

Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By
and For Homeschoolers

The place to share your creative creations.



Fall is here, the rains are coming (hopefully) and the school year is off to a great start!

What have you been up to? Are you studying anything exciting? Are you playing any sports? Or have you been learning a new instrument? What do you do in your free time? Reading a good book? Playing video games? Exploring the internet? Let us know what you've been doing these days!

Fall is an exciting time of year. It's a time of cooler weather and colorful leaves. It's also a time to begin new things, like new subjects in school, new sports and outdoor activities, perfect weather for hiking and playing outside with friends. Let us know what you've been up to. We want to know!

We hope you're having a terrific start to your school year! Send us your school projects, book reports,

stories, songs, and anything else you want us to print in the *Herald*. It takes submissions from you to make this a great newsletter.

We look forward to seeing what you have to share! Send us your creative creations! Thanks!

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 September/October issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

Homeschool Excursions operates under Educational Excursions' umbrella. This is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide a valuable resource to students in Georgia. The *Homeschool Herald* is a monthly newsletter that provides a creative outlet for homeschoolers.

Our homeschoolers possess a wealth of skills and talents! All contributions are welcome including pictures, stories, articles, and more. We invite everyone to share ideas, suggestions, and submissions. Share with us!!

*-Vered Kleinberger
Program Coordinator*

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows—shaved eyebrows were a fad at the time.

It takes only about eight minutes for the Space Shuttle to accelerate to a speed of more than 17,000 miles (27,359 kilometers) per hour.

SU DOKU

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

JACK LIONEL, PART 2 (SEE DECEMBER 2006 FOR PART 1)

I. The assault

It was a cold January night. My son Tom and my wife Linda had gone to The Smoothie Shop while I stayed home to watch our new baby, John. And that's when the action toads attacked! They came from all directions; all I could do was pull my gun and force my way between them and John so they wouldn't be able to hurt him. Right at that moment, the chief ran in with a s.w.a.t team right behind him. Suddenly, the lights flickered, and the action toads disappeared!

"Are you all right?" the chief asked. "Yeah, I'm fine". I told him. "The nightly patrol saw the action toads coming to

your house, and called a swat team right away". The chief explained. "Thanks, Chief!" I said gratefully.

The chief asked if I wanted to spend the night at his house, just in case anything else happened. "OK," I said "Let me grab the baby's things and call Linda". I called Linda and told her what happened. She said that we would meet each other at the chief's house, so I collected John and drove down Horse-fort Drive and that's when I came to the chief's house, or should I say, mansion!

As the chief and I walked inside, I saw that Tom and Linda had arrived. As I ran over to greet them, I could swear I saw a flash of green out of the corner of my eye. The next second, the chief had fallen onto the ground next to John's stroller with a knife wound in his leg. As I ran to him, I saw another action toad disappearing down the driveway. Linda grabbed up John and raced onto the porch, Tom right behind her. "Quickly!" The chief told me, "Get your family inside the house". I helped the chief limp up the steps, and we locked the door behind us. When we all got settled and got the chief's leg bandaged up, we called a stake out team to make sure nothing else tried to get in the house.

After Linda and the boys went to bed, the chief and I talked about what was happening, but we couldn't come up with any answers, so we went to bed, too. The next morning, after we all had gotten a good nights sleep, I found that Linda had made waffles for breakfast. "Mmm... delicious!" I mumbled through a mouth full of waffle.

Shortly after breakfast, the kids sat down to watch some TV. But right as I was sitting down to talk to the chief about the action toads some more, we heard a knock on the door. Before I answered it, I looked through the peep hole, just to be on the safe side. It turned out to be the stake out team, telling us that they were going to leave now. "OK." I answered, and they turned around and left. The chief left with them.

Before I left for work I made sure Linda had everything she needed if the action toads attacked. As I kissed my family good bye, I noticed a note on the door, it read: If you ever want to see your family again give up Pigtail Town. signed: The toads. Puzzled, I turned to Linda but they were gone! I looked everywhere...but couldn't find a sign or a clue. It was if they had vanished into thin air.

I drove over to the station and started to walk inside, but a police dog stopped me and asked if I would show him my badge. "Since when are we checking badges?" I asked

him. "Since the action toads arrived", he explained. "Oh no". I gasped.

I showed him my badge, and I gave him the news. "The action toads stole my family, and I need help to get them back." I told the police dog about the note the toads left me. Then the police dog gave me some more bad news, as if I needed anymore. He said that there had been eighteen other families stolen; including his own. All disappeared the same way; without a trace. I thought it was time to go to Mr. Who; he is the wisest owl in the world. I told the police dog to let the Chief know I was going to Who's tree. The police dog wished me luck, and I left.

2. The plan

Mr. Who is enormous; he has saved us from many disasters, like when the dam broke and Pigtail Town flooded. If he hadn't been strong enough to lift us all into the trees, we all would have drowned. But if you aren't careful and startle him he might just eat you.

I slowly walked up to his tree, and rang the treebell; suddenly the owl swooped down. "SSSWWOOOSHH". was the sound that he made. "Who goes there!?" bellowed the owl. "Officer Jack Lionel. I've come to ask for some advice" I said. "Oh Jack, it's you" said the owl.

"You look like you have been working out" I replied. And then suddenly I was flying upward into the top of the tree, with the owl carrying me, of course. I told him what was going on in my town, and he seemed concerned. He didn't have any idea what was happening, but he promised to keep his eyes and ears open, and also gave me some good advice.

After the long talk with the owl I finally had an idea; I would go to the crime lord of Pigtail Town. When I got to the damp street on which the crime lord's hide-out was located I stepped up to the entrance and there were two foxes guarding it. I was not known to be mean, but when it came to my family I could be vicious, and I let those foxes see my anger. The foxes were quickly scared off and then came the hard part; getting to the crime lord.

After a long trip through hallways and doors, and sneaking past guards, I finally came to a door that read "BIG B". I could tell that this was the place. My plan was to burst through the door and quickly get the information I needed. I had lost my family once before, I was not too keen on doing it again. Plus, I knew that every moment counted.

My plan was effective. It didn't take long before the crime lord told me everything I wanted to know, and more.

As I drove home to make a plan, I ran over the information in my head; I was also thinking of some way to stop the action toads.

As I stepped into my house and turned the lights on, I realized my home was full of action toads! All of them staring straight at me with unblinking eyes...before I could make a move, they parted to let their leader through. A scarred red toad made his way toward me, and gave me a threatening look with the one eye he had left. "Stay out of this" said the toad in a deep rough voice, and before I could say a word, the lights flickered and they were all gone, not a toad left. Just as I had planned it, I knew the toads would be at my house so I had set up surveillance cameras all around the room.

That night as I was watching the surveillance videos I saw as slight jump in the footage. "AHA!" I exclaimed; the toads were holographic! And with closer examination I found out that there were hologram projectors all around the room. Simple really; just a matter of breaking into my home and placing the projectors. Now that the pieces of the puzzle were falling into place, I made a quick call to Mr. Who.

The next day, although it was my day off, I stopped to pick up my paperwork, (which I had forgotten the day before). As I turned on the lights in my office I saw a whole army of action toads, real ones, this time, with Linda, my sons and the other prisoners! But at their head was the chief; my happiness at seeing my family again quickly ebbed away to be replaced by fear and rage. "It's time we got you out of the way, Jack." said the chief with a smug grin on his face. "Why?! Why are you doing this?!" "We're gonna run this town...with me as the boss, and my faithful action toads will make sure people do as I say, or else!" He laughed evilly.

They took me to the top of the five story building and held me over the edge. "Good bye, Jack." said Chief Bigscruff with a chuckle, and turned to walk away. "Get back here, Lucy!" I shouted. The chief stopped dead; I had called him by his real name! Gasps came from the crowd around him; no one ever called the chief by his real name. Most who did had a black eye afterward; I didn't like to do it, but the chief had crossed the line. He turned and stalked back toward me, getting ready to throw a punch, but I was quicker and gave him a swift blow to the muzzle. The chief was shocked; not even the biggest bear would dare to punch Chief Lucy Bigscruff. Angrily, the chief gave the signal and the toads dropped

me, but out of nowhere came Mr. Who, catching me seconds before hitting the ground. "Thanks." I gasped. "Almost thought you weren't coming."

Mr. Who and I had been planning this all along. Even though the chief being a dirty cop had been a small disadvantage, it was easy to overcome.

3. Jail time

Finally this nightmare was almost over; there was just one more task I had to complete. I grabbed the pay-phone and called Animal Control; they were the only ones who could take care of the toads and the chief, so I had to call them. As much as I detest humans, I just had to. Animal Control came and tranquilized the chief and the toads and then carried them off to the pound. Once all the families were released, I finally got to be with my family again.

Then the crowd parted to let through a bear from the town council. "Hello." I said. He cleared his throat; "Jack, since Lucy has been arrested there is only one thing we need to say..." "Yes. Go on." I prodded. "Here is the key to your office, and congratulations on a job well done!" Pride rushed through me; I hadn't even realized that if the chief got arrested, I would be the new Chief!

The end

Written by Jared Bastedo, age 9 when written (now 10)

WHY DO DOGS DROOL? AND WHY DO SOME DOGS DROOL MUCH MORE THAN OTHER DOGS?

In order to execute a proper drool, a dog must have two weapons at its disposal: a lot of saliva and a lot of lip. Getting a dog to salivate is as easy as exposing it to food - the smell of it, the taste of it, the anticipation of it, the consumption of it - and, as Pavlov proved, to any conditioned reflexes associated with feeding.



Drooling is simply the inability of a dog to dam the flood of saliva it manufactures. Salivation serves as a useful function, helping the dog to swallow, and to lubricate the alimentary canal, the passageway from the mouth all the way through the esophagus and stomach that the food must travel through before it is excreted.

Individual dogs vary in their capacity to manufacture saliva, but some breeds manage to contain all saliva flow under normal conditions.

The dog experts we consulted agree that some breeds drool more than others. Dogs with loose lips (and we're not talking about dogs who gossip too much), such as Saint Bernards, mastiffs, bloodhounds, and boxers, are prodigious droolers.



The hanging parts of these dogs' lips, called flews, are usually the tell-tale signs of droolers. Dog breeder Fred Lanting reminded us of the old World War II slogan "Loose flews sink ships." Lanting says that the pushed-up faces of some breeds, such as bulldogs, create loose flews. He adds:

"Other breeds may drool because of poor breeding... The looser and longer the lips, the more the loss of saliva outside rather than inside the throat."

Anatomist Robert Habel, of Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, wrote [us] that medical problems can also cause excess drooling. Many drugs "artificially" stimulate salivation. Rabies can cause nerve damage leading to paralysis of the throat and tongue that prevents dogs from swallowing.

Habel reports that his own coonhound "slobbers foam when he is running a trail with his nose to the ground. I think that is the effect of gravity." He added: "Did you see the movie *Turner and Hooch*? You should..."

Submitted by Catherine Price of New York, New York..

Feldman, David. When Did Wild Poodles Roam the Earth? New York: HarperCollins, 1992. page 34-5.

Index of images:

http://farm1.static.flickr.com/7/7996979_e3acao47d3.jpg
<HTTP://WWW.NORTHCENTRALNEWFO.ORG/IMAGES/2000REGSPEC/ALBUM/IMAGES/DROOL.JPG.JPG>



FALL

M	E	H	S	O	O	H	P	M	L
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	U	I	E
K	P	L	I	S	L	I	M	T	A
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C	O	O	L	M	O	I	K	E	E
S	A	W	E	N	H	N	I	N	S
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T	Y	N	D	S	C	H	O	O	L
K	T	U	R	K	E	Y	H	T	Y

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

Word List:

Leaves	Cool	Thanks
Turkey	Pumpkin	Giving
Halloween	Jacket	Hat
Mask	Mittens	School

**HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our Fall and Winter calendar has been posted on the website, and it's FULL of exciting adventures! Also, remember that new programs are always being added, so be sure to check our Calendar of Events for updates. Here's a list of some of what you can look forward to:

- November 5: Bamboo Crafts with Buck Windsor
- November 9: Degas' Little Dancer at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta
- November 29: Nature Awareness Skills with Steven 'Snowbear' Taylor
- December 11: Buckskin pouches with Alice Craig

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon!

HE'S NOT DEAD! HE'S A CHRYSALIS!

Raising caterpillars is extremely hard. However, we managed to do it.

One day we found some caterpillars in our garden and we saw that they were monarchs. They had distinct yellow, black and white markings with what looks like two heads and wavy feelers on each apparent head. (But we know that one head is fake.)

We decided to take some in, so we did. When we took them in, we put them in jars and put milkweed leaves in with them. The caterpillars immediately started munching away. Milkweed is the only thing that monarch caterpillars like to eat. Other caterpillars, like the swallowtail caterpillar, eat parsley. Different caterpillars eat different plants.

It's very boring work to take care of caterpillars. All they do is eat, but watching them eat is pretty fun. What is boring is going out and getting the leaves. Unless, of course, there are other caterpillars outside that are growing bigger and bigger.

One day when I decided to feed the caterpillars, mom gave me the sad news. One of our caterpillars, Inchy, had apparently died. Mom walked away and I felt rather stunned. But then I shouted at my mom, "he's not dead! He's a chrysalis!" And so it was. There in the bottom of the cage was a chrysalis. Soon after that, lots of our other caterpillars began turning into chrysalides, too.

We got to watch one of them turn into the chrysalis. He hung upside down from the top of our jar lid and curled himself into a J. And then whap! He split down the back. Then after he split down the back, he started to wriggle and what came out down the back was not blood and guts but a green chrysalis! He wriggled and wriggled and started splitting more and more until all there was left at the top was a shriveled black mass which was the caterpillar's skin and which soon fell to the floor. Then the chrysalis started writhing and writhing and out came a black strand which the caterpillar was still making. It was hanging from the strand. Once it was done making its strand, it was still wriggling for a while and then it stopped and was still.

We had to wait about a week for all of our chrysalides to hatch into monarchs - and one into a black swallowtail! We got to see one of them turn into a butterfly. The chrysalis turned black and then transparent - you could see one of the butterfly's wings inside the chrysalis! As the clear chrysalis split open, we were amazed that the wings could fit in there. The butterfly coming out happened pretty fast. Its abdomen was huge. Once it was out, it hung on the remains of the chrysalis and its big

abdomen started pumping fluid into its wings. It took about four or five hours for it to finish pumping all its fluid into its wings. Once it was done with that, it hung there for about a day. Then it crawled around on the sticks in its cage for a while but it couldn't fly. Some orange fluid came out, but we learned that was normal.

It was on the floor for over a day and then we finally released it outside. When we released it we also saw another monarch outside. We hoped it was a male because ours was a female. (We knew ours was a female because there were no black spots on its wings.) We hope they will mate and lay eggs on our milkweed plants and start the cycle all over again!



It's a chrysalis!



Look closely! There are two tiny caterpillars on these Mexican milkweed flowers.



The chrysalis darkens...



We measured the caterpillars. This one grew from 9mm to 35mm in just one week! And then it turned into a chrysalis!



We also weighed some of the caterpillars. At its heaviest, one weighed only 1.3grams!



...and a butterfly emerges!



They grew big fast! We brought a milkweed plant inside to let them have exercise on it and eat more.

by Julian Scent, age 9

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

-Albert Camus

REVIEW OF THE SHREW

The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare was put on by the Theater on Main in down town Acworth this October. With a beautiful set and carefully chosen actors and actresses this play was wonderful. Everyone worked



very hard on this play. Their lines were recited beautifully and almost everyone had perfect stage entry timing. The costumes looked like

they were sent straight from Venice. I was very impressed with the cast as well. Gremio, Petruchio, Merchant/ 2nd tailor, Kate and Bianca were just a few of my favorite characters. I was surprised that Mrs. Carolyn Choe picked Nicole Adamson and Emily Musgrove to play the same part of Katherine but in different show times of the same play. Witch added a certain variety to the plays. Both of them were wonderful and equally shrewish. Petruchio (Zachary Choe) and Merchant/2nd tailor (Sam Fulkerson) had lots of interaction with the audience and other actors alike. Bianca (Rachel Zimmerman) was a wonderful actress as the most wanted daughter of Baptista (Andrew Aycock.) Gremio (Austin Richardson) played the old man suitor for the lovely Bianca. The way he shuffled along the floor made the entire theater laugh. "This 10 year old pie lover looked really ancient!" reports my mom. No one can wait for the next big production by Mrs. Carolyn Choe.



Reviewed by Lindsey Bick,

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

- Joseph Addison

WEEDS? WHAT WEEDS?

As Fall comes, you'll probably hear the familiar sound of acorns hitting your roof. Squirrels love them...but did you know that they're a great food source for people too? So don't rake them out of your yard! Gather them and eat them!



There are several varieties of Oak trees in the south and the acorns are different on each of them, so be sure you know what you're collecting before you eat anything. White Oaks are the most abundant and accessible in this region. Acorns

contain tannin, which is extremely bitter. However, tannin is readily soluble in water, so you can leach it out of the acorns by stripping them of their shells and boiling them in several changes of water, until it stops turning brown.

It's a little work, but well worth the effort! Here are some of the many uses for acorns:



- Once the tannin is stripped from the acorns, they can be roasted and eaten as nuts or dipped in sugar syrup and eaten as candy.
- Dried and crushed acorns can be placed in a porous bag and put through the same boiling process to remove the tannin. They can then be redried, ground into meal, and used to make excellent breads and muffins.
- Acorns are rich in protein and fat.
- Astringent inner-bark tea was once used for dysentery, bleeding, as a gargle for sore throats and a wash for skin eruptions, poison ivy, rashes, and burns.
- It is a folk cancer remedy.
- As stated above, acorns contain tannin. Experimentally, tannic acid is antiviral, antiseptic, antitumor, and carcinogenic. *Warning: Tannic acid is potentially toxic.*

So, as you hear the acorns bouncing off your roof, and as you watch the squirrels gather





and stockpile them for the winter, consider going out and gathering your own provisions!

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: Edible Wild Plants and Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants

http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/images/2006/09/26/david_element_acorn_440x330.jpg

<http://www.halton.ca/savethetree/OakTreeSummer.jpg>

http://www.mcnees.org/mainpages/misc/trees/img_tree_white_oak_leaf_UM.jpg

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

Compiled by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger

HOMESCHOOLERS MAKING BASKETS FROM HONEYSUCKLE, DAY LILIES, AND OTHER MATERIALS WITH ALICE CRAIG.



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What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish?

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This newsletter was created to provide a space for students to express their creativity and receive recognition for their accomplishments. All students are invited to share with us!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- All the homeschoolers who contributed to the production of each issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- YES! (Youth Engaged in Science) for their support and collaboration in providing quality programs for students in Georgia.
- Our advertisers for their help in making the newsletter possible.
- And a very special thank you to the Board of Directors for your hard work and dedication.

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- <HTTP://WWW.FUN-FACTS.COM/>
- <HTTP://WWW.QUOTE GARDEN.COM/AUTUMN.HTML>
- <HTTP://WWW.RICHMOND.K12.VA.US/READAMILLION/READINGQUOTES.HTM>

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The Homeschool Herald is printed on recycled paper. Help preserve our environment through the use of recycled products and by reducing waste.

Homeschool Excursions Membership Form

Yes! I want to help Homeschool Excursions grow!
I join at the following membership level:

- _____ Seed: \$25-34.00
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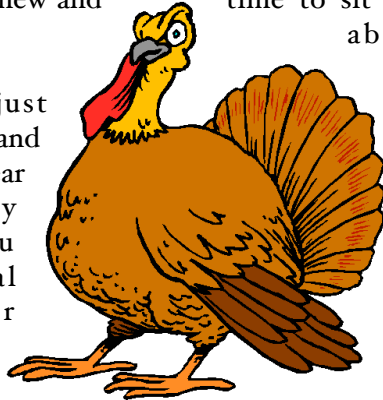
**Thank you for your support!
We're looking forward to a fantastic year!!**

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

The September/October Issue

Fall is here, bringing cooler weather, beautiful colors, and fun holidays. We hope you're enjoying the 2007-08 school year and that you're learning new and exciting things!

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we would love to hear how your family celebrate. Do you have any special customs or traditions? Do you eat a big meal? Do you get together with your family and friends? Do you watch or play football? Or do you just relax and enjoy the vacation?



It's very easy for us to take our daily lives for granted. We're all so busy, hustling from here to there and back again. This is a great time to sit back and to think about what we're thankful for. What are you thankful for?

Let us know how you celebrate the fall. Share with us what you're studying, what you do in your free time, how you celebrate the holidays, and anything else you'd like to send to be included in the November issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

What's Inside?

Jack Lionel, part 2

Read the exciting second part of this imaginative story! The first part was printed in the December 2006 issue.

Weeds? What weeds?

Tis the season for acorns to begin dropping. Do you hear them on your roof? Well, did you know they're nutritious? Learn all about this useful seed, but like with any new plant, don't use it without proper supervision from an experienced adult!

Do you know what a chrysalis is?

If not, you can read all about it! Julian Scent describes his experiment... it's fascinating!! Read all about it!

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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