



# 'Tis the Season to Give

By Liz Stevenson Haefliger  
Henry and Paul's Mom

"New Year's Day is every man's birthday." *Charles Lamb*  
"Ring out the old, ring in the new."  
*Alfred Tennyson*

In the context of traditional New Year's sayings, what better time of year to donate to a charity. Here is a list of local organizations that accept stuff. And remember "One family's trash is another family's treasure." Enough with the clichés already! So go ahead and clear out those closets, drawers, shelves, basements, attics and garages for a worthy cause.

### Where to Donate Clothes and Household Items

- Nutrition Centre/Orphanage: If you have *cotton* clothes for children (newborn to 12 years of age) please contact Penny Ward at +33 450 401545. She will be travelling to Cambodia in early February 2010. She sends a big Thank You to all those who have and continue to support this orphanage in Phnom Penh.
- SOS Enfants Geneva: Call them to find out if they have a current family in need. +41 22 312 1112. [www.sos-enfants.ch](http://www.sos-enfants.ch)
- SOS Femmes: Enable women to rebuild after violence, drugs, prostitution, or other horrible experiences.

They run a second-hand shop called Les Fringantes. +41 22 328 1655. [www.sosfemmes.ch](http://www.sosfemmes.ch)

- Red Cross—Geneva: They have a vintage clothing boutique with some great finds, Vêt'Shop Vintage (Rue des Etuves 16, +41 22 738 7440). [www.croix-rouge-ge.ch](http://www.croix-rouge-ge.ch)
- Red Cross—Nyon: +41 22 362 1140. [www.croixrougevaudoise.ch](http://www.croixrougevaudoise.ch)
- The Samaritans—Nyon: + 41 22 361 6369. [www.samaritains-nyon.ch](http://www.samaritains-nyon.ch)
- Eglise Nationale Protestante de Geneve: +41 22 311 8533. [www.protestant.ch/epg](http://www.protestant.ch/epg)
- Caritas. +41 22 708 0444. [www.caritas-geneve.ch](http://www.caritas-geneve.ch)
- Salvation Army: In Geneva +41 22 736 1580 and in Nyon +41 22 361 3337. [www.armeedusalut.ch](http://www.armeedusalut.ch)
- Yellow Collecte de Habits Boxes throughout Geneva: +41 22 301 5757. Benefits Caritas, Centre social protestant, Croix-Rouge genevoise, Fondation Terre des Hommes Suisse, Terres des Hommes Genève et Emmaüs.

### Where to Donate New Toys

If you are like me then you have a stash of new toys that were either duplicates, saved for a rainy day or not age appropriate. Here is the perfect solution for them.

- Crossroads Church and PGP Christmas Gift Collection: New toys are gathered for disadvantaged children in the Pays de Gex. Gifts are given to three organizations: Restos des Coeurs, Les Marmosets home and the Foyer Schweizer in Ferney. Please contact Lucy Brown for more information at +33 450 424661 or [lucy.brown@sfr.fr](mailto:lucy.brown@sfr.fr).
- Un Enfant Un Cadeau: They organize children's shows in which the cost of admission is a toy. The gifts are offered to disadvantaged children in Geneva and France. +41 22 342 7935. [www.enfant-cadeau.ch](http://www.enfant-cadeau.ch)

### Where to Donate Cell Phones

Drop off old cell phones along with their charger and battery at any Swisscom Shop. Irrespective of its condition, 5 CHF is given to the children's charity Terre des Hommes Switzerland. This is only one aspect of the campaign. Search for Solidarcomm on [www.swisscom.ch](http://www.swisscom.ch) to learn more.

### Where to Donate Eyeglasses

Your old glasses find new life at Optic 2000. Optic 2000 supports Burkina Faso and Les Enfants des Sables. [www.optic2000.ch/ACT/CHF/optique\\_humanitaire.asp](http://www.optic2000.ch/ACT/CHF/optique_humanitaire.asp)

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## Three Month Calendar

Thu 05 Nov	Back to School in France	Sat 12 Dec	Christmas Party	Fri 1 Jan	New Year's Day
Mon 09 Nov	Board Meeting	Mon 14 Dec	Start of Playgroup Break	Mon 4 Jan	Back to Playgroup
Wed 11 Nov	Armistice Day (Veteran's Day)	Fri 18 Dec	January/February Newsletter Deadline	Mon 4 Jan	Back to School in Vaud and France
Mon 23 Nov	Literacy Parent Information Meeting	Mon 21 Dec	Start of School Break in Vaud and France	Mon 11 Jan	Back to School in Geneva
Wed 25 Nov	Usborne Book Sale	Thu 24 Dec	Start of School Break in Geneva	Mon 18 Jan	Board Meeting
Thu 26 Nov	Thanksgiving Day	Fri 25 Dec	Christmas Day	Mon 25 Jan	Mid-year Leader Workshop

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### Literacy Information Evening

Monday, November 23rd, 8pm, Crossroads Church

A social occasion to meet the teachers and assistants and see examples of what children are doing in their Literacy classes. Have a glass of wine. Listen to a presentation from Playgroup mother, Anita Godson BSc (Hons), Member Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (MRCSLT), who has offered to speak about speech and language development milestones for younger children, bilingualism, and to give basic information on dyslexia.

# Holiday Spirits

By Alexandra Robak  
Isabelle and Nina's Mum

## Christmas crackers of the vinous variety

The season of indulgence will soon be upon us and after all that shopping/cooking/being polite to relatives\* (\*delete as appropriate), you'll deserve a glass or two of something. So here's my guide to celebrating in style.

Golden rule #1: have plenty to go around (including a small glass at all times for the cook).  
Golden rule #2: drink good but not great wines.  
The best wines deserve your full attention – cooking, children and small accidents involving crackers and candles are not conducive to this. Save your best bottles for another time.

## Party time

If you're throwing a party you need wine that is drinkable, affordable and won't offend anyone. So avoid wines that are too tannic, acid, oaky or just plain unusual. You also need something that can be drunk alone but will stand up to any food you're serving. Your best bets for fresh, quaffable whites are southern France or ever reliable Chile, Australia or South Africa. Party reds should be juicy and moreish, with maybe a touch of spice for interest. Australia and Chile are, once again, good options, or try a modern style red from Italy, Spain or southern France. Co-op is your best bet for non-French wines, though Leclerc often has the consistently great Casillero del Diablo wines from Chile (the Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenere are particularly good value for money).

Better still, put everyone in a warm Christmas mood with a big pan of mulled wine (aka glühwein or gløgg). You can buy mulled wine preparations, but it's much nicer to make your own. Recipes vary widely; some adding spirits, others using fruit juice instead of wine (I'm not sure which is worse); but here, for the record, is mine. You can use pretty much any red wine (I normally go for a cheap Côtes du Rhône), but if you're going to have more than a glass or two, save yourself a

headache and use something drinkable rather than completely cheap and nasty.

## The big feast

However you celebrate Christmas, chances are Champagne will feature somewhere. The perfect aperitif, it always turns a gathering into a celebration. If you want a cheaper alternative, try a Cava, Crémant (fizz from Alsace, Loire, Burgundy or Limoux) or Blanquette de Limoux – often a sparkling bargain. If you're not keen on fizz, try a Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Viognier or lightly oaked Chardonnay as an aperitif.

Smoked salmon or gravadlax are often on the menu as a starter. Dry, mineral Sauvignon Blancs (such as Sancerre or Pouilly-Fumé) or Chardonnay (Chablis or a bigger, more oaky southern Burgundy) are traditional matches. If you'd like to try something more left field, a dry Manzanilla or Fino sherry works terrifically. Alternatively, look north for inspiration and serve iced vodka or aquavit with smoked or cured salmon.

### Gløgg (Norwegian mulled wine)

4 75cl bottles of red wine  
4 cinnamon sticks  
8 cloves  
1 fresh nutmeg, grated  
2 lemons, halved  
2 oranges, halved  
brown sugar (and possibly a little lemon juice) to taste

If you have a muslin bag, put all the solid ingredients in it and place in a pan with the wine. If you don't, just throw everything in the pan together (studding the oranges with the cloves).

Heat gently to just below boiling point (you don't want the alcohol to boil off). Keep the wine at a steady temperature over a low heat, allowing the spices to infuse slowly for an hour or so.

Turkey or goose, served with all the trimmings, demands a red with a hint of sweetness. The generous, warm flavours of the Southern Rhône (Crozes-Hermitage, Châteauneuf-du-Pape etc) or Languedoc-Roussillon are perfect. Other good choices (if you can track them down) include Australian shiraz, juicy New Zealand Pinot Noir, or something from Puglia in Italy's south. The Coop often has a few of these wines, though they tend to be big brand offerings rather than anything exciting. If you prefer white wine, you'll need something pretty robust to stand up to all the flavours. A fat, fruity Chardonnay (like a rich Burgundy or a Chilean or New Zealand Chard) is probably your best bet.

Room for more? Matching wine and cheese is a minefield. There are some brilliant combinations (port and stilton, Roquefort and Sauternes, goats cheese and Sauvignon Blanc), but there are many more mismatches. Go for one or two good cheeses rather than a smorgasbord and pick the wine accordingly. If in doubt, drink a wine from the same region as the cheese, or take a look at this web site [www.spittoon.biz/matching\\_cheese\\_and\\_wine.html](http://www.spittoon.biz/matching_cheese_and_wine.html).

And finally, what to drink with the sweet stuff? You'll need a pick-me-up if you get as far as a rich and heavy Christmas pudding (yuk), mince pie (yum) or Christmas cake (does anyone bother anymore?). Light, sweet-sharp, fizzy Moscato d'Asti from Italy is the perfect refreshing tonic. Sweet and unctuous, a Muscat de Beaumes de Venise or Muscat de Rivesaltes will stand up to Christmas pud or chocolatey deserts. Fruity, creamy puddings are a better match for the sweet wines of Sauternes, Barsac or Monbazillac (or indeed Germany, Austria or Hungary). In our house we round off the Christmas meal with riskrem (a Norwegian rice pudding), though by that stage the wine is finished and what I'm normally gagging for is a nice cup of tea!

## 'Tis the Season to Give

*continued from page 1*

### Where to Donate Books

The PGP Library always welcomes new or gently-used children's books. You can also pack up your books and present them to the Geneva Public Library (Place des Trois-Perdrix 5, +41 22 418 3255). All English, French, German, Spanish, etc books are redistributed to the various branches or bibliobuses. Refer to [www.ville-ge.ch/bmu/pratique/horaires/cite.html](http://www.ville-ge.ch/bmu/pratique/horaires/cite.html).

So if all of the above are just not your thing, then there also exists the possibility to sell your items that are in mint condition. Ask around to find out when the next Troc (second-hand toy/clothing fair/flea market) will be held in your area.

Or try a Dépôt-Vente (consignment store), [www.depot-vente.ch](http://www.depot-vente.ch). There is a very chic boutique called the l'Île aux Trésors in Eaux-Vives (+41 22 700 4102).

Finally, you could get a good bunch of friends together for wine and chocolate and have loads of fun swapping.

### Special Events Assistant Needed

We are seeking a motivated member to organize new PGP events. There is a particular interest in fundraising activities. Please contact Audrey Stirling at [pgp-director@hotmail.com](mailto:pgp-director@hotmail.com) to learn more about the innovative possibilities associated with this exciting role.

## The January/February Newsletter Deadline is

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18.**

**Send contributions to [newsletter\\_pgp@yahoo.com](mailto:newsletter_pgp@yahoo.com)**

## An Interview With Audrey Stirling

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*Editor's Note: Audrey is the current fearless leader of the Playgroup Programme.*

### Tell Us About Yourself

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and grew up in Bo'ness a smallish town on the Firth of Forth. It was a great and very safe place to have a childhood and as a result I was given a lot of freedom. In fact, not unlike the life my sons now have in our village in Switzerland. After my sheltered childhood I headed off to Liverpool, just a few years after the riots, to start my student life. I can tell you Liverpool was a good place to be a student! My work in the Leisure Industry took me to London, Hampshire and back to London where I headed up a Leisure Management Company. Then I gave it all up and headed off to Switzerland and haven't looked back since.

### Where Do You Like To Grocery Shop

I don't really like food shopping – I find it a bit of a chore and unfortunately I always seem to be doing it! The Coop in La Praille is where I normally go and since they introduced Passabene, a system allowing you to scan your own groceries it has made it more bearable taking out all the hassle of unloading and repacking your groceries. Then there are occasional trips to Migros in Thoiry to pick up the bits and pieces you can't get in Switzerland.

### Your Favourite Local Restaurant

There are so many amazing local Auberges tucked away around and about Avully. The food is always good quality and it means we are never too far away from home, so getting back to let the babysitter get home is easier.

### Your Favourite Summer Holiday Destination

We have been going to Lucca in Italy for several years now and we love it. It really offers us everything we want at the moment. Firstly, Italians just love children – and that's always a good thing. Then of course there is the hot weather, the well managed beaches, great food, the long lunches and there is always lots going on in the evenings.

### Your Favourite Winter Holiday Destination

Last winter we rented an apartment in Villars in the Canton of Vaud for the season, and absolutely loved it. Both boys were skiing pretty well by the end of the season and we enjoyed lots of fresh air, abit of exercise and some good quality family time, so, it will be great to do it again this winter. Villars is a very family orientated and pretty resort and only 1.5 hours away from Geneva, so very manageable for weekend trips.

### Your Favourite Sport and Where You Do It

I once was very sporty taking part in lots of different sports and activities. Now, well I'd love to just have the time to do one.

Unfortunately apart from running around and tidying up after the children I just never really manage to get myself organised enough to fit exercise into my life.

### Your Favourite Place In Geneva Or Environs

I just love our village and it's surrounding areas, it's real Swiss chocolate box scenery. We are very lucky with lots of lovely river and vineyard walks starting just outside our garden gate.

### Your Favourite Book

I'm always reading and enjoy books, I'm one of those people who really get into the book and can't put it down, but almost as soon as it's finished have forgotten what it was all about. Last summer I enjoyed *The Book Thief* and this summer *The Cellist of Sarajevo* and *Child 44*. I enjoyed all the Rebus novels by Ian Rankin (his books are set in Edinburgh so it's nice to recognize the setting).

### Your Favourite Movie

I also love going to the cinema, but that's something else I haven't done for a while. Classic favourites are *Cinema Paradiso* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. There is also *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Local Hero* which I'd watch again and again. Recently it's *Star Wars*, all 6 of them – better to join in with the boys than miss out a bit of quality family viewing time.

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## Dad's Corner

By Alistair Speirs  
Laura and Sammy's Dad

My introduction to this part of the world was gradual. Catherine started working at the UN a month after we were married and for two years our weekends were taken up with easyJet flights to and from Newcastle. When the direct flight was dropped for the summer in 2006 the trips became more tiresome. After Laura was born we needed to choose just one city. My move to Ferney, therefore, represented a significant life change; not only a move to a different country but also retirement from teaching law at Newcastle University, becoming Laura's full-time carer and abandoning my part-time bachelorhood. It is a move which I have not once regretted.

I am grateful for all of the changes brought on by my migration here: better weather, excellent croissants (I recommend Prévessin bakery, which this summer seems to have embraced the Anglo-Saxon free-market model – now open on Mondays), being with my wife seven days a week, seeing a lot less of the security personnel at Newcastle airport (so much worse than their counterparts in Geneva) and being able to enjoy September without preparing for an influx of new students and updating my lecture notes. Without a doubt, however, it is the luxury of spending so much time with my daughter which has been the highlight of my time here.

Although I will happily confess to a high level of gratitude to our wonderful neighbours Alba and Denis who regularly entertain her in their flat for an hour or two. I am looking forward to spending as much time with Sammy (now two weeks old), although with some trepidation – I cannot imagine how one controls two children, once both are mobile, in a supermarket (in fact the cashiers in Carrefour Market would say that I have yet to work out how to control one, now that riding in the trolley no longer suits Laura).

A few things about my adopted country still mystify me: why 'fresh cream' is soured, why the cheese shop in Ferney is invariably closed, in contradiction of the prominent sign on its door and why the French driver's fad of draping a fluorescent jacket over the passenger seat has now run its course. By contrast, the list of things I do appreciate here is much longer; apart from those croissants and the weather there are the parks (Ferney and Signal de Bougy being the favourites), swimming in Lake Geneva (ok, only once so far), walking on Lausanne's promenade after eating a huge ice cream sundae at Mövenpick (many times), seeing my children born in a reassuringly wonderful Swiss hospital (twice), cycling around sunny Pays de Gex with Laura bouncing in her seat behind, driving on French motorways rather than the M1, wandering around the Wednesday market at Plainpalais and the Saturday market in Ferney, looking at the view

from the top of the Col de Faucille or watching the hang gliders taking off from Le Salève, memorable meals at Le Creux de Genthod and la Ferme de l'Hôpital (among others) and more. It is a testament to the variety of this area and the activities on offer that we still have far fewer things crossed off our to-do-list than remain uncrossed.

Being a stay-at-home Dad has proved a lot more enjoyable than I expected. In some ways, perhaps, my history of fairly solitary jobs has been good preparation. Certainly, raising a child has been more fun than I had anticipated. Laura and I joined the Sitting to 18 months group last year and I never felt less than welcome as the only Dad – even though a plausible variation of the words of the song "Where's my Mummy gone" had to be introduced for my benefit. Of course there are things it is hard to participate in fully. I do have to sit out those birthing-in-detail conversations – but that is about all. PGP was great as somewhere to go for a bit of company once a week, to get reassurance on one's child-raising skills and ideas on things to do. This year we are in the 18 months to 3 years group and very much enjoying following Kerry's craft instructions (our door hanger came out particularly well and the painted T shirt was a triumph). Above all, it is great fun watching the children enjoying themselves, whether on the big toys, playing 'sleeping bunnies' and 'down at the station' or trying to steal pretzels from a neighbour's plate.

## Playgroup's Best-Loved Books

By Trish Clements  
Hugh and Ronan's Mum

We asked the Playgroups what their children are reading, or to be more accurate, what is being read to them? Here are the current favourites – some new, and some not so new, in good measure.

*That's Not My.....(Usborne Touchy Feely books)* by Fiona Watt and Rachel Wells  
These multi-textured, sturdy little board books are ideal as first books. There are a whole range of titles from robots to fairies, penguins to dinosaurs – there's practically one out there for everyone.  
From 6 months+

*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd  
This American classic (1947) is a short poem of goodnight wishes from a young rabbit to every object in his room. It has a certain magic that has stood the test of time to be a favourite at bedtime.  
From 6 months+  
Also recommended by the same author: *The Good Little Bad Little Pig*

*I Love You, Blue Kangaroo* by Emma Chichesterclark  
Another recommended bedtime story, all about a much loved, but temporarily neglected, blue kangaroo soft toy.  
From 12 months+

*Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell  
One of the first books to grab the attention of many a young playgroup. The repetitive text and pop-up or flap animal pictures are impossible for little fingers to resist.  
From 12 months+

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle  
The repetitive text and colourful drawings by this acclaimed author/illustrator are captivating. Great for introducing colours and animals.  
Ideal for 12 months+  
Also recommended by the same author: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

*We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury  
Repetitive and expressive language and beautifully illustrated: You'll be obliged to "squelch squerch" though muddy puddles and wade through "swishy swashy grass" for ever afterwards.  
From 2 years+

*The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler  
Lovely rhyming language with colourful detailed illustrations that come alive. So much so that walks in the woods will never again be just simple walks, as your child will hunt for signs of Gruffalo.  
From 2 years+  
Also recommended by the same authors: too many to mention!

Get Wrapped Up in Reading

*You Choose!* by Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt  
Children do all the talking, being inspired by the pages of options (Where do you want to go? Which house would you like? Which hat would you wear?) to create their own story-adventure. This book fires their imaginations and is fantastic for developing vocabulary and is great entertainment for Mum and Dad.

From 3-4 years+  
Also recommended by Nick Sharratt: *Don't Put Your Finger in the Jelly Nelly* and *Ketchup on Your Cornflakes?*

*Eat Your Peas* by Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt  
This is part of a series of books about Daisy – this story is about what lengths a mother will go to convince a child to eat their peas. Guess who wins?  
From 2 years+

*Go Away, Big Green Monster!* by Ed Emberley  
This is a fun book where a monster is 'created' in the first half of the book and then is banished away with children's cries of 'Go away' in the second half.  
From 2 years+

*Olivia* by Ian Falconer  
Olivia is a little pig with a big personality and an extraordinary will of her own. If the wonderful stories (there is a whole series) don't win you over, the simple illustrations certainly will.  
From 3 years+

*Some Dogs Do* by Jez Alborough  
Well, we all know that pigs can't, but can dogs? Read it and find out.  
From 18 months to 5 years  
Also recommended by this author: *Duck in the Truck* series

### Other Favourites

*Owl Babies*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, *The Mog Collection*, and *Guess How Much I Love You*.

We are very fortunate that many of these children's books are already available in the PGP Library. The work of the Library Team of Lucy Brown and Yasmine Kuhnen is truly appreciated.

### Adult Books

The Playgroup grown-ups have found some time to read for their own pleasure too - here are some of their recent favourites:

*The Time Travellers Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger  
*One Day* by David Nicholls  
*Family Tree* by Carole Cadwalladr  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Flyer* by Khaled Hosseini  
*Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon  
*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid  
*The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton  
*Any Human Heart* by William Boyd  
*Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller  
*The Secret Life of France* by Lucy Wadham

*A Certain Je Ne Sais Quoi: The Ideal Guide to Sounding, Acting and Shrugging Like the French and Pardon My French: Unleash Your Inner Gaul* by Charles Timoney

Thanks to our contributors: Alex Robak, Denise Nickerson-Cauderan, Helen Dixon-Altaber, Jess McGraw, Jo Watkins, Liz Haefliger, Tania McMahon, Tina Bihi-Zenou and Trish Clements.

Snow is Falling, Books are Calling



### A Few Holiday Hints

Probably the largest selection of cookie cutters in Geneva can be found at Girard Aux Grottes ([www.girardauxgrottes.com](http://www.girardauxgrottes.com)). They supply to caterers and restaurants. There are actually three stores right behind the main train station so don't hesitate to ask for help.

Fauchon (for all you Paris devotees) has opened its first store in Switzerland. The address is Rue du Rhône 118. +41 22 735 6046, [www.fauchon.com](http://www.fauchon.com)

### Stocking Stuffer Idea

Your friends, neighbors, mothers, grandmothers, teachers, in-laws, coworkers, and so on might enjoy a copy of the SoupyLady Recipe Collection (compiled in May 2009). Please contact Liz Stevenson Haefliger at [newsletter\\_pgp@yahoo.com](mailto:newsletter_pgp@yahoo.com) to purchase a copy for 5 CHF (3.30 Euros).

### Words to Live By

*Good character, like good soup, is made at home.*



## Literacy's Best-Loved Books

By Jane del Pozo  
Anna and David's Mum

### Book Reviews from Literacy 5 & 6 (WED PM)

Annabelle Cox, Lit. 6

*Totally Lucy, Makeover Magic* by Kelly McKain  
Talks about Lucy's life. The author has a lot of imagination. I loved it because it is a journal and I love journals!  
For ages 9+

William Grove, Lit. 6

*The Little Encyclopedia of Space*

This book is very good. It explains how stars are born and die, what galaxies look like, things about planets. It has a lot of pictures.  
This book is good for all ages if you are interested.

Tom Harvey, Lit. 5

*Jason and the Argonauts* retold by Felicity Brooks  
A Greek myth. Jason is the captain of the Argonauts. Their job is to take away the Golden Fleece which is guarded by a dragon. They succeeded and brought it back to Greece. Great story!

Aman Marker, Lit. 5

*Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson

It talks about a little girl whose parents are dead. One day the people who were looking after her found another family who would accept to take her. They lived in Brazil. In Brazil, there were bad people who wanted to capture the little girl's friend. I liked the book because it is an adventure story.

Anthony Mason, Lit. 6

*The Story of Rome* by Rosie Dickins

Step back in time, into the bloodthirsty past of this famous Italian city. Read the myth then marvel at the true story of how a humble village became the head of a mighty Empire. Meet the ancient Romans and their crazy emperors and find out how their world came crashing to an end. I liked this story because it talks about Romans (I'm guessing he copied this out from the book, so don't be too dazzled by such a great synopsis!)

Jack McMahon, Lit. 6

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

This is a story about a young boy called Jim Hawkins dreaming to go out to sea, then one day he meets a pirate. I like this book because I saw the film and I thought it was cool.

Franck Okhoya, Lit. 5

*Pompeii*

Pompeii was a town in Italy that long ago was buried in volcanic ash when mount Vesuvius erupted. They discovered Pompeii over 100 years ago when archaeologists dug out the village. People can come and visit the town today.

Adair Quennec, Lit. 5

*Junie B., First Grader Boss of Lunch* by Barbara Park

Junie B Jones has a chance to work at the school cafeteria. She gets three different jobs to do and makes funny mistakes. I liked it because it was funny.

Ryan Tan, Lit. 6

*Oliver Moon and the Dragon Disaster* by Sue Mongredien

Part of the Oliver Moon series. This book is about Oliver Moon who's going to the "Festival of Magic" parade when he finds out that his job is one of the most boring ones, a litter collector. He decides to make things more exciting by getting help from his new pet baby dragon. But then disaster strikes. I like this book because it has a lot of imagination.  
For ages 7+

### Literacy 2 (WED PM) Picks

Our faces lit up when we were asked what our favourite stories were. At this stage it is hard to answer why it is our favourite story but we were able to explain the plot in detail.

We like *Peter Pan* (Jed), *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* (Ellen) and the *Famous Five* (Anna) because they are full of adventures; like children fighting pirates, like going on boats and kings dying and kings pulling swords from stones.

We like *Heidi* (Lisa), *Winnie the Pooh* (Isam) and *Hannah Montana* (Amanda-Chris) for the fun and happy characters.

We like *The Fairytale Princess* (Niska) because her brother is lost and she finds a Scottish castle. We like *Vampire* and *Godzilla* stories (Kieron) for the scary monsters!

But most of all we mentioned our parents' choosing the books and reading them to us. Adventure stories with chapters seem to be our favourites because the characters do exciting things that we'd like to do and the stories are longer and make us think and the settings are familiar or fabulous! Thanks for asking.

### Jess McGraw's Suggestions for Older Children

For fluent readers or for reading aloud at bedtime try the *Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne. There are loads of books in this series about the adventures of brother and sister, Jack and Annie, and you guessed it a magic tree house. They travel to various times and places and the books cover a whole host of favourite situations: dinosaurs, pirates, ninjas, knights, space, the wild west, ancient Egypt. You name it - there's a book about it! Also good are *Aussie Nibbles* by Puffin. They are by lots of different authors and are short chapter books, often funny or exciting. They are great for filling that difficult gap between scheme books and proper chapter books.

### Vicky Beney's Recommendations as the Usborne Representative

*Beowulf*, Young Reading Series 3, (For ages 7+)  
*Oliver Moon and the Potion Commotion* and *Oliver Moon's Fangtastic Sleepover* (For ages 6+)  
*Doughnuts, Dreams and Drama Queens* and *SPY The Constantinople Caper* (For ages 9+)

### Book Ideas for Reluctant Readers

These were on the recommended reading lists of UK school library websites:

*Why Eating Bogeys is Good for You* by Mitchell Symons

*The Adventures of Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey

Chill Out and Read



### Lost In Translation

*Ginny Mahr, Parents Magazine, September 2009*  
My 7-year old son, Tyler, asked why my baby daughter, Lila, was crying. I told him she was hungry, and he said, "I don't know how you can understand her accent."

### Overheard by a Playgroup Member

One morning there was such a traffic jam that it was impossible for anyone to cross the road. A 2-year old boy walking with his papa pointed out, "Il y a une confiture d'autos." None of the charm was lost in this direct translation.

### Where to Buy English Books in Geneva

#### Online

- The Book Depository ([www.bookdepository.co.uk](http://www.bookdepository.co.uk)): They do free delivery practically worldwide. Service is excellent and often cheaper compared to Amazon when you include the cost of international shipping.
- Amazon ([www.amazon.de](http://www.amazon.de)): The German site has a large selection of mainstream Englische Bücher and they often pass through Swiss customs no problem as compared to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).
- Orell Füssli ([www.books.ch](http://www.books.ch)): This is the online version of the Swiss-German bookstore.

#### Locally

Payot ([www.payot.ch](http://www.payot.ch)), Off the Shelf ([www.offtheshelf.ch](http://www.offtheshelf.ch)) and Au Chien Bleu ([www.auchienbleu.ch](http://www.auchienbleu.ch)). The latter is actually a very charming French children's bookstore.

## Adults Only - Serendipitous Snacks

By Tania McMahon  
Amy, Lauren, Matthew and Zoe's Mum

Both these recipes are very simple and straightforward, just the thing when you have to prepare a delicious cake in a hurry (i.e. you have forgotten until the night before Playgroup that it is your turn to bring in the grown-up snack).

### Easy Apple Cake

2 cups sugar  
2 eggs  
2 cups self-rising flour  
1 tsp cinnamon  
2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 cup oil  
4 cups diced apples  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp nutmeg

Combine sugar, eggs, oil and apples. Sift the dry ingredients together and add to mixture. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch cake tin and bake for 1 hour at 180 °C, gas mark 4. Serve hot or cold, plain or frosted, with whipped cream or ice cream.

### Chocolate Cake (excellent as a birthday cake)

6 oz caster sugar  
6 oz soft margarine  
3 eggs  
5 oz self-rising flour  
3 oz drinking chocolate powder  
3 tbsp boiling water

Grease and line an 8 or 9 inch cake tin. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until they are combined. Beat for 2 minutes. Pour into prepared tin and bake at 180 °C, gas mark 4, for about 1 hour until well risen. Turn out after 5 minutes and decorate as desired.

### Usborne Book Sale

Have you started thinking about holiday gifts yet? Stocking stuffers or games to play on your holiday journey? Come and discover lots of new titles and old favorites from Usborne Books.

Books will be on sale in the foyer of Crossroads Church on Wednesday, November 25th from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Information books, first and young reading, fantastic fiction, creative fun and games will be available to take home on the day. Euros and CHF accepted. For further information please contact Vicki Beney at [vicki.beney@wanadoo.fr](mailto:vicki.beney@wanadoo.fr)

Laraine Taral will also be selling her Phoenix Cards! And Sam Cox will be there with her beautiful handmade Green Gecko Designs jewelry!

## Meals on Wheels for Families with Newborns - Basic Information

By InfoMom

The tradition of Meals on Wheels for families with new babies exists in Canada, Nepal, Puerto Rico, the States, and some parts of the UK (as well as many other places). It is particularly adapted for international and expatriate families who are living far away from extended family and good friends. When people started bringing dinners to us when our second child was born, we could not believe what a wonderful gift and blessing it was - we actually had time to spend with our newborn and to help our firstborn adjust to being a big sister.

This kind of Meals on Wheels is NOT an act of charity - here in the Geneva area; most international families can afford to put food on the table. It is a gift of time for parents and children to spend together instead of making dinner. It is the gift of nutrition when a family is adjusting to a new baby and might not get veggies and a salad on the table every night. It is the gift of leftovers that the mom can eat the next day for lunch when her partner is probably at work and she is dealing with small children. It is the gift of variety - it is fun to eat what other families have for dinner sometimes!

Basic ideas for Meals on Wheels in General:

It can be a complete family meal like:

1. A bag of salad, a quiche, a loaf of bread, a hunk of cheese, and a bag of apples, and some chocolate.
2. A big family-sized macaroni and cheese with tomatoes on the bottom and a dish of green beans.
3. A pot of soup, salad, & bread.
4. A pot of chili and corn bread and a pie.
5. A pan of lasagna and a bottle of apple juice.

OR

You can just bring something fun and useful like:

- A cake.
- 10 wrapped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and a bag of chips/crisps.

- 3 freezable portions of bolognese sauce.
- Something from the "Picard" frozen food store (we brought someone their fondant au chocolat cake recently and it got very good reviews).

When delivering a meal, a small surprise like some bubbles, a lollipop, or a pack of gum can make a new older sibling feel very special at a time when there is, naturally, a lot of fuss being made about the new baby.

Using disposable food containers makes the Meals on Wheels process easier. You can get the foil ones with cardboard lids at the grocery stores in France and Switzerland. Also, keeping plastic ice cream containers (the squarish - Movenpick ones are good for freezing a one-adult lunch portion of stew, soup, or chili) is useful for bringing food to new moms. When I bring a new mom a quiche, I transport it in my quiche pan and then wrap it in foil in the car when I arrive at her house. Ikea now sells a huge pack of various sizes of "Tupperware" - not the best quality but not the worst either - for about 16 CHF. I pretty much consider the big ones "giveaway Tupperware" and they are good for giving a new mom homemade soup. These "giveaway Tupperware" containers are transparent and have kind of turquoise/bright blue lids. The nice thing about buying a couple of packs is that you get some tiny ones which are great for toddlers' snacks. If you must give the family their meal in dishes or pans that you will need returned to you, it would be very helpful to put a label with your name on it on each item. The tired mom of a newborn could end up with quite a stack of containers to try and return to people, and it might not be easy to remember what belongs to whom.

It is always a good idea to coordinate meals for a family when their visitors, who have come to help with the new baby, have gone.

This extends the support to the family during the sleep-deprived first months. You might also want to arrange for meals to be left "on the doorstep" so that the mom does not feel like she has to clean the house or host drop-in guests in order to receive this gift.

Please email Debra Dimancesco ([pgp-membership@hotmail.com](mailto:pgp-membership@hotmail.com)) if you are interested in participating in a PGP Meals on Wheels network.

### Awakening the Genie Within

The second of 3 special PGP member workshops facilitated by professional life coach MJ Cabanel.

Remember the last time you felt really alive? Energized? Excited by the world and everything around you? What would it take to get those feelings back or create them anew?

This 3 hour seminar will explore taming your saboteur and tapping into your creative intelligence to discover what you really want, and the direction you really want to follow.

Date: Wednesday, November 11th  
Time: 7:45pm to 10:30pm (followed by a 30 min optional Q & A)  
Place: Life Motivations, Chemin de la Radio 5, 1293 Bellevue, CH  
Price: CHF 25

For Directions: [www.lifemotivations.ch](http://www.lifemotivations.ch)

To reserve your space, RSVP to [mjcabanel@gmail.com](mailto:mjcabanel@gmail.com) or +41 79 705 9581

Light refreshments will be served.

## Birthday Party Venue

By Sanna and Eddy Hill  
Juliana and Leo's Parents

We held Juliana's third birthday at a great venue in Bellevue (next to Ferney on the Swiss side) and would thoroughly recommend it. It's basically a kind of exhibition ground for outdoor playground materials made by Rainbow Play Systems ([www.rainbowplaysystems.ch](http://www.rainbowplaysystems.ch)).

The vendor seems to have figured out that holding parties at the showground makes for great advertising.

They have four to five big exposition models featuring climbing walls, swings, slides, monkey bars, and more, and you get to benefit from the facilities onsite – a rustic log cabin including a fully-equipped kitchen and a good-sized, furnished dining room. We ended up inviting lots more people than we had planned, we think they all had a good time (at least one guest went on to hold their own party there later), and we enjoyed the fresh air, views, and healthy playtime. Our party was in October, and although it was a little cool, the children were warm from all the running around. Adults should come warmly dressed!

## What's On In and Around Geneva

*continued from page 8*

29 Nov – **CRAFT: Journée du Vitrail (Stained-glass window day)** at Musée Ariana, Geneva. The museum is organizing a series of free workshops: At 13:00; 14:00; 15:00 and 16:00 for children up to 7 years old, at 11:00, 14:00; 15:00 and 16:00 for children above 7 years old. Reservations required. [www.ville-ge.ch/mah](http://www.ville-ge.ch/mah)

### DECEMBER

2 Dec – **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT: Cirque Impérial de Chine sur Glace (The Imperial Circus of China on Ice)**. Only two performances in Geneva. [www.geneva-arena.ch](http://www.geneva-arena.ch)

5 Dec – **FAMILY RACE "Course de l'Escalade."** Each year, on the first Saturday of December, the most popular sporting event in Geneva takes place in the old town - The Escalade Race. Last year, nearly 25,000 runners signed up. This year, it could be your turn! This event is for everyone – from famous international runners to beginners, children and adults alike. Distances vary from 2kms to 8kms depending on the category. All the races take place in the narrow streets of the old town and finish in the Bastion Park. At the same time, an event for walkers and Nordic walkers is organized for 8km. Not to forget at the end of the day, the famous "Marmite Race". This is undoubtedly the highlight for the thousands of spectators. This is not really a competition as there is no ranking. All who take part run the 3,4 km together, in a costume of their choice. The participants will try to outdo each other in originality. [www.escalade.ch/cms](http://www.escalade.ch/cms)

10 to 13 Dec – **International Horse Show**. CSI-W-Concours Hippique International de Genève. Equestrian jumping at Geneva Palexpo. [www.concours-hippique.ch](http://www.concours-hippique.ch)

12 and 13 Dec – **Fête de L'Escalade 2009** (The Escalade's historical remembrance day). This is Geneva's commemoration of the victory over the Savoyards in 1602. A parade in traditional costumes takes place on Sunday evening. [www.1602.ch](http://www.1602.ch)

12 and 13 Dec – **PUPPET FESTIVAL**: Third edition of the Pays de Gex's Puppet Festival at the Esplanade du Lac, Divonne les Bains. This year's festival draws inspiration from the commedia dell'arte, from African tales and simply from life itself.

The festival continues to gather performing artists from France and Switzerland and is organized by il etait une fois, une marionnette. [www.01marionnettes.fr](http://www.01marionnettes.fr)

13 Dec – **Franklin and Friends**. Franklin the tortoise and his friends are searching for Princess Harriet's gold necklace. However during their adventure, they have to overcome a number of obstacles including a ferocious dragon and a winged beast. Two performances at 14:00 and 17:00 at the Geneva Arena. Tickets available from Ticket Corner and Fnac.

18 to 27 Dec – **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT: Cirque du Soleil "Saltimbanco"**. In 2009, Cirque du Soleil is celebrating its 25th anniversary with the theme "the dream continues". Since 1984, this talented Quebec company has never stopped dreaming, daring, and pushing the limits. To celebrate the anniversary in Geneva, Cirque du Soleil will stage its signature show "Saltimbanco" - from the Italian "saltare in banco", which literally means "to jump on a bench" - 14 performances in Geneva. A must see!! [www.cirquedusoleil.com/world](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/world) and <http://www.geneva-arena.ch>

19 to 20 Dec – **CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR CHILDREN**: Sonia Grimm presents her latest Christmas show for children from 2 years old and above. Theatre du Lemman. Saturday at 17:00 and Sunday at 10:00 and 16:00. [www.sonia-grimm.com](http://www.sonia-grimm.com)

**LONG RUNNING EVENTS (From now until JAN)**  
**English Story Hour**. Story hour for children aged 3 to 7 years old. Held every Wednesday afternoon from 15:00-16:00 at the Library, 3 Rue de Monthoux. All are welcome. Tel. +41 22 732 8097. [www.amlib.ch](http://www.amlib.ch)

From 3 Oct to 17 Jan – **PLAYGROUND: Espace Junior**. A temporary play area for children aged 2 to 12 years old, with games, inflatable castles, a car track, trampolines, playhouses and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Open Wednesday to Sunday from 13:30-18:30. Open Mondays and Tuesdays during the school holidays and on public holidays. Every year, from October at the Geneva Palexpo, hall 7, Grand-Saconnex. Entry CHF 12, free for accompanying adults. Tel: +41 79 213 2926. [www.espacejunior.com](http://www.espacejunior.com)

### Gexpats Bar Night

A quiz night for expats in the Gex area. Nibbles included in 6 Euro cover, along with prizes!

Date: Friday, November 6th  
Time: 7:30pm to 11:00pm  
Please contact Trish Clements at [pgp\\_leadertrainer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pgp_leadertrainer@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

### Tip

**WARNING to Alex Robak: Do not read below!**

By Kerry McCance's Sister  
Kim, Angus and Ruth's Aunt

Put plain white wine through a SodaStream (or any home carbonation system) to make cheap champagne!

From 13 Oct to 10 Jan - **SCIENCE EXHIBITION: «Génome: Voyage au Cœur du Vivant»**. This exhibition, as part of the 450th anniversary celebrations of the University of Geneva, is unique in its kind in Geneva. Dive into the microscopic world and immerse yourself in the nucleus of a cell, measuring 14m, only to embark on a surprising sensory experience. Inside the cell is a 3D rotating image of the genome, created by the biologist Drew Berry, one of the most famous scientific movie directors. Free entry, every day except Mondays. From 10:00-19:00 on Ile Rousseau, Geneva. Guided tours for children aged 8-12 years on 11, 25 Nov and 9 Dec, from 14:00-17:00. Tel: +41 22 379 7227. [www.unige.ch/450](http://www.unige.ch/450)

From 30 Oct to 29 Nov – **FESTIVAL: Geneva's Trees and Lights Festival**. The Festival "Arbres & Lumières" presents over 50 illuminated trees throughout the town. Each tree is decorated with lights, colour and sometimes music and then signed by the designer. [www.arbresetlumieres.ch](http://www.arbresetlumieres.ch)

20 Oct to 19 Dec – **EXHIBITION: Manivelles & Roues dentées**. Locks, safety belts, ball bearings or vibrators of mobile phones conceal treasures of technical ingenuity. This new exhibition of l'Espace des Inventions in Lausanne, is an invitation to undo the lid, to open the box, to lift the hood with a greedy curiosity to discover with enjoyment smart tricks and the brilliant technical ingenuity, which hide in these daily objects. Recommended for children aged 7 and up. Tel: +41 21 315 6880. [www.espace-des-inventions.ch](http://www.espace-des-inventions.ch)

24 Oct until Jan – **MEET WITH SANTA CLAUS**. Santa Claus, who is a little ahead of schedule, will welcome your children at the "Hameau du Père Noel" located on the Col du Mont Sion, just a 5 minute drive from Cruseilles (approx. 30 minutes from Annecy or Geneva). Tel: +33 450 327364. [www.andillyloisirs.com](http://www.andillyloisirs.com)

Until 31 Jan - **The Calvin Jubilee 2009**. A Jubilee to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Jean Calvin. Events and activities all on the theme of Jean Calvin, the Geneva-based leader of the Protestant Reformation, will take place at various locations in Geneva. For more information, visit: [www.calvin09.org](http://www.calvin09.org)

## What's On In and Around Geneva

By Bérénice Fitzpatrick (Newsletter Assistant)  
Romain and Matisse's Mom

### NOVEMBER

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26 Oct to 4 Nov – **FILM FESTIVAL: P'tits Yeux, Grand Ecran (Little Eyes, Big Screen).** Gex's 6th annual children's film festival will take place during the French autumn school holidays for children aged 2-10. The theme of this year's festival is the deep forest. During the festival, the library in Gex puts on exhibitions and games. Cinéma Le Patio, Gex. Tel: +33 450 423600. Check out details of this year's festival programme. [www.ville-gex.fr](http://www.ville-gex.fr)

27 Oct to 1 Nov - **6th International Flamenco Festival** featuring concerts, films and workshops with renowned artists for those who want to learn more about Spain's national dance. The Théâtre de l'Alhambra, 10 Rue de la Rôtisserie. Full programme on the website: [www.al-andalus.ch](http://www.al-andalus.ch)

Until 1 Nov – **CHILDREN THEATRE: Les Soeurs Bonbon.** The candy store of Mister Bonbon and his two daughters, Marshmallow and Liquorice, is famous for one thing: The sugar tear – a small syrupy and transparent candy. Its recipe is completely secret... When the queen discovers that this candy has the virtue to heal her son affected by a severe disease, she keeps ordering more and more to a point where Mister Bonbon can not fulfill her demands any more. But Liquorice and Marshmallow have in mind a devilish plan to help their dad... A musical show for the whole family. A 1h10 show (no intermission). From 7 years old. A play by Am Stram Gram children theatre in Geneva. Reservation required. [www.amstramgram.ch](http://www.amstramgram.ch)

4 Nov – **PUPPET SHOW: Qui sait, qui c'est? (Who knows, who it is?)**. A short performance well suited for the little ones (45 minutes), presented by la Compagnie Toc Toc Entrez! The story will take you to India, to follow the journey of a little mouse, in an adventure filled with dances, masks and singing puppets. Following the show, children have the opportunity to participate in a modeling workshop (limited to 15 places). From 3 years old. The show starts at 14:30. Annemasse's MJC Sud, 2 place Jean Jaurès. For Reservations call: +33 450 377410 or email: [mjc.sud.annemasse@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mjc.sud.annemasse@wanadoo.fr)

4 Nov - **CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS** at The Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: Who is afraid of carnivorous plants? Workshops for children aged 8-11. Check the website [www.ville-ge.ch/cjb](http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb).

Call + 41 22 379 7068 for bookings.

6 to 8 Nov - **Autumn Book Sale.** Fri.: 10:00-18:00. Sat: 10:00-17:00. Sun: 12:00-16:00, at the Library in English, Geneva. [www.thelibrary.ch](http://www.thelibrary.ch)

7 to 8 Nov - **FAIR: 3rd edition of "Le salon franco-suisse du chocolat"**. A tasty experience for chocolate lovers not to be missed! Tastings, exhibitions, music, sculptures, competitions and workshops, all and more at l'Esplanade du Lac. Divonne les Bains. From 10:00-19:00 – Free entrance for children under 12. [www.salonfrancosuisseduchocolat.org](http://www.salonfrancosuisseduchocolat.org)

11 Nov - **CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS** at The Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: Discover one of nature's amazing creations: The myxomycètes. These are not exactly plants, animals nor mushrooms... So what are they really? Check the website [www.ville-ge.ch/cjb](http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb) or call + 41 22 379 7068 for bookings.

11 Nov – **2nd Hand Toy Fair. Forum Meyrin** organizes its 23rd flea market for toys, games and books. From 14:00-17:00. [www.ahvm.ch](http://www.ahvm.ch)

13 Nov - **FESTIVAL: A night for telling tales.** The Swiss story-telling night is an opportunity to bring together all generations for a special magical moment to listen to tales. The stories will thrill your children – An event co-organized this year for the first time with UNICEF. "La nuit du conte" (story-telling night) is organized in various locations. Check these websites for details: [www.jm-arole.ch](http://www.jm-arole.ch), [www.conteursdegeneve.ch](http://www conteursdegeneve.ch), [www.swisstaales.ch](http://www.swisstaales.ch), [www.mqpaquis.ch](http://www.mqpaquis.ch), [www.ville-ge.ch/mhng](http://www.ville-ge.ch/mhng)

Until 15 Nov - **PUPPET SHOW:** Le Théâtre des Marionnettes de Genève presents "**Ne m'appellez plus jamais mon petit lapin (Do not call me your little bunny ever again)**". Jean Carotte is a small little rabbit with amazingly long ears. Hard to be a dwarf rabbit... Ignoring his grandpa's advice, he runs away and commits a holdup. In prison, he makes friends with Lapinou, an even smaller rabbit than him. Together, they try to escape to disappear in the heart of the earth. With hectic car chases and fabulous ski descents, the author illustrator, Grégoire Solotareff paints a reality not without poetry, of a truth lived by children. Who as a child, did not feel set apart, by his/her physical appearance, and did not admit a solitude without true friends? How to accept our differences without wanting to be just like everybody else? A beautiful adaptation of a classic children's tale by Solotareff. From 4 years old. [www.marionnettes.ch](http://www.marionnettes.ch) Tel: +41 22 418 4777-

15 Nov – **EXCURSION: Are animals discreet?** An event organized by the Nature et Découvertes store in Thoiry . Bookings required. For children aged 7 up. [www.natureetdecouvertes.com](http://www.natureetdecouvertes.com)

18 Nov - **CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS** at The Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: Spices for the gourmands and for the curious – a workshop that will stir up your senses! Check the website for details.

[www.ville-ge.ch/cjb](http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb), or call + 41 22 379 7068 for bookings.

19 to 21 Nov - **Fête de la Science. The Science Fair** in Pays de Gex is science galore for children: Hands-on manipulations, workshops and astonishing experiments to appeal to young audiences. Check-out: [www.fetedelascience.fr](http://www.fetedelascience.fr) or [www.eurosciences-leman.org](http://www.eurosciences-leman.org)

21 Nov – **SCIENCE FAIR: Tête dans les Etoiles (Head in the Stars)** at Esplanade du Lac, Divonne les Bains. From 10h00-12h00. Explore the stars: a workshop for children aged 8 and up, organized by Euroscience Lemman. [www.euroscience-leman.org](http://www.euroscience-leman.org) From 14h00-17h00. Gouter des Sciences: "Les astres font leur revolution" (The revolution of the Planets). Ages 5 to 7 [www.esplanadedulac.fr](http://www.esplanadedulac.fr)

22 and 25 Nov – **PUPPET SHOWS: Krunk / Les Bamboches**, presented by Les Spectacles Onésiens at Le Manège in Onex. 2 short stories presented in a 50 minute show. For ages 4 to 7. Reservation recommended. Call +41 22 879 5999. [www.spectaclesonesiens.ch](http://www.spectaclesonesiens.ch)

22 Nov to 6 Dec - **FAMILY / CHILDREN THEATRE: "T'en fais une drôle de tête" (What a face you're making!)** presented by Am Stram Gram Theatre. Am Stram Gram introduces the concept of "Chocolate Theatre": Short performances (approx 40 minutes, without intermission) preceded or followed by a chocolate bread to initiate young audiences to the delights of theatre, starting with nibbles. At l' espace Cafeteria, Am Stram Gram Théâtre. Sun, 22 and 29 Nov: Chocolate bread at 10:00 followed by the play at 10:30. Wed, 25 Nov and 2 Dec: Play at 15:00, followed by the chocolate bread at 15:45. For ages 5 up. Limited seats. Reservations required. Tel: +41 22 735 7924. [www.amstramgram.ch](http://www.amstramgram.ch)

From 24 Nov to 22 Dec – **CHILDREN THEATRE: "Soyez poli, Monsieur Prévert! " (Please, be polite Mr Prévert!)**. A play presented by Am Stram Gram Theatre, with poems and lyrics by Jacques Prévert. Possibility for children to meet with the artists after the performance. For ages 7 up. Check-out the website for details. [www.amstramgram.ch](http://www.amstramgram.ch)

25 Nov to 24 Dec – **The International Christmas Market**, Place de la Fusterie, Geneva

28 to 29 Nov – **FESTIVAL: BD dans l'Ain.** (The Ain's 14th Cartoon Festival). Come and meet some of the most famous French cartoonists including well-known Bergese, Hermann and many more at the MJC Centre Jean Vilar in Bellegarde-sur-Valsérine. For more details, visit: [www.bddanslain.fr](http://www.bddanslain.fr)

28 Nov to 20 Dec - **SHADOW THEATRE: "Le Fil d'Ariane" (Ariane's thread)** co-presented by Le Théâtre des Marionnettes de Genève and La Cie Filenulle (CH). It's dark in the city, Ariane, the tightrope walker, capsizes dangerously on her bike, while carrying a pile of dishes. In the bend of an alley, she bumps into Pellicule, the cat of August, a clown who is desperately looking for a precious jewel and a mysterious rope... From 5 years old. Tel: +41 22 418 4777. [www.marionnettes.ch](http://www.marionnettes.ch)

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