



Museum Messages

FALL 2007

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Lisa Petrucci, and I recently joined the Board of Directors as President. I've been a Truckee resident for the past 10 years, and have spent the last four years visiting the KidZone with my children Amelia, Tyler & Sawyer.

After working closely with the Treasure Chest team as a volunteer, I was inspired to play a more significant role within the Museum. After meeting the Board of Directors, I agreed to join the Board as President. Thanks to **Kristi Darzynkiewicz**, our past President, for her excellent work in marshalling the Museum forward. And thanks to the outgoing Board Members for their years of dedicated service (*see p.2*).

It is amazing that fall is almost here! After a month of maintenance and cleaning at the KidZone Museum, we are enthused about re-opening our doors.

For those of you who haven't visited this summer, I'm excited to share news of our latest exhibit – Space Zone. Space exploration is, after all, about today's children. It is about a future in which millions of youngsters will be able to ponder the twinkling lights of the night sky and seriously consider soaring off to touch them. It is

about unlocking the secrets of the universe. It is about better understanding our origins, and about making practical advances in science and technology that will improve life on Earth. The exhibit is designed for repetitive play, so your children will enjoy many wondrous hours exploring the space.

This autumn Dragonfly Cuisine is again hosting a KidZone Fundraiser on Thursday, September 27. Please join us for a spectacular evening of great food, entertainment, and company. Our gratitude is expressed to owners chef **Billy McCullough** and **Phebe Bell** as well as the staff at Dragonfly for their ongoing support of the Museum. *Thank you, Billy and Phebe!*

The Board of Directors would like to introduce you to our four new board members: **Kelly Thayer; Lisa McPherson, Jennifer Scannella-Standteiner; and David Griffith**. These individuals bring unique skills and perspectives to the Board, and we appreciate their participation (*see p.2*).

Have a wonderful fall. Please remember to sign up your kids for some of our great programs in September!

Lisa Petrucci
President, Board of Directors

6th Annual Dragonfly Dinner
A Taste of Asia
Thursday, September 27
5:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$60 per person

- Four-course meal
- Cultural entertainment
- Art and ski auction



Call after 3:45 to make your reservation with Dragonfly
(530) 587-0557

*Benefiting the KidZone Museum and the
Art and Culture Council of Truckee Tahoe*

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Members of our Benefactors Board donate \$5,000 or more a year to the KidZone. Want to join? Call Carol at the Museum: (530) 587-5437

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Director's Update

Welcome New Board Members!

The officers and directors of the KidZone are a committed group of volunteers. Board Members are parents with skills in business, finance, child development, marketing, sales, grant writing, and running non- and for-profit entities.

LISA PETRUCCI, President, a 20-year sales and business development executive, has extensive experience building and leading teams. She has worked closely with literacy organizations and homeless shelters across the country. Lisa also heads our Treasure Chest thrift store team, and is focused on improving marketing and customer services.

DAVID GRIFFITH, Development, is the Redevelopment and Housing Coordinator for the Town of Truckee. He is using his skills to help secure a location for our new facility, while partnering with other community-based organizations.

LISA MCPHERSON, Education, who obtained her degree in human development and family studies, oversees our educational programs and camps.

JENNIFER SCANNELLA-STANDTEINER, Exhibits, who has a master's in education, has been instrumental in planning, designing, and installing two major exhibits for the KidZone: "Sierra Settlers" and "Space Zone."

KELLY THAYER, Philanthropy, is a leading sales executive within the high-tech area. She is focused on attracting major donors/benefactors for our Endowment Fund.

*We wish to thank our recent Board members **Kimberly Bullock, Ernie Dambach, Kristi Darzynkiewicz, Lizbeth Doving, Leslie Saxe, and Rose Weskamp** for their dedication and hard work for the past few years. ♦*

The past year the KidZone Museum has been busy with a new exhibit, new camps, and our new Texas Hold'Em fundraiser. We are excited that the KidZone has grown to accommodate 17,000 visitors this year. Sometimes it is hard for us to keep up -- but our donors and funders help us accomplish our goals for children and families. Recently we were awarded two outstanding grants:

1. \$50,000 for the next three years (\$150,000 total) from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, awarded so we can reach children in rural areas that surround Truckee. It also expands our ability to serve children of all socio-economic levels.
2. \$5,000 from Met Life. The KidZone is one of 20 museums that will participate in the 2007-2008 Children's Museum Universal Design Assessment Project. The project will provide us with a comprehensive assessment of our current environment as it relates to universal design. The assessment process includes and goes beyond ADA guidelines in providing a warm and welcoming environment for all families. Our customer service and marketing (and even our cleaning process!) will be evaluated.

Also included in the award are two public workshops: (1) Play is "Fun"amental (focusing on the Importance of Play and design), and (2) Sensory Play (focusing specifically on how sensory play

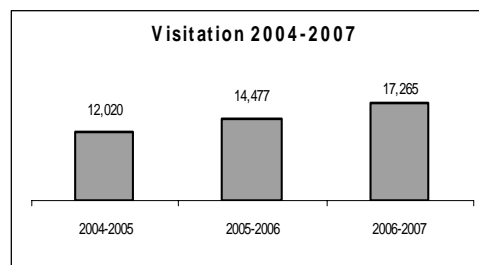
helps children build attention skills). The grant will be awarded when the assessment is completed so that that the KidZone can implement recommended changes.

We are so grateful to have these awards, but we still struggle to cover our operating costs which we raise through fundraisers and donations. PLEASE come to our **Dragonfly Dinner on September 27**, and PLEASE consider us in your year-end giving. These funds provide critical operating support.

Of course we always rely on our gifts in kind and volunteers. This year we calculated \$60,000 worth of gifts in Kind, and \$120,000 in volunteer hours! We are so lucky to have so much support from local business and people like you! Thank you! See you at the KidZone!

Wishing you a wonderful fall and school year for your family.

*Carol Meagher
Executive Director*



Special thanks to our Sagehen Volunteers: **Chefs Rich Valentine, Rene Kaldunski, Chris and Ashley Banovich.**
Teen volunteers who worked hard all weekend: **Chase Nunez, Allee Macrorie, J.J. and Eric Patterson.**

Museum is CLOSED on shaded days.
Open to Club Amiguitos & Science Club
members on Mondays.



September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Dollar Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 10 Messy Science	19 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	20 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	21 9:30 Wonder Sci	22
23	24 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	25 10 Messy Science	26 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	27 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag Dragonfly Dinner	28 9:30 Wonder Sci TC ½ off sale	29 TC ½ off sale

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	2 Dollar Day 10 Messy Science	3 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	4 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	5 9:30 Wonder Sci	6
7	8 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	9 Winter Hours Begin 10 am -5pm 10 Messy Science	10 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	11 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	12 9:30 Wonder Sci	13 Parent's Night Out
14	15 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	16 10 Messy Science	17 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	18 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	19 9:30 Wonder Sci	20
21	22 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	23 10 Messy Science	24 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	25 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	26 9:30 Wonder Sci	27
28	29 NO CLASSES HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL 4-6pm	30 10 Messy Science TC ½ off sale	31 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci TC ½ off sale			

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	2 9:30 Wonder Sci	3
4	5 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	6 Dollar Day 10 Messy Science	7 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	8 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	9 9:30 Wonder Sci	10 Parent's Night Out
11	12 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	13 10 Messy Science	14 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	15 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag	16 9:30 Wonder Sci	17
18	19 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	20 10 Messy Science	21 No Classes	22 Thanksgiving	23 9:30 Wonder Sci	24
25	26 10&1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	27 10 Messy Science	28 10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Sci	29 9:30 Little Arts 12 Soaring Imag TC ½ off sale	30 9:30 Wonder Sci TC ½ off sale	



Round Table Pizza, Truckee, is our generous PNO pizza sponsor for the year! Thank them when you go out for Pizza next!

Hands-on Classes

Classes begin the week of September 18
Each session has 12 classes. No refunds after September 7.
To register, call (530) 587-5437

Club Amiguitos

Ages 3-5 (parents need not attend)

Mondays

Teacher Brandy Lopez

Together with the State Preschool, children will participate in art, science, reading

and music activities in Spanish and in English. Taught by the State Preschool teachers and KidZone early childhood educator Brandy Lopez. This preschool program is sponsored by Nevada County School Readiness.

Space is limited. Must pre-register.

Mondays
10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
OR
1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Ends 11/26

FREE

Messy FUN Hands-on Science Club

Mondays—1st, 2nd, 3rd graders

Sign up now as space is limited.

Wonder how things work and why? We will be experimenting with a little chemistry and engineering.



Mondays
4 p.m.—5 p.m.
\$25 per month

Messy Science

Ages 2-6 (parents must attend)

Tuesdays

Teacher Brooke Landis

Children (with parents) will freely explore 2 or 3 hands on science centers each week, including: slimy gooey goop, magnets,

color and light, rolling ramps, and bubbles. Hands-on, open-ended activities allow a wide age range of children to experiment. Parents will enjoy experiencing new discoveries with their child.

Class size limited; drop-ins if room avail.

Tuesdays
10 a.m. - 11 am
\$60
(members receive 20% discount)
Punch card option:
\$5 members, \$6 non-members per class if space is available

Messy Art Explorations

Ages 1-6 (parents must attend)

Wednesdays

Teacher Liz Bordner

Did you know that when children get messy and explore art materials freely they develop creativity, perception, problem solv-

ing, imagination, decision making, self confidence, a sense of individuality, hand-eye coordination, left/right brain orientation, language skills, open ended thinking, fine motor skills, and observation skills?

Each week we will provide 3 open-ended art experiences which focus on the process of creating. Projects provide a variety of art experiences such as: collage, printmaking, watercolors, chalk, silky crayons, and finger

Wednesdays
10 a.m.—11 a.m.
\$60
(members receive 20% discount)
Punch card option:
\$5 members, \$6 non-members per class if space is available

wonder Science

Ages 4-6 (parents need not attend)

Wednesdays OR Fridays

Teacher Cathy Foley

Ever wonder if you could blow bubbles with your hands? How many different colors can you make? Do you know what “gak” feels like? How do bugs move? How can you make a piece

of paper fly? What do YOU wonder? Each week new open-ended activities help us experiment with ideas such as: bubbles, gooey stuff, flying things, magnets, water and ice, color and light, spinning tops, or bugs. Kids will use science skills while freely exploring and making their own discoveries.



Lunch, Science & Play
Wednesdays
noon—2 p.m.
OR
Fridays
9:30—11:30 a.m.
\$158
(members receive 20% discount)
Parent must volunteer once to help with the walk to/from Truckee Elementary.

WELCOME BACK Brooke Landis and Elizabeth Bell, early learning & credentialed teachers!

Classes *(continued)*

Classes begin the week of September 18
 Each session has 12 classes. No refunds after September 7.
 To register, call (530) 587-5437

Artists' Workshop

Ages 4-6 (parents need not attend)

Thursdays

Teacher Elizabeth Bell

Join us as we explore the world of art. Each week we will introduce a new art tech-

nique, and children will have the opportunity for open-ended explorations. We will work with water colors, clay, collage, weaving, printing, and much more. The focus of this class is on the process of working with these materials — rather than on specific products. Come discover the endless possibilities!

Class size limited; drop-ins if room avail.

Lunch, Art & Play

Thursdays

9:30—11:30 a.m.

\$158

(members receive 20% discount)

Parent must volunteer once to help with the walk to/from Truckee Elementary.

Soaring Imaginations

Ages 3-5 (parents need not attend)

Thursdays

Teacher Brandy Lopez

Books open up a world of wonder engaging the natural curiosity in children. In

Soaring Imaginations, children will be able to explore, test ideas and discover for themselves about the world around them based on our book and topic for the day.

A hands-on activity will compliment each story to reinforce comprehension and subject matter in a fun and open-ended manner. Come and let us unlock the imagination in

Lunch, Read & Play

Thursdays

noon—2 p.m.

\$158

(members receive 20% discount)

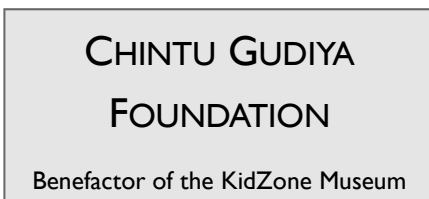
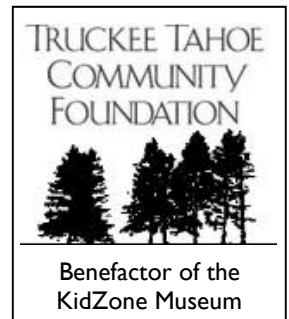
Parent must volunteer once to help with the walk to/from Truckee Elementary.

SUMMARY OF CLASSES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 & 1 Club Amig 4 Science Club	10 Messy Science	10 Messy Art 12 Wonder Science	9:30 Art Wrkshop 12 Soaring Imagin	9:30 Wonder Science



- Punch card can be used for any KidZone class (\$30 per card—\$36 value)
- For all classes, drop-ins only if space available.
- Classes follow the TTUSD schedule (no class during school vacations, holidays or snow days).
- During winter storms, Museum will remain open unless storm is SEVERE.



Support us by signing up friends, family and you. At www.escrip.com choose Sierra Nevada Children's Museum or KidZone Museum. It costs you nothing yet raises \$12,000 a year for us. Or, we can help you sign up at the Museum!



How to raise a fun and funny child

By Leslie Crawford,
BabyCenter.com



Developmental experts who've studied humor say a childhood filled with laughter and fun has benefits that last a lifetime. "A sense of humor offers a huge advantage in life," says Lawrence J. Cohen, author of *Playful Parenting* and a psychologist specializing in children's play. "It's one of the best ways people have figured out to cope with things that are difficult." A child who can easily tap his funny bone is more likely to make strong friendships, be well-liked by peers, and as an adult get along with colleagues at work, manage frustration, diffuse conflict, and suffer less from depression. A sense of humor is also linked to intelligence, self-esteem, creativity, and problem solving.

What's more, humor offers parents rare insight into their children's cognitive development. As humor expert Paul McGhee points out, humor is a form of intellectual play. In infants, laughter is initially stimulated by physical play (tickling, raspberries, and very gentle rough-and-tumble). But as early as 6 or 7 months, when babies start to gain a clearer sense of their world and how it works, they begin taking

pleasure in seeing that known world turned on its head — the very essence of humor.

When your child "gets the joke," it's a sign that he's developing significant intellectual skills. So celebrate when your infant gurgles with glee over a game of peekaboo, your 1-year-old titters madly when you sing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in a Tweety Bird voice, your preschooler giggles wildly when you hold a shoe to your ear and say, "Hello?," or your 7-year-old pulls off his first pun.

Parents who laugh often and easily with their children understand that humor is an invaluable parenting tool, one that can be used to discipline without conflict. Moms and dads accustomed to yukking it up with their children also find it's a way to stay close.

Can humor be taught, or is it an inherited trait like left-handedness and green eyes? While some children seem to be born with a bubbly, good-natured disposition, developmental psychologists say humor can be taught. Think of it as a muscle (one no doubt near the funny bone) that needs to be strengthened and worked regularly.

Being funny shouldn't be another burden to add to an already hefty parenting to-do list (8 a.m.: Make clown pancakes; 1 p.m.: Tell an elephant joke; 5 p.m.: Slip on a banana peel). All you have to do is tap into your silliest self.

Fortunately, you have

years to develop your act, starting with your goofiest material for your baby. Tickle her toes and sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" in a ridiculous voice. To crack up your toddler, put a shoe on your head and a hat on your foot. Pick up your 4-year-old's favorite action hero and have him announce what's on the menu for dinner.

"Humor and fun make your household run more smoothly," says Paula Spencer, mother of four and author of *Momfidence! An Oreo Never Killed Anybody and Other Secrets of Happier Parenting*. "It helps kids feel more relaxed and confident and have more goodwill

A child who can easily tap his funny bone is more likely to make strong friendships, be well-liked by peers....

toward you." Plus, a funny thing happens on your way to making your child giggle. As scientists attest, laughter is infectious.

Once you get your child guffawing, you'll find yourself in stitches, too.

And why not have fun? You're in the parenting gig for a good 18 years. Your family might as well have a few good laughs along the way.◇



20 Children's Books for Your Shelf

Compiled by Marge Learned,
SF schoolteacher

1. When Lightning Comes in a Jar
by Patricia Polacco
2. Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
by Kevin Henkes
3. The Art Lesson
by Tomie de Paola
4. Ish
by Peter H. Reynolds
5. Knuffle Bunny
by Mo Willems
6. Sometimes I'm Bombaloo
by Rachel Vail
7. Yoko
by Rosemary Wells
8. Stellaluna
by Janell Cannon
9. Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge
by Mem Fox
10. Love You Forever
by Robert Munsch
11. The Kissing Hand
by Audrey Penn
12. The Giving Tree
by Shel Silverstein
13. The Tale of Despereaux
by Kate Di Camillo
14. Two Mrs. Gibsons
by Toyomi Igus
15. Tulip Sees America
by Cynthia Rylant
16. Frederick
by Leo Lionni
17. Insectlopedia
by Douglas Florian
18. Shortcut
by Donald Crews
19. The Emperor's Egg
by Martin Jenkins
20. The Mole and the Baby Bird
by Marjorie Newman ◇

Local Events

KidZone Halloween Carnival &

Dia de Los Muertos!

October 29, 4 - 6 p.m. FREE family fun!

Baby and Me Class

New parents and caregivers are invited to sign up for the popular "Baby and Me" classes taught in Truckee by Jen Lang-Ree, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. The next series of 7 classes begins September 7 and provides education, informal discussion and interactive fun for moms and babies. It is geared for non-ambulatory infants, ages birth through 12 months. Classes are offered at \$84 for the series with scholarships available.

Call 582-2583 or email rhall@ttusd.org to register or for more info.◇



See our latest exhibit: Space Zone

A mere \$10!
KidZone
CD
fundraiser



Contact the KidZone about renting the Museum for your next birthday party: 587-5437

Many thanks to Church of the Mountains Preschool for sponsoring the birthday party books.



Local Events

Tuesdays, 8 a.m.—1 p.m., Regional Park
Farmers' Market until October 9.

Sept 8 (Sat), 8 a.m. registration
Free flights for ages 8-17. Truckee Tahoe Airport. 587-4811; eagles@eaa1073.org

Sept 9 (Sun)
Trails and Vistas Arts Walk. Dance, music and art on a hike through the beautiful landscape of the Sierra. Fee. 550-8262 or www.trailsandvistas.com.

Sept 15-16 (Sat & Sun), 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Art Bark Fest 2007. Village at Squaw. Wine tasting \$25. Benefits Humane Society Truckee-Tahoe & Squaw Rescue Dogs. www.thebarkfestival.com or 583-WAGS

Sept 15-16 (Sat & Sun)
Truckee Renaissance Faire. Regional Park. www.truckeerenfaire.org or 582-1498

Sept 23 (Sun), 4 p.m.
The Emigrant Experience. Donner State Park. Events centered around the Donner Party crossing and the Donner area itself. BBQ & bluegrass. 587-9113

September 27 (Thur)
Dragonfly Fundraiser Dinner (see p.1 for details)

Sept 29 (Sat), 2 - 6 p.m.
Village Oktoberfest. Village at Squaw. Joe Smiell & 20 pc Bavarian Band, games, traditional fare and German beer. www.thevillageatsquaw.com or 583-9247

Sept 29-30 (Sat & Sun)
Donner Party Hike. Truckee and Donner Summit. Guided, interpretive hikes through snowsheds, high sierra lakes and geography. www.truckee.com, 587-2757

Oct 6 (Sat), noon - 4 p.m.
Truckee Wine, Walk & Shop. Fee. www.truckeevinewalk.com or 550-2252

Oct 7 (Sun)
Sierra Senior Services Pancake Breakfast. 550-7600

Oct 13 (Sat), 8 a.m. registration
Free flights for ages 8-17. Truckee Tahoe Airport. 587-4811; eagles@eaa1073.org

Oct 14 (Sun)
Truckee River Day. Restoration projects, activities, art show. Food, music, and contests make a fun family event. www.truckeeriverday.org or 550-8760

Oct 20 (Sat)
Truckee Elementary Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

Oct 25-26 (Thur & Fri)
Haunted House Activities. Truckee Community Center. 582-7720

Oct 26-31 (Fri-Wed)
Great Pumpkin Festival. Village at Squaw. Haunted house, doggie costume contest, Halloween parties, and trick-or-treating. www.thevillageatsquawvally.com or 587-6266

Oct 29 (Mon), 4-6 p.m.
KidZone Halloween Carnival & Dia de Los Muertos

Oct 31 (Wed)
Trick or Treating at Northstar-at-Tahoe. Children's activities and trick-or-treating. www.northstarattahoe.com

Nov 4 (Sun)
Sierra Senior Services Pancake Breakfast. 550-7600 ◇





Non profit 501(c)3
11711 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161

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Org.
US Postage
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Winter Hours *Starts Tues, 10/9
(after Columbus Day)*

Tues—Sat: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

*Closed Mondays (except to Club Amiguitos and
Science Club participants) and during
SEVERE storms.*

**Visit the KidZone
Treasure Chest!**

New and used toys
Clothing
Gear

Halloween costumes coming soon

We are looking for part-time
employees and volunteers.

*Volunteers donating 3+ hours/
month receive a
\$10 certificate to Smokey's or
Earthly Delights.*



(530) 587.8732
12030 Donner Pass Road
Truckee
(across from the outlet mall)

**50% off sale — the last
TWO open days of the
month**

Fri/Sat, 9/28 & 9/29
Tues/Wed, 10/30 & 10/31
Thurs/Fri, 11/29 & 11/30

Hours:
Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Your donations of clean quality children's toys,
clothing and gear are tax deductible.





We want space loot!

New toys
that
compliment the
KidZone's new exhibit:

Space Zone

All donations are tax deductible, and all proceeds benefit the KidZone
Museum. The KidZone Museum is a 501(c)3 organization.