

September 2023

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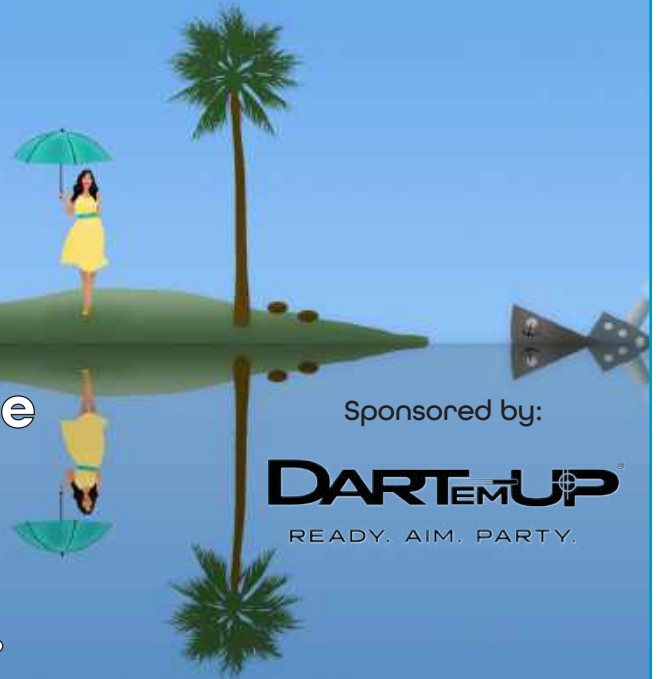
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## **JUDGE:**

Carmen Oliver is the author of many award-winning picture books for children including "A Voice for the Spirit Bears: How One Boy Inspired Millions to Save a Rare Animal," and "The Twilight Library" (Sept 6, 2022). She's also the author of the "Bears Make the Best Buddies" series (Reading, Writing, Math, Science).



September 2023

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## TUNE IN



Catch Austin Family magazine live on "Good Day Austin" every Thursday morning.

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### REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS



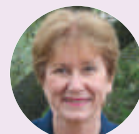
EDITOR  
JESS ARCHER



LEARNING CURVE  
ALISON BOGLE



LIFELINES  
BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD



FAMILY MATTERS  
DR. BETTY RICHARDSON



SMART SCREEN  
DR. BENJAMIN KRAMER

## PUBLISHER

Kaye Kemper Lowak

## EDITOR

Jess Archer: editor2003@austinfamily.com

## COPY EDITOR

Barb Matijevich

## ADVISING EDITORS

Dr. Betty Richardson, Barb Matijevich

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Jess Archer

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Alison Bogle, Dr. Benjamin Kramer, Catherine Michalk, Dr. Betty Richardson, Brenda Schoolfield, Sandi Schwartz, Brittany Williams.

## MEDIA RELATIONS

Alison Bogle

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Layout and Ads: Susie Forbes

## STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jordan Ashley Photography

## ADVERTISING SALES

Kaye Kemper Lowak: kaye2003@austinfamily.com

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Greg Lowak

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

JESS ARCHER

*Archer is a writer, a mom of two kids and a wife. She is the author of the memoir, "Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham."*

This month at Austin Family we are celebrating emotional support animals, and while dogs hold rank as the most common companions, other types of pets can support your family's emotional needs. Read our feature article this month by Sandi Schwartz to learn more. In addition, if you own a dog, consider taking your four-legged friend to an off-leash pet park in the Austin area for some fun. Our Places to Go & Things to Do column lists three top pet parks to consider.

Kids are back to school this month, which means they bring home germs—on their hands and their feet. Brenda Schoolfield, our medical writer examines the growing practice in the U.S. of taking off shoes before entering a home. Check out her article for facts and

figures regarding the germs we track in to our homes.

Don't forget to read our monthly Smart Screens column by Dr. Benjamin Kramer, director of education for PBS Austin. This month he discusses video "gaming" and how to know whether kids are engaged or just zoning out. Readers can always find Kramer's column and our Family Matters column in Spanish at our website: [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com)

It's still hot out there in Austin, but there's so much fun to be had in our city. Get out there and enjoy it with your family.

*Jess*

# Austin IN ACTION

GO TO [AUSTINFAMILY.COM](http://AUSTINFAMILY.COM) FOR WEEKLY UPDATES OF AUSTIN IN ACTION NEWS

## September Did you Know?

**September 4th**  
**Labor Day**

**September 10th**  
**Grandparents Day**

**7 billion hot dogs** get consumed by Americans on Labor Day each year.

Source: [www.hot-dogs.com](http://www.hot-dogs.com)

**September** is the most popular birthday month.

Source: [www.happiestbaby.com](http://www.happiestbaby.com)

**69% of grandparents** live within 50 miles of their grandchildren.

Source: [www.alert-1.com](http://www.alert-1.com)

### Accessible Care for Autism Disorder

The Texas Autism Council reports that autism is the most prevalent disorder in Texas. With that in mind, Texas ABA Centers has expanded its services to families throughout Texas.

Effectively immediately, Texas ABA Centers will now accept client applications for children with autism spectrum disorder throughout the Austin, Dallas and Houston areas. The organization provides applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy services to children with autism through a play-based approach rooted in positive reinforcement. Texas ABA Centers aims to disrupt the autism care industry by demolishing wait times traditionally experienced by those in search of an autism diagnosis or therapy.

In its first phase of the launch, Texas ABA Centers will offer autism screening, testing and diagnostic services. Once a diagnosis is received, clients will receive tailored ABA therapy plans implemented by board-certified behavior analysts and registered behavior technicians. In the coming months, the organization will unveil its brick-and-mortar behavioral care centers.



Texas ABA Centers

### Boeings and Bovines

Thousands of Austinites parked their cars at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) this summer and boarded airplanes bound for cooler climates. But did you know that Austin Airport shares land with hundreds of Texas longhorn cattle?

That's right! On the northwest side of Austin's airport is the Fast Park & Relax parking lot that boasts 75 acres of land dedicated to the protection of hundreds of longhorns.

Unlike the human citizens in Austin, Texas longhorn cattle can withstand our high temperatures. They are highly disease resistant and can live in harsh conditions, such as droughts, floods, heat and even the cold. Texas longhorns can live on weeds, cacti and brush far from water.

Fast Park & Relax has partnered with Del Valle High School FFA students (Future Farmers of America) who raise, breed and oversee all the intricacies of the Texas longhorns on the Fast Park & Relax ranch-style property.

So the next time you travel to or from ABIA, add 15-20 minutes of extra travel time to take in the sights, sounds and smells of the lovable Texas longhorns at 2300 Spirit of Texas Drive.



Longhorn cattle at the Fast Park & Relax property



## Back to School Reminders from DPS

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds drivers to use extra caution in-and-around school zones and neighborhoods as we enter the new school year. DPS offers these tips for back-to-school safety:

- Give students extra room and don't assume they are paying attention to your vehicle. Students are often distracted by mobile devices and may not be paying attention to their surroundings.
- Don't block a crosswalk when stopped at a red light or stop sign.
- Follow the directions of school crossing guards.
- Watch for children on bicycles traveling to and from schools.
- Reduce your speed when you spot a school bus and know children may unexpectedly step into the road without checking for oncoming traffic.
- Be careful around railroad crossings. School buses are legally required to stop at them.
- According to Texas law, if a bus has alternating flashing red signals visible from the front or rear, drivers **MUST** stop before reaching the bus.
- Drivers who illegally pass a school bus face fines of up to \$1,250 for the first offense.
- Always obey speed limits and traffic laws in school zones.
- Remember that texting while driving is illegal in Texas.



## We're Looking for a Few Good Kids ... To Brag On!

If you know a young person deserving of recognition or a youth group working to positively impact our community, let us hear about it. They just might end up in next month's "Austin in

Action" section of Austin Family magazine! Send details and a photo to [editor2003@austinfamily.com](mailto:editor2003@austinfamily.com).



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# AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

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# Paws and Consider: 5 Types of Emotional Support Animals

SANDI SCHWARTZ

*Schwartz is an award-winning environmental author and freelance journalist.*

We all know that pets become part of the family when they enter our homes, but beyond simply being a loving pet, animals can also serve as therapeutic tools for children struggling with emotional issues like anxiety and depression. Such pets are referred to as emotional support animals (ESAs). An ESA can be a dog, cat or other type of pet that helps ease symptoms of an emotional or mental issue through companionship and affection. Also called assistance animals, ESAs have improved the lives of so many people.

Some children have trouble connecting with adults and their peers, which is where an ESA can be beneficial. They may find it easier to bond with an animal through non-verbal communication. One of the things we all love about pets is that they are supportive and non-judgmental, providing a safe space for children to express themselves. ESAs are more than just pets to these children; the bond between them can be quite powerful.

Getting a pet is a family decision, especially if the pet is for younger children. Pets have different levels of maintenance and expense to consider. It's important to get a pet that fits your family's lifestyle and commitment level. Here are some of the best types of ESA available for your children:

## Emotional Support Dogs

Dogs are the most popular ESA choice since they so naturally bond with humans. Dogs are typically energetic and enjoy lots of playtime with their companions. Both small and large dog breeds work well with children, but some breeds are known for being the best emotional support dogs and are more kid-friendly than others. These include the Cavalier King Charles spaniel, labrador retriever, bichon frisé, shih tzu, boxer, poodle and beagle. If you are looking for a rescue ESA dog, head to your local shelter to find dogs of all breeds, ages and sizes that need a loving home.

## Emotional Support Cats

Cats are also a terrific choice for an ESA, especially for children who are intimidated by or afraid of dogs and the possibility of getting bitten. Cats are low-maintenance animals and are often tender with children. They are smaller than dogs, lighter and usually enjoy sitting on laps. Additionally, they are more independent, tolerant of being left alone and easily transportable. Cats can be an antidote to loneliness for many kids and can help them cope more effectively with everyday life. There are no specific cat breeds known to be better for emotional support; it just depends on which cat can provide comfort to those struggling with a mental or emotional issue.





## Birds

Birds can also serve as pacifying companions. Parrots, in particular, are known to have a high level of empathy and provide a special type of interaction with those struggling with emotional issues. They can be taught words and phrases, which can help in therapeutic ways. Plus, many people are fascinated by their behavior and beautiful colors and enjoy interacting with animals that can fly. Be aware that parrots can often live 50 years or more, so choosing to own one is a big commitment.

## Small Pets

Another group of ESAs, called “smallies,” include tiny animals like rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, mini pigs (also called pot-bellied pigs) and even rats. When used in therapeutic ways, these animals can help lower stress and anxiety in children. They work well for people who find larger animals intimidating.

Rabbits come in a range of sizes up to about 15 pounds. They are curious animals that enjoy socializing and can build bonds with

humans. Hamsters are easy to care for, inexpensive, simple to transport and calm. Guinea pigs are small enough to hold, are social, inquisitive and love to be stroked. They can bond strongly with humans. What most people do not realize is that guinea pigs are frequently vocal, whistling and purring when they are happy. Mini pigs are highly intelligent and easily trained and can be very affectionate. The most shocking of this group, of course, are the rats. Despite the obvious stigma against them, rats can be effective ESAs since they are very social creatures with high intelligence that enjoy interacting with people in a gentle way.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Finally, as surprising as it may sound, some types of reptiles and amphibians are now being used for therapy purposes.

Caring for a lizard, frog or turtle means creating a

delicate habitat, and building that habitat can be a distraction and reprieve from emotional struggles. An advantage of choosing this type of ESA is that they require less daily care than mammals.

If you are interested in getting an ESA for your child or registering one of your own pets as an ESA, check out ESA Registration of America for guidance. [www.esaregistration.org](http://www.esaregistration.org). If you would like to find animal support programs in your community, contact organizations like Pet Partners, the American Kennel Club and the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.





## SMART SCREEN TIME

DR. BENJAMIN KRAMER

*Kramer, PhD, is the director of education for Austin PBS.*



### Gaming with a Purpose

This month, we start with a question from a parent: "I thought I was doing the right thing by reducing video time and steering my child to more interactive content like games and academic skills practice. However, I've noticed that my child doesn't seem to be fully engaged in what he's doing; instead, he

seems to be just tapping around. Is this still better than having him watch videos?"

This brings up one of the trickiest facets of screen use: how to determine a child's level of engagement, and whether he's still in the zone of healthy gameplay. We know that engagement with screens can be productive and playful, but how can you tell when it has crossed over into something else?

First, you can ask your child to narrate the game he is playing. That's a great way to tell if the child truly knows how to play successfully or if he is just clicking away without a sense of direction. You may wish to try a bit of coaching to see if your child can get engaged with a little support.

Sometimes, gameplay requires a return to easier levels in order to get back to the more challenging stuff. It can look like the child is just clicking without purpose, when in reality he's doing something he already knows and has mastered. This may be a pleasurable comfort zone for your child, but it's not very stimulating. Such moments call for change – a break,

moving on to a higher level or concluding that this game is too easy and should be retired.

One of the best ways to ensure engagement is to find screen activities that encourage the user to make something new. Minecraft's Creative Mode is a fantastic way to build entire worlds. There are many apps for the arts, such as drawing, painting, music-making and the like. Coding games like PBS KIDS Scratch Jr allow kids to animate their own adventures while learning the rudiments of coding logic in the process.

For most humans (not just kids), there is a tendency to slip from full engagement on screens to something less attentive. If you catch yourself needing to take a break, and your child is nearby, make it known that you're stepping away and why. That kind of modeling may help your child become a better self-monitor of screen time. Similarly, if you are a gamer, when you both play and interact with your family members, you're providing an important example that screen time can also be social time.

## Groovy Fun: How to Make a Tie-Dye Shirt

If there's one look that stays in style no matter the decade, it's tie-dye! Follow these easy steps to make a colorful tie-dye shirt with your kids.

### Materials you'll need:

1. Three-gallon bucket
2. Glass jar with a tight-sealing lid
3. Rubber gloves
4. Measuring spoon
5. Fiber-reactive dye (available at craft stores)
6. Soda ash fixative
7. Tongs

### Step one: Prepare the dye.

Tie-dye can get messy, so find a workspace that you don't mind getting dirty. Wearing rubber gloves, fill the bucket with one gallon of cool water. Fill the jar halfway with cool water. Measure two to four teaspoons of dye powder into the jar. Close the lid and shake vigorously. Pour the dye mixture into the bucket.

Next, fill the jar halfway with hot water. Add six teaspoons of soda ash. Secure the lid and shake well. Pour the mixture into the bucket. Repeat this step for other colors.

### Step two: Prepare the T-shirt.

Pick out a 100% cotton T-shirt. Soak the shirt in lukewarm water, wring out excess water, then lay it flat.

### Step three: Choose a design.

Choose a design for your shirt, then tie rubber bands tightly in a pattern around the shirt.

### Step four: Soak the shirt.

Place the shirt in the dye bucket and stir. Let it soak for thirty minutes to an hour.

### Step five: Wash it.

With tongs, remove the shirt from the bucket. Take off the rubber bands. Rinse under warm then gradually cool water until the water runs clear. Wash the shirt alone in cold water, then line dry. Your groovy tie-dye shirt is ready to wear!

Source: [www.parents.com](http://www.parents.com)





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# Walking the Line: Shoes or No Shoes in the House?

## LIFELINES

BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD

*Schoolfield is a medical writer and editor who lives in Austin. Sugar, her cocker spaniel and sometimes a rescue foster dog or two keep her company while she writes.*

Do you take your shoes off before entering your home? This practice is currently more prevalent in the United States than you might think. A CBS News Poll conducted in May 2023 revealed that more than six out of ten U.S. adults don't wear shoes inside their homes. The decision to wear or not wear shoes inside is a personal one for each household.

### REASONS FOR NO SHOES

There are many motivations for removing your shoes before stepping inside. In Asian cultures, this tradition is a sign of respect. In Muslim homes, shoes are removed to keep the floor clean for prayer. Homeowners in snowy or wet climates remove soggy or ice-encrusted shoes before entering

to protect floors. People in multi-story apartments remove shoes to reduce noise for neighbors who live below. Some people like to kick off their shoes and get comfortable after a long day at work. Family members with allergies are happy when pollen and other allergens aren't tracked inside. Moreover, in a world where bacteria are flourishing and becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, many people wonder if we should avoid shoes in the house as a way to keep our families safe from disease.

### SHOE SOLES HARBOR GERMS

What does the science say about germs on the soles of shoes? Shoes do pick up harmful bacteria and increase transmission. A frequently-cited study from the

University of Arizona monitored participants' shoes for ten weeks. *Escherichia coli* or *E. coli* was a common finding on the outside of the shoes. This bacterium can cause GI tract infections, meningitis and other illnesses. Dr. Charles Gerba, a microbiologist and lead investigator, noted that, "The common occurrence (96%) of coliform and *E. coli* bacteria on the outside of the shoes indicates frequent contact with fecal material, which most likely originates from floors in public restrooms or contact with animal fecal material outdoors. Our study also indicated that bacteria can be tracked by shoes over a long distance into your home or personal space after the shoes were contaminated with bacteria."

Another dangerous bacterium, *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff), proliferates in urban settings. A study conducted by the Mayo Clinic in Houston, Texas, looked at C. diff contamination in households. Shoe bottoms had the highest percentage of C. diff followed by samples collected from bathroom and toilet surfaces. Because C. diff spores are resistant to many household cleaning products, the potential for household contamination is high. Another systematic review study found about 40% of shoe soles in non-healthcare settings were contaminated with this bacterium. C. diff causes infection of the large intestine.

### HEALTH RISKS OF SHOES INSIDE THE HOME

When deciding if the “no shoes” policy is right for your home, consider your family’s situation. Banning shoes from entering your home will cut down on the amount of dust, dirt, allergens and bacteria that get tracked in. However, bacteria on your floors is only a health risk in certain circumstances.

If you have young children who play or crawl around on the floor, a “no shoes inside” policy will help protect them from getting dangerous bacteria on their hands or toys, which frequently end up in the mouth. Another reason to be careful is if anyone in your house is sick or has a compromised immune system.

### TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING A “NO SHOES” POLICY IN YOUR HOME

- Discuss with your family your reasons for leaving shoes at the door. Be patient as everyone gets in the habit of removing shoes before entering.
- Plan the logistics. Where will family members and guests put their shoes when they take them off? Designate a shelf or basket by the door. Provide a bench so people who wear

lace-up shoes can sit down to remove or put on shoes.

- Decide if people will go barefooted inside, wear socks, or change into slippers. Consider safety for elderly family members or visitors who are at risk for falling.

- Don’t apologize for your “no shoes” policy. Although 90% of respondents in the CBS News Poll felt that asking someone to remove their shoes was a reasonable request, only 24% are comfortable asking their guests to do so.





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	Springdale	512-645-4633	
AUSTIN LEARNING CENTER	Westlake & Online	512-330-9007	www.austinlearningcenter.com
ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	Westlake	512-474-2331	www.acmsaustin.org
AVERY RANCH DANCE AND MUSIC	North Austin	512-658-2996	www.austin-dance.org
CODE WIZARDS	Online	800-213-2417	www.codewizardshq.com
CORDOVAN ART	Round Rock & Georgetown	512-274-4040	www.cordovanartschool.com
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	SW Austin	512- 531-9353	
	Lago Vista	512-963-6575	
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DART' EM UP	North Austin	512-735-1919	www.dartemup.com
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GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL NORTH	North Austin	737-232-4996	www.goldfishswimschool.com/northwest-hills
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SWITCH WILLO STABLES	North Austin	512-920-2276	www.switchwillo.com
WAYA	West Austin	512-473-2528	www.waya.org
YMCA AUSTIN	5 Austin locations, Bastrop, Buda, Dripping Springs, Kyle	512-322-9662	www.austinyymca.org
YMCA CENTRAL TEXAS	Burnet, Georgetown, Hutto, Leander, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Waco, Gateway	512-246-9622	www.ymcactx.org

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FIGMENT CREATIVE LAB	South Austin	512-551-3244	www.figmentcreativelabs.com
KIDSACTING	18 Area Locations	512-836-5437	www.kidsactingstudio.com
STICKY FINGERS COOKING SCHOOL	In Area Schools		www.stickyfingerscooking.com

## ACADEMIC STEM, Tutoring, Science

AUSTIN LEARNING CENTER	Westlake & Online	512-330-9007	www.austinlearningcenter.com
CODE WIZARDS	Online	800-213-2417	www.codewizardshq.com
IDEA LAB	North Austin	512-494-6744	www.austin.idealabkids.com
MAD SCIENCE	Locations throughout Austin and San Antonio	512-892-1143	www.austin.madscience.org



## SPORTS

	LOCATION(S)	PHONE	WEBSITE
AUSTIN BOULDERING PROJECT	Westgate Springdale	737-237-0899 512-645-4633	<a href="http://www.austinboulderingproject.com">www.austinboulderingproject.com</a>
DART' EM UP	North Austin	512-735-1919	<a href="http://www.dartemup.com">www.dartemup.com</a>
GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL NORTH	North Austin	737-232-4996	<a href="http://www.goldfishswimschool.com/northwest-hills">www.goldfishswimschool.com/northwest-hills</a>
INDIGO PLAY	Northwest Austin	512-269-0097	<a href="http://www.indigoplay.com">www.indigoplay.com</a>
JUMP GYMNASTICS	North & South Austin	512-593-6226	<a href="http://www.jump-austin.com">www.jump-austin.com</a>
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	Central Austin	512-879-7553	<a href="http://www.mastergohring.com">www.mastergohring.com</a>
NITRO SWIM	Cedar Park Bee Cave	512-259-7999 512-861-7946	<a href="http://www.nitroswim.com">www.nitroswim.com</a>
PLAYLAND SKATE	North Austin	512-452-1901	<a href="http://www.playlandskatecenter.com">www.playlandskatecenter.com</a>
ROCK ABOUT CLIMBING	Various Adventures	512-415-0804	<a href="http://www.rock-about.com">www.rock-about.com</a>
SWITCH WILLO STABLES	North Austin	512-920-2276	<a href="http://www.switchwillo.com">www.switchwillo.com</a>
WAYA	West Austin	512-473-2528	<a href="http://www.waya.org">www.waya.org</a>
YMCA AUSTIN	5 Austin locations, Bastrop, Buda, Dripping Springs, Kyle	512-322-9662	<a href="http://www.austinyymca.org">www.austinyymca.org</a>
YMCA CENTRAL TEXAS	Burnet, Georgetown, Hutto, Leander, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Waco, Gateway	512-246-9622	<a href="http://www.ymcactx.org">www.ymcactx.org</a>

## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

AUSTIN BOULDERING PROJECT	Westgate Springdale	737-237-0899 512-645-4633	<a href="http://www.austinboulderingproject.com">www.austinboulderingproject.com</a>
CORDOVAN ART	Round Rock & Georgetown Cedar Park NW Austin SW Austin Lago Vista	512-274-4040 512-284-9874 737-300-1200 512-531-9353 512-963-6575	<a href="http://www.cordovanartschool.com">www.cordovanartschool.com</a>
DART' EM UP	North Austin	512-735-1919	<a href="http://www.dartemup.com">www.dartemup.com</a>
FIGMENT CREATIVE LAB	South Austin	512-551-3244	<a href="http://www.figmentcreativelabs.com">www.figmentcreativelabs.com</a>
GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL NORTH	North Austin	737-232-4996	<a href="http://www.goldfishswimschool.com/northwest-hills">www.goldfishswimschool.com/northwest-hills</a>
IDEA LAB	North Austin	512-494-6744	<a href="http://www.austin.idealabkids.com">www.austin.idealabkids.com</a>
INDIGO PLAY	Northwest Austin	512-269-0097	<a href="http://www.indigoplay.com">www.indigoplay.com</a>
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PLAYLAND SKATE	North Austin	512-452-1901	<a href="http://www.playlandskatecenter.com">www.playlandskatecenter.com</a>

## RESOURCES Volunteer Opportunities, Resources

PARTNERS IN PARENTING	North, South, Zoom	<a href="http://www.pipaustin.org">www.pipaustin.org</a>
ROUND ROCK SERVING CENTER	Round Rock	512-244-2431 <a href="http://www.rrasc.org">www.rrasc.org</a>

# AFTERSCHOOL GUIDE



austinfamily®

# Austin Then and Now

## Paramount Theatre

BRITTANY WILLIAMS

*Williams is a writer and Realtor® in Austin where she loves exploring the city's green spaces with her husband, son and daughter.*

Many Austinites may remember the night of the Paramount Theatre's 100th anniversary, celebrated in October 2015. That night, Patty Griffin played a sold-out show, and the air felt electric as officials relit the restored Paramount sign. It was a night for the Austin history books, but for those unfamiliar with the iconic theater, let's rewind.



*The Paramount Theatre in 1915 with a 20 cent entrance fee.*

### Then

The doors of the four-story neoclassical theater first swung open in October 1915, boasting the name The Majestic Theatre. On opening night, then-Mayor A. P. Wooldridge gave a speech, calling the venue "...the last word in theater architecture,

having real benefaction to the town." The theater's first marquee displayed an entry fee of 20 cents. It was modern and led Austin forward in style. In fact, it wasn't long before the wide dirt road out front (Congress Avenue) later became Austin's first paved road. Those inviting doors drew in performers like Houdini, Charlie Chaplin and Katharine Hepburn. Paramount Pictures purchased and revamped the theater in 1930, and they erected the Paramount blade, a 75-foot-high sign boasting the theater's name, topped with a sunburst of bright lights.

### Now

The iconic blade is still synonymous with the theater today. Though taken down during renovations in 1963, a remake of the original blade returned in 2015 for the Paramount's 100th birthday. The new blade is covered in hundreds of lights in its original colors. Notable names such as Neil deGrasse Tyson, Dr. Maya Angelou, Miles Davis, Bonnie Raitt, Gladys Night and President Barak Obama (while he was in office) have graced the Paramount's stage over the years. Its blade still shines bright each night, reaching toward the Austin sky and drawing in big names and crowds year after year.



*The 2015 Centennial Blade Lighting Ceremony of the Paramount Theatre. Photo credit: Birdsong Imaging.*



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## Happy Barks for Pet Parks!

CATHERINE MICHALK

*Michalk is a native Austinite, writer and mom of three. You can follow her family's adventures at [www.catherinemichalk.com](http://www.catherinemichalk.com)*

Now that fall weather is on the horizon, you may be wondering where you can take your kids and your canine companions to enjoy the outdoors. Luckily, Austin is a fantastically pet-friendly city, so there are plenty of off-leash spots for your furry friends to play. Before you head out, be sure your dog is spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccinations. It is also a good idea to bring your own water bowl and waste bags since dog stations at public parks can be hit or miss. All set? Time to load up your pup and head out for some fun this fall!

### **Mary Elizabeth Branch Park Dog Run** **2006 Philomena Street Austin, TX 78723**

*Mary Elizabeth Branch Park*, a 3.5-acre park in the heart of Mueller, has something for everyone. Not only does the park boast a dog run for your pup to play off-leash, but it also has a playground, water feature, volleyball courts and event space. There are bathrooms nearby (a big bonus to parents of little kids). The dog park rules specify that parents need to keep an extra close eye on any kids under 12 years old, so make sure you keep your little ones close and teach them the do's and don't of interacting with other people's pets.

### **Emma Long Metropolitan Park – Turkey Creek Trail** **1600 City Park Road Austin, TX 78730**



Photo credit: [www.austincityguide.com](http://www.austincityguide.com)

*Emma Long Metropolitan Park* is one of West Austin's gems, and well worth the price of admission (\$5-\$10 per car). The majority of Emma Long is on-leash, but Turkey Creek Trail, a 2.8-mile loop that takes you around the park and through multiple creek crossings, is off-leash. You can park right at the trailhead or choose a spot closer to the park's other amenities, which include a designated swimming area and volleyball court. While perfect for a day trip, you can also reserve a campsite or RV spot and stay overnight. Pack a picnic to enjoy at one of the numerous picnic tables by the river. Or, if picnicking is not your style, plan to visit Ski Shores Café, right around the corner from the park.

### **Mary Moore Searight Park – Off Leash Trail** **9401 S 1st Street Austin, TX 78748**



Photo credit: Brian Fitzsimmons.

*Mary Moore Searight Park* has multiple trails, large fields and playgrounds, but where it really shines is its off-leash trail. If your family is looking for a fun and easy hiking spot, head to the north end of the park where you'll find a one-mile off-leash loop. The loop is fenced-in, so you don't need to worry about your dog escaping into other areas of the park. When you finish your hike, pop your dog's leash back on and head to the playground area where you'll find picnic tables and bathrooms. Word to the wise – check the weather before you go as there are a few spots with flowing water and the trail can get muddy.





# 10 Ways to Boost Your Kids' Confidence

## FAMILY MATTERS

DR. BETTY RICHARDSON

*Richardson, PhD, RN, CS, LPC, LMFT, is an Austin-based psychotherapist.*

**Q** Recently I read an article about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The article emphasized that she possessed great self-confidence throughout her life. I have a five-year-old daughter. What should I do (or not do) as a parent to build up my daughter's self-confidence?

**A** When a child is self-confident, she has a belief that she can be successful and trust her abilities. Children with self-confidence tend to attempt more activities and try new tasks. Confident children are better able to cope with peer pressure, frustrations, emotions and challenges as well as projects and ideas.

When I volunteered at a local museum, my job was to get kids started on a project they could do all by themselves.

Sometimes a parent would intervene and say "Let me show you how" and would take over when the child seemed stuck. Often the child would respond "No, I want to do it myself."

When a child says "no" in those instances, it shows that the child already has a healthy confidence in her abilities. Even if you have the urge to intervene, it's very important to let a child tackle age-appropriate projects and activities by herself.

Here are some other ways to help build up your child's self-confidence:

1. Help your child understand that your love is unconditional. It is not dependent on good behavior.
2. Model confidence. Avoid saying about yourself, "I can't do this." Use the language of "This is hard, but I'm going to try my best."
3. Resist comparing your child to others. If it's a negative comparison, then it can cause a child to doubt herself.
4. Let your child hear you speak positively about her to others.

5. Avoid criticism.

6. Help your child discover her interests and passions and to pursue them.

7. When something your child tries isn't successful, help her view it as a positive challenge.

8. Ask your child for advice or opinions on topics that are appropriate for a child.

9. Teach your child how to set and achieve goals.

10. Use specific praises such as "I liked the way you kept trying until you solved the problem."

Good luck to you as you work on raising a confident child.

VISITAR [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com)  
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-KRISTIN A.H.

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# When Should You Hold Your Child Back a Grade?

## THE LEARNING CURVE

ALISON BOGLE

*Bogle is a writer living in Austin with her husband and three children. A former fourth grade teacher, she now enjoys writing about children and education. You can also catch her talking about articles from Austin Family magazine each Thursday morning on FOX 7 Austin.*

Parenting comes with a giant helping of second guessing and a large dose of pressure to get things “right.” Nowhere else is this truer than in process of helping your child on his academic journey. One question that parents sometimes must consider is whether their child needs to be retained a grade.

The practice of retention means that rather than progressing to the next grade level with peers, a child is “held back” to repeat the current grade for another full

year. A child might be retained for several reasons, including not meeting grade level academic requirements, poor school attendance or socialemotional concerns. Most commonly, an elementary student is retained for reasons related to reading issues or socialemotional concerns and a high school student is retained for failure to earn course credits.

### DECIDING NOT TO RETAIN

If your family has decided not to retain, then what can you do to help your child if he is behind academically, socially/ emotionally?

- 1. Take action.** Early intervention is key. If you are concerned about your child’s academic or social/ emotional progress, trust your instinct and take action. The worst thing that can happen is that your worries are unfounded, which is much preferable to realizing that you’ve lost valuable intervention time.
- 2. Call a meeting.** The first step that parents should take is to call a

meeting of important members of your child’s school. This should include the teacher(s), the counselor and relevant academic support personnel.

- 3. Request a support team.** Once the initial meeting occurs and a game plan is discussed, request that a support team be formed to assess your child, identify the appropriate interventions, monitor progress and re-assess regularly.
- 4. Get it in writing.** A good intervention plan will formalize necessary assessments, define specific and measurable goals and include a timeline for reassessments and goal completion.
- 5. Help at home.** Find out what you can do to support your child at home. That might include working at home with your child on concepts he is struggling with or connecting him with a tutor for after school reinforcement. Perhaps you can find a good therapist or group therapy program for your child.



## DECIDING TO RETAIN

Although research has shown that retention can have a negative effect on a child, one size does not fit all. For some families, retention is the best choice to help their child succeed in school.

If you decide that retention is what's best for your child, there are things you can do to ease the transition.

- 1. Delay entrance to kindergarten.** If you have a child who is significantly behind his peers, academically or socially/emotionally, consider delaying entrance into kindergarten to give your child more time to mature. It can be helpful to have your child in a preschool program that includes a kindergarten year.
- 2. Involve your child's teacher.** Your child's teacher is a wonderful resource for supporting your decision to retain. He or she can give you tips on how to best frame the decision for your child and can also help him feel good about repeating the school year.
- 3. Ease the friend transition.** Your child will likely feel some anxiety about his friends moving on to the next grade without him. Support his connections by setting up playdates with favorite friends. Also, if possible, arrange get-togethers with children in his new grade so that he can form friendships before the new year starts.
- 4. Consider switching schools.** For some children, a fresh start is the best start. It helps him focus on making new friends and learn about a new environment, rather than on what he is no longer experiencing.
- 5. Communicate with your child.** A child will form his own ideas about why he is retained if parents don't share a reason for it. Sometimes a child will internalize it as something being "wrong" with him or a failure on his part. Talk with your child about why you think retention is best, and what he will gain from an extra year of learning. Normalize any feelings of loss that may arise, while also pointing out the exciting feelings that can come with knowing how the grade works already, feeling more successful and making new friends.

Determining how to help your child who is struggling academically, behaviorally or socially/emotionally can be stressful. The important thing to remember is that you are not alone. Take action and speak to your child's teacher and others who

can help your family. Early intervention is key and with it, your child stands the best chance at improvement and eventual success.



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# September 2023 calendar

Go to [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com) for expanded listings.

Check our calendar online which is updated daily. Any family-friendly events can be posted at [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com) and will be made live once approved. Certain restrictions apply.

## For Storytimes please go to

[www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)  
[www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org)  
[www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com)  
[www.laketravislibrary.org](http://www.laketravislibrary.org)  
[www.leandertx.gov/library](http://www.leandertx.gov/library)  
[www.cityofkyle.com/library](http://www.cityofkyle.com/library)  
[www.budalibrary.org](http://www.budalibrary.org)  
[www.library.georgetown.org/events-calendar](http://www.library.georgetown.org/events-calendar)

## Fri 1

### The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now?

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temporary Gallery Great Hall. LBJ Presidential Library, 2313 Red River St. \$4 - \$13. [www.lbjlibrary.org](http://www.lbjlibrary.org).

### 2023 Pie in the Sky Hot Air Balloon Festival.

5 p.m. Join the pie capital of Texas this Labor Day weekend. [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com).

**Round Rock Express Okla. City.** 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

## Sat 2

**Round Rock Market Days.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts and craft vendors, live music, food and fun. Parking free in garage. Downtown Round Rock, 221 E. Main St. FREE. [www.mainstreetproductionsrr.com](http://www.mainstreetproductionsrr.com).

**Maker Movie Sing-a-long.** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join us for a celebration of color and song. Sing along with a favorite movie and make a cute paper piñata. Yarborough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Paquito y Abuelito.** Two shows a day, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. On the Day of the Dead, families gather to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed on. Austin Scottish Rite Theater, 207 W 18th St. \$11 - \$22. [www.scottishritetheater.org](http://www.scottishritetheater.org).

### Magic the Gathering Constructed Play.

12 p.m. We play Magic the Gathering, includes formats from casual to modern to commander. Kyle Library, 550 Scott St. [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com).

**Terrariums at Terrazas.** 2 to 4 p.m. Learn how to make a terrarium and learn a little bit about how its ecosystem works. Terrazas Branch, 1105 E. César Chávez St. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; 2023 Pie in the Sky Hot Air Balloon Festival see Fri 1.

## Sun 3

**Labor Day Weekend Concert.** 6 to 9 p.m. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this fun, free concert for the whole family. Sponsored by the Austin Federation of Musicians. Prete Plaza, 301 West Bagdad. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2.

## Mon 4

**Adventure Club.** 4 to 5 p.m. Join us for after school activities and exploration with ATLAS Club. Each week you can learn a new skill or explore STEAM activities. Ages 8-12. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

## Tue 5

**Kitty Cafe.** 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Come socialize with adoptable felines from Pflugerville Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) and enjoy a cup of cocoa or coffee. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

**STEAM Lab.** 5 to 5:45 p.m. LEGO Lab in the library large meeting room. Build LEGO WeDo 2.0 robotics in an indoor, socially distanced workshop. Registration required. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com](http://www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

## Wed 6

**Tween Time - Resin Bookmarks.** 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Tween Time happens every Wednesday at the library. Tween programs are different every week. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

### Teens Create: Watercolor Wednesdays.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teens are invited to come create with us every Wednesday with art projects and new mediums introduced throughout the year. Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

### Screening of "Rising: The Hall of Negro Life."

Join us and learn about the inspiring story and lasting legacy of The Hall of Negro Life at the 1936 Texas Centennial Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

## Thu 7

**Homeschool Tweens Welcome.** 2 to 2:45 p.m. The Homeschool Tween Group for kids 8-12 meets once a week to socialize, play games, make crafts and learn new skills. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

### Stories on the Lawn: Grandma Moses.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Stories on the Lawn: Grandma Moses Moth-Style Storytelling at the Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. [www.nchmuseum.org](http://www.nchmuseum.org).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

## Fri 8

**Zilker Relays.** 5 to 10 p.m. An iconic Austin running tradition is celebrating 20 Years. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. Register at [www.austinrunners.org/zilker-relays](http://www.austinrunners.org/zilker-relays)

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

## Sat 9

**Spooky Make and Watch.** 12 to 2 p.m. Join us in celebrating spooky season by watching "Hocus Pocus" and making Halloween-themed perler beads. St. John Branch, 7500 Blessing Ave. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

**Crafternoon.** 1 to 3 p.m. Bring in your own project or make the one provided and enjoy the company of a fellow crafter! Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)



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### Be Prepared with the Austin Fire

**Department.** 2 to 4 p.m. Join members of the Austin Fire Department to learn about fire safety and how you and your family can be prepared. Old Quarry Branch, 7051 Village Center Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

### 中文游园-Chinese Learning Playground

**@ Westbank.** 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. “中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground” is a Mandarin Chinese study group for school-age children. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2.

### Sun 10

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2.

### Mon 11

**Homeschool Hangout.** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Yarborough Branch invites all families who homeschool their children to a monthly social. Yarborough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Teen After School Program.** 4 to 5:30 p.m. Come to the library after school to play games, eat snacks and relax. Old Quarry Branch, 7051 Village Center Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Hands-On Crafting** (age 10+). 5 to 7 p.m. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**Craft Social Hour.** 6 to 7:30 p.m. BYOC (craft) and socialize with other makers. Manchaca Rd. Branch, 5500 Manchaca Rd. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Family Night: Wooden Panel Pumpkin Craft.** 6 to 6:45 p.m. Come for a fun-filled family evening at the library. We will schedule different activities such as crafts, special guests and more. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Adventure Club, see Mon 4.

### Tue 12

**Early Literacy Play Group.** 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Old Quarry Branch, 7051 Village Center Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Round Rock Express \$2 Taco Tuesday.** 12:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. \$2. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**Buda Arts Festival.** 5 to 10 p.m. Bring the family to enjoy art exhibits, a children's story time and live music. Most of the festival is free. Inspired Minds Art Center, 121 Main St. [www.inspiredminds.artbudartsfestival](http://www.inspiredminds.artbudartsfestival)

**Family Games.** 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**Live from the Library: Cast Iron Shoes.** 6 to 7 p.m. Every Tuesday in September, enjoy tunes with a view from the scenic rooftop garden at the Central Library. Cast Iron Shoes will perform. Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; STEAM Lab see Tue 5.

### Wed 13

**Puzzlepalooza.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Calling all jigsaw puzzle lovers! Yarborough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

### Hispanic Heritage Month Storytelling.

4:30 p.m. Come celebrate Hispanic Heritage month with stories told by Ann Benson. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**CONTINUED:** Teens Create: Watercolor Wednesdays. see Wed 6; The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Buda Arts Festival see Tue 12.

### Thu 14

**Fall Doorknob Hangers.** 2 to 2:45 p.m. The Homeschool Tween Group for kids 8-12 meets once a week to socialize, play games, make crafts and learn new skills. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

**Kids Create!** 4 to 5 p.m. Little Walnut Creek Branch, 835 W. Rundberg Ln. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Buda Arts Festival see Tue 12.

### Fri 15

**Big Kid Art** (age 8+). 2 to 3 p.m. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**Family Campout 2023.** 4 p.m. The City of Round Rock's Parks and Recreation Department presents the annual Family Campout. Old Settlers Park, [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Buda Arts Festival see Tue 12.

### Sat 16

**Garden Storytime.** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, and crafts in the garden for this outdoor story time. North Austin Community Garden, FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

**Doggie Dip.** 10 a.m. Join the City of Kyle Parks and Recreation Department for the 5th Annual Doggie Dip. James Adkins Pool, 700 Lehman Rd. [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com).

**Fiesta Austin - Diez y Seis.** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fiesta Austin pays tribute to Hispanic history, heritage and tradition. Fiesta Gardens West End, 2100 Jessie Segovia St. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Art Smart: Where Are You From?** 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. A story-telling program about family, memories and generations with songs, books, flannel-story and shadow puppet show. Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Get Crafty: Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes Kites.** 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Join us for this special hands-on workshop to make traditional Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes kites to celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Twin Oaks Branch, 1800 S. Fifth St. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Pecan St Festival.** 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Join the fun downtown with over 300 artisans, food vendors and kids activities. Downtown Austin, 6th St. FREE. [www.pecanstreetfestival.org](http://www.pecanstreetfestival.org)

**Let's Play Go!** 1 to 3 p.m. Are you a big fan of board games? The game of Go, also known as Weiqi, I-go or Baduk, is one of the oldest strategy games in the world. Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, 5125 Convict Hill Rd. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Viva Mexico.** 5 to 9 p.m. Live music and family-friendly activities. A community resource and market. Osqaldo A. B. Cantu Pan American Recreation Center, 2100 East 3rd. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2; 中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground @ Westbank, see Sat 9; Buda Arts Festival see Tue 12.

### Sun 17

**Austin Museum Day.** Check local museums for times. This annual event is an opportunity to visit the fabulous museums in Austin for FREE. For complete listing go to [www.austinmuseums.org](http://www.austinmuseums.org)

**Round Rock Express Fan Appreciation Day.** 1:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

### The Austin Hip Hop Honors Awards.

2 to 5 p.m. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of hip hop the Austin History Center will recognize Austin hip hop performing artists. Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2; Pecan St Festival see Sat 16.

### Mon 18

**Get Crafty: Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes Kites.** 4 to 6 p.m. Join us for this special hands-on workshop to make traditional Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes kites to celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Pleasant Hill Branch, 211 E. William Cannon Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Family Night: Code & Go® Robot Mouse Activities.** 6 to 6:45 p.m. Come for a fun-filled family evening at the library. We will schedule different activities such as crafts, special guests and more. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Adventure Club see Mon 4.

### Tue 19

**Kids Create.** 2 to 3 p.m. Kids Create focuses on literary inspiration. Enjoy a story and create a work of art based on a book. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Yarborough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Get Crafty: Papel Picado.** 3 to 5 p.m. Join us as we make Papel Picado out of tissue paper to decorate the branch for Hispanic Heritage Month and Día de los Muertos. St. John Branch, 7500 Blessing Ave. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Get Crafty: Pirate Day Edition.** 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. ARRR! It's Talk Like a Pirate Day. Come create pirate-themed crafts, such as spyglasses, pirate hats and treasure maps. Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)



**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 8:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? See Fri 1; STEAM Lab see Tue 5.

### Wed 20

**Música y Movimiento.** 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your favorite little one to stretch, sing in English and Spanish, dance & explore music with rhythm instruments. Recommended for ages 3-5. Yarbrough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

### Tween Time - Hello Fall Wood Slice

**Decoration.** 4:30 p.m. Tween programs are different every week. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 8:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**CONTINUED:** Teens Create: Watercolor Wednesdays. see Wed 6; The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

### Thu 21

**Homeschool Tweens - Word Games.** 2 to 2:45 p.m. The Homeschool Tween Group for kids 8-12 meets once a week to socialize, play games, make crafts and learn new skills. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov).

**Get Crafty: Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes Kites.** 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join us for this special hands-on workshop to make traditional Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes kites to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Willie Mae Kirk Branch, 3101 Oak Springs Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

**Teen Music Lab Presents: Making & Recording Music.** 6 to 7:30 p.m. Are you a teenager interested in making music? Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov).

**Bastrop Music Festival.** 6 p.m. Founded in 2018, Bastrop Music Festival is a four-day live music festival that includes around 40 shows at venues throughout Bastrop. Main St. Bastrop, Various Locations. \$20 and up. [www.bastropmusicfestival.com](http://www.bastropmusicfestival.com).

**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 9:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1.

### Fri 22

**Movie in the Park - "Encanto" (PG).** 7:30 p.m. The community is invited to bring something to sit on, blankets and chairs are allowed, as well as personal food and coolers. Pets must be on a leash. Gregg-Clarke Park basketball courts, 1231-1301 W. Center St., Kyle [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com).

**You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.** 7:30 p.m. Charles Schulz's beloved comic comes to life in Clark Gesner's classic musical. \$12-\$18 Inspired Minds Art Center, 121 Main St. [www.inspiredminds.artthe-chambers-theatre](http://www.inspiredminds.artthe-chambers-theatre)

**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 9:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Bastrop Music Festival see Thu 21.

### Sat 23

**Round Rock Public Safety Day.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Centennial Plaza, 301 West Bagdad. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

**Pflugerville Library Con.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled day of panels, crafts, cosplay, and gaming. Meet comic authors and artists, voice actors, cosplayers and more. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

**Pumpkin Festival.** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bring out the family and experience 6 uniquely themed weekends of unlimited fun with over 50 fall-inspired games, activities and attractions. Dr. Pound Historical Farmstead, 419 Founders Park Rd. \$15. [www.drippingspringspumpkinfestival.com](http://www.drippingspringspumpkinfestival.com).

**Dual Language Japanese-English Storytime by Austin Japan Community.** 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Our Japanese-English story time includes picture books and songs from Japan introduced in Japanese and English. Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Let's Play Go!** 2 to 4 p.m. Are you a big fan of board games? The game of Go, also known as Weiqi, I-go or Baduk, is one of the oldest strategy games in the world. Spicewood Springs Branch, FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 8:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**Harvest of Fall Fun.** Enjoy a hayride, maze, face painting, pick your own flowers, scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin painting and more. Sweet Berry Farm, 1801 FM 1980. Burnet. [www.sweetberryfarm.com](http://www.sweetberryfarm.com).

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**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2; 中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground @ Westbank, see Sat 9; Bastrop Music Festival see Thu 21; You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown see Fri 22; Let's Play Go! see Sat 17.

#### Sun 24

**Family Movie Matinee.** 2 to 4:30 p.m. Little Walnut Creek Branch, 835 W. Rundberg Ln. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Round Rock Express Tacoma.** 3:35 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. [www.milb.com](http://www.milb.com).

**CONTINUED:** The Lorax: Who Speaks for the Trees Now? see Fri 1; Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2; Bastrop Music Festival see Thu 21; You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown see Fri 22; Pumpkin Festival, see Sat 23; Harvest of Fall Fun see Sat 23.

#### Mon 25

**STEM Builder Lab.** 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Come to STEM Builder Lab to hear, see, make and create different stories, all while building with creative building materials provided by the Yarbrough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Adventure Club.** 4 to 5 p.m. Join us for after school activities and exploration with ATLAS Club. Each week you can learn a new skill or explore STEAM activities. Ages 8-12. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**CONTINUED:** Adventure Club, see Mon 4.

#### Tue 26

**CONTINUED:** STEAM Lab see Tue 5.

#### Wed 27

##### Teens Create: Watercolor Wednesdays.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teens 13-18 are invited to come create with us every Wednesday with collaborative art projects and new mediums introduced throughout the year. Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Gallery. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Family Movie Night: "Coco."** 6 to 7:30 p.m. Celebrate Hispanic & Latino Heritage Month with a family-friendly show. Old Quarry Branch, 7051 Village Center Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

#### Thu 28

##### Homeschool Tweens - 3D Printer Demo.

2 to 2:45 p.m. The Homeschool Tween Group for kids 8-12 meets once a week to socialize, play games, make crafts and learn new skills. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [www.library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.library.pflugervilletx.gov)

#### Fri 29

##### Movies in the Park: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

7 to 10 p.m. It tells the story of a high school slacker who skips school with his best friend and his girlfriend for a day in Chicago and regularly breaks the rules. Onion Creek Metro Park, 8652 Nuckols Crossing. FREE. [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

**Music in the Park.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Spend your Friday nights every summer with us in Pfluger Park! 515 City Park Rd. [www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

**CONTINUED:** You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown see Fri 22.

#### Sat 30

**Car Seat Check-Up Event.** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A certified child passenger safety technician will check your car seat for recalls and make sure it is the right fit for your child. Dell Children's Medical Center, 4900 Mueller Blvd. FREE. [www.ascensioin.org](http://www.ascensioin.org).

##### Get Crafty: Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes

**Kites.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join us for this special hands-on workshop to make traditional Guatemalan Barrilete Gigantes kites to celebrate el Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Windsor Park Branch, 5833 Westminster Dr. FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)

**Shine On: Harvest Moon!** 1 to 4 p.m. Come enjoy poem recitation in different languages, board games, lantern making and riddles, tea ceremony with mooncakes, dance and music performance. Spicewood Springs Branch, FREE. [www.library.austintexas.gov](http://www.library.austintexas.gov)


##### Mother Son Superhero Night.

5 to 8 p.m. Join us for a superhero-filled night as you connect with your son(s) and make lasting memories. Heritage Park, 901 Old Austin Hutto Rd. [www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

**CONTINUED:** Paquito y Abuelito see Sat 2; 中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground @ Westbank, see Sat 9; You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown see Fri 22; Pumpkin Festival see Sat 23; Harvest of Fall Fun see Sat 23.

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