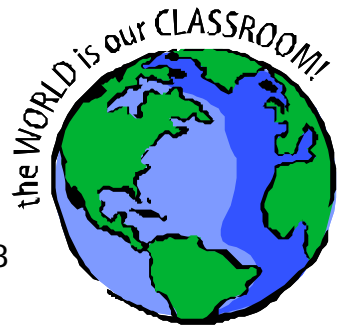


Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • September 2008



SDH SPORTS

by Lara B.

Because the SDH kids had such a good time last year playing the interhomeschool softball games with the CHETs (other homeschool groups) we have decided to do it again this year. CHET has set up two sports events for this year: field-day (with varying sports TBA) tournament for fall, and softball tournament for spring.

We will do sports, with Kim B. and/or Mike B. coaching, the first Tuesday/park day of each month, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Any other co-coaches that would like to come forward to help would be fabulous! As the tournaments get closer, more practices will be added. Specific tournament dates will be announced when confirmed. This is for 11 year-olds and up because it is serious sports with older kids.

As far as the other sports that we were going to do, we have decided to stick to the TBA field sports and softball above, since we will need that time to learn and practice before the tournaments.

CURRICULUM SHOW AND TELL NIGHT

by Jackie O.

The 2008 SDH Curriculum Show and Tell night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9. Trying to decide whether to attend the 2008 SDH Curriculum Show and Tell? Here's a quick curriculum quiz to help:

1. Set, Blink, Bananagrams and Quiddler are:
 - a) a 3 point, an 11 point and a 72 point Scrabble score
 - b) a new generation of fun, fast, and furious logic and word games
2. Rainbow Resource is:
 - a) a new Lisa Frank outlet for all your rainbow and unicorn needs
 - b) a 1000 page teachers' supply catalog created by and geared toward homeschoolers, with a discount on every item
3. Wrap ups are:
 - a) Arby's new low-carb lunch offering
 - b) math aids to help your kinesthetic learner memorize her times tables
4. Jim Weiss is:
 - a) a relative of a former Tucson anchorwoman running for elected office
 - b) an amazing storyteller sure to enthrall you and your children
5. Cuisinaire rods are:
 - a) the newest over-priced kitchen gadget from France
 - b) centimeter-width blocks in varying lengths and colors that help illustrate math concepts (they're also just a lot of fun to build with!)



If you answered "a" to any of the questions, you owe it to yourself to come to the Curriculum Show and Tell and see what other homeschoolers are using to help teach and engage their children.

If you answered "b" to any of the above questions, please come and bring some of your own tried and true learning aids. Remember curriculum can be anything! Videos, games, puzzles, audio tapes, art kits, etc. and yes, even packaged curriculum too!

We will meet at 7:30 p.m. (Tuesday, September 9) at Something Sweet, 5319 East Speedway (two blocks west of Craycroft, on the north side of the street). Who knows how long we'll stay! So if you're running late, call my cell—we'll probably still be there playing some fun games, er, I mean sampling some curricula. Call or email me for more information.



SDH TALENT AND ART SHOW

by Shelley M.

The SDH Talent and Art Show will be held on Sunday, September 21 at the downstairs meeting room at the Joel Valdez Main Library www.library.pima.gov/locations/main/ Every kind of talent and art is welcome! In the past kids have told jokes, sang, danced, did martial arts, etc. The talent show will be at 2:00 p.m. Art viewing will be after the show. Let me know if your kids want to be in the talent show, will present art, or will do both, so I can create programs and certificates.



SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

by Lori W.

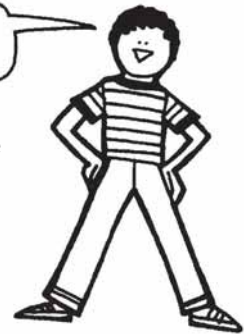
Scholastic orders are due Tuesday, September 9 at park. I will bring catalogs to park every Tuesday. I sit under the ramada and I will be present for announcements. See me if you wish to have a copy of the catalogs. Available items in the Scholastic catalogs include fiction and non-fiction books, books in Spanish, books on CD, educational games, computer software, DVDs, occasional music CDs, art kits, science kits, diaries, posters and some games for Xbox, Nintendo DS and a few others. The items are for infants through teenagers and vary monthly. If you want to order, please return order forms to me and make your check *payable to Scholastic* or bring exact cash. Please email me with any questions.

SPEECH AND DEBATE CLUB

by Kate T.

A Speech and Debate Club will be starting this fall. To begin with, we will meet the first three Thursdays in September for some initial instruction in debate, argumentation, and various speech events like impromptu and extemporaneous speaking. Those three classes will be held September 4, 11, and 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at River of Life Christian School (6902 E. Golf Links). After the third week we will make a determination regarding how often we will meet and what our debate and speaking schedule will be like. The club is best suited for teens, but tweens with a strong interest in debate or public speaking are welcome to attend. Please email me with any questions.

Speech



KIDS' BOOK GROUP

by Ali B. (and mom Lara B.)

My daughter Ali has been asking for some time about wanting to participate in a kids' book group (she sees me go every month). She has decided to just go ahead and organize the start of one, and hopes others will be interested too! We have set up a meeting place and time at Something Sweet (a dessert cafe) for Saturday evening

September 27, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (adults can sit at a neighboring table and we will get some chat time too!) Ali has picked for the first book Swordbird by Nancy Yi Fan. She is a teen author, which could make for great discussion, and the book's story is one that attracts both boys and girls to want to read it. At the discussion, the kids could pick the next book to read (there is a sequel to Swordbird, but the kids may or may not want to read that). The downside to Swordbird is that it appears to not be on audio book yet, so kids will need to read it themselves or have it read to them. Kids can come with their preselected list of discussion topics/questions about the book if they want to.

ADULT BOOK GROUP by Lara B.

We will start back up doing the adult book discussion at Ft Lowell park days every third Tuesday at noon now that summer break is over. Please see page 4 for the book list. This month we need to add at least a few more books to the list, so please give any recommendations that you have!! Some of the best books I have ever read have come from recommendations from this book group, and I may never have otherwise found or read them. So please keep them coming!

NORTHWEST PARK DAY by Lea C.

The Northwest Park group will continue to meet at James Kreigh Park on Thursday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us will arrive earlier due to the hot weather. Be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and a chair. Directions: 23 West Calle Concordia. From Ina and Oracle Rd., take Oracle north past Magee and Hardy. Calle Concordia is the next light. Turn left and the park is located on the right. Please contact Lea if you need more information.

ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

Our first Roots & Shoots/Earth Scouts meeting will be Wednesday, September 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Joel Valdez Main Library downtown, in the bottom Lower Level community room.

Everyone is always welcome! We call ourselves Roots & Shoots Earth Scouts, but people don't have to "join" anything to participate. People can participate in as many or as few as they want of the things we do! Things are announced in the newsletter, on the discussion board, and at park day announcements.

This first meeting is our yearly beginning-of-the-year introduction and planning meeting, where we get together to loosely plan what activities and projects we'd like to do for the year – kids and adults. If you and/or your child(ren) are interested in the Environment, People, and Animals, that is what Roots & Shoots is all about. We usually do a couple things each month throughout the 'school' year. We are usually in the Earth Day Parade along with having a booth there at the Festival (last year we did plastics in the ocean, and the year before we did reusable grocery bags). We do things like visit/learn about local farms and animal shelters and rehabilitation facilities, the recycling center, food bank gardens, butterfly garden, solar cooking, gardening, composting, camping and caving, etc. In the past we have done things like make hygiene packages for the homeless shelter, gather donations for various places like WorldCare and the woman's shelter. Once we had a representative from the Jane Goodall institute come and speak to us (Roots & Shoots is part of the Jane Goodall Institute). It's really endless what can be done with the focus being environment, animals, or people! That's why we like to do the beginning of the year meeting to see what people are personally passionate about so we can do things related to that.

This year I'd like to do some activities and/or field trips about water harvesting and alternative fuels, and possibly a (major) field trip to CRES (near San Diego). <http://cres.sandiegozoo.org/>
Here are the sites for Roots & Shoots and Earth Scouts that are FULL of information!
www.rootsandshoots.org www.earthscouts.org If you think you might be at all interested, please come to the meeting and put your two-cents in! And if you have any questions or comments please call or email!



UApresents

by Alica M.

I will begin doing a second sign-up for the 2008-2009 UApresents school matinee on September 2. I will call and check availability before I start taking orders so hopefully things will go smoothly. Tickets are \$6 each and we meet for the shows at 10:00 a.m. in front of Centennial Hall on the University of Arizona campus. To find out more about the performers go to www.uapresents.org

October 23, 2008 – Natalie MacMaster

December 8, 2008 – Cirque d'Or

February 19, 2009 – Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana

March 2, 2009 – Afro-Cuban All Stars

This will be the last ticket sales I do this year. The deadline is September 23. All checks must be *made payable to the University of Arizona*. I will need to know the number of children and which shows you want to attend. There is only one adult per family allowed. You can find me at park, email me, or mail me.

MOMS' ACTIVITY OUT

by Lara B.

Hi Ladies. This is our new alternative to the Moms' Coffee Night (that has been going on for a number of years, but has had very sparse attendance the last year or so). This is what we have set up for the next few months, but we need more suggestions from all of you moms to add more things to the list! I do not mind at all scheduling and reserving the moms' activities, but I need input on what the activities should be. Please keep comments, recommendations, and lots of input coming!

September – Wednesday, September 24 – Pool at Bedroxx 6:00 p.m. \$2.50 per hour per person, less if more than 4 (per table): www.bedroxx.com scroll down to Leopard Lounge (on Ina just east of I-10).

October – Saturday, October 25 – Dessert at Something Sweet 3:00 p.m. Coffee, teas, and single-serving desserts ranging from about \$4 to \$7 (on Speedway two blocks west of Craycroft)

November - Saturday, November 22 – Breakfast and lunch at Tohono Chul Tea Room 11:00 a.m. Here are menus and prices: <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/breakfast.html> and <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/lunch.html> (west of Oracle on Ina, north on Paseo Del Norte)





CYT SCHOOL DAYS SHOWS

by Laura N.

The deadline for signing up for CYT fall school days shows is Friday, September 5. Please let me know if you want to attend one or both of the plays so I can get you on the list. Then we can arrange for payment. The two shows are:

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” on Wednesday, October 1 at noon at Crowder Hall on the U of A campus. **(Please note the change of date from Thursday to Wednesday, but if you still want to attend on October 2, contact me; there might still be a couple spots available)**

“Charlotte’s Web” on Thurs, November 6 at noon at the Proscenium Theater on Pima Community College West Campus.

Tickets for school days showings are \$5.00 per person. Payment (*made payable to CYT Tucson*) must be made in advance. No refunds are issued, so please make sure you can attend on those dates. We will meet as a group at the theater and go in to the play as a group. www.cyttucson.org

ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

It’s time to sign up for opera tickets. The sign-up deadline is Tuesday, September 16. Each year, AZ Opera gives Tucson students an opportunity to attend final dress rehearsals for several of its productions. During the 2008-09 season, four dress rehearsals are scheduled. (See below.) I’ve been told some of these operas may not be appropriate for younger kids. So if you are interested in tickets for a child younger than teen/ tween age, please contact me. I will be getting more information about each of the operas.

Student tickets are just \$6 each for each opera and \$12 each for adults. To sign up, let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each performance and send a check to cover the entire cost of your tickets. Be sure to also include your phone number and email address. Mail everything to my home address, which is in the roster. Since ATC wants us to submit only one check, please make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. You may also give your check and order information to Laurie C. during the first three September park days. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

All dress rehearsals take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, 260 S. Church. For more information, go to Arizona Opera’s website: <http://www.azopera.com>

Tucson Student Dress Rehearsal Schedule:

Rigoletto – Friday, October 10, 7:00

Mikado – Thursday, November 13, 7:00

Elixir of Love – Thursday, January 15, 7:00

Don Giovanni – Friday, February 20, 7:00

A final note, there is no look-in scheduled in Tucson this year. But I will try to coordinate and schedule an “Opera in a Box” session for all of our students. This is an interactive program. Using opera costumes and props, a professional artist will help students create their own opera scenarios. AZ Opera says we may be able to use their opera rehearsal space to hold this event. Look for updates about this program on the discussion group and in the newsletter.

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents’ Book Discussion Group - September 16

The book discussion group meets at the regular Ft. Lowell 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.

- September: *The War of Gifts* by Orson Scott
- October: *A Complaint-Free World* by Will Bowen

Note: Some of these books have long lists at the library, so you might want to get on the list asap if you plan to get them from there.

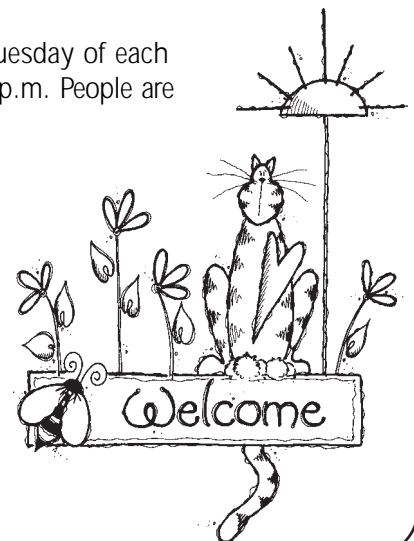
Moms’ Coffee Night - September 24

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Denny’s (3655 E. Speedway, two blocks west of Alvernon) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between).

See page 3 for an alternative Moms’ Activity to take place on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Dads’ Coffee Night - September 3

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



ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

Arizona Theatre Company has some great productions lined up for its 2008-2009 Student Matinee Series. I'm beginning the sign-up for three of the plays: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Henry V*, and *Beethoven*, as I Knew Him. Tickets will likely go fast for these plays, so order now.

Student tickets are \$8 each for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Henry V*, and \$10 per seat for *Beethoven*. Adult tickets are \$15 each for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Henry V*, and \$18 per seat for *Beethoven*. Play information and dates are all listed below.

To sign up, let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each performance and send a check to cover the entire cost of your tickets. Mail everything to my home address, which is in the roster. Since ATC wants us to submit only one check, please make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. Be sure to also include your phone number and email address. Get your order to me by Tuesday, Sept. 16. You may also give your check and order information to Laurie Cohen during the first three September park days. If you have any questions, call or email me. Before beginning the sign-up process for the rest of the plays, I want to determine if there's any interest. ATC has noted that many of these plays contain mature themes and language and these plays seem more geared to an adult audience. If you are interested in attending the student matinees for any of the following plays, please let me know. The plays are *The Lady with All the Answers*, *Hair*, and *Somebody/ Nobody*. Tickets are \$8 per admission, per student, for all except *Hair*, which is \$10. Adult tickets are \$15 each, except for *Hair*, which is \$18. I would also consider organizing an SDH theater night for parents, if anyone is interested.

A note about age appropriateness—the student matinee series isn't something I would recommend for young children. ATC's plays and musicals are great for tweens and teens. Most of the content is something that just doesn't hold the interest of younger kids, even when there's no mature themes and language.

All ATC performances take place at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson at 330 S. Scott Ave. Descriptions for each play are taken from an ATC announcement. The actors are available for discussions with the students after each matinee. For more information check ATC's website: <http://www.aztheatreco.org>.

THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS by David Rambo

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. *Dear Ann Landers...* "For decades she allowed lovelorn teens, confused couples and everyone else in need of help to turn to her for advice. No topic was off-limits from love to death to how to properly hang a roll of toilet paper. Now, late on a 1975 night in Ann Landers' Chicago apartment, an ironic twist of events confronts her with a looming deadline for a column dealing with her own personal dilemma. "Engaging from beginning to end" - *LA Times*. Contains mature themes.

HAIR The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical by Gerome Ragni and James Rado / Music by Galt MacDermott

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. It's the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, the year is 1968, and a tribe of hippies in New York's Central Park is letting down their gleaming, streaming, long beautiful hair – and a revolutionary musical that changes everything opens on Broadway and conquers the world. If you experienced it then, you'll want to groove to it again. If you were too young the first time around, come discover what the fuss was all about as ATC stages a glorious new production of *Hair* to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Contains mature themes and language.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry

Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. A gripping and explosive tale of one family living and learning together on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s, *A Raisin in the Sun* was the first authentic voice of an African American playwright to hit the Broadway stage. "The play that changed American theatre forever...a seething interplay of past and present, of wisdom and passion." - *The New York Times*

SOMEBODY/NOBODY by Jane Martin

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Sheena is a somebody who wants to be a nobody. Loli is a nobody desperate to be a somebody. In this hilarious world premiere comedy about Hollywood, fame and the TMZ, renowned playwright Jane Martin takes dead aim at our culture of celebrity. Contains mature themes and language.

The Guthrie Theatre and the Acting Company's Production of ***KING HENRY V*** By William Shakespeare

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Young, restless and ambitious, Henry V inherits a troubled crown and seeks to secure his position at home by launching a hasty invasion of France. The charismatic warrior King's aggressive pursuit of the French crown earns him iconic status, uniting England and France and briefly banishing the civil strife that will long outlive him. This Shakespearean epic expertly balances the thrilling heroics of battle with the painful and complex reactions of men who are sometimes unsure of the justice of their cause. *KING HENRY V* is a rousing, fascinating story about the power of courage and the price of glory.

BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM The Music of Ludwig van Beethoven / Text by Hershey Felder

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

We embraced him last season as the inimitable New Yorker George Gershwin and the elegant and mystical Chopin. Now, Hershey Felder completes his musical trilogy with his brand new production about the headstrong German genius Ludwig van Beethoven.

SDH 2008-2009 DATES LIST

First Park Day	Tuesday, August 19	
Roots & Shoots/Earth Scouts Planning	Wednesday, September 3	Lara B.
Speech and Debate Club	Thursdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18	Kate T.
Curriculum Sharing	Tuesday, September 9	Jackie Of.
Talent and Art Show	Sunday, September 21	Shelley M.
Harry Potter Class	Fridays Sept-Dec	Kim B.
Roots & Shoots/Earth Scouts Club	Bi-monthly TBA	Lara B., Zita B., Frances K.
Park Sports Day	Bi-monthly TBA	Kim B. and Mike B.
Fall Science Event	Fall TBA	Donna J.
Fall Softball	Fall TBA	Donna J.
Fall Curriculum Exchange	Fall TBA	Sharon A.
CYT Joseph...Technicolor Dreamcoat	Wednesday, October 1	Laura N.
Geography Game Day	Mid-October TBA	Donna J.
Fall Clothing Exchange	Tuesday, October 14	Sharon A.
UApresents: Natalie MacMaster	Thursday, October 23	Alica M.
Halloween Party	Tuesday, October 28	Melinda H.
CYT Charlotte's Web	Thursday, November 6	Laura N.
Winter Music Recital	Thursday, December 4	Victoria M.
UApresents: Cirque D'or	Monday, December 8	Alica M.
Zoo Holiday Tree Decorating	December	Melinda H.
New Year's Eve Bowling	Wednesday, December 31	Donna J.
Geography Bee	Saturday, Jan 10	Donna J.
Valentine's Day	Tuesday, Feb 17	Shelley M.
Group Photo	Tuesday, Feb 17	Shelley M.
CYT Narnia	Wednes, Feb 18	Laura N.
UApresents: Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana	Thursday, Feb 19	Alica M.
Spring Science Event	Spring TBA	Donna J.
Spring Softball	Spring TBA	Donna J.
UApresents: Afro-Cuban All Stars	Monday, March 2	Alica M.
UApresents: Joe Bonamassa	Wednes, March 18	Alica M.
CYT Oliver	Thursday, March 19	Laura N.
Spring Clothing Exchange	Tuesday, March 24	Sharon A.
UApresents: Philadanco	Thursday, April 16	Alica M.
Annual Pot Luck Event-Earth Day Potluck	Tuesday, April 21	Lara B.
Spring Music Recital	Thursday, May 7	Victoria M.
CYT Wizard of Oz	Wednesday, May 13	Laura N.
Curriculum Exchange	May TBA	Sharon A.
Parents Planning Meeting	May TBA	Lara B.
Last Park Day	Tuesday, May 19	



**PARK DAY is
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.