

January 2009

Right: A KIVA Kid counts at home base during a game of Kick The Can at Highland Park in November.
 photo courtesy of Jan Beard



Left: In October, KIVA Kids did their part to clean up Star Trail atop lofty Mill Mountain!
 photo courtesy of Jan Beard



Right: KIVA Kids collect and then smash sheets of ice found in Fishburn Park in December.
 photo courtesy of Jan Beard



Please contact us if you or a company you know wishes to donate to KIVA. Art supplies, outdoor gear, old field guides and snacks are always needed!



Upcoming KIVA Events

KIVA BIRTHDAY BASH

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm,
 The Discovery Center atop Mill Mountain

Come help us celebrate Kids In the Valley Adventuring's first birthday. There will be cake, balloons, music and of course, some outdoor adventure! Come and see what we have planned for 2009! In lieu of birthday gifts, please bring non-perishable food items for The Southwestern Virginia Second Harvest Foodbank. Mr. VanGuilder, the foodbank's Director of Volunteer Services, will be joining the birthday celebration for food collection and education on the powerful impact! SVSHF has on our local hunger needs.



NOTHING SAYS 'I LOVE YOU' LIKE...

February 21, 2009 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Fallon Park
 spending time together as a family. Come join us for a late winter walk. Then join us as we try to warm up with some hot cocoa and chewy marshmallows! We will walk along the Tinker Creek Greenway in Fallon Park. Bundle up your loved ones!



WALK FOR WORLD WATER DAY 2009

March 22, 2009 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Join us, once again (or for the first time) for a walk for World Water Day. This year, we will be walking on the lovely Lick Run Greenway - starting at Target at Valley View Mall. We will walk the greenway to the wonderful Brown-Robertson Park. Join us for some free play on the playground and then we will return to the parking lot. And of course, be sure to bring WATER!



OTHER FUN EVENTS (Non-KIVA)

KING DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 19, 2009

This day honors Martin Luther King, Jr. in volunteering spirit. Join by volunteering with your family on the 19th. Rake the neighbors yard, clean-up trash in your neighborhood, or simply donate unwanted clothing to a local charitable organization.

LISTEN FOR KIVA DAY SPONSORSHIP ON WYTF. 89.1!

January 19, 2009 5 times throughout the day

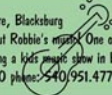
Due to a very generous donation of day sponsorship by two KIVA members, KIVA will be one of the daysponsors of WYTF on January 19, 2009. Be sure to tune in!

89.1

ROBBIE SCHAEFER COMES TO TOWN!

February 22, 2009 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg

Kids and Family Music Show! We couldn't jam in the car without Robbie's music! One of our favorite musicians and favorite hosts of XMKids on XM Radio is having a kids music show in Blacksburg at The Lyric Theatre: 135 College Ave. Blacksburg, VA 24060 phone: 540/951.4771 Price: 17



COME OUT FOR A VIEWSHED PLANTING!

March 28, 2009 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Come out for a viewshed planting to plant hundreds of sapling trees with Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Milepost 121. FREE



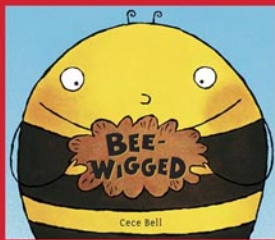
KIVA is a free monthly event that showcases outdoor opportunities available for parents and kids in the Roanoke Valley. We meet at various parks around town each month, and always focus on FREE FAMILY FUN. E-mail KIVAinfo@gmail.com for a free monthly newsletter and a calendar for the dates already scheduled for 2009. 540-580-3015

As always, no childcare will be provided! Stay and make a memory with your child(ren)!

Please pass a copy to a friend or better yet, drag one to the next KIVA event!

CHECK US OUT: <http://www.kidsadventuring.org>

Short Read Under A Tall Tree



In December, we were thrilled to attend the book release of Cece Bell's newest fabulous creation! *Bee-Wigged* is the story of Jerry Bee and his desire for friends, which are hard to come by if you happen to be a bee! Ram's Head Bookstore is a great local shop to find all of Cece's books, from the Sock Monkey series to huggable, chewable board books to our new favorite, *Bee-Wigged*! Chip will be using *Bee-Wigged* with his Second Graders during his Citizenship Unit. Consider adding this treasure to your home library! For more fun and adventures, check out:

www.cecebell.com



"Me In A Tree"

Name: Parker Age: 6 Member Since: 2007
Favorite Outdoor Activity: riding bikes
Favorite Trail Snack: "trail mix, oranges, the jerk" (beef jerky)
Strangest Thing Seen In Nature: "a black acorn"
Favorite Book: "Spongebob Squarepants"
Why KIVA?: "cause I like running through the woods like a cheetah"

If you would like to be a featured KIVA KID, have an adult email us your self portrait and the above info! First name only please! KIVAinfo@gmail.com

So, Whatcha Been Up To?

The last months have been an exciting blur, which explains our lack of recent newsletters. Since attending the Children & Nature Network Grassroots seminar in September, we have been working on a team to develop a national family nature club toolkit to aid in the organization of free family nature clubs all across the United States. We have found it extremely flattering to have KIVA studied and replicated, and thank the KIVA families for their contributions of time, energy and excitement. We look forward to seeing family nature clubs sprout in 2009!

KIVA's October meetings were used to focus on local outdoor volunteer efforts. We hiked and cleaned Star Trail on Mill Mountain. We also partnered with more than 20 energetic Starbucks employees to clean out the Roanoke River in Green Hill Park. These events helped us to see how KIVA can connect with other local organizations to make big changes with little bodies! Even the youngest members of KIVA have been enthusiastic volunteers!

Our November KIVA meeting in Highland Park was a trip back in time. How wonderful to see adults hiding behind trees, parents teaching their kids how to play Kick The Can, and the smiles on everyone's faces during the Kickball Game: KIVA Kids vs. Adults!

In December, the KIVA Kids used old copies of *The Roanoke Times* and neon ducttape to make sit-upons at Fishburn Park. The ground was frozen, but bummies were warm during a reading of *Bear Snores On*, written by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman. We took a short winter hike along the creek and looked for signs of winter. One such find was sheets of ice with clover leaves tucked away within the ice. Smashing them was much more fun than looking at them!

And most recently, on New Year's Eve, we joined 1500 other folks and KIVA members to help toss 11,000 bouncy balls from the balconies of Center In The Square. MyScope and The Science Museum of Western Virginia sponsored the noon event and everyone screamed and cheered as 11,000 bouncy balls ricocheted 5 stories down and back up again! It is definitely on our event list for next year! Happy New Year and we can't wait to see you at the Big Birthday Bash on January 24, 2009 at The Discovery Center!!

-The Wild Donahues