

the EDUCATOR

Published by the South Hills Home Educators, 3485 South Park Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102 412-854-4188 Spring 2009 e-mail means@thesafety.net

Special Edition—Resources

HSLDA@Capitol Hill E-lert service—the fastest communication device available to the home schooling community is free and available only to HSLDA members. HSLDA's E-lert service includes (1) urgent action alerts on federal legislation (2) monthly legislative updates, and (3) monthly issue backgrounds. Sign up at www.hsllda.org/elert/ or call 540-338-5600.

To receive information about email alerts concerning Pennsylvania legislation that concerns the family contact the Pennsylvania Family Institute at 1-800-Family-1 or email pafamily@aol.com. Voters guides are also available at www.pafamily.org.

WORKSHOPS

May 8-9, 2009 CHAP—Christian Home Education Association of Pennsylvania conference in Harrisburg. www.chapboard.org

June 25-27, 2009—CHEO (Christian Home Educators of Ohio) Conference, Columbus, Ohio 740-522-2460. www.CHEOHome.org

July 17, 2009—PHAA 12th Annual High School at Home Conference in Carlisle. Contact PA Homeschoolers at (724) 783-6512. E-mail: richmans@pahomeschoolers.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Please note that items listed here are not endorsed by South Hills Home Educators unless specified and are supplied only for your information.

e-mail ADDRESSES

As we get e-mail addresses, we will pass them along. If you are not on the internet, go to your local library. Most libraries have access to the internet.

Websites for Educational Programs:

Art Classes—Gateway to the Arts. 412-342-4444 www.gatewaytothearts.org

Carnegie Science Center—www.carnegiesciencecenter.org

Creation Museum—Cincinnati, Ohio. www.answersingenesis.org

Holocaust Center of the UJF of Pittsburgh—www.ujf.net (412) 421-1500.

Kuntu Repertory Theatre—University of Pittsburgh Africana Studies; www.kuntu.org

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre—www.pbt.org

Pittsburgh Center for Arts—www.pittsburgharts.org

Pittsburgh Children's Museum—412-322-5058. www.pittsburghkids.org

Pittsburgh CLO Academy—www.pittsburghCLO.org

Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation—www.phlf.org

Pittsburgh Musical Theater—(formerly Gargaro Productions) www.pittsburghmusicals.com Christmas Carol.

Pittsburgh Public Theater—www.ppt.org

Pittsburgh Symphony—www.pittsburghsymphony.org

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra—www.pittsburghyouthsymphony.org

Prime Stage—www.primestage.com. Offers mentor program.

Saltworks Theater Co.—Contact Norma Alrutz at 412-621-6150 www.saltworks.org. Young Actors Studio ages 6-16 beginners and advanced. Christian based.

Worldview Academy—www.worldview.org

STATE WIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Homeschoolers of Pennsylvania—www.chapboard.org

Homeschool Legal Defense Association—www.hsllda.org

PA Homeschoolers—www.pa.homeschoolers.com

Pennsylvania Home Educators Association—www.phea.net

SUPPORT GROUPS

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ACAC (Allegheny Center Alliance Church)

Homeschoolers—Contact Mary Furman at maryfurman@zoominternet.net

Cranberry Christian Homeschoolers—Contact: Tami Bruni at tibru@hotmail.com or bruni@thesafety.net and Carrie Hungerman at hungry6@consolidated.net

East End Educators—Contact Rhonda Smith rhonda@smith.net

FINS (Family Instructors of the North Suburbs)—Contact Barb Beideman at beideman@hotmail.com

WORKSHOPS

SUPPORT GROUPS (continued)

FLO (Family Learning Opportunities) also has Westmoreland County—Contact: Maryalice Newborn. FamilyLearningOpp@windstream.net

FISH (Family Instructors of the South Hills) Mt. Lebanon—Contact: Nancy Sikes at nancy@sikes.net or www.familyinstructors.org

HOME—Homeschoolers Outings Meeting Education— also Homemakers Offering Mentoring Enrichment—Alana Redenbaugh (McKeesport). as4meandmyhouse6.15.24@verizon.net

HOPE—Homeschoolers Of Pittsburgh East— Meets in Penn Hills. Contact Cynthia Jackson at infopesha@verizon.net

My Father's World Support Group—Contact Amy Smith at gotellit_smith@yahoo.com, <http://mfwp.org>

NHCH (North Hills Christian Homeschoolers)—Contact Nathan and Kathy Stone; nstone@psc.edu

North Pittsburgh Catholic Homeschoolers— Contact Jennifer Posey at jen@theposeys.com

Northside/North Boroughs Christian Homeschoolers— Contact jandkvevers@yahoo.com

PAAH (Pittsburgh Airport Area Homeschoolers Association)—Contact Beth Favand at pittsaah@pittsaah.net or www.pittsaah.net

PEACH—Pittsburgh East Area Christian Homeschoolers— Contact Janice Simeone at tigercat2121@comcast.net or Cynthia Corbin at mrkcrbn@aol.com

Special Needs Homeschoolers of Western PA—Contact Jane Maruca at j.maruca@comcast.net or Diane Goliwas at turbo@city-net.com

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Titus 2 Armstrong Area Homeschoolers—Contact Sandy Houston at rgfihj@windstream.net

PA Homeschoolers Local Activities (Western PA)—Contact Susan Richman at richmans@pahomeschoolers.com

BEAVER COUNTY

Beaver Valley Homeschool Support Group—Contact Julia Chaney at matthewandjulia@hotmail.com <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/beavervalleyhomeschoolers/>

Ohio Valley Christian Home Educators— Ohio County, WV. Contact Cindy West at cindywest718@netscape.com

BEDFORD COUNTY

The Home School Lighthouse—Contact Garnetta Shope at margar@pa.net

Bedford County Christian Home Educators—Contact Larry and Karen Diehl at karenediehl@embarqmail.com

BUTLER COUNTY

Homeschool Headquarters (Cranberry, Zelig, Wexford)—Contact Lori Cather at wenchlori@yahoo.com

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Johnstown Christian Homeschoolers—Contact Ellen Stewart at j7stewart@verizon.net and Emily Lux at 814-467-4768

CLARION COUNTY

Clarion County Homeschoolers—Contact Laura Gibson at laurahscentral@yahoo.com

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Crawford County Christian Homeschoolers—Contact Jason and Carrie Swartout (Townville) at jnc1991@alltel.net

West County Homeschoolers—Contact Melanie Vadzeminieks (East Springfield) at mdvadz@yahoo.com

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

It's All About HIM (Homeschool Is a Ministry)—Contact Jodie Wolfe wolfe_pack4@comcast.net

ERIE COUNTY

Erie County Homeschoolers—Contact Melanie Vadzemnieks at mdvadz@windstream.net or mdvadz@yahoo.com or Brenda Lane jromom@adelphia.net

FAYETTE COUNTY

FCCHS—Fayette County Christian Home Schoolers—Contact: Diane Smith at bigfatethel@thesafety.net. Tish Tucholski at sprucefolks@yahoo.com

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County Homeschoolers—Contact Terri Clarahan at clarahan@localnet.com

GREENE COUNTY

Greene County Homeschoolers (Waynesburg)—Contact Juli Benco at jbenco@windstream.net

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Ohio-PA Homeschoolers Network—Contact Martha Thompson at jthompsonfam7854@msn.com

Western Pennsylvania Christian Home Educators—(just North of Beaver Co.). Contact Joann Curran at squawrun@gmail.com

MERCER COUNTY

Christian Home Schoolers of Greenville—Contact Debbie Hall at drhall63@verizon.net

Christian Homeschoolers of Mercer County— Contact Kim Emmett at ekemmett@zoominternet.net or www.freewebs.com/chmc

SOMERSET COUNTY

JACH—Contact Patt Carr at fivecarrs3@yahoo.com

Somerset Christian Homeschoolers—Contact Jill Neundorf at sknjdn@gmail.com

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mon-Valley Homeschoolers—Contact Linda Wohar at lwohar@yahoo.com or (724) 785-6042.

Steppingstones Homeschooling Group—Contact Melissa Ruffing at steppingstoneshsg@yahoo.com or moonmomma@gmail.com

WEST VIRGINIA

Ohio-Valley Christian Home Educators-Ohio Valley, WV—Contact Cindy West at cindywest718@netscape.com

TESTING

Remember, according to PA Homeschool law, students must be tested in 3rd, 5th and 8th grades.

Spring Testing—CAT test given each spring at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington. Contact Robin McCloskey at (724) 222-4996 or email: themccloskeys@verizon.net

Pennsylvania Homeschoolers—CTBS/4 Survey Test given at various sites, October. Cost is \$25 per child call Howard and Susan Richman at (724) 783-6512, email: www.pahomeschoolers.com

EVALUATORS

Diane Jones, (412) 257-2109 Bridgeville, Elementary, Secondary, PA Homeschooler's HS Diploma Program.

Robin McCloskey, (724) 222-4996 Washington, Elementary, PHAA Diploma, Secondary, Erie Diploma. themccloskeys@verizon.net

Jim Means, (412) 854-4188 or email means@thesafety.net. Bethel Park, Elementary, Secondary, PHAA Diploma.

Pam Mayeux, (724) 222-0686, rosegarden351@juno.com, Washington, Elementary thru 8th grade.

Phyllis Paladin, (412) 242-6515, Penn Hills, Special Education. phyllispaladin@verizon.net

Shirley Schafer, (724) 654-5420, New Castle, Elementary, Secondary, PHAA, Erie Diploma. wfschafer@juno.com

Karen Scott, (412) 793-6849, Plum, Elementary, Secondary, PHAA, Special Education.

Susan Shegog, (412) 766-1044 work, (412) 337-3164 cell phone, Cranberry, Elementary, Secondary, Special Education.

Freedom Evaluators Network, A ministry of evaluators who do free evaluations and seminars in Western PA. Maryalice Newborn, FreedomEvaluators@gmail.com.

HOME-SCHOOLING CO-OPS

Arts in Unison—Melissa Lough (Westmoreland County) —homeschool drama group. www.homeschooldrama.blogspot.com

Beaver County Co-Op (Salt and Light)—Contact Rita Bailey at thebaileybunch6@comcast.net

Blackburn Study Center—(North Hills) www.blackburnstudycenter.org Emphasis on classical education. Email: blackboard@yahoogroups.com

Erie County Co-Op-ECHO—Contact Lynda Dietz at hazell113@velocity.net

Heart and Home 4-H Club Washington County—Meets once a month during school year in McMurray, PA. Contact: Gayle Stahlman at thestahlmanseven@verizon.net

Highschool Enrichment Learning Program (HELP)—(Westmoreland County)—Contact Sally and David Coleman at SalColeman@comcast.net

Homeschool Honor Society—Contact Bonnie Johnson at bonniejohnson@yahoo.com

HOPE-Debate and Speech Co-Op—Meets in Pittsburgh but has members in several counties. Email HOPEClubPA@gmail.com, web: http://HOPEclub.net

North Hills Enrichment Program—Contact Madeline Petris, 111 W. Grandview Ave., Zelenople, PA 16063. madelinepetrus@verizon.net www.npheap.org

Titusville Christian Cooperative—(Westmoreland County)—Contact Sally and David Coleman at salcoleman@comcast.net

The Learning Center-K-8—Contact Madeline Petris, 111 W. Grandview Ave., Zelenople, PA 16063. madelinepetrus@verizon.net www.npheap.org

Washington County Homeschoolers Co-op—Contact Robin McCloskey at themccloskeys@verizon.net or call (724) 222-4996.

Western PA Christian Orators-WPaCo—www.wpachristianorators.com Contact Terri Clarahan at clarahan@localnet.com

Westmoreland Enrichment Classes—Contact Maree Vizino at mlvizino@pmw.org, www.easysite.com/westmoreland enrichment classes

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Buxmont Christian Educational Institute—Contact: Terry Johns at bceione@fast.net

Erie County Home Schoolers Diploma Association—Contact: Edi Thomas 570-967-0951 or echsda@velocity.net www.echsdiploa.org

Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers Diploma Program—www.mdhsa.pa.net, email diploma@pa.net or Mary Hudzinski at blufroghollow@pa.net

Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency—Contact: Howard Richman, 724-783-6512; www.phaa.org

Susquehanna Valley Homeschool Diploma Programs, Inc.—Contact: Margaret Matthews, 717-566-3573 or Sandra Elliott, 717-582-7527; www.svhomeschool.org

RECOMMENDED READING/RESOURCES

The following books are recommended reading for homeschooling parents. Some of the books may be available through your local library, Christian bookstores and on-line.

Flesch, Rudolf, *Why Johnny Can't Read*

Harris, Gregg, *The Christian Home School*

Holt, John, *Teach Your Own*

Lopez, Diane, *Teaching Children* (curriculum guide K-6)

RESOURCES/CURRICULUM IDEAS

Macaulay, Susan Schaeffer, *For the Children's Sake*

Moore, Raymond and Dorothy, *Better Late than Early*

Moore, Raymond and Dorothy, *Home Style Teaching* (a recommended must)

Moore, Raymond and Dorothy, *Home Grown Kids* (for parents with Children under 7)

Moore, Raymond and Dorothy, *School Can Wait*

Priolo, Lou, *The Heart of Anger* (best parenting book ever, Lamplighter Publications, www.lamplighterpublishing.com 888-246-7735)

Richman, Howard, *Guide to PA Homeschooling Law* (order from PA Homeschoolers for \$5.00)

Richman, Howard and Susan, *The Three R's at Home* (This is a wonderful book filled with practical ideas for home instruction. It exemplifies how learning can be fun and natural. I should also point out that it is written by the editors or our state newsletter and can be purchased for \$8.00 from PA Homeschoolers)

Whitehead, John, *Home Education and Constitutional Liberties*

Wilson, Elizabeth, *Books Children Love*

OTHER RESOURCES

- A Beka Books Homeschool Catalog 1-877-223-5226 www.abeka.com
- Bob Jones University Press also offers testing materials (800) 845-5731 www.bjupress.com
- Christian Books (800) 247-4784. www.christianbooks.com
- Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) www.chapboard.org "Keys to Homeschooling" notebook, excellent info for new families \$15 or a free PDF file.
- www.christianhomeschoolers.com
- Christian Homestead Resource Center (888) 234-0785 www.homeschool-ch.com Up to 19% discounts on books.
- Foundation for American Christian Education (Principal Approach) (800) 352-FACE, www.face.net
- Hayes School Publishing Co., 321 Pennwood Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15221-3389 www.hayespub.com (800) 245-6234
- Home School Legal Defense Assoc., P.O. Box 159, Paeonian Springs, VA 22129, (540) 338-5600 Legal insurance for families, \$115 per year. Discounts available through support groups and test services www.hslda.org Also sells curriculum.
- Home School Resource Center, www.hsrc.com
- One Thousand Good Books List www.classical-homeschooling.org
- PA Homeschoolers newsletter, RD 2, Box 117, Kittanning, PA 16201 www.pahomeschoolers.com, \$12 per year
- Sonlight Curriculum (303) 730-6292, www.sonlight.com
- Timberdoodle Co., (800) 478-0672 www.timberdoodle.com
- Veritas Press (Classical Christian) (800) 922-5082 www.veritaspress.com
- Wallbuilders www.wallbuilders.com
- YWAM Publishing (800) 922-2143 www.ywampublishing.com
- Voice of the Martyrs www.persecution.com

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH

- One assignment a week (lower grades) or two assignments a week (upper grades)
- One research paper/year (4th grade & up)
- Daily log entry

SPELLING

- One lesson per day
- Test on Friday
- Daily log entry
- Textbooks:
 - School district's books or Zaner-Bloser Spelling Series (Zaner-Bloser, Inc., www.zaner-bloser.com) (800) 421-3018

READING

- Learn phonics method
- One lesson every day
- Family reading every day (reading out loud) (Little House on the Prairie, Chronicles of Narnia, etc.)
- Personal reading every day (10-30 minutes depending on age of child)
- Textbooks:
 - Sing, Spell, Read & Write. Pearson Learning www.pearsonlearning.com
 - Lippincott Reading Series. Macmillan/McGraw Hill (800) 442-9685
 - Rod & Staff Curriculum, Mennonite (606) 522-4348
 - Alpha-Phonics—A Primer for Beginning Readers by Sam Blumenfeld.
 - Explode the Code

HANDWRITING

- One lesson per day
- Textbooks:
 - Use the school district's textbook
 - Reason for Writing Series
 - Italic Handwriting Series. Christian Homestead Homeschool Resource Center (888) 234-0785 www.homeschool-ch.com

ARITHMETIC

- One lesson a day
- Good idea to invest in math manipulatives and math games
- Textbooks:
 - Use school district's for lower levels
 - Switch to Saxon Math later. Saxon Publishers, Inc., www.saxonpub.com (800) 284-7019
 - Math-U-See, (888) 854-MATH or locally Queen HS Supplies, www.queenhomeschool.com (724) 447-2034
 - DIVE, www.diveintomath.com (936) 372-9216

SCIENCE

- Do two week units of study
- Study nature, weather, hands-on experiments, lives of great scientists and their discoveries
- Use the library and take out books on the subjects
- Resources:
 - Backyard Scientist, www.backyardscientist.com

- NASCO—science equipment www.eNASCO.com (800) 558-9595
- TOPS Learning Systems www.topscience.org
- www.apologia.com

GEOGRAPHY

- Study geographic area that ties into history and current event lessons
- Map skills—Weekly Reader Instructional Materials, www.weeklyreader.com, (800) 446-3355
- Gospel for Asia www.gfa.org

CURRENT EVENTS

- Weekly publication—Christian perspective—World Magazine, www.worldmag.com (800) 951-6397

HISTORY

- One-two week units of study in topics of interest to child (Civil War) or lives of famous people (Abraham Lincoln)
- Use the library and take out books on the subjects of specific events or individuals
- Textbooks:
 - PA: History of the Keystone State available from PA Homeschoolers
 - The Sower Series—biographies about great Christian men and women. Mott Media, www.mottmedia.com. Also available through discount suppliers
 - Helpful magazines: Cobblestone Magazine, Cobblestone Publishing, Inc., www.cobblestonepub.com, (800) 821-0115. Inquire about theme packs or back issues instead of a subscription. Also, use National Geographic Magazines.
 - Greenleaf Press, www.greenleafpress.com
 - Sonlight curriculum, www.sonlight.com

FIRE SAFETY

- Plan and practice a fire drill
- Visit a local fire department
- Usborne book on fire safety

ART

- One craft or project a week
- Study lives of famous artists & their works
- Drawing with Children, Mona Brookes
- How Great Thou Art 1-800-982-3729 www.howgreatthouart.com

MUSIC

- Tapes, lessons, church choir, lives of famous musicians and their works
- A Gift of Music, Composers and Their Influence. Smith & Carlson
- 101 Hymn Stories, Osbeck

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Community sports programs such as soccer & baseball
- Life sports such as swimming, golf, skiing, tennis
- Purchase lessons in karate, judo, ballet, gymnastics, etc.

LANGUAGE

- Lengua-Learn Communications- McMurray, private or group lessons in Spanish, French, German and English as a second language. Contact Carla Hayes 724-941-8184.

DANCE

- Grace Christian Dance Company- McMurray, South Hills Bible Chapel Monday and Tuesday nights contact Danielle Black at 412-296-0922 or psalm149three@hotmail.com

USED CURRICULUM WEBSITES

www.homeschoolclassifieds.com
www.homeschoolbid.com
www.theswap.com
www.homeschoolbooksforless.com
www.hslda.org
www.market.hslda.org/auction
www.edexbooks.com
www.usedhomeschoolbooks.com
www.usedhomeschoolcurriculum.com
www.books4home.com
www.edaccents.com

Visit the Means Family website to download past issues of The Educator
<http://www.bethel-park.com/~means>

*My Son, forget not my law;
but let thine heart keep my
commandments;*

*For length of days, and long life,
and peace shall they add to thee.*

*Let not mercy and truth forsake
thee: bind them around thy neck;
write them upon the table of thine
heart,*

*So shalt thou find favour and
good understanding in the sight of
God and man.*

*Trust in the Lord with all thine
heart; and lean not unto thine own
understanding.*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths.*

*Be not wise in thine own eyes:
fear the Lord, and depart from evil.
—Proverbs 3:1-7*