

Northeast Texas Children's Museum Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

April - June 2011

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The Director's Corner

The past few months have been busy at the Museum. Our two special events - the Daddy-Daughter Dance and Bridge Event were successful and fun. Nell Venable, chair of the Daddy-Daughter Dance, and Nancy McFarland and Toni Deaton, chairs of the Bridge Event, helped to make them run smoothly. The Weird Science Program, coordinated by Kathleen Hooten, was well received by fifth graders and their science teachers. As we move into spring we are excited about the families from a wide geographical area that are visiting us. A recent group of students came from Arlington to be with us.

We thank you for your help and ask for it again this year.

Princess Tea Scheduled for April 17

A Princess Tea is scheduled for young girls with their moms, grandmothers, and aunts for Sunday, April 17 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm. The event is focused on the question "What does a princess need to know?" The afternoon's activities will be divided into three parts. The first part will be "How does a princess act?" To assist with this section, area teen-age royalty will be featured in a panel discussion. Ms. Bailee Petty, Miss Hopkins County Dairy Festival; Kaitlin Jones, Miss Hunt County Outstanding Teen, Joni Inglehart, Miss Teen Paris; Courtney Griffin, Miss Teen Lamar; Abbey

Chandler, Miss Teen Red River Area; Kaitlin Jones, and Miss Hunt County Outstanding Teen. The Museum is excited about the participation of outstanding young girls from the area. The next part of the afternoon will be "How does a princess eat?" and "How does a princess speak?" Girls will have an opportunity to complete related activities after each part of the program. The event is being co-chaired by Loretta Kibbler and Janet Peek. Mary Miller will also participate in a skit.



The mission of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum is to inspire imagination, enhance creativity, and build confidence in children.



Volunteer Profile



Steven Pawlow

Steven Pawlow is our “train man.” His trains have been extremely popular in the Museum. Steven put his first trains in the Museum in July 2009. These created much interest. He has continued to add to the display with a crossing guard with lights and a bell. His most recent addition includes two KidStream crank

railroad cars. These run on a 30 x 30 foot track. The train now has a station where passengers can wait their turn. These have been exciting for children.

Steven grew up in Boiser City, Louisiana. His grandfather worked with the Kansas City-Southern Railroad, and this helped create his love for trains. Steven says that by the time he was twenty, trains had become an obsession for him. His trains were displayed in the Greenville Depot for five years before moving to the Museum. During the day you may find him at Walgreen’s in Sulphur Springs. Go by and say thanks to Steven. He’s made a difference for us!

Make Our President Pay!

Alton Biggs, Museum president, has issued a challenge. He has agreed to match all donations made by the Museum’s board of directors in March and all of the other donations made to the Museum in April - up to a maximum of \$6,000. Let’s make him pay!

All you have to do is have your donations to the Museum by 5:00 pm April 30 with “Make him pay!” in the memo line of your check, or say “Make him pay” when you make your cash or credit card donation. It’s a great way to double your money and help the Museum at the same time.

New Gift Shop Items for Sale

New items have been added to the Gift Shop thanks to the generosity of Beth Winn. Beth has given some of her hand-made clothes for American Girl and Barbie dolls. These are now for sale. Come and look! Thanks, Beth.

Summer Camps Provide Kid-Friendly Activities

The Museum is pleased to announce three new mini-camps for our summer schedule. On June 8, 9, and 10 will be the “-ology Camp” taught by Alton Biggs. The camp will include the study of ornithology, entomology, oligochaetology, dendrology, and limnology. Imagine having a conversation with your child about any of these!

Another new camp will be a “Mom and Me Gymnastics” class for preschoolers. This will be taught by Sharon Foreman on June 7, 14, 21, and 28.

A “Mom and Me Kindermusic Camp” will also be offered on four Wednesdays, beginning June 29 through July 20. A Kindermusic class will also be offered on Thursdays, beginning June 30 for five Thursdays. Classes will be taught by Toni Deaton and Patti Peron.

We are also excited about the return of our favorite mini-camps from last summer. These include a “Mom and Me Fireman’s Camp” on June 22-24. Captain Mike Ross will be coordinating this camp.

Alex Suarez will supervise the Police Camp on July 6-8, a Cooking Camp will be taught by Barbara Tucker on July 13-15, and the last camp of the summer will be an Art Camp taught by Janice Angel. The group will explore mixed media and make a 3-D hanging fish.

Call the Museum for additional information or look on the website at <http://www.netxcm.com>.



Market at the Museum

The Museum is pleased to announce its inaugural “Market in the Museum Holiday Gift Sale” to be held October 15, 2011. It will offer a variety of specialty vendors from northeast Texas. The event is being chaired by Jalinna Jones with assistance from Donna Tavener and Kathleen Hooten. There will be more than 30 booths available at this year’s event. Since this is the first time, vendor booths will be \$50. The deadline for vendor applications is July 1. This is a juried show of vendors, and every attempt will be made to include a wide variety of products and services in the final selections. Put the date on your calendar now. For additional information, call (903) 886-6055.

Daddy-Daughter Dance A Success

First, a big "Thank You" to Nell Venable for helping to make the third annual Daddy-Daughter Valentine Dance an exciting time for daughters and dads, granddads, uncles, and brothers! The event was threatened by ice and snow, but an afternoon warming resulted in safe roads for those who attended.

Nell received help from Mary Miller and Jennifer Speight, Nell's mother and sister. Nell's son, Nathan, was the evening's disc jockey. Thanks also to the Thaliens for food; the Psychology Club for face painting; the Mary Drake Garden Club for bookmarks;



and many other volunteers who helped to make the evening a success.

Donations were made by the TAMU-C College of Science and Technology, the Rotary Club, Alliance Bank, Live Oak Professional Center, KDBD Properties, the Aglalians, and other individuals.

Boot scootin' at the Daddy-Daughter Dance

Spring Break No Break For The Children's Museum

Spring Break was a busy time at the Museum with 680 family members attending from 31 towns during the five-day period. Northeast Texas was definitely well represented, but there were visitors from other areas as well.

Blue Ridge	Mount Pleasant
Bonham	Nacogdoches
Campbell	Paris
Charlotte, NC	Pecan Gap
Commerce	Powderly
Cumby	Quinlan
Dike	Reno, NV
Ector	Rockwall
Fort Worth	Royce City
Garland	San Jose, CA
Grand Saline	Sherman
Greenville	Sulphur Springs
Hot Springs, AR	Talco
Katy	Terrell
McKinney	Wolfe City
Mesquite	



Healthy Kids Completes Spring Program

Hunt Regional Healthcare and the Department of Campus Recreation at TAMU-Commerce sponsored Healthy Kids from A to Z program this spring. Preschoolers filled the class. Letters I-Q were covered with nutritional information and activities for each letter. For example, on the day the group studied the letter "J" they received information on junk food and participated in jumping activities. The fall program begins September 28 and concludes this pre-school class.

Oven Donation Requested



The Museum is seeking the donation of a range/oven. This would be used for food preparation for special events. The Summer Cooking Camp especially needs this equipment. If anyone is remodeling a kitchen, this would be a great time to make a donation.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

Amount of Donation: _____ For: _____

Northeast Texas Children's Museum

NW Corner Culver and Highway 50

Telephone: (903) 886-6055 or (903) 456-4789

Commerce, Texas 75428

Email: director@netxcm.com

Sign Up for a Birthday Party or Field Trip

In the last ten weekends at the Museum, we have had 36 birthday parties. Birthday parties are a fantastic way for you to have more privacy as your children and guests enjoy the Museum. Call the Museum at (903) 886-6055 for details on setting up your party.



Since January 1 we have had 14 field trips from public and private schools and daycare centers. Another 30 field trips are scheduled already between now and the end of the school year. Why not sign up for your school's field trip now? Your students will receive the special attention that you and they deserve.



Science Program Supports Efforts of Area Schools

The Weird Science program again provided hands-on science workshops to many area schools. Three stations were set up in different areas of the Museum.

The Museum invested in equipment for the activities last year, and these were used again this year to carry out the various activities.

Kathleen Hooten, program writer and coordinator, directed students as they rotated through the three classroom lab stations. She relied heavily on volunteers, including Alison Walker, Mimi Dobbs, Martey Massey, Amanda Turner, Gabriela Fox, Kathy Shepherd, and Courtney Lewis. The group received many positive comments on their evaluations. The only negative comments were that the teachers wished they had time for more hands-on activities. One teacher commented that this was the highlight of the students' academic year. Another said that it was so exciting to see students having so much fun as they learned the concepts they'd need on their TAKS Tests later on.



Freeman and Biggs Win Awards

The annual Commerce Chamber of Commerce Banquet was the venue for various recognitions of Commerce citizens. Among those recognized for their contributions to the community were our Museum's executive director and board president.

Sharline Freeman, executive director, was selected by the Rotary Club as Employee of the Year for her work at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. She received the recognition as a result of a recommendation from her board of directors.



Alton Biggs said of Sharline, "She is always thinking of ways to make the Museum a better place for our visitors and understands her role as the executive director and a member of the board. It has been under Sharline's leadership that the Northeast Texas Children's Museum completed its first year 'in the black' and the board certainly thanks her for her work."

The Commerce Chamber of Commerce recognized Alton Biggs, board president of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum, as Commerce Citizen of the Year. In addition to his work with the Children's Museum, he is also vice president of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Foundation Board, member of several committees at the University, member of the board for Commerce Leadership Institute, member of the Commerce Board of Adjustments, and member of the board for the Texas Association of Biology Teachers. In addition, Alton is a member, deacon, and adult bible study teacher at the First Baptist Church of Commerce.

Being recognized in these ways reflect the important role that the Northeast Texas Children's Museum plays in Commerce. The Museum thanks you for your steadfast and continued support, for without you we could never accomplish as many of our goals as we do.

The Museum's Wish List

- Rolls of Postage Stamps
- 6' Folding Tables*
- Folding Chairs*



*Please call the Museum at (903) 886-6055 to inquire about the specific items needed.