

**HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS**

An Educational Resource Tool

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

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**Popcorn and Cranberry Strands**

Dried unsweetened cranberries

**Teen Activity: Star Wars Snowflake**

Need:
- Printer
- Internet Access
- X-ACTO Knife

1. Thread the needle with floss. Carefully push the needle through the thickest section of popcorn.
2. Alternate back and forth with cranberries and popcorn.
3. When the strand is nearly full, tie it off with a big, tight knot. Your garland is ready to drape on your Christmas tree or banister!

**Holiday Books for Teens**

**Fiction**
- What Light (picture books)
  - J-Easy
  - Highlights
  - by Charles Dickens
  - A Christmas Carol

**Nonfiction**
- Kwanzaa: An African American celebration of culture and cooking
  - by Lynda Jones
  - Kids Around the World Celebrate!
  - by Natasha Fried

- Christmas Traditions: Celebrate around the globe
  - by Maggie Testa

**Kids Books to Celebrate Winter**

- Dash & Lily’s Book of Dares
  - by Yuki Kaneko

**Holiday Crafting & Baking With Kids**

- Festival Decorations
  - by Amy Briggs

- Great Britain, give gifts to the less fortunate, and more recently, service workers on December 26.

**Kwanzaa:** An African-American holiday started in 1966 by Maulana Karenga. Kwanzaa is celebrated between December 26 and January 1 as a year-end feast honoring the giving of gifts, spending time with family and general good will, or as a combination of both. Celebrations, especially those in the United States, include having a tree, putting up lights, gathering for parties, and giving and receiving presents.

**Christmas:** December 25 is celebrated around the world as either a sacred holiday honoring the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, or as a secular holiday celebrating the giving of gifts, spending time with family and general good will, or as a combination of both. Celebrations, especially those in the United States, include having a tree, putting up lights, gathering for parties, and giving and receiving presents.

**Boxing Day:** Countries with a heavy British influence, such as Canada and Great Britain, give gifts to the less fortunate, and more recently, service workers on December 26.

**Chinese New Year:** Celebrated between January 21 and February 20 by Chinese living in China, the United States and Canada, this holiday began as a month long celebration of the New Year but is now much shorter. Traditions include cleaning and decorating the home, lavish parades, and family reunions. Participants celebrate family, good fortune and the renewal of life.

These holidays are by no means an exhaustive list. For more information, or to discover other celebrations around the world, use the resources highlighted in this issue or the databases available at ppld.org. Who knows? You might find a new holiday to celebrate or a family tradition to implement.
Have you checked out

Charlie the Ranch Dog
By Ree Drummond (2013)
Charlie is a great picture book series by Ree Drummond. In this book, it is easy to see the family in the book are homeschooling. Charlie sees his family homeschooling, and decides he will teach all the animals on the ranch. Do read Charlie the Ranch Dog first. Ages 3 - 8

Delightful
book talks briefly about things you can do in Colorado Springs.
A similar homeschooling adventure here in the ocean here, but read the story, and imagine

This is My Home, This is My School
by Nikki McClure (2016)
This is a companion book to This is My Home, This is My School. The illustrations pull us right into the middle of a busy, bustling homeschool family. The illustrations are a delight of joy, and are truthful about what it looks like to live in a homeschooling house. Ages 3 - 10

If not, you should schedule some time to visit! It is located upstairs (yes, you can really go up there!) in East Library. The ERC is a welcoming, family-directed, hands-on area where families and their children can practice, learn, and explore together. Math, science, social studies and language arts kits, as well as art & music resources and computer software are available for families with students of all ages (pre-school – 12th grade) to use. We also have safe early literacy toys for younger siblings. Color-coded kits are self-serve and will mainly interest families with preschool through elementary aged students. Bin colors are: blue—math, red—language arts and reading, green—science, yellow—social studies, purple—art, and orange—music. More kits and educational games can be found on open shelving. Three large cabinets hold even more math and science kits (many for older students), as well as microscopes and science lab equipment. Each cabinet has a sign on the door showing what is inside. Three computers are loaded with preschool & grade school educational software, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, etc.), Adobe Creative software, Froglabs (virtual dissection software), and Driver-Zed (driver’s education software). There are also a number of reference books available, some unique, some with additional copies in our circulating collection. Most kits and equipment can be checked out for 2 hours to use in another part of the library (a study room, for instance). Nothing goes wrong. We’ll ask you to sign a loan agreement before checking anything out.

The normal ERC open hours are:

- Monday .......................... 3 – 6 pm
- Tuesday .......................... noon – 4 pm
- Wednesday .......................... noon – 6 pm
- Thursday .......................... 3 – 6 pm
- Friday .............................. noon – 5 pm
- Saturday .......................... noon – 4 pm
- Sunday .............................. Closed

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