

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 November issue is here, and once again, the homeschoolers have done a fantastic job! They never cease to amaze with their wealth of creativity. Included in this issues are their articles, original artwork, stories, crafts, and more. Read on and let us know what you think!

This issue is especially exciting because it contains video for the first time! This means that future issue can include video, animations, recordings of homeschoolers playing music, the possibilities are limitless!

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 November 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?

A snail can sleep for three years.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

VEGGIE VIDEO

Abbie and Maggie Jones have created an informative video about creating a portable greenhouse. Click the picture below to watch!



Created by Maggie and Abbie Jones



THANKSGIVING TIME

Last Thanksgiving was my favorite Thanksgiving ever. My mom cooked for days getting ready. My Grandma Vaccarro came up from Florida and my Grandma Sally and Grandpa Gerry came down from Hiawassee.

There was so much food to eat. There were two turkeys, two kinds of gravy, sweet potato casserole, candied

yams, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and dinner rolls. There was also several desserts including a two layered pumpkin pie, a mincemeat pie, an English trifle, and stuffed dates. Mom even made a cornucopia sculpture out of pizza dough for a centerpiece. We had apple cider and eggnog to drink. I made candy turkey treats and put them at each person's place at the table. We really had a fun day.

Normally, we have a different tradition on Thanksgiving. We usually go out to eat for lunch, then we go to the movies. When we get home, we bring up the Christmas tree from the basement and set it up in the living room. We then spend the day after Thanksgiving getting the house decorated for Christmas. My Grandma Vaccarro will be visiting with us again this year and joining us for our yearly tradition. I can't wait!

Written By Athena Smith

WHAT IS A CELL?

I. What a cell is:

A cell is a basic part of all living things. A living thing starts out with one cell and through the years the cell divides into many cells. These are called multicellular animals.

II. Shapes and sizes:

Cells can be all different shapes and sizes. They can be spores, circles, triangles, any shape. Now, the sizes are different too. They can be big, small, long, short.

III. Cell tissue:

Tissue is what protects your bones. And your body is about all made out of tissue.

IV. Energy:

Energy is what a living thing needs to be active. A plant needs energy to stay alive.

V. Cell reproduction:

In order for a baby to be born two parent cells have to be joined together. And they make a baby: plant, baby, human, or animal. And in the cells is a thing called DNA. DNA has something called genes which give the cell and baby something that looks like the parent like: eyes, feet, hair, face, body, or strength.

VI. God:

God is the beginning of us. God put us together. He is wonderful. All this would not be possible without God. He is the creator of us. He made us with his bare hands.

Researched and Presented by Ali Lemmons

STORIES FROM ABROAD

Asheville, home to the famous Biltmore estate, the historic Thomas Wolfe house, the Grove Park Inn, and the Grove Arcade, is located in the southwestern corner of North Carolina. The town is in a valley, surrounded by the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. It was originally settled by immigrants from northern Ireland. The original permanent settlement was called Eden Land in 1785, but was later named Morristown. By 1797, it was officially incorporated and called Asheville in honor



of Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County. Not only is Asheville home to the largest home in America, it is home to University of North Carolina at Asheville which was originally founded in 1927 as Buncombe Junior College. Being a college town, Asheville is full of intriguing shops, interesting antique stores, and quirky little restaurants and coffee shops. One coffee shop was made from a double-decker bus!

Asheville is a thriving tourist town. It has tons of restaurants and shops. It is also a very pleasant place to walk. The streets are clean and the sidewalks are wide.



One night while we were staying there we went in search of a place to eat. Many of the restaurants we passed over because they were too fancy, too quiet, or too crowded.

But Barley's Taproom and Pizzeria was just right. Barley's is housed in a renovated old appliance store. The atmosphere of the place was great. We could have a normal voiced conversation and not feel like we were disturbing others. It is a great place to go with your teens. Their pizza was amazing. But Asheville did have its share of much fancier places to dine, too. There are also tons of art galleries! This is a true art town. It was a very fun place to go.

The town was beautiful, but what we really went for was to see the Biltmore Estate. We spent about five full hours touring the house. When you kept thinking the tour was almost over you had a whole floor yet



to see. It was a bit hot that day and so I got tired pretty quickly. But the Biltmore house was the view of a lifetime. It was magnificently landscaped. The landscaper, Frederick Law

Olmsted did a beautiful job at enhancing nature. He made it look as though it wasn't even landscaped at all. It just looked naturally beautiful. We didn't have time to see the winery or the barns. I would have liked to. We had to head homeward, though. It was a very fun trip to say the least. I would highly recommend a few days in Asheville to all of you.



Composed by Emily Reichelderfer,



POTLUCK DINNERS

Last Sunday, October 23rd, I went to two potluck dinners in one day. One was at my church and the other one was in my neighborhood. The reason for the one at my church was that it was pastor appreciation day. There was lots of chicken and casseroles plus a whole table of desserts. We brought Caramel Apple Cheesecake Pie and Sweet Potato Pineapple Bake. It was very good. Everyone ate it and there was none left. Then we went home.

Four hours later, we went to the neighborhood potluck. There was a lot of chili, taco salad, mac n' cheese, and a lot of cookies. We brought another caramel apple cheesecake pie. We played with our friends and ate and ate and ate til we could not eat anymore. The food was really good. When the sun went down, it got cold and we went home. It was a really fun day.

As Told by Potluck Expert, Athena Smith



Artist: Ayla Bartlett, age 10

A THANKSGIVING TUNE

Here is a Thanksgiving song that I sing to my 2 year old little brother. Maybe your younger siblings will like it too. (To the tune of "The More We Get Together")

Oh I'm glad I'm not a turkey, a turkey, a turkey.
Oh I'm glad I'm not a turkey on Thanksgiving Day.
They'll stuff you and bake you
And then they'll all taste you.
Oh I'm glad I'm not a turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

Composed by Mollie Shaw



WHY DO CLOCKS RUN "CLOCKWISE"?

In baseball, horse racing, and most forms of skating, we are accustomed to seeing a counterclockwise movement. Is there any reason why clocks run "clockwise"?

Henry Fried, one of the foremost horologists in the United States, gives a simple explanation for this Imponderable. Before the advent of clocks, we used sundials. In the northern hemisphere, the shadows rotated in the direction we now call "clockwise." The clock hands were built to mimic the natural movements of the sun. If clocks had been invented in the southern hemisphere, Fried speculates, "clockwise" would be the opposite direction.

Submitted by William Rogers, of St Louis, Missouri.

Feldman, David. Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables. Perennial Library, 1988. page 150.

A BUYING LESSON

When I was 8 years old my grandma and I went shopping on one Saturday. I said I want that doll but then my grandma said No, look at all of them. So I looked and looked until I found a better one.

This one can talk, cry, walk, laugh, be sick, sleep, eat, and grow. I asked my grandma if we can buy it and she said yes and we did.

So every time I forget my grandma reminds me.

Written by Ayla Bartlett

WEEDS? WHAT WEEDS?

This month, we're going to be talking about Bull Thistle. It is another of those 'pesky weeds' that grows everywhere. Instead of pulling it and tossing it in the trash, use it!

Bull Thistles are native to Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa, and is considered an invasive species in the US. It is believed to have been introduced to the eastern United States during the colonial period, and the western states in the late 1800s. It is now present in all 50 states and on every continent except for Antarctica.



It is easy to spot this plant growing in fields and waste areas with its bright purple flowers. Bull Thistle lives for two years, showing a cluster of leaves the first year, and fruit and flowers in the second. The flowers contain a several hundred seeds that are released to the wind to settle and germinate.



The leaves and stems of Bull Thistle are extremely spiny making it unpalatable to livestock and wildlife. It competes with desirable forage making it undesirable to farmers. It may also dominate cleared forests making it difficult for tree seedlings to grow. But, rather than working to eradicate the plant, why don't we put it to good use?

Here are a few of your options:

- Remove the spines from the young leaves and add it to salad.
- If you don't feel like spending the time to remove the spines, you can simply cut the plant and boil it, adding a little salt, and serve it as a cooked green, spines and all!
- Young stems are excellent peeled and eaten raw or cooked.
- Raw or cooked roots of first year plants are edible.
- The petals were used as chewing gum or tobacco by the Native Americans.
- The flower buds can be cooked and used like globe artichokes.

- The root can be used as a poultice.
- A hot infusion of the entire plant can be used as an herbal steam to treat rheumatic joints.
- The Native Americans used the seed down on their darts for their blowguns when hunting small game.

The thistle is the national emblem of Scotland. During the reign of Malcolm I, the enemy Normans attempted to sneak up on the sleeping Scots. One of the Scots awoke when one Norman stepped on a thistle and cursed aloud. The Scots seized their weapons and defeated the Normans. Bull thistle is the spiniest of the thistles. Many birds, including the Goldfinch, love to use the down as nesting material and they also eat the thistle seeds. The thistle down was once used to stuff upholstery.



There is an abundance of information available about the uses and history of Bull Thistle. 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.

Index of images and information:

- http://www.ontariowildflower.com/wildflower_waste.htm
- <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subject.cfm?sub=3393>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/cirvu1/all.html>
- http://www.indianspringherbs.com/bull_thistle.htm
- <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/invasiveweeds/bullthistle.htm>
- http://montana.plant-life.org/species/cirsium_vulga.htm
- http://www.motherearthnews.com/natural_health/1971_May_June/Food_Without_Farming
- <http://www.lakeelmo.org/d/000218000/BullThistleYoung.jpg>

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.*

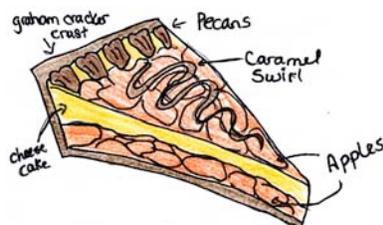
Written by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger

MMMM.....FOOD!!!!

CARMEL APPLE CHEESECAKE PIE

- 1 pre-made graham cracker pie crust
- 1 can apple pie filling
- 1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 1 squeeze bottle caramel sundae syrup
- 2 tbl toasted pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place pie crust on baking sheet; pour half of the can of apple filling into the pie crust. Set aside.



2. With a mixer, beat together cream cheese, sugar, lemon juice, and vanilla until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing after each addition; pour filling over apple layer. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool.

3. Pour the remaining apples over the top of the cheesecake layer, spreading evenly. Drizzle the caramel syrup across the top of the pie. Decorate edges with toasted pecans.

This pie only takes minutes to make and will definitely impress your guests.

SWEET POTATO PINEAPPLE BAKE

- 1 can (29 ounces) cut sweet potatoes, drained
- 1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple
- 3 tablespoons chopped pecans
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3/4 cup miniature marshmallows

In a large bowl, mash the sweet potatoes. Stir in pineapple, pecans, brown sugar, and butter. Transfer to a greased 2 qt baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Sprinkle with marshmallows.

Bake 5 minutes longer, or until marshmallows are lightly browned.

This recipe can be easily doubled for large gatherings or potluck dinners.

CANDY TURKEY TREATS

- fudge striped cookies
- chocolate covered cherries
- candy corn
- chocolate frosting

1. Start with one fudge striped cookie and use the frosting to glue a chocolate covered cherry to its center.

2. Take a 2nd fudge striped cookie and using frosting, glue it to the back of the cherry, with the stripes facing forward.

3. Use frosting to glue a candy corn to the front of the cherry, point facing down.

4. Let stand til frosting hardens and turkey stand firm. Voila! The most adorable little turkeys.



Last year, we made these for a bake sale Athena was involved with. They sold out within minutes. Athena also made a second batch to be used with place cards at our Thanksgiving dinner. They were a big hit.

Presented by Master Chef, Athena Smith



TRICK OR TREATING?

Once upon a time there was a little girl that knew it was Halloween. The other kids didn't know it was Halloween. The little girl said, "It's Halloween," to the other kids.

The other kids went and told their mummies it was Halloween. They were very excited. The moms said, "Great, now you have to go dress for Halloween."

The little girl dressed up as a good witch with a pumpkin bucket. She had a beautiful pointy hat with hair in the back of it. Then she and the other kids just went to houses and ring the door bell. When the grown ups answered the kids said, "Trick or treat!"

They went to all the houses except the little girl had no houses to go to because the candy is all gone. She found more houses to go to. Then she had lots of candy same as the other kids.

Told by Laurana Bartlett, age 6



Artist: Athena Smith, age 10

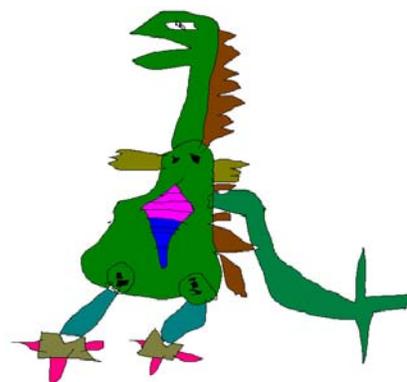
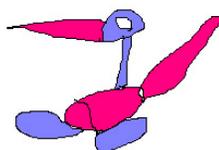
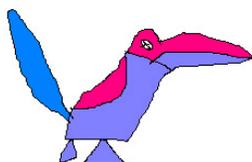
TURKEY DAY

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year because it's a time when families come together to spend time with each other and be thankful.

I also like it for another reason, It's Turkey Time!! Now let's talk turkey, did you know that Ben Franklin wanted the national symbol to be the turkey, but it did not work out well. But did the turkey go and hide? No, he went and made a name for himself and shows up in places, like bowling, when I get three strikes in a row which is also called a "turkey" or when some one stops a bad habit with little or no help which is called "cold turkey", and many other places.

Where can you find turkeys today? Places like my dad's old neighborhood, in Atlanta, GA! Yes, my dad's old neighborhood has been on national television, because it is a natural haven for wild turkeys. The turkey also made a national holiday for its self, Thanksgiving! As you eat turkey on Thanksgiving remember it is lower in fat than most other meats and takes on the taste of the things it is cooked in or cooked with. So on Thanksgiving, when you are with your families think about all that you have read here.

Written by Trevor Sparrow



HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS UPCOMING EVENTS

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

November 14	Model Rocketry event in Jasper
November 15	The Shoemaker at the Center For Puppetry Arts
November 17	Monthly climbing day at Adrenaline Climbing Gym in Suwanee (third Thursday of each month)
November 21	American Indian Program in Cumming
December 6	Soap Making the traditional way (over a fire!) in Pickens Co.; perfect for holiday gifts - you get to take some home with you!
December 8	Einstein is a Dummy at the Alliance
December 10	Astronomy program in Jasper
December 15	Monthly climbing day at Adrenaline
December 19	Homeschool Herald meeting in Jasper

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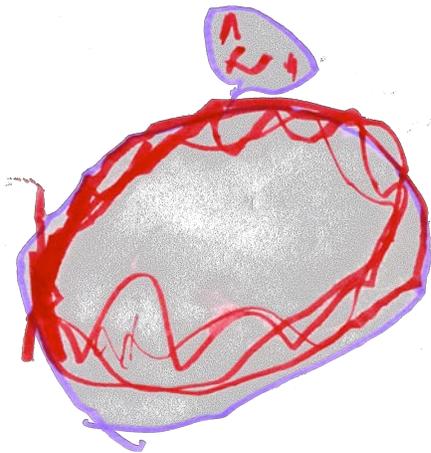




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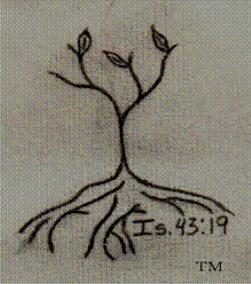
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See you soon!

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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

Art drawn by Ayla Bartlett, Sam Ingram, Katherine Bartlett, Laurana Bartlett, Breanne Grover, and Sage Gilleland.

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We gladly accept tax deductible donations to supplement program costs in an effort to make all of our exciting activities affordable for everyone.

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The November Issue

Fall is here, bringing cooler weather, beautiful leaves, and the start of the holiday season. The homeschoolers have shared some of their family's traditions, recipes, and more. Read all about it!

The Homeschool Herald is different every month, thanks to the submissions from students from throughout the state.

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! View the November issue on our website to view a video created by the Jones family. 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!

We are working on the December issue, so send us your stories, articles, photos, drawings, we want it all. Every family celebrates the holidays differently, so let us know what you do. What do you eat? How do you decorate? What are your family's traditions? We want to know!

What's Inside?

Yummy Recipes

This month includes lots of delicious recipes for you to try during the holiday season. Enjoy!

Weeds? What weeds?

I'm sure you've seen Bull Thistle growing near your house or along the roadsides. It may be spiny, and seem unfriendly, but be scared. Don't kill it - use it! Read how...

Stories From Abroad

Asheville, NC is only a few hours away, and well worth the trip. Read all about this great town.

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

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

Homeschool Excursions, Inc.

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