

# Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By  
and For Homeschoolers



*The place to share your creative creations.*



We hope you enjoyed the past issues of the *Homeschool Herald*. The December issue is here!

2006 has been an extremely exciting year for Homeschool Excursions, thanks to families like yours. Thank you!

A wide variety of programs were offered, including several theatre shows, a visit to the 74 Ranch, a tour of the Federal Reserve, a program at the Cobb County Youth Museum, a lesson on felting wool, an outdoor climbing day in North Georgia, an

introduction to fire by friction and the uses and importance of fire, climbing at Adrenaline, and many more! The Enrichment Program has continued to grow, and the *Homeschool Herald* has been amazing each month thanks to your creative creations!

Included throughout this issue are photos from our various adventures. Enjoy!

Do you have any photos of exciting adventures with your family? If so, send them our way! We'd love

to include your photographs in future *Homeschool Herald* issues.

Send us your creative creations! We want it all! Everyone is welcome share, and we would be delighted to publish your contributions!

Submissions may also be sent via e-mail or snail mail. Please contact us with any questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions.

## Welcome!

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the December issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

Homeschool Excursions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide a valuable resource to homeschool families in Georgia. The *Homeschool Herald* will serve to build community and support since it's available to all families.

Our homeschoolers possess a wealth of creativity, and we hope this newsletter provides an accessible outlet for their expression. All contributions are welcome including pictures, stories, articles, and more. We invite everyone to share ideas, suggestions, and creations.

*-Vered Kleinberger  
Program Coordinator*

## SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

A kangaroo can only jump if it's tail is touching the ground.

Bluebirds can't see the color blue.

### DRAGON BEHAVIOR

There are many dragons in the world. I will discuss a few of their instinctual characteristics. Dragons' appetites vary with the variation of the dragon. Hoarding of jewels, gold, and other objects is used to cover a "soft spot" on their stomachs. Surprisingly, not all dragons can fly (although most can). Many dragons have many different behaviors.



Probably the most well known fact about dragons is that they fly. Here is a short list of dragons that fly: Wyvern, European, Amphithere, and Frost. Dragons fly by rotating their wings in mid-air. It seems quite hard, but

they have adapted to it so it's easy for them! Usually, they fly at night (all night) then fly to their homes in early morning. They sometimes fly to escape human soldiers, but arrows fly too. They fly deep in the mountains, and then come to villages for a snack.

Surprisingly, dragons' appetites vary with the dragon such as age, type, size, and shape (mostly shape). Some are vegetarians, and eat leaves and tall grass. Since they are big, they can go for weeks without food or water. A lot of dragons get food from nearby forests and villages. Once they have food, they will protect it heavily. European dragons eat meat, which makes them ferocious.

Some dragons can be very ferocious (like the European dragon, Frost dragon, and Amphithere). Some dragons are just misunderstood. They are mistreated in horrible ways, driving them to ferocious extents. Some are ferocious so they can scare their prey and eat them (like the Amphithere dragon who is so hideous they scare their prey to death). Dragons' ferocity occurs when a dragon is sad, mad, mistreated, or something has been stolen from it. Dragons are a bit sensitive, so a dragon can switch from nice to mean in a blink of an eye! Here are some types of attacks when a dragon is mad: a jet of flame, a frosty blast, a venomous bite, or spiked tail whip. Some get ferocious if you steal their hoarded treasure.

It is important to every dragon (except all lake dragons) to hoard. In the frost dragon's icy lair, lays treasure of the most exotic sort: amethyst, rubies, diamonds, emeralds, and metals such as gold, silver, and platinum. Most dragons do hoard, but not all do. Why is this? It is because dragons need the treasure. They lay on it and it sticks to their stomachs and protects them from just about anything! When they have their caves dug in the mountains some dragons find treasure there. They start to hoard when they are about twenty-one years old or so and keep doing it for the rest of their lives. They hoard because they have a "soft spot" on their stomachs and gems stick to their stomachs and provide them with a thick armor.

Protection is important to every dragon (even lake dragons). As I told you, dragons protect themselves with gems that stick to their stomach and protect them from just about anything. But what can harm a dragon? It is hard to imagine, such flimsy things such as arrows can hurt a dragon, but they can. Swords aren't as large a threat-dragons can fly-arrows are a threat. Gems stick to the rough scales of a dragon. But the scales aren't hard. Gems are very strong and make great protection. Hardly anything can break through diamonds.

The subject of dragons is very interesting. They have some pretty bizarre, and strange behaviors. They are ferocious, but sensitive; they hoard to protect their lives and can soar high above the clouds. From soaring through the skies to strange eating habits, dragons are surely the most fascinating creatures in the world.



### Bibliography

Dragons and Unicorns :A Natural History  
by Paul A. and Karin Johnsgard

Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons  
by Dugald Steer (Editor), Dr. Ernest Drake(Author),  
Helen Ward(Illustrator), Wayne Anderson, Douglas Carrel

Dragonology Handbook: A Practical Course in Dragons  
by Ernest Drake (Author),Dugald Steer (Editor)

Researched and Written by Kaegan Gregory, age 9

**HUMMER O<sub>2</sub> WINS LA AUTO SHOW'S DESIGN CHALLENGE!**

The Hummer O<sub>2</sub> won the Los Angeles Auto Design Challenge, you say? That's right. The Design Challenge's rules say the car must have one-hundred-percent recyclable components. The vehicle should have a maximum lifespan of 60 months. The Challenge featured nine different companies.



The Hummer O<sub>2</sub> has an all aluminum body and six so-called wings that have algae in them. The algae in the wings make oxygen by photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide is pumped into the algae and water filled wings, and then the algae photosynthesize and releases oxygen. The hummer is powered by four hydrogen powered engines, each located in one of the four tires. The tires have pneumatic cells in them to inflate and deflate the tire as necessary to leave the smallest impact possible on four-wheeling trails. Some other designs included a Mini Cooper with palm tree seeds implanted in its body, and a Mercedes-Benz convertible that runs on diesel, and has



wood panels that could be recycled. The one main problem is the fact all of these prototypes are only on paper and in people's minds. A less realistic environmentally friendly thought is

biodeisel. GM announced all new Hummers made in the next three years will be able to run on biofuels.

Information from:  
<http://www.hybridcarnews.org>  
<http://mobilewhack.com>  
<http://www.redherring.com>

Researched and Written by Zack Jordan

**SU DOKU**

	4				8		1	9
		3						
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	6			4	2	3	7	8
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						2		
9	1		6				4	

The numbers 1-9 must be in every column, row and box



Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10





Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10

**WHY DO SUPERFICIAL PAPER CUTS TEND TO HURT MORE THAN GROSSER CUTS?**

Perhaps paper cuts hurt more because they are so emotionally maddening. How can such a trivial little cut, sometimes without a hint of blood, cause such pain?

The sensory nerve endings are located close to the skin surface, and the hands, where most paper cuts occur, contain more nerve endings than almost any other area of the body. Dr. John Cook, of the Georgia Dermatology and Skin Cancer Clinic, adds that a trivial laceration such as a paper cut creates the worst of both worlds: "It irritates the nerve endings but doesn't damage them very much." Damages nerve endings can lead to more serious complications, but sometimes to less pain than paper cuts.

Dr. Cook and Dr. Elliott, of the American Dermatological Association, also mentioned that most patients tend not to treat paper cuts as they would grosser ones. After any kind of cut, the skin starts dying and pulling apart, exposing more nerve endings. Cuts are also exposed to foreign substances, such as soap, liquids, perspiration, and dirt. Putting a bandage over a paper cut will not make it heal faster, necessarily, but if the cut stays moist, it won't hurt as much.

Feldman, David. Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables. Perennial Library, 1988. page 103-4. Index of images:

**WINTER WONDERLAND**

S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	H
H	S	N	O	W	M	L	F	H	A
O	L	L	E	H	S	K	I	V	T
L	E	R	U	L	E	H	R	A	W
I	D	H	T	S	R	L	E	C	Y
D	E	U	S	N	H	R	M	A	L
A	J	A	C	K	E	T	H	T	Y
Y	R	D	W	O	N	G	S	I	N
S	T	Y	S	M	L	O	E	O	H
I	C	E	O	E	S	D	M	N	S

There are nine words hidden in the puzzle above. They can be found up, down, across, diagonal, and backwards.

Word List:

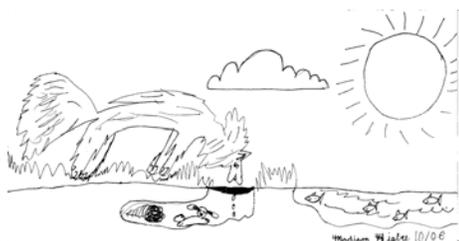
- |           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Snow      | Cold     | Jacket   |
| Hat       | Sled     | Ice      |
| Slush     | Fire     | Ski      |
| Snowboard | Holidays | Vacation |



**NEVER TRUST YOUR DINNER**

Once upon a time, there was a rabbit. Every morning she would be woken up by the dim morning light around the rim of her hole. But no, today she was woken up by growling and spitting and a watery mouth. It was a coyote! But she had an idea.

“Let’s have a race on Saturday,” she said. Now the coyote was surprised to hear this, b u t eventually agreed. “The winner eats the loser,” said the coyote.



While the coyote was exercising, the rabbit put her plan into action. On Saturday, the rabbit and the coyote were ready. The rabbit had called her ninety cousins and told the plan.

“I’m going to race underground,” she said. The Race started.

Oh my goodness! Every time the coyote rested, one of the rabbit’s cousins appeared beside him from their hole, pretended to be the rabbit and said he was too slow.

When The Race was over, the coyote found the rabbit he had been “racing.”

“So,” she said, “how do you want to be eaten?”

Terrified, the coyote ran away never to be seen again.

Moral: Never Trust Your Dinner!

A Fable by Madison Higbee, Age 8

**WEEDS? WHAT WEEDS?**

Riding bikes played an important role in my daily life when I was younger. The driveway to our house had a nice slope to it, so it was fun to race down, across the street, and up the hill of the neighbor’s yard across the street. In the winter, back when Georgia actually got some snow, this course would be repeated on a sled. However, if your aim was off, you would inevitably crash into that terrible prickly shrub growing next to the mail box. I don’t know how many times I cursed that plant! If only I would have



known... It was a Yucca plant, and what a terrific plant it really is!

*Yuccas* occur exclusively in the Americas, distributed over a wide area from Canada into Central America and the Carribean with species adapted to dry deserts, grasslands and tropical rainforests. Self pollination of Yucca flowers of many species is impossible, although a few are self-fertile.

Most Yuccas are pollinated exclusively by small Yucca moths with the plant and moth totally dependent on each other. The female moth visits flowers collecting pollen into a ball which is deposited on the surface of the stigma after she has laid eggs deep in the flower ovary. The flower is sufficiently pollinated to ensure a multitude of seeds and provides food for the larvae, which eat only a few seeds.



Some of the many, many uses include:

- American Indians used root salves or poultices for sores, skin diseases, and sprains.
- Pounded roots were put in water to stupefy corralled fish so they would float to the top for easy harvest.
- Plant yields strong fibers. These can me made into cordage, matting, and other useful materials.
- Fruits used as food by some people.
- Saponins in roots of yucca species possess long-lasting soaping action and have been used in soaps and shampoos. *Warning: Saponins are toxic to lower life forms.*



- The large petals make an interesting addition to salads.
- Pulp from the ripe fruit of some species can be eaten cooked.

There is an abundance of information available about the uses of Yucca plants. The Peterson Field Guides are always a terrific source, particularly

*Edible Wild Plants* and *Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants*. Please research all plants before using them, and NEVER pick and eat anything without first consulting an herbalist or a qualified plant guide. Always be aware of whether the area you are gathering from may have been sprayed with chemicals.

Index of images and information:

Peterson Field Guides

<http://www.tamuk.edu/TAIC/wildflowers.html>

<http://www.succulent-plant.com/yucca.html>

[http://biology.missouristate.edu/Herbarium/Plants%20of%20the%20Interior%20Highlands/Plants\\_of\\_the\\_Interior\\_Highlands\\_WXYZ.htm](http://biology.missouristate.edu/Herbarium/Plants%20of%20the%20Interior%20Highlands/Plants_of_the_Interior_Highlands_WXYZ.htm)

[http://www.sherpaguides.com/georgia/coast/natural\\_history/natural\\_communities.html](http://www.sherpaguides.com/georgia/coast/natural_history/natural_communities.html)

Think twice before you pull that weed! You may be throwing away a medicine chest's worth of resources.

*Please consult your physician before making any medical or dietary decisions.*

Compiled by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger



**THANK YOU FOR A  
TERRIFIC 2006!**



Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10

## JACK LIONEL

1. Hi, I'm Jack Lionel and I'm a police lion. I make my living by putting bad lizards, tigers, and sometimes bears, in jail. This is Pigtail Town, and just like any other town, we have laws. My wife's name is Linda and my son's name is Tom. We live in a very nice home. The human town isn't very close, but sometimes, when humans and us animals get together, trouble starts up. My job? Be ready for it!

One day, while I was at work, a monkey swooped down and landed on my face. "AH! AH!" I yelled and right then the chief walks in and I start shouting "GET THE MONKEY OFF MY FACE!". The chief grabs the monkey and puts it in jail.

That night, when I got home, I wanted to tell my wife and son about the monkey but then I realized the house was really quiet, and I looked around; Tom and Linda weren't there!

I rushed to the phone and called 911; they never let me down. Which reminds me of a story; you see, Tom has asthma and one day he had an asthma attack. I had to call 911; they took Tom to the hospital. He ended up Ok. but I thought Tom might have had another asthma attack and I was so worried.

Finally, 911 arrives. The sirens were so loud, I had to shout in their ears "I CAN'T FIND TOM AND LINDA!!!" "The police looked all around, and asked some questions, but they couldn't find Tom and Linda either, so I called my good friend Simon.

He's a canine detective. I thought he could help me. Simon listened to my story, and suggested I go to the last place I saw them, Koggers. It's a diner downtown owned by a cheerful, old, grizzly bear. I saw my family eating there for lunch earlier and I thought I might check it out, talk to the owner, maybe find a clue. I asked Kogger to take me to their seats. Of course they were empty.

I asked Kogger if he knew where they went. He said they got in an argument and then left. He also mentioned that they were met by some guy outside. *rrriiinnggg rrrriiinnggg.*

"Oh, there goes the phone." said Kogger. I walked outside while he answered it. All I found was a Crunch Bar candy wrapper, and that meant the kidnapper was a human. (We don't eat chocolate!)

"Yes. O.k. Oh, no!" click. Kogger came out to give me a message. "The chief says that Tong Lo has been spotted at the Jade Dragon in Chinatown, and they think he's got Tom and Linda." I hollered "Thanks Kogger!" as I jumped into my car and zoomed down to Chinatown. Tong Lo is a notorious animal catcher; he's a supplier to bad human collectors, zoos and circuses, and now I was even more worried. I turned onto Lee Street just in time to see Tong Lo leap into his car, dragging Tom and Linda by their throats, both clutched firmly in his hands. I followed them, racing through the skinny streets, but with an evil laugh, Tong Lo ran a red light and by instinct I slowed down and the crook got away. I searched the streets for a while, but got nowhere.

2. The next morning I started on flyers to let people know that Tom and Linda had gone missing. Finally I finished the flyers and began putting them in mailboxes, and handing them to people I passed. Suddenly, it hit me! I had a hunch where they might be; the CIRCUS! So I drove to the edge of town to the place where the traveling circus had set up camp. As I got closer, I could hear my sweet wife roaring. Sure enough, they were there, but I couldn't just walk into the circus to free them; they'd catch me, too, and put me in a cage. I had to think of a plan.

I talked to some of my buddies back at the station to see if they would help me. We all went to the circus with a warrant to search the premises, but by then, Tom and Linda were gone.

I felt so bad, but what could I do? If I break the laws, even to get my family back, I'm no better than the crooked humans who took them. So we went back to the police station to do our mid day look out.

After the mid-day look out, I drove past my house, and I saw some action toads in black suits, about to destroy my home! The only thing I could do was pull out my gun and

yell at them to stop, so I did. In a flash, they leaped across my roof and were gone.

I chased after them but they raced to a pond and jumped in, and swam away, laughing. I sighed as I walked home.

3. As I watched the news that night, sad to be all alone, they reported a car crash with the driver severely injured, and the two passengers were fine. Just then, I got a call; the chief told me to get to the hospital on the double. That's when I found out that it was Tong Lo's car in that accident, and Tom and Linda were OK. I rushed to the hospital, saw my family and started licking them furiously. "Oh, I'm so glad to see you". I said. Tom and Linda licked me too and we purred, then went home and we all lived happily ever after. Except for Tong Lo; he had his leg broken in the accident; it never did heal right. Plus, after my wife and son got done telling their stories, he was sentenced to 20 years in jail. Another case closed.

THE END.

Created by Jared Basteo, 9 years old

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Every year a organization called Samaritan's Purse does a project named "Operation Christmas Child". What you do is chose either a boy or girl from ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 so you can make a shoebox with all kinds of stuff that they need.

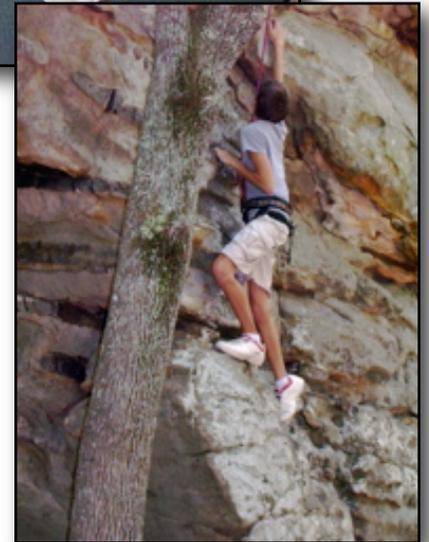
This year my brother and I both made one for our age groups and had SO much fun with it! My brother is 2 ½ and I'm 11. Even though my brother is very young he had a lot of fun picking out what he could put in his shoebox. I put stuff like, a stuffed animal, a ball, pens, pads, envelops, toothpaste, toothbrush, a wash rag, a brush, and gummies.

The website said that these kids have basically nothing. They also said that if we put a note and our address in our shoebox maybe the kids that got our packages would write back!

The reason why I did a shoebox was because I wanted to remind the kids that they ARE important to God and that he loves them very much! The organization is founded by Franklin Graham the son of the Preacher Billy Graham. If you didn't get a chance to do it this year then make sure that you don't miss it next year!!

[www.samartanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samartanspurse.org/occ)

By: Elizabeth Bradley





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## The Creative Mind

The Creative Mind is the brainchild of Phillis Bostar. As a Homeschooling mother, she understood the need for a creativity based learning program that would help her children learn and enjoy the journey. Over the years, she developed a program using discovery, curiosity, & imagination for children ages 4 to 13 years. Ms. Bostar has enjoyed the popularity and success of her classes through the eyes of her own and many other children.

Look for Creative Mind classes offered through Homeschool Excursions.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Many families have asked if their homeschoolers can submit contributions even if they can't attend the planning meetings in Pickens County. Of course they can! You are welcome to e-mail or snail mail their creative contributions to Homeschool Excursions.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

- All the homeschoolers who contributed to the production of each issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- The Pickens County Library for allowing us to use your facility for our meetings.
- Janis Kleinberger for all her assistance and generosity.
- The Jones Family for their continued support.
- The Daniels Family for their support and encouragement.
- Teri Verhine for her relentless devotion to provide a fantastic Enrichment Program for our homeschoolers.
- Our advertisers for their help in making the newsletter possible.

**IMAGES AND WORKS CITED:**

[HTTP://WWW.QUOTATIONSPAGE.COM/](http://www.quotationspage.com/)  
[HTTP://WWW.FUN-FACTS.COM/](http://www.fun-facts.com/)

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Thank you for your support!  
We're looking forward to a fantastic year!!

Mail form to: Homeschool Excursions  
PO Box 1283, Jasper, GA 30143



# The December Issue

This month the *Homeschool Herald* features photos from our various



focusing on one family or homeschooler, we're highlighting all of you!

adventures from throughout the year. 2006 has been wonderful, thanks to folks like you! So rather than

Have an excellent holiday season and we look forward to a fun 2007!

## What's Inside?

### **The Hummer O2**

Everyone is talking about rising fuel costs, so the engineers at Hummer got creative. Read all about it!

### **Weeds? What weeds?**

They're spiny, but they're useful! Yucca plants grow throughout North America, so learn how you can use this amazing plant.

### **2006...What a year!**

Thank you to all the families who helped make 2006 great! Lots of photos are included in this issue. Enjoy!

### **Songs, Poems, Pictures, Stories, Articles, Games, and More**

See what the homeschoolers have created this month. Each Herald is very different, so explore this issue, and we hope you enjoy the creativity of these homeschoolers!

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