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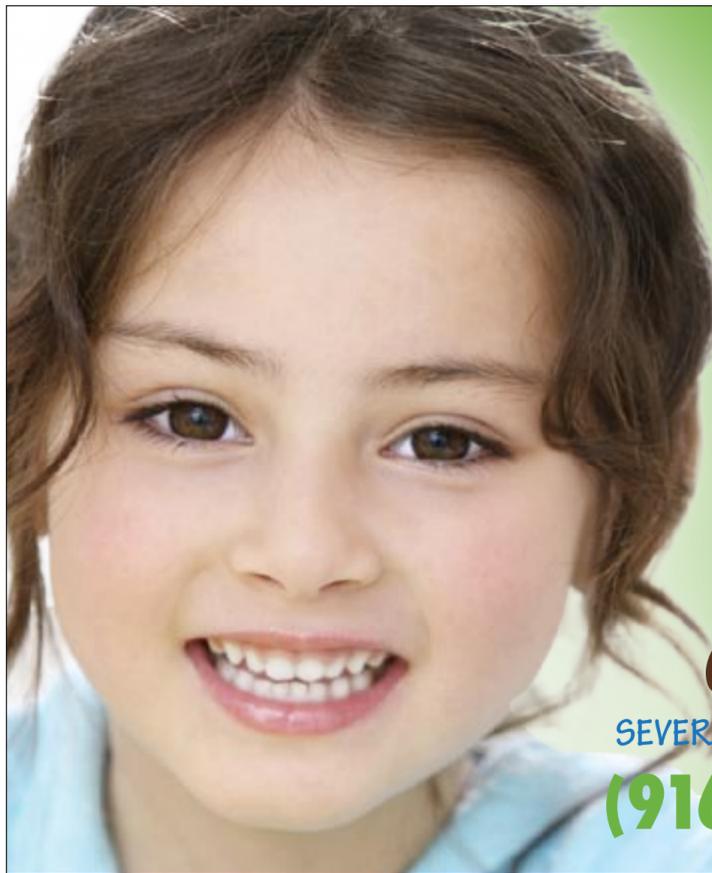
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Distribution/Subscriptions: George Macko
Cover Photo: fivehanks (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fivehanks/6586359715/>)
<http://www.flickr.com/people/fivehanks/>

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.

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Fairytale Town events

Winter Hours Start, Friday, November 1, - Friday, February 28, 2014, 10 a.m. - to 4 p.m.

Beginning November 1, Fairytale Town will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the winter season, weather permitting. Weekday admission is \$4 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Weekend and holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Free Admission Day & Canned Food Drive - Friday, November 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On the day after Thanksgiving, Fairytale Town offers free admission to families who bring a canned food item for donation to

the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services - Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive. The day also includes free arts and crafts activities and a puppet show (additional cost). For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.



Yolo Hospice Davis will be releasing butterflies on Thursday, November 9th in honor of...
Children's Grief Awareness Day - 21st November, 2013

Children's Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness of the painful impact that the death of a loved one has in the life of a child.

Visit us at Yolo Hospice Stepping Stones Program
www.yolohospice.org



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Meet Kodari!



Photo courtesy Sacramento Zoo

At 3.5 months old and 4.4 pounds, the Sacramento Zoo's male Red Panda cub finally has a name, Kodari. Kodari is the name of a city in Nepal and is one of only two north-south roadways connecting Nepal and Tibet via the Himalayas. Historically, it is the beginning of the trans-Himalayan caravan route that has been referred to as the Nepalese equivalent of the Silk Road, thus it has played a culturally significant role in the development of both Nepal and Tibet.

Three of the Sacramento Zoo's animal care team will be traveling to eastern Nepal with Red Panda Network (RPN) in October. RPN is one of the many conservation programs that the Sacramento Zoo supports. While there, they will be working with RPN to increase awareness of the plight of animals in the area and to build relationships with the local people. They will also be hiking into the forest to spot and track Red Pandas as well as to monitor areas that have been affected by deforestation. We hope to strengthen the bond between the Sacramento Zoo and conservation efforts in the field while also helping us to continue to educate guests about this unique part of the world and the challenges facing pandas and other wildlife.

"We can help Red Pandas by sharing our passion with Zoo guests and encouraging others to care as much as we do," said zookeeper Amanda Mayberry, who

will be going on the trip. "We will have the ability to tell people, 'I have been there. I have seen what they are going through. We need to do something about this.'"

Kodari was born June 8 and is being hand-reared due to inconsistent care from his mother. Since graduating from the Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital located on Zoo grounds to an off-exhibit area of the Claire Mower Red Panda Forest, Kodari has acclimated to the larger space and enjoys running, jumping and playing. While wrestling with his stuffed animals, climbing on bamboo and cruising around his new space, he is also developing the necessary skills to interact with other Red Pandas.

Kodari is currently in the process of being weaned from formula to an adult diet of bamboo and Mazuri leaf-eater biscuits. As with any weaning process, it takes some time and effort on the keepers' part and the cooperation of the youngster. Weaning is stressful for zookeepers and veterinarians as it is a time when Red Panda cubs have a high

mortality rate. The Zoo is still cautiously optimistic about his health.

Kodari is also taking his first steps towards being introduced to the Zoo's adult Red Pandas. Zoo staff is in the beginning stages of determining which of the adult pandas will be best-suited to act as a mentor for our cub. Currently he does have visual access to two of the Red Pandas (his parents). Kodari appears to be far more interested in these adult pandas than they are in him – something that is typical for this species.

Red Pandas, like many species that inhabit the Himalayan forests, are endangered. The most common threat to their survival is loss of habitat by human encroachment and domestic cattle grazing. Although law protects them, their beautiful coloration makes them highly vulnerable to poachers in the fur trade. Due to their quiet nature they are even found in the pet trade. The Sacramento Zoo participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan® for Red Pandas.

For more information, visit saczo.org.



Easy Turkey Cookie

You will need:

- 16.5 oz Pillsbury refrigerated sugar cookies
- 16 oz chocolate creamy frosting
- Orange decorating icing
- Candy corn
- Black decorating gel
- Miniature candy-coated chocolate baking bits

Heat oven to 350°F. Bake cookies as directed on roll. Cool for about 20 minutes. Spoon chocolate frosting into resealable food-storage plastic bag. Make small hole in bottom corner of bag. On each cookie, pipe frosting on outer edge of half of cookie. Arrange candy corn over frosting for turkey feathers. Then pipe orange icing onto each cookie to resemble thanksgiving turkey face and feet. Use orange icing to attach baking bits to turkey face for eyes. Pipe black gel on baking bits for centers of eyes. YUM!



Carson Valley is a Great Fall Family Destination

By Carmel L. Mooney

Carson Valley, Nevada prides itself on being a "Rugged, Relaxed, and Reachable family destination." Our recent trip we found it to be all these things and so much more.

We've taken many of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad trips over the years but our recent Carson City trip afforded the chance to take the "Toast of the Canyon" wine train. While it wasn't exactly what we expected in a wine train, it was still fun to take a ride through the tranquil high desert, past historic mines and wild mustangs.

This particular trip, departing out of the Eastgate Depot left us a little surprised as only white wine was offered on this excursion. Being a wine lover and wine writer I was a little disappointed as were other riders.

Numerous times small half glasses were poured as thirsty onlookers begged for seconds. Servers did their best to keep up with the demand. Sadly the appetizers were a disappointment. The moment the servers walked on our car with the hors d'oeuvres, the smell of grease permeated the car which again displeased many passengers. The cold and greasy fried foods did not pair well with the white wine. We would have much preferred simple cheese and crackers or fruit and vegetables. Sadly, this was the consensus with those around us, mostly couples and just a few families.

While most excursions we've taken on this railroad have exceeded our expectations, this one did not. However the history and merriment on other exceptional family tours and themed rides offered by V&T are outstanding and a must do whenever you find your clan in the Carson Valley.

The Historian Inn was an exceptionally pleasant, immaculately clean and very family or couples-friendly lodging experience within the heart of the Carson Valley. Central to shopping gaming, hot springs, the V&T railroad and much of the valley's history we were very pleased throughout our entire stay.

A clean and comfy lodge-style great room offered a relaxing place to read, snack and play games. A Market/Cafe coffee shop and Salon were also nice bonuses on property and we especially appreciated the lack of usual cigarette smoke and gaming noise so often found in some other Carson Valley properties.

Our room was spacious, neat, well-decorated with western decor and quiet to boot, all the things kids and parents appreciate. We enjoyed the historic art and artifacts blended with modern niceties. Parking was easy and a quality amenities like robes and teas and excellent toiletries and snacks were furnished. The proximity to dining and recreational activities made it the perfect hub for exploring the area by car or foot.

Buona Sera Ristorante & Bar in Minden, Nevada was a wonderful family-owned and operated Italian restaurant we were glad we discovered. For just four years this little eatery has surprised visitors in its unassuming



Photo by Rod Hanna



Photo by Anothry Cupaiulo

(above left) David Walley's Hot Springs Resort and Spa.



location next to a chain motel but delivers outstanding European ambiance. Family driven hospitality and better than average food make this a great family-friendly find. Our pasta was dry and my salmon a bit overdone but the rattlesnake rabbit sausage made up for it with its dynamic flavor and novelty. The night we were there she wasn't there but they told us that they often have an renown Opera singer entertaining dining families.

Couples and families alike fit right into the environment equally. It's casual but fairly upscale at the same time. The tiramisu was very good and put a nice finale on a pleasant meal. I took a look at the kitchen after our meal. It was clean and busy, all good signs.

The owners are proud of the new Head Chef, Chef Francesco Gazzana from Milan. He has been in the position of Head Chef and Executive Chef in places as Ischia, Naples, Antwerp, St. Albans, London and Sao Paulo. The Sous Chef is Anastasios Maras with an extensive background in Mediterranean & Italian cooking.

David Walley's Hot Springs was a perfect ending to a relaxing weekend in the gorgeous Carson Valley. Upon arrival we received our towels and locker keys from the staff. The locker rooms were modern, comfortable and roomy. I would recommend

bringing your own flip flops as the floors we wet and unclean. We enjoyed the various temperatures of the half dozen mineral soaking pools outside.

All except the fresh water relaxation and swimming pool which is minimally chlorinated, are not chlorinated which I particularly liked since I am a bit of a purist. The majestic views of the high desert, cliffs, mountains and valley were mesmerizing during our indulging soaks from tub to tub.

Each tub varied in temperature and the maintenance men checked them often as they seemed to fluctuate by about ten degrees even during our three hour soaking session. We met numerous friendly folks to chat with including a local couple. It seemed, during our stay, to be a good mix of locals and tourists alike. All ages including young families and retired visitors seemed to mingle well as they relaxed and conversed.

The Carson Valley offers wonderful biking, hiking, nature & wildlife viewing, golfing, shopping and something for everyone in your group. It's one of our favorite family getaways and will be yours as well.

www.visitcarsonvalley.org

Carmel L. Mooney is a travel writer and Executive Director of Pawsitive Service Dog Solutions, a non-profit

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5th Annual Theatre of Lights

Come one, come all to experience the holiday magic of Old Sacramento's 5th Annual Theatre of Lights, November 27 through December 31. The free outdoor performances will run Thursdays through Sundays with special performances on Wednesday, November 27 (kick-off), Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. They artfully mix the historic charm of Old Sacramento with state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology to create a memorable and visually-exciting holiday experience for visitors of all ages.

With new storytelling elements incorporated this year, Old Sacramento's Theatre of Lights blends a symphony of lights, sounds and visual effects that transport the audience back in time with a reading of the famous poem *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore. The narrated reading of the powerful and nostalgic poem is brought to life through theatrical elements and visually-exciting lighting choreography that takes place on the balconies and rooftops of Old Sacramento's historic buildings.

The event schedule is; November 27 — tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. immediately followed by special season debut of Theatre of Lights performance, 6:15 and 7:45 p.m. Thursdays thru Sundays, December 24 (Christmas Eve) — 6:15 p.m., December 31 (New Year's Eve) — 7 and 8:30 p.m.

And while you're in Old Sacramento, be sure to visit the array of locally-owned businesses, shops and eateries...the experience makes for a perfect holiday tradition.

Old Sacramento is located at K Street between Front and 2nd Streets.



Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Special Event

Under The Oaks Kids Camps, November 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 6 to 12. Crafts, activities and live animals. Family Nature Program — November 27, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 5 to adult (children must be accompanied by an adult). Family-friendly guided walk and activities. For more information call (916) 489-4918 or visit www.sacnaturecenter.net

Free Weekend Activities

November 2, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Black Tailed deer
The bucks are in their glory, with beautiful antler crowns. Grab your binoculars or borrow some from the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and catch a closer look at the black-tailed deer in their oak woodland home while learning more about their world.

November 3, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Preserve Protectors
Attention all nature lovers, Preserve Protectors wanted! Come learn all about the preserve and the rules in place that help protect it. Create your own Preserve Protector mask, do a scavenger hunt, and get signed up to receive exclusive Preserve Protector emails.

November 9, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Beavers and Otters
These two are not related, but are often mistaken for each other. Did you know that otters are highly intelligent and that beavers are actually rodents? Come learn some fun facts about these creatures who roam our local waters.

November 10, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Salmon Stroll
Join a Naturalist for a stroll to the American River in hopes of catching a glimpse of the migrating salmon. Learn about these amazing anadromous fish and their remarkable life cycle.

November 16, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Birding for Families
Bring the family out to join the special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed.

November 17, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Compass Walk
Join docent Jennifer Kerr for a guided map-and-compass walk. Learn how to use a compass, take bearings, use a compass with a map and find your way around the trails.

November 23, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Nature Detectives
Have you ever wondered what critters have used the trail before you? Many animals are out and about when we are not. Join the staff in exploring the trails and sharpen your nature detective skills by learning the tracks and other signs of local wildlife.

November 24, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Turkey Trot
Beards, wattles and snoods—what strange things to find on a bird! Look and listen for wild turkeys as you explore their world on this guided walk through the Nature Preserve.

Send us your Photos!

California Kids! is looking for themed photos to use for our monthly publication. This is your BIG chance to land a cover shot! For more info please contact kathleen@valcomnews.com

Autumn is Here!

Hey Kids! Have you noticed it is cooler in the mornings? This is that wonderful time of the year when the leaves turn bright red, yellow and orange! It's so much fun to jump in the leaf piles, too! Put on a warm sweater, grab a cup of cider, and have fun searching for the hidden words related to Autumn. Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward and upside-down.

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

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Apple Cider | Family Fun | Mashed potatoes |
| Autumn | Football games | Pumpkin pie |
| cool weather | Gloves | Rake |
| corn | Gravy | Thanksgiving |
| cranberries | Harvest Festival | Turkey |
| Dressing | Honey ham | warm dinner rolls |
| Falling leaves | | Yams |

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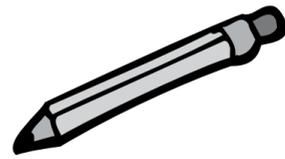
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MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Apple Tree Handprint Painting

Children love to paint apple trees and here is a fun, messy way to do it.

You will need:

Construction paper, poster paint in green, red and brown

You will need to:

Use lots of green handprints to make a roughly round shape for the top of the tree. Underneath use the side of the hand to create a brown line for the trunk. When the tree is dry add red fingerprints for the apples.



Make a Scarecrow



You don't need a vegetable patch to make a scarecrow this Autumn, just make one for fun with your kids.

You will need:

Old clothes (preferably kids clothes, and the smaller the better) and hat, two garden canes, paper bag, string, straw, old plastic bags or newspaper, needle and thread, sticky tack

You will need to:

Lay out the clothes flat on the ground. If you are using separate trousers and top they will need to be roughly sewn together. Stuff the clothes with the straw. Draw a face on the paper bag and then fill it with straw. Put the bag over the end of one of the garden canes and tie around the neck to secure. Push the cane through the body of the scarecrow (you may need to make a small hole between the legs for the cane to come through). A blob of sticky tack underneath will keep it in position and stop it sliding down the cane. Push the other cane through the arms. Push the cane into the ground so your scarecrow stands up. Finally add an old hat. Remember that your scarecrow isn't weatherproof!

Paper Plate Harvest Basket

Here's an idea for a quick paper plate harvest basket that the children can paint and cut out. Fill it with our vegetable clipart



You will need:

Paper plate, white card, brown paint, brown pen, colored paper or a printout of fruit and vegetable clip art, glue or glue stick.

You will need to:

Paint the back of the plate brown and leave to dry. Carefully cut out a semicircle from the middle of the plate, leaving the rim as a handle. Draw around the outside of the paper plate onto white card and cut out the circle. Run a thin line of glue around the edge of the circle and press the plate on to it. Wait until it dries. (Alternatively, adults could staple around the edges.) Use the brown marker pen to add some criss-cross basket weave patterns to the basket. Cut fruit and vegetable shapes from colored paper (or use clipart) and fill the basket.

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

Cornucopia Collage

Younger children will enjoy practicing their cutting and sticking skills to make this very effective cornucopia collage for Thanksgiving or Harvest Festival.



You will need:

Large piece of card for background, brown paper/card for cornucopia, pictures of fruit and vegetables (leaflets from supermarkets or seed catalogues are a good source), black pen, glue

You will need to:

Cut out a horn shape from the brown paper. Using the black pen, draw on the rim of the basket (and add basket weaving if you like). If you are working with very young children, you can prepare the cornucopia in advance. Glue the cornucopia to a sheet of backing card. Cut out some pictures of fruit and vegetables and glue them to the opening of the horn.

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 Nov 29 - Dec 1
 and Dec 6 - 8
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Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring *Mary Ann Fraser*

By *Patricia Newman*

Author-illustrator Mary Ann Fraser has published more than sixty fiction and nonfiction picture books and early readers for children. Long before her professional career began, she wrote, illustrated, and assembled her own books as early as the first grade. Although she did not own many picture books as a child, her family made frequent trips to the public library where Fraser headed for the nonfiction section. "My early reading was kind of an eclectic mix," she says, including falconry, biology, and how to speak Arabic. When she read something particularly captivating she said, "I want to write a book like that," rather than "I want to read another book like that."



Family fly fishing trips to nearby rivers or lakes fed her interest in nature and animals where she collected bones, rocks, fossils, and watched the fish swim in the water. Fraser often uses animal characters as stand-ins for children in order to communicate a childhood milestone (*I.Q. Goes to School*), but she also portrays animals in their natural habitats to convey a respect for what they are and to protect the niche they occupy in the world (*Where Are the Night Animals?*).

Fraser began her career as a freelance illustrator for a book packager that produced fiction and nonfiction series and stand-alone titles. At the same time, she built her portfolio, took writing classes, and found not one, but two critique groups of like-minded author-illustrators who helped each other launch their careers. "None of us were published," she says of their early days. "Within five years all of us were published." Fraser has been a member of her current critique group for over twenty years. They are her first trusted readers and she values their combined wisdom.

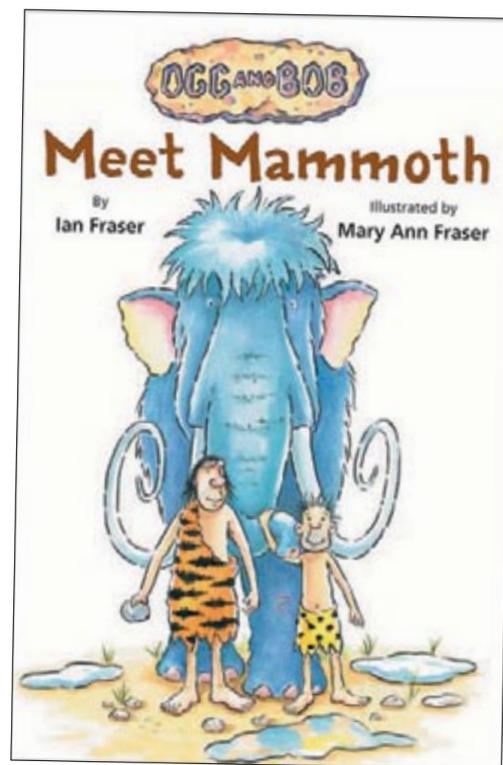
On *Top of the World: The Conquest of Mt. Everest* was her first traditionally published book that she wrote and illustrated, but the seed for the book was planted in third grade because Fraser loved drawing elephants. In fourth grade Fraser's teacher assigned a country report and Fraser chose to write about India so she could draw elephants. The country report nurtured a desire to travel to India, which she finally did

with her husband. They also visited Nepal, where Fraser was awestruck by Mt. Everest during a plane ride over the steppes. "Here's this mountain. It's higher than we're flying. Ice is blowing from the top of it. I looked at it and all I could think of was here's a story."

The I.Q. quartet was inspired by her son's pet rat, named Houdini because of its propensity to escape. "My son used to build mazes for it and I marveled at how smart this rat was. I wondered how he would fare in school if he was a class pet. That's when it occurred to me that he'd never want to be a class pet. He'd want to be a student." Fraser has a special place in her heart for I.Q. because he is a problem-solver. "Nothing is beyond his reach," she says. "He always finds a way around [a problem]."

Perhaps Fraser's most satisfying projects were the Ogg and Bob books written by her twelve-year-old son. In high school he reworked the books and submitted them for publication for a senior project. The text straddles the fine line between early reader and early chapter book. Fraser's cartoon-like ink and gouache illustrations provide a comical touch. "It was the greatest thing," she says of the collaboration. "[My son] was weaned on children's books!"

Fraser writes and paints from her home in Simi Valley, California. Her interest in nonfiction informs her fiction as well, and she can often be found in the library or at her computer digging for compelling details that make a project come alive. Frequently a new idea begins with a place she's visited. While she reads and learns, she searches for the story. For every hour she spends reading, she spends three hours hunting for visual sources that show clothing and furniture styles of the era. "The hardest thing is to stop researching and get going on the writing," she quips. "With picture books, ultimately you have to boil it down to a point of view." For instance, in *Ten Mile Day and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad* Fraser selected one specific day as the backdrop to the concepts she wanted to cover. "I talk about the big by focusing through the lens of the



small." Once she finds her focus, she writes a draft of the manuscript. When she's reasonably happy with the text, she begins rough sketches that become progressively tighter as she revises. As the sketches take shape they help Fraser hone the text, pointing out obvious places where words are superfluous.

Fraser writes and illustrates because she loves it. "It is incredibly challenging," she says. "If it were easy, I would have lost interest a long time ago."

Next month: Christopher Cheng

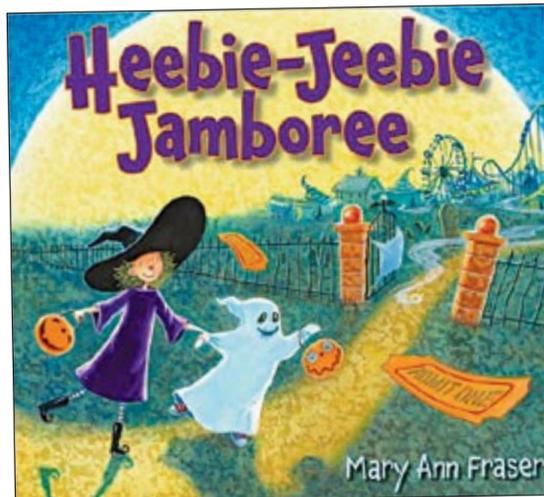
Patricia Newman visits schools! Her newest books *Navy SEALs: Elite Operations and Army Special Forces: Elite Operations* are now available. Other titles include: *Jingle the Brass*, recommended by the Smithsonian National American History Museum; *Nugget on the Flight Deck*, recipient of the California Reading Association's Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction; *Energy Lab: Bio-fuels and Energy Lab: Water Power*. Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com for more information.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARY ANN FRASER

Visit: www.maryannfraser.com

SELECTIONS FROM MARY ANN FRASER'S LIBRARY

- Heebie-Jeebie Jamboree*, Boyds Mills Press, 2011.
- Pet Shop Follies*, Boyds Mills Press, 2010.
- Ogg and Bob Meet Mammoth*, Amazon/Marshall Cavendish, 2010.
- Ogg and Bob Life with Mammoth*, Amazon/Marshall Cavendish, 2010.
- Mermaid Sister*, Walker Books, 2008.
- I.Q. Gets Fit*, Walker Books, 2005.
- I.Q. Goes to the Library*, Walker Books, 2003.
- I.Q. Goes To School*, Walker Books, 2002.
- Where Are the Night Animals?*, HarperCollins, 1998.
- Ten Mile Day and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad*, Holt, 1993.



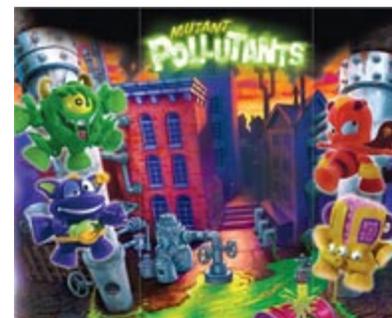
Perfect Presents

Pop-star dolls and Mutant Pollutants!

The Beatrix Girls: The Beatrix Girls is a new line of collectible pop-star dolls. They're musicians, they're dolls, they're adorable with great clothes and fabulous hair, but there's so much more to them than that! The Beatrix Girls are an accomplished pop band with real music that girls are sure to adore. Each member of the band sings, plays a different instrument and even writes the songs. Beatrix Girls are sold at Toys "R" Us. For more information, visit (www.TheBeatrixGirls.com)



Mutant Pollutants have unique suction cups that allow for attachment to any smooth surface. Along with being glow in the dark, squishy, metallic and color changing, these Mutant Pollutants will help to spread the positive message of caring for the environment. The four different characters that make up the Mutant Pollutants are Toxic Waste Pollutants, Heavy Metal Pollutants, Bio-Hazard Pollutants and Thermal Radiation Pollutants. Stick them to your cup, window, lunchbox or computer. For more information visit (www.mutantpollutants.com)



Life-Up Skateboard!

A hotheaded ball of fire and a good-natured, oversized drop of water continue to battle it out with the brand's latest skateboard - the new **Flameboy vs Wet Willy Light Up** skateboard! With its light up technology, retro cruiser shape and innovative styling, the FBWW Light Up catches everyone's eye. For more information, visit www.flameboyswetwilly.com



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Perfect Presents



Gifts that gives back!

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'Tis the season for giving and giving back. During the holidays, give a gift that gives twice. Build-A-Bear Workshop offers a variety of furry friends, which include **Paperback Pup**, that

give back to important causes. When you purchase a cause animal, a \$1 donation is made to designated causes through the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation.

Paperback Pup is ready to cuddle up with a good book and your favorite reader. Build-A-Bear Workshop donates \$1 from the sale of every Paperback Pup to programs that benefit literacy and education. Fifty cents is donated to First Book, a program that provides new books to children from low income families, and 50 cents is donated through the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation to other literacy programs throughout the United States and Canada. Paperback Pup also makes the perfect teacher gift.

For more information, call (888) 560-BEAR (2327) or visit buildabear.com or visit a Build-A-Bear store in your area.

The Edible Toy

Children can have sweet fun and make creations of edible sugar dough in ice cream dessert shapes, no baking needed! Ice Cream Maker allows kids to create their very own **Sweet Art**. This soft dough modeling kit helps develop sensory and motor skills. The ice cream shop comes complete with serving station. Also includes ice-cream maker, stand and instructions and many projects for sweet, endless fun. Comes with modeling and rolling utensils designed for smaller hands. Sweet dough is offered in several colors and flavors like strawberry, lemon, chocolate and more. (FDA approved) Ages 6 years and up.

Other smaller kits with themes like animals, flowers, popsicles and other treats are available from \$5.99-\$14.99. Available at: Toys R Us, Amazon.com, Bed Bath + Beyond, Kmart and Hobby Lobby. See more products by Amav.com



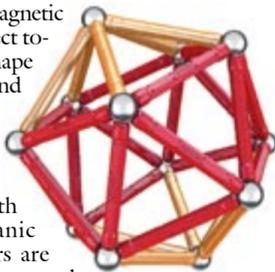
Imaginative toys and collectibles

The whole family gets involved in the fun this holiday season with the latest additions to Reeves International's and Breyer Animal Creations' toys and collectibles that inspire creative, imaginative play for kids of all ages. Reeves International has made holidays special since 1946 with its engaging choice of toys for kids, offering play experiences that are remembered for years to come.



Geomag sets keep on giving. Bright magnetic rods and non-magnetic steel balls connect together to create any three dimensional shape kids want! The possibilities are endless and the fun doesn't end!

Geomag Color, a 64-Piece, and **Geomag KOR Taurex** are for ages 5+. Taurex is a Proteon. **Geomag KOR Proteon** are five characters with differing rocky, swampy and volcanic native environments. These characters are differentiated by the color of their covers and masks. There are three developmental stages that give life to different characters: from Aki, in the more simple stage, to Taurex, intermediate stage and Blatta, Vulkrum and Swamp who have evolved to the more advanced stage.



Marvin's Magic sets have all the tricks kids need to make a holiday magical! With sets ranging from beginner to advanced levels, kids will keep family and friends entertained all winter long. **Marvin's Magic Big Box of 225 Magic Tricks** is for 6+. An amazing selection of 225 easy-to-perform magic tricks with clearly illustrated instruction booklet is a great choice for any budding magician. Contains the Amazing Magician's Magic Cards, Magic Cups and Balls, Astounding Mind Reading Canisters, Marvin's Magical Mystery Cards, Incredible Spiked Coin, Amazing Changing Cards, Magician's Wand, The Incredible Color Block Escape and much, much more! A superb introduction into the fascinating world of magic.



Tolo continues to be a favorite for the preschool and under. **Tolo First Friends Panda** is for ages 1-5. The First Friends Panda features poseable parts that click as they move and his chunky shape is safe for teething. For more information about Geomag, Marvin's Magic, and Tolo, visit ReevesIntl.com.



Appaloosa Horse and Foal, is best suited for ages 4+. This sweet black and white Appaloosa mare and her foal are a heartwarming addition under the tree this holiday season. For more information, visit BreyerHorses.com.



Perfect Presents

Sweet and Huggable and so Lovable



Lalaloopsy Dolls are whimsical rag dolls that magically come to life from the fabric used to make them. They live in a colorful silly world! **Mint E. Stripes** was made from a candy wrapper. She's a cool blast of fresh air who loves to spin in circles really really fast until she falls down laughing!

Mooshka Dolls – One day a group of paper doll friends joined hands and through the power of friendship they sprung into sweet, huggable girls! Meet **Dasha** who loves birds, from hummingbirds to flamingos, she knows all about our feathered friends. Each **Mooshka Doll** includes: Finger puppet doll, paper doll chain, giftable box, and are machine washable.



The dolls can be found at most large retailers, such as Target, Kohl's and Toys "R" Us. For more information, visit their websites, www.lalaloopsy.com or www.mooshka.com

Motorola Talkabout MG160 Two-Way Radios

The **Motorola Talkabout MG160** series of two-way radios are compact and easy-to-use by the entire family. The small size is ideal for elementary age children who aren't in the cell phone stage quite yet, but they do need to check in with mom and dad in the neighborhood. They are also fun for hours of playtime time outside! They provide affordable and reliable communication at the park, soccer field, girl and boy scout outings, weekend camping trips and even enroute to the big game in the car. They are also ideal for families with a passion for weekend adventures and active lifestyles.

These radios have come a long way since the early days of walkie talkies, and are loaded with features, stylish and still provide reliable two-way communications when out of cell phone range. Perfect for outdoor adventures and for giving kids independence without cell phone fees. They series come in blue and pink and easily fits into a pocket. It also has up to a 16-mile range and even features a push-to-talk button. These retail for \$29.99 per pair, so are very affordable and can be found at Target and Amazon. For more information, visit www.MotorolaSolutions.com/Talkabout.



Smart Toys and Games

Bunny Peek A Boo is Smart's first brain game for children as young as two years old. The sturdy wooden blocks and fun rabbit characters allow children to develop spatial perception skills and "pull a rabbit out of the box" with this 3D puzzle. Sixty challenges prepare children ages 2-5 for more difficult single player logic games. The four large bunny blocks can be combined in many different ways for endless hours of play.



The newest edition to SmartGames best-selling IQ series, **IQ Link** draws players 8 and up into its mesmerizing challenges as they work to fit 36 colorful and fun-shaped puzzle parts into the 24 free spaces on the game board. This compact game is perfect for traveling and comes with 120 challenges for hours of brain-building fun.



A perfect stocking stuffer, the new pull back vehicle set, **SmartMax Loading Luke** the dump truck allows children ages 3 and up to build various vehicles. All SmartMax vehicle sets complement and work with the SmartMax construction sets.



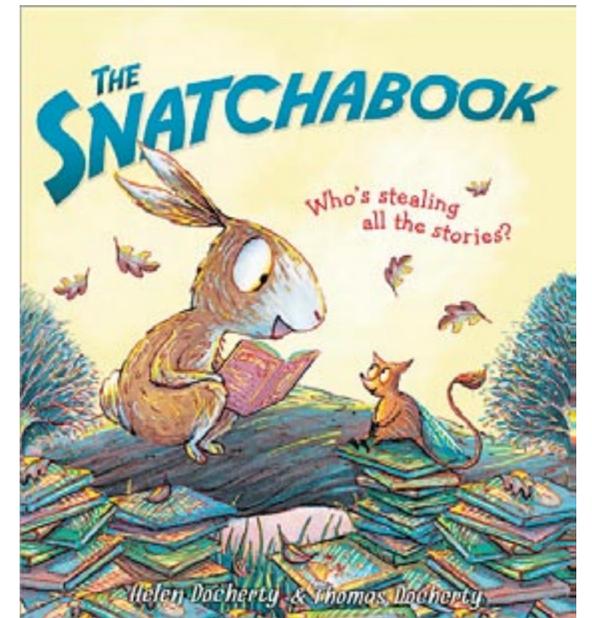
Readers can find these toys at Amazon or www.SmartToysAndGames.com. For more information, call 1-800-542-6375.

The Snatchabook

The Snatchabook is brilliantly written, laugh-out-loud rhyming verse by Helen Docherty and glowing artwork by Thomas Docherty lend a classic feel to this enchanting story.

When all the animals' bedtime story books start disappearing, one brave rabbit sets out to solve the mystery - and finds that it's a sad little Snatchabook, a small, magical creature who just wants someone to read to him. All turns out well when the books are returned and the animals take turns reading bedtime stories to the Snatchabook.

The Snatchabook celebrates the comfort of reading, the warmth of sharing, the value of empathy, and the joy of friendship. You can find *The Snatchabook* at any bookstore or online book retailer.



Thomas & Friends All Around Sodor Interactive Train Set

It's a busy day for Thomas! Thomas travels to three exciting destinations: Brendam Docks, Tidmouth Sheds, and the Shake Shake Bridge! Thomas has a Go/Stop button and 2 location buttons. Press a location button on Thomas and he will go directly to that location on the track. Thomas' eyes and mouth will move as he talks to his friends at the locations. Press the Tidmouth button and Thomas will go to Tidmouth and get his special delivery orders. Press the Cranky button and Thomas will roll to Cranky. Turn Cranky to load cargo into Thomas's cargo car. At any time, child can simply press the go/stop button to let Thomas ride around the track without stopping at the stations. Thomas will still talk to his friends as he passes by. Works both on and off the track. Requires 3 "AA" and 3 "AAA" batteries, included, from Fisher-Price. Age: 18M+ and available at Toys "R"Us. For more information, visit http://www.fisherprice.com/en_US/brands/thomas/products/74938.

November Nonfiction!

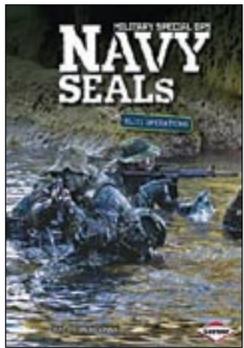
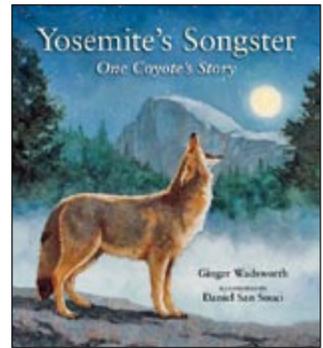
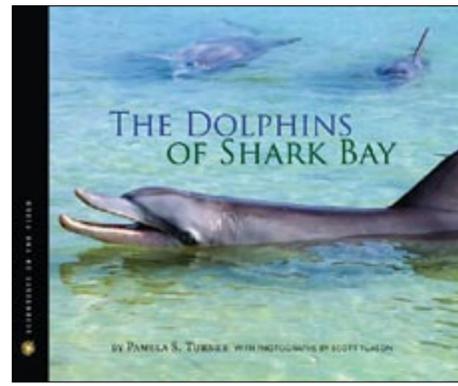
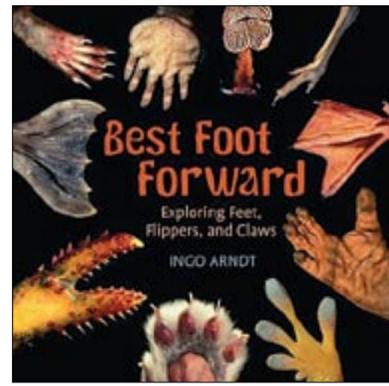
By **Connie Goldsmith**

Fewer Thanksgiving books are published these days, but not to worry! Think about giving your children another type of book for Thanksgiving – a nonfiction book to keep them busy while you prepare your Thanksgiving feast. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to show appreciation for the good things in our lives – the love of family and joy of friends, and the comfort of books.

“*Navy SEALs: Elite Operations*,” by Patricia Newman. (Lerner). Military-related issues have come into sharper focus over the past few years due to the conflicts in Iran and Afghanistan. If your children have family members or friends in the military (or even if they don’t), take a look at this short, but well-executed book about Navy SEALs. Young readers see how SEALs are trained in a grueling 59 week program. Learn the inside secrets of how SEALs fight at sea, in the air and on land as they track down terrorists, rescue

hostages and complete vital recon missions. The book is jam-packed with photos, sidebars and riveting information. The opening chapter telling of the SEAL raid on Osama bin Laden’s compound grabs your attention and holds onto it. Readers are sure to come away with a new respect for the difficult and hazardous work that SEALs perform.

“*Yosemite’s Songster: One Coyote’s Story*,” by Ginger Wadsworth, illustrated by Daniel San Souci. (Yosemite Conservancy). A sudden rock slide in Yosemite separates Coyote and her mate. Coyote traverses the familiar sites of Yosemite Valley as she looks for her mate and hunts for dinner along the way. After a day and a half of searching and yip-yip-yipping, the two are reunited. We see El Capitan, Half Dome and the historic Ahwahnee Hotel. The deceptively simple text is lyrical and never attributes human emotions to the park’s most well-known wild animal. The lovely watercolor paintings by this well-known artist show



Yosemite in all its glory – hazy gold by day and starry blue by night. Children familiar with Yosemite will enjoy seeing familiar places through Coyote’s eyes, and those who have not seen it will clamor to go.

“*The Dolphins of Shark Bay*,” by Pamela S. Turner, photographs by Scott Tuason. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). In this new addition to the outstanding *Scientists in the Field* series, the author joins a team of scientists researching dolphins on Australia’s western coast. You’ll learn about little-known aspects of dolphin behavior. Some dolphins use sponges as tools; others capture fish in large shells or hydroplane onto the beach in pursuit of prey. Males form loose alliances in an attempt to control females. The team knows each dolphin by sight, its history and unique personality. Meet Puck, Piccolo, Flute and baby Samu. Dolphins, considered more intelligent than chimps and gorillas, are as individual as people. The text is lively, engaging and fast-paced, the color photos jaw-dropping. This book is perfect for anyone who enjoys reading about

animals, and for your own budding scientist.

“*Seymour Simon’s Extreme Oceans*.” (Chronicle Books). “Perhaps we should have named our planet Oceans instead of Earth. We are the only planet in our solar system with liquid water on its surface.” This interesting and colorful book introduces Earth’s oceans and the amazing creatures which call it home. In addition to basic information, the author offers up oceanic extremes. For example, there’s the leatherback sea turtle that migrates 12,000 miles. And the biggest sea animals: blue whale (biggest mammal); whale shark (biggest fish); and giant squid (biggest invertebrate). The most dangerous sea animals are sharks, saltwater crocs, and jellyfish – which cause more human deaths than sharks and crocs combined! See the biggest ice berg and the tallest undersea mountain. Learn about tsunamis, El Niño and La Niña. Scientists estimate between one half and ten million sea creatures are yet to be discovered.

“*Best Foot Forward: Exploring Feet, Flippers and Claws*,”

written and photographed by Ingo Arndt. (Holiday House). Play “Whose foot is this?” with your child as you flip through the brightly colored pages of this intriguing book. Some feet walk; others climb, swim, dig or jump. One page shows a close-up of a foot; the next page shows the entire animal with a short description of how the foot works. The gecko’s magnified foot is remarkable, with hundreds of tiny knobs and fan-like toes. “The gecko hunts for insects high up in the trees. Animals that live in trees need feet for walking and for climbing.” Swimming animals have webbed feet; digging animals have strong pointed toes. And on the last page? The author’s very own foot!

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.*”



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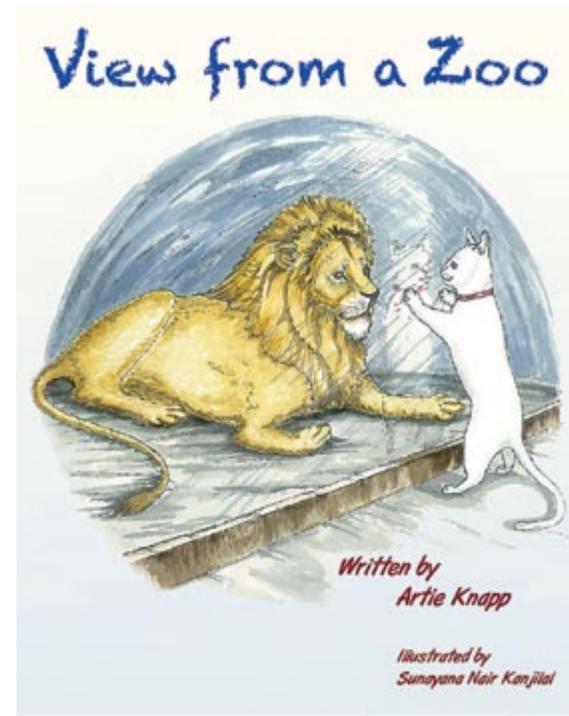
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Look who's reading our paper!

"You're missing out if you're not at SJE! Look for us in California Kids!"

Photo courtesy St. John the Evangelist School
Olga Ramirez and her son Michael.



New picture book out from children's author Artie Knapp

Children's author Artie Knapp, a long time contributor to California Kids!, has a new children's book out just in time for the holidays. His latest offering, *View from a Zoo*, chronicles the escapades of Thea, an adventurous housecat who longs for adventures. While not a holiday themed book specifically, the story does take place around Christmas time in New York City.

Published by MightyBook Inc., *View from a Zoo* is a fully illustrated book for ages 3-8. The beautiful watercolor illustrations were done by Indian artist Sunayana Nair Kanjilal. In addition to garnering rave reviews from across the United States, actor Levar Burton will be reading a narrated digital version of the book for Reading Rainbow's new iPad company later this fall. The paperback edition is available through Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, or can be ordered through book stores everywhere.

Knapp is a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and graduated from Ohio University. He lives in Cincinnati, with his wife and daughter. To learn more about Artie Knapp and his work, please visit him online at www.artieknapp.com.



Discover Museum Science & Space Center Activities

Weekend Activities
Harvest Happenings, Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3
 Kick-off the Thanksgiving season with a fun craft - a harvest necklace. Children ages 12 and under choose foam beads of scarecrows, pumpkins, fall foliage, acorns and more to design their own necklace to take home. Enjoy the grounds at the museum by taking a walk and seeing the fall colors. Admission includes this craft, an animal presentation at noon and 2 p.m., the Space Quest! exhibit and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

Thanksgiving: Food, Family and Fun, November 23 and 24
 When most people think of Thanksgiving, they think about time spent with family, friends and of course - food. Visit the museum this weekend to learn about healthy eating in the Cosmic Café. This play area allows children to play in a diner and serve their guests some scrumptious meals. A display in this space gives a good visual of how much fat and sugars in some popular foods. It is a great lesson for all ages. Visitors ages 12 and under make their own "Thanksgiving dinner plate" to take home as a souvenir. This is such a fun craft to get you thinking about the big meal on Thursday. Admission includes an animal presentation at noon and 2 p.m., the Space Quest! exhibit and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

Pumpkin Science, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, November 9 - 11
 Although the season for Jack-o-lanterns is over, let's not forget how important pumpkins are for Thanksgiving. If you plan on eating some pumpkin pie this season, learn about pumpkins with the staff. Some family friendly pumpkin stations are set-up to learn a bit about this squash. Kids 12 and under craft a paper pumpkin to take home as Thanksgiving décor. Admission includes these activities, an animal presentation at noon and 2 p.m., the Space Quest! exhibit and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

Corn-a-palooza! November 25 - 27
 This weekend the Discovery Museum is really corny. Talking about corn of course. Corn was served at the first Thanksgiving and has remained a staple to this day. Kids learn a bit

about this plant, make a corn puppet and get a cup of popcorn to snack on. Admission includes these activities, an animal presentation at noon and 2 p.m., the Space Quest! exhibit and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

galactic fun to have looking at exhibits and enjoying the play spaces. Starting at noon, there is a screening "Astropuppies in Space" (showing at noon, 12:40, 1:20, 2, 2:40 and 3:20). This is a short film involving the Astropuppy puppets and an out-of-this-world adventure. Children begin the holiday season by making a space ornament to take home. Admission includes these activities and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

Spectacular Space Science, November 29 - December 1
 Looking for an entertaining place to hang out with your family this weekend? Visit the Discovery Museum. The Space Quest! exhibit is here and there is plenty of

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

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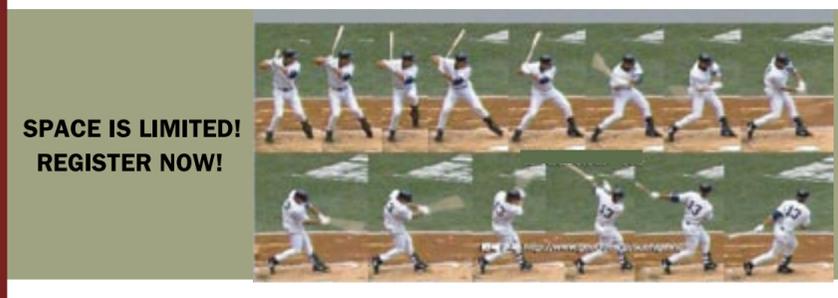
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Calendar of Events

Critter Events

November 2, Black Tailed Deer, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. The bucks are in their glory, with beautiful antler crowns. Grab your binoculars or borrow some from the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and catch a closer look at the black-tailed deer in their oak woodland home while learning more about their world. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

November 9, Beavers and Otters, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. These two are not related, but are often mistaken for each other. Did you know that otters are highly intelligent and that beavers are actually rodents? Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and learn some fun facts about these creatures who roam our local waters. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

November 10, Salmon Stroll, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join a Naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for a stroll to the American River in hopes of catching a glimpse of the migrating salmon. Learn about these amazing fish and their remarkable life cycle. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

November 16, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Bring the family to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and join their special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Bird-watchers of all levels welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

November 24, Turkey Trot, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Beards, wattles and snoods—what strange things to find on a bird! Look and listen for wild turkeys as you explore their world on this

guided walk through the Effie Yeaw Nature Preserve. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Nature Events

November 17, Compass Walk, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join docent Jennifer Kerr for a guided map-and-compass walk. Learn how to use a compass, take bearings, use a compass with a map and find out way around the trails. Join the fun at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

November 23, Nature Detectives, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Have you ever wondered what critters have used the trail before you? Many animals are out and about when we are not. Join the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and explore the trails and sharpen your nature detective skills by learning the tracks and other signs of local wildlife. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Special Events

November 1, Book Sale, 1 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library are hosting a book sale at the Arden-Dimick Library. All books will be reasonably priced, starting at 25 cents. Thousands of titles include: children's books, mysteries and thrillers, adventure, romance, history, art, cookbooks, travel, biographies, science, fiction, sci-fi/fantasy and more.

November 1, Read to a Dog, 2 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Looking for a fun way to boost reading skills while making new friends? Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to join the staff at the Elk Grove

Old Sacramento welcomes the Hawaiian Chieftan

The tall ship Hawaiian Chieftan, which specializes in living history education programs for young people, has arrived at Old Sacramento. The tall ship, which is 103 feet, nine inches long with a main mast rising 75 feet from the water is docked upriver of the Tower Bridge near 1210 Front Street and will stay in Sacramento through December 8.

The ship is currently taking reservations for one-hour dockside and three-hour sailing programs for K-12 schools, youth service groups, and other organizations. Most available dates and times are on Saturdays and Sundays. For pricing, visit the Historical Seaport's education program page at <http://historicalseaport.org/our-programs/education-programs/>. To make reservations, call (800) 200-5239.

The general public may tour Hawaiian Chieftan Tuesdays through Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Crew in 18th century costume will be available to answer questions about the vessel's voyages and discuss her educational programming. A \$3 donation per visitor is appreciated. The ship is closed Thanksgiving Day.

Launched in 1988 at Lahaina, Hawaii, Hawaiian Chieftan is an interpretation of a typical early 19th century coastal trading vessel. The ship sails to more than 50 ports a year in California, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia delivering living history educational programs to K-12 students, service organizations, and the general public. Hawaiian Chieftan is also available for charter to film and television production companies, private individuals, and local businesses. Hawaiian Chieftan is owned and operated by the non-profit Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority, which is based in Aberdeen, Wash. More information is available at www.historicalseaport.org.

Library for their Read to a Dog program. Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from the fabulous collection, then read aloud to a furry friend. Sign up inside the library for 10-15 minute sessions. Additional parking is available south of the library at Journey Church, located at 9645 Elk Grove Florin Road.

November 3, Homework Zone, 1 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. Do you need help with a school assignment? Get free homework help from a volunteer coach at Central Library.

November 3, Preserve Protectors, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Attention all nature lovers, Preserve Protectors wanted! Come learn all about the preserve and the rules in place that help protect it. Create your own Preserve Protector mask, so a scavenger hunt, and get signed up to receive exclusive Preserve Protector emails. For more information call

the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at (916) 489-4918.

November 5, Baby/Toddler Stay & Play, 10:15 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento. "Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up), (older siblings are welcome as long as everyone can play nicely together), and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board games will be available. These informal play sessions at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families, except on the last Tuesday of each month, when there is special performance by Mister Cooper.

November 5, Baby Stay and Play, 12:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Join the staff at the Belle Cooledge Library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to en-

courage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

November 5, Read to a Dog Program, 3:30 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Specially trained therapy dogs are waiting for children to come read to them at the Carmichael Library. For kids ages 5 to 10 years old that are reading. Earn credit for the time spent reading and earn a book, too.

November 5, Sing Along, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Join neighborhood favorite, Mr. Cooper, for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing at the Belle Cooledge Library for kids up to 7 years old.

November 6, Homework Zone, 3:30 p.m., 9845 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento. Drop-in homework help for school-age students is available at the Rancho Cordova Library on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Volunteer homework coaches will be available to assist students in grades 1-8 with homework assignments.

November 9, Food Preservation Demonstration, 10 a.m. to noon, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento. The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers offer a free demonstration: All Dried Up! Basic Introduction to safe dehydration techniques. This event will be held at the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

November 20, Food Preservation Demonstration, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento. The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers will give a demo: Festive Fall Favorites, at the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. There

is a \$3 material fee, payable at the vdoor. No advanced registration is required. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

November 22 to 24, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sacramento Harvest Festival, Cal Expo, Sacramento. This event will showcase hundreds of vendors, entertainment, foods and prizes. Guests can browse jewelry, clothing, fine art and photography, pottery, toys and more. Tickets are \$9 general admission, \$7 seniors and kids 12 and under are free. For more information, call (800) 346-1212 or visit www.harvestfestival.com.

November 29, Free Admission Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. On the day after Thanksgiving, Fairytale Town offers free admission to families who bring a canned food item for donation to the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services - Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive. The day also includes free arts and crafts activities and a puppet show at an additional cost. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.

November 30, What About Water? 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join in the conservation about water in California. Where does it come from? Where does it go? How do we use it? Why is it important to conserve it? Get some great tips at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on ways to conserve water in your own home and yard, and how we all can protect water quality in our local streams and rivers. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Storytime & Puppet Show Events

November 3, Baby Storytime, 12:10 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento. Bond with your baby and make new friends at the Central Library. Baby Lapsit Storytime is designed to encourage early literacy development through shared reading, songs, games, and movement. Recommended for birth through 24 months, but

Book Sale

Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library is hosting a 2-day book sale, Friday, November 1, at 1 p.m.. All books will be reasonably priced, starting at 25 cents. Thousands of titles include: Children's Books, Mysteries and Thrillers, Adventure, Romance, History, Art, Cookbooks, Travel, Biographies, Science, Fiction, Sci-Fi/Fantasy and more. The Library is located at 891 Watt Avenue.

older kids are welcome. Held in Kids' Place on the lower level.

your baby. This is also a great time to connect with other families in the neighborhood.

November 5, Baby Storytime, 1 p.m., 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento. It is never too early to visit the library. Baby Lapsit is a special program for pre-walkers and their parents/caregivers at the Southgate Community Library. Bring your baby and enjoy a half hour of songs, stories and games. Learn to promote early literacy skills while having fun and interacting with

November 6, Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove. Toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays at the Elk Grove Library. Additional parking can be found south of the library at journey Church, located at 9645 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove.

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Transportation



A Message from First 5 Sacramento

At a recent Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee, lack of transportation issues arose as a major obstacle for families getting their children to dental and medical appointments.

Currently, the dental and medical insurance plans provide taxi vouchers for families who need transportation to appointments; however, the family must provide car seat(s) for all children in order to use the taxi service. Most families without cars do not have car seats.

In an effort to fill this gap, First 5 Sacramento launched a pilot program for families that lack transportation and car seats for getting their children

to dental and medical appointments. Eight Family Resource Centers (FRCs) received 88 car seats to enhance their free car seat safety training class. After eligible families (Medi-Cal insured and lacking transportation) complete the class, they receive a free car seat.

Purchased through Safe Kids at the Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAPC), the new Evenflo car seats come in two sizes: reversible for infants/young children and booster style for older children.

Call 2-1-1 to find a Family Resource Center near you and the date for the next one-hour free car seat training class.

Classes are offered regularly by certified car seat trainers. We encourage

families to take the class ahead of time so they are prepared for a scheduled (or unscheduled) appointment.

Parents Tips

- It is important that your child goes to every recommended well-child visit.
- Children should see a dentist by their 1st tooth or 1st birthday and every six months after the first dental visit.

For more information about the Car Seat Program contact Debra Payne at (916) 876-5870.

Learn more about the Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee at www.first5sacramento.net.

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.

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State Indian Museum Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

In honor of the annual Native American Heritage Month celebration that happens every November, the State Indian Museum is offering a series of special events and activities each weekend that celebrate and share the lasting heritage, traditions and contributions of Native Americans with the local community. In fact, the State Indian Museum will offer notable Basket Weaving Demonstrations, a compelling Native Literature Showcase, hands-on "Continuing Culture" Skills Workshops and an always-popular Indian Arts and Crafts Holiday Fair. All Native American Heritage Month activities happening in November at the State Indian Museum are provided free with regular Museum admission.

California Indian Basket Weaving Demonstrations - Saturday, November 2, 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. - Native weavers will demonstrate how to use a variety of materials and techniques, and also share stories in a day long showcase of basketry art. This is a rare opportunity to observe and learn from the masters.

Native Literature Showcase - Meet the Authors! -- Saturday, November 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Some of America's Native literary greats will be special guests at the Museum to participate in mini-lectures and book signings that are offered every half hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Continuing Culture" Skills Workshops -- Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - The State Indian Museum is proud to present a full day of adult-level Native American traditional skills learning along with fun activities for

children. Led by skilled artisans, adult workshops include the following: Soapstone Carving, Clapstick Making, Tule Doll Making, Indian Beadworking, Native Hand Game Instruction and more. Pre-registration is required for the workshops.

Native American Film Festival - Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lights, camera, action! - In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the State Indian Museum is proud to present a very special Native American Film Festival. Informative, contemporary - and sometimes controversial - Native films will be shown throughout the day. The films explore topics of importance to Native people throughout American.

Hands on History at Sutter's Fort

On Saturday, November 16, come to Sutter's Fort and hear why there is so much discussion about the Donner Party - did you know the snowbound emigrants lived in two separate camps almost 5 miles apart? The Sutter's Fort Collection is the largest repository of original source Donner Party material in existence. View replicas of these rarely seen original documents and hear the mysterious and haunting stories that have

fallen through the cracks. Visitors will be able to pack a wagon or write in their journal with a quill pen, or make a corn husk or rag doll and create their own pioneer souvenir item.

Sutter's Fort is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cannon demonstrations will be held at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Sutter's Fort State National Park is located at 2701 L Street, Sacramento. For more information, visit www.suttersfort.org.

Sacramento Harvest Festival coming to Cal Expo

The Sacramento Harvest Festival will be held November 22 to 24 at Cal Expo. The event will showcase hundreds of vendors, exciting entertainment, delicious specialty foods and fabulous prizes. Guests can browse jewelry, clothing, fine art and photography, pottery, toys, home décor and more, all while mingling with the artists that create each piece.

The event runs Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$9 general admission, \$7 seniors and kids 12 and under are free. Plus, anyone who brings a non perishable food donation to support Elk Grove Food Bank Services will receive \$2 off admission. For tickets and additional details, call (800) 346-1212 or visit www.harvestfestival.com.



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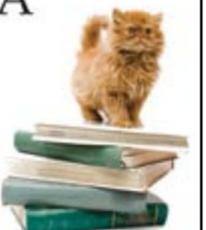
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Cheerleader / Football Party Ideas

www.birthdayparty4kids.com

A Cheerleader/Football party is a great birthday theme for twins, siblings or boy/girl parties. These two themes can be combined easily for a fun kid's birthday party that all the children will enjoy.

Invitations Ideas

- Make or buy party invitations that look like a football and then glue on pompom balls or make cheerleader poms from 1-1/2" squares of white paper folded several times and then cut the ends into long strips.
- Buy small plastic footballs and write the party information on the balls with a permanent black marker. Buy or make cards that say "Go Team" on the front in a varsity style font. Cheerleader and Football Decorations
- Decorate in the kids favorite team colors.
- Hang up pompoms, megaphones and signs that say "Go Team", "Defense", "_____ (favorite team) Fans Only!", etc.
- Set out footballs on the party table.

- Make the party table look like a football field by covering it with a green tablecloth and placing white duct tape at each yard line.
- Decorate the entrance or sidewalk that leads to the party in the same way using plastic green table cloths taped to the ground. Over the front door make a sign that says "_____ (last name of hosts) Field".
- Use butcher paper to create a run through sign for the front door.
- Paint it in your favorite teams colors and have it say something like "Go big #9 (for the birthday child's age)".
- Food can be served on the party table in plastic helmets or bowls that are shaped like footballs. You can also set up a concession stand and serve hot dogs, popcorn, nacho's, etc.
- Fun Ideas for a Cheerleader / Football Birthday Party Have the parents and adult helpers wear black and white referee shirts. You could also make the adults (or family members) each a shirt with one letter of the birthday child's name painted on the front. Line up to spell out their names and take a picture with them in front in front. (Makes a great thank you card picture.)

Football Party Games

Football Toss -Divide up into teams of 2 and have players stand 20 feet from their partner. Have the teammates toss the football back and forth. Once they both have caught the ball make all the teams back up 10 feet. If a team misses then they are out. The team who can successfully throw the football back and forth the farthest distance wins.

Football Accuracy - These can be played outdoors with a regular football or indoors with a Nerf style. There are different ways to set up an accuracy contest - try one or all of them for more fun.

- Hang a hula hoop from a tree with string. Have guests stand back 20 feet and try and throw the ball through the hoop. The guests who can accomplish this get another turn - but have to move back 10 feet. The

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winner is the guest who can accurately throw the ball the farthest. Or give each player 5 tries to make it through the hula hoop. The player with the best accuracy wins. Give bonus points when the ball doesn't touch the hoop.

- Set up 3 laundry or bushel baskets 10 feet apart. Line up guests 10 feet from the first basket. Give points to each basket - 1st basket is worth 1 point, 2nd - 2 points, 3rd - 3 points. Give each player 5 turns to see who can get the highest score.
- Set up 10 bottles or cans pyramid style on a small table and have guest stand 20 feet away. The guest who can knock over the most bottles wins. You can play several rounds and add up the scores for more fun. This can also be played by setting up just one can and seeing who can hit the can from a distance.
- For a real challenge after the players have completed these accuracy drills have them play again only this time have them try while blindfolded or with their back turned.

Set up two baskets or buckets about 7 feet apart and have a kicking contest to see who can kick the football through the "goalposts" - best out of 5 tries wins.

Football Charades -Play the game of charades using football or Super Bowl terms. Divide guests into 2 teams. Before the game list several football related words on folded cards and put them in a bowl. The first team will choose 1 player from their team to pick a card out of the bowl. Without showing the term to their team they must act out the word. Give the team 1 minute to guess the word. If they can't guess then the other team gets an opportunity to steal with just 1 guess. After the word has been solved move on to the next team. Here are a list of some football related words. Add your own to make the list as long or as short as you want: Quarterback, Halfback, Touchdown, Referee, Foam Finger, Line marker, 30 Yard Line, Goal Post, Cheerleader, Football,

Halftime, Ultimate Fan, Mascot (of your favorite team) Announcer, Bench

Cheerleader Activities:

- Create a cheer for everyone to learn at the party. Make up one for the group and then one for each of the girls with her name in it. Practice until it's perfect and then video tape the performance. Make DVD copies for everyone to take home.
- Have a cheer made up for each girl with her name in it. While you are playing games have the girls cheer each other on with their special cheer.
- Cheer Contest - Give awards or prizes for the best in these categories: Best cheer, Most spirit, Highest kick, Highest jump, Craziest cheer, Loudest, Most animated
- Decorate hair ribbons.
- Make foam megaphones with the girls names and decorate.
- Make felt pennants and let the guests decorate with sparkles.

- Decorate wooden door hangers - paint and attach little cheerleaders and pompom's.
- Make pompom's from plastic tablecloths and let the girls use them in their cheer.
- Make spirit sticks from large wooden dowels. Add glitter, feathers, ribbon, etc. to decorate them. Place a number on each one. Write the same numbers on pieces of paper, fold and put into a hat. Let the guests choose

a paper from the hat. The number they get is the spirit stick they will take home.

Cheerleader / Football Party Food - A fun and easy idea for a football party is to serve the food "tailgate" style. Set up barbeque grills in the backyard and cook hot dogs and hamburgers. Set up a concession style booth and serve stadium foods like popcorn, big pretzels, hamburgers, hotdogs, nachos, cotton candy, and peanuts.

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