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tulsakids

July 2018

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BY ZOE ETOILE ROBERTS



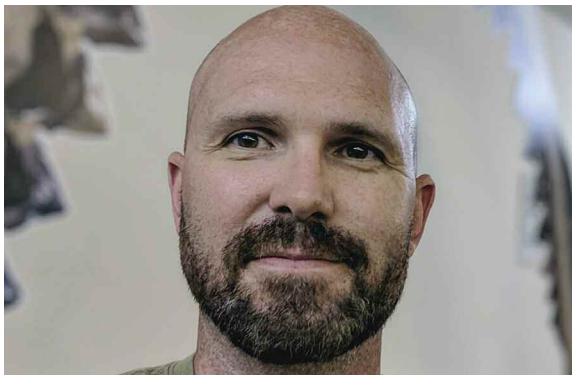
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editor's note

TulsaKids Readers Share the Love

Once again, we asked our readers to share their families' favorite places in and around Tulsa. From burgers and ice cream to babies and date nights (oops! Those last two could be a Freudian slip), you shared your top picks on our online ballot. After tabulating everything (thank you, Tara), we are announcing the winners and two finalists in this issue.

While our winners deserve props, we felt that finalists should have some recognition as well. The voting was totally open – we don't do nominees, so getting in the top three on an open ballot is quite an accomplishment. As you look through the winners, you'll see some old favorites, but you'll also find new contenders in some of the categories. We appreciate all of you who took the time to fill out our Family Favorites ballot.

While you're perusing the Family Favorite winners, you might want to pick out a performance, an art museum or other cultural experience to take your children to see.

Current research shows that children whose parents take them to culturally rich experiences such as live theater or museums boosted children's critical thinking skills. Read the article in this issue about arts and education by Chalkbeat's Matt Barnum to learn more.

Speaking of learning, this issue contains a school listing, so if you are searching for a school for your child for the fall, or are looking for options in the future, be sure to take a look at this useful annual guide.

Of course, if you've picked up the magazine in time, you'll want to look at the Fourth of July activities around the area. That list appears within our calendar pages, which, as always, gives you the monthly scoop on all the family-friendly fun around town. You can also find everything on our website. While you're there, sign up for extras coming directly into your inbox via our e-newsletter. But wait! There's more. Go to TulsaKids homepage to find the downloadable e-book, FAMILY FUN GUIDE. It's packed with things to do with the kids all summer.

Betty Casey, editor

If you like to read TulsaKids, you may not know that you can watch us, too! Every Thursday morning on Tulsa's Channel 8, the local ABC affiliate, join Editor Betty Casey on Good Day Tulsa for tips to plan your family's weekend and more. Watch Good Morning Oklahoma on Tuesdays for tips on timely topics and family information you'll want to know.



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PUBLISHER
publisher@tulsakids.com
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
editor@tulsakids.com
CALENDAR
(submit by 10th of the month prior)
calendar@tulsakids.com

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CELEBRATE FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Share your family's heritage with future generations by researching your roots and creating a family tree. Join Tulsa City-County Library's Genealogy Center in July for its annual Family History Month series featuring a variety of free workshops for new genealogy researchers as well as lifetime enthusiasts.

All of the workshops, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., in Frossard Auditorium. A hearing loop is available.

Family History Month workshops scheduled at Hardesty Regional Library are:

• "Beginning Genealogy," July 7, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn how to begin your family history research and discover the resources you need.

• "Create Your Digital Genealogy Bookshelf," July 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Can't find that family history book you need in the library? Learn where to find genealogy books online and how to save them to your computer or The Cloud.

• "DIY Digital Archives for Genealogists," July 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Learn tips for digitally preserving family photos, papers and more. Explore methods for digitizing family heirlooms and organizing digital assets, plus learn about digitization tools available at Central Library's Digital Literacy Lab.

• "Preservation Techniques for Family Historians," July 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Join certified archivist Mallory Covington and learn techniques for storing and keeping your fragile family documents and photographs safe and protected for future generations.

• "Government Documents for the Family Historian," July 21, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Record collections created by federal and state government agencies document historical events, legislative actions and a variety of other data. Discover the collections most useful to family historians and learn how to tap into the wonderful world of genealogical information found in these documents. •

"Introduction to the Draper Manuscripts," July 21, 1:45-2:45 p.m. Learn how to locate hidden gems buried within the pages of the Draper Manuscripts, a premier collection of early American historical documents available at the Genealogy Center.

• "What's New at the Genealogy Center," July 21, 3-4 p.m. Learn about new services and resources available at the Genealogy Center.

The following workshops are presented by popular genealogist Mark Lowe and are scheduled at Hardesty Regional Library. They are sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust.

• "Family Trees: Build One or Cut Them Down," July 28, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Understand the advantages of creating a public family tree and what you should and should not include. Learn how to deal with incorrect or unsubstantiated information.

• "Finding, Locating and Using Online Manuscripts," July 28, 10:45-11:45 a.m. Records about families, individuals and neighbors who moved back East often are elusive, but may hold hidden treasure for the persistent researcher. Discover the people with whom they worked, prayed, fought and married.

• "Live or Webinar: Learn More About Genealogical Resources," July 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Today's technology allows us to learn from resources far away from our home base. Learn what's available, how to find media and where to most likely find the right answers.•

• "Ten Tools You Need Today," July 28, 2:45-3:45 p.m. Discover 10 books or web resources needed by every family researcher to build your reference shelf, and learn how to use these handy references to move your research to the next level.

• "Understand Your Ancestor's Migration and Settlement Using Maps & More," July 29, 1:30-4 p.m. With a combination of modern technology and historic maps, we can view the land in a unique and thorough way. Learn how to combine narrative text and stories with maps, deeds, photographs and other content to share your ancestry.

Family History Month workshops scheduled at other libraries are:

• "DIY: Digitization in Action," Central Library, Digital Literacy Lab, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue; July 18 or July 31, 1-2 p.m. Looking to save your family history in a more updated format? Learn how to use our digitization equipment to digitize slides, photographs, vinyl and cassette for your genealogy projects. Registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323.

• "Explore Ancestry Library Edition," Nathan Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St.; July 24, 2-3:30 p.m. Get an overview and learn how to use some of the most useful record collections found in Ancestry Library Edition.

Located on the second floor of the Hardesty Regional Library, the Genealogy Center has one of the largest genealogical collections in Oklahoma. A partnership with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, gives researchers who visit the Genealogy Center online access to the Family History Library's digitized records, including restricted content not available at home.

For more details about the Family History Month workshops or Genealogy Center, go to http://guides.tulsalibrary.org/genealogy/ or call 918-549-7691.

UPPER CRUST PIZZA HAS NEW MENU

Upper Crust Wood Fired Pizza recently announced the addition of a brunch menu on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The menus will feature Upper Crust's take on Avocado Toast, a breakfast calzone, and breakfast-inspired pizzas. Brunch cocktails will also be added to the menu.

In addition to brunch, Upper Curst is adding two new pizzas, two new sandwiches, a new appetizer, salad and dessert as well as a customizable charcuterie board.



continued next page

OKLAHOMA 529 SUMMER SAVINGS SWEEPSTAKES

State Treasurer Ken Miller announced the launch of the 1018 Summer Saving Adventure Sweepstakes, which will award one Oklahoma child with $5,529 toward an Oklahoma College Saving Plan account.

The 2018 Summer Savings Adventure Sweepstakes will close on July 31, 2018. Sweepstakes entry, official rules and additional information are available at www.ok4saving.org. The winner will be randomly selected and formally announced shortly after the sweepstakes concludes.

The sweepstakes is open to Oklahoma residents who are parents, grandparents or legal guardians who are at least 21 years old and have a child or grandchild 16 years old or younger who is also an Oklahoma resident.

HEY, KIDS! THE GATHERING PLACE OPENS SEPT. 8!

After months of waiting, the 66.5-acre phase one of the Gathering Place, a public park along Riverside Drive, is opening on Sept. 8. Phase ll will open in 2019. As part of the big reveal, opening day kicks off 100 Days of Opening Celebration festivities, including lots of culturally diverse music and nightly light shows. The Sept. 8 performance will be hip-hop/neo soul band The Roots.

There is something for every age from playgrounds to skate and bike parks to boat rentals to places to just sit and relax. Gathering Place is a free, public park for everyone to enjoy.

Watch for more information about Gathering Place in these pages, or go to www.gatheringplace.org.



LOCAL AUTHOR HONORED WITH INDIE AWARD



Tulsa writer Abir Wood was honored as a winner in the 12th Annual national Indie Excellence Awards for her middle grade book The Revenge of Zachariah Kermit Higgins. The award recognizes English language books in print from independent, university, and self-publishers. For a complete list of NIEA Winners and Finalists, go to www.indieexcellence.com.

SAVING OUR KIDS BANQUET JULY 28

The 11th Annual Christina Ministers Alliance Inc.'s Saving Our Kids Banquet is set for Saturday, July 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W. 7th Street. The organization is working to raise funds for a youth center in north Tulsa.

Mistress of Ceremonies is LeAnn Taylor, News on Six co-anchor, and the guest speaker for the evening is Steve Kunzweiler, Tulsa County district attorney. Honorees include: Dr. Kent Smith, president, Langston University; Steve Wright, CEO, Prosperity Bank; Rev. M.C. Potter, pastor, Antioch Baptist Church; Betty Casey, editor, TulsaKids Magazine; Robin Hutchins, administrative assistant to the president, Northeastern State University; and Allen Crone, meteorologist, News on Six.

Individual tickets for the event are $100, or $1000 for a table of 10. Several levels of corporate sponsorships also are available. For tickets or for more information, contact Rev. W. R. Casey, Jr. 918.951.7407 or 918.902.1374.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

If you plan to shoot off your own fireworks on the 4th of July, take some time to review these simple tips for a safe holiday:

1. Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.

2. Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. How about letting your young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but they don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.

3. Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

Most area communities require a permit to shoot fireworks. Fireworks are prohibited in Tulsa. Got to TulsaKids calendar for area fireworks displays. For more firework safety tips, go to www.safekids.org/tip/fireworks-safety-tips.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In "Political Parents" in the June 2018 issue, Nicole Nixon was identified as running for Oklahoma State Senate. She did run for State Senate in a special election, but is currently running for State House District 68.

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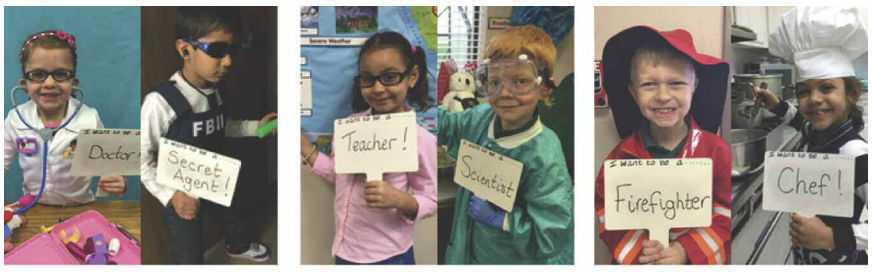
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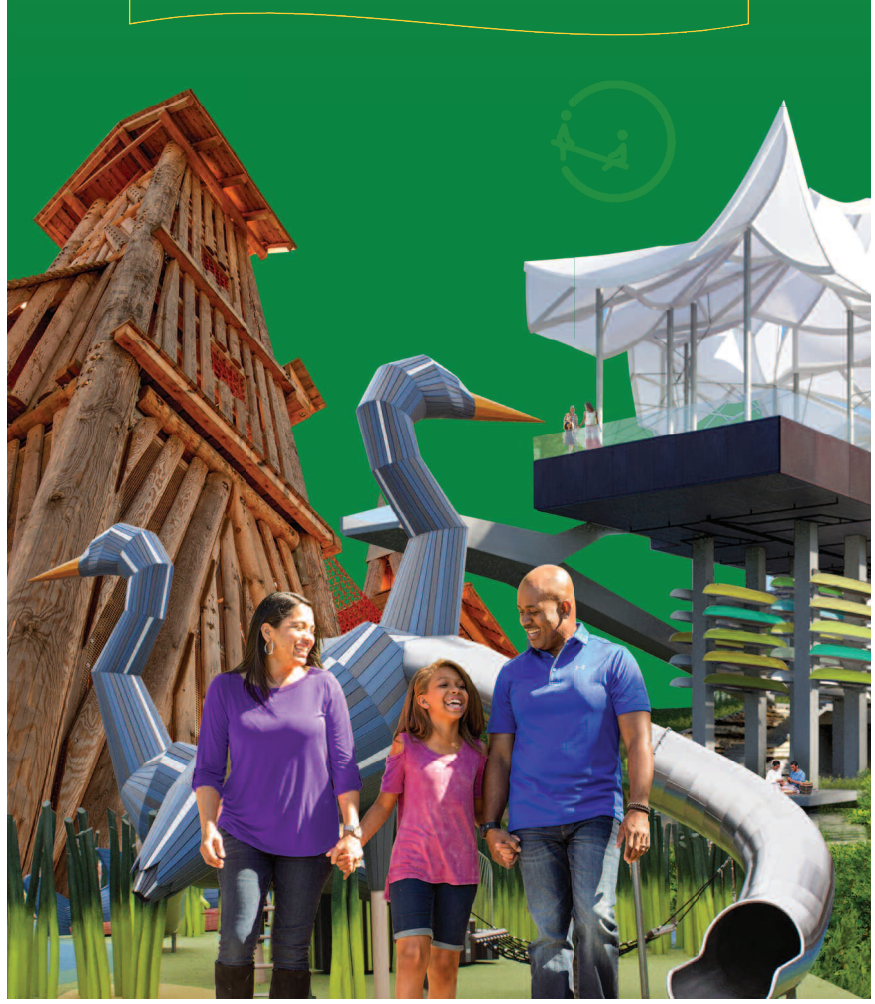
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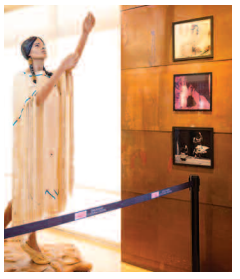
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ADVENTURE ROAD 35

CHICKASAW COUNTRY





BY KILEY ROBERSON

screen time: tuning out the tube

Catching up on "The Bachelor" while you breastfeed or changing a diaper while "Dancing with the Stars" is on in the background could be called multi-tasking. But, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), "Secondhand TV," (their term for TV playing in the background) can harm development in babies under age 2.

The information isn't shocking. Pediatricians have been telling parents since 1999 the same no-TV-under-2 advice. But despite this warning, the New York Times reports that approximately 90 percent of parents say their infants consume electronic media in some form. As a parent of two, I was guilty of occasionally failing the TV test myself. Because how realistic is it to never have the TV, phone or iPad near your baby for two whole years? It was a constant battle at our house, but it's a fight that the AAP says is worth it. Studies have shown that even educational shows such as Sesame Street should be off limits. While these shows have been known to contribute to improved language and social skills in children older than 2, the same programming for younger kids actually delays language skills. Evidence also suggests that screen viewing before age 2 has lasting negative effects on children's reading skills, attention spans and short-term memory.



INFANT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS IN THE REAL WORLD, NOT IN FRONT OF A SCREEN.

The fact is, there are no benefits from TV before your child turns 2. The "educational" baby videos that portray pint-sized Picassos and mini-Mozarts seem too good to be true because they are. Doctors at The Institute for Infant Brain Development in Phoenix say that infant brain growth happens in direct response to external stimulation, in the context of real-world experiences. Which means that telling Junior about the laundry you're folding is much more educational than any video engineered to boost his intellect. Researchers have actually found that very young children are much slower to imitate a task when they watch it on a screen than when they see it performed live.

But the AAP says the real problem lies not only with what babies are doing while they're watching TV, but what they aren't doing. Specifically, children are programmed to learn from interacting with other people. Whenever one party, child or parent, is watching TV, the exchange comes to a halt. Just having the TV on in the background, even if "no one is watching it," is enough to delay language development. Normally a parent speaks about 940 words per hour when a baby is around. With the television on, that number falls by 770. To sum it up, fewer words means less learning.

So what can we do to tune out the tube? The simple answer is to just turn it off. The AAP recommends parents employ other ways of stimulating children's learning when they are busy doing what they have to do. For instance, instead of placing young children in front of a screen while you prepare dinner or do chores, have them nearby engaged in supervised play, such as playing with nested cups or pots and pans on the floor. Talk to them about what you're doing. And, as your children get older, the AAP recommends that you don't put a TV set in your young child's bedroom, and limit older children to two hours of screen time per day.

With all this in mind, it may be safe to say that a family movie night or quick cartoon once in a while isn't going to damage your little darling. But as with most things life, moderation is key.



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BY MARY BETH RITCHIE, LCSW

patriotism begins at home:

SMALL WAYS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN

The Fourth of July celebration is about more than fireworks. This is an excellent time to introduce the topic of citizenship to your children. Citizenship is about being a part of something larger. We need to teach our children how they are already able to contribute to family, school, and community. These skills will later be transferable to becoming good Americans and citizens of our world. Patriotism is also an important part of citizenship. Before or after enjoying the fireworks together, explain to your children why we are actually celebrating. Tell them about some of the freedoms we have which are not enjoyed elsewhere in the world.

Patriotism

As a teacher, I see many ways that good citizenship is being taught and encouraged in our schools. We stand for The Pledge of Allegiance each morning. This promotes patriotism, while also developing the notion of being part of the larger American community. Our students gave an outstanding performance of patriotic music this year near Veteran's Day. This was an excellent opportunity to teach children about the sacrifices our veterans make for us. Our second-grade students often perform a production in which students represent famous Americans whom they have studied. Elementary students regularly learn about our nation's symbols, such as the flag, The Statue of Liberty, and The Liberty Bell. Teachers frequently involve students when establishing classroom rules and procedures, which gives them an opportunity to discuss how our laws are created, and why it's important to follow them.

Parents may choose to promote patriotism by sharing books about famous Americans. I visited with a local elementary school librarian who recommends, "George Washington's Teeth" by Deborah Chandra and the Lightbox series of books about American symbols. Ask a librarian to help you find age-appropriate books for your child.

> "Parents should be aware that they are modeling for their children, even when they don't realize children are listening."

Citizenship

Good citizens give back to their communities, so children need to be given ways to do this. Our student council recently held a toy drive. Families donated several hundred toys that were contributed to Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless and The Parent Child Center of Tulsa. Our school also sent monthly care packages to our troops overseas. Summer is an ideal time to involve your children in community service projects like this at home.

Teaching children to contribute to the family by doing chores is an early step toward creating responsible citizens. Honestly, sometimes it's easier to do the chores yourself. However, this does not allow the child to experience the value of being a contributing member of the family. As soon as children are able, have them pick up their toys, clean their rooms, and make their beds. They can also help with some kitchen chores and yardwork. Children can also learn to be good citizens by being taught to conserve our natural resources. Teach them to conserve water by not letting it run while brushing their teeth. They can also learn to turn off lights when not needed.

Children should be taught that they have rights and freedoms as described in The Bill of Rights. It is also important for them to learn that they have related obligations. Good citizens learn to follow our laws. Good training for this includes following the rules at home and school. Parents can assist children in this effort by enforcing rules at home and supporting school rules.

Rights & Responsibilities

Voting is one of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Parents can model this by taking children with them to vote, or to help with the campaign of a particular candidate. It is vital that children learn that, along with the right to vote, goes the responsibility to remain informed on current events. Discuss current events with your children. Feel free to share your opinions, and the reasoning behind them. However, this is also a perfect opportunity to teach the value of tolerance. Teach children to respect the opinions of others. Sometimes, parents don't even realize that they are teaching intolerance. Several years ago, during the presidential election, one of my students said he hoped that Donald Trump would win. Another student was absolutely mortified. She loudly exclaimed, "You're for Donald Trump?" We took classroom time to discuss how all opinions would be respected in my classroom. We would have had the same conversation regardless of the candidate mentioned. Parents can teach these same values at home. Parents should be aware that they are modeling for their children, even when they don't realize children are listening. Both of my sons now vote. While we don't always agree, we do respect and value the other's opinion. I am quite proud that both of them can articulate their political positions knowledgeably.

This Fourth of July, try making the holiday about more that the fireworks. Explain to your children what makes America special and unique. Begin teaching them how to become responsible and contributing members of a family, community, nation and the world.



BY ZOE ETOILE ROBERTS

The results are in. You voted. We compiled. And now we can present you with the winners of our Family Favorites awards, chosen by you, the readers of TulsaKids. You'll find some old favorites as well as a few newbies, and maybe even a few surprises (who knew In the Raw would be voted as our readers' Favorite Children's Menu?).

CULTURE

FAVORITE CULTURAL SPOT: PHILBROOK

For over 75 years, the Philbrook Museum of Art has been a perfect place to spend time with your family. Explore pieces of modern and contemporary art alongside extensive Native American exhibitions with a stroll through the halls of Philbrook's grand mansion. The newest exhibition, Innovative Impressions, showcases works by world-renowned artists such as Edgar Degas and Mary Cassatt until September 9. Philbrook also offers many family-friendly activities such as art classes, family studio sessions, and guided tours to treat anyone's inner artist. The museum is always free for kids 17 and younger, and every Second Saturday is free for everyone.

Finalists: Gilcrease Museum, Discovery Lab

FAVORITE PERFORMANCES FOR CHILDREN: TULSA PAC PERFORMANCES

Since their doors opened in 1977, the Tulsa Performing Arts Center has been enriching locals with live music and professional performances. With frequent showings of the Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Symphony and the Tulsa Opera, the PAC can inspire young performers by giving them an exciting, up-close experience. In July, Seussical Jr., a broadway-inspired production based on some of Dr. Seuss' children's classics, will be showing at the PAC. Let your imagination run wild with this whimsical performance for the whole family.

Finalists: Spotlight Children's Theater, Seedling Symphony

PARKS & VACATIONS

FAVORITE LOCAL PARK: WOODWARD PARK

If you are looking for a breath of fresh air under a canopy of trees, Woodward Park is the ultimate urban escape. This 45-acre park is perfect for an evening stroll, family photos, picnics, and some family fun in the sun. At the south end of Woodward Park, Linnaeus Teaching Garden hosts kid-friendly events such as Children's Garden Tours and Little Green Thumbs, a summer program that provides kids with hands-on gardening experience.

Finalists: LaFortune Park, Haikey Creek

FAVORITE STATE PARK: BEAVERS BEND

Summertime adventures and nature exploration await at Beavers Bend State Park. Located in mountainous Broken Bow, Oklahoma, there are many activities for kids to enjoy such as canoeing, fishing, hiking, and observing wildlife. Cabins and other lodging options are readily available along with local restaurants close by, making it easy to spend a weekend soaking up the great outdoors with the whole family. Old West Mini Golf and the Hochatown Petting Zoo are just some of the many recreational options available at the park.

Finalists: Greenleaf, Keystone

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY: OKLAHOMA CITY
If you are looking for a getaway but you don't want to leave the great state of Oklahoma, plan a family road-trip to our state capitol. Roar with the lions at the Oklahoma City Zoo, explore Bricktown with the boat tours, visit the Oklahoma Memorial Museum, the Oklahoma History Museum, the OKC Art Museum with its permanent Chihuly collection or express your inner scientist at the Science Museum or your inner cowboy at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. There's lots to explore in OKC!

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: THE TULSA DRILLERS
Take me out to the ball game! Drillers baseball games are a Tulsa favorite with over 10 home games throughout July for families to enjoy. With field tickets costing around $5 each, lounge on the lush grass, take in the Tulsa skyline, and watch the greatest American pastime at ONEOK field. There is also a play area for kids and if you purchase wristbands, the family can even meet Hornsby at Hornsby's Hangout. Don't miss the Friday evening fireworks shows at the stadium after the game.
Finalists: Oklahoma City Thunder, Tulsa Oilers

GROCERY STORE

FAVORITE GROCERY STORE: REASOR'S
Finding fresh, quality groceries year round can be difficult, but Reasor's can elevate every family dinner. Since 1963, this family-owned business has been "selling customers items they want to buy." With 18 locations scattered throughout the area, Reasor's has everything from after-school snacks and lunch-box essentials to healthy and delicious ingredients to feed your family top-quality meals.
Finalists: Sprouts, Aldi

EATS

FAVORITE PIZZA: ANDOLINI'S PIZZERIA
Craving a slice of pizza? Andolini's Pizzeria has become a family favorite with its cozy atmosphere and authentic Italian menu. Inspired by Neapolitan cuisine, the hand-tossed pizzas and the warm garlic knots are instant crowd pleasers. The menu is perfect for anyone in the family, with a plethora of gluten-free options and customizable pizzas for the inventive diner. If you need to cool off on a hot, summer day or if you simply have a sweet-tooth, finish off your meal with some creamy chocolate chip or lemon biscotti gelato.
Finalists: Hideaway, Savastano's





FAVORITE ICE CREAM: BRAUM'S
If you are melting in the summer heat, indulge with a tasty treat from Braum's Ice Cream Shop. This quick-stop shop has been serving Tulsa's favorite ice cream for over 80 years. Braum's offers premium ice cream, sherbet, frozen yogurt, and other frozen snacks to make any day just a little bit sweeter. Whether it is a quick pick-me-up, an after-school treat or a family outing, Braum's is the perfect place to satisfy everyone's appetite for a chilly dessert.
Finalists: Andy's Frozen Custard, STG Gelateria

FAVORITE LOCAL BURGERS: FAT GUY'S BURGERS
Known for their juicy and fat burgers, Fat Guy's Burgers adds a unique and personal touch to their fare. With layers of patties smothered in butter and loaded with cheese, these burgers are sure to please adults and kids alike. Not only do they offer their signature burgers, but Fat Guy's also has a range of specialty burgers and even jumbo burgers for the brave.
Finalists: Brownie's, Five Guys



FAVORITE LOCAL GLOBAL DINING: YOKOZUNA
Looking for a meal on the adventurous side? Take your family to Yokozuna and explore Japanese cuisine. Visit one of their Tulsa locations to taste some of their unique signature rolls, fresh sashimi and other vibrant entrees such as ramen, dumplings, and fried rice. If you are able to call your babysitter, Yokozuna is also a hip and trendy date-night restaurant. This international family favorite will give you and your crew a taste of Asian fusion fare in Tulsa.
Finalists: India Palace, Tropical, Osaka

FAVORITE HEALTHY DINING: EDIBLEND
Trying to eat clean can be difficult, but Ediblend Superfood Cafe provides a quick and delicious way to incorporate plant-based nutrients into your family's diet. Beyond their signature juices and smoothies, Ediblend also offers açai bowls, salads, and snacks creating an on-the-go experience. If you are looking for a juice cleanse, this cafe stands out from the crowd with their 3-day Cleanse package. The package is designed to help you to feel rejuvenated and energized through consuming six planned juices and blends a day.
Finalists: Zoë's Kitchen, Panera

FAVORITE KIDS' MENU: IN THE RAW
Among the large variety of delectable options on the menu at In the Raw Sushi, they also have a kids' menu that TulsaKids readers love. Their signature kids' menu option, a sushi roll with fried chicken or shrimp inside, is a hit forthe 10 and younger crowd, while parents can enjoy all the delicious adult options.
Finalists: McAllister's Deli, Chick-fil-A

LET'S PARTY

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S PARTY ENTERTAINER: THE BALLOON GUY

Dustin Reudelhuber, a master in all things juggling, magic and balloon sculpting, will add excitement and color to any kid's party. You never know what "wow" factor is coming next when the Balloon Guy creates a balloon right in front of your eyes!

Finalist: Balloon Man Neil

FAVORITE PARTY SPOT: INCREDIBLE PIZZA

If your family enjoys zooming around in go-karts, striking down pins, or competing for the highest arcade game scores, Incredible Pizza is an ideal party spot for you. Located at 71st and Memorial, Incredible Pizza offers more than 11 indoor attractions, such as glowing mini-golf, laser tag and bumper cars. Incredible Pizza also offers an extensive buffet with a range of pizzas, salads, and other snacks. This family favorite is the perfect place to round up a crew, play, and party!

Finalists: Main Event, Bounce U

FAVORITE CAKE/CUPCAKES: MERRITT'S BAKERY

Family-owned Merritt's Bakery has been serving Tulsa some of its favorite cakes and cupcakes since 1979. Along with an assortment of delectable cupcakes and specialty desserts, Merritt's also provides custom cakes baked with love for any occasion. Red velvet cupcakes, Boston cream pies, and cannolis galore are just some of their many menu items! The cake is the centerpiece of any celebration, so families go to Merritt's to get one that is sure to be a delicious stand-out.

Finalists: Reasor's, Nothing Bundt CakeS

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S GIFT STORES: KIDDLESTIX

Since the store opened in 1987, Kiddlestix has been providing Tulsa kids with hands-on, developmental and—most importantly—fun toys! They sell toys for kids ranging from ages 0-13+ covering all the bases from playtime to puzzles and games. With dolls, racecars, crafts and more, this Family Favorite has toys that will make every kid smile from ear to ear.

Finalists: Learning Express, Toy Depot

LOOKING GOOD

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S WEAR: KATHLEEN'S KIDS

No matter what the occasion, family favorite Kathleen's Kids has an extensive range of quality children's wear. From special occasions to play wear, there is no doubt you will pick up the most stylish outfit around! Kathleen's Kids also has a custom bow service to create the perfect colorful accessory to match any outfit. The store carries an impressive array of quality brands such as Seven for All Mankind, Serendipity Kids, and many more.

Finalists: The Children's Place, Once Upon a Child

FAVORITE MOM'S BOUTIQUE: J. SPENCER

With multiple locations in Tulsa, stop by J. Spencer boutique and treat yourself to a new pair of earrings or a colorful sundress. The store offers Tulsa moms affordable and fashionable apparel, jewelry, and accessory options. Browse through the vibrant shop and try a few things on...J. Spencer Boutique's will help you discover a style that is "uniquely you."

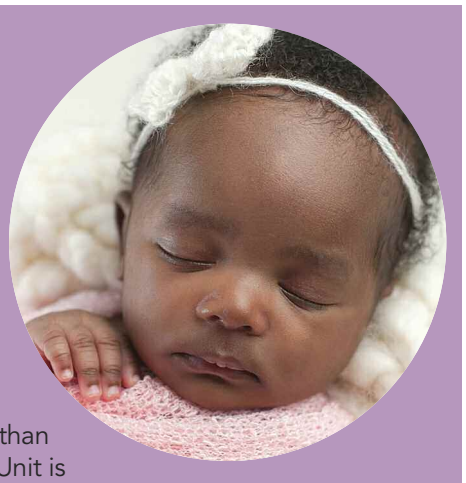
Finalists: Amaranth Collection, Rustic Cuff

FAVORITE CONSIGNMENT SHOP: RHEA LANA

This Family Favorite is a semi-annual upscale consignment event that can get you the best deals on all of the latest styles. Families that sign up to consign with Rhea Lana make a minimum of 70% of the profits from what they sell through the event. The business is committed to "serving the community with integrity and love," and through their mission, they plan the events to save Tulsans money and get rid of extra clutter! The next Rhea Lana's sale is July 22-28 in the Summit Square Shopping Center.

Finalists: Just Between Friends, Once Upon a Child

BABY STUFF



FAVORITE PRE- AND POST-PARTUM CLASSES: SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

Saint Francis Hospital offers many classes to prepare families and expecting parents for the wonderful gift of a new baby. The Expectant Family Program and Online Childbirth Classes are a great way to gain information, guidance and prepare for every step of your pregnancy. Gaining the best advice on the process of birthing and breastfeeding from certified experts can make all the difference while embarking on the new journey of parenthood. Becoming new parents is an exciting challenge, but with education for the whole family, you can spend less time questioning the details and more time loving the newest family member!

Finalists: St. John Hospital, Hillcrest

FAVORITE PLACE TO HAVE A BABY: SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

In addition offering popular pre- and post-partum classes, Saint Francis Hospital is also a favorite place to have a baby. With 24/7 care and a qualified and supportive staff, your delivery experience will be notable in more ways than one. In the event of unexpected complications, families can rest assured that a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is just steps away. Greeting a new little bundle of joy will be as comfortable and safe as possible at Saint Francis.

Finalists: St. John Hospital, Hillcrest South

BABY STUFF

FAVORITE BABY GIFTS: PEEK-A-BOO BABY

Looking for a baby shower gift? Peek-a-boo baby is the perfect place to check out, as their mission is to offer trendy, current and safe baby apparel and products for customers. From clothing and diaper bags to car seats and furniture, this boutique is a one-stop-shop for baby gifts. You can also create a registry through the store or just stop by and look around—they even have a playroom for kids to revel in while you shop.
Finalist: Kathleen's Kids

FAVORITE NEWBORN PHOTOGRAPHER: OOH-LA-LA PHOTOGRAPHY

Karen Cooper, the owner of Ooh-La-La Photography, is an on-location photographer providing infant and newborn photography, among many other options. Based in Bixby, Cooper specializes in natural light images but also shoots in a home studio for newborns and toddlers. Ooh-La-La Photography has a mission to provide families with beautiful photographs that don't break the bank and last a lifetime!
Finalist: Taryn Starkey

PLACES TO LEARN

FAVORITE PRESCHOOL: MISS HELEN'S

Sending your little one to preschool can be stressful, but Miss Helen's Private school ensures a quality childhood education for kids aged 3-5. With a maximum class size of 10 students, the school offers many classes such as science, art, music, and dance to keep your kids active and engaged. Miss. Helen's also offers an array of summer programs to create a year-round learning experience with flexible scheduling.
Finalists: Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy, Primrose School of South Tulsa



FAVORITE PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: MONTE CASSINO

When it comes to building your child's educational foundation, choosing the best school is of the utmost importance. Monte Cassino has been providing a top-of-the-line private education for 90 years. The elementary school combines academics with spiritual elements ingrained within the language arts, science, and math core classes. With the inclusion of technology such as iPads and laptops, the school gives your students the most modern education to set them up for success!
Finalists: Holland Hall, Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

FAVORITE PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL: MONTE CASSINO

To bridge the gap between elementary school and the challenges of high school, Monte Cassino was chosen by readers as the place to send their children for middle school. With the primary goal of setting students up for high-school-level learning, Monte Cassino offers an array of classes alongside resources such as their Resource Room, where students can receive help in all subjects in order to bring out their best potential.
Finalists: Holland Hall, Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

FAVORITE PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL: HOLLAND HALL

This Tulsa school has been voted a Family Favorite high school for another consecutive year. Open to students living all throughout the area, Holland Hall offers a variety of courses as well as helpful college counseling to provide students with an opportunity-rich education.There is an impressive 9:1 student teacher ratio that allows teachers to build a relationship with each student, and to help that student grow to his or her fullest potential
Finalists: Bishop Kelley, Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

EXTRACURRICULAR

FAVORITE IN-STATE SUMMER CAMP: FALLS CREEK

Does your kid need a summertime escape? Located in Davis, Oklahoma, Falls Creek Summer Camp is a great place for some fun in the sun, with activities such as a ropes course, sand volleyball courts, and kayaking. The mission of Falls Creek is to serve Oklahoma Baptists with camps that bring out spirituality alongside a whole lot of fun. Around 50,000 teenagers attend Falls Creek camps each summer—undeniable evidence that Falls Creek truly is a Family Favorite!
Finalists: Dry Gulch, YMCA of Greater Tulsa

FAVORITE OUT OF STATE SUMMER CAMP: PINE COVE

With locations all over Texas, Pine Cove camp is the perfect summer getaway for your kid or family. With offerings including day camp, overnight camp, and family camp, your whole family can live out the summer camp dream! Pine Cove hosts over 30,000 campers a summer, teaching them to be "Christ-centered, others-focused." Prepare for some fun theme nights and water sports if you sign up for Pine Cove summer camp.
Finalists: Kanakuk, New Life RancH

FAVORITE YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION: METRO TULSA SOCCER CLUB

Metro Tulsa Soccer Club offers a great learning environment where young athletes can enhance their soccer skills and have fun playing with teammates. The organization's mission is to always "put kids first," and they offer programs for all ages regardless of experience.
Finalists: YMCA of Greater Tulsa, SoccerCity, BA Youth Sports

FAVORITE YOUTH THEATER: SPOTLIGHT CHILDREN'S THEATRE
Spotlight Children's Theatre has been putting on delightful children's shows since 1953. In the past year, this nonprofit, community theater group has put on shows such as "Sleeping Beauty" and "Tom Sawyer," with very affordable ticket prices. The cozy Spotlight Children's Theatre will perform "Superheroes Unite!" from July 27-August 5. And, if your child aspires to become an actor, sign up for future auditions at spotlighttheater.org.
Finalists: Theatre Arts, Clark Youth Theatre

FAVORITE GYMNASTICS/CHEER GYM: SOCO GYMNASTICS
If your kid dreams of flying and flipping through the air, SoCo Gymnastics & Cheer is the perfect place to chase those dreams. Offerings include SoCo Littles, Intensity Tumbling program and gymnastics classes. From instructional classes and competitive teams to parties and clinics, this gym has it all. If you are interested in starting classes or need more information, an evaluation session can be scheduled to place your child in the most suitable program.
Finalists: The Little Gym of SE Tulsa, SSB Kids!



FAVORITE MARTIAL ARTS GYM: GOLDEN DRAGON TAEKWONDO
Whether your kid is an aspiring Bruce Lee or just trying to get active, Golden Dragon Taekwondo is the perfect place to explore Martial Arts. For parents and kids alike, the classes at Golden Dragon help to develop confidence and a healthy lifestyle. There are even family classes so families can spend quality time chopping boards and kicking pads together! Classes range from beginner level all the way to Olympic courses.
Finalists: Apollo's Martial Arts, Kang's Taekwondo, Christian Karate Academy

FAVORITE SOCCER PROGRAM: METRO TULSA SOCCER CLUB
Metro Tulsa Soccer Club has so much to offer your athlete. From summer camps with University of Tulsa collegiate athletes to competitive and recreational leagues, there is a program for everyone! The club even has awards annual collegiate scholarships to contribute to the further growth and greater education of Tulsa kids. Get kickin'!
Finalists: SoccerCity, Tulsa Soccer Club

FAVORITE MUSIC PROGRAM: MUSIC TOGETHER
Every kid is a star! Enroll your young child in Music Together classes to bring out his or her inner groove. For newborns to 7 year olds, these classes are not performance based, but intended to foster exploration with singing, grooving, and playing with unique, age-appropriate instruments. With more than 3,000 locations nationwide, this accredited organization hosts summer classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays with discounts for siblings.
Finalists: Saied Music Company, Oklahoma Homeschool Band and Strings



FAVORITE ART PROGRAM: TULSA ART CENTER
Art can inspire even the youngest of minds, and TulsaKids readers chose Tulsa Art Center as one of the best places to grow a child's artistic abilities and understanding. This "art-based educational community" strives to bring out the creativity in kids of all ages. The Art Center offers classes in acrylic painting, oil painting, drawing, watercolor and much more! You can even host parties at the Tulsa Art Center with crafts to unleash the inner artist in every youngster.
Finalists: Pinot's Palette, Purple Glaze

FAVORITE SPECIAL INTEREST: JENKS DANCE ACADEMY
Picking the right dance studio can be hard, but whether you are switching studios or a dance newbie, check out "one of the fastest growing studios" in Tulsa. Jenks Dance Academy offers a range of classes for both boys and girls such as jazz, ballet, and tap. The classes are also offered for a large range of age groups, from babies and toddlers to teens, so you can build a relationship with your studio and plant roots. With more than 55 classes held weekly, there's something to fit every schedule!
Finalists: Miller Swim School, The Little Gym of SE Tulsa, All Things Cake, Copper Kiln

FAVORITE TUTORING: BRAIN BALANCE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER
If math homework is a struggle or you feel like your student is falling behind, Brain Balance Achievement Center can give them a jumpstart and to help them achieve academic success. With programs to help with behavioral, social, and academic struggles, Brain Balance is an all-encompassing organization. Children are set up with a personal, custom plan to help drive them to success with the help of supportive and qualified staff.
Finalists: Mathnasium, Kumon

"I love Ihloff! My stylist, Adrian, is at the Utica Square location. The location is perfect and the vibe at the salon is so relaxing. They always greet me as soon as I get there with a glass of whatever their special water is that day (I love when they use mint). And not only my stylist, but ALL of the stylists around here know me by name and treat me like they would their own clients, even though they owe me nothing. Oh, and my hair always looks amazing when I leave." FB Quote

"The Tulsa Performing Arts Center is such a gift to our city. It's a world-class facility with talented, hard-working, arts-loving staff. So many wonderful family programs and performances at the PAC each year help to broaden our children's horizons and help them develop an appreciation for the Arts." FB Quote

FITNESS, MOM & DAD, & FAMILY SERVICES

FAVORITE FAMILY FRIENDLY GYM: YMCA OF GREATER TULSA

The YMCA of Greater Tulsa serves the community "for youth development, for healthy living, and for social responsibility." Who doesn't like the sound of that? This nonprofit organization prides itself on promoting everyone's ability to join the club regardless of age, income, or background, creating an inclusive, family-friendly environment. From exercise and swim lessons to after school and childcare programs, The YMCA provides all sorts of activities to support the growth and health of every member of the family.

Finalists: Sky Fitness & Wellbeing, Life Time Fitness

FAVORITE SALON: IHLOFF SALON AND DAY SPA

Parents, do you need a break? Enjoy a day of rejuvenation with a haircut, a facial, or even a wax and a massage to feel brand new! Ihloff offers many special packages and services to fit every need and has locations scattered all over Oklahoma. Utica Square and South Memorial are two local locations where Tulsans can spend a day off to find "balance and beauty."

Finalists: Berkshire Salon and Day Spa, Massage Envy, Spa Lux

FAVORITE CAR DEALERSHIP: SOUTH POINTE HONDA

Looking to upgrade the minivan? South Pointe Honda, located on Memorial, is a great place to buy new and pre-owned cars. Searching for a car can be difficult, but this dealership not only offers specials but also online shopping to make the process a little bit easier. Once you purchase your new car, the dealership has you covered with a service center and easily accessible parts.

Finalists: Jackie Cooper Imports, Jim Norton Toyota

FAVORITE CHILDCARE: E-NANNY

Whether you need a night out with your spouse or trustworthy childcare while at work, E-nanny can provide "educated and qualified" sitters and nannies to fit your every need. You can request long-term placement, temporary services, and even unique services such as cooking or potty training help. E-nanny has a mission to provide the best service for the best prices to give parents "peace of mind."

Finalists: Seeking Sitters, Care.com

FAVORITE DATE NIGHT: MELTING POT

If you are tired of going to the same restaurants and need something new, check out the Melting Pot at the Riverwalk. This restaurant provides a distinct and interactive dining experience with a fondue-based menu. You can book tables online or walk in on the spot to experience a meat, cheese and chocolate extravaganza. Order some drinks, enjoy an entree and indulge in a luxurious dessert to create the perfect date night.

Finalists: Yokozuna, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, Charleston's

FAVORITE BANK: ARVEST BANK

With locations all over the region including Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas, alongside a tradition of customer focus, Arvest Bank has been voted a Family Favorite. The bank specializes in a range of financial services, such as starting credit cards, mortgage and auto loans, personal accounts, and business accounts. You can also manage your accounts effortlessly through online banking services. This local bank is a great place to build a relationship with!

Finalists: TTCU Federal Credit Union, Bank of Oklahoma

FAVORITE CLEANING SERVICE: MERRY MAIDS

Taking a look at your to-do list can be dreadful, but Merry Maids of Tulsa can add ease to your daily life by keeping your home spick and span. After your free consultation, let the well-trained and screened employees take care of your summer cleaning and just "relax, it's done." Their services include all of the supplies necessary to give you the best clean. The Merry Maids to it all— dusting, vacuuming, and bathroom cleaning are just few of the many specialty services they offer.

Finalists: Yale Cleaners, Maids of Tulsa

FAVORITE REAL ESTATE COMPANY: CHINOWTH AND COHEN

The housing market can be unpredictable, but Chinowth and Cohen can help with getting your house sold or finding the perfect new home for your family. This local, full-service company is known for their professional service when it comes to luxury homes, lake living and ranches. With over 40 years of service, Chinowth and Cohen offers service with honesty and integrity to make the buying and selling process go as smoothly as possible.

Finalists: McGraw Realtors, Keller Williams Realty

FAVORITE REALTOR: ANNA SMITH

Based in Bixby, Anna Smith works with Chinowth & Cohen to provide realty services for Tulsa families. With 12 years of experience and having bought her first home at a young age, Anna knows all the in's and out's of Tulsa's housing market. Not only does Anna help your family buy and sell homes, she also has experience building and renovating homes.

Finalist: Jennifer Paine

"Merritt's Bakery is a Tulsa Icon and the only place we have ever gotten our kids birthday cakes from! Our Barbie Mermaid cake was the best! They have a special book you look thru to get ideas, and that makes it special to the birthday kid! Thanks, Merritt's for always being there at our kid's big day!" FB Quote

"I have often said I've never met a bow I didn't like and I've never gotten a bow from Kathleen's Kids that I didn't love! In addition, the clothes, shoes, awesome deals, and amazing service are all reasons Kathleen's Kids has been a longtime favorite!" FB Quote

STAYING HEALTHY



FAVORITE PEDIATRICIAN: BIRTH AND BEYOND PEDIATRICS
With a colorful and welcoming atmosphere, doctor visits for the youngsters don't have to be a nervous affair at Birth and Beyond. This family-owned practice offers free first visits so families can get to know the practitioners, and from there, Dr. Alka Sood and Dr. Sanjir Sood create the most comfortable environment for kids and parents alike. The practice has a nurseline as well as a texting program if parents have any concerns or questions. If you are looking for a warm and friendly experience, Birth and Beyond is a great place to start.
Finalists: Dr. William Barnes, Dr. Nidhi Koul (Bixby Pediatrics)

FAVORITE OB/GYN: DR. GENA GRAY (OB/GYN SPECIALISTS OF TULSA)
Whether you are looking to start a family or simply due for a check-up, Dr. Gena Gray is the woman for the job. Working with the OB/GYN Specialists of Tulsa, Dr. Gray has been practicing for over 20 years and has "touched the lives of thousands in Northeastern Oklahoma."
Finalists: Dr. Corey Babb (OSU Physicians), Dr. Cole Nilson (Tulsa Women's Health Care)

FAVORITE OPTOMETRIST: DR. ROBERT ZOELLNER
Visit Dr. Robert Zoellner if you are in need of a new pair of glasses, contacts or sunglasses. Not only does the practice provide extensive eye check-ups, they also have a large selection of glasses to choose from at affordable prices, so everyone in the family can find a great fit.
Finalists: Dr. Stephen Groves (His Vision for Children), Dr. Monte Harrell (Harrell Eye Care)

FAVORITE PEDIATRIC DENTIST: SUPER SMILES
With a mission to provide "a fun place for teeth," Super Smiles prides themselves on their fun, easy and timely visits. The colorful, playful atmosphere is perfect for kids, and the clinic has a playroom and prizes for the little ones. Super Smiles accepts almost all insurance plans and offers dentistry services for the whole family, and parents like the convenient locations in Tulsa annd Broken Arrow.
Finalists: On the Cusp, Dr. James Owens (Drs. James & Samuel Owens Pediatric and Adolescent Dentistry)



FAVORITE ORTHODONTICS: EMERSON ORTHODONTICS
Both adults and kids are welcome at Emerson Orthodontics, an office specializing in cosmetic treatments. Visit the newest Broken Arrow location to take advantage of their top-of-the-line technologies, such as Invisalign, Clarity Ceramic Braces, and Incognito Hidden Braces. This playful and comfortable environment is perfect for families looking to enhance their smiles!
Finalists: On the Cusp, Dr. Evan Clothier (Super Smiles)

FAVORITE ALLERGIST: DR. JAMES LOVE (ALLERGY CLINIC OF TULSA)
Experiencing the worst of allergies? Visit Dr. James Love at the Allergy Clinic of Tulsa. Specializing in pediatrics and allergy/clinical immunizations, this Family Favorite doctor, who has been serving Tulsans for over 20 years, is perfect for the whole crew.
Finalists: Dr. Timothy Nickel (Allergy Clinic of Tulsa), Eastern Oklahoma ENT

FAVORITE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DOCTOR: DR. WILLIAM H. HAWKINS (ENT SPECIALISTS OF TULSA)
Visit Dr. William H. Hawkins at the Ear Nose & Throat Specialists of Tulsa office for help with ear infections and sore throats. Dr. Hawkins has over 20 years of experience and specializes in pediatric work alongside extensive knowledge of diseases of the sinuses, making him a doctor that TulsaKids readers trust.
Finalists: Dr. Atul Vaidya (Eastern Oklahoma ENT), Dr. Jean-Maria C. Langley (Utica Park/Hillcrest South)

FAVORITE THERAPIST: LET'S TALK THERAPY
Quality of life is of the utmost importance to Let's Talk Therapy. Through speech, physical, and occupational therapy, this office can help patients grow and improve through creating better communication skills. With affordable pricing, Let's Talk Therapy will also come to you in the comfort of your own home or send you home with easily attainable and individualized techniques and strategies for success.
Finalists: Ashley Wale-Beers (Anchored in Hope), Sunshine Center Pediatric Therapy

FAVORITE ORTHOPEDIST: DR. STEVEN HARDAGE (EASTERN OKLAHOMA ORTHOPEDIC CENTER)
With experience in both Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Dr. Hardage is the man for the job when it comes to sprained wrists and broken ankles or any other unfortunate injury that might befall anyone in the family. Dr. Hardage also serves as the sports medicine team physician for Claremore High School, Northeastern State University and Rogers State University.
Finalist: Tulsa Bone and Joint

FAVORITE HOSPITAL: SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL
Since its doors opened in 1960, Saint Francis Hospital has been providing Tulsa families with the best quality care. As a Catholic organization, the hospital strives to serve patients the best quality and most comfortable care. The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis is the only children's hospital in Tulsa, and Saint Francis Hospital also has a highly accredited trauma/emergency center. Rest assured knowing your family has the best hospital care at your fingertips!
Finalists: St. John Hospital, Hillcrest South

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST

FAVORITE UNICORN STUFF!: LEARNING EXPRESS
This category is one where readers could write in whatever they wanted. Of course, they chose toys! In search of some magical playtime toys? Visit Learning Express for a wide variety of imaginative toys for infants through 11+-year-olds. Learning Express is the perfect place to pick up your unicorn stuff! You can order online or use in-store pickup to trot away with all of your magical rainbow goodies.
Finalists: Ida Red, Justice

THE ARTS & EDUCATION

BY MATT BARNUM, CHALKBEAT NEW YORK, HTTPS://CHALKBEAT.ORG

The "shadow education system"" How wealthier students benefit from art, music, and theater over the summer while poor kids miss out

More affluent kids are about twice as likely to visit a museum, art gallery, or historical site or see a play or concert over the summer, as compared with their peers from low-income families.

That's according to a new analysis released this month by the federal government, illustrating disparities in out-of-school experiences, which may be exacerbated by rising income inequality. It also comes as a slew of recent studies have shown measurable benefits of cultural experiences like attending a play or visiting a museum, including greater appreciation of art, higher tolerance, and stronger critical thinking skills.

The results are based on a national survey of parents and guardians from 2011 and focus on the experience of young children in the summer after kindergarten. While nearly two-thirds of students from non-poor families visited "art galleries, museums, or historical sites with family members during the summer," only one-third of poor students did.

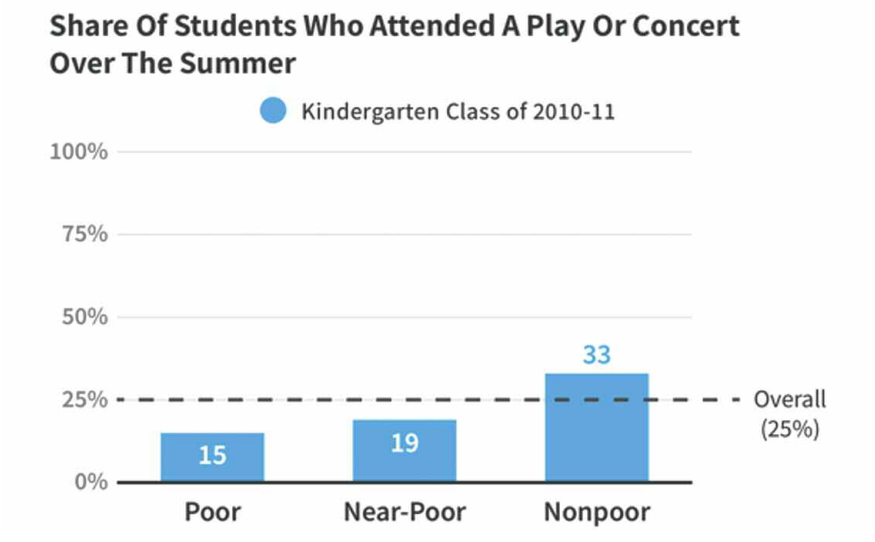
Just 15 percent of low-income families reported taking their kids to a play or concert over the summer, compared with a third of non-poor families.

There were also major gaps in students likelihood of attending summer camp: 39 percent of non-poor kids did, compared with just 7 percent of children from poor families.

The disparities were similar when examined based on parents' level of education. The results were also consistent with a similar survey from a decade earlier.

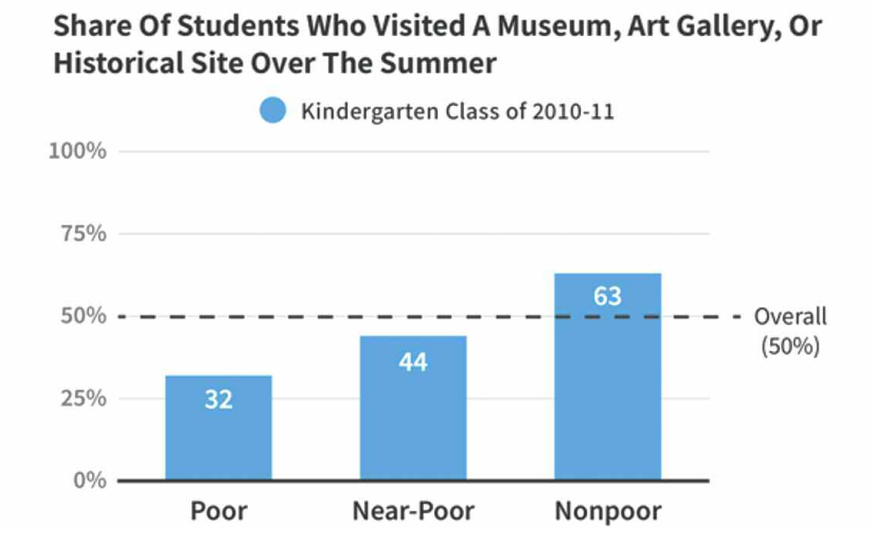
What might explain these stark gaps?

Another study, released last week, points a finger at one potential culprit: rising gaps in income between the wealthiest and poorest households, that may allow some families to afford cultural activities that others can't. The paper found that in states with greater income inequality, there were also bigger disparities in how much families spent on their kids for things like tutoring, sports, and other enrichment programs. Nationally those gaps have widened over time. Some scholars have referred to it as the "shadow education system" that higher-income families participate in.



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS. GRAPHIC: SAM PARK

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SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS. GRAPHIC: SAM PARK

In addition to cost factors, there may also be differences in parents' ability to take time off work to go to cultural events, knowledge of those events, and ease of transportation to them.

The federal study does not have data to explain why gaps exist.

The analysis also found smaller differences by families' economic status in students' likelihood of taking part in other activities, including visiting a zoo or aquarium, an amusement park, and a beach or national park.

The study reported little or no difference between groups in likelihood of students reading on their own or doing math and writing activities with family members, suggesting parental or student motivation is not likely a key factor in explaining other results.

Regardless of reason, recent research suggests that students are likely to benefit from these sorts of enrichment activities. (Keep in mind this research generally focused on access through school field trips as opposed to family events.)

A study published earlier this year found that students randomly assigned to see live theatre had increased levels of political tolerance as a result and had a better understanding of the plot and vocabulary of the play as a result; students who saw a movie version did not realize those benefits.

Students who took a trip to an art museum were more interested in visiting such museums in the future; the experience seems to boost students' critical thinking skills, and may even increase math and reading test scores, although it's not entirely clear why.

The benefits seem to extend to even early-grade students, like those seen in the federal analysis.

In some cases, gains appeared biggest for students with the least access, such as those from rural and high-poverty schools.

"It appears that the less prior exposure to culturally enriching experiences students have, the larger the benefit of receiving a school tour of a museum," wrote researchers Jay Greene, Brian Kisida, and Daniel Bowen in one study. "Disadvantaged students need their schools to take them on enriching field trips if they are likely to have these experiences at all."





BY NANCY A. MOORE

Broc Randall: creating an experience using science

Where can kids make fossils, see a Megalodon (giant shark) tooth, create an earthquake and learn interesting facts about science? At the Tulsa Geoscience Center (TGC) in downtown Tulsa where Broc Randall brings science to life. He is the Executive Director of TGC and works to make sure that over 5,000 kids a year, and grown-ups alike, do more than enjoy their experience – they learn about science. With summer in full swing, we are highlighting this hidden Tulsa treasure, tucked away on the second floor of the One Main Plaza Building downtown. It is literally packed full of interesting and interactive exhibits providing hours of hands-on educational entertainment. We caught up with Broc to learn a little more about the man behind the center, find out what they are currently looking for as well as get a glimpse of some future goals for TGC.



BROC RANDALL, DIRECTOR OF THE TULSA GEOSCIENCE CENTER IN DOWNTOWN TULSA.

TK: Tell us about your family:

Broc: I've been married for 15 years to Candace Randall. She is a school teacher at Jenks Northwest Elementary. We have 2 kids, Ben (12) and Cate (5).

TK: What does your family enjoy doing around Tulsa?

Broc: We love visiting all the Tulsa Parks and are excited for the Gathering Place to open.

TK: Where are your favorite places to eat?

Broc: Our regular family dining place is Jason's Deli on Cherry Street. Braum's is the kids' favorite.

TK: Do you have a favorite quote?

Broc: *Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.* - Albert Einstein

TK: What three words best describe you?

Broc: Excited, Teacher, Creative

TK: When you're not at TGC, how do you spend your time?

Broc: I am a digital artist and love creating. (Broc's art is displayed on several walls at the center.) TGC is a non-profit and part-time position as it is growing, so I also work as a freelance graphic artist.

TK: What do you enjoy most about serving as the director of Tulsa Geoscience Museum?

Broc: I've been the director of the TGC for the last four years. I love developing activities that engage learning. Each activity we develop must be three things: educational, hands-on and fun.

TK: What are your top three exhibits?

Broc: Florescent Room (Dead Zone), Rock and Mineral Fossil Dig, and the Petroleum Lab

TK: What do you feel makes the TGC unique?

Broc: Visitors will leave with more knowledge and a better understanding of how nature works though activities that meet State and Federal STEM educational guidelines. All the exhibits provide hands-on learning and personalized attention for questions, explanation and create excitement about science.

TK: What are the center's hours of operation?

Broc: It is by appointment only so we can ensure that we have the proper staff assigned to help guide kids through the activities to maximize their learning experience. The center is open a limited number of hours, so it is important that you book a tour date and time a few days ahead of your visit. Schedules and calendars are constantly updated and available online, so it is easy to make the request prior to your visit.

continued next page

TK: What is the cost for admission? What does that include?

Broc: The cost is $8 per student (child) and adults and teachers are free. The admission fee also includes a rock, mineral and fossil kit.

TK: How do you envision the center evolving over the next five years?

Broc: Our vision is to build an Energy Museum that covers energy past, present, and future. The museum will be filled with interactive exhibits that essentially all focus on energy, from fossils fuels to renewable energy. Tulsa has a rich history in oil, and I believe this needs to be showcased. We will continue to run the center as an educational center for students.

TK: What are your current needs at TGC?

Broc: I am a one-man show and in order for me to keep the center running successfully, I hire interns, who are interested in science, to help me with the needs of the center. The internship program provides a great way to learn about how the center works as well as help with the day-to-day operations. The students who just finished their internships were from Street School. They volunteered three days a week during their six-week semester, but other interns typically work a four-hour shift one day a week. As a non-profit, we are also interested in identifying prospective board members who have a heart to help expand this program, especially someone interested in grant writing and fundraising.

To contact TGC about scheduling a visit, applying for an internship, or serving as a board member, go to tulsageoscience-center.org or call Broc at **918.392.4556**, **Tulsa Geoscience Center, 610 S. Main Street, Suite 200, Tulsa, OK 74119.**





CONFIDENCE










GATHERING
TULSA'S RIVERFRONT

Miller
MILLER
SWIM
SCHOOL
30 YEARS

THERE'S
THE GYM
& THEN
THERE'S


tulsakids
tulsakids


OUR
IRTHDAY
PARTIES
ARE
N—TENTS

tulsakids

Emerson
Orthodontics
Discover your
ersonbraces.com




Get eye-to-eye with the Tulsa Zoo's tallest residents. Feed giraffes their favorite snacks at the Mary K. Chapman Giraffe Experience deck every Saturday and Sunday in July from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Guests are encouraged to come early, as this is a first come, first served experience. The cost is $4 for Tulsa Zoo members and $5 for non-members. All sessions are weather cooperative and giraffe dependent. Visit tulsazoo.org/here for up-to-date information about activities and hours.

[FREE, W] = FREE WEEKLY [W] = WEEKLY

July 1 Sunday

FIRST SUNDAYS AT POSTOAK
Summertime in Oklahoma is the perfect time to get outside and enjoy nature! Day passes for First Sundays at POSTOAK include access to an outdoor swimming pool and hot tubs, nature trails, fishing, sand volleyball, board games and more! Adult passes are $10, children 4-15 are $5, and kids 3 and younger get in free. POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat, 5323 W. 31st St. N., 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

SUNDAY CONCERTS ON THE GREEN
[FREE, W]
Enjoy a free concert at Guthrie Green every Sunday throughout the season! Performers change weekly. Guthrie Green, 111 E. Brady St., 2:30-6:30 p.m. www.guthriegreen.com

July 2 Monday

DIY WIND CHIMES/DIY CARILLÓN DE VIENTO [FREE]
Learn how to make wind chimes out of household items. For ages 12 and younger. / Aprende cómo fabricar un carillón de viento usando materiales reciclados. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 10-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

MAGIC MONDAY STORYTIME [FREE, W]
Bring the kids every Monday for storytime at Magic City Books. Classics, new favorites, and more. Snacks included. Magic City Books, 221 E. Archer St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.magiccitybooks.com

VINYL CLUB FOR TEENS [FREE, W]
Monday afternoons are for music sharing! Take turns spinning records from personal selections using the record player from the Digital Literacy Lab. Bring a vinyl and yourself! Participants will have a chance to win a gift card. Registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 3 Tuesday

LIBRARIES ROCK CONTEST [FREE]
Bring your own box or use one of the library's to create your own "rocking" library. The library will have additional supplies for construction, but you may bring a few things from home to use as well. All construction must be done on-site. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, as well as honorable mention. For all ages. Judy Z. Kishner Library, 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. E., Sperry, 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

THE CURIOUS POETS CLUB
Do you have a curious middle school student needing to expel some creative energy this summer? The Curious Poets Club will inspire curiosities in myriad topics including science, nature, visual art, music and more. Each week of the workshop, instructor Annie Jones will present a new concept and ask questions to muse students' curios-

ity. The Curious Poets Club will meet weekly throughout July; must pre-register at www.musedorganization.org. ahha Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 2-4 p.m.

July 4 Wednesday

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

July 5 Thursday

STORYTIME AT LINNAEUS TEACHING GARDEN [FREE, W]
Enjoy a nature-themed story time and follow-up activity at Linnaeus Teaching Garden, 2435 S. Peoria Ave., 10 a.m. www.tulsagardencenter.com

SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT CHECK [FREE]
Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at this free event sponsored by Safe Kids Tulsa! Broken Arrow Fire Department Station 6, 3151 N. 9th St., Broken Arrow, 1-3 p.m. Find additional Car Seat Check times and locations at www.safekidstulsa.com

DOG NIGHT AT TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN
Four-legged family members can join you for a special time when they are allowed to visit the Garden. Enjoy a walk with your furry family member in the cooler hours of the evening. Water bowls will be available. Free for Garden members and member dogs. Regular admission and $4 for non-member dogs. For details, visit www.tulsabotanic.org. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 5-9 p.m.

FAMILY GROUP [FREE]
This free event is open to all families in the community who have experienced the death of a loved one. Families come together to address their grief and heal their hearts. Some activities include games, group discussions, memorial activities/arts, and don't forget our build-your-own sundae bar! The Tristesse Grief Center, 2502 E. 71st St., 6-7:30 p.m. www.thegriefcenter.org

July 6 Friday

TREE FORT STORY TIME [W]
Join Garden staff for a different nature-themed story reading each Friday in July starting at 10:30 a.m. Story times will be held in the shaded Tree Fort in the Children's Discovery Garden, or if inclement weather, in the Garden's Mabee Grange building. Parents must accompany children. Free with admission. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 10:30 a.m. www.tulsabotanic.org

FIRST FRIDAY WITH GILCREASE [FREE]
Begin your First Friday Art Crawl at Central Library! Gilcrease staff will help us explore artists featured at the museum while your young artist creates a masterpiece of his/her own! For preschool through fifth grade. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 4:30-5:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL [FREE]
This year-round monthly event features all of the galleries, studios and museums as well as the part-time galleries in various shops opening their doors to show and sell art. Shops are open late and there are lots of dining and entertainment opportunities as well. Tulsa Arts District, 6-9 p.m. www.thetulsaartsdistrict.org

July 7, Saturday

ANIMALS ROCK ZOO STYLE! [FREE]
The Tulsa Zoo will discuss animals and rocks found in caves. See a live bat and tarantula. For preschool through fifth grade. Registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 to register. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

PUBLIC STAR PARTY
Public and guests are welcome to join The Astronomy Club of Tulsa for an evening under the summer stars! Children are welcome but MUST be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other responsible family member over the age of 18.



TulsaKids Editor Betty Selakovich Casey will read her newest book, "The Prince of the Prairie," at Tulsa Botanic Garden's weekly Tree Fort Story Time on July 27 at 10:30 a.m.

A $2 per adult guest donation is appreciated. Tulsa Astronomy Club Observatory, Mounds (get directions via email through website), 8:15-11 p.m. www.astrotulsa.com

July 8 Sunday

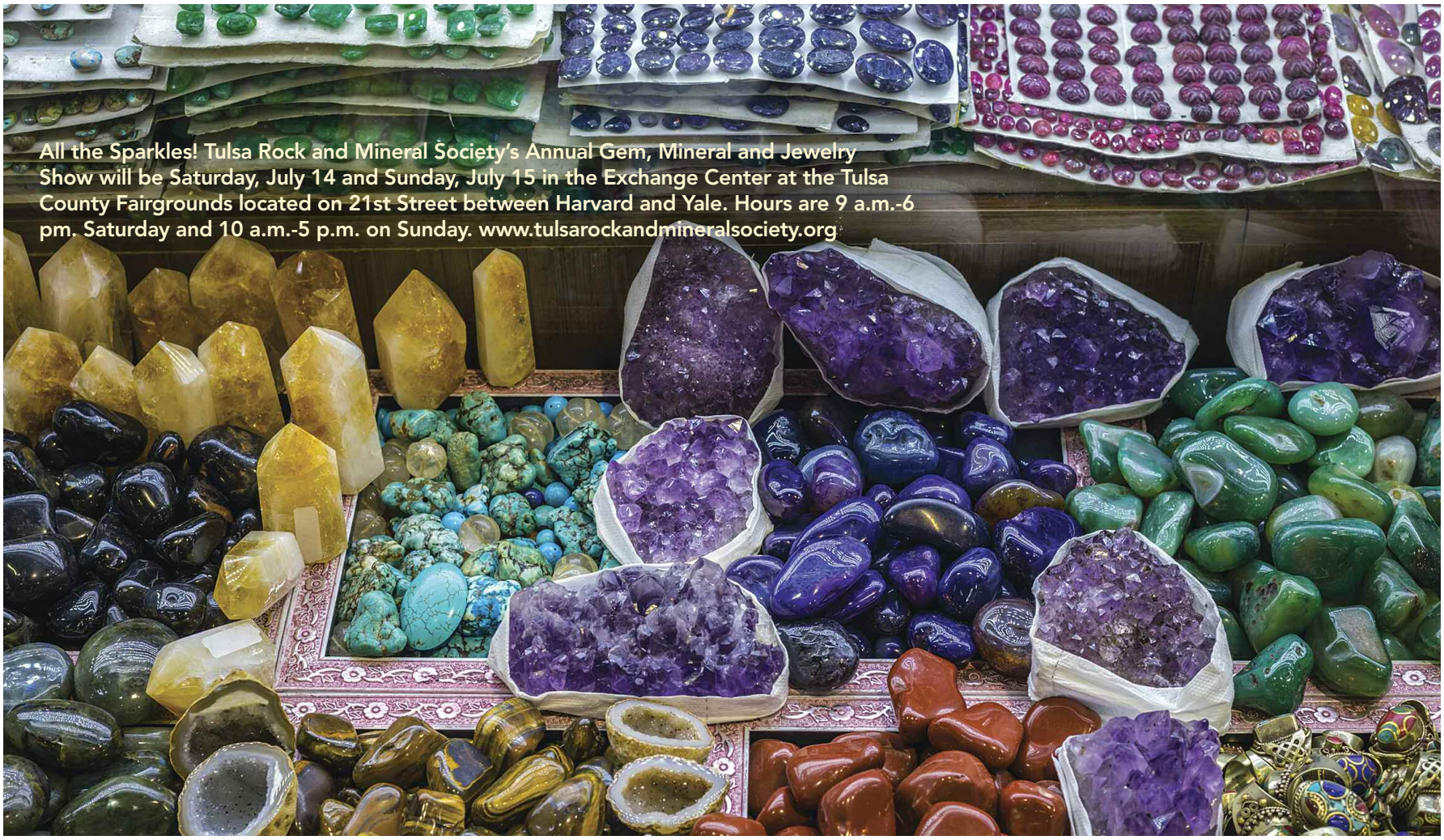
FITNESS ON THE GREEN: ZUMBA [FREE, W]
TOTAL BLAST ZUMBA with Ariane Betancourt returns to Guthrie Green! When you see this outdoors Zumba® class in action, you won't wait to give it a try. As soon as you start this Latin-inspired, easy-to-follow, dance-fitness party, you will feel your body surge with energy. You will get involved in a high-energy cardio blast that will leave you invigorated, refreshed and full of life. Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.guthriegreen.com

July 9 Monday

STORYTIME AT KIDDLESTIX [FREE, W]
Enjoy a free storytime every Monday morning at Kiddlestix Toys, 3815 S. Harvard Ave., 10 a.m. www.kiddlestixtoys.com

GET HOOKED ON YARN, KNITTING OR CROCHET! [FREE]
Join TCCL's crochet/knitter extraordinaire Rosalind Thompson as she teaches crochet/knitting basics. This make-and-take program will get you started in your future full of yarn! For ages 9-adult. Nathan Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St., 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

KIDS ON THE BLOCK: YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS OF ME! PRESENTED BY THE PARENT CHILD CENTER OF TULSA [FREE]
This educational puppet program teaches kids how to deal with bullying. In this presentation, Eddy is being harassed by a school bully and is unsure how to resolve the situation. When his friend Clare insists he talk about it, Eddy lashes out in frustration. With Clare's help, Eddy learns that problems with a bully are



All the Sparkles! Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society's Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show will be Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15 in the Exchange Center at the Tulsa County Fairgrounds located on 21st Street between Harvard and Yale. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 pm. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

not something to be ashamed of or embarrassed about – nor are bullies a problem that you have to deal with on your own. For kindergarten through fifth grade. Charles Page Library, 551 E. 4th St., Sand Springs, 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TINY THINGS BY BOWEN: HANDMADE POLYMER CLAY CREATIONS [FREE]
Join Tiny Things by Bowen and create your own tiny magnets, necklaces, bookmarks and more! Come and make your tiny thing! For ages 10-12. Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl., 3:30-4:15 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 10 Tuesday

INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO FEATURING THE BART CENTER FOR MUSIC [FREE]
You're never too old to learn to play a new instrument! Join instructors from the bART Center for Music and learn about guitars, violins, woodwinds, drums and more. You'll have the opportunity to handle actual instruments, plus ask the experts any questions you might have about music and learning a new instrument. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 12:15-1:15 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

PARENT CHILD CENTER OF TULSA MONTHLY TOUR [FREE]
The Parent Child Center of Tulsa offers tours of the agency. The tour lasts one hour and a light lunch is served. Learn about the PATHWAY OF HOPE The Parent Child Center provides to families in our community, meet staff members, and hear directly from clients about how The Parent Child Center's services have impacted their lives. Register for a tour at www.parentchildcenter.org. The Parent Child Center, 1421 S. Boston Ave., 12 p.m.

SHRINKY DINKS [FREE]
Draw on shrink film, put it in the toaster oven, and create magnets and key chains to take home! For ages 10-18. Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

DRUM CIRCLE FOR KIDS AND TWEENS [FREE]
Big drums, small drums, shakers and sticks! If you've never played any of them but you'd like to, then come and join the drum circle! Using poems and songs, participants will make some easy and awesome music and maybe even tell a musical story or two. Come prepared to sing, say poems and rhymes, and most of all PLAY DRUMS! Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust. Recommended for ages 8-12. Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 11 Wednesday

TINY TOTS IN TRAINING [FREE, W]
Toddlers (age 2-5) will engage in activities such as miniature basketball, hula-hoops, tri-cycle riding with the support of their parent(s). Program is FREE. Case Community Center, 1050 W. Wewika Rd., Sand Springs, 10-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

STORYTIME IN THE PARK [FREE, W]
Head to Guthrie Green for Story Time in the Park where each week, a different community organization will lead engaging story time activities under the shade of the Dock at Guthrie Green. Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St., 10:30 a.m. www.guthriegreen.com

ANIME IDOL MARATHON [FREE]
Watch "Tokyo Godfathers" anime movie and enjoy Yakisoba and Senbei. For ages 10-18. Collinsville Library, 1223 W. Main St., 3-5 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 12 Thursday

PAUL MESNER PUPPETS PRESENTS: THE CAT CAME BACK [FREE]
Based on the folk song made popular by Fred Penner, this performance tells the tale of Mister Johnson and a mysterious cat who keeps returning to his doorstep. Mister Johnson tries everything he can to get the cat to go away, from giving her to a pilot to sending her into outer space. The cat, however, keeps coming back! For kindergarten through fifth grade. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 11 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 13 Friday

AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART
Shop for unique, handmade and boutique items at An Affair Of the Heart. River Spirit Expo at Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St. Additional dates July 14 and 15. www.heartoftulsa.com

LA LECHE LEAGUE DAY MEETING [FREE]
If you are breastfeeding or considering breastfeeding, get support and information at La Leche League of Tulsa's free meetings. This meeting takes place at the Herman & Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., at 10:15 a.m. Find additional meeting times at www.llloftulsa.org/meetings

FAMILY PROGRAM: A NIGHT WITH MEGALADON
Dive into a night of fun with the biggest sharks in history! Explore monsters of the deep, play games and find out why Megalodon ruled the ocean. Finish the night with a special exploration of the new temporary exhibit "Megalodon: Largest Shark That Ever Lived." Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauquq Ave., Norman, 6-8 p.m. Register in advance by calling 405.325.1008. samnoblemuseum.ou.edu

July 14 Saturday

SECOND SATURDAY AT PHILBROOK [FREE]
Free. Family. Fun. Bring the whole family for Philbrook Second Saturdays. Free admission all day and a variety of events and hands-on activities. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. www.philbrook.org

LEARN BASIC CPR [FREE]
Learn Basic CPR with Citizen CPR and Tulsa Parks. This course will use the American Heart ASsociation's "Family & Friends CPR" format. Registerat www.tulsacpr.com or call 918.596.3600. Case Center, 1050 W. Wewika Rd., Sand Springs, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsacpr.com

FAMILY DAY AT THE WILL ROGERS BIRTHPLACE RANCH
Head to the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch for Family Day! The first 20 families can take a carpentry class and learn carpentry basics and build a birdhouse together. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Rd., Oologah, 1-3 p.m. www.willrogers.com

July 15 Sunday

FUNDAY SUNDAY [FREE]
Children and adults alike can enjoy an afternoon of exhibition-inspired activities, artist-led studio projects, museum exhibitions and interactive spaces. Special activities from Noon to 4 p.m., with free admission all day. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 12-4 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

July 16 Monday

STORYTIME YOGA
Bring the kids to let their imaginations run wild and get the mid-morning wiggles out! Hosted by StudiOne's co-owner, Teresa (who also has years and years of Kindergarten teaching experience!), this class is open to all ages with the presence of an adult chaperone! No sign up necessary, $5. StudiOne, 525 S. Main St., Ste. 101, 10:30 a.m. www.studionetulsa.com

LIBRARIES ROCK WITH DINO O'DELL [FREE]
Whether he's swimming with the piranhas in South America, jumping with kangaroos in Australia or fixing spaceships in Europe, Dino's stories and songs are fun for all ages. Join this award-winning educator and songwriter for a rockin' trip around the world. For toddlers through fifth graders. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton, 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 17 Tuesday

SUMMER TOUR AT GILCREASE [FREE, W]
Discover the role of games, past and present, in our lives during our summer tours. Discuss artworks, play games and create a take-home project. Free. Advance registration required. Also occurs weekly on Thursdays at the same time. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 10:30-11:15 a.m., www.gilcrease.org

July 18 Wednesday

JEANNE B. GOODWIN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL [FREE]
Celebrate the late Jeanne B. Goodwin. Storytellers will delight children with folktales from Africa and other lands. Children will receive treats. For all ages. Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., 10-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

FAMILY WORKSHOP AT GILCREASE MUSEUM
Developed for children and their parents/caregivers, family workshops provide new projects every week for the entire family to enjoy. Each workshop includes the opportunity to explore the museum's collection and special exhibitions followed by an art-making experience in the studio based on that week's theme. From nature conservation to watercolors, photography and more, workshops cover a variety of topics all summer long. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 10:30-11:45 a.m. Additional dates July 11, 13, 20, 25 and 27. www.gilcrease.org

July 19 Thursday

MESSY ART CLUB: TAKE IT OUTSIDE! [FREE]
Has your creativity grown too big for inside? Join us for an outdoor art party. Paint with bubbles, spray bottles, balloons and more. For all ages. If it rains, we will move inside. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

ICE CREAM, PLEASE! [FREE]
Stop by the library and get a free ice-cream sandwich. While you're here, have fun making ice-cream themed crafts, while supplies last. For all ages. Collinsville Library, 1223 W. Main St. www.tulsalibrary.org

TEEN BOOK TALK [FREE]
Nibble on some brownies while discussing "Eleanor and Park" by Rainbow Rowell. For ages 12-18. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 6-7 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 20 Friday

QUIDDITCH WORLD CUP: EXHIBITION MATCH [FREE]
Join the Helmerich Library staff outside on their Quidditch field for a nice morning of flying on broomsticks and chasing after balls of different sizes. Brooms will be provided, but you may bring your own. This will be a fun, light-hearted game, but participants must assume responsibility for any injuries as a result of participating. Participants will be using the official US Quidditch rules for kids (https://usquidditch.org/about/rules-kidditch). For ages 5-12. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 10-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

KIDS YOGA FOR GRADES K-3 [FREE]
Join certified yoga teacher Jeanne Doss in this fun class for kindergartners through third-graders. Registration is required and limited. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway St., 10:30-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

CHUCK-A-DUCK [FREE]
Pick up a numbered rubber duck

from the front desk, and gather around the deep end. At the signal, throw your duck towards the floating rings. Ducks inside any rings win a prize!! Berry Pool, 5002 N. Wheeling, 2 p.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

DIG WITH A DIETICIAN: SUMMERTIME SEEDS AND FRUITS [FREE]
During this class, participants will learn about the different kinds of summertime fruits and seeds and the importance of the sun for the garden. The group will dive into the different types of fruits grown in the summertime, nutritional benefits of fruits, what makes a fruit a fruit, the different parts of a seed, and examples of different edible and non-edible seeds. This will be followed by an activity. Best for ages 5 and older. Broken Arrow Neighbors, 322 W. Broadway Ave., 3-4 p.m. Register online at www.reasors.com/event

July 21 Saturday

IMAGINATION DAYS AT AHHA [FREE]
Your family is invited to learn about the art of our time and experience it firsthand with storytelling, music, dance, and hands-on "make and take" art projects. Ahha Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 12-5 p.m. www.ahhatulsa.org

THIRD SATURDAY LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM
Visit Hunter's Home (formerly known as the George M. Murrell Home) in Park to participate in a nineteenth-century living history activity. Historical interpreters dressed in period clothing will perform everyday plantation tasks, and guests can enjoy a variety of demonstrations, talk to historians, and even participate in some of the activities. Hunter's Home, 19479 E. Murrell Home Rd., Park Hill, 1-4 p.m. www.okhistory.org/sites

July 22 Sunday

DROP-IN STUDIO AT GILCREASE
Explore new materials and concepts each month under the guidance of Gilcrease teaching artists. Studio activities can be adapted for visitors of all ages, backgrounds and artist abilities. All supplies and materials provided. Free for members, and free with museum admission for not-yet-members. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 1-4 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

July 23 Monday

MUSICAL CHAIRS/LAS SILAS MUSICALES [FREE]
Let's play! For ages 12 and younger. / ¡A jugar! Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 12-1 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

A POLICE OFFICER'S LIFE: IS THIS LIFE FOR YOU? [FREE]
A police officer will bring a car to show and inspire the children. Be sure to be thinking of questions to ask about a police officer's life. Perhaps you will grow up to be a police officer one day! For ages 12 and younger. Pratt Library, 3219 S. 113th W. Ave., 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TOWER-BUILDING CHALLENGE [FREE]
How tall can you make a building using only modeling clay and straws? Come and find out! Supplies are provided. For kindergarten through fifth grade. Sponsored by the Friends of the Helmerich Library. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 24 Tuesday

BLACK-LIGHT BOWLING PARTY [FREE]
Close out the summer with some psychedelic bowling! Only four lanes are available, with three to six people per lane. Registration is required. To register, email rebecca.mcwilliams@tulsalibrary.org. For ages 10-18. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 1-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

SOUND SCIENCE PRESENTED BY TULSA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM [FREE]
Waves, vibrations, sounds, oh my! Create an instrument from recycled material, demonstrate how sound is created, and explore causes and effects of the waves and vibrations around us. For ages 4-8. Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 25 Wednesday

COLOR ME A KALEIDOSCOPE [FREE]
Create your own kaleidoscope! Children will color the wheel and build a kaleidoscope with cardboard tubes. Supplies are provided. For ages 5-12. Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., 10-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

CRAFTING: MAKE BLING WITH BATMAN [FREE]
Make bling with Batman or Deadpool or She-Hulk or any other superhero from comicdom or the world of manga that you like! We'll recycle old graphic novels and manga books to make cute cuffs, bracelets, necklaces and more. We'll also make stickers and other paper goods to use with our creations. All supplies are provided. For ages 12-18. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton, 3-4:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

July 26 Thursday

JAM SESSION TALENT SHOW [FREE]
Come and play your favorite instrument that you made this summer or purchased. If you want to show everyone your special talent, call 918-549-7323 to register and reserve your performance spot. For preschool through fifth grade. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT CHECK [FREE]
Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at this free event sponsored by Safe Kids Tulsa! Bixby Fire Department Station 2, 8300 E. 121st St. S., Bixby, 2-4 p.m. www.safekidstulsa.com

GARDEN SCENTS—AN HERBAL EXPERIENCE
All ages are welcome to join Tulsa Botanic Garden for some fun with herbs– including tasting herbal beverages and making scented bath bombs. See, touch and smell different herb plants on hand and try your hand at sketching some of these plants. Drop-in activity for all ages; free with regular admission. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 6-9 p.m. www.tulsabotanic.org

MOMS & DADS SUPPORT GROUP [FREE]
The mission of this long-standing support group for parents of children with developmental disabilities is to nurture and support families, encourage positive strategies in dealing with challenges, and share in the joy of raising children. Childcare not available. TARC Office, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A, 7-9 p.m. www.ddadvocacy.net

July 27 Friday

FAMILY PROGRAM: A NIGHT WITH BATS!
What can you discover in the dark? Explore the amazing life of bats and other nocturnal critters! Bring your blanket and sense of adventure. After a short exploration at the museum, particpants will travel by caravan to a local park to encounter high-flying mammals and more! Preregistration required. Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, 8-10 p.m. samnoblemuseum.ou.edu

July 28 Saturday

LAFORTUNE PARK MOM & SON DODGE BALL/ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Enjoy a couple of friendly dodge ball games, then cool down with a self-serve ice cream sundae with your favorite little guy(s). Sign up on location; $15 for mother and son, $5 for each additional son. LaFortune Park, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., 1-3:30 p.m. parks.tulsacounty.org

KIDS TRIATHLON
Boys and girls ages 5-16 can participate in this fun kids triathlon at McClure Park. All participante receive a

T-shirt and swag bag; those who finish receive a medal. Register and get more information at tulsaparks.org. McClure Park, 7440 E. 7th St., tulsaparks.org

July 29 Sunday

Looking for more? Download our FREE 2018 Summer Family Fun Guide at tulsakids.com/summer!

July 30 Monday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY
[FREE, W]
Bring the whole family for this 0-to-5 storytime! There's something for everyone – simple songs and books for the little ones, more interactive stories and activities for your older children. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 10:30-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Find more storytimes at tulsakids.com/storytimes.

July 31 Tuesday

AIR-GUITAR COMPETITION/COMPETICIÓN DE GUITARRA DE AIRE
[FREE]
Show off your air-guitar skills and win a prize! For ages 5-12. / Toca tu guitarra de aire y gana un premio! Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TEEN TUESDAY: KARAOKE
[FREE]
Show off your talent and sing karaoke music from the year 2000 to current hits of today. For ages 12-18. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 2-3 p.m.

HARRY POTTER BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT [FREE]
It's Harry Potter's birthday! Finish off a great Summer Reading Program with wizarding crafts, costumes and more. Wizards and muggles are all invited! Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 2-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.o



BIXBY FREEDOM CELEBRATION
When: Friday, June 29, 4:30-10 p.m.
Where: Bentley Park Sports Complex, 8505 E. 148th St. S., Bixby
The Bixby Freedom Celebration is the largest free, public fireworks extravaganza in this area. In its second year the 2016 Bixby Freedom Celebration brought approximately 13,000 people from the local community together in patriotic celebration, with thousands more gathered nearby to watch the spectacular, professional fireworks display. On Friday, June 29, 2018, The Bridge Church and its sponsors will once again host Bixby's very own Independence Day fireworks celebration. So bring your family and friends and celebrate freedom together! www.bixbyfreedomcelebration.com

FANTASY IN THE SKY
When: Tuesday, July 3
Where: 110 N. Broadway, Skiatook
"Fantasy in the Sky" is that annual Fourth of July celebration sponsored by the City of Skiatook and area businesses. The celebration starts with a community wide parade and continues throughout the day with great food, vendors and live music. The night concludes with a world class fireworks show that brings more than 75,000 people to Skiatook. www.cityofskiatook.com

CLIFF ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FIREWORKS SHOW
When: Tuesday, July 3 at dusk
Where: Grand Lake—Disney Spillways on the water.
www.grandlakefireworks.com

CLAREMORE'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
When: Wednesday, July 4, 6 a.m.-12 p.m. (fishing derby), 6 p.m.-10 p.m. (evening festivities)
Where: Claremore Lake Park, East on Blue Starr Drive
Fishing Derby
Starts at 7 a.m. on the 4th of July. It's open to all kids ages 4-12 years old. Fishing poles and tackle boxes are given out to the first 400 kids. Trophies will be given out for biggest and smallest fish. Two bicycles will be raffled off in each age group (4-6), (7-9), (10-12).
Evening Fireworks Celebration
Claremore Lake Park will open for the evening event at 6 p.m. The flag raising with national anthem will kick-off the evening. Live entertainment starts after the flag raising at approximately 6:30 pm. There will be concessions available on-site along with kids inflatables and the brand new splash pad. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Learn more at www.visitclaremore.org.

CAJUN FESTIVAL
When: Wednesday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m.
Where: Grove Civic Center, 1720 S. Main, Grove
One doesn't have travel deep into the heart of Cajun Country of Louisiana to find good food, good times and good music. In fact, it can be found in Grove at the Grove Civic Center on the 4th of July with authentic Cajun music, Cajun food and many other entertainers. www.grandlakefestivals.com

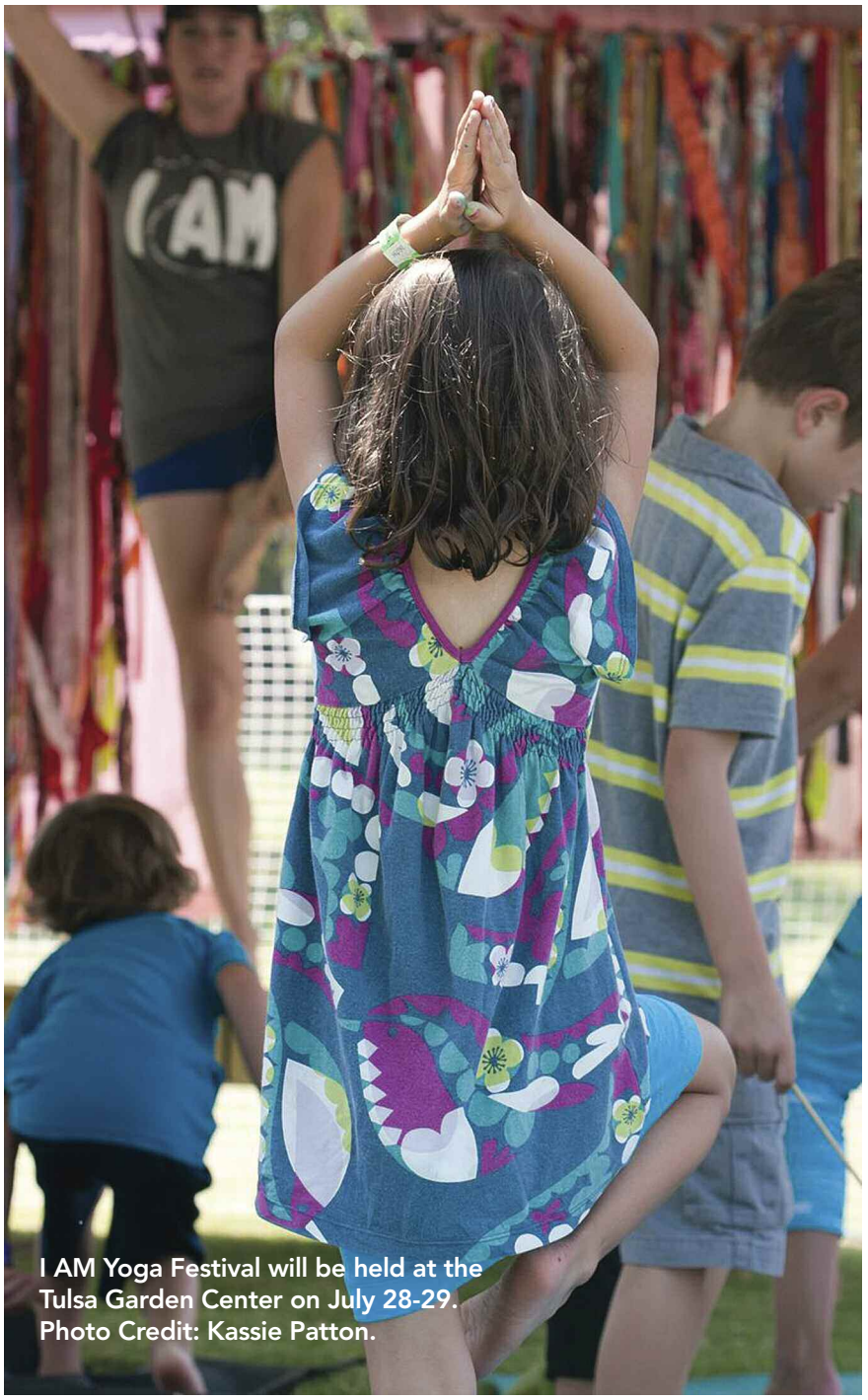
BOOM FEST 2018
When: Wednesday, July 4, 3-10 p.m.
Where: 96th Street Bridge near the Jenks Riverwalk
One of the longest, most brilliant fireworks shows in the area, Boom Fest is presented by Los Cabos Mexican Grill with the assistance of other local businesses. Los Cabos and the Riverwalk will host to events, including helicopter rides, a balloon artist and face painting, and music all day long leading up to the largest firework display in Tulsa at 9:45pm! Grab the kids and get there early. www.riverwalktulsa.com

FOLDS OF HONOR FREEDOMFEST
When: Wednesday, July 4, 5-10 p.m.
Where: Three Activity Locations: Veteran's Park, 1875 S. Boulder Ave.; River West Festival Park, 2100 S. Jackson Ave; and Blue Rose Café and Elwoods near 21st and Riverside
Visible for miles around, an estimated 80,000 spectators enjoy the view of the Folds of Honor FreedomFest 2018 presented by QuikTrip Corporation from Veterans Park, River West Festival Park and along the Arkansas River. Spectators can experience the full effect of this patriotic celebration by tuning into radio sponsor KRMG (740 AM & 102.3 FM) during the display to listen to the accompanying musical score. This is where Tulsa Fireworks happen. For those celebrating at home, turn to KTUL Tulsa's News Channel 8 to watch live coverage of the Fireworks Grand Finale in the opening moments of the 10 p.m. newscast. The 2018 fireworks display will be produced by Hance Pyrotechnics and staged from the 21st Street Bridge.
www.riverparks.org/freedomfest

FISH AND FIREWORKS
When: Wednesday, July 4, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks
The skies over Jenks will light up with one of the longest, most brilliant fireworks shows in the area and the Oklahoma Aquarium backyard offers a front row view. The Oklahoma Aquarium will be open regular hours during the day – 10:00 to 6:00 with the last entry at 5:00. The Aquarium will reopen at 6:30 p.m. and offer half-price admission. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, but no outside food or coolers please. Food and beverages will be available for purchase in the Coral Reef Cafe' and outside on the deck by McGraw Beach. Enjoy the exhibits, then head outside to see the fireworks! www.okaquarium.org

BARTLESVILLE FREEDOM FEST
When: Wednesday, July 4, 7-10 p.m.
Where: Downtown Bartlesville, 2nd Street between Dewey and Keeler Ave.
Come see great live entertainment by local stars on stage, along with tons of activities for kids (and kids at heart)! It's all about fun, an F-16 flyover, family, friends, food - and, of course, fireworks to celebrate our nation's birthday! Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Bartlesville and the Examiner-Enterprise. www.facebook.com/bartlesvillefreedomfest

Looking for more? Head to www.tulsakids.com/fireworks



I AM Yoga Festival will be held at the Tulsa Garden Center on July 28-29. Photo Credit: Kassie Patton.

WOODY GUTHRIE FOLK FESTIVAL
WHEN: WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 11-15
WHERE: OKEMAH, OKLAHOMA
The annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival celebrates the life of musician Woody Guthrie in his hometown of Okemah. Enjoy five days of folk music at different venues throughout the city. Find the schedule at www.woodyfest.com.

TOKYO IN TULSA
WHEN: FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 13-15
WHERE: COX BUSINESS CENTER, 100 CIVIC CENTER
Panels, Music, Workshops, or something unique whether you want to compete or just have fun with over 300 hours of programming. Actors, Professional Cosplayers, Fashion Designers, Artists … meet the people who are the cutting edge of Anime and Japanese Culture in America. For details, please visit www.tokyointulsa.com.



TULSA COUNTY FAIR
WHEN: THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 19-20
WHERE: EXCHANGE CENTER AT EXPO SQUARE, 4145 E. 21ST ST.
The Tulsa County Fair will held July 19-20th at the Exchange Center. The Tulsa County fair is open to all residents of Tulsa County and members of 4-H, FFA, OHCE and Master Gardeners of Tulsa County. Events happening on July 19th will be the OHCE gift shoppe, community resource booths, and a variety of entertainment including a children's petting zoo, youth dog show, rabbit show, and OHCE membership tea. The poultry show and old-fashioned ice cream festival will be held on Friday, July 20th. Find more information, including a schedule of events, at www.oces.tulsacounty.org.

PORTER PEACH FESTIVAL
WHEN: THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 19-21
WHERE: MAIN STREET IN PORTER, OK
Peach orchards have been an integral part of Porter's history for over 100 years. Since the inaugural Porter Peach Festival in 1960, the town has highlighted its tasty heritage with a fun festival of arts & crafts, outdoor concerts, small town parade, 5k run, car show, and of course, free peaches and ice cream! www.porterpeachfestivals.com

I AM YOGA FESTIVAL
WHEN: SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 28-29
WHERE: TULSA GARDEN CENTER, 2435 S. PEORIA AVE.
I AM Yoga Festival activities include indoor and outdoor yoga classes, group meditations, sound healing experiences, musical performances, workshops and presentations on health, a marketplace of vendors offering healthy and holistic products and services, and much more. Entrance to the marketplace is free; purchase tickets for seminars and classes online or at the event. Find a complete schedule, including kid's activities, at www.iamyogafestival.com



SUMMER BALL GAMES

TULSA DRILLERS
ONEOK FIELD,
201 N. ELGIN AVE.

7/4, 7:05 p.m. vs. Midland
7/5, 7:05 p.m. vs. Midland
7/6, 7:05 p.m. vs. Midland
7/7, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
7/8, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
7/9, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
7/15, 7:05 p.m. vs. Arkansas
7/16, 7:05 p.m. vs. Arkansas
7/17, 7:05 p.m. vs. Arkansas
7/18, 7:05 p.m. vs. Arkansas
7/23, 7:05 p.m. vs. Springfield
7/24, 7:05 p.m. vs. Springfield
7/25, 7:05 p.m. vs. Springfield

TULSA ROUGHNECKS FC
ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave.
7/28, 7:30 p.m. vs. Fresno FC



The Hip Mom Gets Humbled

BY JILL VANTREASE

Sometimes I get a little smug. I think to myself, "Hey! I'm keeping all these kids alive! No urgent care visits or fecal disasters! Heck, some of them were even pleasant today!" Yes, this is a fleeting, rare feeling, but, I admit it, I will occasionally give myself a pat on the back. Well! Ha. Someone Up There definitely wants to make sure I don't get too cocky, because just as the school year began, another family moved in to our little school community from South Carolina.

Meet The Gehrings. Susan Gehring, matriarch of the clan, was pregnant with her ninth child when she moved halfway across the country (she now has a 6-month-old edible butterball, Hudson). Friends, Susan is chill, put together and even maintains a running regime. Her girls have combed, detangled hair (mine, often, do not!). Her kids range from 16-year-old Doyle all the way down to baby Hudson, and alternate boy, girl, boy, girl. Every time I passed by her this year at school pick-up time, I tried not to stop and stare. How does she do it? An entirely new school, an entirely new state, and an entirely new baby? So, just to satisfy my creepy celebrity stalking craving, I asked for an interview -- and Susan graciously granted my request.



HM: So. You were living in South Carolina, and your husband, Josh, tells you he's going to interview for a job in Oklahoma. What did you think? Were you pregnant yet?

Susan: Yes, I was pregnant! And my first thought was, "Who is going to drive the soccer carpool on Thursday if you're gone?" I really didn't think much about it at all; I was just preoccupied with life! I didn't know much about Oklahoma at all, except that it touched Texas. I had lived on the East Coast all my life. I guess I didn't really take it seriously! But then he came home and was really interested in the job and moving here.

HM: So how did you come to the decision to uproot?

Susan: Well, we were struck by the cost of living -- we could afford to buy some land here and build our dream house. And we could do that and also send our kids to Catholic schools, which was a priority for us. Then I spoke to my mother, who travels a lot for work, and she wasn't really thrilled with Oklahoma. But she decided to make another visit, and had a much more favorable impression than she had remembered from her travels in the past. (**HM:** Oklahoma does grow on you…) In fact, she liked it so much, my parents will be moving here, too!

HM: Wow. And then you had to be a solo pregnant mom with your house on the market for many months -- Josh had to move here first to start his job. How did you do that?

Susan: Luckily, Josh took the dogs! We had our house on the market, and my oldest son was on a traveling baseball team. So on the weekends, we had to get up early and leave a neat house in case there were any showings. (**HM:** I think I would have had an aneurysm…..) My oldest daughter Addie had a great idea: Everyone slept on top of made beds in their clothes, with their shoes ready. So when we rolled out of bed in the morning into the van, we'd just have to smooth a few bed wrinkles. And then we were off in the van traveling to baseball tournaments! We traveled with my crockpot; no one wants to eat out after long days on the road, so I packed freezer meals to heat up in hotels. (**HM:** Genius! I should get those recipes…?! Why didn't I think of a crock pot as a traveling asset!)

HM: And how did you decide on your house here?

Susan: Josh's company offered to fly me to Tulsa to look at houses, but how could I leave? I couldn't clone myself to take care of everyone! Luckily Josh and I have moved several times, and he knew what we both wanted. So he bought 11 acres and a house where my parents will eventually live. We'll build our own house on a separate parcel of the land.



(HM….could I buy a home sight unseen? I am not that gutsy!) And right now it's great. I can go for a run while being in view of the backyard; if a kid needs something, they know just to wave (but changing channels or opening granola bars is not an emergency!). (HM….now that is a cheap gym membership!)

HM: Was there any difference between giving birth here versus back east?

Susan: Well, I really wanted to use a midwife in a birth center. A couple of my kids were born that way, and that was my preference. But I moved here too late in the pregnancy. I guess in Oklahoma it's a law that you have to have a hospital birth if you move here and are past 20 weeks or so (HM: huh? Weird state!). But then I ended up having my first C-section with this baby, so it all worked out in the end.

HM: What do you love most about Oklahoma?

Susan: By far the people, the sense of community. I haven't felt that before. People here are so welcome and genuine. (HM: I agree! This place is overflowing with neighborly love. You don't realize it until you arrive - or leave!)

HM: What do you not like so much? What do you miss about South Carolina?

Susan: I miss being close to the beach! We were an easy 30-minute drive from the beach. It's hard to get anywhere like that around here. And I miss being able to drive so easily to see family, too.

HM: What advice do you have for moms who have far fewer children, or just younger children?

Susan: Have lots of kids! Seriously, they take care of each other. The sibling relationships are so beautiful to see. And that's another reason it was so easy to move here: they left friends back east, but they are each other's best friends. They always have someone to play with; it's a built-in tribe. And the older ones are great babysitters: Hudson just adores Doyle, and Cammie (11) can take care of the baby as well as I can! (HM: I need to give birth to a teenage girl!)

Well, friends, there you have it. Take this issue, and if you see a petite bundle of energy with curly hair who looks like a teenager with an adoring entourage, ask for an autograph. You'll say you knew her when. And also? If you feel amazed, awed, and slightly bewildered by this intrepid, savvy mother, remind yourself, as PVT reminded me: "She is a great mother. You are a great mother. Her kids need her; your kids need you." I think all we mamas need to hear that reminder sometimes, yes?

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In thy light, we see light. Psalm 36:9

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BY NATALIE MIKLES

kids cooking challenge: recipes for beginners to experts

I have had the privilege of being a judge on both Chopped and Top Chef. I didn't have to travel far for these gigs. One was in my kitchen and the other in my backyard.

My kids started playing Chopped with mud, leaves, acorns and flowers when they were in preschool. After they had gathered their ingredients, I set a timer and then counted down with 10 seconds remaining. Their favorite part was when I shouted, "Knives down! Hands up!" A winner was declared, and then we would play another round.

This year, my kids have moved on from rocks and dirt to actual food. They play Top Chef by mixing ice cream with fruit, which is usually delicious. Or when they're feeling silly or ornery, they make concoctions like blending orange juice, chocolate milk and stashed Halloween candy. (Do not try this at home.)

Summertime is a good time to let the kids play in the kitchen. If you don't want a huge mess, give them a set of four or five ingredients, and allow them to use their imaginations to make something delicious. Or, if your kids are reading and ready to follow a recipe, you'll find cooking can be a great way to keep their minds sharp using math, reading and problem solving.



Here are some sweet recipes easy enough for kids to make, ranging from easy to intermediate to difficult. Littler kids will be able to make the easy recipes on their own or with limited help. The difficult recipe is best for teens or for kids with plenty of kitchen experience.

EASY

This is pretty in a large glass bowl or trifle dish. But it's also fun to make in mason jars for individual servings.

Strawberry Cream Trifle

- 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 1 package (1 ounce) instant vanilla pudding
- 8-ounce container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 angel food cake, torn into bite-sized pieces
- 2 quarts fresh strawberries, sliced

1. Whisk together condensed milk, water and pudding mix until thoroughly blended. Let sit for 2 minutes. Fold in whipped topping.

2. Place half of cake pieces into a trifle dish. Top with half the strawberry slices. Pour half of pudding mixture over berries. Repeat layers.

Kids will need a grownup's help to get the cookies in and out of the hot oven.

Double Chocolate Cake Mix Cookies

- 1 box devil's food cake mix
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup sugar

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees (325 degrees for dark or nonstick pans). In a large bowl, mix cake mix, oil, vanilla and eggs with spoon until dough forms. Gently stir in chocolate chips.

2. Refrigerate dough 15 to 30 minutes or as needed for easier handling. Shape dough into 1-inch balls, then roll in sugar. Place balls about 2 inches apart.

3. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until set. Cool 1 minute, then remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks.

INTERMEDIATE

For a pretty finishing touch, combine 1 cup powdered sugar and 2 tablespoons milk, or enough milk until you have a nice consistency. Pour this glaze over the cooled cake.

Banana Pudding Cake

- 2 very ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 package (3.4 ounce) instant banana cream pudding

continued next page

• 4 large eggs
• 1 cup water
• 1/2 cup melted butter

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour (or thoroughly spray with nonstick spray) a Bundt pan. Mash bananas, and set aside.

2. Mix dry cake mix and pudding mix. Add eggs, water and butter. Gently fold in bananas.

3. Pour batter into pan. Bake for 30 to 45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes, then invert onto a cooling rack.

This cake is delicious with fresh sliced peaches and whipped cream.

Cream Cheese Pound Cake

• 1 1/2 cups butter, softened
• 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
• 2 1/2 cups white sugar
• 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
• 1 teaspoon almond extract
• 6 eggs
• 3 cups cake flour

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 10-inch tube pan.

2. Cream together the butter, cream cheese and sugar until light. Stir in the vanilla and the almond extracts. Add one third of the flour, stir, then add two eggs. Repeat the process, stirring in the flour and eggs alternately until all has been added. Pour batter into the pan.

3. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let sit in pan for 10 minutes, then invert onto a cooling rack.

DIFFICULT

Teens ready for a cooking challenge can roll up their sleeves to make this beautiful dessert. It's adapted from the Silver Palate cookbook.

Blueberry Lemon Tart

• 1 cup fresh lemon juice (about 6 lemons)
• 5 tablespoons grated lemon zest
• 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
• 6 eggs, lightly beaten
• 1 cup granulated sugar
• 9-inch partially baked Sweet Buttery Tart Crust (see related recipe)
• 1 1/2 cups blueberries, rinsed, sorted and dried
• Powdered sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

2. Whisk the lemon juice, grated zest and melted butter in a medium-size bowl. Beat in the eggs and granulated sugar; mix well.

3. Pour into the partially baked tart shell and bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Arrange the blueberries (or other fresh fruit) over the warm filling, pressing lightly. When cool, dust with confectioners' sugar.

Sweet Buttery Tart Crust

• 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
• 1/4 cup granulated sugar
• 1/2 teaspoon salt
• 10 tablespoons butter, chilled
• 2 egg yolks
• 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
• 2 teaspoons cold water

1. Sift flour, sugar and salt into a mixing bowl. Cut chilled butter into pieces into the bowl. Using your fingertips only, rapidly rub the butter and dry ingredients together until the mixture resembles coarse meal. (Your palms will warm the dough.)

2. Stir egg yolks, vanilla and water together and add to the flour-butter mixture and blend in, using a fork. Shape dough into a ball. Chill for two hours.

3. Roll out dough between 2 sheets of wax paper into a round large enough to line your pan. Work quickly, as the dough can become sticky.

4. Line either an 8- or 9- inch removable bottom tart pan with the dough, fitting it loosely into pan and pressing to fit sides. Trim edges 3/4 inch outside top of pan, and fold this edge over to inside, and press into place with fingers. Chill.

5. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line dough in the tart pan with a piece of aluminum foil and weight with dried beans or rice. Bake for 8 minutes. Remove foil and beans. Prick the bottom of the dough with a fork in several places. For a partially baked shell, return to oven for 3 to 4 minutes longer. For a fully baked shell, return for 8-10 minutes longer, or until edges are a light brown.

Thank you Tulsa for voting us your family favorite again this year!

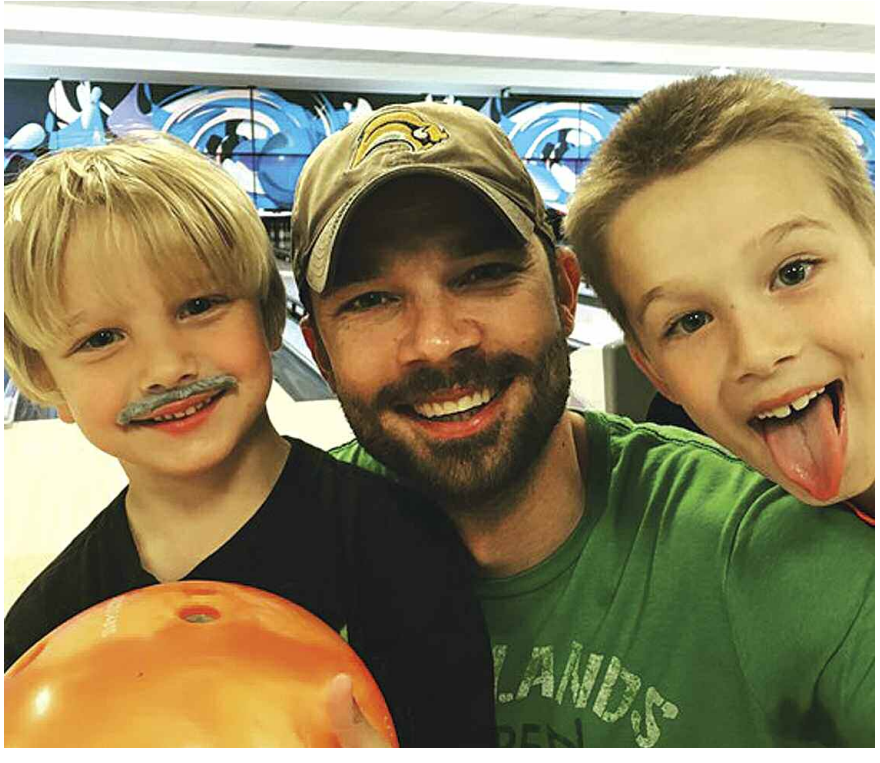






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What's Going On(line)?



CONTESTS AND GIVEAWAYS

FlyingTee Junior Tee Camp Giveaway

FlyingTee's Junior Tee Camps are a great way to introduce your child to the game of golf, or help your young pro sharpen their skills. From June 25-July 7, enter to win a camp registration worth $125. The prize includes four, fun-filled days of instruction and activities, plus lunch each day and a camp T-shirt. *Winning child must be 7-12 years of age and able to attend July 17-20 or 24-27.

For more information about FlyingTee's Junior Tee Camps, email **camp@flyingteegolf.com.**

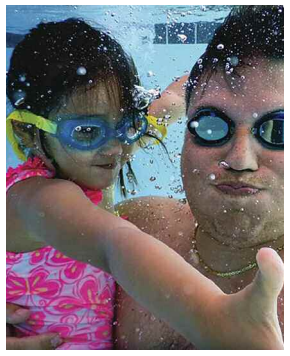
Follow @TulsaKids on Instagram, @TulsaKidsMagazine on Facebook, or sign up for our eNewsletters at tulsakids.com/newsletter for the latest Contest and Giveaway information!

FATHER'S DAY PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Thank you to Renee C. for submitting this photo of her sons, Evan and Owen, enjoying a game of bowling with their Father, Erik.

And thank you to everyone else who participated in our Father's Day Photo Contest! Here are just a few of the many fabulous submissions:

We hope you all had a wonderful Father's Day!



Christi T.



Courtney C.



Holly R.



Libby R.



Lucinda H.



Rachel B.

GUEST BLOGGER: TULSAKIDS INTERN ZOE ROBERTS

From Zoe: "My name is Zoe Roberts and I have a passion for sharing my style and beauty advice. I study Journalism and Fashion at the University of Arizona and I want to show parents and kids alike that fashion is an empowering art for everyone! From seasonal trends to skincare, I've got you covered."

Don't forget to download your FREE 2018 Summer Family Fun Guide at tulsakids.com/summer.







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FOLLOW US!

BY TORI HAMILTON, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATE, GLENPOOL LIBRARY

Summer is for… PLAY!

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LITERACY AND LEARNING WITHOUT SACRIFICING OUTDOOR PLAY!

In the winter, it's easy to convince young children to cuddle up under a snuggly blanket with you and read a book together. However, as spring sets in and summer comes calling, your children (and perhaps you as well) start itching to shove those books under the bed and rush headlong into the great outdoors.

Well, rush away! Books aren't the only way children acquire essential literacy skills. Simple activities such as talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing with your child are all foundational to helping children read as they get older. Here are some fun ways to incorporate early literacy education into your outdoor activities.



Talking: *Use nonfiction to tame the wilds of nature.* There are so many things to see outside, and children are fascinated by all of it! Why not check out a library book about something in nature, such as gardening books, birdwatching guides, or books about weather? You don't need to read these books! Even if you only spend a few minutes looking at the pictures together with your child and talking about them, it's enough to spark a child's imagination and curiosity.

Singing: *Play "Ring Around the Rosy."* Have you ever noticed how many traditional childhood games that involve running around the yard are also songs? "Ring Around the Rosy," "London Bridge," and "Pop Goes the Weasel" not only get children up and moving but have the added benefit of building phonological awareness, or an understanding that words are made up of smaller sounds.

Writing: *Practice letters outside.* Who needs pencil and paper? For toddlers and preschoolers, any activity that builds letter knowledge counts as writing practice. Break out the sidewalk chalk and help your children write their names in your driveway in letters as tall as they are! Take a walk through your neighborhood and point out the letters on street signs. Talk about the letters all around you and the sounds that they make ("Look at the squirrels! 'Squirrel' starts with S.").

Playing: *"Literacy on the Lawn" is the new "Shakespeare in the Park."* As your children play in the yard, you can build literacy skills by encouraging imaginative play. Ask your children to act out the plot of their favorite cartoon or bedtime story. This not only stimulates their memory as they try to remember the order of events, but also gets them thinking about why the characters in the story acted as they did, an important step toward understanding more complicated stories as they grow older.

Reading: *Keep reading together as much as you can.* Okay, so maybe your child is more interested in catching frogs and splashing in pools right now. That's fine! You never want reading to be an obligation or to feel forced. But in those rare moments when your child is amenable to sitting still, it shouldn't be too hard to convince them to cuddle up on top of a snuggly old blanket with you and read a book together – on the grass, in the sun, on a picnic. Sometimes, a little change of venue is all you need after a long winter spent indoors.

Don't Forget the Summer Reading Program!

The 2018 Summer Reading Program: Libraries Rock! is still in full force until August 4th. Earn great prizes and coupons for food and local recreation! There's a program for every age: baby, child, teen, and adult! Visit www.tulsalibrary.org/summer for more information or drop by any of our 24 library locations and bookmobile.

Three Keys to Literacy Does Your Child Have Them?

Does your child dislike reading, or avoid reading aloud? Does your child often have the answer "on the tip of his tongue," but can't quite get the words out right? Reading is a complex skill that requires certain building blocks for a child to achieve success. If one building block is missing, then your child will continue to struggle unless he or she receives proper intervention. Three essential building blocks to reading success include:

1. Executive Function. The first building block necessary for reading is Executive Function. A person may read at the college level and not retain a thing because executive skills such as working memory, cognitive flexibility, planning, impulse control, and organization are not functioning properly. A professional can help a child develop and strengthen Executive Function.

2. Phonetic Awareness & Phonetic Memory. The second building block involves recognizing that a sound goes with a letter. A child with phonemic awareness problems may not recognize any words that rhyme with *mat* or understand word games, rhymes or syllables. If this sounds like your child, he or she needs to be evaluated by a professional.

3. Reading. The third bilding block is dependent on the presence of the first two building blocks. Too often, well-meaning teachers and parents start here, without working on Executive Function and Phonetic Awareness, so the child continues to have difficulty reading.

If your child has trouble remembering what he or she just read, struggles with the sounds of words and letters, or has difficulty expressing thoughts, it may be a good idea to have your child evaluated by a professional.



Dr. Penny Stack

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WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DIANE TRITT EATON

enter Door County for **old-fashioned family fun**

Cross the threshold from Wisconsin's mainland into picturesque Door County and leave your cares (and electronics) behind. Vacationing here is like taking a few steps back in time, toward a pace that's noticeably slower and where the focus is on connecting with family and meeting friends during your stay.

Ninety minutes north of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Door County is home to a collection of 19 storybook neighborhoods, heavily influenced by the Scandinavians and Belgians who settled to fish and farm along the shores of Lake Michigan centuries ago. Over time, the ship-building industry also played a key role in shaping the region's maritime culture, especially along Sturgeon Bay on the southern end of the peninsula. Within each of the friendly, quaint towns, you'll uncover historic places and stumble upon unique stores, eateries and lodging. And, the natural landscape will draw you outside time and again.

Door County's beauty includes limestone outcroppings, bluffs and dunes along its shoreline and is home to a collection of 11 lighthouses, some of which are regularly open for public touring. As you make your way through the bucolic countryside in awe of all of the tiny towns, you'll encounter picture-perfect barns with silos, cherry and apple orchards and maturing vineyards. Much of the time, you'll have the stunning waterside views to admire, too. The surrounding fresh waters are abundant with signature white fish living among the nearly centuries-old shipwrecks, some of which are accessible and visible by boat.



EAGLE HARBOR, EPHRAIN IN DOOR COUNTY, WI.

Sample Some Of Door County's Jewels

During your stay, here are a few on- and off-shore suggestions to keep your crew more than satisfied.

1. There are five state parks to explore, the largest being Peninsula Park. It's home to family-friendly hiking and biking trails (with bike rentals available at the park's entrance from the Edge Of Park), marinas, campgrounds and beaches, including sheltered Nicolet Beach, whose calm waters are perfect for swimming. During my bike ride, each turn opened doors to new views. You can visit Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and take an informative tour.

2. Soaking up some sun is easy in Door County because there are almost 300 miles of shoreline to enjoy. Choose from 53 public swimming beaches, with nearly 6.5 miles of sandy shores. Some beaches have playgrounds and marinas. Watch sunrises on the eastern shores and sunsets on the western shores.

3. With over 100+ museums to see, don't miss Door County Maritime Museum where you can board the beautifully restored tugboat named after John Purves, who operated it for 38 years. Hopefully you'll meet his proud son, Bob Purves, who gives a heartfelt tour through the spotless engine room and beyond. His kind demeanor and hospitable nature matches Door County's personality, at large.

4. Boating excursions are plentiful, including parasailing, kayaking, canoeing, sunset cruises and chartered sails. But for unique excitement, reserve time on Captain Matt Olson's Adventure Rafting tour from Bailey's Harbor. His knowledge of Door County history coupled with his thrilling high-speed tour takes you up close to shipwrecks and around Cana Island and Lighthouse.

5. Every year, Peninsula State Park's Northern Sky Theater creates unique family experiences through professional musical and dramatic productions in a tall cedar- and birch-tree-wooded amphitheater tucked under the stars. The original musicals "celebrate the human condition" and aim to reflect the rich local culture within Door County. The Chicago Tribune said that Northern Sky has "One of the most exceptional professional troupes in the country."

continued next page



WILSON' RESTAURANT & ICE CREAM PARLOR, EPHRAIN IN DOOR COUNTY, WI.

Tantalize Your Taste Buds

Oodles of restaurants serve up delicious fare — some for over 100 years–carrying out family traditions while adding newness. For instance, Sister Bay Bowl has expanded its supper space, building upon the original, still-operating six-lane bowling alley. Wilson's, with its charming red and white awnings and geranium-filled window boxes, in business since 1906, serves yummy diner fare and ice cream galore including root-beer floats (yes, the root beer is homemade). My favorite spot, Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant is a Lincoln Log-style structure crafted from authentic Norwegian yellow pine. The waitresses, in Swedish garb, offer delectable Swedish pancakes with lingonberry sauce and Swedish meatballs, among other specialties. The bonus here is the view of goats grazing the sodded rooftop. For sweet tooth satisfaction, Door County Ice Cream Factory's creamy creations and darling Sweetie Pies' cherry and rhubarb delights will keep you smiling.

Stay Young At Heart

Fred Rogers, creator of the famous children's television show, "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood", once said, "I think it's very important--no matter what you may do professionally--to keep alive some of the healthy interests of your youth. Children's play is not just kids' stuff…." So, whether you are 6 or 60 years old, Door County allows for this, full throttle! And, wherever your family goes, each spot will lend itself to old-fashioned fun.

Decide When To Visit

Each season has its own unique draw. The land is lush with flowering bushes in the spring and summer, autumn leaves lend vibrant colors in the fall, and winter landscapes showcase snow-covered grounds and icy shores. Door County peak season is July through October. Lake water temperatures for swimming are best in July and August.

Choose Your "Home Away From Home"

As you might guess, Door County has no big mega-chains, but, instead, a variety of hotels, resorts, B&Bs, condos, cottages and campgrounds. A fine choice is Eagle Harbor Inn in Ephraim, a charming town with steeples and white clapboard buildings. Situated on five acres, this noteworthy inn affords extra peace and quiet, yet the town and beach are a short walk away. The inn itself has individual rooms, plus there are separate houses including one- and two-bedroom suites with kitchenettes. There's also an indoor pool for the kids.

For Additional Information

For the rest of the best of Door County, you'll have to see it firsthand. To help with planning, see www.doorcounty.com.



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–Hannah Jiménez
Pre-School Parent

riverfield.org

Showtimes & Concerts













The Tulsa City-County Libraries will be hosting special kid-friendly concerts all month long as part of their Summer Reading Program. Rock with popular artists such as Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, the Laura Doherty Duo, Mr. Stinky Feet, Monty Harper, the Sugar Free All Stars and Dino O'Dell.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS

SUMMER'S FIFTH NIGHT IN UTICA SQUARE
Where: Utica Square, 21st and Utica
When: Every Thursday through August 30, 7-9 p.m.
7/5: Starlight Jazz Orchestra
7/12: Eldredge Jackson
7/19: Red Dirt Rangers
7/26: Mary Cogan

FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT AT LAFORTUNE
Where: The Gardens at LaFortune Park, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
When: Friday, July 6, 7-9 p.m.

GUTHRIE GREEN SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES
Where: Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
When: Every Sunday through the season, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

THE STARLIGHT BAND SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Where: Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
When: Tuesday at 8 p.m.
7/10: Concert Band presents "Route 66"
7/17: Concert Band presents "At the Movies" with a Silent Movie
7/24: Jazz Orchestra presents "Jazz Under the Stars"

TCCL CONCERTS FOR KIDS

LAURA DOHERTY DUO: SING, SING A SONG! (TODDLERS THROUGH FIFTH GRADE)
Monday, July 9, 2-2:45 and 3-3:45 p.m. at Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway St.
Tuesday, July 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.
Wednesday, July 11, 1-2 p.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center

LIBRARIES ROCK WITH DINO O'DELL (TODDLERS THROUGH FIFTH GRADERS)
Monday, July 16, 1-2 p.m. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton
Monday, July 16, 4-4:45 p.m. Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl.
Tuesday, July 17, 6-7 p.m. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave.
Wednesday, July 18, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Wednesday, July 18, 2-3 p.m. Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St.
Thursday, July 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

LUCKY DIAZ AND THE FAMILY JAM BAND (ALL AGES)
Monday, July 2, 2-2:45 and 3-3:45 p.m. Owasso Library , 103 W. Broadway St.
Tuesday, July 3, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St.
Tuesday, July 3, 2-2:45 p.m. Kendall-Whittier Library, 21 S. Lewis Ave.
Thursday, July 5, 1-2 and 3-4 p.m. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave.
Friday, July 6, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

MONTY HARPER SINGS! (ALL AGES)
Wednesday, July 11, 10-11 a.m. Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave.
Thursday, July 12, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.

continued next page

Thursday, July 12, 3-3:45 p.m. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.

MR. STINKY FEET RETURNS (ALL AGES)
Wednesday, July 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Monday, July 9, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Central Library, 400 Civic Center
Monday, July 9, 2-3 p.m. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd.
Tuesday, July 10, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave.
Wednesday, July 11, 2-3 p.m. Suburban Acres Library, 4606 N. Garrison Ave.

TIME TO GET FUNKY WITH SUGAR FREE ALLSTARS (ALL AGES)
Wednesday, July 11, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave.
Monday, July 16, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Central Library, 400 Civic Center
Monday, July 16, 2-3 p.m. Charles Page Library, 551 E. 4th St., Sand Springs

OTHER SHOWTIMES

DEF LEPPARD/JOURNEY
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
When: Monday, July 9, 7 p.m.
Promising to be the Tour of the Year, two of the world's greatest rock bands – DEF LEPPARD and JOURNEY – are teaming up and coming to BOK Center on July 9. www.bokcenter.com

SEUSSICAL JR.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 13-14, 8 p.m.; July 15, 2 p.m.
Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Beginners and Bootcampers (ages 6-15) let their imaginations run free in Seussical Jr., the student version of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens' whimsical musical based on several of Dr. Seuss' most famous children's stories. www.tulsapac.com

1964…THE TRIBUTE
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 20, 8 p.m.
The Beatles toured the world in the early 1960s, but now only a precious few remain who actually saw them live, who actually felt the "mania" that brought them to world acclaim. Today, all that remains are a few scant memories and some captured images in pictures and on poor quality film and video. "1964" meticulously re-creates the "magic" of those live Beatles' performances with artful precision and unerring accuracy. www.tulsapac.com

HAIRSPRAY
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 20-21, 8 p.m.; July 22, 2 p.m.
Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Bound students (ages 13-17) take on "Hairspray," one of the most hilarious shows in modern musical theatre. Teenager Tracy Turnblad's life in 1962 turns upside-down when she wins a role on her favorite TV show! www.tulsapac.com

SUPERHEROES, UNITE!
Where: Spotlight Theatre, 1381 Riverside Dr.
When: Friday, July 27 and August 3, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29, August 4-5, 2 p.m.
Watch Spotlight Children's Theatre's entertaining performance of "Superheroes, Unite!" at the historic Spotlight Theatre. www.spotlighttheatre.org

DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 28, 8 p.m.
For more than 30 years, Doug Varone and Dancers has devoted itself to the humanity and virtuosity of dance, reaching out to audiences well beyond the proscenium arch. This philosophy has earned the company a reputation as one of the most respected dance companies working today. www.tulsapac.com

BEIJING DANCE THEATRE
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 29, 3 p.m.
Founded in 2008, Beijing Dance Theater (BDT) is led by its choreographer Wang Yuanyuan together with visual artists Tan Shaoyuan and Hanjiang. It has collaborated with many internationally renowned dramatists, musicians and designers, enriching the international dance stages with its world-class productions, each of which represents the highest level of Chinese contemporary dance. www.tulsapac.com

PARSONS DANCE (RELAXED PERFORMANCE)
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 30, 4 p.m.
Autism-Friendly Performances, or "Relaxed Performances," allow audiences the freedom to express themselves and react openly while watching the dancers and hearing the music. For these performances, sensory stimuli such as lights and sound are modified and the theater designates quiet spaces to take a break from the show. There is also a talk-back element to the show. A Parsons representative will navigate the audience through the show, pausing between each piece to tell people what to look for and to answer questions. This ensures that the show moves at an accessible pace and makes the performance interactive, engaging, and comfortable for all audiences. www.tulsapac.com

PARSONS DANCE
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
When: July 31, 8 p.m.
Known for their remarkable athleticism and stunning ensemble work, Parsons Dance brings exuberance, joy and passion to any stage. Flawlessly fusing the gestures and movements that comprise modern dance with the discipline and precision of a classical dance company, the company is internationally renowned. www.tulsapac.com



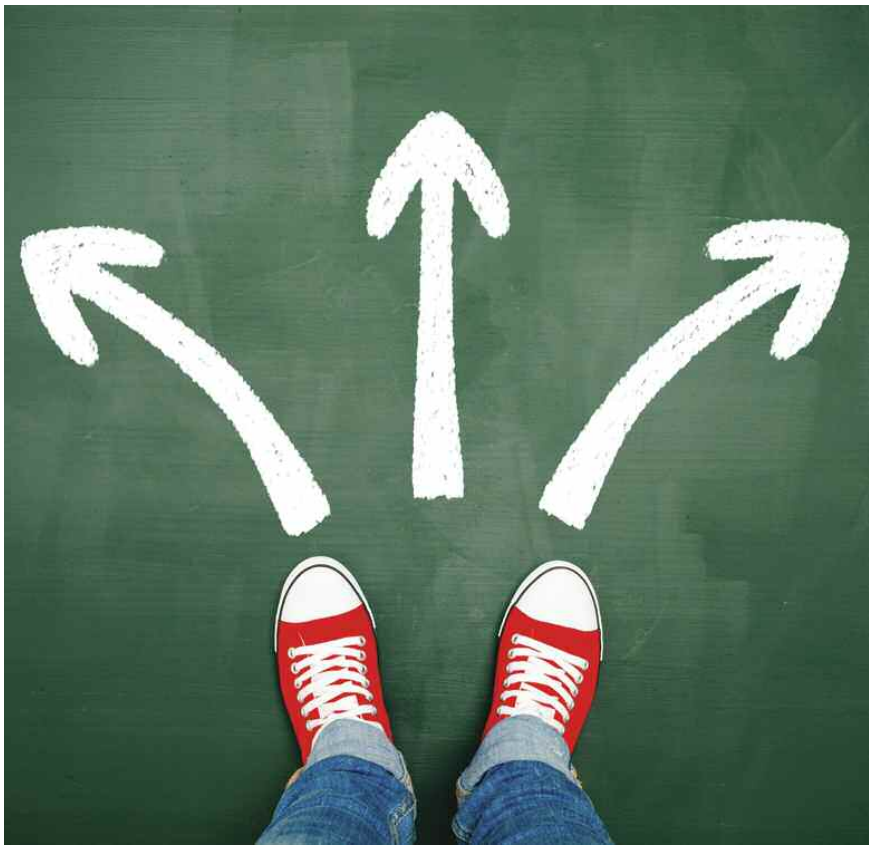
BY TARA RITTLER

choosing a private school: **tips from the experts**

From kindergarten through eighth grade, I attended a private Christian school in Wichita, Kansas. As I ended my eighth-grade year, I think it became clear to my parents that neither my younger sister nor I were "flourishing" in the school environment; this, combined with my father's growing dissatisfaction with the school's disproportionate emphasis on morality over academic rigor, led my parents to make the hard decision to remove us from that school and look for one that better suited our family's needs.

Whether you are dissatisfied with your children's current education situation or ready to enroll them for the first time, the Tulsa area boasts a wide variety of private schools, as evidenced by TulsaKids' School Directors Guide. And when it comes to choosing the best school for your family, there are multiple resources to help.

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) is one such resource. First, NAIS advises, parents should "define their ideal school" by considering the following basic elements: school type, grade range, location, student body, educational philosophy, curriculum, faculty, facilities and special programs/extracurriculars.



For example, what kind of degrees and experience do the faculty members have? Does the school have extracurricular options that complement your child's interests? Are the textbooks and other equipment up-to-date?

After defining your ideal school and doing some initial research to discover what schools in the area fit your criteria, NAIS recommends further narrowing down the list by asking schools more specific questions, including:

- *What is the school's mission or educational philosophy?*
- *Is the school accredited, and if so, by what accrediting agency?*
- *How many students does the school have? How diverse is the student body?*
- *What is the student-teacher ratio?*
- *Do the teachers have degrees in the subjects they teach?*
- *Is the atmosphere competitive or more nurturing?*
- *What kinds of students do best at the school?*
- *What types of learning experiences are available—in class, on the playing field, in extracurricular activities, in leadership programs and community service?*
- *How does the school get parents involved? What do parents typically do?*
- *How much is the tuition?*
- *Are there other charges, such as for books, lab fees, transportation, and so on?*
- *What financing options or financial aid does the school offer?*
- *What is the financial aid application process? When are the deadlines?*
- *What is the process for applying to the school?*

Finally, if you have a child with special needs, NAIS recommends asking to speak with other parents from the school who also have children with special needs in order to gauge how effective the school is at meeting those children's needs.

Find more information at parents.nais.org.

2018 SCHOOL DIRECTORS GUIDE

METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Dr. Keith Currivean, Headmaster
6363 S. Trenton Ave.
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Grades: P3 – 12th

Metro Christian Academy provides an accredited college-preparatory Christian education that is founded on biblical principles. At the heart of Metro is a sense of community. Students, parents, faculty and staff work together to educate, nurture and grow students. Metro is noted for its Christian culture, academic achievements, innovative approaches to learning and successful programs in the arts, athletics and leadership. For more information, go to metroca.com or contact us at 918.745.9868 or admissions@metroca.com.

UNDERCROFT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Nancy Davis, Head of School
Jamie Gartside, Admissions
3745 S. Hudson Ave.
Tulsa, OK
918.622.2890
www.undercroft.org

As the first and only accredited Montessori School in Oklahoma, Undercroft Montessori School serves students from age three through eighth grade using an authentic Montessori methodology and philosophy. Classes in each level, from primary through middle school, include multi-age groups of students, which allows them to build lasting relationships with both peers and guides. Students learn through unique and memorable experiences. Abstract concepts are taught using visual and tactile learning tools, which foster more effective long-term retention. Students learn independence by exercising freedom within limits. Self-correction and self-assessment foster responsibility and confidence. Our students are diverse in interest, personality and learning style. Our approach supports the development of individual capacities and our outcomes are consistent. Our students are well prepared academically and demonstrate creativity, confidence, competence, leadership and, most importantly, they love to learn.

AUGUSTINE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Kirk Post, Headmaster and Founder
John Ahrens, Director of Operations
6310 E. 30th St.
Tulsa, OK
918.832.4600
www.acatulsa.org

Augustine Christian Academy is a Christian, classical, non-denominational, college preparatory school for grades K4–12. We are dedicated to educating young people to think, reason, and persuade from a distinctly Christian worldview. Our goal is to equip students to understand their times, to impact their culture and to serve God and man. Augustine Christian Academy uses a classical model that integrates every subject with the Biblical truths of the Christian faith. Find us on Facebook and on our website at www.acatulsa.org!

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Laurie Penix, Owner
Tulsa, OK
www.avantgardeschools.com
Brookside:
4103 S. Detroit Ave.
918.743.0975
Sheridan:
7607 S. Sheridan Rd.
918.497.1335
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Fr. Gary Kastl, President
3905 S. Hudson Ave
Tulsa, OK
918.627.3390
www.BishopKelley.org
www.facebook.com/BKTulsa

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Patty Banes
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Tulsa, OK
918.699.0112
www.bostonavenue.org

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Ami Chapman or Mollie Heaberlin
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www.montessorilearning.org

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CHRIST UNITED METHODIST ELC

Laurie Pearn
3515 S. Harvard
Tulsa, OK
918.743.7673
www.cumctulsa.com

Our program is a Monday, Wednesday, Friday pre-school program for children ages 8 months to 5 years or pre-kindergarten. Hours are 9:30 to 2:30. There are several options as to how many days and the times children can attend. In the afternoons, we offer enrichment classes in gymnastics, music and "Bible Buddies." Our staff members are chosen for their early childhood experience and training as well as sensitivity to the individual needs of each child. We use a hands-on approach so children learn by doing. Classes are arranged in learning centers and areas of interest where the daily theme is carried out throughout the room. Parent participation is encouraged.

HAPPY CAMPERS ACADEMY

www.happycampersacademy.com
Three Locations:
Happy Campers
1819 E. 15th St., Tulsa
918.584.2779
hcatulsa@gmail.com
7:30am - 5:30pm
Happy Campers at Temple Israel:
2004 E. 22nd Pl., Tulsa
918.747.3122
happycamperstempleisrael@gmail.com
7:00am - 6:00pm
Happy Campers at John Knox
2929 E. 31st St., Tulsa
918.742.7656
happycampersjohnknox@gmail.com
Ages 5-12 years old for after school care

Happy Campers Academy offers Tulsa and surrounding communities quality child care while families are at work. We accept children ages 6 weeks to five years of age, and provide parents an opportunity to view their children in the early learning center through a closed circuit internet connection. At all three of our midtown Tulsa locations, Happy Campers utilizes a child-centered philosophy and partners with our families to provide a quality educational experience in a nurturing environment. Our highly trained staff works to get to know each individual child and his/her cognitive and developmental needs, while seeking input from families to

make the home and school transition smooth and communication open for the success of the child. Through a balance of developmental play and planned educational activities, our students learn best through doing–all while having fun and expressing themselves creatively. We start the foundation for learning when our students are infants–bonding and connecting. When they become toddlers, the focus is self-help and self-recognition and then during the twos, we build upon independence and language skills. The three-year-olds start making cognitive connections and experience the beginnings of social skills. Finally, in PreK, students start connecting all the tools from every stage to form a strong foundation for early reading preparation to build confidence for kindergarten. Our teachers conduct conferences twice a year in order to build a strong home and school team. We want to keep parents informed about what their child(ren) is learning, developmental milestones that are being achieved, and suggest skills that can be practiced at home. We believe that our child-centered philosophy will foster a love for learning in these ever-important early childhood years.
Our Happy Campers at John Knox location offers after school care for students at Patrick Henry, Carnegie, Lee, and Eliot. We offer a place for kids to do homework, play outside, and have a safe and structured time after school while parents are working for ages 5-12 years.

HOLLAND HALL

J.P. Culley, Headmaster
5666 E. 81st St.
Tulsa, OK
918.481.1111
www.hollandhall.org
Grades: Pre-school – Grade 12
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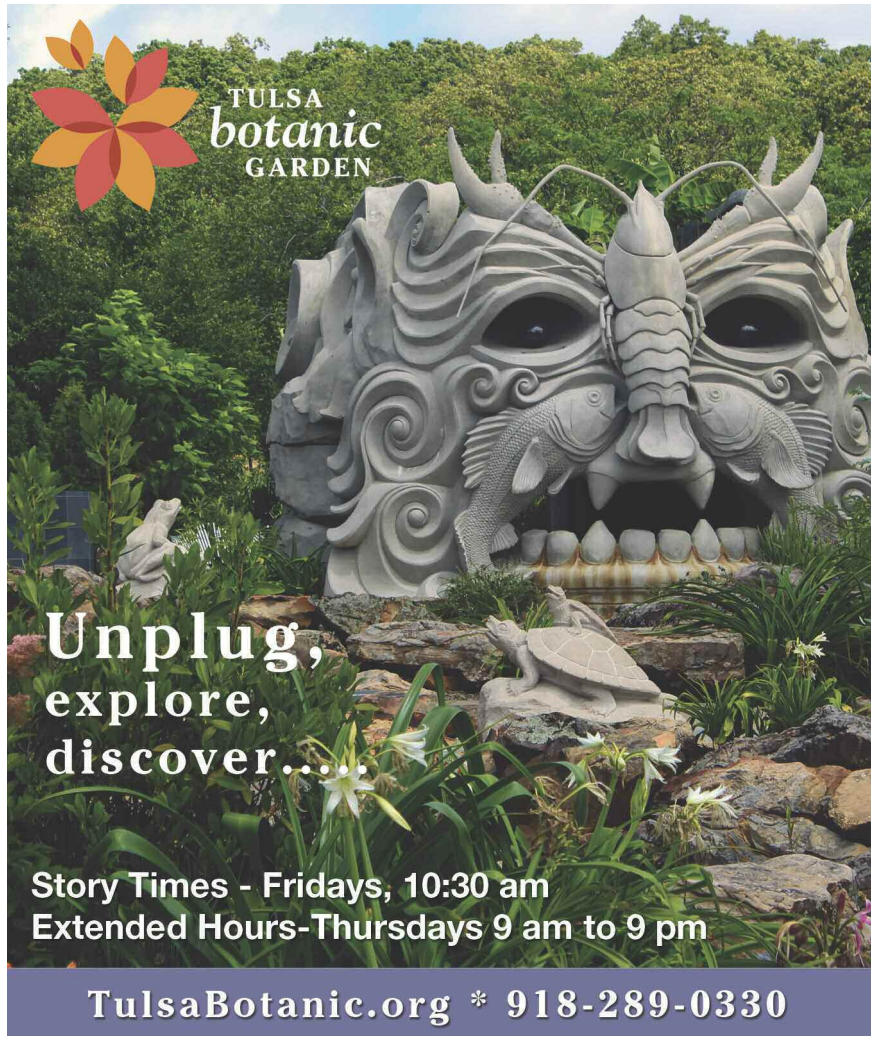
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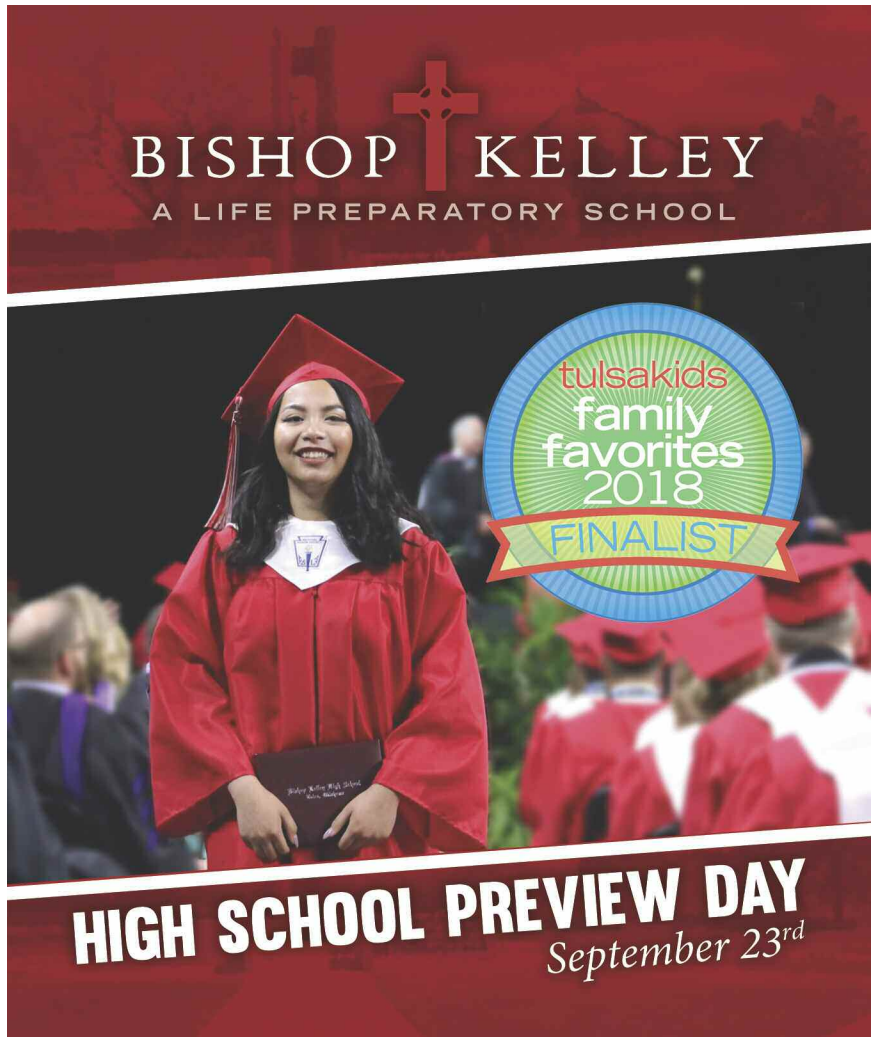
1700 N. Redbud Pl.
Broken Arrow, OK
918.258.5437
www.kidsinmotionacademy.com
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MARQUETTE SCHOOL

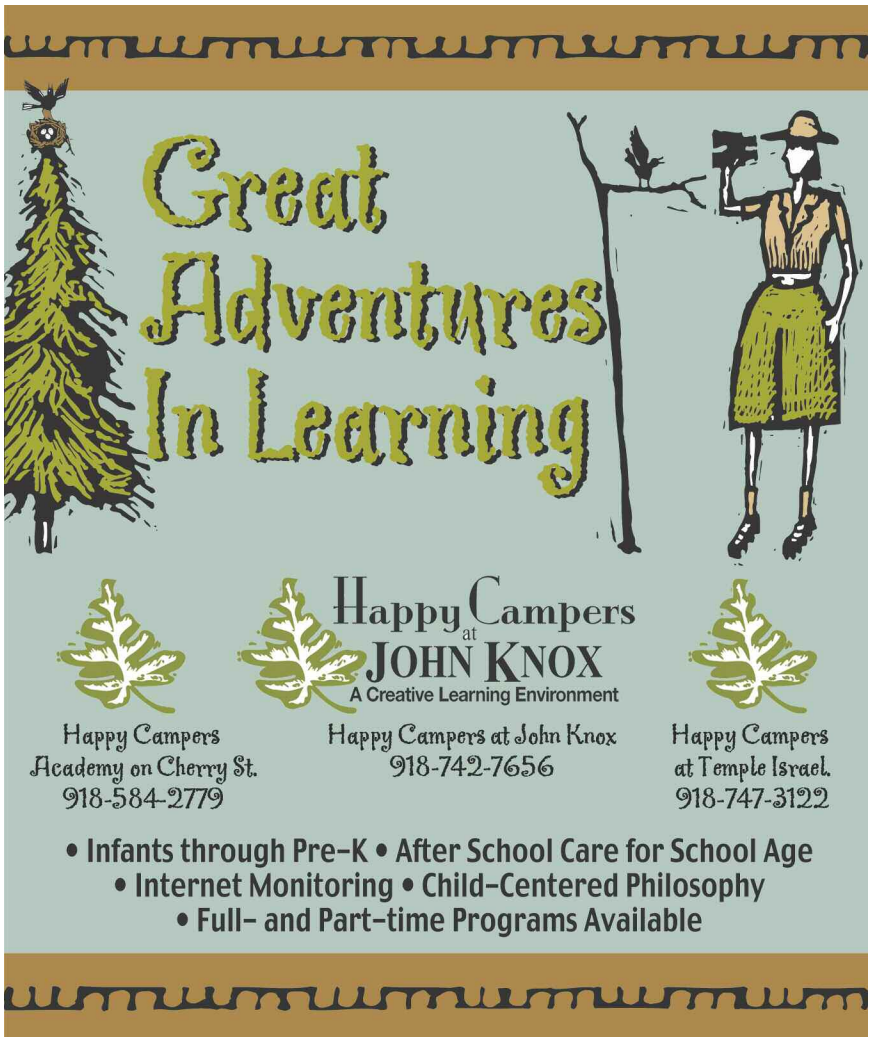
Jay Luetkemeyer, Principal
1519 S Quincy Ave.
Tulsa, OK
918.584.4631
www.marquetteschool.org
Since its founding in 1918 as Sacred Heart School under the direction of the Ursuline Sisters, Marquette has a long tradition of academic excellence. That tradition continues today as we educate our children for the world of tomorrow. Combined with outstanding academics, Marquette students receive an education that nurtures their spirit and heart. Participating in weekly Masses as well as mission projects in and out of school, our children develop empathy and compassion for the less fortunate. These experiences will enable them as future leaders to govern not only with their minds but also with a conscience. As a service to the Parish of Christ the King, Marquette Catholic School teaches Catholic values and offers a comprehensive curriculum to preschool, elementary, and middle school students in an atmosphere that promotes the growth of each child's mind, body and spirit.

continued next page









MINGO VALLEY CHRISTIAN

Mrs. Lisa Padgett, Admissions
8304 S. 107th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK
918.294.0404
www.mingovalley.org

Mingo Valley Christian School, now in our 42nd year, is a college preparatory, non-denominational, private school, serving students in grades PK-12, through personalized learning and maximum growth for each student. We partner with parents and incorporate a Christian worldview into all aspects of the learning process. We know our students are tomorrow's leaders, and our school culture is infused with opportunities for leadership, mentoring, and service to the Tulsa community. Learning happens best in the context of relationships, so our teachers engage personally with each student to encourage academic success. We offer honors and AP courses, NHS/NJHS, concurrent college enrollment, art, computer, music, and foreign language, with technology utilized throughout all academic disciplines. Our highly regarded theatre program attracts arts patrons from across the Tulsa community. Our athletic programs include football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, cross country/track and cheerleading. For more information or to schedule a tour or shadowing, please call or visit our website. Accreditation: State of Oklahoma (OPSAC); AdvancED; Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

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918.622.2327
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Lillian Hellman, Head of School
2021 E. 71st St.
Tulsa, OK
918.494.0953
www.mizelschool.org

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2018 SCHOOL DIRECTORS GUIDE

MONTE CASSINO SCHOOL

Kevin Smith, Headmaster
2206 S. Lewis Ave.
Tulsa, OK
918.746.4238
www.montecassino.org

Founded in 1926, Monte Cassino is a traditional Catholic school that focuses its efforts on outstanding instruction of reading, writing, math and the sciences. As a school, Monte Cassino classes rank at the 97th percentile or above when compared to all schools, public or private, across the United States. Our programs serve students from three years of age to eighth grade and encourage social and moral development within a strong community. In addition to the academic, community and social connections that Monte Cassino students develop, a myriad of opportunities exist for foreign language instruction, fine arts, innovative and applied sciences, athletics and individualized approaches for gifted and talented learners.

REJOICE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Heather Koerner, registrar
Owasso, OK
info@rejoiceschool.com
www.rejoiceschool.com

RCS Preschool/Elementary
10701 N. 129th E. Ave.
Owasso, OK
918.272.7235

RCS Middle/High School
13407 E. 106th Street N.
Owasso, OK
918.516.0050

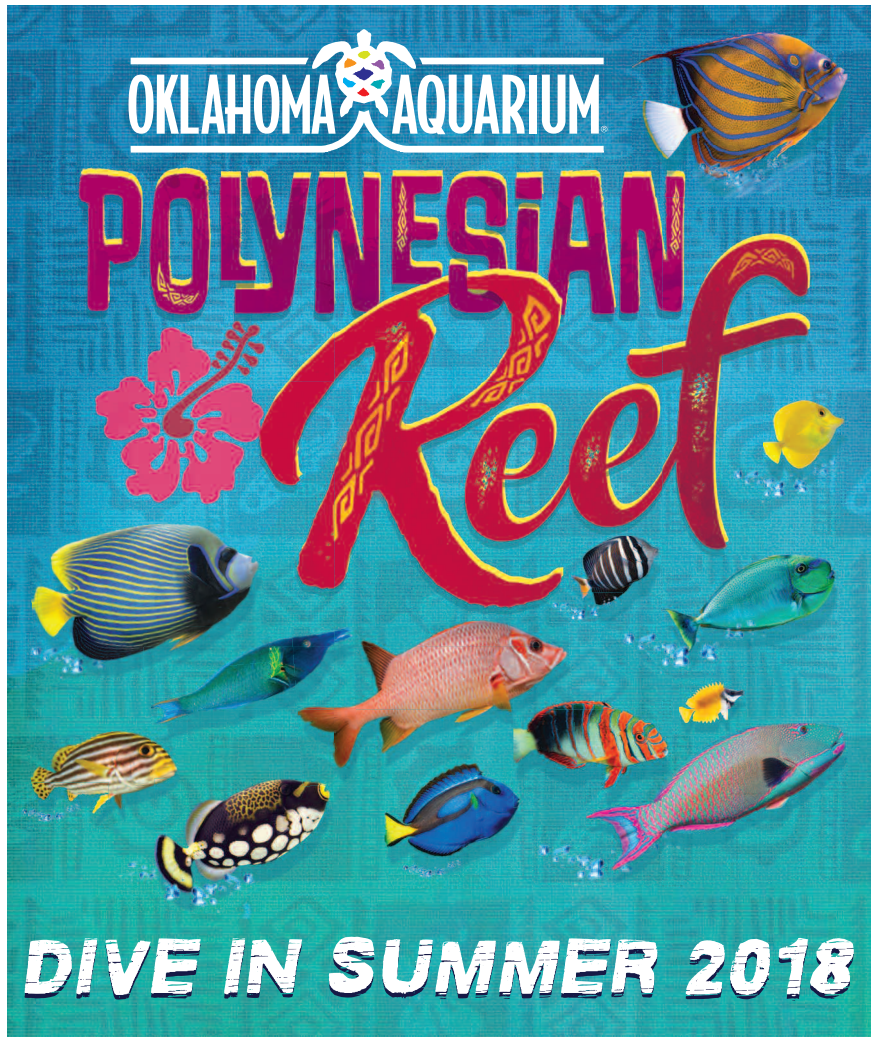
The right school will change a child's future. At Rejoice Christian Schools (RCS), our experienced faculty provides for your child's best future through Christian nurturing, educational challenges, and small class sizes. Year after year, RCS continues to rank as one of the top academic schools in the country. Our God-given ministry is to lead young people to know Christ and train them in biblical principles, Christian character, language and traditional subject matter. RCS offers a complete curriculum from Pre3 - 12th grade, including college preparatory and honors classes, a vibrant arts program and a dynamic sports program.

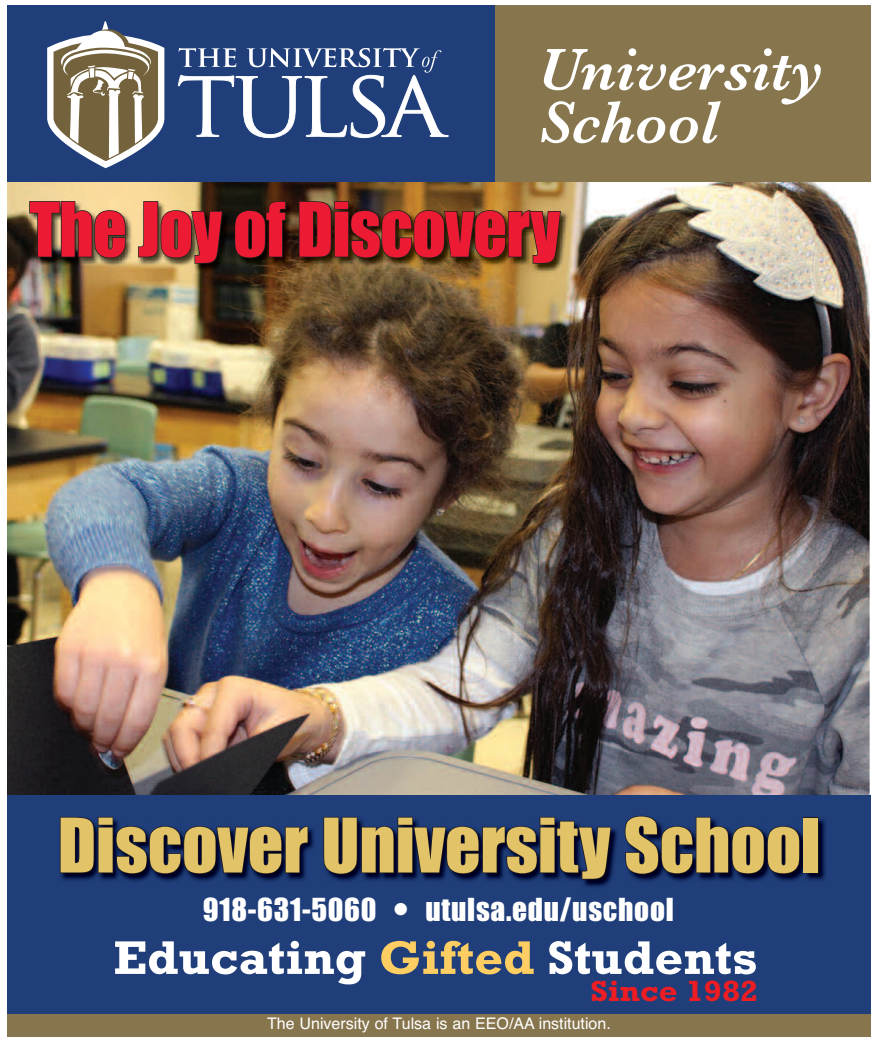
RIVERFIELD COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Kacey Davenport
2433 W. 61st St.
Tulsa, OK
918.446.3553
www.riverfield.org

Riverfield provides a student-centered approach to education to students 8 weeks through 12th grade with an innovative program of authentic, experiential learning. At RCDS, individuality is valued and the needs of the whole student are honored. Small class sizes, along with the collaborative nature of our classrooms, provide the opportunity for students to cultivate leadership, interpersonal skills, and the confidence needed for success today and tomorrow. Personalized programming and flexible scheduling offer Middle and Upper School students the opportunity to develop talents and explore interests in a college prep setting. The 120-acre campus encompasses a barnyard, hiking trails, gardens, freshwater system, outdoor classrooms and athletic fields. Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission (OPSAC).

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SCHOOL DIRECTORS GUIDE

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www.saiedmusic.com

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Heidi McCoy, Principal
1717 S. 75th E. Ave.
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918.627.5367
www.spxtulsa.org

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UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Patricia Hollingsworth
326 S. College Ave.
Tulsa, OK
918.631.5060
www.utulsa.edu/uschool

University School offers a challenging, yet nurturing, environment for gifted students ages 3 through 8th grade. Our program is well-rounded and includes art, music, physical education, foreign language, and computer classes for all ages. Located on The University of Tulsa campus, our beautiful facility provides a unique setting and resources that few schools can match. University School students benefit from a rich variety of learning opportunities and interactions with college professors and students as they endeavor to maximize their potential, develop creativity, and become responsible citizens.

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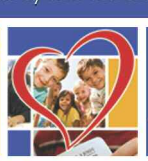


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WORDS BY SHEEBA ATIQI
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY MCKENNA RALEY



McKenna Raley: Helping Girls in Need

Some people think about changing the world, and then there are some that do change the world. Seventeen-year-old, McKenna Raley is one of the latter. During a church volunteer activity, McKenna discovered that there was a hugely overlooked area regarding donations — feminine hygiene products for the underprivileged. The heartbreak over this reality spurred McKenna to start a drive for feminine hygiene products that would benefit underprivileged young women in the Tulsa community.

TK: What is National Charity League?
McKenna: I belong to a wonderful Mother-Daughter Service organization called National Charity League. I decided that I wanted to hold a drive for donations of feminine hygiene products, and I presented my idea to some leading mothers. Their response was amazing! I immediately set my project into action. Our organization meets once a month. I chose to hold my drive in January, because that was a month that included both mothers and daughters and thus guaranteed maximum participation (around 300 people). By the end of our meeting, the product count was 4,538 feminine hygiene products!

TK: What advice do you have for others who are thinking of ways to give to others?
McKenna: I hope my story inspires other kids and young adults to take action when they see a need that inspires them. Being a young person is not a barrier to helping others. In fact, I think being young provides an opportunity for a fresh perspective in philanthropy. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Youth Services of Tulsa in my collection process. I would highly encourage someone of any age to consider choosing a community issue of their own, and tackling it in a way that only they can. Individuality in philanthropy is a great thing!

TK: How did you come up with this idea?
McKenna: I do a lot of volunteer work with my church. At one of our service projects packing birthday gift bags for underprivileged youth, I asked the volunteer coordinator what one item her organization needed most. She [said] feminine hygiene products, and noted that these items are the ones most commonly neglected when people donate toiletries. It astounded me to learn that a lot of organizations have the same problem, and some of their clients have to wear trash bags as a substitute. This knowledge prompted me to start my drive. It is hard enough to be a teenage girl when one has access to the right resources, so I could only imagine the difficulties these girls were going through.

TK: Where have the feminine hygiene products been donated?
McKenna: The feminine hygiene products have been donated to the Youth Services of Tulsa.

TK: What are your plans for the future?
McKenna: I am still undecided on where and largely what I want to study, but I plan to attend college once I graduate high school and hopefully minor in Spanish to aid my plans to study abroad. My participation in organizations like the National Charity League and the Youth Philanthropy Initiative have helped me discover a passion for non-profit work, so I also hope to continue that aspect of my life once I leave. I am also exploring some opportunities to continue my soccer career while in college.

TK: Who inspires you?
McKenna: I feel inspired by people from a lot of different parts of my life. My teachers, for example, have shown me what it means to dedicate yourself to what is important to you no matter the sacrifices you have to make. Teaching in Oklahoma is not an easy task right now, but they continue to do it because they care so much about their students. My parents have continued to be amazing role models in my life, and motivate me to always work hard. And thanks to my undying love of sports, athletes like Mia Hamm and Serena Williams for all they have done to create athletic opportunities for young women like me!

TK: What are your hobbies?
McKenna: I play high school and club soccer (my Booker T. team won state this year for the first time in school history!) I also participate on the Speech and Debate team at my school. I love to hang out with my friends and family, and spend time with my job. My favorite travel activity would have to be participation in outdoor adventure! I go on a backpacking trip every summer, and love to snow ski and water ski.

TK: What is a fun fact about you?
McKenna: I have been speaking Spanish since I was five years old. My parents are convinced I am fluent, but I insist that they take me on a trip to Spain to make sure! I also hope to be a Park Ranger at Yellowstone sometime when I am retired.

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Safe Kids Tulsa Area, in partnership with The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, is dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries—the leading cause of death and disability in children. To learn more about keeping kids safe, visit ***SafeKidsTulsa.com*** or call ***918-494-SAFE (7233)***.

Some simple safety tips to keep your family safe this summer and every season:

Swim Safe

- If children are in or near the water, keep your eyes on them at all times.
- Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets on all children when boating or on a beach.
- Learn CPR in case of emergency.

Ride Safe

- Buckle up children correctly in age-appropriate car seats—every car ride, every time.
- NEVER leave a child alone in a car.
- Don't text and drive.

Walk Safe

- Teach children to always look both ways before crossing the street.
- Use crosswalks and sidewalks.
- Avoid texting and walking to stay aware of traffic.

Play Safe

- Look for and use age-appropriate playground equipment.
- Actively watch your children in playground areas.
- Equip kids with sport-appropriate protective gear.

Wheel Safe

- Provide kids with a properly fitted helmet when biking or skating.
- Adults and children should know proper rules of the road and obey all traffic laws.
- Avoid riding after dark; if you do, wear reflective clothing.

SAFE KIDS TULSA AREA

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis