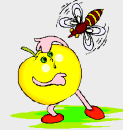




September 2008



# The BuzzLetter



A product of [BuzzingKidsWorld.com](http://BuzzingKidsWorld.com)

## September Project Colorful Inks

### You'll need:

- \* Several water-based, non-permanent felt-tip markers in a variety of colors (black, blue and purple work well)
- \* Cone-shaped white paper coffee filters
- \* Tap water
- \* Baking pan

### Directions:

1. Use the felt-tip markers to make a series of dots (bigger than a pencil eraser) 3/4-1" below the top of the filter.
2. Fill the baking pan with 1/2" of water. Put the filter in the pan with wide end of the filter in the water (Be sure the water doesn't touch the dots).
3. When water has moved up to the top of the filter (in about a half hour) remove filter and let it dry. Do you see any new colors? What happened?



What happened is "chromatography" — an ancient technique used to separate parts of a mixture — in this case, the ingredients of the ink.



## Getting Technical

What is watching us up there?



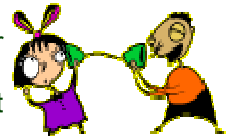
According to Popular Science, there are about 1,600 satellites in orbit around the earth, enough so that at any given moment there are five with a view of our head. Some are there to protect us. There are also lots of satellites that don't do anything any more. Among them is Vanguard 1 which was launched in 1958. It provided the first proof that Earth is not a perfect sphere. Vanguard 1 stopped working in 1964.

## This is National Preparedness Month

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted an emergency preparedness program for children on their Web site at <http://www.fema.gov/> (click on the link to FEMA Kids). The emergency preparedness program, called **Ready Kids** is part of the United States Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* campaign, a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower families to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other emergencies. *Ready Kids* is a tool to help parents and teachers educate children ages eight through twelve about emergencies and how they can help to get their family prepared for disasters. The program has age-appropriate activities and lessons on preparedness and includes the following four steps to assist kids in creating a plan that will help them to be ready for many different kinds of unexpected emergency situations:



1. **Create a kit** by using the family supply list.
2. **Make a plan** using the games and work sheets to help their family figure out the best ways to stay in touch at all times.
3. **Know the facts** by learning what the terms mean for different types of natural disasters and other emergencies.
4. **Graduate from Readiness U** by completing the test of their knowledge about emergency preparedness.



Disaster Connections: Kids to Kids

The FEMA Kids Web page also offers resources for parents and teachers that include activities, a curriculum, and safety information that can be used in the classroom or at home.

*Ready Kids* was developed in consultation with the American Psychological Association, the American Red Cross, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, the National Parent/Teacher Association, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

*Every survivor kit should include a sense of humor.*

## CHALK TALK

### More Protection . . .

**Toxic-sensitive bluegills** are more than a favorite game fish. They help safeguard the water supply in cities that include San Francisco.



A dozen other cities have ordered the Intelligent Aquatic BioMonitoring System at \$45,000 or more according to the Poway, California company that helped design the system for cities and now manufactures it. A similar system was originally developed by the Army to detect toxic substances in municipal water that might be sabotaged by terrorists.

**Bluegills are sensitive** to traces of pesticides, cyanide, mercury phosphate, and other poisons. They react in ways that can be monitored.

**Computers are wired to sensors in the water.** They record elevated heart rates, fish swimming erratically in their tank, or showing other signs of stress. When this happens, the system triggers water sampling and e-mails alerts to water-quality officials. The bluegill system brings to mind the old-fashioned use of canaries to warn miners of dangerous gases in the air. Bluegills are ideal "canaries." They are hardy, prolific, and eat almost anything say scientists at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

In Army tests of 27 toxic substances, bluegills detected them all. The hardy fish can also tolerate big swings in water temperature and oxygen levels. Most other fish can't, according to a report in USA Today.

# THE FRUITS OF SUMMER'S END

*Earth is here so kind, that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest. ~ Douglas William Jerrold*



## And other fruits of summer - FRECKLES

### September

*The breezes taste  
Of apple peel.  
The air is full  
Of smells to feel-  
Ripe fruit, old footballs,  
Burning brush  
New books, erasers,  
Chalk, and such.  
The bee, his hive,  
Well-honeyed hum,  
And Mother cuts  
Chrysanthemums.  
Like plates washed clean  
With suds, the days  
Are polished with  
A morning haze.*

*~ John Updike*

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head.

His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up. "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

## Sting Like a Bee – or Not?

*Don't wear perfume in the garden – unless you want to be pollinated by bees. ~Anne Raver*



Early to mid-fall is the time of year when wasp and bee colonies are at their peak. Entomologists at Purdue University say the bees have worked hard, the queen has reproduced, and colonies are big.

**Honey bees** are rather small, fuzzy, and dark brown. They aren't very aggressive. They're after flowers, not you.

**Yellow jackets** have prominent yellow and black stripes and may be aggravated just to see you in their territory. If you meet one, don't wave your arms or make fast movements. That will only attract more of them.

**Yellow jackets are wasps.** They don't reuse nests the following year. If a nest is up in a tree, don't try to remove it. Just warn people that there is a nest there and not to disturb it. Next year, they won't be in the same place.

At a picnic, keep food and beverages in covered containers until ready to serve so they don't attract bees.

**Never disturb a colony of bees.** Walk away slowly while covering your face to protect sensitive areas.

**If a bee gets into your car,** pull off the road, open the windows, and leave the passenger doors open so the bee can get out. Don't panic.

~

*If nothing is going well, call your grandmother. ~Italian Proverb*

~

## Harvest Moon Lore

The definition of a Harvest Moon is: the full moon closest to the fall equinox. The Harvest Moon was thus named because it rises within a half-hour of when the sun sets. In early days, when farmers had no tractors, it was essential that they work by the light of the moon to bring in the harvest. This year the Harvest Moon falls on **September 15<sup>th</sup>** and is the fullest moon of the year. When you gaze at it, it looks very large and gives a lot of light throughout the entire night.



**No other lunar spectacle is as awesome as the Harvest Moon.**

**Note:** In September, we start to think about the year ending. Have you done everything you wanted to in 2008?

## Get ready for National Grandparents Day



Grandparent's Day

September 7, 2008

**Families were once united** with three to four generations living in the same household. The wisdom of the elders was passed down to succeeding generations by the grandparents who were the historians and advisors. In our newer world, generations may live many miles apart and see each other infrequently.

**Grandparents Day is a step forward in pulling families back together.** There is a reason the official flower

of Grandparents Day is the Forget-Me-Not. With the pace of contemporary living, it is easy to put off a visit, a call, or a card.



**Grandparents want to pass on these values** (according to an AARP Survey): 42 percent want to demonstrate morality and integrity to their grandchildren; 21 percent want to teach ambition. Religion was important to 20 percent of them. Consideration for others was the quality 14 percent of grandparents wanted to teach, and 10 percent felt trustworthi-

ness was most important.

**Honor the grandparents** by making the day special and if they live close enough for a visit, let your children be part of the plan. They can help plan a party menu; even a small child can help in the kitchen perhaps deciding how to set a pretty table.

**Store gifts are nice, homemade gifts are treasured.** One idea is to build a [scrapbook](#) for each set of grandparents (and today there are often more than two sets). Do a few pages then leave some pictures and scrapbooking material for grandparents to add photos and comments.

**Don't have any living grandparents?** Don't let that stop you from celebrating the day. Contact your nearest living assistance facility and ask who never has a visitor. Then visit. Or if you have an elderly neighbor, invite him or her over for an afternoon. This year, make **September 7<sup>th</sup>** a day when someone special is remembered.

**Real Fact: Did you know . . .**  
*There are about 2.5 million children living with grandparents.*