

Dear Home School Families,

With the coming of April, comes the promise of spring and warm weather on some days and we have lots of activities for you to choose from this coming month. Also many of you will enjoy getting together at the upcoming Home School convention. The band sometimes needs extra workers at the coat check at the convention so you can also check with me about that as well.

We have had positive feedback about the calendar on the website and so keep checking that for details that you need for activities. Events are posted there all the way to the end of June and new events are added as they are booked.

The Home School Mom's retreat this year at the Gull Lake Retreat Centre was a great time and we encourage you Moms to come out next year to take advantage of the time that we were able to spend together and learn and get great ideas from one another!

Have a very Happy and Blessed Easter with your families. Our granddaughter is coming for Easter and so we are excited to spend time with her and her parents! Happy Homeschooling! Kathy ☺

Activities:

Reminders

Please check the following reminders for activities. The details of these events can be found on the calendar on our website at www.familieslearningtogether.com. We are trying to avoid repeating ourselves with upcoming activities in the newsletter as they can become quite long. Instead we will try to just put in the new activities but all of them, new and old, will instead be put on the calendar. Therefore it is important to check the calendar to remind yourselves of all activities. Here we will transition by adding a few reminders!

1. **New Parent Meeting – Wednesday, April 15th** at the Snider's house.
2. **Last Collicutt Activity** day will include our Michael Mitchell concert first at Balmoral Bible Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Dress in red and come and listen to some great Canadian songs.
3. **Michael Mitchell** concerts will also take place in Edmonton and Calgary. The Calgary location for this and the Harriet Tubman presentation has been confirmed and will take place at Brentview Baptist Church, 3512 Charleswood Drive, NW Calgary.
4. Drop in Gymnastics start Monday, April 6th.

Digital Scrap Booking Presentation

Saturday, March 21st, at 3 p.m. there will be a digital scrap booking presentation/party at the home of Cheryl Duffy near Tees (about 20 mins from Red Deer). Julie Robertson will show you amazing things that you can do with this type of scrap booking that will preserve and present your family memories in great ways! There will also be refreshments and a small lunch. Please contact Cheryl (885.2234) or Julie (391.7898) if you would like to attend and/or for more info.

March - Pre- Teen (10- 12 yrs.) Lunch & Serving Opportunity

Lunch place: Pizza hut Serving place: Red Deer Food Bank

Cost for Lunch: Lunch Buffet (Kids \$4.99 Adults \$8.99)

Date: March 25, 2009 Time: 11:45-3:00 Serving task: Sorting donations

Please sign up by **March 20, 2009**, call or email Taylor at 403-340-3090 or cattes@telus.net Thanks.

Word to the Wall Party

Monday, April 6th at 7 p.m., Moms are invited to a 'Word to the Wall' party at Kathy's house (62 Oaklands Crescent in Oriole Park West). We will be shown examples of a great variety of words that can be used in your home decorating and how easy they are to apply. The great thing about this company is that you can choose any words to have made up and that includes any bible verse that you might like to have for your wall as well. I've seen some very cool ideas that you will enjoy seeing as well. Denise VanderLeek will show examples and how to apply

the words and you can order that evening or call her to order later. Please let me know if you would like to attend by contacting me at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or calling 348.0723. You can also check out their website at: <http://www.wordtothewall.com/>

Collicutt Passes

I have a few people who are already on my list for the next order of passes. This will be our last order until September. So if anyone would like to purchase passes, please call me (Alison) at 347-7086 before March 27th (a week after Collicutt day).

A booklet(3) of family(2 adults including children/youth living in the same residence) - \$8.33 instead of the \$16.00 family admission

A booklet(6) of adult passes - \$4.17 instead of the \$7.50 adult admission

A booklet(9) of youth passes (13-17 years) - \$2.77 instead of the \$5.25 admission

A booklet (12) of child passes (3-12 years) - \$2.08 instead of the \$3.75 admission

Each booklet is \$25 and \$10 goes to FLT for fun programs for our children.

P.S. The first home schooler to find an error(s) in my calculations please notify me:) I'll reward you a free family admission. All numbers rounded to two decimal places. P.P.S. No expiration dates:)

Band News:

Here's a reminder that there are only two more band practices at Balmoral on Wednesdays, March 25th and April 1st. Take note that there will be no band on Wednesday, April 8th and then our concerts will be on Wednesday, April 15th as we have talked about in band and are also on the calendar on the website.

We've had a great spring session making music together. The beginner band came up with a practicing schedule and the improvement was great. So that was fun to see happen. Music is a marvelous thing to enjoy your whole life through!!

Christian Youth Theater is coming to Red Deer this summer and is looking for families interested in being part of a community that loves using the theater to grow character in children one stage at a time! Besides musical theater CYT offers many classes including acting, makeup, accents and dialects, improv and dance. Parents are foundational within the structure of CYT which operates from Christian Judeo values. CYT began almost 30 years ago in San Diego and is the fastest growing non-profit children's theater in North America. San Diego is excited to see what Canadian families can accomplish with Christ's direction in CYT. We are looking for directors, teachers, students and parents to build this program. Bring your family and friends to learn the details of where you might fit. Member of the CYT Board of Directors, Stephanie Orr (also a home school mom) from CYT North Idaho will be presenting at an interest meeting on **April 1 at 7:00 pm** at the First Baptist Church, 4310 - 39 Street, Red Deer. For further details email cycentralalberta@gmail.com or google <http://www.cytnorthidaho.com/CYTAlberta.html> This is recommended by home school Mom, Tari Puffer who has recently spent time with CYT in Spokane where her son has been involved in productions such as Narnia and Jungle Book and loving it! They are also looking at setting up fall classes as well with productions in mind for the future as well. If you have more questions or would like to be a part of this call Tari at 403.341.6021.

Mondays at the Library

Thanks to some of our creative Moms, we now have the working area in the children's section at the Red Deer Public Library (downtown branch) booked for Mondays from 9:30 am - 12:30pm. It is booked under FLT and we have this time blocked off for us till end of June. We thought it might be nice to have children gather to work on projects or just meet and read and discover. So you might like to give this a try and enjoy the company of others and be stimulated to work on some fun projects as you see what others are doing as well. It's just great to enjoy the library as well!

Drop In Gymnastics

Mondays in April 6,13,20,27. 1-2 p.m. \$5 per time This will take place at the Collicutt Centre.

Please wear gym clothes only – no jeans or buckles or snaps (as it is hard on the equipment and also hard to move around in). Parents are welcome to go out and help. Children under 3 must have their parents go out with them.

Final Season King of Kings

Many homeschoolers in the Spruce View area are excited to invite you to attend performances **April 2,3,4** at 7:30 p.m and April 4,5 at 2:00 p.m. These will take in the Spruce View Community Hall. This has been a very popular event for years and this is the final year for these performances. Call Christ Lutheran Church for tickets.

Scholastic Flyers

- are available by picking them up on the Collicutt Days or call Natalie if you would like to stop by to get some and orders are delivered at the next Activity day but other arrangements can be made if necessary. The April orders are due in on **April 15th**. Also, remember that if you have fall funding left you can use that to place your orders (call me for details). (ilovepicture@yahoo.ca 403-348-5813)

EARTH

- is a new movie coming out (April 22) by Disney Nature that follows 3 animal families for a year (Polar Bears, African Elephants & Humpback Whales). The previews have amazing scenery that need to be seen on the big screen. There is an amazing Educator's Guide at www.disney.go.com/disneynature/earth, then click on "For Educators". (I think it is good even if you don't go to the movie)

It is possible to get a group pricing on a daytime showing if we have more than 20 people interested (kids 13 & under - \$5.50, adults & kids over 13 - \$7.50). There are discounts on concession also. This movie is so far not scheduled to come to Red Deer but it could if it is very successful in Edmonton. I will wait & see if we can schedule it in Red Deer in the beginning of May or I will book for April 23 or 24th in Edmonton at Cineplex South Common for a daytime performance. If you are interested in being on my notification list, call or E-mail Natalie Tonne (ilovepicture@yahoo.ca 403-348-5813).

April - Pre- Teen (10- 12 yrs.) Lunch & Serving Opportunity

Lunch place:Bower Mall food court (that way everyone can make their own choices)

Serving place:Red Deer Nursing Home

Cost for Lunch: ? Date: April 23 Time: 12:30p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Serving task: Please come with your talents(musical, poetry, story, or just you) to entertain some grandmas/pas, then we will have a visit over tea.

Please sign up by **April 20,2009**, call or email Taylor at 403-340-3090 or cattes@telus.net Thanks.

Teen Activities

Are you between the **ages of 13-17**? If you are, we are planning some really fun activities for the next couple of months. We meet every 2-3 weeks, and one of the volunteered teens will be planning an activity. If you would like to get updates on what is happening please email Kyla at cattes@telus.net Thanks.

Girls 'Beauty Day'

Girls from ages 5 – 8 and ages 9 – 11 or 12, you have been invited once again, to come to have your hair done (washed, curled, styled) and nails painted on **Thursday, April 23rd** at the Lindsay Thurber High School here in Red Deer. The first group – girls ages 5-8 should arrive there at 12:25 sharp and you will be done by 1:40 at the latest. The second group – girls ages 9 – 11 or 12 should arrive at 1:50 p.m. and will be done by 3:14 at the latest. Moms are welcome to stay with the girls and tea will be available and some have even gotten their hair done as well! You should park in the Visitor parking on the west side of the school and go in the main doors and then go into the first room on your left. Also be sure to know your license plate number as a list will be made to register with the office. If you would make a donation of \$2 per child (up to a family maximum of \$4) that would be appreciated to cover some costs. Please call or email the Sniders if your daughter would like to participate. (k.d.sider@shaw.ca or 348-0723).

High School Options Discussion

Do you have a child in or entering those high school years and not sure what educational path to pursue? We have many people that have done wonderful things with their high school students. Although we know there is no magic formula and every family is unique, we do hope that we can learn from each other. If you are interested in sharing what you know or asking some questions we would love to get together for such a discussion. Please call Loretta Cote at 346-9406 or email ldcote@telusplanet.net and we will work out the details.

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage

Laugh Your Way to a better marriage will be held at CrossRoads Church in Red Deer ([click for map](#)).

This is a two day presentation, **April 24th & 25th**, 2009 Friday 7-10 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

After March 15th registration is \$79.00 per person, or \$129.00 per couple. Check out this website for more info. It looks like a lot of fun and here is a brief description:

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage is a wildly entertaining and informative marriage event designed to:

•Bring hope and positive change to marriages •Create better communication in marriages

Help spouses better understand each others' needs •Rekindle romance in marriage relationships

•Appeal widely to husbands, even those who may typically resist marriage events and seminars.

<http://www.heritagefamilyservices.com/LaughYourWay.html>

The Sewing Shop Fashion Display

Saturday, April 25th

1:30 - 3:00 pm Lacombe Memorial Centre -Community Savings Room (upstairs)

Students projects will be on display. There will also be a short fashion show!

Sample projects for next year will be on display at this time with sign up sheets for those participating in sewing next year. A beginner adult course will be offered in the fall of 2009! Call Bev Larson if you have any questions (403 782 7770 email: larson99@telus.net).

Last Activity Day at the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer

Thursday, April 30th is our last activity day at the Collicutt. (The last Friday in May, our activity day will be the annual bike ride that you can read about on the calendar.) We will start with our Michael Mitchell concert at Balmoral Bible Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Dress in red to represent our Canadian colours!

Then we will have another old fashioned "Field Day" at the Collicutt! So from 1 – 1:45 the plan is for everyone to meet in the West Soccer Pitch. There we will have field day games mixing up all ages. For example there will be wheelbarrow races with one young and one older person. There will be gunny sack races, relays, three legged races and tug-o-wars There may even be a 'candy scramble'. Then from 1:45 – 2:45 there will be regular gym times. Don't miss the fun!

Also on this activity day, we are hoping the Painted Lady caterpillars will be there to be picked up by those who have ordered them.

Drama Performance in Lacombe –Punchinello

This year the City on a Hill Community of Fine Arts, in Lacombe, is performing 'Punchinello' based on the children's books by Max Lucado. For those of you saw 'Wonka's World' last year you will know that their productions, full of acting and dance, are well worth seeing. Performances will be held at the First Baptist Church in Lacombe. Available performance times are **Wednesday, April 29th through Saturday, May 2nd**, evenings at 7:00 with one matinee time on Saturday afternoon at 12:00. Ticket cost is \$5.00. Tickets will be available by April 1st. Contact Yvonne Geleynse at 403-783-3418.

Stamping for K-Grade 5 Girls

Tuesday, May 5th at Natalie Tonne's (59 Webster Drive)

Each girl will make 5 spring projects to take home. There are different projects for K-Grade 2 and Grade 3-5. The cost is \$10 each payable that day. Please bring a good pair of scissors (labelled with your name) & if you have

scrapbooking adhesive bring that too. If not you will use glue sticks which works just not quite as well. Ann Driscoll (a Stampin' Up demonstrator) will be teaching us. RSVP by phone or email by April 27th and mention which age group your child is in. (iloveepicture@yahoo.ca 403-348-5813)

CUC HS Gym Classes in Lacombe

Home school gym class Spring Session taught by Ron Schafer will take place on the following dates: **Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 9, 16** from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Fee: \$36.00. Call Shirley at 782.2822 to register.

Baseball near Caroline

Join other homeschoolers Tuesday nights 6:30-8:30 pm at the Shiloh community hall/diamond. This will take place every Tuesday from **May 5th – June 30th**. It is open to anyone, any age (family involvement encouraged!) who wants to be involved. There will be no cost but you have to have your own glove. The plan is to focus on learning some skills, playing recreational games and having fun.

For more information and/or to register please contact Kendra Reap ksreap@telusplanet.net or 403-638-4653. The Hall is east of Caroline approx. 4 miles then north about a mile. It's the first range road east of the hwy 22/hwy 54 intersection east of Caroline then North.

Dutch Blitz Tournament

Come join us for our 2nd annual Dutch Blitz playing day at 1 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 12th**. This will take place at the Rosedale Community Shelter for one hour before Park day's outdoor activities. All ages are welcome to play and we will set up games so that you will be playing against different people throughout the hour. Parents of course may play as well. Please bring your family's Dutch Blitz card game with you. You don't have to call ahead but just show up if you wish to participate.

Art Display Day

Attention all FLT artists. Please join us on **Tuesday, May 19th** at the Rosedale Community Shelter (in conjunction with our park day) for the FLT art project display. FLT has been invited to provide the Red Deer Regional Hospital with a wall full of paintings to be displayed throughout the months of June and July. So in preparation and anticipation of that, we thought we would have our own art display prior to that allowing everyone's art to be displayed for all of us to see. The hospital can only accommodate a few pieces on their wall so we will be selecting some pieces both by selection and by ballot to be displayed at the hospital. The theme for your painting/artwork is to be "families learning". This will give you a wide spectrum of ideas to paint. Be sure to bring your own "easel" on which to display your work for Tuesday, May 19th. The park day display starts at 1:00pm so be sure to come a little early in order to set up your art work. Any questions please call Corinne Mclean @ 403-347-0203.

Art Trading Card Making Day

Tuesday, May 26th at 1 p.m. you are invited to join others in making the newest in trading cards. These are 'ART' trading cards. They are the same size as hockey or baseball cards and these days children to teens to adults are making them and trading them with other like-minded 'art card traders'. They are just the right size that they can be created in a reasonable amount of time depending of course on how detailed they are. It is amazing the variety and creativity in these cards. So again you can just come out to the Rosedale Community Shelter on this Tuesday, again before the park time to enjoy this activity. The cost will be \$2 per participant to cover some of the costs of the supplies, paints, pastels, stickers etc. If you want a two page informational hand-out about this, you can also email Kathy and she will forward that to you.

Stephansson House, Hola School and Markerville Creamery Tour

This tour will take place on **Monday, May 25th**. The schedule is as follows: 10 AM - Stephansson House tour- "Icelandic Prairie Community"; 11:15 AM Grade 2 and up- "Roll Call" at Hola School; 12:30 PM - Bag lunch in Markerville; 1:00 PM - Milk goats and prepare Icelandic Brown Bread; 1:30 PM - "Velkomin to Markerville" tour of the museum and butter making; 2:30 PM - Scavenger hunt, cream can ride (2 stations);

3:15 PM - Eat fresh bread with your own homemade butter!; 3:30 PM - Head for home.

Program Notes:

- Minimum 12 participants required, not including parents and siblings. Maximum is 30 participants.
- Please bring a bag lunch for your family.
- Adult involvement is encouraged in all programs **and mandatory if pre-schoolers are present.**
- Cost: \$12 per student, \$4 per adult or preschooler **-this is the tour cost only**, if you would like an ice cream cone at the end of the tour please add an additional \$1.00 per person.
- **The Hola School program is suitable for Grade 2 and up only**, (younger siblings and parents can play in Markerville or in the school yard during the school section of the tour if they wish). The coordinators ask for the younger children to stay out of the school portion of the program because they have found that the younger kids tend to get upset by the dramatics of the school house atmosphere. If you are positive your youngster is up for it, I am sure they would make an exception. They also will offer us an alternate activity for the young kids for a cost. If you are interested in this idea please let me know well ahead of time so I can set this up with the folks at the Creamery.

To register please contact Kendra Reap at ksreap@telusplanet.net or 403-638-4653

Payment must be received by **May 13th** in order to guarantee a spot in the tour.

You can mail payment along with the names and ages of ALL attending family members to Kendra Reap, Box 1016 Sundre AB T0M 1X0. Receipts will be issued the day of the tour.

Beach Party

Mark down **Tuesday, June 16th**, on your calendar to remind yourselves to come and join other homeschoolers at the Sylvan Lake Beach meeting in the area right across from the Big Moo which is located on main street looking out on to the lake. You don't need to call ahead and in the event of rain or poor weather we will plan to meet the following Tuesday instead (June 23rd). However we will count on (and pray for) a beautiful sunny day and plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. Bring your lunch and spend time on the beach and in the water throughout the afternoon. Bring water and sand toys, Frisbees etc.

Teens we will also plan to meet at the beach volleyball courts at 2 p.m. (this is further down the beach on the left from the original meeting spot). Here we will enjoy some games of beach volleyball and then perhaps go to the Big Moo after that.

If you are wondering about the weather that day, you could call Kathy or Lorraine to see whether or not it has been postponed to the next week.

Sylvan Lake Waterslides

We have tentatively set the date for a day at the waterslides at Sylvan Lake for **Friday, June 26th**. More details will be given in the next newsletter.

Kids of Steel Triathlon

Saturday, June 27, 2009 This triathlon has been a big hit with our family and I wanted everyone to know about it. It is for ages 5 – 15yrs. Participants swim in the Michener Centre pool, then go to a looped bike course through the area and then finally run in an out and back course. It was a really positive experience with everyone swimming, biking and running a distance appropriate for their age group. Josh last year wore a life jacket which is totally acceptable. Also there is a (modified team) triathlon for the parents the next day (if you are really brave) and you can all practice together!!! For more info check out the website at www.woodystriathlon.com. Submitted by Loretta Cote and Cheryl Core whose families both participated last year. If you have any questions, you could ask them as well!

Sharing Bulletin

Fall Legislature Tour Pictures: If you attended the tour of the legislative buildings last fall and haven't gotten your group picture for your family members, please contact Kathy Snider to get them (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723). They are great pictures and they are waiting for a home. There is one for each person attending.

To Give Away: 1 small electric organ; 2 matching book shelf cabinets with sliding glass doors;
1 wooden book shelf. Contact Cindy Klaudt at 403 342-1469

Looking for Marilyn Howshall Journals: At the mom's luncheon either 2007 or 2008, I gave away a stack of Marilyn Howshall journals (little blue books I believe). If the person who took these is through with them or would consider giving some or all of them back, I would be most grateful. They had been given to me by a friend and I assumed after six years she no longer wanted them and was receiving updated journals. Apparently Marilyn Houshall is no longer publishing and she would really like the journals for her older children. You can contact Tammy Hildebrandt @ 403-886-7892. Thank you!!

For Sale

Kawai digital piano with bench, model #CN270. \$600.00. For information please contact Cindy Klaudt at 403 342-1469

Havanese Puppies for Sale: Puppies arrived at the Parker household March 6th! They will be available to go to their new homes the first part of May, which is a great time of year for training a new puppy. Their colors this time are mainly black with some white markings. Hypo allergenic, great with children, call for details. Lorraine 403-784-3078.

Rabbits For Sale: 8 cute and fuzzy rabbits are needing good homes and of course they want to be home schooled! They are Lionhead cross Rex rabbits and the cost is \$30 each. They will be 8 weeks old at the end of April and ready to go to their new homes at that point. Please call Amelia at 403.784.2345 for more information and/or to make arrangements to get the cutest rabbits ever!

For Sale: Explode the Code workbooks 1 1/2, 2, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, 4, 4 1/2 (never been used - \$8.50 each) Explode The Code Teacher's guide for books 1&2 (used slightly \$5.00) and 3&4 (never been used - \$8.50) Get ready/set/go for the Code teacher guide (used \$5.00)
Explode the code wall chart and activity guide (slightly used \$40.00 (new its \$70.00)
Or all of it for \$110.00 Call Alene at 403.845.7316.

Red Deer Signed Exact English Courses

(To register: <http://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/focus/specialed.html>)

Introductory Level - Mondays 5:30 – 9:00 pm April 20 – June 15th, 2009

Level One - Wednesday April 15th 5:30 – 9:00 pm Mondays April 20th – June 22nd 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Level Three - Wednesday April 15th 5:30 – 9:00 pm Mondays April 20th – June 22nd 5:30 – 9:00 pm

For More Information and Registration Forms contact: **S.E.E. Support** Ph: 780-702-7560 Email:

seesupport@tbwifi.ca