

# *Northeast Texas Children's Newsletter*

Volume 4, Number 4

October - December 2013

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*Executive Director*

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Kathleen Hooten

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Bonnie Hunter

David McKenna

## *The Director's Corner*

The year 2013 has been an exciting one for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Many of you have visited us for the first time, while others of you continue to support us with memberships and returning visits throughout the year.

The support of all of you who have come to the Museum is so important to us. We are excited to see children enjoying the play areas that were added in the last year. We look forward to 2014 and the potential before us. We hope that you will join us in 2014 as we continue to expand the Northeast Texas Children's Museum.



*Sharline Freeman,  
Executive Director*

## *Museum to Hike Some Rates*

Beginning January, 2014, some fees will be changed at the Children's Museum. The price of admission will be \$5.00 for both adults and children. This represents a \$2 increase for adults, but children's admission remains the same.

Saturday Birthday Party fees will increase from \$85 to \$90. Sunday and Theme Parties will remain the same.

All memberships will increase the fee for additional children. Currently, two child-



ren are part of the Membership fee and there is no change from the amount. The change will be for additional children. The current price is \$5 for each additional child. That amount will increase to \$10 for each additional child. Memberships expiring soon are encouraged to renew before January, 2014.



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



Santa will be making a visit to the Children's Museum at Brunch with Santa on Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 to 11:30. This popular family event will include a pancake breakfast courtesy of the Commerce Kiwanis, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Christmas crafts, a childrens' choir, and a Christmas story. Balloon entertainment and a Christmas train will highlight the morning. This is a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season. Tickets are \$7 but will be \$10 the day of the event. Call or come by the Children's Museum to purchase your ticket. Get your cameras ready, bring your wish list, and come say "hello" to Jolly Saint Nick.



*Dan Jones, Texas A&M University-Commerce president read a Christmas story to children in 2012.*

*Students used a variety of tools to make their measurements at the Dino Math Workshops.*



## *Dino Math Sparks Interest*

Dino Math for third graders was offered again in October and November to third graders. The focus of the Dino Math Workshop is measurement. Students measured rice in ounces, cups, pints, quarts and gallons; students measured dinosaurs in inches and meters; and students measured a variety of objects in ounces and grams using rocker balances. The hands-on workshops provide an opportunity for all participating students to complete measurement activities and record their answers in workbooks.



*Students are naturally more interested in the task of measurement when it involves their very own plastic dinosaur.*

Teachers comments included, "We love the hands-on opportunities these workshops provide." "We don't have rocker balances for each student, and these workshops provide opportunities for students that we cannot provide in our classrooms".

Thanks to volunteers Dr. Howard Lambert, Ms. Susan Patton, Ms. Bettina Zvanut, Ms. Jane Webb, Ms. Lois Amundson, Ms. Kathleen Hooten, and Ms. Virginia Collier. Lessons were also taught by Children's Museum employees Ms. D'Ann Frank and Ms. Debbie Dunham.



## *Bois d'Arc Giving Tree Unveiled*

There is now a tree in the Party Room, Thanks to talented artist Kay Jensen, a Donors' Bois d'Arc tree is now a part of the Party Room. Donors for 2012-13 were recognized on September 10 as the tree was unveiled. Donors were recognized with gold, silver, red, and yellow plaques attached to the bois d'arc apples on the tree. Special purple plaques were used to recognize special volunteers. Come visit the Children's Museum and see the beautiful tree.




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## *Our Daily Sponsors for October – December*

Mr. Jim Murrey – November 2  
Dr. Dorothy Ingram – November 5



Dr. Gil Naizer is a Professor in the Curriculum & Instruction Department at Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMUC). He arrived in Commerce with his wife and four children about 16 years ago and soon became involved with the early stages of the Children's Museum. Some may remember our preview days, "Adventures in Curiosity" before we had a building. These events were held to highlight what a children's museum could be, and how it could benefit the children of Northeast Texas. Gil serves on the Museum Board and is currently the Board President. His children are adults and can sometimes be found volunteering at Museum events.



*Gil Naizer, PhD*

Dr. Naizer received his PhD in Science Education from Texas A&M University (Gig 'em!) in 1993, then taught for four years at The Ohio State University-Newark before making the trip back to Texas. At Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gil teaches graduate and undergraduate courses. He has directed multiple grant programs focused on science teacher professional development and motivating students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Gil's wife, Tammy, a TAMU-C University alumnus, received a MS degree in 2011. All four of his children graduated from Commerce High School and two of them (Michael & John) are currently in the Honors College at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Susan and Brian are also Aggies, having graduated from Texas A&M University in 2006 & 2009, respectively.

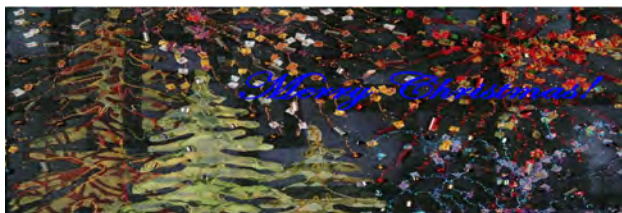


## Help Us Break Our Record!

As October ended, just over 18,000 have visited the Children's Museum in 2013. Our goal is 20,000 by the end of the year. We want to encourage your visits, especially between now and the end of the year. To give you a special reason to visit, anyone who comes to the Children's Museum before January 1, 2014, and says the code phrase "Break the Record!", will receive \$1 off the price of admission. Come visit and help us reach 20,000 for 2013.

## Watch for These Upcoming Events

Super Saturday – January 18, 2014  
Daddy Daughter Dance – February 8, 2014  
Family Nights at the Museum – January 24  
and February 21, 2014  
Bridge Event – To Be Announced  
Silent Auction – April 4, 2014



*Northeast Texas Children's Museum will close Tuesday, December 24 - Thursday, January 2, 2014 for Christmas. However, the Museum will open during this time for private parties.*



## 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](mailto:director@netxcm.com)*