

December 2015

# California Kids!

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# Table of contents

- Wordsearch: Happy Holiday Hunt!**  
.....page 6
- Make it yourself.....page 5**
- Who Wrote That? Lisa Graff  
by Patricia Newman .....page 8**
- Perfect Presents! ..... page 9-12**
- The Book Report: It's Almost Christmas!  
by Connie Goldsmith.....page 13**
- Calendar of Events .....page 16**
- Parties! Parties! ..... pages 18-19**

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## California Kids!

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# Sacramento Zoo Events

- **Holiday Magic, Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Why should only humans receive gifts during the holidays? It's time for Holiday Magic—watch as the animals unwrap their holiday goodies! Please bring a nonperishable food item and receive \$1 off your Sacramento Zoo admission.
- **PJ Party Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Celebrate Christmas Eve at the Zoo, and you don't have to change out of your pajamas! That's right, admission is free and the staff will be in their best pjs. Zoo closes early at 1:30 pm.
- **American Association of Zoo Keepers Wreath Sale Fundraiser, Weekends, December 12 to 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Celebrate the holiday season with Zoo-grown homemade wreaths. The local chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers will be at the front of the Zoo during the December weekends selling beautiful wreaths for your home. Proceeds benefit Greater Sac AAZK.

Call (916) 808-5888 for more information.

## Warehouse Book Sale

More than 100,000 “gently used” books, videos, and audio books will be available at the Saturday, December 5, book warehouse sale of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. Hours on Saturday are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a preview on Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Friends members only (You can join at the door for \$15). The Friends will be glad to have your spare books, too. See a staff member on how to donate and perhaps earn a small tax write-off as well.

The warehouse is at the rear of the Friends' “Book Den” store at Suite E, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, just south of 14th Ave. between

Power Inn Road and Florin-Perkins Road. Holiday-themed books will be 30% off (40% to members) all month. Teachers get an extra 10% discount.

The book store will be open during the sale as well as weekly, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gift coupons—great presents for those “who have everything”—are available at the Book Den. And to reduce overstocked science fiction and fantasy books, if you buy one you get another free. For more information, call (916) 731-8493 or go to [book-den@saclibfriends.org](mailto:book-den@saclibfriends.org).

### HOLIDAYMAGIC ❄️

BUNDLE UP THE FAMILY AND ENJOY HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE ZOO!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
10 am to 4 pm

- \* **KEEPER CHATS**  
Learn about featured animals
- \* **ANIMAL ENRICHMENTS**  
Watch animals enjoy holiday treats

Visit [saczo.org](http://saczo.org) for schedule

### FOOD DRIVE

COLLECTING THROUGH DECEMBER

Bring a non-perishable food item and receive \$1 off your Zoo admission

Benefiting the River City Food Bank

\* ZOO CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS

**sacramentoZOO**





Photo courtesy Charr Crail

## Fairytale Town Programs

- Winter Wonderland, Thursday – Sunday, December 10-13 and 17-20, 1 – 7 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town. The storybook park will be trimmed with festive holiday décor. A dazzling display of lights will light up the park at night, and a flurry of snow will fall nightly at 7 p.m. On weekends, enjoy more holiday cheer with craft activities, vendors and more. Meet two of Santa's reindeer on December 12-13. Visit with Santa in his workshop on December 12-13 and 19-20 from 3 to 6 p.m. This program is free with paid park admission. Weekend admission is \$5.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. Please note: During Winter Wonderland, Fairytale Town's operating hours are from 1 – 7 p.m. Visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) for more information.

- Free Admission Day, Thursday, December 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

On Christmas Eve, Fairytale Town gives the gift of free admission to visiting guests. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

*Fairytale Town is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from March through October and Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November through February, weather permitting and unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.*

## 7th Annual Theatre of Lights

Make your holidays magical this holiday season...don't miss Old Sacramento's 7th Annual "Macy's Theatre of Lights". The free outdoor performances 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. Old Sacramento's "Macy'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-ex-

citing lighting choreography that takes place on the balconies and rooftops of Old Sacramento's historic buildings. 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!

6:15 and 7:45 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays plus on December 21-23  
December 24 (Christmas Eve) – 6:15 p.m.  
December 31 (New Year's Eve) – 7 and 8:30 p.m.

*Old Sacramento is located on K Street between Front and 2nd Streets. For ore information call 916-442-8575 or visit [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com)*

Advertise in  
**California Kids!**

Call for more information!  
**916.429.9901**

## Journey Church

Come join us for a morning of wonderful worship and celebration of the birth of our Lord.

**Sunday December 6th**

- 10 am:** Children's pageant and youth led service. "Come to Bethlehem and See"- A sweet children's musical play of the nativity.
- 11 am:** Come to our Bethlehem and hear of the birth of Jesus and visit out marketplace! Crafts, Activities, food and fun for all!



**450 Blue Ravine Rd, Folsom CA**  
For more info and RSVP: **Pauline 983-4648**  
[pmmclee@journeychurchhome.org](mailto:pmmclee@journeychurchhome.org)



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# WINTER WONDERLAND

**Fairytale Town**

SNOWFALL  
NIGHTLY  
AT 7 PM

**THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS,  
DECEMBER 10-13 & 17-20**

**1-7 PM** Weather Permitting

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town!

Festive décor around the park

Dazzling lights each day at dusk

Visit with Santa in his workshop on weekends

**On the Weekends: Hands-on craft activities**

**Holiday vendors • And more!**

**Tickets & Info: [fairytaletown.org](http://fairytaletown.org)**

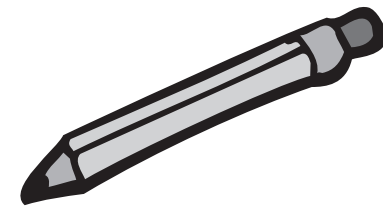
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# MAKE IT YOURSELF!



## Button Wreath

**T**hreading buttons onto pipe cleaners to make a button wreath is fun. Kids of all ages can make a really pretty button wreath using pipe cleaners and just a few buttons out of the sewing box or craft cupboard. Hang the finished button wreath on the Christmas tree, use it as a napkin ring on the Christmas table, suspend with ribbon from door knobs, or just enjoy.



### You will need:

Pipe cleaner, buttons, ribbon

### You will need to:

Thread the pipe cleaner in and out through the two holes of each button, spacing the buttons as you go. Bend into a circle, then twist the top of the circle together to secure the buttons in place. Tie a ribbon bow around the top on the wreath. Tie another loop of ribbon or cord, or attach another piece of pipe cleaner as a loop, to hang it up if you wish.

## Christmas Collage

**G**ather together an assortment of shiny materials, some glue and a crafty child, and see what they can put together!

### You will need:

Assortment of card, papers, craft foam, fabric, felt, stickers, glitter - get out the contents of the craft cupboard! PVA or white glue and glue stick, felt tip pens

A Christmas collage is an excellent craft for a group of kids, as they can share materials between them and often become even more creative when they see what the other children are doing.

Also, it is a wonderful activity for children who are not overly confident of their drawing / painting abilities. Any child is capable of putting together a stunning collage even if they really can't draw. Sometimes providing simple shapes for them to fill in can help. For Christmas you could draw a tree, a star, bells, a present or holly.



## Cup and Ball Angel

**T**his pretty "cup and ball" angel is a lovely craft for children of all ages at Christmas. She can be part of your homemade nativity scene, or sit on top of your tree.

### You will need:

Polystyrene ball, paper cup, pink and white paint, yellow wool, wiggle eyes, white and pink craft foam, gold card, gold pipe cleaner (chenille stem), pink pen, glue and sticky tape

### You will need to:

Paint the ball pink and the cup white and leave to dry. Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup. Cut two arms from white foam and two hands from pink. Glue one hand to the end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the body. Glue on some wool as hair. Make a halo by twisting a pipe cleaner into shape and taping it to the back of the head. Cut wings from gold card and glue them to the angel's back. Finally, add two eyes and draw on a face.



## Cup and Ball Santa

**M**ade using simple craft cupboard materials, this delightful Santa Christmas craft is sure to delight kids of all ages!

### You will need:

Polystyrene ball, paper cup, pink and red paint, red and white felt, small red and white pompoms, wiggle eyes, red, black and pink craft foam, pink pen, glue

### You will need to:

Paint the ball pink and the cup red and leave to dry. Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup. Cut two arms from red foam and two hands from pink. Glue one hand to the end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the body. Cut a strip of black foam and glue it around the middle of the cup as a belt. Make a hat by rolling some red felt into a cone. Glue the edge of the cone and glue the hat to the top of the ball. Cut a band of white felt and glue it around the edge of the hat. Add a pompom at the end of the hat. Cut a beard from white felt and glue to the front of the face. Add a red pompom nose. Finally, add two eyes and draw on a mouth.



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



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# Effie Yeaw Nature Center Events

## Special Events

**December 5, Saturday, Holiday Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Triple their usual inventory of unique nature gifts, beautiful books for all ages, science kits, one-of-a-kind items from guest vendors and more. 20% discount with membership. All profits benefit the Nature Center.

**December 21- 23 and 28-30, Winter Nature Camps for kids, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.;** pre-registration required, visit [SacNatureCenter.net](http://SacNatureCenter.net) or call 916-489-4918.

## Free Weekend Activities

**December 6, Sunday, Critter Corner, 1:30 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered where the animals in the Nature Center come from? Join the staff for this program to meet some of their critters and learn why these animals are unable to return to the wild.

**December 12, Saturday, Nature's Clean-Up Crew, 10:30 a.m.**

Nature's Clean-Up Crew: Turkey Vultures, insects and fungi... oh my! Hit the trails in search of the creatures that do the dirty work to make our world a more pleasant place.

**December 13, Sunday, Tsssssss the Season, 1:30 p.m.**

Have you been missing the cold-blooded critters that

have been hiding out this winter? Come in to see and learn all about the Nature Center's reptiles that are awake and warm.

**December 19, Saturday, Beginning Birding, 10:30 a.m.**

You can be a birder too! Learn to spot and identify wildlife in the Nature Area.

**December 20, Sunday, Winter Solstice, 1:30 p.m.**

It's almost the first day of winter! Take a stroll with a Naturalist in the center's own winter wonderland and discover the gifts of nature.

**December 26, Saturday, Something's Fishy Here, 10:30 a.m.**

Join a Naturalist and explore the amazing world of anadromous fish.

**December 27, Sunday, Coyote Tales, 1:30 p.m.**

Join the staff for a traditional story about the trickster coyote, and get a close-up look at a coyote pelt, skull and mounted specimen. Discover some facts about these wild canines and take a stroll to search for tracks and scat. All ages welcome.

*The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located 2850 San Lorenzo Way, at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. Donations are gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman County Park (Free to members). For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net).*

## Happy Holiday Hunt!

Hey kids! It's that exciting time of the year, time for holiday activities and winter break. Better take time to make your "wish list" for shopping, and OH BOY! Can't wait for all those delicious holiday cookies, pies and cakes! Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward and upside-down. Good luck hunting!

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

Candy canes

Gift wrapping

Presents

Christmas trees

Gingerbread Man

Reindeer

colored lights

Hanukkah

Santa

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Holiday

Sugar cookies

Elves

Holly

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Excitement

ornaments

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# Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

With author Lisa Graff

By Patricia Newman

Thanks to *Around the World in 80 Days*, Lisa Graff became a reader. Until fourth grade reading was not high on her list, but for some reason she still can't fathom, Jules Verne's classic appealed to her and she borrowed it from the library. "I pinned blankets to the wall [of my room] with thumbtacks and read the entire book inside that fort," she says. "I'd never been so wrapped up in a book before."



Lisa Graff

Graff became a writer, in part, because she loved to eavesdrop as a child. "I wanted to know what people were doing, what they were talking about, what was going on, and how things worked," she says. "I didn't grow up thinking I was going to be a writer, but I think that curiosity...helped me become [one]."

Her older brother received a lot of praise from the family for his science fiction stories. "I would write stories because I thought it was cool that he did, but my stories weren't that good. That wasn't the thing I felt I really excelled at as a kid. I was really good at math and science, and thought I was going to be a doctor. I didn't see myself as a super creative person."

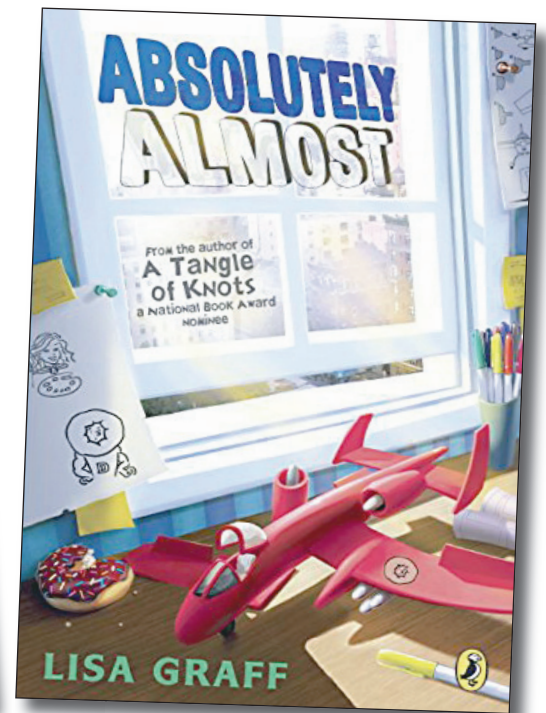
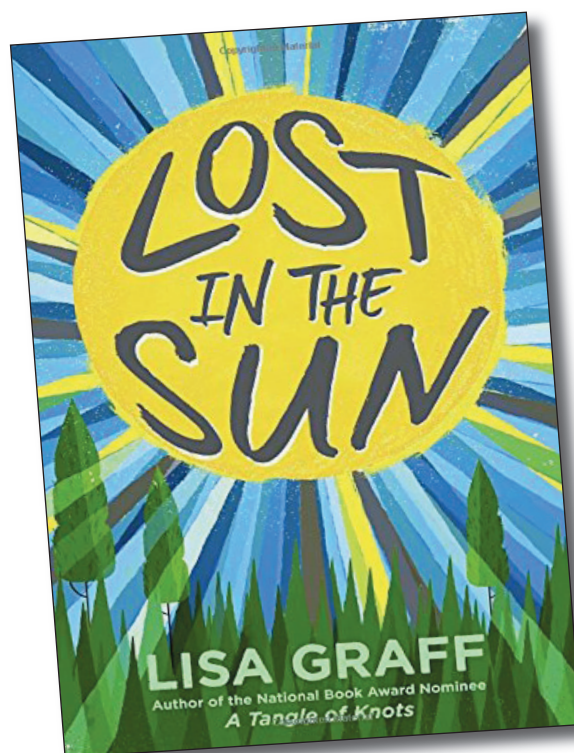
Yet after she started college she switched from premed to linguistics and psychology, and continued to write novels for kids in her spare time that no one ever saw.

During her junior year, Graff studied abroad in Italy, and was required to do a year-long language project. Her professor knew she wrote children's nov-

els and suggested she translate one into Italian. "The idea was to translate something I had written to improve my Italian, but it made me see that my novel was really bad," she says. During the translation process, she realized that she'd used English words because they'd sounded good. "I didn't know what they meant. It was such a good look at the details of language and how every word is so important."

After graduation, Graff says, "I had absolutely no idea what I was going to do with myself and my degree in cognitive linguistics." Graduate school in New York City—the hub of the publishing world—seemed like a great place to check out a children's writing program because she loved writing yet had no formal training. She sold her first two books on the day of her thesis reading. "That was a very exciting day for me!" she says.

Still an eavesdropper, Graff used the New York subway as fodder for characters before moving to Pennsylvania. Even her own life is not immune to mining for a story. Albie in *Absolutely Almost* popped into her



head one day in part because she never felt as smart as her genius older brother.

Annie from *Umbrella Summer* is partly based on an experience Graff had as a child. "I ended up changing all of the facts, but the emotions are real," she says. "When I was nine my older brother got very sick and went to the hospital for a long time. I became a bit of a hypochondriac...that's how I dealt with that trauma, which as an adult I found interesting."

And *A Tangle of Knots*, long-listed for the National Book Award, stemmed from a reality television show about weird businesses. "One of them was the unclaimed baggage center," Graff says. "If you lose your luggage during air travel and the airline cannot find you to return it, they have a right to sell the contents through this center. 'I knew that I wanted to set a book in a store like that,'" she says. "It took me a year to figure out what the story was because at first I didn't realize it had fantasy elements to it. Once I clicked onto that, everything [fell] into place pretty quickly."

Graff prefers revision to filling up her blank computer screen with words. "I hate writing first drafts," she says. "I write them very messily, I don't pay attention to language and I overwrite, a lot. Then I will do several drafts that are really big revisions." No character or scene is safe during this part of the process. Her editor generally sees a manuscript for the first time after several drafts. Occasionally, when she is stuck, she'll forward what she calls "a giant mess." Before *A Clatter*

of Jars, the companion to *A Tangle of Knots*, went to print, Graff says she conducted "a thorough line edit to be sure that every single word was the exact one I wanted. I ended up cutting 8,000 words from the manuscript!"

Frequently children's authors write for the specific age group uppermost in their memories. Graff's emotions and dreams from her middle-grade years shine brightest. In eighth grade she recalls an assignment to memorize 50 prepositional phrases. Students were required to take the test again and again until they achieved a score of 45 out of 50. Graff passed with flying colors because she sang

the list, in alphabetical order, to the tune of "A Whole New World" from *Aladdin*. "It's a skill that stuck with me," she says, because she can still sing it. Ask her when you see her at a bookstore signing.

Patricia Newman visits schools! Her newest book, *Ebola: Fears and Facts*, received a starred review in *Booklist* and is a *California Reading Association Eureka! Silver Honor book for excellence in nonfiction*. Additional books include *Plastic, Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch* winner of the *Green Earth Book Award*. Visit her at [www.patriciamnewman.com](http://www.patriciamnewman.com) for more information.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT LISA GRAFF

Visit: <http://www.lisagraff.com/>

## SELECTIONS FROM LISA GRAFF'S LIBRARY

*Lost in the Sun*, **Philomel, 2015.**

*Absolutely Almost*, **Philomel, 2014.**

*A Tangle of Knots*, **Philomel, 2015.**

*Double Dog Dare*, **Philomel, 2012.**

*Sophie Simon Solves Them All*, **Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010.**

*Umbrella Summer*, **HarperCollins, 2009.**

*The Life and Crimes of Bernetta Wallflower*, **HarperCollins, 2007.**

*The Thing About Georgie*, **HarperCollins, 2007.**

**As Isla Neal (books for young adult audiences)**

*The Ever-Expanding Universe* trilogy, **Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers**

*Mothership*, **2012.**

*A Stranger Thing*, **2013.**

*The World Forgot*, **2015.**

## Upcoming

*A Clatter of Jars*, **Philomel, May 2016.**

*It Is Not Time For Sleeping*, **Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, September 2016.**



# Perfect Presents!

## Adoptimals

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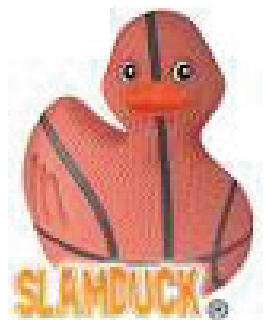
## STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON Playset

**E**xciting adventures await with the **STAR WARS MILLENNIUM FALCON** playset! Join the **HAN SOLO**, **R2-D2** and **CHEWBACCA** figures as they save the galaxy aboard one of the most iconic vehicles in the **STAR WARS** universe. The **MILLENNIUM FALCON** playset opens to reveal what young Jedi need to defend the galaxy, including a removable cannon and radar. Take the helm of the ship. Train as a Jedi with the Jedi training droid. Or pretend to hide from the Imperial troopers in the secret compartment! Playset includes **MILLENNIUM FALCON** vehicle, cannon, radar and **HAN SOLO**, **R2-D2** and **CHEWBACCA** two-inch figures. **HASBRO/Ages 3-7 years /Approx. Retail Price: \$39.99.**



## Rubba Ducks gives a modern twist to the classic bath toy

**R**ubba Ducks® are uniquely designed to communicate their individual personality and character. While there are the traditional-themed ducks dressed as police, firemen, sports and animals, these ducks go a step further in incorporating specialized hobbies, interests and even holidays. There are many to choose from and retail online for under \$12.99!



**Rubba Ducks®** float straight up no matter how they are set in the water and have no holes, which means no mold like some other water toys, so these ducks will last. For more information on Rubba Ducks, visit <http://www.rubbaducks.net/>

## Zuru Blasting X Shot Bug Attack

**Z**uru have combined two of their most successful brands, **X Shot** and **Bug Attack**, to create a new and innovative blaster line which combines high performance blasting and ultimate accuracy challenges. Using Creepeez as moving targets for the **Bug Attack** blasters, throw the bugs against the wall and shoot them as they crawl to see them fall! Creepeez can also be launched into the air for a more skilled shot. **Bug Attack Rapid Fire**, fires darts up to 55 ft! **Bug Attack Eliminator** is a double-barrel Blaster with Pump Action Handle. **Creepeez Wall Crawling Bugs** sticks to almost every surface. **Bug Attack Bow and Arrow** fires up to 55 ft. The Blasters can be purchased at any major retailer.



# Perfect Presents!

## Limited Edition Chocolate Pumpkin Pie Biscotti - Marlo's Bakeshop

**J**ump on the delicious pumpkin bandwagon and taste this Chocolate Pumpkin Pie soft-baked biscotti from Marlo's Bakeshop, based out of San Francisco. A delightful blend of real pumpkin, Guittard bittersweet chocolate and those comforting, familiar pie spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, clove and allspice. As always, cookies from Marlo's Bakeshop offer the expected and satisfying crunch of traditional biscotti with the family recipe that is twice-baked and a soft-baked texture \$6.99 [www.marlosbakeshop.com](http://www.marlosbakeshop.com)



## Coffee is the perfect gift for the Holiday!

**N**ew Mexico Piñon Coffee Company is a family-owned and operated coffee company that makes more than 50 flavors of coffee, including their traditional and decaf coffees. Flavors include: Almond, Apple Empanada, Chocolate Coffee Cake, Cinnamon, Coconut Almond Delight, Dulce de Leche, French Vanilla, Mexican Hot Chocolate and Pumpkin Spice just to name a few! The coffee is made with a unique mix of piñon (pine nuts, picked in the southwest), a multi-bean blend of the finest high-altitude Arabica coffee and their custom flavoring. Their products may be found at grocery stores nationwide. 12 oz bags start at \$9; Gift Boxes start at \$16.99. New Mexico Piñon Coffee Company is the largest coffee roaster in New Mexico, roasting more than 800,000 pounds of coffee per year. [www.nmpinoncoffee.com](http://www.nmpinoncoffee.com)



## Four exciting Fall titles from DK's 2015 Holiday Gift Guide

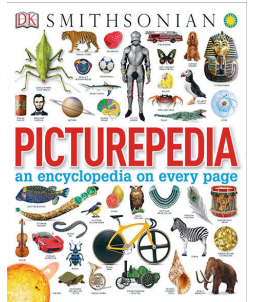
**LEGO® AWESOME IDEAS** is the latest imagination-expanding idea book for beginning and master LEGO® builders, with a focus on breaking down inspirational models and creating a complete LEGO world.



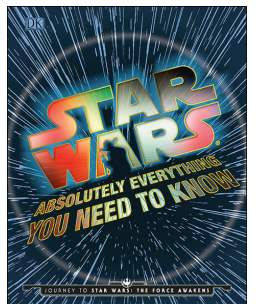
With stunning images and informative annotations, **LEGO®: I LOVE THAT MINIFIGURE** features the most unique minifigures in amazing detail - all accompanied by fascinating facts and trivia that bring them to life.



**PICTURE PEDIA** features every topic under the sun with over 10,000 stunning photographs to catalog the wonders of the world.



And for the Star Wars fanatics, **STAR WARS™: ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW** is an irresistible reference guide to all things Star Wars™ with lively lists, infographics, and fascinating trivia. Officially part of the Journey to Star Wars™: The Force Awakens.



Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and any other bookstores in the area.

## Rainforest Cuties

**T**he all-new Cabbage Patch Rainforest Cuties need your love and care. These soft and cute cuddly Cuties are all dressed up in bright colored costumes of their favorite animals including a Ladybug, Monkey, Frog, Butterfly and Jaguar. Cuties love to suck their thumbs and feature a snuggly onesie with an adjustable hood. Ages 18 months+.



## Transformers Prime: Ultimate Decepticons

Spring into action with the Autobots from Hasbro Studios' series Transformers Prime! Optimus Prime boldly serves as the leader of an elite squad of trusted Autobots. Shout! Factory Kids in collaboration with Hasbro Studios, has released **Transformers Prime: Ultimate Decepticons** on DVD. It features a collection of five epic Autobots vs. Decepticons adventures from the Transformers Prime lore. Packed with visually stunning CG animation and unforgettable characters, this new DVD delivers fun-filled home entertainment that kids and parents will enjoy. For more information, visit [shoutfactory.com](http://shoutfactory.com)



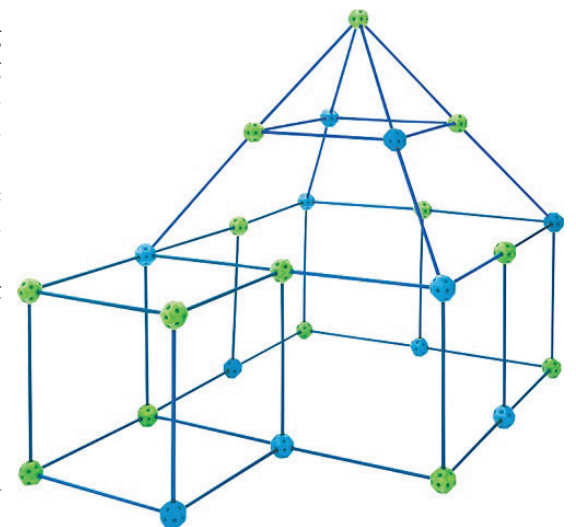
## NERF N-Strike Modulus ECS-10 Blaster

**A**chieve unprecedented levels of customization with the Nerf N-Strike Modulus ECS-10 Blaster. Giving fans both the versatility and performance they crave, the Modulus ECS-10 Blaster features motorized blasting and can be configured more than 30 ways to make any NERF mission or shot possible. A precision scope, stock with integrated clip storage, dual-rail barrel, drop-down grip, 10-dart banana clip and 6 tactical rails enhance the blaster's accuracy and efficiency. Includes 10 N-Strike Elite darts. Available at most major toy retailers and at [HasbroToyShop.com](http://HasbroToyShop.com)



## Discovery Kids 77 Piece Build & Play Construction Fort

**S**turdy rod set for building large structures including playhouses, forts, castles and more. Custom connectors allow for quick and easy assembly of nearly any structure a child can imagine. Includes 49 sturdy rods and 28 connectors. Simply put a blanket over the structure for an instant fortress. (Not Included) Intended for children ages 5 and up. Available at JC Penney, Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Toys R Us, Tuesday Morning and Walmart, and on Amazon.



# Perfect Presents!

## Miles from Tomorrowland Stellosphere

Explore unknown worlds and exciting corners of the galaxy with the **Miles from Tomorrowland Stellosphere**. The fantastic ship can split into three smaller ships, including the mini Starjetter for short missions and the Zip Ship for longer missions. Open up the Stellosphere to reveal the command center where Miles and the Callisto family can receive new missions from the TTA. Enjoy fun lights, sounds and phrases from the show when you attach the XVR system to the bottom of any of the ships. For ages 3+. Available at Toys R Us, Walmart, Target and Amazon.com.



## Hatch'n Heroes

It's exactly what it's cracked up to be!

It's the holiday season and Bandai's new creative **Hatch'n Heroes** toy line offers a fun and surprising way to play with fans' favorite Disney and Disney Pixar characters.

Each figure starts in its simple oval shape "egg." A couple twists and the egg transforms into an iconic figure including: Lightning McQueen, Mater, Francesco, The King, Sherriff and Red from the Cars Hatch'n Heroes line; Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Rex, Bullseye and the Little Green Men/Aliens from the Toy Story Hatch'n Heroes line; and Nurse Bot Baymax and Armored Up Baymax from Disney's Big Hero 6 Hatch'n Heroes line.

A perfect holiday gift and stocking stuffer for kids ages 4 to 7, each Hatch'n Heroes character is sold separately and available for a suggested price of \$6.99 at retailers, including Toys "R" Us, Kmart and Amazon.



## Colorforms on-the-Go Toys are perfect for the holidays!

**Colorforms** make great stocking stuffers and are perfect for keeping the kids happy while traveling. Colorforms vinyl stick-on playsets have been trusted by generations of parents and grandparents, providing safe and imaginative play.



- **Colorform Big Wall Sets** includes a large sheet that sticks to the wall with a Colorforms background and 8 large Colorforms in clamshell packaging.
- **Colorforms Story Boxed Set** includes an easel play area that folds out from the box, reusable box storage, 6 large Colorforms sheets, 4 backgrounds in a closed box.
- **Colorforms Take a Long Assortment** includes 4 Colorforms Sheets, a multi-fold, built-in backer card with re-closable storage for Colorform sheets.

## Play-doh Millennium Falcon

Kids can take the lid off of their imaginations and launch into epic adventures with the **PLAY-DOH Millennium Falcon** playset featuring **STAR WARS CAN-HEADS!** Now iconic **PLAY-DOH** cans are part of the action as you squish down the Evil Empire with the can-powered catapult. Join the Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and Chewbacca **CAN-HEADS** characters as they take on Darth Vader in the most imaginative battle the galaxy has ever seen! Kids can complete the scene by using the book-molds and half-molds to shape a TIE Advanced Starfighter, a Star Destroyer, and more. Playset with launcher includes satellite stamper, five removable engine stampers, and five **CAN-HEADS** characters filled with **PLAY-DOH** compound. Available at most major toy retailers nationwide and on [HasbroToyShop.com](http://HasbroToyShop.com). Ages 3 years and up.

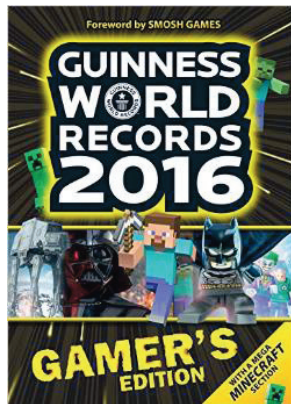
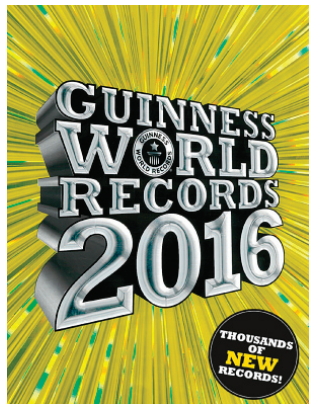


## Super Hero Adventures Iron Man Armor Up Fortress Playset

Tony Stark is ready for the next mission with his **SUPER HERO ADVENTURES IRON MAN ARMOR UP FORTRESS** playset! Pretend to re-enact one of the most iconic moments from the Marvel cinematic universe—Tony Stark armoring up to become **IRON MAN**. With lights and sounds, the **IRON MAN ARMOR UP FORTRESS** playset makes this moment come alive! Place the Tony Stark figure into the top of the **IRON MAN ARMOR UP** tower and push down on the tower to lower the Tony Stark figure into his armor below, which activates with lights and sounds. The **IRON MAN ARMOR UP FORTRESS** playset also features a capture cage, Hall of Armor where the **IRON MAN** suits can be stored, and the ability to be reconfigured so that preschoolers can customize the fortress. The **IRON MAN ARMOR UP FORTRESS** playset includes a Tony Stark figure and 2 suits of **IRON MAN** armor - 1 classic red suit and 1 blue suit. This fun playset makes the world of Stark Industries the perfect setting for little heroes' biggest adventures. Requires 1 AA battery. Demo batteries included. **HASBRO/Ages 3-7 years/Approx. Retail Price: \$29.99.**



# Perfect Presents!



## Guinness World Records 2016

The family favorite book series Guinness World Records is twice the fun for readers this year. The Guinness World Records 2016 and Guinness World Records 2016 Gamer's Edition books are available just in time for the holidays. Loaded with thousands of "officially amazing" facts and eye-popping photographs that will make young readers' jaws drop. Video game fanatics will be ecstatic when they discover the Guinness World Records 2016 Gamer's Edition features more than 20 pages on the global gaming sensation Minecraft! And of course this must-own reference on video games features all new records for revered gaming franchises like Super Mario Brothers, Legend of Zelda and much more. Available at Amazon.com, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, Target. For more information, visit, [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com).

## Red Light Green Light 1-2-3 - Endless Games

The perfect card game to tuck in a stocking! This classic schoolyard game is now a fast-action, quick-to-learn card game for the whole family. Game play is simple. Just follow the pattern RED LIGHT - GREEN LIGHT - 1 - 2 - 3. Play as many cards on your turn as you can IN THAT ORDER Can't play a card? Draw one from the deck and play passes to the next "driver". Play all your cards first to dodge traffic and win the game! For ages 7 and Up. <http://www.endlessgames.com/gamesRedLightGreenLight.html>



## Red vs. Blue: Season 13

The sim-troopers of Blood Gulch have seen their fair share of insanity over the years, but they've never faced anything quite like this. Stranded on the planet Chorus, the Reds and Blues must convince two enemy armies to join forces or suffer complete annihilation at the hands of a bloodthirsty war lord. As the final installment in the critically acclaimed Chorus Trilogy, RED VS.



BLUE: SEASON 13 is as hilarious as it is thrilling. Between deadly mercenaries, alien artifacts and old rivalries, our hapless heroes are in for the fight of their lives in the longest running sci-fi/comedy series in American history, Red vs. Blue.

Cinedigm has released RED VS. BLUE: SEASON 13 on DVD, DVD/Blu-ray combo and digital platforms. Guardians, RED VS. BLUE: SEASON 13 stars Geoff Ramsey, Gus Sorola, Dan Godwin, Matt Hullum, Joel Heyman, Burnie Burns and Jason Saldana – a combined social media presence of over 1.1MM followers/likes.

## El Dorado County Christmas Tree Growers



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



Scan the code for more information

Create Lasting Memories This Holiday Season.

*A tree farm in El Dorado County would be the perfect place to continue, or to start a family tradition that will create memories that will last well beyond the holiday season.*

Come visit the "Choose and Cut" Christmas Tree Farms

Apple Country Christmas Tree  
Ardencaple Forest Christmas Tree Farm  
Burnett Secret Ravine Farm  
Carson Ridge Evergreens  
Cedar Ravine Tree Farm  
Crystal Creek Tree Farm  
Davis Christmas Tree Farm  
Deer Park Ranch Christmas Trees  
Deutsch's Union Mine Pines  
El Dorado Tree Farm  
Figor Tree Farm

Frosty Fir Christmas Tree Farm  
Hangtown Kid Apple Orchard  
Harris Tree Farm  
Hidden Canyon Tree Farm  
High Sierra Iris Garden  
Hillside Tree Farm  
Indian Rock Tree Farm  
Jim And Mary's Tree Farm  
Kenny, Harry And Heidi's Tree Farm  
Levi's Tree Farm  
Mcgee's Christmas Tree Farm

O'halloran's Apple Trail Ranch  
Poverty Hill Tree Farm  
Prenderosa Tree Farm  
Roberts Tree Farms – Camino  
Roberts Tree Farms – Pollock Pines  
Sierra Magnifica Christmas Tree Farm  
Silver Forest Tree  
Silverthorn Meadows  
Smarts Christmas Tree Farm  
Sundance Tree Farm  
Twin Pines Christmas Tree Farm

# It's Almost Christmas!

By Connie Goldsmith

Are you having a hard time finding that last-minute gift for a friend's child, a favorite niece or nephew? Look no further than your local bookstore. Think about making books part of your Christmas tradition. They live on to become cherished treasures long after plastic toys break and electronics become obsolete. You're sure to find books to delight every little munchkin.

*"Jingle Bells: a magical cut-paper edition,"* by James Lord Pierpont, illustrated by Nirott Puttapipat. (Candlewick). We all know the old favorite song, *Jingle Bells*. But did you know the author wrote it in 1857 for children to perform at a Thanksgiving concert? This strikingly beautiful book, rendered in black and white outlines with touches of red, green and gold, includes the famous words and charming winter scenes with delicate filigreed cutouts on each page: trees, the village skyline, and at the end, a double-page popup spread showing the village Christmas tree, churches, buildings, the sled, and carolers galore. This is a book to pass along in the family, and to put on display for many Christmases to come.

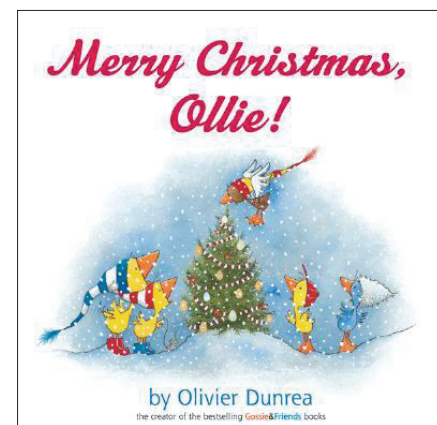
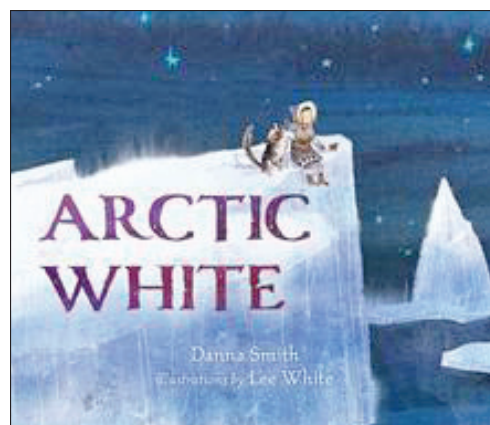
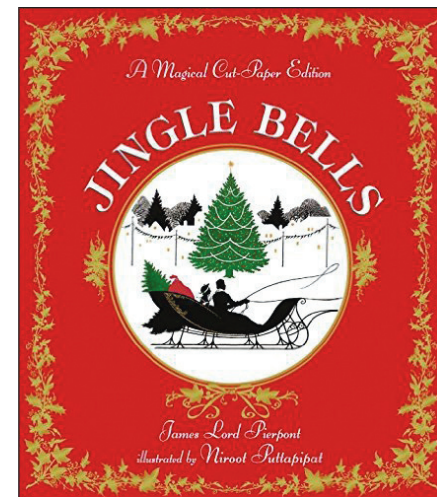
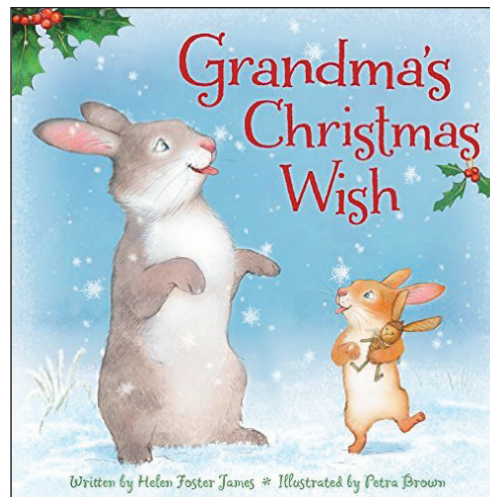
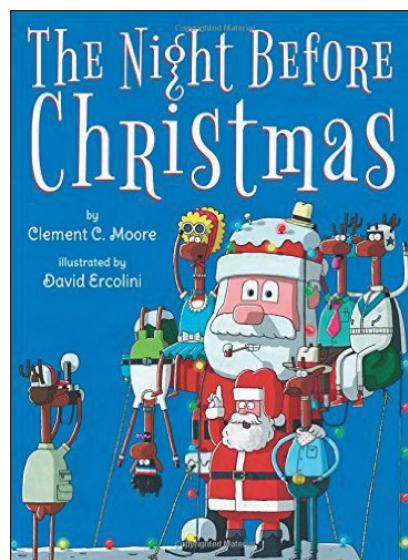
*"Arctic White,"* by Danna Smith, illustrated by Lee White. (Henry Holt). "When you live in the Arctic in winter, everything is a shade of white." This exquisite book that celebrates the love between grandchild and grandfather is perfect for Christmas or winter, or any time of year for that matter. As the grandfather shows the little girl, there is color in the white Arctic, the subtle yellow-white of the polar bear and the silver-white of the Arctic fox. Grandfather takes her on a journey through the blue-white tundra down a river, past sleeping seals to a spot on a very special hill where they wait with other villagers. Soon, the Northern Lights appear like magic: "Purple swirling, green glowing, blue swooping, red pulsing—like your heartbeat." Later in her igloo home, the girl draws the colors—page after page—and decorates the walls with them. The

satisfying text and stunning art are a perfect match for an unusual story in an remarkable setting. Children will marvel at the beauty of the Arctic. \*\* Reviewer's pick of the month\*\*

*"The Night Before Christmas,"* by Clement C. Moore, illustrated by David Ercolini. (Orchard). Each Christmas brings a new adaptation of this old classic. The words never change, of course. The joy is in seeing how a talented illustrator translates the well-known story for a modern audience. This year's version is just a bit over-the-top. This family decorates like none other; every surface is strung and hung with Christmas decorations (including cat, dog, and fish). With a giant inflatable Santa and neon welcome sign pointing the way, Santa certainly can't get lost. He poses on the roof with the reindeer for selfies, then tumbles down the chimney with a giant bag of presents. The dog and cat read Santa their wish lists after he gorges on Christmas treats. Find every detail on the bright busy pages as you giggle with your kids.

*"Grandma's Christmas Wish,"* by Helen Foster James, illustrated by Petra Brown. (Sleeping Bear Press). "Your grandma loves you. I love you, I do. Jingle bells baby. Adorable you." This sweet book celebrates the special bond between grandma and grandchild at Christmas. See the cozy burrow decorated for a rabbit-style Christmas: carrots, holly, cabbages, apples, pinecones, and berries. Love between grandma and baby bunny shines from every page. This book is designed to be given as a gift, with space at the front to write a child's name, a page meant to hold a special letter from a grandma to the child, and a place for a photo of grandma and child at the very end. Personalize this book for your own dearest grandchild!

*"The Best Parts of Christmas,"* by Bethanie Deeney Murguia. (Candlewick). Little Fritz, his parents, and great big dog, find the perfect Christmas tree in the country. "He is in charge of ornaments—the most



important job." Almost anything can be an ornament: paw prints on paper; candy canes and gingerbread cookies; boats and bears. Presents appear and are opened. But Fritz is sad. He wants every day to be Christmas. When the tree must go, Fritz makes a tiny tree from a left-over branch. This simple story with softly colored art gently captures the often contradictory feelings a young child has about the coming and going of this important day.

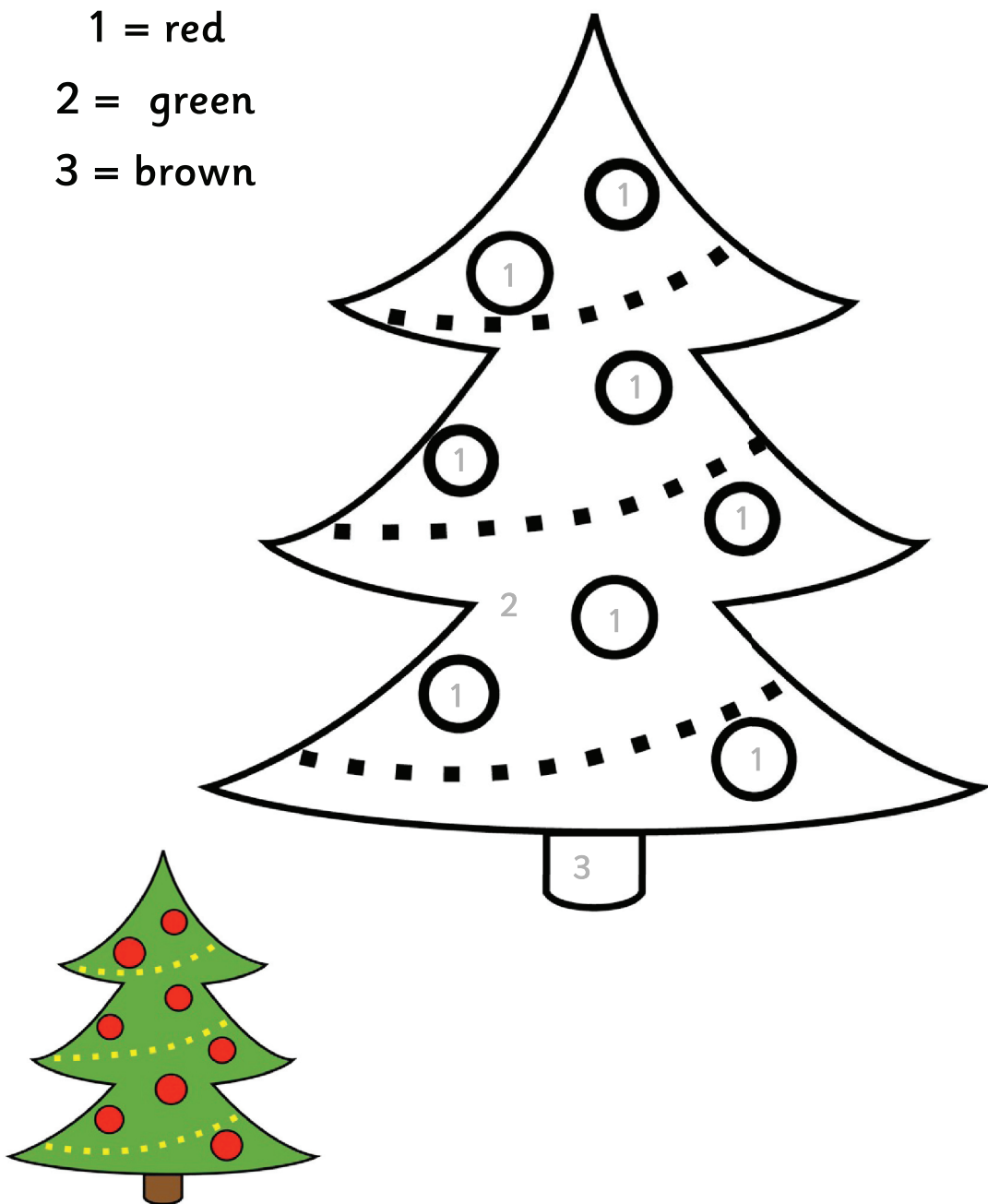
*"Merry Christmas, Ollie,"* by Olivier Dunrea. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Ollie and friends are favorites of very young fans. This version of a familiar story is a Level 1 reader intended for the beginning reader in first grade. It includes a space to write the child's name and the date when she first read it herself. "This is Gossie. This is Gertie. They are waiting. This is BooBoo. This is Peedie. They are waiting." Each Ollie story introduces the darling gos-

ling characters. Ollie and friends are waiting in the snow—complete with winter hats—for Father Christmas Goose! They've hung their boots and socks in the barn. But Ollie is impatient. His friends try to calm him down by whispering about all the good things on the way. Finally, finally, Father Christmas Goose flies across the dark night sky and drops presents for Ollie and friends. A beginning reader will enjoy this as a first-time book.

Connie Goldsmith ([www.conniegoldsmith.com](http://www.conniegoldsmith.com)) lives in Carmichael, CA where she writes for adults and older children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile book, *Dietary Supplements: Harmless, Helpful, or Hurtful?* is now available. Other recent books include: *Bombs over Bikini*; *Traumatic Brain Injury: From Concussion to Coma*; *Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer*, and many others. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.

# Christmas Tree Color by Number

- 1 = red
- 2 = green
- 3 = brown



Copyright © www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

# Every other week in Sacramento County, a baby dies while sleeping. Half are African American.

Learn the 6 Steps to Always Safe Sleep Baby  
**BIRTH TO ONE YEAR**



### A Message from First 5 Sacramento

A mom who lost her baby girl from a sleep-related death, said "I had twins... a boy and a girl. My baby girl passed away when she was only six weeks old. It can happen to anybody at any time. I didn't think it was going to happen to me, but it happened."

Did you know nearly four times more children die from sleep related deaths than drowning?

This is not a statistic that our community has to continue to live with. There are simple things that all of us can do

to help save the lives of our youngest residents.

Please help increase awareness about infant safe sleeping today and every day. Infant deaths as a result of unsafe sleep practices are preventable.

### FOLLOW THE SIX STEPS TO ALWAYS SAFE SLEEP YOUR BABY

1. Sleep baby ALONE.
2. Sleep baby on his/her BACK.
3. Sleep baby in a CRIB. ALWAYS!
4. Put nothing in baby's sleep area.
5. Do not overdress baby.
6. Do not smoke anything around baby.

A baby's chance of dying is 40 times greater when sleeping in an adult bed rather than a safe crib. Spread the SAFE SLEEP BABY message to your family, your friends and others who care for your baby.

There are resources in Sacramento County to help families keep their baby safe and give them a healthy start in life. Find FREE Information in your community, including Safe Sleep Workshops and Free Cribs. Call (916) 244-1900 or visit the Child Abuse Prevention Center website at [www.thecapcenter.org](http://www.thecapcenter.org). Additional resources available at [www.SacHealthyBaby.com](http://www.SacHealthyBaby.com) including tips on healthy pregnancy and births, and finding services in your neighborhood.

## Autism Center for Excellence



- Teaching social skills to children, aged 8-12 with autism, using ABA to help them build a foundation for friendships.

For more info, call 916-548-2562  
or visit [UCPSacto.org](http://UCPSacto.org)



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# Powerhouse Science Center Discovery Campus Activities

These activities include craft activities for kids four to twelve years old and planetarium shows for ages four and older.

• **December 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday, Winter Scienceland, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Learn a bit about snowflakes. As a take home, children 12 and younger craft a scratch art snowflake. Admission includes these activities, the Space Quest! exhibit, Nature Discovery Room and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m.

• **December 12 and 13, Saturday and Sunday, Winter Bling, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Celebrate the season by designing a winter-inspired foam bead necklace. If jewelry is not your thing, make a special necklace to give as a gift this holiday season. Admission includes these activities, the Space Quest! exhibit, Nature Discovery Room and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

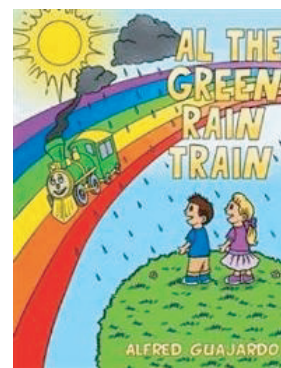
• **December 19 - 24, Saturday - Thursday, Reindeer Treat, 12:30 to 4 p.m. (Thursday 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)**

Dasher, Donner, Prancer, and all the rest—including Rudolph, the most famous of all—are being highlighted this week. Enjoy some reindeer science and make a reindeer treat to take home as a souvenir. Remember, your admission also includes visiting the Space Quest! exhibit, Nature Discovery Room. Planetarium shows for ages 4 and older are at 1 and 3 p.m. (1 p.m. only on Thursday).

• **December 26 - 31, Saturday - Thursday, New Year's Banner, 12:30 to 4 p.m. (10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Thursday)**

Explore exhibits, a nature walk, and the craft room. Kids 12 and younger color and assemble a New Year Banner to take home. Remember, your admission also includes visiting the Space Quest! exhibit and Nature Discovery Room. Planetarium shows for ages 4 and older are at 1 and 3 p.m. (1 p.m. only on Thursday).

*The Powerhouse Science Center Discovery Campus is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 91521. For more information, call (916) 808-3942.*



Parents and grandparents, introduce your child or grandchildren to an environmental learning experience to be remembered and appreciated...

"Al the Green Rain Train" a children's picture book.



Purchase a copy from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
[www.althegreenraintrain.com](http://www.althegreenraintrain.com)

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**California Kids!**  
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Challenges with Common Core? **GradePower Learning** can help!

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9261 Laguna Springs Dr., Ste. 120  
Elk Grove, California 95758  
[elkgrovec@gradepowerlearning.com](mailto:elkgrovec@gradepowerlearning.com)

**Crockett-Deane Ballet Company**  
& Deane Dance Center

Saturday, Dec. 12th, 2pm & 7pm  
Sunday, Dec. 13th, 2pm, 2015

Featuring  
**The Nutcracker**  
(one act with narration)  
and **Christmas Angels**

**Tickets at the door:**  
Adults \$15  
Seniors/Students \$12  
Children \$10  
(Saturday night add \$5 per ticket)

*Affordable fun for the whole family*

The Center at Twenty Three Hundred  
2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento  
Questions? Contact Deane Dance Center  
**916.453.0226**

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Super Lice Lady has helped over 1000 FAMILIES become lice and nit free since 2007

# Calendar of Events

## Arts & Crafts

**December 11, Holiday Science Craft: Snowflake Ornaments, 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento.** The staff at the McKinley Library will be using both art and science to get ready for the winter holidays. First make an assortment of snowflake ornaments out of popsicle sticks, buttons, paper and other decorative materials. Then use pipe cleaners, borax and science to make your own crystalized snowflakes. Let your homemade snowflake sit overnight at the library and come pick them up later to turn into your own snowflake ornament or crystal snowflake decoration.

**December 12, Saturday, Holiday Crafts, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** A Carmichael tradition: card making and other fun crafts at Carmichael Library. This program is fun for the entire family; children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

**December 19, Saturday, Make Your Own Gingerbread House, 1 p.m. 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Design and construct something flashy, daring or just plain sweet at the Belle Cooledge Library Gingerbread House Maker Party. The staff will provide supplies (while they last). This program is intended for designers of all ages.

## Critter Events

**December 6, Critter Corner, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Have you ever wondered where the animals in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center come from? Come and meet some of their critters and learn why these animals are unable to return to the wild. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**December 13, Cold-blooded Creatures, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Bring the family to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and learn all about reptiles that are awake and warm. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**December 19, Birding for Beginners, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** You can be a birder, too at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Learn to spot and identify wildlife in the Nature Area. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**December 26, Fish Program, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Join a naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and explore the amazing world of anadromous fish. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**December 27, Coyote Program, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Enjoy stories about coyotes and get

a close-up look at a coyote pelt, skull and mounted specimen. Discover some facts about these wild canines and take a stroll to search for tracks and scat. All ages welcome. For more information, call the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at (916) 489-4918.

## Nature Events

**December 12, Nature Hike, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and hit the trails in search of the creatures that do the dirty work to make our world a more pleasant place. Turkey Vultures, insects and fungi. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Special Events

**Mondays, Free Dessert, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento** A new offering at the Casa Garden Restaurant. Starting every Monday until Thanksgiving, patrons will receive a free dessert with the purchase of an entree and beverage, all for \$12.50. The Casa Garden is known for its homemade desserts, so now is the time to take advantage of this special offer. Get a few friends together and make your reservation at (916) 452-2809. Casa Garden operates solely to benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

**December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wednesday, Sing Along with Mister Cooper, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper at the Belle Cooledge Library, for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years.

**December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wednesday, Sing Along with Mister Cooper, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join neighbor-

hood favorite Mr. Cooper at the Belle Cooledge Library, for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years.

**December 4, Lego Mania, 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento.** Like building with Legos? Join the staff at the McKinley Library for their monthly Lego free play afternoon for ages 6 to 12. Legos and Lego building books will be provided.

**December 5, Holiday Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Triple their usual inventory of unique nature gifts, beautiful books for all ages, science kits, one-of-a-kind items from guest vendors and more. 20% discount with membership. All profits benefit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**December 5, Community Toy Drive, 4 to 6 p.m., 8470 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove.** Bring an unwrapped new toy to The Running Zone and take a picture with Santa. A fire truck from CSD Fire Department will also be present. Coloring pages and crayons will be provided by Moms in Motion for children to enjoy. All toys and proceeds will go to the Elk Grove Community Toy Project.

**December 12, Holiday Party with the Poodlums, 10:30 a.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento.** Join the staff at the McKinley Library for a holiday celebration. Cookies and drinks for everyone. Then stay for a musical performance with The Poodlums. At the end of the performance stay for a visit with our special guest: Santa! For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**December 12, Read to a Dog, 1 p.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** Join the staff at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library in the library's Reading Tower

area for the "Read to a Dog" program and practice reading out loud to a registered therapy dog. Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from the library, then read aloud to Marvin the Corgi, who is accompanied by his trained adult volunteer.

**December 17, Thursday, Movie Matinee, 3 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Bring your friends to the Carmichael Library and enjoy a movie - Free! Visit Carmichael Library for a list of up-coming movie titles.

**December 22, Tuesday, Holiday Movie, 3 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Come to the Carmichael Library for a special Holiday Movie.

**December 29, Tuesday, Mr. Cooper's Sing-a-Long Club, 11 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** A family-friendly performance at the Robbie Waters-Pocket Greenhaven Librry by local singer/guitarist Mr. Ken Cooper.

## Storytime & Puppet Events

**December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wednesday, Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m. 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento.** Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs and rhymes and meet other babies in the neighborhood at the McKinley Library.

**December 3, 10, 17, 31, Thursday, Toddler/PreSchool Storytime, 10:30 a.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento.** Songs, fingerplays, and stories especially for ages 18 months to 5 years followed by playtime at the McKinley Library.

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Photo courtesy Sutters Fort

## Hands on History

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present an interactive and fun "Hands on History: A Simple Emigrant Christmas" event Saturday, December 12. In John Sutter's day, people from around the world passed through the gates of Sutter's Fort, each with their own customs and traditions for the holiday season. On this special day, friends and families are encouraged to visit the Fort to step back in time to holidays past and enjoy docents in period attire as they interpret and demonstrate a variety of early holiday traditions and cultural activities similar to what early emi-

grants did in the 1840s. Entertaining vignettes will be set up that showcase a few of the diverse holiday scenes that will include food, music, decorations and other holiday traditions.

Fort visitors can also participate in a number of special hands-on activities such as craft holiday ornaments, that include snowflakes, cornhusk angels and bird nests, plus decorate the Christmas tree, make holiday cards with nib (or "dip") pens and colored ink, grind raw wheat into "Christmas flour," sing Christmas carols with Fort musicians and more.

*The park is located in midtown Sacramento between K and L Streets and 26 and 28th Streets. For more information call 916-445-4422 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org)*

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

# Good Night Moon Party

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## Invitation ideas

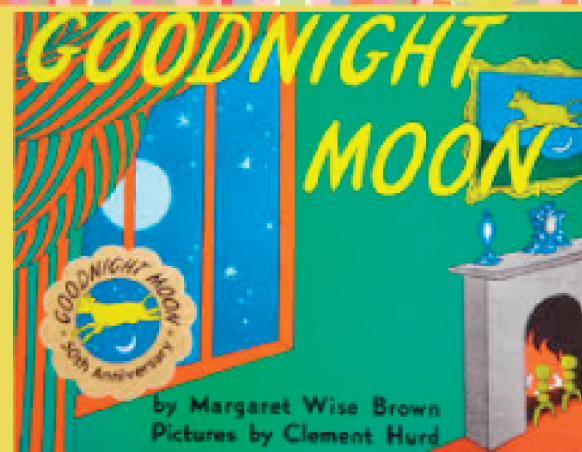
- Buy Note cards with a red balloon on the front cover or make them with white cardstock and red scrapbooking paper.
- Note cards with blue and white stripes (like the bunny's pajamas).
- Note cards with dark blue background and stars or white/silver polka dots.
- Note cards with a cow jumping over the moon.

## Decorations

- Use the colors in the book - green, red, blue and yellow.
- Hang red balloons around the room and place several red helium balloons on the mailbox.
- For the party table - a solid color table cloth in green, red, blue or yellow or make it look like the night sky by using a dark blue table cloth with silver or white polka dots for stars.

## Goodnight Moon Birthday Party Ideas

Party Games Fun Ideas! Activities



www.BirthdayPartyIdeas4Kids.com

- Make and hang cardboard stars around the party room.
- Enlarge the paintings in the book and hang them in the party room.
- Frame some with cardboard.
- Hang one on the front door to welcome guests.
- Place vases of flowers in the goodnight moon colors on each table with a hidden mouse in each one.
- Blue and white striped table cloths are also a cute idea.

## Activities

- **Mouse treasure hunt** - the mouse can be found on every page of the Goodnight Moon book, but you have to look for it. Set up a simple treasure hunt by hiding plastic eggs or a similar object around the party area, backyard or park. In one of the eggs hide a small stuffed mouse. The child who finds the mouse wins a small prize. Hide the mouse in a different egg and then hide all the eggs again - children love this game. You can also decorate the eggs to look like mice by drawing on ears, eyes and some whiskers on one end of the



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See Games, page 19

# Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!

## Games:

Continued from page 18

egg and a long tail on the others side with permanent marker.

**Variation:** Buy a stuffed mouse and hide it for the children to find.

- **Decorate cookies** - Make sugar cookies in the shapes of stars, cows, bunnies or houses and let the children decorate them with frosting and different toppings.

### Goodnight Moon party games

- **Goodnight relay** - be the fastest team to say goodnight to a line up of objects. Before the birthday party collect 2 of each of these objects: stuffed kitten, pair of mittens, cow, little toy house, mouse, 3 bears (or a picture of them), comb, brush. Line the objects in a long row. Divide children into 2 teams and have them stand in back of one another. One by one they must go down the line and say "Goodnight" to each one of the objects. When they are done they must run back to the front of their line and tag the next person to go. Give each team a prize.
- **Pin the Moon on the Sky** - played like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. On a large

blue poster board draw or paste stars all over it and draw an outline of a moon. Make bright yellow moons that match the outline on the poster. Place double stick tape to each moon and write the children's names on each moon. Hang the poster on a wall. Line the children up and blindfold the first child. Turn them around 3 times and have them try to stick their moon closest to the outlined moon on the poster.

**Variation:** Instead of Pin the Moon on the Sky make it Pin the Tail on the Bunny (use pom pom's or cotton balls), Pin the Cow over the Moon, etc.

**Food ideas:** Serve cake and ice cream in bowls and call it a "bowl full of mush."

### Party Favor ideas:

Stuffed mouse, copy of the Goodnight Moon book, pair of mittens, small toy house, comb and a brush, stuffed bunny

### Goody / Loot bag ideas:

Wrap party favors up in a blue and white striped bandana and tie with twine or ribbon. Small wicker basket lined with a blue/white polka dotted bandana or star fabric. Dark blue bags with star stickers on the outside.



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