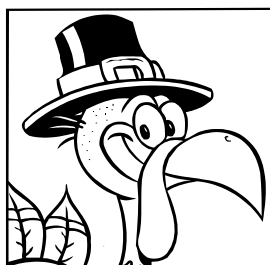


Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • November 2006



PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASS

by Katrina O.

I would like to host a public speaking class based on science topics. The theme this time will be "The Human Body - You are wonderfully made." Students ages 9 and above are welcome to participate. The class will meet every two weeks starting this Wednesday, November 1st from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Columbus Library on 22nd Street to practice and discuss the children's findings. The children's final presentations will be made in December.

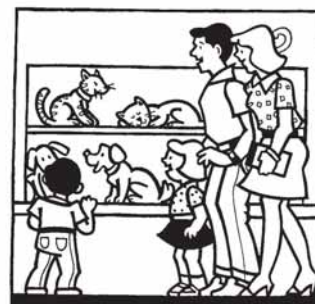
ROOTS & SHOOTS

by Lara B.

Here are the Roots and Shoots activities and projects that are currently scheduled. If you would like to attend any of them, please let me know (if you have not already), so that I have an approximate number of how many to expect. (If you want to come last minute, but haven't let me know, go ahead and come.)

Friday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. (please be on time)

PetSmart behind-the-scenes tour at the PetSmart at Grant and Swan.



Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. to noon

River of Words "Exploring Watersheds" workshop at the Bookman's on Speedway and Wilmot.

Track the movement of water through the local landscape. Discover the connections that plants and animals have to water. Learn about the cycling of water on the earth.

Wednesday, November 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Project of bring things for - and then making - hygiene kits for the homeless, and also collecting coats to donate at the Bookman's on Grant and Campbell. Please bring whatever you can to contribute; things like small sizes of deodorant, shave cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, small toiletry bags, etc. Also, bring any coats in any size that you happen to have that you'd like to donate. If anyone would like to contribute anything to this project but can't come, you can give it to me and I will take it to the project.

Friday, December 15, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (please be on time)

Waste Management Recycle plant tour at Waste Recycle America Center on Runway Dr near I-10 and Prince Road. We will do a tour of Waste Management's Recycle Center. They have an "education room" where we will start out with a quick video and then Q&A. After that we go outside to see it all in real motion. Dumping trucks, sorting, etc.

Please wear closed shoes (like sneakers, not sandals). Directions: Prince Rd. to one block east of I-10 and turn north on Runway Dr, it's at 3909 Runway Dr, a little bit down, just past American Home Furnishings.



SDH NEWCOMER WELCOME MEETING

by Heather M.

Welcome to Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers! Current SDH parents and newcomers to SDH are invited to a Newcomer Welcome Meeting. There is one on the Northwest side, at the Oro Valley library, 1305 W. Naranja Drive, Oro Valley on Saturday, November 11 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

And another on the East side at Bookman's (southwest corner of Speedway and Wilmot) on Friday, November 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Come to one or both! This is a chance to talk about homeschooling, find out how to get more involved with SDH and meet other SDH members and newcomers in a smaller setting. We'll discuss any questions that you have and cover topics such as getting started homeschooling, talking to others about homeschooling and homeschoolers in college. Please RSVP to Heather M. (at the park, call or email).



UApresents GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

by Alica M.

Good News - The next UApresents shows are Momix Opus Catus on Thursday, November 9, and Mombasa Party on Tuesday, November 14. We will meet in front of Centennial Hall on the U of A campus at 10:00 a.m. Please allow time for parking downtown.

Bad News - Those of you who signed up with me after August 1st did not get into Momix. They are sending me a refund check and we are on the waiting list. If you have any questions please contact me at park or call me.

TEEN ACTIVITY NOVEMBER 11

by Christine B.

I would like to announce an event for teens at our house on Saturday, November 11 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will have pizza and play games. We may also do a hayride and smores and that kind of thing if any are interested.

ART TRADING CARDS TRADE

by Sybelle V.

The trade that was postponed from October 24 will now happen at park on November 14 after announcements. As promised, I will bring blank cards and some supplies and people who have not made any could make some right there and trade. If you have supplies you are willing to share, that would be appreciated. For more information on this see the October newsletter.

For a good explanation of what ATCs are and how to make them see this website:

<http://www.cedarseed.com/air/atc.html>

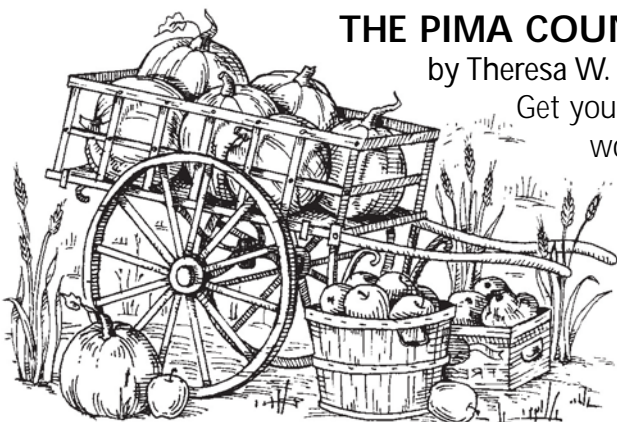
This site has a little of the history (it is the original ATC site):

<http://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/index.html>

For some examples see this website (don't be intimidated by the beauty of them):

<http://homepage.mac.com/dentan10/PhotoAlbum19.html>

See page 7
for all contact
information



THE PIMA COUNTY FAIR

by Theresa W.

Get your creative juices flowing. The Pima County Fair will be April 19-29. I would love to see SDH all over Old Pueblo Hall. There are so many different things you could do. There are all kinds of cooking, sewing, ceramics, dioramas, creative writing, photography, scrapbook pages, lego sculptures, models, and the list goes on and on. I would like to have an informational meeting Tuesday, November 21 at park after announcements. The age groups are Youth 3-12, Junior 13-17, and Adult 18 and up, so even you moms and dads can get involved.

ART CLUB

by Laura C.

The November artist will be SDH's own Celeste W. demonstrating Fimo beads. In order to have lots of colors of Fimo I am asking each family attending to bring one block of Fimo. They are \$1.99 at Michael's. Please email me and let me know your color so that I can post which colors we have so we don't end up with all blue. We will meet on Thursday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. at my house. Contact me to RSVP and for directions. I will provide lunch, this time for a change we will have a burrito bar.

If you would like to see some polymer beads and art go to

<http://www.polyclay.com/beads.htm>

WIZARD OF OZ

by Laura C.

Practice for Oz is now in full swing but I could use more munchkins. If you have a child who would like to be a munchkin please contact me.

We practice on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Bookman's on Grant. The performances will be held in January.

See page 7
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ARTS FOR ALL PRESENTS "ALADDIN, JR."

by Christine B.

My daughter April is in the Arts for All Community Wide Production of "Aladdin, Jr." It is an abridged version of the Disney musical based on the "Arabian Nights" story, performed by talented young actors, ages 8-18.

They have a school day showing on Thursday, November 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Berger Performing Arts Center at the AZ Schools for the Deaf and Blind at 1200 E. Speedway (just west of I-10). We would like to get a group signed up to go that day. If you are interested, please call Christine B.

Aladdin, Jr. will also be showing November 10 -19, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m. Shows will be at 2520 N. Oracle Rd. Reservations are required, cost is \$6-\$10. For tickets or information please call 622-4100 ext.204 or contact Christine B.

MUSIC RECITALS

by Victoria M.

After many months of searching for a place for our Winter Music Recital, I found a great one. I hope it works well for all of you. CDO Baptist Church on Oracle near Calle Con Cordia has warmly welcomed us to enjoy their beautiful church. Since they are not asking us to pay a fee, I thought it would be nice to offer a \$2.00 donation per family to them to express our gratitude. It has certainly not been easy for me to find a place to have the recital this time around.

Usually I hold the recitals in the afternoons. However, it has been brought to my attention by some friends that you all may prefer to have the recital in the evening. Please let me know by calling me if you would like the recital in the evening. If I do not hear from many people (a majority) I will hold the recital at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. I will make this decision within the next week, so call me soon if you are interested.

Thanks to all of you who support these recitals and thereby make them possible. I always look forward to seeing you and listening to your beautiful children. Best regards!

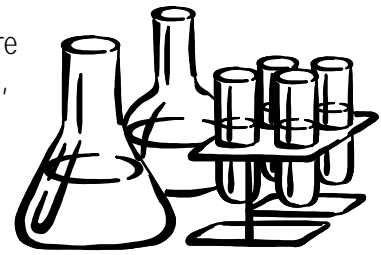
PARK DAY - Every Tuesday

SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park
(Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday
starting at 10:30 a.m. Announcements
are held at 11:00 a.m.

SCIENCE FAIR INFORMATION MEETING

by Donna J.

Get ready for the 2007 Pima County Home Educators Science Fair. If you're planning on participating, or just thinking about it, you'll find project ideas, advice, resources, and all the fair details at an information meeting set for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 28 at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library. Information on the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) will also be presented and project boards from previous years that went on to successfully compete at SARSEF will be shown. You'll also find out what it's like to compete at the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge, a national competition for middle school students, and see how you too can be in the running for the title of young scientist of the year.



Scheduled Saturday, February 24, the Pima County Home Educators Science Fair is an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to share their science research and study projects with the community and other homeschoolers. Participants in the home educators fair may compete individually or in groups and there is a category for family projects. For more information about the fair, check out SDH's science fair web page:

<http://www.hozho.homestead.com/ScienceFair.html>. For information about SARSEF and general information about science fairs, as well as links to other resources, take a look at SARSEF's web site: <http://www.sarsef.org>.

The November 28 information meeting will be held in the lower level meeting room of the main library, which is located at 101 N. Stone Ave. For directions and parking information, go to <http://www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/locations/main/parking.cfm>. There is no charge for parking after 5:00 p.m. weekdays at the library's Alameda St. parking garage. If you have any questions about the fair or information meeting please contact me.

TPPL PRESENTS FREE MONEY 101 SERIES

submitted by Felicia L.

Wish your checkbook came with a user's manual? Come to the Money 101 Series at the Golf Links Library:

Wednesday, November 8 - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm **WHEN YOUR INCOME STOPS BUT THE BILLS DON'T**
Stephen Saradnik of the Arizona Center For Consumer Education

Monday, November 3 - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm **THE PITFALLS OF PREDATORY FINANCE**
Kelly Griffith of the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity

Wednesday, November 15 - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm **THE CREDIT PUZZLE: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**
Gigi Ng-Deguia of Wells Fargo Bank

These are free programs which do not require registration or a commitment; people can attend one or all. Teens and adults are welcome. For information contact Beth Petrucci, Adult Services Librarian, Miller-Golf Links Library, 520-791-5745, Beth.petrucci@pima.gov

AIT : ATHLETES IN TRAINING by Jaimie L.

Athletes in Training (AIT) meets on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park. AIT is a physical education/fitness program taught by trained coaches. Each month will have a specific sport or activity. Classes are in two age groups and at two times:

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Ages 7 and up

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Ages 4 to 6

Parents need to fill out a health questionnaire/ waiver and sign a code of conduct agreement. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork and make payment. Costs are: \$16.00 first child, \$12.00 second child, \$8.00 third child, and \$8.00 for each additional child.

Please remember this is not a drop-off class. Parents must be present and close by when their children attend PE (or have another adult there who is responsible for them.) Children should be dressed appropriately for the activity and wear sneakers.

See page 7
for all contact
information

NORTHWEST PARK DAY

by Ester S.

For those in the northwest, we meet on Thursdays at Richardson Park between Orange Grove and Ina on Cmo. De lat Tierra from 10:00 to about noon. If the weather will be too uncomfortable (rain, mud etc.), you can find us at the Nanini Library just off Shannon.

GEOGRAPHY GAMES DAY

by Donna J.

You won't need a passport, but you can still travel the globe and have a world of fun at SDH's Geography Games Day set for Monday, December 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library. We'll play geography board and card games, and there will be goodies to snack on and prize drawings. Last year we had a great party and I'm hoping this year will be just as much fun.



I'll bring the following games: Map Tangle, Borderline (Africa, Middle East, and USA editions), Across the Americas: North, South and Central America card game, National Geographic GeoBee Challenge, 10 Days in Africa, Professor Noggin's Countries of the World card game, Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?, Geo Safari Game of the States, plus other activities.

If you have other games, please bring them. If you have duplicates of the games listed above bring them too to make sure we have enough games for everyone. If you don't have geography games, don't worry. Join the fun! For parents, this is a great opportunity to check out games you may be thinking of purchasing, and a great time to share games that your family owns and likes. Information will also be available on the National Geographic Bee and the Geography Club.

This event will take place at the main library's lower level meeting room. The library is located at 101 N. Stone Ave. For directions and parking information, go to <http://www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/locations/main/parking.cfm>.

If you decide to park at the parking garage next to the library on Alameda, remember, there's now a small charge for parking: the first hour is free, then it's \$1 per hour thereafter.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

by Donna J.

If you love geography games and are in grades 4-8, consider competing in the Pima County Home Educators Geography Bee. The bee is scheduled Saturday, January 6 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Branch Library, 3455 N. First Ave. Participation in the bee could set you on your way to competing in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. The winner of the local homeschool bee will take a qualifying test to see if she or he will go on to compete at the state level. The state winner goes on to compete in Washington, D.C. There the field is narrowed to ten finalists who compete for a \$25,000 scholarship during a final test of geography skills moderated by Alex Trebek.

To learn more about both the local and national competitions, visit SDH's Geography Bee web page at <http://www.hozho.homestead.com/GeographyBee.html>

And go to the National Geographic Bee's web site: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>

STUDY SESSIONS

Study sessions for the local bee will be held in December. The tentative dates are all on Friday: December 1, December 8, and December 15. I'm still looking for a location for these meetings. If we have a small group like last year, we may be able to meet at my house. If you're thinking of attending, please let me know, so I can have an idea of our group's size and plan for meeting space accordingly. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun at the study sessions last year and went into the bee feeling like a real team, cheering each other on. (Although, we were competing individually.) Look for posts regarding the time and location of the study sessions.

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES



Parents' Book Discussion Group - November 16

Held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway. (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft).

2006

- November: *Protecting the Gift* by Gavin de Becker
- December: *Mapping Time* by E. G. Richards

2007

- January: *Kissing the Virgin's Mouth* by Donna Gershtwn
- February: *Think: Why Crucial Decisions Can't Be Made in the Blink of an Eye* by M. LeGault
- March: *The Light of Day* by Jamie Saul
- April: *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife
- May: *Straight Man* by Richard Russo
- June: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- July: *Freakanomics* by Steven Levitt

Note: Some of the above books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.

Mom's Coffee Night - November 29

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)

Men's Coffee Night - November 1

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

FEATURED WEBSITES

by Debbie G.

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids from the U.S. Government Printing Office

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/index.html>

Learn about the United States government – how it functions, how the electoral system works, and how civic responsibilities are critical to keep it functioning properly. The site's activities are arranged by grades: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Games & Puzzles from the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

<http://education.jlab.org/indexpages/elementgames.html>

Interactive games focusing on science, math, and the elements. The games, which include familiar ones like Hangman and crossword puzzles, are customizable for grade level and subject matter.

Droplet and the Water Cycle from NASA

<http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/droplet.html>

A game that combines quizzes with arcade action. Help a water molecule make its way through the entire water cycle. Instructions for controlling Droplet are provided, along with links to download the game to play offline.

Engaging Science from a cooperative venture of the Vancouver Aquarium, the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, and Science World British Columbia

<http://www.engagingscience.org/games>

Games focusing on earth and space science, physical science, life science, plus an adventure game, Ace on the Case: Secrets@Sea, for 4th – 7th graders.

Woodlands Math Zone from Woodlands Junior High School, Kent UK.

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/math>

Interactive math games for children 7-11 years old.



Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

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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."