

Triangle T.R.A.C.K.S.

Tools, Resources & Activities for Carolina Kids

www.triangletracks.com

Volume 1, Issue 8

Happy Holidays!

December 2008

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Disney on Ice Skates Into Town Dec. 10-14

'Worlds of Fantasy' Features Tinkerbell, Lightning McQueen and More

The cast of the happiest show on ice arrives for their annual December performance in Raleigh Dec. 10-14 at the RBC Center. Enjoy high-speed stunts as Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's "Cars" race across the ice.

The Little Mermaid's enchanting undersea kingdom will mesmerize your little ones, and they can relive The Lion King's 'Circle of Life' with Simba and other favorite characters. To top everything off, Tinker Bell and her fairy friends make their world premiere on ice this year.

Come an hour early to experience



the Disney Princess Pre-Show: an enchanting display of Disney Princess gowns and mementos. This event is complimentary to ticket holders.

Tickets range from \$16 to \$70, and you can order them via Ticketmaster at (919) 834-4000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com/promo/ttws73.

Image provided by Disney On Ice.

Ten Holiday Parades March Across the Triangle

Towns and cities across the Triangle are ushering in the holiday season with 10 holiday parades! For more details, visit our holiday calendar at www.triangletracks.com/events. Here's the line-up!

Dec. 6

- City of Durham Holiday Parade: begins on the corner of Blackwell and Jackie Robinson Streets; 4 p.m.
- Garner Christmas Parade on Main Street; 10 a.m.

- 51st Annual Apex Jaycees Christmas Parade on Salem Street; 5 p.m.
- Hillsborough Holiday Parade on Churton Street; 3 p.m.

Dec. 7

- Pittsboro Christmas Parade: begins at Food Lion on U.S. 64; 3 p.m.
- Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade: begins on Main Street; 3 p.m.

Dec. 13

- Chapel Hill/Carrboro Holiday Parade on Franklin Street; 10 a.m.
- Wake Forest Christmas Parade: downtown Wake Forest; 1 p.m.
- Cary Jaycees Christmas Parade: starts at 511 E. Chatham Street; 2 p.m.
- 14th Annual Happy Holly Days Christmas Parade; begins at entrance to Oak Hall subdivision; 11 a.m.



Experience Carolina Ballet's 'Nutcracker' Dec. 19-28

Experience the magic of the Carolina Ballet's performance of "Nutcracker" in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Dec. 19-28. Seven shows are scheduled before Dec. 25, which makes "Nutcracker" the perfect way to celebrate the holidays with visiting family members. Boutique bargains are available at all shows and there will be photo ops at most matinees.

Tickets start at \$20 and discounts are available for groups of 20 or more. Visit www.carolinaballet.com for more information.



Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Capitol Grounds
in Raleigh

Bring the kids to the N.C. Museum of History from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for seasonal music and hands-on fun. Visit <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org> for more information.



Rev Up Your Engines for Holiday Train Rides

Enjoy holiday fun on the rails at two Triangle locations this holiday season.

The **31st annual Santa Train** runs for 15 nights at the **Museum of Life and Science in Durham** this year: Dec. 3-7; 10-14 and 17-21. Hitch a ride on the nighttime train to the museum's North Pole where Santa will greet you with goodies and holiday cheer. Be sure to watch for Rudolph in the woods!

Trains run every 20 minutes from 5:40 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. Tickets are on sale for \$12, and children under age 3 are free on a parent/guardian's lap. Learn more at www.lifeandscience.org.

New Hope Valley Railway **Holiday Train rides** run Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14 at the New Hope Valley Railway in New Hill. Departure times are:

11 a.m. (diesel)
12:15 p.m. (steam)
1:30 p.m. (diesel)
2:45 p.m. (steam)
4 p.m. (diesel)

You should arrive at least 35 minutes before departure time to allow time for parking and boarding. The trip to New Hill and return to Bonsal takes about one hour. (There are no restroom facilities on the train cars.) Learn more at www.nhvry.org.



Hillsborough's 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest

Time: Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Location: Burwell School Historic Site at 319 N. Churton Street.

This event is free! Learn more at: www.holidaysinhillsborough.com

Hillsborough Holiday Bake Sale and Visit With Santa

Time: Dec. 6 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Location: Outside Roomscape at 136 North Churton Street and right along the Christmas parade route.

Purchase gourmet while the kids visit with Santa, who will be seated near the bake sale. For more information call (919) 643-2600 or visit www.shophillsboroughnc.com.

Hillsborough Holiday Candlelight Tour

Time: Dec. 1 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Call (919) 732-8156 for tickets and information, or visit www.candlelighttour.com.



'The Day the Earth Stood Still,' 'The Tale of Despereaux' and 'Marley and Me' Arrive in Local Theaters This Month

On Dec. 12, experience 20th Century Fox's contemporary reinvention of the 1951 classic **The Day the Earth Stood Still** at local theaters. The movie will also open at IMAX®, which is located at Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh. Keanu Reeves portrays Klaatu, an alien whose arrival on Earth triggers a global upheaval. As experts race to unravel the mystery behind Klaatu's appearance, a woman (Jennifer Connelly) and her young stepson begin to understand Klaatu and his mission. Rated PG. Visit www.thedaytheearthstoodstillmovie.com to learn more.

The Tale of Despereaux opens Dec. 19 and stars an unusual mouse born with oversized ears who also has oversized heart and ambition. Visit www.thetaleofdespereauxmovie.com/splash to learn more.

Marley and Me opens on Christmas day. This adaptation of John Grogan's bestselling memoir about an incorrigible Labrador retriever stars "Marley," a yellow lab

adopted by Grogan, a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and his wife. The hyperactive Marley gets kicked out of obedience school. Things get worse when the children begin to arrive, but Marley still becomes an indispensable part of the family. Learn more at <http://marleyandmemovie.com>.

In addition to "The Day the Earth Stood Still," Raleigh's IMAX theater at Marbles Kids Museum is currently showing **The Polar Express**, **Madagascar 2**, **Bugs! 3D**, **Wild Ocean 3D** and **Grand Canyon Adventure**. Order tickets and check show times here: www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/imax.

Blue Ridge 14 Cinema in Raleigh shows a great selection of movies for just \$1.50. For a complete listing of Triangle movie theaters, including Blue Ridge 14, click on <http://raleigh.ohsohandy.com>.

First Night Raleigh Kids Celebration

Kids can get in on the New Year's Eve action Dec. 31 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the N.C. Museum of History and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. Some events will be held outside on Bicentennial Plaza, followed by the People's Procession and Early Countdown at 7 p.m.

A First Night button is required for entry. Call Artsposure at (919) 990-1158 or visit <http://artsposure.org> for more information. Additional details will soon be available at www.firstnightraleigh.com.



Marbles Kids Museum and IMAX are Open for Winter Break Dec. 22

Marbles Kids Museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 22. The IMAX theatre will also be in regular operation. Check www.marbleskidsmuseum.org for more information.

FUN HOLIDAY CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Here are some great holiday craft websites to keep your kids busy while you get your holiday shopping, wrapping, cooking and decorating done.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS 4 KIDS
www.holidaycrafts4kids.com

AMAZING MOMS
www.amazingmoms.com/html/christmas_crafts.htm

KABOOSE
<http://holidays.kaboose.ca>

FAMILY FUN
<http://familyfun.go.com>

BETWEEN MOMS
www.betweenmoms.com/kids/holidaycraftsforkids.htm

1 STOP KIDS CRAFTS
<http://1stopkidscrafts.com/Christmas.html>

SUITE 101
<http://holiday-kids-crafts.suite101.com>

Hang Out With Santa's Elves Dec. 5 at Marbles Kids Museum

Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh invites your entire family out for "An Evening With Elves" Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This festive party features a Santa sack full of elfin play and fun, delicious holiday desserts, a hot chocolate bar, face painting, elf naming, dancing to holiday music and great prize giveaways.

Tickets are on sale now at www.marbleskidsmuseum.org. A family ticket is \$60. A Family & Friend package, which covers admission of four families plus on-site sponsor recognition, costs \$350.

For more information, call (919) 857-1074 or email eveningwithelves@marbleskidsmuseum.org.



Now on Triangle TRACKS:

DECEMBER LINKZINE

This month's linkzine will be ready Dec. 1 and focuses on **FOOD ALLERGIES**. Be sure to check it out.

CLASSIFIEDS

Triangle TRACKS now offers a Classified section. Post old toys, clothes, sports equipment or other kid-related items you would like to sell—or give away. Click on "Classifieds" then "How to Post" for details.

NEW FEATURES

- Drop-down tabs
- Streamlined profile pages
- Customized iPhone interface
- OpenSocial Applications

Advertise With Triangle TRACKS

Triangle TRACKS now offers three ad sizes at very low rates. **Skyscraper** and **Banner** ads are just \$50/month for a 2-month minimum, or \$75 for one month. **Button** ads are \$25/month for a 2-month minimum, or \$40 for one month.

Homepage ad space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Ad space is also available on most linking pages.

Visit our home page and click on the "Advertise" tab to view sample ads and rates, or email epshugg@triangletracks.com for additional information.

About Triangle T.R.A.C.K.S.

Triangle TRACKS compiles sources across the region focused on the improvement of children's lives. It is also a product of parenthood—an accumulation of resources resulting from years of children's birthday parties, games, museum exhibits, parks, concerts, camps, clubs and of course, schools! I hope you will use this site as much as my family does to take your Carolina kids down all their favorite Triangle TRACKS.

Elizabeth Shugg

Editor and Owner

Four Wake County Public School System Community Engagement Meetings Remain

Four community engagement meetings remain as part of the series WCPSS has scheduled for receiving public feedback on the 2009-2012 Draft Assignment Proposal. If you have input to offer, make sure your voice is heard.

Dec. 1: Cary High, 638 Walnut Street, Cary

Dec. 3: Wake Forest-Rolesville High, 420 W. Stadium Drive, Wake Forest

Dec. 4: Holly Springs High, 5329 Cass Holt Road, Holly Springs

Dec. 8: Broughton High, 723 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh

For additional information, visit www.wcpss.net