

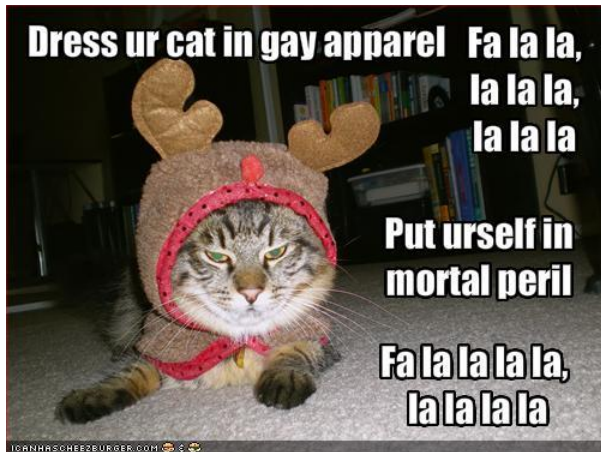
Winter 2009



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A Very Unamused Cat

Happy holidays!

Well, it's that time of year again when we all celebrate a special time whether it be Christmas, Yule, Winter Solstice, etc. I hope you will take time this holiday season to slow down and enjoy this time with your family and friends. We all get so

caught up in the shopping and parties that many feel rushed and unfulfilled. Remember that this is a time of renewal, hope, and joy. Try to make some special time to share your dreams and goals with those people most important to you! Happy Yule!

What Exactly is Yule?

For Pagans, Yule is their traditional festival to mark this time of year. On the darkest, longest night, that of Winter Solstice, communities of old gathered around the Yule log to celebrate the birth of the son of the Goddess, the Mabon. Known as the Star Child, this son would become the Sun God, representing the return of Light, and within a few days the nights would begin to shorten.

To celebrate the returning of Light, people would bring out their stored food and enjoy cheerful festivities. Even in times of poor harvest, the Star Child would have inspired whatever celebrations were possible. Dances, special songs and the

decorating of houses and trees would all take place up until what is now known as Twelfth Night, where the Yuletide feast was brought to an end with a final day of merriment and activities.

Although Yule is generally considered a Pagan celebration, it is a seasonal time that can be celebrated by all, particularly by those wishing to reconnect with nature and the festivals of old, which align with the changing seasons in the wheel of the year

Art Decorations!



Dough Art Decorations

Materials:

4 cups flour, 2 cups water, 1 cup salt, Cookie Cutters, Wire Ornament Hangers, Acrylic Paints.

Combine flour, salt, and water in a large bowl. Dough should knead easily but not be sticky, if so, add more flour. On a flat surface, lay down some waxed paper. Take a handful of the dough and roll out with a rolling pin. Cut dough into shapes with the cookie cutters. Make a hole in top of "cookie" for

wire hanger. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and put in oven at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until *slightly* brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool thoroughly. Paint with acrylic paints. Allow to dry, place hanger in hole and adorn tree, packages, or hang in windows. (Allow children to make-up Yule stories to go along with each decoration they are making.)



Good Internet Sites for Homeschoolers

I am always on the lookout for any good homeschooling sites on the internet that can help our students. Below are some of the ones I have found recently that offer a variety of educational resources.

www.thehomeschoolingmom.com offers information on Unit Studies.

www.homeschoolersofmaine.org

offers free curriculum.

www.homeschoolingadventures.com

www.guiltfreehomeschooling.org

To find a homeschooling support group, try

www.homeschooling.gomilpitas.com

The Birmingham Zoo offers homeschool classes (fee involved). Check out

www.birminghamzoo.com/programs-homeschoolers-fall.asp

A good field trip activity for those in Western Alabama, check out the Shark Tooth Creek Outdoor Adventures @ www.sharktoothcreek.com/index



World's Best Peanut Butter Fudge

4 cups white sugar

1 cup milk

½ cup butter

1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow crème

12 ounces peanut butter

2/3 cup all purpose flour

Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish, set aside.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, milk and butter. Bring to a boil and cook

5 minutes. Remove from the heat. Stir in the marshmallow crème and peanut butter. Gradually stir in the flour. Spread into the prepared pan and let cool.



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(706) 393-6451

E-Mail:

homeschool@sacredgroveacademy.org

*In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.
Albert Camus*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.sacredgroveacademy.org

Remember that if your child is not old enough for a learner's permit, don't forget to request your permit form from us BEFORE you go to the DMV.

If you are interested in testing your child, please look at www.familylearning.org. They have reasonable pricing and are specifically set up for homeschooling children.

Don't Forget!

*If you move during the year, please let me know right away. The superintendent of the district you move to will need a Church School Enrollment Form submitted or you will be in violation of truancy laws.

*To withdraw your child at any time during the year, contact me by phone, email or write me a note. Improper withdrawals will result in not being able to re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy.

*Re-enrollment date every year is 1 AUGUST!!! Mark your calendars!

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do elves get?

Mistle-toes!



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