



Learning at Home

January 2008

Swimming at the YWCA

This got 5 stars! **Book Review**

Dragon Tears by: Ruth E. Glover
Ages 8-12 140 pages August 2006
Lulu Enterprises Paperback

Do you or your kid(s) have a great book you'd like to let the group know about? Please send your review to becky@sdhsa.org

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Meet Mia, the great-granddaughter of a most formidable witch known as Veronica Overall. Mia refers to her as *GGV*, or Great Grandmother Veronica.

Mia is at a bit of a disadvantage: she has no magic skills, and this is something almost unheard. All 27 of her cousins have skills and often torment her with them. Right now, she is sporting bright purple hair due to one of them.

When her boy cousins decide to try and blackmail Mia into helping them get a magic pen from Great Grandmother's room, Mia is determined to refuse. Why, then, is she creeping into the old woman's room as the cousins look on in awe? While searching for the pen Mia accidentally releases a baby dragon from a crystal bottle.

The little dragon, called Mischief, is sweet but tricky and soon lives up to his name when he talks Mia into granting his wish to return home. The real adventure begins when Mia first meets the dragons of the desert and must solve three riddles in an attempt to return home.

After another wrong journey, Mischief and Mia end up in the home of the Ice Dragons, where she must complete a deed - and still no trip home. When Mischief does manage to return to his home, he almost causes Mia to lose her life.

The travels and travails of the two, Mia and the baby dragon Mischief, give Mia a lesson in the value of home, truth and family.

Susan Johnson/2006 for curled up with a good kid's book



Above reprinted by permission from: <http://www.curledupkids.com/>

Check out the site for other great book reviews!

At the YWCA the kids had a great time splashing around. There were a variety of toys there to play with in the water and some float apparatuses. Our next swim date at the YWCA is January 11, 2008 from 1:30p-3:00p.

The YWCA is located at 300 W 11th St, Sioux Falls, SD.

Our cost is \$2 per swimmer or \$6 per family. This rate is good only for SDHSA members and ONLY on the day and time we have reserved with the YWCA.

We hope to see you and your family at the next YWCA!

Box Tops for Education

Another Box Top submission was turned in since there were a few that were expiring in December. Our group has earned another \$7.90! Thank everyone for submitting those Box Tops and keep them coming!

Our group is also collecting Land O' Lake milk lids and Campbell's soup labels. Simply, bring them to a SDHSA event in a bag with your last name on it!

Helping Your Home School Group

From the outside, it may seem as though an organization like ours needs only a few committed people to get the work done. However, when you consider the scope of our services, from phone inquiries, e-mail inquiries, newsletters, website updates, tours, crafts, member directory, legislative updates and so on - it takes many people and some great teamwork to get the best possible results.

Our dedicated volunteers have been shouldering the workload to make SDHSA a great resource for you and many other homeschooling families. Some of our volunteers are taking on 2 or 3 positions to fulfill our organizational needs and we are now asking for your help to divert the workload.

Without hard-working volunteers, and those who support them, organizations like SDHSA

would never get off the ground. If you can spare some time on behalf of all South Dakota homeschoolers, we'll be glad to have your help. If you have been looking for a new way to involve yourself and/or your kids in community service or if you just want to expand your child's learning experience through volunteering, SDHSA offers you this great opportunity. No contribution of your time is too small!

Do you have a farm that the group could have an outing at? Do you have a skill that would benefit the group such as sewing, wood working, dance, etc?

If you have thoughts or suggestions please pass them on!

Member Get to Know

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Craft Corner

Oatmeal Clay:

CRAFT MATERIALS:

- 1 cup rolled oats (instant or old fashioned)
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour, plus extra
- 1/2 cup water
- Food coloring (optional)

Time needed: Under 1 Hour

1. Stir together all the ingredients in a large bowl, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough forms a lump. For colored clay, you can add drops of food coloring to the water before combining it with the dry ingredients.

2. Knead it on a floured surface, adding flour as needed, until it is smooth and not too sticky.

Craft submitted by: Tamara (Our Craft Coordinator)

January is National Oatmeal Month!



Tips:

Allow finished creations to air-dry overnight. Leftover clay can be refrigerated in a zip-lock bag for up to three days.

Tour of the Washington Pavilion with Cinedome Movie

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After the tour, demonstration, and the CineDome movie everyone enjoyed the Kirby Science Center. There were a variety of activities to participate in.

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On Friday, December 7th the group had a tour of the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, SD. After the tour the group watched the CineDome movie Amazon. With the tour everyone watched a science demonstration featuring electricity—it was 'hair raising'!

Several parents commented that this is an activity that we must do again.

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Please watch the Yahoo group for details on a tours for the month of January!

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To submit art/poem or any accomplishment you'd like to share please send to becky@sdhsa.org

January Birthdays

12th	Karina J.
12th	Sophia J.
16th	Gabrielle D.
28th	Jared L.
28th	Rachel L.

Art Work Available

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Kid Get to Know

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Important

Any newsletter submissions need to be in by: January 23rd

Remember to check on the Yahoo group for more information re: the Tour of the Sioux Falls Water Purification Plant

There should be another tour towards the last half of January please check on the Yahoo group for more information

For a list of family friendly events in Sioux Falls go to: www.my.calendars.net/sdhsakids



Contacts

Voicemail: 605-610-4461

All messages will be returned by an SDHSA Leader

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Some of the events have an additional fee—please see the online calendar for all of the information.

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 1:30p Tour of the Sioux Falls Water Purifica- tion Plant	4	5
6	7	8 1:00p -3:00p Gym Time	9	10 6:30p -8:00p Thursday Night Dine, Plan & Chat	11 1:30p -3:00p Swimming	12
13	14	15 1:00p -3:00p Open Play at Backyard Adventures	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 1:00p -3:00p Gym Time	23	24 1:00p Bowling	25	26
27	28	29 1:00p -3:00p Gym Time	30	31		