

# Turlock Journal

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## Nels and the Peanut Butter Cookies Band will be cooking at TJHS tonight

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Children attending the next performance of the 2000 Kaleidoscope Family Concert Series will be treated to a healthy dose of Peanut Butter Cookies. That is to say, Nels and the Peanut Butter Cookies Band.

Nels and his group of lighthearted, fun-loving musicians will combine a special mix of comedy and energy into their performance of original sing-along, clap-along-style songs, during their upcoming show at the Turlock Junior High School Theater.

The event, scheduled for today at 7 p.m., is part of the continuing efforts of the Stanislaus Arts Council to introduce younger audiences to the arts.

General admission tickets are \$3 and free to children 5 years and under. Tickets may be purchased at the door and at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 North Broadway, in Turlock.

"We feel like this is a wonderful opportunity for parents to bring their children out to a live show," said Juliene Flanders, recreation director.

Before Nels and the gang take the stage, a pre-show party will be held at

6 p.m. The event will consist of various party games, craft activities, prizes and refreshments. The cost of the party is included in the ticket.

"The party allows the children to come early to have a chance to do a variety of activities before the show," said Flanders. "That way they are not just coming in and sitting down."

Before finding his way into children's music, Nels was a school teacher and club-performing folk singer. It was the birth of his daughter that truly inspired him to become a children's musician.

"Performing for children is something I never thought of until I had my own," Nels said.

To find inspiration for his songs, Nels has to look no farther than the activities that he knows kids love.

"They like songs that speak to them about their lives," Nels said. "They are simple, silly child themes, but parents love them, too."

Topics for Nels' songs range from sandwiches, games, family and pointing. His four children's recordings are "Live Sandwiches," "Live Chickens," "Friendship Train" and "Time for Christmas." All are favorites among children 2 to 10 years old.

Children attending the show can expect more than just the average audience performer relationship. Kids are often invited up on stage to join the act during a rhyming song, or to play percussion while Nels sings.

"The audience participation really adds an extra touch to the show," said Flanders. "This band is really popular in this area. We have been receiving calls about tickets from as far away as Manteca and Stockton."

Flanders is confident the theater is large enough to hold those that want to attend and plenty of tickets will be available at the door. Financial assistance for the show is available for those that need it at Turlock Recreation and Community Services, 900 North Palm.

Tickets are also available for the third concert in the Kaleidoscope series featuring magicians Brad Bonar, Jr. and Trevor Wyatt. The pair will amaze audiences with magic, comedy and juggling on April 14.

## Audience participation a big part of the show



Nels and the Peanut Butter Cookies band will perform at Turlock Junior High School tonight.