



# HomeschoolNYC Newsletter

## *Celebrating Child-led Learning*

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Nov/Dec, 2014

The holiday season always comes upon me unexpectedly. Suddenly it's time to be with family, make feasts and decorations, and watch the city transform into a glittering wonderland. Exciting events, including the NYC premiere of a long awaited film, a spring-like exhibit of Matisse papercuts, and the annual origami tree, offer endless family fun. My opening article features important thoughts on creativity, and this issue closes with a reminder of Thanksgiving from the Native point of view. I am thankful for so much, including every single one of you! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



[Laurie Block Spiegel](#)

### **Creativity in Learning**

**Creativity is Essential to Learning**

**Visiting Museums With Kids**

**Class Dismissed Movie**

**Holiday Family Fun**

**Make a Cut-Out Collage**

**Quote by Albert Einstein**

**Thanksgiving from the Native Point of View**

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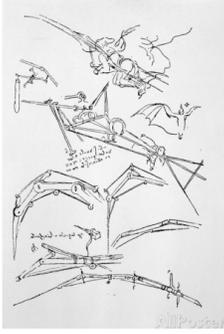
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Send your comments to [Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com](mailto:Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com).

## **Creativity is Essential to Learning**

Today it is hard to find creativity in the classroom unless the subject is fine arts. Why is it that people assume creativity exists only in art or music, dance or poetry? In our test-driven society, we have forgotten that creativity is a key ingredient in the path to understanding. When we participate in the



Sketches of Flying Machines  
by Da Vinci

creative process, we question, wonder, and reflect. We make connections. [... READ MORE...](#)

[Books on Creativity,](#)  
[for children of all ages, parents and teachers](#)

## Visiting Museums With Children

I was a rambunctious, strong-willed, independent child, and my mother was determined this would not stop her from pursuing one of her passions: museums. She devised ways to keep me interested. I probably raced down the museum galleries yelling my head off, but [... READ MORE ...](#)



[Tips for Museum Trips with Kids](#)

[Museum Books for Kids](#)



## [Class Dismissed - a film about learning outside the classroom](#)

Nov. 30, 11 am, at the School of Visual Arts in NYC, [tickets \\$12.00](#)

Don't miss the premiere screening in NYC of this much awaited documentary which follows a family's homeschooling journey. The filmmakers will be in attendance, as well as some of the experts in the film. I'm looking forward to this! Running time is 90 minutes, followed by a short Q&A session.

## Holiday Family Fun

[Christmas In NYC](#)

[Family Field Trips for Nov/Dec 2014 including  
Paper Arts & Crafts for Kids](#)

## [Children's Books on Winter Solstice Holidays](#)

## [Crafts and Books That Celebrate Winter](#)



Origami Tree, AMNH

### Make a Cut-Out Collage



Papercut detail by Alexandra

Make a Matisse-inspired cut-out collage, using colored paper, scissors and glue. [... READ MORE ...](#)

[Photos of Student Work](#)

[Books on Matisse for Children](#)

### Quote by Albert Einstein

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge ."*

~Albert Einstein (1879-1955), physicist, creator of the theory of relativity

### [Thanksgiving From the Native American Point of View](#)

As part of our annual Thanksgiving celebration, we honor the Native Americans.

[Here are some valuable insights, and links to history lessons.](#)

[Thanksgiving books for children](#)

The Tree of Peace



ART John David Fadden

**Education Uncensored**

**Here's what people are saying about Laurie's book:**

"You made me laugh, you made me cry, and you inspired me. I can literally hear your voice, and love your storytelling and your wisdom and just the whole package. I'm stimulated and filled with ideas for my own teaching."

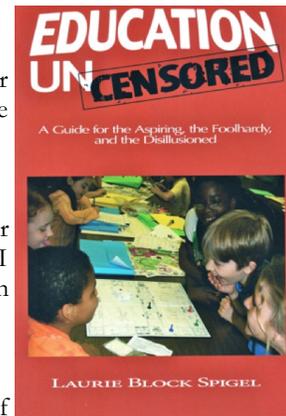
~ Dr. Bonnie Shulman, professor of mathematics, Bates College

"I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated meeting you and reading your book. It is terrific, and for me, the best part was its New York perspective. I know no other book available to homeschoolers that so overtly references an urban perspective."

~ David Albert, author of *And the Skylark Sings with Me* and other books

"Laurie's evolution as a teacher and life-long involvement in the world of education has given her a profound understanding of the problems that plague today's schools. This book offers an insightful look at how an increasingly standardized system is robbing our children of their individuality and passion for learning. Additionally, it provides innovative how-to curriculums for anyone involved or interested in educating children."

~ Ellen Labiner, homeschooling parent and special educator



[Read excerpts here.](#)

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