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!

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)

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.
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 Resources at the top. You are looking for is the Hobbies/Handicrafts quick 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 Series 300: 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 ready to get started!

While it’s always a great idea to have craft books on hand, sometimes that just isn’t feasible. After all, you never know when the creative bug might hit. This website, www.ppld.org, has a terrific Hands-On Crafts page that you can always go to when that sudden urge strikes. So, what are you waiting for? It’s time to pick a topic and pull out those tubs of glitter, glue, and feathers!

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. It only does what we want it to do and can 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 books. All will be added to your homeschooling list as you go. Our son is a great reader and has a love of science. We will be using Science, Math, and Social Studies as our main curriculum for the next few years. We also use a lot of hands-on activities and math games to keep him interested.

What does your homeschool day look like?

We have Bible Study in the early morning before we even get out of bed. Then we take a walk to the park or do something else fun. We also go on many field trips. Once a week, our son attends the Home School Academy, an amazing program. We also have a wonderful group of friends who we see on a regular basis.

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 is your children’s interests and future goals?

Movies, robotics, and building Lego. Our son is very talented in math and loves to build with Lego. He 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 dworthey@ppld.org.