

February 2011

# California Kids!



Happy Valentine's Day!

Free!

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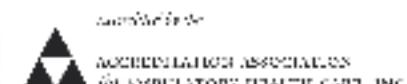
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# Table of Contents

- Wordsearch: Happy February!** .....page 6
- Make it Yourself!** .....page 8
- Who Wrote That? Coleen Murtagh Paratore**  
by Patricia M. Newman .....page 9
- The Book Report: Dog's Rock!**  
by Connie Goldsmith .....page 10
- Travel: The Wet and Wild Side of Six Flags**  
by Carmel L. Mooney .....page 13
- Calendar of Events** .....page 16
- Parties! Parties!** .....pages 18-19

# California Kids!

[www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com)

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# free admission!



Fairytale Town, located at 3901 Land Park Drive, in William Land Park, Sacramento, is participating in Sacramento Association of Museums Free Day on February 5. They are offering free admission along with 27 other area museum. For more information visit <http://www.sacmuseums.org/>.

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# Hands on History: By Land and By Sea

With a concerted effort to provide more interactive, hands-on opportunities than ever before, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park will present a special "Hands on History: By Land and By Sea" event on Saturday, February 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Docents will help Fort visitors understand the two different ways emigrants originally came to California—by land or by sea—while sharing the unique challenges they faced and what daily life was like during their journeys. Multiple hands-on activities await Fort visitors as they will help pack a wagon or trunk, make choices about what to bring along for their "journey of a lifetime," learn how to use a nautical compass, try their hand at weaving rope and simple knots, create maps with available resources, and much more. For more information about this Hands on History event, or other events and activities at Sutter's Fort, call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort).

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is located at 2701 L Street, Sacramento. Admission is, \$6 per adult (18 and older), \$4 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort).

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# Maria, the Chimpanzee celebrates her 10th Birthday!

Recently, Maria, the Sacramento Zoo's Chimpanzee reached her milestone double digit birthday. Zoo keepers decorated the exhibit with papier-mâché presents, created by the Zoo teen volunteers. All the chimpanzees enjoyed special birthday party treats. Maria's favorite treats included Cheerios and special Jello tubes prepared by the keepers.

Maria was the most recent chimpanzee born at the Sacramento Zoo. She is very active and spends time with 9-year-old Dougie who joined the Zoo in 2008. They often play tag, with Maria running up to Dougie, tagging him, then taking off; these chases may last for quite some time. As for their respective spot in the hierarchy, these two are definitely not old enough to be dominant troop leaders yet; those spots go to Pablo and Amelia (Maria's parents).

**Chimpanzee Facts and Endangered Status** Chimpanzees are great apes that live in the fragmented tropical rain forests of Africa from Sudan and Tanzania in the East to Senegal and Angola in the West. Democratic Republic of Congo has the largest



population, although chimpanzees have become extinct in some areas. They grow to reach heights of 3 to 5 feet, and adults can weigh up to 160 pounds. Their fur is predominantly black, but sometimes "gray" as they get older.

The chimpanzee is an endangered species; the current population is estimated between 80,000 and 120,000. The number one threat is the bush meat trade; 6,000 chimpanzees are killed annually for meat. Chimpanzees are also currently threatened by habitat destruction for logging and mining, as well as poaching for the pet trade.

*Sacramento Zoo – Explore 7 Continents in 14 Acres! Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 450 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of over 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is wholly managed by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., general admission is \$11; children ages 3 to 12 are \$7 and two and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit [saczoo.com](http://saczoo.com).*

## Arts & Crafts Faire at Raley Field\*

Opening Saturday, April 2nd, 2011



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\* Parking lot B-1

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# Maidu Museum and Historic Site Calendar

**I**ndigenous Art Gallery: Empowering Our People, Artistic Expressions of Native American Children Historic Site: Guided Tours Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit [www.maidumuseum.org](http://www.maidumuseum.org)

## Drop in Adult Activity

**Night Out at the Museum – Saturday, February 19 from 6 to 9 p.m.**

Enjoy an evening at the museum with cultural heritage exhibits, and contemporary art gallery. Local historian April Farnham will be giving a lecture on the history of Sacramento's Native first people with an emphasis on the Nisenan, Maidu and Wintun tribes. This is a free event.

## Classes

**Family Emergency Preparedness – Saturday, February 26, 4 to 5 p.m.**

Instructor: Chuck Kritzon

Earthquakes, floods or even loss of electricity can threaten your family's well being. Learn what to do to prepare your family for an emergency in this free overview class. Advanced registration is required.

## Exhibits

**Our Precious Legacy:** Mountain Maidu Baskets from the Meadows-Baker Families. Featuring three generations of weavers, their baskets, their lives and the artistry of their creations. Show continues through May.

## Empowering Our People, Artistic Expressions of Native American Children

Showcasing the colorful artwork of Native American Children ages 5 to 12 from the American Indian Education Program of the Sacramento City Unified School District. Show continues through March 31.

*Maidu Museum and Historic Site is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and free 3rd Saturday evenings 6 to 9 p.m. For museum and program information call (916) 774-5934.*

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# Maidu joins 3rd Saturday art walk

**T**he Maidu Museum and Historic Site is officially joining Downtown Roseville's popular "3rd Saturday Art Walk". Participating art venues keep their doors open from 6 to 9 p.m., for visitors to enjoy an evening of fine art, music and refreshments.

The Maidu Museum will change its Second Saturday "Night Out at the Museum" to 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, joining the growing group of locations throughout Roseville and the local Placer county area celebrating art on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

## Now Showing at the Maidu Museum:

In the Myron Zents Room – Our Precious Legacy: Mountain Maidu Baskets from the Meadows-Baker Families

Featuring three generations of weavers, their baskets, their lives and the artistry of their creations. Show continues through May.

In the Maidu Museum Indigenous Art Gallery – Empowering Our People, Artistic Expressions of Native American Children

Showcasing the colorful artwork of the Native Children, ages 5 to 18, from the American Indian Education Program of the Sacramento Unified School District. Show continues thru March 31.

*The Maidu Museum and Historic Site is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Dr., Roseville. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and free 3rd Saturday evenings 6 to 9 p.m. Guided Tours of the Historic Site: Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit [www.maidumuseum.org](http://www.maidumuseum.org).*

# Maidu Museum Sets New Attendance Record

**A**jewel in Roseville's crown of outstanding parks, the new Maidu Museum and Historic Site at the Maidu Park complex recently celebrated a record attendance by local school children. In a 19 day period the museum docents led a total of 132 tours, guiding 1,682 children through the new museum and on the historic site trail.

The new museum replaces the temporary one that first opened in 2000 and has been a favorite destination for tens of thousands of school children.

This new record would not be possible without their group of trained volunteers. In the last 12 months their volunteers have donated over 5,000 hours of their time to the Maidu Museum and Historic Site.

Myron Zents, who with the City of Roseville park superintendent Ed Mahany was largely responsible for the creation of the historic site, began the first training of volunteers who were interested in leading public tours. Docent training started in 1993 with Myron, and continues today lead by docent coordinator Heidi Frantz.

Potential docents attend training 2 days a week for 3 hours each day, for a period of 6 weeks. For anyone interested in becoming a docent or to volunteer in many other areas, contact the museum at (916) 774-5934 or visit the museum website for more information.

*The Maidu Museum and Historic Site is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, in Roseville. For more information visit [www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum) or call (916) 774-5934.*

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- Tumbling/Cheerleading Program
- Recreational Programs
- Back To School Programs





# Pence Gallery offers hands-on art workshop for families

**KidsCreate: Amazing Valentines, Saturday, February 5, 1 to 4 p.m.**

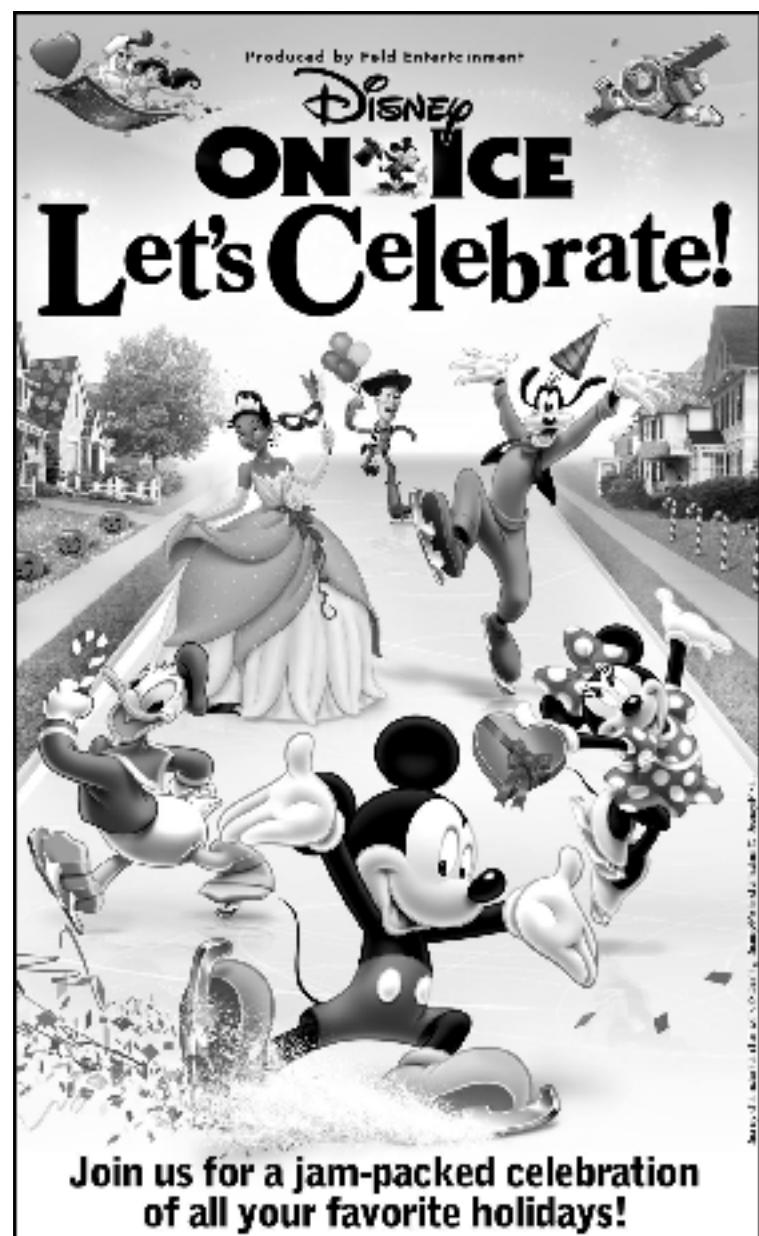
Children will layer paper, mix-media, and pour on the love in this valentine's craft-making session. Enjoy making cards and fun crafts for your family, just in time to give for Valentine's Day, with artist

Janice Purnell. Cost is \$4 for members (\$5 non-members). No advanced registration required.

*The Pence Gallery is located at 212 D Street, Davis. For more information, call (530) 758-3370 or visit [www.pencegallery.org](http://www.pencegallery.org).*

## free Play Day

The 21st Annual St. Mark's Preschool Play Day will be held Saturday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Mark's Preschool is located at 2391 St. Mark's Way, near Watt and El Camino. There will be carnival games and face painting for kids, prizes, food, and a silent auction. Admission is free! Play games and eat a meal for a small fee. Fun for the entire family! For more information call (916) 485-6509. See you there!



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<small>(Includes Front Row and VIP seats. Not valid for discounts.)</small>			

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Buy One Ticket, Get One FREE!!	7:30 PM				
<small>(Includes Front Row and VIP seats. Not valid for discounts.)</small>					

Buy Sacramento tickets at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

Retail Locations: Arco Arena Box Office or call 1-800-745-3000.

Regular Ticket Prices: \$14 - \$17 - \$23 - \$40 VIP - \$65 Front Row

Limited number of Front Row and VIP seats available

Call or go online for details.

Service charges, facility and handling fees may apply.



## Happy February!

Hey kids! It's February and there are a lot of things going on this month. How about trying to find all the words relating to Presidents' Day and Valentine's Day. Look closely, words can appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward, and upside down! Happy hunting!

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

**Be Mine**

**flowers**

**Pink and Red**

**candy**

**I love you**

**Presidents Day**

**cards**

**Hearts**

**Roses**

**Chocolate**

**Hugs**

**Secret Admirer**

**Conversation Hearts**

**Kisses**

**Sweet treat**

**Cupid**

**Lincoln**

**Valentine**

**February**

**Washington**



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*~ Sharon*

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*~ Dina*

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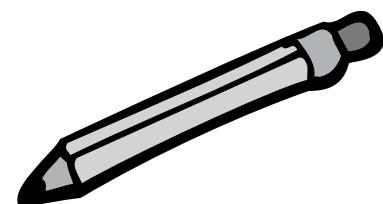
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# MAKE IT YOURSELF!

## Cup and Ball Lovebug

Kids can make this cup and ball lovebug craft for Valentine's Day or any time they want to make something for someone they love!

### You will need:

Paper cup, Polystyrene ball, Red paint, Black paint, Black craft foam, Red craft foam, Black chenille stem, Wiggle eyes, Glue, Heart hole punch

### Instructions:

Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup. Paint the cup red and the ball black. Leave to dry.

Use the heart punch to make small black foam hearts. Glue these to the cup.

Use a short length of chenille stem folded in half and then stuck on top of the ball as the antennae. Punch 3 red foam hearts. Stick one red heart to each end of the antennae and one to the center of the ball as the nose.

Stick on the wiggle eyes to finish.



## Lovebird craft

This pretty lovebird craft is great for Valentine's Day. Try it as a class or group project and fill your classroom with gorgeous lovebirds!

### You will need:

Red or pink card, Red or pink crepe or tissue paper, Decorative card in pink or red, glitter, Wiggle eyes, Glue, Ribbon



### Instructions:

Cut a bird from card.

Stick on some eyes and decorate your bird with stickers or other bits and pieces.

Lie the crepe paper flat in front of you. Fold over a piece about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. Turn the paper over and fold again. Keep going until all paper is folded. Cut the ends into curves.

Cut a slit in the center of the bird and slide the folded paper half way through. Fold the top edges of the folded paper up to join one another and glue together.

If you want to hang the bird, punch a hole at the top of the wings and tie a length of ribbon through.

## Loveworm bookmark

*Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!*

Make this loveworm bookmark craft for kids for Valentine's Day - he's cute, quick and fun and makes a sweet gift!

### You will need:

Strip of card, 6 small craft foam hearts, 1 large craft foam heart, 2 tiny craft foam hearts, chenille stem, 2 small wiggle eyes, red pen, heart sticker, glue

### Instructions:

Stick six of the small hearts in a column overlapping the top of one heart over the point of the heart above. This is the body.

Stick the large heart on top. This is the head.

Cut two short pieces of chenille stem. Stick these to the back of the head. Stick a tiny heart to the end of each piece of chenille stem.

Glue on the wiggle eyes to the head, add a heart sticker for the nose and draw on a mouth.



## Printed Valentine's card

Here's a quick technique that kids can use to print valentine cards. Even the youngest children will be able to have a go at this idea. Make just one - or one for every member of the class and family!

### You will need:

Paint, Card

### Instructions:

Paint a square on a tray or wipe-clean tablecloth. Using your finger, draw a heart in the paint. Carefully press the card on top so the design prints on to the card.

You may be able to make 2 or even 3 cards before wiping off the paint and starting again. Older children can of course get more imaginative with their designs.





# Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Coleen Murtagh Paratore By Patricia M. Newman

Coleen Murtagh Paratore never thought about a career writing children's books. Not when she won first place in a poetry contest when she was nine. Not when she wrote and directed plays for her siblings to perform for holidays and family get-togethers. Not when she majored in English in college. And not even when she started her own publishing business for a product she developed called The Remembering Book.

Instead, her watershed moment came in September, 1999 while jogging. She remembers the precise day because it was her eldest son's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. "There was a [picture book] story playing in my head," she says. "I could hear it. There was a chocolate cake baking and a doorbell ringing and a grandmother walking in." Sweaty from running, she rushed to type the story, her "fingers flying across the keyboard" struggling to remember everything she had just experienced. "That opened me up," she says. "I had a new idea for a story every three days!"

From that moment on, Paratore immersed herself in all things related to writing children's books. She joined the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI), attended conferences, wrote, and submitted manuscripts in batches. Within 21 months, she amassed 197 rejection letters. "I was working it," she says. "It was not for the faint of heart...but I knew I wanted this more than anything in the world." In 2004 her first book, *How Prudence Proovit Proved the Truth About Fairy Tales* was published.

Paratore always starts with a character. "I don't even begin until I have a character and I know what that character wants more than



anything." Each day Paratore rises at 5:00 am, reads several newspapers, and goes for a run. Over a cup of tea she says, "I close my eyes and breathe to clear my head, then ask for one day's grace. Then I show up on the page and go with the flow." Characters enter and exit, and Paratore listens to them and writes the story as it comes to her. Every day she returns to the first line and re-reads the story aloud, revising as she goes. When she reads the previous day's work, she adds new pages one word (and several taps of the delete key) at a time until the book is finally complete. She never outlines or plots out each chapter. "Outlining is like knowing what's under the Christmas tree," she says. "It takes the surprise out, and that to me is the most exciting thing!"

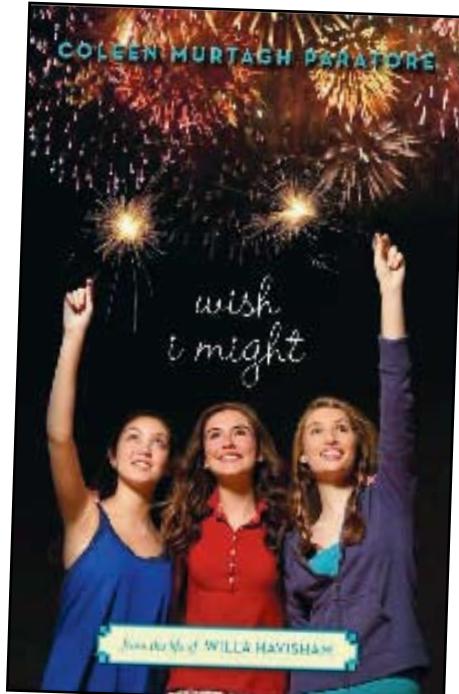
Three events coalesced into the idea for her second book, *26 Big Things Small Hands Do*. When news of the September 11, 2001 bombings reached Paratore, she was bathing her infant goddaughter in one of those tubs that fit in the kitchen sink. "Lauren's little hand wrapped around my finger," she says. At 4:00 the next morning she sat at her computer "needing to write something." She happened to look at a hand-tracing her son had made in school with a list of things he was proud to do with his hands, and the first line of her next book popped into her head: "Your hands are small but they do big things that make this a wonderful world."

When Willa Havisham from *The Wedding Planner's Daughter* popped into Paratore's head, she knew Willa wanted a father more than anything else in the world. Willa's want was "not an intellectual decision," Paratore says. "I get a character and I feel what she wants more than anything." It was only much later that Paratore realized that Willa's

wish was also her own. "My father was an alcoholic and my house was often a scary place to live. I spent a lot of time writing in my journal and dreaming about how to get out of there."

Paratore's newest character, Sunny Holiday—an inner-city African American girl, was a gift from one of the children she met during a 2005 visit to a school in her hometown of Troy, New York. Paratore and several girls were discussing her book, *The Wedding Planner's Daughter*, which takes place on Cape Cod. The young girl sitting to her left said, "I would love to go to the beach but we cannot leave this state for two months...My dad's in prison." Paratore says, "That wedged in my heart." But Sunny Holiday didn't make herself known until Paratore jogged past a row of dandelions some time later. She remembered the hardy, bright flowers that bloomed out of the cracks in a cement staircase outside her home when she was young, and a fourth grade girl's voice spoke to her: "Bloom like a dandelion, Sunny. That's what my daddy says." Paratore remembers, "I wrote the first draft in ten days straight. Her voice was so strong in me. Sunny has some hardships, but she's blooming where she's planted."

With each book, Paratore asks herself if she loves the character. If she doesn't sob dramatically or laugh hysterically, she feels she's failed. "I want to write things that a child remembers," she says. "I am grateful that [my readers] read my books. There is a plethora of choices out there." Perhaps one of her fans says it best: "I used to want to be a lawyer, but [The Cupid Chronicles]



made me realize that you have to love what you do to achieve it." Paratore made the right career choice; her passion for writing comes through in each word.

Next month: Loren Long

*Patricia Newman is the author of Jingle the Brass (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), recommended by the Smithsonian National American History Museum. Her newest book, Nugget on the Flight Deck (Walker), received the California Reading Association's Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction. Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com to watch the trailer.*

## MORE ABOUT COLEEN MURTAGH PARATORE

### How to Contact COLEEN MURTAGH PARATORE

Website: [www.coleenparatore.com](http://www.coleenparatore.com)

### SELECTIONS FROM COLEEN MURTAGH PARATORE'S LIBRARY

*Sweet and Sunny*, Scholastic Press, 2010.

*Wish I Might: From the Life of Willa Havisham* (Willa #5), Scholastic Press, 2010.

*Sunny Holiday*, Scholastic Press, 2009.

*Catching the Sun*, Charlesbridge, 2008.

*Forget Me Not: From the Life of Willa Havisham* (Willa #4), Simon & Schuster, 2009.

*The Funeral Director's Son*, Simon & Schuster, 2008.

*Willa by Heart* (Willa #3), Simon Schuster, 2008.

*The Cupid Chronicles* (Willa #2), Simon & Schuster, 2006.

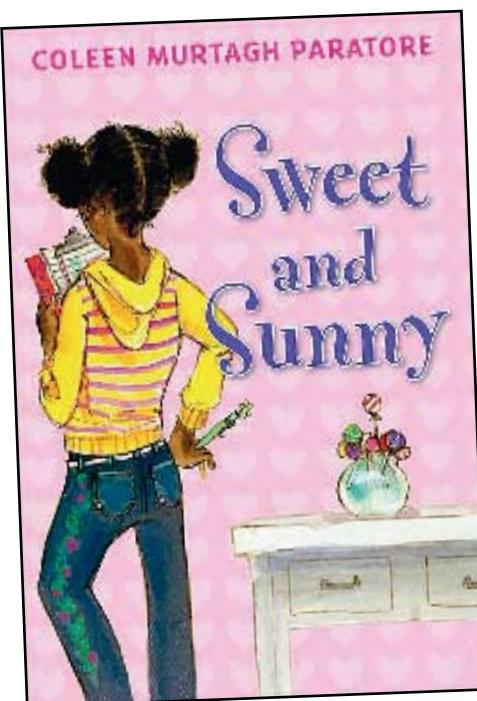
*The Wedding Planner's Daughter* (Willa #1), Simon & Schuster, 2006.

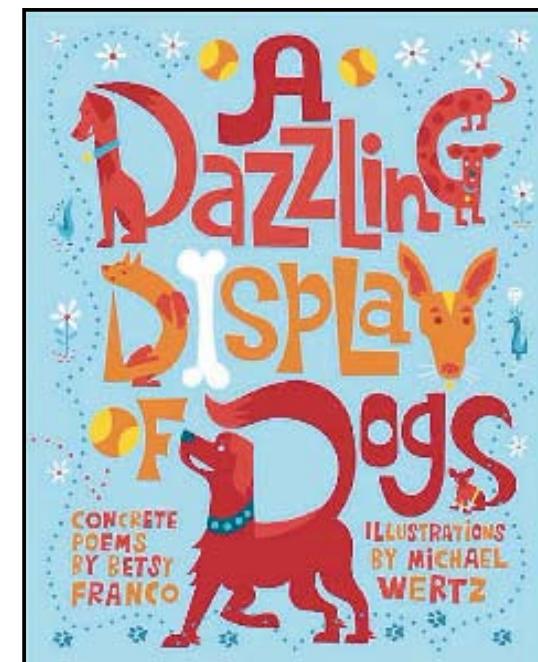
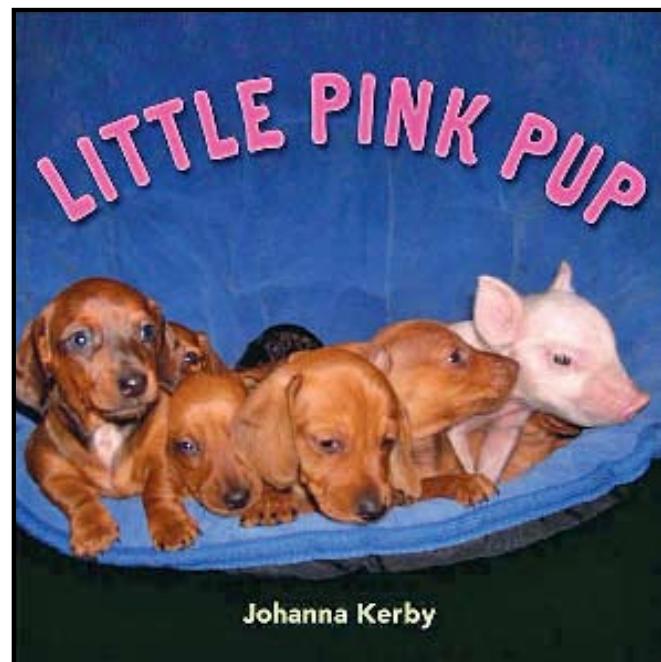
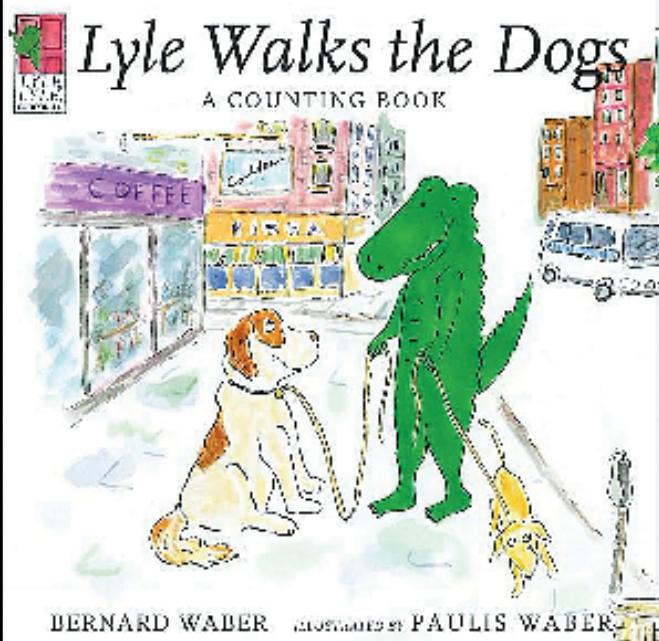
*26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do*, Free Spirit, 2004.

### Upcoming

*From Willa, With Love: From the Life of Willa Havisham* (Willa #6), Scholastic Press, 2011.

*Dreamsleeves*, Scholastic Press, 2012.





## The Book Report

# Dog's Rock

By Connie Goldsmith

**W**ith an estimated 77.5 million dogs in the country, chances are that you count one or two among your family members. If your child longs for a dog but doesn't yet have one, maybe these books will convince you there's a perfect dog for every child. The unconditional love of a playful dog is a treasure. Is there anything cuter than a kid with a puppy? Think about adopting a dog from your local shelter.

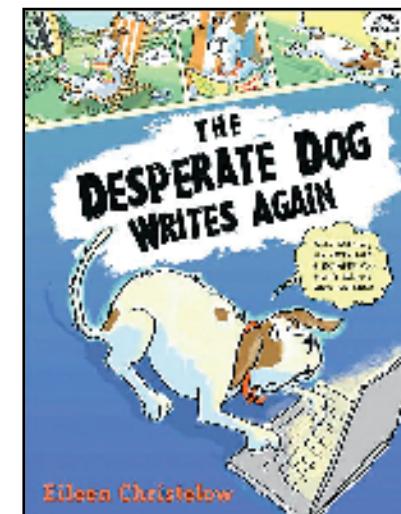
**"Little Pink Pup," by Johanna Kerby. (Putman).** Twelve piglets are born in a barn. The smallest, called Pink, is very weak. The other piglets push him aside and get all the milk. Enter Tink, the big-hearted dachshund mom who accepts piglet Pink and nurses him along with her own puppies. "She licked him and fed him and tucked him in close." The author is also the photographer of this true story. The photos of Tink, Pink, and puppies are a wonder to see. The puppies also accept the tiny piglet as one of their own. Pink grows, plays, and chases his "sibling" puppies. When he gets too big to live in the house, he moves into the barn with his dog bed. The final photo of the grown-up Pink next to foster mom Tink is just too darling!

**"The Desperate Dog Writes Again," by Eileen Christelow. (Clarion).** Dog Emma is very happy with her human George. "I love my life – just me, the cat, and George!" But a stranger named Loretta intrudes into the happy trio's life. Emma e-mails doggie advice columnist Queenie. The riotous advice backfires, but what's worse, Loretta's own dog Hankie is now hanging out at George's house. The cat gets it – Loretta is George's girlfriend and she's not going away any time soon. There's a cute twist when both dogs turn up at the library e-mailing the columnist about each other! Any child who's had to adjust to a new family member will instantly

understand the story. The darling comic-book style art is perfect for the touching humor. It just takes a little understanding and a bigger couch to make everyone happy.

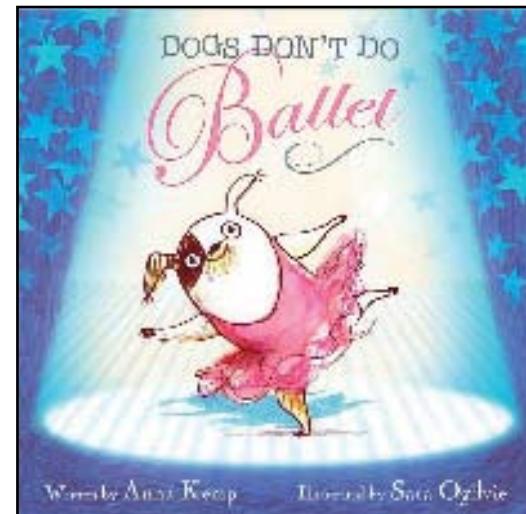
**"A Dazzling Display of Dogs," by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Michel Wertz. (Tricycle Press).** This is a collection of concrete poems, poems that seem to move and twist and form themselves into shapes suggested by the words. For example, in "Circling Poem 2, Coco Circling on the Rug," the words circle around and around and partly around again, mimicking the circle that Coco makes as she settles down to nap on the rug. Another example is the clever "Apollo at the Beach," in which Apollo chases seagulls inscribed with the poem's words as they fly over the sand. The poems and dogs are adorable, the brightly colored art, memorable. This is a must-have book for dog-lovers (and poets) of all ages. \*\*\* Reviewer's Pick of the Month

**"Dogs Don't Do Ballet," by Anna Kemp, illustrated by Sara Ogilvie. (Simon & Schuster).** Don't all dogs love to chase sticks and wee on fire hydrants? Not Biff! Biff doesn't think he's a dog; he thinks he's a ballet dancer! His fondest wish is to take ballet lessons with his little girl. One day Biff sneaks into class but the teacher says, "Dogs don't do ballet!" and chases him out. That doesn't



keep Biff away for long. He sneaks into the actual performance one night, waiting in the wings for his chance. The lead ballerina gets hurt. Guess who's all decked out in a pink tutu ready to take her place? If you guessed Biff, you're right! He wows the audience with his performance. "Dogs DO do ballet. Bravo, Biff!" This is a really cute story that will set the kids a-giggle with its silliness.

**"Lyle Walks the Dogs," by Bernard Waber, illustrated by Paulis Waber. (Houghton Mifflin).** Lyle is not just any crocodile. For starters, he stars in his own series of books! Now he has a job as a dog walker in the big city. Lyle loves dogs, so this is the perfect job for him. In fact, he's so good that after just one day of walking Gwendolyn, Morris



joins the duo. Each day Lyle has more dogs to walk, and each has its own quirks. He soon walks ten dogs, successfully managing to keep them all in line – until they spot a squirrel! Is anyone missing? This combo dog/counting book is gentle and soothing, perfect for the very youngest. The soft, sweet drawings of Lyle and the dogs are delightful!

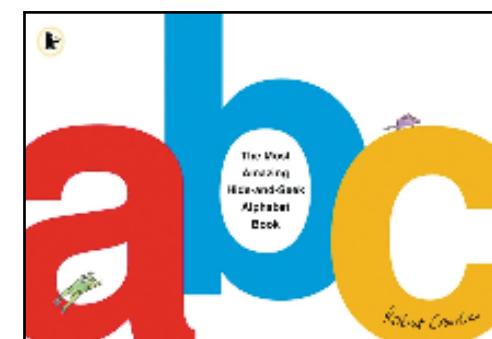
*Connie Goldsmith* [www.conniegoldsmit.com](http://www.conniegoldsmit.com) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, "Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer," and "Skin Cancer," one of the new USA Today Health Reports series,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

## ABC: The Most Amazing Hide-and-Seek Alphabet Book

By Robert Crowther

In last month's California Kid's the incorrect book cover was run in error with this review.

**"ABC: The Most Amazing Hide-and-Seek Alphabet Book," by Robert Crowther. (Candlewick).** Every page and letter in this darling book moves. There are pull-tabs and lift-the-flaps for each letter. See the crocodile's tail twist, the dolphin leap, the elephant swing its trunk, and the lobster snap its claws. Some of the paper art is fragile and for the very youngest, best viewed with adult supervision. Bold black-and-white letters march across white pages, but each pictured creature is in full color. One of the best letters is the Z, in which panels slide together to show a zebra.





## Annual Pig Day in Davis!

Pig out at the 20th annual Pig Day, Davis Farmers Market's big pig gig on March 5, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pet the baby pigs, dance with people dressed as pigs, and pig out on pork (ribs, pigs in a blanket, pulled pork sandwiches and a farm breakfast sponsored by the Yolo County FoodPig Day pigDavis FM1.jpg Bank).

The event will be held at the Davis Farmers Market in Central Park. Come celebrate pigs, food, and local agriculture.



### Capitol Aquarium



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## Shakesperiment 2011!

Fairytale Town is proud to present SHAKESPERIMENT 2011, a new extension of their popular and successful Fairytale Town Troupers program. The first production will be a brand new One-Act adaptation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream: Fairies and Fools!" featuring young actors ages 12 to 21. This innovative and original production focuses on the disharmony between the King and Queen of Fairyland and a group of bumbling actors who unwittingly cross their paths. It's a fun and family-friendly romp filled with music, magic, mirth and mayhem.

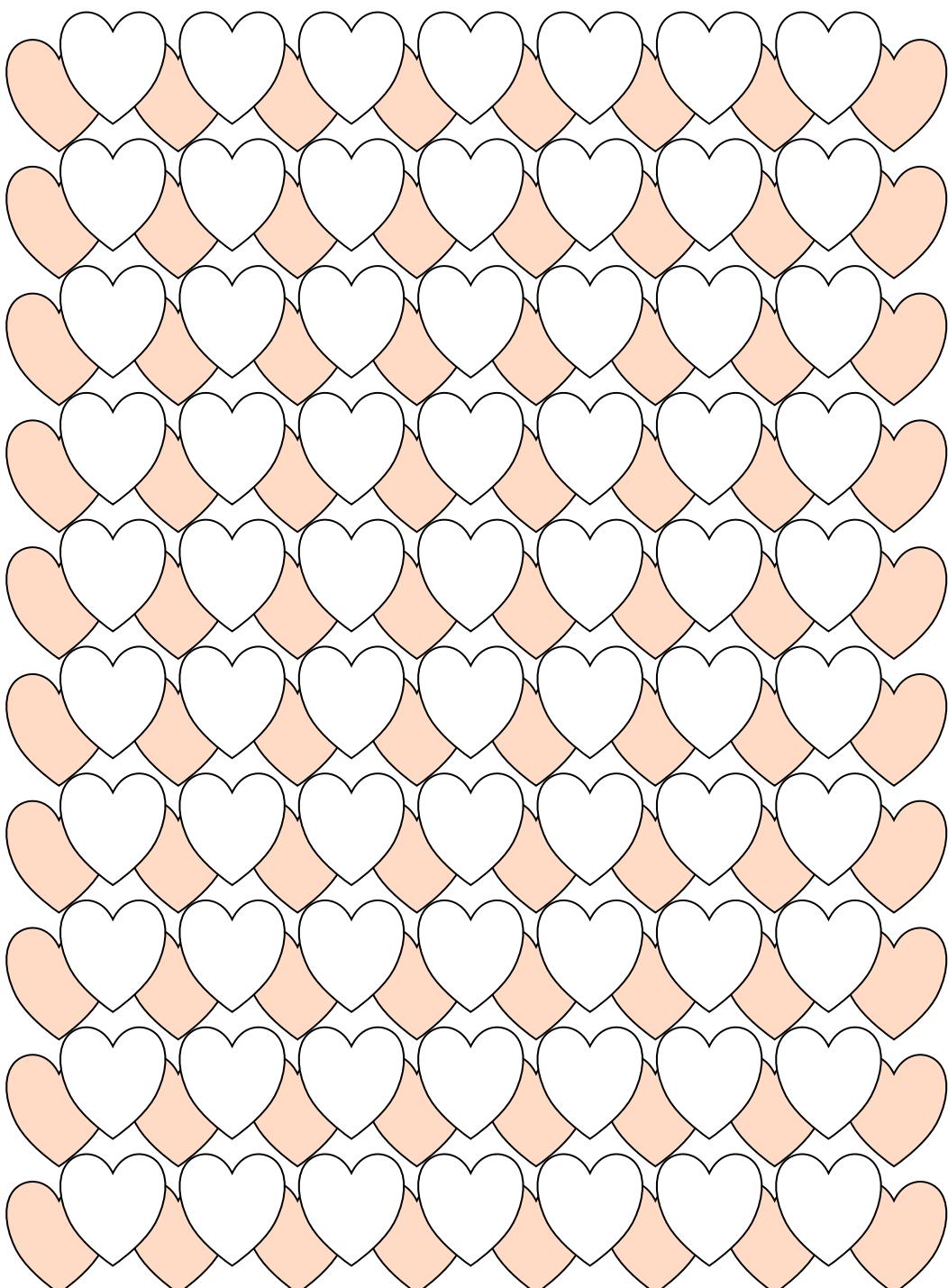
Public performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream: Fairies and Fools!" will be held in the Children's Theater at Fairytale Town on February

19, 20, 26 and 27, (Saturday and Sunday Matinee Performances only). Showtimes are noon and 3 p.m. Tickets are only \$1 per person (in addition to paid park admission). Fairytale Town Members and children 1 and under are admitted free.

Weekend General Admission to Fairytale Town is \$4.50 / Fairytale Town Members and Children 1 and under are admitted free. Fairytale Town Children's Theater, is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, contact box office at (916)808-7462 or Theatre Arts Department at (916) 808-8884 or visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org)

Please Note: Due to a City Ordinance, adults cannot be admitted to Fairytale Town unless accompanied by a child.

### How Many Hearts?





# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament

**S**an Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers will present the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament on Saturday, February 5 at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton. Approximately 2,700 lbs. of Rainbow Trout, including 200 lbs. of trophy-size fish, will be stocked in Oak Grove's 10-acre lake prior to the event.

Named after the late S.J. County parks employee and avid fisherman Bob McMillen, the tournament will be open to all ages and feature three competitions: Youth (ages 10 and under), Teen (ages 11 - 17) and Adult (ages 18 and over). Each competition will measure the individual heaviest weight of one (1) trout caught by the participating contestant. Prizes will be awarded in each of the categories following the tournament. Food will be available for purchase.

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.

There is no registration fee for the event; however, a \$5 fishing permit fee and valid California Fishing License is required for anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older. A \$5 vehicle-parking fee will also apply. All State Fish and Game laws apply. Participants must supply their own fishing equipment.

For more information, call San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation at (209) 331-2050 or log onto [www.mjzoo.com](http://www.mjzoo.com). Oak Grove Regional Park is located on Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5 in Stockton.

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# February Weekend Activities

**T**he Discovery Museum Science & Space Center celebrates their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a year-long retrospective of science milestones of the last six decades. In February, celebrate great science of the 1950s.

**Calling All Astronauts! Sunday, February 6, 12:30 to 4 p.m.** Have a blast at the Discovery Museum! Visit the new Space Quest! exhibit—out-of-this-world fun for the entire family. Celebrate the Founding of NASA: kids can remember their visit by making a take-home astronaut finger puppet. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is “The Next Frontier”. This film cuts through the debate about global warming and instead focuses on renewable, clean technologies that can improve our future and create significant opportunities for everyone. The Sunday Science Cinema is shown in the planetarium and is open to all ages.

**Family “Engineering Days” - Saturday/Sunday, February 19/20, 12:30 to 4 p.m.** Come and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of “Engineers Week.” Engineers help make many aspects of life better – here’s a great opportunity to share engineering fun with your kids. Kids ages 12 and under can be little engineers as they construct and launch a balloon rocket. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is “The Next Frontier”. The Sunday Science Cinema is shown in the planetarium and is open to all ages.

**The Power of the Microwave - Saturday/Sunday, February 12/13, 12:30 to 4 p.m.** Many people have never known life without a microwave oven sitting in the kitchen. But the microwave oven was an amazing technology when it first began to appear in family homes in the 1950s. See what’s cooking at the Museum this weekend: learn the

history and science behind this science marvel, watch microwave demonstrations. Kids 12 and under can create a paper molecule to take home as a souvenir. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is “The Next Frontier”. This film cuts through the debate about global warming and instead focuses on renewable, clean technologies that can improve our future and create significant opportunities for everyone. The Sunday Science Cinema is shown in the planetarium and is open to all ages.

**The Discovery of DNA, Saturday/Sunday, February 26/27, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Celebrate the 1953 discovery of DNA at the Discovery Museum. There will be demonstrations, displays, and activities. Kids can make a DNA molecule to take home. On Saturday, the Museum is hosting a Junior FFL Expo of LEGO Robotics from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Watch these young competitors demonstrate their robotic creations. Chat with Cosmos, their resident spokes-robot. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is “The Next Frontier”. The Sunday Science Cinema is shown in the planetarium and is open to all ages.

**President's Day Special, Monday, February 21, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Looking for something to do this Presidents’

Day? Visit the Space Quest! exhibit at the Discovery Museum. There is a paper shuttle craft for youth 12 and under. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. In addition: morning and afternoon Astronomy badges for Cub Scouts—advanced registration required.

**The Discovery of DNA, Saturday/Sunday, February 26/27, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Celebrate the 1953 discovery of DNA at the Discovery Museum. There will be demonstrations, displays, and activities. Kids can make a DNA molecule to take home. On Saturday, the Museum is hosting a Junior FFL Expo of LEGO Robotics from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Watch these young competitors demonstrate their robotic creations. Chat with Cosmos, their resident spokes-robot. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is “The Next Frontier”. The Sunday Science Cinema is shown in the planetarium and is open to all ages.

*The Discovery Museum Science and 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). The Museum is age appropriate for: 4 to 12 years old. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit [www.thediscovery.org](http://www.thediscovery.org).*

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California Kids!

# The Wet and Wild Side of Six Flags Discovery Kingdom

By Carmel L. Mooney

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom offers so much more than roller coasters and kiddie rides.

Although Six Flags has long been known for its outstanding thrill rides and spectacular attractions, for those with an adventurous spirit and love of wild animals, there's another dimension just waiting to wow.

Many interactive dolphin experiences in various states and around the world, offer varying encounters with some of the world's most magical and captivating mammals. However, a unique and outstanding approach is enjoyed at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom where guests not only savor unforgettable experiences with these gentle and lovely creatures but they also learn a deeper appreciation and understanding on a soul felt level.

Six Flag's Dolphin Discovery program began about a decade ago as a shallow water program. Recently, it has progressed to its pinnacle allowing guests to swim with a dolphin. Prior to this transition, guests could touch and feed a dolphin in-water, but could not experience the intimacy of being fully submerged with these gentle hosts.

2010 marked the beginning opening of an all-new locker/shower facility and the multi-media education classroom, which allows guests young and old to enter separately from the main guest entrance. Guests now have both options of participating in the two-hour program as a stand-alone, and they have the opportunity to enjoy the park when the park is operating, offering

much more flexibility. This new Dolphin Discovery program is offered year-round and continues to be the only dolphin swim program available in Northern California.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom also offers wonderful opportunities for general guests to feed and touch dolphins through the dolphin feed interaction program, where guests receive one-on-one time with a dolphin while the guests remain outside the pool, and enjoy having photos taken while interacting with their new friends.

Another unique opportunity that debuted in 2010 is the Dolphin Discovery Wine and Dine program. This unusual program combines the Dolphin Discovery classroom and in-water experience with a post-activity gourmet luncheon that includes a wine pairing. Lucky guests are seated poolside and can enjoy an intimate luncheon, which is even more delightful since Six Flags opened a new professional catering kitchen that also accommodates group picnics and outings.

While recently partaking in the Dolphin Discovery Program, our family was particularly impressed with the educational component where we thoroughly enjoyed an actual classroom lecture on dolphins and marine biology, which better equipped us for a fuller appreciation of the following interaction with our new friends.

The trainers were exceptionally kind and patient and made us feel completely at ease. Without such kindness and empathy we would never have felt so comfortable in such a foreign environment and with huge wild creatures. We



had done several dolphin experiences in other states, however Six Flags provided the best we've ever enjoyed. The education, preparation, quality of equipment, and cleanliness of the facilities, truly made the event an impeccable one to be remembered for a lifetime. Our group had a handful of participants of all ages and backgrounds. There were children, parents, grandparents, and even a newlywed couple. All were captivated by the magic of the experience from beginning to end.

Professional photographers were in the water with us, capturing our fabulous experiences from every angle.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, California continues to offer

some of the most thrilling rides on the planet along with a wide variety of top-shelf entertainment, special events, and parades. For discerning parents, it's also refreshing that there are many healthy food choices offered throughout the park, which is not often the case at so many other theme parks.

For those looking for a wetter and wilder excitement venue, Six Flags offers the best wild animal experiences around.

<http://www.sixflags.com/discoveryKingdom/index.aspx>

For lots of wonderful travel information, visit Carmel's new website: [www.roadtripsforcouples.com](http://www.roadtripsforcouples.com).

## Have fun coloring!





## Chinese New Year Word Search



china      family      fireworks      gifts  
 holiday      lantern      lucky      moon  
 red      zodiac

[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy



### IMAX Tickets for the Movie *Hubble 3D*

15 minutes for the IMAX Family Science Center Journey through distant galaxies to explore the grandeur and mysteries of our celestial surroundings, and accompany space-walking astronauts!

Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 6 PM

McBride OR Family Pack of Six tickets (see below) includes a small child and adult passes. Due to a limit of 100 tickets per day, advanced PTA ticketing is available.

To purchase your tickets:

- Call 1-800-N-Name-Denter  
 - Call 489-4918 before 6pm daily and your tickets will be mailed to you or  
 - You can purchase your tickets at Will Call.  
 Visit your theater or the Name-Denter P.O. Box 940, Sacramento CA 95802. Your tickets are the best deal in the neighborhood price wise.

Note: Please note that we do not accept credit cards or personal checks. We do not accept cash or checks well because of liability issues with credit agencies.

# What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays, and is a time of feasting with the family, celebration, fireworks, and gift-giving. It is a 15-day holiday, beginning on the first day of a new moon and ending with the full moon on the day of the Lantern Festival.

The Chinese calendar is based on the lunar year, so the date of Chinese New Year changes every year. The Chinese calendar follows a 12-year pattern with each year named after an animal. There are various stories which explain this. The simplest is that Buddha (or the Jade Emperor) invited all of the animals to join him for a New Year celebration, but only 12 animals turned up. To reward the animals that did come, Buddha named a year after each of them in the order that they arrived, starting with the Rat, followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (or Sheep), Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Depending on the year you are born, you are believed to have the various character traits of that year's animal.

**Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!**

## Rocking Rabbit craft

This rocking rabbit craft for kids is so quick and easy to do, and really lovely to display!



### You will need:

Brown paint, paper plate, 2 pink pom-poms (1 very small), brown



card, pink pipe cleaner, wiggle eyes, sticky tape, and glue

### You will need to:

Paint the back of the paper plates brown and leave to dry. Fold the plate in half. Cut the pipe cleaner into 3 pieces. Fold these in half and tape the center inside the fold in the plate. Bend the ends of the pipe cleaner around the plate so they form whiskers. Glue on a small pompom as a nose. From brown card cut two long ears. Glue one on to either side of the plate so the stick above the fold. Glue an eye to each side of the plate. Finish by gluing on a pompom tail. Your rabbit is ready to rock!

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# A Parent is A Child's First Teacher

A message brought to you by First 5 Sacramento

**P**reparing your children for kindergarten these days involves more than registering them for class and making sure they have school supplies. This includes preparing children physically, mentally and emotionally for school—and should begin long before their first day of kindergarten. That's why First 5 Sacramento offers parents and caregivers the following tips to help prepare your children to enter school learning:

## Research and Review

Find out if your family is eligible for no- or low-cost health insurance. Without health insurance, children often do not get the treatment needed for common childhood ailments. It is well documented that healthy children perform better in school. Although rising health insurance costs make access to health care more difficult, programs such as "Healthy Families", "Medi-Cal", and "Healthy Kids" offer no- and low-cost plans for those who qualify. Contact Cover the Kids at 1-866-850-4321 to enroll your child for no-or low-cost health insurance.

## Immunize and Enroll

Immunize your child. Protect children from preventable diseases that can cause school absences and/or limit their ability to perform well in class by making sure they are properly immunized. Parents should contact their child's healthcare provider to begin the immunization process. If the child doesn't have a regular health care provider, contact Sacramento County's Department of Health and Human Services at (916) 875-SHOT (7468).

Research local preschool programs in your community and consider enrolling your child in preschool. Quality preschool introduces children to a classroom setting — they learn to share, identify colors and numbers, take turns, raise a hand and focus on tasks. To find a quality preschool call Child Action, Inc. at 369-0191 or online at [www.childaction.org](http://www.childaction.org). Children who have attended quality preschool already have a jump-start toward success, as group and individual activities provide children with early learning experiences. Also, preschool helps prepare children to adjust to a kindergarten environment

since they are used to spending time in the classroom.

## Be a teacher

Teach your child healthy eating habits and encourage physical activity. Stressing the importance of a nutritious diet and regular exercise will boost your child's health, increase their level of development and help them stay mentally alert in class.

Make everyday activities learning opportunities. From laundry sorting to grocery shopping to car rides, you can make every moment a learning experience for your child. Take them to public places and encourage social interaction with other kids their age.

## Keep them learning at home

Talk to your child. Begin a dialogue with children early on so they can learn how to express their thoughts and emotions appropriately.

Read to your child. Reading to them on a regular basis helps develop key skills.

Play with your child. Paint. Draw a picture book. Let them tell you a story. All of these activities support creativity

and provide an opportunity for emotional expression.

The above tips are all great ways to make sure children are ready for school throughout the year. For more tips and resources on school readiness programs or how to make the most of your child's first five years visit First 5 Sacramento's at [www.first5sacramento.net](http://www.first5sacramento.net) or call (916) 876-5865.

## About 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 tobacco products to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$16 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. Each county has a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. Surrounding First 5's include: First 5 Yolo: 530-669-2475; First 5 Placer: 530-745-1304; and First 5 El Dorado: 530-672-8298.*

## Mommy and Me Movement

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Have you ever wanted a large space just to play with your baby or toddler?

Dragon Fire Martial Arts is offering unstructured movement classes for parents and children.

Dragon Fire will be open for parents to spend quality movement time with their children. Parent's must be present to supervise their children.

The times are Mon. Wed. and Fri. 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Cost is \$8.00 per session.

We have a large padded floor for running and playing. You are welcome to bring your own indoor toys. No Sharp Objects!! No shoes.



For further information contact Lois at: 916-457-4636 or [lksdragon@yahoo.com](mailto:lksdragon@yahoo.com)  
Dragon Fire: 5728 A Folsom Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95819



## critter Events

February 5, Animal Tracks and Signs, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. There are many animal-made signs in the woods that reveal who has used the trail before you. Become a nature detective by playing tracks and scat games, then take a walk to find some animal signs in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Magic Events

February 12, Coyote Tales, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for a Native American story about Coyote, then get close-up look at a coyote pelt, skull and mounted specimen. Discover some facts about these wild dog relatives and take a walk in their habitat. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

February 19, Turkey Vultures, 10:30 a.m. 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. What bird eats meat but can't kill its own food? These relatives of the condor and stork are intelligent, family-oriented, and play games together. Learn more about these amazing birds and their importance to our ecosystem. For more information, call the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at (916) 489-4918.

# Calendar of Events

February 26, Hawk Talk, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center located in Ancil Hoffman Park and learn about these amazing raptors that have color vision eight times better than humans. Get a rare close look at a red-tailed hawk and learn more about the hawk family, which includes eagles and kites. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

February 2, Africian American Inventors, 4 p.m., 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Southgate Library for "Africian American Inventors with the Magic Forrest." Magician Forrest Barnes takes kids on a journey through time to meet and learn about African American inventors who have changed all of our lives with their inventions. Forrest will perform magic using some of the inventions. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 10, Africian American Inventors, 4 p.m., 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Del Paso Heights Library for "Africian American Inven-

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## Library programs for kids and adults

### Valentine craft

School-age children, ages 5 to 12, can learn design ideas for making great Valentine's Day cards for their friends, family, or secret crush at 4 p.m., Thursday, February 10, at Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. ArtWorks will provide the inspiration and materials; while youngsters only need to bring is their creativity. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [saclibrary.org](http://saclibrary.org).

### Adult art workshop series

Adults are invited to a free art workshop series at 2 p.m., Saturdays, February

12 through March 5, at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Participants are encouraged to experiment with different media and learn a few things about art history at the same time.

- February 12: Paper Arts – Ink and Wash
- February 19: Printmaking – Scratchboard
- February 26: Art and War – Exquisite Corpse
- March 5: Photography – Photogram

Since space is limited, registration is required by visiting [saclibrary.org](http://saclibrary.org) or call (916) 264-2920.

tors with the Magic Forrest." Magician Forrest Barnes takes kids on a journey through time to meet and learn about African American inventors who have changed all of our lives with their inventions. Forrest will perform magic using some of the inventions. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 5, Dance and Storytelling, 2 p.m., 2901 Truxel Road, Sacramento. Join the fun at the South Natomas Library. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to see "From Africa to the Americas" with Fenix Drum and Dance Company. Travel from Africa to the United States and to the Caribbean through interactive music, dance, and storytelling with this exciting dance and drumming troupe.

February 10, Music Program, 4 p.m., 4235 Antelope Road, Antelope. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the North Highlands Library to hear, play and dance to the music of the diddley-bow and other instruments fashioned from everyday materials. Join the fun with "Black Scrap Music" with Angela James. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 11, Dance and Drum Demonstration, 3:30 p.m., 4799 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Colonial Heights Library for a very special program to celebrate Black History Month. Join an African drum circle and see basic African dances with the Fenix Drum and Dance Company. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 12, Dance and Drum Demonstration, 3 p.m., 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the North Natomas Library for a very special

program to celebrate Black History Month. Join an African drum circle and see basic African dances with the Fenix Drum and Dance Company. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 16, Dance and Drum Demonstration, 3:30 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Elk Grove Library for a very special program to celebrate Black History Month. Join an African drum circle and see basic African dances with the Fenix Drum and Dance Company. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 17, Music Program, 4 p.m., 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Del Paso Heights Library to hear, play and dance to the music of the diddley-bow and other instruments fashioned from everyday materials. Join the fun with "Black Scrap Music" with Angela James. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

February 20, Dance and Storytelling, 3 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. Join the fun at the Central Library. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to see "From Africa to the Americas" with Fenix Drum and Dance Company. Travel from Africa to the United States and to the Caribbean through interactive music, dance, and storytelling with this exciting dance and drumming troupe.

## Special Events

February 3, Dance and Drum Demonstration, 3:30 p.m., 6700 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to the Sylvan Oaks Library for a very special program to celebrate Black History Month. Join an African drum circle and see basic African dances with the Fenix Drum and Dance Company. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.



# SUMMER GUIDE

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## Popular "Sacramento Museum Day" Returns With Free Admission to 26 Sites!

**T**wenty-six museums located in the greater Sacramento area will offer free admission all day on Saturday, February 5, during the 13th Annual Sacramento Museum Day. Sacramento Museum event hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. but note all participating museums close at 5 p.m. (with the last guests admitted at 4 p.m.).

Sacramento Museum Day, a popular Sacramento cultural tradition, is designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the Capital City's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife -- at no cost. Last year, more than 85,000 guests were counted at the many institutions that opened their doors for free during Sacramento Museum Day.

Event coordinators suggest that guests plan to visit no more than two or three different museums on this day in order to allow adequate time to enjoy the experience and to travel between individual sites. And, since some museums must limit the number of admissions for safety reasons, guests are asked to check out detailed Sacramento Museum Day information online at [sacmuseums.org](http://sacmuseums.org) prior to the event.

Free shuttles will operate throughout the day with stopping points located adjacent to many—but not all—participating museums. The California

Museum, at 10<sup>th</sup> and 'O' Streets, serves as the central transfer point for shuttle routes in operation during Sacramento Museum Day. Volunteer "step-on" tour guides will be on-board to assist riders and narrate the route, courtesy of the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Detailed information about participating museums, suggested parking, public transit options, and free event shuttle routes is available at [sacmuseums.org](http://sacmuseums.org) (click on "Events"), or by calling the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau at (916) 808-7777.

### PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS for SACRAMENTO MUSEUM DAY 2011:

Aerospace Museum of California – California Automobile Museum - California Foundry History Museum – California State Military Museum – California State Capitol Museum – The California Museum – California State Indian Museum – California State Railroad Museum – Crocker Art Museum – Discovery Museum Science and Space Center – Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum – Fairytale Town – Folsom History Museum – Governor's Mansion State Historic Park – Heidrick Ag History Center (Woodland) – Leland Stanford



Photo courtesy

The Aerospace Museum of California

Mansion State Historic Park – Museum of Medical History – Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum – Old Sacramento State Historic Park – Sacramento Zoo – Sacramento Historic City Cemetery – Sacramento History Museum – Sojourner Truth Multicultural Arts Museum – Sutter's Fort State Historic Park – Wells Fargo History Museum (Capitol

Mall) – Wells Fargo History Museum (Old Sacramento)

*About the Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) Comprised of 27 greater Sacramento area museums working in partnership with the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau, SAM's mission is to raise awareness of local museums by giving the community the*

*opportunity to discover California's fine art, history, science and wildlife treasures. SAM achieves its mission through implementing cooperative promotions and developing strategic marketing alliances, by encouraging sharing of knowledge and resources among its partner institutions, and by conducting Sacramento Museum Day each year.*

## Celebrate the YEAR OF THE RABBIT and Adopt a Rabbit

**T**he Sacramento SPCA, City of Sacramento Animal Care Services and Sacramento County Animal Care & Regulation are celebrating the Year of the Rabbit with a "Find SomeBUNNY to Love" half-off rabbit adoption special during February.

The three animal agencies will kick off the rabbit adoption special on Thursday, February 3 in celebration of Chinese New Year and the Year of the Rabbit. February is also National Adopt-a-Rabbit Month, so the shelters are extending the adoption promotion through Sunday, February 27.

The participating agencies cared for more than 400 homeless rabbits in 2010. To help boost adoptions, to highlight the rabbits housed at the shelter and to educate people about these unique companions, the shelters are offering a reduced adoption rate of \$20 on all rabbits throughout the February promotion. Every rabbit is spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

Rabbits are bright, inquisitive, social and affectionate animals that enjoy the company of people and other gentle animals. With just a little training and attention, rabbits can make wonderful indoor companions. Rabbits are clean animals, making them reasonably easy to litterbox train. Visit a Sacramento animal shelter for adoption center hours and additional information: [www.sspca.org](http://www.sspca.org), [www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/), or [www.sacaccountyshelter.net](http://www.saccountyshelter.net).



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**Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!**

## Quick Ideas for Valentine's Day

Heart Messages – Let your family know all day long how much you care by sending them some heart messages! Cut out a stack of hearts from pink, red, and white paper, write some little messages on them, and hide them in unexpected places. Put them in jacket pockets, in briefcases and satchels, in shoes, in lunch boxes, in cereal bowls, under pillows, tucked into pyjamas - you get the idea!



Valentine Video – Capture the kids on film for Valentine's Day. Make it something you do every year and you will have a brilliant record of them growing up.

Cupid Says – Play "Cupid Says" instead of "Simon Says" with little kids. Include some Valentine's Day ideas such as "Give me a kiss" or "Give someone a hug".

**Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!**



## Team Balloon Pop

Much loved by all ages, from little kids to adults, this team game is great fun and very noisy! It is good for a mixed age party and enjoyed by teenagers, too.

**Age: 6+**

your signal, the first player from each team runs to their balloon and tries to pop it by sitting on it. As soon as it pops, they run back to join their team and you place another balloon ready for the next player. The first team to pop all their balloons wins.

Make the game more exciting by making players roll a die (or two) before popping their balloon. They must roll a 6 (or a double) before they are allowed to try to pop the balloon.

Add to the fun and chaos by inserting a nursery rhyme forfeit inside each balloon before blowing up. As each player pops their balloon, they must find which nursery rhyme they must sing before the next player has their turn. If you have 3 or even 4 teams playing it can get very funny: some players will be bouncing about on their bottoms trying to pop balloons, others will be standing solemnly trying to sing a nursery rhyme as quickly as possible, and others will be frantically running!

*For more ideas visit Activityvillage.co Keeping Kids Busy!*

**Great Job!**  
RaecheL, age 9, Sacramento

### You will need:

One blown-up balloon per party-goer (and a few spares)

### How to play:

Divide your party into teams and line the teams up at one end of the room. Place a balloon for each team at the other end of the room. On

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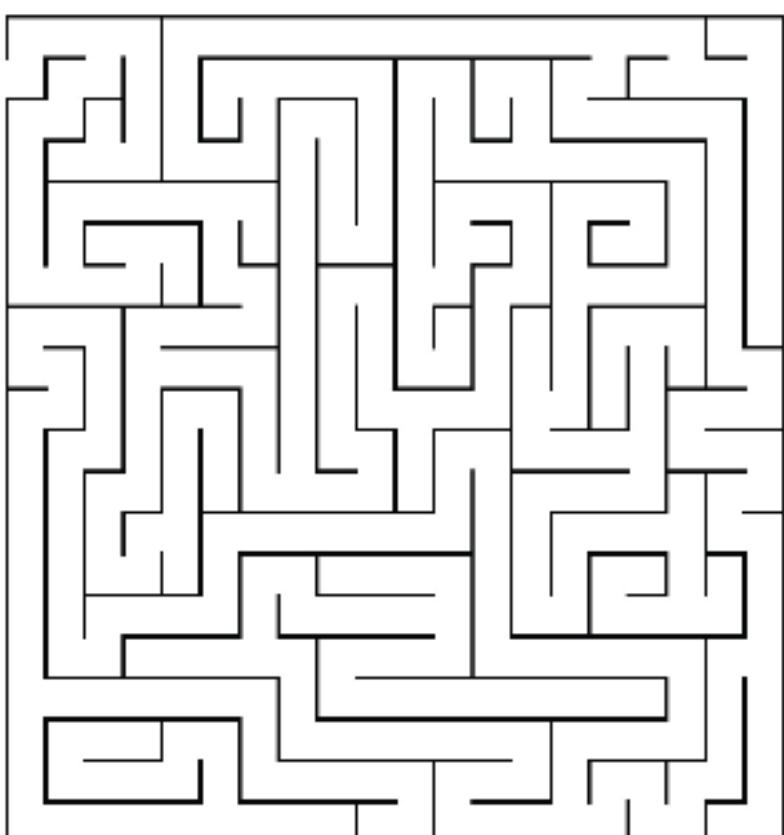
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## Stack the Hearts

You will need a large supply of "Lovehearts" to play this - the little Valentine's candy conversation hearts you see every around Valentine's Day - but it is a fun game which the kids will enjoy.



**Age: any**

**You will need:**

At least two packs of sweets per player.

**You will need to:**

Each child starts with a collection of sweets in front of her. They should be spaced out evenly, flat on the table. At your signal, the kids build a tower of sweets while you time them. Time for 20 to 30 seconds. If your tower falls over, you are out.

Encourage the kids who are out to cheer on the remaining players. Keep playing until there are only 2 or 3 players left, then have a "final". The winner is the only one left standing when the other towers have fallen down.

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