



# Welcome from the PGP Director

Audrey Stirling  
Ruri, Harris and Caelan's Mum

I would like to say a huge welcome to all our new and returning Playgroup Programme (PGP) members and volunteers. I hope you all had a nice relaxing summer and that your children are now ready to start the fun, games and learning associated with PGP.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to take up a position in PGP, to assist, lead, or teach, as a Board Member or in one of the numerous other roles. With your ongoing support and commitment the PGP will continue to have the opportunity to develop, expand and succeed, thus ensuring our children learn the skills associated with both play and education building confidence and happiness.

As a result of demand this year, we have added a few extra sessions to the Playgroup and classes to the Literacy programmes. This year we are running our largest ever programme with 19 literacy classes and 11 playgroup sessions...and with the possibility of a further Monday afternoon session for 3-4 yrs old.

To manage our programme we have over 80 assistants, leaders and teachers

helping almost 300 children to have fun and learn, and 20 other Board and Non Board Members managing various other aspects of PGP.

What a great achievement for a totally volunteer-based organisation. As well as retaining a tremendous amount of skills and knowledge from continuing volunteers. This year brings a lot of new faces into PGP particularly in Literacy. We are confident our new teachers will bring with them a host of new ideas and skills to the programme.

As a voluntary organisation we always invite and encourage parents to help whenever they can. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of all our volunteers which ensures the success of this wonderful and extremely important community provision.

### Board Members

Last year saw a big change to the PGP Board with several new members joining. This year we have fewer changes with Zoe Parks as Registrar, Simone Colairo Valerio as Newsletter Editor, Olivia Coghlan has taken on the role as Communication Co-ordinator and Sharon Jones is our new Literacy Co-ordinator. In a Non Board Member role we are also pleased to welcome Patricia Gros-Piron as Snack and Supplies Buyer.

### PGP Events

With the success of our Special Events programme last year we now have two additional Event Assistants Kate Wilkinson and Eva Contrell, who will join Rachael Reilly. We will be running our favourite events again this year which include the Christmas Party, Summer Sports Day and Picnic, Sponsored Read, Member Social Events including a hike, Easter Egg Hunt and Group nights out, various fundraising events and the Volunteer Dinner.

### We Need Your Approval

In order for the PGP Board to operate this year we would like you to approve the Board and the annual 2011-12 budget. To do this we NEED YOU to attend our Annual General Meeting on TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER. This is an important meeting and it is essential that we have the full support of our membership, so PLEASE come and VOTE. To entice you, we will have a bit of social evening after the formalities with food and drink available.

Thank you all again and have a great year.

**Contact Audrey Stirling  
PGP Director**

[pgpdirector@playgroupprogramme.org](mailto:pgpdirector@playgroupprogramme.org)

Start of term	12 Sept	AGM	11 Oct 2011
Christmas holidays	16 Dec 11 - 9 Jan 12	Literacy Parents Info Evening	21 Nov 2011
Winter Holidays	10-27 Feb 2012	Christmas Party	10 Dec 2011
Easter Holidays	6-23 Apr 2012	Sports Event	12 Jun 2012
End of Playgroup	22 Apr 2012		

Pages 2-3	Welcome back to Literacy
Pages 4-5	Welcome back to Craft Recipes Craft Curriculum Useful Web Addresses
Pages 6-7	Library Update Special Events Calendar Newsletter Update Special Events Update
Page 8	What's on In and Around Geneva

### Playgroup Programme

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Web: [www.playgroupprogramme.org](http://www.playgroupprogramme.org)

Email: [pgpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:pgpdirector@gmail.com)

# Welcome Back to Literacy !

## Welcome and thank you

We are delighted to welcome **Sharon Jones** as the new Literacy Coordinator – thank you, Sharon for agreeing to take on this role as well as looking after four children, running and doing yoga and organising the 'Bourse Enfantine' in Thoiry. If you want something done, ask a busy person. So we did.

Thank you to all our volunteers new and old!

## Jane's impact on the Literacy Programme

Jane del Pozo has been the Literacy Coordinator for three years. We thank her for all her hard work and commitment. She is really organised, has been placing the volunteers and keeping them happy, establishing the forum and managing the books and stationery orders; she had ordered more stickers and pencils of all shapes and sizes than anyone!

It is due to Jane that we have the teaching resources and workbooks that supplement the Jolly Phonics

Teaching Programme. She has been instrumental in its implementation.

## Thank you!



By Sharon Jones  
Literacy Coordinator

I would like to welcome everyone to the Literacy Programme. This is my first year as Literacy Coordinator working with Leisa Campbell-Lendrum who provides advice on curriculum and teaching. Our goal continues to be to give volunteers the support and materials they need so they can concentrate their valuable time on preparing time spent with the children.

This year the Literacy Programme has grown even more to accommodate increased demand for places. We now have four pre-literacy classes and, due to a wait-list large enough to fill an extra class over the summer, five Literacy 1 classes. There are 54 volunteers helping to run 18 classes. Some enjoy teaching so much that they are volunteering even though they don't have any children in the programme. Many volunteers are continuing this year but we also have quite a few new faces joining our team.

As usual, we need to remind you of a few things to ensure that classes run as smoothly as possible:

- please respect class start and finish times (and have your child go to the toilet before class!);
- according to playgroup rules there must be a parent or guardian present at all times in the church while the child is attending the literacy session;
- you must sign your child in at the

start of the session (sign-up sheets are by the door of all the classes) and indicate where you will be waiting;

children must be picked up from the classroom at the end of the session.

We aim to help your children have fun in our classes in a caring environment, continuing from the ethos of the Playgroup Programme. Our time with the children is only short, and our communication with you and your support at home in continuing the work done in class is an invaluable part of the programme. Below is an outline of the objectives for each level which, of course, are not set in stone, but are a guide to see how children can progress across the programme. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, myself or Leisa.

After everyone has had time to settle in after the first weeks of class, you will have an opportunity to meet teachers and assistants and see examples of materials and work from all levels at the Literacy Evening to be held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November.



## JOKES

Ruri Osmon age 8 lit 5

What do you call a Hippo with  
hiccups?



A Hiccupotamus!

What bird is always out of breath?

A Puffin!



What's another name for a snail?



A bogie with a helmet on!

Why are fish never good tennis players?

Because they don't like getting close to  
the net



## Literacy Programme – Our Objectives

All of our objectives are linked to the UK Literacy Framework.

### PRE-LITERACY:

In Pre-Literacy we introduce your child to the letters of the alphabet. Our aims are to help your child to recognise the letters, to form the letters with their fingers and a pencil, and to know the sounds those letters make when learning to read. We will be using *Jolly Phonics* and *Letterland* resources so that you and your child can see their progress in workbooks. The letters will be taught in a sequence that will enable your child to "sound out" the letters and then blend words for themselves.

The Literacy session is just 20 minutes but throughout the class the children will be learning the letters in a fun and multi-sensory way, through games, songs and stories. You can help your child at home by finding lots of objects beginning with the week's letter, practising the letter sounds and actions; and, of course, practising the correct pencil hold and forming the letters. The best way to help your child is to do little but often.

### LITERACY 1:

In Literacy 1 our primary aim is to help your child to read in their first language, English, before starting to learn to read in French. Using *Jolly Phonics* resources, songs, actions, rhymes and workbooks we will help your child to identify and "sound out" letters and then blend words phonetically. The letters will be taught in the same order as in the Pre-Literacy year for handwriting, and in letter groups and sound patterns for learning to read.

We will work on correct pencil hold

and correct letter formation so that your child's reading and writing develops at the same rate. The lessons will include lots of interactive literacy games with the children making words on their own and together; and later on simple sentences. We will read lots of different stories, non-fiction and poetry and these will be linked with the sounds and words of the week.

There will be some craft work throughout the year as well.

### LITERACY 2:

#### The theme of the year is 'The Seasons'

In Literacy 2 our primary aim is to develop your child's writing skills so that they can write sentences and spell words independently. For those children who are not reading we aim to improve their ability to identify and blend words phonetically, independently. For those already reading, we aim to develop their comprehension skills and their vocabulary. We will continue the work covered in Literacy 1 on correct pencil hold and correct letter

formation. Your child will also be taught basic sentence structure and basic parts of speech and punctuation. As part of the work on 'The Seasons' we will read a variety of different stories, non-fiction and poetry as well as helping your child to write their own throughout the year.

### LITERACY 3, 4, 5 AND 6:

All of the literacy work throughout these levels is taught as projects and themed based work.

These later stages of the Literacy Programme ensure that the children have the opportunity to consolidate and build on the basic skills that they have learned before.

- **In Literacy 3** they will be becoming more independent in their reading and writing skills. They will now use these to write different types of sentences, work on comprehensions and writing their own stories, non-fiction and poems. The children will be encouraged to use these skills to learn how to record their ideas in a variety of ways.
- **In Literacy 4** the children will be working on more complex comprehensions that will question their own ideas and knowledge in more detail. They will be more in charge of their own work and complete a range of special writing projects.
- **In Literacy 5 and 6** the children will continue to work on the whole range of Literacy objectives. They will be required to work in a much more independent way and will be set work which they will have to prepare their responses and decide on the best ways to present these.

In all of these Literacy years the children will be taught using materials from the *Developing Literacy* programme which ensures that there is continuity and progression in their learning. The teacher will be moving the children forward and encouraging them to check their work in a more detailed way. They will be required to build on their reading skills using the extensive selection of reading books we have to offer them and reading class readers. It is very important that the children complete the work that they are set for homework as this will help their progress and ensure they are prepared for each lesson.

Contact Sharon ones

Literacy Coordinator

[literacy@playgroupprogramme.org](mailto:literacy@playgroupprogramme.org)

#### Emergency Numbers in France

Medical Emergency **15** or **18**

Fire, Flood, Accident etc. **18**

Police Emergency **17**



#### Emergency Numbers in Switzerland

Medical Emergency **144**

Fire **118**

Police Emergency **117**

Universal Number for all three services anywhere in Europe **112**

## Welcome to Playgroup from the Craft Coordinator

By Kerry

Welcome back to the Playgroup Programme and in particular, welcome back to the Arts and Crafts Section of the sessions!

I've spent the summer thinking of and testing out various crafts for our Craft Curriculum and my head is still buzzing with the excitement of it all! If you're not a newcomer to playgroup, you'll see that this year's Arts and Craft Curriculum contains some of our tried and tested favourite crafts – quite honestly I believe there'd be an outrage if I merely suggested we didn't paint some terracotta pots! But as well as the old favourites, there are a good number of crafts new to the programme that I hope you and your children will also enjoy.

Please remember that the main purpose of the Arts and Craft section of a session is to let the children have fun. If they can develop some creative spirit and try out working with new materials and techniques while doing so, so much the better! I'm a great believer that the process of crafting is more important than the finished product and I'm constantly amazed at the twists and spins my children can put on what I thought was a straightforward project. They just seem to view things in a different way and perhaps have the confidence to try out things I would be wary of, so I always try to let the kids take charge of their own projects.

The craft curriculum (as always!) has its share of messy crafts this year, be it through finger painting, gluing or painting T-shirts, so please remember to dress your children, and yourselves, in suitable clothes. Children seem to have a knack of waving a paintbrush at the person standing directly behind them! You can see the particularly messy weeks highlighted in the Craft Curriculum both on the Craft Room notice board and on the website. Newspapers, to cover tables, and aprons, to cover children, are always available.

I've tried to keep the crafts as simple as possible,

but it's very hard to find crafts that cater perfectly for the wide range of ages we cover at PGP. There will inevitably be some cutting out or other preparation involved so, particularly if your group is at the young end of the age spectrum, any offers to help with preparation will be gratefully received by your leaders and assistants.

As with all areas of PGP, the Arts and Craft section runs to a tight budget. Materials are purchased with participant numbers in mind – almost 130 children take part in the craft each week – so if a limit on materials is set, please try and ensure that you stick to this. There may look like there are a lot of supplies at the start of the week, but come Friday it's never the case! It's not fair if a group running later in the week can't carry out the specified craft because the materials have been used up.

We always welcome donations of potential craft materials, particularly old newspapers, which can be left in the designated box in the Craft Room. This year we're also in need of old cereal packets – there is a craft donations basket in the back of the Big Toy Cupboard.

Comments and ideas for crafts are always welcome.

I hope you and your children have lots of fun over the coming year.

Contact Kerry McCance

Craft Coordinator

[crafts@playgroupprogramme.org](mailto:crafts@playgroupprogramme.org)



## InterSoccer Autumn Courses

Geneva — Versiox — Founex — Gland — Nyon

Great Fun

Book Now

Free Trials

Great Coaches

### Great News!

Fun & challenging children's courses this Autumn for BOYS & GIRLS of all abilities 3-13 year olds. Courses start early September all info on:

[www.intersoccer.ch](http://www.intersoccer.ch)

**Free trials** possible first 2 weeks plus if miss start of course can still join later space permitting.

### Mini Soccer (3-6yrs)

Fantastic fund for beginners or those relatively new to soccer. Great way of improving basic skills & techniques.

### After School (4-13yrs)

Great action packed courses for all abilities with more competition introduced for the older children. GIRLS & GOALKEEPERS courses available.

### Tot Soccer (2-3yrs)

Fun introduction to soccer for boys & girls during week day mornings to help improve movement & coordination.

### Saturday Soccer (5-12yrs)

Great fun & more competition with lots of matches in Fun Footy (5-7yrs) & Saturday Soccer League (8-12yrs).

### Soccer Birthday Parties (4yrs +)

Fantastic way for boys & girls to celebrate their birthday with lots of fun games & matches. See website for info.



## Fun Halloween recipes

### Spider web Pumpkin Soup

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup of chopped onions
- 2 tbsp crushed garlic
- 20 oz butternut squash (chopped)
- 1 cup pumpkin purée
- 32 oz chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp thyme and fresh herbs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup of plain yogurt
- small re-sealable plastic bag

#### Instructions

1. Heat the oil in the pan, add onion and cook until translucent.

2. Add the garlic and continue to cook for a further 2 minutes.

3. Add squash, pumpkin, chicken stock and thyme and cook until tender (20-30 mins) on a low heat and rolling boil.

4. Put the vegetables and liquid into the mixer and pulse until completely smooth (careful of the hot liquid).

5. Serve into your favourite bowls.

6. Put the yogurt into the bag, cut a small section from the corner and pipe a spider web shape onto the soup, garnish with fresh herbs.

### Easy Caramel Apples

#### Ingredients

- 5 apples
- 1 packet of caramel candies
- 1 tbsp of water
- 1/2 cup of chopped nuts or crushed candy
- Wax paper
- 5 wooden craft sticks

#### Instructions

1. Line backing tray with wax paper and lightly grease with butter or margarine.
2. Clean and insert craft stick into each apple.
3. Melt caramel candy and water in microwave until creamy and smooth.
4. Dip apples in caramel and nuts/ crushed candy and leave on wax paper to cool.



Week beginning	Craft	Theme
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Old MacDonald Had A Farm	Farm Animals
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Muddy Pigs	Farm Animals
26 <sup>th</sup> September	There's a Moose on the Loose!	Farm Animals
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Five Little Ducks	Birds
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Designer Bird Houses	Birds
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Paper Bag Owls	Birds
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Happy Halloween!	Halloween
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Out of this World Painting	Space
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Puffy Planets	Space
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Jungle Finger Puppets	Jungle
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Cheeky Monkey	Jungle
28 <sup>th</sup> November	We're Going on Safari	Jungle
5 <sup>th</sup> December	When Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney	Christmas
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Napkin Holders	Christmas
9 <sup>th</sup> January	I Dig Dinosaurs!	Dinosaurs
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Dazzling Diplodocus	Dinosaurs/Colours
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Night Time City Scene	Colours
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Spinning Tops	Colours
6 <sup>th</sup> February	I'm Sticking With You, Valentine!	Valentine's Day
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Dotty Octopus	Under the Sea
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Japanese Hanging Fish	Under the Sea
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Gone Fishing	Under the Sea
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Painted Pots	Growing Things
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Planting Flowers	Growing Things
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Baskets	Easter
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Art I Can Wear (T-shirt Painting)	
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Glowing Fireflies	Insects
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Ziploc Butterflies	Insects
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunny Ladybirds	Insects
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Mother's Day Frame	Mother's Day
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Pirate Pete	Pirates
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Cardboard Cutlass	Pirates
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Handprint Tree	Father's Day
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Bubbles	

Highlighted weeks are messier than usual i.e. involve fabric paint, acrylic paint or finger painting.  
Please remember to come appropriately dressed!

## Useful Web Addresses

If you have just arrived in Switzerland, or even if you've been here for a few years, here are some websites which may help you survive your move and/or give you a greater insight into your new home country.

### Swissinfo

<http://www.swissinfo.ch/>

Swiss news and information about Switzerland, business, culture, sport, weather etc. Swissinfo covers Switzerland from every angle.

### American International Women's Club

<http://www.aiwcgeneva.org/>

### Glocals.com

<http://www.glocals.com/>

Meet expats and locals in Switzerland. Join local activities and share local information with other expats and locals.

### AngloInfo Geneva

<http://switzerland.angloinfo.com/>

Comprehensive, independent, accurate and up to date information on every aspect of life in the Geneva region.

### Swiss National Tourist Office

<http://www.myswitzerland.com/>

### The Geneva Community

<http://www.thegenevacommunity.com/>

Geneva and nearby France based service for associations, clubs and business sharing information via website and email

### Genevalunch

<http://genevalunch.com/>

A community newspaper sharing news on life in the Lake Geneva region and neighbouring France.

## Library Update

By the Library Team

Lucy Brown and Juliette Chisholm

We would like to encourage you to really make the most out of using the library this year. We have had over 100 new titles during 2011 and we have more to come. We do welcome suggestions for new titles so please do pass your ideas on to us.

Those of you who have been in the Playgroup Programme for some time will notice a change in the library cupboard. The Top shelf books which were rarely borrowed, simply because they were not in the boxes that are taken to the classrooms, have either been removed or integrated into the aged boxes. So we now have more boxes of books to offer more variety. We have also created a couple of boxes for our more confident readers to ease their search.

To help the library run smoothly here are a few pointers.

### How to borrow books:

We would like everyone to benefit from the PGP Library. To make sure that books are not taken home without being checked out, we remind you of the check in/check out process. The Library volunteer within the group should provide a time period during the session where

you can browse the boxes with your child. The library volunteer should be the only person who checks in and out books for all group members. Only two books may be borrowed at a time. Books have to be returned within 2 weeks.

### Books are colour coded:

All our library books are colour coded for suitability for different age groups. Each book has a

coloured sticker indicating the age group and should be stored in a box of the same colour. Green boxes contain books for 18 months to 3 years old, yellow boxes for 3 to 4 years, red boxes for 5 to 6 years and blue boxes for 7 years plus.

### Themes throughout the Year:

We have open book shelves in the craft room so that children can browse books once their handiwork is done. These books are rotated regularly and are often based on seasonal themes. This year, playgroup sessions are going to have themes that run for a three to four week period and we plan to co-ordinate some of the books available on the open shelves with the current theme.

### Some new titles:

Plenty of new and donated books have arrived on our shelves this year. For those in Literacy we have some Jacqueline Wilson titles including 'The Dinosaurs Packed Lunch' and 'Mark Spark in the Dark'. Also following several requests we now have some 'Horrible Histories' titles on our shelves by Terry Deary. Look forward to finding out more about the 'Measly Middle Ages' and the 'Terrible Tudors!' For our younger readers we have added a wonderful book explaining the Water Cycle through a simple story of a baby bird following a water droplet, so look out for 'The Drop Goes Plop' by Liz Black.

If you have any questions or comments about the library then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contact the Library Team at  
[Lucy.Brown@sfr.fr](mailto:Lucy.Brown@sfr.fr)

## Newsletter Update

By the Newsletter Editor

Simone Valerio (Nicole & Lucie's Mum)

Well, summer is over and autumn is upon us already! We can start to enjoy the spectacular colours around us in this lush forest and mountain area. It is the best season for bike rides and hikes, we certainly have some wonderful places to take the kids for these activities!

I recently took over from **Kerry McCance** as the Newsletter Editor. Kerry has done a wonderful job over the last couple of years. I would like to thank her for all the excellent work she has done in order to make the newsletter what it is today.



Please continue to share your titbits for the benefit of all PGP. Please take a few minutes to send me your thoughts, suggestions, comments, insights. The Newsletter needs your help!

Please don't be shy, send in your information on anything from tips, funny things kids say, Dad's Corner, your favourite restaurant/outings, recipes, workshops/conference, birthday party contacts. Any information is helpful.

The November/December Newsletter Deadline is  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
Send contributions to  
[pgpnewsletter@playgroupprogramme.org](mailto:pgpnewsletter@playgroupprogramme.org)



## Special Events Calendar

9 October 2011	Autumn Hike at La Dole
10 December 2011	Christmas Party at Espace Junior
5 February 2012	Snowshoe outing at La Givrine
March 2012	Readathon
Sat 31 March or Sun 1 April 2012	Easter Egg Hunt (to be confirmed)
24 May 2012	Volunteers Dinner, Plage du Reposoir
9 June 2012	Sports Day at Versoix Centre Sportive



Please verify your contact information with your Teacher, Leader or Assistant as soon as possible. Your details will appear in the Member Directory. The Directory is confidential and cannot be used for any other purpose.

## Webster University - International Counseling Conference

*Building Bridges: Supporting Individuals and Families in Transition.* It's great line-up of key note speakers, presenters, and workshop facilitators will discuss ways for managing major life changes (such as parenting, creating a new home, reducing stress in the workplace) while living in a foreign country. You have heard her on World Radio Switzerland and know her well. Come meet ms Rachel Melville-Thomas, child and adolescent psychotherapist, in person, where she will offer a workshop for parents entitled *Good Partings and Good Arrivals: Supporting Families in International Transition.* She will help you develop an understanding of how moving feels to your children and what needs to be said and considered in their classroom.

Where: Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG)

When: 20-21 October 2011

For full details of the programme and other speakers please visit:

[www.webster.ch/counselingconference](http://www.webster.ch/counselingconference)

Register and pay your CHF 90.- registration fee before 5th October and automatically be entered in the Conference Registration Raffle. By registering and paying now you will also have the chance to win some great prizes.

Additional raffle tickets can be purchased for CHF 2.- each at Webster University or at CICG during the conference. Winners will be announced during the conference.

## Special Events 2011-2012

By the Special Events Team  
Rachael Willy, Kate Wilkinson  
and Eva Contel

A warm welcome back to playgroup from the Special Events Team! We hope you had a great summer and are ready for a packed agenda of special events over the year.

The year will kick off with an **Autumn Hike** at la Dole on Sunday 9 October. We will meet for a fondue lunch at the wonderful La Barillette restaurant (above Gingins), followed by two choices of hike — a short one for those with short legs, and a longer one for those with longer legs!

The **Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday 10 December, once again at Espace Junior at Palexpo. We hope to add a few more festive touches to the party this year.

We will try again at a **snow-shoe outing** on Sunday 5 February, and hope for more snow this year! This will be at La Givrine, above St. Cergue, followed by a fondue lunch in one of the mountain refuges.

Following on from the success of the **Readathon** last year, the Special Events team will help with the organization of another sponsored read. This will probably be in march in the weeks leading up to Easter (more details to follow...).

We hope to introduce a new event — and **Easter Egg Hunt** — in the weeks preceding Easter. Dates and details to follow...

The **volunteers dinner** will be held on Thursday 24 May (we decided to hold it a few weeks earlier this year, so as not to clash with the busy end of term period). We're planning to have another beach party at Plage du Reposoir restaurant and hope that we can entice more people into the lake for a swim this year!!

The year will end with a bang with the **Sports Day** on Saturday 9 June at the Centre Sportive in Versoix. Last year's sports day was a great success and we hope to see even more of you there next year for lots more fun!

We are always looking for more volunteers to help out with special events (especially the big events like the Christmas party and Sports Day), so if you would like to get involved please contact the Special Events team. Also, if you have ideas or suggestions about possible special events (family outings / visits / sporting events / evening events — workshops, talks, etc...), or any feedback or comments about past or future events, please get in touch with us.

We hope you have a great year and look forward to seeing you at some of the events we have planned!

Contact Special Events Team  
at  
[specialevents@playgroupprogramme.org](mailto:specialevents@playgroupprogramme.org)



### International Comedy Club

Next weeks shows across the country bring one of Canada's best Stand Ups to Switzerland for the first time and sees the return of the extraordinary musical mechinations of one of the UK's most visual and downright silly acts you'll ever see. Both guaranteed to put a smile on your chops and make your belly ache with laughter. Don't miss!

**PETE JOHANSSON**  
And  
**THE RAYMOND & MR. TIMPKINS REVUE**

Tuesday, 4th October @ uptown Geneva  
Wednesday 5th October @ Le Lido, Lausanne  
Thursday 6th October @ Kuppel, Basel  
Friday, 7th October @ Mascotte, Zurich

Tickets cost between CHF 35.- and CHF40.-

## What's On In and Around Geneva

superconductivity. Cooled to extreme temperatures, some materials become superconductors. Dive into the amazing world of superconductivity and tour the exhibition guided by an engineer who will answer all your questions. Centre Culturel Jean Monnet, 11 rue de Gex, 01630 St Genis Pouilly.  
<http://www.fetedelascience.fr>

14 to 16 Oct – FAIR: La Foire d'Automne & Bourse aux Sonnaillles, Romainmôtier, VD. More than 80 exhibitors will be present at this new edition of the Autumn & Cowbells Exchange Fair on the site of Champbaillard, amidst the forests. A fantastic occasion to discover the beautiful middle-aged Abbaye of Romainmôtier, to taste authentic products from a region rich in gastronomy, traditions, not to mention...its wines. Serious collectors of cowbells and sonnaillles (large size bells) now know Romainmôtier for its exchange fair. The cattle descent to the valley, a colourful and loud parade of cows magnificently decorated with crowns and sonnaillles, is a great moment of emotion! <http://www.swissisland.ch>

Until 23 Oct – ART EXHIBITION: "Van Gogh, Bonnard Vallotton..." A glimpse at Arthur and Hedy Hahnloser's Collection. Tuesdays – Sundays 10:00-18:00, Fondation de l'Hermitage 2, route du Signal, Lausanne Bellevaux. Tel. +41 (0)21 312 50 13. <http://en.fondation-hermitage.ch>

23 to 30 Oct – CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL: "Festimom" in Annemasse (74). The theme of this year's festival at the MJC is "cooking". Cake and drawing competitions, dinner in the dark, kids' party, films and numerous music and theatre shows for children between 2 and 12. Tel. 04 50 92 10 20. [www.festimom.fr](http://www.festimom.fr)

30 Oct - Celebrate Halloween at the Parc Pré-Vert at Signal de Bougy (Aubonne exit). A special Halloween lunch is available at the restaurant from 11:30. Activities will start at 13:30 with the children's parade (weather permitting) followed by a show at 14:00 (free entry).  
[www.signaldebougy.ch](http://www.signaldebougy.ch)

Contact the Newsletter  
Assistant,  
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[berenicefitz@yahoo.com](mailto:berenicefitz@yahoo.com)  
with your items for inclusion in  
our *What's On In and Around  
Geneva Column*.

## What's On In and Around Geneva

By Bérénice Fitzpatrick  
Newsletter Assistant  
Romain's Mom

SEPTEMBER Until 5 Oct – OUTDOORS EXHIBITION: "The Alpha Track". A fun science exhibition around Divonne Lake. Surprising images, intriguing questions, quizzes to solve among family and friends that will challenge your brain while stretching your legs around the lake.

Sep - SCIENCE SHOWS: Fun with Physics. The 2010/2011 programme of the science shows at CERN will soon be released. The workshops are suited for children under 14 and run every Wednesday and Saturday. At 09:00 and 15:00 on Wednesdays, reservations required. At 15:00 on Saturdays, no reservation needed. At Microcosm, CERN CH-1211, Geneva, Building 33 (Reception), Entrance A. Tel: + 41 (0)22 767 8484. Check website for early booking. <http://microcosm.web.cern.ch/microcosm/Content/Animations/Animations-en.html>

23 Sep to 19 Oct - THEATRE: "les Bijoux de la Castafiore" by Hergé. From 7 years old. Théâtre Am Stram Gram. 56 route de Frontenex, Geneva. Tel. +41 (0)22 735 79 24. [www.amstramgram.ch](http://www.amstramgram.ch)

24 Sep - Night of the Museums. For this 11th edition of the 'Nuit des Musées' in Lausanne and Pully, some 26 museums will open their doors till dawn, such as the Foundation Hermitage museum which will be open until 2 am. Events: guided tours of the exhibition for adults and families, creative painting workshops for children, walking tours in the park, big book sale with exhibition catalogues, posters and postcards! From 14:00 to 02:00. See the complete programme of the event on [www.lanuitdesmusees.ch](http://www.lanuitdesmusees.ch)

24 Sep to 9 Oct - PUPPET SHOW: "Hard boiled Pig" (Polar Porc). A comical thriller that begins with a mysterious kidnapping: a pig has disappeared! The first clue to solve this case is a letter that says: "I like ham and sausages"... A one-man show by Serge Boulier, who acts as skilfully as he manipulates his puppets, playing the rôle of ten different characters. Le Théâtre des Marionnettes de Genève, 3 Rue Rodo, Geneva 4. Tel: +41 (0)22 418 47 77. Check the website for all the dates and the time of performances. [www.marionnettes.ch](http://www.marionnettes.ch)

28 Sep, 5 and 12 Oct – CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS: The Little Inventors' Club (Le Club des Petits Inventeurs) proposes regular workshops for children between 7 and 12 years old to discover, learn and make their own inventions, which they can take home afterwards. Tools, materials and snacks are provided at these fun, hands-on workshops organized by L'Espace des Inventions de Lausanne. Vallée de la

Jeunesse 1, 1007 Lausanne. Tel: +41 (0)213 156 880. For bookings, visit [www.espace-des-inventions.ch](http://www.espace-des-inventions.ch)

Until Feb 2012 - EXHIBITION: "Who is scared of bats?" On the occasion of the International Year of bats, the museum presents a fascinating exhibition. From fiction to reality, the light is made on this small-endangered mammal. Free entry. Tuesdays - Sundays, 10:00-17:00. Musée d'histoire naturelle, 1 Route de Malagnou, Geneva. Tel. +41 (0)22 418 63 00.

Until 26 Oct – WORKSHOP: "pre-historical paintings". Accompanied by an archeo-zoologist from the museum, participants in this workshop will practice painting as it was done 20,000 years ago in the caves. During the session, the animals living at the time of the Cro-Magnons and their environment will also be presented. The different techniques of painting in caves will be discussed and participants will produce a fresco using natural dyes. Free entry. From ages 7 and up. Wednesdays, 14:00 -16:30. Musée d'histoire naturelle, 2nd Floor, 1 Route de Malagnou, Geneva. Tel. +41 (0)22 418 63 00.

### OCTOBER

From Oct – CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS: The Conservatory and Botanical Gardens have released the programme of their annual series of "green workshops" for children. These popular workshops are held Wednesday afternoons from 14:00 to 16:30 for children between 8 and 11 years old. Early bookings recommended. Check the website <http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb>

Oct – FILM FESTIVAL: P'tits Yeux, Grand Ecran (Little Eyes, Big Screen). Gex's annual children's film festival will take place during the French autumn break school holidays. Check out details of this year's festival program at: [www.ville-gex.fr](http://www.ville-gex.fr). Tel: 04 50 42 36 00 1

Oct - "Desalpe" (the annual alpine cattle descent) in Saint-Cergue. To the drone of alphorns, the crack of whips, the beat of folk music and the dexterity of flag throwers, herdsmen and about ten herds of costumed cows return to the village for the winter from their summer in the alpine meadows. Arrive early to watch the spectacular cow parade (8:30 to 11.30). There will also be a large selection of traditional and local foods as well as artisans' stands. Tel: +41 (0)223 601 314. [www.st-cergue.ch](http://www.st-cergue.ch)

1 to 9 Oct – FILM FESTIVAL: The 6th edition of the Geneva International Animated Film Festival is an annual French-speaking Swiss event dedicated to film animation. The program this year includes a

competition and a special focus on French animation and of course, a vast array of quality children's and general audience films, meetings, conferences and children's animation workshops. For more info and a look at the programme: [www.cinematou.ch](http://www.cinematou.ch)

2 Oct – FAIR: The 6th Expat-Expo, Geneva. A fair with over 160 exhibitors focused on the English-speaking community. A fun and informative outing for the whole family. Palexpo, Hall 7. 11:00 to 17:00. Free admission! [www.expat-expo.ch](http://www.expat-expo.ch)

2 Oct – Alphorn and flag throwing show at Signal de Bougy (Aubonne exit). A meeting of Alphorn players and flag throwers with various animations in a bucolic atmosphere. Starting from 11:30. Free entry. [www.signaldebougy.ch](http://www.signaldebougy.ch)

2 and 9 Oct – SCIENCE FAIR: Bread, Science and Chocolate. Every Sunday afternoon in autumn, l'Espace des Inventions de Lausanne offers a program of scientific explorations for families in a relaxed atmosphere. The topic this year is about the brain and its functions. Recommended from age 10. Conference starts at 16.00 – Free entry, included snack. Vallée de la Jeunesse 1, 1007 Lausanne. Tel: +41 (0)213 156 880. [www.espace-des-inventions.ch](http://www.espace-des-inventions.ch)

9 and 12 Oct – KIDS SHOW: The Colour Fairy (La Fée Couleur). A performance with dance and songs that tells the story of a grumpy little girl who meets a very special kind of fairy... From 5 years old. Salle Communale d'Onex, 131 Route de Chancy, 1213 Onex. [www.spectaclesonnesiens.ch](http://www.spectaclesonnesiens.ch)

10 to 19 Oct - PUPPET SHOW: "Miss World" (Miss Monde). Miss World revolves like a planet or a star. In the shadow of the night or under the moonlight, the young lady sings lullabies from Egypt, Tibet, France, Sweden and many other countries, taking the children on an adventure. A short and very sweet performance for children ages 1 to 3. Le Théâtre des Marionnettes de Genève, 3 Rue Rodo, Geneva 4. Tel: +41 (0) 224 184 777 [www.marionnettes.ch](http://www.marionnettes.ch).

11 and 12 Oct – THEATRE: "L'Ogrelet". Half ogre, half boy, Simon the Ogre is a six year old boy who lives peacefully in a remote forest, far away from civilization, until he starts school for the first time. There, he must face others, the way they look at him and confronted with the colour red, he must learn to control the emotions inside him. From 7 years old. Théâtre Forum Meyrin. Place des 5 Continents, 1217 Meyrin. Tel. + 41 (0)22 989 34 00. [www.forum-meyrin.ch](http://www.forum-meyrin.ch)

12 to 15 Oct – SCIENCE: On the occasion of the "Fete de la Science", St Genis Pouilly stages a fascinating exhibition to celebrate 100 years of

[www.playgroupprogramme.com](http://www.playgroupprogramme.com)