



Homeschool Happenings

GRAYSON McMICHAEL, EDITOR IN CHIEF

5 FUN GIFTS YOU CAN MAKE!

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Squished!

The picture below is squished so it distorts it. Can you tell what it is? The answer is on page five, but don't peek!



Yikes! The holidays are coming up and you have no clue what to make for your family! We know that feeling very well, so we've provided you with 5 fun, low-cost projects that you can make at home! Here they are:

1. Paper-Mache box

All you need for this simple project is glue, a small cardboard box, and old magazines or catalogs. First, cut out some pictures from the magazines or catalogs. Then, put a little bit of glue on the back of each and stick it on. Once you have a few square inches of paper on the box, spread more glue on top of it. Don't worry about the fact that it covers your pictures, it'll dry clear. Once the whole box is covered, let it dry overnight. You've got yourself a paper-Mache box! **Tip:** old calendars work well for this, too.

2. Puzzle frame

Got some old puzzles missing pieces? Turn them into a nifty giftie! Just glue old puzzle pieces onto a cardboard or

plastic picture frame (you can get them at craft stores) and let them dry. Ta-da!

3. Coupon book

This is a great gift for moms and dads. All you have to do is trace a playing card several times on colored pieces of paper. Then design coupons on the paper like "15 minutes of yard work" or "1 big bear hug". Also design a cover. When you're done, staple it together at the top and cover the staple with a cute sticker. Perfect!

4. Handmade puzzle

This is a simple and fun craft that you can give in the paper-Mache box (idea #1). Pick a favorite photo and glue it to poster board to make it more sturdy. Once it's dry, Cut it up! Make chunky, fun-shaped pieces. This is a photo puzzle



This cool Paper Mache box is a hit with family and friends!

you'll be able to put back together again and again!

5. Personal Stationary

Use markers to decorate 8 sheets of paper with the recipient's name on it. Add colorful pictures and stickers. Do the same to 8 envelopes. Instant stationary!

HOW TO MAKE FLOWER BOOTIES

I really love these flower booties because they are cute. My Grandma showed me how to make them.

What you will need:

1 pair of kid's rain boots
(makes two flower booties)

Soil

Flowers (available at your local nursery)

What you do:

1. Put soil in the boot
2. Plant flowers in the boot
3. Water the plants
4. Put it in a sunny place

and take care of it!

-Ariana Garbers





THE MAGICAL DOLLHOUSE

By Annika Garbers

Chapter 1: Out the Door

“Come on, Kayla! Grab a few things and let’s get going!” Kayla Mansley sighed and looked around her room again. She was graduating from high school, and she and her mom were making a special trip to a girl’s boarding school in France where they would donate some of Kayla’s old things.

“There’s nothing else!” Kayla called back downstairs. *Except... the Dollhouse...* she thought.

“Um, actually—” her voice faltered. “I guess...they can have the dollhouse...” *The dollhouse...did she really*

mean that? Kayla squared her shoulders. Of course she did! She wanted to help, didn’t she?

“Well, come on, then!” Kayla’s mom shouted. “We have France to go to, for Pete’s sake!”

“Okay, mom, I’m coming!” Kayla replied. She stepped back and looked at the dollhouse one last time. Biting her tongue, she recalled all the good times she had had with it. Taking a sudden deep breath, as if to push the memories out, she stood and picked up the dollhouse. She heaved it downstairs and sat it in front of the door,

breathing heavily.

“Okay, Kayla, go ahead and get in the car, and I’ll—” her mom started as she walked in the kitchen. She looked from Kayla’s face to the dollhouse, and back to Kayla. “You sure you want to donate that?” she asked. “I mean, you don’t really play with it anymore, but it’s kind of special...”

“No, that’s okay, mom. I bet one of those girls will really like it!” she said, managing a smile. Suddenly, somehow, she felt a little unsure about giving it away...

To be continued...

Who smashed your window? Only one of the three kids is telling the truth. Can you figure it out?

Crash! You hear a terrible noise coming from your kitchen as you sit down to watch TV. You get up and decide to investigate. There you see your window smashed, a baseball rolling across the floor, and three boys with sheepish faces looking back at you. Clearly, one of them broke the win-

dow. But only one of them is telling the truth. Who broke it? Here’s what they had to say:

Boy 1: I didn’t break the window.

Boy 2: Boy 3 broke the window.

Boy 3: I broke the window.

Who broke it? Can you figure it out? The answer is on page 5.



ESSAY CONTEST

Hi Guys! Grayson McMichael here! And this month, I thought it would be fun to have an essay contest open to all our readers. So here’s the rules:

- Write a 200-word or less essay about why you love homeschooling and send it in by December 13.
- You have to be between the ages of 3 and 16 to enter

- You may illustrate the essay if you want.
- Send your essay to either me or Annika at one of the email addresses on the last page by December 31, 2008
- The 1st place winner will get his/her essay on the front page and on the website, a certificate in the mail, and a 1st place bookmark.
- The 2nd place winner will get

their essays on the website, a certificate in the mail, and a paper “Guard My Spot” bookmark.

- Honorable mentions will get their names on the front page and the website and a certificate in the mail.

• Good Luck to all of you!
Yours Truly,
Grayson McMichael, Editor in Chief

I love Homeschooling because I have done it ever since Preschool when I was just 4 years old. I remember my first day...

THE FACTS ABOUT THE FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID

Nutrition is one of the most important things in life. Knowing how much of each food group you should eat every day is really important! Sometimes it is hard to understand the food guide pyramid's guidelines, because servings can be different amounts. Here is a helpful and easy guide to nutrition that you can use every day to make sure you're getting the most out of your food and your life.

Grains: The average 11-year-old kid should eat about 6 ounces of grain daily. 1 ounce of grain is the same as 1 slice of bread, a little less than a cup of breakfast cereal, or a half a cup of rice, oatmeal, or pasta. USDA also recommends making half of your grains whole, which you can do by looking for labels on the grain products you eat that say "100% whole grains".

Vegetables: 4 out of 5 American kids

aren't eating enough veggies. You should eat at least 2 cups of vegetables every day. Dark green veggies and orange vegetables are especially good for you. Don't eat too many starchy vegetables like white potatoes. Try a handful of baby carrots in a fresh fruit smoothie for some extra crunch.

Fruit: Try and eat 1 1/2 half cups of fruit daily, and a variety of fresh, frozen, canned, and dry fruit. 1/2 a cup of dried fruit counts as a cup of fruit. Don't drink too many fruit juices; they're mostly sugar and not real fruit juice. And, did you know eating a diet rich in fruits can help decrease the risk of type 2 diabetes!

Meats and Beans: Try to eat about 5 ounces of meat, beans, fish, eggs, peas, nuts, and seeds daily. Although some of these foods may have more oils, all of them are needed for a healthy diet. Eat

them in moderation, though.

Milk: If you get more than a half an hour of exercise daily, you should eat or drink 3 cups of milk, cheese, yogurt, pudding, or ice cream every day. A half a cup of cheese is equal to about a handful of shredded or one cheese stick. A cup of ice cream or frozen yogurt is about one scoop. Try adding milk or yogurt to fresh-fruit smoothies!

Oils: Eat only 5 teaspoons of oils like butter, shortening, lard, and vegetable oil, and make most of your oils from fish and nuts. 2 tablespoons of mayo or salad dressing is the same as 2 teaspoons of oils. A few handfuls of nuts equals 3 or 4 teaspoons of oils.

Now that you know the basics of the food guide pyramid, you will lead a much happier and healthier life. To learn more, visit www.mypyramid.gov. ~Annika Garbers

ART GALLERY—SPACE

This month, our creative staff put together a collection of our favorite pictures about space. We hope you enjoy them! To vote on your favorites, go to freewebs.com/homeschoolnews. Thanks!



ALL ABOUT LADYBUGS

Ladybugs are really cool. Here are some facts about them.

- The red on the ladybug's back means to birds that they are NOT tasty!
- Ladybugs eat aphids, little bugs that live on plants
- Ladybugs can be red, orange, or yellow, but

always with black spots.

- Baby ladybugs are called larve when they are first born, just like ants and bees!

-Tristan McMichael

*Did you know...
ladybugs can be red,
yellow, or orange, but
always have dark spots?*



THE PYGMALION EFFECT

The other day while rereading one of my favorite books, I chanced upon something that I found interesting. It was a paragraph on something called The Pygmalion effect, and I decided to research it for *Homeschool Happenings*.

This is what I found:

In 1964, two men, Rosenthal and Jacobson, performed an experiment that Rosenthal named the Pygmalion Effect. For those who don't know, Pygmalion is a book about a wealthy gen-

tleman who bets another man that he can take Eliza, a common flower girl, off the streets of London and turn her into a duchess. The main idea is turning something old and unwanted into something new and good.

Rosenthal and Jacobson went to an Elementary school (Oak School) and performed a series of IQ tests. After the tests, they gave all of the teachers top ten lists of the kids who would move ahead dramatically during the school year. They called these kids

bloomers.

The teachers kept a good eye on the kid's grades, and sure enough, they did excel fantastically! But here's the thing—the bloomer's names were *drawn out of a hat!* Completely random! It was just the teacher's expectations (what they expected) that made it seem that the kids really did move ahead. The main idea—expectations can be powerful.

Knowing how to keep your personal information private is extremely important.

COMPUTER SMARTS

Welcome to Computer Smarts! Here, you can learn all about how to use your computer wisely.

Knowing how to keep your personal information private is extremely important. Here are some tips to keep your name "Anonymous":

- Never give your name, phone number, or address to anyone that you meet over the internet.
- Never put pictures of yourself on the internet.
- Always have an updated web filter installed on

your computer.

- To keep friends and family safe, never put pictures of them on the internet,



INSIDE STORY HEADLINE—BOOK REVIEW

Book: Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping

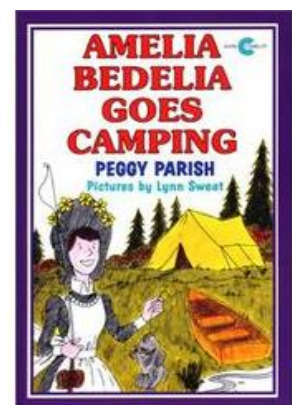
Author: Peggy Parish

Reviewer: Ariana Garbers

Rating: ★★★★★

Recommended Grade Level: 1st to 3rd Grade, plus it is a great read-aloud for young and old

who twists common English terms to make hilarious "Bedeliaized" versions. For example, in this book, she goes camping. On the way, her dad said, "let's hit the road!" Amelia Bedelia hit the road with a stick. It is a very funny book and I think you should read it.



Amelia Bedelia is a funny girl

Contact us at
homeschoolnews@gmail.com
Contact us directly:
Grayson:
honeybelle@gmail.com
Annika:
annika@garbersfamily.com



Answers: Squished! Page 1—it's a barn and silo! Who did it? Page 2—boy 2 broke the window. Since only one boy is telling the truth, boy 2 and boy 3 can't both be telling the truth, because they are stating the same fact. That leaves us boy 1, who is telling the truth. Boy 2 must have broken the window.

Recipe of the month: Monkey Bread

You Need:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 3 cans of buttermilk biscuits | 1 tablespoon of vanilla |
| 1 cup of sugar | 1 stick of butter |
| 1 tablespoon of cinnamon | Cooking Spray |
| A bunt pan | A mixing bowl with lid or a Ziploc bag |

You do:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
2. Cut each biscuit into quarters
3. Mix the sugar and cinnamon in a mixing bowl with lid or Ziploc bag. Add the biscuits and shake until they're all covered with the mix
4. Spray the pan with cooking spray and put the biscuits in one by one, leaving remaining mixture in the bowl
5. Melt butter in the microwave and add cinnamon and remaining mixture. Pour it over the biscuits and put the pan in the oven for 25 minutes. Enjoy!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading the very first issue of Homeschool Happenings! I hope you liked it. I first got the idea for it when I was watching the news with my mom. I thought it would be a cool idea to have a newsletter for and by homeschooling kids, and so I talked it over with my mom and best friend, Annika. They both thought it was a great idea, so the newsletter was born! Annika went home and made an outline on her computer, and I started contacting other people who we thought might like to join. Soon, Mary Lynn Sinisi came up with the idea to make the newsletter into a website, and she created a terrific one through freewebs. That's how our paper started!

This month, I really enjoyed reading Tristan's article "All About Ladybugs" on page 3. I think ladybugs are really cool, and this article told about a couple basic facts that everyone needs to know. I was camping recently and saw a whole tree of baby ladybugs barely bigger than a small freckle! There were thousands and thousands of them all over the tree, and they were just learning

how to fly, and they made me think of the article. By the way, do you know where ladybugs go in the winter? If you do, email us at homeschoolhappenings@gmail.com with your answer. The first person to write with the correct answer will be mentioned in the next issue's Editorial, and will get a downloadable bookmark that they can print out as many times as they want.

And finally, the Employee of the month is (drum roll please)...

Annika Garbers! Who has done a lot of work for this paper. She also did the layout on her computer and helped with the website. As I mentioned earlier, she was one of the first to know about the paper and helped me get it going. Great job, Annika!

Well, that's all for now, everybody! Hope you liked it!

Best Regards,

Grayson McMichael, Editor in Chief

