

# Press Release

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**For Immediate Release:** March 11, 2010

[Editor's note: Photo jpeg attached to e-mail; caption included below.]



## **Naperville partners collaborate to celebrate Week of the Young Child, April 11-17 “Celebrity” Story Reading, Musical Concerts and Family-Friendly Activities Planned**

(Naperville, IL) – In honor of Week of the Young Child, DuPage Children’s Museum and the Naperville Park District are partnering to present special activities that celebrate young children and their families and that draw attention to how investing in young children benefits us all. In addition to highlighted events, daily activities are planned at the Museum and at multiple park district locations. For a complete list of activities, please visit [www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org) or [www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org).

### Highlighted Events:

Kickoff Event, Sunday, April 11 - Celebrity Story Reading at DCM

Local personalities will share stories that are guaranteed to engage a young audience as well as elicit smiles and maybe even a chuckle or two. Have some fun with your child while reinforcing the benefits of a shared literacy experience. Activity begins at 1:00 p.m. Bring a friend! Admission to DCM on Sunday, April 11 is half-priced for this event!

“Celebrity” Story Readers will include: Naperville Mayor A. George Pradel, DCM Executive Director Susan Broad, Park District Executive Director Ray McGrury, 95.9The River DJ Scott MacKay and NCTV17 News Anchor Dolly McCarthy.

Mother Nature Storytelling Session

Monday, April 12 -3:15 p.m.

Alfred Rubin Community Center

Mother Nature offers short stories that not only highlight "character building" for young children but also encourage little ones to think about the world around them. With the help of props, puppets and young volunteers, this 40-minute program keeps audiences engaged and entertained. Event is free, but space is limited. Pre-registration is required, details on [www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org).

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Third Thursday, April 15 - Concert by The Naturals at DCM

Third Thursday is a special time once a month at DCM for families of children with autism spectrum disorder, visual, and mobility impairments to come play at the Museum. On this night, the Museum is partnering with the Autism Society of Illinois (ASI) to present a rock concert by The Naturals, a Chicago-area band created to promote the musical abilities of two young men with autism. Music is a meaningful way for people with cognitive disabilities to showcase their talent. Activity begins at 5:00 p.m. Bring a friend! Admission to DCM on Thursday, April 15 after 5:00 p.m. is half-priced for this event!

Jeanie B! Dance Party Concert, Friday, April 16,

Sponsored by Airtastic Playland at Washington Junior High School

One of the hottest acts on the kids' music circuit today, Jeanie B! delivers a live show that will have both young and old up on their feet dancing and singing along. Seating is on the floor, so bring a blanket or mat. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; music starts at 6:30 p.m.

Advance tickets are required. Concert is free with a donation of a nonperishable food item that will be given to Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry in Naperville. Tickets will be available beginning Monday, April 5, at DuPage Children's Museum and at the Naperville Park District main office.

About DuPage Children's Museum

DuPage Children's Museum helps develop curiosity, creativity, thinking and problem solving in young children via interactive exhibits and programs that make learning fun for children and adults playing together. The Museum is located at 301 N. Washington Street in Naperville, Illinois, a quick walk from the Naperville Metra train station. Parking is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. DuPage Children's Museum is a top Chicago-area cultural attraction...*where learning comes in to play*<sup>TM</sup>! For information about hours, Museum admission and membership packages, visit [www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org) or call (630) 637-8000.

About Naperville Park District

Created in 1966, the Naperville Park District is an independent, municipal agency serving the recreation needs of its residents. As a leader in providing leisure experiences that enhance the quality of life for the community, the District maintains and operates more than 2,500 acres with 130+ parks and facilities and provides more than 900 recreational, arts and environmental programs and special events annually. Included within the District's operations are two championship golf courses, a multitude of courts and sports fields, two inline skating and skateboarding facilities, the Millennium Carillon, a paddleboat quarry, historic Centennial Beach, and the beautiful Riverwalk.

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About Week of the Young Child

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 90,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state and regional affiliates, established the Week of the Young Child in 1971. Recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life, the Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we – as citizens of our community, state and nation – will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

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Jpeg of Mother Nature with caption:

“Mother Nature” will be appearing at a free story telling session courtesy of the Naperville Park District on Monday, April 12. Details for this event and others planned by community partners Naperville Park District and DuPage Children's Museum in celebration of Week of the Young Child can be found on each organization's Web site.

