



Inside SDH

Volume 1, Issue 11 April 2005

Multicultural Festival Thank You

by Kim B. and Brandye F.

We want to give a big thank you to everyone who helped organize or who participated in the Multicultural Festival. Thank you to everyone who made food, created booths, brought games, and organized performances. It would not have been such a big success without such a huge outpouring of help and participation.

We want to thank the following people specifically (in alphabetical order):

James A. for bringing the PA sys-

tem and DJ-ing for us. It was really helpful to have amplification during all that wind! You were a great DJ.

Lisa B. for making the Passports.

They looked professionally done and the kids loved them.

Shauna C. for teaching the Hula. It was fun and entertaining.

Eileen D. for organizing the potluck. It went smoothly and was a big success.

Ana and Tim E. for bringing the piñata. The kids loved the piñata.

Natalie F. for Irish Dancing. You were great!

Taylor F. for the Bollywood Dancing.

You were terrific!

The Girl Scout Troop for reading the Native American stories. Good job!

Sydney G. for Irish Dancing. You were wonderful!

Debbie G. for doing the website. It looks fantastic.

The thank you cards for the groups and individuals outside of SDH will be sent out.

Spring Music Recital

by Victoria M.

This Spring Music Recital is on an auspicious day: the fifth day of the fifth month of the fifth year! It begins, however, at one p.m. sharp! Perhaps some of you could put together a quintet to mark the day. Or play a piece in 5/4 time--one that you make up yourself? Just be creative.

Please call me to be included on the program.

Thanks to violin teacher Rebecca M. we have a wonderful new venue for our recitals at the Prime School (3434 E. Broadway, across

the street from the El Con Mall).

If you know of any interested, musical homeschoolers in groups other than SDH please invite them and ask them to call me.

Since the Prime School is a non-profit organization, and the folks there are kindly allowing us to use their recital space free of charge, I thought it would be a nice gesture to collect a small voluntary donation at the door (\$2.00 per family for example). I would look forward to being able to offer this sum to the Prime School as a contribution to

their scholarship fund.

As always, even though I am very rarely able to make it to Park Day anymore, I am very interested in your suggestions and questions regarding our recitals. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions. I am happy to hear from you.

Area Music Recitals

by Victoria M.
The [University of Arizona Music Department](#) offers Area Music Recitals every month, free of charge. These recitals are given by UA music students to practice their performance skills. They are informal and usually under an hour. Piano Area Recitals are given the last Friday of every month while school is in session. The last one this year is on April 29th at noon. Call the UA for information on Area Recitals for other instruments at 621-2998.

Open Mic

by Victoria M.
The Prime School (3434 E. Broadway across from El Con Mall) invites adults and children for fun-filled days the second Saturday of every month. Everyone will have a chance to perform for their family and friends. Ages 3 to 7, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; ages 8 to 12, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; ages 13 to 19, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Call me or the Prime School for more information.

May Day Festival

by Giovanna M.
The May Day Festival will be held at Ft. Lowell Park on Tuesday, May 3rd. There will be a May Pole and some flower wreath crafting again this year. Please bring flowers from your yard to contribute. If anyone else wants to help or to contribute their special skill, please feel free to do so. You can e-mail or call me.

March '05 Treasurer's Report

by Claire B.	
2/22 balance	\$ 740.53
New members x2@\$5	+10.00
	\$ 750.53
Newsletter/postage	- 34.04
Balance as of 3/17	\$716.49

Scholastic Books

by Sharon A.
The Scholastic book orders are due by April 5th. Order forms are available at the park. Make checks payable to "Scholastic" and return them to me.

Pima County Fair

The [Pima County Fair](#) is April 14th to April 24th, 2005. For a schedule check the above website and scroll to the very bottom. Click on "new fair start page" for specifics.

Scrapbooking Tea

by Heidi H.
What: Learn to make a scrapbook
When: April 28th, from 1 to 4 p.m.
Where: Heidi H.'s house in Amado, AZ which is between Green Valley and Tubac. It takes about an hour to get to my house from most locations in Tucson.
Please RSVP by April 22nd so that I can make sure I have enough foam board.
This is NOT a get together to sell scrapbooking supplies. Theresa W. has learned an easy scrapbooking project that she will share with interested parents and kids at my

house. By the time you leave my house each parent and each child will have their own completed (or close to it) scrapbook! I've never scrapbooked, but this project is so cute and simple I wanted to give it a try! Theresa has plenty of cardstock and some other supplies, but it would be helpful if you could bring any of the following: printed paper for your scrapbook covers, acid free glue sticks, scissors to cut pictures and paper, gel pens, embellishments such as glitter, stickers, sequins, etc; something to tie around your scrapbook to keep it closed such as

ribbon, cord, feather boa, etc. Don't go out buying all these supplies, just bring whatever you have. Most important, bring PICTURES! Each scrapbook will have 16 spaces for pictures. If that is too many pictures, bring at least 8; you can either decorate the other spaces or leave them blank for some other time. You will be cutting many of these pictures to make them fit, so keep that in mind when choosing your pictures. Your scrapbook can have a theme or not.

Sign Language Class

by Kristen W.

I am offering a beginner class for kids who would like to learn to sign the alphabet, numbers, animals, and colors. The class meets on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at my East-side home. The dates are April 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Students should be able to read and spell short words. Kids will play games, sing, play sign-O (bing-O), and sign short poems. Parents can buy "Learn to Sign the Fun Way" by Penny Warner (\$14.95) or find the signs in another book or online.

For the first class, students should practice the alphabet ahead of time and bring a secret object in a brown

paper bag to class. Please call or email me.

Class size is limited and parents are expected to stay and help their children learn. Parents should know that I have absolutely no training or credentials that qualify me to teach sign language. My daughter Anna and I worked on sign language last fall and would like to get a group started that will continue learning with us so we can have fun learning together. We hope that you will join us for a great time!

Grand Canyon Girls Club Brunch

by James and Diane A.

The Grand Canyon Girls Club meets the second Saturday of every month. This month, the girls will be having a special Spring Brunch. Bring a breakfast or lunch item that you can share with the other girls and any parents who come.

The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Clubhouse, on April 9th. For more information, you can call James or Diane.

Home Birth

by Victoria M.

As homeschoolers we all have our children at home with us. Some of us also give birth at home. All three of my sons were born with us at home. Of course, each birth was different, but in all three we were able to put our lives in the hands of a trusted midwife. In our two most recent births, our midwife was Sharon H..

Many of you know Sharon from SDH. If you do, then you will agree that she is a great doctor. Not the kind that they graduate from the U of A or Harvard, but the kind that would and could overcome a dozen obstacles to reach and help a woman who needed her. A doctor who could find just the right herbal remedy in your backyard, or make the meal you needed, at the time you needed before you started to

cry. She could help cure without first, or perhaps at all, turning to antibiotics.

I use the word "doctor" to describe Sharon because in our culture we hold doctors, generally, in such high esteem. Undoubtedly there are many good reasons for doing so. But it seems that in paying medical doctors their due respect, there is a tendency to overlook (at best) and undermine (at worst) the sound, loving, life-saving knowledge that a true midwife possesses.

As homeschoolers, we often run up against judgments based on preconceptions that are misguided and ignorant. Although most people are well-meaning, their ignorance keeps them from understanding the nature and aims of homeschooling. In many ways, midwives encounter similar obstacles. In Arizona the

laws support homeschoolers. It is not so here for midwives.

My husband, Mark, and I are so very grateful to Sharon for her guidance, support and assistance in bringing Will and Lee into the world. We never for a moment doubted her commitment and wisdom. We never doubted that we were in the best hands possible and if there were an emergency she would know how to handle it. Of course, just like homeschooling, home birthing is not for everyone. But if it is, very few people could do it without a midwife. We give thanks that people like Sharon persevere under a variety of obstacles to share their wisdom with us and our children. Thank you, Sharon. We will always be grateful to you.

Multicultural Festival

by Sybelle V.

Masterful displays
 Unusual foods
 Lots of people
 Totally cool homeschoolers
 Irish dancing
 Cool costumes
 Unbelievable Kim
 Loudspeakers and Microphone
 Thanks to James
 Unique passports by Lisa
 Real learning
 Aikido demonstration
 Lovely Hawaiian moves

Flag parade

East Indian Dances
 Storytelling girl scouts
 Tricky foreign words
 Interesting facts about cultures
 Virtual travels by Debbie
 Amazing Brandy
 Lots and lots of fun!!

Preschool Music Group

by Victoria M.

This fall I will be offering a music group for preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) at my home near Downtown. In April, I will be giving free classes for those who are wondering if they would like to take the class in the fall. We will sing, dance, listen and learn some of the basic elements of music in an informal and fun setting. The classes build on one another. They will last approximately 45 minutes and it is best if one parent stays to see what we are doing and to help the child at home. Here is the April schedule: Class I: Tuesday, April 5 or Thursday April 14 at 3 p.m. Class II: Tuesday, April 19 or April 28 at 3 p.m. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Thank You

by Ingo V.

I want to say thank you to everybody who helped in the fundraiser for Heifer International. The result of our efforts was \$630. Thank you to all the children who participated in the "Read to Feed" and the "Fill the Ark" programs. Also thank you to everyone who donated books, helped with the sale, or bought books. The books raised \$72.50 at the park, plus another \$66.50 in trade at Bookman's. I calculated it out and these are the animals I asked Heifer to give to the people they help: a water buffalo, a llama, a sheep, ducks and geese, honeybees, and rabbits. The best news is that all the money donated between now and April 25 will be matched. This means we really raised more than \$1200! I am very proud of what we accomplished. It took hard work.

SDH P.E. Classes

by Eileen D.

Athletes in Training (AIT) offers SDH P.E. classes on Tuesdays, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at Ft. Lowell park. The sports they will be doing through May of 2005 are:

April—Baseball

May—Wacky Water Games

A typical class starts with stretching. Then the instructors teach the skills for the game, the children practice and then play a game.

The program is for ages 5 and up and the cost is \$15 per month for one child with discounts for additional children. Discounts are also given for paying in annual or

quarterly payments. Typically a new sport is started each month, so you can start class any month you choose. Or, you may participate all year. These classes run from September to May each year. The schedule and prices are posted on the bulletin board at the park. If you have any questions, please call or email.

A Smoothie Recipe

by Melissa W.

Chocolate Surprise

In an ice grinding blender combine:

5 Large strawberries
 1 Banana
 3 Tablespoons cocoa powder
 2 Tablespoons honey or sugar
 3 Tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate
 6 Soy milk ice cubes

Note: Freeze soy milk ice cubes the day before. Makes about 2 cups.

Homeschooling History

by Debbie G.

I was heartened to see John Holt mentioned in a letter to "Dear Abby" printed in the March 24th *Arizona Daily Star*. The letter writer cited one of Holt's books, *How Children Fail*, in his explanation of how the educational system discourages creativity and learning.

So many homeschoolers owe a debt to this man, yet his books are not easy to find anymore. I checked the Tucson-Pima Public Library catalog and found only two. The Pima Community College Library has nine, while the University has 11 (one of these is a collection of his letters).

John Holt died 20 years ago, on September 14, 1985. My daughter was two years old, and I was just learning about homeschooling. Within two years, we were living in Maryland, and I attended my first homeschooling conference. The speakers included New Jersey unschooler Nancy Plente, and Manfred Smith, a homeschooling advocate who is still active all these years later. One of the presentations focused on John Holt's perspectives on education and homeschooling.

Holt coined the word "unschooling," and used it synonymously with "homeschooling." He originally wanted to improve children's experiences in school, and his first books examined the ways that schools encourage conformity and discourage creativity. However, he eventually concluded that schools themselves were the problem, that

schools impeded learning, and that children would be better served if they were kept out of schools entirely.

John Holt's books were enormously influential for me. I was fascinated by the idea that instead of school helping a person to learn as much as possible, it prevented a person from learning as much as possible. I subscribed to *Growing Without Schooling*, a bimonthly newsletter started by John Holt in 1977 and continued by Holt Associates until 2001. The articles and personal experiences contained in the newsletters confirmed my decision to try homeschooling.

Another book that helped my confidence in this choice was the 1989 *Better Late Than Early*, by Raymond and Dorothy Moore. They contended that children were simply not ready for schooling, especially reading, before at least 8 to 10 years of age. I was intrigued by the thought of what schools would be like if children instead began at say, fifth grade instead of kindergarten. The difference, especially for boys, would be profound.

The final author who influenced my choice to homeschool was an unlikely one, Jonathan Kozol. Kozol has spent his adult life working to create both educational and social equality. *The Night is Dark and I Am Far from Home* indicts the U.S. public education system for both its lack of caring about the fate of its most impoverished students, and its lack

of commitment to the well-being and welfare of all the children entrusted to it. His observations sealed my decision to homeschool.

I answer questions from people new to homeschooling. One of the questions is what can they read to learn more about it all. When I mention these four authors, I am often met with more questions - who are they, where can I find their books? Actually, I have also received the same response from experienced homeschoolers, so I think the problem lies in the fact that these authors' books are old and hard to find. Not to mention that their books were published before the huge rise in homeschooling in the 1990's.

Homeschooling provides a great illustration of how history is written - people's knowledge of homeschooling now comes from mostly the same sources that say mostly the same things. There is little feel for how radical these ideas once were.

*The first 12 issues of *Growing Without Schooling* are available for purchase, and all of these books can be found at used bookstores and on the Internet.

Ryan Airfield Air Show

by Connor S.

On March 12th I went to an air show with my Dad. I tried to guess how many M&Ms were in a tall glass jar. I couldn't guess, but I got a sample anyway. We rode in a Mahl Airplane and I got to see the mines from above. The mines looked like big squiggly dirt circles going around a big hill. I could see a turquoise and green slime pond in the mine. I also had a muffin and a snow cone and I sat in a Robinson R22 helicopter.

Sneak A Peek Behind The Scenes At The Desert Museum

by Jackie S. and Peter O.

Date: Wednesday April 20th

Time: Tour begins at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the front entrance patio at 8:45 a.m.

Cost: \$2 per person, due upon registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The tour may not be appropriate for children under 3. Space is limited so register early. Call Jackie S.

We will take a guided walk through the Museum's latest endeavor, "Life on the Rocks," before it opens to the public and learn why the Museum's

reputation for cutting-edge exhibit design is well-earned. We'll tour other non-public areas, such as animal holding facilities and talk with keepers (topics and tour areas subject to change). Registrants will be provided with instructions on making animal enrichment "treats." Bring your finished treats to Park Day April 12th to see the animals enjoying your handiwork on the 20th.

Updated Who's Who List

by Erin S.

The list below has been updated with the names of those who volunteered for the position *for next year*. Please let me know as soon as possible if there are any errors. Also, please look closely at the open positions. Any positions that aren't filled simply don't get done. It would be great to have all positions filled prior to the Parent's Planning Meeting, so let me know if you are willing to volunteer for any of the open spots.

Announcement Leader: Sybelle V.,

Open-need 2nd volunteer

Arizona Opera: Lisa F.

Arizona Theater Company: Lisa F.

Athletes in Training: Eileen D.

Bulletin Board: Arleeta R.

Children's Reading Groups:

Heidi H., Erin S.

City-wide SDH Representative:

Debbie G.

Clothing Exchange: Christine G.

Curriculum Exchange: Sybelle V.

Dad's Meeting: Jeff O.

E-mail Requests for SDH Info: **Open**

Festival of Lights (November/December Event): Ann V.

Free Box: Lori W.

Geography Bee: **Open**

Group Photograph: Claire B.

Halloween Party: Tara O.

Homeschool Information Nights: Debbie G.

Ladies' Coffee Night: Kim B.

May Day Party: Giovanna M.

Media Representatives: Amy M.

Gray, Debbie G.

Membership Cards: Debbie G.

Membership Roster: Erin S.

Spring Event: Brandye F., Kim B.

Music Recital: Victoria M.

National History Day Liaison: Debbie G.

New Homeschooler Contacts: Lara B., Eileen Gavin

Newcomer Liaison Committee: Eileen

D., Christine G., Debbie G., Heather

M.

Newsletter Publication and Distribution: Jackie S.

Parent's Reading Group: Erin S.

Roots and Shoots: Heather M.

Scholastic Books: Lori W.

Science Fair: **Open**

SDH t-shirts: **Open**

Spelling Bee: **Open**

Ted Walker Day: **Open**

Treasurer(s): Teresa B., Claire B.

UA Presents: Alica M.

Webmaster: Debbie G., *Website*

Calendar: Debbie G.

Who's Who List: Erin S.

Valentine Party: Sybelle V.

Yahoo Group Administrator: Eileen D.

Australian Animals

by Damien H.

Possibly one of the most common animals in Australia is the Marsupial, an animal that carries its young in its pouch. For example, the kangaroo carries its young, which are called joeys, in a pouch until they outgrow them. Another example of a marsupial the koala, also known as the African bear, although it is related to the kangaroo not the bear.

Another common type of animal in Australia are reptiles. The tree

frog is found in Australian marshes and trees.

The barking gecko gets its name because it barks.

Another reptile is the saltwater crocodile; it is a very common sight at the Australian zoo.

Finally the mammal is another animal type that you can find in Australia. Examples of mammals are bilbies and dingoes.

The bilbie is an endangered animal in Australia. They are also known as the Australian rabbit. It is

endangered because early settlers hunted them for their fur and they are hunted by cats and foxes.

The dingo is a common sight for farmers in Australia. The dingo is a wild dog found in Australia.

Australian farmers built a big fence that stretches half way through Australia in order to keep dingoes away from their livestock.

There are many other kinds of animals in Australia, but marsupials, reptiles, and mammals are my favorite kinds. The end.

SDH Memory Book

by Lara B.

I will be putting together an SDH memory book. This will be something simple and basic—mostly black-and-white with maybe a few color pages. I'm not going to try to copy school yearbooks. The memory book will be casual and in paperback. Those of you that take pictures at the different SDH activities, please pass them my way. You can e-mail digital photos to me, or give me prints. It is very important that I have the name of the person(s) and the activity they are doing, so

please write on the back of the photo or include with any e-mailed photos. If you give me prints, and you want them back, please put your name on the envelope so I can easily return them to you. I won't be able to use all of the photos I receive, but I hope to use enough to provide a good representation of all that SDH does. I won't know the exact cost until I have something going, but my guess is that the cost will be about \$5.

I need help brainstorming ideas, and I may need a little bit of hands-on

help. If you'd like to do this with me, please let me know. If you do not want your, or your child(ren)'s, picture in the SDH memory book let me know so I can be sure to omit them. Please contact me with any ideas, and/or if you'd like to help out.

Children's Book Discussion Groups

by Erin S. and Heidi H.

Discussions are at 10:30 a.m. the first Park Day of each month. We try to choose books for different reading abilities, but children should select the book that interests them. Selections may also be family read-alouds so the

child is able to participate in the discussions.

April 5

Group 1: *Evangeline Mudd and the Golden-haired Apes of the Ikkinasti Jungle* by David Elliot

Group 2: *'Gater Aid* by Jane Cutler

May 3

Book 1: *Catwings and Catwings Return* by Ursula K. Le Guin

Book 2: *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* by Anna Lee Latham

What Are Your Children Interested In Right now?

by Eileen D. and Erin S.

In the March issue of Inside SDH, we asked you what your children were interested in. Thank you very much for sending them in! Here are the submissions we received.

Logan M. and Tala M.

Logan is really interested in blacksmithing and he has gotten several videos and books about it. We are also hoping to find someone who does blacksmithing that he could work with. Tala is interested in Egyptian mummies, so we read books, watch videos, and do projects that involve Egyptian mummies. Of course they have many other interests- horseback riding, dance, music, and survival training. They even attend classes for some of those interests.

Hunter B.

Right now I'm interested in Star Wars, Transformers, Animorphs, and Yu-Gi-Oh. I watched all the Star Wars movies and we're reading a couple of Star Wars books. I like to build Star Wars ships with my Legos. I have a book about Transformers and a few Transformers. The Animorphs books are really cool. We've read about six or eight. They are about kids who can morph into animals to stop an evil alien race. The aliens are parasites that feed on other alien races and now they are trying to take over Earth. And I like to duel with Yu-Gi-Oh cards.

Melissa W., Age 7

I like reading, writing and doing craft projects. I am working on my

first hook rug. I also have been writing smoothie recipes and the smoothies taste yummy.

Entering a Science Fair

by Theo J.

Can you treat a rash with a low-powered laser? Are science fairs fun? I learned the answer to both questions is yes, when I participated in the 2005 Home Educators Science Fair and the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF).

The name of my science fair project was "Are Red Lasers Effective for Treating Eczema?" My experiment attempted to answer that question. The idea for it came from my dentist. Based on instructions from a holistic pet care book, he was treating his dog's skin problem with a laser pointer. While he was doing that, he wondered if the pointer would work on the eczema he had. Guess what? It did! He wrote about his success with the laser treatment in a newsletter to his patients, which I read.

Before I began my experiment, I researched laser use and safety and obtained approval from SARSEF's Scientific Review Committee. I was the subject of my experiment. I used a common office laser pointer and a prescription ointment, given to me by my doctor, to treat two outbreaks of eczema on my arm and leg. I treated the eczema with the laser pointer by moving the light beam up and down over the rash for two minutes (my father helped). I photographed the results of the two treatments and compared them. I found the low-powered red laser was

an effective treatment, but wasn't better than the ointment. Although, itching seemed to stop faster with the laser.

My experiment tied for 5th grade first place at the homeschool fair and won a third place award in life sciences at SARSEF. The number of awards SARSEF gives out in each grade and level depends on the number of kids participating in the fair, so there's more than one first, second, and third-place award. More than one thousand students entered projects in SARSEF.

This was the first year I participated in a science fair. Entering the fairs was fun, but a lot of work. I learned about scientific methods and about how to do an experiment. I also learned what not to do. One example—don't hold off writing your report, or you might have to stay up till 2 a.m. to finish it. That's what happened to me.

I also learned a lot from the judges' comments and I liked seeing the other kids' experiments. Even if you don't want to enter the fair, it's fun to see all the projects at SARSEF and I recommend you go next year. I plan to enter a second time. I'm looking for an idea that will allow me to have a bigger sample size because that was a problem with my experiment this year.

If you're interested in entering a science fair, or want to learn more about scientific methods, there's a lot of good information at the [SARSEF](#) website. It has links to many other science sites. Check out [SDH's science fair](#) web page too. (continued on page 9)

What Are Your Children Interested In Right now?

(continued from page 8)

A Horse of Course

by Colleen H.

Madison is in a therapeutic horse riding program designed for kids with special needs, focusing on sensory and physical (dis)abilities. A physical therapist recommended TROT to us and it was definitely more accessible once we started homeschooling. Madison is paired with her horse, sidewalkers (volunteers) and a special instructor (disability education certified). During her session, Madison helps groom her horse, feed the horse carrots, and learns about specially designed saddles for her back and posture. The riding is composed of arena time and sensory trail riding. Some students also do Hippotherapy (a form of equine PT). I find it helps integrate a child's individual needs with their personal interest in horses. We spend at least one day a week at their local ranch. Others have pointed us in the direction of the program and the horse "lifestyle." It grows on you quite quickly.

When we were first found out about TROT, we ran to the library to find books. What makes this particular interest/activity so successful, as opposed to a standard lesson or class, is that it is

built entirely on relationships. The first relationship is the child with the horse. It becomes emotional, sensory and physical at the same time. Second is the relationship with the instructor and the greater non-profit branch of TROT. Recently we went to a family "fun day" where Madison received a blue ribbon medal for her efforts. Perhaps the greatest reason that we do this as a family is that TROT makes the child and the activity a solid relationship factor. The interest becomes significant in her world. TROT does have fees (as well as scholarships) and a two week summer program in addition to the two yearly semesters. There is a lengthy application process and waiting list.

Since her involvement in TROT, Madison is exploring the idea of shows with NAHRA (National Association of Handicapped Riders) and has asked about Special Olympics. The day we pulled up to TROT, she looked at the sensory course and blurted out, "I'm going to jump that horse" when we had never told her anything about that at all! Finally, the interest permeated to other areas as she was willing to sit through the feature length film, *Racing Stripes*, which is a story about fitting in and self acceptance, told in the horse riding venue. Stripes the

horse is actually a zebra who is ostracized for his stripes and goes on to win the big race/derby. After the movie she immediately said she wanted to race horses when she grows up.

While she does have other areas of interest like bowling, horse life became a realistic quotient for her and is becoming integrated into our family life. I would want every activity to potentially become integrated into a family's life. It makes the child, their interest, and the family all on the same level. I do wish Madison could tell other children more easily about it. We were going to videotape her and make a little home movie so she can show others. We put up a lot of pictures around our house of Echo and horses. Now, every time we drive anywhere we use our eyes to do horse, cow, and steer spotting (and smelling). Hope to see you all "in the ring."

A request for May from Alica M.:

I would like to request a survey of computer games. My kids and I like to play educational games especially the ones that have clues, maps, adventures, and puzzles to work through. I would love to get some ideas for other games we could get.

Aeroball

by Erin S.

What: A fun, basketball-like game played on a trampoline.

When: April 6, 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost: This will depend on the number of people that sign-up.

Probably between \$5 and \$10/player.

RSVP by April 1st. If not enough people sign-up to keep the cost reasonable, I will cancel.

Where: Near Cortaro and I-10.

For more information regarding Aeroball, please see the [website](#).

This Month's Featured Web Sites

by Debbie G.

Visit the [SDH Featured Web Sites](#) and check out [past collections](#).

[April Fool's Day](#)

from Snopes.com

Snopes.com presents an examination of April Fool's Day. While you're there, check the [What's New page](#) for a listing of recent updates and additions to the Snopes collection of urban legends.

[Earth Day Crafts](#)

from Kids Domain

Find instructions for six craft projects, plus links to other sites for more craft ideas.

[Sesame Street Game Room](#)

Sorting, letters, numbers, dot-to-dot, shapes

[The Physics Classroom - an online high school physics tutorial](#)

hosted by MathSoft Engineering & Education, Inc.'s StudyWorks! Online

This tutorial was written by science teacher Tom Henderson for use in his Glenview, Illinois classroom.

[The Biology Project](#)

From the U of A's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Physics "The Biology Project" is fun, richly illustrated, and tested on 1000s of students. Designed for biology students at the college level, it is useful for high school students, medical students, physicians, science writers, and all types of interested people."

Parent's Planning Meeting Agenda

by Kim B.

The Parent's Planning Meeting will be Monday, May 16th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Wilmot Library.

The purpose of the meeting is to schedule events for the upcoming year and to make sure all volunteer positions are filled. If you have planning items that are not listed below, please let me know.

Dates to Set

First Park Meeting: Previously set

for August 16, 2005

Curriculum exchange
Fall and Spring Clothing Exchanges
Talent Show
Halloween party
November event
Fall and Spring Music Recitals
December event
Valentine's exchange
Group photo
Spring event
Last scheduled park meeting in May

Summer curriculum exchange

Group summer activity
Parent's meeting May 2006
First park meeting August 2006
Jobs List (Erin S.)
Go through Who's Who list to determine which jobs need filled, added, or removed.
Make sure each calendar event has someone responsible for organizing and announcing it.

April 2005

For more information about the events listed in this calendar, see the newsletter articles.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00 a.m. to noon, Roots & Shoots, Bookman's Community room - Speedway & Wilmot 1:00 Homeschool Roller Skating, Arizona Skate Center 3:30 to 4:30, Japanese Class, Columbus Library	2
3 7	4 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 10:30 a.m. Children's Book Discussion Groups 11:00 a.m. Announcement Scholastic book orders due	5 10:00 a.m. Sign Language Class, Kristen W's house 1 to 3 p.m. Aeroball 7:30 p.m. Men's Coffee Night, Borders on Oracle	6	7	8 3:30 to 4:30, Japanese Class, Columbus Library	9
10	11 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day	12 10:00 a.m. Sign Language Class, Kristen W's house	13	14 7 p.m. Parent's Book Discussion, Something Sweet	15 3:30 to 4:30, Japanese Class, Columbus Library	16 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Roots & Shoots, Earth Day Festival Parade begins at 10 a.m.
17	18 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements	19 8:45 a.m. Desert Museum Tour 10:00 a.m. Sign Language Class, Kristen W's house	20	21 7 p.m. Parent's Book Discussion, Something Sweet	22 3:30 to 4:30, Japanese Class, Columbus Library	23 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Roots & Shoots, SASI
24 Deadline for May <i>Inside SDH</i>	25 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements	26 10:00 a.m. Sign Language Class, Kristen W's house 7:30 p.m. Mom's Coffee Night, Something Sweet	27	28 1 to 4 p.m. Scrapbooking Tea	29	30

Monthly Parent Opportunities

Every month of the year, SDH has opportunities for parents to meet, talk and get to know each other better.

Mom's Coffee Night

Currently Mom's Coffee Night is held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet located at 5319 E. Speedway. That's at the NE corner of Speedway and Beverly (the Office Depot store is on the intersection's NW corner and Live Theater Workshop is in the same plaza). We get together at 7:30 p.m. but don't worry if you can't make it at 7:30 - many of us stay until midnight! We chat, laugh, and generally have a great time. It is a great way to get to know others better and there is

always a mix of parents with younger or older children so you can ask lots of questions. Contact Kim B. if you'd like more information.

Men's Coffee Night

Men's Coffee Night is the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for fathers to discuss homeschooling issues, as well as other topics. Please join us at Borders on Oracle, for coffee, tea, good company and conversation. This casual meeting starts around 7:30 p.m. Contact Jeff O. for more information.

Parent's Book Discussion Group

A Parent's Book Discussion is held the 3rd Thursday of each month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speed-

way at 7 p.m. Questions? Contact Erin S.

April 21: *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

May 19: *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth

June 16: *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi

July 21: *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson

August 18: *Living History* by Hillary Rodham Clinton

Note: Each of the above books is in high demand at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library you may want to put an early hold on it.

Upcoming Events

May

AIT P.E. Classes Tuesday's, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:15 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park

Children's Book Discussion, May 3, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell

May Day Celebration, May 3, Ft.

Lowell Park after announcements

Men's Coffee Night, May 4, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

Spring Music Recital, May 5, 1 p.m., The Prime School

SDH Annual Parent's Planning

Meeting, Monday, May 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Wilmot Library

Parent's Book Discussion, May 19, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Last Ft. Lowell Park Day, May 24

Mom's Coffee Night, May 25, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

June

Men's Coffee Night, June 1, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

Parent's Book Discussion, June 16, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Mom's Coffee Night, June 29, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

July

Men's Coffee Night, July 6, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

Parent's Book Discussion, July 21, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Mom's Coffee Night, July 27, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

August

Men's Coffee Night, August 3, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

First SDH Park Day for 2005-2006, August 16, 10:30 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park

Parent's Book Discussion, August 18,

7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Mom's Coffee Night, August 31, 7:30 p.m., Something Sweet

SDH Membership Form

To Join SDH, return this form and \$10 cash (\$5 after January 1st) to either a Newcomer Committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or SDH's treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

Parents' Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

If you provide an e-mail address your SDH newsletter will be delivered via e-mail. Please check the box if you wish to have your e-mail listed for contact purposes but wish to receive a printed, snail-mailed newsletter

Child(ren) Name(s) and Birthdate(s) (MM/YY) If provided, this information will be included on the SDH roster. The roster is available only to SDH members and is never sold or used for any solicitation purposes.

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers FAQs

About SDH

SDH is a home education network serving homeschoolers throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona.

- SDH was founded in January 1999.
- Over the years, an average of 95 families are SDH members, with children from infants through teenagers.
- SDH meets on Tuesdays at Ft. Lowell park, from mid-August through mid-May at 10:30 a.m.

What are the benefits of joining?

Every month, Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Newsletter will be sent to you either electronically or by mail.

- Get the SDH membership roster, plus regular updates.
- Participate in SDH-discuss, an e-mail list restricted to current members of SDH.
- Participate in and help organize SDH group activities for your children and children of all ages.

What does it cost?

\$10.00 per year (after January, the fee is reduced to \$5 for the remainder of the year—SDH years run August through July)

How do I join SDH?

To join, come to the Tuesday park meeting—you can submit the above form plus the fee to a newcomer committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or to Treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

[Questions](#)

From the Editors



Your editors are taking a break from their column this month. They'll be back next month to warmly welcome the new *Inside SDH* editor for 2005 to 2006.

Send your submissions for the May [Inside SDH](#) by April 25.

Erin S. and Eileen D.

[Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers](#)

[Info](#)

[Newsletter](#)



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Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers is an open, not-for-profit home education network, providing social and creative outlets for homeschooling families. We are not devoted to any one homeschooling approach, political platform, religious outlook, or philosophical ideal. Our homeschooling community supports all families, regardless of their personal lifestyle or educational choices in the area of home education. Our motto is "hozho," a Navajo word meaning "harmony" or "walking in beauty or friendship."