

# keith pitts photography

## February 2009 - the kid issue

February 1, 2009

In this issue:

Photography Tip  
"Panning"  
page 2

Children's  
Boutiques...  
page 3

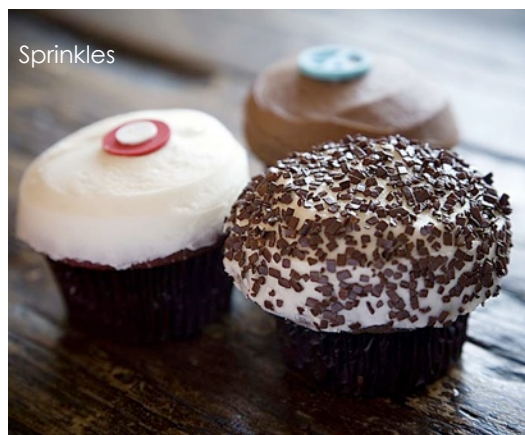
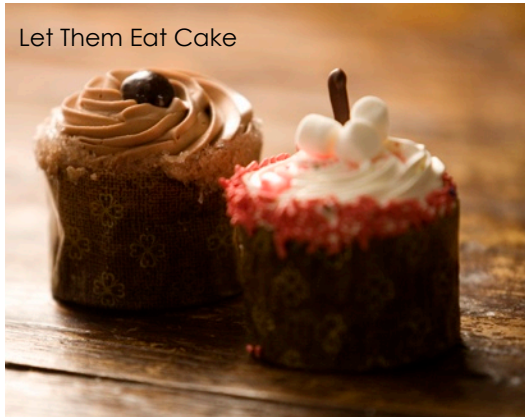
Ask Keith...  
page 2

Featured  
interview  
Phoenix Children's  
Museum  
Marion Wiener  
page 4

Crafts...  
page 2

"Imagine a world  
without  
photography, one  
could only imagine."

-[Berenice Abbott](#)



## kids, cupcakes and valentine's day!

By Melissa Madden

Welcome to our second newsletter, our first devoted exclusively to all things kids! (next month will be exclusively weddings)

We are featuring cupcakes from local bakeries here in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area.

We had the horrible job of trying several from each bakery - being a cupcake maniac, I enjoyed each and every bite!

My first stop was at [Cupcakes](#) in Hilton Village, I love how the frosting was piled high on these cupcakes. The cupcake of the month: chocolate cherry was delicious - the frosting tasted just like cherries - the cake was so fresh!

My second stop was [Sprinkles](#) - good cupcakes, but we decided to keep the focus on local bakeries!

Next, I dropped by [Lulus Cupcakes](#) - lots of selection, great frosting and cake choices. I love their packaging - the box is adorable!

Last, but by no means least, I popped into [Let Them Eat Cake](#). Yum! The cupcake of the month was Hot Cocoa - it's not only adorable but very, very tasty!!

As always, we appreciate any and all feedback - enjoy!

### Local Cupcake Shops

Cupcakes  
Hilton Village  
6137 N Scottsdale Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ  
[www.gotcupcakes.com](http://www.gotcupcakes.com)  
480.656.3816

Lulu's Cupcakes  
southeast corner of  
Miller & McDowell  
Scottsdale, AZ  
[www.luluscupcakes.com](http://www.luluscupcakes.com)  
480.990.CAKE

Let Them Eat Cake  
4747 E Thomas Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85018  
602.952.5272  
[www.letthematecakeaz.com](http://www.letthematecakeaz.com)

## Photo Tips... Panning

by Keith Pitts

This month's tip/technique is called panning.

Panning is fairly simple with practice and will offer a creative solution for conveying motion in a still photograph and can also give you a last trick for the end of a shoot when the light may be really dim. Here is how it's done :

1. Set your camera at a slower shutter speed than you would normally handhold.
2. Follow a subject moving laterally in your viewfinder (on the screen for those of you using a consumer digital camera) with your camera. This technique does not work on subjects moving toward or away from you. You must move the camera with the moving subject.
3. Make your exposure (push the button) at about the time the subject is directly in front of you. Do not forget to follow through with the motion like a golf swing or a quarterback does when he releases the ball.
4. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

It may not work on the first try. Try also to lower the shutter speed

below what common sense would allow. Sometimes great things come when you've got nothing to lose.

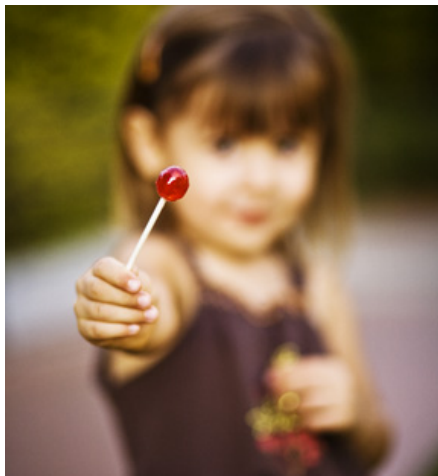
If a child is running like a madman and you can't slow him/her down then this is a good technique. Even if it's high noon and the sun is killing you all you need to do is drop your ISO, drop your shutter speed to about 1/30th and stop your lens down (make the F number get bigger) to the correct exposure and follow the above instructions.

Another situation is when the light drops. In this case you raise your ISO, set your aperture wide (to allow all the light you can) and adjust your shutter speed to whatever it takes to make a correct exposure (as long as it doesn't climb past about 1/30th).

I hope this is easy to follow. If you have any questions then please visit our [blog](#) and leave your question in the comment section. I promise to get you an answer.



"If a child is running like a madman and you can't slow him/her down then this is a good technique."



### Materials:

- \*foil muffin cup liners
- \*muffin tin
- \*peeled crayons (old nubs are perfect)
- \*heart cookie cutter, about 2 inches wide
- \*6-inch wooden skewers
- \*satin cord or ribbon

## valentine craft – melt my heart

- 1.Heat oven to 300
- 2.Place foil liners in muffin tin. (you probably don't want to make more than 6 at a time since you have to work with the wax before it hardens)
- 3.Fill each liner with crayon pieces (the equivalent of 3 to 4 crayons, in any combination of colors you like)
- 4.Bake until just melted, 5 to 8 minutes. Don't let wax bubble.
- 5.Let cool until wax is still soft but no longer liquidy 5 to 10 minutes. (Poke with a toothpick near the edge to test)
- 6.Remove foil liners from tin and gently peel out wax. (it will still be warm, so test before letting kids handle) Press cookie cutter into wax, then gently push out the heart shape.
- 7.Poke a skewer through each heart, and leave it until wax is hard. Remove skewer, thread a piece of ribbon through the hole, and tie ends in a knot. (Make sure the ribbon is long enough so you can slip off the necklace and draw with your heart whenever inspiration strikes. taken from Wondertime Feb 2009

Keith Pitts Photography  
donates 5% of all sales to  
Free Arts AZ!

## Ask Keith...

Answers to your photographic questions from our resident expert.

By Keith Pitts

*What can I do to get better photos of my child?*



photo by Christina Wilson

This is a VERY common question and I have a few answers. These are from a lecture that I regularly give to mother's groups in and around Phoenix. First is to get close. If you think you are close enough...get a little closer. The reason is that being close gives a sense of intimacy. There is a sense of being engaged with your subject.

Second is to get on your child's level. Usually adults look down at their children and take a quick snapshot from that same perspective. If you get down low then the photos will reveal a view that you haven't really experienced in way too many years. You will see your child as other children see them. Cool.

Third...don't ask them to say cheese (or any other contrived food substance). Let them be them. If they are not in the mood to smile then photograph them anyway. Do they always smile? Children have many different moods and they should ALL be documented. No one will believe that they never cried so shoot that too.

Fourth, shoot a lot. Digital cameras give us the ability to delete things that we don't like without costing more (except your time). It is far better to shoot until you get the shot than to just give up. Over time you will get better and have a greater percentage of keepers.

Remember, get close, get low, be natural and shoot a lot. These are just a few things that you can use to get better photos of your children. Practice and you will be ready for more. There is always more. If you have any specific questions then post them on the [blog](#) or [email me](#) and I will answer them for everyone's benefit.

We look forward to this session every year! It's great to have Keith there w/his calmness AND knowledge of our kids. I highly encourage other groups to sign up!!!

- Kristin B.

## local kid boutiques...

By Melissa Madden

There are so many great children's boutiques in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area! With the economy tanking, we really want to do what we can to feature as many local businesses as possible!

First, we would like to mention that Urban Kidz moved from the Scottsdale Seville to The Shops at Gainey Village, 8787 N Scottsdale Rd, Ste 220, Scottsdale, 480-483-6800. The shop has a great selection from newborns through tween/teens and Lila is such a sweetie

Next, I was pulling in to buy my cupcakes at Let Them Eat Cake and I parked in front of the coolest kids boutique I've seen since I left New York City! Wow..how did this place slip under my radar? (I am an absolute shopaholic - it doesn't help having two little girls!) The shop is called [Raph](#) - I just love it! They carry such a great assortment of clothing (established & new designers, hip, adorable), toys (lots of great wooden stuff not made in China!) and fantastic accessories (from gorgeous hair clips to fun activity books to pass the time on a long, long flight with kids!) Stop by!

For those of you a little bit north and a little bit (ok, a lot) west, Daniela Jay is a great shop for party dresses and great kids clothes - and mom might find a little something for herself! (I always seem to!) Mariter is a sweetie - I wish them continued success! Daniela Jay, 6525 W Happy Valley Rd, Suite C103, Glendale, AZ 85310 623.566.8380 [info@danielajay.com](mailto:info@danielajay.com)

I also want to mention the Athlete's Child in the West Valley. When we were living in Verrado, it was the only kids boutique west of the 101 (and I think it still is!) They are located at 4820 North Litchfield Road, Suite 105, Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340. (623) 398-7807 [www.theathleteschild.com](http://www.theathleteschild.com).

## Mom's Group Special

We have one Mom's Group that has been doing this mini session annually for the past three years. It is a great idea and we'd like to open it up to everyone! It is a great opportunity to get together and get great pictures without breaking the bank!!

Here's how it works:

- \$70 per family (up to four people)
- 15 minute mini session per family
- includes a (1) 5x7 (value \$45)

We require a minimum of 5 families to book the session.

For the above mentioned Mom's Group - usually about 10 families show up at the select location - the kids run around and play, Keith starts snapping. He then takes each family aside and shoots a family shot and candid individual shots. Within 7 days, he posts the images in a password protected gallery.

Please call with any questions!



*"My six year old twin girls think their mom is the coolest..."*

-Marion Wiener  
marketing manager, The Phoenix Children's Museum

## 5 questions with... Marion Wiener of The Phoenix Children's Museum

By Melissa Madden

1. When did the idea of a Children's Museum in Phoenix first develop? The idea for a Children's Museum in Phoenix was born by two couples, driving back to Phoenix on a hot summer day from a vacation in San Diego. There they and their children had experienced the joy of the Children's Museum of San Diego (now called the New Children's Museum)...and as they were discussing the fun they had had at the Museum, the inevitable conclusion was reached... "we should have a children's museum in Phoenix!" The year was 1998, a small group of volunteers was put together and the Children's Museum of Phoenix was founded as the Phoenix Family Museum. Renovation on the Monroe School began in 2006 and the Children's Museum opened its doors to the public on June 14, 2008.

2. The Museum is amazing...what has been the overall consensus by the public? The consensus has been that the Museum is awesome! Parents and caregivers tell us repeatedly how much fun their children (and they!) have at the Museum. The proof is in the number of people that we have welcomed in the six months since opening (110,000+) and the number of members we currently have (5,000+).

3. You haven't even reached your one year mark - and each time we come in, there is a new exhibit - how much growth is still left to go? Where does the museum see itself on its 5th anniversary? Although from time to time we will add a few new "pieces" to the Museum (have you seen the musical tree in the Room for Under Threes?), the biggest change will come later this year

when we begin building our 3-story **Climber** which will be the centerpiece of the first floor Atrium space. The Climber will be unlike anything else in the Valley. Think Dr. Suess and you may get an idea of the uniqueness of the exhibit. It will reach all the way up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor where Noodle Forest and the Book Loft are. And there will be two more exhibits added to the Atrium around the Climber....**10,000 Blocks** and **Building Big** both of which will be positioned on the wall opposite the existing Whoosh! exhibit.

4. What is your favorite thing about the museum? My favorite thing about the Museum is the fact that we are providing such an engaging, exciting and fun educational experience for children and that we have met a really important need in our community. Plus, I get to come to work everyday and hear the laughter and happiness of children while I work. Lastly, my six year old twin girls think their Mom is the coolest since they get to come here whenever they want!

5. The birthday parties are so much fun...I imagine they are a huge hit? The birthday parties are a big hit. We've had parties here for a wide range of age groups. The majority of our parties have been for 2 to 6 year olds but we have had a few for 8 and 9 year olds. The thing I would mention about the parties is that all of our party options come with Museum playtime PLUS the birthday child gets a special "I Partied at the Children's Museum" T-shirt! Really cute! [www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org/](http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org/)