



# Backside News

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**AUGUST 12TH-**  
RECOGNITION  
PARTY 5:30PM

**AUGUST 20TH-**  
KART KOUNTRY  
FIELD TRIP 11:30AM-  
4:30PM

**AUGUST 20TH-**  
EMILY'S LAST DAY

**AUGUST 31st-**  
ADRIANNA'S LAST  
DAY

**SEPTEMBER 4TH**  
— WORLDVEST  
FIELD TRIP

**SEPTEMBER 9TH**  
— VOLUNTEER REC-  
OGNITION PARTY  
5:30PM

**SEPTEMBER  
12TH-** ICESKATING  
AT ICELAND 1PM-  
4PM

## AUGUST CENTER HOURS:

**MONDAY-  
FRIDAY  
11:30 A.M.  
to  
8:00 P.M.**

AUGUST 2010

## Downs After Dark

*Written by: Adrianna Aviles*

It began on April 7, 2009. That day, Churchill Downs was granted permission by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission to conduct three sessions of night racing. With the installation of temporary lights on the track and parking lot arrangements, for the first time ever there was racing in the dark. It was a new and exciting idea to hold mildly staked races in the cooler summer nights—and the night races truly did hit it off. The three 2009 Downs after Dark events attracted an average of 30,000 fans each night, an energetic crowd that excited both trainers and jockeys, despite the early wake up hours for training. This season, attendance reached a modern day track record of 33,481 for the finale on July 2, 2010. Not bad for a “quiet” summer event. This is the largest crowd for a Churchill Downs race day, not including the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks or Breeders’ Cup.

According to Churchill Downs President Kevin Flanery about the 2009 Night Races, “It could not have been accomplished without the

teamwork and support of our horsemen’s groups, neighborhood associations and employees...”. This is too true, and holds true for the 2010 night races. Little do people realize the amount of work performed by the people “behind the scenes,” the guys and gals that work and live at



Jonathan Valenzuela with one of his horses.

the backside to make events such as the night races possible. Most people do not realize that these workers get up at 4 a.m. every morning to groom or exercise the horses and that when there are night races, extra hours of work and less hours of sleep result.

“The worst part of my job during night races is feeding the horse,” says Jonathan Valenzuela with a smile, a groom that regularly visits The Backside Learning Cen-

ter. According to Jonathan, this part is the “worst” because it is the part that comes last. After the horse comes off the race track, say at 11 p.m., the horse must be walked for about 40 minutes, to avoid getting colicky. Then, the horse needs to be bathed, groomed, and finally fed. Jonathan might wake up at 5 a.m. on a race day, go to bed at 1 a.m. on a race night, and still have to wake up by 6 a.m. the next morning. “But it’s nice to have such a crowd,” says Jonathan--and nice to have an extra chance for one of his horses to win.

Many of the grooms remain indifferent to the night races, and many enjoy the excitement of the crowd. Earlier this year, Churchill Downs installed permanent lighting at the track at a cost of about \$4 million. This is just one example of the impact of the night races at Churchill Downs and the Backside. Forever onwards, pictures of Churchill Downs will be time stamped by the new lights. It remains that as time goes on, things become new and change. This is a fact of life. And it is proving true at Churchill Downs and the Backside.

## LEARNING CENTER WISH LIST:

- Any book for adults written in Spanish
- Bilingual books
- Audio books with accompanying texts, particularly shorter or easier books, poetry or adult-appropriate learning-to-read books
- Spanish-English dictionaries
- Soccer shoes (size 8, 8 ½, 9, gently used is fine) and other soccer equipment
- Class supplies, especially notebooks, binders, and pencils
- 2 Updated GED textbooks in English
- 2 Updated GED textbooks in Spanish
- 10 Pimsleur Inglés: English for Spanish Speakers with Audio CD textbooks

## Team Notes

*Written by: Jessica Lizotte*

Another month has passed and what a month it has been. The Learning Center welcomed Adrianna Aviles to our team as a Summer VISTA. She is going to school in Michigan but is home in Kentucky for the summer. She has been a great help to us and although she will only be with us a short time, be sure to say hi if you see her around!

A special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who have been very supportive during the orientation of Adrianna and me, Emily's vacation, and Jennifer's absence. You all have made this easier and we appreciate it. Thank you all!

Other things that happened at the Learning

Center this month include our Volunteer Recognition Ceremony which was very well attended and our students and volunteers alike made some wonderful



Students gather for a look at the pictures on the bulletin board and in the memory binder.

comments.

On a side note, BLC art teacher Delores Huffman and Art student Janie McDonald donated art work to the Art for

Animals fundraiser. These pieces were auctioned at the Mellwood Art Center Aug. 5th. The money raised is used to benefit the Shamrock Foundation Shelter for Animals.

We have also been trying to update the bulletin board in the library with pictures of students and classes every few weeks. This board serves as a place where students tend to congregate and converse. They always look for their faces and those of their friends and share a laugh or two. So if you have any pictures to contribute from field trips, soccer, or any other activities, please email them to me at:

[jlizotte@derbymuseum.org](mailto:jlizotte@derbymuseum.org)  
Chao for now!

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Emily Dingman at the Learning Center if you're interested in volunteering.

(502-634-6543)

[edingman@derbymuseum.org](mailto:edingman@derbymuseum.org)

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

If you would like to write an article for

the newsletter about a class or student you teach/volunteer with, please contact the Learning Center. We would love to have your contributions!

**DATA ENTRY:** Volunteer needed once per month to update student and volunteer hours for soccer, movie night, guitar and other programs in Microsoft Access. Experience with Microsoft Access preferred, but we can train.

### THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND TIME!

#### DRIVERS FOR FIELD TRIPS:

We need drivers to drive students for upcoming field trips. See Upcoming Events for dates and times.

Contact volunteer Jack Cox about soccer::

[JTCl136@gmail.com](mailto:JTCl136@gmail.com)  
(502-476-1136)