

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

Send us your creative creations! We want it all! Everyone is welcome to

share, and we would be delighted to publish your contributions!

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.

Welcome!

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the May 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*

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

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

'Dreamt' is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open..

SPOINK

The Spoink is one of the most peculiar Poke'mon. It bounces around on its curly tail all day, snorting and squealing with friends. The Spoink is a member of the psychic family and is easy to recognize by the large orb atop its head. Spoinks are not that rare so finding one should not be problem, but training to battle might be.



Spoinks have there own special fighting strategy that they know from birth, and they ignore their owner's commands to do an attack and continue with there own strategy. What they do is bounce around the battlefield tiring out the opponent dodging almost every attack. This is very clever but not always fool proof. Poke'mon like Haunter, Sealeo, Blubasaur, and Lickitung are able to defeat a Spoink by grabbing

the tail with a vine whip by Bulbasaur, having the spoink tail frozen with an icy wind by a Sealeo, hypnotized to stand still by a haunter, or being slapped by a lickitung's tongue .Either way, there is no way to win unless you train it. Battling aside, the Spoink is a great Poke'mon. If you want to talk more about Poke'mon, e-mail me at abbie327@tds.net.

MY FRIEND FROM BRAZIL

Having a friend from Brazil is so much fun. She is so nice! She is 38 years old and her name is Celia. She has two boys, Guelherme who is 17 and Emelio who is 20. They are both a lot of fun to be around! They recently came for a visit, December 26, 2005. Her 17 year old son Guelherme, stayed in the United States and is now going to school and living here with his Mom, Celia! Emelio, her son that is 20, had to go back to Brazil after a two-three month visit with his Mom because he has a full scholarship there in Brazil. Hold On, I'm getting a little ahead of my self so let me back up a little on this story.

Celia, the Mom of 17 year old Guelherme and 20 year old Emelio, came to the United States from a small town in Brazil called Goiania. Looking at the map, it is to the left of Brasilia, between Cuiaba and Brasilia. (see map).



Written by Abbie Jones

She came because a friend told her that jobs in the United States pay more than in Brazil. She now lives in Alpharetta with her 17 year old and some of her friends. The way she settled in Georgia was that a friend of her sister's from church, in Brazil, came here and said that it was a good place to be. She says that it was very hard for her to leave her boys in Brazil. When she first came to the United States, her boys were 12 and 15 years of age. There was a lot of family there with them, their grandparents, aunts, cousins and more. Since Celia has been here two of her favorite foods that they don't have in Brazil are a veggie sandwich at Atlanta Bread Company and a cheesecake from Kroger! . The way her boys got here is a great story. So let me tell you all about it!



Artist: Sage Gilleland,
age 10

You see it is almost impossible in Brazil right now to get a visa. A visa is a card that says you are allowed in the United States. Anyway back to the story. Celia was missing her boys so much. She said that one day in church she prayed to God and said that she missed her boys a lot and that she also new that HE (God) could get them visas but, that was the only way. So about 1-2 weeks later her boys in Brazil called and said that they had traveled to the city of Brazilia, several hours away from home to apply for visas without her knowing. They got their visas and would be here in two weeks!! One reason that the officials gave the visas more easily, is that her son Emelio would have to come back because of his scholarship. Her birthday had been a day or two before their arrival and she said that her boys getting visas was the best birthday present anyone could give her! Isn't that great?

Celia said that she wants to go back to school and learn better English and Spanish so that she can work with kids. She doesn't want to live in Brazil again, but likes the idea of going back to visit her family and friends. She grew up there but likes living here in the United States.

I asked her what her favorite place is so far, and she said Orlando! Her favorite thing that she has here in the United States that she wouldn't have easily in Brazil is a car. She said that it is easy to get a job if you speak English here in the United States. It was and still is a little hard for her to speak English, but I think she does just fine! "Yes", she says, "I love being in the United States!"

She says she has done what she has set her mind to do, and she is glad!

We are all hoping that Emelio will be able to come to visit close to Christmas, 2006.

Written by Elizabeth B, age 10



Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10

WHERE DO HOUSEFLIES GO DURING THE WINTER?

To Heaven, usually. Some flies survive winter, but only under extremely favorable conditions, when they can take shelter in barns or inside human residences where they can find enough organic matter and warmth to eat and breed.

Even under the best of circumstances, the normal life-span of a housefly north of the equator is approximately seven to twenty-one days. The most important variable in the longevity of these insects is the ambient temperature - they die off in droves when it falls below freezing or becomes excessively hot.

Although they actually live longest in cool temperatures, because they are less active, flies breed most prolifically when temperatures are warm, food is abundant, and humidity is moderate. Winter tends to deprive them of all of these favorable conditions, so that they not only die off themselves, but do so without having been able to breed successfully. The U.S. Department of Agriculture claims that no housefly has been proved to live from autumn to spring.



So how can they regenerate the species? Most people that houseflies hibernator become dormant, like some other insects, but this theory has proved to be untrue. The few flies that we find in the spring are mainly the descendants of the adult flies that managed to find good hiding places the previous winter. These spring flies breed their little wings off, just in time to harass you on your picnics when the weather gets good.

Some of the flies that survive the winter are not adults, but rather flies in their earlier developmental stages. Fly eggs are usually deposited in the ground, in crevices, in wood, or in a particular favorite, cow manure. These eggs hatch, literally, in a few hours, and turn into larvae, a phase that can last anywhere from one to four days. Larvae feed on decaying plant or animal matter (such as other insect larvae). As the fly larva grows, it undergoes pupation, a phase that lasts about five days, in which the fly rests as its larval features are transformed into adult ones. Many entomologists used to answer this Imponderable by speculating that most flies that survive the winter do so in the form of larvae or pupae, but scientists now believe that adult flies have a much better chance of surviving the

winter than their younger brethren, who have a hard time coping with cold weather. Still, some larvae and pupae do stay alive during the very end of winter and develop into adults in the spring.



The fecundity of the *Musca domestica* is truly awesome. One scientist estimated that a single mating pair of houseflies could generate as many as 325, 923, 200, 000, 000 offspring in one

summer. One-sixth of a cubic foot of soil taken in India revealed 4,024 surviving flies. Maybe the Imponderable should read: why isn't the entire world overcome with flies?

Any notion that flies migrate south during the winter is easily dispelled. The average flight range of a housefly is a measly one-quarter of a mile. Scientists have tracked the flight of flies: they rarely go beyond a ten-mile radius of their birthplace during their entire lifetime.

Feldman, David. [Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables](#). Perennial Library, 1988. page 133-5. Index of images:

<http://www.vanwal.com/pests-fly-house.html>

<http://www.insektenmodelle.de/en/modelle/fliege.html>

A MOSAIC GARDEN TRIP

Recently my mom and I went to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. We saw a lot of mosaic statues made out of brightly colored glass and rocks. They were by Niki De Saint Phalle. My favorite one was the one that you see as soon as you walk in, Nikki Night. Her work is very pretty, and colorful. There are statues and sculptures of lions, people, snakes and totem poles.



I thought that the children's garden was a lot of fun. They had some water sprinklers there and I had fun splashing around. I lay down and got

pretty much soaking wet. I liked seeing the frogs in the big pond. They let me get very close to them. They had a mariachi band playing. They had arts and crafts in the garden that I did. It was really fun.



We spent a lot of time in the conservatory. It looks like a jungle in part of it, but the other part looked like a mountain rainforest. We looked at the birds, and I almost got my finger eaten by a plant called a pitcher plant. It was shaped like a



bowl with spikes on it. It looks really neat.

I would recommend this trip to anyone in the area. I learned a lot and had more fun than I had thought that I would. It was very good day.



Written by Sage Gilleland, age 10
Pictures by Kristi Gilleland aka 'mom'

CLOTHESLINE

The clothes on a line have a soothing air like the wind that flies on a peaceful night. Wet clothes that swing with a mystic aura, with whites that reflect brightly shining light.

When they are dry, you take them in and place them on the shelves within.

Written by Ben Morris

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE EXHIBITION

On Tuesday, April 25th, the children of E.C.H.O. co-op, participated in a Science Exhibition at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Their presentation was for a mock water slide ride. Each student accurately defined the principals of inclined planes, including wedges, friction and lubrication, gravity, and energy - both potential and kinetic, that would make this ride a success. It was a great experience for the children as well as their proud parents.



The participating ECHO students were: (back row, left to right) Toni Baraka, Savannah Jackson, Matthew Cozzolino, Nailah Ellis Christopher Coan, all age 10, and (front row, left to right) Koran Baraka, Miles Jackson, and Julian Jackson..



SPRING IS WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE WHISTLING EVEN WITH A SHOE FULL OF SLUSH.

- DOUG LARSON

WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH

As comfortable walking up a tree as it is walking down headfirst, the White Breasted Nuthatch diligently searches for it's next meal. Being of the most curious and inquisitive birds it is often one of the first birds to come to your feeder and will even sometimes come when are refilling it! Whether it's on a tree of on your feeder the nuthatch is sure be the funniest bird at your feeder.



Nuthatches live mostly near oak and pine trees. Usually found in pine and oak forests, the nuthatch constantly gives soft high pitch *ink* notes while foraging. All nuthatches share long bills, short tails, and a love for sunflower seeds. Be sure not to relate nuthatches to woodpeckers, they are not at all related! In fact woodpeckers cannot walk down trees headfirst. All these peculiar habits make nuthatches one of the most enjoyable birds to watch at your feeder.

Written by Dwayne and Lauren Daniels

SU DOKU

1		9	7	4			5	8
	6			1	8	2		
8	2			6			9	7
7	1			2				4
		5	8		6		2	
		6				9	7	
	9		2		7		8	6
6		8		9		7		
4		2			1		3	9

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

FUN FACT: APRIL 22ND IS NATIONAL JELLYBEAN DAY.

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

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

Word List:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| Jellybeans | Earthday |
| Eggs | Flowers |
| Easter | Rain |
| April | Spring |
| Chicks | |

WEEDS? WHATWEEDS?

Wood Sorrel grows everywhere, and it's very likely that it's in your front yard. (You've probably noticed the little yellow flowers blooming this time of year.) Most people consider it a weed, that is, until they try it. It's delicious! Especially if you like sour or lemony flavors. In addition to tasting great, it also has many beneficial health qualities. These include:



- The fresh leaves make an excellent sour addition to salads.

- To make a refreshing drink, steep the leaves for 10 minutes in hot water, chill, and add sugar or honey.
- It's very rich in vitamin C.
- Leaves can be chewed for nausea, mouth sores, and sore throats.
- Fresh leaves were poulticed on cancers, old sores, and ulcers.
- Leaf tea is used for fevers, urinary infections, and scurvy.
- *Warning: Large doses may cause oxalate poisoning. Excessive consumption over a long period of time may inhibit the absorption of calcium by the body.*



There is an abundance of information available about the uses of Wood Sorrel. 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.etsu.edu/biology/friendsofnature/Species/Wildflowers/southern_yellow_wood_sorrel.htm
- http://www.magdalin.com/herbal/reframe.htm?http://www.magdalin.com/herbal/plants_pages/s/sorrel_wd.htm

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

**HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS
UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

Homeschool Excursions will post it's fall calendars soon.

An exciting program will be available for dedicated high schoolers from July through the start of September. Come help build our office! This will be a 'green building' utilizing sustainable building practices, alternative energy sources, and more. Be a part of the research, planning, and building process. Details will be posted online soon.

GEORGIA

Our world is an amazing place, full of history, beautiful places, interesting people, and diverse cultures. We thought that it would be fun to provide some information in each issue of the Homeschool Herald focusing on a different place. I thought I would begin the project with our own home state, Georgia!

We hope that you will help with the project. Pick a place and tell us about it. This can be a place you've been, somewhere you'd like to visit, or simply a place you'd like to know more about. You can include anything you'd like on your page to help us learn more about the state or country you're describing.



Fun Facts:

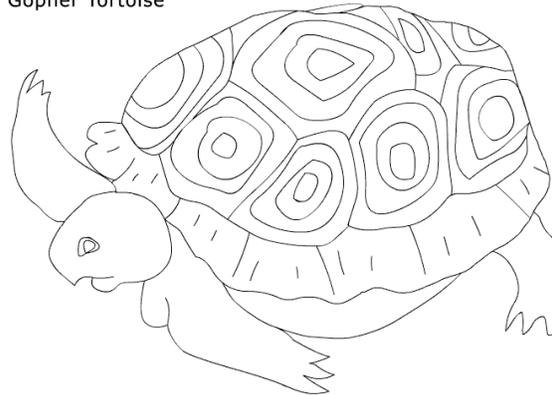
- Cumberland Island is the largest undeveloped island on the Atlantic Coast.
- The world's largest kitchen is located in Milledgeville at Central State Hospital. It is reported to be able to prepare 30,000 meals a day.
- Georgia was the first state to allow women full property rights.
- The General Assembly selected the peanut to be the official state crop in 1995. Georgia produces nearly 50 percent of the total United States peanut crop and more than 50 percent of peanuts used in the production of peanut butter. Georgia leads the nation in peanut exports.
- Some famous Georgia natives include Kim Basinger, Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Ted Turner, Jeff Foxworthy, Lewis Grizzard, Martin Luther King Jr, President Jimmy Carter, Joel Chandler Harris, Margaret Mitchell, Alice Walker, Ray Charles, the B-52's, James Brown, Little Richard, REM, Hank Aaron, Ty Cobb, Jackie Robinson, and many more!
- Georgia is 57, 906 square miles with 141.4 people per square mile.
- "Hogzilla" found and killed in Alapaha Georgia - weighing in at 1,000 pounds and measuring 12 feet in length - this was the largest wild hog found anywhere!! DNA testing showed that it was in fact a cross between a wild and domestic hog.

- In Gainesville, the Chicken Capital of the World, it is illegal to eat chicken with a fork.
- Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, is one of the largest single masses of exposed granite in the world.
- Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River.
- The popular theme park - Six Flags Over Georgia - was actually named for six flags that flew over Georgia. England, Spain, Liberty, Georgia, Confederate States of America, and the United States.

Our State Symbols:

- Amphibian - Green Tree Frog
- Bird - Brown Thrasher
- Wildflower - Azalea
- Marine Mammal - Right Whale
- Butterfly - Tiger Swallowtail
- Fruit - Peach
- Insect - Honey Bee
- Flower - Cherokee Rose
- Prepared Food - Grits
- Fish - Largemouth Bass
- Crop - Peanut
- Tree - Live Oak
- Vegetable - Vidalia Onion
- Reptile - Gopher Tortoise
- Seashell - Knobby Whelk
- Gem - Quartz
- Fossil - Shark's Tooth

Gopher Tortoise



Gopher tortoises have clawed feet, which it uses to dig underground burrows.

<http://sofia.usgs.gov/>

Index of information and images:

- http://www.sos.state.ga.us/tours/html/for_kids_only.html
- http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/kids/element/funfactsindex.htm
- http://sofia.usgs.gov/virtual_tour/kids/coloring/colorgopher.html
- http://www.netstate.com/states/maps/images/ga_outline.gif

MMMMM.....FOOD!!

COLLARD GREEN SOUP

Serves 5-6 people

Cook 1 to 2 days in a crock pot on low.

- 2 - 27 oz cans of southern style "Glory" Seasoned collard greens
- 2 - 15.8 oz cans of "Bush" Great Northern Beans
- 1 lb Smoked Sausage sliced
- 1 small onion diced
- 1 garlic clove pressed
- 1 envelope "Goya" Ham seasoning
- 3 Jalapeno peppers, with 3 teaspoons of juice
- 3 tablespoons of red wine
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco

ENJOY!!

Submitted by Laura Daniels

WHOLE WHEAT BANANA BREAD

- 1/2 cup butter (no margarine - it's terrible stuff)
- 1 cup sugar (no artificial sweeteners - they're also terrible)
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 medium bananas
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (unbleached, unenriched)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- spices of your choice (cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, etc)

1. Preheat oven to 325.
2. Melt butter.
3. Put butter, sugar, eggs, and bananas together and blend in blender until smooth.
4. Transfer to mixing bowl.
5. In a separate bowl, stir together flours, salt, baking soda, and spices.
6. Add dry ingredients to banana mixture alternately with hot water.
7. Stir in chopped nuts.
8. Scoop batter into the pan.
9. Bake at 325 for 1 hour, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Yum! Yum!

HOMESCHOOLERS HAVING FUN!



DJ Gravitt (4 1/2 years old) proudly displaying his project at the Homeschool Science Fair with CHEERS (Calvary Chapel in Buford). DJ decided to test "Which Ramp is Faster?" He created his topic and tested several ramps he constructed of a variety of materials. He hypothesized as to which would be the fastest and then tested them. At the fair, DJ presented his project to a supportive and enthusiastic crowd.



Our visit to Cagle Dairy. What a trip!



HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS

2005-2006 SURVEY

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR A FANTASTIC SUCCESS!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SURVEY TO LET US KNOW HOW WE CONTINUE TO
IMPROVE OUR SERVICES. YOUR INPUT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

How did you first hear about Homeschool Excursions? _____

Have you participated in a Homeschool Excursions field trip? _____ If not, why not? _____

What do you like or not like about the website? _____

What would you like to see included on the website? _____

What additional services do you think Homeschool Excursions should offer? What services do you think are lacking or unavailable within the homeschool community in Georgia? _____

Do you read the Homeschool Herald every month? _____ If not, why not? _____

What do you like best about the Herald? What do you think needs to be improved? _____

Have your kids ever submitted anything? _____ If not, why not? _____

Additional comments: _____

How many kids do you have? _____ What is their age range? _____ Where do you live? _____

THANK YOU!



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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.

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Pickens County Homeschoolers



Do you feel like you're on your own? Well, you're not! Come join other homeschooling families in the Pickens

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

pickenshomeschooler@yahoogroups.com

See you soon!



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Children entering 6th grade and younger are invited to join the 2006 Vacation Reading Program.

Sign up, beginning May 26, for *Once Upon a Time* offering six weeks of special programs and activities.

Join us at *Here There Be Dragons!* (10:00a.m., May 31) to kick off the fun.

The library will also offer a separate program, *Joust Read*, designed for middle and high school students.

The library's annual **Scholastic Half Price Book Fair**, from May 25 to June 10, is an excellent opportunity to stock up on summer reading material.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
THE PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY AT
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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.
- Janis Kleinberger for all her assistance and generosity.
- The Jones Family for their continued support.
- Our advertisers for their help in making the newsletter possible.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IMAGES

Spring Logo drawn by Breanne Grover.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Receive a copy of the Homeschool Herald monthly in your mailbox for the low rate of \$10.00 a year, which includes coupons and other offers not available online.

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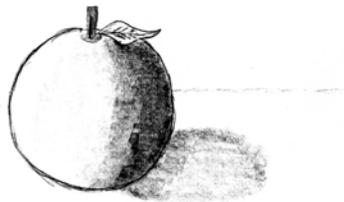
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The May Issue

Summer is almost here! Homeschool Excursions would like to thank you for making the 2005-2006 school year so much fun! We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

The next issue of the Homeschool Herald will be published at the end of July. This will be a June/July double issue. Please send submissions throughout the coming months to be included.



Lillian Daniels

Let us know what you're up to this summer. Did you travel anywhere? What did you do while you were in town? We want to

hear all about it!

Included in this issue is an end-of-the-year survey. Please complete it and mail it to Homeschool Excursions. We want to continue to improve our

services, so your input is important and greatly appreciated.

What's Inside?

Have you been to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens?

If not, you can read all about it...

Weeds? What weeds?

Wood Sorrel is in bloom and it growing everywhere! Don't get rid of it...Eat it! Look inside for more information.

White Breasted Nuthatch

Birds are everywhere! You hear them and see them, but do really know much about them? This month, learn about the White Breasted Nuthatch.

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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