

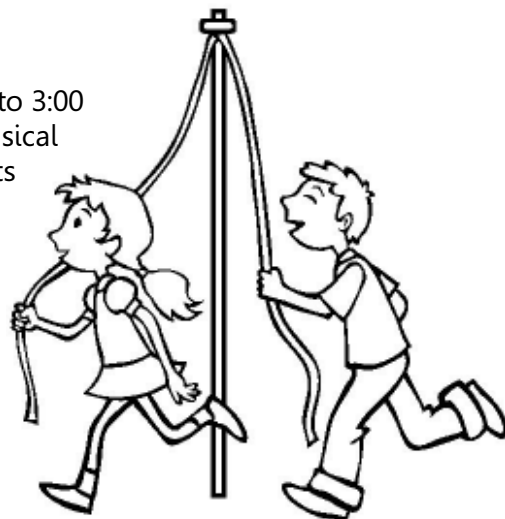
Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • May 2009

SPRING MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.

The Homeschool Music Recital will be on Monday, May 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Armory Park Senior Center. Please pass the word to other musical homeschool families. The Center has undergone some major budget cuts and the ballroom is no longer available on Thursdays because of all the changes. We will try to play "My Country Tis of Thee" as a group in the key of G. That means you practice it at home and then we will all practice it just before the recital starts and perform it at the end of the recital. We'll see how this goes and it should be fun! Please call or email me with questions or to be added to the program.



LEGO CLUB

by Kim B.

I'd like to thank the boys who displayed their Lego creations during our Earth Day festival. They were very cool! The Lego Club meeting for May is Friday, May 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Library meeting room. I will continue to organize Lego Club meetings during the summer so keep checking the newsletter for dates, times, and locations.

ANNUAL PARENTS PLANNING MEETING

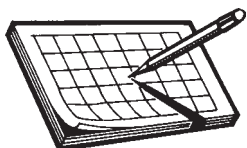
by Lara B.

Our SDH Parents Planning Meeting for the 2009-2010 SDH-year will be on Monday, May 18 from 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. at the downtown Joel Valdez Main Library, in the big lower-level meeting room. The library closes at 8:00, so we will not have the option of staying late. I will open doors at 5:30 p.m. so we can start on time and have at least a full

two-hour meeting.

We will decide dates for the annual activities and go over each job that needs a new volunteer to do it. If there is a job or something that you would like to add, this is a great time to do it. If you already have a job that you would like to give up, please post it and announce it ahead of time if you can, so that someone else can think about it and volunteer for it either before or at the meeting. If someone has something that they would like to add to the meeting but cannot come, please let me know so that I can add it to the agenda. I will print out the standard agenda to pass out, so if you have something that you would like added to it beforehand (jobs, dates, etc), let me know! With whatever time is left, we will go over last-minute stuff that does not make it onto the pre-printed list.

There will be refreshments and snacks served! Usually this is for the parents, but if you have to bring kids, then maybe have them bring something quiet to do off to the side. (We'd rather have parents there with kids, then to not come at all!)



PARK DAY SCHEDULE

January – Ft. Lowell
February – McCormick
March – Ft. Lowell
April – McCormick
May – Ft. Lowell
June – summer break
July – summer break
August – McCormick
September – Ft. Lowell
October – McCormick
November – Ft. Lowell
December – McCormick

ROOTS & SHOOTS / EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

• **Hiking:**

Our last hike before the summer break is Monday, May 4 (that is a change from the original date). It's at Madera Canyon, 10:00 a.m. It is south of Tucson – about 25 miles south on I-19 and then about another 12 miles after exiting. It's a great trail for all ages, lots of birds and wildlife. Maybe even water. Here is a map and directions: http://hikearizona.com/location_g.php?ZTN=772&XD=3

• **Swim Party:**



We've worked and played hard this year with all of our Roots & Shoots activities, so let's have a swim party and just have some fun! It will be at my house on the NW side of town, on Friday, May 22 at 12:00 noon. I will have the BBQ going with hamburgers (including veggie burgers) and hotdogs, and everyone else can bring a potluck sidedish. Please RSVP to me by May 12 and let me know what sidedish you are bringing.

• **Mt Lemmon Camping:**

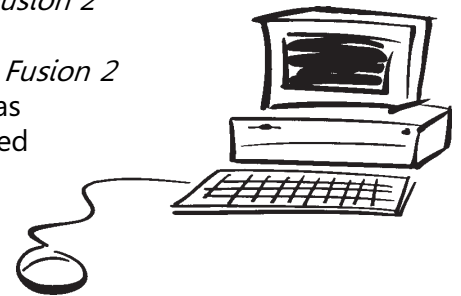
An early heads-up that we have a cabin on Mt Lemmon reserved for July 24-26th to go up and get out of the city's heat. There is room for at least 15 people sleeping inside the cabin, plus there is space outside for tent camping if people would like to do that instead. There are raised decks around the perimeter of the cabin, where it is great for sleeping in sleeping bags. We will hang out, and also do some hiking and exploring.

There is an outhouse style restroom (no water), but there is running water inside the cabin's kitchen. If you already know you want to go, let me know. Sleeping inside the cabin is first come-first served.

COMPUTER GAME DESIGN CLASS

by Debbie G.

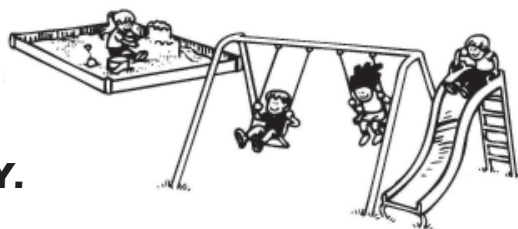
Sam, my 19-year-old homeschool graduate and a former SDHer, is offering another series of computer game design classes. He will be using the *Multimedia Fusion 2* software created by Clickteam <http://www.clickteam.com/eng/index.php>. The company's target audience for the game-design aspect of *Multimedia Fusion 2* is older children to people in their early twenties, but recently Clickteam has been expanding their audience to include teachers (last year Clickteam hired him to help work with them for a few days at an education convention in California, where they exhibited the program for use in a teaching environment). There is a strong online community of people from all over the world who use *Multimedia Fusion 2* and who help each other on the Clickteam.com support and community forums (he has been a moderator on those forums for over 5 years).



In previous classes, Sam taught small groups of kids between the ages of eight to fourteen. He can definitely do that again, but he would also be happy to put together a class with just teenagers in it. The eight-week class sessions would be about one hour long, meeting twice per week, and there would be a computer station available for each student. Last year, the entire class cost only \$250 per student (which included a full edition copy of *Multimedia Fusion 2* for each student on the final day). Prices have not yet been set for this upcoming class.

Please e-mail Sam if you would like to talk to him about the class or about other ideas you might have, and please feel free to contact him directly if you have any questions or want to talk to him about this.

**We will meet at
FT. LOWELL PARK
for the month of MAY.**



**Last Park Day
before summer break
is May 19.**



“FAIR focuses on the very heart of where education takes place – between a teacher and a student.”

~ Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Pima County Superintendent of Schools

Come to the 4th annual FA⁺IR for Educators to find out about the many learning opportunities and resources available to educators in Southern Arizona. 100 exhibitors from local museums, colleges, and businesses will be available to answer your questions and provide you with ideas for incorporating their resources in your homeschooling plans. The FA⁺IR’s exhibition hall will be supplemented by over 30 breakout sessions scheduled throughout the day.

FA⁺IR stands for Fantastic A⁺ Instructional Resources. Each FA⁺IR has been planned with those words in mind, along with the commitment to offer an event that would showcase free and reasonably-priced learning opportunities in the Tucson area.

There is no cost to attend the FA⁺IR, from admission to parking to complimentary snacks. Lunch will be available for purchase at the event. Online pre-registration helps ensure that the exhibitors bring enough materials for everyone who attends.

Go to <http://www.pimaregionalsupport.org/fair/registration/teachers/index.htm> and please be sure to select “Home school” as the answer to the question “Where are you currently teaching/working,” because this gives the FA⁺IR’s planning committee an idea of how many homeschooling parents are attending the event. The county school superintendent’s office has welcomed and encouraged homeschoolers to be part of the FA⁺IR from the beginning (and that includes at the planning level—Debbie G. has been a member of the planning committee since the very first 2006 FA⁺IR, and was invited to join because the school superintendent’s office wanted a member of the homeschooling community to participate in the event’s development).

If you have any questions about the FA⁺IR, please contact Debbie.

And remember—whether you have lived in Tucson for decades, or just moved here, you will find out about places you didn’t know existed, and discover new ways to enrich your child’s education.



4th FA⁺IR for Educators
Wednesday, June 3, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Palo Verde
4550 S. Palo Verde Rd., Tucson

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents’ Book Discussion Group - May 19

The book discussion group meets at the regular park day, on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 12:00 noon and goes until we are finished, likely around 2:00 p.m. People are always welcome to join whether they’ve read the book or not.

- May: *The Happiness Myth* by Jennifer Michael Hecht

Moms’ Coffee Night - May 27

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at ***Something Sweet***, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly, east of Craycroft) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between)

Dads’ Coffee Night - May 6

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle.



Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

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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."