Feast of Books and Chocolate

East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd.

NEW TIME! 3:30 - 5 p.m.

A discussion group for teens in sixth through 12th grade.

For more information, call 531-6333, x1317.

Thursday, December 11
The Unvisibles by Ian Whybrow

Thursday, January 15
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Edible Play Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup water
½ cup salt
1 tablespoon cooking oil
2-3 teaspoons Cream of Tartar

or 1 package Kool-Aid Mix (any flavor of unsweetened)

or 1 package of “unsweetened” Jell-O Mix

All ingredients together and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until consistency of mashed potatoes. Let cool and knead with floured hands until dry.

Storage: This recipe needs to cool completely before putting it in an airtight container.

Potato Battery

Large potato
About 4 inches of steel wire (wire from coat hanger, paper clip, etc.) or galvanized nail

About four inches of stiff copper wire
dc voltmeter

1. Put one end of the steel wire into one side of the potato.
2. Stick one end of the copper wire into the other side of the potato.
3. Connect the negative probe of the meter to the steel wire.
4. Connect the positive probe of the meter to the copper wire. (The meter should read about 1/2 volt).
5. Try moving the two wires together to see if the voltage changes.
6. The voltage exists because of the chemical action of the potato and the steel and copper wire.

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email akrupicka@ppld.org
Duck Soup by Jackie Urbanovic
This is the second duck story from Urbanovic. Read Duck at the Door first. Then prepare to read this with all the melodrama you can muster. Duck likes to cook and steps away to get some ingredients. But he just cannot seem to catch anything to eat. Finally, his mother sends him some food. And he forewarned, mommy does not bring him a salad. She has a dead dinosaur for him to eat. Which, of course, is what T. Rexes eat. You will want to read the others by this author, I'm Dirty! and I Stink! and I'm Dirty! and I Stink! and I Stink! and I Stink!

Apologies & Oranges: Going Bananas with Pairs by Sara Pinto
This silly book has two similar objects; it asks the reader how they are alike, which is obvious, and then gives a silly answer. “How are an apple and orange alike?” Turn the page and “They both don’t write letters.”

Chocolate Peanut Butter Coated Apples
Ingredients:
- 1/2 wooden ice cream sticks
- 12 medium apples, stems removed
- 10 ounces peanut butter chips
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts

Options for decorating apples:
- chopped peanut butter chips
- chopped or mini chocolate chips
- flaked coconut
- chocolate chips
- chopped vanilla chips
- colored sprinkles

Insert wooden stick into each washed and dried apple. Cover a baking sheet or tray with waxed paper. In a medium microwave-safe bowl, stir together peanut butter chips and oil. Microwave on high 1 1/2 minutes or until chips are softened. Stir until melted. Stir together confectioners' sugar and cocoa; gradually add to melted chip mixture, stirring until smooth. Microwave on high 1 minute or until very warm. Dip apples into mixture, turning to remove excess coating. (If coating becomes too thick, return to microwave for a few seconds.) Roll coated apple in chopped chips or coconut if desired, or sprinkle toppings onto apples. Allow to cool on prepared baking sheet or tray. Yield: one dozen apples.

NextReads for Homeschoolers
There’s something for everyone! Go to ppld.org, click on Library Services, then NextReads - Email Reading Lists, then check the box next to Homeschooling. Topics include Sports, African-American History, Energy, and Space.

The topic of food usually draws us to the kitchen or fridge, or maybe your favorite restaurant, but there are also lots of delicious food and nutrition web sites to whet your appetite and improve your nutrition knowledge.

Go to our homepage at ppld.org, click on Kids Web, then to Explore the Web, to Kidspace, then to Health & Nutrition, then Food & Nutrition. You’ll find a virtual buffet of appetizing web sites. One of them is Got Milk? (gotmilk.com). Here you’ll find recipes, games, and nutrition facts. How about whipping up a Luscious Lowellness Smoothie and a Stir it with Vanilla Dream? These are even recipes preventing bad hair days and promoting a good night’s sleep. Sweet!

If you’re one of the many kids who have to worry about food allergies, take a look at Kids’ Food Allergy Network (fankids.org). It’s a pain when you can’t have peanut butter or your favorite candy, but this web site will help. First of all you’ll find out just exactly how many people, especially kids, have food allergies and what the most common food allergies are. FanKids explains why and gives you lots of alternatives for those favorite foods you can’t have. There are even food guide gradients of foods that are safe for people with food allergies.

A reception will be held for all artists and their families and friends on March 15, 2009, from 2 - 3 p.m. at East Library. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Mary Grant at 531-6333, x1407, or mgrant@ppld.org.

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