

Northeast Texas Children's Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 3

July - September 2013

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Sharline Freeman,
Executive Director



I want to thank each of you who came to the Northeast Texas Children's Museum this summer. You brought your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Watching the enthusiasm of the children as they arrive at our door makes us all smile. After thirteen years of "Cousins' Camps" for my own grandchildren, I enjoy planning summer activities for your children. This summer was especially fun with theme weeks. Watching children search for the Dino egg during Dino Week was exciting. Friends on Wheels allowed children see a police car, a Harley, and a trash truck compact trash. Your suggestions and comments are always appreciated as we work to strengthen our curriculum for children. We hope to see you again soon. Please call the Museum (903-886-6055) or e-mail director@netxcm.com with any questions that you might have. Come see us!

Mark Your Calendar for Fall Events!

Healthy Kids from A to Z will begin its fourth year on Wednesday, October 2 at 10:00. The eight-week class for preschoolers focuses on a letter of the alphabet each week. A healthy activity and a healthy food relating to the letter is presented each week. This year Bettina Zavanut will direct the class. She will be assisted by Patti Peron.



Dino Math for third graders begins October 15. Students will rotate through three math stations focused on measurement. Students have hands-on experience with balances, grams, in inches and centimeters and in pints, measuring in ounces and quarts, and gallons. Volunteer certified teachers instruct in each of the three stations.

Brunch with Santa will be December 7. With the Kiwanis Club providing the breakfast, this is a Christmas highlight for families in the area. Favorite activities are choir performances and books read to children.



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

Cypress Bank Announces Exhibit

A new drive-through bank will be arriving soon at the Children's Museum. Cypress Bank is opening a new branch at the Children's Museum. Children will be able to deposit money by a play car. (Hopefully there will be no robberies!) We thank Cypress Bank and looks forward to this exciting new exhibit.



Summer Program Highlights

The Bubble Lady, sponsored by 10-2-4 Ranch, arrived at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum on July 11. She delighted the crowd by making and blowing bubbles with her hands. Three of the Museum staff were called to the front and then were each wrapped in a bubble. One of the best parts of the day was being given the Bubble Lady's secret bubble recipe. This is now being used in



the Museum for our own bubbles.

The Critterman Show, sponsored by McDaniel Dentistry and Dixie Turman State Farm Insurance attracted almost 200 visitors to the Children's Museum on July 26. The evening was also the first time the Museum has opened to families in the evening. Families who work during the day had an opportunity to come to the Museum after work. We plan to offer another Family Night in early spring.



Theme Weeks and Special Events

In June, July and August 5,654 visitors from 105 communities came to the Children's Museum. The Theme Weeks were a big attraction during the summer. **Dino Week**, **Things that Go Pop Week**, **Community Week**, **Science Week**, and **Math Week** were a focus during their scheduled week. Volunteers helped with each week and activities were coordinated with the theme for the week. We are now looking for themes for the summer of 2014. Let us know if you have any suggestions.

Fabulously Fashionable for older girls and the **Spa Day** for younger girls were highlights for the girls in the area. Fabulously Fashionable concluded with a style show by participating girls; the younger girls in the Spa Day left the Museum with nails done and hair styled. A foot massage courtesy of Fire and Ice was also part of the

Spa Day package.



The Commerce ISD Softball Team assisted with hair styling during the Fabulously Fashionable event.

Bois d'Arc Giving Tree Unveiled

An Open House will be held at the Children's Museum on Thursday, September 19 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. A Bois d'Arc tree painted by Kay Jensen will be unveiled with the names of donors who have donated at least \$200 in the last 12 months. Donors' names will be recognized with the appropriate plaque for donations made from October 1, 2012 to September 19, 2013. We appreciate all our donations as they make it possible for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum to exist. Come see our tree on September 19.



Officer Alex Suarez of the Commerce Police Department and Chad Ballard of the University Police Department have worked together for four years to present a Police Camp at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum, improving the curriculum each year. Participants this year were challenged to observe a crime scene and to solve the crime. Police Camp continues to be one of the most popular events offered at the Children's Museum. These officers are dedicated to their profession and to helping children. They work with the participants of each class to provide an ID folder with each child's fingerprint and photo. The Northeast Texas Children's Museum thanks Officer Alex Suarez and Officer Chad Ballard for their dedication to children and support of the Children's Museum.



Alex Suarez



Chad Ballard

Officer Alex Suarez, Warrant Officer and Community Resource Officer, has been with the Commerce Police Department for the last five years. He is also the department's Public Information Officer and is currently working on his degree in Criminal Justice.

Originally from Oklahoma, Chad Ballard has been a member of the University Police Department for seven years. He began his career as a Security Officer and is now a Patrol Sergeant. Ballard speaks throughout the TAMU-C campus on Public Relations. He is a member of the current Commerce Leadership Class.



Daily Sponsors for July –September

Jim and Majette Murrey – July 23-24
 Pat and Janet Skauge – July 25-26
 Alton and Louise Biggs – September 4-16

Summer Volunteers

Indiana Smith (Dino Week)
 Barbara Tucker and Yvonne Rollins (Cooking Camp)
 Barry Weaver (Republic Service)
 Alex Suarez and Chad Benson (CSI Camp and

Friends on Wheels)
 Alex Suarez (Friends on Wheels)
 Elisabeth and Shannon Leyerle (Fabulously Fashionable)
 Becky Adams, Collette Young, Commerce ISD Softball Team, Fire 'n Ice Massage and Liz Knight (Spa Day)
 Wendell and Linda Edwards (Children during Colonial Times)
 Wyman Williams (Math Week)
 Kathleen Hooten (Science Week)



Donating to the Museum

To give donors another option, donations to the Northeast Texas Children’s Museum can now be made through PayPal by going to our web page at <http://netxcm.com/index.php> or you may come by the Museum to make a donation at any time. You may also mail the form below. Remember that every dollar helps keep our doors open!

Donor Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ **Amount of Donation:** _____

For: _____

Send to: *Northeast Texas Children’s Museum
 P. O. Box 994
 NW Corner Culver and Highway 50
 Commerce, Texas 75428*

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

Email: director@netxcm.com