



PAW PRINTS

Chicago Children's Choir Performs at Navy Pier



On February 17th, under the direction of Danielle Enriquez-Fowler, the SSFAA 3rd grade members of the Chicago Children's Choir performed at Navy Pier for the Children's Choir's Black History Month Concert Series. As part of the larger city-wide choir, SSFAA members will continue to perform both at school and with other students across Chicago.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!

SSFAA FIG Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2011

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SSFAA Important Dates



April 18th-22nd:
Spring Break

May 2nd-6th:
Career Week &

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 18th:
Spring Assembly

May 25th:
Family Math Night

May 20th or May 27th:
FIG Annual Meeting (Luncheon)

June 6th-10th:
Scholastic Book Fair-Buy 1, Get 1 Free!

June 9th:
Kids' Field Day

June 15th:
Kindergarten Transition Ceremony

June 17th:
Last Day of School!

June 27th:
SSFAA Summer Program Begins

Kid Friendly Cuisine: Gingerbread Waffles

* Submitted By Georgette Reynolds *(from www.FamilyFun.com)



Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 1/3cup sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 1/4 tsp cinnamon

Ingredients, cont'd:

- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 3 tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- Whipped cream & fruit, optional

Directions:

1. With an electric mixer, beat the eggs until they're light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.
2. Add the sugar, molasses, and buttermilk and mix until

blended, about 1 minute more.

3. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, spices, salt, baking soda, and baking powder.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the egg mixture and stir until smooth. Stir in the butter.
5. Cover and refrigerate the batter overnight or cook immediately in a waffle iron until golden brown, 2 to 4 minutes.
6. Serve with whipped cream and fruit, if you like. Makes 14.

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FIG News!!!



SSFAA is looking for interesting speakers to participate in **Career Week May 2-6!**

If you or someone you know has a profession that would be relevant and age-appropriate for the PreK-3rd grade students, we'd love more participation. The speaker would need to present for at least 30-45 minutes per classroom, but is more than welcome to do more than one classroom, if possible.

FIG Officers

Alexis Brown, Chair
Yvonne Sherman, Treasurer

FIG Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, April 13th
Meeting begins at 5:15 pm

We'd LOVE to see you there!

The Career Day form will be distributed soon. In the meantime, forward the names of interested individuals, the profession, email address, & phone/fax numbers, to:

Alexis Brown, 773-721-5776
or alexisbrown25@gmail.com



Become a friend of the SSFAA FIG at:

www.facebook.com/ssfaafig



Websites to Watch

By Andrea Brown-Thirston

Leveled Readers Online

A site devoted to online resources at various reading levels

<http://www.readinga-z.com/>

Home Science Projects

A site which features resources for doing science projects at home

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/default.asp>

We Give Books

A great way to introduce children to community service, this site allows you to read a digital book online and then they donate a book to a literacy organization

<http://www.wegivebooks.org/>

Children's Math Literature

Numerous math-related children's literature for PreK-5th grades

<http://www.thereadingnook.com/math/>

An Afternoon at the Auditorium Theatre

By Alexis Brown



On Saturday, February 19, 2011, the families of SSFAA enjoyed an afternoon with the Joffrey Ballet. The perils of the early 1900's French dignitaries are told in the ballet adaptation of Franz Lehar's, *The Merry Widow*.

The beautiful, elaborate set design is the backdrop of a story of forbidden love spoken

through the exquisite skills of the Joffrey Ballet Company. Paris, France in the 19th century is no different than the modern day dramas of love and betrayal. *The Merry Widow* is a full-length ballet, which tells the rich and intoxicating love story between the beautiful widow, Hanna Glawari and the dashing Count Danilo.

Perhaps the story of *The Merry Widow* may be a bit over our young children's heads. However, our children had the opportunity to see the wonderfully skilled Joffrey Ballet dancers and hear the whimsical music of the Chicago Sinfonietta (Symphony) Orchestra. While the students and parents enjoyed an afternoon at the theatre, we also hope that we have planted a seed of interest in careers in the fine arts. Many thanks to Principal Mister and the Joffrey Ballet Company of Chicago for this truly unique experience!

Science Fair Tip #3:

By Andrea Brown-Thirston (Adapted from www.sciencebuddies.org)

Here's another helpful tip as we move closer to the 1st SFAA Science Fair:

Be a True Scientist

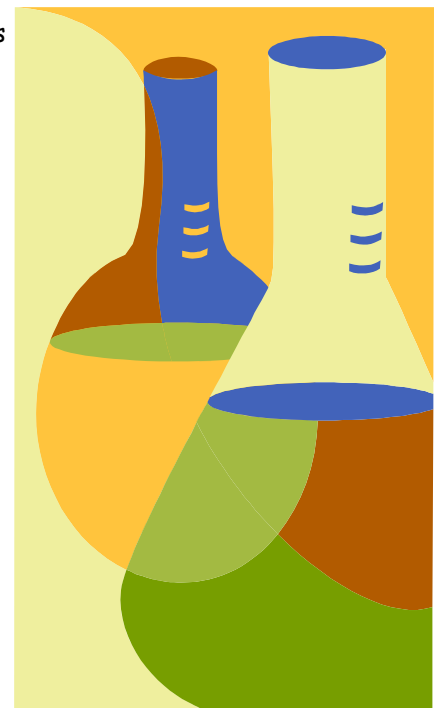
1. Keep an updated and detailed lab book or notes with you at all times. It will help you remember what you did and how you did it.
2. Try to think of all possible problems or pitfalls you might run into with your experiment (i.e. possible errors in measurement, timing, etc.)
3. Do not cram your experiment into a short period of time. You need time to make mistakes and then try, try again!
4. Do as many trials of your experiment as possible. The more trials you have, the more information or data you will have. This REALLY impresses the judges!

Parents:

Take photos of your child doing cool science experiments & share them with us...we'll be sure to include the pictures in an upcoming issue!

Email your photos:

fig_newsletter@yahoo.com



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Family Literacy Nights (PreK-3rd Grades)

On February 15th, 16th, and 17th, SSFAA parents participated in interactive literacy activities with their children. Led by the Reading Specialist, Ms. Davis and SSFAA teachers, this engaging workshop allowed parents to work with their children and receive feedback in "real time". Parents also viewed video clips of teachers working with students in the classroom and received helpful tips on how to make homework time filled with cheers rather than tears! Thanks to all the SSFAA teachers and staff for organizing these grade-level workshops.



SSFAA Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Rhyne, speaks with a parent at Literacy Night.

SSFAA parents & their children complete literacy activities while Reading Specialist, Ms. Davis, gives feedback and suggestions.

Spring Break Ideas

By Yolanda Whisenton

Spring...fresh air, flowers budding, warmer days and the kids at home for a week-long break. This spring, make 'FUN' the theme of the week, with these exciting kid friendly ideas and activities for your family.



- ◆ Have an indoor treasure hunt (for details: <http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/35560.html>)
- ◆ Have a 'Pajama Day Movie Marathon' (host a movie marathon where everyone in the family gets to choose their favorite movie to watch)

"Budget Friendly Things to Do this Spring"

- ◆ Visit a local animal farm
- ◆ Take a hike or ride a bike path (either at a State Park or a local hiking trail, explore nature!!)
- ◆ Get lost in a museum (check for free museum days)
- ◆ Visit monuments
- ◆ Star gaze at an Observatory (call ahead for age-limit & dates)
- ◆ Create beautiful tissue flowers (go here for details: <http://printables.familyeducation.com/childrens-art-activities/printable/5698.html?detoured=1>)
- ◆ Help with a community garden (great way to show your child how fruits & vegetables are grown, just in time for Earth Day!!)
- ◆ If you're looking for a great travel destination any time this spring, check out these hot spots. Discover some vacation ideas full of family fun, and best of all, they won't break the bank!!
 - ◆ Cherry Blossom Festival (Washington, DC) For more info: www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org
 - ◆ Hershey Park (Hershey, PA) For more info: www.hersheypa.com
 - ◆ Baseball Hall of Fame (Cooperstown, NY) For more info: www.baseballhalloffame.org
 - ◆ Crown Canyon Archaeological Center (Cortez, CO) For more info: www.crowcanyon.org
 - ◆ George C. Page Museum & LaBrea Tar Pits (Los Angeles, CA) For more info: www.tarpits.org

SSFAA's Joffrey Bridge Program Performance

Scenes from the Joffrey Ballet's newest production, "The Merry Widow," were brought to life at "Lunch at Maxim's" winter soiree as can-can dancers and monocled maître d's escorted lunching ladies into the Parisian-themed fete at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Event co-chairs Jillisa Brittan and Cheryl Cook — along with junior chairs Sabrina Weeks-Brittan and Emily Cook — introduced 2nd and 3rd graders from South Shore Fine Arts Academy to perform selected dance numbers while the crowd dined.

The tiny tutu-clad ballerinas elicited oohs and ahhs from the audience as they plied and pirouetted to selections from "The Nutcracker" and other famous ballets. The girls' school participated in the Joffrey's Bridge Program, which is designed to introduce Chicago Public School children to the basics of ballet. Proceeds from the luncheon benefited this initiative.

(Taken from Chicago Sun Times article: <http://www.suntimes.com/lifestyles/society/3937740-452/the-joffrey-makes-merry.html>)



Principal Melissa Mister introduces SSFAA ballet students to the luncheon audience.

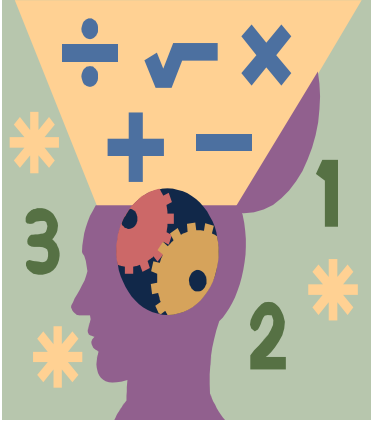


SSFAA ballet students get last minute tips in preparation for their big debut!



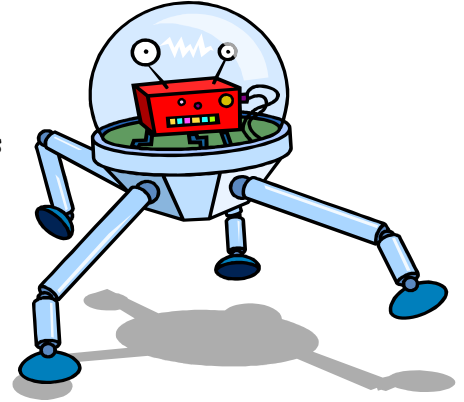
SSFAA Joffrey ballet students strike a classic ballet position prior to their performance.

SSFAA Welcomes Project SYNCERE!



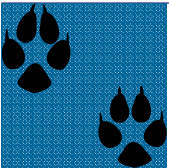
The mission of Project SYNCERE (Supporting Youth's Needs with Core Engineering Research Experiments) is to increase the number of minority, female, and underserved students pursuing careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Project SYNCERE provides a curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through the use of project-based learning. Their curriculum makes math and science relevant to students through group activities and technology.



For more info about Project SYNCERE, check out their website:

<http://www.projectsincere.org/>



PAW PRINTS Needs YOU!

The FIG Newsletter committee is looking for more parents to write or submit interesting articles for the newsletter. Don't worry about submitting a New York Times level article! We also reprint articles from other sources and can also edit article you submit. Even if you just have an idea for an article, feel free to share it. Remember, this newsletter is BY parents and FOR parents so your input is always welcome!

We also LOVE to publish great pictures so feel free to share a couple of your best pictures from school events.

All articles and pictures should be submitted to the FIG Newsletter email address by the 15th of each month:

fig_newsletter@yahoo.com





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 Phone: 555-555-5555
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Patricia A. Hill
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 Fax: 773-752-5232
 phill@farmersagent.com



Imagine YOUR ad here!

Contact Alexis Brown

773-721-5776 or alexisbrown25@gmail.com

What's Happening?

By The FIG Newsletter Editors

Saturday, April 16, 9am-12pm

*22nd Annual Earth Day
 Parks & Preserves Clean Up*
 Various sites throughout Chicago
 Admission: FREE!
 For a list of participating parks:
<http://www.earthdaychicago.com/events/2011CaptainedSites.html>

Sunday, April 17, 3 pm

Concert in the Park
 Washington Park Refectory
 5531 South Russell Road
 773-256-1248
 Admission: FREE!

Saturday, April 30, 10am-2pm

19th Annual Green & Growing Fair
 Garfield Park Conservatory
 300 North Central Park Avenue
 312-746-5100
 Admission: FREE!
 For more info:
<http://www.garfieldconservatory.org/shows.htm>

Saturday, May 14, 11am-2pm

Words, Art, & Nature
 South Shore Cultural Center
 7059 South Shore Drive
 773-256-0149
 Admission: FREE!

June 27-August 5, 2011

SSFAA Summer Program
 For more information call Ms. Nicholas in the front office (773-535-8340).

Chicago Park District
 Various dates & sites throughout Chicago
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

