

Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine

Vol. 1; Issue 1 www.kidsholidaycraftsmagazine.com August 2003

KHC Launches New 'Zine

Try these quick fixes
for your shoes

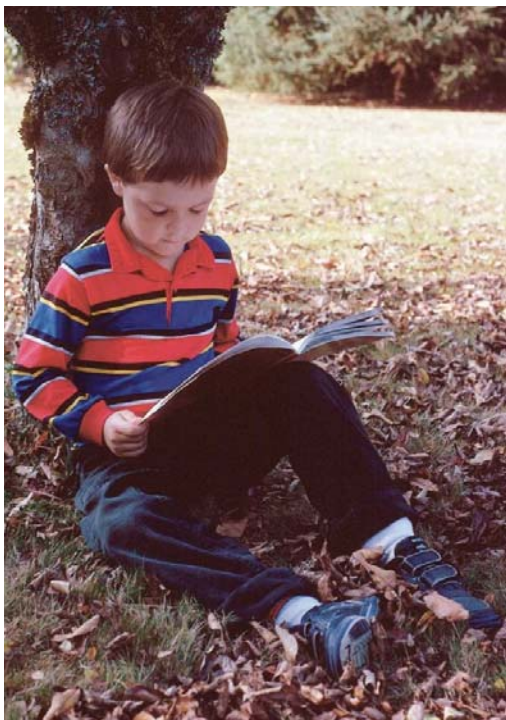
No boring school
supplies this year

Learn about school
bus safety as you
make a cool bus

Read the classic story
"The Tale of
Peter Rabbit"

Basics for buying a
new computer

Decoupage vase
makes a great gift



*Summer is a great time
for reading in the park*

Table of Contents

From the Editor	2
Meet the Writers (<i>adults</i>)	2
Dazzling Shoes on a Shoestring Budget (<i>ages 7 and up</i>)	3
KHC Launches New Magazine (<i>adults</i>)	3
Decorating for Back to School (<i>ages 7 and up</i>)	4
Butter Box Bus Project (<i>ages 4-7</i>)	5
School Bus Safety (<i>all ages</i>)	5
The Tale of Peter Rabbit (<i>ages 4-7</i>)	6
Decoupage Vases (<i>all ages</i>)	8
The Basics of Buying a New Computer (<i>adults</i>)	9
‘Elephant’astic Jokes (<i>all ages</i>)	10
A Beachy Word Search (<i>all ages</i>)	11

Staff

Editor:	Nancy Cavanaugh
Magazine Copy Editors:	Emily Puro Nicole R. Murphy
Website Copy Editor:	Shirley Anne Baker
Website Design:	Nancy Cavanaugh

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From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine!

I hope that this magazine will make a great supplement to my Kids Holiday Crafts website.

Not only will this give me a chance to bring you new and exciting craft ideas but I'll be able to share some favorite children's books, fun stuff like jokes and puzzles, tips and informative articles for adults, and my computer column, Geek Speak.

I have to give a special thanks to Amanda Haar and Karen Lovett. I only met them recently but their help has been amazing. Amanda jumped right in with a fantastic craft story and some quotes to use. Karen has been wonderful on the design side, offering me her insight and experience to help make Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine look the best it can!

Shirley Anne Baker was essential to designing the magazine with her much appreciated direct approach and knowledge of the business.

And I can't forget Owen! He's put up with me creating this new magazine (not always easy!) and provided me with a web server and his computer know-how to make this all possible.

Thanks for stopping by and I look forward to seeing you again next month.

Nancy Cavanaugh



Nancy Cavanaugh is a stay at home mom, writer, crafter and website designer. She lives in northern New Jersey with her 7 year old daughter, boyfriend, Owen, and their five pets.

When she isn't taking care of the house and family, she has four websites that she maintains and is the editor for the Racing Family and Crafty Family sections at Busy Parents Online (www.busyparentsonline.com).

Amanda Haar is the mother of two children, ages 5 and 6 1/2. She has worked as a trade book editor, custom publishing director and creative director for a custom publishing company.

She says, "I can do more with pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks and packing foam than one woman has a right."

Letters to the Editor

If you have something to say about what you've seen here, good or bad, please send us a letter. Send your letters to editor@kidsholidaycrafts.com.

Dazzling New Shoes on a Shoestring Budget



Picture it: it's mid-summer and you're tired of your not-so-new summer shoes already. You can freshen up your boring ole shoes with stuff around the house or that can be inexpensively bought at the craft store. Here are a few ideas.

For those beach sandals, jazz them up with beads, ribbons, buttons, fun foam shapes or anything else you can think of. Just use some tacky glue (or have a parent help you with a hot glue gun) to hold them onto the plastic strap that goes over the top of your foot.

Those plain white sneakers can glitter with fresh color and sparkles. There are some new, funky fabric paints. You can also either glue or sew buttons, beads, ribbons, and fun foam shapes on the shoes.

Just let the glue and paint dry completely before putting them on.

Kids Holiday Crafts Site Launches New 'Zine

After several years of providing free crafts, puzzles, games and more, the creator of Kids Holiday Crafts has branched out into the online magazine world with *Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine*.

Just like the Kids Holiday Crafts website, the goal of the magazine is to provide busy parents, teachers and caregivers with information they need to keep their kids busy and to stay informed. You'll find lots of informative stuff for you and fun stuff to share with your children.

Don't forget to click on the ads to go to the advertiser's site!

Kids Holiday Crafts Mailing List



A free mailing list to talk about kid's crafts, what did and didn't work, and general announcements about the website. No membership needed!

Stay at Home Parents Mailing List

A free mailing list for parents who stay at home with their kids. Chat about life and the trials of being at home, get sanity checks, and make new friends. Come join in on all the fun!





Decorating for Back to School

By Nancy Cavanaugh

It's just about time to start back-to-school shopping. This year, though, when you head to your favorite store for supplies, get some plain stuff that you can personalize when you get home.

Notebooks are probably the easiest. Get a nice hard covered notebook in a plain color. Cover it with your favorite stickers, decals, rub-on transfers, puff paint, markers, etc. Just remember to give your notebook a few days to dry before you start using it!

Backpacks are pretty easy too. From sewing or gluing on buttons and ribbons to decorating with fabric paint and iron-ons, you have many options for making an otherwise boring part of school life into a work of art.

Don't forget your locker. You can make magnets from clay, shrink art, or paper, then glue on a magnet or buy some magnetic tape to stick on the back. You can also make a holder for Post-it notes and a pen so you can jot down phone numbers, important dates, and homework assignments.

Mirrors are essential for between-class hair and make-up checks. You can jazz up your mirror with rub-on transfers or stickers. If it has a frame, you can paint it to match your style. You can use any mirror and glue magnets on the back. Just make sure the magnets are strong enough to hold the mirror!

Tired of those boring ole yellow pencils? Try marbleizing them. Take several colors of oil paints, water, 1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar, scissors, toothpicks, empty milk jug, and empty egg carton.

Clean then cut the top of the milk jug off. Next take the egg carton and flip it upside down so that the eggcups are facing up and make a hole in each one to hold the pencil when you're done.

Fill the milk jug with water, then stir in all of the cream of tartar. Now drop one color of oil-based paint into the water. Repeat this with two or three other colors. Take a toothpick and carefully swirl it around until you like the design on the top.

Carefully dip the pencil in until you reach the edge of the metal part. Blow the paint away from the pencil and pull it out. Place it, eraser side down, into the egg carton to dry. It can take up to an hour to dry completely.

To clean up, take a piece of paper and wipe the rest of the paint off the top of the water then dump the water out. This prevents your sink from being covered with paint or clogged up.

Butter Box Bus Project

By Amanda Haar

School time is almost upon us. For kindergartners, one of the most exciting parts about school is the prospect of riding the bus. This is a fun and easy project you can do with your kids before school starts. It's also an ideal time to talk about school bus safety.

What you need:

- 1 one-pound butter box
- 2 unsharpened pencils
- 1 sharpened pencil
- 4 full-sized thread spools
- Tape

Crayons or paint

Directions:

1. Carefully tear the butter box open at the seam. Flatten the box so the white inside is facing up. The center panel with the large flap will be the top of the bus. The two adjacent panels without flaps will be the sides of the bus.

Use a pencil to draw on the bus windows and write your school's name on the side panel. Color or paint as you see fit.

2. When you've finished coloring your bus, reconstruct it, decorated side out, and affix together using tape.

3. Using the sharpened pencil or awl, poke a hole in the sides, just above the bottom edge, through to the other side to create an axle for the bus wheels. A parent should do this part.

4. Slide the unsharpened pencils in place.

5. Push the thread spools onto the pencil ends to create the wheels.

Beep-beep! Your bus is ready!



School Bus Safety

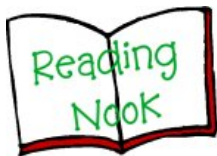
Here are some quick and simple tips for riding the bus safely.

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus.

Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.

- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do.

From The National
Safety Council



The Tale of Peter Rabbit

By Beatrix Potter

Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were-- Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter. They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.

"Now, my dears," said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor."

"Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out."

Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries;

But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!

First he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes;

And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.

But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, "Stop thief."

Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.

After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a goose-berry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.

Bear Pawsibilities

Are you a bear lover?
Then look no further!
Bear Pawsibilities
has links to
many sites
selling
collectible
bears and supplies as
well as an extensive
list of free bear
patterns to sew, knit,
crochet
and more.
You can
also meet
Baby Ileana (left),
my only collector
bear.



Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter; but Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him.

And rushed into the toolshed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.

Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the toolshed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed-- "Kertyschoo!" Mr. McGregor was after him in no time,

And tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.

Peter sat down to rest; he was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can.

After a time he began to wander about, going lippity--lippity--not very fast, and looking all around.

He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath.

An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head at him. Peter began to cry.

Then he tried to find his way straight across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Presently, he came to a pond where Mr. McGregor filled his water-cans. A white cat was staring at some goldfish; she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her; he has heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.

He went back towards the toolshed, but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe-- scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch, scritch. Peter scuttered underneath

**Do you need
craft supplies?**

Stop by the Kids
Holiday Crafts
Magazine Shopping
page for loads of
craft supplies from
MakingFriends.com
at great prices!

the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow, and peeped over. The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate!

Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow, and started running as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes.

Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.

Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.

He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole, and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!

I am sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening.

His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; and she gave a dose of it to Peter!

"One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time."

But Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.

*Don't forget to click on the ads
to go to the advertiser's site!*

Decoupage Vases

As seen at Kids Holiday Crafts

What you need:

Colored tissue paper
Small glass vase
Decoupage glue
Paintbrush
Paper cup
Wax paper

Directions:

1. Cover your work surface with wax paper, then pour the decoupage glue (which can be purchased at most craft stores) into a paper cup.

2. Cut the tissue paper into shapes about 1" big.

3. Cover the area of the vase with the glue. Place a piece of tissue paper on the vase. Continue like this until the vase has been covered. Allow to dry completely.

4. Cover the tissue paper with a thin coat of the decoupage glue to seal and protect the tissue paper.





The Basics of Buying a New Computer

By Nancy Cavanaugh

Jimmy needs one so he can do homework. You've found out that you can work from home two days a week but you need to connect to work. Whatever the reason, you've decided that it is time to buy a computer. Now what do you do?

When you're all set and ready to get your new computer, there are a few things you should keep in mind:

Always buy the best computer you can afford. You can pay a couple hundred dollars for something like WebTV or up to around \$3,000 for the higher-end equipment, but the average computer is somewhere in between. If you skimp now you may quickly discover that it doesn't meet your needs and you will spend even more money bringing it up to snuff.

The old adage "buyer beware" has never been truer. Make sure that you're buying your computer from a reputable seller. If there's something wrong with any part of the computer or you need to return it, you're going to want to be sure that will be possible. There are many "fly by night" stores that will give you a really good deal but will be long gone by the time you need support.

You can wait until the cows come home for the prices to go down or the next major advancement to happen to buy your computer. Unfortunately, these things are constantly changing and you'll never end up buying a computer. Just get off the proverbial pot and buy one.

Now it is time to figure out what kind of computer you need. The first thing you need to know is how you're going to use your computer.

Is it going to be used for doing homework and playing games? Are you going to be using it for telecommuting? Are you going to be using it to listen to music? Does it need to be portable? Will you be doing graphic intensive work? Are you going to need a scanner? A printer? How will the use of the computer change over the next couple of years? Who will be using it?

Write down all the ways you intend to use the computer then use those things as your guide when you start looking at what's available. If you're going to a store, bring the list with you so that the salesperson can help you make the best decision.

When it came time for me to get my new computer, we made a list of requirements. The first was that it came with free service/support, which meant getting it from a place like Dell or Gateway.

We knew that I was going to be using a lot of RAM-intensive programs for

desktop publishing and web design and that I would frequently be running several programs at the same time so we beefed up the RAM. We made sure it had a CD burner in it so I wouldn't have to worry about filling my hard drive up with unessential files.

Before you start shopping, make sure you do some research. Read the Consumer Reports (www.consumersreport.org) guide for computers or go to the library and visit sites like ZDnet (www.zdnet.com) or CNet (www.cnet.com) for the professional's opinions then visit sites like Epinions (www.epinions.com) or Review Centre (www.reviewcentre.com) for what the average Joe has to say about them.

These, and many other sites like them, will help you find out just about everything you wanted to know about the computers themselves as well as many of the places you can buy a computer. You want to find out who has the best service, customer support, best prices, selection and more.

Talk to your friends, family and co-workers to find out what their experiences have been.

When you're pricing systems make sure that they come with everything you need to get started – the computer, keyboard, mouse, monitor and all the cables and plugs you'll need. If you're getting a printer, be sure you purchase a printer cable because it is generally not included.

Armed with this information you should be able to find a computer that will meet your needs for the next few years.

If you have a question you'd liked answered, please send an e-mail to editor@kidsholidaycrafts.com.



‘Elephant’astic Jokes

Q: Why did the elephant wear blue sneakers?

A: *His red ones were in the wash!*

Q: How do you stop a herd of elephants from charging?

A: *Take away their credit cards!*

Q: What is red and white on the outside but grey on the inside?

A: *An inside-out elephant!*



A Beachy Word Search

Circle the words from the list below. The words can be found forwards, backwards, up or down, horizontally or diagonally. Have fun!



A Day at the Beach

L S O S R T E E S R N L H V H A N I A H H G O A P
S P G S C C S E G A S E V A W H S I F Y L L E J A
B H I H R D A L O E Z V N O E I F L L A B Y J E E
G X O S B S L L G I O N O I T A C A V S H S O K S
R G B V H A L Y G S E S C W N G A E I N O R A S E
R U V O E U E L L P S A L L S R E S D R S A A A L
E S R L A L R N E A X N E V O U S U L L L K L L T
R E L N L A B B S I W D W X S F R L L E L L T N S
A A L A B I M E O L N N O N E E A F E U E E A R A
A C R A B S U N E I W E T I S O K L I U H H L C C
S S B L A E S U B E A C H I S G A S U N S E S N S
E Z N W R R S L S L G N I L K R O N S C G E A N G
C O U E S B L A E L I S E O U B L A N K E T L L E
S E S Q K H O O G W S L E S U O H T H G I L H N N
U R K N T A N E E R C S N U S H R L L S U T N O N

BEACH
SHOVEL
SEASHORE
BALL
UMBRELLA
SNORKLING
JELLYFISH

SAND
TOWEL
SHELLS
BLANKET
SUNSCREEN
GOGGLES
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