

Out of the Box

The **Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board** began taking applications for summer programs yesterday, and you can sign up for St. Paul's Parks and Rec programs [here](#). You know what that means: fancy iced coffee drinks at sunny sidewalk cafes with our friends while our kids get enriched.

In the meantime, we'll be tinkering around in **Leonardo's Basement** with the kids, building robots out of our recyclable garbage during Leonardo's built-for-kids workshop.

Hear about **T-Wolves season tickets**? **Early Birds** for the 2009-2010 season start at just **\$5!** This season's promotions are pretty sweet, too. We recently saw the Wolves beat the Rockets on a **2 for 1 Getaway** deal—two eighth-row tickets for \$50 with a \$25 Palomino gift card gained. But don't get us started on the **Hungry Like a Wolf** promotion (a \$35 ticket includes all you can eat)—obviously the Wolves' promotions managers have never met the *JuiceBox* children's cavernous innards.

What is it about the smell of wet dirt that makes us feel so buoyant and free? Ah, yes: contrast.

—Stephanie Wilbur Ash, editor, *JuiceBox*, sash@mspmag.com

Get Out of the House



Midwest Kid Festival

What the **Boat Show** and the **Home & Garden Show** are to moms and dads, the **Midwest Kid Festival** is to our children—at only \$5 per person over age one. Whatever your kids covet, it will be at the **Rivercentre this weekend**. Live reptiles? A princess-only tea party? Clowns and magic? Bands and dancing? All will be there, and in case you were worried, yes, there will also be the perennial Bounce House. Jump. Jump. Jump. Repeat. *Sa.-Su., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5, St. Paul Rivercentre, 651-726-8240*

+ Wave your wand to gather the girls, local company **Continental Ballet** will do **Cinderella** at the Bloomington Center for the Arts from **March 20** through **March 29**. *Adults, \$24; students and seniors, \$18; children under thirteen, \$12.*

+ Free performance alert: **St. Paul Civic Symphony** in collaboration with the fab St. Paul arts organization **ArtStart** (check out its cool summer programs for kids) present a free performance of **Peter and the Wolf**, with choreography, crafts, and bilingual narration in Spanish and English. It all happens **2 p.m.** on **Sunday** at the **Paul and Sheila Wellstone Neighborhood House** in St. Paul.

+ Another free performance alert: **Lake Harriet Players** will present **A Year with Frog and Toad** at **Lake Harriet United Methodist Church** the **next two weekends** for a free will donation. **Friday** and **Saturday** evenings at **7 p.m.**; **Saturday** and **Sunday** afternoons at **2 p.m.**

+ Have you been to the **Mill City Museum** lately? Storytellers follow wheat from field to table this **Saturday** morning, and you can screen Kevin Kling's movie, *Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat*. Then, with such fine weather forecasted, you can walk across the **Stone Arch Bridge**. *Adults, \$10; college students and seniors, \$8; children ages six to seventeen, \$5.*

+More **family-friendly events**.

MealTime

We don't like to brag here at *JuiceBox*, but we recently acquired a personal chef. Well, sort of. Minneapolis mom **Molly Herrmann**, the Twin Cities **Tastebud Tart**, has been making organic, locally sourced lunches for us, packaging them in recycled box containers, and delivering them directly to our door. And that's not even the best part (though that creamy goat cheese she's using will blow your mind). Each lunch is just \$10, and each kid's meal is just \$5 (with a delivery charge). Yes, you heard us right, that's an all-organic, locally sourced, home-cooked kid's meal for the price of a Subway sub. Momma holla to you and your changing menus, Molly Herrmann! You so expertly wrapped that turkey wrap last week, our first-grader didn't even realize there was "salad" in it and ate the whole thing.



Goodies + Gear



Here is just a short list of items we have viewed under our **EyeClops Multi-Zoom Bionic Eye**

TV Microscope, which magnifies things up to 400 times: four scalps, one scab, one ripped dollar, one Minnesota Vikings sweatshirt, one orange tabby cat, several pairs of underwear, and one disgustingly dirty bellybutton (it belonged to a neighbor kid, we swear). The EyeClops is the greatest science fun since those vinegar-and-baking-soda volcano kits, and as long as your television isn't encased in a giant, darkly veneered wooden box with two antennae sticking out the top, it's easy to get the EyeClops working. You just plug it right into your television's video port. **\$49.99 at Target.**

Play Dates for Grownups



Tim O'Brien's fiction, nonfiction, and metafiction on the Vietnam War are groundbreaking and regularly anthologized; the story *The Things They Carried* is an undergraduate literature staple. Less known is the fact that he's from Worthington, Minnesota, and attended **Macalester College** before being drafted in 1968. A rare treat to hear him read and lecture, the **Minneapolis Public Libraries** brings him to the **Hopkins Center for the Arts** through the **Pen Pals** series. *Th, 7:30 p.m.; F., 11 a.m. \$35-\$45.*

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