

We hope you'll file this issue for future use!

# Wacky Days

December 5 Bathtub Party Day Picture Books (J-Easy)	January 17 Kid Inventor's Day Children's Chapter Books (J-Fiction)
ARNO No More Water in the Tub! by Tedd Arnold	ASCH Star Jumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius by Frank Asch
KROS Bubble Bath Pirates by Jarret Krosoczka	BALD Fries Alive! by David Baldacci
NOON Bath Day by Julia Noonan	KEHO The Unusual Mind of Vincent Shadow by Tim Kehoe
RASM The Very Lonely Bathtub by Ann Rasmussen	MCCA Marveltown by Bruce McCall
WOOD King Bidgood's in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood	TACA Bully Be Gone by Brian Tacang
January 16 Appreciate a Dragon Day! Teen Fiction	January 29 National Puzzle Day Children's Nonfiction
OWEN Here There be Dragons by James A. Owen	J 152.8 W911H How to be a Genius
PAUL DragonSpell by Donita K. Paul	J 793.73 B896 Zoo Picture Puzzles
CARE Dragon's Keep by Janet Lee Carey	J 793.73 R137M Mitzl's World
DAVI Raising Dragons by Bryan Davis	J 793.73 R813S Spot the Differences: Brain- teasing Picture Puzzles
Teen Nonfiction 398.2454 M818D Dragons by Carla Mooney 398.2454 T867P A Practical Guide to Dragon Riding by Lisa Trumbauer	

J.R.R. Tolkien Day: January 3  
Celebrate J.R.R. Tolkien day with this cool language project! In addition to his wonderful works of fiction, J.R.R. Tolkien was an accomplished linguist who created several languages and alphabets for the societies in his books. You can find his alphabets in several online resources including this site: [www.omniglot.com/writing/tengwar.htm](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/tengwar.htm). Use the key to translate your name or your favorite quote into one of Tolkien's languages. You can make an elvish nameplate for your room, write out a quote in calligraphy, needlepoint the letters, or make yourself a coat of arms with elvish script....use your imagination!

398.2454 M818D  
398.2454 T867P

Celebrate Jell-O Week  
(February 12 - 18) with these tasty cookies!

Ingredients:  
1 cup sugar  
1 pkg. Jell-O gelatin mix, any flavor  
1 egg  
1 tsp. vanilla  
4 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 1/2 cups butter

Directions:  
Sift flour with baking powder. Cream butter. Gradually add sugar and gelatin, cream well after each addition. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually add flour through cookie press onto ungreased until smooth. Force dough through cookie press onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 400° about 13 - 14 minutes, or until golden brown at edges. Store in loosely covered container. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

## Web Picks

Where can you find unusual holidays, besides in *Chase's Calendar of Events*? I did a Google search for "calendar of events" and found several fun websites that list holidays for each month of the year. Holiday Insights ([www.holidayinsights.com/](http://www.holidayinsights.com/)) brings you to a page for today's date. On the left side of the page, click on "Bizarre and Unique" to find those wacky (and not so wacky) holidays. Just choose a month and have fun! Wikipedia has an interesting page of events for the year 2012 ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012)) that includes predicted and scheduled events by month, and major religious holidays. It even lists works of fiction set in 2012. Primarily written for adults, these titles might provide a welcome diversion on a cold winter's night. Finally, check out About.com ([www.about.com](http://www.about.com)) and search for "calendar of events 2012." Here you'll find information about the holidays and special days of each month, as well as craft activities for some of them. Have fun exploring the calendar with your family!

## An Educational Resource Tool

Winter 2011-12



## Wacky Holidays

One of the best things about homeschooling is the flexibility it affords you as a family — to plan geography and history lessons around family vacations, to sneak math skills into everyday experiences, or to study science on your camping trips. The possibilities are endless! In addition to the wonderful books, media, and databases available through PPLD, there's another resource you may not know about: a fun-filled reference book entitled *Chase's Calendar of Events*. During these cold winter months, structure some interesting projects or discussions around the little-known facts you'll discover in this book, and scattered throughout this newsletter! You'll find special national and international days, weeks, and months, 2012 anniversaries of people and events, and a bucketful of ideas surrounding these wacky holidays. *Chase's* is available in both Children's J-Reference and Adult Reference in several libraries. Check the PPLD Catalog to find out which locations, and then look for it under 394.26 C487. Have a great time with this hidden treasure!

## 2012 in History

Learn more about these people and events at your local library!

- ♦ 260 years ago  
Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity while flying a kite in a lightning storm
- ♦ 220 years ago  
The flush toilet was patented
- ♦ 200 years ago  
The War of 1812 began
- ♦ 140 years ago  
Yellowstone became the first National Park
- ♦ 100 years ago  
The Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean
- ♦ 85 years ago  
Giant Pandas were discovered in China
- ♦ 75 years ago  
Amelia Earhart disappeared while flying over the Atlantic
- ♦ 50 years ago  
John Glenn was the first astronaut to orbit the Earth
- ♦ 50 years ago  
Cuban Missile Crisis

## Plan some activities around these special months

December

**Bingo Month** (plan a Bingo party with friends — find small "prizes" around your house to give to winners)

**Write a Friend Month** (write a note to a friend or relative, in your very best handwriting — printing or cursive)

January

**International Creativity Month** (try some arts, crafts, writing, and drama)

**Mail-order Gardening Month** (go through seed catalogs and plan your spring garden)

February

**Bake for Family Fun Month** (cook with your kids)

**Library Lover's Month** (tell your local library staff how much you appreciate them — make a homemade card)

**Black History Month** (participate in the special program held at Ruth Holly Library)



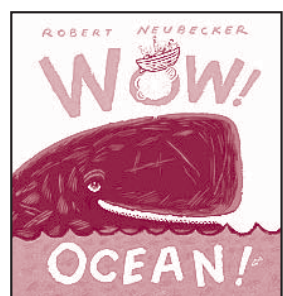
**The BookShelf**  
Bringing great books into focus Winter • 2011/2012

**Last Song** by James Guthrie (2010)  
Very sparse text from an old Scottish poem combined with happy squirrel family illustrations by noted illustrator Eric Rohmann equals a story that you and your preschooler can easily memorize and use as a bedtime ritual. Literature • Ages 3 - 7



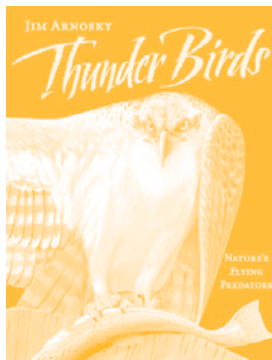
**Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?**  
by Susan Shea (2011)  
Preschool science, disguised as a picture book, this is a fun book to read! Fold-out pages add to the fun with questions like, "If a kitten grows and becomes a cat, can a cap grow and become ... (lift the flap) a hat?" There will be giggles!  
Science • Ages 3 - 7

**Rah, Rah, Radishes! A Vegetable Chant**  
by April Pulley Sayre (2011)  
What a rhyme, what a chant. Learn your veggies, don't say can't! This rollicking rhyme will be fun for slightly older kids to memorize and perform for family and friends.  
Memorization, Poetry, Veggie I.D. • Ages 4 - 10



**Wow! Ocean**  
by Robert Neubecker (2011)  
At first glance, you might see this as a picture book for little kids. It is that and more. Take a trip to the ocean, enjoy the vibrant illustrations, and note the name label on all the different species. Add to any ocean unit, or enjoy alone for the exuberant illustrations.  
Science • Ages 5 - 10

**Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators**  
by Jim Arnosky (2011)  
Jim Arnosky writes nature stories – some will be in nonfiction, and some in picture books. All will be a great addition to your homeschool reading list. This book has fold-out pages to help readers understand the size of these fabulous birds. Solid science information.  
Science • Ages 5 - 12



### Little Known Secrets

#### Creativity Gone Wild

The snow is starting to fly and it is craft time! What better way to keep kids occupied during the winter months than having a craft planned out for every week? But wait. What if the craft books are all checked out from the library? After all, this is that time of year when everyone is thinking of craft ideas.

Fortunately, ppld.org has a helpful little link that will solve all your crafting needs! Go to the main PPLD page and then click on By Subject under Research on the left. What you're looking for is the Hobbies/Handicrafts genre link. On this page, scroll to link #23 which should read Hands On Crafts for Kids. This will take you to a website outside of PPLD.

Now, let's say you are doing a unit study on Peru. You want some craft ideas to go along with that unit study. First you would go to the Projects page. You can choose a craft series to view, in this case it would be Series 1300: Crafts Around the World. That page then takes you to a list of countries. Peru, as it happens, is at the very top of this page and has four different crafts. The first one is a Scarlet Macaw, complete with picture, supply list, and instructions. All it takes is a trip to the nearest craft store for supplies, and you're reading to get started!

While it's always a great idea to have craft books on hand, sometimes that's just not feasible. After all, you never know when the creative bug might hit. This website, [www.craftsforkids.com](http://www.craftsforkids.com) is a terrific resource for homeschooling parents who might have drained their craft books dry. So, what are you waiting for? It's time to pick a topic and pull out those tubs of glitter, glue, and feathers!

- Jan. 24 National Compliment Day
- Jan. 28 Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
- Feb. Library Lover's Month
- Feb. 12 Pancake Day
- Feb. 26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day

#### Homeschool Lunch Bunch

There's a different family learning experience every time. Enjoy your sack lunch while socializing with other homeschooling families after the program.

Fountain Library  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month • 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
(contact Jessica at [jfreeland@ppld.org](mailto:jfreeland@ppld.org) for more information)

High Prairie Library  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
(contact Becky at [bcampbell@ppld.org](mailto:bcampbell@ppld.org) for more information, or call 260-3650 to register)

#### Novel Ideas Homeschool Book Club

Join other homeschooled teens for a snack and discussion on a great book! Contact Molly at [mpace@ppld.org](mailto:mpace@ppld.org) or 531-6333, x2338 for the month's book title.  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
2 - 3:30 p.m. • Penrose Library

#### Homeschool Science Lab

Use PPLD's science equipment for parent-assigned experiments. Watch for news about occasional special lessons planned during lab time. Contact Cara at [cramsey@ppld.org](mailto:cramsey@ppld.org) for more information.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month  
1 - 3 p.m. • East Library

#### Annual Homeschool Art Show

Would you like to have your artwork displayed for all to see? Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. during the last week of March 2012 to the Children's Department at East Library. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April. Watch for more information as we get closer to March. This art show will not be juried.

**Betty Field Memorial Youth Writing Contest**  
Sponsored by The Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District, this annual writing contest is for students in grades 6 through 12 in the El Paso County region. Entries are due February 25, 2012. Go to [www.friendsppld.org/2012BF.html](http://www.friendsppld.org/2012BF.html) for entry forms and contest rules.

#### Black History Community Celebration

Enjoy ethnic food, vendors, African drummers, a caricature artist, entertainment, and crafts for the kids. Prizes will be awarded for the middle and high school writing contest. It's all free!  
Contact Marie at [mballard@ppld.org](mailto:mballard@ppld.org) or 597-5377 for more information and to find out the topic for the writing contest.

#### TART: An Art Competition by Teens, for Teens

Submit your piece of art to be part of our competition juried by other teens and to be displayed at one of our libraries! Submission deadline is March 8. This year's theme and other submission details will be posted this spring on the Library's teen website, [ppld.org/teens](http://ppld.org/teens).

## Featured Homeschool Family: The Sherman Family

#### How old are your children?

We have one child named Reid, age 8.

#### Why did you decide to homeschool?

We decided to homeschool our son after our experiences in a traditional kindergarten at a local public school. Our son was stressed and just very unhappy. We discovered homeschooling as our best alternative. We are now entering our third year of homeschool and have come to love it. Not only does the family dictate the pace of learning, but we can focus on what Reid is interested in right now.

#### What curriculum do you use?

We use a variety of resources and curriculum. We use Tapestry of Grace for history, Saxon for math, and Handwriting Without Tears for cursive writing. With all other subjects we are creative with our curriculum. Right now we are using the Homeschool

Movie Club/Dolphin Tales Curriculum (free from Apologia) for science. We love great literature too and try to incorporate it into everything we do. The Library has amazing homeschool programs and we can often dive deeper from something we learned there.

#### What does your homeschool day look like?

We have Bible Study in the early morning before we even get out of bed. Then we often head to the gym for exercise. After we come home, we dive into our math, writing, and reading. Some days we have Co-op for history and science/physical education. On the days we don't have Co-op, we do science experiments, go to the library, or do some kind of art. We also go on many field trips. Once a week, our son attends the Home School Academy, an amazing program. We feel lucky to be a part of it.

#### How does your husband support your homeschooling efforts?

My husband is extremely supportive. He has a great mind for science and leads most of these discussions. Some



Saturdays, he takes over literature with our son. The rest of the time, he is our encourager and bread winner (so we can go on all these wonderful outings, etc).

#### What are your children's interests and future goals?

Reid loves science and any kind of bug, as well as the ocean. He hopes to end up in the field of Oceanography or Entomology. He also loves Legos and is currently in a Lego Robotics Club. We have chickens and they are Reid's favorite pets.

Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Deborah at [dworthy@ppld.org](mailto:dworthy@ppld.org).