

Make a Homemade Suet Feeder

Time to feed our fine feathered friends! Cut quarter-sized holes in the bottom of each bump in an empty egg carton. Paint the exterior of the carton any preferred color. Mix up some suet with: 1 part peanut butter (crunchy is better), 1 part shortening, 1 part flour, 3 parts cornmeal, 1 part cracked corn, 1 part sunflower seeds and/or mixed seed. Fill the egg carton to the brim with the homemade suet, or even overflowing a little bit. Use some heavy duty elastic strings to tie the carton together, closing it up like eggs on the store shelves. Have an adult wrap some sturdy wire (or an unfurled metal coat hanger) around the carton, twisting it a few times in the back, nice and tight. Then tie the wire to a tree in your backyard, the egg section with the suet facing out, making sure to place near a limb for the birds to stand on. This is best in cooler weather so it doesn't go bad!

Enjoy Native Colorado Springs Wildlife ...at the Bear Creek and Fountain Creek Nature Centers!

Did you know that beavers are the largest rodents native to North America and that they can weigh up to 55 pounds and grow to more than three feet in length? Learn more about native wildlife at the Wetlands nature exhibit at Fountain Creek and keep an eye out for mule deer at Bear Creek. There are miles of self-guided nature trails and visiting the nature centers is free. Keep track of the wildlife you spot and then learn more about these animals by visiting the Colorado Division of Wildlife's website or by doing further research on the PPLD Teen webpage. Just click on Homework then Animals/Plants to access several amazing databases and websites! Love nature and volunteering? Check out the Nature Center's website for more information about how to become a teen volunteer.

“Wild” Kid’s Reads

- J-Easy (picture books)
 - The Deer Watch* by Pat Lowery Collins
 - Antelope, Bison, Cougar: a National Park Wildlife Alphabet Book* by Steven Medley
 - Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra
 - The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward
- J-Fiction (chapter books)
 - Living Forest Series* by Sam Campbell
 - Nuts: A Novel* by Kacy Cook
 - Frightful’s Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
 - Jackie’s Wild Seattlby* Will Hobbs
 - “Bindi Wildlife Adventures”* series by Bindi Irwin
- J-Nonfiction
 - 590 – 599
 - insects, lizards, fish, birds, and mammals of all kinds
 - 599.09788 Y740
 - On the Trail of Colorado Critters* by Mary Taylor Young
 - 636.0887 G348T
 - The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets* by Jean Craighead George
 - 639.92 S841K
 - Kids’ Easy-to-Create Wildlife Habitats* by Emily Stetson

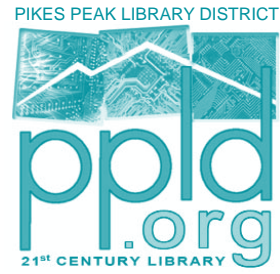
Web Picks

It’s time for those school assignments and, at least in most families, there will always be one paper on a wild animal. Which means every book in the library on that particular animal will be checked out because every other child has a similar project. Instead of worrying on where your child will find a book on the Emu, utilize PPLD’s fantastic alternative: the International Wildlife Database! First, to find the database, go to ppld.org and click on By Subject under the RESEARCH heading on the left. Then click on ANIMALS. Your 2nd choice is *International Wildlife Online*. On the page that opens, click *International Wildlife* which then brings up the search page with options. As always, your best mode of operation with a database is to explore, and since this one is kid-friendly, no need to worry what your munchkins might stumble across. For me, all I did was type in “Emu” and the very first page it brought up was the one I needed with enough information to fill a school report and much more. Have fun exploring!

Tear into a Wild Read!

- Fiction
 - Tiger, Tiger* by Lynne Reid Banks
 - Scat* by Carl Hiaasen
 - Bug Boy* by Eric Luper
 - Wild Magic* by Tamora Pierce
 - Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld
- Nonfiction
 - 333.72092 S285W
 - Wildlife Heroes: 40 Leading Conservationists and the Animals They are Committed to Saving* by Julie Scardina and Jeff Flocken
 - 333.9522 E562
 - Endangered Species* by Cynthia A. Bily
 - 590. C436F
 - Fifty Animals that Changed the Course of History* by Eric Chaline
 - 591.65 G846D
 - Deadly Kingdom: The Book of Dangerous Animals* by Gordon Grice
 - 636.089023 F456C
 - Career Opportunities Working with Animals* by Shelly Field

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact gsohns@ppld.org.



HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS
An Educational Resource Tool Fall 2013

The Elk Rut



Most of the out-of-state tourists have left the park, the days are cooler, and a major happening awaits those fortunate enough to head to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) in the fall – The Elk Rut!

HISTORY
Elk are native to the RMNP area, but during the latter part of the 1800s hunting eliminated elk in the area. By 1900, the only predator to elk, the wolf, had also disappeared. Shortly after that, in 1913 and 1914, elk were reintroduced to the area and the herds have flourished ever since. During the winter, there are approximately 600 - 800 elk within the park.

MATING SEASON
During the late summer and early fall, the elk come down from the high country to the meadows of RMNP for the breeding season. Within the herds, males (bull elk weighing up to 1,100 pounds) compete for the right to breed with the females. Much of this competition centers on bugling. This is the signal of mating season. As you listen to the sound of one or more bulls bugling, you will hear the sound echo through the meadows. It’s an amazing experience and a sound like no other! Rut is derived from the Latin word meaning roar. The call is meant to intimidate other males in the area. The prime bulls are 8 or 9 years old and are noticeable by their take-charge attitude. Often times other bulls stand on the sidelines watching the herd, but leave frustrated by the command the lone bull has over his herd.

in Rocky Mountain National Park Photo and article by Russ Stamp

VIEWING ELK
During these late summer and early fall days, elk congregate on the east side of RMNP (the Estes Park side) in Horseshoe Park, Upper Beaver Meadows, and Morraine Park. Elk can be spotted along the edges of clearings in the early morning and early evening which is also the time when most of the bugling occurs and is also the best time for photography.

Remember these are wild animals so do keep your distance. Bring binoculars or a telephoto lens to view these animals from a safe distance.

ESTES PARK ELK FEST
Each year the town of Estes Park hosts a weekend of activities that coincides with the annual elk rut. This year, the Elk Fest will take place on September 28 and 29 in Estes Park. Activities include bugling competitions, educational areas, seminars, live music, raptors, and guided elk viewing tours. There is no admission fee to attend Elk Fest.

September 28 is also a fee free day for RMNP. The usual entrance fee is \$20 for an automobile which is valid for seven consecutive days. A \$40 annual pass which provides unlimited entry to RMNP for one year from the date of purchase is another option.

There are a variety of lodging options in Estes Park. For lodging options visit: www.visitestespark.com
For camping information visit: www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/camping.htm

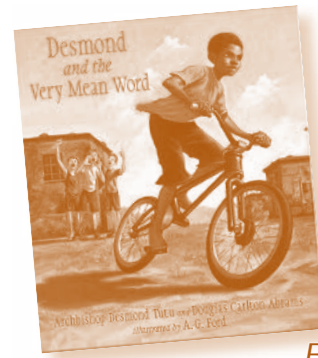
To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.



^{new} The BookShelf

— great new books for homeschoolers

All of the following books share a great feature: Each has a note from the author about the book. Author's notes can make a story book become a real event, a truth more authentic than reading nonfiction. Enjoy!



Desmond and the Very Mean Word

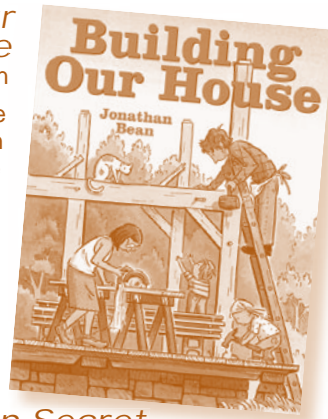
by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Part personal story, part historical fiction, and completely a book that demonstrates the power of forgiveness, Archbishop Desmond Tutu tells us at the end of the book just what parts of this book are true.
Ages 4 - 10 Character study/Kindness

Building Our House

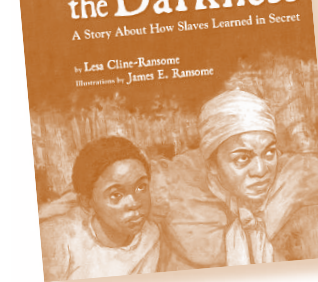
by Jonathan Bean

Fabulous picture book covering many of the stages that come when you build your very own house, the author is gracious and shares at the end just what parts really happened in his family.
Ages 4 - 10 Family story



Light in the Darkness: A Story About How Slaves Learned in Secret

by Lesa Cline-Ransome



Learned in Secret

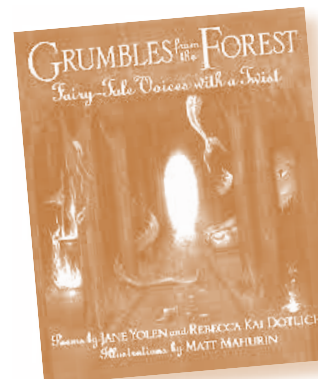
by Lesa Cline-Ransome

We take for granted the freedoms we have: to go where we want, to learn what we want, and of course we will all learn to read. This historical picture book tells about pit houses that slaves used to hide in while learning to read.
Ages 6 - 12 Historical fiction/American history

The Granddaughter Necklace

by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Family stories are often the basis for an author taking up a pen and writing a book. We are all fortunate when this occurs. This is the story of the handing down of a special necklace, from one generation to the next.
Ages 6 - 12 Family story/historical fiction



Grumbles from the Forest: Fairy-Tale Voices with a Twist

by Jane Yolen and Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Unlike the other books on this short list, this book begins with a note from the authors that explains the book ... writing poetry based on fairy tales, but taking a different perspective, like that of Cinderella's Shoes, and the Pea under the mattress. Be inspired! Write your own poems.
Ages 5 - 12 Poetry/Fairy Tales

Secrets

Your family probably uses a variety of library resources for research, lesson planning, and pursuing interests. Books,

Have you considered using magazines to enrich your homeschooling experience?

databases, and librarian-chosen websites offer some amazing information, but have you considered using magazines to enrich your homeschooling experience? PPLD's community libraries subscribe to a wide variety of children's, teen, and adult titles. Each location chooses their own magazine titles for their patrons. Some are strictly for entertainment, but others are goldmines of information. In the Children's area, *Zoobooks* is a wonderful magazine for those kids fascinated by animals and each monthly issue covers a different animal (or animal group). *Kids Discover* highlights a different history-related topic each month. *Odyssey* is a science magazine with fascinating articles. Teens and adults have a huge selection of magazines to choose from. A few are *Scientific American*, *Air and Space* (from The Smithsonian), *Military History*, *National Geographic*, and *Make: Technology on Your Time* (for anyone who enjoys hands-on electronics!). For those families dealing with special needs, there's *ADDitude: Living Well with Attention Deficit* and *Living Well: The Magazine for People with Allergies & Food Sensitivities*. Magazines

Kids Search and *Searchasaurus* are wonderful sources for magazine articles of all kinds written just for kids.

about cooking, photography, genealogy, and arts and crafts are also plentiful. Hard copy magazines aren't the only place to find information, however. Our databases are a great place to find what you're looking for! "Kids Search" and "Searchasaurus" are wonderful sources for magazine articles of all kinds written just for kids. From ppld.org, click on the KidsWeb button on the right side of the screen. From there, click on Homework Help (the rotating circle at the top of the KidsWeb page), and then Kids Magazines! on the left. For teens and adults, we have EBSCO databases that offer full text articles from several thousands of magazines and journals. From ppld.org, click on Magazines/Newspapers on the left side of our homepage. From there, choose from a number of collections to research just about any topic you can think of. Enjoy!

PROGRAMS

Homeschool Tools
Come and learn about the many library resources available to homeschool families. Children under age 8 must have a responsible person (at least age 12) with them in the activity room.
Mon., Sept. 23 ♦ 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
East Library

Science Lab
Use PPLD's science equipment for parent-assigned experiments. Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information or visit ppld.org/homeschool-hub.
Fridays, Sept. 6, Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 ♦ 3 p.m. ♦ East Library

Game Day
Come play outdoor games with other homeschoolers in George Fellows Park behind the East Library (if it's a little windy, feel free to bring a kite!) Bring your lunch and meet other homeschool families. If weather is bad, game day will be cancelled. Contact Russ Stamp at 531-6333, x2338 or rstamp@ppld.org with questions.
Fri., Sept. 27 ♦ 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
East Library

Lunch Bunch
There's a different family learning experience every time. Enjoy your sack lunch while socializing with other homeschooling families after the program.
Tuesdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fountain Library
(Contact Jessica at jfreeland@ppld.org for more information.)
Wednesdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 23 and Nov. 27
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
High Prairie Library
(Contact Julie at jsimmons@ppld.org for more information, or call 260-3650 to register.)

Thursdays
Dec. 12 and April 10, 2014 ♦ noon - 1:30 pm
Rockrimmon Library
(Contact Tina at tlewis@ppld.org or register at 593-8000.)

Study Buddies
Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice. Call 531-6333, x1407 or x1403 for more information.
Starts Tue., Sept. 17
Tuesdays ♦ 6:30 - 8 p.m.
East Library

Stories in the Dark
Come if you dare to Manitou Springs, Old Colorado City, Palmer Lake, Briargate, or Rockrimmon libraries during the month of October. Contact them to find out when it is scheduled. This program is only for the brave, ages 8 and up.

Not So Scary Stories
Palmer Lake Library will be telling not so scary stories for younger children during October. Check with your library to see if it will be participating.

Chess Club
Learn new moves and meet new people. This club is for all ages. All skill levels welcome.
First and third Fridays
3:30 - 5 p.m. ♦ East Library
Second and fourth Fridays
3 - 5 p.m. ♦ Briargate Library

Knitting Kninjas
Ages 12 - 18 Only! Beginners to experts welcome. We have yarn and needles to lend out, but please feel free to bring your own projects too!
First and third Thursdays
4 - 5 p.m. ♦ East Library

Banned Books Week
September 22 - 28
Check your favorite library to see what's planned!

Teen Read Week
October 13 - 19
Check with your favorite library for program dates and times



FEATURED HOMESCHOOL FAMILY The Lewis Family (Part I)

Our PPLD Homeschool Connections Fall Featured Family article takes a different look this quarter.

Have you ever wondered what it will be like to look back at your home educating experience? This quarter, Greg and Tina Lewis will describe their journey which began in 1986 with the birth of their oldest son.

We began our journey into homeschooling the day we brought our oldest child home from the hospital. We knew life and the things we as his parents purposefully or accidentally taught him would be part of his education. Everything we did and the influences he had would shape his future and make him the man he grew to be.

Greg and I are lifelong learners and believe that reading is one of the most important things we would teach our children. We soon had four daughters and another son to fill our lives. Our entire mindset as the children were growing was how blessed we were to have them and what an immense responsibility we were given to instill character, initiative, and determination within their hearts. Every day we provided commitment, support, love, and challenges to help our children grow.

The PPLD library system provided an important asset to our home school with the amount of materials we were able to check out cost free. With this in mind, I did use solid book curriculum coupled with true life experience. Along with Greg, our oldest son participated in Boy Scouts from six years old to the culmination of Eagle Scout standing. The girls explored 4-H, often winning awards in Art, Sewing, and Goats shows. Further, they danced ballet in two local studios.

We built a home and several barns with our children. Our home school consisted of organized study each day with real homework and academic expectations. Our oldest son went on to graduate high school from a local Christian school, attend college in Arkansas, become a U.S. Marine, spent a deployment in Iraq, came home to finish a Bachelor's Degree and open his own Insurance Agency in Colorado Springs.

The core of our personal world and family view included homeschooling our children by creating a home atmosphere of reading to learn, God's love, strong American patriotism, and responsibility.

Our two oldest daughters graduated fully from homeschool and attended college. One married, has two daughters, and is finishing a medical administration degree. Our third daughter graduated from High Country Enrichment Academy and Part-Time Classical Academy North. She was an avid dancer and theater performer. She is a college graduate, professional chef, runner, Bible class teacher, and amazing

person! Our fifth child attended high school and graduated from Pine Creek after we gave her the foundation in Reading, English, and Math, and outdoor activities. She excelled with this opportunity and often comments how having supportive parents and family, strong reading skills, and a strong will helped her succeed in Art, English, Theater, and Music. She is currently a Sophomore/Junior at Oklahoma Christian University as a Music Major.

Our youngest son has been homeschooled while utilizing the incredible Cottage School and College Pathways option at The Classical Academy. This opportunity has proven a major part of the success for our youngest son. I taught most of his courses until he was able to take five core courses at College Pathways and is now a part-time college student at Pikes Peak Community College

The core of our personal world and family view included homeschooling our children by creating a home atmosphere of reading to learn, God's love, strong American patriotism, and responsibility. Further, we wanted to teach our children how to do things and look up information for themselves. We want them to have initiative and not have to be told what to do all the time, make wise choices, and also be adventurous.

Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org.