

City KidzWorld

Volume I
Issue 4
Fall Issue - Sept.- Dec.

**2 Coloring
Contests
inside**

**Preteen and Teen Make Tracks
on the Super information Highway**

**ACTIVITIES GUIDE
pages 17,18,19**

**15 New
Academic
Contests
*inside!***

**College Student
Travels to England**



**Teenager Grows
Social Network Site Around
Multicultural Themes**





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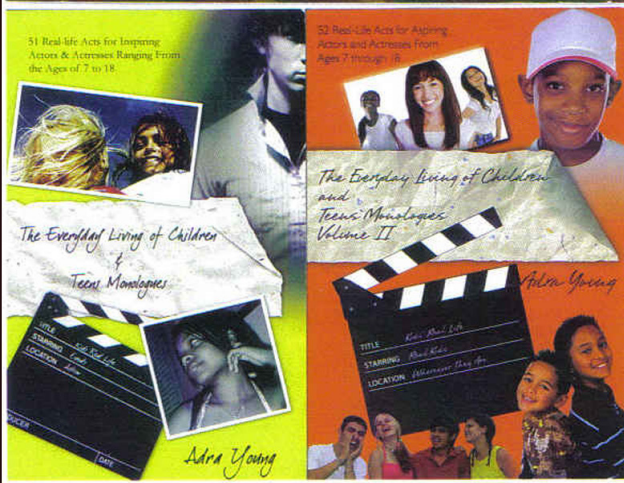
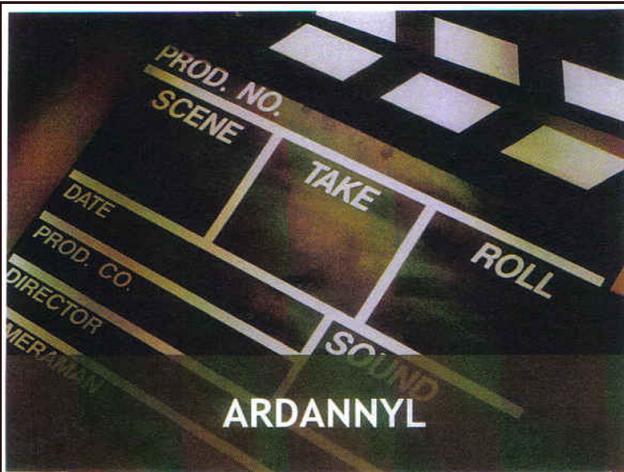
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Editor's Note:



The world has always been a small place and when you are in a small place, it is best to understand everyone there. *City Kidz World* magazine is a publication about everyone from every community. We want to highlight everyone's interests and everyone's activities. We reach out to every community and hope that everyone will participate in our regular academic challenges, which are designed to teach everyone about the world. Enjoy *City Kidz World* magazine and plan to participate in a contest or two this year!

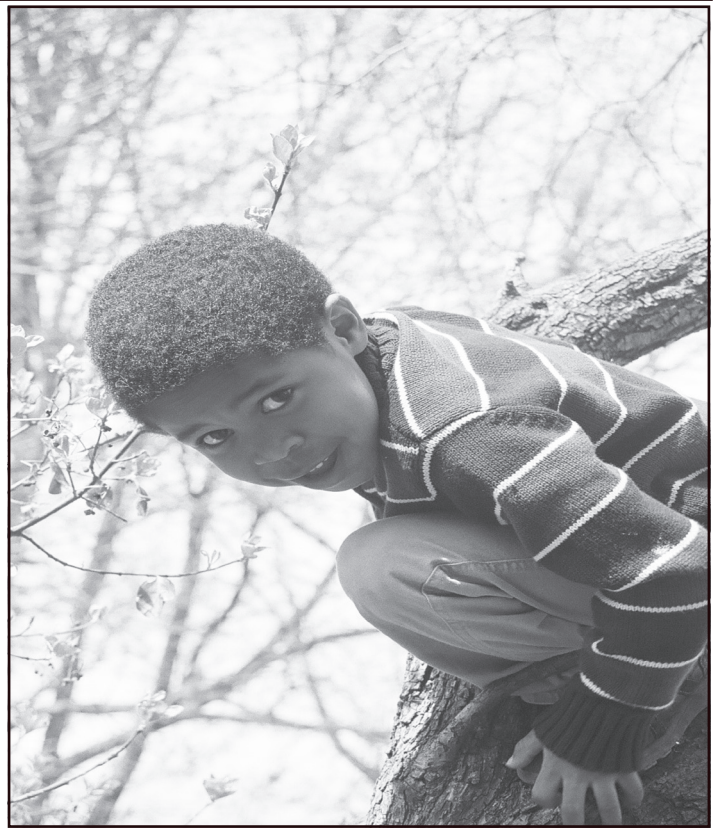


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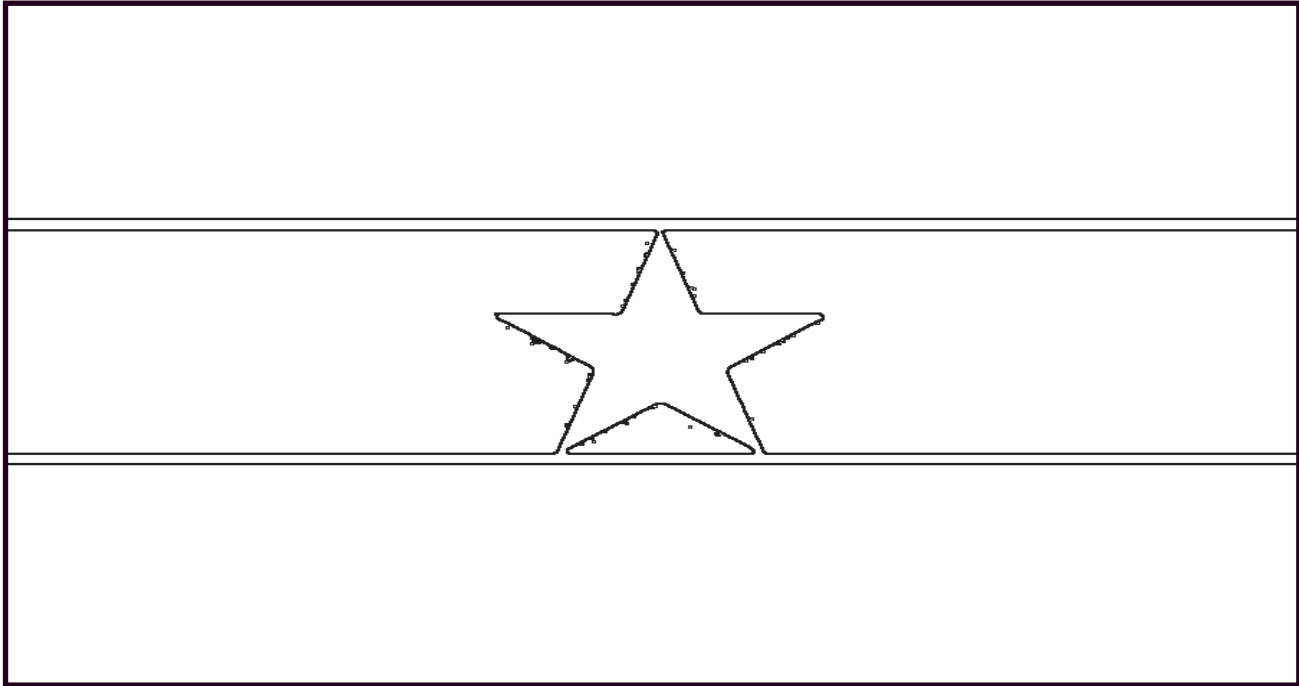
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- Design a Bedroom
- Holiday Tradition Story
- Imagine Your Future Contest
- Valentines's Day Short Story Contest
- Spring Photo Essay Contest
- Best Recipe Contest
- Mayor for the Day Writing Contest
- Car if the future Design Contest
- Family Travel Story Short Tale Contest
- Puppy Dog Story
- Write about Why you Love your Bestfriend
- Draw the Space Colony of the Future

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Preschool and Elementary Activity

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- Once upon a Time in Ghana*, By Anna Cottrell
- Ghana (Countries of the World)*, By Lucile Davis
- Ghana in Pictures*, By Yvette Lapierre
- The Ghana Cookery Book*, By Various and David Saffery

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Kidz Doing Cool Things

Young People Blazing Trails on the Super Information Highway

Brother and Sister Make Impression Online



Molly, 13



Haddon, 11

By Molly

Why I built My Web site

It was a quiet evening about two years ago and I was enthusiastically poring over an HTML book we'd gotten from the library that afternoon. All I knew was that it told how to make a website. The hard thing was that I didn't really know too well what a website was. I called links "clickables" and I had just learned to type not too long ago. I was clueless. My friend was doing this book, though, and it seemed sort of interesting, so I was eager to learn.

Dream Come True

That evening birthed a dream-- a dream which would soon come true. Why not create a writing website for homeschooled students with the skills I would learn from the book? After all, I loved to write, and I was homeschooled. I never did finish the book, because I found a web-hosting service which did the HTML for me. My website was officially up and running around January 2008, when I was eleven and a half. Now, a year and a half later, Homeschool-Writers.com is growing and becoming more and more popular. With almost 1,700 visits each month now, Home-

schoolWriters.com is a resource site dedicated to writing curriculum and contests for kids. Although I originally made it for just homeschoolers, everyone, including public and private schoolers, are using it as well. My mom has written multiple curriculum reviews of writing programs to go on my site, and I've posted an extended list of our family's favorite books and a list of

great resource links.

I think people like my website best, though, because of the Contest Chart. It includes over 100 contests listed in a chart-format. I've also included a free e-mail deadline reminder service where I e-mail people about contests shortly before they end so they don't forget.

What Makes the Contest Chart Special?

It's the organization. There are other lists of contests available online, but having data in a chart format is easier to navigate because it gives the user preview-type information, rather than lengthy descriptions.

My chart lists only writing contests, while other lists usually have all types of contests. For writers who are not as interested in other contests, my chart will most likely be much easier to use than other lists.

I've also tried to keep my chart up-to-date and to exclude fee-based writing contests and those permitting adults to enter.

As a result, I believe it is the most complete and easiest to use collection of free youth writing contests on the web.

Let's Talk Time

Although launching a website involves lots of time in the beginning (at least an hour a day), it is possible to work a business into a busy homeschool schedule.

Counting as schoolwork much of my time writing descriptions, e-mails, advertising bills, and web pages, my mom has been flexible with me while still maintaining order in my schedule.

However, time can get scarce. As I have reached a higher level in my studies, we have found that many subjects simply cannot be put off for several weeks. As a result, I only do one hour each week now. I have already made the main pages and added to them, so now the website can be much more flexible for my schedule.

Lessons from My Website

My website has taught me many things. I have learned the basics of business communication. I have increased my vocabulary. I have broadened my understanding of the world wide web and computers in general. Deeply indebted to my family, friends, advertisers, linkers, and the homeschool community, I am grateful to be able to make and manage this site to benefit others. However, it has also benefited me in more ways than I ever imagined. Especially when the modern world is becoming more and more computer-dependent, my website is a priceless and thrilling learning experience I will never forget.

Web site Helps Others

By Haddon

Are you looking for a way to get some money and benefit others? If you are, websites are a great possibility.

In March 2008, when I was nine, I got the idea for a website when my mother and I were earnestly searching for contests to help me enjoy math more. While we were looking, we found that it was tricky to find many contests for individual students to enter by themselves. We thought that it would be nice to make a website with a list

see *Math Site* on page 5

Math site con't from page 4

of math contests that individuals can enter, because sometimes it's hard to get a group together for team competitions. Fortunately, my sister also has her own website, Homeschool Writers, which helped me with ideas for mine.

Math Contests and More

My site, HomeschoolMathContests.com, has a comprehensive list of math contests which are open to individuals, homeschooled or otherwise. In a chart format, the site describes thirty math contests which individuals can enter without having to gather up a team. If you do want to do math contests on a team, I have another chart with fourteen team contests. My website also has a state-by-state list of over 180 regional meets sponsored by colleges and universities. Most of these competitions can be entered by individuals as well. I have contests for every single state in the country except for five states. My site also includes a Helpful Articles page, a Curriculum Reviews page, and a free Deadline Reminder Service. I do all I can to make this a helpful resource for others.

Designing the Site

Because I use OfficeLive.com, which is a web hosting service, designing my website is easy. For example, I don't have to type in brain-racking HTML when I want to create links or select backgrounds and headings. The program has a graph that shows how much traffic I have had and where it came

from. With OfficeLive.com, I have an excellent resource for making websites for only fifteen dollars a year.

To find fantastic contests, which I can list on my website, my parents didn't think it was good for me to surf the web, because I'm still a kid. Selectively, my mother chose contests and bookmarked them. Then I would look in the bookmarks to see if a contest had an old date and if it did, then I would go on Google and look for a more recent website for that contest. Then once I finally had found a good website, I would link the contest on my website.

<http://homeschoolwriters.com/>
<http://homeschoolmathcontests.com/>

In making your own website, there is a lot of writing involved, both webpage content and e-mail letters, which offer ads and request links. This can be a learning opportunity on typing and writing skills. First I do a key word outline, then a rough draft, then I rewrite with stronger verbs and adjectives. I try to start the sentences different ways. When I want to boost my traffic up, I usually do about five link letters a day. Having already written about one hundred people, I have been linked on dozens of sites, which makes my Google ranking increase.

Earning Money

One of my favorite things about having a website is getting ad money. Usually when I'm making an ad for a customer, I e-mail them and ask how they want their ad. If they

do not care, I create it myself. Grabbing the website's header image off their site, I carefully fix it up on Paint, which is a graphics program. Then I link the ad image to the customer's website, and send an invoice.

Helping Hands

Occasionally other people have helped with my site. My mother, who wrote the curriculum reviews, also writes the summary information for the individual and team contests charts, since that was difficult for me. From my sister's website, I got the professionally designed invoice form and advertising rates.

When other people see my site, sometimes they help by e-mailing contests to me.

For several months, I spent one hour a day working on my website, but

now I am spending an hour a week. Currently I am adding team contests. If people e-mail me desiring a deadline reminder, I put down their addresses in an organized group in my address book. Checking the individual contests that expire soon, I copy down the information, which I blind-copy e-mail to the group of people who have signed up for my deadline reminder. These are the things I am doing now on my website to maintain it.

You do have to spend a lot of time making a website. On the other hand, websites do give you better skills in writing and you can make profit off them. When you start, you might feel as if it is not going to do well, but if you work vigorously, it will probably succeed in the end. *Having a website is a great first business and educational opportunity.*

Student in India Attracts Hundreds to Multicultural Social Network Site and Web Mag.

By Missy Murray **Q & A**

CKW: You are very involved in your Ning site. How did you learn about Ning? Did you create a group on a site or did



you start the main Ning site?

S.M.: (I)love designing web sites. And, while googling for web-hosting services, I came to know about Ning on Techcrunch. And, no,

before creating Serampore Social Network, I hadn't gone through any other site or group; I learned things while designing.

CKW: What inspired your group or site?

S.M.: Quotes of my favourite composer and my music-idol, Yanni, inspires me in

any new thing I involve myself into—
 “Creativity is the most deliberate act that one can perform.”

“Every single thing that ever happened to humanity, began with a single thought ... there is a collective, there is a ‘we’... people will stop believing that the lines on the maps exist.”

CKW: What is the purpose and the mission of the site?

S.M.: The motto of our site is to provide an international platform to have a healthy interaction between different cultures and spread the message of love, unity, acceptance and tolerance. We want to make people forget that the country-lines on the maps exist.

We all are special. We all have something,

better than the others. It's just we don't focus to figure it out or don't get the chance to let others know it. Serampore Social Network gives you all the support you need to venture your voice over the crowd.

Starting an Online Magazine with the Site

CKW: What made you decide to start a magazine?

S.M.: Actually, it all began when I was in a project to compose a song for IMA (Indian Medical Association) for their Anti-Female Feticide Campaign. I was searching for a suitable vocal for my song and after having a lot of hours in vain, I wished for a platform to discover the undiscovered.

see *Social Network* on page 6

Reader Submission

The Original Poem

By Senhao Landon Zou
Redland, California
Written in 11th grade

*I wonder if it's that obvious?
I am seventeen, yellow born in Shanxi
Province.*

*I went to school there, then here, then back
to there for a time.*

*There are kids of all colors in my classes.
The front step of my house leads down into
a street, which further down leads into a
park, I then cross many different streets of
all sorts of sizes and shapes to come to a
private, no trespass able place to write this
page:*

*It's not easy to know what is right for me or
anybody else, at age seventeen, my age. But
I believe I am who I am, feel, and believe.
For the County of San Bernardino, I feel
you: feel you, feel me—all of us, all our talk
on this page.*

*(I hear California too.) Me — what?
I like to sleep, drink, and be satisfied.
I like to put in work, be educated, ponder,
and make my own philosophies of all life.
I like a piece for a Christmas present, or any
thoughtful item—such as a music player, a
tiny box, or a miniature scale.
I guess being yellow does make me not like
the same things folks like who are other
races.*

*So will my page be colored that I write?
Being me, it will not matter if it's white
But it will be
A part of you, a spirit
You are not white—
but you are a part of me, as I am a part of
you.*

*That's a fact.
Sometimes you don't want to stay with me
Nor do I want to stay with you.
But we are here, that's true!
As I learn to live with you,
I guess you learn from me—
although you are within me—and immortal
and somewhat more protected*

Social Network *con't* from page 5

When I came to know about Ning, that very thought led me make the site named, Serampore Social Network.

CKW: Are you getting a great number of responses to your magazine?

S.M.: Well being honest, not the way we wanted. We wanted more people to participate actively. But, we don't lose hope and look forward to have more posts from the crowd.

CKW: How will you distribute the magazine? Will it only be online?

S.M.: For now, the magazine will be distributed through internet in .pdf format. But, we have plans to form an organization off the internet and involve more students and other people also who don't have the access to internet.

CKW: What kind of content are you putting in your magazine?

S.M.: We put any kind of stuff that helps expressing one's creativity and thoughts.

CKW: What grade are you in?

S.M.: 12th.

CKW: Do you have any of your school

mates involved in the magazine?

S.M.: They would love to. But, as our board exam is around the corner, they are very much busy with their studies. But, they are well-aware of this programme and have promised to be involved soon.

CKW: What do you plan to study in school when you continue your education?

S.M.: Well actually, my school is nearly over. I'm in 12th now and after my exams I will be in college. I wish to continue my studies with English literature.



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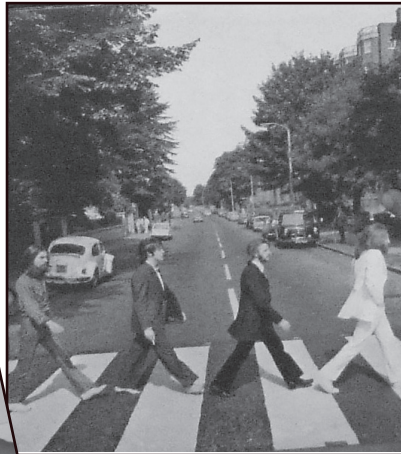
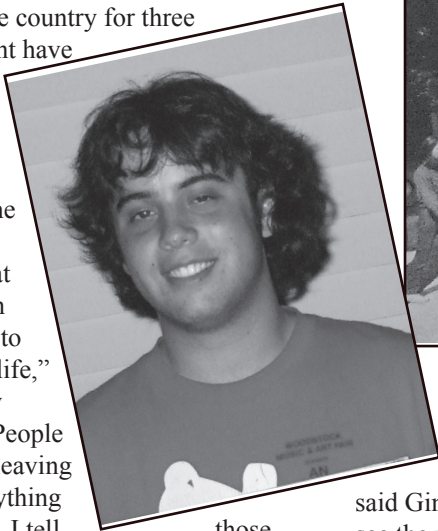
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Student Looks forward to Learning New Culture in England

By Joseph Lisnow

“Being able to just pack your belongings and leave the country for three months might have people scratching their heads wondering why someone would want to leave what they’ve been accustomed to their whole life,” said Andrew Ginsberg. “People tell me I’m leaving behind everything I worked on. I tell those people they’re wrong. To be able to visit and study on the other side of the world is a great chance that I’ve thought about and can’t wait to make it a reality soon.”



Andrew Ginsberg, left: Iconic Beatles walk across Abbey Road, above.

Few American college students get this opportunity to visit other countries and study there. One college senior in Old Bridge, New Jersey, will be getting the opportunity to study abroad in England. Ginsberg, an English major at Montclair State University in New Jersey will be studying at Goldsmiths University of London during his fall 2009 school semester.

At Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey, Ginsberg graduated

with an associate degree in English in 2008. He then transferred his studies to Montclair for his junior year. His senior year will be different than most college students as he will be living on campus in a dormitory while studying in England. While there he will not only be able to study a different culture, but he will still be able to earn transferable college credits back to Montclair.

“I’m intrigued to see what it’s like to live life outside of my societal construct,”

said Ginsberg. “What I mean is I want to see the world from outside the American perspective. I will be forced to change what I thought I knew about the world, then take those new views and bring them back home with me. I feel like it’s going to be a very maturing process that will stick with me for the rest of my life.”

While studying abroad Ginsberg, will be able to take in all the literature, theatre, and English from a place other than his native USA. He also wants to travel to other European countries while he’s overseas.

“Being able to just pack your belongings and leave the country for three months might have people scratching their heads wondering why someone would want to leave what they’ve been accustomed to their whole life.”

- Andrew Ginsberg

He has Spain, Greece, and Amsterdam marked as countries he would like to visit. Walking across Abbey Road, the road The Beatles used on the cover of their 11th United Kingdom album and 17th USA album, and seeing all the other historic Beatle sites is what he’s most looking forward to.

“Few people get the chance to walk the road The Beatles made famous,” said Ginsberg. “The Beatles are considered the greatest band of all-time. To be able to see

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all the historic places made famous by The Beatles will be a site to see and something I will always remember.”

“It’s going to be fun visiting another country, but there are things that I’m going to miss,” said Ginsberg. “My family and friends of course are on top of the list, but I’m also going to miss the great food at Krispy Pizza while I’m gone. The only thing that really makes me nervous is if I’m going to like their food and hopefully I won’t be mocked at because I’m American and George Bush was our elected presidents for eight years.”

“Andrew seems ready for this experience,” said his father Mark Ginsberg. “This is a great chance for him to study in another country. I hope he takes full advantage of this trip and comes out of it with something great.”

Studying and living in another country can

see *England* on page 8

Reader Submissions

Family Vacation Story

Our Ride on the Subway

Julia Rollino, Written in 10th grade
Ventura, California

When I was seven years old, our family (two parents, four kids and a baby) went on a vacation to Europe. My younger brother, Daniel, was only ten months old. We went to three countries while on our vacation, but the one that stands out most vividly in my mind is definitely England. We took the subway only once the whole time we were in London, but we will never forget that short, little ride, ever!

After we had gone out to dinner, my dad talked my mom into taking the subway back to the hotel instead of walking so that we could sit down and rest after a busy day touring London. My dad regretted making that decision not too long after he made it.

The subway was already pretty full when we got on, so my mom and I and the rest of my siblings found seats but my dad had to stand up for the ride. My dad held baby Danny on his shoulder with his back to the emergency stop handle. That

was not a good idea. The subway hadn't gone very far, but it was already at its full speed when Danny noticed a strange, red handle on the wall. He reached his chubby, little, baby hand up and pulled the emergency stop handle down. SCREEEEEEEEEEEECH!!!!!! The subway we were riding in came to a standstill.

When my dad realized what had happened, his face turned beet red and I could see the sweat break out on his forehead and trickle down his face. Everyone else in the subway car that we were riding in was horrified at what my little brother had done. I thought my dad was going to die from embarrassment when he noticed that most of the passengers were staring at our family with their mouths wide open! My mom judiciously moved as far away from my dad, baby brother and the rest of our family as she possibly could, but the empty stroller she had in her hands impli-



cated her as part of our family.

As the conductor made his way back to our car, we could hear his footsteps grow louder and louder as he approached. He opened the door and immediately asked what the emergency was. When he found out what had happened, he started laughing! He was very surprised that it was a baby who pulled the emergency stop handle because it is not an easy thing to do. Before he went back to the front of the subway so that he could start it up once again, he jokingly told my dad (who was still very, very red) to keep the "kid on steroids" away from the emergency stop handle.

After that little episode, we walked for the rest of the trip. Later on that evening, we realized that when my baby brother, Danny, pulled the emergency stop handle, he didn't just stop the subway our family was in, he must have stopped every subway on that track! He stopped nearly every subway in London! Our family's vacations are rather exciting, wouldn't you agree?

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England con't from page 7

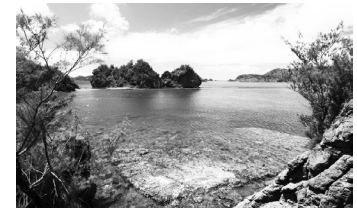
be hard, but it is extremely rewarding in the end. The chance to study in another country, while at the same time absorbing the different cultures surrounding them is a great opportunity for not only a college student but a great chance for anyone. Ginsberg said he can't wait to leave America and see what other parts of the world have in store for him.



Featured Writing: Contest Entries

Family Vacation Story

Temple By the Sea



Dana, 8 years old
East Setauket, NY

As I waved good-bye from the plane, I couldn't escape the slimy feeling when a boa constrictor in Zoo Cancun wrapped around my neck, and the chill of excitement when I rocked a baby alligator in my arms and posed beside a giant lizard for a photo-shoot.

We visited the Walled City, Tulum. Walking on its beach, I looked up to my mom on the cliff and suddenly there it was: the Temple of Kukulkan that has stood proud and tall next to the shining Caribbean for thousands of years.

It is no doubt the highlight of this Mexico trip.

Visit www.citykidzworld.com to find out how you can participate in writing contests!

Why I Love My Best Friend

Brandon, 3rd grade
Trenton, NJ

I love my friend because I don't have to ask him "Can you keep a secret?" We can talk about growing up, how life is going to be, if it is going to be hard or easy. My friend's name is Antonio. He taught me how to pop a back flip in the air. We can keep stuff in common a lot. Also, he can keep me company and he's funny. He's no joke. He goes to the same school I go to, but we're not in the same class. He is a fun person to be around, a nice person.

I have another best friend. His name is Poucus. He's funny too. He has a cell phone with Michel's songs on it. I love Michel's songs a lot. His phone is blue with a blue tooth on it. He does his mouth like a circle. He has curly hair a lot. Them two boys are nice too. I mean nice. When I need something from them I get it too. When I need some food or money I get it from them. When my Mom needs to go somewhere and I need a place to stay I sleep over there because they let me. Also I get to play their X Box 360 because they let me. When I get into a fight they help me get out of it. Also, when I need to go somewhere they take me there. Like when I was in the hospital they prayed for me to live because I could not see at all so they prayed for me.

The Only Thing You Have To Lose Is Your Heart

Right now there is a little child overseas who needs a caring person like YOU...a sponsor who will help provide her with essentials such as medical care, clothing, emergency food and educational assistance.

Find out how to be that sponsor – with no cost and no obligation. Just ask for your FREE Information Kit, and you'll get a color photo and personal history of one child who needs your love. You don't have to say "yes" to sponsorship now...all you have to say is "maybe."



**Call for your FREE
Information Kit today!**

1-877-212-5716

A humanitarian organization serving children since 1936.
Financial report readily available upon request.



Contest Section

City Kidz World offers a comprehensive academic contest program for the year.

You receive a participation certificate for every submission and if you participate in at least 5 contests, you get a special City Kidz World Scholar certificate at the end the academic year!

With every entry, please include:

- Your permission slip (if you are under 13). *Use the permission slip in the magazine or use the link to download your permission slip at www.citykidzworld.com*
- Contact information
- Entry

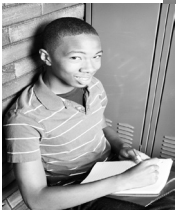
Submission options include:

By mail:

P.O. Box 5294
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

By e-mail

contests@citykidzworld.com



Permission Form

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Home Address: _____
City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Sponsor (Teacher or Community Leader): _____

Phone: _____

I give permission for him/her to participate in the activities of City Kidz World magazine writing contests titled _____, including

consent to release photos and personal information for media and promotional purposes.

Parent/Guardian _____

Phone _____

COPPA Compliance

This permission slip must be included with the entries of every child under 13. It may be scanned and e-mailed to contests@citykidzworld.com or send to P.O. Box 5294, Kendall Park, NJ 08824. Personal information will be used to notify winners and send participation certificates and will only be used by City Kidz World magazine.

Contest Listings

Photo Contest

Take a Winter Landscape Photo

Ages: 7-21
Categories
7-9
10-13
14-21



Deadline: Dec. 1, 2009
Submit your entry to:
contests@citykidzworld.com

With submissions include permission slip if under 13.

Prize: Receive a portrait from Marc Skinner Photographic Services.
Photo will be published in *City Kidz World* magazine and at www.citykidzworld.com

Marc Skinner
PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES
Advertising/Weddings/Portraits
908-692-3933 marcskinner@gmail.com

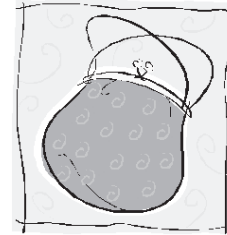


Calling all Aspiring Illustrators ENTER A PURSE DRAWING Contest!

Draw a picture of one of the purses described in the story, "In My Mama's Purse" on page 14 by children's author E. O. Johnson. Seven winning "purse" drawings will be featured in the upcoming book

Mama's Purse

Deadline to enter - June 6, 2010



Draw a design for your dream bedroom.

Label all of the furniture and accessories

Deadline Sept. 30, 2009

Ages: 7 -21

See more submission details at
www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Imagine Your Future Contest

Deadline: Nov. 15, 2009

Ages: 7-21

See more submission details at
www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Big Universe®

Big Universe® is an award-winning web community devoted to beautiful children's picture books, online; teachers, students, parents, authors, and others can share and learn while they enjoy this educational and entertaining website. Contact us at info@biguniverse.com.

More Contests!

Holiday Tradition Story

Write an informative essay about your favorite holiday tradition of the year.

Deadline Nov. 10, 2009

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php

Valentine's Day Short Story contest

Deadline Feb. 14, 2010

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Spring photo essay contest

Submit a jpeg file or a real photograph

Deadline April 15, 2010

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Best recipe contest

Deadline: April 30, 2010

Ages 7-21

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Mayor for the day writing contest

Create a fictitious village. Describe the village and write a short story about what you would do there if you were the mayor there for the day.

Deadline May 1, 2010

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Car of the future Design Contest

Design the car of the future.

Deadline May 5, 2010

Ages 7-21

See more submission details at

www.citykidzworld.com/contests.php



Family Travel Story Short Tale Contest

Do you have a travel story from the summer to share? Send it in to City Kidz World magazine!

Deadline July 15, 2010

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words



Puppy Dog Story

Do you have a favorite puppy dog story to share?

You love your puppy and have many exciting stories to tell about his or her antics. We would love to hear them.

Deadline July 30, 2010

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words



Write about why you love your bestfriend.

Deadline Aug. 1, 2010

2nd -3rd grade – 100 words

4th -5th grade – 200 words

6th – 8th grade – 250

High School – 500 words

Draw the Space colony of the future

You may create the picture using any type of tools.

Deadline Aug.5, 2010

Ages 7-21



Great Contest!

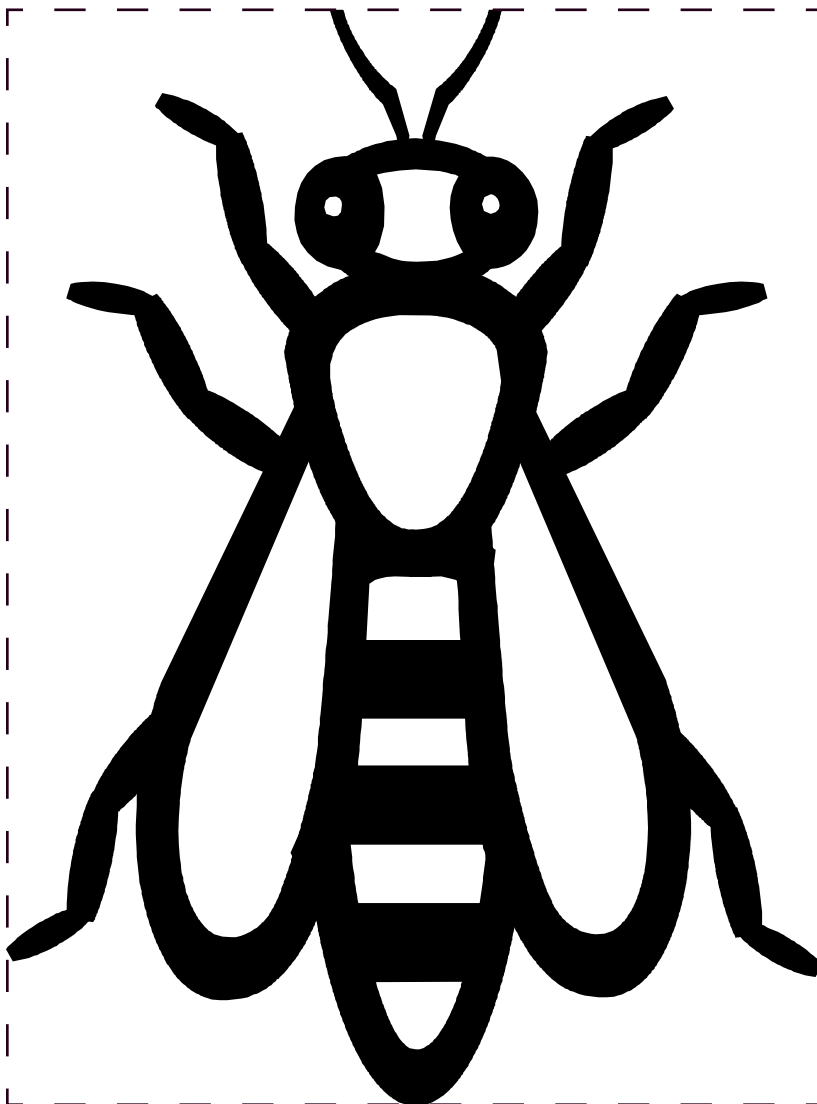
Enter to win a Bumble Bell!



Bumble Bells™
treasure every single jingle

Color For Mommy and the Baby!

Do you have a baby brother or sister to whom you would love to give a set of Bumble Bells?
Color the picture, send it in, and you *may* win a set of Bumble Bells.



Send your picture to:

P.O. Box 5294
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

Include:

Name _____

Contact information _____

Permission Slip (Find it on page ___ or
download it from _____).

What is a Bumble Bell?

It all started when a Mommy took a trip to Thailand. She saw a little boy toddling around in beautiful silver anklets with tiny bells on them. Everywhere he went, his parents could hear him toddling. And that sweet sound of his bumbling footsteps made Mommy swear that when she had a baby, she would procure herself a pair of those adorable anklets.

Mommies: "Where can I get those?"

It is this question that set the Mommy on a mission to bring Bumble Bells to babies everywhere. They are safe, beautiful and above all, practical. You'll never misplace your baby again!



For Aspiring Illustrators! See Page 11 For The Purse Drawing Contest!

IN MY MAMA'S PURSE



By E.O. Johnson

My name is Kelli and my mama loves purses. She likes them big. She likes them small. Some are short and others are tall. She likes purses in the winter, spring, summer and fall. Mama's purses are thick and thin and she uses them again and again. She takes one to church and one to work. She takes one for shopping and another for walking the halls at school. Mama's purses come in all shapes, colors and sizes, but the best part is this: the hidden treasures! Would you like to hear about them? Want to see what's inside my mama's purses?

Mama's **Monday** purse is minty green. It has mini handles and makes noise when it closes. Snap-click, snap-click, Snap-click. Inside, she takes money for lunch and a manual for work. She takes pens, pencils and plenty of workday things. It sits on the kitchen floor, so it'll be right there as she walks out the door.

Mama's **Wednesday** purse is snow white with red stripes. It matches her raincoat and rainbow, rubber boots. When we go to the car wash, she takes out coins from her purse to make sure we have enough to finish the wash. Swish-swash. Swish-swash. She also has a wallet with a wad of coupons for the mid-week specials at the grocery store down the street.

Mama's **Friday** purse is French vanilla with fancy frills. It has a tiny pearl handle and thin straps that fits on mama's shoulder when she goes out to dinner. When she opens and closes it, it goes snap, snap, snap. Inside, there's a makeup mirror that lights up. Mama's Friday purse always sits on the dinner table near a tiny table vase with a tea rose inside.

Tuesday's purse is tremendously tall. Inside, she takes tickets so she can catch the train. Slip, clunk. Slip, clunk. It even has tokens, so she can buy a cup of coffee at the machine in the lobby. This purse takes up a lot of space near her desk at work. To tell the truth, this purse is just talented because it can carry a ton of workday things.

Thursday's purse is truly smart. It has tremendous pockets and two, crooked handles. And guess what? It looks like a tarantula and weighs a ton! She takes this purse to her afternoon class with notebooks, pens and other things. Sometimes, she takes her tennis racket, towel and balls and stuffs them inside the deep pockets that hide on the sides. So, when class is over she can take to the tennis court. Whop! Whop!

Saturday's purse is yellow, orange, pink and gold. She takes it to the shopping mall and carries her keys, candy, and a can of spray that smells good, too. Sniff. Sniff. Sniff. This purse is my favorite because it has room for all my favorite things: hair bows and dolly's clothes. Even scissors, sandals and stuff for the beach!

*And at last, there's my mama's **Sunday** purse. It's silver and sits high on the shelf, sparkling like the sun, even on a shady day. It stands out from the other purses and gets lots of applause. Clap, clap, clap.*

Inside, mama has sticks of gum, strawberry mints and a silk scarf that rests on the bottom. This purse is oh so special and it stays in the closet until Sunday mornings.

My mama loves all her purses. I do too. I have a purse for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Just like mama's. Would you like to see what's inside?

Use Your Imagination to Draw the Purses for the Contest! See the Details on Page 11.

Contest Entries

My Puppy Dog Story

Shraiy, 5th Grade
Pennington, NJ

My essay is about my wonderful puppy. I challenge you to see whose puppy has better antics. My puppy's name is Dark Night. He got his name from the color of his fur. Dark Night is 10 years old. He's 2 feet 3 inches. And he has 4 powerful legs.

Dark Night has some very funny behaviors. Like every time he hears music he tries to tap his tail and paws to the rhythm. Although he always messes up, he keeps trying. He's sometimes right and other times he isn't.

Dark Night has some strange behaviors too. Like once we were taking a walk when we saw a cat. I thought I was doomed. Because I thought he would start

chasing the cat. So I tightened my grip on the leash, but Dark Night just growled and continued walking. So when we got home I gave him 5 dog biscuits as a reward.

Dark Night has some annoying behaviors as well. Like yesterday when he growled at a fierce looking dog. The annoying part is that he never growls at puppy dogs and only at fierce looking dogs. I just hope we never meet a bulldog.

Dark Night has some silly behaviors too. Such as once when we were playing fetch. The ball was going straight for

his face. So he ducked and the ball hit him on the tail causing him to stand straight up in alarm. And then the ball rolled on his tail and fell off his back.

I just hope Dark Night and I are always by each other's side.



City Kidz World magazine

@ www.citykidzworld.com

Offers:

- Free online writing classes
- Free downloadable coloring pictures
- Updated Contests Listings
- Fiction
- Message Boards
- Feature Articles



Why I Love

My Best Friend

Shraiy, 5th Grade
Pennington, NJ

My essay will be about why I love my best I bet your best friend isn't better than mine! My best friend's name is Jushwanth (Ju-shu-wanth). Jushwanth lives on Vista Drive. That's two streets from my house. Jushwanth and me have been friends for 2 ½ years. Our friendship started seven months after I moved to Pennington.

Some qualities about my friend Jushwanth are that he is really good at playing soccer. He always takes lessons and practices with his dad. He also has very powerful legs to help him run and kick. I hope I'm as good as him in karate, golf, and tennis.

He is also very funny. He always tells me the funniest jokes or scenes he has seen. He once told a joke that had to do with dinosaurs alive today.

He is also very creative. He can place boundaries and bases like a magician. It looks almost perfect. Like when we play doge ball he places the boundaries in the perfect location.

He always plays with caution around 0-4 year old children. I have seen him move the game to a different location if the game can still be played. If not the game stops.

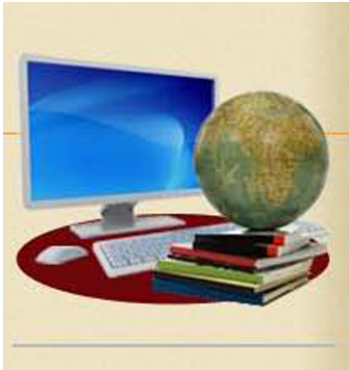
I love my friend Jushwanth because he always plays with me in the park. Like every time I go to the park he always comes out too.

Here are some things Jushwanth and me enjoy doing together. He helps me and I help him. We both enjoy doing math. And we both like to play sports.

I just hope our friendship lasts forever.

Find a contest listings at
www.citykidzworld.com

<http://www.e3america.com/>



Edwards Educational Enterprises Inc. Services Offered

Curriculum audits/planning
Contract negotiations
Faculty workshops
Insurance and Actuary studies
School board and Superintendent workshops/retreats
Superintendent searches
Health services audits/planning
Principal workshops
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Student and family crisis intervention
Demographics studies/planning

Finance workshops
Human Resources audits/planning
Facilities studies/planning
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Principal searches
Public relations/planning
Student discipline policy
Publications and newsletters
School board policy development
Food service privatization
Web site development and maintenance

Edwards Educational Enterprises Inc. and its associates have combined to cover a wide array of professional services that are needed in all K-12 educational settings.

Contact Information

4N681 Mountain Ash - Wayne, Illinois 60184
630-204-4346

630-204-4346
email: Medwards66@sbcglobal.net

Central Jersey Activities Guide

Middlesex and Mercer Counties

What: Historic Village of Old Bridge
Where: 28 Kossman Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
When: September 26 from 10 a.m.-5p.m.
Contact: 732-257-8825

It's an annual street fair that includes antique and collectible vendors, handcrafts, food vendors, tours of historic village, East Brunswick Museum. Also a Pack 223-Cub Scouts 2nd Annual Soap Box Derby race.

What: Old Bridge Day 2009
Where: Old Bridge Civic Center parking lot off Cottrell Road
When: October 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Contact: 732-721-5600
 Old Bridge Township's annual festival with activities for people of all ages

What: Rutgers Gardens
Where: 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
When: October 16, 23, and 30 from 1p.m.-6 p.m.
Contact: 732-932-8451, URL: rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/farmmarket.htm
 The mission of the Rutgers Gardens Farmers Market is to provide the local community with the opportunity to experience and purchase fresh, locally green grown and/or prepared healthy food products.

What: Family Time-All ages
Where: Old Bridge Public Library- Route 516 and Cottrell Road
When: All year on Tuesday at 7p..m. and Saturday at 11a.m.
Contact: 732-721-5600 URL: www.oldbridgelibrary.org
 Parents come together with their young children and read to them and other children as well.

What: The Imperial Music Center
Where: 48 Appleby Avenue, South River, NJ 08882
When: September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 13
Contact: 732-280310 URL: www.theimperialmusiccenter.com
 Families are able to sit back while listening to live music from professional musicians.

What: Rutgers Gardens
Where: 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
When: October 16, 23, and 30 from 1p.m.-6p.m.
Contact: 732-932-8451, URL: rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/farmmarket.htm
 The mission of the Rutgers Gardens Farmers Market is to provide the local community with the opportunity to experience and purchase fresh, locally green grown and/or prepared healthy food products.

What: Fall 2009 New Jersey Film Festival.
Where: 43 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
When: September 4-November 7
Contact: 732-932-8482, URL: www.njfilm-fest.com, E-mail: NJMAC@aol.com
 It showcases the best in various age films and videos, featuring premiere screenings of international, independent, feature, documentary, and experimental works, seminars, panel discussions, and guest appearances by recognized film and video makers at Rutgers University.

What: American Girl Fashion Show
Where: Forsgate Country Club: 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe, Township, NJ 08831
When: Saturday October 10-two shows: 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday October 11- two Shows: 11a.m. and 3 p.m.
Contact: 609-896-8000, URL: www.sonj.org
 Peek into the past, and then see what's new for special occasions, school, sleep, and play. You'll discover how generations of American girls have used clothing to express their style and personality. Enjoy snacks, favors, fashions, raffle, auction and more! A fun-filled event for American girls, their families, friends—and favorite dolls! All proceeds to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey.

What: The Laurie Berkner Band
Where: State Theatre-15 Livingston Avenue New Brunswick, NJ 08901
When: Sunday, September 13 at 1 p.m.
Contact: URL: www.pajamaprogram.org and StateTheatreNJ.org
 At the concert there will be a collection bin for your donations of pajamas for needy children.

What: Mercer County Italian American Festival
Where: Old Trenton Rd., West Windsor, NJ 08550
When: September 25-27 from noon to 10p.m.
Contact: 609-631-7544, URL: www.ItalianAmericanFestival.com
 The 10th Annual Festival celebrates the rich history and cultural achievements of Italian Americans. The festival includes Italian specialty products; a Heritage Pavilion with art, memorabilia, and historical artifacts; a Cultural Theater with cooking demonstrations and authors; entertainment on two stages including national recording acts; amusement rides; games including bocce; children's entertainment, fireworks.

What: K & S Farm
Where: 831 Windsor Perrineville Road, East Windsor, NJ 08520.
When: The end of September to Halloween. Open: Weekend Pumpkin Picking Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Weekday tours can be Anytime, Haunted Activities Start at 7pm
Contact: 609-758-7817 Email: k_sfarms@juno.com

There will be pumpkins, pumpkin patch-pick in the field, corn maze, haunted corn maze, child-sized hay bale maze, tractor-pulled hay rides, prepicked produce, snacks and refreshment stand, restrooms, picnic area, petting zoo, birthday parties, school. They offer schools/youth group pumpkin picking Haunted Corn Maze and Hayrides Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

What: Lee Turkey Farm
Where: 201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ
When: Open: May - December, Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Contact: 609-448-0629

The farm includes hay rides; walking tours, corn maze, and oven-ready. Apples, cherries, nectarines, peaches, beans, peas, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, eggplant, peppers, broccoli, pumpkins, other vegetables, flowers
 Open There is also a roadside marketing with apples, cucumbers, cabbage, fruits, vegetables. Apple Varieties: Cortland, Empire, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Jonagold, Red Delicious, Stayman/Winesap.

Central Jersey Activities Guide

Middlesex and Mercer Counties

What: COOLSPRING CORN MAZE

Where: 330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

When: Thursday September 18-Sunday November 1. Times: Thursday and Friday 5 p.m. - 11p.m., Saturday from 1p.m. - 11 p.m., and Sunday from 1p. m. - 6 p.m.
Contact: 724-699-3221

This year's maze features a pirate ship in a 10 acre corn field. Explore the maze with your own treasure map.

What: Terhune Orchards Apple Festival

Where: 330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

When: September 19 and 20 from 10a.m.-5p.m.

Contact: 609-924-2310, URL: www.terhune-orchards.com

There will be farm activities, and the Daisy Jug Band will be performing. Fresh apple pies, juicy roast pork, fresh apple cider and apple cider donuts will be sold. Some activities include wagon rides, pony rides, face painting, pumpkin painting, and make your own scarecrow.

What: Author! Author! - Book Festival for authors

Where: 301 N Harrison St, Princeton, NJ 08540

When: September 19 from 10a.m.-5p.m.

Contact: 609-279-2121, URL: www.chicklet-books.com

Authors, food, storytellers, clowns, demonstrations, seminars and more will be taking place at this free family event.

What: Walking Tall Charities Wlkathon

Where: Mercer County Park

When: October Saturday 24 at 10 a.m.

Contact: Stacey Halvorsen, 609-298-9160
 Residents from Mercer County join together for a picnic with your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

What: Fall Family Fun Weekends on the Farm

Where: Terhune Orchards: 330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

When: October 10 and 11 from 10a.m.-5p.m.
Contacts: 609-924-2310, URL: www.terhuneorchards.com

There will be pick-Your-Own Apples and Pumpkins. There will be pony rides, wagon rides, corn stalk maze, and barn yard farm animals. Some food available includes: soup, chili, hot dogs, pies, apple cider donuts, apple cider, and more. Terhune Orchards will also feature live music played by some of their best local talent.

What: Read & Pick

Where: 330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

When: Tuesday, September 29-9:30am session & 11 a.m. session & October 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 11a.m.

Contact: 609-924-2310, URL: www.terhune-orchards.com

It's a program that combines picking crops with your young child and listening to a story about that crop. Parents and young children (age's preschool to 8 years) are invited. Two books about corn will be read. Then everyone gets to pick their own bunch of decorative Indian corn. The staff will explain how corn grows and how it should be picked.

What: WPST Canine Costume Contests

Where: Mercer County Park

When: Saturday-October 31: 12pm-4pm

Contact: 609-419-0300

Some Pet owner's dress up their animals while showing them up off to other pet owners and an audience.

What: Family Pajama Story time and Craft

Where: South Brunswick Public Library-110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction NJ 08852 in room 1 and 2

When: September 23 at 7p.m.
Contact: 732-329-4000

Get ready for bed in a special way. Join us for songs, stories, and craft before going to sleep. (Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas.)

What: Windsor Farm and Market

Where: 1202 Windsor Road, Windsor, NJ 08550

When: Open: Hayrides to the Pumpkin Patch: Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm; Haunted Hayrides: Friday to Sunday, 7p.m. - 10 p.m. Halloween/Pumpkins/Mums: Next to last week in September through Last week in October; Christmas/Winter Holiday: Last week in November through Christmas Eve.
Contact: 609-443-9379 Email: info@windsorfarmandmarket.com

The farm includes the following activities: pumpkins, other fruit or vegetable, pre-picked produce, gift shop, snacks and refreshment stand, restrooms, picnic area, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, farm animals, birthday parties, school tours.

What: Giamarese Farm

Where: 155 Fresh Pond Road, East Brunswick, NJ.

When: May 1 - December 23, Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Contact: 732-821-9494 Email: webmaster@3icon.com

There is a roadside market with strawberries, peas, lettuce; raspberries, peaches, apples, assorted beans, tomatoes, plum tomatoes, peppers, melon, citrus bananas plums, cherries grapes honey okra, and pumpkins. Also Available: free hay rides on weekends in October; education farm tours (September and October); corn maze; Indian corn, jams; jellies; milk; bread; Christmas trees (6 varieties); baked goods; Halloween & Christmas decorations.

Who: Habiak Farms

Where: 315 Deans Rhode Hall Road, South Brunswick, NJ

When: Open: Weekends in October (pumpkins); weekends in December (Christmas trees), October Weekends 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., December Weekends. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contract: 732-297-0751

Pumpkins, Gourds, Jack-B-Littles, Christmas Trees

Also Available: Pumpkins, Gourds, Jack-B-Littles, Christmas Trees, Corn Stalks, Straw, Choose & Cut Christmas Trees, Wreaths,

Grave Blankets.



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Central Jersey Activities Guide

Middlesex and Mercer Counties

What: Heritage Day XXVII

Where: Babbage Park for the festival and North Brunswick Township High School- 98 Raider Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902 for the fireworks display.

When: September 26, Rain Date September 27, 2009

The Annual Heritage Day Festival is North Brunswick's day to celebrate ethnic diversity & historic traditions with an outdoor festival which includes great food, crafts, games, music & entertainment. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Fireworks & Concert in the evening.

What: Scarecrows in the Village

Where: 16 Gordon Avenue Lawrenceville, New Jersey

When: Sunday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Contact: www.lawrencevillemainstreet.com
Residents decorate the Village of Lawrenceville with scarecrows they made themselves for Halloween.

A resource and communication
voice for disabilities!

<http://focusingthevoice.com>
focusingthevoice@rogers.com
519-281-0053
Renée MacLachlan

What: Friendly Ghost Flashlight Tour

Where: 10 Palmer Square East Princeton, New Jersey 08542

When: Saturday September 12 from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Saturday October 10 from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Thursday October 29 from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Saturday November 7 from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Saturday November 28 from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Contact: www.princeton.tourcompany.com, 609-921-7500

This tour is designed for Pre-K thru 2nd grade kids. Think scavenger hunt meets interesting stories about past Princeton greats. Princeton has more friendly ghosts than any other town in the United States. The first stop is the ghost of George Washington who leaves the first clue and Albert Einstein is the final friendly ghost of this tour.

Little Journeys Baby World
Little Journeys World, LLC
www.littlejourneysbabyworld.com

Owner: Caroline Riepler
Tel: 970 779-0382

What: Halloween Ghost Tour

Where: 98 Nassau Street - in front of Starbucks and Hamilton Jewelers, Princeton, New Jersey

When: October 31 at 2 p.m.

Contact: Princeton Tour Company 609-902-3637

Princeton has a vast history of paranormal activity. This biking tour takes you through the cemetery, past haunted residences, and merchant establishments who claim to have an active ghost.

What: The Laurie Berkner Band

Where: 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey

When: September 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact: When: September 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Hear a performance by award-winning, best selling children's music superstars and NOGGIN channel favorites The Laurie Berkner Band. Their intelligent songwriting, captivating vocals and infectious melodies have won not only legions of little fans, but also parents, who enjoy the music as much as their kids.

Greater New Jersey and Beyond

What: Walktober: In the Footsteps of the Hale Children

Where: Nathan Hale Homestead- 2299 South Street Coventry, Connecticut

When: October 12 at 1 p.m.

Contact: Visit www.ctlandmarks.org or call (860)-742-6917

Children ages 6 and up are invited to experience a day-in-the-life of their 18th-century counterparts as they participate in their chores, school, and leisure activities.

What: Fall Harvest Festival

Where: Downtown Allentown, New Jersey

When: October 10 and 11, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: Call (609)-208-2992

Artists, crafters, food, live bands, antique car show, petting zoo, pony rides, civil war encampment, and more.

What: Fish Hatchery Fall Fair

Where: Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium- 1660 Route 25A-Cold Spring Harbor, New York

When: October 24 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Visit www.cshfha.org or call (516)-692-6768 Exhibits, kid's games and fishing

What: Bellmore Street Festival

Where: Bellmore Railroad Station- Sunrise Highway and Bedford Bellmore, New York

When: October 15 to 18, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Contact: Call (516)-679-1875

Come to the largest street festival on Long Island. There's something for everyone. Character parade, craft expo, sports expo, demonstrations of all sorts, car show, international foods, and entertainment rides.

What: Ultimate Fitness Challenge

Where: Suffolk Community College-Western Campus Brentwood, New York

When: October 16 to 18

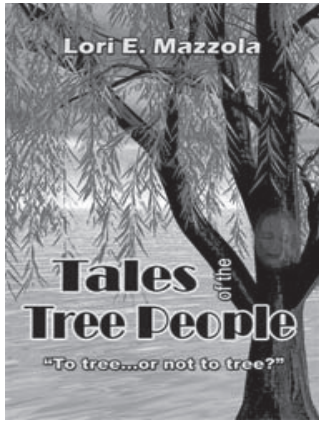
Contact: Visit www.sunysuffolk.edu or call (631)-51-6900

Test your strength and fitness at the Ultimate Fitness Challenge. There are four divisions for male and females. Adult Division is 18 years and older, High School Division 14 to 17 years of age, Middle School Division 10 to 13 years of age, and Elementary Division ages up to 9 years. Some featured events are the 40 yard dash, vertical jump, sit-ups, and push-ups.



Book Reviews: Elementary

Tales of the Tree People Combines Spirituality with Creativity



By Missy Murray

In *Tales of the Tree People*: "To tree...or not to tree?", Lori E. Mazzola wastes no time jumping into a plotline.

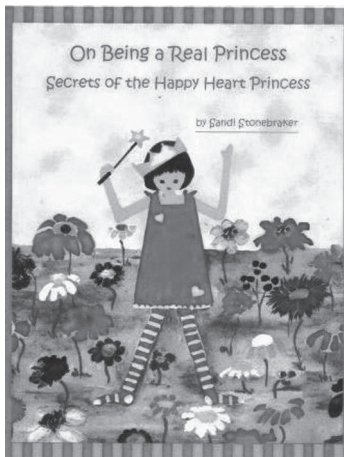
We are immediately introduced to two well developed human characters and a tree woman. The author

quickly sketches out a storyline that will involve other worlds and magical powers. Lovers of fantasy will delight in this quick read, with colorful language and scenery.

The theme of saving the nature is certainly woven into the fabric of the fantasy. This is an especially timely subject, as global greening is being adopted across the world. A short novel, the book is intended to be read aloud in a family setting.

Find *Tales of the Tree People*: "To tree...or not to tree?" at www.PublishAmerica.com for \$16.95.

On Being a Real Princess Reveals the Keys to Happiness

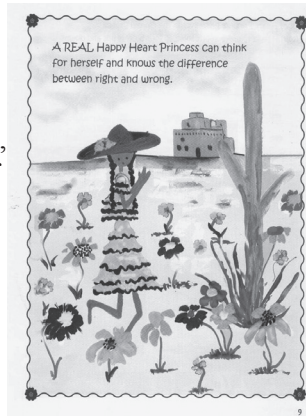


By Missy Murray

In *On Being a Real Princess: Secrets of the Happy Heart Princess*, author Sandi Stonebraker uses princesses from all over the world to teach readers the ideal behaviors practiced by young women. It is done simply and poetically, with colorfully multicultural illustrations ranging from

the Alaskan Eskimo princess to the African princess. We are all princesses when we are intelligent, kind, thoughtful, and a plethora of other traits enviable traits, seems to be the message. An added feature to the book is the worksheet included on every other page in which Stonebraker asks readers to identify where the princess lives and also asks readers to write about their own experiences as princesses. This book is both a pleasant read and a great teaching tool.

Be the first reader to submit a reader review for <http://www.citykidzworld.com/review.php> and review a free, autographed copy of *On Being a Real Princess: Secrets of the Happy Heart Princess!*

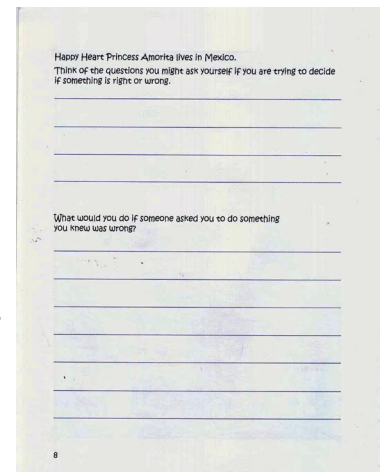


Inside: One of the Happy Heart Princesses.

Send your review to contests@citykidzworld.com.

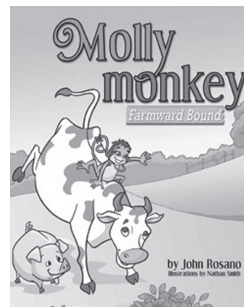
On Being a Real Princess: Secrets of the Happy Heart Princess, by Sandi Stonebraker is available at www.HappyHeartPrincess.com. \$12.

Sample Workshop page in *On Being a Real Princess*



Local Writer Publishes First Book

By Missy Murray



Local New Jersey author, John Rosano, introduces a delightful character in Molly Monkey in his book *Molly Monkey: Farmward Bound*.

Molly travels from the jungle to the farm, always seeming to find a new way to enjoy bananas. Each line is rhyming, making this a great read aloud story for young children. The attractive, colorful illustrations add to the book's charm. Readers can order this book at www.3inatree.net. \$14.95

For every book purchased, a tree will be planted.

Column

Writer Admirers Skill of Camp R.O.B.I.N. Counselors

By Joseph Lisnow

I woke up earlier than I have in months full of excitement and intrigued with the chance to follow around staff and campers at Camp R.O.B.I.N in Old Bridge, New Jersey. Camp R.O.B.I.N. is program designed specifically for children who have mental disabilities. I remember being 16 and working as a counselor in training (C.I.T.) at one of the local summer camps in Old Bridge. This was my first job, even though I was only getting paid with experience.

I remember how much fun it was to be able to play sports, do arts and craft, and attend field trips with all the kids. I do admit that there were plenty of tough times. Anyone who thinks it's easy to deal with eight to fifteen year olds in the blazing summer heat probably has never worked at a summer camp in their life. I would run into people who worked at Camp R.O.B.I.N. occasionally and always thought how difficult their jobs must be. Well, today I was going to see what it takes to be a counselor at Camp R.O.B.I.N.

As I pulled up to the campsite, a building constructed in Geick Park in Old Bridge, the buses were dropping the campers off. Pete Perro, who is in charge of this said said the camp runs Monday through Friday for six weeks, with the campers attending trips four of these days. The other day the campers stay at the campsite and are broken up into their assigned groups. Then they take part in different 30 minute activities. Today happened to be the day everyone stayed at the campsite.

I tagged along with group nine. There I met Patrick Smith, 19, of Old Bridge, Patrick Torre, 18, of Old Bridge, and Michael DeMarco, 29, of Middletown. They had over 25 years of experience combined working at summer camps.

The first activity of the day was preparing for the upcoming talent show. Outside I watched the campers practicing their routines. They were singing and dancing to 1980's hair metal band songs *I Wanna Rock* by Twisted Sister and *Welcome to the Jungle* by Guns N' Roses. As soon as the practice started the counselors ran into their first problem of the day. Two little boys didn't want to take part in the talent show and refused to practice. It was here that I learned very quickly they you must not

take, "No I won't," as an answer or else the campers will walk all over you. After a pep talk to the two boys they reluctantly agreed to practice the routine. The counselors showed great pride in their work as they didn't sit on the side barking orders out, but were right there in the middle of the practice doing the routine with the campers.

We were off to cooking next. There I met Linda Fox who informed the kids they would be making butterfly shaped biscuits and cocktail franks. The children started by taking Pillsbury biscuits and putting them in a butterfly shape followed by putting sprinkles on top. Next they were each given half a cooked hotdog. This time they were given a piece of Pillsbury and wrapped their hot dog with it, making a giant cocktail frank.

After the food was taken out of the oven each child was able to enjoy what they just created. One of the campers, the same boy who didn't want to take part in the talent show practice, didn't want the food he made. He was persistent that he only wanted cookies. Have being told that there were no cookies he still kept asking with the same results. It was here that I wondered how to handle a situation like this. Do you make him eat the food or drop the problem? Seeing that the boy wasn't going to eat what he prepared and after being asked if he was sure he wasn't going to eat it, the food was thrown out, thus ending another problem.

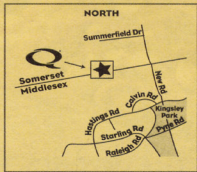
Next I followed group nine to yoga. I myself don't enjoy yoga, but the kids really seemed to get into it after a slow start. Sue Maturo, the yoga instructor, started the kids off doing nice slow breaths before moving on to stretching. I could tell the campers were getting restless with the yoga as they wouldn't stay on their mats. I thought that this wasn't the most exciting part of the day for the children, but then Maturo put on yoga music and the

campers jumped right into the music. As the music played, the only words that were in English was the phrase "I am happy. I am good." I don't know what it was about that song, but the children loved it. Not only were they doing the exercises with no complaints, but they were even singing along with all the words-English and other. I have to say that it was amazing how they sat together and all were on key throughout the song.



Read the rest of the story
at <http://www.citykidzworld.com/citystories.php>

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Read about how the Liberia Education Project Is Helping a Community

Liberia Education Project believes education is the key to unlock the potentials of our young people, which are in short supply in Liberia; especially, for those disadvantaged young boys and girls in the towns and villages of rural Liberia who have no hope of ever stepping foot into a classroom.

The organization is established to provide quality and affordable education to needy children and adults in Liberia.

During the past year the group has gathered school supplies and shipped three barrels to Liberia with the help of several

churches and schools in the USA. Students of three selected schools in three different counties will benefit from these supplies.

The Liberia Education Project's next step is to work to provide the life changing education to the needy and forgotten children in the villages and street corners of Liberia. The Liberia Education Project, Inc. seeks support and funding to accomplish school construction and renovation, provide educational materials/supplies to needy schools and students, seek funding for scholarship opportunities for deserving students and teachers, conducting

adult literacy programs, conduct teacher training programs, community health education, conducting vocational training, and provide safe drinking water for schools and communities/villages. If you're interested in providing assistance to the Liberia Education Project please visit <http://www.liberiaeducationproject.org/donations.html>.

Liberia Education Project, Inc. offers the following services:

- School construction and renovation.
- Providing educational materials/supplies to needy schools and students.
- Seeks funding for scholarship opportunities for deserving students and teachers.
- Conducts adult literacy programs.
- Conducts teacher training programs.
- Community health education.



- Conducts vocational training.
- Provides safe drinking water for schools and communities.



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