

BY MARY-FRANCES DALY

A dragon kite flies near the Washington Monument during the annual Smithsonian Kite Festival.

44th Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival: CRAFTed for Flight

This year's Smithsonian Kite Festival takes place March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Washington Monument, and will showcase craft in flight, beauty in the air, and the art of making kites soar. The festival features three kite flying competitions: handmade kite competition, for those who build their own kites; a hot tricks showdown; and a Rokkaku kite challenge for

teams. Refer to the festival website for contest rules. The festival also features: the launching of the 150-kite arch train display, which was created to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution in 1996; kitemaking demonstrations and hands-on activities sponsored by local kite clubs, West Indian American Kites Association, The Drachen Foundation and the National Cherry Blossom Festival; and the "Field of Colors" ground display of flags and banners by participating kite clubs. Free. 202-633-3030, www.kitefestival.org.



St. Anselm's Abbey School's 'It's Academic' Team Thrives on the National Scene

Generations of Washingtonians are familiar with "It's Academic," the long-running academic quiz show that features high-schoolers from around the area and airs weekends on WRC. But this year, the team from St. Anselm's Abbey School has seen its greatest success away from the television cameras, making a name for itself on the national quiz-bowl circuit and even toppling some of its counterparts at the nation's best colleges and universities.

The St. Anselm's "It's Academic" team, made up of senior Matt Bollinger, junior Brendan Ziebarth and sophomores Aidan Mehigan and Jacob Wasserman, has spent the entire

school year ranked in the national top 25 poll administered by the Quizbowl Resource Center. In the most recent rankings, St. Anselm's came in at seventh in the country, ahead of many public school powerhouses, including Fairfax's Thomas Jefferson High School.

Although the team was eliminated in the semifinal round of this season's television tournament, it has been dominant at several other regional competitions. One highlight came Feb. 21, when St. Anselm's competed in the ACF Regionals at the University of Maryland, a premier collegiate tournament put on by the nonprofit Academic Competition Federation. As the only high school competing, St. Anselm's placed second overall, falling only to the University of Pennsylvania, ranked sixth

among colleges nationwide. The high-schoolers bested two top ten college teams (Carnegie Mellon and Virginia Commonwealth), and Bollinger, the team's captain, was the day's high scorer in his division.

As the season continues, the team has a busy schedule ahead; it will be competing in tournaments up and down the East Coast almost every weekend until May. St. Anselm's is located at 4501 South Dakota Ave. NE. For more information, call 202-269-2350 or visit www.saintanselms.org.

Youth Dance Festival

Showcasing the next generation of artistic excellence, this annual festival at Dance Place is scheduled for March 20 at 8 p.m. and March 21 at 4 p.m. The festival features the best and brightest youth from dance studios across the DC metro area – Dance Place Step Team, Towson University Children's Dance Division Company, Joy of Motion, Baltimore Dance Tech, Coyaba Academy, Momentum Dance Theater and the Maryland Youth Ballet – in performances of various dance styles. \$15/general; \$10/child ages 2-17. 3225 Eighth St. NE. 202-269-1600, www.danceplace.org.

Family Day: Kites of Asia

Celebrate the beauty and tradition of kites from across Asia

on March 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the National Air and Space Museum. Experience the artistry of indoor kite flying, make your own kite, and learn about Tibetan kite making and culture. Find out more about Tibet at the Freer and Sackler Galleries' "In the Realm of the Buddha," featuring the work of the Tibetan artist, Situ Panchen. Free. Sixth Street and Independence Avenue SW. 202-633-1000, www.nasm.si.edu.

Children's Programs at NCM

The National Children's Museum will host the following activities for children in March at the National Harbor's Launch Zone:

Weave Me the Sunshine. March 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrate the arrival of spring by participating in NCM's weaving activities. Listen to stories about spring and make your own craft. Free.

Wee Wonders' Out of This World. March 16 & 23, 10-11:15 a.m. Blast off into outer space in a rocket ship to explore the solar system like astronauts. Activities typically include stories, games, art, music, experiments, drama and movement. For ages 2-3 with a parent/caregiver. Limit two children per adult; all non-infant children with an adult must pay and must participate; additional siblings are not permitted. \$10 per child. Pre-registration and advance payment (by check or credit



The St. Anselm's "It's Academic" team.



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- April 15th, 2010 from 9:30-10:30 am

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Contact the Office of Admissions for More Information or to RSVP

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*Please visit us at
www.dcata.org*

card only) is required by the Friday prior to the event. Please call 202-675-4120 or e-mail RSVP@ncm.museum to register.

Cherry Blossom Bliss. March 27 & April 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrate Washington, DC's cherry blossom season with hands-on activities embracing spring and exploring Japanese arts and design. Free.

NCM is located at 112 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md. 301-686-0225, www.ncm.museum.

KidSpy Overnight: Operation Secret Slumber

When the lights go down, the adventure begins, March 20, 7 p.m. to March 22, 10 a.m. at the International Spy Museum. Children ages 9-13 are invited to spy school for one evening, where their mission will begin with taking on a secret identity and gathering intelligence about real spy skills. During the night, participants will transform themselves through disguise, make and break secret codes, uncover important secrets, interrogate real spies, and hunt for a mole within the ranks. One adult required for every two KidSpy agents. \$115/general; \$105/members of The Spy Ring. Ticket price includes an evening spy snack, light breakfast, take-home goody bag and admission to the museum on Sunday. Bring a sleeping bag, air mattress or pad, pillow and sense of adventure. 800 F St. NW. 202-654-0932. www.spymuseum.org.

Shooting the Breeze: Using Target Kites during WWII

Families are invited to join US Navy Museum docents on March 20, 1 p.m., at the US Navy Museum, as they explain the history of "target kites," an innovative method of target practice during World War II. After a short tour of the US Navy Museum, children can design their own target kites in the Museum Education Center to take home and fly on the National Mall during the 44th annual Smithson-

ian Kite Festival on March 27. Free. The museum's entrance is located at 11th and O streets SE. 202-433-6826, www.history.navy.mil.

National Cherry Blossom Festival Family Day and Opening Ceremony

Join the National Building Museum and the National Cherry Blossom Festival on March 27, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., in celebrating the annual opening of Washington, DC's cherry blossom season. This year's family festival, the fifth annual, takes place at the National Building Museum and will feature hands-on activities and indoor and outdoor performances that celebrate spring and explore Japanese arts and design. Free. 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448, www.nbm.org.

Spring Break Family Day for the Little Skippers

The US Navy Museum invites families to enjoy a day of maritime craft activities at the US Navy Museum on March 30, from 1-3:30 p.m. Children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in a variety of craft activities throughout the day. Families are also welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in Willard Park just outside of the museum, and experience shipboard life during the Cold War era on decommissioned destroyer Barry. Free. The museum's entrance is located at 11th and O streets SE. 202-433-6826, www.history.navy.mil.

Saddle up for a Ride through History

Bring the whole family for a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express on April 3, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the National Postal Museum. Visitors will learn about the day the first riders galloped out on the trail and rode into legend and enjoy a variety of hands-on activities that bring the legends and realities of the Pony Express to life. The following are just a few of the activities planned for the day: talk with a Pony Ex-

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press rider about what life on the trail was really like; race the mail across the country in a relay-style game show; star in a Pony Express puppet show where the story depends on you; and explore the museum in a Pony Express scavenger hunt that ends with a great prize. Guests can also tour the museum and enjoy kid-friendly snacks. Free. The museum is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE. 202-633-5555, www.postalmuseum.si.edu.

Kids Set Sail 2010

Registration is now open for the 2010 Kids Set Sail season, which runs for eight, one-week sessions, from June 21 through Aug. 13. Kids ages 7-14 will learn sailing concepts through a combination of games and drills. By the end of each week, campers will be a whiz at treasure hunts and knot tying, as well as maneuvering a small boat. KSS teaches young people the skills they will need to be successful sailors, the educational components behind how the boat functions and lifetime skills such as teamwork, decision-making and respect for our environment. The National Maritime Heritage Foundation sponsors KSS, and the camp takes place at the Gangplank Marina, 600 Water St. SW. Each KSS session is \$350; scholarships are available. Space is limited, so sign up quickly by e-mailing erodegast@nmhf.org. For more information, call 202-547-1250 or visit www.nmhf.org.

Kids Stay Cool this Summer at Fort Dupont Ice Arena

Fort Dupont Ice Arena offers summer skating school July 5-9 & July 12-16, 9 a.m.-noon, for children entering grades first through sixth in fall 2010. One or two weeks of fun for young skating enthusiasts includes: off-ice fitness class, group lessons and supervised practice, healthy snacks, arts and crafts, and a performance by the skaters on the last day of each camp week. For beginning through intermediate skill levels (figure & hockey skaters welcome). \$180 for first child in

family; \$165 for siblings. Fees include rental skates, daily snack and art supplies.

Fort Dupont Ice Arena is located at 3779 Ely Place SE. 202-584-5007, www.fdia.org.

Save the Date: American Girl Day is back!

Due to the overwhelming response last year, the US Navy Museum is pleased to bring back American Girl Day, June 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the museum. New craft activities will be added this year based on: Elizabeth, friend of Felicity; Kirsten; Rebecca; and Emily, friend of Molly. Plus the day will include activities based on the time periods the following girls lived in: Felicity, Addy, Samantha, Kit and Molly. Valerie Tripp, author of many books in the American Girl series, will also be on hand to sign books. Free. Sign up early at 202-433-6826 or e-mail your name, phone number and number of children attending to nhhcedudept@navy.mil. The museum's entrance is located at 11th and O streets SE.

Zoo Camp

Looking for an award-winning summer camp where your children can learn about the lives, habitats and conservation of animals around the world? At FONZ's one-week Summer Safari Day Camp sessions, children entering grades K through five will enjoy exciting hands-on activities, craft projects, science experiments, walks through the zoo, and more. The FONZ Nature Camp sessions, for children entering grades five through 10, offer an overnight nature exploration at the zoo's Conservation and Research Center in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Registration now open. 202-633-4800, www.fonz.org.

Have a listing for the Kids & Family Notebook? E-mail kidsnotebook@hillrag.com by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited. Publication is not guaranteed. ★

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APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APRIL 16, 2010

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We invite all interested parents and students to attend a weekly Parent Information Session to learn about the admissions process, take a tour of the school and obtain an application. For questions or to make an appointment contact us at 202-248-3025 admissions@seedschooldc.org ◆ www.seedfoundation.com