

PARENT POSTINGS



Portland Family Writes Book about Yaks – in Haiku

Combine yaks with haiku and what do you get? Why, “Yaku,” of course.

That’s the title of a children’s book written by southeast Portland mom Kathy Schroeder and her teenage daughters, Clara and Anna. The three penned the haiku about yaks during a trip to Tibet in 2006. Schroeder, husband Tom Gustafson, daughters Clara and Anna and son Peter were living in China at the time.

“Living in China for the past two years has given us new perspective on the Tibetan predicament and the gradual loss of their traditional ways. It was this, in part, that inspired us to learn more about the unique yaks that are such a significant part of their traditional culture,” explains Schroeder.

The haiku are beautiful and simple and the photos, taken by Schroeder, help tell the story of the important role that yaks play in Tibet life.

“Yaku” is a hardcover children’s book, targeted at ages 7 and up. A release event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Feb. 8 at Wallace Books, 7241 SE Milwaukie. The book retails for \$19.95.

Celebrate Portland Public Schools on Feb. 2!

Portland Public Schools (PPS) presents its fifth annual “Celebrate! Portland Public Schools” event on Saturday, Feb. 2. This year the free event takes place from 1 to 5 pm at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive. Centered around

**KidFest! BabyFest! CampFest!
The Northwest’s Largest Family Expo Takes Place Feb. 23 and 24**

The 2008 KidFest! BabyFest! CampFest! comes to the Oregon Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 23 and 24. The event runs from 10 am to 5 pm both days and highlights active and healthy family lifestyles and raising kids successfully. The show includes dozens of interactive exhibits for babies, kids and parents as well as non-stop entertainment for the entire family. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 3 to 18 and free for 2 and under.

The KidFest portion of the event will include theme areas like Education & Youth Enrichment, Sports & Fitness and the Family Marketplace. BabyFest provides attendees with the latest baby-related information, products and services as well as the always popular Diaper Derby. CampFest will help families plan their summers with information on a wide variety of summer program options.

Lots of kid-friendly entertainers will be on hand including Mitchel Musso (pictured at right) from Disney’s Hannah Montana. Other highlights include rock climbing, bungee jumping, giant slides, jump houses, a petting zoo, Mad Science shows, Game Crazy video zone and more.

For more information on KidFest! BabyFest! CampFest!, visit www.kidfestnw.com or www.pintsizeproductions.com.



the community, families and students, Celebrate! is designed to highlight each school within PPS and provide information on the wide range of educational options offered by PPS, from neighborhood schools to special programs and focus option schools. Information on transfer policies, kindergarten readiness, afterschool programs and more will be available. Free shuttles are available as well as childcare for kids age 4 and older. For more information call 503-916-3411 or visit www.pps.k12.or.us.

Skinner Montessori Celebrates 35 Years

Skinner Montessori, located at 5001 NE 66th Ave. in Vancouver, observes its 35th anniversary in 2008. The school was opened in 1973 by Peggy and Mary Skinner with 11 children and has now

grown to nearly 140 students. Interested parents can learn more about the school at its Open House on Feb. 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For details, visit www.skinnermontessori.com.

Baby Boot Camp Challenge Begins Feb. 16

Baby Boot Camp holds its 2nd Annual BIGGEST Challenge beginning Feb. 16 and running through April 30. During the 10 week challenge participants are paired up with a Challenge Buddy, take fitness tests and attend special classes, among other highlights. Price is \$15; RSVP by Feb. 5 to erin.shirey@babybootcamp.com. A free Challenge kick off event take place Feb. 16 at 9:15 am at Lloyd Center Mall; RSVP to dancindani@hotmail.com.

Free Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshops in February

The Community Energy Project is sponsoring two free Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshops this month. Families can learn about common sources of lead, its effects on the body, prevention methods and resources and receive free prevention kits. The first workshop is at 11 am on Feb. 2 at Roosevelt High School; the second one is from 6:30 to 8 pm on Feb. 21 at Woodlawn Elementary. Register by calling 503-284-6827, ext. 107. Visit www.communityenergyproject.org for more information.

Feb. 10 Event Benefits Fanconi Anemia Research

The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund holds its fourth annual Fanconi Anemia 5K Walk/Run Feb. 10 at 8 am under the Morrison Bridge, at SW Morrison/Naito Pkwy. Advance registration is \$30 for adults; \$15 for kids under 12. Day-of-event registration is \$5 additional and starts at 7 am. Fanconi anemia is a life-threatening genetic disease that leads to bone marrow failure and cancers in children and young adults. Visit www.valentine5k.com for more information about the event and to register.

Buckman Auction Feb. 8

Buckman Elementary School holds its annual auction on Feb. 8 starting at 5:30 pm at the Melody Ballroom, 615 SE Alder. The auction features artwork, get-aways, party packages and more. Attendees will enjoy dinner, wine and entertainment. Advance purchase tickets are \$35; at-the-door cost is \$40. Visit www.buckmanelementary.org or call 503-528-6823 for details.

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