



WINTER/SPRING 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS/RESOURCE GUIDE

Inside This Issue

What's New

Event Calendar

Community Resources

THINKING OUT LOUD



A WISH COME TRUE

Dreams can come true. Several of us have wished we could have a permanent place to hold our parenting classes and provide more than just babysitting for our childcare. Thanks to the Silver Falls School District that has happened.

They have given Silverton Together three classrooms at the old high school Schlader St. campus. They are located by the gym entrance on James St. so we will be able to use the parking lot adjacent to the gym. Rooms 19 & 20 (in the door—to the right) are connected. These will be our main classroom and childcare room. Room 22, we will share with WIC who will only be using it on Tuesday during the day. This room is for the pre teens in our Strengthening Families Program and it can be used as a second classroom when we have two classes on the same night. And this scenario probably will happen in the near future.

We have moved the parenting library to the main classroom where it will be more convenient for parents to check out and return books.

What this means to us:

1. For facilitators—no schlepping of materials from home to car to class and back again each session.
2. No crowding—there is plenty of elbow room for everyone
3. Childcare can be more than just babysitting. We will have our own toys for all age levels. They will always be available. We will be able to do age appropriate projects, learning games, and get creative without a lot of hassle.
4. We can have more than one class on the same night and share childcare, thus saving money for other projects.

Most amazing of all—it is FREE!

Thank You for making a wish come true!

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS DESPITE THE WEATHER

We hope you were one of the 1200 people who joined us for our 16th annual Holiday Festival on Dec. 12, a icy Saturday afternoon. This event sponsored by Silverton Together and the Silverton Chamber of Commerce is truly a community event where you could make a wreath, decorate a gingerbread man, create a decoration for your tree, get your picture taken with Santa, munch on a delicious cookie while sipping hot chocolate, vote for your favorite decorated tree, and much, much more.

The Christmas Tree Contest winners were: First Place (\$100) sponsored by Foothills Medical Supply and decorated by Evergreen School; Second Place (\$75) sponsored and decorated by the Silverton Hospital; Third Place (\$50) sponsored and decorated by the "J" family, who donated their winnings to SACA. Thanks to our local business community and individual sponsors, we were able to distribute 17 decorated trees along with over 50 undecorated trees.



Special thanks goes to all the volunteers who showed up to decorate trees, set up and man craft tables, serve refreshments, greet our guests, decorate Santa's room, take pictures and help clean up. With their help, we were able to hand out 400 gift bags to children and give over 1000 people a fun-filled afternoon.

Our major sponsors were Givaudan Fruit & Vegetable, Our Town Monthly, PortraitMasters Studio, Roth's Family Market, Silverton Beverage Co., Silverton Family Dentistry, Silverton Hospital and State Farm Insurance. Without their help this extraordinary event would never happen.

Many thanks to the tree, craft, gift bag, food sponsors and volunteers who made this event so remarkable. Your efforts are truly appreciated. They include, but are not limited to: Santa, SCAN TV, Jan Foraker, Elspeth Lierman, City of Silverton, Silverton Appeal Tribune, Rava Tree Farm, Silverton Art Association, Silverton Garden Club, Victory Prints, Les Schwab Tire Center, Silverton Flower Shop, Prudential Real Estate, West Coast Bank, The Red Bench, Heron Graphics, MaPS Credit Union, Silverton Kiwanis, Foothills Medical Supply, O'Brien's Café, Silverton Realty, NW Farm Credit Services, Towne House Restaurant, Seven Brides Brewing, Coldwell Banker Mountain West Real Estate, Black Lily, Silverton Self-Defense, The Oregon Garden Foundation, Silver Falls Family YMCA, Silverton Police Dept., LDS Missionaries, Betty Jean Wallace, AmeriCorps volunteers, Ray Hunter, Bob Holowati, Maurice Leach, Emily Dedrick, Cindy Jiricek, Bethany Charter School, Evergreen School Leadership, Eugene Field School, Silverton High Schools' Future Business Leaders of America, Interact Club, ASB students, Las Aquilas, TLC class, and the Senior Project Students (Steven Armstrong, Amanda Lebold, Ryan Evans, Connor Fleck and Kyle Preston). Special thanks to the staff and board members of Silverton Together and the Silverton Chamber of Commerce

Connections

Are you:

- Looking for volunteer opportunities?
- Seeking programs for your children?
- Needing assistance finding resources?
- Wanting to share resources?
- Wishing to engage in community events or forums?

We can help you get connected!

Community members are invited to contact us 873-0405



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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“The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”

Benjamin Franklin

COMING EVENTS

Celebrate Families

Celebration of Cultures Day

April 2, 6 - 9pm

Can't make a trip around the world? You can experience different cultures in our own downtown on First Friday in April. Featuring entertainment, arts, crafts & tempting new tastes.

All Free!



Healthy Kids Day

May 15

10:00am – 12:00pm

(Following the Pet Parade)

Eugene Field School Gym

An opportunity for kids to have fun while their parents gather information about healthy programs & activities in our town.



READING TO BABY:

DIFFERENT AGES, DIFFERENT STAGES, WHEN AND HOW

Very young babies may not know what the images in a book mean, but they can focus on them, especially on black and white patterns. A newborn looking at a book is taking the first step toward picture recognition, which is an important skill for reading.

Between 4 and 6 months, your baby may begin to show focused interest in books, especially those with bright colors and repetitive or rhyming text. He or she probably still doesn't understand what the pictures are, but again, you are preparing your baby to learn to read.

After 6 months, your child is beginning to understand that pictures represent objects, and mostly likely will develop preferences for certain pictures, pages, or even entire stories. Your baby will respond while you read, grabbing for the book and cooing, and by 12 months will turn pages for you, point to objects on a page, and maybe even say "moo!" when you point to a cow.

Here's a great thing about reading aloud: It doesn't take special skills or equipment, just you, your baby, and some books. Try to set aside time to read every day—perhaps before naptime and bedtime. In addition to the pleasure that cuddling your baby before bed gives both of you, you'll also be making life easier by establishing a routine. This will help to calm your baby and set expectations about when it's time to sleep.

It's also good to read at other points in the day. Choose when your baby is dry, fed, and alert. Books also come in handy when you're stuck waiting, so have some in the diaper bag to fill time sitting at the doctor's office or standing in line at the grocery store.

Happy Reading !!!



**CREATING MEMORIES
CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS**

How often have you wondered about your ancestors—who they were, how they felt about the times in which they lived, what made them happy or sad, what hardships they faced in raising a family, or what hopes and dreams they had? You can't take for granted that you or your older family members will be there "tomorrow" to share memories of your childhood with your own children.

Start today to preserve your family's history and personalities. You can begin by collecting oral biographies of family members and friends. All you need is a notebook and pen, or a tape recorder. Then, create a few questions to start off the interview. Make this a family project by getting others involved in thinking up questions ahead of time. You might ask questions such as, "Do you remember any members of your family who were real "characters"? Or "Tell us about your favorite game you liked to play as a child."

Some of you may be saying that your family wouldn't be interested. Maybe they aren't interested now, but when someone is gone, the stories and experiences not shared are lost forever.

You can begin to preserve your family's own life history by doing the following:

- Come up with a set of questions that you can answer about your own life. Put your answers down on paper or record them. You don't have to be a great writer or storyteller to do this. You may be able to find a special book with questions already written where all you have to do is record your answers in the book. Ask at your local library or bookstore.
- Begin a journal and encourage other members of your family to do the same.
- Record stories you hear at family gatherings. Holidays and reunions are ideal times to do your collecting because a story from one person often triggers another person to share one.
- Pull out some old photos and write names and dates on the back. Put them in an album and include a few comments beside the picture in the album. Make sure you number the photo lightly on the front and have the same corresponding number on your note just in case the two get separated.
- Share a special story behind a family "treasure" that you are planning to give to a young family member. Keeping the story alive associated with the object is often as valuable to a family as the object itself.
- Create a family memory book by giving each person pages in a scrapbook to fill with objects that trigger memories for them. Then put each family member's pages together. Younger children can do this, too, with a little help. Your family will be strengthened through your efforts.

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