch the kids try to count 60 ladybugs and 90 fleas in this wonderfully fun book.

*** **Reviewer’s Pick of the Month**

Connie Goldsmith (www.conniegoldsmith.com) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, “*Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer*,” and “*Skin Cancer*,” one of the new USA Today Health Reports series, came out this fall. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



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~ Sharon

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~ Dina

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Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring **M.T. Anderson**

By **Patricia M. Newman**

Matthew Tobin Anderson grew up in a small bedroom community for urban professionals. He describes his house as "1970s suburban," yet out his back door a forest and a lake beckoned. "So much of my writing has come from that experience of being in the woods and making up stories about what goes on there."

Anderson remembers writing simple stories at the age of six or seven, and by 7th or 8th grade, he wrote 30- to 40-page stories that he liked to call novels. By age 17 he wrote the first draft of *The Game of Sunken Places* and sent it to publishers. "It got universally rejected as you might expect," he says, but the early experience of writing and submitting to publishers showed him that publication was not the most important part of writing for him. "The most important part of writing was actually that zone where I was sitting there and coming up with the material and getting excited by the plot and trying to think of how to best say what I wanted to say."

Many years later, Anderson revisited *The Game of Sunken Places* "and turned it into something publishable." The four-book series features a fairy-like race of characters called Norumbegans with a caustic wit, but no human sense of sentimentality. When Anderson revised the story as an adult, he felt empowered because he now had the skill to bring his creation to life. "It was amazing for me," he says. As a teenager, "I didn't have the arsenal of tools...to capture the weirdness [of the Norumbegans and] the Oscar Wilde-like wit of the characters."

Prior to publishing *Thirsty*, his first book, Anderson worked for Candlewick Press in Massachusetts as an editorial as-



Photo courtesy of Sonya Sones

sistant. "Part of my reason for doing that was I had to eat something and they paid money, but it was obviously my interest in children's literature and my interest in getting published as a writer of children's literature, so I wanted to find out about the industry from the inside." Anderson submitted an early version of *Thirsty* to his boss who said he needed a plot. After revising, the novel was published in 1998.

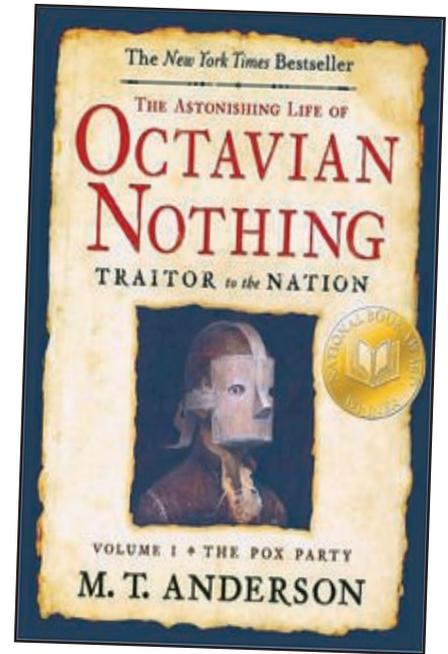
National Book Award Finalist *Feed* rocketed Anderson to fame. "The recognition extends beyond the field of children's book professionals," he says. "It also meant that Steve Martin actually said my name." *Feed* takes place in a futuristic world where Internet connections feed directly into consumers' brains, and articulated thoughts and language sharply decline. "With the success of *Feed*, writing was no longer part of what I was doing," Anderson says. "It became central to what I was doing."

Growing up in Massachusetts near the site of the battle that started the Revolutionary War gave Anderson a personal connection to the time period. The colonists from Acton and Stow who responded to Concord's call for assistance were "the people my parents would have been—middle-class Americans responding to the call of war." Anderson tried to determine what it felt like to be occupied by British forces, but then corrected his point of view. In terms of the colonists' perspective he says, "my own government imposed martial law." *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to a Nation, Volumes I and II* recreate the feeling of doubt and uncertainty that Anderson imagines the colonists' must have felt before they knew their cause would win. "Trying to get back to the notion of what did it feel like before Americans thought of themselves as distinct from the British. What did it

mean to rebel against your own government which is an incredibly brave thing to do...or crazy."

The Octavian Nothing books consumed six years of Anderson's life, but earned the National Book Award (volume I) and the Michael L. Printz Honor (volumes I and II). During that time his research steered him to books and diaries that he read through Octavian's eyes. "I was always looking for details that he would notice. When I read things that he would have read, I was trying to think how would he have seen the book that I'm reading right now." Anderson admits that a small part of his brain was "devoted to thinking like this nonexistent person." Octavian Nothing became a presence in his life, so when he finished the book he felt almost sad to leave this young man he grew to care about.

In between drafts of the Octavian Nothing books, Anderson began a new series for younger readers called Pals in Peril. Each book in the series satirizes a specific genre of literature or film. For instance, *Whales on Stilts* pokes fun at the 1950s science fiction adventures and *The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen* parodies The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew mysteries. In *Jasper Dash and the Flame-Pits of Delaware*, Anderson takes on the exotic adventure genre (à la Edgar Rice Burroughs or the *Mummy* movies). Delaware was a natural setting he says, "because of the excessive interstate tolls, no one has been there for decades." Using MapQuest as his guide, Anderson figured that a place called Sandtown must be a desert and Red Dragon Creek must be infested with dragons. Anderson had so much fun with this book, he developed a complete



tourist guide to Delaware with an interactive map and the state song on his website. At the end of the Jasper Dash adventure, Anderson admits that he's never been to the state of Delaware and may have made some mistakes. He invites readers to send letters correcting any such errors...and supplies the Governor of Delaware's address.

Anderson writes for thinking kids. He describes these students as "quirky teens who may be on the outs socially, but who see things their schoolmates don't."

Next month: Gail Carson Levine

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 M. T. ANDERSON

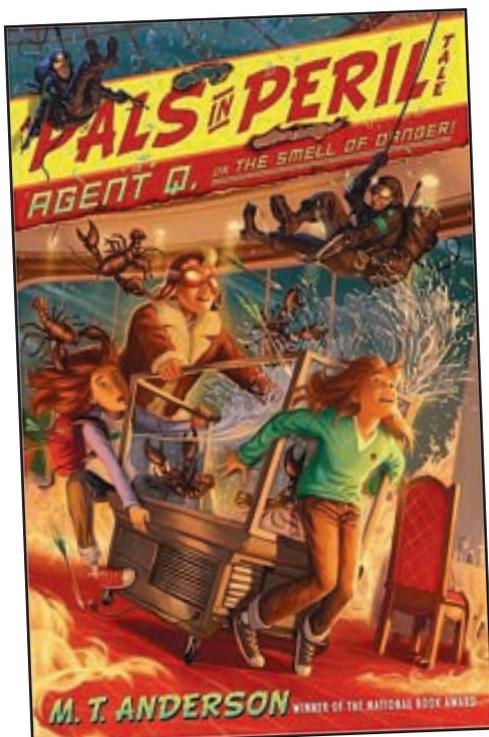
How to Contact M. T. ANDERSON
Website: <http://mt-anderson.com/>

SELECTIONS FROM M. T. ANDERSON'S LIBRARY

- Pals in Peril: Agent Q, or The Smell of Danger*, Beach Lane Books, 2010.
- The Game of Sunken Places: Suburb Beyond the Stars*, Scholastic, 2010
- Pals in Peril: Jasper Dash and the Flame-Pits of Delaware*, Beach Lane Books, 2009.
- The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to a Nation, Volume I*, Candlewick Press, 2008.
- The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II: The Kingdom on the Waves*, Candlewick Press, 2008.
- Me, All Alone at the End of the World*, Candlewick Press, 2005.
- Pals in Peril: Whales on Stilts*, Harcourt, 2005.
- Feed*, Candlewick Press, 2004.
- Handel, Who Knew What He Liked*, Candlewick Press, 2004.
- The Game of Sunken Places*, Scholastic, 2004.
- Thirsty*, Walker Books, 1998, reissued 2008.

UPCOMING

- Pals in Peril: Zombie Morning*, Beach Lane Books, 2011.
- Game of Sunken Places: Empire of Gut and Bone*, Scholastic, 2011.



Lodi's 14th Sandhill Crane Festival

Sandhill Cranes from as far away as Siberia and Alaska have been returning in the past few weeks to California's Delta in the Central Valley to over winter. Hatched out earlier this summer, the young Sandhill Cranes chicks, or colts, have made their maiden voyage alongside their parents, returning to the Delta wetlands that their ancestors have known for over two million years.



Inspired by the birds' return, the family-friendly Sandhill Crane Festival will take place in Lodi at Hutchins Street Square, Friday through Sunday, November, 5 to 7. Admission to the Festival is free. The Festival's program schedule is also available on-line at www.cranefestival.com

Forty-nine tours leaving from Hutchins Street Square are available for sign-up and fill quickly. Interesting tours include evening Crane Fly-Ins and morning Fly-Outs, where cranes are leaving for the day or returning at night, a spectacular sight and a good way to begin or end your day. For the mid day adventurers, several river kayak trips, a delta cruise and patio boat trips present many opportunities to help all people gain an appreciation of the wildlife in the Lodi and Delta region. Tour fees range from \$3 to \$35 and most include bus transportation leaving from Hutchins Street Square in Lodi.

Free activities include the Friday evening reception, wine tasting and Art Show. Saturday and Sunday events include programs such as Wild Things, who return with their very special live animals; story time for young children; a bat presentation; an Owl Pellet Exploration workshop; a Decoy Carving Seminar for Beginners; a Crane Dance Workshop for ages 5 to adult, among many others. The Exhibit Hall, which features 30 vendors, a food court, and the hands-on Crane-ium for kids is also free.

Register now for one of the many tours or to learn more details, go to www.cranefestival.com, or call (800) 581-6150.

Donate gifts for foster youth ages birth to 18, both boys and girls.



New Millennium Foster Family Agency

Unwrapped donations are accepted, or contact us to choose a gift tag for a specific child. Each child's name, age, gender and 3 gift wishes are included.

All presents are due by December 10th

For more information, contact Renee at 916-391-7789 or visit us at www.newmillenniumffa.com

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Food and Toy Drive at the Zoo!



November and December save \$1 off admission when you donate new unwrapped toys or non-perishable food items.

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Paso Robles, A Magical Holiday Destination

By Carmel L. Mooney

Whether you're looking for the perfect family weekend jaunt or a romantic one-tank getaway for mom and dad right before the frenzy of the holidays, Paso Robles is the place to visit

Once a beautiful farming community amidst rolling hills hugging the Central Coast, Paso Robles has evolved into a premier wine destination and now mixes much of the old with so much new.

If keeping travel costs on the frugal side is important to you, that's just one more reason to love Paso Robles. It's a budget-friendly destination with regards to value.

The Travel Paso Robles Alliance encompasses a group of hoteliers committed to ensuring that visitors receive outstanding values. The value isn't just in the lodging but can be enjoyed at restaurants, golf courses, wineries and shopping attractions, alike. Even your auto will be economy-driven with free un-metered parking throughout the downtown area.

Families visiting Paso Robles enjoy the commonly appreciated venues such as Hearst Castle, beaches, bicycling, and the water park. However, the outstanding Children's Museum, festivals, holiday celebrations, and cowboys are sure to be a hit with the kids too.

The Paso Robles Children's Museum is one of the best in the nation with gorgeous historical relics of yesteryear such as the original fire engine from the firehouse where the museum is now housed. A very interactive and even special needs-friendly museum, this is a Paso Robles "must see and enjoy" for all ages.

Visitors of all generations will be captivated by the story of the Hearst Castle and the grandeur of the grounds at this California treasure State Park. Plan to spend a few hours to thoroughly enjoy the magnitude of the vision and the dream.

On the way back to Paso Robles from Hearst Castle, any hungry family or couple will appreciate the local, sustainable and mouth watering fare at Farmstand 46 where delectable and unique home-created sandwiches and salads worthy of the most discriminating palette, will satisfy. Excellent wines and a beautiful outdoor dining area make this the perfect filling station. You won't want to miss the unforgettable roasted carrot salad, chicken apple salad, and gigantic gourmet deli sandwiches.

No visit would be complete without a full dining experience at the family-friendly F. McLintock's Saloon & Steakhouse. From the moment you enter this spectacular downtown establishment, any family will appreciate the fun décor and ambiance along with the friendly western hospitality. Sumptuous, perfectly aged, fine quality, hand cut, seasoned steaks and entrees, all

cooked to utter perfection with generous helpings and reasonable prices, make this the place for parents and kids to truly relish. Kids even eat free and we're talking generous top sirloin steaks and other delicious rib sticking goodness. A separate breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu each offer the very best in home-cooked, quality. Every mouthful is a joy.

Another dining option for mom and dad is beautiful Villa Creek. This gorgeous dining establishment has a beautiful and romantic fountain courtyard for outdoor dining as well as indoor seating. Each and every appetizer, entrée and dessert is beautifully presented in a way to showcase impeccable dishes, all local, organic, and sustainably grown products, many taking inspiration from the padres of early California.

A family friendly lodging option is the Holiday Inn Express which offers family suites complete with kitchens as well as a full service buffet breakfast.

A more upscale and delightful property which is family friendly but probably best appreciated by parents, is the luxurious Hotel Cheval, a romantic short walk from all that downtown has to offer. Hotel Cheval offers a beautiful breakfast, its own Pony Club wine and beer bar, sumptuous linens and amenities, complimentary afternoon treats, and many guests enjoy the romantic fireplaces in the central courtyard at night. Sitting by the wood-burning fireplaces sipping some of the days best "finds" in wines, is the perfect cap to any day in Paso Robles.

Paso Robles is home to more than 200 vintners, farm fresh cuisine at every turn, all with small town charm and cowboy hospitality. Fall is an idyllic time to visit with warm sunny days, cool crisp nights, and a thriving harvest season. Just a few hours from Sacramento, Paso Robles is the perfect respite for parents or families seeking a relaxing getaway rich in history, culture, and modern attractions.

www.travelpaso.com
www.pasowine.com

UPCOMING EVENTS IN PASO ROBLES:

The holiday season is a beautiful time to visit Paso Robles where crisp evenings are filled with hot chocolate, twinkling stars, Christmas lights and loved ones. Festive celebrations are sure to get everyone into the holiday spirit – from a spectacular tree lighting ceremony to Victorian homes dressed in dazzling lights. Holiday shoppers will find the perfect gifts as they stroll around charming downtown filled with local artisan shops featuring gourmet food items, handicrafts, antiques and artwork. Below is a roundup of not-to-miss holiday events. Visitors can plan their



Photo courtesy Travel Paso Robles Alliance

stay around the following activities, or just come and relax. For more information on attractions, dining and lodging, visit www.travelpaso.com. For the latest news, visit <http://blog.travelpaso.com> or follow Paso Robles on twitter @travelpaso and [facebook.com/travelpaso](https://www.facebook.com/travelpaso).

-NOVEMBER-

November 11-14: Paderewski Festival
Various Venues

Concerts of solo piano and chamber music, celebrations of local young musicians, an exhibit of Paderewski memorabilia and lectures by experts are planned to celebrate the famous composer's 150th birthday. For more information and a schedule of events visit www.paderewskifest.com.

November 13: Elegant Holiday Evening Downtown

Downtown Paso Robles City Park, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Kick-off the holiday season with an elegant evening strolling and shopping at downtown merchants while enjoying local cuisine and wines. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org

November 26: 24th Annual Holiday Downtown Lighting Ceremony (free!)

Downtown Paso Robles City Park, 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Claus will officially kick off the holiday season when she lights the holiday tree in all its glory! Enjoy caroling, live music, cookies and hot chocolate. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org

- DECEMBER -

December 5-25: Santa's Holiday House

Downtown Paso Robles City Park

Santa will be available to listen to lists of holiday wishes. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org

December 4: 49th Annual Christmas Light Parade (free!)

10th & Spring Streets, 7 p.m.

Grab some warm blankets and chairs and head downtown to enjoy the sights of twinkling lights and spectacular floats. You don't want to miss the parade this holiday season featuring local establishments and of course, Santa Claus who is taking time off from his busy toy making schedule to visit Paso Robles. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org

December 11: Vine St. Victorian Showcase (free!)

8th to 21st Streets, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thirteen blocks of Vine Street in Paso Robles close down for a night as the crowds of 15,000 plus room up and down this exhilarating street, featuring beautifully restored Victorian houses, bedecked with sparkling Christmas lights and decorations galore. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org

December 18: Victorian Teddy Bear Tea

Paso Robles Golf Club, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Grab those beloved teddy bears and head over to the Paso Robles Golf Club for tea and cookies. This is a great holiday treat for children and adults alike. Tickets are \$7 for children and \$13 for adults and will be available December 1st at the Main Street office, 835 12th St. in the Norma's Alley. Seating is limited. For more information call (805) 238-4103 or visit www.pasoroblesdowntown.org



Country Christmas Faire

Mark your calendar for the 26th annual Country Christmas Faire at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley on November 26, 27, and 28. Rated as one of the top handcrafted shows in Northern California, this year's Country Christmas Faire will feature unique gifts and crafts from top artisans from across the state.

Five exhibit buildings will be filled during the Thanksgiving weekend, giving shoppers a chance to start their holiday shopping with quality handmade holiday items, ornaments, jewelry, wooden crafts, soaps and lotions, hand-woven baskets, stained glass, candles, beadwork, and dozens of other unique gifts.

Visitors to the Faire will enjoy strolling live entertainment, festival foods, the magical Gingerbread House exhibit, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, errand elves, and a community bon-fire. Wagon rides around the Fairgrounds will be offered; and

Victorian singers, the bell ringing RiverBells, and the Sierra Symphony quartet will perform throughout the event.

Free babysitting will be offered by local Girl Scouts, so parents can drop off their children while they enjoy holiday shopping.

The Country Christmas Faire begins Friday, November 26, and runs through Sunday,

November 28. Admission is \$4 for adults and children 12 and under are free. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is located at 11228 McCourtney Road in Grass Valley, 50 miles northeast of Sacramento, off Highway 49. For more information, visit the Fair's web site at www.NevadaCountyFair.com or call (530) 273-6217.

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26th Annual Trout Bout

San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers will welcome anglers to Oak Grove Regional Park for the 26th Annual Trout Bout on Saturday, November 20.

Over 1,500 lbs. of Rainbow trout will be planted for the tournament, which is free for kids 15 years of age and under. There is no registration fee for the event, however, a \$5 fishing permit fee and valid CA. fishing license are required for those sixteen (16) years of age or over. A \$5 vehicle-parking fee will also apply. All State Fish and Game laws apply. Participants must supply their own fishing equipment.

The Youth competition, open to youth age fifteen (15) years or younger, is for children to compete with other youths for the individual heaviest weight of one (1) trout caught by a child. Children compete individually in one of three age categories (eight and under, 9 to 12 and 13 to 15). Adult supervision is required. The Adult competition, open to ages 16 and over, will measure the individual heaviest weight of one (1) trout caught by the contestant.

Prizes will be awarded in all categories and participation is limited to one (1) type of competition. Park gates will be open at 6:15 a.m., registration closes at 10 a.m. and the last weigh-in is at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded shortly thereafter.

Oak Grove Regional Park is located on Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5 in Stockton. For more information, call (209) 331-2050 or log onto www.mgzoo.com.

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

1. ylmiaf _ _ _ _ _
2. Imprgiis _ _ _ _ _
3. dniner _ _ _ _ _
4. eip _ _ _
5. pinukmp _ _ _ _ _
6. ervthas _ _ _ _ _
7. reukyt _ _ _ _ _
8. banrcrerise _ _ _ _ _
9. fgtnifsu _ _ _ _ _
10. tfaes _ _ _ _ _
11. mevenobr _ _ _ _ _
12. ulfthnak _ _ _ _ _
13. rleteaceb _ _ _ _ _



www.ActivityVillage.co - Keeping Kids Busy!

EVENT LISTING SECTION

Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraises, church events, etc. in *California Kids!*

Call Marc (916) 429-9901 for details and rates.

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Vendor/space infor: (916) 686-0347

Mission Oaks Holiday Craft Faire

Saturday, November 6
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. FREE

Mission Oaks Community Center
4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael

VENDORS INVITED – Call NOW!
972-0336 MORPD.com

“THE CRANES ARE BACK!” Sandhill Crane Festival

Hutchins Street Square, Lodi

November 5-7, 2010

Wine tasting, art show
Children's activities
Exhibits & demos. FREE!

Visit website for Schedule &
Register NOW for tours
www.cranefestival.com
1 800 581-6150

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN OYAKO DESIGNER EVENT

November 20
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
7235 Pritchard Road, Sacto

• Clothing • Jewelry • Handbags
• Home Decor & More!

Infor: (916) 422-1265 Lois

SPCA Santa Paws, Adoption and Holiday Shopping

Get a jump on the holidays, Sat.,
Nov. 6 and Sun., Nov. 7,
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Holiday photo of your pet with
Santa. Packages start at \$25
Holiday adoptathon with 1/2 off
specials, kids' crafts & boutique.
6201 Florin-Perkins Road
(916) 504-2802 or visit
www.sspca.org

Fall Festival and Holiday Bazaar

Over 40 vendors on Saturday, Nov.
13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pleasant
Grove High School multi-purpose
room, 9531 Bond Road (between
Waterman & Bradshaw Rds), Elk
Grove.
FREE EVENT
Crafters/Artists/home-based retail-
ers/tasty treats/kids games.
FREE PARKING

Country Christmas Faire

At the Nevada County Fairgrounds
in Grass Valley
November 26, 27 & 28
Hundreds of handmade holiday items,
live entertainment, foods and fun
for the entire family.
Free babysitting, too!
\$4 Adults/12 and under free
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
11228 McCourtney Rd.
www.NevadaCountyFair.com
(530) 273-6217

CALL MARC FOR AD RATE

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Calendar of Events

Critter Events

November 6 and 7, Warts Up?, 12:30 to 4 p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Hop on over to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center for a frog-and-toad-filled weekend. Learn all about the differences between frogs and toads. Examine frog skeletons in the Bone Zone exhibit, and meet Bud (the giant African frog — who has fangs!) at the Creature Feature, noon to 2 p.m. Visit Prince (the fire-bellied toad) in the Nature Hall. Kids 12 and under can construct a frog “tooter” mask as a take-home craft. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit www.the-discovery.org.

Especially for Parents

Ongoing, Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento. The Book Den, has books for sale and is open Fridays and Saturdays. The Book Den is operated by members of Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2880.

Wednesdays, Crochet and Knitting Circle, 6:30 p.m., 11601 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks. Enjoy a bit of conversation and companionship at the Fair Oaks Li-

brary Crochet and Knitting Circle. All ages and skills are welcome; this is not an instructional class but some assistance will be available. Please bring your own hooks, needles, yarn and a project to work on. If you need a project, the library can provide you with ideas and patterns to make newborn baby hats. Those wishing to donate their baby hat creations to the Mad Hatters, who provide free newborn baby hats to local hospitals—can do so through the Fair Oaks Library. For details, call (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.

Holiday Events

Throughout the holiday season, **Old Sacramento Theatre of Lights, 6 and 7:30 p.m., Sacramento.** Back for the second year, event-goers will experience the Old Sacramento Theatre of Lights. At 6:30 p.m. a symphony of lights, sounds and visual effects will take the audience back to a time when the beloved poem “The Night Before Christmas” was first introduced in Sacramento in 1857. The Old Sacramento Theatre of Lights will run two 20-minute light shows throughout the holiday season Thursdays through Sundays. Video from last year’s inaugural event can be seen at - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUxn1938kk4>

November 1 to December 24, Food and Toy Drive, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3930 West Land

Park Drive, Sacramento. Bring a non-perishable food item or a new and unwrapped toy when you visit the Sacramento Zoo and receive \$1 off your Zoo admission! Food donations benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and families in need. Toy donations benefit Toys for Tots.

November 6, Holiday Craft Faire, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Mission Oaks Holiday Craft Faire will be held at the Mission Oaks Community Center. Vendors are invited, call (916) 972-0336 for information.

November 11, Veteran’s Family Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento. In appreciation for our troops, all military personnel, veterans and their families receive a 50% discount with a valid military identification card into the Sacramento Zoo.

November 13, Holiday Crafts, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 6446 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento. The Sacramento Emblem Club’s Annual Holiday Craft Show will be held at the Sacramento Elk’s Lodge #6. Visitors can purchase unique gifts, one-of-a-kind crafts and more. For vendor/space information, call (916) 686-0347.

November 20 and 21, 12:30 to 4 p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. It’s that time of year to pay homage to our fine-feathered friend, the turkey. Bring your friends and family to the museum this weekend for some Thanksgiving fun. Learn about wild and domesticated turkeys. There is a turkey craft for kids 12 and under. All visitors can participate in the Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt around the museum acreage, looking for answers to some tricky turkey questions. For more information, call (916) 808-3942.

November 24, Old Sac Tree Lighting, 6 p.m., Old Sacramento The annual Old Sacramento Tree Lighting festivities begin at 6 p.m. and will include live performances, a visit from Father Christmas and more. Visitors can join the fun and watch as Major Kevin Johnson flips the switch to light the tree at 6:30 p.m.

November 26, 27, 28, Holiday Arts & Craft Festival, 6151 H Street, Sacramento. Find unique gifts for everyone on your list at the Crocker Art Museum’s annual Holiday Art and Craft Festival. More than 80 artists and craftspeople will offer a variety of items in a range of prices. Have your photo taken with a Victorian Santa and enjoy delicious cuisine at the Ambrosai Café. Free parking. Admission is free for members, \$6 for nonmembers and \$3 for students and seniors. The times are

Friday, 26th, 1 to 7 p.m., Saturday, 27th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 28th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

November 26, Free Admission, 10 a.m to 4 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Fairytale Town gives thanks to the Sacramento community by offering Free Admission to the public, the day after Thanksgiving (weather permitting). In return, Fairytale Town is encouraging families to bring canned and packaged goods for donation to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.



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“With a Film Like No Other”



November 19



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Calendar of Events

Special Events

November 5, Craft and Bake Sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1180 Corporate Way, Sacramento. The Asian Community Center Greenhaven Terrace invites the public to their 23rd Annual Craft and Bake Sale. Visitors can purchase sewn items, jewelry, garden plants, hand made crafts, crocheted items, chili, bentos, white elephant sale, knitted items, afghans and quilts. Get your holiday shopping done early. There will also be a raffle. For more information, call (916) 393-9026

November 5 to 7, Sandhill Cranes Festival, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi. Sandhill Cranes from as far away as Siberia and Alaska have

been returning in the past few weeks to California Delta in the Central Valley to over winter. Inspired by the birds' return, the family-friendly Sandhill Crane Festival will take place. Admission to the festival is free. The festival's program schedules also available on-line at www.cranefestival.com. Free activities include the Friday evening reception, wine tasting and Art Show. Saturday and Sunday events include programs such as Wild Things, who return with their very special live animals; story time for young children; a bat presentation; an Owl Pellet Exploration workshop; a Decoy Carving Seminal for Beginners; a Crane Dance Workshop for ages 5 to adult, and more. To register for tours call (800) 581-6150.

November 13, Celebration of Miracles, 5 to 11 p.m., Historic Folsom. Friends of NICU (www.friendsofnicu.org), a charitable or-

ganization dedicated to helping the families of sick and premature babies in Sacramento area hospitals, invite you to attend, "Celebration of Miracles." The event will be held at Lake Natoma Inn, in the Historic District of Folsom. The event hopes to raise funds to help families with sick and premature babies in the NICUs at Mercy and Sutter hospitals.

November 13 and 14, Something to Chew On, 12:30 to 4 p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Got Teeth? A healthy smile? Smiles are easy to find this weekend at the Discovery Museum. Bring the family to have fun learning about healthy teeth from our visiting dental professionals. For more information, call (916) 808-3942.

November 17, Food Preservation Demonstration, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 4145 Branch Center Road,

Sacramento. The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers will have a public demonstration "Persimmons and Pomegranates." There is a \$3 fee to attend. No advanced registration is required. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

November 20, Buddhist Church Event, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento. The Buddhist Church of Florin will hold a Oyako Designer Event. There will be clothing, jewelry, handbags, home decor and more. For more information, call (916) 422-1265.

November 26 and 28, Dinosaur Days, 12:30 to 4 p.m., 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Have some prehistoric fun at the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center. There is so much to do this holiday weekend. The class-

room display has dinosaur specimens for you to touch and explore. The Bone Zone exhibit caters to all ages with skeletons, skulls and bone health. Children 12 and under can create a Tyrannosaurus Paper Skeleton craft to take home as a souvenir. For more information, call (916) 808-3942.

Storytellers & Puppetry

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.

November Library Programs

Mini-catapults

Teens are invited November 4, 4 p.m., to make toy catapults from Popsicle sticks at Rancho Cordova Library, 9845 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento. Participants will have fun testing the small wooden catapults for accuracy and distance. Supplies and instructions will be provided by library staff. For details, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.

Free college entrance practice exams

Graduating high school students can improve their chances for getting into college by taking free SAT and ACT practice tests at 10 a.m., Saturday, November 6, at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Taking the mock ACT/SAT practice exams will help give college-bound students a test-like environment under timed conditions. Students will receive a comprehensive analysis of their test performance, detailing individual strengths and weaknesses at the results seminar on Saturday, November 10 at the library. Registration is required by signing up at the library branch, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920, or visiting www.kaptest.com/college.

Kids' science program

School-age children will be dazzled by an impressive science demonstration at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, at Elk Grove Library, 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove.

The free kids' program will feature foggy dry ice storms and the whoosh of a fiery jet "engine" to a Mad Science burp-flavored potion. The program is sponsored by Friends of Elk Grove Library. For details, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.

Fall Festival and Holiday Bazaar

The Pleasant Grove High Band Boosters are hosting their Fourth Annual Fall Festival and Holiday Bazaar with over 40 vendors on Saturday, November 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pleasant Grove High School multi-purpose room, located at 9531 Bond Road (between Waterman and Bradshaw Roads) in the city of Elk Grove.

This free event offers the community an opportunity to shop in a festive atmosphere, featuring over 40 crafters, artists, and home-based retailers; one-stop holiday shopping doesn't get better than this. You are sure to find beautiful and interesting

gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Also, enjoy tasty treats as well as fun and games for the kids while you shop.

All proceeds from this event benefit the music programs at Pleasant Grove High School and Katherine Albani Middle School.

Free and ample parking adjacent to the multi-purpose room. For further information, contact Debra at (916) 686-4926 or visit the Booster Club website at <http://pghsbandboosters.org/HolidayBazaar2010.aspx>.

Sacramento Zoo Biz

Food and Toy Drive

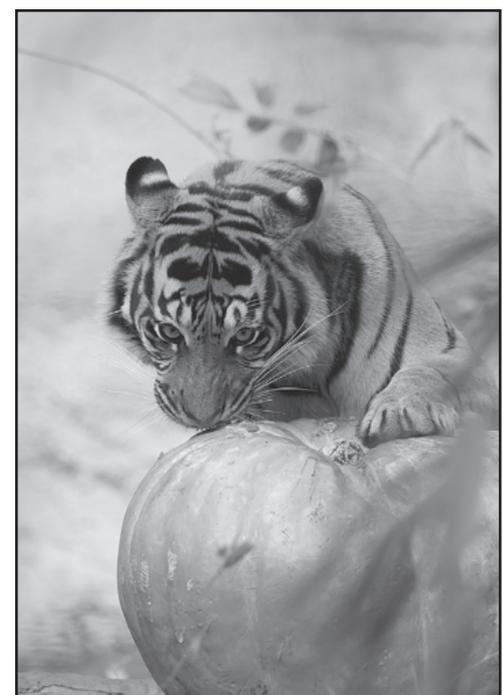
November 1 to December 24 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring a non-perishable food item or a new and unwrapped toy when you visit the Sacramento Zoo and receive \$1 off your Zoo admission! Food donations benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and families in need. Toy donations benefit Toys for Tots.

Veteran's Family Day

Thursday, November 11 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In appreciation for our troops, all military personnel, veterans and their families receive a 50% discount with a valid military identification card.





Sugar cookie Turkeys

You will need:

- 16.5 oz Pillsbury refrigerated sugar cookies
- 16 oz chocolate creamy frosting
- Orange icing (white frosting and yellow/red food coloring)
- Candy corn
- Black decorating gel
- Miniature candy-coated chocolate baking bits

You will need to:

These are super sweet treats! And fun to decorate! Kids and adults love to gobble these turkeys up! Heat oven to 350°F. Bake cookies as directed on roll. Cool for about 20 minutes. Spoon chocolate frosting into resealable food-storage plastic bag. Make small hole in bottom corner of bag. On each cookie, pipe frosting on outer edge of half of cookie. Arrange candy corn over frosting for turkey feathers. Then pipe orange icing onto each cookie to resemble Thanksgiving turkey face and feet. Use orange icing to attach baking bits to turkey face for eyes. Pipe black gel on baking bits for centers of eyes. That's it! Or, just decorate the way you want to!

Cranberry pumpkin bread

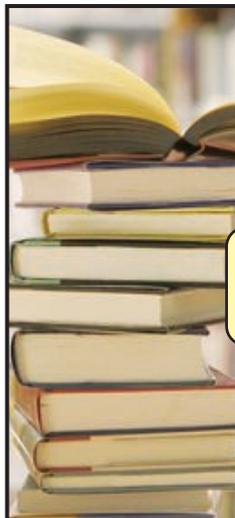
This cranberry pumpkin bread smells and looks absolutely delicious - a real treat!

You will need: 2 1/4 cups flour 2 teaspoons baking powder 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice 1/2 teaspoon salt 2 eggs (beaten) 1 cups brown sugar 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree 1/2 cup vegetable oil 1 cup fresh or dried cranberries You will need to: In a large bowl combine flour, baking powder, sugar, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Mix well.

In a separate bowl, combine pumpkin, eggs and oil. Mix well. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture and stir well. Fold in the cranberries.

Transfer the mixture to two lightly greased loaf pans. Bake in a preheated oven at 350F (180C,

Gas Mark 4) for approximately 45-55 minutes or until golden and baked through. Cool for 5 minutes in pan before removing to wire rack to cool completely.



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Pecan Muffins

Quick to throw together, these delicious muffins are excellent at breakfast or as a snack or lunch box treat too!

You will need:

2 cups flour 1 teaspoon baking soda 2 teaspoons baking powder 1 teaspoon cinnamon 2/3 cup brown sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 cup pumpkin puree 2 eggs (beaten) 1/2 cup chopped pecans You will need to: In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, baking powder, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Mix well.

In a separate bowl, combine the pumpkin puree, eggs and vanilla. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture until just combined, being careful not to over-mix. Fold in chopped pecans.

Spoon the batter into lightly greased or lined muffin tins and fill to 2/3 full. Bake in preheated oven at 350F (180C, Gas Mark 4) for approximately 20 minutes or until golden and baked through. Cool in muffin tins for 5 minutes until removing to wire racks to cool completely.

For more ideas, visit www.activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!

Turkey Hand Print cookies

You will need:

- Sugar Cookie dough
- White frosting
- Candy corn for feathers
- Sprinkles for the body
- Red hot candy or mini chocolate chips for eye

You will need to:

Roll sugar cookie dough out on floured surface. Place kids clean hand on the dough and with toothpick trace around hand. Remove their hand then cut out with sharp knife. Place on greased cookie sheet or parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Continue with all dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool. Have kids decorate with white frosting, add sprinkles and candy corns for feathers, and an eye.



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

Guess The Petals

This is an excellent game for concentration, quiet, and learning about nature (although you don't have to tell the children that is what they are doing!) Perhaps you could find a selection of flowers and compare the results? Play it on your own at home, or make it a party game.

Age: 5+

You will need:

A flower with lots of petals (choose according to the age of the child/children) such as a rose, daisy etc.

Pencil and paper

How to play:

Place the flower in front of the children and ask them to study it, then guess how many petals it has and write down the number.



Now pull off the petals carefully and, together, count the number. If appropriate for the age of the child, you could place the petals in rows or piles of 5 or 10 to make counting easier.

As a party game:

Play as above, awarding a prize to the child who guesses nearest the correct number of petals

Soap Bubble Contest

Sometimes a bubble-blowing session can be just the thing - especially on a rainy day! We have lots of ideas here, including one for turning bubble blowing into a team event.

Make up some bubble mixture and find a variety of implements that can be used to blow bubbles - perhaps a traditional bubble wand, a drinking straw, or even a coat hanger bent into shape!

Have a contest! Some suggestions are:

- . Who can blow the biggest bubble?
- . Who can blow the most bubbles in a space of time?
- . Who can have the most bubbles in the air at one time?
- . Whose bubble stays in the air for the longest?
- . Whose bubble pops first?
- . Whose bubble pops last?

Of course, one child on their own can still have fun with bubbles. Try timing your bubbles to see which lasts longest, or catching your bubbles in a plastic cup, or on your hand. Blow bubbles in the garden and see how far they travel, and experiment to see how many you can keep going at once.

Team game for parties:

Provide each child with a bubble blowing wand (perhaps they could make their own?) and prepare two basins of bubble mixture for the game. Divide the company into two sides, an even number in each. Stretch a cord or rope at a medium height across the middle of the room. Two children, one from each side, play at a time. Each stands on his side, blows a bubble, and then gently encourages it by blowing toward the opposite side, and over the rope if he can. If it goes over the rope without breaking, a point is scored for that team.

Make sure that someone keeps score, and declare a winner after a certain amount of time, or when each child has had one or two goes.

For more ideas, visit www.activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!

Under The Cups

This is a fun version of "Memory" which you can play with all age groups. We have a party version and a non-party version, both of which your kids will enjoy, as well as a version for one child to play on their own.

Age: 4+

Play: The children take it in turns to turn over a pair of cups. If the treats underneath match, they may take the cups away, claim the treats as their own and have another go. If they do not match, they must carefully replace the cups and play passes to the next player.

Preparation for the party version:

You will need 28 Styrofoam or paper cups (not transparent) and 2 each of 14 different pairs of treats to hide such as sweets (candy), treat-sized chocolate bars, or tiny gifts. When nobody is looking put the treats in a rectangular grid pattern (7 x 4) on a table and cover with the cups to make a "concentration" game.

Home version:

For a game at home with your own children, find articles such as buttons, toy cars, coins, pencils etc to use instead of treats - although you may want to include a treat or two to make the game extra fun and motivate your child to play!

Count up the number of pairs of objects you have found at the end and declare a winner.

Solitaire version:

A child playing on his or her own can count the number of moves made to find all the pairs, and try to beat the score next time.

Hints:

Increase or reduce the number of cups and pairs of objects to suit the age and ability of the children.

For a party game for older children, reduce the number of "treats" and throw in the odd booby prize! You could also hide an "instant forfeit" under one or more of the cups: choose something that all the kids at the party would be happy to do

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

Blow Football

This is a very simple game for two or four players suitable for children as young as 4. You can set it up anywhere and it should keep the kids amused for a while!

Age: 4+

You will Need:

A ball. The best type of ball depends on the surface of the pitch. If you're playing on a carpet, a light plastic ball like a Subbuteo™ football or a perhaps a table tennis ball is ideal; if you're using a smooth surface like a table, you can use a heavier/rougher ball (even a dried pea !). Two goals (margarine tubs are good). A large drinking straw for each player.

Rules:

Place a border round the pitch (books might be suitable) to stop the ball going outside the field of play. Then put the ball in the middle of the pitch and ...blow. If you get the ball in the opponents goal you have scored. First to five goals wins. The only rule is that you're not allowed to touch the ball while it is in play - with hand, straw or anything else. If you do, the opponent gets a penalty.

Penalty shots:

The offending player (or team if playing two-a-side) has to put down his straw, the ball goes on the middle of the pitch and the other team gets the chance to score unopposed. The offending team are not allowed to touch their straws to pick them up and defend until the other team has restarted.

Find Your Partner

Great for pairing up children at the beginning of a party, and for breaking the ice when kids don't know each other well as everyone has an excuse to approach other people and start talking.

Age: 7 and up

You will need:

Pieces of paper onto which you have written well-known partners, Safety pins

Write up your pieces of paper well in advance, choosing well known partners that will be recognized by the children. For example:

Micky Mouse and Minnie Mouse Batman and Robin Anthony and Cleopatra Tom and Jerry Homer Simpson and Marge Simpson, Chip and Dale, Prince Charles and Princess Diana Charlie Brown and Snoopy

When the kids have arrived, pin a name to their backs. At your signal, the children mingle with the other guests, asking questions about themselves which can only be answered by a "yes" or a "no".

"Am I alive?"

"Am I a film star?"

"Am I male?"

While trying to guess who they are, they should also be looking out for their possible partner.

Younger kids may need an adult to give the odd clue or two along the way!

Celebrate St. Andrew's Day

St. Andrew's Day is celebrated by Scots around the world on November 30. Here a cute craft to make to help celebrate the day. Your very own paper cup Scotsman.

You will need:

Pink and white paint, Tartan paper, felt or foam in blue and pink, wool, pompom, ribbon, wiggle eyes, glue, double sided sticky tape, pens

You will need to:

Paint the cup white and the ball pink and leave to dry. Stick the ball to the bottom of the cup.

Cut an arch shape from tartan paper. Fold little pleats along the length, leaving a flat piece at on end. Stick a length of double-sided tape around the middle of the cup and roll the tartan paper around this to form a kilt.

From the blue felt, cut two small pieces to be the waistcoat and glue in place. Cut a rectangle from the blue felt that reaches from the top of the kilt to the top of the cup, cut a small 'v' shape off each corner. Glue to the cup as your jacket. Cut two arms from blue felt and two hands from pink. Glue one hand to the end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the jacket.

Tie a small bow in the ribbon and glue on as a bow tie.

Glue wool on to the top of the ball as hair.

Cut two circles from your tartan paper, glue back to back and then stick to the top of the head. Finish with a pompom.

Finally glue on two wiggle eyes and draw on a nose and mouth.

For more ideas visit Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!

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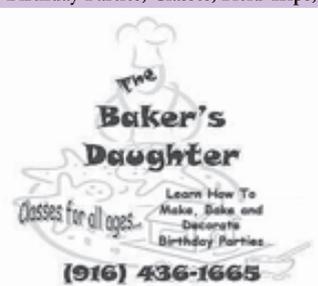
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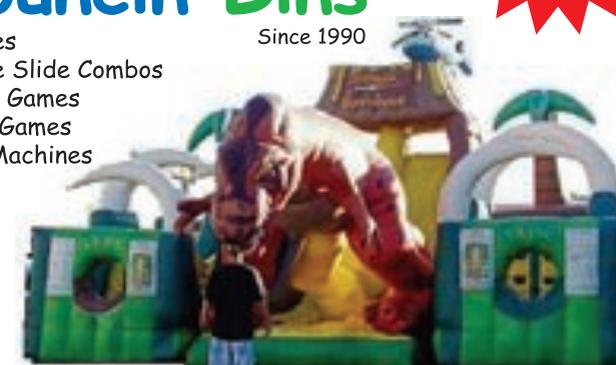
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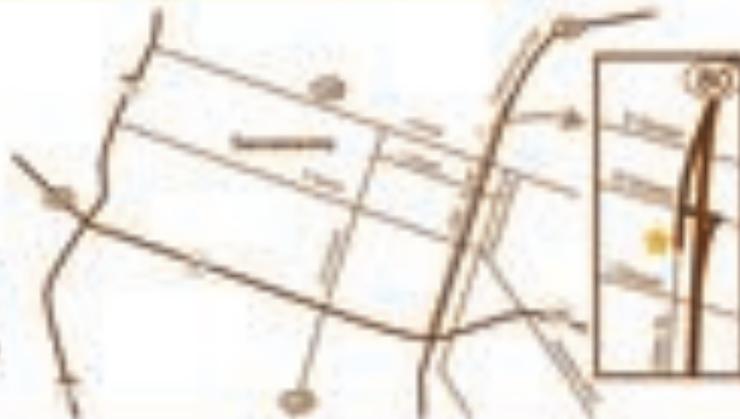
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