

The Chronicles of Homeschooling

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EDITOR JONATHAN B.

John Henry

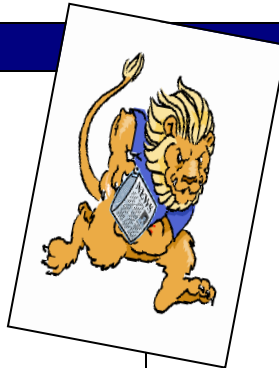
By Remi A.



Some other homeschoolers and I attended the Lexington Children's Theater production of John Henry on October 9. It is based on the tall tale of John Henry—"an ordinary man." It was a heart breaking story of a man who wanted to work on the railroads. His life began in Mississippi. When he was about 30, he set off to work on the C & O railroads. He met a riverboat captain in Mississippi who agreed to take him upriver as far as Louisville in exchange for work. Upon arrival in Louisville, he discovered that the C & O railroads were hiring in Cincinnati the next day. He then met a jockey with a fast horse that John Henry needed in order to reach Cincinnati in time for sign ups. The jockey said he'd give him his fastest horse if he could beat him in a race. So John Henry raced him and beat him. The jockey was sad to give up his horse so John Henry said "You can have him back once I get to Cincinnati." "I'll send him on a boat down to Louisville where you can pick him up."

"Oh, I'm mighty grateful," said the jockey.

Once John Henry reached Cincinnati he had no idea where the sign-ups for the railroad workers were. When he finally found it, the captain wanted John Henry to



show him his skills before he could sign up. The captain was impressed. He immediately signed him up. He met the love of his life and his future wife on the work force, Polly Ann.

Shortly after their marriage, they had to drill through a mountain to make the biggest railroad tunnel ever. They only had a short time to do it. After weeks of drilling, the railroad sent a man with a large steam powered drill to do John Henry's and his crew's work. John Henry didn't want to lose his job so he challenged the man and machine to a competition of who could drill further faster. In the end John Henry drilled 15 feet while the machine drilled only 9 feet. But John Henry was so worn out at the end that his heart gave out and he laid down his hammer and died.

The End

KY Geology

By Zachary W.

Last Friday, I went with my family to the Kentucky Geology Department to see their geology exhibits at their annual Open House. When we got there, we first saw a water table. A water table is a table with sand all in it. You hook a hose to one side of the table and water flows, making paths, showing years of erosion!

Then we went to the fossils. They had fossils of bugs, plants, fish, and (of course), dinosaurs! We also saw a Sabertooth tiger skull and a lion skull. We

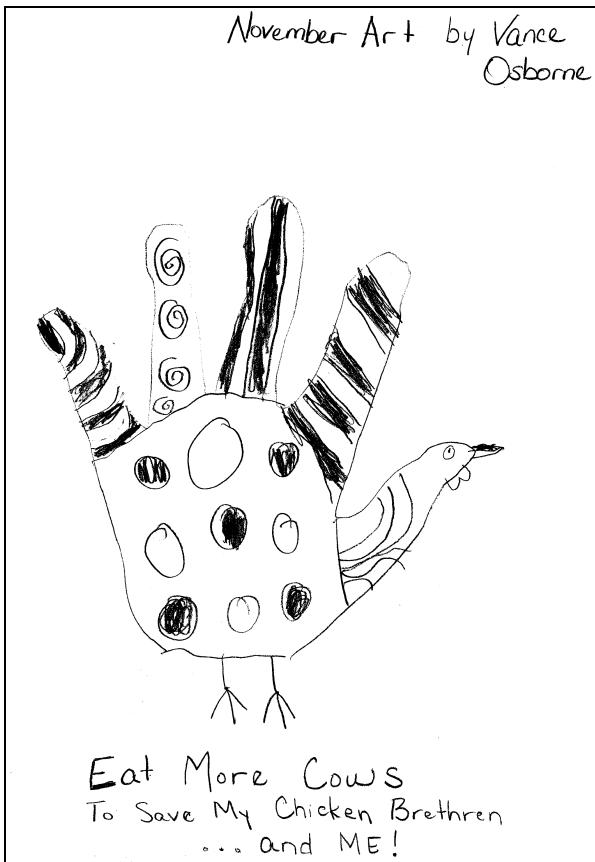
got compare and contrast them to modern lion and tiger skulls. We also got to take home a shark tooth fossil!

We also went to the seismograph room and saw some earthquakes happening. There was a roll of paper and a pen attached to a machine. The pen draws lines to show when earthquakes happen. Did you know that an earthquake could be happening right now, under us, as your reading this paper, and you can't feel it! If you want to see if earthquake happening on a seismograph, go to

<http://www.uky.edu/KGS/geologic hazards/quake3.htm>.

They hold the open house every October, and I want to go again!

VANCE'S ART CORNER




Kazakhstan

By Zachary W.

Kazakhstan is a country in the middle of Asia and is a former Soviet Union country. In addition to being the world's 9th largest country and having a population of 14,900,000, it is the world's largest landlocked country. Kazakhstan's main economy is fossil fuels, which make gas.

About one month ago, the ambassador of Kazakhstan, Erlan Idrissov, visited Cookeville, Tennessee. Ambassadors are people that travel to other countries and discuss important matters. The Ambassador was there because Fed-ex wanted to expand their mail services to Kazakhstan. While he was in Middle Tennessee, Idrissov went to colleges including Belmont and talked about Kazakhstan and what it was. After that my grandfather, (the former mayor of Cookeville), Dr. Charles Womack, showed the Ambassador around the area. He also took Idrissov to Burgess Falls State Park to see the cool water falls. The Ambassador left the next day for Kazakhstan.



Movie Review

BY SHAYNE O.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs was a good movie, but the 3-D was kind of over-

rated. The main plot was good. Flint is a pretty good inventor. Steve the monkey is Flint's sidekick that loves to eat gummy bears. The town was widely known sardines but every one decided that sardines stink (literally and metaphorically), so Flint makes a machine that turns water into food and an accident happens that makes it go into the sky so it starts raining food (AWESOME!) Overall I give this movie (Drum roll, please):

5 for 3-D
9 for the Animation
10 for the previews (in 3-D)
For a Total of 8 out of 10
Verdict: I think it's an awesome movie.

Cooking with Shayne

By Shayne O.

HOMEMADE POTATO SALAD (Makes 12 servings)

You will need:

- 5 pounds of diced red potatoes
- 4 eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Tablespoons prepared mustard
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cups of mayo
- 1 chopped green bell pepper
- 1 finely chopped onion
- 1 16 ounce jar of cubed sweet pickles
- 4 chopped stalks of celery
- 1 teaspoon of white sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Be sure to have your parents help in cutting the potatoes and onion.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil then add potatoes. Cook until tender and firm, this should take 15 minutes or so. Drain and transfer potatoes to a large bowl. Place eggs in medium saucepan and cover

completely with completely with cold water. Bring the water to a boil, then remove the eggs from the heat and let them set for 10-12 minutes. Remove the eggs from the hot water and peel under running cool water then chop and set aside eggs. Mix all the ingredients in with the potatoes and add salt pepper to taste.

This simple to make recipe is great for large dinners such as Thanksgiving and Christmas and it is also a staple for cook-outs and family reunions in the summertime.
Enjoy!

Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday



By Remi A.

Abraham Lincoln died 144 years ago and this year we celebrate his 200th birthday. He was my personal favorite president ever. Many people say if he didn't become president, America today would be two countries, not one.

Abraham Lincoln's father was named Thomas Lincoln. His mother's name was Nancy. Thomas was a carpenter who built log cabins for people. Abe and his family lived in a one room log cabin. When Abe was seven he and his family left Kentucky because another man said he owned the land. They didn't have much money so he couldn't hire a lawyer to go to court to get his land back. Another reason they left was because Kentucky became a slave state and the Lincolns hated Slavery. They moved to Indiana because it wasn't a slave state.

Abe's mother died of "milk-sick" which is drinking milk from sick cows when Abe was 9 years old.

When Abe was twenty-one he moved with his family to Illinois. When Abe was 23 he wanted to become an Illinois representative. He said he would vote for better roads and public schools if he was elected. In 1834, he was elected state representative of Illinois.

When Abe was a representative he went to a party and met Mary Todd. Abe said "I want to dance with you in the worst way." She liked him and when he asked her to marry him she said "yes."

He was a state representative for eight years but he wanted more politics. In 1847 he got what he wanted. The people of his district elected him to go to Congress. When he went to Washington there were 28 states. 14 were against slaves 14 weren't. He went to Springfield after his Congressional term. He worked as a lawyer then ran for Senator against Stephen Douglas in 1858. Douglas said slavery wasn't bad but Abe was against slavery. Lincoln did not win the election. Douglas did.

He ran for President and won the election on November 6, 1860. But he didn't take office until March 4, 1861. Between November and March the Confederate states of America formed. In April 1861 the Civil War started. Many battles were fought throughout the North and South. Finally the war ended in 1865. But one man, John Wilkes Booth, who still wanted power for the South shot and killed the man known as "Honest Abe," in 1865.

This year, Kentucky along with the rest of the nation, celebrates what would have been Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday.

Fall Ball By Jonathan B.

If you were sitting at home last Friday night wishing you had something to do then you were not at the Fall Ball. After being in the planning stage for a few weeks I'm sure everyone was anxious about how it would turn out, and let me tell you, it was a definite hit. There were all types of music ranging from Low by Flo Rida to the Electric Slide created by Richard Silver. There were multiple food dishes as well such as pretzels, along with cheese and sausage, many types of cookies, and much more! There was everything to drink from punch (I'll tell you, drinking nine cups of sugared up punch in 10 minutes is not recommended), to orange juice. Sierra Mist to Pinot Grigio (adults only, sorry!). Water to... well, you get the idea. There was plenty to do at the dance besides dancing too. We had a short "game" where you picked a piece of paper out of a jar. On that piece of paper was a name of a person, some dead, some not. Other people would come around and give you clues to who you were. I was Abraham Lincoln, the clue that gave it away was 'tall and dead'. Among some of the other famous people were Michael Jackson, George Bush, and Franklin Roosevelt. It was quite entertaining to see how long it took for someone to figure out who they were.



There were also various types of dances in the main dance, such as the Father-Daughter dance, and the Mother-Son dance, a 9 and under dance and a 10+ dance, then came the 21 and under dance. We had a limbo as well, that was a great hit with the younger kids as well as the older kids. I want to give a special thanks to Tim Allen for being an awesome DJ, and another special thanks to St. Michael's church for letting us have the ball in their building. Overall it was a lot of fun and I can't wait for the Winter Ball!



November Calendar

By Vance O.

- 1- Daylight Saving Time Ends – Don't forget to set your clocks back!
- 5 – BHLC Co-op
- 6- Deadline to sign up for LCT's Little Mermaid

- 7- International Tongue Twister Day
- 10 - National Young Readers Day
- 11 – Veteran's Day
- 12 – BHLC Co-op
- 13- 10 am – LASC Create Great Art
12 pm – Upper & Middle Schoolers Meet
- 19 – BHLC Co-op
- 26 – Thanksgiving – No Co-op
- 27 – Black Friday – Time to start Christmas shopping!

EDITOR'S GAME: Guess The Person

This person:
Has brown hair
Has 1 sister In Co-op
Is NOT in Theater
Their mom teaches a class

The answer will be in next month's newsletter!