

october 2011

California Kids!

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Sacramento Zoo Biz

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 1 to 30,
11 a.m., Wildlife Stage Show

Learn about animals in a 15-minute stage adventure during the Zoo's Wildlife Stage Show. Afterwards, meet several of the animal actors up close and personal during the animal encounter. For more information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org

Saturday, October 1, 5 to 10 p.m., Wild Affair

Spend an enchanted evening at the Sacramento Zoo. The Wild Affair annual fundraiser offers guests the chance to spend an enchanted evening behind the scenes at the Sacramento Zoo. This annual Gala event includes a delicious full-course gourmet dinner, a silent and live auction with plenty of wine, spirits and endless hors d'oeuvres. For more information and to make reservations, call (916) 808-8815.

Monday, October 17, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Tea and Tours for Seniors

Seniors, register for this popular event early! Join us Monday October 17 for a special tour of the Zoo followed by snacks and tea. This program is for adults 55 and over. A reservation two weeks in advance is required. Cost is \$15 per person. Call (916) 808-5888 for more information or register at saczoo.org.

Wednesday, October 19, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Estate Planning Seminar with Mark S. Drobny

This free informative seminar will navigate through a jungle of topics presented by local at-



torney Mark S. Drobny, California State Bar Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. Mr. Drobny is widely regarded as one of the top experts on estate planning, providing information on a variety of topics in an entertaining manner that will help you design a plan that fits your needs. For more information, or to RSVP, call (916) 808-8815 or visit saczoo.org.

Sunday and Monday, October 30 and 31, 5 to 8 p.m., Boo at the Zoo

Celebrate Boo at the Zoo at the Sacramento Zoo. Kids can safely trick-or-treat and

California Kids!

www.valcomnews.com

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TWO NIGHTS OF GHOULISH FAMILY FUN AT THE ZOO!

October 30 & 31
5pm to 8pm

Boo at the Zoo

✓ Safe Trick-or-Treating ✓ Costume Dance Party
✓ Ghoulish Crafts ✓ Spooky Train Ride ✓ Creepy
Carousel ✓ Magic Shows feat. Trevor the Magician

General Admission \$10
Sacramento Zoo Members \$8
Children 1 and under Free

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saczoo.org or 916-808-5888





enjoy spooky entertainment, creepy creature encounters, fun crafts and tons of ghoulish goodies. The Zoo is traffic-free and a natural place to go a little wild on Halloween. General admission is \$10. Children one and under are admitted free. Call the Zoo at (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org. Zoo closes early at 1:30 p.m. both days to prepare for this special event.

Sacramento Zoo – Wildly Inspiring! Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 140 native, rare and endangered species 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 WilliamLand-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 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, general admission is \$11.00; children ages 2-11 are \$7.00 and one 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.org.

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Join financial professionals Esther Aw, CLTC, and Mark J. Pratt, CLTC, as they discuss the benefits of rolling over assets from a former employer’s retirement plan to an IRA.

- Understand the penalties and taxes for premature withdrawals;
- Learn the pitfalls of improper rollovers into retirement accounts that you’ll want to avoid;
- Discover the benefits of rolling over your money into an IRA when you leave your job;
- And more!

Thursday, October 20, 2011
11 a.m. - Noon
Gateway Oaks Building
2150 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833

esther@estheraw.com or mark@prattfinancial.com or (916) 646-0310 or (530) 753-4195 to reserve your seat
www.estheraw.com or www.prattfinancial.com
 Light refreshments served



Popular Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Events

La Raza Galería Posada, Sacramento's Latino art and cultural center, will offer workshops for this year's all Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. The Galería is located at 1022 22nd St. (between J & K Streets) in midtown Sacramento.

Sugar Skull making workshops will be held on Saturday, October 15, and Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. and 1p.m. Sugar skulls are traditional tokens of the Mexican celebrations of Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos. They are decorated with icing and food coloring to reflect the memory of a particular loved one. Participants will have the chance to make and decorate their own skulls. Workshops are \$10 each, though no one will be turned away. Reservations are required. Call (916) 446-5133 or write to Roberto@larazagaleriaposada.org.

This year, the Panteon de Sacramento moves to a new location with new dates--Saturday-Sunday, October 29 and 30 in the parking lot behind KlickNation building, 1015 20th Street Sacramento.

Paper Marigold/Cempazuchitl flower making will be held on Saturday October 29 from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. on site only at the Panteon de Sacramento. In the Native tradition, the Marigold flower symbolizes

death and rebirth, and it lends its eye-catching yellow-orange color to many of the traditional Day of the Dead ceremonies and constructions.

Workshops are \$10 each, though no one will be turned away.

Culminating the festivities again this year, La Raza Galería Posada will Panteon de Sacramento (Sacramento's Cemetery). This is a two day/night outdoor display of seventy large, colorful altares. The altares will be available for public viewing on Saturday, October 29 and Sunday October 30. Families, individuals, area artists and local not for profit organizations will build the altares for public display at a new location this year in the parking lot behind KlickNation building, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

The creative altars, 12 feet long and 6 feet wide, will display the traditional flower of the dead, Cempazuchitl (Marigold), papel picado, candles, photos of the deceased, Pan de Muerto (Mexican sweet bread), memory items and personal artifacts.

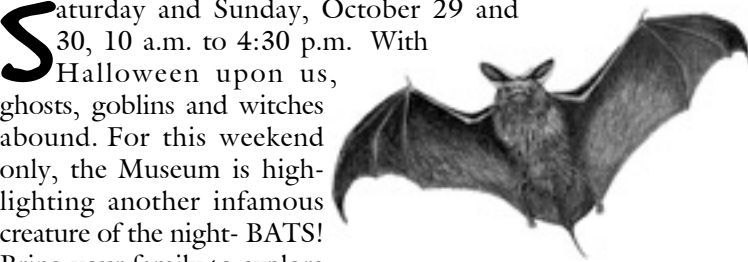
Reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations, call (916) 446-5133 or write to Roberto@larazagaleriaposada.org.



Going Batty at the Discovery Museum

Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. With Halloween upon us, ghosts, goblins and witches abound. For this weekend only, the Museum is high-lighting another infamous creature of the night- BATS! Bring your family to explore some of the science behind these nocturnal mammals. A small display is set up in the Museum classroom, as well as a fun bat craft for kids. On Sunday, two 45 minute presentations are planned with Corky the Bat Lady at noon and 2 p.m. Space is limited for the presentations so please arrive early to obtain a pass. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. and are included with admission (ages 4 and above only).

The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 808-3942.



Fall Warehouse Book Sale

The Friends of the Sacramento Public Library are sponsoring a big Warehouse Book Sale on two consecutive Saturdays, October 1 and October 8. Public sale hours will be noon to 4 p.m. on October 1 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 8. A preview for Friends' members only is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, October 1. Prospective members may join at the door for \$15 and attend the preview. The sale will be held in the Friends' warehouse, at the rear of their Book Den store, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, between Power Inn Road and Florin-Perkins Road just south of 14th Avenue. More than 70,000 paperback and hard-bound books, videos, books on cassette and more will be sold at prices ranging from \$.50 to \$2. All proceeds, after expenses, benefit the Sacramento Public Library.

The Book Den store will be open during Warehouse Sale hours. At the Book Den shoppers select from individually priced better books, including collectibles, and other materials, with most books priced at \$3 and up. The Book Den is regularly open Thursday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Book donations are welcome. For more information call (916) 731-8493.

Scary Haunted house!

Hey kids! Halloween is this month! Are you ready for some scary fun? You should start collecting spooky decorations right now to fix up your house, especially your front porch. Here's a list of scary stuff to put you in the mood and give you decorating ideas. Look carefully; words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and upside-down.

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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Bats | Haunted house | Scarecrow |
| Black cat | Jack o'lantern | Scary Music |
| candle | Mask | Skeleton |
| carved Pumpkin | Monster | Skull |
| Frankenstein | owl | Spider |
| Full moon | Pumpkin | Spider webs |
| Ghosts | | Witches |
| Goblins | | Wolfman |

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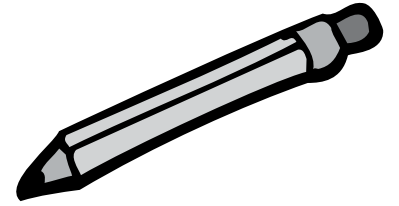
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MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Pumpkin Bag

This cute little pumpkin bag is simply made with felt and ribbon, but it is good sewing practice for beginners. Use it for storing your Halloween treats or perhaps for giving a Halloween gift.

You will need:

Orange and black felt, black embroidery thread and green ribbon

Lay the pieces of orange felt on top of one another. Cut away two of the corners in a curve. Cut face pieces from black felt and sew them (or stick them) to one of orange pieces. Use blanket stitch to sew the two pieces of orange felt together. Leave the straight edge open. About 1/2 inch in from the top of the bag, carefully snip small vertical holes, leaving about 1 inch between them, all the way around the bag.

Starting in the front of the face thread the ribbon through the slits (an adult can help with a darning needle to push the ends through if needed).

Pulling and tying the ribbon as a drawstring will make the pumpkin ruffle.



Halloween Silhouette Painting

Halloween silhouette painting is a fun craft for all ages. You can make your own Halloween templates to create a reverse stencil - it's a really clever way for kids of all ages to make a really effective Halloween picture, and the slightly blurred edges you get around the moon makes it all the more realistic!

You will need:

Black paper, silver paint, your own stencil or drawing of a bat or witch and scrap paper

You will need to:

Fold the scrap paper in half and cut a semi-circle shape from the center. Open out the paper so you have a frame with a circle missing. Lay this on top of the black paper. Cut out your own Halloween templates.



Bat and Moon Mobile

Older kids will enjoy cutting out some spooky witches and bats to hang from this Halloween moon mobile. For a family or group project, perhaps younger children can paint the moon?

You will need:

Black paper, black yarn or thread, silver and black paint, small and large paper plate, scrap paper and laminating sheet

You will need to:

Paint the large plate black and the small plate silver and leave to dry. Make your own patterns to help cut out three bats and a flying witch from the black card or just draw them on the black paper and cut them out. Make a hole in the center of the black plate. Punch a hole in the edge of the small silver plate and tie a length of yarn through. Push the other end through the hole in the black plate and tie or use sticky tape to secure.

Make six holes around the edge of the black plate. Punch a hole in each of the black card shapes and, with a piece of yarn, tie each to a hole in the black plate. Make two more holes on opposite sides of the black plate and tie a length of yarn to form a loop to hang the mobile. If needed you can stick a lump of sticky tack on the top of the mobile so it hangs even.



Candy Corn Tissue Paper Collage

Tearing, scrunching and sticking are popular activities with younger children, and this candy corn tissue paper collage is a fun way to incorporate all those things into a Halloween craft! It makes a satisfyingly textural picture, too.

You will need:

White construction paper or white card, glue, yellow, orange and white tissue paper

Cut a triangle from the construction paper or card. Round the edges if you like to make it into a candy corn shape. Rip the tissue paper into pieces and scrunch into small balls. Glue the tissue paper to the triangle to make it look like real candy corn. YUM!





Effie Yeaw Nature Center Events

Saturday, October 1, Six Legged Sensations, 10:30 a.m.

At over a million species, insects may be the most successful creatures on the planet. Join a naturalist for a close look at insects commonly found in and around the Nature Area. Then take a creature safari and observe insects in their natural habitat.

Saturday, October 8, Autumn Nature Walk, 10:30 a.m.

Explore the changes that Fall brings to the oak woodland when you join a naturalist for this guided walk through the Nature Area's riparian habitat. Observe how the animals prepare for Winter.

Saturday, October 15, Art in Nature, 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy expressing your artistic side as you observe the plants and animals of the Nature Area and learn to depict them with guidance from a naturalist. Supplies provided.

Saturday, October 22, Owls of October, 10:30 a.m.

When are owls most active? Can they turn their heads all the way around? What is an owl pellet? Meet a resident owl of the Nature Center and learn the answer to these questions.

Saturday, October 29, Spooky Story Time, 10:30 a.m.

Gear up for Halloween with some spooky stories told by the Sacramento Storytellers Guild. Stories guaranteed not to cause nightmares! Suitable for all ages.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located in Ancil Hoffman Park at 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Park entrance fee is \$5 per car or free to ARNHA members. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The programs are free unless stated otherwise (Donations welcome) For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Fire Fighters Chili Cook-off

On Saturday, October 8, Safetyville USA will present the 1st Annual Fire Fighters Chili Cook-Off from noon to 4 p.m. Sacramento Regional Fire Districts will be competing for the fire station with the best chili in the Sacramento area which includes: Sac Metro, Sac City, Cosumnes, Roseville, and Folsom. Activities for the families attending will include firefighter related interactive learning stations and demonstrations, helicopter landing, antique fire display and more. Door prize/ raffles food and fun. Tickets are \$5 per person and are on sale at Safetyville USA. Children ages 0 to 8 are admitted free.

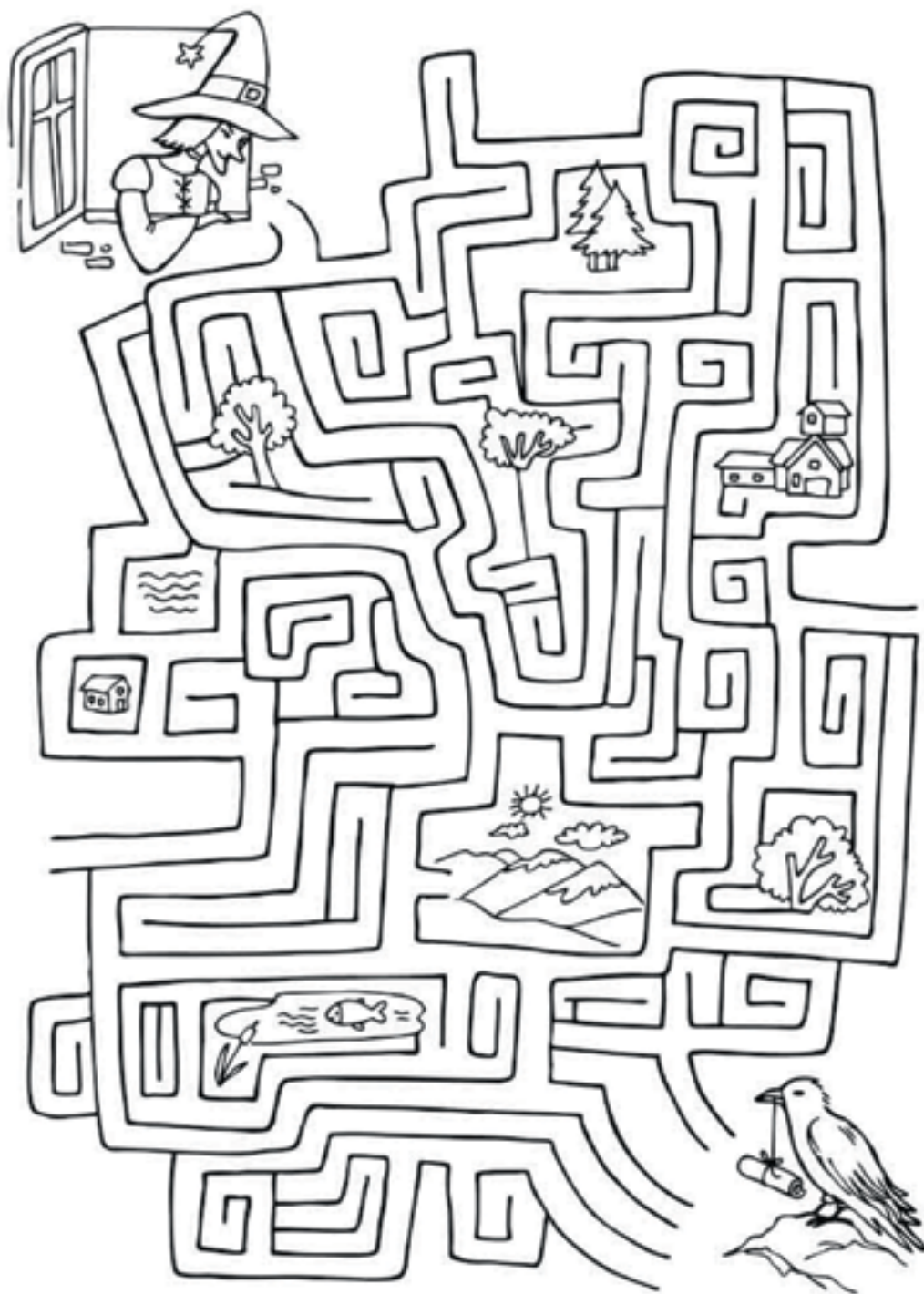
For more information, visit www.safetyvilleUSA.org or call (916) 438-3352.

All proceeds benefit the Youth Safety and Health Education Programs at Safetyville USA.

Safetyville USA is located at 3909 Bradshaw Rd., Sacramento.



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



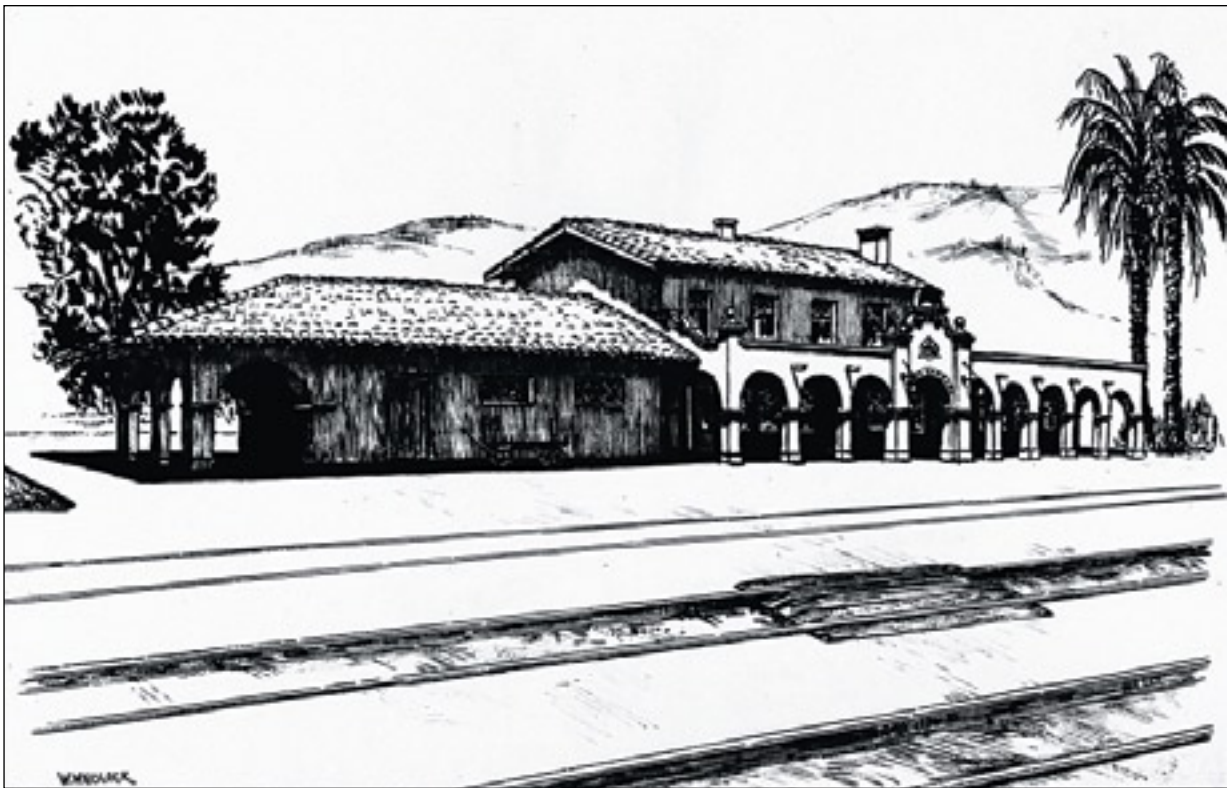
Wedlock's Gift

California Railroad Depot Images In Ink

The California State Railroad Museum, located in Old Sacramento State Historic Park, is proud to present a fascinating, two-part exhibit titled “Wedlock’s Gift: California Railroad Depot Images in Ink” that features 52 sketches of California’s heritage depots drawn by Walter J. Wedlock. The first set of 26 images can be viewed through February 2012. The second set of 26 images can be viewed August through December 2012.

In the 1970s and after realizing that many of the historic railroad depots were in danger of being demolished, Wedlock went on a quest to sketch the depots in a race against time and the wrecking ball. Wedlock sketched the compelling images on-the-spot after tracking down the various depots built primarily between the 1880s and the late 1930s. As Museum visitors will see, Wedlock did not concentrate on any one architectural style, railroad company or structure, but instead focused on capturing the unique personality of each historic depot, many of which were the soul of their community in an earlier time. More information about the exhibit is available by calling the California State Railroad Museum at (916) 445-6645 or visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

Admission is \$9 adults; \$4 youths ages 6-17; free for children ages 5 and under.



Santa Barbara Train Station.





Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring **Anna Dewdney**

By **Patricia M. Newman**

For *New York Times* best-selling author/illustrator Anna Dewdney, her work is all about “the power of the book for the child.” She is frequently contacted by parents who share how her books helped their children through a divorce, an accident, or the illness of a family member. One family wrote to say that when their child died of cancer they buried one of Dewdney’s books with him because the story meant so much to him.

With that kind of power, Dewdney takes her job seriously. “I was an anxious child and I’m an anxious adult,” she says. “My books are an expression of my experience.” Dewdney remembers what it felt like to be very little. What it was like to go to school for the first time or how scary it felt to fall asleep by yourself in a big room. “The world can be overwhelming, but with love and support it’s not really that bad,” she says. “The theme of all my books is relationships make the world less scary.”

Books drew Dewdney and her psychiatrist-father together each evening. “It was the one time of the day to spend with my father,” she says, recalling how hard he worked. As a toddler, Dewdney remembers the work of Caldecott Medal-winning author/illustrator Tasha Tudor. “I was infatuated with [her] books. I loved her illustrations and her writing sensibility.” Dewdney and her mother talked about Tudor’s home in Vermont and her decision to live in the modern world as if it were the early 1800s. “She churned her own butter and cooked over a wood stove,” Dewdney says. “I thought that was the greatest thing ever!” As young as



age three or four, Dewdney knew she too would write and illustrate books.

Throughout childhood Dewdney made up stories and illustrated them. “From the age of seven I was fully invested in the process,” she says. Aside from a brief period in college when she thought she wanted to study theater and abstract expressionism, Dewdney’s focus has not changed. She even moved to Vermont like her hero, Tasha Tudor. Although Dewdney supplemented her income with short-term illustration gigs, she never made enough to support herself. “And no one would buy my writing for 20 years,” she said.

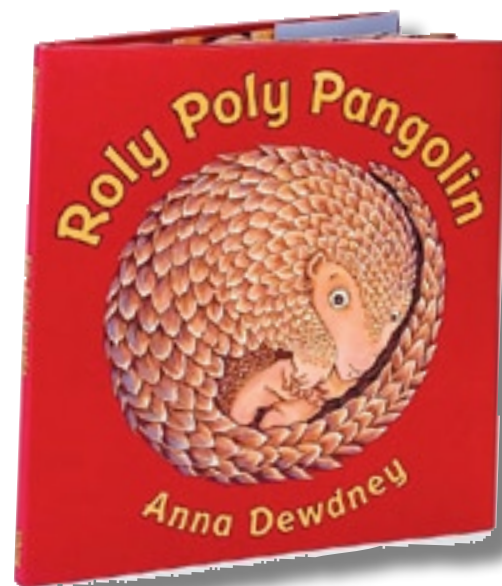
Then she captured an editor’s attention with *Llama Llama Red Pajama* (Viking, 2005). When Dewdney’s two daughters were little, she remembers driving by cows, saying, “Cows moo.” When they saw sheep, she said, “Sheep baa.” Then, “Chickens cluck-cluck.” But when she drove by llamas, she didn’t know what sound they made so she said, “Llama, llama, llama, llama, llama” in a sing-songy voice, which led to rhymes like *llama llama red pajama*. “The sounds are fun to say,” Dewdney says, “and [llamas] are so much fun to draw! Llamas have amazing expressions. Fuel for dramatic faces.” In Dewdney’s

five *Llama Llama* books, she reflects on her childhood and describes the little llama “as the quintessential anxious little person.”

Dewdney is one of the few illustrators who works in oils. “I love the mess and the smell of the oil.” She begins with pencil drawings which she transfers to an 18” x 26” canvas using a light board. Once the paintings are completed, the oil paint needs between one and three weeks to dry to the touch, so “I have to have all of my ducks in a row when it comes to deadlines.” Dewdney admits that her illustrations do not necessarily have “fancy artistic footwork” because she wants to communicate with the child on an intimate, emotional level. “There are books that I would like to do that will show a little more flash than the *Llama Llama* books, but I’ll have to be careful to stay on task: telling the truth as best I can. It’s really easy to let the ego of author or artist get in the way of communicating directly with children.”

In a departure from the *Llama Llama* series, Dewdney wrote and illustrated *Roly Poly Pangolin* (Viking, 2010). Dewdney’s boyfriend first introduced her to pangolins, timid creatures that roll into a tight scaly ball when they feel like they are under attack. “Like you,” he said. Dewdney, her daughters, and her boyfriend visited a nature preserve outside of Hanoi in Vietnam to photograph and study the pangolins before Dewdney wrote about them.

Dewdney rises late and starts her day slowly with a walk or a run accompanied by her three dogs. She might putter in her garden and respond to email before finally settling down to work at about 6:00 pm.



She paints or writes until about midnight or 2:00 am. Her youngest daughter will graduate high school this year, but Dewdney often refers to *Llama Llama* as her third child. “At least he’s still around.” Dewdney’s next *Llama Llama* book will focus on sharing. “I really love what goes on in the mind of a child. I relate to being a small person and am constantly amused by their honesty.”

Next month: Gary Paulsen

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 ANNA DEWDNEY

How to Contact Anna Dewdney

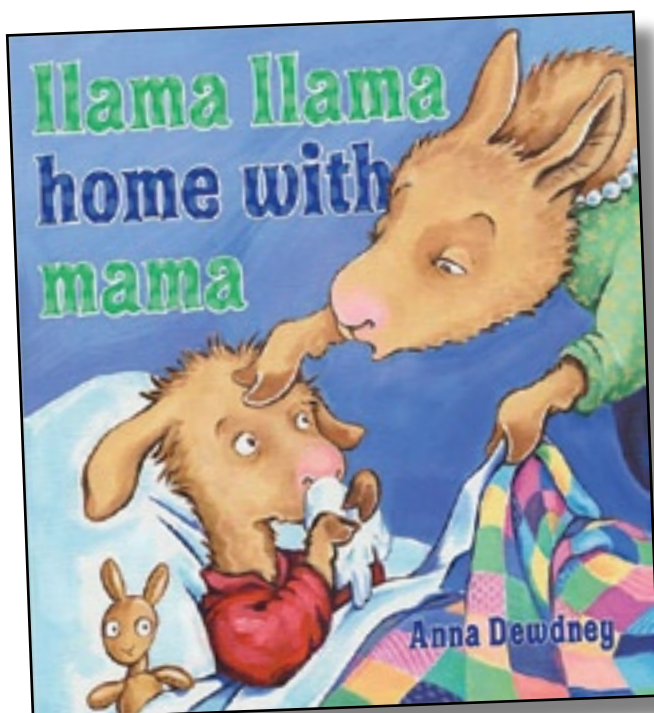
Website: www.annadewdney.com or www.llamallamabook.com

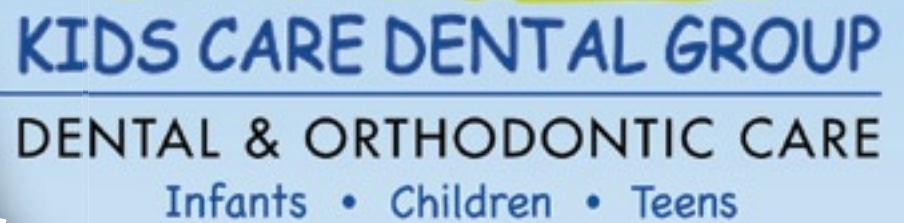
ANNA DEWDNEY’S LIBRARY

Llama Llama Home With Mama, Viking, 2011.
Llama Llama Holiday Drama, Viking, 2010.
Roly Poly Pangolin, Viking, 2010.
Llama Llama Misses Mama, Viking, 2009.
No Bunny’s Perfect, Viking, 2008.
Llama Llama Mad At Mama, Viking, 2007.
Grumpy Gloria, Viking, 2006.
Llama Llama Red Pajama, Viking, 2005.

UPCOMING LLAMA LLAMA BOARD BOOKS

Llama Llama Wakey-Wake and *Llama Llama Nighty-Night*, Viking, January 2012.
Llama Llama Hoppity-Hop and *Llama Llama Zippity-Zip*, Viking, Spring 2012.





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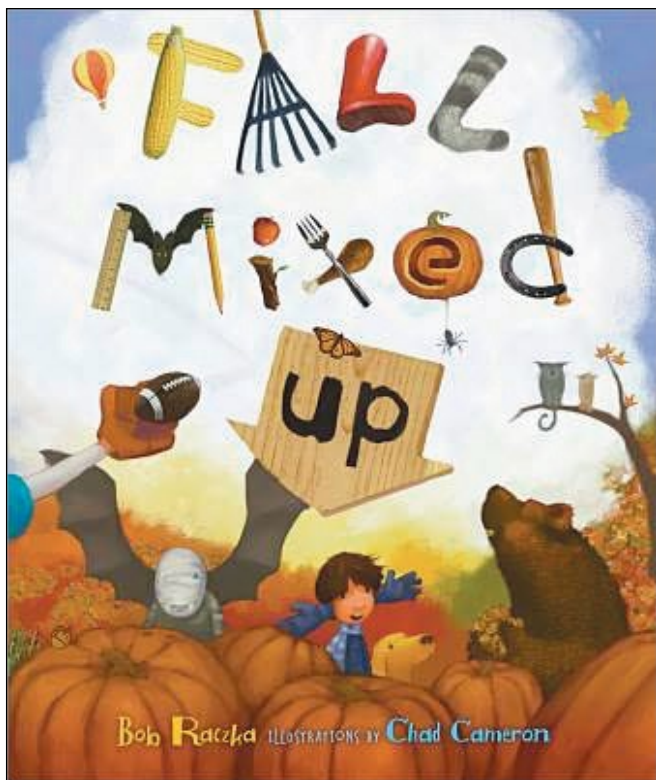
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The Book Report Watch out - it's Halloween!

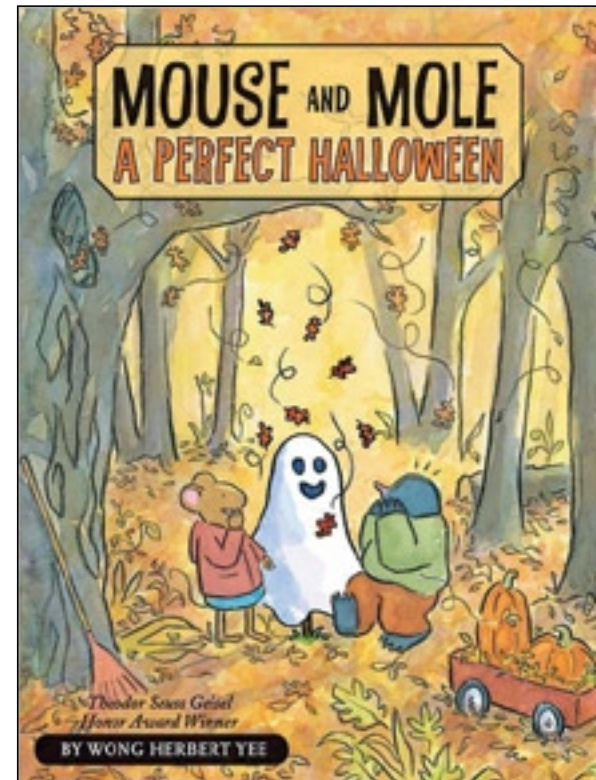
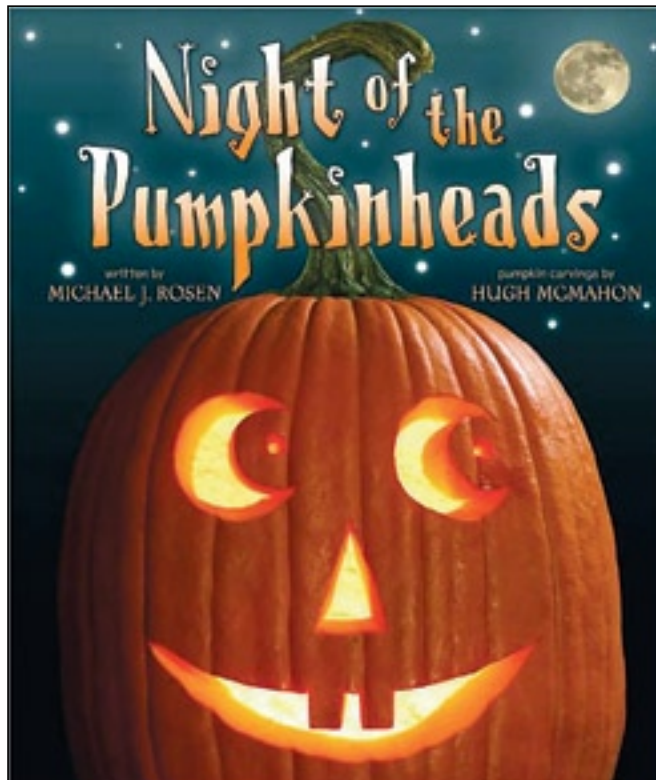
By Connie Goldsmith

Kids of all ages look forward to Halloween. Maybe they love that feeling of being just a little scared, but still being safe. No matter what your family's Halloween plans, whether it's a party at home with friends, a school gathering, or a trick-or-treat excursion with a goodie bag the size of Sacramento, a new book is always a treat. If older sibs go out on their own, read a story to the little ones left behind so they'll feel like they're part of this favorite holiday.

"*Halloween Surprise*," by Corinne Demas, illustrations by R. W. Alley. (Walker). What should Lily be for Halloween? She's determined to make her own costume as kitties Fluff and Frisky watch. She cuts holes in a sheet, but the ghost is too scary. She dons an eye patch and a bandana, but the pirate looks too mean. The pumpkin, ballerina, princess and robot costumes also have their own problems. Lily surprises Daddy with the perfect costume on the final three-panel pull-out page. This is a soft, gentle book meant for the very youngest. The lovely art is bright and kid-friendly, colored with gold and blue in addition to traditional Halloween colors.

"*Mouse and Mole: A Perfect Halloween*," by Wong Herbert Yee. (Houghton Mifflin). This exquisite little book of four chapters is an early reader for ages 4-8. The award-winning author fills the book with subplots, twists, and even a story within a story. Mouse likes Halloween a lot, but best friend Mole is a little bit afraid. In fact he's a Saredy-Mole! The friends decorate their houses, pick and carve the perfect pumpkin for a contest, and prepare costumes for the big night. Parents can challenge young readers to discover how Mouse cleverly changes Mole's mind about Halloween by reading him a colorful storybook about a mouse and a mole. The art and text are a perfect meld, making this book a tiny treasure to keep for very long time.

"*Fall Mixed Up*," by Bob Raczka, illustrated Chad Cameron. (Carolrhoda). "Every September, Every October, Fall fills



my senses with scenes to remember. Bears gather nuts. Geese hibernate. Squirrels fly south in big figure eights." From the title to the last page, hilarious rhymes will set little ones a-giggling at the silliness. The cartoon-like art is fun and kid-accessible. There's something for every fall holiday in this book, making it the perfect multi-tasking tome. As you read the story aloud, look for the mistakes in both words and pictures. Turn it into a contest, with the winner receiving a pumpkin flavored drumstick for a trick-or-treat surprise.

"*Inside a House that is Haunted*," by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, illustrated by Tedd Arnold. (Scholastic). This is an early reader (level 2), perfect for first to second graders who are learning to read. It's a cumulative story, one where each page adds on to the previous page. "Here is a house that is haunted. Here is the hand that knocked on the door outside a house that is haunted," and so on. Funny things happen on every page. The startled spider scares the ghost who cries boo who surprises the cat. You get the idea. At the end, the monster in the house awakens and answers the door only to find - well, that would be telling! This book is challenging enough to entice a young self-reader, and filled with colorful art with just the right amount of scariness. The ending will delight and surprise everyone.

"*Night of the Pumpkinheads*," by Michael J. Rosen, pumpkins carved by Hugh McMahon. (Dial). The first thing to know about this book is that instead of illustrations, photos of real carved pumpkins by a famous pumpkin carver grace the pages. The pumpkinheads are sick of spending Halloween sitting on porches. They want to dress up and go trick-or-treating and scare all the children. Their "costumes" are amazing. They have cat faces, cobra bodies, and T. Rex teeth. The white pumpkins are skulls, mimes and mummies. The mini pumpkins are eyeballs and killer bees. Yet, none of the pumpkinheads are scary enough to frighten the children. That falls to - the killer vegetables! Kids run screaming from the broccoli, peppers, turnips, and green onions, all formed from real veggies complete with teeth and eyes. This most original book concludes with a detailed pictorial lesson on how to carve your very own scaredy-cat pumpkinhead. **** 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 "*Leukemia*," one of the new USA Today Health Reports series, recently came out. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



Sacramento Public Library sponsors book cover design contest

Attention teens!: Does your favorite book have a not-so-great cover? Could you design a better one? The Sacramento Public Library is challenging area teens to create a new book cover with photography, computers, pens, pencils, fabric, or any other medium.

The art contest celebrates Teen Read Week 2011: Picture It @ your library, October 16 to 22. Contest applications are available at all 28 Sacramento Public

Library locations and are due by Friday, October 7.

Winners will have their book cover art displayed at their local library branch and in the library's collection. Plus, winners will receive a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card and new copy of a book with their new cover.

For more information, please call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

"The Frog Prince" marionette puppet show scheduled

The Sacramento Public Library will present a free school-age puppet program of the classic fairytale "The Frog Prince" told with marionettes, Thursday, October 6, 4 p.m., at Arcade Library located at 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.

The Fratello Marionettes will use their puppets to tell the story of the spoiled Princess Ofelia on the day of her birth-

day celebration. The wicked witch has transformed a handsome Prince into a frog—destined to live in the wishing well. The Princess drops her golden ball down the well and she promises to grant the frog three wishes before he retrieves the ball.

For more information, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

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 - Tell me if you liked what happened in the book and why.
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25th Annual Safe and Super Halloween

The 25th anniversary of the Safe and Super Halloween, October 21 and 22 and 28 and 29, 5 to 9 p.m., brings you four nights of family fun at Fairytale Town and celebrates the literary sensation of our era: Harry Potter! Each night features 17 candy stations, themed decor throughout the park including Potter classics like Butter Beer, magical candy, wizardry, and Hogwarts fun, hands-on activities and much, much more! Puppet Art Theater will be performing in the Children's Theater, and tickets are available for purchase. Event tickets are \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members, children 1 and under are admitted free. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Harvest Festival and Draft Horse Day

Celebrate harvest time the old-fashioned way at Wilder Ranch State Park on Saturday, October 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Choose and decorate a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, take a draft horse wagon ride, see antique tractors, and living history demonstrations, try your hand at some old-time harvest activities, listen to live bluegrass and western music, learn to square dance, play the snap-apple game, make corn husk dolls and other crafts, taste hand-cranked pumpkin ice cream, apple and pumpkin pie. Food concessionaire available or pack a picnic lunch. Admission to the event is free; parking is \$10 per car.

The History of Wilder Ranch: A tour of the Historic Ranch Buildings All Saturdays and Sundays in October at 1 p.m. - Discover what life was like a century or more ago on this innovative dairy ranch. The hour-long tour includes the 1897 Victorian home, 1856 Gothic Revival farm house, 1896 water-powered machine shop, barns and other historic buildings. Park store sells maps, books, water, granola bars, and unique gifts.

Living History Demonstrations: Some Saturdays & Sundays in October From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - History comes alive at Wilder Ranch State Park on many weekends. Come for a picnic on the lawn and you may also see blacksmiths in the shop, quilters in the Victorian and baker's in the kitchen. For more information, call (831) 426-0505 for specific times, days and activities.

History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area Saturday, October 8 at 9 a.m. - A challenging guided three-hour hike explores the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet in the Wilder Ranch Parking lot. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water. Hike is canceled if rain.

Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks: Saturdays; October 1, 15, 22 and 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - On these two-hour natural history excursions you will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch interpretive center. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Walk is canceled if rain.

Park open: 8 a.m. to sunset. Wilder Ranch State Park features over 30 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails and is located two miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1. For more information call, (831) 426-0505.

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Splash! North American River otter Habitat Re-opens

Everyone loves to watch the North American river otters at the Sacramento Zoo. Their constant movement and antics, diving into the water and scurrying around the exhibit, bring a smile to many faces. The otter habitat has been completely renovated and has re-opened to the public.

As one of the older exhibits at the Zoo, the otter pool and holding area were in need of a facelift. Their habitat remains in the same location, but has been totally renovated and enlarged. A rock backdrop and larger land area with new landscaping surrounding their pool are now viewed through giant glass windows, allowing a closer look at the otters. In addition, the off-exhibit and keeper area have been improved as well.

"There are so many people who have helped to make this project a reality, including Otto Construction and River City Glass, Inc., and we are grateful to every one of them," said Mary Healy, Director/CEO. "What many may not realize is that river otters are one of the few animals at the Zoo that are native to the Sacramento region."

Sacramento, the "River City," is a home to the North American river otter. Although they are still



found across North America, the river otters are endangered in some areas. This may be due to their sensitivity to pollution and the health problems associated with contaminated fish and water.

The Sacramento Zoo is located at the corner of Sutterville Road and Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, visit saczoo.org

Flavor of the Month: Pumpkin



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Pumpkin Patch Festival Returns to the Western Railway Museum

Get your Halloween Jack-o-Lantern and spend a great day in the country. Each Saturday and Sunday, October 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30, the Western Railway Museum will run special “Pumpkin Patch Trains” from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This old time harvest festival includes rides on life-sized electric trains, a hay bale fort, hay rides, live music, games, homemade baked goods, views of Mt. Diablo, and of course, pumpkins for sale.

Gather the family and begin at the Western Railway Museum. The first electric express train leaves at 10 a.m.

with departures every half-hour until 4 p.m. The trip back in time takes visitors on a scenic five-mile ride to Gum Grove Station, a wooded glen far from the trappings of modern life. In this safe and tranquil setting, volunteers from the Fairfield-Suisun, Cordelia, and Dixon Rotary Clubs create an old-time Pumpkin Patch.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors (65 and up), and \$9 for children (ages 2 to 14). Prices include admission to the Museum, unlimited train rides, use of the Museum’s spacious and shaded picnic grounds, and free parking. Please note that ad-

vanced reservations are not accepted. All proceeds benefit the Western Railway Museum (a nonprofit educational institution) and the local Rotary Clubs, which provide thousands of dollars to local community and youth activities each year.

The Western Railway Museum is located on State Highway 12 in Solano County, 12 miles east of Interstate 80, and halfway between Fairfield and Rio Vista. For more information, visit www.wrm.org or call (707) 374-2978.

For more information about the work Rotary does, visit www.rotary.org.

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Marshmallow Ghosts and Ghouls

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These are great fun to make, and delicious to eat! They make a good activity for a Halloween party too - just provide a bowl or two of melted chocolate and the necessary decorations and let the kids loose on their own treats.

You will need:

Marshmallows, white chocolate chips or white chocolate, silver ball cake decorations or similar, black writing icing and strawberry laces (optional)

You will need to:

Melt the white chocolate or white chocolate chips in a glass bowl in the microwave, or over a saucepan of simmering water. This takes a minute or two. While you are waiting, start making your ghosts. Push a couple of white marshmallows onto a lollipop (popsicle) stick for each one. Now dip the ghosts into the melted chocolate and swirl them around to cover the top of the ghosts' "heads". Bring them out and lay them flat on a paper plate for the chocolate to harden, pushing a couple of silver balls on for eyes before it does.

Use a tube of black icing to draw on a mouth and any other features you would like. Keep in the fridge until you need them.

To make the ghouls, use either white or colored marshmallows. Thread one per stick. Add some green food coloring to the chocolate and then swirl the marshmallows in it as before, this time covering as much of the surface as possible. Use silver balls for eyes, but this time add some other decoration too, perhaps use strawberry candy strands for hair and chocolate drops for ears. Leave to harden as before.

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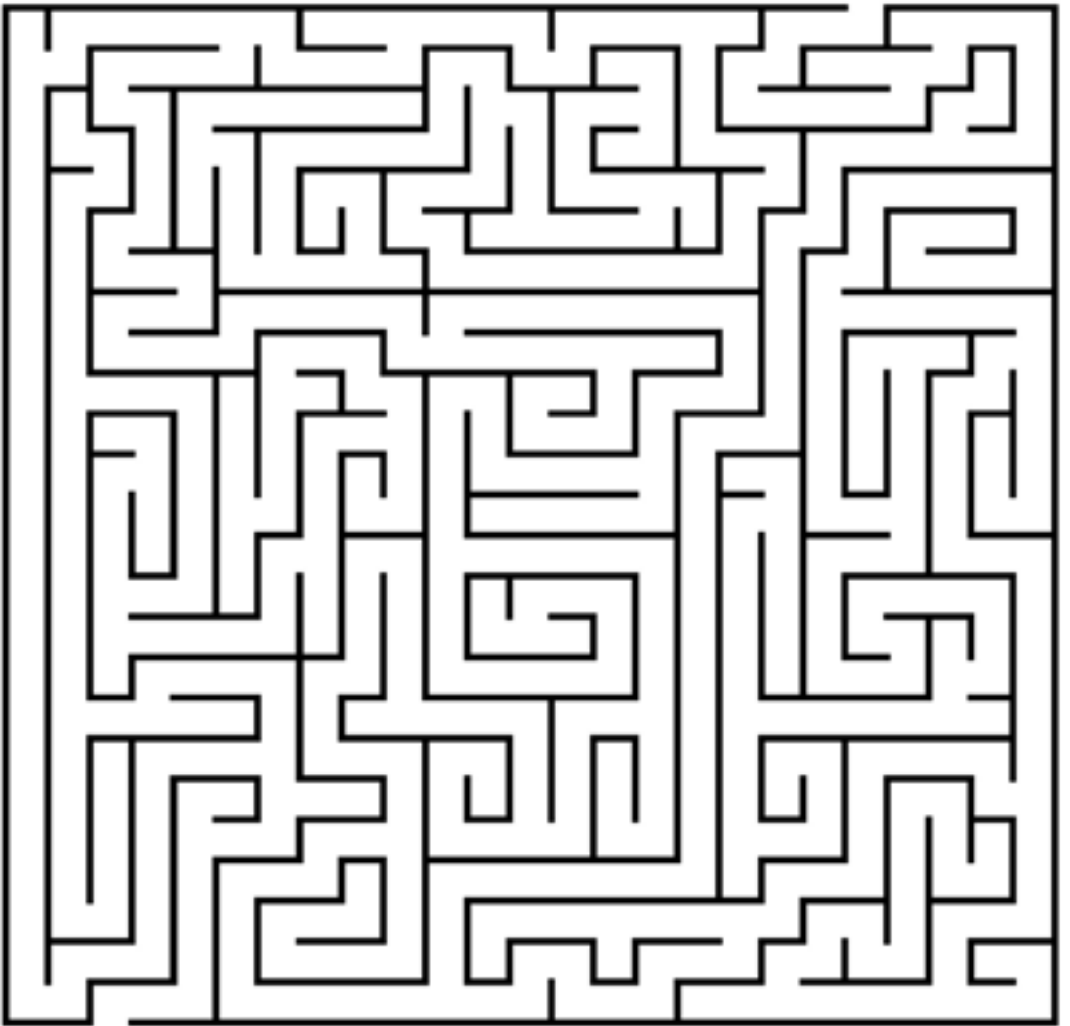
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St. Robert's Fall Festival

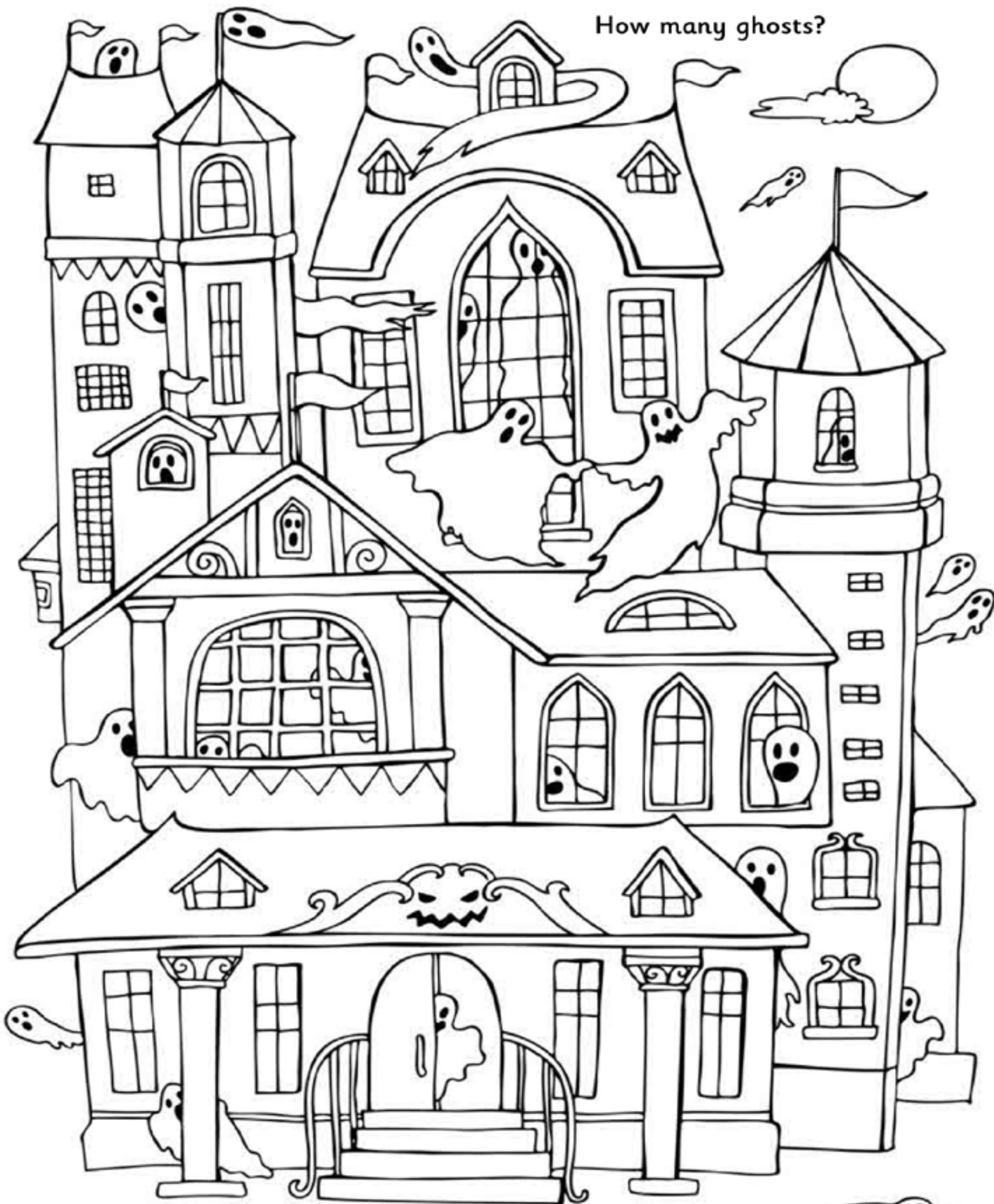
St. Robert's Church and School is inviting you to attend it's Annual Fall Festival, a tradition for over 50 years. The festival benefits the school and will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2, Noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. St. Robert's School is located at 2251 Irvin Way. This year the school will raffle off a 2012 Camaro LS coupe. \$25.00 a ticket only 3,000 tickets availbale. The festival will also have carnival games, assortment of food booths, raffle, a beer garden, Bingo, Poker and so more.



Can you find the path between these two spooky ghosts?



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How many ghosts?

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Can you find 15 differences between these two pictures?





Physical Activity Is Key to Children's Health

A message brought to you by First 5 Sacramento

Obesity is increasing at alarming rates among young children and it is a growing epidemic in this state. Obese/overweight children become sick more often, perform more poorly in school, and are increasingly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and increased cholesterol. Prevention efforts must begin early. It is crucial to address the increasingly unhealthy, sedentary lifestyle of children by educating parents and caregivers about basic nutrition and physical activity needs.

Getting the recommended amounts of physical activity is important for young children. Simple activities and sports can be a fun family bonding opportunity that integrates physical activity into children's lives and can teach them the importance of physical, social, and cognitive developmental skills.

It is recommended that everyday toddlers get 30 minutes of planned physical activity and 60 minutes of unstructured physical activity (free play). Preschoolers everyday should get 60 minutes of planned physical activity and 60 minutes of unstructured physical activity.

There are many free or inexpensive activities that parents can do to get their children active, and have fun at the same time. Here are few simple and fun ideas:

- Play games such as
 - Simon Says
 - Duck Duck Goose
 - Red Light/Green Light
 - Hide and Seek
2. Children like to help parents so have them help you in the yard with clean-up and planting. They can help sweep and pick-up yard debris.
 3. Visit one of the 23 First 5 Sacramento Tot Lots. These pint-sized playgrounds were developed exclusively for toddlers to be active. A map of the locations is available at www.first5sacramento.net.

Healthy eating also plays an important role especially when it comes to beverages. Because of the high amount of sugar, recommendations include eliminating all soda drinks, limiting drinks such as sports drinks and reducing 100% fruit juice to 4-6 oz. a day. Water and Milk are best.

First 5 Sacramento offers a free book called Potter the Other Drinks Water that



teaches children to 'rethink their drink'. Teaching a child to drink - and enjoy - water and low-fat or skim milk before he or she turns age five is a key part of building healthy habits that will last a lifetime. These drink choices are one critical step in the fight against childhood obesity.

Visit Potter the Otter at www.potterloveswater.com to see the sugar breakdown in popular children's beverages. Email first5sacramento@saccounty.net for a free copy of Potter the Otter Drinks Water bi-lingual book.

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 \$14 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.

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

Located on School Street off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz (831) 425-5849

Mission Cooking Demonstration, Saturday, October 8, 1 to 2 p.m.

Come to Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park for a taste of history. There will be a presentation of Ohlone and Spanish cuisine including hot rock cooking, tortilla frying on a Comal and baking in our Horno. You can even sample the creations and make your own tortilla. The event is FREE. Rain cancels.

Hides and Tallow, Saturday, October 15, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Come and see how Mission Santa Cruz participated in a world economy back in the early 1800's. You can view some of the major products of the mission; leather and tallow, and demonstrate how they were used. You will see how a branding iron works and get to make your own candle. The event is FREE. Rain Cancels.

Gardens of Time, Saturday, October 22, from 1 to 2 p.m.

What does a garden tell us about the people who planted it? Tour the native plant beds, neophyte kitchen garden, Mission olives and grapes, and memories of Victorian Nearyland. Taste the latest harvest, and take home history in a seed. The event is FREE. Rain Cancels.

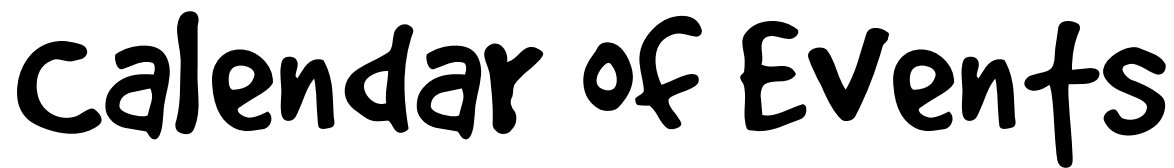
Building Methods at the Mission, Saturday, October 29, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Come and see how the oldest building in town was made. You can work with the materials used by the Ohlone to build their homes and the materials used by the Spanish to build Mission Santa Cruz. You will have the chance to get your hands dirty and make your own mini adobe brick. The event is FREE. Rain Cancels.

Trick or Treat? Have Fun Coloring!



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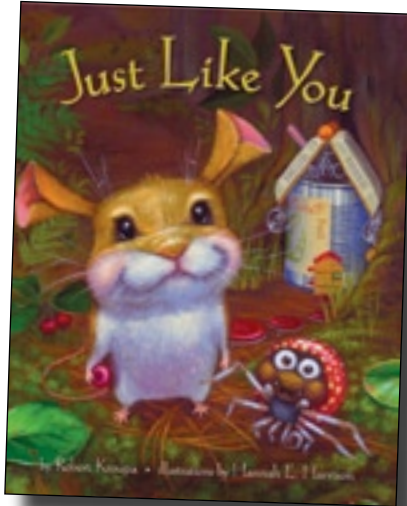
October 22, Owls of October, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. When are owls most active? Can they turn their heads all the way around? What is an owl pellet? Meet a resident owl of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and learn the answer to these questions. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

CALIFORNIA KIDS! Family Fun Guide • OCTOBER 2011



A beautiful tale of tolerance and acceptance

Just Like You is an extraordinary, endearing tale about self-acceptance and celebrating differences in others. Written by author, Robert Kroupa, *Just Like You* is the story of two friends with different disabilities – a field mouse named Henry and a spider named Boris who live in Piney Forest and are discriminated against because they don't act, walk or talk the same as the other creatures. *Just Like You* was released nationwide this October to link up with National Disabilities Month.



Piney Forest is home to many creatures, but Boris and Henry play and live by themselves, not accepted by others because they aren't the same as the other creatures. After attempts to fit in, a discouraged Boris and Henry are forced to stay by themselves in the outskirts of the forest. When a fire threatens the lives and homes of the forest bullies, Boris and Henry see past the bullying and rally to help their fellow forest critters in their own special way. Illustrator, Hannah E. Harrison, designed the book's lavish and elaborate images.

Released through the Just Like You Foundation, 100 percent of the profits from the sales of *Just Like You* will be distributed to a pre-selected charity to insure that each child, no matter their abilities, are celebrated and nurtured. Buyers can choose from the following charities: The HollyRod Foundation, PACER Center, Art of Elysium and the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

Just Like You is perfect for children from pre-school to K-3. If you would like to purchase the book or need additional information, visit <http://justlikeyoufoundation.org/book.htm>



Photo courtesy Miramar Events

Expert pumpkin carver "Farmer Mike" demonstrates his incomparable carving skill transforming a giant pumpkin into a one-of-a-kind sculpture.

Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival

Bring the family to the 41st annual Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival, October 15 and 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The World Pumpkin Capital of Half Moon Bay celebrates its bountiful fall harvest and autumn splendor with a special display of enormous champion pumpkins, three stages of entertainment, live music, the Great Pumpkin Parade, a bone-chilling Haunted House, harvest-inspired crafts, and homestyle foods.

Expert pumpkin carver, Farmer Mike, will be sculpting a monster 1,200+ pound pumpkin into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Visitors can take photos with the grand champion mega-gourd, and enjoy a pie-eating and costume contests. Admission is free to the festival held on Main Street between Miramontes and Spruce Streets in Half Moon Bay. For more information, call (650) 726-9652 or visit <http://www.miramarevents.com/>



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Fun ideas for a Dinosaur themed birthday party

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Dinosaur Invitation Ideas

- Trace a large dinosaur footprint onto the front of a blank white card. Write party information on the inside.
- Print the Dinosaur party invitation information on a small piece of paper - 5 to a 8x11 sheet. Cut them out and roll into scrolls. Put them inside plastic eggs with some speckled jelly beans for a dinosaur egg invitation.

• Decorate white or solid colored blank cards with dinosaur footprint stickers.

Decorations for a Dinosaur Party

Decorate the Dinosaur party like a jungle with green streamers and balloons. Set out blow up dinosaurs and pictures of dinosaurs, volcanoes and/or meteors.

Set out plastic dinosaurs on the party table for guests to play with during the party.

Dinosaur Party Games

• **Make a dinosaur volcano** - Make a fun dinosaur volcano that really erupts! Make a volcano shape with clay or play doh. In the center place a plastic tube about 1" wide and 5" high that will come right to the volcano top, but not be seen. When the guests are done forming their volcanoes around the tube place a small amount of baking soda in the bottom of the tube (about 1"). When everyone is done have them stand back a few feet and pour about 2 Tablespoons of Vinegar into the tube with the baking soda. The chemical reaction will make the volcano erupt ... bubble over the top of the volcano. The party guests can make one large one, or set out play doh or clay so they can make their own dinosaur volcano to take home.

• **Survive the Meteor** - Stay away from the meteor and the new meteorites.

Choose who will be "it" for the game. Mark two lines on each end of a large play area or field. The meteor will stand in the middle of the two lines. The meteor calls out to the other players "Come _____ across my meteor field." (The blank is filled in by what the players must do as they are crossing the meteor

field. Hop, twirl, swim, run, run backwards, etc.) Then the players must follow the command and try and make it to the other side of the meteor field without being tagged by the meteor. Any player that is tagged becomes a meteorite and has to stand in the spot where they were tagged. In the next round both the meteor and the meteorites try and tag players as they go by. The last player tagged becomes the new meteor. **Game Variations:** • Instead of becoming meteorites the tagged children hold hands with the meteor and help tag players. • The meteorites can catch players as they run by so the meteor can come by and tag them.

• **Pin the teeth on the T-Rex** Played like Pin the Tail on the Donkey, only guests try and pin the teeth on the T-Rex. Buy a large poster of a T-Rex (or any dinosaur) and trace the teeth onto paper. Make several copies of the teeth and then cut them out. Place a number on the back of each set of teeth so the guests will know which one is theirs. Put sticky tape on the back of the teeth and give one to each child. Line the children up about 10 to 15 feet from the poster. One by one blindfold them and spin them around 3 times. Tell them to stick their T-Rex teeth as close to the mouth of the dinosaur on the poster as they can. The closest to the original wins a prize. **Variation:** Give a prize to the winner and then have small prizes for everyone who played the game. A fun way to give the prizes is to number several small prizes before the party - then have the children find the number on their paper teeth. They get the

prize that matches the number on their teeth.

Dinosaur Egg Hunt - Hide lots of plastic eggs all over the backyard or park. Give each party guest a backpack or bucket and tell them to find all the eggs they can. Either fill the eggs with candy or place numbers in some of the eggs for special prizes. The guest who gets a number in their dinosaur egg gets a small prize that matches that number. **Dinosaur Excavation** - Hide small dinosaurs and prizes in a sandbox. Give the party guests small shovels, brushes, etc. and tell them to excavate the dinosaur fossils (prizes).

Dinosaur Party Activities Make plaster of Paris dinosaur (or human) footprints or handprints. Mix Plaster of Paris according to directions. Pour into small pie pans - one for each child. While still wet let the Dinosaur party guests make handprints or footprints in the plaster. Also leaves twigs make interesting impressions. Add jewels or other embellishments while still wet. Set up to dry and let the guests take them home as a party favor.

Dinosaur Party Food Ideas • Herbivore Salad - mix greens or fruits to make a salad • Carnivore Main Course - hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken or steak • Sandwiches cut with a dinosaur cookie cutter • Brownies or Rice Krispie treats cut into dinosaur shapes • Dinosaur shaped crackers with cheese **Dinosaur Party Favors** • Carnivore teeth - (plastic vampire type teeth) • Dinosaur Figures • Dinosaur stickers **Goody/Loot Bags** Camouflage bandanas to wrap up the party favors • green paper bags with dinosaur stickers • brown paper bags with stencils of dinosaur tracks on the front and back.

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orange Pumpkin treats

These are fun treats to make and eat!

You will need:

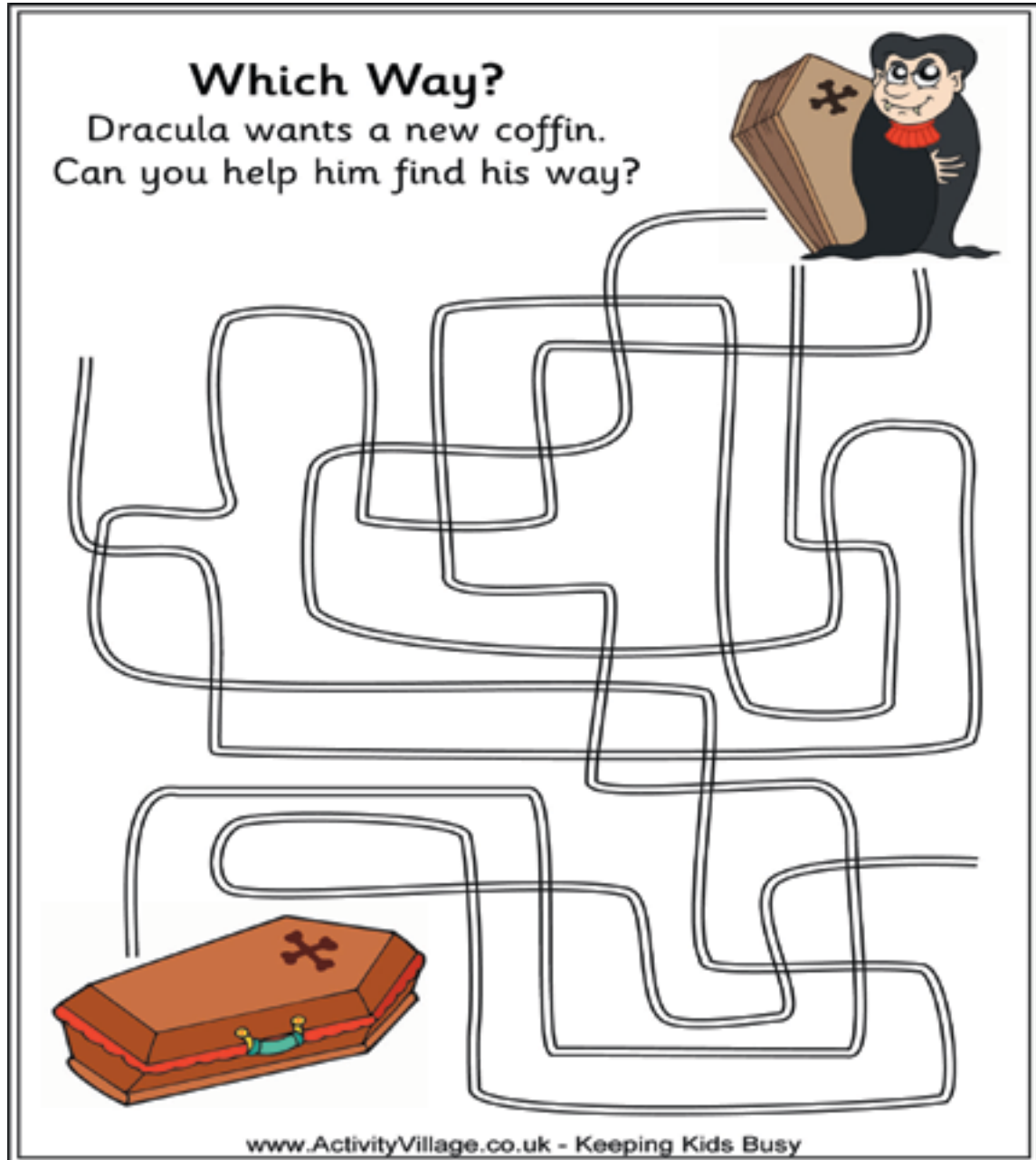
Oranges, Jello, (blackcurrant is yummy), a sharp knife (adult supervision, please!)

You will need to:

Cut off the top of the oranges and scoop the middle.
Mix up your Jello mix following the instructions on the packet.
Pour carefully into the orange shells. Leave in the fridge to set.

Using a sharp knife, carefully cut out a face. Yum!

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