

# Homeschool Herald

## The Newsletter Created By and For Homeschoolers

*The place to share your creative creations.*



We hope you enjoyed the past issues of the *Homeschool Herald*. The January issue is here!

2007 is off to a great start, thanks to you! This issue of the *Homeschool Herald* has once again turned out to be a terrific display of our creative homeschoolers. Thank you to everyone who's sent in submissions.

We are constantly trying to improve the *Herald*, so we'd like to hear from you. What do you like? What don't you like? We want to hear from you!

The January issue is full of interesting articles and excellent art. We hope you enjoy it!

What have you been up to? Have you been studying anything interesting in school? Have you read any good books lately? Have you seen a great movie? Or have you created a new masterpiece recently? Has your basketball team had a successful season? Or do you lay another sport you'd like to tell us about? Tell us about it! Want want to know!

### Welcome!

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the January issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

Homeschool Excursions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide a valuable resource to homeschool families in Georgia. The *Homeschool Herald* will serve to build community and support since it's available to all families.

Our homeschoolers possess a wealth of creativity, and we hope this newsletter provides an accessible outlet for their expression. All contributions are welcome including pictures, stories, articles, and more. We invite everyone to share ideas, suggestions, and creations.

*-Vered Kleinberger  
Program Coordinator*

Do you have any photos of exciting adventures with your family? If so, send them our way! We'd love to include your photographs in future *Homeschool Herald* issues.

Send us your creative creations! We want it all! Everyone is welcome share, and we would be delighted to publish your contributions!

Submissions may also be sent via e-mail or snail mail. Please contact us with any questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions.

### SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

### THE WORLD CUP FINALS

“Ok Phil this is going to be one heck of a game of futbol.”  
 “I agree Mill now lets get this game started. Oh, and it is the finals in the world cup USA playing against Brazil. Ok, USA kicks off. Johan does a great pass. Wait, I spoke to soon...he intercepts it. Ok, it’s Kaka and now Ronoldenio...Is it a goal? NO! OFF SIDE! Ok, now the offside kick. Jonathen will kick it. Johan has it once more. He passes it to Shawn. Shawn passes it to Ryan in a backpass. GOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLL.”



“And what an outstanding goal, beautiful pass by Shawn and then another great pass by Ryan and a great ball by Shawn and Ryan and finally the final”.

“Ok, Brazil hang in there man!”

“I did not think USA could get ahead of Brazil.”

“Neither did I Phil, but it’s a counter attack. We’ve finished at one hour and 30 mins so we’ve got added time.”

“Now it’s the penalty shoot out. Kaka leads the first of 5 penalty kicks by Brazil.”



“Well, at the beginning of the shoot out Kaka missed and now its Shawn’s turn to shoot. Is he going to make it?”

“Yes, yes, yes! He is!”

“An outstanding job by USA. Man that must have been hard. They are partying. This is the first time the USA team has ever gotten this far and the first they have won

the world cup! So long. I hope we are here next world cup so we can see a game like this me too!”

“Ok, Phil signing off!”

“Mill signing off.”

This is what USA looks like: ! I hope you liked my story. This has never happened. USA has never won the World Cup before.

Written by Shawn Ali, age 8

Images:

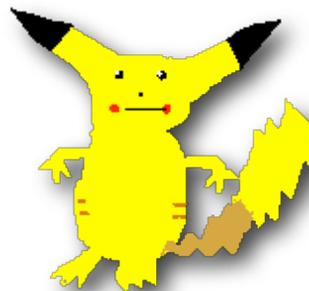
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com>

<http://soccer.sportsnet.tsn.ca>

### SU DOKU

		6	1	5				
	5	2			8			
4							7	
		7		1	9			
	4	8		3		2	1	
			4	6		7		
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			6			9	5	
				2	7	3		

The numbers 1-9 must be in every column, row and box



Pikachu: the most famous pokemon



Pichu: the baby form of Pikachu  
By Sage Gilleland, age 10



Meowth: a cat pokemon

Mewtwo: a pokemon created from a DNA sample of a mew

By Sage Gilleland, age 10



### WHY DO PENNIES AND NICKELS HAVE SMOOTH EDGES? WHY DO ALL OTHER US COINS HAVE SERRATED EDGES?

The first generation of United States coins had smooth edges. It wasn't until the use of the steam press that it became technologically and economically feasible to create coins with reeded edges.

The serrated edges are not there for ornamentation. Back in the good old days when coins were made out of silver or gold and actually had intrinsic value, nefarious types used to pull a favorite scam. They would file or chip the edges off coins. If they were diligent in their work and had access to enough coins, they could collect the valuable silver or gold chips and then palm off the amputated coin for its face value, turning a tidy little profit.



Milled edges proved to be an excellent deterrent, safeguarding the integrity of the legal weight of the coin by making it obvious to the recipient whether or not the coin had been tampered with. If a silver dollar had a smooth edge, a banker or merchant would know that some miscreant had scraped it, and could refuse to accept it. Although many superstitious people tear corners off their dollar bills, the paper itself was never purported to have intrinsic value - only the promise of the United States

government to redeem it. Bearers of silver or gold coins, however, clung to the notion of today's survivalists - that even if the federal government went down the tubes, gold would still be "worth its weight in gold."

The 20-cent piece is the only United States silver or gold coin with a smooth edge. Most have reeded edges, but many early gold and silver coins have lettering (e.g., ONE HUNDRED SENTS ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT) and a few decorative designs.

After World War II, when the supply of silver fell and its price zoomed internationally, most countries eliminated or substantially reduced the silver content in their coins and used gold only for medals and commemorative coins aimed at numismatists and investors. In 1965, the United States took this measure, and many coin collectors hoarded silver coins, figuring that *any* silver coin would soon be valuable when the country was flooded with copper-nickel coins. Their optimism was justified but premature. When speculation hit its peak, with silver selling for \$50.00 an ounce before the Nelson Hunt fiasco, pre-1965 coins were sold like scrap metal; the price had rendered the small differences in value between common coins obsolete. All pre-1965 Roosevelt dimes, for example, sold for more than the most valuable circulated dime was worth before the silver craze.



Silver is now selling for slightly more than one-tenth of what it fetched for less than 5 years ago. The silver content of pre-1965 coins still exceeds their face value, so there is no reason for anyone to deface them. But there is also

no need for the reeded edges to remain on American dimes, quarters, half dollars, and "silver" dollars. The copper-nickel isn't worth chipping - would-be criminals would be better off using metal detectors at the beach. Out of custom and inertia, the reeded edges remain on American coins, a nostalgic throwback to when there was a correlation between the actual and purported value of American money.

Feldman, David. Imponderables: The Solution to the Mysteries of Everyday Life. New York: William Morrow, 1987. pages 40-41.

Index of images:

<http://bennelson.senate.gov/issues/banking/index.cfm>  
[http://www.coinresource.com/guide/coin\\_diagram.htm](http://www.coinresource.com/guide/coin_diagram.htm)

### SPIDERS

Recently I learned a lot about spiders and I made a lapbook.

Facts about spiders:

- Spiders are not insects, they are arachnids
- Most spiders have eight eyes
- Spiders paralyze their prey with venom
- Spiders do not have bones
- Spiders lay eggs
- Spiders are prey and predators
- Spiders have eight legs
- Spiders make their webs out of silk



Some places spiders live are:

- Tarantulas live in holes in the ground
- Black Widow spiders live in the woods
- Jumping spiders live in tree bark
- The Redback spider of Australia lives under house roofs
- Desert Widow spiders live in the desert of the United States
- Brown Recluse spiders live in dark spaces

Spiders are very good for the environment because they eat bugs, create habitats for other animals and their venom can be made into medicine.

The spider makes a web out of silk. The spider then waits until an insect flies into the web. The spider wraps the insect in silk and injects venom. The spider will eat the insect or save it in a storage chamber. The spider's food is mostly digested by the venom, the spider will then suck the digested food into its stomach.

Spiders make many different kinds of webs, including the orb web, horizontal line web, and stablimenta webs.



Stablimenta webs have extra silk down the middle of the web that helps to attract prey.

The spider has a simple life cycle. The mother spider lays eggs. The spiderlings hatch from the eggs and the mother spider usually dies. The spiderlings grow into adults and repeat the cycle.

I liked making my lapbook because it was fun. I love learning about spiders.

Researched and Created by Emily Grooms, age 8

### THINGS THAT ARE ROUND

L	E	B	E	A	D	H	N	P	I
O	F	L	S	M	L	O	E	I	H
M	B	U	T	T	O	N	B	L	A
E	H	E	L	M	E	B	C	L	O
P	L	B	A	L	L	W	D	B	H
W	H	E	E	L	M	E	S	U	N
O	S	R	H	Y	S	O	H	G	S
C	I	R	C	L	E	E	O	L	H
R	H	Y	E	H	W	Y	T	N	S
Y	O	R	A	N	G	E	L	O	B

There are nine words hidden in the puzzle above. They can be found up, down, across, diagonal, and backwards.

Word List:

- |          |           |        |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| Sun      | Ball      | CD     |
| Wheel    | Orange    | Eye    |
| Button   | Full Moon | Circle |
| Pill Bug | Blueberry | Bead   |



Jigglypuff: a pokemon that puts people to sleep by singing

By Sage Gilleland, age 10

## POISON AT PUBLIX

America's food supply is toxic. Walk into any local supermarket and find that nearly every package will have at least one ingredient that is impossible to pronounce. Even packages with the word, "natural," will list senseless ingredients such as hydrogenated oils or high fructose corn syrup. Scientists have proven that use of such toxins contribute to obesity, adult-onset diabetes, and heart disease. Yet, the FDA still allows our food to be poisoned.

"Hydrogenated fats are oils that have been processed through a chemical hardening method to achieve increased stiffness of the liquid oils at room temperature." They are nothing more than artificially saturated fats, except that the fat in hydrogenated oil is even more saturated. Dr. Leonard Lopez writes, "The really bad saturated fat is called trans fatty acid. These are chemically altered fats. You can find them in most packaged foods listed as partially hydrogenated or hydrogenated oils. Our bodies have a more difficult time with processed foods and would prefer them in their natural state." Trans fatty acids have been proven to raise the LDL, or bad, cholesterol while lowering the HDL, or good, cholesterol. With all the research and media about trans fatty acids and their effect on heart health, why does the FDA still permit the contamination of our food supply with this poison? The answer is simply this: hydrogenated oil extends the shelf life of food products. It is a matter of money.

"High fructose corn syrup is produced by processing corn starch to yield glucose, and then processing that glucose to get a higher percentage of fructose." High fructose corn syrup and other corn sugars became popular in the 1970's because they are twice as sweet as sugar and much cheaper to produce. In studies with rats that were fed fructose, fatal organ problems occurred which involved the heart, liver and pancreas. In humans high fructose corn syrup can be dangerous in the way it is absorbed by the body. Natural fructose will have fiber that slows the metabolism down, but the fructose in high fructose corn syrup is absorbed very quickly. This can cause fatty deposits in the liver similar to cirrhosis, a disease found in alcoholics.

Hydrogenated oils and high fructose corn syrup are found in even everyday foods such as soups, chips, crackers, cookies, pastries, mixes of all kinds, including some pasta and rice mixes, sodas, juices, and some types of nonfat milk. The list is virtually endless. *Nature's Own All Natural Whole Wheat Bread* has high fructose corn syrup and hydrogenated fat in the top ten ingredients. These are contents found in nearly all of America's pantries. Many

are harming their own bodies by eating these "natural" products and don't even know it.

The only way to end the problems associated with using hydrogenated fats and high fructose corn syrup is for the FDA to completely outlaw use of these products in our food. Companies are not required to label the amount of trans fatty acids in their products. There is no incentive for a change to occur. A label can state that the product is natural when its ingredients clearly are not. America is getting fatter while the food industry fattens its pockets. This summarizes the entire problem: In his book, *Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease*, Dr. Ornish writes, "Unfortunately, a longer life for the product may mean a shorter life for you."

Written by Lilly Mulvey, 8th Grade  
Works Cited:

[www.cyberparent.com/nutrition](http://www.cyberparent.com/nutrition)  
[www.cyberparent.com/nutrition](http://www.cyberparent.com/nutrition)  
[www.cyberparent.com/nutrition](http://www.cyberparent.com/nutrition)  
[www.westonaprice.org/modernfood/highfructose.html](http://www.westonaprice.org/modernfood/highfructose.html)  
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[www.cyberparent.com/nutrition](http://www.cyberparent.com/nutrition)

*Direct quotes and medical information were obtained from articles found in the footnoted sources.*

## WEEDS? THIS IS DEFINITELY A WEED!

This monthly article usually describes the useful qualities of plants growing in your yard. We often groom our property, and in the process, unwittingly discard edible and medicinal plants. I try to inform you of some of the amazing plants we have that most people consider weeds.

However, this month, I am pleading with you to pull and burn any Privet you find. It's taking over the forests of the southeast and it's extremely easy to identify at this time of year. So if you see it, pull it up by the roots and either burn it or put it in sealed plastic bags headed for a landfill (another practice I try to avoid - reuse, recycle, and compost is my usual motto, but landfills are the best place for this terrible plant). Some people prefer chemicals, but my policy is if you have to wash your hands after you touch it, you probably don't want it in your yard with your kids and your pets. The thing to be careful of is not to put Privet in a compost pile. It will root and grow back bigger and stronger than ever.





Privet is green throughout the winter, so it's really easy to identify. It's low growing and scrubby, and is taking over the underbrush of southern forests.



Privet was introduced into the United States in the early 1800s. It is commonly used as an ornamental shrub and for hedgerows. Privet quickly escaped cultivation and currently is found throughout the southeast

and scattered elsewhere in the U.S. It is widespread and common throughout all of Georgia.

Privet can invade a wide variety of habitats. It prefers moist open lands but can be found in highly shaded or dry areas. It commonly forms dense thickets in fields or in the forest understory. Privet reproduces both by sprouts and by seeds, which are dispersed by birds and mammals. It shades and-out competes many native species and, once established, is very difficult to remove.



One type of Privet common to this area is Chinese Privet. It's native to China and was introduced in the United States as an ornamental shrub in 1852.

Found throughout the South, Chinese privet forms dense thickets along roadsides, fence rows, fields, rights-of-way, and in forested creek bottoms. These shrubs typically reach 10 to 20 feet in height with numerous branches. A member of the olive family, privet produces seeds abundantly and regenerates by root sprouts quickly forming dense stands. Because of dense stand production, privet crowds out native plants and trees, especially hardwoods. Privet typically produces small white flowers in early summer and terminal clusters of seeds in the fall. Seeds are consumed primarily by birds and disseminated.

Help get rid of Privet in the Southeast! Help save our native plants! Don't plant it! Eradicate it!

Index of images and information:

- <http://www.gainvasives.org/weeds/privet.html>
- <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/worst/ligustr.html>
- <http://msucare.com/pubs/misc/m1194.html>
- <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/species/3035.html>

Compiled by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger

## HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

**We had 19 students who advanced from our Science Fair to 4 different Regional Science Fairs: Henry, Clayton, Rockdale, and Griffin RESA.**

### Science Fair (elementary)

- Jenna Bryant, 1st place (Clayton County)
- Noah Martuzas, 2nd place tie (Henry County)
- DJ Lee, 2nd place tie (Henry County)

### advancing to Henry County Regional Fair

- Bryan Anderson
- Amanda Cook
- Staci Cook
- Billy Dorminy
- Danny Dorminy
- Jared Fouts
- Jonathan Garrett
- Hannah Kennedy
- Paul Mitchell
- Garrett Rasmussen

### advancing to Clayton Regional Science and Engineer Fair

- Abria Allen
- Mattie Bryant
- Jamison Bryant
- Trevor Johnson
- Jordan Rasmussen
- Trevor Schaeffer

### advancing to Rockdale Science and Engineering Fair

- Andrew Gowasack
- Elizabeth Gowasack

### advancing to Griffin RESA Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Randy Jansen  
**to receive information/events of interest to HomeSchool families, join the Home Education Resources information group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HomeEducationResources/>**



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**THEIR PATRONAGE SUBSIDIZES PROGRAM COSTS TO REDUCE HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS' ACTIVITY FEES, AND HELPS TO MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE**



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FIRST LOG INTO  
[WWW.SCHOOLPOP.COM](http://WWW.SCHOOLPOP.COM)  
AND A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR  
PURCHASE WILL BE DONATED TO  
HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS!

HELP REDUCE PROGRAM FEES AT NO  
ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU! THANKS!!

**SCHOOL ID# 130495**

CUT THIS OUT AND TAPE IT TO YOUR  
COMPUTER AS A REMINDER.

## Homeschool Soccer League at Noonday Park

Spring season begins in March for 8 weeks

\$40 per player + \$7 tee-shirt fee

Thursdays 1-2:30 pm  
ages 3-15



for more info and  
registration form:

[www.freewebs.com/homeschoolsoccer](http://www.freewebs.com/homeschoolsoccer)

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<http://www.ncasports.net>  
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## The Creative Mind

The Creative Mind is the brainchild of Phillis Bostar. As a Homeschooling mother, she understood the need for a creativity based learning program that would help her children learn and enjoy the journey. Over the years, she developed a program using discovery, curiosity, & imagination for children ages 4 to 13 years. Ms. Bostar has enjoyed the popularity and success of her classes through the eyes of her own and many other children.

Look for Creative Mind classes offered through Homeschool Excursions.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Many families have asked if their homeschoolers can submit contributions even if they can't attend the planning meetings in Pickens County. Of course they can! You are welcome to e-mail or snail mail their creative contributions to Homeschool Excursions.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

- All the homeschoolers who contributed to the production of each issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- The Pickens County Library for allowing us to use your facility for our meetings.
- Janis Kleinberger for all her assistance and generosity.
- The Jones Family for their continued support.
- The Daniels Family for their support and encouragement.
- Teri Verhine for her relentless devotion to provide a fantastic Enrichment Program for our homeschoolers.
- Our advertisers for their help in making the newsletter possible.

**IMAGES AND WORKS CITED:**

[HTTP://WWW.QUOTATIONSPAGE.COM/](http://www.QuotationsPage.com/)  
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**The Homeschool Herald is printed on recycled paper. Help preserve our environment through the use of recycled products and by reducing waste.**

# Homeschool Excursions Membership Form

Yes! I want to help Homeschool Excursions grow!  
I join at the following membership level:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Seed: \$15-25.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sprout: \$26-50.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shoot: \$51-100.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sapling: \$101-150.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tree: \$151-200.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forest: above \$200.00

Enclosed is my payment for: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the Membership page on the Homeschool Excursions website for member benefits and additional information.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of homeschoolers in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!  
We're looking forward to a fantastic year!!

Mail form to: Homeschool Excursions  
PO Box 1283, Jasper, GA 30143



# The January Issue

This month the *Homeschool Herald* is full of wonderful submissions. Have you sent in anything lately? If not, why not? We want to see your creative creation!

Homeschoolers are an interesting crowd. There's always something new and exciting happening, whether it's Lego competitions, Science Fairs, community service projects, actors and singers, athletes, and this list could continue for many more pages. Included in this issue are cut-outs of some



homeschoolers having fun and being creative. We'd like to see what you do, so send us your photos and writings. You have a lot to share, and the *Herald* is the place to do it! That's why this newsletter was created...to give homeschoolers a place to share their accomplishments.

Enjoy the January issue, and we look forward to seeing your contributions to future issues!

## What's Inside?

### Be Careful What You Eat!

Read the ingredient labels on your food! This article explains the negative effects of trans fatty acids, high fructose corn syrup, and more. Remember, you are what you eat!

### Weeds? What weeds?

This month, the featured plant is definitely a weed! Privet! Yuck! Help get rid of it wherever you see it!

### Spiders!

Read all about these eight legged creatures. Emily created a really cool lap book, so be sure to check it out!

### Songs, Poems, Pictures, Stories, Articles, Games, and More

See what the homeschoolers have created this month. Each Herald is very different, so explore this issue, and we hope you enjoy the creativity of these homeschoolers!

Homeschool Excursions, Inc.  
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