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Boston Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210

More roundup

Boffo beasts

The Recycle staff are up to their usual tricks and their latest creation is a Boffo Beast Kit. The kit costs \$2.50 and with just a few minutes of diligent labor you can have your very own 10 inch high Boffo Beast. They are cute. cuddly, and are reputed to be quite witty.



Free visits

Most of the slots for school group field trips are filling fast but there's plenty of space for after-school and community group visits. Don't forget that nonprofit community groups from Massachusetts are admitted free under an appropriation from the state legislature through the Department of Education.

During the winter, the museum is available for community and after-school

groups, Tuesday-Friday, 2-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. Advance reservations are required; call the Reservations Office before you plan to bring your group,

Volunteers

More positions are now open in the Volunteer Staff program: community liaison consultant. Meeting Ground: Design and Production staff assistant; exhibit staff assistant; festival planning assistant, Meeting Ground: public relations survey manager; school services assistant.

Some openings that appeared in the last newsletter require several volunteers. Perhaps you'd like to help the Kit Rental Department repair artifacts or plan menus for Development Office staff and their quests.

The volunteer program needs many skills: call Evelvn Berman, volunteer coordinator, for an appointment.



Music maker

A mbira or thumb piano is iust one of the authentic musical instruments that's part of the new music unit in the African Arts kit.

The mbira, together with a drum and rattles, enable children to play their own African music.

Like many of the museum's

kits, this unit has a comprehensive kit quide: source materials -- in this case, books, pamphlets, and a prerecorded cassette of African music -- artifacts and objects: and materials and instructions for activities.



The Resource Center's kits cover more than 75 topics and teachers can obtain a complete list by calling the Kit Rental Department or stopping in the Resource Center.



We're celebrating the holidays in style. Join us for: Celebrations workshop, holiday traditions from around the world; Stocking Stuffer Store, open November 28 through December: Vacation week specials. music, stories, and children's performances: Recycle workshops, packaging with pizazz; Japanese New Year's party, the Year of the Rooster. Details inside.

What's Up?

What's Up Line Call (617) 426-8855 for a complete listing of hours, exhibits, special events, and travel information. To reach all museum departments, call (617) 426-6500.



New exhibits
Living Things: the animals
are back! Opens late
November. Small Science:
little bubbles, bubble domes,
giant soap film windows,
geometric bubbles, bubble
sandwiches, and floating
bubbles. Installation begins
in late December and the
exhibit will be completed
in late January.

Ongoing exhibits
Giant's desktop, Playspace,
Factory, Small Science,
Living Things, City Slice,
Grandparents' House, Work,
Computers, How Movies Move,
WKID-TV and Instant Eye,
We're Still Here, Ruth
Harmony Green Hall of Toys,
What If You Couldn't,
Meeting Ground, and
Japanese Home. Check
the What's Up Line for
schedule of Japanese
Home tours.



Japanese New Year Festival Celebrate the Year of The Rooster at the annual O-Shogatsu, Japanese New Year's party. Always a colorful and popular event, this year's festival will he an extra special celebration since this is the first New Year's for the Japanese Home. Help make mochi-tsuki, pounded rice cakes: try your hand at kaki-zome, calligraphy contest: learn to play fuku-warai, the smiling goddess of good luck game: and make a beautiful nangajo, New Year's greeting card. Lots of other activities and performances all day, Sun, lan 4. Food samples, too.



Friday Night Performance Series Every Friday at 7pm and 8pm. Admission to each show is 75c in addition to museum admission; tickets go on sale at 6pm.

December 5, Donna Gibelli, mime, characterizations, and theater funny business 12, Tom Smith, folksongs and stories 19, Mr. Green the Clown 26, Reg Bacon, music and buffoonery January

January
2, Larry Sayco, yoyo champ
9, Tom Smith, folksongs and

stories
16, David Dunton's
Puppetroupers
23, Gerwick Puppets, "Midwinter Magic"
30. to be announced

Family Activities in the Resource Center
On alternate Sundays in January from 1-3pm, there'll be games, arts and crafts activities, a chance to sample cultural traditions, and messing about with science equipment for a limited number of families. First come, first served. Call the What's Up Line for schedule. All activities free of charge.

Christmas vacation
Planning is now underway
for the Christmas vacation,
Dec 20-31. There'll be
special events each day
and children's performing
groups. The What's Up Line
will have all the details.

Winter orientation Teachers who have school group reservations February-June should attend one of the winter orientation sessions: Thur, Jan 22, 4-6pm, for elementary teachers; Thur, Jan 29, 7-9pm, for preschool and kindergarten teachers.

Admission

Exhibit Center: children, 3-15, and senior citizens, \$2.50; adults, \$3.50; children under 3 and members free. Friday night, 6-9pm, \$1.50. All groups of 10 or more must make advance reservations (426-6500). The Resource Center and Recycle are free. Hours

Tue-Sun, 10am-5pm; Fri until 9pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Mondays except Dec 22 and 29.

Travel

The museum is at Museum Wharf, 300 Congress Street, on Boston's waterfront. MBTA Red Line to South Station.



Roundup



After hours

The museum is now renting out space in the Exhibit Center for functions -- private parties, fund raisers, weddings, and meetings.

The Exhibit Center is available every evening except Fridays and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, and members receive a discount. If you'd like more information, call Klare Shaw, functions coordinator.

Weather watch

The museum rarely succumbs to the weather but if a big winter storm arrives right before you plan to bring your family or class, you can check to see if the museum has closed by listening to one of four Boston AM radio stations:

First dibe



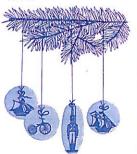
Brimming with holiday goods and decorations, the Stocking Stuffer Store is now back in operation, and the Museums' Shop is presenting First Dibs, a special shopping evening for adult members, on Monday, December 1 from 7 to 100m.

New this year are candy hanging ornaments -- toy soldiers, rocking horses, sailing ships, and fire engines -- made especially for the store from antique candy molds.

The sweetest stocking stuffer of them all is a miniature version of the Hood Milk Bottle. Hand made by Harbor Sweets of Marblehead, the bottle is dark chocolate with peppermint crunch, topped by a cap of white chocolate. The miniature box describes the Children's Museum, the Museum of Transportation, and the history of the Hood Milk Bottle.

Mulled wine will be served throughout the evening, and, of course, members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

First Dibs is for adult members only since the Exhibit Center will be closed.



One last fling

The museum's Americana collection got a fascinating addition recently: a set of two wheel roller skates that might present a challenge to even the most skilled of the skateboard generation.

Manufactured by the Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co. of Worcester, Massachusetts, the skates have a single wheel on either end of the metal frame, and they are believed to date from the 1920s or 30c.

When the skates remained unused by her children and grandchildren, Mrs. B. P. Smith of Windsor, Connecticut, thought of the museum

"Thanks to my mother's surrogacy in contacting you," she wrote to Sylvia Sawin, developer of the Americana program, "the one wheel roller skates (2 wheel?) are now headed

for the museum where ALL collectibles belong. I'm so pleased you want them. I wish these could be "hands-on" (feet on!) pleces for the interested children and parents who come to your marvelous museum. They are great fun."



Many years have passed since Mrs. Smith first tried on the new, shiny skates at the age of 10 but being a grandmother didn't stop her from a brief nostalgic trip back to her childhood. "I gave them a last fling," she wrote, "and they go as well as ever."

Trythis

Try making this replica of an African mbira or thumb piano with your children. The instructions and illustration are from the museum's African Arts kit. Copyright @ 1980 by Children's Museum, Boston.













Workshops: celebrations/recycle/cultures/theater

Holiday ideas abound in the Celebrations and Recycle workshops; the museum teams up with the Boston Shakespeare Co. to offer a theater course; and the Cultural Awareness series continues.

Preregistration is required; return the registration form with payment at least one week in advance (note special deadline for Theater in the Museum). For more information, call the Resource Center at (617) 426-6500 ext. 206.



RECYCLE/WRAPPING IT UP -finish off the year
fancifully by packaging
your holiday gifts in Recycle
materials. Put your wind up
mouse inside a foam mousehouse. Clip your punk
earrings onto a purple people
puppet. Boxes become
beautifully bizarre when
wrapped at Recycle. For
children and adults.
Sat, Dec 13, 1-3pm. \$5.

CELEBRATIONS -- the Resource Center staff share holiday activities and traditions from around the world: gift and candle making, merrymaking, decoration ideas for every family member, traditions of Christmas and other winter festivals, New Year's greetings in many languages. Celebrations, an annual event, is very popular; sign up early to avoid disappointment. For children and adults. Adult session (limit 20): Thur, Dec 4, 7-9pm. Family session (limit 24): Sun, Dec 7, 1-3pm. Adults, \$5; children, 6-16yrs accompanied by an adult. \$2.50.

CULTURAL AWARENESS, IMAGES, AND STEREOTYPES SERIES -- the role of perception in creating and reinforcing cultural images and stereotypes. For educators. Next workshop: Changing Images of East Asia, Harvard-East Asian Program at the Children's Museum. Thur, Jan 15, 9:30am-3:30pm. (Limit 20). \$10.

THEATER IN THE MUSEUM -offered for the first time

in collaboration with the Boston Shakespeare Co. Children 8-16 yrs old explore the exhibits with company members and museum staff; participate in mime exercises, costuming, acting, and prop development; and watch company members in action. Six sessions: 1. Meeting Ground -- based on the exhibit; performance elements from the Boston Shakespeare Company's Invitation to Theater. 2. Bones, Body, and Movement -- the body and how it moves, what holds it together, and why it works the way it does. 3. Senses -- begins in What If You Couldn't: heightened sensitivity to touch and 4. Sound -- from the simplest sound to Shakespearean

language.

5. World of the Actor -actors and members of the technical and costume departments talk about their work and training. 6. Theater in the City -begins in City Slice; street theater techniques combined in mime, stories, and games from earlier workshops. No previous theater experience required. Registration must be made prior to January 1. Every Wed, Jan 14-Feb 18, 3:30-5pm. \$30.

RECYCLE/SNOW JOB -sculptures take on a separate reality when embellished with frugillies and dialiderms gleaned from Recycle. Lacking snow, giant weather balloons will be substituted? For children and adults. Sat. Jan 17, 1-3pm. \$5.



Workshop registration

Please make reservations at least one week in advance of the workshop date. Make check or money order payable to the Children's Museum and send it with the completed form to: Resource Center, Children's Museum, Museum Wharf, 300 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210. Museum members receive a 10% discount.

Theater in the Museum Weds, Jan 14-Feb 18, 3:30-5pm	_
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Recycle/Snow Job Sat, Jan 17, 1-3pm	
Sat, Dec 13, 1-3pm]
Recycle/Wrapping it Up	
(kids 6-16 yrs) \$2.50 [j
Celebrations Thur, Dec 4, 7-9pm (adults) \$5 Sun, Dec 7, 1-3pm (adults) \$5 (kids 6-16 yrs) \$2.50 [kids 6-16 yrs) \$2.50	
Museum members receive a 10% discount.	