

THE BUZZ LETTER

April 2010



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Happy Easter - April 4th

April National Events

1, April Fools' Day. Celebrated on various dates since medieval times, it features harmless jokes/deceptions.

1-30, Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month. The theme: "Go Orange for Animals." Web: www.aspca.org.

10, National Siblings Day. To appreciate brothers and sisters and honor the memory of those no longer living. Web: www.siblingsday.org.

22, Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. About 17 million adults took them to work in 2009. Web: www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org.

25-30, National Playground Safety Week. A playground accident in the U.S. occurs every 2 1/2 minutes. Web: www.playgroundsafety.org.

What's new for BKW

We've been adding to the new Fun Ways to Learn category (see right menu):

- **Lapbooking** - One really great way to learn about another country (*Geography*)
- **Interactive Storytelling** - this requires a group of students, one leader, and one student who can type or write really fast! The group comes together so each can contribute to the story they are writing. (*English Composition*)
- **Online Scavenger Hunt** - Practice your *Math* by going on a quest ... all to prove *learning* can be fun!

April 1, a time of tomfoolery

Call it April Fools Day or the Day of Tomfoolery, April 1 can bring out the prankster in most of us. The trick can be as small as changing the time on someone's clock, serving cereal that has been placed in the freezer, saying a snake is at their feet or telling someone there is a spot on their shirt.

But hoaxes can also be elaborate and catch the world by surprise. Over the years, many have gained "elite" status.

- In 1957, the BBC show Panorama announced that Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop from their spaghetti trees. Accompanying footage showed spaghetti strands being pulled out of the trees. Calls flooded in asking where the viewers could obtain a "spaghetti tree." 'Tis said a wit at the BBC said callers could place a strand of spaghetti in tomato sauce and see what happened.
- One year, Burger King ran an ad for a Left Handed Whopper whose ingredients had been shifted so condiments would leak out the right side. Not only did people attempt to order the Left Handed Whopper but some customers came in and specified they wanted a Right Handed Whopper.
- Comic strips often join in the April Fools' Day fun. Cartoonists of syndicated strips will draw each other's strips or incorporate "visiting" characters into their own. In one strip, Garfield ate Dagwood's sandwich.
- TV shows are not immune. In 1997, Alex Trebek, host of Jeopardy, traded places with Pat Sajak of Wheel of Fortune. Sajak and Vanna White then played as contestants on their own show.
- In 2005, a news story was downloaded to the official NASA Web site announcing a picture of water on Mars. The photo consisted of a glass of water on a Mars candy bar.

CHALK TALK

A new 'Heroic Age' to begin at Marvel Comics

After seven years of grim tales, Marvel Comics will illustrate more optimistic heroes beginning in May.

These characters will be true heroes again. They will be good guys. The change begins with a re-launch of Avengers #1, which reunites Iron Man, a reborn Captain America and Thor as comrades rather than enemies.

The entrance of these swashbuckling heroes has been in the works for two years and constitutes a return to the "Marvel Universe."

Though Disney recently purchased Marvel for \$4 billion, Iron Man 2 and other Marvel films were already on the way. Disney had nothing to do with the revamp to the super characters being the good guys.

The heroes will have to be great in order to deal with "hellish villains," say the publishers. In all, ten heroes are included in the new comic book series. In addition to Iron Man, Captain America and Thor, Spider-Man, the Hulk and Silver Surfer are included.

At this point, we think avid collectors, like Sheldon and his pals on TV's The Big Bang Theory, will approve. They're good guys, too.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Kids say the darnedest things!

School

What people write on desks can teach you a lot.

All the bad things I've heard about algebra are true.

When I try to be nice to my teachers, my friends think I'm kissing up.

If you get a bad report card on a Friday, wait until Sunday night to ask your parents to sign it.

Ever notice when teachers are mad, they don't blink.

Parents should come with instructions.

You should never wear a red shirt with black polka dots because your friends will call you a lady bug.

No matter what I do, my mom can always tell when I'm lying.

When your mom is mad at your dad,

don't let her brush your hair.

You should never tell your friends your parents' nickname for you or you'll never hear the end of it.

You should not be the first one to fall asleep at a slumber party.

If mom says "no," she means it. If dad says "no," it means maybe.

Brothers are annoying until they get a car.

Friends

When you buy a car for the first time, your number of friends increases dramatically.

If you have true friends, you can get through anything.

You don't miss the old neighborhood until you move away.

Everything is more fun with a friend.

SEASONAL

How about a tree house?

Your kids are begging for one but you wonder what the construction will do to the value of your home.

Fear not. The National Association of Realtors says all types of outdoor spaces have become a big part of curb appeal, including tree houses. Outdoor living spaces attract buyers and can increase the value of a home.

If you have one or more substantial



trees in your yard, you can start planning.

The tree house can range from a model that an adult could also use as a hideaway to a roofless fort accessible by a ladder and guarded by wide boards around the sides. It should be no higher than 7 feet.

If you are handy with tools, you could build it yourself with the plans from www.treehouseguides.com. Always check with the local planning commission for advice and safety requirements.

If you would first like to experience a tree house, go on a tree house vacation and check out one of these tree houses. See destination #4 on our Fun Family Vacation Resorts page under Top Ten.

April Fool



A snowfall came on April first
After the buds were out.

The pussy willows shook their heads,
It made the crocus pout.

The bluebirds hopped from branch to
branch,

But never stopped their song;
They knew the snow was just a joke,
And couldn't stay there long!

~ Inez George Gridley

April Project

Paper Easter Bonnets

Your daughters would love a new bonnet to show off at Easter dinner. Sons could make hats that resemble a straw hat. Both would like it even better if they could say they made the hat themselves.

You'll need:

- A good paper plate
- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Glue
- Piece of yarn or ribbon



Decorate as you wish; e.g.,

1. Draw flowers or a graphic of straw on the underside of the brim
2. Glue pieces of pastel paper on top
3. Add or draw colored flowers, bunnies, eggs or circle the brim with wide gros-grain ribbon
4. Cut a hole on each side just big enough for a piece yarn or ribbon, string it in and knot it above the brim of the hat so it won't pull through; tie it under the chin.

Won't Grandma be proud!

~ Kids' Turn Central

Safety Tip

Music without headphones

Bike riders can hear both music and traffic sounds if they attach a Tunebug Shake (www.TunebugShake.com) to their helmets. By Silicon Valley Global, the device attaches to the top of a helmet to beam the sound into the ears without wire. Sound isn't as true as with earbuds, but it's safer.



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