



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 January issue is here, so read on! The homeschoolers have worked hard this month, and they never cease to amaze with their wealth of creativity. Included in this issue are their articles, original artwork, stories, recipes, and more. Enjoy!

The clip art in this issue was created by the Bartlett Family. Ayla (10), Laurana (6), Katherine (4), and Hunter (2) helped make this issue colorful with their fantastic creativity.

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

Welcome!

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the January 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

You are invited to join our monthly Herald planning meetings, held in Pickens County. Visit Homeschool Excursions' Calendar Of Events for dates and times.

Submissions may also be sent via e-mail or snail mail.

Please contact us with any questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions.



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

COLONIAL TIMES

Life in the colonies was much different from life today. In the colonies, women wore petticoats with long dresses while men wore breeches and tricornes. Children woke up at dawn and worked till dusk. Many chores were done by the children like feeding the chickens and milking the cows.

The kitchen and bathroom were sometimes separate buildings called dependencies. There were no refrigerators in the colonies. Instead, they had smokehouses to preserve meat. There was no running water. They had to go to a well or a stream. There was no air conditioning and no heater except for the fireplace.

The biggest difference between colonial times and now is food. We just go to the grocery store. But, they had to grow gardens, hunt, cook over a fireplace, churn butter, and can food for winter. Many things were different, but most colonial children learned the same way I do, at home.

Researched and written by Samantha Morgan, age 6

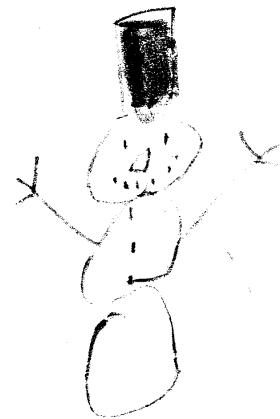
THANKSGIVING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

When I was in South Dakota for Thanksgiving I ate yummy food, saw a lot of people, and opened presents. I ate orange salad, pickles, potato salad, wild rice, and mousse (see recipe section for recipe).

I also saw a lot of my cousins. The 2 oldest are 16 and 13. I also saw my 5 younger cousins. Two of them I don't know how old they are. I know how old the other 3 are: one is 10 and the other 2 are 6 and 1. I saw 2 of my aunts and my uncle and my grandparents.

We celebrated Christmas with my cousins. Since they live so far away and we can't be with them at Christmas we got to open presents. At present time I got a bed comforter, slippers, and a book with a locket.

By Ayla Bartlett, age 10



A FIFTH GRADE PERSPECTIVE OF THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE RENAISSANCE IN A NUTSHELL

The Middle Ages or the Dark Ages were the most difficult for the European continent. There was very little learning or art going on. There was very little music painting or books, and many European traditions were forgotten. Nothing in the cities looked bright or colorful. The churches were built in the Gothic style that was popular during the Middle Ages. There was much stain glass used, and not much normal glass used. The few paintings that hung on the wall were not well painted. In other words, they did not look real. The painter did not shade in parts to make the picture look life like. Hence, the Renaissance began and the cultural rebirth of Europe. Many things changed during the Renaissance. Artist began finding new ways to create art by shading in to make the picture look life like. Also, around this time, the printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg. This was also the time when Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation. What started the reformation is when Martin Luther posted a list of 95 criticisms he made about the Bittenburg church. The Renaissance period was a great advancement for Europe. It lead them back to the greatness Europe had originally been known for, for centuries.

Submitted by Abbie Jones, age 11



WHY ARE PEOPLE IMMUNE TO THEIR OWN BODY ODOR?

How can so many otherwise sensitive people expose others to their body odors? Surely, they must not know that they (or their clothes) are foul-smelling, or they would do something about it. Right?

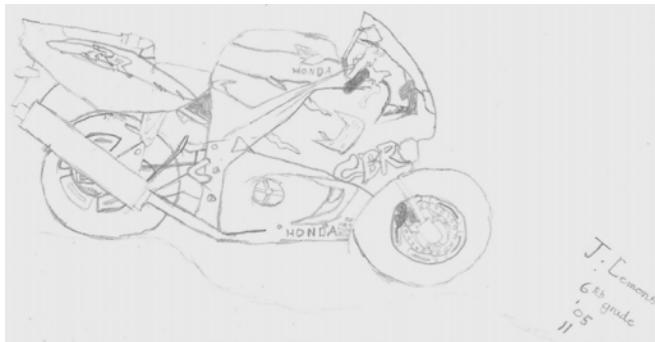
Right. Compared to most animals, humans don't have an acutely developed sense of smell. According to Dr. Pat Barelli, secretary of the American Rhinologic Society, "The olfactory nerve easily becomes 'fatigued' in areas where there are odors." In order not to be overloaded with information, your nervous system decides not to even try being "bothered" by your body odor unless it changes dramatically. Whether you regularly smell like a spring bouquet or like last night's table scraps, you are unlikely to notice - even if you are sensitive to the body odor of other people.

Dr. Morley Kare, director of the Monell Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, adds that this fatigue principal applies to many of the senses. Workers at automobile factories must learn to block out the sounds of machinery or risk being driven insane. Residents of Hershey, Pennsylvania, stop noticing the smell of chocolate that permeates the town.

Students often can't discriminate the taste of different dishes served in their school cafeteria. Of course this phenomenon might be explained by the fact that all the cafeteria dishes *do* taste alike, but we would need a government grant to confirm the thesis.

Submitted by Karole Rathouz, of Mehlville, Missouri.

Feldman, David. Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables. Perennial Library, 1988. page 92.



Artist: Jarrod Lemons, age 11



Artist: Ayla Bartlett, age 10

NATIONAL VELVET

While at your desk in school or at home, do you ever drift from your work to a fantasy land, where your dreams become reality? If riding a horse and winning a Grand National is your fantasy, or if you just love horses...then push those other horse books aside because National Velvet is the book for you. National Velvet is a classic written by Enid Bagnold and loved by many. Get ready to meet the Brown family and share in their adventure.



In a sleepy English village around the mid 1900's there lived a family named the Browns. Velvet, the main character, is a very determined girl who has braces and a weak stomach. Her first love of all is horses as seen by her paper doll horses she treats as real horses. Velvet daydreams constantly about racing horse and winning championships. Velvet has four siblings Edwina, Meredith, Malvolia and her brother, Donald. Mrs. Brown, Velvet's mother, is a large authoritative woman who once swum

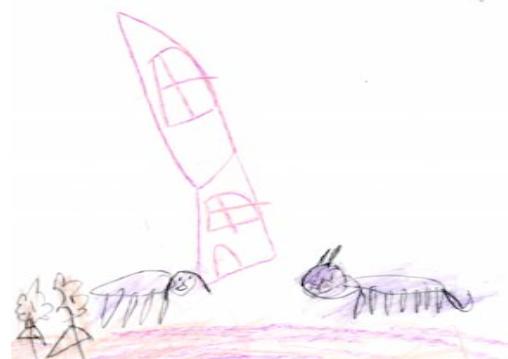
the English Channel and had her moment of fame! Now she has settled down with a husband, Mr. Brown, and a family. Mi Taylor lives with the browns and helps Mr. Taylor in the slaughter house. His father was Mrs. Brown's trainer when she swum the channel and won which makes him family. Mi, being like family, bought each of the Brown girls a raffle ticket to see if they could win the Piebald horse that was being raffled off in their village. Velvet's number was 119.

Number 119 won! Velvets raffle ticket won! Half of Velvet's day dream had been realized. She has a piebald. Soon after winning the piebald she also inherited 5 other horses; Sir Pericles, Mrs. James, George, Fancy, and Angelina. To complete her dream she must race the piebald in the Grand National. Unfortunately, Velvet is a female, and females aren't aloud to ride. But that won't stop Velvet. Mi and Velvet begin to plot how to get into the Grand National and include Mrs. Brown. Once Mrs. Brown paid for the entry with her prize money from swimming the channel, Mi found a jockey with entry papers unable to ride his horse. Mi paid for the entry papers and Velvet became Mr. James Tasky and entered the piebald in the Grand National. Now Velvet's dreams have been completely realized. Now it is up to Mi to make Velvet look like male jockey.

Velvets hair fell to the floor as her excitement grew. Mi walked velvet and The Pie to the starting line. There he left her to go watch the race. They were off. As Velvet was about to cross the finish as first place, she fainted and tumbled of The Pie. The Pie did cross the finish line. The stewards carried Velvet to the hospital where the doctor inspected her and discovered this was no male jockey! Velvet was disqualified! As Velvet's fame grows national, the papers go wild with the story of a female jockey who won the Grand National! Although she was disqualified, her dream was realized as a horse owner and a national race contestant.

I encourage all horse lovers and excitement seekers to read this book. It was one of the best classics I have read. The wording is a little hard due to the way people talked back then but other than that it is an excellent read.

By Maggie and Abbie Jones, ages 9 & 11



Artist: Ayla Bartlett, age 10

WEEDS? WHAT WEEDS?

What should be renamed as Georgia's state plant? What can grow anywhere? And does? Of course, I'm speaking of kudzu! It is out of control and in some areas there are

actually laws prohibiting allowing its growth on your property. If only we started using it rather than despising and eradicating it...



Kudzu was introduced to the United States in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Countries were invited to build exhibits to celebrate the 100th birthday of the U.S. The Japanese government constructed a beautiful garden filled with plants from their country. The large leaves and sweet-smelling blooms of kudzu captured the imagination of American gardeners who used the plant for ornamental purposes.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Soil Conservation Service promoted kudzu for erosion control. Hundreds of young men were given work planting kudzu through the Civilian Conservation Corps. Farmers were paid as much as eight dollars an acre as incentive to plant fields of the vines in the 1940s.

Every part of the plant is edible at different times of the year, and it has amazing medicinal properties too. I tend to avoid non native plants, but this one is difficult to



ignore. So, if it's going to grow here, we may as well use it! Did you know that it can grow as much as a foot a day in the summer? Here are a few of your options:

- In China, root tea is used for headaches, intestinal/digestive issues, dysentery, gastroenteritis, deafness, to promote measles eruptions, and to induce sweating.
- Reduces the craving for alcohol and lowers blood alcohol levels.
- Experimentally, plant extracts lower blood sugar and blood pressure.
- Flower tea is used for stomach acidity.
- Seeds used for dysentery.
- Stem poulticed for sores, swelling, and mastitis.
- Tea gargled for sore throats.
- The stems/vines/large root branches can be processed and made into a fine white flour.
- Blossoms can be made into a jam.
- Leaves are edible when cooked.
- It can be baled as a nutritious hay for cattle.
- Vines may be crafted into baskets.
- Kudzu vine powder contains protein, vitamin A and C, calcium, iron, and potassium.

There is an abundance of information available about the uses of Kudzu. 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.



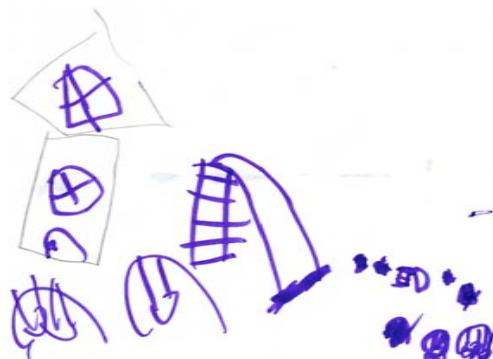
Index of images and information:

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<http://www.emilycompost.com/kudzu.htm>
http://www.kudzucuisine.com/kudzu_nutrients.htm
<http://news.uns.purdue.edu/html3month/2005/050425.Nice.kudzu.html>
<http://www.jjanthony.com/kudzu/>
http://nancybasket.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=NBBAKA&Category_Code=KB

Peterson Field Guides

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



MMMMM.....FOOD!!!!

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

1 lg. package of chocolate pudding (or 2 reg. sized packages)
1 sm. Cool Whip
Mini chocolate chips
2 ½ cups milk
Mini marshmallows

Combine pudding and milk and stir for 2 minutes. Add in enough Cool Whip to make the pudding a light brown color. Stir in well. Add about ¼ package of chocolate chips and ¼ package of marshmallows. Stir well. Put in fridge for about 1 hour. Serve right from fridge.

Contributed by Master Chef, Ayla Bartlett



BISCUITS

2 cups Self-Rising flour
1/4 cup Shortening
2/3 cup milk

Preheat oven to 500 degrees.
Grease baking sheet or pan.
Put the flour into a bowl.
Stir in the flour and shortening.
Knead the dough 2 to 3 times on a lightly floured surface.
Roll the dough about 1/2 inch thick.
Cut out biscuits.
Place on the pan 1 inch apart.
Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown.

Makes 12 2-inch biscuits.

Shared by Food Expert Zack Jordan

purple Island

bY
Ayla Bartlett
age 10



Artist: Ayla Bartlett, age 10



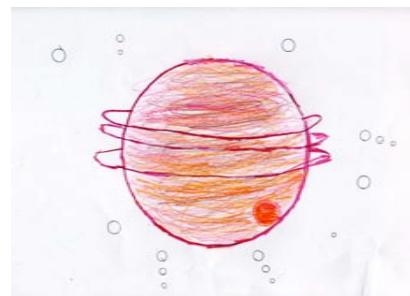
Artist: Laurana Bartlett, age 6

HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS UPCOMING EVENTS

Our calendars are always changing. Continue checking our website or join our e-mail list for updates.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 11 | Rainforest Adventures at the Center For Puppetry Arts |
| January 14 | Wood turning with Harry Hunt |
| January 19 | Monthly Climbing day at Adrenaline |
| January 27 | The Odyssey |
| February 3 | Stinky Cheese Man at the Alliance |
| February 14 | Tortise & the Hare at the Center For Puppetry Arts |

Jupiter, the fifth planet, is named after the Greek god Zeus. The Romans called him Jupiter. Jupiter is the biggest planet in our solar system. The diameter is 143,200 km! Two hundred Earths could fit inside it. It has a storm called the great red spot. The storm is two Earths wide! A day on Jupiter is only 9 hours and 55 minutes long. Jupiter is an outer gas planet that has 3 rings and 16 moons.



Researched, Illustrated and Reported by
Samantha Morgan, age 6



THE ARTISTS' CORNER

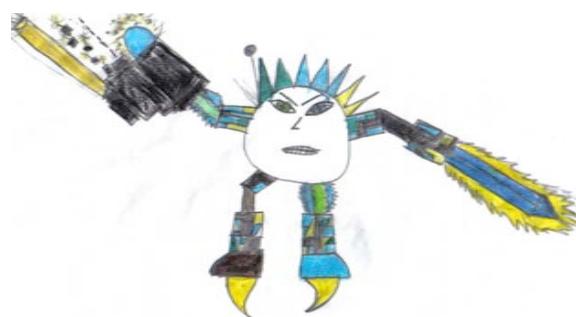
Tropicana Island



Artist: Ayla Bartlett, age 10



Artist: Laurana Bartlett, age 6

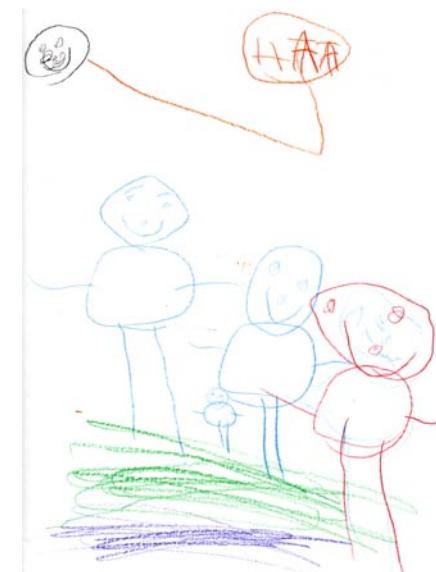


han
work HFAD

Artist: David Mooneyhan, age 12



Artist:
Nathan McFarland,
age 7



Artist:
Ben
McFarland,
age 4

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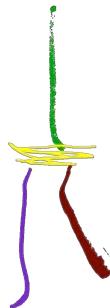
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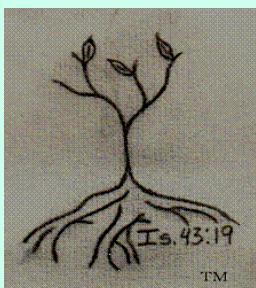


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County area. Visit our Yahoo! group for upcoming events or just to chat.

pickenshomeschooler@yahoogroups.com

See you soon!

PROGRAMS AT THE PICKENS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Homeschool Excursions wishes to thank the Pickens County Library for the continued use of their facilities as we develop the Homeschool Herald. Thank you!

Please call the library for a list of their exciting upcoming activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
THE PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY AT (706)
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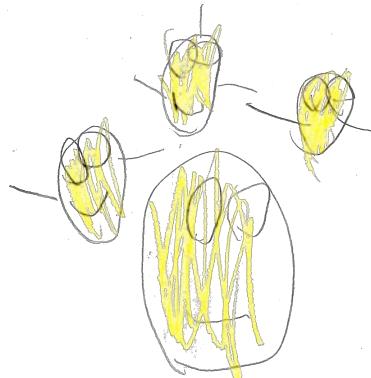
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**EDITOR'S NOTE**

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 this first issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- The Pickens County Library for allowing us to use your facility for our meetings.
- The Ashbeck family for donating the paper on which to print the Herald.
- Janis Kleinberger for all her assistance and generosity.
- The Jones Family for their continued support.
- Michael Seay for assisting in editing the newsletter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IMAGES

Winter Logo drawn by Breanne Grover

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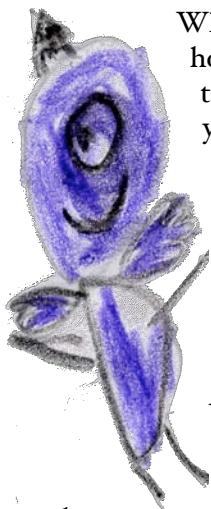
The January Issue

We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season! And we wish you the best for 2006!

The Homeschool Herald is a monthly newsletter composed of materials created by homeschooleders from throughout Georgia. Submissions from kids of all ages are welcome, so send us your creative creations.

We have learned how to include audio and video in the online version of the Herald! (See the November issue.) Send us video and audio clips to be included in future issues!! The possibilities are endless - video,

music, animations, and anything else you can think of!



What did you do during the holidays? Did you spend time with your family? Did you visit some place new? Do you have any special traditions?

Do you have any exciting plans for the rest of the winter? What do you like to do in your free time? What is your favorite subject in school? Do you play a sport? Do you have any special talents?

Write, draw, or record and send it to be included in future issues! We want your creative creations!

What's Inside?

Yummy Recipes

We've got some new delicious recipes for you to try. Enjoy!

Weeds? What weeds?

If you live in the south, you're familiar with kudzu. What you may not know is what an amazing plant it is. Don't kill it - use it! Read how...

Jupiter

What do you know about this huge planet? If you don't know much, in this issue you can read all about it!

Songs, Poems, Pictures, Stories, Articles, and More

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

Homeschool Excursions, Inc.
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