

February 2013

# California Kids!

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**California Kids!**

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## Events at the Zoo

**B**eginning February 1, the Sacramento Zoo returns to regular zoo hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., through October 31.

**I HEART SACRAMENTO Zoo,  
February 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Bring your valentine to a special I Heart Sacramento Zoo day organized by the Sacramento Zoo Teen volunteers. The event features Valentine-themed animal enrichments, informative talks and activity tables, all included with general admission.

**Valentine's Day gift ideas from the zoo, February 14**

Looking for the Purrr-fect one-of-a-kind, gift for Valentine's Day? Check out the Sacramento Zoo's

Zoo Parent Package. This fund-raising program makes it easy to show your support for the Zoo as well as provide a unique opportunity to give a gift your loved

one will never forget. The Zoo Parent program enables the Zoo Parent to learn more about the Sacramento Zoo's diverse animal collection and to support the Zoo's wildlife conservation efforts.

To order your Valentine's Day gift visit [sac zoo.org](http://sac zoo.org) and click on "Get

Involved". For details on other unique Valentine's Day gifts from the Zoo, call (916) 808-5888.

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to more than 500 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 \$11.25; children ages 2 to 11 are \$7.25 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 [sac zoo.org](http://sac zoo.org).

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it's  
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ZOO



**I**   
**sacramento**  
**ZOO**

**Sunday, February 10**  
**9 am to 4 pm**

Watch the animals receive their Valentine's Day themed enrichments. Sacramento Zoo Teen Volunteers will also provide informative talks and activity tables, all included with general admission.



Also check out - **Wildlife Stage Shows**  
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11a

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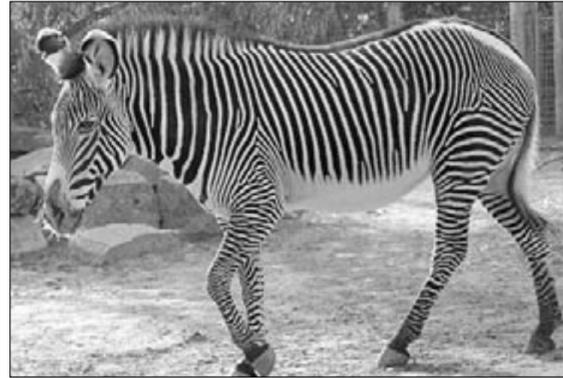
# Family Friendly Valentine's event run by Zoo Teens

Bring your Valentine to "I Heart Sacramento Zoo", February 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., organized by the Sacramento Zoo Teen volunteers. The event features Valentine-themed animal enrichments made by the Zoo Teens with the help of Zoo visitors, informative talks and free activity tables, all included with general admission.

Scheduled enrichments will include scented Valentine cards for the lemurs and a special piñata for Val-lynn-tine, the giraffe, as she celebrates her 18th birthday. Many of the enrichments used will have been made with the help of visitors on earlier visits.

Keepers and Zoo Teens will be present during each enrichment to give information and answer questions about the animals. Don't miss this opportunity to see the animals tear into their treats.

Zoo Teens are youth from 13 to 19 who are wild about animals, the earth and our community. As a Zoo volunteer they learn about animals, interact with the public and gain confidence. Zoo Teens volunteer on weekends, August through May, and must maintain a 2.75 grade point average.



## Schedule of Animal Enrichments:

- 9:15 a.m./African Lion
- 9:30 a.m./Sumatran Orangutan
- 10 a.m./Chimpanzee
- 10:30 a.m./Sumatran Tiger
- 11 a.m./Giraffe
- 11:30 a.m./Black & White Ruffed Lemur
- 12 p.m./Bongo/Red River Hogs

- 12:30 p.m./Reptile House
- 1:30 p.m./North American River Otter
- 2 p.m./White-handed Gibbon
- 2:30 p.m./Giant Anteater
- 3 p.m./Kangaroo & Emu

The Sacramento Zoo is located at the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, Sacramento.

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**February 2013**

**PLANETARIUM SHOWS**  
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**FAMILY FEATURE**  
Weekends & some holidays:  
Noon & 2pm (all ages)

**THEME WEEKENDS & CRAFTS**  
FREE WITH PAID ADMISSION  
Saturday & Sunday:  
12:30pm-4pm (ages 12 & under)

**SPACE QUEST! EXHIBIT**  
**TREE-MENDOUS HANDS-ON EXHIBIT**  
Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4:30pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 10am-4:30pm

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Science & Space Center (916) 808-3942 www.TheDiscovery.org

# Have fun coloring!

# Find the differences

# Fishing tournament

San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers will present the 10th Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament on Saturday, February 2 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 opportunities: 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 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 years of age or older. A \$6 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 and Recreation at (209) 331-2050 or visit [www.mgzoo.com](http://www.mgzoo.com). Oak Grove Regional Park is located on Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5 in Stockton.

# over 7,500 exceptional books to choose from

The Friends of Arden-Dimick Library has extended the hours of its next book sale to take place on Friday, February 1, from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, February 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Community Room at the Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue. Funds from this sale will be used for local library programs.

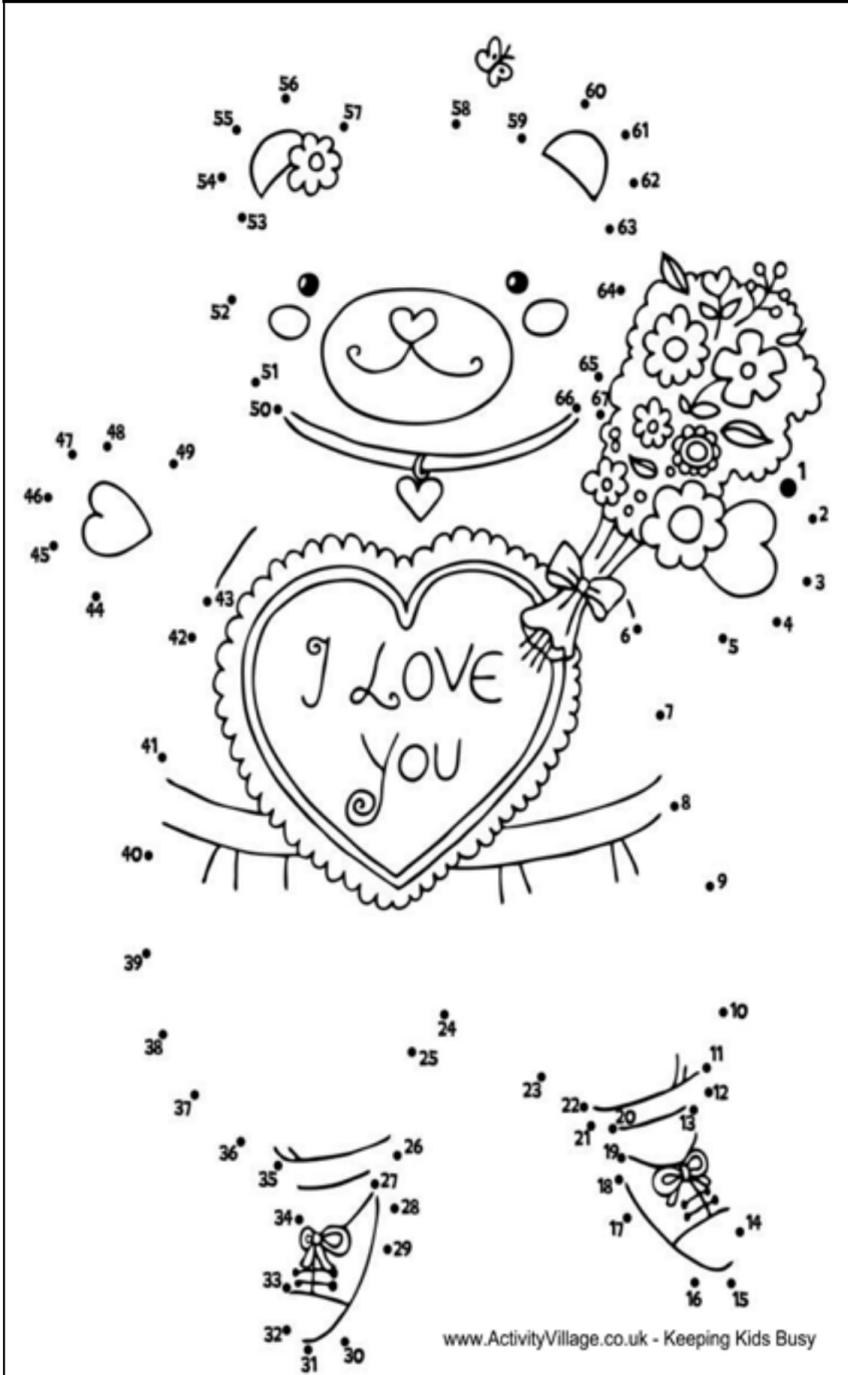
A beautiful new on-site storage unit provides additional room to store and ultimately sell even more donated books. It is anticipated that more than 7,500 books will be offered at incredibly low prices; from 50¢ up to a \$1.50. This will be an excellent, affordable opportunity for adults and children to stock up on reading materials.

The Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library is a volunteer community-based organization. Its dual mission is to advocate for the Library and to provide funding for books, materials, programs and library activities primarily through selling donated books.

# Candyland for teens

Teens are invited to the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library, February 14, 4 p.m., to play in a game of Candyland. Yes, Candyland. Get ready to participate in a live action game where the whole library becomes Candy Land! Travel through Cupcake Commons, Gummy Pass and Licorice Lagoon. Be prepared, as you may land on a square where you have to start again. Be the first team to make it to the Candy Castle. There will be Valentine's Day treats for all. North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library is located at 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

# Have fun coloring!



# Effie Yeaw Nature Center events

FREE WEEKEND ACTIVITIES - Donations gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car County Park entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (Free to members)

**February 2, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Leapin' Lizard**  
Do lizards leap? What's a skink? What's a blue belly? Do lizards lose their tails? Come meet some resident lizards at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and find out what make these cold-blooded critters so amazing. All ages welcome.

**February 3, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Fun Facts about Otters and Beavers**  
These two are not related, but are often mistaken for each other. Did you know that otters are highly intelligent and that beavers are actually rodents? Come learn some fun facts about these creatures who roam our local waters. All ages welcome.

**February 9, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Pipevine Swallowtail**  
Come learn about this beautiful butterfly and its amazing life cycle. Then take a hike with a naturalist to discover the butterfly's Pipevine plant host with its unique blossoms. All ages welcome.

**February 10, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Beaks, Claws, and Jaws**  
Join us for games and activities and get a close-up look at some of the Nature Center's animals as you explore the unique adaptation of birds, mammals, and reptiles. All ages welcome.

**February 16, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Owl Be Seeing You**  
Uncover the mysteries of owls: what they eat, where they sleep, how they find food and more. Get a close-up look at the Nature Center's newest resident, Echo, the great horned owl. All ages welcome.

**February 17, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Walk on the Wild Side**  
Winter casts its chilly spell and gives nature its own special winter beauty. Walk with a naturalist and explore this season in the woodland. All ages welcome.

**February 23, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Duck, Duck, Goose**  
Winter is a great time to see waterfowl along the American River. Join a naturalist on a guided walk to look for herons, ducks, geese and other birds along the river. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the center. All ages welcome.

**February 24, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Abalone Necklace Making**  
Join a naturalist in the replica Nisenan Maidu village to polish an abalone shell piece for your own unique necklace. All ages welcome; children will need assistance from an adult.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located in Ancil Hoffman Park at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net).



# Are we there yet?

Hey kids, people are on the go all the time. There are a lot of different ways to get to where we need to go. Can you name them? Have fun searching for the hidden words related to transportation. Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards, and upside-down. Good luck hunting...!

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

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Airplane   | Helicopter | Skateboard |
| Automobile | Horse      | Sled       |
| Bicycle    | Jeep       | Spaceship  |
| Boat       | Limo       | Taxicab    |
| Bus        | Motorcycle | Train      |
| Canoe      | Ship       | Truck      |
| Elephants  |            | Van        |

## Concerned Parent or Grandparent?

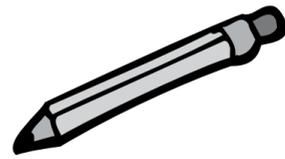
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# MAKE IT YOURSELF!



## Suncatcher Heart

This suncatcher heart looks very pretty displayed in a sunny window! This is a good craft for little children.

### You will need:

Pink cellophane, glitter glue

### You will need to:

Fold the cellophane in two and cut out a heart so you have two heart shapes. Decorate one with glitter glue (not going too close to the edges). Press the second cellophane heart on top so that the glue spreads.

Run a piece of thread through the top and hang.



## Another suncatcher heart

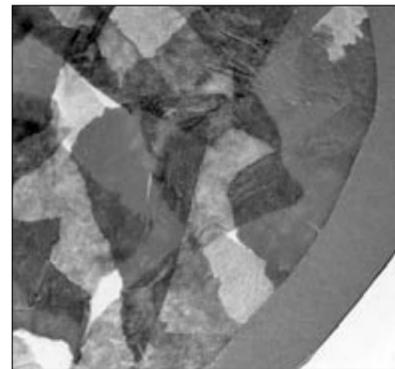
Here's a pretty suncatcher heart to display in your window for Valentine's Day. Children will enjoy tearing the tissue paper and creating their design.

### You will need:

Card or construction paper, acetate, tissue paper in red, pink and purple, glue

### You will need to:

Cut out a heart from the card or construction paper. Cut out the middle carefully. Glue the acetate to the card and trim any overhanging edges. Turn over so you are working on the back. Paint the acetate with a layer of clear drying glue. Stick on ripped up pieces of tissue paper. Stick down any loose pieces with more glue. Leave to dry.



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

## Heart boxes

You can use papier mache heart-shaped boxes from the craft store and decorated them for Valentine's Day - an easy valentines craft for kids! Perhaps you could get the kids to decorate these themselves and then fill them with special treats. These are a good crafty pastime for a Valentines party, too.



### You will need:

Papier mache heart boxes (from craft stores), paint, stickers, gems, and glitter to decorate

### You will need to:

Paint the boxes and leave to dry. Decorate with stickers, gems, glitter and anything else you have in your craft box.

## Tissue Paper Flowers

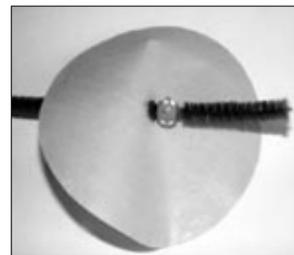
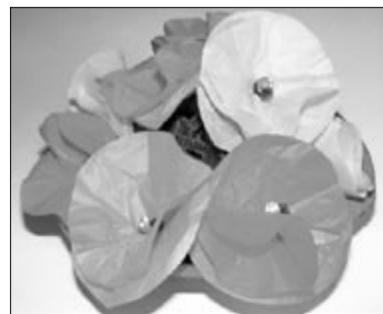
With this tissue paper flowers craft idea, kids of all ages can produce a stunning bouquet of very pretty flowers quickly and easily! Make them to decorate the house.

### You will need:

Tissue paper, you can use pre-cut circles or cut your own, beads and pipe cleaners

### You will need to:

Take 2 or 3 tissue paper circles and poke the end of a pipe cleaner through the middle. Thread a bead on to the end. Poke the end of the pipe cleaner back through the tissue paper and twist it to hold everything in place. Scrunch each circle of tissue paper individually to get a textured effect.



## Fairytale Town activities

Sacramento Museum Day, Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sacramento Museum Day returns for a 15th year with half-price or free admission at 30 museums. A Sacramento cultural tradition, Sacramento Museum Day is designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the region's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife at little cost. This hugely popular community event is presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums. Fairytale Town will be offering half-price admission on Sacramento Museum Day. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

Lincoln's Birthday, Monday, February 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fairytale Town will be open on Lincoln's Birthday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

Presidents Day, Monday, February 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fairytale Town will be open on Presidents Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

### About Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit children's park and educational center in Land Park whose mission is to promote the imagination, creativity and education of children. Established in 1959, Fairytale Town is home to 25 three-dimensional play sets based on favorite fairytales and nursery rhymes, a family of 22 rare and miniature breed animals, three interactive learning gardens and two performing arts stages. From March through October, the park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. From November through February, the park is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.



Photo courtesy Aerospace Museum of California.

## Sacramento Museum Day

A record 30 Sacramento area museums will offer free or half-priced admission all day on Saturday, February 2, during the 15th Annual Sacramento Museum Day. Twenty-eight of the 30 museums will offer free admission whereas two destinations located in residential areas - the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town - will offer half-priced admission. The Sacramento Zoo is \$5.75 for adults, \$3.75 for children ages 2 to 11 and free for children under two; Fairytale Town is \$2.50 for everyone and free for children ages one and under. Sacramento Museum Day event hours are 10 a.m. to 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 little or no cost.

Many of the museums are within walking distance of each other and easily accessible via public transportation. 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.

Due to the popularity of Sacramento Museum Day, some locations must limit the number of admissions for safety reasons. More detailed information about participating museums, limitations, suggested

parking and public transit options is available at [www.sacmuseums.org](http://www.sacmuseums.org), or by calling the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau at (916) 808-7777.

### Participating Museums for Sacramento Museum Day 2013:

Aerospace Museum of California - California Automobile Museum - California Foundry History Museum - California State Military Museum - California State Capitol Museum - The California Museum - California State Railroad Museum - Center for Contemporary Art - Crocker Art Museum - Discovery Museum Science & 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 Mansion State Historic Park - Maidu Museum & Historic Site - Museum of Medical History - Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum - Old Sacramento State Historic Park - Roseville Utility Exploration Center - Sacramento Children's Museum - Sacramento Zoo - Sacramento Historic City Cemetery - Sacramento History Museum - Sojourner Truth Multicultural Arts Museum - State Indian Museum - Sutter's Fort State Historic Park - Wells Fargo History Museum (Capitol Mall) - Wells Fargo History Museum (Old Sacramento).



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Your children will enjoy a day of fun, fitness, and creativity. 2 healthy snacks & hot lunch provided. We also offer a sibling discount and pre-registration is required. Program starts March 25-28 at 7:30am and ends at 5:30pm.

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## Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236  
(831) 338-8883

**Redwood Loop Walk, Saturday, February 2, 16, 23, and Sunday, February 24, 1 p.m.**

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join this fun and informative guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this 90-minute walk. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Bug Hunt, Saturday, February 2, 11 a.m.**

Join a two-hour Bug Hunt in the Big Basin headquarters area. See some incredible little creatures close up. Bring your sharp eyes and a hand lens, binoculars and camera if you have any, or just catch a magnified look on Docent Scott Peden's camera. Rain or strong wind cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Footsteps of the Founders, Sunday, February 3, noon**

This moderate five-mile, four-hour loop walk will take you back in time to the origins of our oldest state park. Discover the redwoods and other treasures that inspired the movement to save the trees. Docent Doreen Devorah will share stories of the park's first human inhabitants, pioneering homesteaders and early redwood conservationists. You will pass historical places of interest and enjoy views of Slippery Rock and Sempervirens Falls. Meet at Park Headquarters. Rain cancels.

**Berry Creek Falls Hike, Sunday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.**

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 11-mile-loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin—65-foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Docent Bill Rhoades will guide you on this seven-hour hike. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Coffee Talk and Crafts, Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate. This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. Docent Norm Beeson will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail. And bring the kids for a fun craft activity.

**Winter Wildflower Walk, Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17, 10 a.m.**

Flowers in the winter? Fall rains bring a whole new blooming season upon us—many plants survived through the long, hot, dry summer just waiting for the cooler, wetter months to return and refresh them. Lichens, mosses and many chaparral plants just begin blooming this time of year. Join docent Scott Peden and learn to identify these flowering plants. You'll also visit several historical spots within the park. Saturday's walk is a four-mile, four-hour walk that includes two chimney trees and a waterfall. Sunday's walk is a five-mile, five-hour walk that travels from creek side to ridge top. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Romance in the Redwoods, Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m.**

On this easy, two-hour walk you'll learn about the courtship behaviors of some of the park's most fascinating plants and animals. Discover how banana slugs, redwood trees and more celebrate love in the wild. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Last Chance Trail, Sunday, February 17, noon**

Join Docent Doreen Devorah and experience the charm of a meandering stream, lush ferns and cool cliff formations on this four-mile, three-hour hike. Bring water and food. Rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Coffee Talk, Saturday, February 23, noon to 2 p.m.**

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate. This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. Docent Elise Scripps will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail.

**Shadowbrook Stroll, Sunday, February 24, Noon**

Join docent Doreen Devorah as she guides you on a less-traveled trail that takes you by Union Creek, to the Sempervirens Falls and back through the redwoods. This is a four-mile, 3.5-hour hike. Bring water and good hiking shoes. Rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

## Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

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

**Wool, Spinning, and Weaving, Saturday, February 2, 1 to 2 p.m.** How did an isolated settlement clothe the hundreds of people who lived there? Take an in depth look at the cloth industry of Mission Santa Cruz. Follow the path of wool from the sheep to the shirt. You will have the chance to try your hand at a drop spindle and spin your own wool. The event is free. Rain or shine. Call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

**Guided Adobe Walk of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, Saturday, February 9, 1 p.m.** Come to the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park for a guided tour of the oldest building in Santa Cruz. Learn about the many people who have called this 180-year-old mission adobe their home. Tours are conducted rain or shine. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School Street off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz. Call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

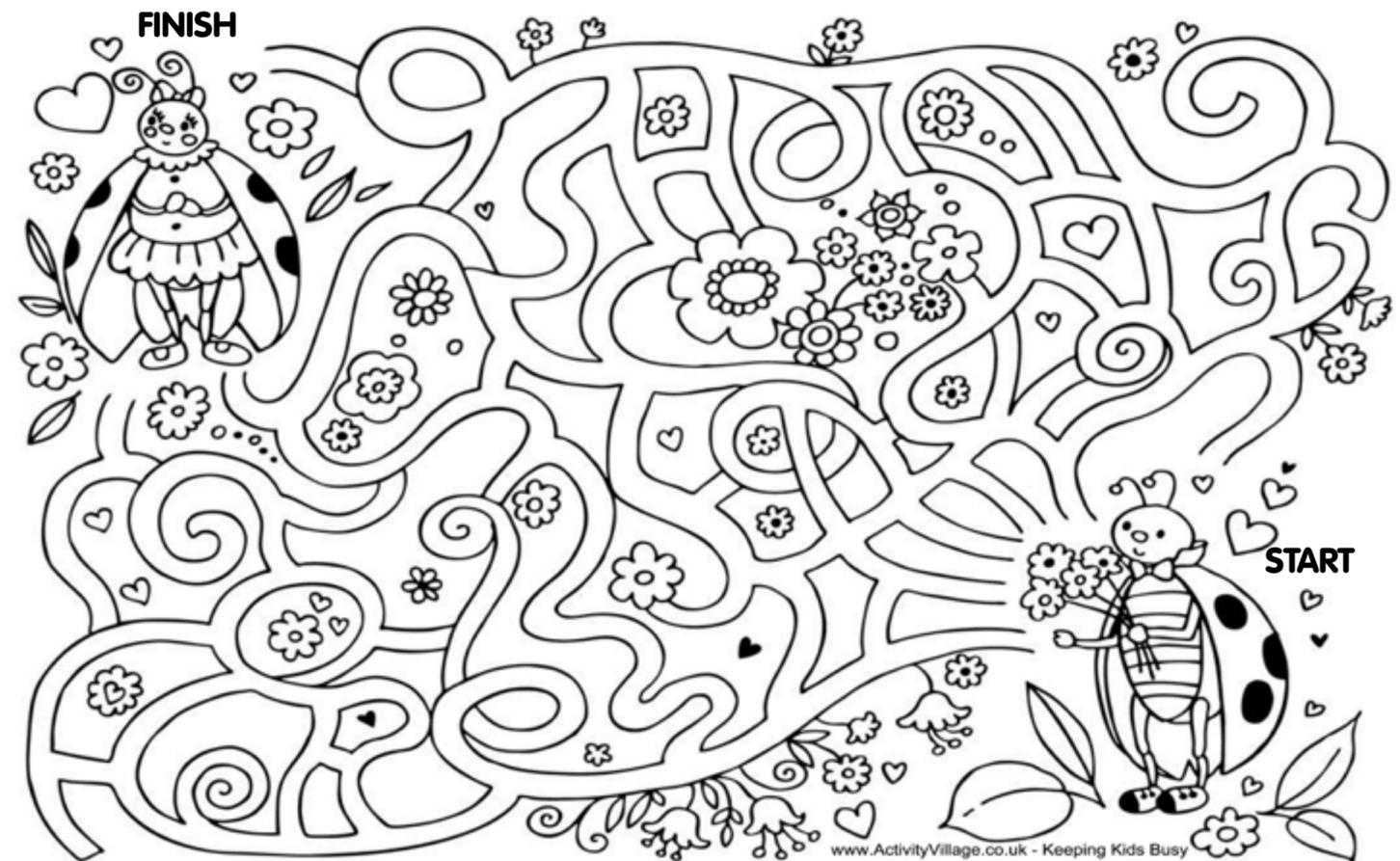
**Building Methods at the Mission, Saturday, February 16, 1 to 2 p.m.** Come and see how the oldest building in town was made. Work with the materials used by the Ohlone to build their homes and the materials used by the Spanish to build Mission Santa Cruz. You will have the chance to get your hands dirty and make your own mini adobe brick. The event is free. Rain Cancels. Call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

**Hides and Tallow, Saturday, February 23, 1 to 2 p.m.** Come and see how Mission Santa Cruz participated in a world economy back in the early 1800's. Look at 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. Call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

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# Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring **Tara Lazar**

By Bitsy Kemper



Not everyone knows what they want to be when they grow up. Author Tara Lazar figured it out in second grade.

Her life-long love-affair with books was kicked off by the works of William Steig, Roald Dahl and Judy Blume, and she knew she wanted to create unique, wacky, wonderful worlds just like those authors.

"When I found out Alexandra Elizabeth Sheedy [later to become more well-known as actress Ally Sheedy] wrote *She Was Nice to Mice* when she was only 12, I thought if she could do it, I could do it too," Lazar said.

But as the saying goes, the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray. "I never became a child writing prodigy. Writing was something I always did, and enjoyed, but I thought there would be time to become published later on. I figured I'd go to school, become the best writer I could be, and then take it from there."

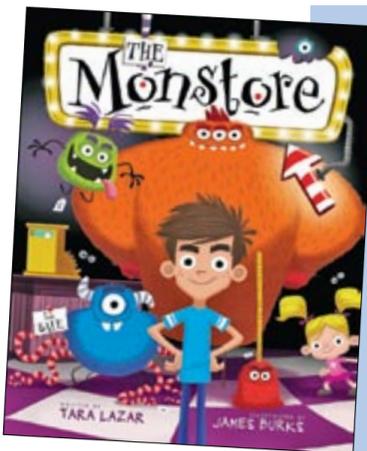
As a child, she remembers wanting to keep secrets from adults. She actively celebrated that secrecy, creating a secret code so her friends could share clandestine notes, held a mini-casino in her basement, and adults were never clued in. As a writer, she allows her kid characters to roam free of

adult interference, under the belief children need to have something that is theirs alone.

She went on to earn a BA in English and Creative Writing from Rutgers College and got a job with publishing giant Prentice Hall. "I wanted to learn the business inside-out. My goal was to make connections that would eventually help me get published."

But those plans took a turn too. She didn't end up in children's publishing. Instead she was hired in the company's computer reference book division. Her career branched out from there into marketing and PR in the high-tech publishing industry. It wasn't until years later, pregnant with her second daughter, that she decided it was finally time to *make time* for a writing career.

Lazar's first big break was signing with her agent Ammi-Joan Paquette. "It's a crazy story. My friend, author Corey Rosen



## MORE ABOUT TARA LAZAR:

Tara lives in New Jersey, about 30 miles west of New York City, with husband Alan, daughters Eliana and Autumn, and about 200 stuffed animals. She finds holding herself to a regular writing schedule makes her creativity feel cramped, so her writing time is different and varied. She writes anytime the mood strikes—on the weekends, late at night, even while cooking dinner.

Read Tara's blog "Writing for Kids (While Raising Them)" at [TaraLazar.com](http://TaraLazar.com), complete with contests, interviews, and just plain fun.

Visit [TaraLazar.com/piboidmo](http://TaraLazar.com/piboidmo) for more information about the annual picture book writing challenge she spearheads.

## BOOKS BY TARA LAZAR:

*THE MONSTORE*

illustrated by James Burks, Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, available June 3, 2013

*I THOUGHT THIS WAS A BEAR BOOK*

illustrated by Benji Davies, Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2014

*LITTLE RED GLIDING HOOD*

illustrator TBA, Random House Children's, 2014

*BREAK THESE RULES (YA Essay Anthology)*

Chicago Review Press, September 2013

Schwartz, won a picture book manuscript critique with an award-winning, published author. But my friend didn't have anything to send her. She asked me if I had anything ready and kindly sent one of my manuscripts instead."

The professional author who held the contest loved the script so much she tweeted about it. Agent Paquette saw the tweet, asked what she was reading, and next thing you know Lazar has a referral AND a book deal. *THE MONSTORE* comes out in June.

The writing of that book is equally interesting, if not a bit crazy. "*The Monstore* was just a lonely title for months," Lazar admits. "I thought 'Monstore' was a clever word mash-up but I didn't actually have a premise for a story. When I met an agent at a conference, I had to quickly create a premise to pitch the book."

Practically on the spot, she wrote, "A boy wants to return the monster he bought because it doesn't spook his pesky little sister." The conference agent told her the premise was worth pursuing, and that motivated her to finally sit down to write the book. That manuscript was sent to her now agent.

"It just spilled out. The first draft was done quickly, although the story went through umpteen revisions after that..." Lazar acknowledges. Titles are typically decided upon towards the end of the publishing process, but Lazar finds titles to be the most fun thing to write. She acknowledges boiling a story down into just a few succinct words is a challenge, but "when you get it right, it's magic."

She finds that challenge worth sharing. Five years ago, Lazar started "Picture Book Idea Month (PiBoIdMo)," which is a twist on the annual "National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)" held every November. Lazar wanted to find a way to involve picture book authors like herself.

"There was no challenge for picture book authors," Lazar noted. "I thought writing one story a day for a month was too difficult, but writing one story for the entire month was too easy. I needed something that would be challenging, but not impossible."

She settled on creating one new picture book story idea a day. Her first year, in 2008, she did it on her own. In 2009, she put the (cost-free) challenge on

her blog, thinking maybe a dozen people would sign up and join in. But over 100 writers participated, and last November that number has grown to over 750 registered challenge takers.

"I have been flabbergasted by the response, and I've been really proud to learn about PiBoIdMo-inspired stories that have gone on to win grants or contracts with publishers. I've lost count, but there's at least a dozen...and I'm sure there are many more to come!"

Yes, she's thrilled to help others rearrange their own best laid plans, and is proud to be a children's author. But her most rewarding position? Wife and mother. Wonder if her second-grade self could have predicted that.

Next month: **Patty MacLachan**

*Bitsy Kemper is happy to be guest "Who Wrote That?" columnist for Patricia Newman. Bitsy is author of six picture books and has optimistically failed the PiBoIdMo challenge twice. You may have seen Bitsy on CNN, heard her on national radio, noticed her quoted in anything from Parenting magazine to Writing Children's Books For Dummies, or seen her work in countless newspapers, radio and TV stations across the U.S. Maybe you drove past her on the freeway and didn't even know it... Busy with three kids (four if you count her husband), she finds time to present at writer conferences and author visits from L.A. to N.Y. Wander over to [www.BitsyKemper.com](http://www.BitsyKemper.com) or follow her on Twitter (under, understandably, BitsyKemper).*

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**THE BOOK REPORT**

# Nonfiction Books - Learn a Little

By **Connie Goldsmith**

Many kids grow up reading mostly nonfiction. They love biographies, books about animals and nature, sports and adventure. Today's nonfiction books are lively, well-written, and filled with colorful photos and art. Here are just a few of the many nonfiction books available to entertain and educate your children. Take the time to read one with your child. You'll both learn a little more about the world.

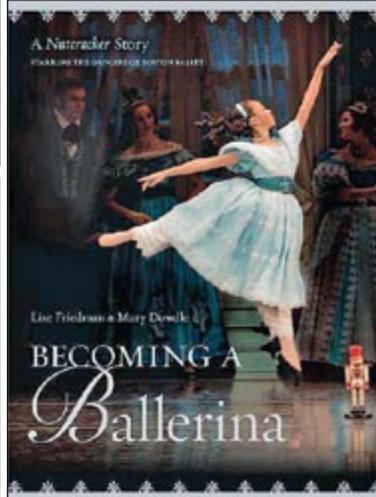
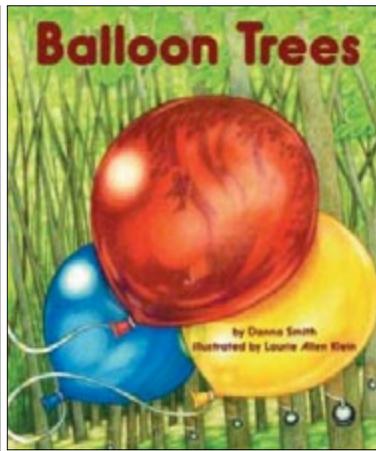
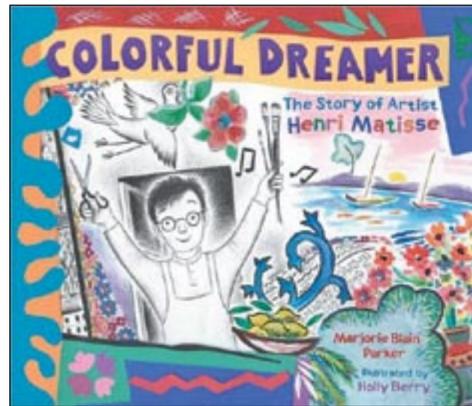
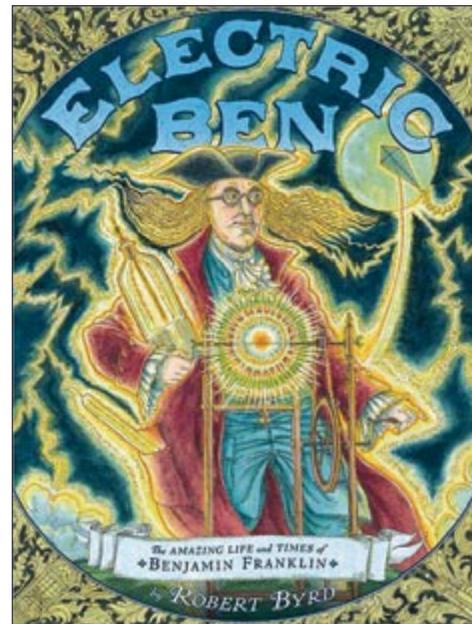
*"Electric Ben: the amazing life and times of Benjamin Franklin,"* by Robert Byrd. (Dial). Garnering a bevy of starred reviews, this delicious new biography of Benjamin Franklin charms and entices. Scientist, inventor, statesman - Benjamin Franklin was a brilliant leader of a new nation and the most famous American of his time. Two-page spreads, starting with "Ben's Beginnings," to "Liberty and Justice for All," depict different periods in Franklin's amazing life in fascinating detail. He is known for such feats as writing and publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac* and for proving that lightning is actually electricity, but the scope of his activities and intellect was enormous. This book could serve as the basis for a school project or to just read for pleasure. The pages are packed with lively ink-and-water illustrations and vignettes of Franklin's life and times.

*"Balloon Trees,"* By Danna Smith, illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein. (Sylvan Dell). "This balloon was made from trees - made from rubber trees like these." Try telling a child that balloons come from trees and watch the surprise in his eyes. This book shows us how milky-white latex from rubber tree plantations in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia become the

wonderful balloons that so delight children. The author describes the complex process in deceptively simple words. Did you know that machines pump balloons full of air and then deflate them before shipping? A perky little bird follows the story, peering at each step with approval. The colorful bubbly art is a perfect match for the text, and four pages of interesting end material provide additional detail and challenging games.

*"Colorful Dreamer: the story of artist Henri Matisse,"* by Marjorie Blain Parker, Illustrated by Holly Berry. (Dial). Henri Matisse was a dreamy boy in a French industrial town "... choked with factories, clanking looms, and smoking chimneys." But the boy's dreams were full of color. His parents worried because Henri did poorly at school. They wanted him to learn a trade. He wanted to be a clown in a traveling show. Matisse finally overcame societal obstacles and fulfilled his colorful dreams as he became one of the world's most admired artists. The story is well-told, inspiring to anyone who dreams outside the box. The art is rich and lyrical. Darker parts of Matisse's life are rendered in black and white, while his dreams and remarkable paintings are colorfully evocative and reflective of the artist's own style.

*"Becoming a Ballerina, a Nutcracker story, starring the dancers of Boston Ballet,"* by Lisa Friedman and Mary Dowdle. (Viking). This captivating story follows Fiona, a young ballerina, as she tries out for a role in *The Nutcracker*. After grueling auditions, the judges pick Fiona to play Clara, the leading role for a child. We see Fiona practicing over the next few weeks. We watch as she sews her slippers, dons her costume, and dances in dress rehearsals. It's finally opening night, and Fiona's part is perfect. The book, with excellent full-color



photographs, is a feast for the eye that provides engaging details about costumes, staging, and what it's like to be a ballerina. Anyone interested in ballet will savor the behind-the-scenes visit to a major ballet company. And any child who dreams of dancing one day will picture herself as the star of this most charming and enjoyable book.

*"Dogs on Duty, soldiers' best friends on the battlefield and beyond,"* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. (Walker). One of the SEAL team members involved in the daring raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound had not two legs, but four. Ripped

from the headlines, this fascinating book follows a group of MWDs (Military Working Dogs) from puppyhood through months of rigorous training designed to ensure the dog is suitable for military work. The dogs learn to search for explosives and drugs, and how to capture and hold fleeing suspects. We next see the fully-trained MWDs outfitted in protective gear, complete with cameras, GPS, and doggles over their eyes.

The dogs are hoisted on zip lines and parachuted from planes. But it's the close bond between animal and human that makes it all work. Pages of full-color photos further enhance this touching and heart-warming book.

**\*\* Reviewer's pick of the month \*\***

Connie Goldsmith ([www.conniegoldsmith.com](http://www.conniegoldsmith.com)) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. See her nonfiction juvenile books, "Batting Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer," and "Leukemia," one of the USA Today Health Reports series, in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.

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# Grapevine and Paris Texas, Two Unique Names, Two Memorable Places

by **Carmel L. Mooney**

On a recent family trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth Area, we stumbled upon two gems, both off the beaten path and both worth some extra time and exploration.

While Texas is one of our family's favorite states to visit for a multitude of reasons including fabulous hospitality and excellent food, these two little destinations were remarkable for these reasons and much more.

First off Grapevine is a convenient diversion from DFW Airport, particularly if you have a long layover and want to spend a few hours enjoying its many facets. There are convenient Grapevine shuttles from the airport that will take you on tours of Grapevine and to major attractions in the area.

Once in Grapevine you will fall in love with this little arts and culture rich community with lots of family fun to boot.

Grapevine is the Christmas Capital of Texas with a rich heritage and its Main Street is so quaint it is even listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. An agricultural hub as well, Grapevine is also home to the Texas Wine Industry with plenty of opportunities for moms and dads to do some tasting.

While in Grapevine we enjoyed a visit to the Vetro Glassblowing Studio where the kids, under the direction of local artisans, got to actually make their own gorgeous glass blown Christmas ornaments. This amazing marriage of fire and glass was educational, hands-on, and captivating.

Another highlight with the kids was a visit to the SEA LIFE Grapevine Aquarium. We were impressed with this spectacular two-story attraction. All ages loved the tropical ocean tank with walk through underwater tunnel. Both oceanic and Native Texan creatures were on exhibit and it was a top notch and high quality aquarium through and through.

Grapevine's 127 foot clock tower, affectionately called the Grapevine Glockenspiel, offers an amusing and twice daily historical heist to entertain all ages on Main Street. This is a great opportunity for kids to

learn local lore and that crime doesn't pay.

Next to the Glockenspiel is the Grapevine Vintage Railroad that runs most weekends on a 22 mile route to the Fort Worth Stockyards. If time allows, do plan on this interesting excursion or take in a special themed ride like the Jazz Wine Train or North Pole Express.

Should your visit include an overnight stay, Grapevine has options that run the gamut from Indoor Water Park accommodations like the Great Wolf Lodge to high-end luxury accommodations such as the Gaylord Texan. The Gaylord Texan is a spectacular Resort and Convention Center so grand and magnificent that it is almost impossible to capture its grandeur in a wordy description. An atrium style hotel of immense proportions, this exquisite property houses numerous restaurants, gift shops, and activity venues for every age and interest. A spa and salon are also on property and throughout the year the Texas Gaylord hosts world renown events like ICE

See Travel, page 17



## Travel:

Continued from page 16

where two millions pounds of ice create an interactive world of ice sculpture.

The Great Wolf Lodge with its 84 degree warm arcade indoor water park, arcade, Holly Wood XD motion movie theater, restaurants, Kid Spa, activities, Cub Club, Creation Station and more, is the perfect, one-stop, family destination. Rooms and suites are beautiful yet rustic themed to enthrall little guests yet all offer the amenities, conveniences and comfort that parents appreciate.

112 miles to the North East of Grapevine, near the Oklahoma border lies the lovely little historic town of Paris, Texas. While a movie has been set in Paris that draws visitors from around the world, the secret treasures of Paris are best shared by the locals who have a pride and respect for their exquisite little community. You may hear someone say, "Bonjour, Ya'll!" In no time you will understand why.

A stop in historic downtown is a must along with a browsing of the boutiques, antiques, and eateries that make Paris a little Texas wonder. One of eighty-eight Main Street cities across Texas, it's adorable. Spangler's, a local gift shop on West Plaza is a joy to visit with local artisan gifts, collectibles and all at excellent, fair prices.

Paris is known for its gorgeous and historic churches. We visited a half dozen, all lovely and architecturally astounding and with colorful his-

tories and stories to tell. Each church was an elaborate work of art which painted a picture of the community's arts, culture and beauty. Elaborate stained glass, ornate woodwork, and spires were just a few notable characteristics we enjoyed.

Beautiful historic landmarks and hidden gems are peppered throughout Paris. The Lamar County Courthouse is one of the largest in the state and made from the same granite as the Capitol. The Lamar County Historical Museum in Heritage Park is outstanding and paints a thorough picture of the gripping history of Paris along with the steadfast spirit of its citizens through several wars, a great fire that ravaged the entire city, and other major events that shaped the area. A volunteer labor of ten local men, this 7000 square foot museum is remarkable for such a small city.

We thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the home of Confederate General Sam Bell Maxey. A well displayed State Historic Site, it offers visitors a glimpse into state and local history with an extensive collection of historic furnishings, letters, and clothing as well beautiful architecture.

A tour of the Evergreen Cemetery is a must for history lovers. In operation since 1866, it is well known for several unique and hand-carved headstones and monuments including Jesus with Cowboy boots, a perplexing but must-see spectacle.

Just outside town is peaceful Pat Mayse Lake, a pristine swimming, boating, camping, and fishing mecca that draws visitors from many states.

While in Paris we thoroughly enjoyed a delicious comfort food lunch at Crawford's Hole in the Wall. Locally owned and operated, this super-friendly little cafe serves quite likely the best bread pudding in the entire country. A little local, excellent and casual eatery, the décor is fun and whimsical and the place is packed with locals. Stick-to-your-ribs comfort foods like Frito Chili Pie and Fried Pickles, along with lower calorie and healthy options such as salads and specials will undoubtedly satiate your appetite. No visit to Paris would be thorough without a meal at this fabulous little unforgettable find.

Excellent walking, hiking, and cycling trails wind through much of Paris and the town surprisingly offers many festivals and annual events so you may want to plan a visit around one. Several theaters offer terrific cultural and theatrical choices. The area is steeped in culture and arts at every turn.

We loved our informative trolley tour aboard the Trolley de Paris that we took after a visit of the Love Civic Center



where we enjoyed the town's iconic Red Cowboy Hat atop the Eiffel Tower. The War Memorial next door was also impressive.

You will likely never find warmer or more generous and kind people than in both Paris and Grapevine. Both ar-

cas are truly spectacular Texas gems with arts, culture, family-friendly activities, excellent cuisine, and gripping history. Our family treasured our visits to both and we know you will too.

[www.paristexas.com](http://www.paristexas.com)  
[www.grapevinetexasusa.com](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com)

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**June** 6/17 - 6/21  
6/24 - 6/28 **July** 7/08 - 7/12  
7/29 - 8/02

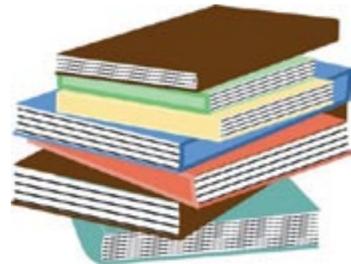
# THEATER CAMP

Coming this Summer

## Sylvan oaks Library book sale

The Friends of Sylvan Oaks Library will host a bargain discount sale of gently-used books from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, February 2, at the Sylvan Oaks Library, 6700 Auburn Boulevard, Citrus Heights.

Sale proceeds will benefit the Sacramento Public Library branch programs. For more information, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).



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## Black History Month programs at local libraries

The Sacramento Public Library will present a variety of culturally-rich programs at library locations in celebration of Black History Month. For details, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

• **Ashanti Printed Cloth with ArtWorks** (for school-age children)

The Ashanti people of Ghana paint and stamp patterns on fabric used for garments. Create a cloth wall hanging using fabrics, spools, bottle caps, cookie cutters and vegetable stamps. Thursday, February 7, 4 p.m., Rancho Cordova Library, 9845 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento.

• **Ashanti Printed Cloth with ArtWorks** (for teens)

The Ashanti people of Ghana paint and stamp patterns on fabric used for garments. Create a cloth wall hanging using fabrics, spools, bottle caps, cookie cutters and vegetable stamps. Thursday, February 14, 4 p.m., Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.

• **Tar Beach: Faith Ringgold's Story Quilts with ArtBeast** (for school-age kids)

Hear a reading of Faith Ringgold's book, *Tar Beach*, and explore the author's story quilts celebrating family heritage. Kids will create a story quilt using paper and other materials to express their own family stories in a colorful way. Thursday, February 21, 4 p.m., Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.

• **Dance & Drum for Joy** (for school-age children)

A joyous drum and dance circle with Fenix Dance and Drum Company will be performed where everyone can participate. Thursday, February 14, 4 p.m., Del Paso Heights Library, 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, and Tuesday, February 19, 4 p.m., Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.

• **Ladies of Lincoln's Era Exhibit** (for families)

Look beyond the bonnet with the Ladies of Lincoln's Era. Twelve stories of mischief-making, trend-setting and pistol-wielding women who made a difference in American history. Women featured in the exhibit

include Harriet Tubman, 'conductor' on the Underground Railroad; Clara Barton, who established the American Red Cross; and Sojourner Truth, abolitionist, women's rights advocate. February 1 through March 11 (during open hours), Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento

• **Celebrate Black History Month with Ebo Okokan** (for families)

Explore the rich tradition of the Afro-Cuban culture through drumming, dance and song with this exciting folkloric music and dance ensemble. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m., Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento.

• **African Paper Art with ArtWorks** (for school-age kids)

Paper has been used to make jewelry and is an honored art form throughout Africa. Paper can be used to fashion all manners of bracelets, necklaces and earrings. With a little practice, paper beads are easy to make and can be folded, woven and layered to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Thursday, February 7, 4 p.m., Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento.

• **Animal Tales with Storyteller Kirk Waller** (for families)

Enjoy a dynamic and fun afternoon of animal tales with famed storyteller Kirk Waller. A recent recipient of the esteemed Emerging Artist grant by the National Storytelling Network, his stories blend words, rhythm, music, and movement for an unforgettable experience. Saturday, February 2, 2 p.m., Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

• **Art for All Quilts with the Quilters Guild** (for families)

The library branch's monthly Art for All program will feature an afternoon of fabric and quilting with help from the Quilters Guild. Create your own special design with fabric on paper. There is no sewing involved and craft activities will be appropriate for all ages.

Thursday, February 7, 3:30 p.m., Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

• **African American Folk Tales and Legends with Storyteller Kirk Waller** (for school-age kids)

Renowned storyteller Kirk Waller shares tales of courage, hope and history through spoken word, rhythm music and movement to create a unique story telling experience. He will take the audience on a great adventure with African American folk tales and legends. Tuesday, February 5, 10 a.m., Del Paso Heights Library, 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, and Tuesday, February 5, 4 p.m., Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento.

• **African American Folklore Stories and Puppetry** (for school-age kids)

Hear Mr. Tim's dramatic telling of *The 11:59*, Patricia McKissack's book of a Pullman train porter and enjoy the puppet theater show, "Zomo the Rabbit". Thursday, February 28, 4 p.m.: Del Paso Heights Library, 920 Grand Avenue, Sacramento.

• **African American Inventors** (for school-age kids)

Magician Forrest Barnes introduces African American inventors who have changed our lives with their remarkable inventions. Magic and illusions will be created using some of these inventions. Thursday, February 7, 3:30 p.m., Sylvan Oaks Library, 6700 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights. Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m., South Natomas Library, 2901 Truxel Road, Sacramento. Wednesday, February 20, 3:30 p.m.: Elk Grove Library, 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m., McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Thursday, February 28, 3:30 p.m., Rancho Cordova Library, 9845 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento.

• **Trade Bead Jewelry with artist Daphne Burgess** (for families)

Trade beads used to trade for goods and services have intricate designs and are found in a variety of colors. Learn about the different meanings and origins of the beads then paint designs

on various wood beads to create unique jewelry. Saturday, February 2, 1 p.m., North Natomas Library, 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento. Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

• **The Steppers** (for school-age kids)

See a variety of dances performed by The Steppers, students from Parkway Elementary School and the Magic Johnson Foundation Phoenix Park Community Empowerment Center. Tuesday, February 5, 3:30 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 7340 24th Street, Sacramento.

• **A Tribute to Black History Month Musical Program** (for school-age kids)

Music selections will be performed by a student youth choir from Parkway Elementary School and the Magic Johnson Foundation Phoenix Park Community Empowerment Center. Tuesday, February 12, 3:30 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 7340 24th Street, Sacramento.

• **19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Essay Contest awards ceremony** (for families)

Hear the winning essays read by students who wrote about Dr. King. Thursday, February 28, 6:30 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 7340 24th Street, Sacramento.

• **African Instruments with artist Daphne Burgess** (for families)

Create a musical instrument and decorate it with symbols and designs seen on many West African instruments. Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m., Ella K. Mcbra Clatchy Library, 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento.

• **Hip Hop to the Drums with Fenix Drum and Dance Company** (for school-age kids)

Break it down with the latest hip-hop moves to the grooves of the African drums. The big dance-off at the program's conclusion combines West African dance and hip-hop moves.

Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m.: Southgate Library, 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. Wednesday, February 20, at 6 p.m.: North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library, 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento

• **WaZoBia with Mr. Sunny** (for families)

WaZoBia means "Come! Come! Come!" in three distinct Nigerian tribal languages and is an invitation of togetherness and unity. Mr. Sunny shares the spirit of Africa with a cultural drum and dance program. Saturday, February 2, at 2 p.m., Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento. Saturday, February 23, at 1:30 p.m.: Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

• **Black History Month Family Movie**, Saturday, February 9, at 2 p.m., Sylvan Oaks Library, 6700 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights.

• **African Paper Beads** (for families), Learn how to make paper beads to create beautiful necklaces or bracelets with library staff. Saturday, February 9, at 2 p.m., Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento.

• **African American Story Quilts** (for school-age kids)

Learn about the tradition of story quilts and make your own paper story quilt with library staff. Thursday, February 21, at 4 p.m.: Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento.

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**Almond Festival**  
Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013  
Enjoy a Culinary Tour of Capay Valley  
Food, Arts & Crafts, Music, Car Show and much, much more!  
[www.espartoregionalchamber.com](http://www.espartoregionalchamber.com) for locations and times

## Wilder Ranch State Park

Located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 (831) 426-0505

**Wilder Ranch Living History Demonstrations and Ranch Tours**—weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour of the ranch houses at 1 p.m. Visit an early day dairy ranch in Santa Cruz County and step back in time to the late 1800's at Wilder Ranch State Park. Weekends at 1p.m., join the 1-hour tour of the 1897 Victorian home, 1896 water-powered machine shop, and other historic buildings. You can also play Victorian games or bring a picnic to enjoy on the front lawn, visit the farm animals and see what activities are taking place on the ranch this weekend. You may learn about hand quilting, watch blacksmithing, or learn about the Meder Family voyage to California. Call (831) 426-0505 for more weekend scheduled activities.

**History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area**—Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.

This challenging guided three-hour hike will explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet the hike leader in the Wilder Ranch parking lot. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water.

**Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks**—Saturdays, February 2, 16 and 23, 11 a.m.

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

## Discovery Museum Science & Space Center activities

**February 2, Saturday, Sacramento Museum Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Museum will be free to all guests. The museum does not offer regular weekend programming on this day; just the exhibit and animal hall will be open.

**February 3, Sunday, Space Stamp-a-rama**

Learn about the science of the universe and about our own solar system in the entertaining and hands-on Space Quest! exhibit. Explore color and light in the light affects room then try to use the astronaut glove boxes to complete building tasks. Visit the 12-foot rocket play space and dress up in an astronaut costume and helmet. Children make and take a space stamp banner as a souvenir. Remember, your admission also includes an animal presentation at noon or 2 p.m. and a planetarium show at 1 or 3 p.m., for ages 4 and above only.

**February 9 and 10, Saturday and Sunday, Have A Heart Weekend**

The Discovery Museum is putting a science twist on Valentine's Day- the science of the heart. Learn about this important organ through different hands-on stations. Visitors 12 and under make a Valentine card to give to someone they love. Admission includes these activities as well as the Space Quest! exhibit, animal presentations at noon and 2 p.m. and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older.

**February 16, 17 and 18, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Engineering Antics**

If your child likes to build, this is the weekend for them. Celebrate National Engineering Week at the Discovery Museum. This is their third year celebrating this popular event and it is always a blast for guests. Little engineers get busy crafting a glider that flies. Families are challenged to build two structures together out of newspaper and gumdrops. Remember, admission includes planetarium shows at 1 or 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older.

**February 23 and 24, Saturday and Sunday, Polar Bears and other Endangered Species**

Once an animal or plant is extinct, it is gone forever. Bring youngsters to the Museum this weekend to share how important it is that we protect these animals. A variety of specimens are available, highlighting endangered species. February 27 is International Polar Bear Day so that is the focus for the weekend. A paper polar bear pillow craft is available to make and take home (ages 12 and under). To add to the fun, a special presentation is to be given at noon and 2 p.m. highlighting polar bears and their biology. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission for ages 4 and above only.

*The Museum opens at 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Science Discovery activities are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission is \$8 adults (18+), \$7 seniors (60+), \$7 teens (13-17), \$6 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under). For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit [www.thediscovery.org](http://www.thediscovery.org).*

## Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center

Located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz off Highway 1 (831) 427-2288

From Santa Cruz, turn right just before the Waddell Creek Bridge at the sign for Rancho Del Oso Nature and History Center. From Half Moon Bay take Highway One south 30 miles and turn left after the Waddell Creek Bridge (2.6 miles south of Año Nuevo State Reserve). For more information call (831) 427-2288 or (831) 425-1218

**Wildflower Hike, Sunday, February 10, 10 a.m.**

Hike starts at the Rancho del Oso gate located along Highway 1, across from the Waddell Beach parking lot. Take a hike among the wildflowers of Rancho del Oso's Waddell Valley. Docent Scott Peden will lead a 4-mile hike to view a variety of wildflowers - there's always something exciting in bloom! Photographers are easily accommodated. Call the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center at (831)427-2288 to RSVP, or just show up with lunch, water and energy to hike.

**Fireside Stories, Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.**

Pretend, play, sing and explore. Bring the family and gather round the fireplace together at the Nature and History Center for a story followed by activities

focused on the theme of the story. This 30-minute program will introduce youngsters (recommend children be at least 3) to the wonders of nature.

**Berry Creek Falls Hike, Sunday, February 24, 10 a.m.**

Join in the fun for an all-day hike to Berry Creek Falls. Hiking from the Ranger Station to the three gorgeous waterfalls is an all-day affair so bring lunch, water and energy. The hike is 7 miles each way over moderately easy trail except for the uphill around the 3 sets of gorgeous waterfalls. Wear good hiking shoes for the 14-mile trek. Arrive early at the Hwy 1 gate across from Waddell Beach, and then walk in approximately 1 mile to the ranger station to meet your guide at 10 a.m. at the Ranger Station. Call to RSVP (831) 427-2288 or just show up.

**Fungus Foray, Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.**

Slow down, get down and look around for fungus. This two-hour walk will introduce you to the mycological mysteries of the forest, and all that the rain promises. This walk begins at the Ranger Station, located one mile up the road from the Rancho del Oso gate, located along Highway 1 across from the Waddell Beach Parking Lot.

## Migration Festival!

On Saturday, February 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., California State Parks invites you to fly, swim, waddle, walk, bike or drive to the annual Migration Festival at Natural Bridges State Park. Examine the science and wonder of migratory animals from creatures that travel far including gray whales and monarch butterflies, to those with an annual journey of less than a mile, like the California newt. Enjoy music by the nature-loving 5M's Band, engaging guest speakers, community groups hosting a variety of activity stations, docent-led games for kids, skits, and hands-on art projects.

You can purchase an inexpensive picnic which supports education programs at the park or bring your own. A day use parking pass is \$10; the event is free. Natural Bridges State Beach is located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. More information is available by calling (831) 423-4609 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).



## Free Kids Dance Fair

The newly opened Capital Dance Center in Rancho Cordova is holding a free Dance Fair for children from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 9. Children seven and older will be introduced to the fun of ballroom dancing, latin dancing, swing dancing and ballet with introductory lessons by well-qualified teachers.

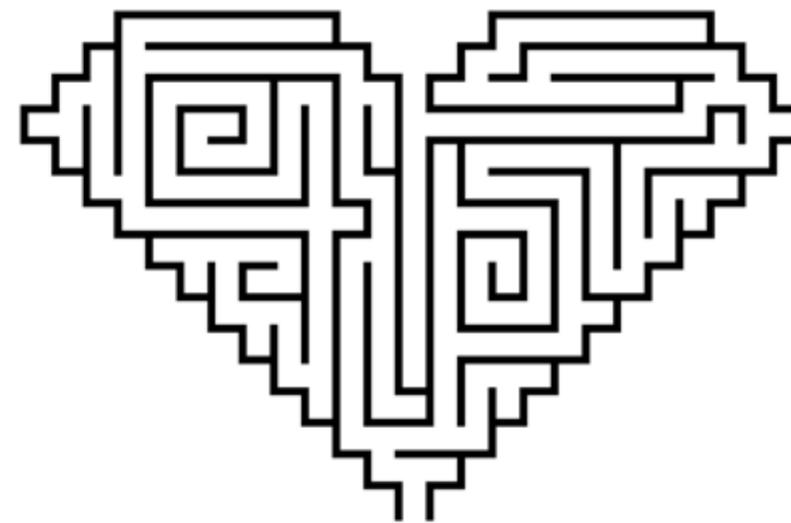
The highlight of the Dance Fair will be dance exhibitions by talented young children. Bill Roth, CEO of Capital Dance Center, explained that the purpose of the Kids Dance Fair is to encourage more children in the Sacramento area to experience the joy of dancing. Included at the Dance Fair will be games, prizes, refreshments and party favors for the children and their parents.

Opened in 2012, the Capital Dance Center is a beautiful ballroom with a 6,300 square foot multi-layered and cushioned dance floor. It is located at 11270 Sanders Drive in Rancho Cordova, just behind Costco. The dance center offers private and group classes for adults as well as children - plus social dances every week. For children the dance center offers ballroom, swing, latin, jazz, and ballet training.



## Valentine's Day Maze

These children want to meet up on Valentine's Day, but first they have to find a path through the maze. Can you help?



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**Deer Creek Hills now open every Saturday and Sunday for Free Self-guided Hikes**

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## California Kids! Family Fun Guide

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# Be My Valentine Cookies

[www.landolakes.com/recipes](http://www.landolakes.com/recipes)

## Cookie

- 1 cup Land O Lakes® Butter, softened
- 1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 Land O Lakes® All-Natural Egg
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour

## Glaze

- 1 (12-ounce) package (2 cups) real semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons shortening

## Directions

Combine all cookie ingredients except flour in large bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl

often, until creamy. Add flour; beat at low speed until well mixed. Divide dough in half; wrap each half in plastic food wrap. Refrigerate 2 hours or overnight until chilled.

Heat oven to 375°F. Roll out dough, one-half at a time (keeping remaining dough refrigerated), on lightly floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out cookies with 2 1/2-inch heart-shaped cutter. Place 1 inch apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 7-10 minutes or until edges are very lightly browned. Remove from cookie sheets to wire cooling rack; cool completely.

Melt chocolate and shortening in 1-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, 4-6 minutes or until melted. Dip half of each heart into chocolate. Place onto waxed paper-lined cookie sheets; refrigerate until chocolate is firm. Store refrigerated.



# Calendar of Events

## Arts & Crafts

**February 7, CD Scratch Art, 3 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Teens are invited to the Arden-Dimick Library for this unique craft idea for Valentine cards. Use old CDs to make cool pieces of art you can give to friends and family. All materials and instruction provided. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 7, Valentine Craft, 4 p.m., 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento.** Children, ages 6 to 12 years are invited to the Valley Hi-North Laguna Library for this fun craft program. The staff will provide the supplies, you bring the inspiration. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 24, Abalone Necklace, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Join a naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in the replica Nisenan Maidu village to polish an abalone shell piece for your own unique necklace. All ages are welcome to attend, children will need assistance from an adult. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Critter Events

**February 2, Leapin' Lizards, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Come meet some resident lizards at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and find out if lizards leap, what is a skink and blue belly, and do they lose their tails. Find out what makes these cold-blooded critters so amazing. All ages are welcome to attend. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 3, Otters and Beavers, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** These two are not related, but are often mistaken for each other. Bring the kids to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center to learn more about these creatures that

roam our local waters. All ages are welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 10, Beaks, Claws and Jaws, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Join the fun at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center with games and activities and a close-up look at some of the Center's animals. Explore the unique adaptation of birds, mammals, and reptiles. All ages are welcome to attend. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 12, Nature Program, 3:30 p.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** The Sacramento Public Library will help families learn to classify birds and reptiles by their special characteristics at a free program at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. Effie Yeaw Nature Center representatives will invite participants to examine animal artifacts and meet some of the center's live animals. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 16, Owl Program, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Uncover the mysteries of owls: what they eat, where they sleep, how they find their food and more. Get a close-up look at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's newest resident, Echo, the great horned owl. All ages are welcome to attend. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 21, Basics of Bees, 3:30 p.m., 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento.** Bees never sleep, work 24 hours a day, need sunshine to harvest nectar, and usually stay inside the hive at night. Families are invited to learn more about bees at the North Natomas branch. Bee behavior will be discussed and fun bee facts shared. This is a free family program. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 23, Waterfowl Program, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Winter is a great time to see waterfowl along the American River. Join a naturalist on a guided walk to look for herons,

ducks, geese and other birds along the river. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the staff. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Nature Events

**February 17, Nature Hike, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Winter casts its chilly spell and gives nature its own special winter beauty. Walk with a naturalist and the Effie Yeaw Nature area and explore this season in the woodland. All ages welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Special Events

**February 1 and 2, Book Sale, 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Friends of the Library will host a book sale featuring thousands of gently-used books starting at 25 cents. The sale will be held at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 2, Fishing Tournament, Registration 6:15 to 10 a.m., ends 12:30 p.m., Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5, Stockton.** San Joaquin County Parks and the Delta Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament at Oak Grove Regional Park. Three categories: Youth (10 and under), Teen (11-17), Adult (18 and over). Prizes awarded. No registration fee, but \$5 fishing permit fee and valid CA Fishing License is required for over 16 yrs. A \$6 parking fee will also apply. Food is available for purchase. For more information, call (209) 331-2050 or visit [www.mgzoo.com](http://www.mgzoo.com).

**February 9, Food Preservation Demonstration, 10 a.m. to noon, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers will hold a demon-

stration: Freezing Tips! Basic introduction to maximizing your freezer. This is a free demonstration at the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

**February 9, Valentine's Party, 2 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** This is a family program at the Arcade Library. Join the staff for Valentine fun with stories, crafts, games and food. For more information, call (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

**February 11, Fairytale Town open on Holiday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Fairytale Town will be open on Lincoln's Birthday. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

**February 14, Cookie Party, 3:30 p.m., 4660 Via Ingoglia, Sacramento.** Teens are invited to the North Natomas Library to decorate some sweet treats for Valentine's Day. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 14, Valentine Giant Candyland, 4 p.m., 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento.** Teens are invited to the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library to play in this live action game of Candyland? Yes, Candyland. Get ready to participate in a live action game where the whole library becomes Candy Land! Travel through Cupcake Commons, Gummy Pass and Licorice Lagoon. Be prepared, as you may land on a square where you have to start again. Be the first team to make it to the Candy Castle. There will be Valentine's Day treats for all. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 18, Fairytale Town open on Holiday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Fairytale Town will be open on President's Birthday. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

**March 2, Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at Fairytale Town with Seuss-themed hands-on activities around the aprk and a nonstop read-aloud of your favorite Seuss books. This program is free with paid admission. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.

**March 30 and 31, Spring Eggstravaganza, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** This popular, fun-filled family weekend at Fairytale Town features egg hunts, spring-themed hands-on activities and pictures with Peter Cottontail. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org).

**March 30, 31, April 6 and 7, Beauty and the Beast, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** the Fairytale Town Troupers begin their sixth season with "Beauty and the Beast," a retelling of the classic fairytale with music, magic and mid-century mod. Performances will be held in the Children's Theater. Tickets are \$2 in addition to park admission. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org).

**Ongoing, Music for Young Children Classes, Sacramento.** Sacramento Piano Conservatory is offering summer group music camps for kids. For more information about Sacramento Piano Conservatory call (916) 538-3357.

## Storytime & Puppet Show Events

**Tuesdays, Baby Storytime, Noon, 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove.** Looking for a fun, fabulous and educational program for you and your baby? Join the staff at the Elk Grove Library for an interactive experience focused on babies from birth to 18 months. This program encourages early literacy development through movement, songs and shared reading. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

## Valentine Skip-counting in 2's

Help Cupid's arrow find its path by coloring in the 2 times table.



2	4	1	11	33	17		
5	6	17	31	19	49		
9	19	15	8	10	43	21	35
33	17	3	7	12	38	13	41
41	14	44	16	14	23	49	1
3	28	5	18	15	23	15	47
37	34	21	20	22	24		
29	11	45	27	21	25		



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# Early Learning/Development and "Readiness" and YOUR Child



## A Message from First 5 Sacramento

Typically, children begin interacting with other children their age at 2-3 years old, enter preschool at 4 years old, and start kindergarten at age 5. However, a child's age isn't the only factor to consider when deciding to enroll their child in program outside the home. While each child grows and develops at their own pace, how a child plays, learns, speaks, and acts provide parents with important clues about their child's development and can be a good guide for determining when their child is ready to enter a playgroup, preschool and/or kindergarten.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the following developmental milestones to help parents track their child's development and support optimal growth and development.

The Department of Health & Human Services U.S.A. / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is a great resource for parenting tips and information about developmental milestones, child safety, and health. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

WHAT CHILDREN DO AT THIS AGE:	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS
<b>Social and Emotional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imitates others, especially adults and older children</li> <li>Plays mainly beside other children, but beginning to include others (as in chase games)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows concern for a crying friend</li> <li>Takes turns in games</li> <li>Separates easily from mom and dad</li> <li>Dresses and undresses self</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would rather play with other children than her/himself</li> <li>Cooperates with other children</li> <li>Often can't tell what's real and what's make-believe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More likely to agree with rules</li> <li>Can tell what's real and what's make-believe</li> <li>Shows concerns and sympathy for others</li> <li>Wants to please friends and be like them</li> </ul>
<b>Language/Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses sentences with 2-4 words</li> <li>Points to things/pictures when they are named</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands words like "in," "on," and "under"</li> <li>Carries on a conversation using 2-3 sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sings songs and recites simple poems from memory</li> <li>Can say first and last name</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tells a simple story using full sentences</li> <li>Says name and address</li> </ul>

The local library is a great resource for finding age-appropriate reading materials and activities to support your child's development. Find a county library at [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

### 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.

# Strawberry Valentine Cookies

Tasteofhome.com

## Ingredients

- 2/3 cup butter, softened
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup strawberry drink mix
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

## Glaze:

- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon shortening

## Frosting:

- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons strawberry drink mix
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 to 5 tablespoons 2% milk

## Directions:

In a small bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and lemon juice. Combine the flour, drink mix, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.



On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a floured 2-1/2- to 3-in. heart-shaped cookie cutter. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until set and edges begin to brown. Cool for 2 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

In a microwave, melt chocolate chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Spread over cookies; let stand until set.

In a small bowl, beat the butter, drink mix and salt until blended. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar. Add enough milk to achieve desired consistency. Decorate cookies. Yield: about 2 dozen.

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# Snow White Party Ideas

www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com

## Activities

- Rent a Castle bounce house.
- Treasure Hunt - Fill a kiddie pool with play sand and hide lots of plastic jewels (see craft idea above) and/or play jewelry. Give each child a plastic scoop or shovel and tell them to dig like the seven dwarves for jewels. You might want to place a few special jewels in the sand that are worth an extra prize if found.
- Gold Coin Treasure Hunt - Buy lots of foil wrapped gold chocolate coins and hide them around the party area or outside. Give each guest a paper bag and tell them to find as many gold coins as they can. Let them take them home as favors after the birthday party.

## Invitation Ideas

- Find shiny silver foil cards and cut out a handheld mirror shape out of scrapbook paper to glue to the card so it looks like a mirror. Inside write "Mirror, mirror in my hand ... who's party is going to be grand?"
- Buy yellow cards and cut out blue scrapbook paper to cover 1/3 of the card. Glue red ribbon on the edge of the scrapbook paper and glue on a little red bow.

## Snow White Decoration Ideas

Tie yellow helium balloons with a few blue and red balloons mixed in to the mailbox so guests will know where the party is located. Cut out different shapes of footprints for each dwarf out of construction paper and tape them down along the walkway to the party. Decorate the party table with mostly yellows and touches of blue and red. Decorate the party area to look like the forest in the movie. On the party table drape yellow tulle from the corners and embellish with artificial flowers. Place blue birds around the party area.

## Snow White Craft Ideas

**Jeweled Frames** - The dwarves in the Snow White movie dug for jewels. See the "digging for jewels" game below and then use the jewels to make a cute picture frame. Buy wooden frames at a craft store. Let the guests paint their frames with yellow, blue and red (or any color they choose) and then attach large plastic jewels to the frame with hot glue (make sure an adult handles the hot glue gun). If you are having someone

come dressed up as Snow White take pictures of the guests with Snow White, or if you have a Snow White costume let the guests take turns dressing up like Snow White and take their pictures. If time permits have a helper run them to 1 hour photo and at the end of the party place them in their picture frames to take home as a favor. Or mail the pictures to the guests with a thank you note.

## Snow White Party Games

- Name that Dwarf - Write the names of the seven dwarves on large stickers (one name per sticker) plus the names of Snow White, the Prince and the Stepmother. If you have more than 10 guests duplicate some of the names of the dwarves. While guests are arriving place a sticker on their back - make sure they don't see the sticker. Then have the guests go around and ask yes or no questions until they guess which character they have on their back. The names of the seven dwarves are: Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezzy and Dopey.
- Broom Relay - Blow up several balloons to about 4 inches and tie. Divide guests into 2

teams and give each team a broom and 3 balloons. Have them one by one herd the balloons to the other end of the room, around a cone or chair, and then back to the starting point. They then hand off the broom to the next person. The team with all of their players completing the course wins. If a balloon pops the person must return to the start and begin again with another balloon.

## Snow White Food Ideas

Angel food cake with strawberries, apple pie, caramel apples

## Snow White Party Favor Ideas

Hand held mirrors, gold chocolate coins, necklaces and bracelets, apple themed jewelry, red hair bows or head bands, stuffed animal birds

# Cinderella Birthday Games

www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com

Make her wishes come true with these fun and easy Cinderella themed birthday party ideas.

## Invitations for a Cinderella Party

- Print the Cinderella party information on pretty blue paper - 4 per page. Cut out and roll up like a scroll then secure with yellow or medium blue ribbon.
- Buy cards that look like glass slippers and write the party information on the inside.
- Write party information on pretty blue paper and roll up into a scroll ... then attach with a ribbon to a princess tiara. Ask the guests to wear the tiara to the party.
- Make cards that look like a clock tower with the hands of the clock almost to strike 12 o'clock. Inside write the party information.
- Buy or make cards from orange scrapbook paper and cardstock that look like a pumpkin carriage.

## Decorations for a Cinderella Party

- Outside the party venue decorate with light blue and yellow balloons. Have pumpkins lining the walkway to the party and hang paper birds in the trees with fishing line to look like they are flying low towards the party. Make the front door look like a castle and create a drawbridge from

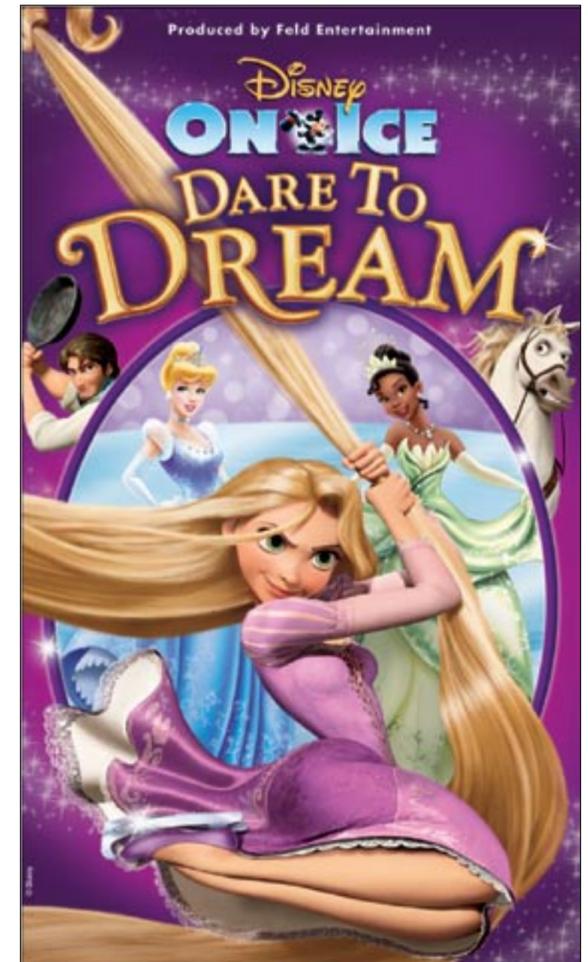
a large appliance box that guests have to walk over to get to the party. Make the drawbridge chains from strips of brown and black construction paper or buy large plastic chains at the home improvement store.

- For the party table use a light or medium blue tablecloth with light blue or yellow plates, cups and napkins. Place glitter or silver confetti on the table (place a clear tablecloth over the table if the guests are younger than 3). Buy or make a horse and carriage and place it on the center table for a centerpiece. Party chairs can be made to look festive by tying tulle around the backs and then make a big bow at the back of each chair. Set out princess tiaras at each place setting or use to hold name cards. Instead of using paper plates (and if the children are old enough) use china or buy a cheap set of dishes that look expensive.
- Decorate a room for the royal ball and place lots of blown up light blue, medium blue and white balloons on the floor. You will need enough to cover the floor. The princesses will love walking and dancing through the balloons.
- Strings of lights can be used to create a fairytale feel by hanging them on the walls, in plants and trees and in the middle of the party table. If you have enough you can hang them everywhere and then turn out the lights and let the kids dance under the stars.

**Castle Piñata** - Buy or make a Cinderella themed piñata - a castle or glass slipper. Fill it with wrapped candies and small toys. To hit the piñata get an old broom stick and tell the party guests that it is Cinderella's old broom from when she lived with her step mother. Give each party guest a light blue bag and let them decorate it with Cinderella stickers and their name. They can use the bags to collect the candy and prizes.

**Fairy Godmother Quick Change Game** - Help Cinderella's Fairy Godmother dress her up for the ball. You will need two sets of clothes for this party game. Two dressy dresses, high heel shoes, tiaras, wigs, a pumpkin, necklaces, clip on earrings, etc. and two clocks. Put the two sets of clothes on one side of the party room and the two clocks on the other side of the room. Separate party guests into two teams and have them stand behind their clock. The first person from each team will run to their pile of clothes, put them on (over their clothes), run back to their team and tag the clock (have it set at 1 minute to midnight) then back to the pile of clothes to take them off and back to their team where the next person in line will have a turn. Make sure the dresses are big enough to fit over the kids normal clothes.

**Prince and Glass Slipper Chase** - You will need a glass slipper or fancy high heel (Cinderella) and a blue ball (the Prince) for this game. Have the party guests sit in a circle and give Cinderella to one person and the Prince to the person opposite them in the circle. Tell them that on "go" they will start to pass the objects around the circle clockwise and they are trying to have the Prince catch Cinderella. They will pass both objects fast around the circle trying to both keep Cinderella ahead of the Prince and also trying to catch Cinderella. When the Prince catches Cinderella start again.



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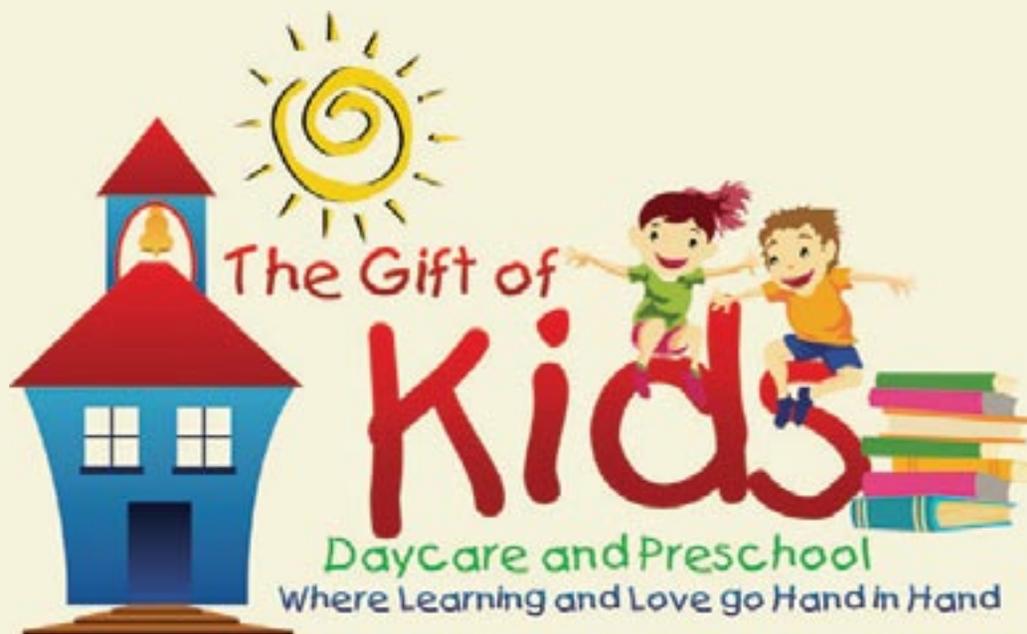
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