

January 2025

FREE

AUSTIN FAMILY

smart parenting • healthy homes

Serving Austin Families Since 1992

Achieving Family Goals in 2025

9 Post-Holiday Learning Groove Tips

Resolution: Become Better Parents

Must Do's for the New Year

Follow Us on



Inside: Calendar • Education Guide • Austin in Action • Summer Camp Guide

Others "do" lessons...

We TEACH Swimming!™



Two Locations!

Cedar Park

& Bee Cave



Winner from 2010 to 2024



**OPENING
in Kyle, TX in
January!**

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.NITROSWIM.COM

LEARNING WITH A



HIGHER PURPOSE

Are you looking for a school that nurtures your child's faith, Intellect, and character? Come experience all that **Brentwood Christian School** has to offer at our upcoming Admissions Open House!



Being recognized as Austin's Best Private School for three consecutive years shows you don't have to decide between affordability and a high-quality education. At **Brentwood Christian School**, we ensure that every student is known, valued, and provided with the educational experience needed to set them up for success.

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Join us on Sunday, February 23rd, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

RSVP Today:



11908 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, Texas 78753 • 512.835.5983 EXT. 11

NOW ACCEPTING applications for K3 – 12th Grade.

CONTENTS

COLUMNS

- 8 Lifelines.**
Must Do's for the New Year
- 17 Family Matters.**
Resolution: Become Better Parents
Check www.austinfamily.com for the Spanish version.
- 18 Learning Curve.**
9 Post-Holiday Learning Groove Tips
- 25 Kid Zone.**
Exploring 3-D Art Through Paper Structures

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Austin In Action.**
News and Notes
- 21 Calendar.**
Check www.austinfamily.com for daily updates.

EXTRAS

- 10 Education Guide.**
- 11 Summer Camp Guide.**

TUNE IN



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

FEATURE



6

Achieving Family Goals in 2025



Brody is a happy, positive, helpful big brother, who treasures family time. He loves to be silly, dancing, and enjoying 18 holes with his dad and little brother.

Photo taken by Jordan Ashley Photography.



View the magazine online

PUBLISHER
Kaye Kemper Lowak

EDITOR
Celeste Dianne Wade
editor2003@austinfamily.com

COPY EDITOR
Jess McLean

ADVISING EDITORS
Dr. Betty Richardson, Barb Matijevich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Susie Forbes

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Alison Bogle, Sarah Lyons, Catherine Michalk, Dr. Betty Richardson

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

We are dedicated to serving the Greater Austin area by providing up-to-date information and ideas that promote smart parenting and healthy homes. We promote our clients' businesses by increasing their customer bases and enhancing their public images.

Austin Family is published monthly by KKKemper, Inc. Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7559, Round Rock, Texas 78683-7559
Phone Number: 512-733-0038
On the web at: www.austinfamily.com

Advertising rates are available upon request. While we use great care in creating our display ads, mistakes can happen. Austin Family and the publisher are not liable for any damages arising from any typographical or mechanical errors beyond the cost of the ad. Austin Family does not necessarily endorse any of the advertisers, products or services listed in this publication. We do not assume responsibility for statements made by advertisers or editorial contributors.

Subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Copyright 2025. All rights reserved.

No portion of Austin Family magazine may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

Please support our advertisers.

Editor's Note



CELESTE DIANNE WADE

Wade is a writer, public speaker, and a popular health coach in Austin. The eldest of seven children, she loves travel adventures with family.

Happy New Year, Austin friends and family! It is my honor to be the editor of *Austin Family Magazine* and ring in the new year with a renewed 2025 commitment to "Smart Parenting" and "Healthy Homes." As your editor, I love to bring you content each month with the hope the articles we publish will encourage and empower you on your parenting adventure.

Smart Parenting

Smart parenting is a thoughtful, intentional approach to parenting that aims to help children reach their full potential. In each issue, we hope to assist you with understanding your child, learning skills, communicating your values, building intrinsic motivation, and setting goals with your children.

Healthy Homes

I hope our articles contribute to your family's healthy home life. We aim to provide a caring, motivating, and inspiring approach to situations you experience with your children.

Remember on Thursday mornings, to tune in to FOX 7 Austin to catch our media correspondent Alison Bogle discussing all the great content you can find inside the pages of *Austin Family Magazine*.

Children grow up so fast, so seize the moment to explore and discover new Austin adventures in 2025!

DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD

PBS KIDS Austin PBS

New episodes and an all-new game! Watch on the PBS KIDS Video app and play on the PBS KIDS Games app!

PBS KIDS and the PBS KIDS logo are trademarks owned by Public Broadcasting Service. Used with permission. DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD © 2012, The Fred Rogers Company. All rights reserved.

Austin IN ACTION

GO TO WWW.AUSTINFAMILY.COM FOR WEEKLY UPDATES OF AUSTIN IN ACTION NEWS

January Did You Know?

January 20, 2025

60th Inauguration Day
Source: www.nps.gov/subjects/inauguration

January 26, 1839

Texas Congress allocated 288,000 acres for a publicly funded university (eventually called UT)
Source: www.fox7austin.com

January 31, 1949

Austin's Coldest Day on Record
Source: www.tshaonline.org

Modernization Begins at Pecan Springs Elementary School

Austin Independent School District (AISD) held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the official start of renovations for Pecan Springs Elementary School. The school is receiving full campus modernization as part of the district's 2022 Bond Program. The project will include new flexible spaces, safety and security upgrades, outdoor learning areas, and other unique features to support a diverse range of learning styles.

Students, teachers, district leaders, and community members gathered at the school to celebrate the milestone event. Every AISD modernization project has a Campus Architectural Team (CAT) consisting of teachers, staff, families, and community members.

The team offers input to the architect and construction teams throughout the planning process to help ensure that the new facilities address the specific needs of their school by incorporating input from their respective communities. For more information on the 2022 Bond Program visit www.AISDFuture.com.



Photo Credit: Christian Ibarra Contreras, AISD



Photo Credit: Harmony Public Schools

Fifth Grader Anant Choudhary Wins National "Talent for Writing" Award

Anant Choudhary, a fifth-grade student from Mrs. Roohi's class at Harmony School of Endeavor in Austin, has been honored with the "Talent for Writing" award for his submission to the national Young Writers "Scary Tales" contest.

The Young Writers "Scary Tales" contest is a national competition designed to inspire students nationwide to explore their imaginations, enhance their writing skills, and embrace the joys of creative expression. The contest challenged elementary school students to craft spooky stories, showcasing originality and literary talent.

"I was surprised and happy when I received the award," said Anant, reflecting on his achievement. Anant, the only student from Harmony School of Endeavor to enter the contest, won with his story, "Lose to Sin."

Dr. Altindag, Area Superintendent for Harmony Public Schools, expressed pride in Anant's accomplishment, stating, "Anant's success is a testament to the incredible potential of our students and the supportive environment provided by our dedicated educators. We celebrate his achievement and look forward to seeing him continue to thrive."

COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER

Are You Ready For An Adventure?

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: We offer a nationally accredited, innovative educational program in a beautiful state-of-the-art facility, where a warm and caring staff utilizes an exclusive curriculum and the very best in educational toys and equipment!

- Full & Part Time: Infants - Age 13
- Drop-Ins Accepted
- Exciting, Theme-Based Educational Units
- Includes All of Our "On-Campus" Enrichment Destinations
- Hours: 6:30am - 6:30pm

SUMMER CAMP: Join us for an incredible Summer-Camp experience!

- Kinder - 13 Years
- Fabulous Weekly Field Trips to Exciting Destinations
- In-House, Special Events
- Splash Days in Our Waterpark
- Kids' Choice Special Interest Clubs

OUR "ON-CAMPUS" ENRICHMENT DESTINATIONS

- Country Home Waterpark
- Adventure Jungle Indoor Playground
- 1950's-Style Soda Shop for Cooking & Science Projects
- Country Home Movie Theater
- Putt-Putt Golf Course
- Arts/Crafts Lab & Computer Lab
- Large Indoor Gym & Basketball Court
- Student ABCMouse.com Accounts
- iPad Station & Interactive Whiteboard

NOW ENROLLING: Full & Part Time for Preschool & After School!

Call & Enroll Today!
 North Austin 512-331-1441
 South Austin 512-288-8220



View all 10 of Our Locations at www.countryhomelearningcenter.com



★★★★★

"The funnest thing in the history of funnest things!"
 - Sarah F. (6yrs old)

Lil' Dragons

Introductory Special **Only 39.95**

- Week of classes
- FREE Lil' Dragons Uniform



BEST PARENTAL READERS POLL FAVORITES
 SINCE 2007

WINNER SINCE 2007




5775 Airport Blvd, Suite 600
 Austin, TX 78752
 Next to **Kick Butt Coffee**

QR Scan to see "the funnest thing in the history of funnest things!"

Register Now!
www.MasterGohring.com

Helping Parents Pave the Way for Their Child's Future Success



- ✔ Innovative curriculum that promotes experiential learning to foster creativity and exploration
- ✔ Skilled teachers with specialized training in early childhood education
- ✔ Beautiful campus with inspiring classrooms and safe, interactive outdoor spaces
- ✔ High-level safety protocols designed to ensure the well-being of every student
- ✔ We create a nurturing, inclusive community that celebrates each child's uniqueness and encourages collaboration



Schedule your tour today!

Serving Infants - Pre-Kindergarten
www.brightstaracademyschools.com

Bright Star Academy Schools
 Location: 801 North Vista Ridge Blvd., Cedar Park, TX 78613
 Phone: (512) 842-6640

Achieving Family Goals in



CATHERINE MICHALK

Michalk is a native Austinite, writer, and mom of three. You can follow her family's adventures at www.catherinemichalk.com

January is here. It's time to plan for the year ahead. Around 30% of Americans make New Year's resolutions to improve their lives. Typically, New Year's resolutions are for adults making goals about their health, finances, hobbies, or personal relationships. But have you ever thought about helping your kids set family goals or make family resolutions? Involving children in yearly goal setting strengthens your family unit and means your kids are more likely to strive for and reach those goals. Seeing a resolution through the end of the year also helps children understand how hard work pays off. Goal setting can help kids develop into strong adults, dream big, and plan. It can also help them build confidence and learn how to prioritize. Here is how you can help your kids make resolutions for a great 2025!

1. **Look back and see what worked.** Ask your kids to think back to their highs and lows of 2024. What made them happy? What challenged them? What would they enjoy doing

more of? Did they love playing soccer? Did they wish they scored more goals? Did they make a new friend at school? Are they saving up to buy something special?

As parents, think about what works for your family. If you're battling a busy schedule with little downtime, think about goals you could set to help resolve that. If you notice your kids complaining or being short with each other, think about setting a kindness goal. Consider what activities make you feel like a cohesive family unit and set goals to foster those things.

2. **Have a growth mindset.** As parents of adults will tell you, the end goal of parenting isn't to make your kids happy all the time. Few children will feel happy learning how to do the dishes, but learning that skill will serve them well as adults with their own homes and families. Parents should consider goals and resolutions to help their children grow and be more independent. Nurturing

independence is especially important for children transitioning from toddler to elementary and elementary to teen. Toddler goals can be as easy as learning what every letter of the alphabet sounds like, while elementary goals can be learning to cook breakfast or keeping their room clean. Teens can set goals like attending a CPR class or a babysitting course.

Growth doesn't only look like doing chores or going to school. Maturity can also come from hobby goals. If your child received a camera for Christmas, his goal could be to learn how to use it and edit the photos in time to take next year's family pictures. If you have a kid interested in baking, a goal can be to learn how to bake a loaf of bread or find the best chocolate chip cookie recipe. Each kid will have different needs, but there is always room for growth.

3. Don't forget about having fun. While growth and improvement are common New Year's resolutions, they don't need to be the only goals you set. As your family thinks back on 2024, think of the fun things you did. Did you find a new favorite restaurant? Did you see a play or a musical? Fun resolutions are about broadening your child's horizons, and Austin is a great place to accomplish this. If your kid loves pizza, your resolution can be to find the best pizza in Austin via weekly family dinners. Families who want to spend more quality time together can resolve to spend Friday nights playing board games, or Saturday mornings exploring Austin's many trails.

4. Keeping your resolutions. Giving up on a New Year's resolution is almost as common as making it in the first place. How can you help your family keep your resolutions in 2025?

- **Be a role model.** Set a personal goal. Discuss the challenges you experience in meeting your goals. Ask your kids for help and support, offer guidance and assistance, as they work towards their goals.
- **Make your goals visible.** Encourage kids to write down their goals in places where they will see them frequently. Multiple visual reminders will help them be mindful of what they are working towards and if they are making progress. Help children create a plan for how to meet their goals, including a timeline for implementing the steps. Assist them with designing ways to monitor progress and regularly update their goals. Display a family wall calendar so your kids can see what is coming and get excited. Fill in the calendar with things that will help you reach your goals, for

example: "Family Game Night" or "Family Hike" on weekends. If your goal is something more consistent, like making your bed every morning, write a daily to-do list for your kid and put it in a prominent place.

- **Make it fun!** It is easy to give up on a goal if that goal is no fun or doesn't offer a reward. Adults understand the benefits of long-term goals like eating better and exercising regularly, but kids don't comprehend delayed gratification. Give them something to look forward to by making it a game. For example, if their goal is to keep their bathroom clean, create a cleaning reward chart. Every time their bathroom is clean at the end of the week, they get a check, and for every five checks, they receive a special treat.
- **Don't take on too much.** Set realistic goals. Break big goals into smaller, more manageable steps. If you try to take on too much, your kids will feel discouraged and give up on their goals. You want your kids to reflect on 2025 and feel proud of how they met their goals, not overwhelmed and disappointed because they tried to do too much.
- **Remember, habits take time.** Encourage your children to keep trying at their goals and resolutions, even if it feels difficult. Good habits take time and effort to develop, but seeing the results of your hard work is always worth it. When your kids fail to keep their rooms clean, or your family is too busy a few weeks in a row to keep up family game night, that's ok. It is a lesson for your kids. When things are difficult, or they feel like they have failed, it is never too late to try again and succeed.

Throughout the year, help your children notice where progress is made and ask they think and feel about meeting a goal. Help children acknowledge progress, reflect on learnings, and nurture self-motivation as a lifelong skill for success.

Posting your goals on Instagram can be a fun way for your friends and family to celebrate your progress throughout the months ahead. Posting your goals would be a fun way for your friends and family to join you in setting a goal. Austin Family can't wait to hear about your family goals and 2025 resolutions. Share today and tag @atx-family, so we can encourage your family along the way.

Must Do's for the New Year

Lifelines

SARAH LYONS

Lyons is a freelance writer and mom of six children, including triplets. She enjoys reading, writing, and spending time outdoors with her family.



Last year, my husband and I set a goal to set up our will and estate plan. It forced us to look at who would become guardians of our children, what we would do in the event of one spouse's death, how and when money would be allocated, etc. These conversations were difficult simply because of the subject matter. Although this process wasn't enjoyable, I'm so glad we checked it off our list because we can both rest assured that our children will be taken care of, and our affairs are in order if needed.

As we begin a new year, it's not uncommon to reflect on the highs and lows of the previous year, as well as our accomplishments. We may also reflect on what items we did not accomplish. Even those who enjoy setting goals and meeting them may have a few items on the to-do list that have been put off. As you set goals and intentions for the new year, consider tackling some of these important, but not always fun, must do's that you have been delaying.

APPOINTING GUARDIANS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Our children are the most cherished part of our lives, and it is irresponsible not to consider who would care for them if something were to happen to both parents. While this scenario may be unlikely, it is best to have a plan –so parents' wishes are followed– if they are not around to speak for themselves. Discuss with your co-parent and come to an agreement you are both comfortable with. After you have chosen guardians, ask them to make sure they are comfortable with the plan. It doesn't hurt to have a backup if your first choice doesn't work out. Make sure you put it in writing.

RETIREMENT AND ESTATE PLANNING

Once you have the guardians established and are ready to put it in writing, you can create a will or estate. Have you planned for retirement? When will you retire, and how will you pay expenses after retirement? Who will inherit your assets and money after you pass? How will it be divided,

and when will it be received? Do you have life insurance to help support the surviving spouse and children? These questions are not fun to talk about but are very necessary. If your wishes aren't in writing, you can't guarantee they will be followed as you had hoped. Confusion can lead to strife within the family, or the challenge of your assets being tied up in probate for years. To set up your will or estate, contact an attorney or a financial advisor. They can help guide you through the process so you are confident your affairs are in order.

BREAK A BAD HABIT

Habits are hard to break. Choose one habit you wish to reduce or eliminate (smoking, eating junk food, spending too much time on social media, etc.). Replace it with a healthy habit such as exercising, meditation, or reading. Set a goal, start small, and take it one day at a time. It can be helpful to choose an accountability partner who can check in on your progress and encourage you if you have the desire to give up or have a relapse.

TELL PEOPLE HOW YOU FEEL

It's never too late to tell someone how you feel about them. Do something special to let your spouse know you care. Call your grandparents and ask them to share stories of their childhood. Hug your kids and spend time laughing with them. Make memories, forgive others, spread kindness, and settle disagreements. Life is too short.

CLEAN THE CLOSET

Most of us have a junk drawer, closet, garage, or basement that we have ignored for months, years, or even decades. Pick one area in the house you have been neglecting and sort through the items. It feels great to donate or throw away things you no longer need. It's time to let go of those favorite jeans from high school. You will probably never wear them again anyway. As you purge, reorganize the items you plan to keep. If you have a lot to tackle, start small. Focus on one area of the house and narrow it down to one closet, shelf, or drawer at a time if needed.

Do something you've been putting off.

- "I've always wanted to run a marathon."
- "I'm going to write a book."
- "I'd like to travel to Europe."

We all have one dream that has always been in our minds. Whether it's a fitness goal, a travel destination, or a daring adventure like skydiving, there always seems to be a reason to put it off. Now is the time. This year, make plans to do what you have always wanted. If it's not in the budget right now, start saving and set a goal to make it happen soon.

As the new year begins, allow yourself to tackle one item on your lifetime to-do list that you may have been procrastinating. These tasks may not be fun, but they are worthwhile.

HOW TO AVOID PROCRASTINATION

- **Develop a plan** - Depending on what you are putting off, this could mean a list or a strategic plan. Either way, set goals and a timeline for how you will achieve them.
- **Be consistent** - Creating a new habit is difficult. Consistency is key.
- **Don't get discouraged** - When you feel like giving up, keep going.
- **Celebrate milestones** - Allow yourself to enjoy rewards as you meet goals. This could be buying yourself a small gift or just giving yourself a break to do something you love.
- **Find an accountability partner** - Having someone to check in with will help you stay on track.

Bored to Brilliant

BASIS
TEXAS
Charter Schools
Grades K-12

#1

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
USNews
NATIONAL 2024

Join the #1 charter school network in the U.S.!

Join our network-wide Prospective Parent Virtual Info Session

January 22 at 6 p.m.
RSVP Today!

enrollBASISTX.com

BASIS Austin 1605 Kramer Ln. Austin, TX 78758	BASIS Pflugerville 1217 S. 10th St. Pflugerville, TX 78660	BASIS Cedar Park 165 N. Lakeline Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 78613
--	---	--

EDUCATION GUIDE

PRIVATE SCHOOL

	GRADES	LOCATION	PHONE	WEBSITE
BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	PreK4-12	North Austin	512-835-5983	www.brentwoodchristian.org
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL OF ST. MARY'S	PreK3-8	DT Austin	512-476-1480	www.smcschoolaustin.org
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-8	Avery Ranch	512-341-8000	www.challengerschool.com
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-K	Pond Springs	512-258-1299	www.challengerschool.com
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-K	Round Rock	512-255-8844	www.challengerschool.com
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	North Austin	512-246-4455	www.holyfamilycs.org
KIRBY HALL SCHOOL	PreK4-8	Central Austin	512-474-1770	www.kirbyhallschool.org
PARAGON PREP	PreK3-8	North Austin	512-459-5040	www.paragonprep.com
REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL	15 mos-Grade 8	North Austin	512-451-6478	www.redeemerschool.net
SAN JUAN DIEGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	9-12	South Austin	512-804-1935	www.sjdchs.org
SANTA CRUZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	Buda	512-312-2137	www.sccstx.org
ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-8	DT Austin	512-477-3751	www.staustinschool.org
ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	9-12	North Austin	512-388-8846	www.saviochs.org
ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL + ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY	PreK-8	West Austin	512-327-7755	www.sgs-austin.org
ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK4-8	Georgetown	512-869-3244	www.shclsions.org
ST. IGNATIUS MARTYR CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-8	South Austin	512-442-8547	www.school.st-ignatius.org
ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	K-8	North Austin	512-614-6622	www.slcsaustin.org
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-12	Taylor	512-352-2313	www.stmarystaylor.org
ST. THERESA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	North Austin	512-451-7105	www.st-theresa.org

KINDERGARTEN/PREK MONTESSORI DAY CARE

BRIGHT STAR	Inf-PreK	Cedar Park	512-842-6640	www.brightstaracademyschools.com
CARPE DIEM	6 wks-12 yrs	Pflugerville	512-572-0400	www.endeavormontessori.com
ENDEAVOR MONTESSORI	Inf-PreK	Leander	512-957-9159	www.carpediemschool.com
EXTEND-A-CARE YMCA FOR KIDS	3-8 yrs	77 area campuses	512-472-9402	www.austinyymca.org/locations/extend-a-care
SNAPDRAGON PRESCHOOL (Must be potty-trained)	3-5 yrs	North Austin	512-593-6226	www.snapdragonpreschool.com
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY SCHOOL	2-5	North Austin	512-346-2992	www.spicewoodcountry.com
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	Inf-12 yrs	17 locations in Austin area	512-459-0258	www.steppingstoneschool.com

CHARTER SCHOOL

BASIS AUSTIN	K-12	North Austin	737-263-5890	www.basisedtx.com/austin
BASIS PFLUGERVILLE	K-12	Pflugerville	737-263-5890	www.basisedtx.com/pflugerville
BASIS CEDAR PARK	K-12	Cedar Park	737-263-5890	www.enrollbasistx.com/cedarpark
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-8	North Austin	512-835-7900	www.hsaaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION	PreK-5	Southeast Austin	512-300-0895	www.hsiaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE	6-12	Southeast Austin	512-693-0000	www.hseaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-5	Cedar Park	512-494-5151	www.hsacp.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF ENDEAVOR	PreK-12	North Austin	512-284-9880	www.hspaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE	PreK-5	North Austin	512-821-1700	www.hssaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	6-12	Pflugerville	512-251-5000	www.hsapflugerville.harmonytx.org



CAMP BUILDS STRONG KIDS.

CAMP
CHAMPIONS
CAMPCHAMPIONS.COM



WATCH THE VIDEO



SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

CAMP	AGES	WEBSITE	PHONE	LOCATION
SUMMER CAMPS				
ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N/S
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C/RR
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com	512-593-6226	S/C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-Adult	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.newkennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
NITRO SWIM	Inf-Adult	www.nitrosim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SKYDOME PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP	Family Camp	www.skydone-education.org		BR
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	18 locations
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texasHORSECAMPS.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergydancestudio.com	512-327-4130	W
TEX-ARTS	5-18 yrs	www.tex-arts.org	512-852-9079	LT

DAY CAMPS

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N, S
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C/RR
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com	512-593-6226	S/C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-18 yrs	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NITRO SWIM		www.nitrosim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	18 locations
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergydancestudio.com	512-327-4130	W
TEX-ARTS	5-18 yrs	www.tex-arts.org	512-852-9079	LT

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX

LOCATIONS
N, C, S, E, W, NW, SW, EC
for Austin locations

BR Burnet
CP for Cedar Park

LT Lake Travis
PF for Pflugerville

RR for Round Rock

OVERNIGHT CAMPS CONTINUED

CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texashorsecamps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SKYDOME PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP	Family Camp	www.skydone-education.org		BR

ACADEMIC CAMPS

COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N/S
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.ideaabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SKYDOME PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP	Family Camp	www.skydone-education.org		BR
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations

ART CAMPS

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C, RR
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations

SPORT CAMPS

CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jump-austin.com	512-705-9659	S/C
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-18 yrs	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NITRO SWIM		www.nitroswim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texashorsecamps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations

TRADITIONAL CAMPS

CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX



PARAGON PREP

Private School | Age 3-Grade 8

WORK HARD. PLAY HARD.

Since 1997, Paragon Prep has provided a dynamic, fun, and stimulating environment in exchange for a student and parental commitment to excellence. From age 3 to grade 8, students are engaged and challenged every day to learn to think logically and independently, value honesty, self-reliance and respect for others, and apply their learning to real-world situations.

THE PARAGON PREP DIFFERENCE:

- 📌 Innovative curriculum
- 📌 Experienced and caring teachers
- 📌 Extensive athletics, clubs, and class trips
- 📌 Robust student support programs



Scan to RSVP.

JOIN OUR OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 15

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Accredited by Texas Alliance of Accreditation Private Schools (TAAPS)





Ragsdale Family Camps
A SUMMER YOU WON'T FORGET!

Camp Stewart for Boys **Heart O' the Hills for Girls**

Separate camps for boys and girls ages 6-16, on the beautiful Guadalupe River near Kerrville.

Experience Fun, Independence, Friendship, Self-Confidence, & Courage (to name a few!)

Offering many activities including horseback, archery, canoeing, riflery, swimming, arts and crafts, camping under the stars & so much more.

For more details, please visit us at:

www.CampStewart.com www.HOHcamp.com



SkyDome

PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY ART & SCIENCE CAMP

SPRING BREAK FAMILY CAMP
MARCH 16-23, 2025
All ages
Pinhole Camera Photography
Naturalist Activities
Day-Hiking, Mountain-Biking, Kayaking

Canyon of the Eagles Lodge
Lake Buchanan, Texas

Additional programs and to learn more:
skydome-education.org



Camps & Parties
Sparking Imaginative Learning!
Sign-Up Today!
Austin.MadScience.org
512-892-1143







NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING **Ages 3-19**

FULL SCALE PRODUCTIONS

Shrek, The Musical
Ages 5-17

Seussification of Romeo & Juliet
Ages 8-17

SEMESTER CLASSES

Triple Threat
Descendants, Trolls, Barbie & Friends, Sing 2, Willy Wonka, & Matilda

Adventures in Acting
Spider-Verse, Super Mario Bros, & Addams Family

Wicked - Show Choir
Work with a vocal coach & choreographer!

Acting for TV & Film

Comedy / Improv

Imagination Friends
Creative fun for Pre-K kids!

SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS

SING • DANCE • ACT • LAUGH



Camp JUMP!

Austin's Most Fun Summer Camp!

Camps are weekly
June 2 - August 15
Ages *3-10
*Must be potty trained

FULL DAY (8:30-3:00) \$445
HALF DAY (9:00-1:00) \$355

\$150 deposit per week/per child
10% sibling discount

JUNE 2-6	Superheroes
JUNE 9-13	Rockstar
JUNE 16-20	Space Odyssey
JUNE 23-27	Robots
JUNE 30 - JULY 3	Olympic Stars*
JULY 7-11	Undercover Agents
JULY 14-18	Rainforest Funfari
JULY 21-25	Jurassic Journey
JULY 28 - AUG 1	X Marks the Spot
AUGUST 4-8	Passport to Adventure
AUGUST 11-15	Mermaid Island

* Closed July 4



Register now! www.JumpGymnastics.com ☎ 512-593-6226

Jump! North 2117 W Anderson Ln North@jump-austin.com	Jump! Domain 10910 Domain Dr #112 Domain@jump-austin.com	Jump! South 6800 West Gate Blvd #111 South@jump-austin.com
---	---	---

SOAK UP THE SPOTLIGHT

THIS SUMMER AT TEXARTS

MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS INSPIRED BY

Lilo & Stitch **WICKED**

SONGS OF TAYLOR **MOANA**

THE LION KING

NEW CAMPS ADDED ALL THE TIME!

LEARN MORE!




Celebrating 8 years of amazing Summer Camps!

Summer Camp Registration
Now Open at both Austin Campuses

15% OFF
with code AFM!



Central: 8620 Burnet Rd.
Austin 78757 • 512-494-6744

NW Austin: 13642 N Hwy 183 #330
Austin 78750 • 512-291-7510



Cordovan
ART school
Early Bird Art Camp Sale!

\$50 OFF

Spring Break & Summer Camps

5-Day Camps - Half-Day or Full Day
Cannot be combined with other offers
Expires January 31, 2025



www.CordovanArtSchool.com



SPICEWOOD Country Camp

"A 45-year tradition for children 4 to 10 1/2 in Northwest Austin"

Safe, shaded day camp with an emphasis on swimming, horseback riding, sports & outdoor activities and art.

2 Week Sessions

Session 1: May 27	Session 4: July 7
Session 2: June 9	Session 5: July 21
Session 3: June 23	Session 6: Aug 4

Prices: \$860 for 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
\$1,030 for 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

6102 Spicewood Springs Rd. • 512-346-2992 • www.spicewoodcountry.com





Join Us for our
Summer Camp Weeks
(For Girls Only) or
Mothers & Daughters!

Sugar and Spice Ranch is a camp for girls only!
We specialize in creating a positive bonding experience
through a variety of horseback riding activities!



Offering:

- Girls only summer camps
- Mother & daughter summer camps
- Mother & Daughter weekends
- Women-only weekends,
- Family weekends
- Summer camps



Sugar and Spice Ranch
"Bonding Mothers & Daughters Through Horses"

830.460.8487
www.TexasHorseCamps.com





SWITCH WILLO STABLES
Since 1963

Best Of

2010-2024

SUMMER CAMP
May 26 - August 8
\$575/week

- Daily Riding Instruction
- Horse Care Lessons
- Proper Safety and Barn Etiquette
- Farrier Visits • Arts & Crafts
- Horse Show On Friday

SPRING BREAK CAMP
March 17-21, 2025
\$575/week

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
www.switchwillo.com/dates-registration. Limited spaces available.
Proudly serving the Austin Equestrian community for over 60 years.

www.switchwillo.com



More Rebates. More Savings.

Want a more comfortable and energy efficient home?

Austin Energy can help you with:

- » Rebates on home energy upgrades.
- » Discounts on energy efficient products.
- » Free home weatherization if you rent or own.
- » Tips to save energy and money.



Learn more at
**AustinEnergy.com/
HomeRebates**



Customer Driven.
Community Focused™

© 2025 Austin Energy

Family Matters



DR. BETTY RICHARDSON

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



Resolution: Become Better Parents

Q My husband asked about my New Year's resolution. I shared that my resolution for 2025 is to be a better mother to our children ages 4, 7, and 12. He liked my idea and decided to resolve to be a better father. What do you think of our resolutions? Do you have any suggestions for us?

A Being a better mother or father is a great resolution. Where to begin? Ask yourself, "What do kids need?" They need a sense of safety and belonging. When my children were young and lived at home, I checked on my kids at night. One night, my son, upon seeing my flashlight, asked what I was doing. I answered, "Checking on you to make sure you're safe." They need hugs and to know they are loved. They need time with you. My daughter reminded me that her father and I took her and her brother, from birth on, lots of places. She pointed out that when most kids are preteens or teens, they tend to distance themselves from their parents, while she and her brother just kept loading up with us when it was time to go.

Here are some suggestions for you and your husband.

- 1. Spend individual time with each of your children every day.** Learn something new about each child. Do you know their favorite color, best friend, or favorite subject?
- 2. Teach skills to your children.** You and your husband have skills to teach; skills that will benefit your kids, not only now, but as they are growing up and throughout their lives. Begin with easy skills such as setting the table and cooking something easy. Teach your children to save money. Help them open savings accounts. Provide chores for making money. Ask about their dream careers for work when they are adults. As they mature, encourage them to try age-appropriate, challenging skills like checking the oil in a car and changing a tire.
- 3. Plan a family trip.** Take a picnic to the park or plan a bigger trip such as to a museum. Trips provide an opportunity to practice new parenting skills and build family memories.

4. Help your children with reading skills. Take them to your library to choose books. Read to them, and ask them to read to you and your husband.

5. Volunteer for your children's classroom and school. Volunteer and serve in the community with your children. Take an interest in the things that interest your kids, and find a place to volunteer together. Take time off from work to attend school events. It can be traumatic to be the only child who never has a parent at school activities designed for parent involvement.

Being a better mother or father involves spending time with your kids. Journaling can help you avoid days and weeks passing without making progress on your resolutions. Whether you journal or not, remember to set aside time to focus on your kids each day.

VISITAR www.austinfamily.com
Resolución: Ser mejores padres

9 Post-Holiday Learning Groove Tips

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.



The holidays are over, and while many of us parents enjoy a return to predictable routines and schedules, often the same cannot be said about our children. Most kids are less than thrilled to exchange the days of sleeping in, relaxation, and extra screen time for homework, reading, and early mornings. Returning to a learning groove after the holidays can be a big adjustment, but it doesn't have to be a battle with these tips to help your child ease back into his school routine.

1. Start early

If you wait until the night before school starts to reinstate a proper bedtime, your holiday night owl will struggle to fall asleep and transform into a bear by morning. Set him up for success by making bedtime 15 minutes earlier each night until you're close to his regular bedtime by the time the holiday break is over. Start encouraging earlier wakeups as well. Returning to his sleep schedule will help him be alert in class and less likely to crash from exhaustion when it's time to knock out his homework.

2. Create a schedule

Kids thrive on routine, so establish a consistent weekday schedule and post it where the whole family can see it. Schedule times for homework, breaks, and reading, but keep it flexible enough to avoid stress. The more predictable the routine, the easier it will be for your child to get back into the rhythm of school days. Once everyone is back on track, you can do away with the routine, but don't be surprised if it helps your child thrive.

"9 Ways to Help Kids Get Back Into a Learning Groove After the Holidays"

3. Set fun goals

Turn learning into a game by setting goals for your child, such as reading daily for 15 minutes or practicing math facts for five minutes. Even better, make it a family challenge, where everyone works towards the goal together. Choose a reward for meeting the goal

that allows everyone to celebrate the achievement together. For example, you could hold a family game night with make-your-own-pizzas or a movie marathon with popcorn and pajamas.

4. Buddy up

Homework often feels like a chore to kids, especially if they're working alone at the kitchen table or a bedroom desk. Remove the isolation factor by buddying up. If you have work or reading you can do, join your child for "team homework time." Too busy? A few favorite stuffed animals or a household pet can also make great study buddies.

5. Theme work makes the dream work

Make the first week back to school something to look forward to by creating themed days. For children without teacher-assigned homework, you can make up learning-themed days such as "Math Mania Monday" and "Reading Safari Tuesday" for you and your child to explore new animal-focused library books together.

If your child is regularly assigned homework, you can play around with themes that reflect his interests. Decorate his study area to match your theme or provide special snacks that would fit. For example, "Football Friday" might feature a pennant with his name, a picture of his favorite player, and a hot dog with all the fixings for an afternoon study session snack.

6. Create a special study spot

A designated study area can help kids focus. A small desk or table with good lighting, comfortable seating, and a few fun school supplies can make all the difference. Take your children to purchase new study tools. They will have ownership of their study areas and will be more excited to use them.

7. Get active

Kids spend much of their school days sitting, particularly as they get older and academic demands increase. A burst of physical activity, like a quick run around the block or a dance party in the living room, can help them release pent-up energy, clear their minds, and recharge physically and mentally, making it easier to dive back into homework with renewed focus.

8. Make it interactive

Learning doesn't have to be all about worksheets and textbooks. Use educational board games and apps to make the process interactive and fun. The whole family can bond while playing a learning board game, and the best games don't seem like homework or an assignment. Likely, your child is already using educational apps at school, particularly for math, and he can recommend some that he enjoys for home use. Many games are for multiple players, so get siblings or the whole family involved for even more motivation. The more interactive the learning, the less likely it will feel like a chore.

9. Create a learning playlist

Put together a playlist of instrumental or upbeat music to help set a positive mood for studying. If your child is interested, let him choose the playlist to give him a sense of ownership over

his study time. Based on research, classical music and nature sounds tend to be the most recommended for studying, but ultimately, the best type of music is the one that will help your child stay engaged and focused. Encourage your child to keep the volume at a level where the music will fade into the background.

Returning to a learning routine after the holidays doesn't have to be boring. By making studying fun, your child will feel motivated and energized to learn. As a family, you can turn a daunting task into a smooth and enjoyable return to routine.



Join us for an Open House!

Wednesday, January 15, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Unmatched Academic Results

Challenger School offers uniquely fun *and* academic classes for preschool to eighth-grade students. Our students learn to think for themselves and to value independence.

Avery Ranch (PS–G8) (512) 341-8000
15101 Avery Ranch Boulevard, Austin

Round Rock (PS–G1) (512) 255-8844
1521 Joyce Lane, Round Rock

Spicewood Springs (PS–K) (512) 258-1299
13015 Pond Springs Road, Austin



Scan to schedule a tour

An independent private school offering preschool through eighth grade

© 2025, Challenger Schools
Challenger School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.



A High-Quality Education That Promotes Positivity



ENDEAVOR
MONTESSORI

- ✓ A classic Montessori experience that develops the Whole Child, while also giving children the skills and knowledge base required for future academic success
- ✓ Trained Montessori teachers who are passionate about early childhood education
- ✓ Beautiful campus with inspiring classrooms and safe, interactive outdoor spaces
- ✓ High-level safety protocols designed to ensure the well-being of every student
- ✓ We create a nurturing, inclusive community that celebrates each child's uniqueness and encourages collaboration



Schedule your tour today!

www.endeavormontessori.com

Endeavor Montessori Pflugerville:

Location: 18817 N. Heatherwilde Blvd – Building 2, Pflugerville, TX 78660

Phone: (512) 572-0400



Get Ready. Stay Ready.

Know what to do in case of an outage.

Weather disasters keep coming, with bigger storms that last longer. As Austin Energy prepares for future power outage emergencies, you can get ready, too.

- Know how to report an outage, use the Outage Map and get text alerts.
- Make sure your contact info is current at COAUtilities.com or call **512-494-9400**.
- Learn how Austin Energy handles outages.

AustinEnergy.com/StayReady



© Austin Energy



January 2025 calendar

Go to 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 and will be made live once approved. Certain restrictions apply.



Wed 1

New Year's Day

Mozart's 2024 Lake Austin Festival of Lights. 5 to 10 p.m. Now both on land and on the water. Mozart's, 2024 Lake Austin Blvd. \$5. www.mozartcoffee.com.

Bee Cave on Ice. 3 to 10 p.m. Bring the entire family to enjoy this Winter Wonderland and ice skate under the stars. Discount Tuesdays. Galleria Shopping Center, 400 Galleria Pkwy. \$15 daily and \$10 on Tuesdays. www.beecavetexas.gov.

Thu 2

Luminations at the Wildflower Center. 5:45 p.m. Here to light up your nights, our Luminations tradition is going to keep on glowing. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. \$18 - \$28. www.wildflower.org.

CONTINUED: Bee Cave on Ice. see Wed 1; Mozart's 2024 Lake Austin Festival of Lights, see Wed 1.

Fri 3

CONTINUED: Bee Cave on Ice. see Wed 1; Mozart's 2024 Lake Austin Festival of Lights, see Wed 1; Luminations at the Wildflower Center, see Thu 2.

Sat 4

Read to a Therapy Dog. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Read to Princess Buttercup, Dump Truck, or Bently, our reading therapy dogs from Divine Canines. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. www.wblibrary.org.

CONTINUED: Bee Cave on Ice. see Wed 1; Mozart's 2024 Lake Austin Festival of Lights, see Wed 1; Luminations at the Wildflower Center, see Thu 2.



Sun 5

H-E-B Free First Sundays. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Start the new year with a free visit and enjoy all day. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

CONTINUED: Bee Cave on Ice. see Wed 1; Luminations at the Wildflower Center, see Thu 2.

Mon 6

Music and Movement. 2 p.m. A 30-minute dance party perfect for your little one to get their sillies and wiggles out. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Free Play. 4 to 6:30 p.m. Meet up with your friends at the world's best play date. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Tue 7

Kinder Connect Tours. 9 to 10 a.m. If you or a friend have a child who will be five by September 1, 2025, we invite you to experience a typical day in Kindergarten at Redeemer. Redeemer Lutheran School, 1500 W. Anderson Ln. FREE. www.redeemerschool.net.

Canta y Bila Conmigo®. 10:30 a.m. Special guest Heartsong Music @ Westbank. Is a uniquely designed program that provides a culturally-rich experience. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com

Baby Lapsit. 2 p.m. Stories, fingerplays, songs, and bounce rhymes. Come prepared to sit with your baby in your lap. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Wed 8

Preschool Play. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Self-directed playtime activities set up that are geared toward preschool-age kids. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

An advertisement for Redeemer School. The background is dark blue with orange and white text. On the right, it says "LOVE JESUS", "LOVE LEARNING", and "LOVE OTHERS" in white. Below that is the Redeemer School logo. On the left, it says "OVER 70 YEARS OF SERVING THE AUSTIN COMMUNITY" in white. Below that, it says "Ages 15 months to 8th grade" in white. At the bottom, there are four circular images showing children in various activities. Below the images, it says "SCHEDULE A TOUR, LEARN MORE AND APPLY" and "REDEEMERSCHOOL.NET | 512.362.6318" in white.

Thu 9

Art for Teens. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Teens and tweens, come get crafty after school at Westbank. Each month we will have a new project, and all materials will be provided. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Sat 11

Free Writing and Theatre Workshop for Kids. 2 to 4 p.m. New Manifest Theatre Company is hosting FREE writing and theatre workshops for kids ages 8 – 17. Austin Central Library, 710 W. Cesar Chavez St. FREE. www.library.austintexas.gov.

Chinese Learning Playground. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. "Chinese Learning Playground" is a Mandarin Chinese study group for school-age children.

Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Mon 13

Crafts for Teens. 4:30 p.m. Hang out after school and relax with a simple craft. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: Music and Movement, see Mon 6; Free Play, see Mon 6.

Tue 14

CONTINUED: Kinder Connect Tours, see Tue 7; Baby Lapsit, see Tue 7.

Wed 15

CONTINUED: Preschool Play, see Wed 8.

Thu 16

Arcade. 4 to 6 p.m. Meet up with friends at the library to play Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. Feel free to bring your own gaming device as well. All ages welcome. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Sat 18

CONTINUED: Read to a Therapy Dog, see Sat 4; Chinese Learning Playground, see Sat 11.



Mon 20

United States Inauguration Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tue 21

CONTINUED: Kinder Connect Tours, see Tue 7; Baby Lapsit, see Tue 7.

Wed 22

CONTINUED: Preschool Play, see Wed 8.

Thu 23

Little Texans. Learn about fruit grown in Texas through hands-on crafts and activities for ages 2-5. Bullock

SEMI-ANNUAL sale

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS FOR MORE DETAILS!

Now buying your kids' stuff for cash or in-store credit!

Kid to Kid

14010 N. US HWY 183, SUITE 420 | 512.336.5550
FOLLOW US @KIDTOKIDAUSTIN

Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave.
www.thestoryoftexas.com.

Sat 25

Central Texas Math Carousel 2024 5th Grade Math Competition.

8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. We are thrilled to invite all Central Texas 5th graders to participate in the second annual Central Texas Math Carousel 2025. Harmony School of Endeavor, 13415 FM 620 N. FREE. www.harmonytx.org.

Kirby Hall School Open House.

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please join us for an Open House for all grades (PreK4 through 8th). Tour historic campus and meet faculty members. Learn about Kirby Hall School, 306 W. 29th St. FREE. www.kirbyhallschool.org.

Austin Allies Kids' Book Club.

1 to 2 p.m. Calling all 3rd-8th graders. Join us for a free, 1-hour book club discussion designed for middle grade readers. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar Blvd. FREE. www.austinallies.org.

Wild Kratts Live 2.0. 1 and 5 p.m.

The Wild Kratts Live 2.0 stage show is coming to Austin with an all-new show: Wild Kratts LIVE 2.0 – Activate. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman Dr. \$29 – \$154. www.texasperformingarts.org.

Mad Science. 1 p.m. Come enjoy an interactive science show that will spark your children's imagination, make them laugh, and get them excited about learning. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Manifest the Future: Youth New Works Festival. 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Manifest the Future is a free showcase that celebrates original, solo works from Austin youth ages

8 – 17. Austin Community College Highland, 6101 Highland Campus Dr. FREE. www.newmanifest.org.

CONTINUED: Chinese Learning Playground, see Sat 11.

Sun 26

Hands-on Teen Craft. 2 to 3 p.m. Register at www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Mon 27

Conversations & Crafts. 1 to 3 p.m. In the new year, come catch up with neighbors at Westbank Library. We'll have puzzles, crosswords, coloring books, and some art supplies available. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: Music and Movement, see Mon 6; Free Play, see Mon 6.

Tue 28

CONTINUED: Baby Lapsit, see Tue 7.

Wed 29

CONTINUED: Preschool Play, see Wed 8.

Fri 31

All Ages Storytime @ Westbank. 10:30 a.m. All Ages Storytime at Westbank Library. This program develops early literacy skills through story sharing and songs. All ages welcome. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.



ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY Music School

LEARN
CREATE
CONNECT

ACMSaustin.org • 512-474-2331



PLAYLAND STATE FAIR **PINS AND WHEELS**

NEW LOOK. SAME FAMILY. MORE FUN!

ROLLER SKATING | BOWLING | AXE THROWING
ARCADE | FOOD & DRINKS | AND MORE!

TEL: 812-452-1901 | 8822 MCANN DR AUSTIN TX 78757 | PINSANDWHEELS.COM

It's time to start enjoying life!

Do you need help with personal, parenting or marital issues?

Do you need to reduce your worry and anxiety?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Offering in home, Zoom, telephone and office visits. Reasonable fee. Venmo pay available.



Betty Kehl Richardson
PhD, RN, CS, LWFT, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor
Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor
Text or Call 512-922-0599 or Email bkrich5207@gmail.com for an appointment.
Evening and Weekend Appointments Available.



SPICEWOOD Country School

A 45-year tradition for children ages 2 to 5 in Northwest Austin

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Extended Care Available 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Small classes with balanced activities & many opportunities for creativity and self expression

Curriculum based • Music • Spanish
Outdoor learning program • Barnyard animals

Highly recommended by parents!

6102 Spicewood Springs Rd. • 512-346-2992 • www.spicewoodcountry.com

Please support our advertisers.

We Help Children Develop a Love for Learning



- ✓ A safe and nurturing environment that prioritizes the well-being and development of each child
- ✓ Well-rounded curriculum that focuses on age-appropriate activities, including play-based learning, social interaction and cognitive development
- ✓ Experienced and trained educators who have a deep understanding of early childhood development
- ✓ Positive, close-knit community that actively involves parents in their child's education through regular communication and family engagement events
- ✓ Small class sizes to ensure individualized attention and meaningful relationships between teachers, students and families



Schedule your tour today!

Serving Infants - Pre-Kindergarten

www.carpediempreschool.com

Carpe Diem Private Preschool

Location: 14009 Ronald Reagan Blvd., Leander, TX 78641

Phone: (512) 957-9159

The Serving Center assists 1,200 households every month



The Round Rock Area Serving Center, a Texas non-profit corporation, also known as the Serving Center, carries out a community-wide mission of churches, other organizations and individuals serving human needs in the City of Round Rock and surrounding areas.

NOW OPEN!



- Food Pantry
- Clothing & Furniture Vouchers
- Computers for Kids
- Community Gardens
- Computer Skills Training
- Financial Assistance
- The Volunteer Center

Treasures Charity Resale Shop & Boutique
Stores are open to the public, with clothing and furniture available to clients by voucher. All sales revenues support the food pantry and services.

Donations of clothing, books, furniture and small appliances are needed!
For furniture pickup, call (512) 244-2431



HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon - Fri 10am to 4pm • Sat 9am to 1pm • Sat Donations 8am to 4pm
1099 E. Main Street • Round Rock, TX 78664 • (512) 244-2431

Jordan Ashley Photography

-Families
-Newborns
-HS Seniors

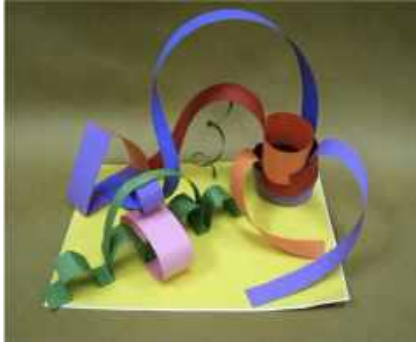


512-506-9593

www.jordanashleyphotography.com

Mention this Ad and enjoy a 20% discount

KIDZONE



Exploring 3-D Art Through Paper Structures

Start the year off with creativity and organization! Transform flat two-dimensional pieces of paper into eye-catching three-dimensional (3-D) masterpieces with just a few simple folds, cuts, and

twists. This fun activity sparks imagination and introduces STEAM concepts like structure, design, and problem-solving. Bonus? Your artwork could double as an art display for reminders, goals, or even positive affirmations!

Materials You'll Need:

- **Scissors** – Great for cutting and shaping paper.
- **Textured Scissors** – Add decorative, playful edges.
- **Paper** – Mix it up with colors, textures, or patterns.

- **Glue** – To hold your masterpiece together.
- **Markers or Crayons** – Add goals, kind words, or fun designs.
- **Small Weights** (optional) – Stabilize structure as it dries.

Step One: Shape It Up

Start with a sheet of paper. Cut in halves, quarters, or abstract shapes. Try triangles, swirls, or zigzags to add variety.

Step Two: Bend, Twist, and Fold

Transform flat pieces of paper into dynamic designs! Fold them to form crisp angles, twist them build spirals, or curve them to make loops. Invent shapes to see what stands tall or twists into an unexpected masterpiece.

Step Three: Build It Up

Grab your glue and start connecting your paper pieces. Overlap edges, stack shapes, or join curves to create a one-of-a-kind 3-D structure. Experiment with how the shapes fit together—can they stand tall like a tower or twist to form a swirling sculpture? There's no wrong way to build your masterpiece!

Maker Tip for Littles (Under 5):

Create a sensory adventure. Younger makers can explore folding, bending, and twisting colorful paper while discovering shapes and textures.

Thinkery, a nonprofit and Austin's children's museum, brings joy to learning through play-based, STEAM exploration for ALL children so they cultivate a lifelong love of learning and thrive. Learn more at www.thinkeryaustin.org.



Join us in shaping a future where wisdom meets virtue. Explore a Catholic education today and watch your child grow into their fullest potential.

Learn more about Catholic education in the Diocese of Austin at CSDATX.org

**FUTURE
STRONG™**



Your Greatest Adventure Begins Here!



*Travel the world with us and embark on
an incredible educational experience!*

Join us for Summer Break Today!

(512) 459-0258 | www.SteppingStoneSchool.com

