

The Future Looks Bright

CDC grads head to kindergarten

Joshua, 4, a recent CDC "graduate," isn't concerned about starting kindergarten in the fall. He figures hanging out with 5-year-olds and learning his ABCs and 123s will be a piece of cake. He is already looking to the future, with plans for a swashbuckling career.

"I'm going to be a pirate," he said with conviction.

With the same aplomb, 45 preschoolers donned caps and tassels at the annual Fairplex Child

Development Center's "graduation" ceremonies on June 30, prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead — reading, writing and arithmetic.

When polled about their futures, the 4- and 5-year-olds seemed to think along the same lines — policeman, firefighter, Navy sailor, and the ever-popular ruler of a kingdom.

"I want to be a princess!" said Kaileigh, whose immediate plans at her new school include making new friends and playing blocks.



CDC graduates greet Thummer.



CDC kindergarten graduates, class of 2007

Auction Builds on Strong Foundation



A bidder eyes the selection at the CDC auction

Each year, the Child Development Center at Fairplex and University of La Verne child development program nurture and educate 175 growing minds and bodies. From forming their first words to writing their name, the infants, toddlers and preschoolers who enter through the double doors begin their educational foundation here.

Help build their future by supporting the 16th annual CDC silent and voice auction Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Suites Fairplex hotel. With its theme *Building a Brighter Future*, the auction serves

as a major fundraiser for the center, and the proceeds benefit its programs throughout the year.

Tickets are \$75. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner will be served.

Romantic getaways, award-winning wines, and signed guitars by musical luminaries have been auctioned in the past. Who knows what exciting and one-of-a-kind items will be available at this year's event?

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (909) 865-4207 or visit www.fairplex.org. Register online by Sept. 1 for a chance to win an L.A. County Fair family fun pack.



Fair Association Board member Art Ludwick makes a bid

The Rodent Rodeo and Bugs Galore

Are Stars of FairKids Discovery Club Field Trips

Sixteen new interactive events come to FairView Farms this year, adding hairy, creepy crawly fun to the line-up for the FairKids Discovery Club Field Trips to the Fair. The all-new Rodent Rodeo features *The Rodent Round-Up*, with a variety of critters from around the world. Star performers include rats (some hairless and some not), mice, guinea pigs, chinchillas, Capybara, the 130 lb. rodent and the African crested porcupine with 2-inch long quills. Rodents are not only interesting, in a crawly sort of way, but have an important impact on agriculture, as FairKids field-trippers will learn.

BUGS: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly is a new walk-through exhibit where tarantulas, scorpions, millipedes, worms and huge walking sticks live side by side with some amazing colored bugs. Daily shows at the Tumbleweed Stage in the new Mrs. Millipede's Insect Barn will feature the fabulous *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* stage show, where FairKids will learn how insects and invertebrates affect California's farmlands.

There's more! A visit to *Bovine Boulevard* will help FairKids identify the various breeds of cattle that comprise California's beef industry, providing a helpful "leg up" in recognizing these breeds on the next family road trip. The *Pony Parlor* with America's favorite pony breeds is likely to cause some trouble for parents who don't happen to have a pony barn in the backyard. It's the stuff that dreams are wrapped around and for some FairKids, it's the inspiration for a lifetime career.

If that's not enough to make the FairKids Discovery Club field trips memorable, the new *Mommy & Me* exhibit offers an intimate view of

motherhood animal-style, where FairKids can watch different babies of different ages interact with their moms. At selected sites throughout FairView Farms, animals from different exhibits will be available for petting and close-up viewing. This Stop — Look — Touch experience features animals that are seldom, if ever, offered for this type of hands-on interaction.

It's all part of "A Day Full of Learning Cleverly Disguised as Fun[®]" for nearly 100,000 local schoolchildren who will experience the "World's Largest Classroom[®]" at the L.A. County Fair, all at no cost for teachers and students in Southern California schools.

Make sure every local student has an opportunity to participate in the FairKids Discovery Club field trip program. Support the Bus Sponsorship Program at www.fairplex.org or call Laura Smolka in the development department at (909) 865-4206. Thanks!

