

June 2013

California Kids!

Free!

Valley Community Newspapers, Inc. • 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818 • www.valcomnews.com
Publishers of the Arden-Carmichael News, the East Sacramento News, The Land Park News, The Pocket News, and The Valley Shopper.

Happy Father's Day!



Summer Guide inside
pages 14-20



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL, TK & K TO 8TH GRADE



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FALL.
COME BY AND TOUR THE FACILITIES.
WE NOW HAVE A NEW PRESCHOOL CAMPUS WITH
NEW EXTENDED HOURS, OPEN UNTIL 6PM.

VISIT WWW.STJOHNEV.COM OR
CALL FOR A TOUR TODAY!

5701 LOCUST AVE., CARMICHAEL, CA 95608 • (916) 481-8845
LICENSE # 343617176



WHERE LITTLE TEETH ARE A BIG DEAL!

- Environment designed just for kids - video arcade, movies and more!
- Skilled at comforting & caring for all children, even the most anxious
- State-of-the-art offices & technology featuring low radiation X-rays
- Convenient hours (Early morning, evening, & Saturday appointments)
- Insurance friendly & payment options

6 Convenient Locations
(916) 678-3561
 CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$49 SPECIAL
 New Patient Exam, X-rays & Cleaning!
 \$262 Value

OR

FREE!
 Kids Sonicare Electric Toothbrush!
 \$55 Value



Kids Care Dental Group.com

I-80 & Greenback • Folsom • Calvine & Hwy 99 • Sacramento • Elk Grove • Stockton

* Offer not valid in New Patient Only and may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per person. Excludes Government Program Patients.

Table of contents

Who Wrote That? Leslie Helakoski
 by Patricia Newmanpage 4

Wordsearch: Summer Time Birding!.....page 7

Make it Yourself!.....page 8

Travel: Sioux Falls
 by Carmel L. Mooney page 10

The Book Report: Poetry
 by Connie Goldsmith page 13

Summer Guide pages 14–20

Calendar of Events pages 22–23

Parties! Parties!..... pages 26–27

California Kids!

www.valcomnews.com

Publisher: George Macko
General Manager: Kathleen Egan
Contributing Writers:
 Connie Goldsmith, Carmel L. Mooney, Patricia Newman
Art Director: John Ochoa • **Graphic Artist:** Serene Lusano
Sales Manager: Patty Colmer
Advertising: Jen Henry • 916-429-9901
Distribution/Subscriptions: George Macko
Cover Photo: Ohio National Guard photo by Steve Toth
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/thenationalguard/>

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

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

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

Copyright 2013 by Valley Community Newspapers Inc., 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Phone: (916) 429-9901. Fax: (916) 429-9906. E-mail: kathleen@valcomnews.com. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

A truly breakthrough product!



NeriumAD Age-Defying Treatment



The unprecedented results and clinical testing of NeriumAD provide a huge differential to other skincare products.

NeriumAD is a one-product-night-cream. ONE product - that's it!

Third-party clinical trials show that NeriumAD dramatically reduces the appearance of:

- Fine lines and wrinkles
- Uneven skin texture
- Aging or sun-damaged skin
- Hyper pigmentation
- Enlarged pores

916-370-4452 • www.AngelBockmann.Nerium.com

RECYCLE

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER ♻️

Carousel BIRTHDAY PARTIES

PARTY PACKAGES FOR 20 PEOPLE

- 20 Zoo Admissions
- 20 Carousel Tickets
- One hour reserved party area near the Conservation Carousel
- Staff Assistant
- Lunch, Ice Cream and Cupcakes for 20

Packages starting at \$385
 \$455 value – you save \$70

Zoo Birthday Party Line 916-808-8556 or visit saczoo.org

sacramentoZOO

Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Leslie Helakoski

By Patricia Newman



Leslie Helakoski nurtured her dream of writing and illustrating children's books for years before she had the courage (and the time) to act on it. Her advertising background gave her an appreciation for creative copy writing and graphic design. "I got the biggest kick out of clever writing," she says. Additionally, she worked with her parents in the preschool they founded. According to Helakoski, her parents dubbed the school a "thinking school" and used stories to teach life lessons.

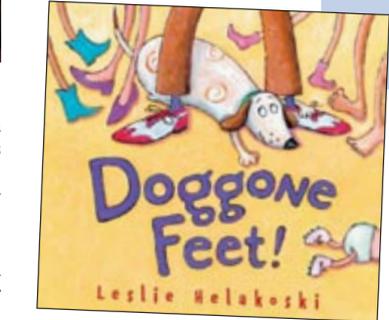
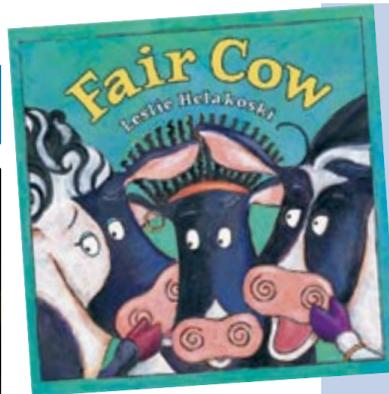
When her children were born, Helakoski decided to "poke into writing more seriously." In spite of her advertising and design degree, she sold the text of her first five books, but not the art. "Those first couple of books I wasn't quite ready [to illustrate]," she says. "There's a difference between a nice design and an illustration. It took me a while to get it and start working more to tell stories through pictures and develop character through them."

Many of Helakoski's stories stem from adventures with her five brothers and sisters on the bayous of southwest Louisiana. "There's this jumble of memories of building

camp in the woods. Trekking out to this barn on the other side of the woods and playing in the hayloft. Running through the cow pastures."

Helakoski's books frequently begin with a childhood adventure. Her upcoming book, *Big Pigs*, started as a birth order story—what it was like to be the eldest, the middle child, and the youngest. "My big sister is the big pig in our family," she says in her soft drawl. During the revision process, however, the story morphed into a sibling rivalry tale.

Big Chickens sprang directly from Helakoski's fears of following her two older sisters into the woods. "There was a ditch we had to jump across and I was so afraid of falling in the mud. I was always afraid of the cows—that they might come charging



after us...We would cross a little part of the bayou, and I was afraid of falling in there, too, partly because my sister would try to scare me to make me fall in."

With the success of *Big Chickens*, Helakoski's editor asked for a companion book featuring the lovable, fearful birds. At the time, Helakoski said to herself, "There were a lot of things I was afraid of!" *Big Chickens Fly the Coop* explores the fear of venturing out to follow one's dreams. Helakoski wrote the story at a time in her life when she seesawed be-

tween continuing with her secure job and creating books as her sole vocation. Although her books sold well, she returned to the safety of a steady paycheck several times before finally flying the coop to write and illustrate full time.

The lovable rebel sheep in *Woolbur* celebrates the non-conformist child, but it was also the book with the most difficult birth. Helakoski wanted to illustrate *Woolbur*, but her editor did not think her artistic style was a good match for the story. "I almost backed out of the deal," she says, "but fourteen other editors had rejected the story and I was afraid it would not become a book at all if I did not go along with [the

editor's] vision." When the assigned illustrator, Lee Harper, asked if he could put something in the art that had meaning for Helakoski, she softened. *Fair Cow* marked the first time Helakoski illustrated her own text. She prefers acrylic, occasionally over-laying color pencil. "I wish I was more adventurous," she says. "I tried digital media, but it's not for me. I like the texture of the paint—to feel it smushing around." The story idea for *Fair Cow* stems from a television documentary about preparing cows to compete at a state fair. "It put a ludicrous image in my head of cows sitting under the hair dryer," she says.

Several of Helakoski's books feature farm animals. "Animals lend themselves to stories, and they are fun to draw," she says. "Kids are familiar with them and get the jokes I can make about the animal's behavior. It's harder to nail down human emotions and reactions, but animal behavior is simpler." Helakoski's stories also speak to a variety of ethnicities because of the animal characters. As hard as Helakoski campaigned to illustrate her earlier work, she campaigned against illustrating *Doggone Feet!* The idea developed from a tapestry in a shop window that pictured a dog under a table looking at his family's feet. "The art seemed too complicated for me," she says. "I did not want to show all those an-

LEARN MORE ABOUT LESLIE HELAKOSKI

Visit: www.HelakoskiBooks.com

SELECTIONS FROM LESLIE HELAKOSKI'S LIBRARY

Doggone Feet!, Boyds Mills Press, 2013.

Fair Cow, Marshall Cavendish, 2010.

Big Chickens Go to Town, Dutton, 2010.

Woolbur, HarperCollins, 2008.

Big Chickens Fly the Coop, Dutton, 2008.

Big Chickens, Dutton, 2006.

The Smushy Bus, The Millbrook Press, 2002.

UPCOMING

Big Pigs, Boyds Mills Press, 2014.



Twilight Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27

Enjoy warm summer nights at the Sacramento Zoo with extended hours on Twilight Thursdays, June 6 through July 25. The Zoo is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for your family to enjoy. Dinner specials, live music and activities start at 5 p.m. Regular daily admission rates apply. General admission is \$11.25. Children ages 2-11 are \$7.25. Children under one are free. For more information call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczo.org.

Family Overnight Safaris, Friday and Saturday, June 18, 15 and 28, 5:30 p.m. to 9 a.m.

During the summer months of June, July and August, the Sacramento Zoo offers Family Overnight Safaris. These fun-filled educational evenings will guide you through all that the nighttime Zoo has to offer. These camp-outs are designed for small groups and families of 2 or more people. This is a perfect opportunity to see animal behaviors you may not have seen before. Dinner and breakfast are provided. For more information, or to make reservations, visit saczo.org.

King of Feasts, Saturday, June 22, 6 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy this unique gourmet food and wine luau featuring live entertainment, Polynesian dancers, local celebrities and a silent auction at King of Feasts. Feast on foods from dozens of the finest Sacramento area restaurants and bakeries. Sample premium California wines, beers and spirits in the relaxed and lush setting of the Sacramento Zoo. Please note that this is an adults-only event. Zoo closes early at 1:30 pm. Parking is free and available throughout the park. For more information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczo.org.

Who wrote that

Continued from page 4

gles under the table." When rejections started rolling in, a friend suggested that Helakoski distort the perspective to make the illustrations more manageable, and the story sold.

Helakoski makes her home in Michigan with her husband and three children. "I usually try to write in the morning, and if I'm lucky, again later in the afternoon," she says.

For aspiring writers of all ages, Helakoski says, "My first drafts are really truly horrible. If I didn't know better I would stop writing right there. They show no redeeming qualities at all.

That's what I like about writing—you can change it!"

Next month: Kelly Milner Halls

Patricia Newman is the author of *Jingle the Brass* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), recommended by the Smithsonian National American History Museum and *Nugget on the Flight Deck* (Walker), recipient of the California Reading Association's Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction. Her newest books *Energy Lab: Biofuels and Energy Lab: Water Power* are now available. Visit her website at www.patriciannewman.com for more information.

Meef Zuri!

The results of the naming contest for the Sacramento Zoo's Wolf's Guenon, born January 26, are in. With 96,389 votes, the winning name is Zuri. Voting began April 25 and ended at noon on May 10.

Zuri means good, nice, pretty, lovely and cute in Swahili. Five names, submitted by Zoo employees, were presented to the public as potential names for the baby guenon.

Wolf's Guenons are native to central Africa where they inhabit forests and forage for fruits, seeds, and an occasional insect. Forming loose family groups in the wild, these monkeys are even known to spend time with other primate species including Bonobos, Colobus Monkeys and other guenons. A larger mixed-species group may mean that there are more eyes on the lookout for predators, and many guenons have learned to recognize other monkeys' alarm calls so that they know how to respond correctly if a neighbor spots a leopard or eagle.

The guenon family is currently on exhibit at the Zoo's Lower Monkey House awaiting the completion of Small Wonders, a soon-to-be renovated habitat across from



Tall Wonders (the giraffe deck). Small Wonders will encompass three distinct animal living areas and will house exciting new species to the Sacramento Zoo. In addition to the Wolf's Guenons, the Zoo will welcome Straw-colored Fruit Bats, Aardvarks, Banded Mongooses and several African birds, including Red-billed Hornbills and Crested Guineafowl.

Photo Credit: Mike Owyang



Meef CJ soon!

Photos courtesy of the Sacramento Zoo

The Sumatran Tiger cub is up to 18 lbs and is getting more mobile and feisty by the day as well. He has also started to practice his stalking skills and often pounces on mom. Also, he is not eating solid food quite yet but is starting to show an interest in moms food and enjoys playing with it. Keep an eye out for his public debut in early June.

KOHL'S BUCKLE UP TO GROW UP • A UC DAVIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PROGRAM

SAFETY best: USE YOUR vest, EVERY TIME YOU swim.

Most serious injuries to children are preventable. Through education and the proper use of safety equipment, parents can help keep kids safer. To find more information on child safety, visit us on our website or Facebook page.

For more information, call 916-734-9799

www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/injuryprevention • www.facebook.com/buckleup2growup

Continued on page 5

Let the Animals Touch You

Special to California Kids
by Lisa Seto



Increasingly, people are beginning to understand the need to protect our fragile earth. Awareness and education are our best investments in preserving the living world around us. But to do this, we need to spark curiosity and foster respect to get us thinking about our role in the environment.

Nature's Critters is a mobile zoo and offers educational live animal presentations. Nature's Critters has been opening eyes and inspiring minds to the wild-life wonders around us for a long time. Julie Allen started Nature's Critters as a result of her work with animals and her desire to educate people about our role in the environment. I worked with Julie Allen for three years before owning Nature's Critters and continue the mission that Julie started over 30 years

ago. I have a passion for all animals and in addition to a Masters of Science in Biology and a B.S. in Zoology, I have broad background experience with animals. I have worked as a field biologist, consulted in the



study of endangered birds, worked as a veterinary technician, pet therapy volunteer, Humane Society volunteer and wild life rehabilitator.

Nature's Critters offers a variety of programs, which inform and inspire, enliven and empower, and deliver important messages through fun and interactive entertainment with live animals. We feature many kinds of animals including reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals and invertebrates and a variety of topics including programs on the rainforests, reptiles and endangered species.

For young children, programs are designed to help them better understand and appreciate the word around them. Older kids begin to see the links between their

values, everyday choices and global ecosystems. Adults are prompted to ask the questions "why should I care" and "what can I do" and are encouraged to participate in activities that will allow them to become better stewards of the environment.

From fun and entertaining birthday parties to educational school programs Nature's Critters brings the zoo to you. For more information on Nature's Critters call (916) 77-FROGS or visit www.naturescritters.com.

In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.

-Baba Diom

Effie Yeaw Nature Center Calendar

UNDER THE OAKS KIDS CAMPS

Day camps for Nature Detectives (ages 5 – 8) and Junior Rangers (ages 8 – 12) have great outdoor activities for science education and team building. One-week and two-week sessions start June 17, 9 a.m. to noon daily. Reservations required, call (916) 489-4918 or sign up at www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Weekend Activities

Donations gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car county entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (Free to members)

Critter Close Up - Saturday, June 1, 10:30 a.m.

Get a chance to meet one of the Nature Center's resident animals up close. Learn all about an amazing animal and its own unique journey to becoming an educational ambassador.

Along the River Edge - Sunday, June 2, 1:30 p.m.

Who lives at the river edge? Hike with a naturalist and explore the habitat where beaver, otter, herons and other wildlife live. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the staff. All ages welcome.

Rattlesnakes - Sunday, June 9, 1:30 p.m.

Warm weather is perfect weather for snakes, especially for rattlesnakes along the American River. Learn all about these snakes and their imposters, and how to enjoy the American River and keep your family safe during this season.

Summer Solstice - Saturday, June 15, 10:30 a.m.

Summer is here. Beat the heat and take time on this morning Preserve hike to see what changes are taking place as we enter the season of Summer.

Father's Day in the Wild - Sunday, June 16, 1:30 p.m.

Bring Dad and join the staff to learn about some wild fathers as we take a hike under the shady oaks.

Nature Tales - Saturday, June 22, 10:30 a.m.

Members of the Sacramento Storytellers Guild will share their entertaining tales of animals and nature. All ages welcome.

Solar Energy with SMUD - Sunday, June 23, 1:30 p.m.

Join guest speaker Alex from SMUD for a presentation on a solar energy. Have fun with interactive solar kits and learn how you can put the sun to work with your own solar power system and generate your own energy for a better and cleaner Sacramento. Space is limited.

What Gall! - Saturday, June 29, 10:30 a.m.

Discover how tiny wasps have caused galls in our oak trees. Some galls look like apples, some like Hershey kisses, and some even look like tiny sea urchins. Join a Naturalist for a hike in the Preserve to find three different types of oak trees and discover what kinds of galls each oak hosts. All ages welcome.



Summer time Birding!

Summer's here! Time to go outside and enjoy nature. Whether you are alone or with friends and family, enjoying the outdoors with birds is always a lot of fun! Here's a list of birds that you might be able to find outside your home, visiting the ocean, or at the zoo! Look carefully; words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and upside-down.

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

Black Bird

Condor

Crow

Dove

Eagle

Falcon

Finch

Flamingo

Hawk

Hummingbird

Lark

Magpie

Meadowlark

Mocking Bird

oriole

owl

Pheasant

Raven

Robin

Sandpiper

Scrub Jay

Sparrow

Swallow

Swan

warbler

Wren

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

games are fun for the entire family!

Don't miss these fun family events:

- Toyota Family Value Tuesday**
Enjoy \$1 hot dogs & desserts, yum!
- Free Parking Wednesday**
presented by Jiffy Lube
Mom & dad will love Free Parking!
- Fireworks Friday**
Fireworks are now on Friday nights too!
- Sutter Health Fireworks Saturday**
Fireworks light up the Sacramento Skyline!
- U.S. Bank Sunday Funday**
Enjoy kids run the bases & player autographs plus face painters and balloon artists!

Buy tickets today at rivercats.com or by calling 800.745.3000

TAEKWONDO

5 WEEKS for \$59.99

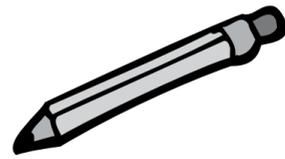
Unlimited attendance.
Classes Monday - Friday at 5pm, Saturdays at 11am
9250 Greenback Lane, Orangevale, CA • 916-987-7200

WILLS and TRUSTS

Protect Those You Care For;
Protect Your Children and Loved Ones if Something Happens to You

Gilberto Lopez, Jr. Estate Planning Attorney
(916) 665-1122 • www.gjljlawoffice.com
8031 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, 95832
Also experienced in Trust Administration & Personal Injury Auto Accidents

MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Personalized can cooler

What a useful gift. Kids can have great fun decorating and personalizing a can cooler for Dad.

You will need:

Craft foam, glitter glue, PVA glue, items to glue on to decorate like; sequins and gems, but you can use whatever is in your craft cupboard, self adhesive hook and eye fasteners (3 'dots')



You will need to:

Cut a rectangle of craft foam, about 1/2 inch shorter than a standard soft drink can and long enough to fit around the can with 1/2 inch overlap. Decorate however you like but remember it needs to fit comfortably in the hand. Wrap around a can and ask a friend to secure in place with the hook and eye fasteners.

Plaster handprint picture

This plaster handprint picture captures your child's hand forever and makes a unique gift for Father's Day.

You will need:

A box frame, Plaster of Paris, strong glue

You will need to:

Start by taking apart the frame, and removing the box shape from it. Using strong glue, stick it very carefully to the frame back, making sure all of the corners match up. Leave until the glue dries.

Mix up the Plaster of Paris powder with water until it forms a thick paste. Spoon into your box shape and spread evenly.

Quickly, before it begins to set, press a hand (or foot) into the mixture. Leave to set.



Crafts courtesy of: www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Shell Photo Frame

Take advantage of a trip to the beach to collect shells for this pretty shell photo frame, or pick some up at your local craft store. The frame is a nice gift the kids can make for Father's Day.

You will need:

An inexpensive photo frame, Tester pot of emulsion paint or poster or acrylic paint, small shells, strong glue (or hot glue gun with adult supervision)



You will need to:

Paint your frame and leave to dry. Arrange your shells on the frame. When happy with their positioning, older children can glue them into position themselves using strong glue or a hot glue gun. Younger children may need to ask for adult help.

Soccer or Football Spinner

Make this spinner with your kids. It's a fun soccer craft, too, and perfect for a Father's Day gift.

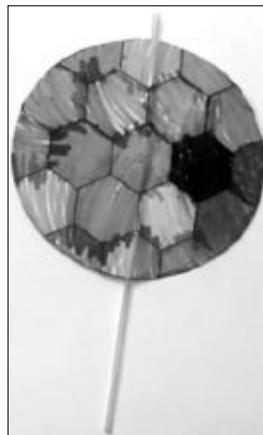
You will need:

Card or construction paper, coloring pens or pencils, a straw, glue

You will need to:

Cut out your spinner from the card or construction paper and draw a shirt or sports equipment. Color in the football and shirt, then cut out the two circles.

Cover the back of each in glue and sandwich together with a straw in the center, making sure that it sticks out at the top and bottom. Hold the straw between your flat hands and rub your hands backwards and forwards to watch the picture change! You can use the football spinner when you are supporting your favorite team!



Fairytale Town Presents Summer FunCamps for Children

This summer, Fairytale Town offers more than 15 exciting and innovative educational camps for children ages 3 through 12. Each weeklong FunCamp is designed for a specific age group and features a unique theme, including visual and theatre arts, literature, puppetry, animals, gardening and more. Children can explore new areas of interest or dive deeper into their favorite topic. Three new camps are offered this year: Adventure Play introduces campers to the natural world; Crafty Kids covers creative crafting and art-making; and Farmer Brown's Farmers for ages 6-12 is an expanded version of Fairytale Town's popular animal camp for ages 4-6.

FunCamps are \$130 per camp. Visit www.fairytaletown.org to register. Fairytale Town members receive advance registration and camp discounts. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

JUNE CAMPS

Children Ages 4 - 6

• **Farmer Brown's Junior Farmers, Monday - Friday, June 17 - 21, 9 a.m. to noon.** Farmer Brown introduces campers to the daily regimens that keep Fairytale Town's friendly flock of farm animals fit and healthy. Campers will get to know these barnyard buddies while learning historical information and participating in related hands-on activities. Please note: Campers will have direct contact with Fairytale Town animals and animal feed. Some children may be allergic to the natural oils found in animal fur/hair and feed. Instructor: Jim Hernandez.

• **Little Artists, Monday - Friday, June 24 - 28, 9 a.m. to noon.** This camp introduces the world of art and basic art concepts to budding artists. Campers participate in a wonderful



week of art projects featuring wall-to-wall drawing, cutting, pasting and painting in a relaxed environment. Topics include primary and secondary colors, drawing, sand art and patterns. Instructor: Elizabeth Vang.

Ages 6 - 12

• **Adventure Play, Monday - Friday, June 17 - 21, 1 - 4 p.m.**

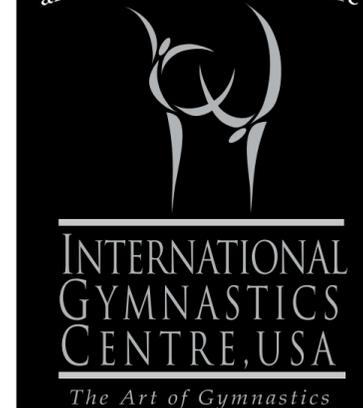
Adventure Play is a new addition to this year's FunCamp line-up. This camp teaches children about the natural world through science-based experiments and discovery play. Concepts include basic survival skills, weather, plants and animals to name a few. Campers will make sundials, use a solar oven,

construct forts, create miniature greenhouses and more. A different adventure awaits campers each day. Instructor: Ka Vue.

• **Young Picassos, Monday - Friday, June 24 - 28, 1 - 4 p.m.**

This FunCamp covers the exciting variety found in the world of art! Campers will try their hand at different art media, including watercolors, prints, clay and mixed media. Campers will also explore making 3-D works of art and creating with found objects. This camp is specifically designed for the young artist who wants to try it all. Instructor: Andy Graham.

Summer is in the air
and Summer Camp is here



916-372-4496 • 1260 Triangle Ct. • www.SacramentoGymnastics.com

Fairytale Town events

Annual Puppet Festival
Thursdays - Sundays, Through June 16
Weekdays at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Weekends at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Fairytale Town brings you another season of playful puppetry. Children and adults can enjoy live puppet show performances inside Fairytale Town's Children's Theater. This year's festival features six original productions based on new and traditional fairytales. Puppet show performances through June 2 will be performed by Puppet Art Theater Company. The festival will end with the premiere of Fairytale Town's original puppet production of "Rumpelstiltskin" from June 6 through 16. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members. Tickets can be purchased at the Fairytale Town main gate or at the entrance to the Children's Theater 15 minutes prior to show time. For more information and a show schedule, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

A Midsummer Night's Dream & Crystal Ice Cream Fantasy Saturday, Jun. 29, 6 - 10 p.m.

Celebrate the classic works of William Shakespeare while enjoying all you can eat Crystal ice cream at Fairytale Town's magical midsummer evening inspired by the popular fairy-themed play. The enchanting evening features multiple ice cream tasting stations, live entertainment, hands-on activities, an old-time marketplace and more. Costumes for the whole family are encouraged. No host food and bar. Mix 96's Jennifer Wood will emcee the event. Tickets are on sale at www.fairytaletown.org. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2-12. Day-of tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Dive into
Self-Expression!

SUMMER
arts
in SACRAMENTO

Performing arts classes for
children and adults - singing,
rhythm, storytelling, move-
ment, bellydancing - for reju-
venation, skill enhancement,
and of course, summer fun!
July 7 - 27, 2013
For info and registration
www.tianame.com 765-6537

Register for Summer Camp!

Program starts Summer Camp starts June 17th for 7 weeks at
7:30am and ends at 5:30pm.

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.

Special guest instructors
including martial arts, dance, hip
hop & theatre arts.
Reservations required.

CALL 916-372-4496
to reserve your spot today!



Sioux Falls, Richest Family Destination in the Mid West and Great Plains

by Carmel L. Mooney

When one thinks of a family travel destination one might first consider more notable travel meccas such as Southern California, Galveston, New York City, Pigeon Forge, Branson, or Myrtle Beach but by doing so a family misses one of the best family destination treasures in our nation, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Sioux Falls offers golfing, spas, shopping, cowboy culture, history, spectacular beauty and vistas, agritourism, wine tasting, Hutterite communities, rodeos, outstanding dining, and all of this with truly memorable hospitality and small town charm balanced with big city life.

Highlights of our recent trip included a visit to Sioux Falls McCrossen Boys Ranch Xtreme Challenge Rodeo. One of the best rodeos we had ever attended, it was fun, fascinating and offered a real and insightful taste of true Americana and the rural side of Sioux Falls. Some of the nation's best bull riders and fastest barrel racers kept the excitement going all evening as young and old competed throughout the evening. And the sunset across the prairie was nothing short of magical.

Another gem of our visit was to Oak Lane Hutterite Colony. There we witnessed the amazing life of this 9000 acre colony of folks dedicated to outstanding stewardship of their land and livestock. These self sustaining and deeply faith-based colonies grow and maintain what is needed for their population. Hog, dairy and turkey farmers, these kind and generous people, showed us their talents, blessings, workmanship and stewardship of the land they maintain and share with any who are respectful of their values and principles. Our visit was inspiring, enlightening and very educational.

A visit to Poet Bio-refining, just 20 miles southwest of Sioux Falls proved to be an educational excursion beyond expectation. There we toured the facility and learned how the plant annually utilizes more than 35 million bushels of locally grown and harvested corn to pro-

cess it into more than 100 million gallons of ethanol. Again stewardship came in to play as we learned how Poet produces the energy used at the plant and how the solid waste fuel boiler burns hundreds of tons of wood chips on a daily basis, to capture and burn methane gas from the Sioux Falls landfill. Dedicated to green energy this cutting edge facility creates a biologically harmonic relationship with Sioux Falls.

Poet is dedicated to reducing dependence on foreign oil through their Growth Energy Program and by promoting the expansion of the use of ethanol in gasoline. We learned so much on their fascinating tour that our brains were nearly aching.

As if we had not learned enough, we also toured the interesting and educational South Dakota State University Dairy Plant and Sales Bar where Cookies and Cream flavored ice cream was founded. Located next to the Alfred Dairy Science Hall this facility processes more than 10,000 pounds of milk in a week. Cheese, butter, milk, and 60 flavors of ice cream are just a few of the dairy based highlights manufactured and enjoyed there. Both tourists and alumni can enjoy the products from this plant and Dairy Bar where students learn and implement marketing and retail strategies of the SDSU dairy products produced. Employing more than twenty students at a time, this is a sweet excursion for any visiting family wanting to enjoy educationally sweet South Dakota goodness.

Wine tasting is a growing industry and tourist attraction in South Eastern South Dakota and we enjoyed visiting a few wineries that make up the Southeast South Dakota Winery Trail. Most of the wineries are very creative in incorporating local products such as Plum, Chokeberry, Honey or Rhubarb into their offerings. Every winery we visited, Wilde Prairie Winery, Schade Vineyard and Winery and Strawbale Winery were each delightfully situated in gorgeous farmland settings where visitors can enjoy a sip of the countryside along with their local wares and handcrafts.



Sioux Falls McCrossen Boys Ranch Xtreme Challenge Rodeo.

Our favorite was Strawbale Winery in Renner, South Dakota. An ingenious straw bale constructed "green and environmentally sustainable" winery beautifully set amidst cornfields between a century old barn and grapevines, this spot was truly fabulous, the wines were good, and the ambiance was unbeatable. You could not ask for a more peaceful and tranquil environment to enjoy South Dakota's unique wines and hospitality amongst resident chickens, and wildlife.

One of our day excursions took us to Garretson and Palisades State Park for a glimpse of Split Rock Park and the history that has gripped residents and tourists alike for nearly two centuries. Over a century ago, Jesse James and Native American history took place in this gorgeous geological location that is a must see for any area visitor.

The area is geologically known as the Hills of the Prairie and is of glacial origin. The gorgeous red clay like stone was worked into bowls and pipes by the Native Americans who once inhabited the land. Waterfall hikes and Jesse James Jump Bridge are two intriguing highlights enjoyed by many.

We took a thoroughly humorous and adventurous pontoon tour of Splitrock Park in Garretson. Jesse James Pontoon Rides offered us a lovely nature based and narrated hour long, guided tour of the river as we meandered past Sioux quartzite cliffs, and the cave where Jesse James once hid. Our tour operator was funny and entertaining and kids will enjoy his fun and light hearted approach. It doesn't hurt that he is a local teacher.

One evening we stopped in Spa 2000 in downtown Sioux Falls where the upscale spa ambiance blended nicely with small town hospitality. Massages and various spa treatments are offered and I received the best haircut and service in years.

We decided to check out Rancher's Outlet and purchased some lovely Cowboy and Country Western purses and

outer wear. A great selection at fantastic prices, this was a great find on the outskirts of town. They were so kind and welcoming and were more than happy to shuttle us back to our hotel as well ship our fabulous finds home for us. It was a lovely store with lovely people to boot; no pun intended.

Our home away from home was the Ramkota Hotel. The staff there were exceptionally friendly and accommodating. They shuttled us to many noted gems of the city and environs at nearly a moment's notice. For a moderately priced hotel the amenities were outstanding. A fabulous indoor water park and pool were only a couple kid loving aspects. Frankie's Sports Bar and Grill, on property, was a great place to relax in the evenings with half-priced appetizers most evenings, outstanding, knowledgeable, creative and friendly bartenders, and all in a smoke free and inviting environment.

During our stay we enjoyed the Sioux Falls Trolley which took us to most of the notable shopping and downtown highlights throughout the day until 8 PM. One of the best and most memorable downtown gems was 121 acre Falls Park. The Trolley took us there where we enjoyed the Visitors Center, outlook, Queen Bee Flour Mill and historic Passenger Depot. Of course the falls themselves were the pinnacle of our visit. At night the narrated multimedia, brightly-colored, light show at the falls provided a gripping glimpse into the history and fortitude of the fascinating area.

Two excellent and family-friendly dining experiences we were glad to have enjoyed were a nice buffet lunch at Pizza Ranch, one of the cleanest and friendliest buffets of all time, and a lovely dinner at Grille 26 in Sioux Falls.

The Outdoor Campus in South Sioux Falls was extraordinary. This is a refresh-

See Travel, page 11

Travel:

Continued from page 10

ingly wonderful appropriation of tax dollars from hunting and fishing licenses and other avenues that provides an admission-free center for youth and families to learn about and enjoy outdoor skills and activities. Endless programs and classes along with a museum and walking trails offer a multitude of ways for families to enjoy the great outdoors including birding programs, fish cleaning, game cleaning, outdoor clubs, kayak club, outdoor skills classes and a team building center, just to name a few. Both drop ins and scheduled programs are offered.

This absolute "must see," is a wealth of information and activities geared to all ages and is a true gem and breath of fresh air to see such a well planned program so dedicated to our nation's youth.

Another nearby excursion we thoroughly enjoyed was an afternoon in Dell Rapids, where we visited the historic Opera House about 20 min from Sioux Falls.

Dell Rapids is a beautiful and quaint piece of Americana history with its Pink Rose Quartz buildings from local quarry. The Grand Opera House was built in 1888 after a fire destroyed the south side of street. The lovely couple who now own this treasure, have lovingly restored and renovated it for four years.

Upstairs it is used for performances in what was once intended for Vaudeville shows and later silent movies. It is one of a very few buildings certified by the State Park Service. Amazing images, signed au-

tographs, and original memorabilia from the Vaudeville era are still behind the stage walls for visitors to view.

It now currently houses birthday parties, class reunions, musicians and even a 9 piece orchestra. Fortunately the Opera House received grants from the state for renovation. Occasionally special Dinner Theater performances are hosted serving up to 125 people, and a notable chef is brought in, drawing crowds from far and wide. Shows or dinner theater performances are very modestly priced at around \$30-35 for dinner and show.

Sioux Falls is an extraordinary family-friendly destination where extraordinary people open their hearts and minds to share a little bit of heritage and magic with visitors from around the globe. Sioux Falls is not only a part of the Great Plains but a part of the Great Family Destinations of the World.

www.southeastouthdakota.com/south-dakota-wineries.php
www.ranchersoutletds.com
www.siouxareametro.org
 reservations for pontoon: 605-594-2225
www.garretsonsd.com
www.poet.com
www.visitsiouxfalls.com
www.spa2000sd.net
www.siouxfallsscvb.com
www.oaklanecolony.com
www.hutterite.com
www.dellrapidsgrandoperahouse.com/



Glory Children's Learning Center
 2641 Cooper Way, Sacramento, CA
916-515-8446
www.glorychildren.com

AFFORDABLE & QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE
\$100.00 OFF
3 months enrollment!
Only full time students /with coupon

We Bring The Fun!

Book Your Kid's Favorite TV Characters for Your Special Event:
 Pop Star, Super Hero or Traditional Princess Characters Available.



\$100 OFF DIVA PRINCESS PARTY PACKAGE

(916) 801-3586
 Character Connections Entertainment
www.characterconnectionsent.info

CAMP STAR BOUND

Improve your skills in:

- Singing
- Dancing
- Acting
- Musical Theater

Learn new performing arts styles such as:

- Hip Hop
- Ballet
- Modern
- Jazz
- Vocal
- Musical Theater

Participate in activities with friends such as:

- Swimming
- Hiking
- Archery
- Arts & Crafts

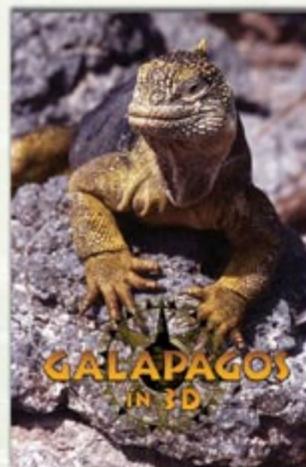
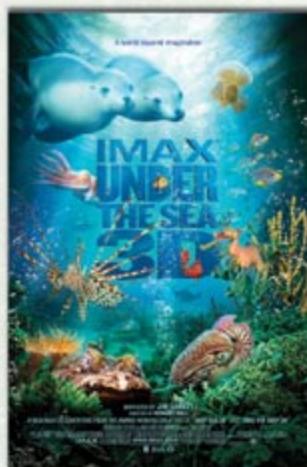
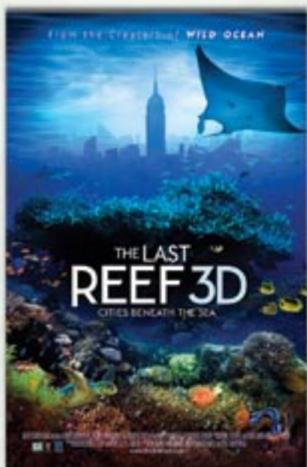
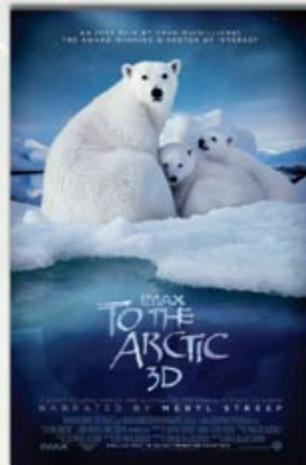
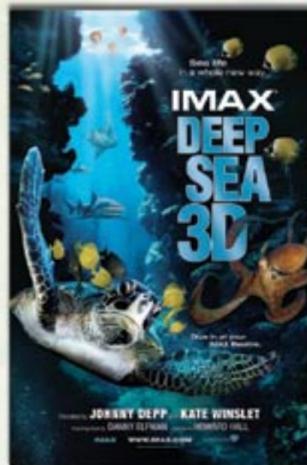
REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.CAMPSTARBOUND.COM MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$50 OFF TUITION!



SUMMER OF IMAX®

ESQUIRE
IMAX
THEATRE

TAKE YOUR KIDS ON AN ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER!



VISIT IMAX.COM/SACRAMENTO FOR SHOWTIMES

SEE A SECOND FILM FOR ONLY \$5.00 (PRICE APPLIES TO LESS EXPENSIVE FILM). IMAX FILM SHOWTIMES ARE 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM AND 1:15 PM. CHECK ONLINE FOR EXACT TIME AND FILM. MATINEE PRICING APPLIES TO 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM SHOWTIMES ONLY. SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS JUNE 10TH.



MAN OF STEEL: AN IMAX® 3D EXPERIENCE OPENS JUNE 14

LEGENDARY DC SYRACUSE PG-13

THE BOOK REPORT

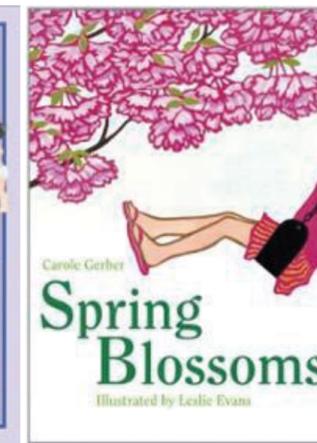
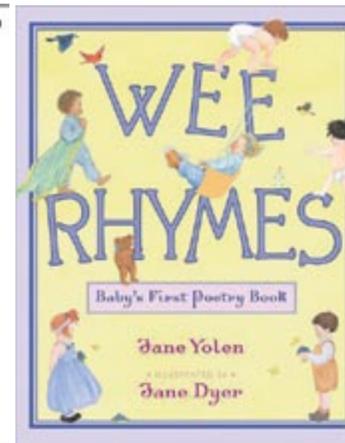
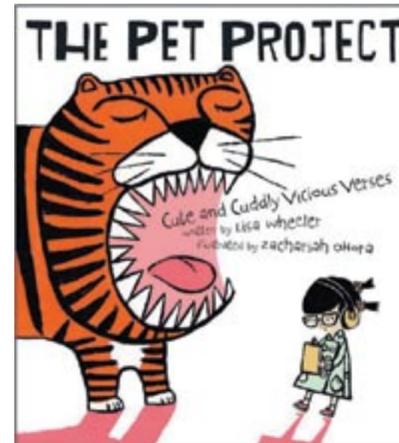
Poetry

By Connie Goldsmith

If you remember poetry as boring verses that you had to memorize in school, you should know that times have changed. Poetry comes as naturally to children as music. Even infants appreciate the melody of poetry's rhythmic sounds. Poetry is meant to be read aloud, and it's most enjoyable when shared with another. The best poetry uses words rich in sensory detail to explore new images and ideas. Poems come in all shapes and sizes. Take a look below: there's sure to be a poetry book just right for your child.

"*Wee Rhymes: Baby's First Poetry Book*," by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jane Dyer. (Simon & Schuster). These two beloved grandmothers brag they have nine grandchildren between them. So when it comes to children's poetry, they know what they're talking about! Literature begins in the cradle they say. The poems progress from infancy to toddlerhood, as in, "All Fall Down. Upsie, daisy, oh so crazy. Look out - all fall down. Pick you up and dust you off, and kiss away that frown." Some of the poems come from Mother Goose; most are original to the book. The poems reflect the important moments in a baby's day: cuddle time, play time, dinner time and bedtime. The gentle pastel art melds perfectly with the sweet and lyrical poems, making this anthology an ideal gift for showers and new parents.

"*Spring Blossoms*," by Carole Gerber, illustrated by Leslic Evans. (Charlesbridge). Spring is here, and two girls and their dog run outside to enjoy it. "Spring is bursting out all over. The sun is up. It's warm. Let's go! Trees so bare and plain in winter, are dressed up for their yearly show." Dogwood, crab apple, magnolia and cherry blossoms will likely

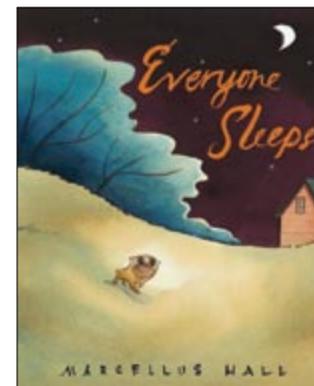


be familiar to readers; the tiny flowers of white oak, white pine, and balsam fir, less so. The gentle verse and soft block print and watercolor art are capped off by ending pages showing all the blossoms. A final page of text describes the cycle of bud, blossom, seed and tree.

"*The Pet Project: cute and cuddly vicious verses*," by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Zachariah Ohora. (Atheneum Books). Thinking about a pet? Follow the bespectacled, science-minded girl in the story who looks for her perfect pet in a most scientific way. With tablet in hand, she explores animals of the farm, zoo, forest and pet store, carefully recording her observations. But every animal, it seems, has its downside: "I love my pretty pony. He's precious and he's dear. He stomped my toes, he nipped my nose, he kicked me in the rear." Most animals stink, poo, pee, bite, have bad breath or nasty eating habits. Even bunnies are radish-ravishing, pea-pillaging pests! Muted acrylic art sets off these hilarious animal poems. And the girl's final choice for a pet provides the perfect twisted ending.

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

"*I Haiku You*," by Betsy Snyder. (Random House). Kids learn about haiku in school these days, so give your child a head-start. This ancient poetry format consists of three lines of 5 syllables/7 syllables/5 syllables: "Noodles



so yummy, love letters for your tummy - warm alphabet soup." The verses focus on love and friendship and the simple joys of life. "Shiny mister moon - your smile keeps me company - when the lights go out." The poems are sweetly soothing, representing experiences we've all shared. The watercolor art is a joy to behold, especially the sky and beach scenes. Give your own special small person this book for an unexpected treat that is sized just right for little hands.

"*Everyone Sleeps*," by Marcellus Hall. (Nancy Paulsen Books). Conrad, a groggily-eyed pug, feels like everyone in the world is sleeping except him. (He's right.) The little dog sets off to check in on other critters. He wanders far and wide, across land and water, to see if everyone is asleep. (They are.) "Squirrels sleep in trees. Rabbits

sleep underground. Horses sleep standing up. Snakes sleep lying down." The youngest readers will enjoy searching for Conrad in each scene, even the underwater ones. This book is like three books in one: a poetry book, a bed-time book, and an educational peek at how animals sleep in their own environments. The dog serves as proxy for a tired child who is not quite ready to settle down for the night. The various nighttime scenes are painted in luminous and softly glowing watercolors for a warm and restful story.

Connie Goldsmith www.conniegoldsmith.com lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. See her nonfiction juvenile books, "Battling 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.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE
IN THE UPCOMING
California Kids!
Be Seen by Over 100,000 Readers Each Month.
CALL JEN AT (916) 429-9901 TODAY!

NANNA'S CHILD CARE CENTER
Happy Father's Day
Quality child care center
Christian based
6 weeks to pre-K
Secured Access
Our Center offers a Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Program
An Affordable Quality Center -
Where Quality Begins With Us!
916-737-5209
EAST SACRAMENTO
Hwy 50 exit @ 65th Street
Light Rail Station within walking distance
Lic# 343615965 • Lic# 343615964



SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Easy treat for summer: Apple Ladybugs

You will need:

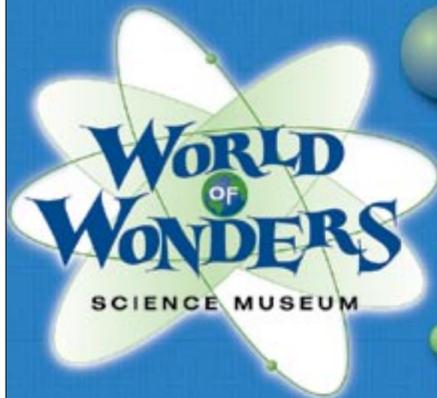
2 red apples, 1/4 cup raisins, 1 tbl peanut butter, 8 thin pretzel sticks

You will need to:

Slice apples in half from top to bottom and scoop out the cores. Place each apple half flat side down on

a small plate. Dab peanut butter on to the back of the 'lady bug', then stick raisins onto the dabs for spots and to make the eyes. Stick one end of each pretzel stick into a raisin then press the other end into the apples to make antennae.

For more ideas, visit Allrecipes.com



a great location for field trips, birthday parties & family fun!

Come check out great gift ideas in the WOW Science Store!

HANDS-ON discovery
FOR ALL AGES!

www.WowScienceMuseum.org

Open Wednesday through Sunday 10am-5pm
2 North Sacramento Street, Lodi
209.368.0969

SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Remember when the mail was too important for sending junk?

We do.
placer.ca.gov/museums

6 PLACER COUNTY MUSEUMS
We aim to keep you posted on the past.

How fun can your child's summer be?
LET US COUNT THE WAYS...

45 Lifelong Friendships at **Teen Camp**
June 17-July 26 Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 pm
Club West, 1125 Riverbend Rd. \$35/week
Scholarships available *Free lunch provided Incoming 6-incoming 9th grade

6 Weeks of... **Summer KIDS CAMP!**
June 17 - July 26 Monday - Friday 10 am - 2pm
Elkhorn & Westfield Elementary (Free) Southport & Bridgeway Elementary \$15 per week
FREE LUNCH PROVIDED AT QUALIFYING SITES
Scholarships available Ages: Kinder - 5th grade

39 Awesome Days of... **CAMP LAKESIDE**
Monday-Friday 7:30-5:30 pm
Bridgeway Lakes Boathouse, 3650 Southport Pkwy. \$95/week
Kinder-5th grade

Registration for West Sacramento Summer Youth programs is OPEN! Register online at westsacfun.org or in person at the Community Center 1075 West Capitol Ave. or the Recreation Center at 2801 Jefferson Blvd.

Affordable Family Fun!

SACRAMENTO STATE AQUATIC CENTER

Boat Rentals • Team Building • Youth Camps
Adult Classes • Birthday Parties
Facility Reservations • Boating Safety Classes

Located on Beautiful Lake Natoma
1901 HAZEL AVENUE • GOLD RIVER, CA 95670
916.278.2842
Come check it out!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • www.sacstateaquaticcenter.com

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM & CRYSTAL ICE CREAM FANTASY

Saturday, June 29 6 - 10 PM

EMCEE
Mix 96's
Jennifer Wood

All You Can Eat Crystal Ice Cream
Fanciful Arts & Crafts Activities
Live Music by Celtic Rock Band 1916
Theater Performances
Olde Worlde Marketplace
No-host Eats, Beer & Wine

TICKETS
Advance Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$5 Children (2-12)
Day-of-Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$10 Children (2-12)
Free for children 1 and Under
Purchase tickets at www.fairytaletown.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
FairyTale Town **CRYSTAL ICE CREAM** **MIX 96** **KVIE**

www.fairytaletown.org
(916) 808-7462
3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento



SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Micke Grove Zoo

After Dark

Games, crafts, evening snacks, storytelling, and a night tour of the zoo!

For ages 5 and up
\$15 per person
(\$12 for members)

Registration Required
Call (209) 331-2138
to register by
June 21st

PROGRAM DATES & TIME
June 28th or 29th (8:15pm - 10:15pm)

Camping Wordsearch

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

awning campfire campsite
rucksack sleeping bag stove
tent torch

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Summer Holiday Word Search

x	h	o	l	i	d	a	y	w	s
s	i	p	u	s	h	j	s	u	
u	s	g	a	u	o	n	h	m	
m	u	i	f	m	l	s	o	m	
m	m	u	m	i	i	u	l	e	
e	m	u	b	e	d	d	m	i	r
r	e	c	m	r	a	a	m	d	i
o	r	d	c	r	y	e	a	s	
h	o	l	i	d	a	y	r	y	n
h	b	n	u	z	m	h	k	i	e

Can you find the words "summer" and "holiday" five times each?

Take DAD to EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR for Father's Day

JUNE 13-16 2013

Mitchell Showboat Marionettes
Aussie Kingdom Bringing the Australian Outback to life
Wheelbarrow Races
HOME DEPOT Free Workshop for Kids
TEICHERT'S Father Child Look-A-Like Contests
TEICHERT'S Funnel Cake Eating Contests
Flo the Clown • Sadie the Balloon Lady
Millie the Monkey • PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Train Rides
GOLD COUNTRY ACE Big Wheels Races
plus carnival rides, fair food, music and tons of fun!

Plan Ahead and SAVE
FATHER'S DAY PACKAGE \$35 (\$75 Value) includes Father's Day T-shirt, one unlimited ride wristband, one general and one youth admission ticket. Dads wearing 2013 Father's Day t-shirt get in FREE on June 16. Pre-Sale only, must purchase by June 12.

El Dorado Fairgrounds • Placerville • Purchase online or call 530-621-5860 • eldoradocountyfair.org

We want YOU to have a FANTASTIC birthday this year! That's why we're offering FREE birthday activities at each of our locations including zipping on our 1500 foot zip lines, rappelling 165 feet down Moaning Cavern's main chamber, climbing tower climbs and guided cave tours. Get more information from our website or call toll free 866.762.2837. Offer only good on your actual birthday with proof of your birth date.



FREE BIRTHDAYS



CaveAndMineAdventures.com

866.762.2837

Learning. Disguised as Fun.

Gilroy Gardens
FAMILY THEME PARK

1/2 OFF WEEKDAYS



Backyard Monsters[®]
June 1 - 30



Must present printed, physical coupon at any open ticket window at Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park to receive general admission for \$22.49 each (ages 3 & up) up to six (6) people. Valid for single day general admission only, which includes use of all rides, shows and attractions in operation on day of use except pay events/concerts and pay-per-play attractions. Coupon is valid 6/6/2013 - 8/16/2013 during WEEKDAY 2013 public operating days only. Parking not included. Not valid on weekends. Not valid with any Membership promotion. Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or promotion. Not valid on park company rentals or special events, including but not limited to Holiday Lights. Call (408) 840-7100 or visit www.gilroygardens.org to confirm public operating dates and hours as they are subject to change. PLU 75130676





SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Free Parking Free Admission

FUNDERLAND Amusement Park

Soaring into Summer

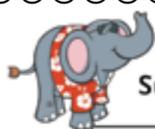
Happy Mondays
\$10 Tuesdays
Summer Sizzler

visit our website for details

4 Free Tickets with the purchase of a Book of Ten
Limit 4 free tickets. Purchased Book of Ten must be full priced. Must submit coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 7/1/13. OK

Buy 1 Weekday Wristband & get the 2nd half off
Limit 2. Purchased bands must be full price. Must surrender coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Expires 7/1/13. OK

www.Funderlandpark.com



Sun Safety Wordsearch

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

hat long sleeves parasol
shade sun block sunglasses
trousers water



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



SUMMER GUIDE

Education, Camps, Sports, Getaways, Entertainment, Amusement Parks and More!
For ad rates, call (916) 429-9901

Places! Lights! curtain up!

Join in five fun-filled days at Music Camp, June 17 - 21, 8 a.m. to noon, at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Music Camp is for children grades 1- 6 and youth mentors grades 7 - 8. Participants can share in rhythm and note-reading, movement and choreography, and musical instrument training (beginning and intermediate) on woodwinds, brass, strings, and guitar. Chimes and recorders will be provided. Students can participate in a jam session, a really fun class, where students can learn simple rhythms, then "jam" with everyone playing what they want. There will be singing lessons and music games. Lessons require the student to have an instrument. (Instruments can be rented at any local music store.) The week concludes with a musical performance that showcases

the children's newly learned talents. This year's musical is "The Star Factor". The setting is Camp Heart and Soul, a summer camp that features a talent show with a twist and where all the would-be "stars," not displaying "Godlike behavior," finally learn what is important and that every person has a special and unique role to play. It will be performed on Sunday, June 23, at 9:55 during the worship service. A snack will be provided each day. This weeklong event costs only \$40 but fills up quickly.

Northminster Presbyterian Church is located at 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento. To register call the Church at (916) 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org.

Actors Theatre of Sacramento



Kid's Camp 1 (7-12 years)
July 1st - July 12th, 9am - 2pm
(Monday through Friday for two weeks)

Kid's Camp 2 (7-12 years)
July 29th - August 9th, 9am - 2pm
(Monday through Friday for two weeks)

Teen Acting Camp (13-18 years)
July 15th - July 26th, 9am - 2pm
(Monday through Friday for two weeks)

For more info, call 916.501.6104
www.actinsac.com

Advertise in
California Kids!

Call for more information!
916.429.9901

L.F.U. LITTLE FOLKS UNIVERSITY

"Once Upon A Time"

801 SIBLEY STREET FOLSOM, CA 95630

Not so long ago, in an enchanted land of learning, was the castle of... **CAMP L.F.U.**

SUMMER 2013

AGES 1 TO 12

TURN THE PAGE INTO A MAGICAL ADVENTURE. ENTER THE TIME OF MYSTICAL LANDS, KNIGHTS, PRINCESSES, DRAGONS AND MORE. YOUR CHILD WILL BE CREATING WHIMSICAL CRAFTS, ADVENTURING INTO AN ENCHANTED FOREST, AND BECOMING HEROES AND HEROINES AS THEY BEAT THE LABYRINTH, STORM CASTLES AND CHALLENGE GIANTS.

OUR PRESCHOOL FRIENDS WILL BE CAPTURED BY WEEKLY ONSITE ENTERTAINMENT. SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN WILL BE SPELLBOUND INTO ADVENTURES TO FAR AWAY LANDS TO BE CAPTIVATED BY EACH WEEKLY THEME.

SNEAK PEEK OF PRESCHOOL:		SNEAK PEEK OF SCHOOL AGE CAMP:	
THEME WEEK:	MAIN EVENT:	THEME WEEK:	MAIN FIELD TRIP:
BUNNY BONNET BOO	MAGIC SHOW	BEAR NECESSITIES	SLY PARE
ENCHANTED FOREST	PETTING ZOO	TREASURE PLANET	CHART SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER
COLOSSI OF THE WEB	CULTURAL DANCE	FISH AND FRIENDS NOT FOOD	PIZZA & FERRY RIDE
SECOND STAR TO THE RIGHT & STRAIGHT ON 'TIL MORNING	BIDDING GENIUS	HOUSE OF HOGWARTS	VIENSHOLM CASTLE
		FRRACTURED FAIRY TALES	BLACK CHAIN CAVERNS

littlefolksuniversity@comcast.net **CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION: 916-985-7055**

REAL TRAINS. TOY TRAINS. ALL ABOARD!

Weekend Train Rides Are a Great Way to See Your River AND Have Some Fun

VISIT the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento, open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. It's a family experience filled with sharing and learning that will delight like no other.

EXPERIENCE your childhood again as you tour *Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains*, America's most comprehensive toy train exhibit.

RIDE behind a vintage locomotive for a 40-minute ride atop the Sacramento River's levees, departing Old Sacramento every Saturday and Sunday hourly 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. April - September.

SHOP for children's items, gifts, books, DVDs, clothing and dazzling reproduction dining car china at our Museum Store - a year-round supplier of *Chuggington* and *Thomas* products!



CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
Corner of 2nd and "I" Streets, Old Sacramento
(916) 445-6645 www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org





Visit us online
www.valcomnews.com

Discovery Museum Science & Space Center events

Sizzling Sun Fun, Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2

Visit the Discovery Museum this weekend and enjoy some sizzling sun fun. We are premiering a special planetarium show, "Solar Max", highlighting sun spots. This is at 1 and 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older and included with admission. As a souvenir, kids 12 and under decorate a glittery sun banner to hang up at home. Learn other space facts while touring our Space Quest! exhibit.

Roses are Red, Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9

Celebrate National Rose Month at the Discovery Museum. This weekend kids make and take scented sachets with lovely floral scents. Enjoy walking the grounds and see if you find the wild rose that grows around our pond. Your admission includes this activity, the Space Quest! exhibit, a planetarium show (at 1 or 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older) and a creature feature (at noon or 2 p.m. for all ages).

Summer Season Kick-off!, Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16

Summer begins June 21 and the Museum are kicking off the season this weekend at the Discovery Museum. Children make UV bead bracelets to show when sunscreen is needed. Learn about visible and nonvisible light in the Space Quest! exhibit. For this month only, the Museum has a planetarium show "Solar Max", highlighting sun spots. Planetarium shows are at 1 or 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older; live animal presentations at noon or 2 p.m. for all ages.

Budding Biologist, Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23

Budding Biologist is an innovative book series geared towards your little scientists, written at the child's level by actual scientists. Come join Budding Biologist and explore the world of insects and biomes. Learn about what characteristics make an animal an insect while creating your own insect. Identify what biome you live in and what animals might share your biome home. The author is reading the books at noon and

2 p.m. (all ages). Planetarium shows are at 1 or 3 p.m. (ages 4 and older).

Meteor Madness!, Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30

Come to the Discovery Museum and learn about rocks from space - meteors! We have a collection of meteorites on exhibit in our Space Quest! exhibit. Children craft a shooting star on a stick to take home as a souvenir. The family feature this weekend is a presentation on meteors - where they come from and where they go. This is at noon or 2:00pm for all ages. Planetarium shows are at 1:00pm or 3:00pm for ages 4 and older.

The Museum is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Science Discovery activities are from 12:30 to 4 p.m. The Discovery Museum Science & 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). The Museum is age appropriate for 4 to 12 years old. For more information call (916) 808-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org

Placer County Fair presents
COUNTRY DAYS AND Racin' Ways
June 20th - 23rd

\$2 off COUPON
Bring this to redeem coupon. One per person. valid 6/20-6/23

800 All America City
Roseville CA, 95678

Roseville, CA placercountyfair.org

PLEASE Recycle this paper

2013 Children's Summer Art Classes

FOR ALL LOCAL YOUNG ARTISTS!
JUNE 17TH THROUGH AUGUST 2ND, 2013

Learn basic techniques in Fine Arts & Sculpting:
Drawing, painting, collage, pastels, printmaking and sculpting

Group "A"

Grades 1 - 3

Week 1 June 17 - 21

Week 2 June 24 - 28

CLOSED WEEK OF JULY 4TH

Week 3 July 8 - 12

Week 4 July 15 - 19

Week 5 July 22 - 26

Week 6 July 29 - Aug 2

Group "B"

Grades 4 - 6

Week 1 June 17 - 21

Week 2 June 24 - 28

CLOSED WEEK OF JULY 4TH

Week 3 July 8 - 12

Week 4 July 15 - 19

Week 5 July 22 - 26

Week 6 July 29 - Aug 2

Grades 1-6

Fine Arts Classes: Weekdays 9:30 - 11:30am

Two groups: Grades 1-3 & 4-6

Tuition: \$65.00 per week

A different class each week - no repeats!

Limited space - Register early! By mail or at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center. Registration includes all art supplies and snacks.

Come Visit our Center: We have ongoing gallery exhibits free to the public; art classes, workshops, art clubs to join that offer free day and evening demonstrations. We have many brochures and information you can pick up at the center!

If interested:

Call the SACRAMENTO FINE ARTS CENTER 916-971-3713

5330B Gibbons Drive,
Carmichael, CA
95608
www.sacfinearts.org



California State Park events

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Full Moon Madness Astronomy Night
Friday, June 21, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Join a moonlit guided tour of the redwoods and moon gaze through telescopes. Activities include music, multimedia presentation about the park's nocturnal animals, crafts for kids and refreshments. The main entrance to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is located off of Highway 9 in Felton at 101 Big Trees Park Rd Felton. Day-use parking fee is \$10. This event is appropriate for all ages. More information is available at (831) 335-7077.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

The Men of Big Basin—A Father's Day Special Event
Sunday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Celebrate Father's Day by honoring some of the remarkable men who lived in and fought for Big Basin. Living history re-enactments bring you back in time where you'll meet pioneer settlers, Big Basin founders and early park rangers. Stroll through the magnificent redwoods on this half-mile, 1.5-hour guided walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters. Big Basin Redwoods State Park is located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 at 21600 Big Basin Way. Day-use parking fee is \$10. More information is available at (831) 338-8883.

Wilder Ranch State Park

Life on the Ranch: Family Living History Day
Sunday, June 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wilder Ranch State Park invites you to experience old-time activities from its rancho, dairy farm, and cowboy rodeo days. Hands-on activities and living history presentations vary each month and may include: butter churning, ice cream making, branding, cooking, roping skills, wagon rides and demonstrations in the ranch buildings. Come for a picnic on the lawn and follow it up with a game of tug of war, sack races, hoops, stilts, and Wilder Ranch's famous old-fashioned bubbles. The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. The park is located 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1 at 1401 Coast Road Santa Cruz. Day-use parking fee is \$10. This event is appropriate for all ages. For more information, call (831) 426-0505.

california kids!
Family Fun Guide

Schools and Parks, do you have after-school programs? Advertise in California Kids! Parents are looking for activities!

Call Jen for the best spaces and rates
(916) 429-9901 jen@valcomnews.com

Father's Day Word Search

How many times can you find the word "Father" in the puzzle below?



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SCHOOL

A Leader in Catholic High School Preparation
Faith, Lifelong Learning and Community

K-8 • Academic Excellence • Interactive Classroom Technology
Performing/Fine Arts • Competitive/Recreational Sports Teams
Community Service • After-School Care

Applications are being accepted for the 2013/2014 school year, please call for a private tour.

Call 916-448-5663 for information or to arrange a campus tour
www.hs-ps.com

Calendar of Events

Arts & Crafts

June 1, Critter Close Up, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Get a chance to meet one of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's resident animals up close. Learn all about an amazing animal and its own unique journey to becoming an educational ambassador. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 5, Art for All, 3:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Join the staff at Belle Coolege Library for their monthly Art for All. There will be art activities and projects appropriate for all ages. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 11, Seeds of Change with ArtWorks, 4 p.m., 7340 24th Street Bypass, Sacramento. A garden is a great way to learn about how a community works. Learn what it takes for a garden to thrive and then create your own art garden pot to take home. The staff at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library will provide seeds so your ideas can sprout. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Critter Events

June 6, Reptile Program, 1 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Python Ron presents a learning experience at the McKinley Library about the world of reptiles and insects. Kids will observe, touch, and have the opportunity to hold reptiles and insects of various colors and sizes. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 15, Rattlesnakes, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Warm weather is perfect weather for snakes, especially for rattlesnakes along the American River. Learn all about

these snakes and their imposters, and how to enjoy the American River and keep your family safe during this season. This program is offered at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 30, Animals of the American River, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Reptiles, mammals, and birds can be found all along our American River. How can you tell these three groups apart? Is it by eggs or skin or flight? Examine some biofact evidence and meet an animal resident of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center up close to decide in which group it belongs. All ages welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Nature Events

June 2, Nature Hike, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Who lives at the river edge? Hike with a naturalist and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and explore the habitat where beaver, otter, herons and other wildlife live. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the staff. All ages are welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 15, Hike, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Summer is here! Beat the heat and take time on this morning Preserve hike at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center to see what changes are taking place as we enter the season of summer. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 16, Hike, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Bring Dad to this special program called, "Father's Day in the Wild." Join the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center to learn about some wild fathers as you take a hike under the shady oaks. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 29, What Gall!, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and discover how tiny wasps have caused galls in our oak trees. Some galls look like apples, some like Hershey kisses, and some even look like tiny sea urchins. Join a naturalist for a hike in the Preserve to find three different types of oak trees and discover what kinds of galls each oak hosts. All ages welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Special Events

June 1, Yoga for Kids, 11 a.m., 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento. Kids, stretch your body and stretch your mind while you learn controlled breathing and asanas sitting positions from certified yoga instructor Heera Kulkarni Yoga Shiromani. Bring a yoga mat to class at the Valley-Hi North Laguna Library. Participants will be asked to sign a Release from Responsibility form at the beginning of the program. This class will be offered most Saturdays in the month of June and July. For more information, call 264-2920.

June 1 and 2, Kiwanis Art Fiesta, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 563 Pavilions Lane, Fair Oaks. Sacramento Suburban Kiwanis is excited to announce its new location for the Town & Country Art Fiesta. It will be held in the Pavilions Shopping Center, off Fair Oaks Boulevard near Howe Avenue. Admission and parking is free. This family friendly event will have beautiful works of glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, metalwork and more. For more information, visit www.KiwanisArtFiesta.org.

June 4 to July 2, Summer Dance Classes, 4 to 4:45 p.m., 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Jazz for Kids will run Tuesdays and is for ages 6 to 12. Come and learn fun jazz routines.

Kiwanis Art Fiesta

Sacramento Suburban Kiwanis is excited to announce its new location for the Town & Country Art Fiesta, June 1 and 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the beautiful Pavilions shopping center, 563 Pavilions Lane off Fair Oaks Boulevard near Howe Avenue, Sacramento.

This family friendly event attracts thousands of art lovers and serves as the main fundraising event for the Kiwanis club.

Admission and parking are free. Come find your favorite artists, peruse beautiful works of glass, pottery, jewelry, paintings, photography, metalwork and more. For more information visit www.KiwanisArtFiesta.org

The cost is \$20 for the 4-class session. There will be no class on June 18. Hip-hop for Kids and Teens will be held Tuesdays, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m., for ages 9 to 14. Learn hip hop dances to great music. The cost is \$20 for the 4-class session, no class June 18. For more information, call (916) 972-0336.

June 8, Summer Reading Kick-off, 11 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the Arcade Library for the summer reading kick-off. Get ready for a summer of fun events, reading, and prizes. Sign up for the reading program at this event and receive special prizes. Refreshments and face painting will be provided. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 8, Ice Cream Social, 2 p.m., 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento. Kickoff summer reading with ice cream at the Valley Hi-North Laguna Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 8, Ice Cream Social, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Kickoff summer reading with ice cream at the Carmichael Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 7, Honey Bee Program, 1 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show: 40% of the world's food supply is pollinated by honey bees. Bees pollinate oranges, cherries, pumpkins, almonds and many other delicious fruits and vegetables. The program includes live bees, slide show and honey tasting. Plus puppets, Henrietta the New Bee

and Beatrice the Older Sister Bee explore the many jobs of a worker bee. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 8, Summer Reading Kick-off, 11 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. Bring the kids to the Arcade Library for the summer reading kick-off. Get ready for a summer of fun events, reading, and prizes. Sign up for the reading program at this event and receive special prizes. Refreshments and face painting will be provided. For more information, call (916) 972-0336.

June 8, Ice Cream Social, 2 p.m., 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento. Kickoff summer reading with ice cream at the Valley Hi-North Laguna Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 8, Ice Cream Social, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Kickoff summer reading with ice cream at the Carmichael Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 8, Summer Reading Program, 1 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Kick off the summer reading program with McKinley Library and magician Andy Amyx as he presents a high-energy magic show with lots of humor and audience participation. He includes delicious and healthy foods in his magic tricks. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 9, Summer Reading Kickoff, 1 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. Join the staff at the Central Library and sign up for summer reading and enjoy family-friendly activities including face painting, balloons, henna tattoos, juggling demonstration, crafts and more. Enjoy a special music program with Musical Robot-a ukulele and drum duo that combines songs, storytelling and puppetry for a rockin' good time. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 14, Father/Daughter Dance, 7 to 9 p.m., 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. This fun dance will be held at the Mission Oaks Community Center. The cost is \$5 per person. Come and enjoy dancing to DJ Music. There will also be games, prizes and refreshments. For more information, call (916) 972-0336.

June 17 - 21, Music Camp, 8 a.m. to noon, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento. Music Camp for children grades 1-6 and youth mentors grades 7-8 will be held at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Participants can share in rhythm and note-reading, movement and choreography, and musical instrument training. There will be singing lessons and music games. Lessons require the student to have an instrument. The week concludes with a musical performance, Sunday, June 23, 9:55 during the worship service. The cost for the camp is \$40. To register, call (916) 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org.

June 18, Ice Cream Social and Book Swap, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Kick off your summer at the annual Ice Cream Social at the Aden-Dimick Library where you can also sign up for the summer reading program. Also, bring your gently used or new books to the Social and swap them for others. Treats and reading fun for everyone. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 19, Summer Reading Cooking Party, 3:30 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Join the staff at the

Elk Grove Library for delicious snacks and celebrate summer reading. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 23, Solar Energy with SMUD, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join speaker Alex from SMUD guest at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for a presentation on solar energy. Have fun with interactive solar kits and learn how you can put the sun to work with your own solar power system and generate your own energy for a better and cleaner Sacramento. Space is limited. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

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

June 4, Puppet Show, 1 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. Join magical ventriloquist and puppeteer Tony Borders at the McKinley Library to hear all about "Gladly the Grizzly." For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 9, Storytelling, 2 p.m., 10 College Park, Davis. Milt Briggs, musical storyteller and champion whistler, will be the featured performer at Children's International Storytelling program at I-House. International House offers storytelling programs monthly except December for children age 5 to 9 with parents. The event is free to members, others are asked to donate \$2 per child or \$5 for a family.

Calendar of Events

Storytelling Program

Milt Briggs, musical storyteller and champion whistler, will be the featured performer at Children's International Storytelling program at I-House, located at 10 College Park, Davis, on Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m.

International House offers storytelling programs monthly except December for children age 5 to 9 with parents. The event is free to members others are asked to donate \$2 per child or \$5 for a family.

"If you would like to perform at one of our events, contact me," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director. "We have had storytellers, magicians, musicians and actors -- and a wonderful audience." The I-House phone number is (530) 753-5007.

For more information, call (530) 753-5007.

June 11, Kids Can Cook! 3:30 p.m., 6700 Auburn Boulevard, Citrus Heights. Have you ever made your own guacamole? It's so much fun to smash the avocado! Bring the family to the Sylvan Oaks Library and enjoy a talk about healthy fats like the kind in avocados. Also learn to use a recipe, and each child goes home with a guacamole recipe. Also while there the staff will read Dr. Seuss's *Green Eggs & Ham*. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 22, Storyteller, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Member of the Sacramento Storytellers Guild will share their entertaining tales of animals and nature at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. All ages are welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

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.

Tuesdays, Preschool Story and Play, 10 a.m., 10055 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove. Preschoolers, age 3 to 5, are invited to the Franklin Library for 30 minutes of interactive play with parent or caregiver followed by stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Wednesdays, Toddler Story and Play, 10 a.m., 10055

Franklin High Road, Elk Grove. Toddlers, age 0 to 3 years, are invited to the Franklin Library for 30 minutes of interactive play with parent or caregiver followed by stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts. Available to the first 30 children. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Thursdays, Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Children, ages 3 to 5, are invited to the Elk Grove Library to enjoy stories, music and more. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Thursdays, Baby Lapsit Storytime, 10:30 a.m., 11601 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks. Join the staff at the Fair Oaks Library for a special storytime for babies 0 to 18 months and their caregivers. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE IN THE UPCOMING California Kids!
CALL (916) 429-9901 TODAY!

Father-focused parenting programs



A Message from First 5 Sacramento

In today's environment, family units come in various forms that are often influenced by cultural and economic factors. In many families, however, the absence of a father who should be active in his child's life can have long-lasting detrimental effects.

Research shows that a father who is active in a child's life contributes to the positive development of a child, both cognitively and socially. Having the experience of two involved parents adds variety and dimension to the child's experience of the world.

Children raised with responsible fathers also tend to get along better with their peers, be academically successful, stay in school longer, use drugs and alcohol less frequently and don't become pregnant or cause someone else to be pregnant.

First 5 Sacramento funds programs throughout the county that helps fathers to be more effective with their children:

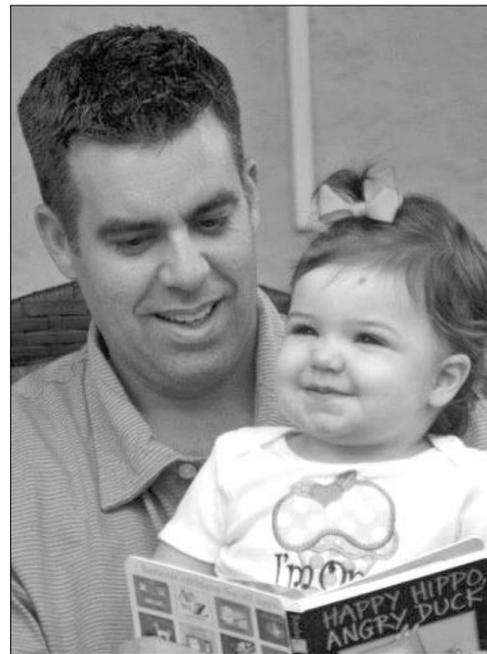
The Kit for New Parents contains a custom "Daddy's Tool Bag" DVD with chapters on bonding with baby, supporting the breastfeeding mom, and many other father-focused topics.

The Family Resource Centers hold classes that help dads develop stronger relationships with their

children. Last year more than 500 dads learned stress and anger management techniques, the basics of child development, and effective discipline styles.

Other father-focused resources in Sacramento County include Head Start, Center for Fathers and Families, Father's Resource Center Sacramento, and OneFathersLove. Find out more about these programs and others by calling 2-1-1.

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.



How many smaller words can you make from the letters below?

Happy Father's Day!

Copyright www.ActivityVillage.co.uk

Read books! Win prizes! Free for all ages! Sign up at any Sacramento Public Library branch or at saclibrary.org

Come to the Summer Reading Kickoff party Sunday, June 9 Central Library 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

You could win:
 iPad mini one per age group
 \$100 Target gift card one per branch

Don't miss out on exciting free events for all ages at all 28 branches!

SAC 106 SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY www.saclibrary.org TARGET

Advertise in **California Kids!** Call for more information! **916.429.9901**

Seven questions parents should ask when choosing a camp

The American Camp Association®

As summer vacation gets closer, many parents—in fact, parents of more than 10 million children—decide to send their children to summer camp. Many families find it difficult to choose, especially when the diversity of camps today reflects the diversity of America. There is truly a camp for every child, every interest, and every budget. The American Camp Association® (ACA) Northern California recommends that parents ask the following questions to get a better feel for which camp experience best suits their child:

- What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis? – Each camp has its own method of constructing programs based on its philosophy. Does it complement your family's philosophy? Does the camp focus on learning through competition, or through cooperative learning? How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?

- What is the camp director's background? – ACA recommends directors possess a bachelor's degree, have completed in-service training within the past three years, and have at least 16 weeks of camp administrative experience before assuming the responsibilities of director.

- What training do counselors receive? – At a minimum, camp staff should be

trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision.

- How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled? – This is where the director's philosophy comes through loud and clear. Do they use positive reinforcement? What are the rules and consequences?

- How does the camp handle special needs? – For a child with special requirements, parents should ask the camp director about needed provisions and facilities. Is there a nurse on staff? A designated place to store insulin or allergy medicine? Are special foods available for campers with restricted diets?

- What about references? – Parents should ask for references. This is generally one of the best ways to check a camp's reputation and service record.

- Is the camp accredited by the American Camp Association? – ACA-Accredited® camps meet up to 300 health and safety standards. This does not guarantee a risk-free environment, but it's some of the best evidence parents have of a camp's commitment to a safe and nurturing environment for their children.



Photo courtesy American Camp Association®

Once you have answers to these questions, the next step in choosing a camp is to research your options. A great place to start is the ACA's online searchable database of ACA-Accredited® camps in California at www.ACACamps.org/FindACamp. For more information about summer camps in general, visit www.CampParents.org and www.ACACamps.org.

About ACA - The American Camp Association® (ACA) works to preserve, promote, and enhance the camp experience for children and adults. ACA-Accredited® camp programs ensure that children are provided with a diversity of educational and developmentally challenging learning opportunities. There are over 2,400 ACA-accredited camps that meet up to 300 health and safety standards. For more information, visit www.ACACamps.org.

For Work. For Play. From Vallejo.
The Easy Way to Cross the Bay.

GIANTS GAMES AT AT&T PARK
Seasonal Service From Vallejo

CRUISE IN COMFORT TO SF Ferry Building & Pier 41
Year-Round Weekday & Weekend Service

The New San Francisco Exploratorium
Opens April 17 At Pier 15

HIKE & BIKE ON ANGEL ISLAND
Seasonal Service From Vallejo

Follow. Connect. Share.

For Ferry Route, Schedule, Ticket and Terminal Information www.SanFranciscoBayFerry.com (707) 643-3779

Huge Community Consignment Event
 Shop and sell at the Leading Children's and Maternity Consignment Sales Event!™
Fall Sales August - October
 Folsom, Sacramento, Roseville, Vacaville & Elk Grove
JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS
shop, sell, save, smart!
jbfsale.com
 NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNEES
 FREE ADMISSION WITH THIS AD
\$2 ADMISSION ON FRIDAY ONLY

Whispering Oak Montessori Academy
 Fostering Growth
 Nurturing Peace
 Inspiring Curiosity

Are you searching for something more than just an early learning center or for a better education for your children?

Whispering Oak Montessori Academy offers a rich, nurturing and stimulating environment firmly grounded in the Montessori Method and designed to lay the foundation for a life-long love of learning. Students are encouraged to grow to their full potential in a program designed to educate the whole child.

- Full Academic Montessori curriculum
- Infant through Kindergarten – 6 weeks to 6 years
- Nutritious and Delicious meals prepared on-site
- Art & Music Appreciation
- Dance & Movement
- Yoga

Call us for a tour and more information!
 (916) 722-8118/1181
 8085 Oak Ave., Citrus Heights, CA 95610
 www.whisperingoakmontessori.com

Nature's Critters (916) 77-FROGS
 www.naturescritters.com
 Let the animals touch you!

Live Animal Education Programs!

Reptiles • Amphibians • Birds • Mammals • Invertebrates
 Ideal For:
 Parties, Schools, Daycares & Special Events

American Idol party ideas

www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com

American Idol birthday party ideas for kids, tweens and teens. Create your own special party with these great ideas for invitations, decorations, food, games, activities and more.

Invitation Ideas

- Find dark blue invitations with silver stars, or make them yourself by sticking silver stars onto the front of blank invitations.
- Cards with musical notes, a sign of Hollywood or a microphone would be great invitation choices. On the outside of the cards write the phrase "You're going to Hollywood!"
- Print out information onto CD labels, attach to blank cd's and send to guests. Inside the invitation include an audition number printed on white paper that they can bring to the party and wear during their performances. Include a list of the music

selections you will have available for the kids to sing with so they can practice before the party.

Decorations

- Decorate the American Idol party in Blue and Silver. Make a Hollywood sign for the inside party table and/or for outside along the walkway to the party. Print out large letters (one per piece of paper) that spell out Hollywood and glue them onto stakes. Place at the entrance of the party. You can also make a large Hollywood sign and have the kids stand in front of it for a great photo opportunity. Place silver stars in the trees outside and on the walkway to the party. Hang stars from the ceiling of the party venue with curling ribbon. Hang strings of white or blue lights on the ceiling or around the party decorations. Clear one side of the venue or party room to make space for a

stage. Hang a white, blue or silver sheet or curtain behind the stage.

- Add a disco light, spotlights and/or a microphone stand for the stage. Set up a table near the stage with 3 chairs for the judges. A fun idea is to have 3 adults dress up like the judges on American Idol. Or you can get life size cardboard cutouts (check Ebay) of the judges and have them sitting behind the table against a wall.
- Cut out large musical notes from black poster board and hand around the party area.

American Idol Activities-Karaoke Competition

Have guests select a song and then get on stage to perform it in front of the "judges". Songs can be recorded and then placed on a CD to hand out as a favor after the party.

Glam it out - Let the kids have one round of karaoke ... and then bring out the glamour stations to get them fixed up for the next round. Set up stations with hair and face glitter, wigs, hats, props, boas, jewelry, temporary tattoos, etc. and let everyone have a glam makeover.

American Idol Party Games

Name that Tune - Before the party pick several songs that have unique music. Have party guests see who can guess the name of a song by just playing a few notes of the beginning. Make it a competition by dividing into teams and taking bets on who can name that tune in the fewest amount of notes. Or roll a dice and what ever number comes up is how many seconds (or notes) the team has to answer.

Name that Song - Before the party print out a few lines from 15 different songs. Pass them out to guests and see if they can answer who the artist or band is that sing the songs.

JONES JUMPERS
 Get your party jumpin' with Jones Jumpers; We have all your party needs; We have jumpers, canopies, tables, chairs, snow cone and cotton candy machines; Home of the 18' water slide; Obstacle courses available for parks or large yards!
 (5867)
CALL TO BOOK TODAY! 916-505-JUMP

Sacramento's Favorite Children's Magician!
GREAT SCOT (916) 80-MAGIC (62442)
 Amazing Magic
 Laughs Galore
 Fun for ALL ages!
 mention this ad for a 10% discount
 www.greatscotthemagicdude.com

Backwards Party

In the Backwards birthday party theme everything is done backwards. This is a really fun and silly party that kids really enjoy. Greet guests by saying "good-bye, hope you had a nice time" when they arrive. When they leave tell them "Hello!, Welcome to the party!?"

Backwards Party Decorations

- Backwards the party table by having balloons setting on the table and curling ribbon tied to the balloons and attached with tape to the ceiling.
- Set up the plates and cups (upside down) underneath the party table and let kids eat under the table when it's time for cake.
- Set out signs for the food with the names written backwards. Refer to the backwards names throughout the party. Cake = ekac, Ice Cream = maerc eci, Hot Dogs = sgod toh ...etc.
- Hang birthday banners upside down on the front door and throughout the party room.
- Turn pictures, decorations and knick knacks upside down for the party.
- If sitting at a table turn the chairs to face outward.

Backwards Party Invitations

- Instead of sending out invitations for the Backwards birthday party send out Thank you notes. Thank guests for coming to your Backwards party on the note. Be sure and give the dates and time of your party.
- Write the information backwards or type it on the computer and then using Word Art (flip horizontally) print party information onto the cards. Add in the invitation for guests to read the information in a mirror.
- Ask party guests in the invitation to come dressed in their craziest backwards clothes to the party.
- Print out a picture of the birthday child upside down on a note card.
- If your invitation has spaces inside to fill out information flip the invitation over and write in the information so the writing looks like you wrote upside down.

Backwards Party Icebreaker

While guests are arriving give each one a nametag and ask them to write their name backward on the tag. This will be their name for the rest of the party.

Hey Kids of All Ages!!!
Ever Dreamed of Playing in a Chocolate Factory?
 Now you can at
Capital Confections at Town & Country Village
 Have a party with 9 of your closest friends and create some chocolate masterpieces!
It's 2 hours of chocolate heavenly bliss!
 2605 El Paseo Lane, Town & Country Village
 Sacramento, CA 95821
 (916)973-0249 www.sacchocolate.com

RESERVE YOUR SPACE IN THE UPCOMING
California Kids! CALL JEN AT (916) 429-9901

AMADOR CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRESENTS
THE SPAGHETTI WESTERN
 6TH ANNUAL
 JUNE 15TH, 6PM
 DINNER AUCTIONS DANCE
 AT COOPER VINEYARDS
 21365 Shenandoah School Road
 Plymouth, CA 95669
\$40 Adults - \$10 Children
 Tickets available on-line at
 www.thespaghettwestern.org
 Cooper Vineyards 209-245-6181
 Barron's Flooring & Design 209-267-0200
 EVENT SPONSORS • BELL BROS, JACKSON RANCHERIA, THE NATIONAL HOTEL

SUTTER STREET THEATRE
 Where the Art is in the Entertainment!
 717 Sutter Street
 Folsom, CA 95630

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID JR

REGISTER NOW FOR OUR SUMMER WORKSHOPS IN JUNE & JULY

TWO PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOPS
 Ages 10-16 & 6-12

MASTERS MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP
 Ages 10-18

PERFORMANCE OF THE MUSICAL "SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK"

CALL 916-353-1001 FOR INFORMATION

Saturdays & Sundays at 1:00pm
 June 1—July 7

For tickets call 916-353-1001 or visit our website to purchase on-line.
 www.SutterStreetTheatre.com



Infant • Toddler Preschool • Pre- K / Kindergarten

PROGRAM OFFERS:

Practical Life
Sensorial
Math & Language
History & Geography
Science
Art & Crafts
Writing skills
Spanish
Music class for infants

AVAILABLE

Kindergarten Readiness Program
Extended Day
Full Day
Half Day
2 / 3 / 5 Day Programs
Hot Meals
Year round
Special Summer activities
Fieldtrips
Spacious Classrooms

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED

Ballet & Tap Dancing
Gymnastics
Kindermusik
"Kids Love Soccer" Program



Natomas

2075 Arena Blvd.,
Sacramento CA 95834
(916) 515 – 0550

Land Park

5700 S. Land Park Drive,
Sacramento CA 95822
(916) 399 - 5700

Little Blossom Montessori School is proud to offer programs from eight weeks of age through Kindergarten. The children experience countless advantages of a comprehensive Montessori education and we believe that our Montessori approach provides an exceptional and consistent foundation for each child as they prepare for life.

NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER & FALL