

# TEEN ZONE

## TART Teen Art Competition

Teens in grades 6 - 12 are encouraged to participate in the fourth annual teen art contest, known as TART. This year's theme, I Am the Future, holds endless possibilities, just like your future. Who will you become? What is your vision of the future? Where will you be? Show us what you see through your lens.

## I AM THE FUTURE

Your work, along with an entry form and a paragraph about why your art fits this year's theme, needs to be submitted on March 7 - 8 from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. at the Carnegie Reading Room in Penrose Library, the East Teen Center at East Library, the Ruth Holley Library, or the Monument Library. Accepted artists will have their work displayed at various PPLD facilities in April 2011, and several prizes will also be awarded. All jurying will be performed by PPLD's youth advisory groups. For an entry form and more information, visit [ppld.org/teens](http://ppld.org/teens).



## BETTY FIELD

### M E M O R I A L

The Annual Betty Field Memorial Youth Writing Contest is open to all students (public school, private school, home school) in grades 6 - 12 in the El Paso County region and/or in Pikes Peak Library District. The deadline for receipt of entries is February 26, 2011. For more information and an entry form, visit [friendsppld.org](http://friendsppld.org) and click on **Writing Contest**.

## East Chess Club



Love playing chess? Always wanted to learn? Come play chess at East Library every third Friday of the month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. For more information, check our online calendar at [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) or contact Kaitlin at [khoke@ppld.org](mailto:khoke@ppld.org). Hope to see you there!

## EAST MANGA CLUB



If you're obsessed with all things manga and anime (or even if you just like them a little bit), come to our East Manga Club. Here, we celebrate all things Japanese and do some pretty awesome stuff! For more information, contact Violeta at [vgarza@ppld.org](mailto:vgarza@ppld.org).

## Improv Club



Calling all hams! This is for those between ages 11 and 18 who are interested in drama, acting, or performing: come practice your quick thinking and acting skills with fun activities. No experience or registration required. Improv Club meets from 4 - 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at East Library. For more information, contact Violeta at [vgarza@ppld.org](mailto:vgarza@ppld.org).



# HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

## An Educational Resource Tool

Winter  
2010

# Competing with Scholastics

The word "competition" or being competitive is usually associated with athletics. Sports teams often pit individuals against one another to see who can achieve more, who can claim the win. But there are many competitions developed within the academic arena as well, created to spur youths' minds into a higher learning level, a quest for innovation, a deeper knowledge, or to achieve confidence with their peers.

Can you imagine being in front of hundreds of people and asked to spell rhabdomyoma or leguleian (not to mention looking them up to see their origin and usage in the English language)? Yet these are the very words that were used in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee Finals. But hold on a moment; this is way ahead of where to start, and there is much to accomplish before you can join the ranks of super spelling.

First there are local competitions. These are created within groups and organizations, usually promoted city-wide, and open to the public. For instance, the local newspaper offers a city-wide spelling bee, with the winner advancing to the state-level competition. From the state level, winners move on to face the pressure of spelling in the finals at the national level.

Not a stellar speller? Is your passion writing? If so, the annual Betty Field Memorial Youth Writing Contest sponsored by Pikes Peak Library District is awaiting your submission. All students, grades 6 - 12, are encouraged to enter their work. The criteria includes a topic and selection of words which must be included in the piece. The deadline for entries is February 12, and all who enter are welcome to attend writer's workshops in April at East Library. Applications can be downloaded from the Teen Zone on [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) or at your nearest library.

For the younger poets, "Paws for Poetry," sponsored by Flashlight Press, is looking for all entries on furry four-legged friends authored by children age 5 - 12. The contest runs in conjunction with National Poetry Month and all submissions are due by April 1. Visit [pawsforpoetry.org](http://pawsforpoetry.org).



If inventions, experimentation, and unanswered questions intrigue you, then the Colorado Science Olympiad might be a great place to launch your imagination. Homeschool Science Colorado is the local organization that can guide you through the requirements for Science Olympiad. Students in grades 6 - 12 can obtain more information through their website [homeschoolsciencecolorado.com](http://homeschoolsciencecolorado.com).

If you have a love of maps, far off locations, lands, and landmarks, then you may be interested in geography bees. Much like a spelling bee, you are asked about locations of countries, continents, bodies of water, and other map-related questions. Many local support groups put these together for junior high and high school students.

And for those who want to take on a super challenge, there is always the ultimate: Knowledge Bowl. This grand event puts each and every topic on the question/answer board: math, science, spelling, geography, and literature. Being good enough to make it onto a team is a high achievement, one that high school students can strive for.

Competition is a part of life and these ideas will help get you started in some healthy competitive activities. Have a great time and good luck!

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [gsohns@ppld.org](mailto:gsohns@ppld.org).



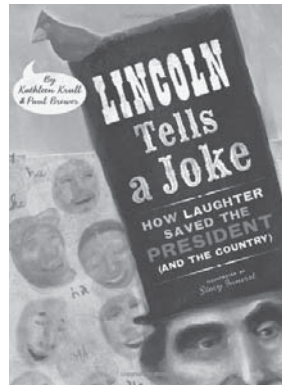


# The BookShelf

Great new books for inquisitive kids!

## *Lincoln Tells a Joke: How Laughter Saved the President (and the Country)*

by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer (2010)  
Read this new biography about Abraham Lincoln and see a humorous side of this well-known president that you may not have known about. The book is full of quotes attributed to him, and you will recognize many. (Ages 6 - 10, History)



## *Going Home: The Mystery of Animal Migration*

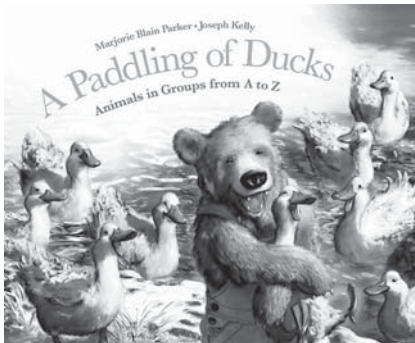
by Marianne Berkes (2010)  
This book features a poem and a brief explanation on each page related to the animals the book follows. This is a quick and easy read. The authors include six more pages of information, activity ideas, other books to read, and websites. You could use this book as the basis of a unit study on migration. (Ages 4 - 10, Science)

## *Who Will Plant a Tree?*

by Jerry Pallotta (2010)  
Simple beginning science covers all the ways animals spread seeds and inadvertently plant trees. The squirrel buries the acorn, the bear carries seeds in his fur, birds carry seeds on their feathers, and many more. Have some trees to plant when you have finished this book, as your children will be ready to be tree planters. (Ages 5 - 8, Science)

## *A Paddling of Ducks: Animals in Groups from A to Z*

by Marjorie Blain Parker (2010)  
Groups of animals have special names, such as a gang of elk, a skulk of foxes, a band of gorillas and a bloat of hippos. Each animal group has an accompanying illustration that is done in such a way that you might be able to remember some of these odd group names. A party of jays, for instance, shows blue jays celebrating by tearing at a cake and generally making a mess of things. (Ages 5 - 8, Language Arts)



## Database Focus: Competitions

Competitiveness runs rampant through our culture. It gives us the desire to achieve, to be tops in a certain field with a certain skill. Contests and competitions are a great way to encourage that healthy drive for success. PPLD provides different resources through databases that can be used in studying for these competitions.



From [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), click on **Kids Web**, then click on **Homework Help**, and finally click on **Kids Databases!** in the top left-hand corner. The **Britannica Online for Kids** link is particularly useful for research projects, such as writing a science report or even how to give oral presentations, all found under the Student Center section.

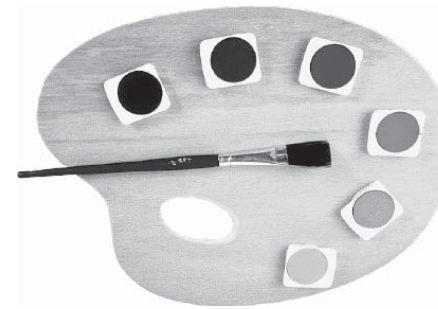
**Brainfuse** is a useful database for students in homework assistance, offering live tutors with positive skill-building advice on anything from science to geography. While preparing material for different competitions, particularly geography competitions, don't forget to check out the **CultureGrams** link which provides information on over 200 cultures around the world. Even **NoveList** can be an exciting resource, allowing the researcher to locate hundreds of books on their particular competitive specialty. Just type in "competition" and click on the necessary age group, from preschoolers through high school.

As for resource assistance in finding local competitions for homeschoolers, check out the **Homeschool Hub** located on the main page of [ppld.org](http://ppld.org). Local resources are available for support groups as well as websites for homeschoolers. These are excellent opportunities to get your child or teenager involved in local competitions. Do a bit of sleuthing and you'll find competitions that suit your child's interests and goals.

# C H I L D R E N S P A G E S

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeschool Art Show

PPLD's annual Homeschool Art Show will be held during March 2011 in the Children's Department at East Library.



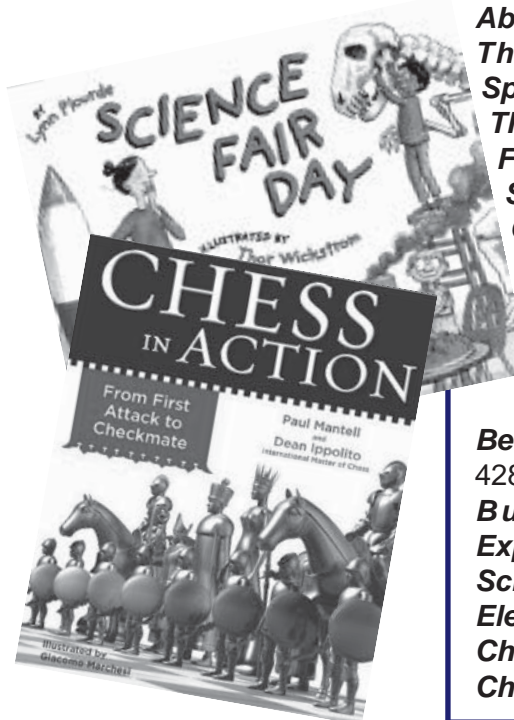
All homeschooled students are encouraged to participate by submitting one piece of unframed artwork (drawing, painting, photograph, sculpture, etc.) the week of February 22, 2011. Artwork will not be judged. Watch for more



information after the first of the year. For questions, contact Mary at 531-6333, x1407, or [mgrant@ppld.org](mailto:mgrant@ppld.org). Let's get creative!

## Free Chipotle Kids Meal!

Chipotle will offer a kids meal coupon to children attending a Storytime at any PPLD library from December 6 - 11. The coupon will be valid at any Colorado Springs Chipotle from December 12 - 15.



## Compelling Kids Books about Competitions

### J-FICTION

*The New Girl* by Meg Cabot  
*Jake Drake, Class Clown* by Andrew Clements  
*The Great Brain is Back* by John Fitzgerald  
*Chess! I Love It! I Love It! I Love It!* by Jamie Gilson  
*Spelling Bee* by Ann M. Martin  
*Amelia's Science Fair Disaster* by Marissa Moss  
*Good Sport, Gwen* by Valerie Tripp

### J-EASY (PICTURE BOOKS)

*Abigail Spells* by Anna Alter  
*The Berenstain Bears and the Big Spelling Bee* by Jan and Mike Berenstain  
*The Magic School Bus and the Science Fair Expedition* by Joanna Cole  
*Science Fair Bunnies* by Kathryn Lasky  
*Oh No!, or, How My Science Project Destroyed the World* by Mac Barnett  
*The Royal Bee* by Frances Park  
*Science Fair Day* by Lynn Plourde

### J-NONFICTION

*Better Spelling in 5 Minutes a Day* 428.1 P414B  
*Bug Science: 20 Projects and Experiments* 595.7078 Y73B  
*Science Fair Projects with Electricity & Electronics* 621.3078 B717S  
*Chess in Action: From First Attack to Checkmate* 794.12 M292C



## Homeschool Hub

Homeschool Hub is the PPLD website especially for homeschoolers and their families! There you can find our database of local homeschool support groups, sign up for our email newsletter and booklist, and search for homeschool resources. From [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), just click on **Homeschool Hub**.