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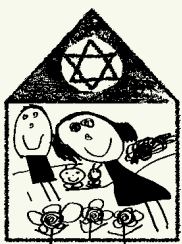
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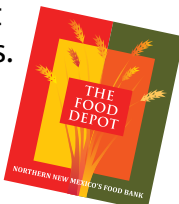
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# BRAVE NEW WORDS

## My book group buddies

and I talk, occasionally, about books.

In our monthly meetings, complete with wine and nachos, we are sure to give the book we've chosen at least a portion of our discussion. The lion's share goes to our children, relationships, job changes, health, travels and recent political events.

Though I'm often the one to say,

"Okay, to get back to the book..." I suspect that if someone mapped our conversations, they'd be able to trace a fairly direct line from most of our "digressions" to the book on the table.

This month's selection, for instance, was *Americah*, a rich novel about a Nigerian woman who emigrates to the United States, where she works, attends college, teaches, has

relationships and blogs about being a "non-American Black," before returning to Africa and reconnecting with an old flame. This provided us with jumping-off points to interracial marriage, divorce, relations between New Mexican Hispanics and Mexican immigrants, Berkeley in the '60s, Ferguson and the midterm elections — all this before the check arrived. All issues close to our personal lives, all connected to themes in the book.

I suspect the author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, would have been pleased. Books speak not just to our minds but to our feelings, senses, memories and wishes. A greater number of digressions might just point not to the weakness of a book but to its strength.

For young readers, whose developing minds are still rooted in imagination, a book might take them anywhere, provided that it engages them to begin with. That's why I'm excited to see a trend in the world of children's books. Kids' lit characters — limited not long ago to nuclear, white, two-parent families with a dog and a cat — reflect a growing range of ethnicity, nationality, ability, disability, gender orientation and family composition.

Judith Nasse, in her article "Imitating Life," emphasizes that the diversity reflected in children's books still falls far short of the diversity of real life. Existing book collections, particularly in underfunded schools and libraries, are likely to have a disproportionate number that fit the old image of "normal," providing too few faces with which minority children can identify.

*Continued on page 6*



Kaitlyn Cook, grade 4

## Tumbleweeds

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**ON THE COVER:** Ren Murata-Long, age 8, is in third grade at Carlos Gilbert Elementary. His sister, Tei Murata-Long, 4, attends the Child Development Center at First Presbyterian Church. Both enjoy alpine skiing, and Ren also likes ice skating. And both love hot chocolate with marshmallows! © Ana June.

**ARTWORK IN THIS ISSUE** is by students at Kearny Elementary School. Find more works by Kearny students on our website, [www.sftumbleweeds.com](http://www.sftumbleweeds.com).

## Be a part of Tumbleweeds!

### Spring 2015 Deadlines

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- Winter Fun! Directory: January 30
- Winter Calendar: January 30
- Ad Reservations: January 30
- Ad Copy: February 6
- Publication Date: February 18



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Yet she also notes a groundswell of activity in the past few years to get people from diverse segments of the population to write books for children. Not long ago, an African-American character in a children's book was a novelty. Spanish-language novels had to be printed out of the country, because publishers didn't believe there were enough Spanish speakers in the United States to support them.

Her article made me remember back when I used to shop for children's books for our now-26-year-old son. A local bookstore had a section in their children's room for "Difficult Subjects," which at that point was devoted primarily to the "D's": divorce, death and disability. These issues can indeed be challenging to discuss with children, and a great, age-appropriate book can open, or deepen, our conversation and understanding.

Today's brave new world of children's literature includes books for children with two mommies or two daddies, children with *no* mommies or daddies, and children with nontraditional gender identification. There are more books by Hispanics, African Americans and Native Americans.

This is a heartening trend, as children feel validated and respected when they see themselves reflected in books they read, or that are read to them. Books also give any of us the opportunity to learn about people who are different from us, a tool Nasse encourages with her anecdote of a teacher who read to her preschoolers about a child with a vision challenge, when one of her students came in with glasses for a wandering eye. Her article lists books with a diverse range of authors and characters, as well as websites to visit to search for more.

My own contribution to my book group's tangled web of tangents was an attempt to describe Devi Borton's article, "Transformation: A gender journey," also in this issue. Borton, whom many of you know as the director of Fam Jam, writes about her own journey to understand her second-grade child, who identifies as a girl despite having the anatomy of a boy. (Connection to themes of *Americanah*: Non-standard identity; self-acceptance; recognition from others.)

Questions arose among my book group mates. Could a child at such a young age truly be "transgender"? Mightn't she still "grow out of it" and return to her anatomical gender? Do we help or harm a child by letting them change their gender identification before they've even reached puberty?

I backed off on trying to speak for Devi, which she does beautifully on her own. The power of her story lies in the fact that she writes as mom about her relationship to her child. Whatever conclusions readers will reach, they will leave her article with new awareness of a situation they might not have considered.

We're all a little more accustomed to seeing young adult books that stretch the boundaries (hello, vampires and the undead). But I was surprised to see in Borton's list of resources several early readers and even picture books on transgender children — a message to me that there are many others who need these stories.

The expansion of children's literature into new areas requires the courage and compassion of writers, book publishers, booksellers, newspapers and readers. We here on Team Tumbleweeds were deeply moved by Borton's story, and Nasse's passion,

and are honored to be able to share these articles with our readers.

That's not to say that kids' lit must be politically correct, or meet a checklist of timely topics. There's always room for marvelous children's books that speak to pure imagination — the worlds of cats who wear hats and balance fish bowls on rakes.

But books provide an invaluable opportunity for "stealth learning" — the lessons that sneak up on us, without the need for teaching or preaching. Story allows us to recognize ourselves and understand others. We don't have to be lectured about tolerance or understanding, when we find new characters in books that touch our hearts.

Books alone can't end intolerance, but they are an invaluable resource, since — as my digressing, meandering, tangent-jumping book group members and I prove every month — there's no limit to the places a book can take you.



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# Dear Tumbleweeds



Amy Garcia, grade 2

## Quality Article

Thank you so much for publishing the wonderful article “No Time for Quality Time,” by Shabd Simran Adeniji, in the Fall 2014 edition of Tumbleweeds.

Finding “quality time” for parents and children has been a growing issue over the last 20 years for almost all of the families I have worked with, both in my private counseling practice, as well as in every elementary school where I have been a school counselor. Parents and children alike are saddened when the pressures of modern life make family life stressful. At Acequia Madre Elementary, we are encouraging parents to read Simran’s article on quality time, and we are also offering a special evening for parents in January called “From Stress to

Success.” In addition to discussing “quality time” for families, we are looking at ways to reduce stress and to make doing homework more fun. Thank you again for all the wisdom and fun you share through Tumbleweeds!

- Cynthia C. Fulreader, MA, LPC

## One-Stop Publication

I believe Tumbleweeds provides the best all around information to be found in one place for families here in Santa Fe. This is a big plus considering all that is offered in this city.

When planning activities for my grandchildren the resource I go to first is Tumbleweeds. Since I am a very busy “Nana,” one-stop shopping is important for me because I can plan ahead with your quarterly publication and nothing is left to the last minute. This gives me tremendous peace of mind and more time to enjoy the little ones.

I also appreciate the highly informative articles you include. These are always interesting and educational. In fact, I am recommending that parents and grandparents in other states take a look at your terrific web site. They can easily plan activities while on vacation here and browse for article topics they are interested in reading since previous issues are on the Tumbleweeds web site.

When I was a child I couldn’t wait for the Weekly Reader to arrive at school. Now I look forward with anticipation for each new issue of Tumbleweeds and finding just the right activities for each grandchild: ballet for Kaitlin, art classes for Elysa and swimming for little Veronica and me.

Thank you for highlighting family life and children and making Tumbleweeds a valuable part of this community. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to live in Santa Fe where quality for children is obviously appreciated.

- Floy Gregg



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# When Goo-Goo Meets GOOGLE

Early childhood learning in the digital age • By Shari Cassutt

**I raised my children at the dawn of the digital** revolution. We bought our first computer when our son was in middle school, around 1992. Back then, the media debates among parents were “How much TV is too much?” and, “Does Sesame Street encourage short attention spans?”

The world has changed a lot in 22 years. After my daughter’s recent wedding, I discovered a sparkly pink iPhone that someone had left behind. It belonged to the flower girl. “What does a 5-year-old do with a phone?” I asked. My daughter, giving me one of those withering looks that daughters reserve for their mothers, answered, “She uses the apps, Mom.”

Today’s preschoolers play games on tablets, have videos at their fingertips, take pictures with smartphones, read eBooks and visit with Grandma on video chat. But what does this tsunami of technology mean for young children’s learning?

When I heard an NPR interview this summer with Jason Boog, author of *Born Reading: Bringing Up Bookworms in a Digital Age — From Picture Books to eBooks and Everything in Between*, my interest was piqued. Time to investigate.

*Born Reading* is both a how-to manual and the story of Boog’s journey with his daughter Olive into the world of books. Boog presents clear, step-by-step instructions for an approach called “interactive reading,” which can be used with children of all ages, even infants. *Born Reading* also raises some concerns that parents and teachers must ponder when considering the impact of technology on young children.

Boog opens with research from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). In 2011, AAP issued technology guidelines recommending no more than two hours of screen time a day for children over the age of 2, and no screen time for children under 2: no television, no iPad, no smartphones. The AAP guidelines focus on the importance of unplugged and unstructured play for Baby’s development. According to the AAP, there is nothing that Google or Apple can provide infants and toddlers that is better than time spent with attentive parents or caregivers.

On the face of it, the AAP guidelines make sense. Yet a number of questions came to mind. Why not eBooks for Baby? What about video chat with Grandma? Could exposure to children’s videos in foreign languages help imprint the sounds of Chinese or Spanish on Baby’s developing brain?

Many of the first books I shared with my babies were made of soft vinyl. “See the blue bear?” I asked. Baby grabbed the book and stuck it in his toothless mouth, a completely normal response for an infant exploring the world with one of his most developed senses. Our next books were of the *Pat the Bunny* variety — sturdy board books that encouraged gross motor

skills when Baby successfully reached the target of the soft bunny fur, or the scratchy daddy beard, and turned the stiff pages. Try that with your Kindle!

Researchers are discovering that the feel of a book helps us remember what we are reading. The Guardian recently reported results from a Norwegian study of reading comprehension, which found that 10<sup>th</sup> graders who read hard copies of text significantly outscored those who read electronic texts. Scientists postulate that our brain records multiple points of information about the text in a physical book that help us recall content. How far into the book is this? At the top of the page or the bottom? We are creating a mental map of the reading material. That geography is hard to reproduce on electronic readers.

Ironically, I did much of my research for this article online, yet I instinctively bought *Born Reading* as a hard copy. I wanted the book on my shelf. When I pass by it as I go about my daily business I will remember some of Boog’s reading lessons. No doubt the cognitive connection to tangible books is true for Baby, too. Seeing the book as she crawls around is a visual reminder of the content.

What about apps or DVDs that introduce Baby to other languages?

In a TED talk, researcher Patricia Kuhl explains how babies begin to make sense of the language they hear. A baby in an English-speaking family will hear a different pattern of sounds from a baby in a Japanese family. It would be easy to think, “Ah! If I want my baby to become bilingual in Mandarin, then I should play Mandarin children’s videos.” Oops — not so fast. Kuhl reports that babies relate to and mimic the sounds they hear from a *real live person*. When the social part of their brain is not activated by a physical person, babies are no more likely to reproduce the sounds of Mandarin than the sounds of the dishwasher.

Real, live humans turned out to be critically important in another study, this one reported by the University of Washington, the results of which should make video-chatting grandmas and grandpas very happy.

In the study, 2- and 3-year-olds were divided into three groups. All three groups were presented with the same lesson. Group One watched a movie of the lesson. Group two was in a classroom with a teacher. Group Three had their lesson via video chat. When the toddlers were tested to see which group learned the greatest number of new words, Group One, the movie group, scored the lowest. Surprisingly, the video-chat group and the classroom group scored the same. The human interaction, the back-and-forth conversation during video-chat, appears to be as effective for language learning as actually being in the same room. So Grandma and Grandpa, it looks like science is on your side. Get out your laptops and smartphones and talk away.



More troublesome are the issues raised by video games, not just for preschoolers, but for all of us. When Boog introduced Olive to digital games designed to teach specific skills such as identifying letters and numbers, he noticed that sometimes she entered the “iPad fog”— glazed eyes, occasional drooling, followed by a full-blown tantrum when screen time was over. I was reminded of my own experience with Super Mario Brothers. No, I’m not talking about my son. I’m talking about my husband and myself!

Late at night, after the kids were asleep, we took up the joystick. We guided those pudgy plumbers, Mario and Luigi, through the twists and turns of New York City’s sewers. Pretty quickly we noticed

that we were staying up later and later each night. Even worse, when we got into bed, we had a hard time falling asleep. An hour of Mario Brothers at night had repercussions the next day. Video games rely on a simple but powerful formula of challenge and reward. The reward floods our brain with dopamine, the “feel good” hormone. With too much dopamine, we become over-stimulated. We don’t want to put the device down. And, if we’re a kid, we just might throw a tantrum when Mom or Dad makes us stop.

*Born Reading* will certainly be one of my go-to gifts for new parents. It is packed with book lists, sources for age-appropriate apps and lots of literature-based activities. As

a parent himself, Boog understands the realities and challenges of parenting in a world that is increasingly dominated by technology. He struggles with finding the best the digital world has to offer without sacrificing the benefits of books. In the end it is all about finding balance. The early experiences Olive shares with her father of cuddling up with a good book, or a good app, will last her a lifetime.

*Shari Cassutt taught kindergarten for Santa Fe Public Schools for 20 years. Currently she is writing about children, parenting and travel, as well as working on a memoir of her time living in China.*

## Advice from Jason Boog’s *Born Reading*:

**Books and technology are best used interactively with your child.** Engage in conversation, ask questions, make comments, even before your baby can answer. As your child becomes an independent reader, save some time to continue reading together.

**Pay attention to the content of a game or app.** Is it developmentally appropriate? Boog provides plenty of guidelines.

**How is your child responding to the material?** Are they caught up in simply pushing buttons, or are their responses showing thoughtfulness and problem solving?

**Watch for signs of overuse, including obsessive conversations about the devices.**

**Limit both screen time and screen locations.**

**Balance your child’s screen time with physical activity, playing with friends, and books, books, books.**

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# Imitating Life

The importance of diversity in children's literature

By Judith Nasse

**When Ms. Julia was a teacher fresh out of** training, she taught in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles during the Watts Rebellion of 1965 and the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. During those turbulent years, her kindergartners loved *The Snowy Day*, written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats (Viking, 1962), a children's book published only a few years earlier. Although the author was the child of Polish Jews, his character Peter was African-American, one of the few such faces in mainstream children's literature in the 1960s. Having a literary character with whom her students could relate ethnically and culturally was invaluable in a decade defined by the Civil Rights movement.

Now Ms. Julia teaches in New Mexico, a place rich in ethnic and cultural diversity. Yet so many books in our homes, schools and libraries still don't reflect the great variety of our peoples. Recent statistics show that only about 10 percent of all picture-book authors come from diverse backgrounds. So, how can the majority of children in New Mexico see themselves and their cultures reflected in literature?

Thankfully, the last few years have seen increased public discussion and grassroots efforts encouraging authors from diverse segments of our society to write and illustrate books for our young children. Word is spreading through venues like KidLitCon, an annual conference in Sacramento of people who blog about children's and young adult books, and sites such as [weneeddiversebooks.org](http://weneeddiversebooks.org). New books are emerging to include not only people of diverse color and ethnicity, but also the disabled, LGBTQ (an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning), elders, the abused and homeless — in other words, groups that have historically been voiceless in children's literature. This is important because no one else knows their own story better than the people living it.

The diversity Ms. Julia has seen in her classroom in New Mexico goes beyond ethnic and religious backgrounds to include children with two moms, a boy who wanted to almost exclusively play with the girls in dress-up and house corner, a little girl who suffered from incest, and a boy who was recovering from a childhood stroke and therefore had speech and motor difficulties. Each of these children needs to see him or herself in books.

Books are also a wonderful way to help children accept people or situations that are new to them. Angie, 3 years old, has a wandering eye. The day she came in with new glasses, Ms. Julia put out a box of glasses frames for all the children to wear and read them the gorgeous book *My Travelin' Eye*, by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw (Henry Holt, 2008). The children quickly incorporated Angie's disability into their understanding. This happened in part because preschoolers are innately empathetic and inclusive, but also because a children's story about a wandering eye helps normalize it.

Although there still are too few books about diversity, there is a growing list, with some resources listed at right. New Mexico has some publishers that feature books about diversity, notably University of New Mexico Press, Azro Press and Rio Grande Books. Your local librarian can be a great resource for helping you find books that reflect your children and family. For a super family outing at any time of year, and especially to find gifts for the holidays, head to Collected Works Book-

store in Santa Fe. The children's section is chockfull of book treats, and the staff can help you find ones that reflect a wide range of families and children. Books for holiday presents are gifts that not only speak to us at the moment but can also become all-time favorites and family heirlooms.

Better yet, for the holidays, why don't you and your family write and illustrate — with drawings or photos — your own book about you and your family stories? They can be printed out on your home printer or at your local copy store. The books of you and your family stories that you make as gifts will become delightful family legacies.

*Judith Nasse is a semi-retired preschool teacher in Taos, where she also writes and illustrates children's books.*



Antoinette Patnode reads Rudolfo Anaya's *Farolitos for Abuelo* to her daughter Reagan at LaFarge Public Library.

Photos by Nina Bunker Ruiz



# Resources

## Books

### Disabilities and Elders

**Farolitos for Abuelo**, by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Edward Gonzales (Disney-Hyperion, 1999). Ages 5 and up.

**Maezie's Pumpkin Patch**, by Lynn Martin Snowden, illustrated by Kyle Sydney Powell (Petunia, 2014). Ages 4 and up.

**Mi Abuelita**, by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Yuyi Morales (HMH, 2009). Ages 4-8.

**My Holly**, written and illustrated by Julie Leavitt Wolfe (Friesen, 2011). Ages 4-8.

**My Travelin' Eye**, written and illustrated by Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw (Henry Holt, 2008). Ages 4-7.

### Gender/LGBTQ

**And Tango Makes Three**, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, illustrated by Henry Cole (Simon & Schuster, 2005). Ages 4-8.

**What Makes A Baby**, by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Smyth (Triangle Square, 2013). Ages 3-7.

**When Stella Was Very, Very Small**, written and illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay (Groundwood, 2011). Ages 2-5.

(See the article "Transformation," by Devi Borton, on page 12 of this issue, for more suggestions.)

### Hispanic/Latino

**A Movie in My Pillow**, by Jorge

Argueta, illustrated by Elizabeth Gomez (Children's Book, 2001). Ages 6 and up.

**And Now Miguel**, by Joseph Krumgold, illustrated by Jean Charlot (HarperCollins, 1984). Ages 8-12.

**Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia**, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane, 2010). Ages 6-9.

**Bless Me Ultima**, by Rudolfo Anaya (Tonatiuh-Quinto Sol International, 1972). Age 12 and up.

**Call Me Tree — Llamame arbol**, written and illustrated by Maya Gonzales, (Children's Book, 2014). Ages 3-8.

**How Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico**, by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Nicolas Otero (Rio Grande, 2012). Ages 7 and up.

**La Llorona: The Crying Woman**, by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Amy Córdova (University of New Mexico, 2010). Ages 7 and up.

**My Colors, My World**, written and illustrated by Maya Gonzales (Children's Book, 2006). Ages 3-8.

**Nana's Big Surprise**, by Amana Irma, illustrated by Maya Gonzales (Children's Book, 2007). Ages 6 and up.

**Nino Wrestles the World**, by Yuyi Morales, illustrated by Maya Gonzales (Roaring Brook, 2013). Ages 4-8.

**Pascual and the Kitchen Angels**, written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola, (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004). Ages 4 and up.

**Prietita and the Ghost Woman: La Llorona**, by Gloria Anzaldúa, illustrated by Maya Gonzales, (Children's Book, 1996). Ages 6 and up.

**The First Tortilla**, by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Amy Córdova (University of New Mexico, 2007). Ages 7 and up.

### Native American

**Baby Rattlesnake**, by Te Ata, illustrated by Mira Reisberg (Children's Book, 2006). Ages 4 and up.

**Kiki's Journey**, by Kristy Orona-Ramirez, illustrated by Jonathan Warm Day (Children's Book, 2006). Ages 6 and up.

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**, by Sherman Alexie, illustrated by Ellen Forney (Little, Brown, 2009). Ages 12 and up.

**The Birchbark House**, by Louise Erdrich (Disney-Hyperion, 2002). Ages 9 and up.

**The Great Friendship of Koyemsi and TuHavi**, written and illustrated by Joan Mansson (CreateSpace Independent, 2014). Ages 8-10.

### Other Cultures

**Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan: Two Stories of Bravery**,

written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane, 2014). Ages 4-8.

**Oh, Oh, Baby Boy!**, written and illustrated by Janine MacBeth (Blood Orange, 2013). Ages 2 and up.

**Same, Same, But Different**, written and illustrated by Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw, (Henry Holt, 2011) Ages 4-7.

## Websites

**American-Indian Library Association award winners:** [ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/](http://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/).

**Cinderella Around the World:** [www.leeandlow.com/curriculum-corner/cinderella-around-the-world-series](http://www.leeandlow.com/curriculum-corner/cinderella-around-the-world-series).

**I'm Here, I'm Queer, What the Hell Do I Read?** Blog for young adults: [www.leewind.org/](http://www.leewind.org/).

**Latino/Latin American books for all ages:** Recommendations from Teaching for Change, [bbpbooks.teachingforchange.org/best-recommended/latino](http://bbpbooks.teachingforchange.org/best-recommended/latino).

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# Transformation

A gender journey • By Devi Borton

**During each of my pregnancies there would** come a time when my husband and I would be bombarded with the all-important question, “Are you having a boy or a girl?” And Dave, not missing a beat, would answer, “Yes.”

With both our babies, we chose not to find out the sex ahead of time. There was some attraction for us in the concept that for these nine months our little “bean” would not be “boy” or “girl” but simply would be our growing baby. We understood that knowing the sex would instantly change our relationship to the pregnancy and to the baby. We would talk to it differently, shop and plan differently, dream for its future differently. Even as a self-proclaimed progressive mother of the Free-to-Be-You-and-Me generation, I knew that knowing that piece of information would color my experience. I enjoyed the idea of a gender-neutral pregnancy.

But my subconscious disagreed the second time around. During that pregnancy my dreams were vividly and exclusively girl dreams. I was convinced I was having another girl. So I was stunned when, as the baby was born, my 6-year-old daughter announced, “It’s a BOY, Mom!”

A moment of surprise. And then? I fell into the moment and fell in love with the son whom I now know to be my daughter.

It would take a few years for my child to understand why she didn’t feel “right” in her boy body, a few more years for her to communicate this to us, and of course, more time for us to move through our surprisingly limited mindset, denial and confusion. It took time for us to be able to really *hear* her through her words and her behavior. It took time to see that, despite the fact that she has a penis, our youngest child is not a boy. She is transgender.

Being transgender means, simply, having a gender identity, an inner knowing about who you are, that is “across from” your anatomical gender. In the new autobiographical children’s book *I Am Jazz*, Jazz Jennings shares that she has “a girl’s brain but a boy’s body.” Current research suggests that our brain is a “gendered organ, and gender identity is not a conscious decision,” according to Rachel Pepper and Stephanie Brill, authors of *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Parents and Professionals*. When a child’s identity is at odds with their anatomical sex, they will often express it aloud as early as 2 to 4 years old. Think back to when you were very young. You may not have known whether you liked broccoli better than tomatoes, but most likely you did experience yourself clearly as male or female. You knew yourself in that way. And no one else could see it or feel it but you.

Most of the time, our gender identity matches our assigned gender. But not always: At least one in 500 people is transgender. There have always been transgender people (and animals!), and in many cultures transgender people have historically been revered as artists and healers. But only in the past few years has there been an explosion of awareness and education about transgender in our modern culture. This has been fortuitous timing for our family, as we found ourselves taking a forced crash course in transgender studies this past summer. Just when I needed a life raft and a map, there was a wealth of new information, research, documentaries and children’s books.

Gender, in reality, is complex and not the binary construct many of us grew up within. Although most of us identify clearly as male or female, most of us are actually a nuanced blend. You wouldn’t know it from going to Target, of course. We are taught by stores, by schools, by family, by religions and by politics to follow a gender code and to innocently start imposing it on our children even before they are born.

Those deeply ingrained rules influence the way we relate to and interact with our babies. According to Brill and Pepper, “Studies have shown that even before birth, and certainly afterward, adults speak differently in tone and content to a newborn based on the perceived gender of the baby.... Most adults are completely unaware of these differences in their interactions with babies.” It is human nature to create labels and definition, in order to understand many things in life. But labels can, Brill and Pepper warn, also be limiting and can lead to hard-core denial, resistance and psychological damage when a child doesn’t conform to what we perceive as normal.

When my little one, at age 3, began to dress up in big sister’s old nightgowns and dresses, I reacted in a very typical way: I felt concern, confusion, fear. I am not too proud to admit that, for a short time, I hid the girl clothes away with some kind of primitive belief that if the clothes were out of sight, the attraction would go away. That didn’t last long. They were found and reclaimed. So then we told our kiddo that dressing up could happen at home but not in public. We got over that stage fairly quickly, too, thanks to our strong-willed kid!

But in order to really be able to be present for our child, we had to first be honest with ourselves. Despite my liberal upbringing, I now understand that at some level I was worried about what people would think, how they would judge not just my child, but me. Many parents of trans kids will say that early



Smokey Violet transitioned this summer to a new name, wardrobe and haircut.

Courtesy photo

on, they resisted their child's wishes because they were worried for their child, but many won't ever admit their deeper concern. Our own embarrassment, say Brill and Pepper, often gets "folded into that 'protecting my child' feeling."

In other words, many parents don't want to admit that their child is embarrassing to them in public. So they tell themselves, "I think he'd be a lot safer if he didn't wear that dress." But perhaps the truth is actually, "I'd feel a lot more comfortable if he didn't wear that dress." Many parents deny and resist their child's gender identity for years, causing deep anxiety and depression in their child. The suicide attempt rate for transgender children is over 50 percent. For the general population, it is around 5 percent. People often tell me that we are so amazing for supporting our child, for celebrating her, that we are so brave. My 14-year-old daughter is (rightly) celebrated by our friends for her unwavering support of her transgender sister. But while it has been challenging for all of us to grow in this way, we are simply doing our job as her family. Loving her. Supporting her basic need to be herself. Period.

This summer, after a four-year-long journey, with help from our extraordinary therapist, friends and support services, our child transitioned — and began living on the outside in a way that matched who she knew to be on the inside. And, as her family, we transitioned, too. We supported Azure Robert when she changed her name to Smokey Violet (her chosen name). We have privately and publicly affirmed our child's gender as female. The way she lives in the world every day now aligns with who she knows herself to be. We use the pronouns "she," "her" and "hers." We let her choose a new wardrobe (my neighbor jokes that she is raising the fashion bar at school). She got her hair cut in a bob and got her ears pierced. And yes, she uses the girls' bathroom at school. Thanks to the legal protection of Title IX, and the teamwork of Santa Fe Public Schools and the entire staff and community at El Dorado Community School, Smokey has experienced no bullying or teasing. She is a very happy second grader.

I do not take any of this for granted. We live in the right times, and the right place, and have insisted on the best support system. Our experience is not the norm for transgender children and their families. There is a lot of work still to be done. Until there is no more trauma, punishment or ridiculing, no more suicide attempts, the work is not over. We feel it is our duty to help deep change happen, for all transgender and gender non-conforming kids and adults.

I am at the beginning of this journey as the parent of a transgender child, as is my husband. It has been intense, overwhelming, humbling and extraordinary. It has been messy. It has been full of grace. People often assume we are disappointed or upset. They ask me if we are mourning the loss of our son. I had those moments. My husband has had his own grief and his own process, but for both of us, our grieving period was quite short because what we see makes so much sense. It's so right.

I often think back about those nine months when our child was neither boy nor girl to me but simply a growing baby. Perhaps that mindset allows me to recognize now that there is such freedom and relief in embracing my child, in honoring *her* as she defines herself and not being attached to some narrow definition of what normal is. There is a harmony and peace in her now that makes me gush love. My transgender child has brought transformation not just to herself but to our family, to our community and to her generation. Beyond

## Books for children and families:

- ***I Am Jazz***, by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNichols (Dial, 2014). Ages 4-8.
- ***Jacob's New Dress***, by Sarah and Ian Hoffman, illustrated by Chris Chase (Albert Whitman & Company, 2014). Ages 4-7.
- ***My Princess Boy***, by Cheryl Kilodavis, illustrated by Suzanne DeSimone (Aladdin, 2010). Ages 4-8.
- ***10,000 Dresses***, by Marcus Ewert, illustrated by Rex Ray (Triangle Square, 2018). Ages 5-9.
- ***When Kayla Was Kyle***, by Amy Fabrikant and Jennifer Levine (Avid Readers Publishing Group, 2013).

## Books for parents and educators:

- ***Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children***, by Diane Ehrensaft, Ph.D. (The Experiment, 2011).
- ***The Transgender Child: a Handbook for Families and Professionals***, by Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper (Cleis Press, 2008).
- ***Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children***, edited by Rachel Pepper (Cleis Press, 2012).

## Organizations:

- **Gender Spectrum:** Education, training and support. (510) 788-4412 info@genderspectrum.org, www.genderspectrum.org.
- **Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico:** Support groups, speakers and educational programs. (505)200-9086, www.tgrcnm.org.

and beneath the label "transgender" there is, more importantly, a unique, lovely child, a beautiful human being who knows she is seen, heard, loved and honored. I feel like I got to birth this child twice. Today, as I "come out" through this writing, I shout out with joy and pride, "It's a GIRL!"

.....  
*Devi Borton is the center director of the FAM JAM! Music Together program. She and her family live in Santa Fe. She can be reached at devraarden@me.com.*

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## PARKING THE FIRE TRUCK, *Spinning the Cocoon*

And other tips for helping children deal with grief and loss

By Katrina Koehler

**Shari was 14. She was in a lot of pain. I didn't** even need to know about the list of symptoms her father had described. I could see it in Shari's face, her shoulders, her eyes. As we sat in the group room together that first time, her despair was palpable. She had been suffering so much for so long that she had given up on feeling better. Talking about her mother, who had died two years before, was excruciating. Talking about how she felt was impossible.

One month later, I sat with Shari again. Instead of pain and hopelessness, she radiated vitality and relief. She was excited about her future. She eagerly talked about her memories of her mom, laughing through her tears, combining sadness and joy. Shari's father, Joe, was also awash in relief. He felt that he was getting his daughter back. Shari observed that not long before, if someone had told her she could feel this much better, *ever*, she wouldn't have believed it. All this had happened in a month.

How was such a profound metamorphosis possible in so short a time? Sometimes our grief gets bottled up, as Shari's had. What we need when this happens is to be held in safety and in complete acceptance. We need a cocoon.

When you are grieving a loss, any loss that is major enough for you, amidst all the suffering and confusion there will be at least one turning point, a time to fall apart. To picture this, think of a caterpillar's transformation. We all know that caterpillars enter cocoons and emerge as butterflies. But what happens in between? In some species, the caterpillar's body dissolves. Its body falls apart so completely that it transforms into a soupy substance that doesn't resemble a caterpillar in any way.

This liminal state is akin to the limbo of profound loss and grief. Once Shari's mother had died, Shari herself was no longer the same person she had been.



The girl she was, the life she had had before, was gone. When she came to Gerard's House, a center for grieving children and teens, she was not yet the person she was becoming either. She was in between.

When a caterpillar dissolves, it is not in control of what is happening or when. A natural process takes over once it's safe in its cocoon, but without a cocoon the caterpillar's metamorphosis is thwarted. How can it dissolve with nothing to hold it together?

Likewise, when a grieving child doesn't have a place to feel completely accepted and nurtured through all the feelings and changes that grief wants to take her through, the natural grief process often gets arrested or stuck. Dissolving without a cocoon is as extraordinarily unpleasant as it sounds.

It's not that Shari hadn't been grieving for the first two years after her mother died. She absolutely *was* grieving. She was heartbroken, devastated and angry, confused and sad, unable to think straight and experiencing many other feelings we associate with grief. She was also fighting the dissolving that was trying to happen. She was too scared to fall apart. In fact, this is what happens to most grieving kids and teenagers. Without a cocoon to hold her, would she be safe? What would happen to her? It's hard for anyone to let go into this change process without the right kind of support.

Shari had several concerned family members watching over her. Her father, Joe, was beside himself with worry and tried everything he knew. He told Shari from the beginning that she needed to talk about it to feel better. He tried to get her to spend time with friends from whom she had withdrawn. He asked her a lot of questions about how she was

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All services are provided free to recipients, thanks to donations from friends and neighbors. To learn more, call (505) 424-1800, and watch the short informational video online at [gerardshouse.org](http://gerardshouse.org).



Above: Children in a Gerard's House group for 3- to 6-year-olds, with their facilitator, write messages to the person in their life who died.  
 At left: Art activities include creating masks that reflect the child's emotional state. The two shown are "Flame and Tear" and "Holding It Together."

feeling, trying to figure out how to help her. Hoping to pass along some wisdom, he told Shari how he had made it through difficult times in his life and advised her to do the things that had worked for him. Finally, worried and exasperated, he told Shari she just needed to snap out of it. Everything he did revolved around trying to fix the situation, trying to get Shari to do something different. Joe was a loving dad. He just didn't know what Shari needed in this case.

Joe was being a fire truck. His daughter needed a cocoon.

During those two years after her mother died, Shari hoped that no one would know how much she was really hurting, because she didn't want to be pitied. She also didn't want the people who cared about her to worry or hover more than they already did. At the same time, she felt miserably alone and powerless and hoped that someone would find a way to reach her and know how to help her. Initially, she had hoped time would take care of her pain, but after two years it was getting worse. Finally she got desperate enough to agree to try a place her father told her about that specializes in helping children and teenagers who are grieving. And then there we were, sitting in the group room at Gerard's House.

Here's how we created a cocoon for Shari. First, we let go of our need to help her, focusing instead on creating the best possible conditions for her to feel safe and nurtured. We told her she didn't have to talk if she didn't want to. We let her know that the painful and confusing thoughts and feelings she had been having since her mother died were normal grief reactions, and that being with other teenagers who were also grieving might help her feel less alone and less confused.

We told her that we were not going to try to change her or even make her feel better. Instead, we let her know we trusted her to know how to go through this process. We would be by her side, listening and accepting her, however she felt, with no judgment, advice or pressure. We would offer her ways to work through her grief and she would be able to choose what she wanted to do. Shari was off the hook.

At Shari's first session at Gerard's House, she decided to write privately about how her mother's death had affected her. She chose not to share this but folded it up into a tiny square and put it in her pocket. Before the session ended, she lit a candle in honor of her mother. Her whispered "I miss you" brought a lot of tears. Then she let the candle burn, gazing at it for a long time. She didn't have to do this alone. She had a facilitator by her side, giving her time in silence and letting her cry. The facilitator was okay with letting Shari be very, very sad. She didn't need Shari to do anything at all. The facilitator acted as a cocoon.

In her next session, Shari painted a picture. On one side of the page was her life before her mom died, and on the other side, her life after. A blooming, sunny world had become a scorched wasteland, devoid of life. She talked about what it had been like to lose her best friend, her mom. After this session, Shari felt ready to come to the weekly support group with other grieving teenagers. She listened as her peers talked about their week and shared feelings about their loved ones

who had died. She played a game with the group that revealed how much she had in common with other group members, and found that she felt especially connected to two other girls.

At the next weekly session, when she decided she was ready, she talked about her mom, what she missed about her. That evening she made a collage about her grief. Eventually, she was ready to write a letter to her mom. The letter came out as poem, which she read to the group. All of this happened in four weeks. Shari wasn't done grieving at the end of this month. In some ways, her journey of grief was just beginning, but the worst was over. The grief process that Shari had feared would be unbearable was, in the end, her ally. Well on her way now, she was becoming a butterfly that had once been a caterpillar, beginning to fly.

When you're a parent, there are times when your child is suffering and you need to intervene. If someone is harming your child, you need to take action to protect your child. This is the time to be a fire truck. Sirens are appropriate!

There are other times when your child is suffering and what she needs, instead of rescuing or protecting, is acceptance, love and space for the process. Grief is one of those times. This is the time to be a cocoon.

Here's how you can create a cocoon for a grieving child or teenager:

- **Let go of your need to rescue your child.** Unless there is something urgent going on in addition to the grief, keep the fire truck in the garage and turn the sirens off.
- **For the moment, let go of your need for your child to be happy.** By allowing their sadness, anger or fear, you are giving them space for a healing transformation. Remember that your child or teenager knows how to do this, whether they realize it or not.
- **Create an opportunity for them to feel safe, accepted and listened to.** Create this space when they are with you, and help them to get this in other ways as they need.
- **Give them permission to be exactly where they are.** You probably already realize this, but you cannot take their suffering away when they are grieving. You can give them permission to be exactly where they are. By holding that space for them, by maintaining the safe walls of the cocoon, you can support the healing that allows them to grieve.

*Katrina Koehler is the executive director of Gerard's House, a center for grieving children.*

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## A Floor for Molly

Community fills cracks in substandard public policy

Story and photos by Nina Bunker Ruiz

### One weekend in October, I'd promised to help my friend

Molly lay a brick floor. Molly was a new mother, living in a converted garage with a crude floor that felt unsafe for putting her baby down to sleep, play and eventually learn to crawl and walk. I had offered to gather up a work crew, but I'd been hit with an especially untimely chest cold and a sore shoulder from a recent tumble when I was out walking my dogs. I worried I'd be more in the way than useful.

On top of that, the weekend that worked for my family and for Molly's didn't seem to work for anyone I had tried to enlist for help. So, it came down to just my husband, JJ, who was the only one of our small crew with brick-laying experience; Molly, who would also be caring for her 10-month-old daughter; and me, functioning at barely half my usual capacity.

JJ had spent the week making lists and supply runs, and reviewing his notes over and over again to work out the trickier details. Our biggest concern was that the project had to be finished on Sunday evening, because JJ and I would have to be back to work on Monday, and Molly and her family couldn't live in their house until the project was complete. Friday evening, I found myself sitting at the dining room table wondering how it was all going to work.

So I did what I often do when I'm in a pickle. I called my dad.

He quickly offered to make the two-hour drive from his home to Santa Fe to help, but it wasn't so much my worries that compelled him to come. It was the story I told him about Molly and her baby.

Molly (who asked that we not use her last name) was my children's beloved first- and second-grade teacher. Her baby was born during my younger daughter's second-grade year. Molly took the Santa Fe Public Schools' standard 12-week maternity leave, but a series of events made it hard for her to return to her teaching job.

Maternity leave for Santa Fe Public School teachers is unpaid. Molly and her husband had to save for months to brace for the resulting loss of income. Meanwhile, however, Molly was locked into her school-based health insurance. This meant that even though she was receiving no income, she still had to pay for the insurance every month — insurance that covered only half the cost of the birth. This was especially frustrating for Molly because if she hadn't been locked into her insurance she would have qualified for Medicaid, which would have covered the full cost of her child's birth. Consequently, Molly and her husband faced an enormous hospital bill.

At the end of three months' leave, Molly was prepared neither to pay the exorbitant cost of putting a 3-month-old baby in full-time childcare (which, even at one of the less expensive centers, would be nearly \$1,000 a month), nor to be away from her baby for eight to 10 hours a day, five days a week. Because Molly's position with the Santa Fe Public Schools was only held for her for the 12 weeks of her leave, she felt she didn't have any choice but to resign. "It was smarter not to work," she told me grimly.

Ultimately, Molly traded her job as a full-time teacher for a part-time position as an education coordinator, which allows her and her husband to tag-team childcare. She calculates that she nets more with this arrangement than if she taught full-time and paid for full-time childcare. Neither plan, however, left Molly and her husband enough to cover their mortgage.





Molly and her family rented out their home and moved into their converted garage, with a cracked, sloping concrete floor. Hard, rough and uneven, it was an unforgiving surface for a child learning to sit up and crawl. How, I wondered, could someone who had worked so tirelessly for so many Santa Fe kids not have something as basic as a finished floor for her own child?

Many of the parents at our school felt the same way, but when it came to actually scheduling the weekend, most simply were not available to help. Hence, the call to my father.

My dad is a retired high school teacher. Molly's story, and the broader picture that teachers are so poorly cared for, made him bristle. So, he came down from his home in Chacon to help my husband start leveling sand for the bricks. I sent out one last pleading email to the other parents saying that just a couple of extra hours of help would make a huge difference. But time was running out.

*If you build it, they will come.*

What happened next felt like a Field-of-Dreams moment. Maybe my dad started the magic with his spontaneous willingness to drive two hours to Santa Fe and help lay the floor of a woman he had never met. Maybe a good fairy felt pity for the small, scrambling crew. No doubt the magic had a lot to do with Molly's unflagging commitment to our school's students and community. A friend came unexpectedly to lend a hand — literally *one* hand, but a whole-heartedly welcome and useful hand nonetheless. Linda came despite an injury that left her with only one usable arm, bringing lunch for hungry workers and offering to watch the baby while Molly pushed wheelbarrows of sand. Ariel came next and helped unload sand from the truck. Anna came late in the afternoon and moved half the bricks from the driveway to the work site by herself, while a heap of kids played in a pile of sand beside her. Lyn and Antoine, who were bogged down with their own home project, pitched in by buying everyone Vietnamese take-out for dinner. The next day more volunteers came: Jan-Willem, Rosie, Rowan, Ariel and Pieta moved the rest of the bricks. Ellen, Julia, Anna and Elena helped lay the bricks, and Justin and Randi shaved hours off the workday by helping JJ cut bricks. By six o'clock on Sunday evening the floor was down, and it was beautiful.

The community outpouring that made Molly's floor possible was incredible. And yet, its necessity is infuriating. The Santa Fe Public School District follows the 1993 U.S. Family and Medical Leave Act, which offers some meager protection to employees with families (at least for the 60 percent of workers who qualify), but it's not enough. The hard truth is that unpaid family leave creates financial hardship for parents. In 2008, the Center for Economic and Policy Research reviewed the parental leave policies of 21 high-income countries. The U.S. ranked 20<sup>th</sup> out of those 21. Molly wonders what teachers who don't have a garage to move into do when they decide to have children. She thinks about a number of colleagues and friends and worries, "People are barely scraping by. How can teachers save enough?"

Teachers in Santa Fe work so hard for our kids, for so little, only to be dumped when they're ready to have their own. This is *bad policy*. Teachers starting their own families should be supported, at the very least, with 12 weeks paid leave, job protection for a year and the freedom to choose their medical insurance. This would have made an enormous difference for Molly and her family, and our school wouldn't have lost an excellent teacher. The current policy is especially discouraging in a school setting, where the first order of business should be helping promote healthy families and children.

On the bright side, a lesson the brick-laying crew learned that weekend in October is that we can make small changes in our community by pooling our resources and putting in collective elbow grease. Everyone who came and helped had a good time. The sense of camaraderie and spirit of helpfulness made everyone grin. Not a soul left Molly's house without expressing what a wonderful experience they had. Even the jumbly-tumbly circus of kids had a grand time losing trowels, scattering sand and laying a few bricks.

At the end of it all, my friend Anna smacked her lips, rubbed her hands together and asked, "So, who's got the next project?"

Molly had to leave before the last few bricks were laid. By the time she returned we had all gone. The final bricks were in place, the floor was swept and the space was transformed. Later that evening, she left a message on our phone. "It's so beautiful," she said in a quavering voice that reverberated against the bare walls, ceiling and floor, "I don't know how to thank you all." Her baby babbled in the background. Even with the worries, scattered lists and weekend crunch — that message made the whole project worth it.

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*Nina Bunker Ruiz is Tumbleweeds' staff writer and mother of two.*

*Got a Noisy Acorn? This column promotes individual, community or legislative actions to advocate for the wellbeing of children and families. Call 984-3171 or email [info@sftumbleweeds.com](mailto:info@sftumbleweeds.com).*

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# Making Amends

Admitting mistakes builds a stronger relationship with your kids

By Shabd Simran Adeniji

Photo by Nina Bunker Ruiz

## Have you ever noticed how many times adults

tell children to “Say you’re sorry”? We do this particularly often with younger children, who are just beginning to learn concepts of consideration and manners. We might tell children to apologize when they have done something hurtful to another person, or perhaps we find ourselves saying this all day long when siblings are in relentless battles.

Saying “I’m sorry” is hard for kids, and it’s not necessarily any easier for adults. Admitting when we are wrong may not always feel good, but it is often the best thing to do. Though it can make us feel vulnerable to admit a mistake, apologizing is an incredibly useful skill for children to develop. As they become aware of how their actions affect others, they learn to be compassionate to other’s experiences and feelings — and frankly it’s much easier to create and keep friendships when you are willing to admit your mistakes, apologize and move forward.

In a Positive Parenting class I taught recently at a Santa Fe school, I brought up the idea of parents apologizing when we lose our temper, behave badly towards our children, or know we could have handled a situation better. As I spoke about this topic most of the participants just stared back blankly, and the mood in the room got a little tense. I asked the group if any of them had been raised in a household where the parents apologized when they were in the wrong. Two out of 15 raised their hands. One woman said that her mom apologized for everything, so apologies meant very little to her. The others described various scenarios in their early home life that were not conducive to showing vulnerability: “Dad was too proud to apologize.” “Mom hated being wrong.” “We just swept it under the rug.” “Culturally it’s not okay to say ‘sorry’; it makes you look weak.” As with any behavior we want to change, breaking out of an inherited pattern of thinking and embracing a new approach with our own children can be tough. Yet it might

help to recognize that admitting mistakes is not a sign of weakness but rather a sign of being human.

The discussion in class got me thinking: What’s so threatening about admitting we are wrong? Why do we always need to be right as parents? In a basic way, we are leaders to our children, guiding them through life, showing them how to be successful in this big wide world. But a leader who can’t admit his or her own mistakes borders on being a dictator. Imagine your boss ignoring a major mistake he or she made but calling you out on your errors. It doesn’t feel fair, and frankly it’s a little confusing — especially for kids.

Admitting we are wrong takes courage, as well as the confidence to know that we can still preserve the respect of our children when we make mistakes. We don’t always get it right; sometimes we behave badly, say or do things we wish we hadn’t, but when we ignore those moments and pretend they didn’t happen, we are giving our kids permission to do the same. And we are missing an important teaching opportunity. Children are natural copycats! They imitate what we do, more than what we tell them to do.

When we give a sincere apology, not only are we role-modeling how to acknowledge our mistakes and take responsibility for them, we are also demonstrating our concern and love for our kids and paying attention to how our actions affect them. Kids can often tell when a parent knows that they did something wrong, which provides a crucial moment to demonstrate how to deal with those difficult feelings and situations. Do we sweep them under the rug, or are we accountable for our behavior?

Acknowledging the importance of admitting to our children when we are wrong is hard enough. How do we go about doing it?

### Five Tips for Apologizing to Your Kids

**1) Give yourself a time out.** Prevent the need for an apology by trying to catch yourself *before* you say the wrong thing. You might say “I can feel myself

getting angry, and I need to calm down before I can talk to you about this. I'll be outside for a minute." Taking a break before you lose it can save you and your child the trauma of getting into a bigger conflict. This is also an important role-modeling exercise for controlling temper.

**2) Don't apologize for every little thing.** Apologies are taken seriously when they are authentic and genuine. Don't apologize for the little things that are out of your control, such as, "I'm sorry I ran out of your favorite cereal," or "I'm sorry it's raining and we can't go out."

**3) Apologize for how you behaved, not for who you are.** You might say: "I'm sorry for how I treated you. I lost my temper and I know it doesn't feel good when I yell at you," versus, "I'm such a bad mom, I know I shouldn't yell at you, I'm a horrible person." Focus on behavior, because that is changeable! Then when you say you will "work on it" or change something, be sure to follow through. This is where an apology transforms into meaningful amends. Without follow-through, children will recognize that the apology is empty.

**4) With older children, elicit their help.** Asking, "What could I have done differently in this situation?" shows respect. Listen to their suggestions and consider

them. This is also a chance to ask them, "What could *you* have done differently?" This way, you can both look at how you can improve the situation.

**5) Admit you were wrong and move on.** We all make mistakes, and your child will respect you more for admitting when you mess up. You might say, "I don't feel good about how I handled the situation earlier today. I could have been more patient with you. I'm sorry." If your older child or teen tries to engage in a debate or discussion about your actions, keep it simple — "I recognize that I didn't handle it well, and I am sorry" — and then move on. Don't engage in discussion that baits you into getting angry again. Remember, you are setting an example for your kids.

You're not a perfect parent; no one is! If you don't like how you behaved, reflect on what triggered you to react as you did and think about what you might do differently next time. Creating a realistic plan in your mind helps to change the pattern of the knee-jerk reaction that may be your old programming. Better yet, write it down or commit to it out loud.

Apologies are very healing, and they demonstrate that you see a situation from your child's point of view. Just remember that "I'm sorry" loses its meaning if we are always saying it or if we don't actually follow through with changes in our behaviors. Role-modeling how to apologize for mistakes shows your courage to face your mistakes and move on. Your

children will respect you for being honest and for being accountable for your actions. An apology followed by action is a practical demonstration of love to a child. What a gift to give your kids! Then stand back and see if they give it back to you!

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*Shabd "Simran" Andeniji, BA, BM, MPH, has worked with families for nine years, employing a common-sense approach that helps parents make individual choices that fit their particular family needs. For parenting support or to attend a free Positive Parenting class, contact her at (505) 552-2454, [www.mynurturingsolutions.com](http://www.mynurturingsolutions.com) or [info@mynurturingsolutions.com](mailto:info@mynurturingsolutions.com).*

## Resources

- **Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting**, by Myla Kabat-Zinn and Jon Kabat-Zinn (Hyperion, 1998). Honest, down-to-earth insights about how to make mindful choices while parenting, even in the most challenging moments.
- **"I Can't Believe I Said That!"** This PBS Parents article offers more strategies for apologizing to children. [www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/apologize.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/apologize.html).
- **Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child**, by John Gottman and Joan Declaire (Simon & Schuster, 1998). Encouragement and guidance for parents who wish to raise children who can understand and regulate their emotions.

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# self-care for stress reduction

It's as natural as breathing • By Amy Wong Hope

**Kim, a 9-year-old client of mine, spoke quickly** and was barely breathing as she described the bullies at her school who had surrounded her at recess.

"They were calling me a spaz and a baby, and I noticed I got real hot," Kim sputtered.

"Where did you feel hot?" I asked. She pointed to her palms and then circled her face.

"And then I took a deep breath, like when I swim. And then I let it out, slow, like we do here."

"And then what happened?"

"And then I felt cooler."

"Where?" I asked again. She pointed to her forehead, then circled her entire head and pointed to her hands.

"And then I said to them, 'That's not nice. You're mean! I don't have to listen to you!' And I left."

Kim had initially come to me several months before. Every week she'd arrive in tears, describing these bullying events. We practiced noticing how anxiety felt in her body and using breath work and other exercises to help her develop her own "lily pad" to land on, catch a breath and decide what she needed most at that moment. Sometimes she rolled her eyes as she practiced the breath work, but she was always a good sport.

And here in this one instant, she turned that practice into action, in the "storm." As Kim finished her story, I noticed she wasn't breathless anymore but standing confidently with a hand on her hip. I asked, "What about now, what do you notice about your energy right now?"

"I don't know, but it feels good!"

"Where?" I asked.

"All over!"

## the benefits of breathing

Bullying is just one of many potential stressors for children. Academic pressure, busy schedules and the relatively new anxieties presented by social media all contribute to the list of worries children and teens face. Kids

are often engaged in extracurricular activities in the afternoons after a full day at school. Social media adds a public aspect to it all that can increase peer pressure, intensify the need for perfection and make kids vulnerable to cyber-bullying.

With the pressure to do more and to do it all perfectly, there is little time or attention paid to the skills of self-care — an absolute necessity for healthy development.

If you or your child has never tried to work with the breath, it might feel intimidating. You might wonder: "Do I have to sit cross-legged for an hour every day to get any benefit?" The answer is *no!* Just as you take a few moments to

brush your teeth twice a day, basic breath work can be done in under a minute and incorporated into your daily routine. With practice it can become a valuable tool when stressful situations arise.

## checking in

First, explore emotions and sensations during non-crisis moments. Help your child or teen observe and identify his or her current state. By doing so, you'll help them develop an awareness of their body, thoughts and emotions, and you both will have a language to use during the storms. The check-in questions below help children focus on the sensations in their bodies and label their emotions or thoughts.

1) Ask your child: "How big is your energy right now? Is it big (hold arms out wide), medium (shoulder-width), or tiny (hold your thumb and forefinger an inch apart), or another size?" For teens, ask: "How's your energy today? Huge (as in as big as this room), medium (like the seat at the table), or small (like a coffee mug), or another size?"

2) Ask: "Where is the energy?" Ask them to point with a finger and circle it.

3) Say: "What's it like? What sensations do you notice?" If they have trouble, ask the shape, color, size, texture and temperature of the sensation, or share one sensation you notice in yourself: "I notice tightness in my stomach here (point)." If your



Photo by Nina Bunker Ruiz

Nessa Yanda practices belly breaths to relax before a dance recital.

child identifies big energy in the stomach or head, the accompanying sensation might be “butterflies” or “jittery.”

4) Ask: “What might be the thought or feeling for this?” It’s very important to let your child or teen discover and identify their thoughts and feelings on their own. If they are struggling, ask if they want some help and offer a menu of choices: “Is it nervousness, worry, excitement or something else?”

These questions might work for you and your child, or you may want to come up with your own. The point is just to be curious enough for your child or teen to explore his or her physical sensations and the emotions and thoughts associated with them.

## using the breath

Try the exercises below on your own before introducing them to your child or teen. Each practice only takes a minute. Then tuck them anywhere in your child’s routine: before or after dinner or breakfast, upon waking up or before bed, or before or after a homework session. Gradually practice at other times when you and your child anticipate anxiety: before a test, a big game or performance; being around new friends, and so forth. Ask your child or teen when they might expect jittery or anxious feelings to pop up during the week, and encourage them to practice when they’re on their own.

### Exercise 1: Simple belly-breath

When we are anxious, our breath becomes shallow and we do not use all of our breathing muscles in the diaphragm. Shallow breath reduces the oxygen to our brain, which, in turn, makes us more tense. This exercise can help you and your child develop an awareness of the breathing muscles and how to use them.

Belly breaths give our nervous system the oxygen needed to de-escalate the spiral of anxiety.

1) Use the check-in questions above to help your child notice any tension and sensations they are experience in the moment. Give your child the following instructions, and follow along yourself:

2) Sitting or lying down in a quiet place, place your left hand on your chest and right hand on your belly. Close your eyes, if you feel comfortable doing that.

3) Inhale through your nose and fill your belly with breath. Feel your left hand rise slightly as air passes through your chest and your right hand rise more so as you fill your belly with breath.

4) Exhale through your nose. Feel your hands recede as you exhale completely.

5) Repeat this breath three times.

6) Check in with yourself and your child. Ask them to scan from head to toe. Ask them if they notice any changes in tension or sensation.

### Exercise Two: Sighing Breath

Sometimes breathing is difficult if you’re already anxious. By making the breath active, you can then exhale more easily. Sighs are natural way to release tension and activate the relaxation-response in your nervous system.

1) Repeat step 1 and 2 from the simple belly breath exercise.

2) Sniff in through your nose for four short sniffs to fill up your belly.

3) Exhale completely in one long breath (you can experiment with releasing a verbal sigh). Let your body become a ragdoll.

4) Repeat this three times.

5) Repeat step six above.

Remember to keep these exercises short and

fun. Find out which ones your child or teen likes or didn’t like. Maybe even try a class. Experiment, be curious, play — and breathe!

## places to practice breath work:

**Family Sangha:** The Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha holds family meditation classes every other month, open to anyone. Adults and children ages 3 and up start together in the meditation hall, then kids leave for an art project, songs, snacks and mindfulness activities and return to the hall for a closing activity. Winter sessions: December 14 and February 1 from 3 to 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$10. Call Teri Hackler, 982-0304, or email [terihackler@gmail.com](mailto:terihackler@gmail.com) for more information.

**Mindfulness Classes for Kids:** Beehive Kids Books, 328 Montezuma Avenue in Santa Fe, offers a five-session mindfulness class several times a year, for children ages 4 and up and parents, Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$12 for drop-ins, or \$50 for the series. For the next start date, go to [beehivebooks.com/category/events](http://beehivebooks.com/category/events), or call (505) 780-8051.

**Yoga in the Schools:** Santa Fe Community Yoga offers classes in local public and private schools, with a special curriculum designed to address school stress; contact Moriah Arnold, 820-9363. Middle- and high-school students can attend any yoga class for free at The Santa Fe Community Yoga Center, 826 Camino del Monte Rey, Suite B-1, Santa Fe. [santafecommunityyoga.org](http://santafecommunityyoga.org), **820-9363**.

*Amy Wong Hope is a licensed independent clinical social worker and psychotherapist and certified Kundalini yoga teacher, located in Santa Fe. Learn more about her work at [www.resilientwithin.com](http://www.resilientwithin.com).*



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## ¡LO SIENTO!

Admitir errores fortalece la relación con nuestros hijos

Por Shabd Simran Adeniji • Traducción por Flor de María Oliva

### ¿Se ha dado cuenta cuántas veces les decimos

a nuestros hijos: “Disculpate”? Lo hacemos particularmente con los niños chiquitos, que recién empiezan a aprender conceptos de consideración y buenos modales. Podemos decirles que digan “Lo siento” cuando han hecho algo que hiera a otra persona o talvez nos encontramos diciéndoselo todo el tiempo cuando las peleas entre hermanos son incesantes.

Disculparse es difícil para los niños y no necesariamente más fácil para los adultos. Admitir que estamos equivocados puede que no nos haga sentir siempre bien, pero con frecuencia es lo mejor que se puede hacer. A pesar de que admitir un error puede hacernos sentir vulnerables, disculparse es una habilidad increíblemente útil para que los niños la desarrollen. Conforme van entendiendo la forma en la cual lo que hacen afecta a otros, aprenden a tener compasión de los sentimientos y experiencias de los demás y, francamente, es más fácil crear y mantener amistades cuando uno está dispuesto a admitir sus errores, disculparse y seguir adelante.

En una clase de crianza positiva que acabo de enseñar en una escuela de Santa Fe, mencioné la idea de que los padres nos disculpemos cuando perdemos los estribos, nos comportamos mal con nuestros hijos o nos damos cuenta que pudimos haber manejado mejor la situación. Cuando estaba hablando de esto la mayor parte de los participantes parecía no entender y el ambiente en la sala se puso un poquito tenso. Les pregunté si alguno había sido criado en un hogar donde los padres se disculpaban cuando estaban equivocados. Dos de 15 levantaron la mano. Una mujer dijo que su madre se disculpaba por todo, así es que sus disculpas no tenían mucho valor para ella. Los otros describieron varios escenarios en su vida de niños que no eran propicios para mostrar vulnerabilidad: “[Mi] papá era muy orgulloso como para decir ‘lo siento’”. “[Mi] mamá odiaba estar equivocada”. “Nosotros sólo lo ocultábamos”. “Culturalmente no está bien pedir disculpas; hace que uno se vea débil”. Como con cualquier comportamiento, queremos cambiar, romper el círculo vicioso de esta forma heredada de pensar y adoptar un nuevo enfoque con nuestros niños puede ser duro. Aun así ayuda reconocer que admitir errores no es señal de

debilidad sino que es una señal de ser humanos.

La discusión en la clase me hizo preguntarme: “¿Qué es lo peligroso de admitir que nos hemos equivocado? ¿Por qué es que siempre tenemos que estar en lo correcto como padres? En una forma muy básica, somos líderes para nuestros hijos; los guiamos en la vida, les mostramos cómo tener éxito en este mundo. Pero un líder que no puede admitir sus errores es casi un dictador. Imagínese que su jefe no admita un error mayor que él haya cometido pero que ponga en evidencia los suyos. No parece justo y, francamente, es un poco confuso, especialmente para los niños.

Admitir que estamos equivocados requiere valor al igual que la confianza de saber que todavía así podemos preservar el respeto de nuestros hijos cuando cometemos errores. No siempre nos sale todo bien, a veces nos portamos mal, o decimos o hacemos cosas que quisiéramos no haber dicho o hecho, pero cuando pasamos por alto esos momentos y hacemos como que si no hubieran sucedido, le estamos dando permiso a nuestros hijos a hacer lo mismo. Además, perdemos la oportunidad de inculcarles algo importante. ¡Los niños lo copian todo! Imitan lo que hacemos más que lo que les decimos que hagan.

Cuando decimos “lo siento” con sinceridad no sólo estamos sirviendo de modelos de cómo admitir errores y haciéndonos responsables de nuestros errores, sino que también estamos demostrando nuestra preocupación y amor a nuestros hijos y poniendo atención a la forma en la cual lo que hacemos los afecta. Casi siempre los niños se dan cuenta de cuando el papá o la mamá sabe que está equivocado-a, lo cual provee un momento crucial para demostrar la forma de enfrentar esos sentimientos o situaciones difíciles. ¿Los ocultamos

o nos hacemos responsables de nuestro comportamiento?

Reconocer la importancia de admitir a nuestros hijos que nos hemos equivocado es ya de por sí lo suficientemente duro. ¿Cómo hacerlo?

### Cinco sugerencias para disculparse con sus hijos:

1) **Tome una pausa.** Evite la necesidad de una disculpa tratando de darse cuenta *antes* de decir lo incorrecto. Podría decir: “Puedo sentir que me estoy enojando y necesito calmarme antes de poder hablar contigo de esto. Voy a estar



Lyn Martel, con su hija Ania, descubre que admitir cuando nos comportamos mal da permiso a nuestros hijos a emularnos.

afuera un ratito”. Tomarse unos minutos antes de perder los estribos puede ahorrarle a usted y a su hijo el trauma de meterse en un conflicto mayor. Este es también un ejercicio importante para modelar el control de temperamento.

2) **No se disculpe por todo.** Las disculpas se toman en serio cuando son auténticas y genuinas. No se disculpe por todas las pequeñeces que están fuera de su control, como por ejemplo: “Disculpa que me acabé tu cereal favorito”, o “Siento mucho que esté lloviendo y no podamos salir”.

3) **Discúlpese por la forma en que actuó no por lo que usted es.** Podría decir: “Siento mucho la forma en que te traté. Perdí el control y sé que no se siente bien cuando te gritó”, en lugar de decir: “Soy una mamá tan mala, sé que no debería gritarte, soy una persona horrible”. Enfóquese en el comportamiento porque eso se puede cambiar. Y cuando diga que usted va “a esforzarse” para cambiar algo, asegúrese de hacerlo. Es así como una disculpa se transforma en un desagravio significativo. Sin cumplir lo ofrecido, los niños reconocen que la disculpa no tiene valor.

4) **Con niños mayores, pídeles ayuda.** Al preguntarles: “¿Qué podría yo haber hecho diferente en esta situación?” usted muestra respeto. Escuche sus sugerencias y considérelas. Esto también ofrece la oportunidad de preguntarles: “¿Qué podrías tú haber hecho diferente?” De esta manera los dos pueden ver cómo pueden mejorar la situación.

5) **Admita que estuvo equivocado y siga adelante.** Todos cometemos errores y su hijo lo respetará más por admitir cuando usted ha fallado. Usted podría decir: “No me siento bien con la forma en que manejé la situación hace un rato. Podría haber sido más paciente contigo. Lo siento”. Si su niño mayor o adolescente trata de entrar en un debate o discusión sobre la forma en que usted

## MATERIALES ÚTILES

- **Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting [Bendiciones cotidianas: El trabajo interior de la crianza consciente]** por Myla Kabat-Zinn y Jon Kabat-Zinn (Hyperion, 1998). Puntos de vista honestos y realistas sobre cómo tomar decisiones conscientes al criar a los hijos, hasta en los momentos más difíciles.
- **“I Can’t Believe I Said That!” [“¡No puedo creer que dije eso!”]** Este artículo de PBS ofrece más estrategias para disculparse con los hijos. [www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/apologize.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/apologize.html).
- **Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child [Cómo criar hijos inteligentes emocionalmente]** por John Gottman y Joan DeClaire (Simon & Schuster, 1998). **Ánimo y guía para los padres que desean criar hijos que pueden entender y controlar sus emociones.**

actuó, mantenga la situación simple – “Reconozco que no lo manejé bien y lo siento” – y siga adelante. No se meta en la discusión que puede hacer que usted se enoje nuevamente. Recuerde, usted está dando un ejemplo a sus hijos.

Usted no es perfecto como padre de familia; ¡nadie lo es! Si no le gusta la forma en que se comportó, reflexione en lo que puede haber ocasionado su reacción y piense en lo que podría hacer diferente la próxima vez. Formular un plan realista mentalmente ayuda a cambiar el patrón de reacciones precipitadas que pueden ser su costumbre de actuar. Mejor todavía: póngalo por escrito o comprométase en voz alta a seguir el plan.

Las disculpas sanan y demuestran que uno ve la situación desde el punto de vista del hijo. Pero recuerde que “Lo siento” pierde su significado si lo decimos todo el tiempo o si en realidad no seguimos la disculpa con cambios en nuestro comportamiento. Modelar

formas de disculparnos por errores muestra nuestro valor para enfrentarnos a nuestros errores y seguir adelante. Sus hijos lo respetarán por ser honesto y asumir responsabilidad por sus acciones. Una disculpa seguida por una acción es una demostración práctica de amor a un hijo. ¡Qué regalo para los hijos! ¡Luego verá cómo le corresponden!

*Shabd “Simran” Andeniji ha trabajado con familias por nueve años, usando un enfoque de sentido común que ayuda a los padres a tomar decisiones personales que responden a las necesidades particulares de su familia. Para obtener apoyo como padre de familia o asistir a una de sus clases, comuníquese con ella en el (505) 552-2454, o [www.mynurturingsolutions.com](http://www.mynurturingsolutions.com) o [info@mynurturingsolutions.com](mailto:info@mynurturingsolutions.com).*

STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT									
SURVEY RESULTS FOR 2013/2014 - THE MASTER PROGRAM DISTRICT OFFICE QUESTIONS									
#	Question Pregunta	Level Nivel	Strongly Agree Absolutamente de Acuerdo	Agree De acuerdo	Disagree No de Acuerdo	Strongly Disagree Absolutamente en Desacuerdo	Do Not Know No Sé	No Opinion Ninguna Opinión	Total Responses Respuestas Totales
1	My child is safe at school. <i>Mi hijo(a) está seguro(a) en la escuela.</i>	State	57 64%	30 34%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	0 0%	88 100%
2	My child's school building is in good repair and has sufficient space to support quality education. <i>Las instalaciones escolares están en buen estado y proveen suficiente espacio para facilitar una educación de calidad.</i>	State	67 76%	20 22%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	88 100%
3	My child's school holds high expectations for academic achievement. <i>La escuela de mi hijo(a) tiene altas expectativas académicas.</i>	State	69 78%	17 19%	0 0%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%	88 100%
4	School personnel encourage me to participate in my child's education. <i>El personal escolar me anima a participar en la educación de mi hijo(a).</i>	State	64 72%	24 27%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	88 100%
5	The school offers adequate access to up-to-date computers and technologies. <i>La escuela ofrece acceso adecuado a las computadoras modernas y a la tecnología, en general.</i>	State	66 75%	21 23%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	88 100%
6	School staff maintains consistent discipline which is conducive to learning. <i>El personal escolar mantiene una disciplina consistente que fomenta el aprendizaje.</i>	State	62 70%	20 22%	2 2%	0 0%	2 2%	2 2%	88 100%
7	My child has an adequate choice of school-sponsored extracurricular activities. <i>Mi hijo(a) tiene acceso a una selección adecuada de actividades no académicas patrocinadas por la escuela.</i>	State	41 46%	30 34%	10 11%	1 1%	1 1%	5 5%	88 100%
8	My child's teacher provides sufficient and appropriate information regarding my child's academic progress. <i>El maestro(a) de mi hijo(a) ofrece información suficiente y apropiada sobre el progreso académico de mi hijo(a).</i>	State	58 65%	26 29%	3 3%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	88 100%
9	The school staff employs various instructional methods and strategies to meet my child's needs. <i>El personal escolar emplea una variedad de estrategias y métodos pedagógicos para cumplir con las necesidades de mi hijo(a).</i>	State	54 61%	32 36%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	1 1%	88 100%
10	My child takes responsibility for his, or her, learning. <i>Mi hijo(a) se hace responsable de su propio aprendizaje.</i>	State	46 52%	31 35%	4 4%	1 1%	1 1%	5 5%	88 100%

# SAVE THE DATE

## NDI NEW MEXICO'S WINTER DANCE ESCAPE

February 27, 28 and March 1, 2015

Featuring our advanced dancers performing work choreographed by **Cirque du Soleil Artistic Director, FABRICE LEMIRE**

With Special permission from the Balanchine Trust, Company Xcel Dancers perform **George Balanchine's Valse Fantaisie!**

Original work by Tom Porras, Tara Debevec, Donna Scheer and Allegra Lillard

**Tickets onsale February 2**

**WWW.DANCEBARN.COM**

1140 Alto Street | Santa Fe, NM 87501



## THE GIFT OF *Presence*



Love, listening and care make priceless presents

By Rev. Talitha Arnold

### **A friend of mine, a single dad, felt completely**

overwhelmed several years ago by the pressure to make Christmas “perfect” for his daughter. “I couldn’t do it,” he said. “I didn’t have the money to buy all the gifts she wanted, I didn’t have the time to do all the decorating, and I sure couldn’t provide the ‘perfect family.’”

The December his daughter turned 8, he decided to start a new custom. Once a week before bed, they read the Christmas story together and then talked about the different characters. “We imagined what it must have felt like to be Joseph or Mary,” he said, “and not have life turn out like you planned, and have to take a long journey and look for shelter in a strange town.” By the time Christmas came, “We’d realized that nothing was perfect the first Christmas, but there was still love and light all around. Maybe that was true for us, too. Even if the house wasn’t decorated, there weren’t a lot of gifts and our family wasn’t ‘perfect,’ we still had a lot of love and light.

“It was the best Christmas ever,” he said, brushing away a tear. “From then on we did it every December. Even after she went away to college, we’d take an evening when she came home to share the Christmas story and our own stories. Neither of us can remember the actual gifts we’ve given one another each Christmas, but we’ve never forgotten those times together.”

Every year at this time, we are bombarded with ads of things that promise (for a price) to make our children ecstatic and feel loved. Increasingly our culture uses the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah and even the winter solstice to urge us to buy happiness for our children by buying presents. To keep that bombardment at bay, I try to remember that what our children and youth need most of all are not the presents we purchase, but the gift of our *presence* in their lives.

These winter months provide many ways to offer that presence. For Native Americans, winter is the time for storytelling, when the elders share their

wisdom with the young and offer their love for future generations. It’s also the time for feast days and the gathering of the whole community to remember the Creator’s presence.

Similarly, celebrations of the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, offer the opportunity to join with others of all ages to give thanks for the presence of light in our world and in our lives. One friend lights candles with her family on December 21, each one symbolizing someone for whom they give special thanks that year. Another friend took her children each year on a solstice night hike. When the children were little, they simply walked around the neighborhood after it got dark. As the children got older, they ventured out on one of Santa Fe’s many trails. Whether down their street or farther afield, their night hikes were a chance to unplug from computers and phones and be present to one another. “Walking together as a family through the darkness,” my friend recalled, “was a way to remember both the gift of light in this world and the gift of our presence in each others’ lives.”

For Jews and Christians, December’s holy days of Hanukkah and Christmas offer similar opportunities to share the gift of presence — through the remembrance of God’s presence in difficult times and our presence with one another as families, friends and communities.

At its heart, the story of Hanukkah is about the gift of God’s light in a time of great darkness. When the Maccabees had only enough oil to relight the Jerusalem Temple lamp for a single night, “a great miracle happened there” — the lamp burned for eight nights. In remembering that long-ago miracle, the celebration of Hanukkah is an opportunity to remember the presence of that light in our world today and to share that light by being present with one another. A good friend tries each of the eight nights to make time for her family to share the ways they have experienced God’s light that particular day. Perhaps it’s through the love of a friend or the help





Farolitos are just one of many winter rituals that bring light to a dark season.

of a teacher. Maybe it's the way the sunlight reflected on new snow or the smile of a stranger.

My friend and her husband also invite their children to think how they have been able to offer that light to others by offering their love or help to others. Over Hanukkah's eight nights, my friends give a gift of presence that will be remembered long after the children have outgrown their toys and clothes.

As the story of my friend and his 8-year-old daughter illustrates, the Christian story of Christmas also tells of God's presence in the most unlikely of places: a barn in the backwater town of Bethlehem, with the most unlikely of people: a poor carpenter, a teenage mother, a baby and some sweaty shepherds. In the church I serve, we remind ourselves of that presence by lighting Advent candles on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve. Each candle on the wreath symbolizes the true gifts of Christmas — peace, hope, joy and love. On Christmas Eve, the center candle is lit to proclaim the "light that overcomes the darkness" and to remember the presence of that light even in the darkest places of our lives or our world.

Whether the celebration is the solstice, Hanukkah or Christmas, lighting candles is a tangible way for even the youngest of children to experience the presence of light and hope.

Offering our presence to our children is a gift beyond measure. As is teaching them the importance of offering their presence — their love, listening and care — to others. The winter holidays provide ample opportunity to do so. The community I serve helps children offer the gift of their presence to others in many ways. At our annual St. Nicholas' breakfast, the children stuff stockings for the guests of St. Elizabeth Shelter, Casa Familia and Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families. In addition, each child is invited to bring a Christmas gift for a child at one of the shelters. Our Compassionate Christmas Gift program includes items that children can buy for others (a teddy bear for a child at Esperanza; food for a weekend backpack; new socks for "Healthcare for the Homeless," a La Familia Medical Center program). Our youth, as well as adults, serve regularly at St. Elizabeth Shelter and the Interfaith Winter Shelter.

Individual families often have their own "gifts of presence" for others, from "adopting" an older adult who may be alone at Christmas, to helping someone shovel their driveway, or designating a family Christmas gift to an organization like Habitat for Humanity or the family center at the state penitentiary.

Yes, the winter holidays can bring a bombardment of ads offering us the "best present ever" for our children. But the deep blessing of this season is not a present, no matter how expensive. It's the gift of our *presence* — our love and care — for our families and the whole human family. Whether your tradition is Hanukkah lights, solstice walks or Advent wreaths, take time to offer that gift of presence to one another and help your children find ways to offer the gift of love and presence to others. It's the best present we can give them, this season and every season.

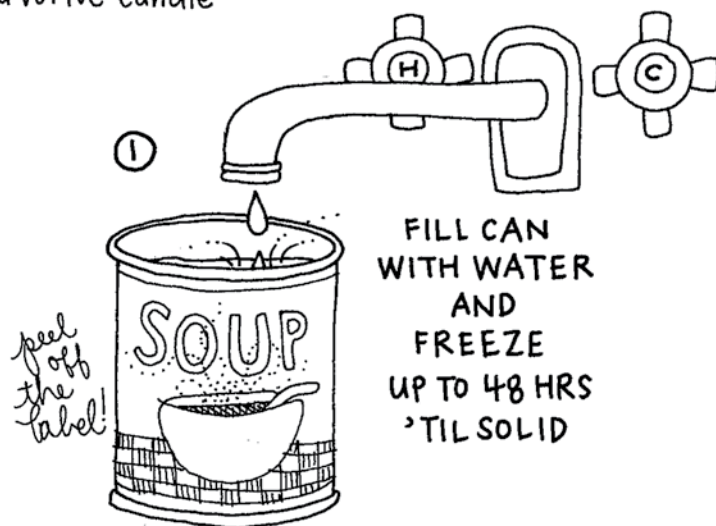
Rev. Talitha Arnold is the senior minister of the United Church of Santa Fe.

# PUNCHED TIN lantern

by Jone Hallmark

## YOU WILL NEED:

- a metal can (smooth sides work best)
- a hammer and assorted nails
- paper and pencil or crayons ... tape
- water and a towel
- a votive candle



④ LET THE ICE MELT OUTSIDE OR IN THE SINK...

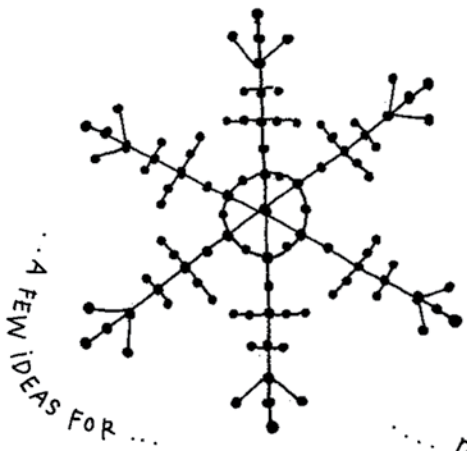


⑤ PLACE A CANDLE INSIDE YOUR LANTERN

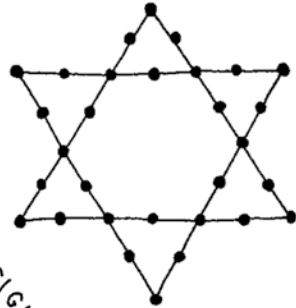
FOR PATTERNS AND ANOTHER PUNCHED TIN PROJECT, TURN THE PAGE!

## ... more punched tin

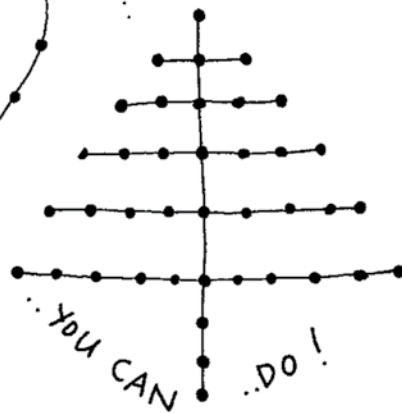
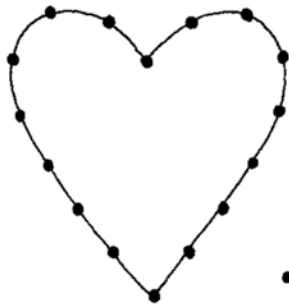
by Jone Hallmark



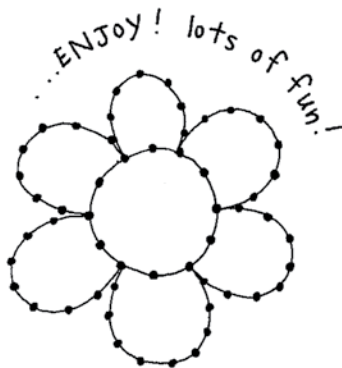
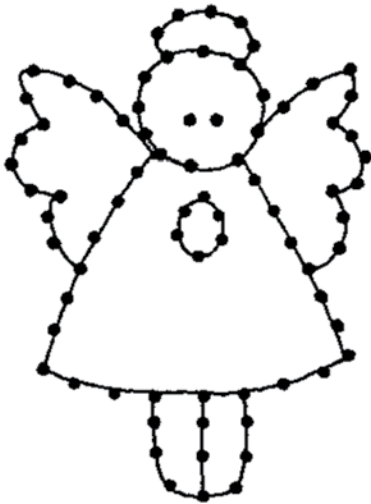
... A FEW IDEAS FOR ...



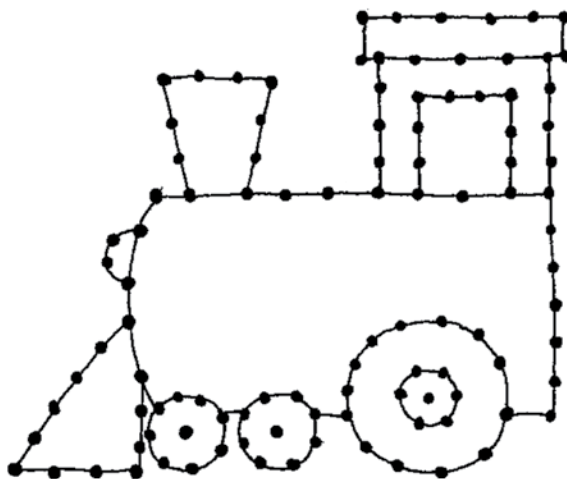
... DESIGNS ...



... YOU CAN ..DO!

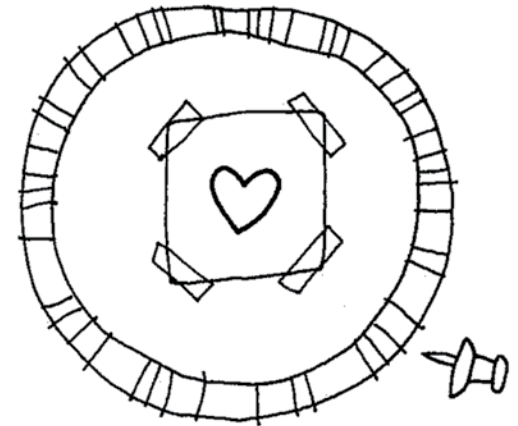


... ENJOY! lots of fun!



\* PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN USING SHARP OBJECTS  
 LIKE NAILS AND PUSH PINS...  
 IF YOU GO SLOWLY... YOU WILL REALLY ENJOY  
 WATCHING THE LIGHT SPARKLE THRU YOUR DESIGN...

YOU WILL NEED:  
 aluminum pie plates  
 push pins  
 paper and tape  
 pencil or crayon  
 an old piece of wood,  
 cutting board or bulletin board



- ① DRAW YOUR DESIGN ON THE PAPER
- ② TAPE IT TO YOUR PIE PLATE
- ③ CAREFULLY PUSH HOLES WITH PUSH PIN ALONG YOUR DESIGN GUIDE
- ④ TAKE PAPER AWAY
- ⑤ HANG IN FRONT OF A WINDOW OR CANDLE

# Art Briefs

## YOUNG PIANIST DAZZLES AT CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT

Families attending the Performance Santa Fe's Christmas Eve concert will be inspired not just by the sweeping music of Tchaikovsky and Gershwin but by the talents of the orchestra's visiting performer: 13-year-old virtuoso pianist and composer Emily Bear.

Bear, a homeschooled girl from Rockford, Illinois, is already an astonishing musical talent, composing, orchestrating and performing in a dazzling array of styles. Under the mentorship of Quincy Jones, the young pianist has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl and the White House, and with orchestras around the world.

Emily plays all of her music from memory — even 45-page classical concertos. “I memorize them pretty quickly,” she says, adding modestly, “then it’s all about polishing the details.”

Emily started showing extraordinary musical talent at a very early age. “As a baby, she would sing back lullabies to me in perfect pitch,” says Andrea Bear, Emily’s mother. “By the time she was 4, she was having pieces published and distributed by Hal Leonard.”

At age 5, Emily made her concert debut at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, playing a 40-minute solo program of classical pieces, as well as jazz standards and her own compositions. At 9, she made her Carnegie Hall debut with a 110-piece orchestra, a 220-voice choir, and R&B soloists performing one of her

compositions, “Peace — We Are the Future.”

Yet like anyone her age, Emily has other interests; she loves swimming, ice skating, designing and making jewelry, spending time with her family and friends and going to the beach.

Emily Bear returns to Santa Fe in December to play Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” with the Performance Santa Fe Orchestra at the Lensic Performing Arts Center on Christmas Eve, in a concert that also include Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 5,” conducted by Joseph Illick.

Tickets for the 2 p.m. December 24 Family Preview Concert are \$10 per adult accompanied by a child, and \$25 per adult without a child; call 984-8759. Performance Santa Fe will offer the same program at a 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Concert. Purchase these tickets by phone, 988-1234; online, ticketsantafe.com; or at the Lensic, 211 W. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe.

- Sandra Noë, marketing manager for Performance Santa Fe.

## BAUMANN MARIONETTES MAKE HOLIDAY APPEARANCE

Gustave Baumann, best known for his charming woodblock prints depicting scenes of northern New Mexico, also carved a collection of expressive, lovable marionettes to provide Christmas entertainment for his daughter. Soon the Baumann family’s neighbors and friends joined the tradition. Today, the audience to see these beloved characters is big enough to fill the St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

During the museum’s free Annual Holiday Open House, the historic marionettes will be brought out to perform two short plays for children of all ages. Kids will be allowed to sit near the stage for an up-close look at the magical Juan and Rosina, Miguelito the burro, and Warts, the rascally *duende* with a heart of gold.

Other activities will include a children’s “treasure hunt” for Freckles, Warts’ twin brother, who will be hiding in the museum galleries. Baumann’s Santa Claus marionette, in a reversal of tradition, sits on *your* lap, for a special holiday photo op.

Families will enjoy an arts and crafts project to make take-home puppet characters of their own. Holiday music and refreshments will round out the afternoon.

Hours for the Annual Holiday Open House at the New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 W. Palace Avenue just off the Santa Fe Plaza, are 1 to 4 p.m., December 21. Half-hour puppet plays with the Baumann marionettes begin at 1 and 2:30 p.m. Photos with Santa on your lap are at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Puppet-making and refreshments will be available all afternoon.

For more information, call (505) 476-5068.



Courtesy photo.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!  
Pandemonium Productions  
Presents  
**MARY POPPINS**  
January 21st - May 17th  
Register Now For Spring Classes!  
If You Love to Sing and Dance Call  
(505) 920-0704 to register  
Rehearsal @ El Museo De Cultural  
Performances @ James A. Little Theatre  
Space is Limited  
Scholarships Available  
[www.pandemoniumprod.org](http://www.pandemoniumprod.org)

# A Day at the Press

## Back Stage Pass

Tumbleweeds' Day at the Press

**Have you ever wondered how a newspaper** comes into physical form? What type of machine creates the pages that you hold in your hand, clip articles from, line the cat box with, or put out on the curb in a bag for recycling?

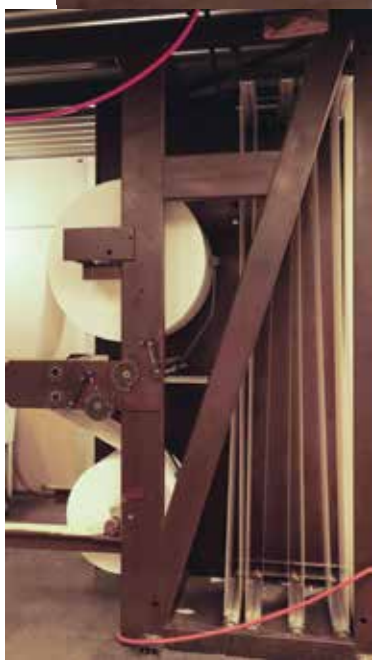
Tumbleweeds, along with several other community publications, is printed at the press of The Santa Fe New Mexican, on the same machine that prints our daily newspaper and the southwest-area distribution of the The New York Times. The print crew, under the supervision of Al Waldron, the New Mexican's director of operations, works around the clock, loading rolls of paper onto steel rods, adjusting levers and buttons, checking completed papers as they come of the press, and making adjustments for color quality and print clarity.

In late August, when the fall issue of Tumbleweeds was being printed, Waldron gave Claudette Sutton and Nina Bunker Ruiz a tour of the press and of the back rooms where the inks and rolls of paper are stored.

Our sense of scale was skewed as we stood before the press that stands two stories high and spans the length of a city block. It was hard to speak above the din of rolls of paper whirring overhead, rapidly transforming from blank newsprint to the pages of Tumbleweeds. A newspaper printer is referred to as a "web" press because its continuous rolls of paper are printed front and back, four times, with four overlaid inks — black, cyan (blue), magenta (pink) and yellow — that combine to create the full-color photos of a newspaper, woven together in the proper sequence, then folded, cut, and rolled out on a conveyor belt.

In less than an hour, 10,000 copies of our fall issue were printed, cut, stacked and ready to be bound into bundles of 50, before the press was cleaned and readied for the next publication.

We enjoyed the tour of the behemoth from which newspapers emerge, and brought back these pictures to share.





Left page, upper left: Al Waldron the Santa Fe New Mexican's director of operations, and Tumbleweeds' editor Claudette Sutton are dwarfed by rolls of the various grades of newsprint used for local newspapers and magazines.

Lower left: Rolls of newsprint in motion on the press.

Lower right: State-of-the-art presses still use good-old-fashioned ink.

This page, counterclockwise from top:

Waldron shows Sutton the laser printouts that the pressroom team uses for color control.

On the giant web press, pages are printed with four colors, collated, folded and cut.

Tumbleweeds "a la cart."

"Bad Papers"?! The first copies off the press end up here, until proper registration (alignment) and color levels are reached.

Out comes the final product.

Photos by Nina Bunker Ruiz



# Winter Fun! Directory



Anthony Chavez, grade 5

## AFTER-SCHOOL TENNIS

After-school tennis programs include one, two and three day a week group lessons for ages 6 and up, as well as individual lessons. Located at the new Santa Fe Tennis & Swim Club, in the Museum Hill neighborhood, 1755 Camino Corrales. Visit [www.santafetennis.net](http://www.santafetennis.net) for more information. Call Victor at 988-4100 or email [club@santafetennis.net](mailto:club@santafetennis.net).

## ANOTHER BIRD OF SONG MUSIC LESSONS

Piano, voice and composition lessons for the young and the young at heart. Morning, afternoon and evening lessons available. Have fun while developing skills with Angela Bivins, owner and music teacher. 123 W. Santa Fe Avenue, Unit B. Call 310-3699, email [anotherbirdofsong@gmail.com](mailto:anotherbirdofsong@gmail.com) or visit [www.anotherbirdofsong.blogspot.com](http://www.anotherbirdofsong.blogspot.com).

## ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, under the direction of Gisela Genschow, offers year-round dance training, pre-ballet to professional, and is committed to providing the finest classical ballet training for ages 3 to adult. Classes include ballet, pre-ballet, creative dance, jazz, tap and modern. Call 983-5591 or visit [www.aspensantafeballet.com](http://www.aspensantafeballet.com).

## BELISAMA DANCE AND MOVING PEOPLE

Belisama Contemporary and Irish Dance, now joined by Moving People Dance, offers a full program of dance in modern, jazz, ballet and Irish Dance, including Moving People's pre-professional program for advanced students. Kick Start Classes available for teens just starting to dance. Home to Dance Conditioning Plus! with Kate Eberle, and Vinyasa yoga with Annie Kohn. Visit [www.belisamadance.com](http://www.belisamadance.com) or contact Adrienne at 670-2152.

## CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

Where Judaism comes alive! Hebrew reading with the popular Aleph Champ program, Jewish holidays, art, cooking, Bible stories, prayers, songs, games, hands-on

projects, special guests, family workshops and much more. The program instills a proud Jewish identity with great general Jewish knowledge. For children ages 4 through 12. Sundays 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Devorah at (505) 983-2000 or visit [ChabadSantaFe.com](http://ChabadSantaFe.com).

## CHILDREN'S ART SPACE

Grand Opening Holiday Card Making: December 6, 10 a.m. to noon, a free event for the entire family. Discover a new arts program emphasizing drawing, painting, printmaking and three-dimensional constructions. Classes for ages 5 to 9 and 10 to 16. Available after school and Saturdays for special projects: \$25 per two-hour session for all classes. Call about discounts for multiple sessions. Intensive half-day programs during winter break; call for dates and rates. Located at 1219 Luisa Street, #6, Santa Fe. For more information, call 490-2119 or visit [ChildrenArtSpace.com](http://ChildrenArtSpace.com).

## DRAGONFLY ART STUDIO

After-school art classes and workshops for ages 6 to 16 are designed to stimulate kids' imagination and creativity, while they experiment with a range of art media and materials. After-school classes begin January 12 and meet one day a week, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and end with a student art show at a local gallery. Art Birthday Parties and weekend holiday workshops available in December where kids can create unique gifts for the holidays! Please visit [dragonflyartstudioforkids.com](http://dragonflyartstudioforkids.com) or call Oceanna at 670-5019.

## FAM JAM! MUSIC TOGETHER

Bringing the joy of family music to Santa Fe families since 2003. Ten-week Winter Semester 2015 runs January 19 to March 28. Three makeups offered. Morning, afternoon and after-school classes available, including the popular Pajama Class. Enroll at [famjam.net/enroll](http://famjam.net/enroll) or call Stacey at 660-8559. Preview a class this spring by visiting [famjam.net/](http://famjam.net/)

preview. For more information go to [famjam.net](http://famjam.net) or [musictogether.com](http://musictogether.com).

## FLAMENCO CLASSES AT THE MARIA BENITEZ INSTITUTE FOR SPANISH ARTS

Beginning flamenco dance classes ongoing through the year. Intro classes for ages 5 to 7 (no experience); Level I classes (beginner) ages 8 to 12; Level II classes (intermediate) ages 8 to 14, and Level III (advanced) – Flamenco's "Next Generation" is open to anyone who can keep up! Adult introductory flamenco classes on Saturdays; no experience necessary. All classes meet at Larragoite Elementary School, 1604 Agua Fria. Call 467-3773, email [flamenco@mariabenitez.com](mailto:flamenco@mariabenitez.com) or visit [www.institutespanisharts.org](http://www.institutespanisharts.org).

## GENOVEVA CHAVEZ CENTER AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Weekly sessions run throughout the school year for ages 6 to 12. A healthy snack is provided by GCCC, followed by a supervised recreational activity such as swimming, ice-skating, outdoor recreation or gym sports. The day ends with quiet time and homework help from staff. Registration is required for each weekly session \$50 per child per week. Transportation is available from Piñon, Chaparral and Kearny. Call Melissa Bustos, 955-4005, or visit [www.chavezcenter.com](http://www.chavezcenter.com).

## GENOVEVA CHAVEZ CENTER WINTER BREAK DAY CAMPS

Kids need a place to go! Chavez Center camps are FESive: Fun, Educational and Safe. Winter Break Day Camps: December 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and January 2, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., for ages 6 to 12 (proof of age required for 6-year-olds), \$35 per day. Activities include social games, sports, swimming, ice-skating, arts and crafts, and game time. Parents must provide daily lunch and snack. For more information, call Melissa, 955-4005, or Tiedra, 955-4014, or go to [www.chavezcenter.com](http://www.chavezcenter.com).

## GIRLS INC. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

At Girls Incorporated, every girl has the right to be herself and express herself with originality and enthusiasm. After-school programs meet at 301 Hillside Avenue, downtown. Girls participate in fun, hands-on activities in a safe, girl-centered environment. Pick-up available from many schools. Enjoy science, sports, homework help, art and fun! From the end of the school day to 6 p.m. Sliding scale and tuition assistance available. Call 982-2042 or go to [www.girlsincofsantafe.org](http://www.girlsincofsantafe.org).

## MAKE ORANGE STUDIO SCHOOL

The Art Studio Built Just for Kids, serving ages 2 to 12, offers drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpting. Ms. Gina's 15 years of teaching experience shapes age-appropriate projects. Why make orange? A mix of yellow (light, spirit) and red (passion, vitality), orange is not a primary color on the wheel. We make orange because we have to! After-school, spring, winter, summer and toddler programs. 1807 Second Street Studios, Suite 93, Santa Fe, 204-1194. [Makeorange.com](http://Makeorange.com).

## NATIONAL DANCE INSTITUTE OF NEW MEXICO

High-quality performing arts classes in ballet, tap, jazz, voice, creative movement, as well as NDI-New Mexico's signature program. Ages 3 to 18. Tuition assistance available; making our classes accessible to all families. The Dance Barns, 1140 Alto Street. Call 795-7088 or go to [www.dancebarns.com](http://www.dancebarns.com).

## NORTHERN SOCCER CLUB

Northern Soccer Club is taking registrations for the Recreational Spring Soccer season. Our Developmental League is for boys and girls ages 3 to 14. Games are played every Saturday at the Santa Fe Downs starting March 28 and continue for eight weeks. Coaching and team practices start March 23. Registration fee through December is \$65, includes two jerseys. Go to [www.northernsc.org](http://www.northernsc.org) to register online or call 982-0878.

# Winter Fun! Directory

## PANDEMONIUM PRODUCTIONS

Pandemonium Productions presents its musical theater after-school program for ages 7 to 17, January 21 through May 17. Study acting, singing and dancing, then perform in the Santa Fe premiere of "Mary Poppins," at the James A. Little Theater. Rehearsals take place at El Museo Cultural, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m.. Space is limited; scholarships available. Tuition: \$695 if paid in advance, \$710 with a payment plan. A deposit of \$100 is required with registration. Visit [www.pandemoniumprod.org](http://www.pandemoniumprod.org) or call 920-0704.

## PRIVATE READING COURSES — WINTER TERM

Taught by Floy Gregg, veteran Developmental Reading Specialist. Ages 8 and up. See that your child is prepared for mid-year exams, spring testing assessments, private school admission testing or SAT. Course guarantees an increase of two grade levels in silent reading fluency by boosting comprehension, reading rate, spelling, vocabulary and testing skills, and decreasing test anxiety. Self-esteem skyrockets. Soon improvement follows in other subjects, and homework takes less time. Visit [www.floygregg.com](http://www.floygregg.com) or call 570-1276 for your complimentary consultation.

## SANTA FE CLIMBING CENTER

Indoor climbing and outdoor adventures. 3000 square feet of climbing surface with top ropes, lead climbing, and bouldering area to challenge beginning to advanced



Christopher Calles Mejia, grade 2

climbers. Over 100 different routes and boulder problems with new ones going up every week. Offering after-school youth programs and adult classes, memberships and outdoor climbs. Call 986-8944 or visit [www.climbsantafe.com](http://www.climbsantafe.com).

## SANTA FE PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

"Mary Poppins" for ages 7 to 19. Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers, with original music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Starts January 5, with

performances in April. Santa Fe Performing Arts was the recipient of the 2012 Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, Education and Community Outreach. Scholarships available. Call 982-7992, email [sabato@sfperformingarts.org](mailto:sabato@sfperformingarts.org) or visit [www.sfperformingarts.org](http://www.sfperformingarts.org) and go to the classes section.

## SANTA FE YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Music instruction and performance opportunities for youth in orchestra, mariachi, and jazz. The Elementary Strings (ES) program offers after school viola, violin, and cello instruction. ES program currently available

at Acequia Madre, Atalaya, Carlos Gilbert, Cesar Chavez, El Camino Real Academy, and Kearny Elementary. Winter Concert Season from December 5 to 7. See calendar listings. Academy at Larragoite, 1604 Agua Fria. For details call 505-672-5565, email [sfysaed@gmail.com](mailto:sfysaed@gmail.com) or visit [www.sfysa.org](http://www.sfysa.org).

## SKATEBOARD SCHOOL

Indoor ramps for year-round fun! After-School/Home School Programs. Open Skate and lessons for all abilities, ages 3 and up. Birthdays, parents' night out, monthly events. Use school boards and gear up to get started, school also offers a complete shop specializing in safety gear. Curriculum includes skate, homework, and exploration of the history of skateboarding using our museum and video library. 825 Early Street #H. Call 474-0074 or visit [www.SkateboardSafety.com](http://www.SkateboardSafety.com).

## TEATRO PARAGUAS CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROGRAM

After-school theater art classes for kids grades 3 to 8. Classes begin February 3, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.. All classes are held at Teatro Paraguas Theatre, 3205 Calle Marie (off Richards Avenue). Tuition is on a sliding scale. Every child is given a starring role in TPCP's original production written by Rebecca Morgan, with original music by JoJo Sena-Tarnoff and Jeff Tarnoff (Melange). Email [tpchildrensprogram@gmail.com](mailto:tpchildrensprogram@gmail.com) or call 471-3140.

## Santa Fe Children's Museum

Winter Family Fun! Three Special Features in December!

Thomas the Tank Engine • December 10 • January 11

Interactive Train Exhibit • December 24 • January 3

Winter Solstice Festival • December 21, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Cost: Suggested Donation of \$5.00 per person

Winter Break Hours • December 17 • January 11  
Monday • Saturday • 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sunday • 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Please call or visit our website for cost and more information  
[www.santafechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.santafechildrensmuseum.org)

505-989-8359



## Open House!

Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## Journey Montessori School



Studying the Valles Caldera 2014

Elementary Montessori for 6 - 12 year olds  
Outdoor Program • Suzuki Violin • Spanish

Take a journey with us!  
Meet our teachers, watch a slide show,  
share refreshments and ask about our  
Summer Session.  
1212 Unity Way



[JourneySchoolSF.org](http://JourneySchoolSF.org) 505-470-8928



Courtesy photo

The look of love... Lil' Bit Buddha revels in the attention of a young visitor to Kindred Spirits.

## GERIATRIC CARE FOR THE FURRY AND FEATHERED

Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary provides a peaceful and serene final refuge for dogs, horses and poultry who may be considered “unadoptable” because of their age and health. The center, located just south of Santa Fe, was founded in 2002 to provide compassionate end-of-life care for older animals whose lives otherwise might have ended on the streets of New Mexico or in shelters.

Elsbeth is an elderly pug who is lucky to be alive. She was found wandering on a street and eventually brought to Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary. This abandoned dog found a loving home at the sanctuary. Her advanced age and related problems made her a good candidate to join the other senior dogs, horses and poultry who call Kindred Spirits home.

The sanctuary also offers educational programs that help pet owners learn how to care for their aging dogs and keep them in loving homes. In these seminars, people learn how to employ, in their own home, the type of wellness care that allows Kindred Spirits’ resident dogs to enjoy the best possible quality of life for the rest of their years. It’s not unusual for senior dogs to get a second lease on life when they settle in at Kindred Spirits. For example, Elsbeth has blossomed into an energetic and loving dog who greets everyone enthusiastically, with many tail wags and soft woofs.

Kindred Spirits is blessed with many wonderful volunteers who help care for the animals and provide them with TLC. New volunteers are always welcome! The sanctuary hosts several events throughout the year to introduce the work of Kindred Spirits to the community.

At the Kindred Spirits Holiday Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 13, visitors are invited to take a tour of the sanctuary at 4:30 p.m., and join the meditation and candle lighting of the live tree at 5:30 p.m. Expect to be greeted by wagging tails, warm hearts and cold noses! Please come to take the tour, visit with the resident old dogs, horses and poultry, and meet the staff and volunteers.

For more information, visit the website at [www.kindredspiritsnm.org](http://www.kindredspiritsnm.org) or call (505) 471-5366. Kindred Spirits is located south of Santa Fe at 3749-A Highway 14.

- Ulla Pedersen, founder and director, Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary

## SANTA FE ANIMAL CONTROL'S DOG CARE TIPS

“I like to consider our animal control team as educators, rather than enforcers,” says Officer Paul Portillo, supervisor of the Santa Fe County Animal Control Center, noting that the earlier kids learn proper care for their pets, the fewer problems they’ll have when they grow up and care for animals as adults. Portillo and his team visit with children and families throughout the county to answer questions and offer suggestions on canine care.

When temperatures fall, Portillo recommends bringing pets inside, suggesting that pets deserve the same basic shelter humans need; if you wouldn’t want to sleep outside when it’s freezing, why would you want your pet to have to? If you have to leave your dog outside in winter, Portillo suggests a bedding of straw, a blanket, or even a heat lamp, available from pet stores, like those used for reptiles.

Adequate food, water and shelter from hot or cold temperatures are required under Santa Fe County’s pet ordinance. Whenever Officer Portillo visits with students he asks, “Do you drink fresh, clean water every day? Your pets deserve no less.”

One of the most surprising problems that animal control officers see is dog collars that are too small. Tight collars can be painful and can cause infections. Portillo recommends a fit that allows space for one or two fingers between the dog’s neck and the collar. The best fit, however, depends on the size of a dog’s head as well as its neck. A collar should neither slip off too easily nor squeeze the animal’s neck. Harnesses are a better alternative for some pets, so that the throat is not constricted at all.

Portillo urges caution when encountering a dead, lost or stray dog. “I know when we see an animal in distress or one who’s lost or hurt, our instinct is to want to help them,” he says, “but be safe and call us. We have the proper equipment like muzzles, catch poles and leashes to handle animals properly.” If approached by a strange dog, stay calm, don’t run or upset the animal, and call Animal Control at 428-3720. Portillo’s six field officers respond to an average of 40 calls a day throughout Santa Fe County, an area of nearly 2,000 square miles.

Officer Portillo and his team are available to come to schools, community centers or after-school clubs to talk with kids about pet safety and care. To schedule a visit or learn more, call 992-1626, or go to [www.santafecountynm.gov/sheriff/animal\\_control](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/sheriff/animal_control).

- Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office

## FUR’S GREAT, BUT IT’S NOT ENOUGH!

As the weather turns cold, it’s easy for us to turn the heat up, add more covers and forget about dropping outside temperatures. Our furry animal companions, however, can’t bundle up without our help.

It’s a common misconception that dogs and cats won’t get cold because of their fur coats. Most domestic animals are not well equipped for cold weather and can easily be susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia. Toy breeds and shorthaired critters don’t conserve body heat well, while puppies and older animals cannot adequately control body temperatures.

Follow these tips when the weather outside is frightening:

- Keep your dog indoors where he or she can be safe and warm from the elements.
- Provide extra food. Animals burn more calories in cold weather.
- Clean off paws when your dog comes inside.
- If you must keep your dog outside for an extended period, provide a sturdy doghouse: Use straw bedding, have an off-center door with a flap to keep out the wind, face the doghouse south and raise it off the ground, provide plenty of food and water and make sure the water does not freeze.

- Ben Swan, public information officer, Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society



# HOWL IT UP AT THE BARKIN' BALL

You and your furred family members can enjoy a fun-filled evening at the Barkin' Ball, the Santa Fe Animal Shelter's annual fundraiser, December 13 at the Santa Fe Convention Center, beginning at 5 p.m.

This year's theme, A Winter's Tail, promises to transport pets and their people into a wonderland of hope and festivity, featuring Yappy Hour cocktails, a three-course plated dinner by Peas n' Pod Catering, live music, a silent auction, a live auction and shopping opportunities in the Winterland Store.

This 18th annual event goes to the next level this year in honor of the shelter's 75th anniversary. The décor, designed by KH Creative Group and provided by Occasion Services & Events, will offer rustic elegance with winter themes, including elegant centerpieces of birch-tree sleds and lanterns, twinkle lights and artificial snow.

Canines are welcome, and special accommodations are set to make the dog guests feel at home, including special diversions and an outside break area.

The evening begins with a Yappy Hour, with live music by Kady Bow, followed by the seated dinner and a silent and live auction. Rancho de Chavez will host a complimentary champagne toast, and Winstonfoto will offer complimentary pet and people portraits.

The Winterland Store offers gifts, jewelry, merchandise, gift certificates and curiosities donated by local artists and businesses to support the shelter.

The opportunity to bring along a furry companion is one of the best benefits of the gala, said Mary Martin, the shelter's executive director.

"I love that people have an opportunity to socialize with other pet-loving individuals as well as have their own pets with them," Martin said. "We've worked hard to make this a wonderful happening, but most importantly, the Barkin' Ball is critical to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and its ability to make a difference for pets and the people who love them."

Funds raised during the festive evening benefit thousands of stray, lost and injured animals that come through the doors of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. The shelter's services to northern New Mexico include free and low-cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics, veterinary services for pets from low-income families, pet-food assistance programs and more.



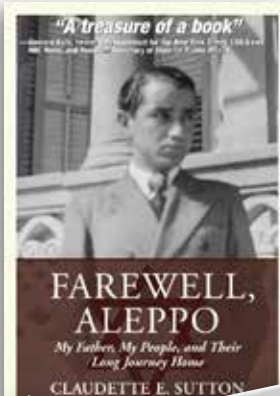
Courtesy photo

If your pet must sleep outside, provide a sturdy doghouse that faces south, with a thick layer of straw or other bedding, and raise it off the ground.

Tickets are \$125 for humans, and dogs are welcome for free. Reserved tables for 10 are available. For tickets or more information, call (505) 514-0854. You may also purchase your tickets online at [barkinball.org](http://barkinball.org).

- Ben Swan, public information officer, Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society

## Experience the Journey



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—Bernard Kalb, former correspondent for the *New York Times*, *CBS News*, *NBC News*, and Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs.

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# Winter 2014-2015 Calendar – December



Courtesy photo

The Santa Fe Waldorf School holds its 28th annual Holiday Faire from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 6, with activities, games, music, food and storytelling of the season. Admission is free.

## DECEMBER

### 1 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.

#### Toddler Time

Early admission for age 4 and younger and their adult companions. Explora!, 1701 Mountain Road Northwest, Albuquerque, (505) 224-8300.

### 1 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.

#### Nature Playtimes

Toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers explore the natural world with crafts, a story and outdoor activities. Pajarito Environmental Education Center, 3540 Orange Street, Los Alamos, 662-0460.

### 1 MONDAY THROUGH 3 JANUARY, 6-9 P.M.

#### River of Lights

Millions of sparkling lights and over 150 light displays, animated sculptures and a synchronized music light show. Open daily through January 3 (closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1). Tickets are \$6 for ages 3 to 12; \$12 for ages 13 and up. ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden, 2601 Central Avenue, Albuquerque, (505) 764-6280.

### 1 MONDAY, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

#### Family Story Time

Fun stories and hands-on activities for the entire family. First Monday of every month. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

### P 1 MONDAY, 6:30-8 P.M.

#### Birth Talk Los Alamos

Learn about options in pregnancy and childbirth and hear birthing experiences. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

### 2 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.

#### Books and Babies

Books, songs and finger games for ages 6 months to 2 years. Caregivers welcome. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

### 2 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.

#### Preschool Story Time

Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts for ages 2 to 5. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

### 2 TUESDAY, 3:00-4:00 P.M.

#### Wags and Words

Reading Education Assistance Dogs at the library for beginning and reluctant readers. Call for an appointment time. Tuesday through Thursday of each week. Vista Grande Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon, 466-7323.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 10:30 A.M.

#### Gingerbread House Building for Toddlers

Toddlers are supplied with graham crackers and decorating material. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost \$10 per child.

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.

#### Books and Babies

Books, songs and finger games for ages 6 months to 2 years. Caregivers welcome. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.

#### Wee Wednesday

Bilingual preschool stories, songs and games. Children ages 0 to 3 years. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11:15 A.M.

#### Toddler Tunes

Children and parents get a chance to experiment with percussion instruments and sing together. Sing old favorites and learn some new favorites. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.

#### Preschool Story Time

Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts for ages 2 to 5. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.

#### Lego Club

Hands-on, minds-on fun for LEGO enthusiasts. LEGOs provided. Ages 5 to 12. Registration required; \$10 per family, one-time fee per school year. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 1:30-3:30 A.M.

#### Gingerbread House Building for School-Age Children

Participants school-age and older build a gingerbread house with a kit and decorating materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$20 per kit. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

### 3 WEDNESDAY, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

#### The Santa Fe Opera Holiday Tour

Featuring soprano Amy Owens and bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, accompanied by music director Kirt Pavitt. Open seating begins 30 minutes before the concert. For more information, call 946-2409. First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, 208 Grant Street.

### 4 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.

#### Books and Babies

Books, songs and finger games for ages 6 months to 2 years. Caregivers welcome. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

### 4 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.

#### Children's Story Hour

Picture book adventures with crayons, dinosaurs, princesses, big trucks and more for ages 0 to 5. Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street, 988-4226.

### 4 THURSDAY, 11-11:45 A.M.

#### Firefighter Storytime

Firefighters share a favorite book and a few fire safety tips on the first Thursday of each month. Firetruck will be present whenever possible. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

### 4 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.

#### Wags and Words

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

### 4 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.

#### "Try it" Thursdays!

Ages 16 and under are admitted free on Thursdays after 4 p.m. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

### 4 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.

#### Meet Cornelius!

Watch the museum's snake eat his weekly meal, draw pictures of what you see, write a poem and learn new facts about snakes. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

### 4 THURSDAY, 5-8 P.M.

#### GLOW: A Winter Lights Event

Illuminated domes, Santa, cocoa and more fun for the entire family. Adults \$8, ages 12 and under free. Open Thursday to Saturday, through January 3. Santa Fe Botanical Garden, 725 Camino Lejo, Suite E, 470-9103.

### 5 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.

#### Parent and Me Friday Mornings

Ages 2 to 4. So many colors and so little time! Drop in or call ahead to reserve a spot, \$12 per child. Make Orange Studio School, 1807 Second Street Unit #93, 780-5044.

### 5 FRIDAY, 11-11:45 A.M.

#### Preschool Story Time

Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts for ages 2 to 5. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

### 5 FRIDAY, 2 P.M.

#### Audubon Center Tours

Docent-led tours of the historic Randall Davey House, \$5. Every Friday when weather permits. The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, 1800 Upper Canyon Road, 983-4609.

### 5 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.

#### Open Art Studio

Explore the world of art using acrylics, pastels, watercolor, blocks and glue. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

### 5 FRIDAY, 5-7:30 P.M.

#### Winter Concert Series: Jazz

Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association Jazz student performance. Adults \$10; kids 5 and under free. One ticket provides admission to entire winter concert series. Santa Fe Prep, 1101 Camino de Cruz Blanca. (505) 672-5565 ext.10, www.sfsya.org/tickets.

### 5 FRIDAY, 5-8 P.M.

#### GLOW: A Winter Lights Event

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

### 5 FRIDAY, 6 P.M.

#### Friday Fractals

Explore the never-ending world of fractals in this award-winning and inspiring planetarium show. The shows take the audience on a journey through the infinitely complex patterns known as fractals. Call for prices. New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road, Albuquerque, (505) 841-2800.

### 6 SATURDAY, 9 A.M.

#### St. Nicholas Breakfast

Share a pancake breakfast, make Christmas stockings and meet the real St. Nicholas, the 4th century bishop who gave all he had to the poor. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

# Winter 2014-2015 Calendar – December

## 6 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-NOON

### Children's Art Space

A project of the Santa Fe Time Bank. Holiday card making for the entire family. Hot cider and biscochitos served. 1219 Luisa Street #6, 490-2119.

## 6 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.

### Kids' Holiday Cookies

Dazzle the kids with some fun holiday cookie-making. Participants get to take some home, too. Chaperones required; discounts for multiple children. Ages 5 to 12 are welcome. Call for prices. Santa Fe Culinary Academy, 112 West San Francisco Street, Suite 300, 983-7445.

## 6 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

### Waldorf School's 28th Annual Holiday Faire

Holiday games, music, children's storytelling and puppetry, holiday food and lots of sweets. Clan Tynker Circus performs at 2:30 p.m.. Santa Fe Waldorf School, 26 Puesta Del Sol, 992-0566.

## 6 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.

### Reading Tune-Ups

Reading diagnostic for parents and kids to see what happens during reading. Improve reading comprehension and abilities. Ages 8 and up. Free; registration required. Contact Floy Gregg, 570-1276 or floygregg.com.

## 6 SATURDAY, 2 P.M.

### "The Nutcracker"

Kick off the holiday season with the Nutcracker

Ballet presented by the professionals of the New Mexico Ballet Company. Call for ticket information. Popejoy Hall, 203 Cornell, Albuquerque, (505) 277-8010.

## 6 SATURDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.

### Winter Concert Series: Elementary Strings

Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association Elementary Strings program student performance. Repertoire includes holiday season favorites. Adults \$10; kids 5 and under free. One ticket provides admission to entire winter concert series. St. Francis Auditorium, 107 West Palace Avenue. (505) 672-5565 ext. 10, www.sfysa.org/tickets.

## 6 SATURDAY, 4 P.M.

### Ice Show 2014: Give Our Regards to Broadway

Local skaters perform to music from Broadway. Tickets for adults \$12, children \$7. Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 Rodeo Road, 955-4014.

## 6 SATURDAY, 5-8 P.M.

### GLOW: A Winter Lights Event

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

## 6 SATURDAY, 6-7:30 P.M.

### Winter Concert Series: Mariachi

Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association Mariachi Garibaldi and Mariachi Estrella student performance. Adults \$10; kids 5 and under free. One ticket provides admission to entire winter concert series. St. Francis

Auditorium, 107 West Palace Avenue. (505) 672-5565 ext. 10, www.sfys.org/tickets.

## 6 SATURDAY, 7 P.M.

### "The Nutcracker"

Popejoy Hall, Albuquerque. See 2 p.m. listing.

## 7 SUNDAY, 9 A.M.-7 P.M.

### First Sundays!

Museum admission is free to all New Mexico residents on the first Sunday of every month. New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road, Albuquerque, (505) 841-2800.

## 7 SUNDAY, 1-4 P.M.

### Winter Celebration

Hands-on art making for all ages including carnival head-dresses and beaded animal ornaments. Music by Jazz Brasileiro. Free to residents of New Mexico with ID and children under 17. Museum of International Folk Art, 706 Camino Lejo, 476-1200.

## 7 SUNDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.

### Winter Concert Series: All Orchestras

Performance by top three orchestra ensembles of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association. Repertoire includes a combined orchestra piece from the Disney movie "Frozen." Adults \$10; kids 5 and under free. One ticket provides admission to entire winter concert series. St. Francis Auditorium, 107 West Palace Avenue. (505) 672-5565 ext. 10, www.sfysa.org/tickets

## 7 SUNDAY, 1-4 P.M.

### Winter Traditions

A special community holiday celebration featuring Native American storytelling, dance performances and hands-on activities. Free admission for New Mexico residents on Sundays with ID. Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, 710 Camino Lejo, 476-1250.

## 7 SUNDAY, 2 P.M.

### "The Nutcracker"

Popejoy Hall, Albuquerque. See December 6 listing.

## 7 SUNDAY, 3-4 P.M.

### The Santa Fe Opera Holiday Tour

Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver Avenue Southwest, Albuquerque. See December 3 listing.

## 8 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.

### Toddler Time

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

## 8 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.

### Nature Playtimes

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

## P 8 MONDAY, 5:15-8 P.M.

### Chit Chat Potluck Dinner

Enjoy time after work with other families, explore topics relevant to parenting young children and just relax. Bring a dish to share. Cost: \$5 per family. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

**CLAN TYNKER FAMILY CIRCUS**  
presents:  
**THE DREAM TRAIN**

In Association with the Santa Fe Performing Arts

Or Call: 1-800-838-3006

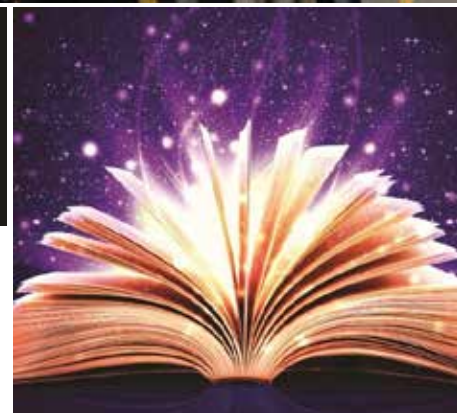
**December 20-21-24-27 & 28**  
Tickets: [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)



## Reading is Magic

Reading is Magic is a FREE summer camp in July 2015 specially designed to assist rising 3rd grade students who struggle with reading. Games galore and summer fun along with individualized support.

Call 438-8585 for info.



# SFSAS

**Santa Fe School  
for the Arts & Sciences**  
[www.santafeschool.org](http://www.santafeschool.org)

# Winter 2014 Calendar – December

**9 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**9 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**9 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**9 TUESDAY, 3:30-5:30 P.M.**

**Art After-School Programs**

Create original artwork with a variety of techniques. Call to register: \$26 per session, materials and snacks included. Ages 5 to 12. Make Orange Studio School, 1807 Second Street Unit #93, 780-5044.

**9 TUESDAY, 7-8 P.M.**

**Bats in New Mexico**

Discover the beautiful and remarkable world of bats. Learn about the biology, ecology, behavior and importance of these winged mammals. Pajarito Environmental Education Center, 3540 Orange Street, Los Alamos, 662-0460.

**10 WEDNESDAY THROUGH 11 JANUARY.**

**Thomas the Train Engine**

Travel to the Island of Sodor with Thomas and Friends. Make him stop and go and hear fun train noises. Special winter exhibit open until January 11. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 1-3 P.M.**

**Holiday Eco Crafts 2014**

Drop your children off at PEEC so they can unleash their creativity and make ecologically-friendly gifts. When you pick them up, they will have wrapped presents they made themselves. Pajarito Environmental Education Center, 3540 Orange Street, Los Alamos, 662-0460.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 1:30-3:30 A.M.**

**Gingerbread House Building for School-Age Children**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**10 WEDNESDAY, 6-7 P.M.**

**Youth: Science Cafe**

Too Cool to Resist: The Mystery of Superconductivity. Led by Ross McDonald of Los Alamos National Laboratory. Georgia O'Keeffe Research Center, 135 Grant Avenue, 946-1039.



Joshua Trujillo, grade 4

**P 11 THURSDAY, 10 AND 11 A.M.**  
**Tour Morning**

Parents, caregivers and teachers gather to tour the school, observe classrooms and ask questions about the school and curriculum. Reservations required. Growing Up Montessori, 2638 Via Caballero del Norte, 795-7256.

**11 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**11 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**P 11 THURSDAY, 1-2 P.M.**

**La Leche League**

La Leche League, an international nonprofit, is dedicated to providing education, information and encouragement to women who want to breastfeed. All mothers, mother-to-be and children are welcome. Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center, 564 North Guadalupe, 954-4000.

**11 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**11 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**11 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**11 THURSDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**11 THURSDAY, 6:30-8 P.M.**

**Parenting Partnership**

Prepare for the dramatic changes brought home with a newborn baby. Price \$25 for nonmembers; \$15 for members. 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, (505)662-4515.

**12 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**12 FRIDAY, 10:30 A.M.-NOON**

**Shake Out Your Sillies**

Tunnels, slides, giant bowling pins, ride-on toys

and obstacle courses will help your little one shake out the sillies. Suggested donation of \$5 per family. Los Alamos Family Strengths Network, 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, 662-4515.

**12 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**12 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Art program for families. Supplies provided. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**12 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**12 FRIDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**Pink Elephant Theatre**

Puppets and stories from the Pink Elephant Ranch. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

**12 FRIDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**12 FRIDAY, 5:30-8 P.M.**

**Christmas at the Palace**

Christmas at the Palace brings the community together for a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary evening of hot cider, cookies, live music, piñatas and craft-making activities. Palace of the Governors, 105 West Palace Avenue, 476-5100.

**12 FRIDAY, 7 P.M.**

**Family Movie Night**

Family film showing on big screen. Popcorn and juice included. Call for title and rating. Vista Grande Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon, 466-7323.

**13 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.**

**Young Natives Holiday Art Show**

Children and grandchildren of the Palace Portal artisans display and sell their own creations. Pick up Christmas presents and support the next generation of Native American artisans. Meem Community Room of the New Mexico History Museum. Enter the museum's Washington Avenue doors. 476-5200.

**13 SATURDAY, 10:30-11:30 A.M.**

**Pink Elephant Theatre**

Puppets and stories from the Pink Elephant Ranch. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**13 SATURDAY, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.**

**Cloth Diapering**

Find out how cloth diapers can fit in your family's lifestyle. Class is \$10 per family. RSVP: 954-4000 or email info@theindigobaby.com. Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center, 564 North Guadalupe.

**13 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**13 SATURDAY, 2:30-3:30 P.M.**

**Pink Elephant Theatre**

Puppets and stories from the Pink Elephant Ranch. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

# Winter 2014 Calendar – December

**13 SATURDAY, 5 P.M.**

**A Russian Holiday**

Taos Chamber Music Group takes you on a holiday tour from the mountains of Azerbaijan to the splendor of St. Petersburg. Adults \$22; children 16 and under, \$12. Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux Street, Taos, (575) 758-9826.

**13 SATURDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**14 SUNDAY, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.**

**Young Natives Holiday Art Show**

New Mexico History Museum. See December 13 listing.

**14 SUNDAY, 6 P.M.**

**Las Posadas**

Join Mary and Joseph in this reenactment of their search for lodging to give birth to baby Jesus. Procession ends at the Palace of the Governors' courtyard with carols and refreshments. Open to the public. New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Avenue, 476-5200.

**15 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**15 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**16 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**16 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**16 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Craft activity for ages 5 to 12. Call to register. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.



Armando Martinez, grade 2

**16 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Craft activity for ages 5 to 12. Call to register. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

**17 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**17 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**17 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**17 WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Craft activity for ages 5 to 12. Call to register. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**18 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**18 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**18 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**18 THURSDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**18 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**18 THURSDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 9-10 A.M.**

**Garden Sprouts**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 5 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 10:30 A.M.-NOON**

**Shake Out Your Sillies**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 12 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**19 FRIDAY, 5 P.M.**

**Christmas Caroling**

The community is invited to sing at El Castillo Retirement Community. Meet at the United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**19 FRIDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.



**2014 Holiday HOOPS**

**3 ON 3 Basketball Tournament**  
at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center

**DECEMBER 27-28, 2014**

**REGISTRATION:**  
Opens: November 1, 2014  
Closes: December 21, 2014  
Register at the Chavez Center

**Fee:**  
\$50.00 per team  
First 40 registered teams receive T-Shirts!

**Divisions:**  
Elementary, Middle School, High School & Adults (male & female)


**3 Game Guarantee**  
plus single elimination tournament

**Awards**  
1st and 2nd place finishers

For more information contact  
James Rivera 955-4075 or  
Dax Roybal 955-4074  
[www.chavezcenter.com](http://www.chavezcenter.com)

## CAMINO DE PAZ SCHOOL

*"I have a better understanding of economics, the environment and how my work can make a difference."*



**Learning means doing!**

The interdisciplinary curriculum at Camino de Paz School requires students' active engagement in intellectual pursuits, meaningful work, and life skills through project-based learning.

Accepting applications for grades 7, 8 and 9  
**OPEN HOUSE DATE**  
Sunday: January 11, 2015 at 2 p.m.

**MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Grades 7, 8 & 9  
505-231-2819 [www.caminodepaz.net](http://www.caminodepaz.net)

# Winter 2014-2015 Calendar – December

**19 FRIDAY, 8 P.M.**

**An Irish Christmas**

The Kerry Dance Troupe, singers, actors and live musicians get your feet tapping and body moving. Call for ticket information. Popejoy Hall, 203 Cornell, Albuquerque. (505) 925-5858.

**20 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**20 SATURDAY, 2 AND 7 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Clan Tynker Family Circus invites you to jump aboard and discover exotic and mysterious places. Spectacular sights and circus skills galore. Purchase tickets at brownpaperickets.com. Armory for the Arts Theater, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 660-5347.

**20 SATURDAY, 2 P.M.**

**"The Nutcracker"**

Embrace the holiday spirit and enjoy the magic of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Children of all ages will marvel at this whimsical interpretation of a seasonal classic. Call for ticket information. Lentic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street, 988-1234.

**20 SATURDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**20 SATURDAY, 6-9 P.M.**

**River of Lights**

ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden. See December 1 listing.

**20 SATURDAY, 7 P.M.**

**"The Nutcracker"**

Lentic Performing Arts Center. See 2 p.m. listing.

**21 SUNDAY, 8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.**

**Lessons and Carols**

Open to all ages. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**21 SUNDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Annual Holiday Open House**

Experience Gustave Baumann's hand-carved marionettes in action. Santa Claus marionette reverses the tradition and sits on children's laps for a holiday photo. Free arts and crafts and take-home puppets. New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 West Palace Avenue, 476-5068.



Maggie Rittmeyer, grade 6

**21 SUNDAY, 1 P.M.**

**"The Nutcracker"**

Lentic Performing Arts Center. See December 20 listing.

**21 SUNDAY, 2 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Armory for the Arts Theater. See December 20 listing.

**21 SUNDAY, 3 P.M.**

**Chanukah on the Plaza**

Live music, latkes, sufganiyot (jelly donuts), entertainment and lighting of the menorah. Sponsored by Chabad Santa Fe, 983-2000.

**21 SUNDAY, 5 P.M.**

**"The Nutcracker"**

Lentic Performing Arts Center. See December 20 listing.

**21 SUNDAY, 5-7 P.M.**

**Winter Solstice Festival**

Celebrate the longest night of the year with drums, bonfires, a farolito labyrinth and storytelling. \$5 per person donation suggested. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

**22 MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Day camp filled with games, sports, swimming, ice skating and arts and crafts. Ages 6 to 12. \$35. Call Melissa, 955-4005. Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 Rodeo Road, 955-4014.

**22 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**22 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**22 MONDAY, 4-6 P.M.**

**Chanukah on Ice**

Skating, menorah lighting, gelt and latkes. Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 W. Rodeo Road. Sponsored by Chabad Santa Fe, 983-2000.

**23 TUESDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Genoveva Chavez Community Center. See December 22 listing.

**23 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**24 WEDNESDAY THROUGH 3 JANUARY, 10 A.M.**

**Interactive Train Exhibit**

Build scenery, learn about trains from experts, change out the cars and even enter a raffle to win a model train set. Open through January 3. Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, 989-8359.

**24 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**24 WEDNESDAY, 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.**

**Christmas Eve Concert**

The Performance Santa Fe Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Illick, performs Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5," and 13-year-old virtuoso pianist/composer Emily Bear plays Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Tickets for the 2 p.m. Family Preview Concert are \$10 per adult with child, \$25 per adult without child. Standard tickets prices apply for the evening show. Lentic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street, 988-1234.

**24 WEDNESDAY, 2 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Armory for the Arts Theater. See December 20 listing.

**25 THURSDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**25 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**26 FRIDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**26 FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Genoveva Chavez Community Center. See December 22 listing.

**26 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**26 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**27 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

## Get Ready for Spring Break & Summer Camp!

List your program in the Spring Break & Summer Camp and Program Directory in our Spring & Summer Issues!

Questions? Call 984-3171 or info@sftumbleweeds.com

Listings are free for display advertisers and \$50 plus tax for others. Or list your program in the Spring and Summer issues for just \$85 plus tax.

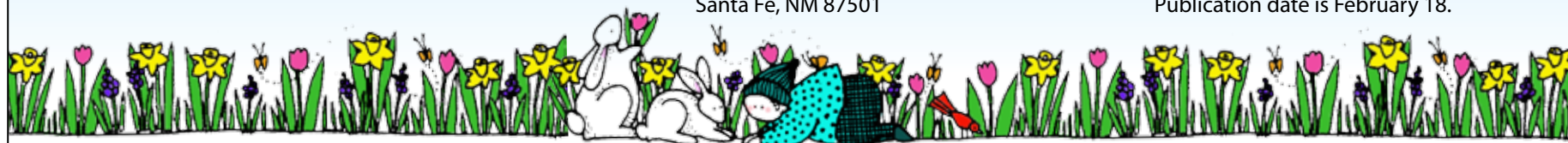
Submit a description of up to 85 words by email: info@sftumbleweeds.com

or mail: Tumbleweeds, 369 Montezuma #191 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Or use the easy click-and-send form on our website, www.sftumbleweeds.com.

Deadline for sending directory listings and reserving display ads is January 30 for our Spring 2015 (March, April, May) issue.

Publication date is February 18.



# Winter 2015 Calendar – December/January

**27 SATURDAY, 2 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Armory for the Arts Theater. See December 20 listing.

**27 SATURDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**27 SATURDAY, 7 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Armory for the Arts Theater. See December 20 listing.

**27 SATURDAY, TIME TBA**

**2014 Holiday Hoops Tournament**

3-on-3 basketball tournament, with elementary, middle school, high school and adult divisions. Geneveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 W. Rodeo Road, 955-4075.

**28 SUNDAY, 2 P.M.**

**The Dream Train**

Armory for the Arts Theater. See December 20 listing.

**28 SUNDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**28 SUNDAY TIME TBA**

**2014 Holiday Hoops Tournament**

Geneveva Chavez Community Center. See December 27 listing.

**29 MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Geneveva Chavez Community Center. See December 22 listing.

**29 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**29 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**29 MONDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.



Camari Knox, grade 5

**30 TUESDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Geneveva Chavez Community Center. See December 22 listing.

**30 TUESDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Holiday Family Program**

Celebrate the holidays New Mexico style by making ornaments, farolitos, cards and flipbooks. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center, 135 Grant Avenue, 946-1039.

**30 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**30 TUESDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**31 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**31 WEDNESDAY, 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.**

**New Year's Eve Concert**

World-renowned violinist Vadim Gluzman and soprano Ava Pine. Program includes Beethoven, Handel and Leh selections. Family Concert Series tickets (2 p.m. show) \$10 per adult with child, 25 per adult without child; Evening show, standard ticket prices. Lentic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street, 988-1234.

**1 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**1 THURSDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**Winter Break Day Camp**

Geneveva Chavez Community Center. See December 22 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 2 P.M.**

**Audubon Center Tours**

The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary. See December 5 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**2 FRIDAY, 6 P.M.**

**Friday Fractals**

New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque. See December 5 listing.

**3 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**3 SATURDAY, 5-8 P.M.**

**GLOW: A Winter Lights Event**

Last night. Santa Fe Botanical Garden. See December 4 listing.

**4 SUNDAY, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.**

**First Sundays!**

New Mexico Natural History Museum, Albuquerque. See December 7 listing.

## JANUARY

**1 THURSDAY, 11-11:45 A.M.**

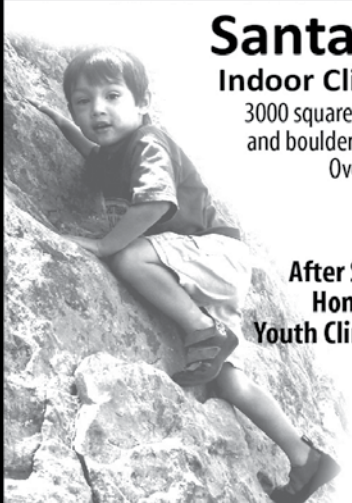
**Firefighter Storytime**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**1 THURSDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.



**Santa Fe Climbing Center**  
**Indoor Climbing Gym & Outdoor Adventures**  
 3000 square feet of climbing surface with a top rope, lead climbing and bouldering area to challenge beginning to advanced climbers. Over 100 different routes and boulder problems with new ones going up every week.

**Youth Programs**  
 After School Classes - Mon, Wed, Fri 3:30-5:00pm  
 Home School Classes - Tue, Thu 1:00-2:30pm  
 Youth Climbing Team - Tue, Thu 3:30-5:00 & 5:00-6:30pm

**Adult Programs**  
 Classes, Memberships and Outdoor Climbs

825 Early Street Suite A  
 Santa Fe, NM 87505  
 (505) 986-8944 www.climbsantafe.com



**Santa Fe Blogger**  
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# Winter 2015 Calendar – January



Yan Yan Shuayan Yin, grade 2

**4 SUNDAY, 11 A.M.**  
**“The Wise Ones”**

Children’s Epiphany Pageant. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**5 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**  
**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**5 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**  
**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**5 MONDAY, 6:30-7:30 P.M.**  
**Family Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 1 listing.

**P 5 MONDAY, 6:30-8 P.M.**  
**Birth Talk Los Alamos**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 1 listing.

**6 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**  
**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**6 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**  
**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**7 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**  
**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 3 listing.

**7 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11:15 A.M.**  
**Toddler Tunes**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**7 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**  
**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**7 WEDNESDAY, 6 P.M.**  
**“Hansel and Gretel”**

Encounter a mouthwatering gingerbread house and a spell-casting witch in Engel Humperdinck’s fairy tale opera, a musical adventure for the entire family, presented free by Performance Santa Fe. Scottish Rite Center, 463 Paseo de Peralta, 984-8759.

**8 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**  
**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**8 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**  
**Children’s Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**P 8 THURSDAY, 1-2 P.M.**  
**La Leche League**

Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center. See December 11 listing.

**8 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**  
**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**8 THURSDAY, 4-5 P.M.**  
**“Try it” Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 4 listing.

**8 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**  
**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 4 listing.

**9 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**9 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 5 listing.

**9 FRIDAY, 7 P.M.**

**Family Movie Night**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 12 listing.

**P 10 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-NOON**  
**Open House**

Parents are invited to visit classrooms, meet teachers and learn about the experiential curriculum. RSVP. Little Earth School, 321 West Zia Road, 988-1968.

**10 SATURDAY, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.**

**Cloth Diapering**

Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center. See December 13 listing.

**10 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**10 SATURDAY, 5 P.M.**

**Jazzin’ Around**

Taos Chamber Music Group presents a world premiere for flute, saxophone and cello by young, up-and-coming composer Corey Dundee, who will also be featured in his composition for solo saxophone, Star Bits. Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux Street, Taos, (575) 758-9826.

**12 MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**School Closure Day Camp**

Day camp filled with games, sports, swimming, ice skating and arts and crafts. Ages 6 to 12. \$35. Call Melissa 955-4005. Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 3221 Rodeo Road, 955-4014.

**12 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**12 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**13 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**13 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**13 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**13 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 16 listing.

**13 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Southside Library. See December 16 listing.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 9-10 A.M.**

**Guided Tour of Little Earth School**

Visit the school and learn about the experiential curriculum. RSVP. Little Earth School, 321 West Zia Road, 988-1968.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 3 listing.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**14 WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Main Library. See December 17 listing.

**P 15 THURSDAY, 10 AND 11 A.M.**  
**Tour Morning**

Growing up Montessori. See December 11 listing.

**15 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**15 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children’s Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**15 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**15 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**“Try it” Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children’s Museum. See December 4 listing.

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# Winter 2015 Calendar – January

**15 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**16 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**16 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**16 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**16 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**16 FRIDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**Harrell House of Natural Oddities**

Meet and learn about local critters. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

**17 SATURDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Harrell House of Natural Oddities**

Meet and learn about local critters. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**17 SATURDAY, NOON-2:30 P.M.**

**Souper Bowl**

Sample soups from some of Santa Fe's finest chefs, to benefit the Food Depot, northern New Mexico's food bank. Santa Fe Community Convention Center, 201 W. Marcy Street, 471-1633 x12.

**17 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**17 SATURDAY, 2:30-3:30 P.M.**

**Harrell House of Natural Oddities**

Meet and learn about local critters. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

**18 SUNDAY, 4 P.M.**

**Winter Dreams**

Santa Fe Symphony presents Winter Dreams, with guest conductor Guillermo Figueroa. Call for ticket information. Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 West San Francisco Street, 988-1234.

**19 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**19 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**20 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**20 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.



Naomi Alvarez Gomez, grade 2

**20 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**20 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Class for ages 6 to 12. Call to register. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

**20 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Class for ages 6 to 12. Call to register. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Elementary students in grades K to 4. Reading, games, crafts and other fun activities. Free; registration required. Vista Grande Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon, 466-7323.

**21 WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Class for ages 6 to 12. Call to register. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**22 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**22 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**22 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**22 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**22 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**23 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**23 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**23 FRIDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Story Time**

Younger children experience the joys of reading and the library. For infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Vista Grande Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon, 466-7323.

**23 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**23 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**23 FRIDAY, 5:30 P.M.**

**Families and Friends Music Fun Night**

Gather for a night of fun and music. All ages. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**24 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.**

**Open House**

Learn about the unique elementary program that Journey Montessori School offers children ages 6 to 12. Refreshments provided. Children welcome. RSVP to [journeyschoolsf@gmail.com](mailto:journeyschoolsf@gmail.com). Journey Montessori School, 1212 Unity Way, 470-8928.

**24 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**24 SATURDAY, 2:30 P.M.**

**Family Movie Matinee**

Family movies with light refreshments. Call for movie titles. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

**26 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**26 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

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# Winter 2015 Calendar – January/February

**26 MONDAY, 10-11:30 A.M.**

**Homeschool Art**

Homeschool families are invited to a special art program designed for kids 4 to 12. Explore the Harwood's diverse collection and create art in the Fern Hogue Mitchell Education Center on the last Monday of each month. Parent participation required. Class will be cancelled in case of a two-hour snow delay. Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux Street, Taos. (575) 758-9826.

**27 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**27 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**27 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**28 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**28 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**28 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**28 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**28 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 21 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.



Emanuel Gonzales, grade 2

**29 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Story Time**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 23 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**29 THURSDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

**"Sleeping Beauty"**

Russian National Ballet Theatre brings the classic tale Sleeping Beauty to life through classic ballet. Call for ticket information. Popejoy Hall, 203 Cornell, Albuquerque, 277-8010.

**30 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**30 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**30 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**30 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**31 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

## FEBRUARY

**1 SUNDAY, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.**

**First Sundays!**

New Mexico Natural History Museum, Albuquerque. See December 7 listing.

**2 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**2 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**2 MONDAY, 6:30-7:30 P.M.**

**Family Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 1 listing.

**P 2 MONDAY, 6:30-8 P.M.**

**Birth Talk Los Alamos**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 1 listing.

**3 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**3 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**3 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11:15 A.M.**

**Toddler Tunes**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**4 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 21 listing.

**5 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**5 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

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# Winter 2015 Calendar – February

**5 THURSDAY, 11-11:45 A.M.**

**Firefighter Storytime**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**5 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**5 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**5 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Story Time**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 23 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 2 P.M.**

**Audubon Center Tours**

The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary. See December 5 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 6 P.M.**

**Friday Fractals**

New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque. See December 5 listing.

**6 FRIDAY, 7 P.M.**

**Family Movie Night**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 12 listing.

**7 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**9 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**9 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**10 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**10 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.



Oliver Rosales, grade 5

**10 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**10 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 16 listing.

**10 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Southside Library. See December 16 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 21 listing.

**11 WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**School-Age Craft**

Main Library. See December 17 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 1-2 P.M.**

**La Leche League**

Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center. See December 11 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**12 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**13 FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**School Closure Day Camp**

Genoveva Chavez Community Center. See January 2 listing.

**13 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**13 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**13 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**13 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**14 SATURDAY, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.**

**Cloth Diapering**

Indigo Baby, De Vargas Center. See December 13 listing.

**14 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**15 SUNDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Wood Carving Demonstrations**

Wooden Menagerie: Made in New Mexico exhibit with music and refreshments. Free to residents of New Mexico with ID and children under 17. Museum of International Folk Art, 706 Camino Lejo, 476-1200.

**16 MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.**

**School Closure Day Camp**

Genoveva Chavez Community Center. See January 2 listing.

**16 MONDAY, 8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.**

**Mardi Gras Celebrations**

Dixieland Jazz music and activities for all ages. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**16 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**16 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**17 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**17 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**17 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

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301 Hillside Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

# Winter 2015 Calendar – February

**17 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See January 20 listing.

**17 TUESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Southside Library. See January 20 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 21 listing.

**18 WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Science After School**

Main Library. See January 21 listing.

**P 19 THURSDAY, 10 AND 11 A.M.**

**Tour Morning**

Growing up Montessori. See December 11 listing.

**19 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**19 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**19 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.



Esmeralda Espino Duarte, grade 2

**19 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**19 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Story Time**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 23 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**20 FRIDAY, 4-5 P.M.**

**Wild Wolf Sanctuary**

Meet and learn about wolves. Oliver La Farge Branch Library, 1730 Llano Street, 955-4863.

**P 21 SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-NOON**

**Open House**

Little Earth School. See January 10 listing.

**21 SATURDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Wild Wolf Sanctuary**

Meet and learn about wolves. Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, 955-6783.

**21 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**21 SATURDAY, 2:30-3:30 P.M.**

**Wild Wolf Sanctuary**

Meet and learn about wolves. Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, 955-4863.

**23 MONDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Toddler Time**

Explora!, Albuquerque. See December 1 listing.

**23 MONDAY, 10-11 A.M.**

**Nature Playtimes**

Pajarito Environmental Education Center. See December 1 listing.

**23 MONDAY 10-11:30**

**Homeschool Art**

Harwood Museum of Art. See January 26 listing.

**24 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Main Library. See December 2 listing.

**24 TUESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 2 listing.

**24 TUESDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 9-10 A.M.**

**Guided Tour of Little Earth School**

Little Earth School. See January 14 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Oliver La Farge Branch Library. See December 3 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 10:30-11 A.M.**

**Wee Wednesday**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 3 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Southside Library. See December 3 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 1-2:30 P.M.**

**Lego Club**

Los Alamos Family Strengths Network. See December 3 listing.

**25 WEDNESDAY, 3-4:30 P.M.**

**After-School Reading Club**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 21 listing.

**26 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:15 A.M.**

**Books and Babies**

Southside Library. See December 4 listing.

**26 THURSDAY, 10:45-11:30 A.M.**

**Children's Story Hour**

Collected Works Bookstore. See December 4 listing.

**26 THURSDAY, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wags and Words**

Vista Grande Public Library. See December 2 listing.

**26 THURSDAY, 4-6:30 P.M.**

**"Try it" Thursdays!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**26 THURSDAY, 4:30-5 P.M.**

**Meet Cornelius!**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 4 listing.

**27 FRIDAY, 9-11 A.M.**

**Parent and Me Friday Mornings**

Make Orange Studio School. See December 5 listing.



**Want to find a last minute event for you and the kids?**

**Or re-read an article you loved a couple of issues ago?**

**Check out the Tumbleweeds website. New info is added all the time!**

# Winter 2015 Calendar – February/Ongoing Events

**27 FRIDAY, 11-11:30 A.M.**

**Preschool Story Time**

Main Library. See December 5 listing.

**27 FRIDAY, 11 A.M.-NOON**

**Story Time**

Vista Grande Public Library. See January 23 listing.

**27 FRIDAY, 2-4 P.M.**

**Friday Afternoon Art**

Main Library. See December 12 listing.

**27 FRIDAY, 2:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Open Art Studio**

Santa Fe Children's Museum. See December 5 listing.

**27 FRIDAY, 5:30 P.M.**

**Families and Friends Game Night**

The community is invited for fun and games. United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, 988-3295.

**27 FRIDAY, TIME TBA**

**NDI New Mexico's Winter Dance**

**Escape**

NDI-NM's advanced dancers perform work choreographed by Cirque du Soleil artistic director Fabrice Lemire. Tickets go on sale February 2. Dance Barns, 1140 Alto Street, 983-7646.

**28 SATURDAY, 1-4 P.M.**

**Reading Tune-Ups**

Improve reading ability. See December 6 listing.

**28 SATURDAY, 2:30 P.M.**

**Family Movie Matinee**

Southside Library. See January 24 listing.

**28 SATURDAY, TIME TBA**

**NDI New Mexico's Winter Dance**

**Escape**

Dance Barns. See February 27 listing.

## Ongoing Events

Museums, cultural centers and other nonprofit organizations, within an easy drive of Santa Fe, offering exhibits, programming and activities for families

**ABQ BIOPARK: ZOO, AQUARIUM, BOTANIC GARDEN**

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission options: Buy a ticket to Zoo only, Aquarium/Botanic Garden, or "BioPark Combo" for all three. Call for prices. Zoo: 903 Tenth Street. Botanic Garden and Aquarium: 2601 Central Avenue, NW, Albuquerque, (505) 764-2000, www.cabq.gov/biopark.

**ABQ BIOPARK: TINGLEY BEACH**

Fish, hike, relax or sail a model boat. Year-round, sunrise to sunset. Free; no tickets needed. 1800 Tingley Drive, SW, Albuquerque. (505) 764-6200, www.cabq.gov/biopark.

**BATAAN MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

Artifacts from the Bataan Death March, Medal of Honor ribbons and biographies. Private tours available; call to arrange. Tuesday through



Juan Nava, grade 4

Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, 474-1670, www.bataanmuseum.com.

**BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM**

Displays, videos and interactive exhibits on the history of the atomic bomb and contemporary research conducted at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday and Monday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission free. 15th and Central Avenue, Los Alamos, (505) 667-4444, www.lanl.gov/museum.

**CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER NEW MEXICO**

Nonprofit educational organization engages young people in science, technology, engineering and math education. Interactive educational Space simulations for students in grades 5 to 12. Special programs for grades K through 4. Activities for all ages. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with some evening activities. Call for prices and schedule; most activities require reservations. Located at the Unser Discovery Campus, 1776 Montañero Road, NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, (505) 248-1776, www.challengernm.org.

**EL MUSEO CULTURAL**

Popular venue in the Railyard for classes and community events. Call or visit website to view calendar for upcoming events. 1615 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, 992-0591, www.elmuseocultural.org.

**EXPLORA**

Family-oriented science center creating opportunities for discovery through interactive experiences in science, technology and art. Programs for toddlers to adults. Open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 6 p.m. Ages 12 and up \$8; seniors \$5; children \$4; under 1 free. Children and toddlers must be accompanied by a paying adult. 1701 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, (505) 224-8300, www.explora.us.

**GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM**

The largest single repository of O'Keeffe's work in the world. Exhibitions, education programs, family and youth programs. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday until 7 p.m. Adults \$12, New Mexico residents \$6; seniors and students over 18 with ID \$10; ages 18 and under free.

Free admission to New Mexico residents with ID, and their guests, on the first Friday of each month. 217 Johnson Street, Santa Fe, 946-1000, www.okeeffemuseum.org.

**HARWOOD MUSEUM OF ART**

Historic and contemporary art and culture of the Taos region. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Monthly Homeschoolers activities, weekly Teen Art activities, and many family programs. Adults \$10; seniors, students and AAA members \$8; ages 12 and under free. New Mexico residents admitted free on Sundays with proof of residence. 238 Ledoux Street, Taos, (575) 758-9826, www.harwoodmuseum.org.

**INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS MUSEUM**

The National Collection of Contemporary Indian Art. Monday and Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Adults \$10; seniors, students with valid ID and New Mexico residents \$5; Native people, members and veterans free. New Mexico residents free on Sunday. Children 16 and under always free. 108 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe, 983-8900, www.iaia.edu.

**LOS ALAMOS FAMILY STRENGTHS NETWORK**

Education, support groups and activities for all families, parents, teens and children. Open

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and for scheduled evening classes. School holidays, delays and closures observed. 1990 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos, (505) 662-4515, www.lafsn.org.

**MUSEUM OF INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE**

Including The Roland Discovery Center: interactive exhibits, puzzles and games for the young and young at heart. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$9; New Mexico residents \$6 daily and free on Sundays; New Mexico seniors with ID free on Wednesdays. Children 16 and under always free. 710 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, 476-1250, www.indianartsandculture.org.

**MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART**

Wide range of folk art displays from around the world. Museum open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$9; New Mexico residents \$6 daily and free on Sundays; New Mexico seniors with ID free on Wednesdays. Children 16 and under always free. 706 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, 476-1200, www.internationalfolkart.org.

**MUSEUM OF SPANISH COLONIAL ART**

Special activities for families and children include "Possible Bags," an art activity bag; the MoSCA Treasure Hunt; puzzles, books, historical costumes and hands-on activities in the Youth Art and Activity Center. Docent tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Special tours for children and adults may be arranged by calling the education department at 982-2226, ext.122. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$5; free to New Mexico residents on Sundays. Children 16 and under always free. 750 Camino Lejo on Museum Hill, 982-2226, www.spanishcolonialblog.org.

**NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM**

Explore history from the pre-Colombian era through the Atomic Age, including the clash and melding of cultures. In addition to galleries, the museum features the Discovery Center, a gathering space for families to engage in hands-on, self-paced activities. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$9; New Mexico residents \$6 daily and free on Sundays; New Mexico seniors with ID free on Wednesdays. Children 16 and under always free. Free Friday Evenings: Free admission 5 to 8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. Historical downtown tours Monday through Saturday 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, 476-5200, www.nmhistory.org.

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# Winter 2014-2015 Calendar – Ongoing Events

## NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF ART

Guided tours free with museum admission. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$9; New Mexico residents \$6 daily and free on Sundays; New Mexico seniors with ID free on Wednesdays. Children 16 and under always free. Free Friday Evenings: Free admission 5 to 8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. 107 W. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, 476-5072, [www.nmartmuseum.org](http://www.nmartmuseum.org).

## NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE

Various exhibits, Planetarium and movies at the giant-screen Lockheed-Martin DynaTheater. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. DynaTheater movies are shown hourly from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum admission: \$7 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 ages 3 to 12; separate admission for DynaTheater and Planetarium. Museum admission free to New Mexico residents with ID on the first Sunday of every month. 1801 Mountain Road, NW, Albuquerque, (505) 841-2800, [www.naturalhistory.org](http://www.naturalhistory.org).

## ORTIZ MOUNTAINS EDUCATIONAL PRESERVE

The Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden is open in winter months for docent-led hikes only. Located 30 miles southwest of Santa Fe, off Highway 14. Reservations required. (505) 471-9103, [www.santafebotanicalgarden.org/visit-us/ortiz-mountains-educational-preserve/](http://www.santafebotanicalgarden.org/visit-us/ortiz-mountains-educational-preserve/).

## PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

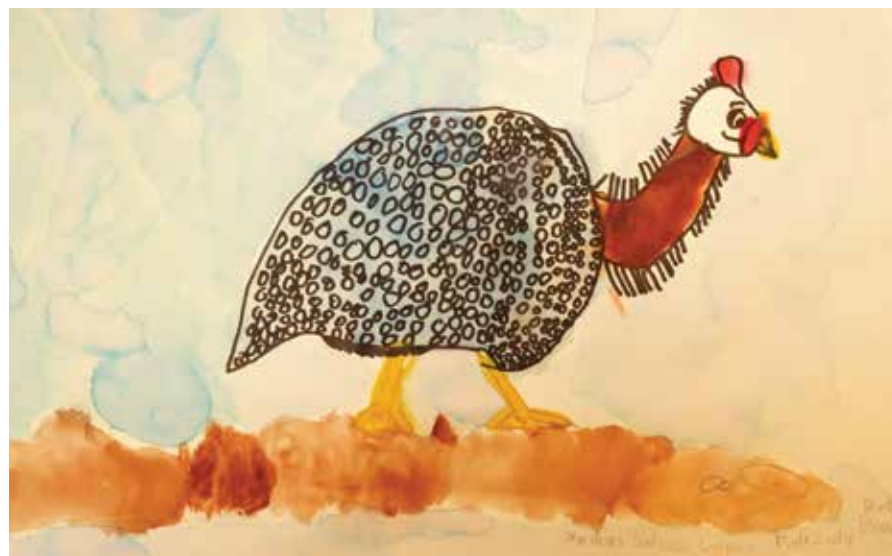
Nature center and outdoor education programs provide opportunities for people of all ages to explore the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pajarito Plateau. Open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nature playtimes for toddlers and preschoolers every Monday (except holidays) from 10 to 11 a.m. Preschool and homeschool discovery programs, nature clubs, middle school and high school environmental clubs and many other activities. Registration required for most activities. 3540 Orange Street, Los Alamos. (505) 662-0460, [www.pajaritoeec.org](http://www.pajaritoeec.org).

## PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

Various exhibits from colonial New Mexico. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission \$9; New Mexico residents \$6 daily and free on Sundays; New Mexico seniors with ID free on Wednesdays. Children 16 and under always free. Free Friday Evenings: Free admission from 5 to 8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. 105 W. Palace Avenue, 476-5100, [www.palaceofthegovernors.org](http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org).

## RAILYARD ARTISAN MARKET

Local artists and craftspeople, farmers, ranchers and food artisans, musicians, refreshments and entertainment, in the heart of the Santa Fe Railyard. Free every Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa Fe Farmers Market, 1607 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, 983-4098, [www.artmarketsantafe.com](http://www.artmarketsantafe.com).



Jordan Satoz Lopez, grade 2

## RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER & SANCTUARY

Over 135 acres of striking landscapes and wildlife, bounded by the Santa Fe National Forest and Santa Fe River Watershed land. Trails and grounds are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nature Store open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include guided bird walks and hikes, and tours of the Randall Davey home. 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, 983-4609, [nmaudubon.org/randall-davey](http://nmaudubon.org/randall-davey).

a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sundays, 955-4860. Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday, 955-2810. [www.santafelibrary.org](http://www.santafelibrary.org).

## VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. Story times, family movie nights, summer reading programs and special events. 14 Avenida Torreon, Eldorado, 466-7323, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org).

## RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER STATE PARK

270 acres of woods, meadows and farmland flourishing with native grasses, wildflowers, willows and cottonwoods, just outside of Albuquerque. Gates open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day; visitor center open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$3 per vehicle. 2901 Candelaria, NW, Albuquerque, 505-344-7240, [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org).

## WAREHOUSE 21

Dance concerts, theater productions and other events and classes for youth under 21. 1614 Paseo de Peralta, 989-4423, [www.warehouse21.org](http://www.warehouse21.org).

## WHEELWRIGHT MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Contemporary and historic Native American art with an emphasis on the Southwest. Private, not-for-profit; no admission fee but donations welcome. Open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. 704 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, 982-4636, [www.wheelwright.org](http://www.wheelwright.org).

## WILDLIFE WEST

Park and attraction dedicated to native wildlife and ecology. 122 acres, including a 1/3-acre pond. All animals are non-releasable, due to injury or other factor that makes life in the wild impossible for them. Park includes an educational program and hosts concerts, festivals and other events. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment. Camping available. Adults \$7; seniors \$6; students \$4; children under 5 free. 87 North Frontage Road, Edgewood (just east of Albuquerque), (505) 281-7655 or (877) 981-9453, [www.wildlifewest.org](http://www.wildlifewest.org).

*Please send us information about family events happening in March, April and May for our Spring 2015 Calendar. Send by email (preferred): [calendar@sftumbleweeds.com](mailto:calendar@sftumbleweeds.com); or mail: Tumbleweeds, 369 Montezuma #191, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Deadline: Friday, January 30.*

## SANTA FE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., 955-6780. Oliver La Farge Branch, 1730 Llano Street, Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday, 10

## SANTA FE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Winter hours: Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. General admission \$7.50; seniors and military \$6; students \$5; ages 12 and under free. Members free. 715 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, [www.santafebotanicalgarden.org](http://www.santafebotanicalgarden.org).

## SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Climbing Wall: Saturday and Sunday 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. General admission \$7.50. Children under 16 free after 4 p.m. Family memberships available. 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, 989-8359, [www.santafechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.santafechildrensmuseum.org).

## SANTA FE FARMERS' MARKET

Open every Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays in summer. The Railyard Artisans market open every Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa Fe Farmers Market, 1607 Paseo de Peralta, 983-4098, [www.santafefarmersmarket.com](http://www.santafefarmersmarket.com).

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# Thank You Santa Fe!



The Santa Fe Children's Museum is one of our most treasured non-profit organizations as they have served our community for over three decades by encouraging creative education in our youth.

Thank you, Santa Fe, for supporting this fantastic organization!

## 2014 Support the Santa Fe Children's Museum Auction

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Santa Fe Botanical Garden  
Santa Fe Brewing Company  
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Fe Children's Dentistry  
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