

BATON ROUGE
Parents

FREE

M A G A Z I N E

Connecting with Families

Junior Jet-Setters

It's Beginning to
Look a Lot Like Christmas
toys, teachers' gifts, stocking stuffers and more...

Do You Have A Wild Child?

Special Pull-Out Holiday Gift Guide

Target and Toys R Us.

▲▲ Spy Gear Laser Chase

The JBJ's were really excited about the idea of playing laser tag, but the watch-sized batteries in one of the hand sets were expired. Probably would have been a great toy, had we been able to test it. If you buy this, check the batteries first—you may have regular batteries on hand, but you'd most likely not have watch batteries. Target and Toys R Us.

▲▲ Off the Map Explorers Positioning System

This was a little complicated for our Jingle Bell Judges, but perhaps older children would get more out of it. 12+ ages. Target and Toys R Us.



Off the Map Explorer's Gloves

These gloves have a compass embedded in the glove, and are great for children hiking or simply rambling through the woods. Target and Toys R Us.

▲▲▲▲ HubBub

Teens to adults. A hot new board game of sound, mind and body. Our Jingle Bell Judges claim it's very entertaining. Find it at Little Wars off of Jefferson Hwy.



Pretend and Play School Set

Ages 4+. The Jingle Bell Judges really enjoyed getting to be the teacher for once. School Aids has these in stock.

▲ Aqua Pets

Our Jingle Bell Judges took to these with great enthusiasm, but within a minute or two, put them down to find something more interesting to play with. Aqua Pets are supposed to be the "latest-greatest", but our judges proved they aren't.

Books

▲▲▲▲▲ Tiger Baby

by Amy Landreneau, illustrated by Lisa McLaughlin. Fantastic board book for LSU Tiger fans of all ages by Baton Rouge resident Amy Landreneau. Lydie Ruth, Little House, LSU Book Store, Co-op Book Store all carry this wonderful book.



Disney's Story Reader

Books and microphone for ages 3-6. Books can be plugged into Story Reader which tells the story as the child reads along. Great for beginning readers. The Disney Store, Wal-Mart.

▲▲▲ Barney's Counting Party

Ages 2+. The preschool-aged JBJ's enjoyed playing with this book with touch pen system. Children touch the pen to words and pictures, and the book's built-in audio system pronounces them. The older kids' only comment was, "Not Barney. Ugh!" Wal-Mart and Toys R Us.



The American Girls Book Series

Truly a fantastic literature series for girls. Our Jingle Bell Judges reviewed the ones listed below, but as a parent, you can count on this brand upholding its reputation for high-quality material. Please look for these and other titles in the American Girls Series at Barnes and Nobles or online at www.americangirl.com.

▲▲▲▲▲ Nellie's Promise, 1906, and Meet Samantha, 1901

Both are lovely stories that show girls triumphing over difficult circumstances and building character. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Real Beauty: 101 Ways to Feel Great About You

Promotes self-acceptance and a positive self-image. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Smart Girls' Guide to Starting Middle School

Just the right advice that every girl should have to make this big transition in life. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ What Would You Do? Quizzes about Real-life Problems

Ages 8+. Fun activity book to build and reinforce personal integrity, and help girls understand that other girls have the same questions about life. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ What A Girl Loves

Ages 8+. Puzzle book for girls. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Room Crafts

Ages 8+. Book that provides decorating advice for girls. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Sticker Art

Ages 8+. High-quality arts and sticker book. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Good Sport Gwen

This title from American Girls' Hopscotch Hill Series revolves around the conflicts the main character encounters as a member of a soccer team. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Teasing Trouble

Another Hopscotch Hill book whose story allows girls to see how teasing affects others. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Artemis Fowl

by Eoin Colfer. If your children like Harry Potter, they're sure to like the Artemis Fowl series. A best-seller on the New York Times book review, it's an adventurous fairy tale packed with thrills. 10-14 years. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Children of the Lamp

by P.B. Kerr. An adventure tale about 12-year-old twins who discover they're descended from genies. 12-17 years. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲▲ Petite Rouge, A Cajun Red Riding Hood

by Louisianan Mike Artell. Charming Cajun adaptation of the beloved story of Red Riding Hood. Beautiful illustrations by Jim Harris. Children of all ages. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲ The Mystery of Eatum Hall

by John Kelly and Cathy Tincknell. Wonderful illustrations, but too subtle a storyline for younger children. Very British in it's humor. More appropriate for children ages 8 to 11. Barnes and Nobles.

▲▲▲▲ The Spider and the Fly

An adaptation of the 1829 cautionary tale by Mary Howitt, is fantastically illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi. A Caldecott Award winner for school age children. Barnes and Nobles.

Videos/DVDs

▲▲▲▲▲ Baby Hands

The highly-acclaimed video/DVD that teaches parents and infants, 10 months and up, to use simple gestures from American Sign Language to communicate their needs.

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The Cabaret Theatre
presents...

Rudolph The Red-Nose Reindeer



Saturdays at 11:30am
The show follows a Hot Dog
lunch with chips and soft
drinks. ...And Mom, you don't
even have to wash the dishes!!

Price for the show
and lunch is \$10.00

**Reservations
Required!**

Doors Open At 11:00am
Lunch Served at 11:30am

Hot Dog Theatre
Our Theatre For Kids

Dee Cothorn's
Cabaret
Theatre

8419 Florida Blvd.

923-2322

www.thecabarettheatre.com

Jingle Judges Best Toys 2004

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Reduces frustration, improves self-esteem and increases intelligence and memory. This revolutionary technique is even being used in several progressive Baton Rouge daycare centers. To purchase, click www.mybaby-cantalk.com.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Baby Road Trip*

Entertains toddlers while teaching shapes and colors with jungle, circus and beach themes. To purchase, click www.babyroadtrip.com or call 888-278-2228.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Jingle All the Way*

Arnold Schwarzeneger is hilarious in this holiday quest for a popular toy. Has its heart-warming moments as well. The whole family. Target and Wal-Mart.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *A Christmas Carol*

An animated version of the beloved story by Charles Dickens with the voices of Whoopi Goldberg, Tim Curry and Ed Asner. The whole family. Wal-Mart.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Sleepover*

Girls will love this movie about the capers of four middle school girls. Tweens and preteens. The Disney Store, Wal-Mart.

Miscellaneous

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Mountain Cow Software*

Scrap bookers and anyone who enjoys creating their own invitations and personalized stationery will love this software system. Easy to use for even the least computer-literate among us. Many creative, original fonts and images. To purchase, click www.mountaincow.com.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Yum Yum Dishes*

These great, little snack bowls were the result of one mom's efforts to control portion sizes of her children's snacks. They are a great way to teach children about the appropriate size of a snack, and to keep adults from losing track of how many times they've reached into a bag of snack foods themselves. Click

www.yummydish.com to purchase and to find healthy snack recipes.

Christmas Stories

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Santa's Secrets Revealed*

by James Solheim, is the perfect book for children who reach the age of wondering about the existence of Santa. It incorporates adventurous, modern-day, pseudo-scientific explanations of Santa's many mysterious ways. Barnes and Nobles.

🎄🎄🎄🎄

Olive, the Other Reindeer

A charming story of a dog who mistakenly thinks the phrase "All of the other reindeer" actually says "Olive, the other the reindeer". She sets out to help Santa on Christmas Eve. Children of all ages. Barnes and Nobles.

🎄🎄🎄🎄 *Angelina's Christmas*

The story of the beloved, ballerina mouse and the message of giving during the holidays. 5-10 years. Barnes and Nobles.

Music

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Tweenies Christmas Album

Small children love the music, but adults tend to grit their teeth while listening. Wal-Mart and Target.

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The Wiggles Santa's Rockin'

Another case of children loving it, while adults grit their teeth. Target and Wal-Mart.

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Radio Disney Jingle Jams

Adults can tolerate, and in some cases, enjoy almost anything put out by Disney. This collection of holiday tunes by the Disney characters is no exception. Children love it. The Disney Store, Target, Wal-Mart.

🎄🎄🎄 *Jump 5*

A musical group of teenagers with CD's and a DVD to teach dance: *Dreaming In Color*, *Start Dancin'*. They also have a Christmas CD, *All the Joy in the World*. **BRPM**