Other Names: Vernal Equinox, Spring Equinox, Rite of Eostre,

Equinozio della Primavera (Strega), Alban Eiber (Druid), Festival of the Trees, and Lady Day.

Spring is here and day and night are in balance! New life and fresh beginnings surround us as Earth celebrates with bright colors, fresh fragrances and the songs of birds. Eggs and hares symbolize all the things being born now. A perfect day for a breakfast picnic, an egg hunt and to bless and plant your Spring Garden!

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Don’t forget to visit your Pooka Pages website for more fun stuff!

http://www.pookapages.com.htm

Pooka Pages, unless otherwise noted, is written and illustrated by Lora Craig-Gaddis

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“Elsie! What are you doing?” cried Pooka in horror.

He’d just entered the herb room and found her dumping a whole jar of herbs into the waste basket. Several other emptied jars stood on the wooden work table and he noticed that the waste basket was almost full.

Before answering, Elsie took another jar down from the shelf, opened it and stuck her nose inside. The little witch nodded to herself and muttered, “This one’s okay.” Then she looked up at her cat. “It’s almost Spring and I’m getting rid of some of the herbs from last year.”

Pooka leaped up onto the table and scratched his cheek with a hind foot. “But you worked hard to grow and harvest those. And you use them to make magic potions, healing teas and yummy stuff to eat! Why are you wasting them?”

Elsie smiled and stroked his head in an absent minded way before replacing the jar on the shelf and taking down another. “The herbs don’t last forever, Pooks,” she said. “They get weaker with time. I need make room for the fresh herbs we’ll collect this year.”

Pooka poked his nose in the wastebasket which still smelled pretty fragrant to him. “So these just get thrown out?”

“Oh no,” said Elsie. “They’ll go in the compost heap where the Goddess will turn them into food for this year’s garden.”

As she reached for another jar, the cat narrowed his eyes at her and lashed his tail. “Don’t even THINK about touching my catnip!”

He rubbed his face with his paw.

Elsie laughed and passed over that particular jar. “Okay,” she said.

Pooka couldn’t bear to watch all those herbs being thrown out...even if they were headed for the compost pile which Elsie said was Mama Nature’s grocery store. He decided to go visit his friend Nathan.

As the little black cat padded along the leafy forest path, however, he was suddenly assaulted by a shower of old pine needles, crumpled feathers and who knows what else!

He shook himself and looked up. A blue jay’s head poked over the top of a tall oak branch and screeched. Pooka understood enough bird language from Elsie’s crow, Edgar, to understand the word “Oops!”
“I’ll “oops” you!” warned the little cat as he prepared to dash up the tree. His left cheek had been itching all day and Pooka was in a mood to be grouchy.

Suddenly Thistle, the fairy, appeared in front of his nose. “Pooka, wait!” she cried. “Charlie was just cleaning out the nest so his wife can line it with fresh feathers and stuff for the babies that are coming soon.”

“Babies?” asked Pooka. He could certainly see why new baby birds needed a fresh nest lined with clean feathers and fresh pine needles. He felt ashamed. “Sorry, Charlie,” he called up.

The bird squawked at him over the top of the branch until his wife scolded him to get back to work.

“Thanks, Thistle,” sighed Pooka. “I guess I’m in a bad mood today.”

The fairy perched on a fern and wrapped her arms around her legs. “How come?” she asked.

“Well, Elsie’s on this cleaning thing and tossing out a bunch of the herbs we harvested last year.”

Thistle nodded. “All of nature renews herself at this time of year,” she said.

“Cats don’t,” Pooka told her.

The fairy grinned and tweaked his ear. “Sure they do. Just pay attention!” and with that she rose and fluttered off into the forest.

Pooka scratched his cheek. Dumb fairy! What did she know? But he thought about her words as he continued down the path to Nathan’s house.

When he got there, he found the house in chaos. Clothes were piled everywhere and Nathan was sorting them into boxes.

“What’s going on?” he asked.

Nathan made a face. “Every year I get bigger,” he said. “So in spring, Grandmother makes me go through my closet and see which clothes still fit and get rid of the ones that don’t. That’s the pile that doesn’t.” Nathan pointed to a stack draped over a chair.


Nathan laughed. “Naw,” he said. “I’ll get new clothes that fit me.”
Grandmother walked into the room with another pile over her arm. “But first we have to get rid of these old clothes, boy,” she said, “Otherwise, you won’t have room in your closet for new ones. Then you WILL go around naked!”

Nathan grinned and rolled his eyes.

Pooka was curious. “Will you put the old clothes in the compost pile?”

Grandmother paused and stared at the cat. “Good Heavens! Why would I do that?”

“That’s what Elsie’s doing with her old herbs,” Pooka said.

The old woman chuckled. “There’s more ways to re-use stuff than tossing them on a compost heap. No, we’ll pass the good ones on to Farmer Gellis’s wife. She’s got a passel-load of kids younger than Nathan. And the clothes that are too worn out to pass down will get cut up for material to make quilts and things.”

With that, she plopped the pile she was carrying in front of Nathan. “Here’s more for you to go through,” she said. “Better get to it!”

Nathan and Grandmother were clearly busy ....as was everyone else in the world it seemed. Pooka rubbed his face on the chair stacked with clothes and decided to head back home.

He found Elsie out in the garden pulling up the remnants of plants that had gone to seed last fall. He sat down next to her and sighed sadly.

“You’re making room for this year’s seedlings,” he said.

The witch nodded, then asked, “But why so glum?”

Pooka scratched and said, “Because everyone...even Nature with the birds and everything... seem part of this “Out with the Old, In with the New” process. I feel left out. What can I do?”

He scratched again and Elsie picked a long black thick strand out of the dirt and held it up. “Look, Pooka! You just lost a whisker!”

The little cat panicked. “Oh no!” he cried. “Am I falling apart?” He quickly checked his other body parts to make sure they were still attached.

Elsie laughed. “No, silly!” She scooped him up in a hug. “You have a new whisker coming in that shoved the old one out to make room. You’re part of the cycle of renewal too!”

“I am?”

“Of course,” she said. “We all are.”

“So that’s why my face was itching all day!”

Pooka purred against her chest suddenly feeling very content. He didn’t mind losing his whisker now that he realized it meant a new and better one was growing in. And he especially liked feeling that he, too, was a part of Nature’s process.
Can you think of a fruit that has its seeds on the outside? Careful now…. There’s only one kind of fruit in the whole world that does.

Need a hint? This is the season when this fruit becomes ripe so grocery stores are full of them ....and you’ve probably eaten it lots of times. Think hard!

The answer is.... Strawberries! That’s right. In fact, each little strawberry has about 200 seeds on the outside of it but they’re so tiny that we eat them without even thinking about it. When you pop that sweet, red strawberry in your mouth, all you’re thinking about is the yummy goodness of the fruit.

And strawberries are much more than just a delicious fruit! In fact, they’re well worth taking the time to grow for yourself. Even if you live in an apartment, you can probably still grow them in a hanging basket. All they want is plenty of sunshine and water.

You’ll be glad you have the whole plant the next time you have a sore throat. The leaves made into a tea and gargled will help relieve the pain. The tea is also really good for relieving diarrhea (Elsie calls it “the runs”.) The leaves are also used in lotions to treat burns and things like skinned knees and, in Europe, grannies often add the leaves to a tea that makes their joints feel better.

If you get a sunburn this summer, try crushing some of the fruit and putting it on the area. It will make the hurt go away and help the burn to heal faster.

Strawberries are sacred to goddesses like Venus, Aphrodite, and Freja and have long been associated with love and fertility.

In fact, one old spell says that all you have to do is share a doubled strawberry (they grow that way sometimes) with another person and that person will fall in love with you.

If you’re a kid and share one of these special strawberries with another kid, they’ll probably end up being your Friend. So the next time someone brings a basket of strawberries home from the market, check it for any “doubles”, then save that one to split with someone special.
Bunny Pancakes with Strawberry Butter

Pour pancake batter on the griddle to form a circle about 4 inches across. (This will be the head.) Then spoon about 2 tablespoons of batter onto the top edge of head. Using the back of your spoon, spread the batter on top to form bunny ears. When the bunny is done on one side, flip him over and press in two chocolate chips for eyes.

Strawberry Butter

1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/3 cup powdered sugar
1 1/2 cup fresh or thawed and drained frozen strawberries

In a food processor or blender, whir the cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar til it’s mixed up really good. Then dump in the strawberries and blend some more until they’re in tiny pieces and all mixed in.

Yummy Melon & Strawberry Salad

This salad is as pretty as it is tasty – and perfect for Ostara!

In a big bowl, combine 1 ripe honeydew melon (cut into 1 inch chunks), 1 pint of strawberries (cut in half), ¼ cup of lime juice and 2 tablespoons of sugar. Mix it all up good and let it stand for 15 minutes, stirring it every once in a while.

For the dressing: In a smaller bowl, combine 2 cups of plain yogurt with ¼ cup of sugar, 1 tablespoon of freshly grated lime zest and 1 tablespoon of lime juice. (Makes about 8 servings)

Did you know that, ounce for ounce, strawberries have even more vitamin C than oranges do?
For our Feathered and Furry friends!

-- Rayne Storm

All but the pinecone feeders, are made from recycled items. These are only suggestions to get you thinking. There is so much to be created in so many different ways. Take a look through your recycling bins to see what you have that you can re-use to create something wonderful for our feathered and furry friends!

MATERIALS: (exact materials will depend upon creativity and the project chosen)

A Little Nature: pinecones, bark, sticks, etc.
Recycled things like soda bottles, water bottles, vinegar jugs, milk jugs, coffee cans, etc...
Bird Seed, peanut butter, suet,

PARENTS: (you will need to assist your child(ren) with this project)

Sharp knife, Scissors, Twine, permanent marker
Hot Glue Gun (a small, lower temp. gun will work) and plenty of glue sticks

Pinecone Birdfeeders:

You will need some pinecones, peanut butter, bird seeds, twine and your hot glue gun.
First glue a piece of twine about 8-12 inches long to the bottom of the pinecone (where the stem is). Glue the center of the twine to the pinecone so that you end up with two ends to tie the pinecone to a tree branch.
Now, in a bowl put a pile of peanut butter with a spoon, and pour a handful of birdseed on to a paper plate.
Using the spoon, smear peanut butter all over the pinecone. You don’t need to get it covered perfectly or get it deep inside the pinecone - you just need enough to stick the birdseed to. Now roll the peanut butter pinecone all around in the birdseed, pressing down very lightly. Give it a gentle shake over the plate so that any loose seeds fall off.
Now you can hang your feeder outside - or better yet, just do this project outside. You might make a few new friends in the process!
**Bottle Feeders:**

You will need a soda bottle, juice container, a water bottle etc...... a stick or wooden dowel long enough to be poked through both sides of the bottle with about 6 inches left over; 12-18 inches of twine and a grownup to help to cut the bottle.

Be sure to clean your bottle and dry it thoroughly before beginning. Using the marker, mark out 2 openings across from each other on opposite sides of the bottle. Make sure your openings are big enough for the birds to get inside the container to get the food, and that you leave enough room from the bottom of the bottle to the opening for the stick to be inserted. Make two marks for where the sticks will be inserted and two more marks on top for the twine that will hang your bottle feeder. Once it is all marked, have a grownup cut out the openings, puncture the holes for the stick to go through and puncture the holes that will help to hang the bottle.

Insert the stick in through one hole and out through the other. Insert your twine, in one hole and out the other. Now, add your birdseed and hang in a tree.

By using a vinegar bottle, and hanging your bottle near to the trunk of a tree, you can create a bird, chipmunk and squirrel feeder all in one. Instead of cutting the entire opening out, cut only 3 of the four sides leaving the top part of the opening still attached. Bend the flap upwards and attach a piece of twine to keep the flap up, now you have a little ‘roof’ over the opening while they eat.

**Coffee Can Birdhouses:** You will need a coffee can with a plastic removable lid, some bark & the glue gun (optional), a stick, twine and something to puncture holes into the metal can with.

PARENTS: Puncture a hole on the bottom of the can near to the edge – this will be the hole to show you UP, and will be used to hang the bird house up with. Now find the bottom of the can – when it’s lying on its side. Puncture 4 small holes into the bottom for drainage, just in case water gets into the birdhouse.

On the removable lid mark out where the opening will be and where the stick will go.

PARENTS: Cut out the opening and puncture a hole for the stick.

Now insert the stick and place the lid back onto the can. Make sure that the stick is at the bottom of the can... if you choose to, you can decorate the can in bark, or wrap sticks all the way around...
it too. Have a parent apply amounts of hot glue to the side of the can, then you can place a piece of bark onto the can by pressing it into the glue.
Finally, add the twine so that it goes over the removable lid, through the can and out the back hole you punctured first. Hang up your birdhouse.
**This does not need to be hung from a tree it can be attached to a tree, or to a platform like a fence post.

Hummingbird Feeder:

You will need a small soda or water bottle. A cap slightly larger than the bottle cap, like from a vitamin bottle. A hot glue gun, twine, hammer and screwdriver, and some craft store flowers – red are best!
PARENTS: mark an X at the center of the bottle cap. Using your screw driver as a ‘chisel’ place it so that it will make side one of a square around the X. Now tap the top of the screwdriver handle, gently, with the hammer, until it cuts through the cap. Do this until you have cut through all four sides around the X. In the end you should have a neat square cut out in the center of the cap. With your larger cap lying with top side down, place the smaller cap into the larger cap, also top side down. While carefully suspending the small cap about 1/16-1/8” from the bottom of the inside of the larger cap, apply the hot glue to two sides of the suspended small cap. Once the glue sets, which won’t take very long, set it aside.
Now the fun part! Parents, apply a dab of glue on the side of the bottle so that the bottle can be decorated with flowers. Because the glue dries quickly, you will need to dab the glue and then add a
flower, add a dab of glue and then another flower. You can even decorate the base of the feeder by placing a small flower at the hot glue points that are holding the smaller/inside cap in place.

Now parents, hot glue the twine to the top of the feeder (which is actually the bottom of the bottle). Apply enough that it holds it securely—remember you are going to be putting a liquid in it. DO NOT puncture holes into the bottle—it is a gravity fed feeder, if you have any holes the hummingbird food will just pour out of the feeder, instead of sitting in the larger cap to be drunk from.

Make or purchase hummingbird food and fill the bottle only about 1/3 full. With the bottle still upright, screw on the cap tightly, and then turn the feeder right side up and hang outside for the hummingbirds to feed from.

Other Ideas:

**BIRDBATH:** plastic veggie platter trays, with all the deep compartments make for a wonderful birdbath or spa retreat! You can fill the outer compartments with small little plants, while the inside compartments can hold water, and maybe even a few small rocks as well. The plants are optional, but do provide some privacy and a bit of shade to your bird bath. But even with just water in all the compartments, you can place your bird bath among your flower garden for the same privacy and shade. You can also use strong aluminum pie plates (the disposable ones), old Tupperware dishes, or other like containers as a birdbath. But the advantage of the Tupperware is because of its strength, you can carefully puncture 3 to 4 holes in the side (near the top) and add strong rope/chain to hang this birdbath from a tree, making it almost cat proof.

**WOODPECKER BAG FEEDER:** Use onion bags or orange bags— the netting bags, to hold suet for woodpeckers. You can make your own suet with lard and birdseed or you can purchase it from your local grocery store (in the meat department). You can also use pudding cups (once you’ve eaten all the pudding first!) Wash out the cup and add two small holes across from each other, near the opening/top of the empty and clean pudding cup. Add an 8” piece of twine to each of the 2 holes, knotting it on the outside of the pudding cup, with a large and secure knot. Add your suet or lard mixture to the cup and hang it in a tree.

*Be sure to visit Rayne’s website for more great pagan craft ideas!*  
www.thecauldron.info
This bunny is going to have a hard time getting through the maze to that basket of eggs!

Can you help him?

By Linde Craig-Moore
Pooka leaped through the open kitchen window, landing squarely on his four paws.

Elsie, who was pulling a loaf of bread out of the oven, immediately knew that Something was Wrong. She whirled around and almost dropped the bread.

Her little cat’s fur stood up in spikey points and one ear was slightly bleeding. She set the loaf down and hastily scooped him up. He was still shaking.

“Pooks, what happened?”

“We need to do a spell!” he told her angrily.

“What happened?” she asked again.

“I’m going to kill that stupid cat!” and Pooka’s claws flexed poking Elsie’s arms as she held him.

“Pooks, shhh…. just tell me what happened,” the witch crooned softly.

The cat relaxed a little and his shivering slowed. He realized he was home and safe now. He looked up at her. “I went with Nathan to the village and you know that great big dirty nasty old skinny orange tom cat that’s always bullying me?”

Elsie could have done with a few less adjectives. But, she knew the cat he referred to, so she nodded.

“Well,” Pooka continued, “I was waiting for Nathan in the alley by the bookstore, minding my own business and sniffing trashcans, when out of nowhere he jumped me! He said I was a fat little mama’s cat and that this was HIS alley and I should go home to my mommy. It’s a free alley, Elsie! And if Nathan hadn’t come and scared him off...”

The little cat shuddered, thinking of the possibilities. “We have to do a spell on that stupid cat!” he repeated.

“What sort of spell?” she asked, stroking his head.

Pooka looked up at her. “We can’t make him POOF and just disappear, can we?” he asked hopefully.

Elsie shook her head.

The little cat sighed. “I thought not. Well, maybe we can just make him leave me alone from now on...and all the other cats in the village? He beats them up too. Or...” he hesitated, “Is that too big of a spell – protecting all the cats from him?”
The witch thought for a moment. “It’s a big spell alright. I think we could manage it though...if you’re will to offer something in return.”

“Huh?”

Elsie said, “Whenever you’re asking a Big Favor like this, you need to give something in return. It’s like when someone does something nice for you, you’re supposed to do something nice back. Give and Take – it’s all part of the Balance.”

“What can I give?” asked Pooka. “I’m just a cat.”

“This is something that’s very important to you, right?” asked Elsie.

He nodded.

“So,” she said, “what do you have that’s very special to offer the God and Goddess in return?”

Pooka thought for a long time. He didn’t want to say the obvious answer, but finally it came out. “Some of my catnip?”

Elsie smiled. “Catnip is an herb that belongs to the goddesses of love and friendship – the opposite of hate and enemies. It’s also something especially dear to you. I think it will work just fine.”

That night was the dark of the moon – a good time for creating change. They put a pile of fresh catnip leaves on the altar and Elsie set a blue candle on top. She wrote runes and symbols on the candle and then lit it.

“Okay, Pooks,” she whispered. “As you concentrate on the flame and the colors and herbs, see the orange cat becoming peaceful and harmless.”

Pooka looked at her. Had she lost her mind? This cat was Evil! But he decided to give it a go.

It wasn’t easy. He kept smelling the catnip leaves that cradled the candle and his mind was pulled toward delirious romps in the garden and the fun he had chasing his catnip mouse. But Pooka firmly kept focusing until Elsie blew the candle out.

“Okay,” she said. “We’ll do this again tomorrow.”

“Huh?”
“Yes,” she told him. “We must do this for the three nights of the new moon.”

“Okay,” agreed Pooka.

It rained all the next day. Pooka wasn’t able to go out to his catnip in the garden and play. That night, the smell of his offering to the Gods drove him crazy.

“I can’t touch it? I can’t play with it?” he mewed plaintively.

“No, Pooks,” Elsie said firmly. “You gave it to the God and Goddess in return for their help. It’s theirs now. Not yours.”

“Oh,” sighed the cat. He hung his head and resumed focusing. He imagined the cat as a small, fluffy, friendly orange kitten. He resisted the temptation of seeing the kitten being squashed by a big ball of yarn!

The next day was even harder! It rained again and Pooka was seriously missing his catnip. The little pile on the altar called to him, begging him to play with it!

“I can’t do it, Elsie!” he cried.

“You can,” she told him.

And so he did. That night again, he sat in front of the candle with the runes inscribed on it and the way-too-fragrant catnip beneath it as he visualized his enemy becoming a harmless bundle of orange fluff. It was the hardest thing Pooka had ever done!

But the next morning, the sun was shining and he was very proud of himself.

“I did it, Elsie!” he announced with his little chest standing out and his tail in the air. “When we go to the village today, Mr. Evil Cat will be nothing more than an orange puff ball!”

“Really!” exclaimed Elsie as she ladled their oatmeal into bowls and added raisins to hers. “Is that what you pictured? An orange puff ball? I think cats are more complicated than that.”

Pooka lost his appetite. He was suddenly filled with self-doubt.

“Well,” said Elsie briskly. “We’ll soon find out. Today is Market Day.”

She gathered her herbal wares in her basket and they headed toward the village. Pooka’s heart was thundering in his chest. What if “Orange Fluff Ball” was the wrong visualization? What if he’d messed the whole spell up?

They trotted down the cobblestoned lanes, dispensing Elsie’s wares – potpourri to the flower vender, lotions and herbal remedies to the pharmacist, lavender and cedar sachets to the dress maker – all without incident. Finally, Elsie picked up a letter from Aunt Tilly at the post office and turned to Pooka.

“Lunch?”

“Tuna sandwich?” he grinned. The day was definitely going well!

But when they arrived at the café and took their seats at one of the outdoor tables, who should be lurking under one of them but the orange cat!
“Elsie! I messed up the spell!” cried Pooka cringing. “There he is! And he does NOT look like a little orange puff ball.”

“I don’t think you messed up,” said Elsie. “Ignore him for now.”

Pooka tried to, but his appetite was definitely off. Even the smell of the tuna sandwich didn’t revive it. The whole time they sat there, he kept an eye on his enemy waiting for him to pounce.

The orange cat stretched and sprawled out under one of the tables. He barely looked at Pooka.

“You want to make a friend?” asked Elsie. “Go talk to him now.”

Pooka looked at her in astonishment. Did she want him to get killed? The little witch smiled and winked. So he hopped down from his chair and moved cautiously toward the evil cat and stopped a few feet away.

“Hi.” Pooka didn’t know what else to say.

The cat blinked up at him lazily. “Oh, hi,” it said.

“How come you’re not trying to beat me up?” asked Pooka.

“Why would I want to beat you up?” the orange cat yawned.

Pooka was stymied. “You did a few days ago. You called me a Mama’s cat and even made my ear bleed,” he added.

The cat raked a paw over his face and yawned again. “Can’t you see that my tummy is full?” he asked. “I have a home now with the owner of this Cafe. I don’t have to be hungry any more or guard the trash cans in my alley. That was the only place I could get food before, you know.”

“Wow,” said Pooka. He’d only thought about how rough the cat was making HIS life, not how rough the cat’s life might be. He was suddenly very glad at the way his spell had worked out. He dashed back to where Elsie was still sitting at their table.

“Was the spell worth your offering and sacrifice?” she asked.

“Yes!” said Pooka. “Now Everyone is Happy!”
The Pentacle
By Christine Lombardo

The Pentacle represents the north direction. Its element is earth and its elemental is the gnomes. It's usually a flat disc with a symbol of a pentagram carved or painted on it. The pentagram is a 5 pointed star within a circle. The top point represents Spirit and the four remaining points represent the four elements, fire, water, earth and air. It is one of the most powerful symbols in witchcraft.

Some magical goals you may want your pentacle’s help with are wealth, career, protection, fertility, and business. It is used to empower objects such as jewelry, amulets, and gem stones by placing the object in the center of the star.

Some stones associated with the Earth element are Turquoise, Emerald, Cat’s Eye and Marble. Some Herbs associated with Earth are Myrrh, Patchouli, and Sage. Animals are Deer, Dog, Bull and Wolf to name a few.

The Pentacle is often made of wood or stone. Since we live in the Midwest and the weather has been cold and still have snow on the ground, my son and I decided to do our Treasure hunt indoors.

To do our Pentacle you will need:

Tin foil
Cookie sheet
Oven bake clay
Turquoise stones (since this is an earth stone)
1 Crystal
Toothpicks
Star cookie cutter
Plastic knife or clay carving tool
Paint in the colors you want to use. We chose Turquoise.
Brown paint
Glaze (found at a craft store in the paint dept)
Paint brushes
Rolling pin
Glue gun or glue

Go to your sacred space and begin by asking the gnomes to assist you in making your Pentacle. Make up your own saying or you can use something like this:

Crystals, Powders, salt and sands
All unearthed from the Northern lands.
Gnomes who live within the earth,
Help me with my Pentacles birth.
Step 1
Take your tin foil (the length of your cookie sheet) and put it on your cookie sheet. This way you wont damage your Pentacle trying to move it onto the cookie sheet after you have created it. Take some of your clay and using your rolling pin, roll out your clay to about ¼ inch thick. This will be the base of your Pentacle.

Step 2
Take your star cookie cutter and place it in the center of your clay base. Press your cookie cutter lightly into the clay. DO NOT cut all the way through. You just want to leave an impression in the clay so you can use this as a guide for your Pentagram. Put aside. Take more clay and roll it into long strips. Make 5 strips the length of each line of the star and 1 long enough to make a circle around the star.

Step 3
Take your base and place the strips onto the star guide and around it. Press lightly so it adheres to the base. With your carving tool or toothpick, carve lines into the strips going the direction of the strip. This will give the appearance of a stick. Do this to all of the strips and the circle. Cut the base around the Pentagram leaving a ¼ inch or ½ inch lip around the pentagram. Bake 15 minutes at 250 degrees or whatever the instructions tell you. (Ask a parent or an adult to help you with this part of your craft.)

Step 4
Allow your clay to cool. Paint the base Turquoise. Leave the star unpainted. Now we are going to antique the entire piece including the star. This technique ages the piece and gives depth to the piece and covers up any mistakes you may have made. To make the antiquing medium take your brown paint and add blending glaze (this is a glaze that you can get in a craft store and is used to make the paint color translucent and keeps the paint wet longer so you can maneuver the paint the way you want.) brush the antiquing over the star first then lightly wipe off the piece leaving the brown in all the crevices making the star look like wood. Repeat the same process over the base of the piece. Do a little at a time. Let dry.

Step 5
Take the turquoise stones and glue on the lip of the base. Glue a crystal in the center of your star. You are now done! Enjoy your alter tools and have a wonderful Ostara!
“We have a busy day today,” said Elsie. “What are we doing?” Pooka asked. “Spring Cleaning!” Elsie told him. “It’s almost Ostara.” “Okay,” said Pooka. So Elsie scrubbed out the cauldron and Pooka scrubbed out his ears. Then Elsie cleaned the windows. Pooka cleaned his face. Elsie polished the pots and pans. Pooka polished and trimmed his claws. Elsie washed all the curtains and Pooka washed his tail. Next Elsie cleaned and arranged the closets.
Pooka cleaned and arranged his whiskers. Then he went looking for Elsie. He found her dusting the books in the parlor. "I finished my Spring Cleaning," Pooka said. "What's taking you so long?"

Be a good little witch - and see you next time!