

Northeast Texas Children's Museum Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

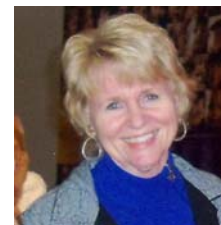
January - March 2011

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The Director's Corner

The year 2010 was a great one for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Almost 19,000 visited this year an increase of more than 3,000 above 2009's attendance rate. The addition of our math program for third graders and science program for fifth graders was one reason for our increase in attendance. These programs and others only strengthen our over-all environment. Most importantly, for the first time in its history, the Museum ended its year in the black. None of these successes could have occurred without you, our friends and members! ***We thank you for your help and ask for it again this year.*** Without you, we simply could not keep the doors open.



Sharline Freeman

Healthy Kids from A to Z Continues in 2011

The spring classes of *Healthy Kids from A to Z* begin January 19 at 10:00 am. March 9 will mark the final class this spring. Whitney Ferguson and Patti Peron will continue to lead the eight classes. Preschoolers will



begin the second session with the study of the letter "I". Each session includes crafts, stories, songs, and a physical activity related to the letter of the day. One mother recently commented, "My child considers this her school. She can hardly wait to come each week. One family of four traveled from Mt. Pleasant to attend the class each week."

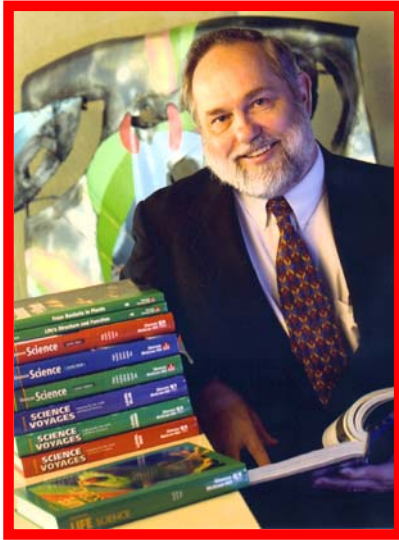
Healthy Kids from A to Z is made possible through generous funding from Hunt Regional Healthcare and the Department of Campus Recreation, Texas A&M University-Commerce. To register for the eight-week spring class, please call the Northeast Texas Children's Museum at (903) 886-6055. The registration fee for members is \$10.00 for a mother and child for eight weeks. The fee for non-member is \$15.00 for a mother and child. Each additional child is \$5.00.



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



Volunteer Profile



Alton Biggs

Alton Biggs is the current board president of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. His leadership style is perhaps a bit unconventional, but he has been able to partner with other board members to set and attain goals, and he works with others in the community to make the Museum a more

prominent destination for visitors to Commerce.

Alton is a retired educator and currently is owner of Biggs Educational Consulting. He provides custom staff development for school districts, writes test items for standardized tests, and authors textbooks in biology and the life sciences for Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

He received his B.S. from the Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1974, his M.S. in 1979 and is an A.B.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas. Mr. Biggs and his wife, Louise, have lived in Commerce since 2006.

Grocery Store Remodel Completed

When the official Brookshire signs were hung in October, the remodeling of the Grocery Exhibit was completed. The additions to the exhibit include a frozen foods area, floor art and signage, and shelves with plexiglass.

Another highlight is the scanners that are now in the check-out area. The scanners were built by Dr Charles Rogers, physics professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce. A beep can now be heard each time a grocery item is moved across the scanning area.

We also thank Trish Wood, board secretary/treasurer, for donating a cash register for the children to use in this exhibit.

If you've not visited the Museum recently, come see our updated Brookshire's Grocery Exhibit.

A Wild West Round-Up

The second annual Mother-Son event brought cowboys and their moms to the Museum on October 9 for a Wild West Round-Up. Looking like characters from western movies, the young boys came to an exciting evening with Western activities. They participated in roping activities and panning for gold. Sorting and throwing horseshoes also provided fun for the young cowboys. They followed clues of a train robbery to determine their ability to ride with the posse. Each successful member of the posse received a sheriff's badge. Cowboy chow of chili and Frito pie fed the young men and their moms. Pictures to remember the evening gave mothers a special time to spend with their sons.



Nicholas Finley plays cowboy with Mommy.

The educational adventure aligned perfectly with the Museum's mission to inspire imagination, enhance creativity, and build confidence in children. If you know a mother and son team who haven't heard about the Northeast Texas Children's mother-son event, be sure to tell them about it. We'll have another adventure in October just for boys and their mothers to get a chance to have some quality bonding time.

Weird Science Returns in February

Enrollment has begun for the fifth grade *Weird Science* program. Last year more than one thousand fifth graders participated in four hands-on science activities that dealt with fourteen of the TEKS on the state's TAKS test.

Some adjustments have been made to this year's program to accommodate time restrictions of some participating schools. The program will again be led by Kathleen Hooten. Kathleen wrote the activities and will be directing the program each day. We wish to thank Farmers Electric Cooperative, which has provided a generous donation to print the student workbooks.

Weird Science begins February 8 with fifth grade students from North Hopkins and Boles ISD. The program concludes on March 4. Any interested school should call the Northeast Texas Children's Museum for additional information.

Math Program Is Hit With Third Graders

Almost a thousand third graders participated in *Monster Math Madness* during October and November. The largest group participating came from Aikin Elementary School in Paris.

"We loved the activities! Thank you for doing this, and I look forward to more," commented one of the Aikin teachers on the evaluation form.

Third graders came with their class for workshops on measurement. Measurement was chosen because of general student difficulty in this area as shown on

TAKS test results. The hands-on

activities and lessons were written by Dr Eileen Faulkenberry, math professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Three math workshops were set up inside the Museum. Workshops involved measuring volume, using rocker balances to weigh items in ounces and grams, and measuring the perimeter of items in inches and centimeters. Student booklets were printed using a donation from Atmos Energy.

Volunteer instructors played an important role each day. A total of 273 hours were donated by volunteers by the time that *Monster Math Madness* concluded on November 23! Volunteers came from the community, Northeast Texas Hunt County Retired Teachers, AH PEO, and students from Texas A&M University-Commerce. Our sincere thanks go to every volunteer! Without you, the program wouldn't have been the success that it was and many of our children would not have had access to the activities that helped them to learn the lessons needed to help them be more successful on the mathematics portion of the TAKS tests.



The Museum's Wish List

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



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

Daddy-Daughter Dance

The third annual Daddy-Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, February 5. Nell Venable will chair the 2011 event. Nell's ideas and enthusiasm will be an asset. We encourage the attendance of a daughter, granddaughter, niece or friend. Individual or business sponsors are important to the event. Sponsors will be recognized with hearts that will be used throughout the Museum. Hearts will vary in size for sponsorships of \$50 to \$500. Names of sponsors will also be listed on the activity sheet for the evening.



How does one put a price on the bonding experiences between a daughter and her daddy? Some things in life are priceless!

A Special Thank You

The following have sponsored days (*\$200 provides utilities and lease for one day*) at the Museum:

State Farm Insurance – October 7 and 8

Chapter AH PEO – October 12

Guaranty Bond Bank – October 14

Dr. Dorothy Ingram – November 3

Dr. Dan & Jalinna Jones – December 3

Ms. June Dunn – December 6

Thank You!

Free Admission Weekend Scheduled in January

Northeast Texas Children's Museum will again sponsor a free admission weekend on Saturday, January 29. This is one way that the Museum can express appreciation to all of northeast Texas for supporting the Museum in 2010. Free admission will be throughout the day from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will also be doing a ribbon-cutting for our Brookshire's Grocery Exhibit.

Donations and Memberships

The annual donor request letters for the Museum were mailed in November. With the volunteer support and generosity of our donors, Northeast Texas Children's Museum continues operations into its ninth year. There are many ways that donors can assist the Museum financially.

An individual or couple may sponsor a day at the Museum for \$200. A donation at this level will be recognized on the donor's sign, be recognized on a date of the donor's choosing, and be a part of any other recognition of the supporters of the Museum.

Donations may also be made to any of our special events such as the "Daddy-Daughter Dance" or the "Mother-Son Event" at the Museum. There are so many ways that you can help our community with donations to the Children's Museum.

If you misplaced or lost your letter, don't despair. You can make a donation for the year to the Northeast Texas Children's Museum by filling out the form below. This is the time for you to complete your donation for the year.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

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

Amount of Donation: _____ For: _____

Northeast Texas Children's Museum

NW Corner Culver and Highway 50

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

Commerce, Texas 75428

Email: director@netxcm.com

Brunch with Santa Event Closes 2010 at Northeast Texas Children's Museum

Saturday, December 4 saw more than 200 parents, grandparents, and children celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. The bright eyes of the children added to the event.

While taking pictures with Santa, children had the opportunity to send their list to the elves at the North Pole. The Museum thanks Wendell and Linda Edwards for their role in making Santa and Mrs. Claus come alive for the children.

Parents and children worked with Museum volunteers to make Christmas ornaments. Volunteers commented on the intensity with which some of the children completed their ornaments.

Music was provided by the Cross Trails Children's Choir under the direction of Mary Miller. Parents and their children gathered to listen to the favorite songs of Christmas.

Blake Cooper, Commerce ISD Superintendent, held the attention of all the children as he read *The Night Before Christmas*. In spite of all the surrounding activity, children focused on his story and the excitement as "Santa came down the chimney."

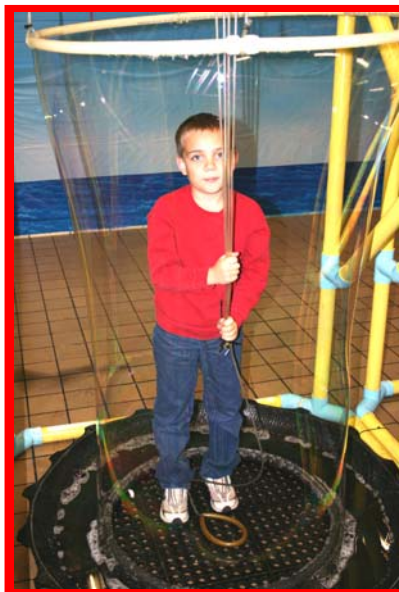
The Kiwanis Club provided pancakes as only the Kiwanis Club can. The brunch would not be possible without their help.

The Museum thanks Mr. Steve Pallow for building a new train exhibit for Christmas. The village and Christmas trolley were great additions to the Christmas decorations. Mr. Pallow also provided inflatables to be placed throughout the Museum.

As her family left the Museum, one parent commented, "We thank the Museum for providing an event such as this. This is a special time for my family."

Northeast Texas Children's Museum is all about providing special times for the children of our area and their families! So, come and visit us again soon, won't you?

***We can't say it often
enough, so we'll say it
again. Thank You!***



The Bubble Room Exhibit continues to be a draw at all times of the year.



Making Christmas ornaments was a big hit.



Blake Cooper reads The Night Before Christmas.