



Dear Home School Families,

“Welcome” to the November 2009 edition of the Families Learning Together newsletter! You may have already noticed our new logo at the top of this page. This was created when our t-shirts were made and we also want to let you know that for those of you who ordered Families Learning Together t-shirts, they are ready to be picked up and will be brought to various events for you to do so. They are on a navy t-shirt and look very nice with this logo in the centre. If you are still interested in ordering them, you can let us know. They are \$12 each and available in size range from Youth Xsmall to Adult XXLlarge.

Also often in the newsletters, I put in articles from The Home School Minute - a weekly email that you can subscribe to from The Old School House website. Anyway, one came in a week or two ago about Crafts and I wasn't even going to read it since I'm not doing any crafts with young children anymore. But then I got an email about a great craft site from a Mom and then decided I should look at it and see at least what the Home School Family man Dad, Todd – said about crafts. When I read it and thought about how in particular young children LOVE crafts, I just had to share it with you (look at the end of this newsletter). It is great and a reminder to let your children enjoy creating with a variety of materials! There is also another article by Nancy Carter and you can check out her suggested crafts on the links if you are reading this on line. I will also include a Christmas Wreath craft made from garbage bags that was a favourite craft of ours at one time. Happy craft time as it is the season for it alright!

Ok, now that many of you have done lots of kind deeds and focused on being Kind, our suggested theme for the next few months is to: **Be Grateful!** This is a particularly good time of year to focus on that as well. We encourage you all to again share your ideas, projects and stories with us on 'Being Grateful'. For those of you who made posters, we will also look forward to your Be Grateful posters, stories or poems that we will display at the next Collicutt day. Also at the end of this newsletter, we will include a story of a 'Be Kind' project by 6 year old Rylyn Leighton, so enjoy that one.

Lastly, I would like to share a poem with you that I love, that Home School Mom, Brenda H. shared with me just recently. I have to add with permission, a little background, in that their recently widowed Grandpa was with them for what his 5 year old granddaughter called “a big sleepover”. Grandpa heard Brenda reading Caddie Woodlawn aloud to the children and was so taken by this, that he pulled out a poem from a poetry book he “just happened” to have with him. He read it aloud with emotion in his voice and here it is:

THE READING MOTHER

I had a Mother who read to me
Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea,
Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth.
"Blackbirds" stowed in the hold beneath.

I had a Mother who read me lays
Of ancient and gallant and golden days;

Stories of Marmion and Ivanhoe,
which every boy has a right to know.

I had a Mother who read me tales
Of Gelert the hound of the hills of Wales,
True to his trust till his tragic death,
Faithfulness blent with his final breath.

I had a Mother who read me things
That wholesome life to the boy heart brings -
Stories that stir with an upward touch
Oh, that each Mother of boys were such!

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffer of gold.
Richer than I you never can be -
I had a Mother who read to me.

By Strickland Gillilan

*Ok...now with tears in my eyes and probably in yours as you just read this, I hope that all you Moms and Dads are inspired to keep or start reading aloud great books to your children. Of all the things in the years of homeschooling our children, my favourite memories are of reading great books with our children!
Thanks for sharing Brenda. Blessings on you all, Kathy Snider ☺*

Activities:

Musical – Fish Tales and FLT Bands to perform!

Even though this event doesn't fit here chronologically, it does fit in importance I believe. Our musical this year and band program are examples of commitment and hard work on the part of many students and their families. Building music and God's truths into young lives, I believe is an investment that lasts them a lifetime. So... all that said we would like you to mark your calendars for **Friday, November 20th** at 7 p.m. and come and support and enjoy our young musicians and actors and also inspire your children for future musical opportunities they might like to be involved in. Bring Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunties and Uncles and neighbours!

This will be held at **Victory Christian Fellowship** – located in Oriole Park at 98 Oberlin Ave. The bands will be performing as well and the musical will last 45 minutes. We are also planning to serve cheese cake as well so that will be the 'icing on the cake' for the evening too. So come and join the fun as this year you will hear beautiful music and also check out a 'Fishing Derby' and hear some interesting whoppers of fish tales! Come one, come all!

'Fish Tales' Participant News:

Please take note of the following dates and times of rehearsals, as we have only three more Wednesdays to practise!

Nov. 4th - the choir and drama portions of 'Go Go Jonah' will be practiced together for the first time. We need everyone in the musical to be there at **9:30** sharp and we will be done at the usual time at noon.

Nov. 11th – Again everyone will practice together from **9:30** to noon. We'll have our first full rehearsal with props.

Nov. 18 – 9:00 – noon - This will be our **Final Dress Rehearsal**.

Performances are as follows: Main performance – at **Victory Christian Fellowship** (the old Oriole Park Missionary Church) located at 98 Oberlin Ave - Friday evening, **November 20th** at **7 p.m.** and all choir members should be there by 5:15 p.m. and drama members should be there at 5:00 p.m. It will be a great evening and this is the opportunity to invite family and friends. We also are asking that choir members bring a cheese cake for a snack to share with our visitors. The bands will also be performing and sharing the evening of entertainment. We should be done at by about 9 p.m. which will include time for eating cheese cake and visiting.

Afternoon performance: Friday, November 20th we will be performing in the afternoon but time and location will be announced at one of the next practices.

Please note that for this year, we will perform the musical only those two times on Friday, Nov. 20th unless there are some huge changes. There are a few factors, one being that some schools are not booking any groups like this because of the H1N1 situation. The same goes for some of the senior facilities where they have been mandated not to have any groups with children under 12 years of age in it. So this certainly affects us as well. So be sure to bring your camera on the 20th and we'll have a great time of it for the performances on that day!

Band News:

All bands (including recorder band, Beginner, Intermediate and Senior bands) will be performing on **Friday evening, November 20th** at Victory Christian Fellowship at 7 p.m. (see address above). Band members need to arrive at 6:25 p.m. to set up and warm up. Please bring a cheese cake to share with the audience afterwards. The Fish Tales Musical will also be performed after the band plays and so they will watch us and we'll watch them and then eat cheese cake together!

Bands will practice together on Wednesday the 18th as well. Then on Wednesday, November 25th the Senior band will play at the Golden Circle at noon (meet at 11:29 a.m.) Lunch will be provided at 12:45. We will be playing at their Wednesday lunch and they look forward to having us once again! Please note that they are back in their newly renovated building by the museum and rec. pool close to downtown.

All bands will have the opportunity to perform again at Victoria Park (9Avery Street, near the Collicutt Centre) meeting at 3 p.m. on that same day, **Nov. 25th**. We'll play for about 45 mins and then have cookies afterward and so should be done at about 4:15 p.m. It will be great fun to have everyone play together for part of the time.

The last performance for the Senior band will be **Saturday night, Nov. 28th** at the Festival of Trees at the Westerner. We will go in the performers door which is on the south end of the building with the doors facing the west (same doors as in the past). For this performance, we are inviting all members that have ever played with the FLT band to join us. They just need to let Kathy know so that she can get them the music ahead of time or have it there. They are also welcome to come to our last practise on Nov. 18th if they would like. It will be lots of fun!

Also for those of you who would like to get together earlier, we are planning to meet for supper at 5:45 p.m. at the ABC Country Restaurant which is located quite close to the Westerner at 2085 – 50 Ave. They have a room available for us as well as perhaps a buffet or selected menu choices. To guarantee your spot in the 'special room', contact Kathy early!

Art Classes with Local Artist Shane Young

Shane Young will be offering a seven week session of art classes. He is proposing classes in the following: Gesture Drawing; Copy a Master; Abstract/Sketch Art; Cartoons; Pastels; Building a 3D House with Mapboard; and Watercolours. The classes would be held on **Thursdays starting Nov. 5** with a morning class offered from 9:30 to 12:00 and an afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:30. The cost would be \$85 plus some basic supplies which most of us would probably have on hand already like pencils and watercolour paints. Shane has taught some of our homeschoolers in the past and has really helped them develop their artistic talents. To book a spot, Shane can be reached at 403-342-2135.

Sigmund Brouwer Writing Workshop

There is still room in this very exciting writing workshop that will take place on **Monday, November 9th**, with Sigmund Brouwer and so be sure to call right away. Many of you and/or your children have read his very popular books and so this is a great opportunity for your child to meet Sigmund in person and be motivated to read and write more! He does a great job with the kids and we have had him in the past a few times over the years and my children loved his workshop.

The cost to attend is \$47 per student (and \$37 per student if it's the second or third child in a family.) This is suitable for children ages 8 – 14 and the workshop will be held from 9:30 – 2:30. We ask people to arrive a few minutes early so that we can start right at 9:30 a.m. You would need to bring a lunch. Please contact Loretta Cote if you would like your child/ren to participate (ldcote@telus.net or 403.346.9406). Also Sigmund will have a variety of his books there for sale and it is a good opportunity to get some of those and even autographed!

Scrapbooking/Paper Crafting Classes:

The next two class dates are set for **November 12 and December 3, 2009**. 1:00 - 3:30 pm at the Weiler residence (15 McCullough Cr. Red Deer). These classes are for girls about Gr. 6 and up.

The cost will be \$15 per child that can be paid that day and all supplies will be included in the cost. Please contact Adeline at (403) 347.3198 by Nov. 9 for the November class to book your spot and by Nov. 30 to book the December class. Join us for classes each month, or just come when you can. The girls at our October class seemed to have a great time crafting and visiting.

Kerry Wood Nature Centre Programs

We've had many of you enjoy the programs here at the Nature Centre and so we have booked two more for **Friday, November 13th** at 1:30 p.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early so we can start the group activity on time). The 5-7 year old program is called '**Winter Wilds**' and the children will enjoy a hands-on visit with the Nature Centre's captive wildlife followed by a guided walk to explore seasonal changes and our animals' winter challenges. Be sure to dress appropriately for this outdoor portion of the program. This program will last 1 ½ hrs.

The 8-10 year olds will be involved in the program called '**Building Blocks of Rocks**' which lasts 2 hours and they will be introduced to 'the wonders of geology'. The program includes a brief introduction followed by hands-on testing and entertaining activities that teach the basic properties of major rock and mineral groups.

The cost will be \$5/child to participate. Please contact AnnaMarie Blair if you would like to attend (email preferred annamaria.blair@gmail.com or 403.346.5033).

Sat. Art/Craft Times

The Museum has a GREAT program on Saturdays at the Parkland Mall. It is called "Mag @ the Mall". It's a FREE drop-in art making activity time for families from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. If you're like me and "crafting" is not one of your strong points, this is a great way to get it in. If you go to their website, they have the themes for the

Saturdays up until Nov. 28th. (www.reddeermuseum.com) Go to "what's on, events". Recommended by Anna Maria Blair.

Once Upon A Dickson – Dinner Theatre

Here's a great opportunity to learn about local history and enjoy a dinner theatre or come to the dress rehearsal for only a donation (great deal). This play was written specifically for the 100th anniversary celebration for the Dickson Store Museum near Spruceview. It says that it will take you from laughter to tears. It is about 50 years of history from 1902 to the late forties in Dickson. One of the best parts is that the cast is made up of some of our favorite homeschooled (the Richards and Mundells). You can choose to attend the dress rehearsal on **November 13th** at 12:30 – arriving to be seated at 12:15 or go to the actual performances on the following dates. The performances take place on **Nov. 13** with the dinner theatre starting at 6:30 and **Nov. 14th** there is a Matinee which starts at 1 p.m. at the Spruce View Hall (29 km west on Hwy 54). Ticket prices are \$30 for the dinner theatre or \$20 for the Matinee or \$60 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children or again the dress rehearsal is by donation only.

If you have any questions you can ask Sandy at 403.728.3099 or reserve your tickets by leaving a message at the museum at 403.728.3355. Enjoy!

Christian Youth Theater presents "A Christmas Carol"

Enjoy a joyous version of the world's most popular Christmas story with traditional Christmas songs and music. All your favorite characters – Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Marley's Ghost, Mr. Fezziwig, Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future – and a host of others bring the spirit of Christmas to the hearts of everyone – cast and audience, young and old alike. This scripted version of A Christmas Carol is a faithful telling of the familiar story with traditional Christmas songs and music, audience participation and lots of fun for everyone. Running time approx. 40 min.

Opening show is **Saturday, Nov. 14** at Unity Baptist Church (139 Northey Ave.) at 5pm and closing show is Sunday, **Dec. 27** again at Unity Baptist Church at 5pm. Tickets are \$5. Contact Loretta Cote 346-9406 or ldcote@telusplanet.net for tickets or info regarding CYT. They are also booking A Christmas Carol into schools, churches, nursing homes, and parties. Cost is \$185. Special rates apply to non-profit organizations. Phone 403 341 6021 for tickets or booking information.

La Sainte Catherine/Taffy Pulling

Have you ever celebrated La Sainte-Catherine by making pull taffy? We will be learning a bit more about her and making taffy at our home on **Thursday, November 25th** at 1pm. Pre-register by November 13th calling or e-mailing Lori Dunbar at fldunbar@telus.net or 403-343-0463.

Gymnastics for Fun

Please note that we have had some problems with people being turned away at the gymnastics times because of too many people. We ask that you would please only go on the Tuesdays that you have signed up to go on (which means you still go every second Tuesday and not every week) so that those signed up don't get turned away. We would also ask that you let us know if you aren't going so that we can give the opportunity to others that would like to.

Activity Days at the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer

Friday, Nov. 27th will be the next Collicutt activity day. Our plan for this day is that you will have an opportunity to take part in Board Games Day! Please bring your favorite board games and we will have tables to sit around and play yours or someone else's board game from 1 – 1:45 p.m. It's great fun although a little harder for the younger children to play that long. So if you have younger children, you are welcome to come part way through the first part and then the Gym time will take place from 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Do what works for your family of course.

In January we will have our annual Bower Ponds, Skating and Tobogganing party. This will take place on Friday, January 29th from 1 – 4 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast Production at RDC

This is a reminder to all of you who have booked tickets to Beauty and the Beast at Red Deer College, that the performance begins at noon on Monday, **November 30th**. It is a good idea to arrive at least 20 mins early to get your tickets from us there at the door and then get seated. We are not able to get extra tickets at this point. If you find you are not able to attend and you have booked tickets, please let us know and we may be able to sell them to someone else on the waiting list. Also note that the ticket prices dropped down to \$10 per ticket, so that's a bonus. See you there!

Violin Performances

This is a reminder that on **Tuesday, December 1st**, we plan to meet at Red Deer Valley Park Manor Care Centre (5505 – 60th Ave) at 9 a.m. where we will practise together. We will be sending out music shortly and in the meantime you can practise the Christmas songs that we played last year. The only 'complication' to this time is that Valley Park Manor does not allow any children under the age of 12 years to come in with the group (because of the H1N1). So we are sorry that this may be a problem for some but we are hoping that you can work around it. At 10:45 we will have a concert for the seniors for 45 mins. Others with you in your family that aren't playing (and are over 12 years of age) are asked to come along and help decorate the Christmas tree at the manor as well. We will have decorations that have been made and you are welcome to make some and bring them as well.

We are also adding a second performance (since we'll be all practised up by then) at **Victoria Park** senior's residence at **2 p.m.** If you are interested, everyone is welcome to meet for lunch at Bower Mall Food Court.

Tour the Legislative Building in Edmonton

Here is a reminder that we have booked a tour of our provincial legislative buildings once again this year in Edmonton on **Wednesday, December 2nd** arriving at 12:40 p.m. at the 107th Street Pedway Entrance. This year it will be even more exciting because the legislature is still in session and so our group will have the opportunity to sit in during the question and answer period with the members actually there. This is the first time that this has happened for our group and so it will be a unique opportunity for those of you already signed up to go. There is also still room and so you can still let the Sniders know that you would like to go.

You will need to give yourselves time to park (bring some change if the free parking area is full and you can check their map on their website) and then get to the entrance where your tour guide will meet you and get you organized into groups. The day includes a 45 min. tour, a group picture with MLA Mary Anne Jablonski (you can get a free one from us later), participating in an activity called "Community in Contest" where you will be talking about the three levels of government, decorating two Christmas trees, as well we sitting in on the question and answer period as mentioned. Everything will be done around 3:45 p.m.

Again, you can also go on their website at www.assembly.ab.ca to do an online tour before hand or find all kinds of information if you would like. Please call the Sniders at 348-0723 to reserve a spot for your family to attend.

Alberta Opera Musical Theatre Production of Hansel and Gretel in Edmonton

Friday, December 4th, at 1 p.m. you have the opportunity to attend this production of Hansel and Gretel at the Varscona Theatre in Edmonton located at 10329 – 83 Ave. You can check out more information on their website found at: www.albertaopera.com . The cost is \$6/child and accompanying adults are free. Just a note to remind you that in the story there is a witch that captures the children and so if that sounds scary for your child, you might want to choose another event. However if they are familiar with this fairy tale and would like to experience a musical theatre production put on by Alberta Opera then this is an inexpensive opportunity to do so! If you would like to attend please contact Rhonda Snider at rhondasnider20@gmail.com or leave a message at 780.298.4623.

Christmas Around theWorld

December 10, 2009 at 1pm Let's celebrate Christmas with some pizzazz!! Choose a country from anywhere in the world and find out what they do to celebrate Christmas. Gather all your findings as an individual or as a family and prepare to share your information or a special snack! Please pre-register by November 13th so that we can decide if our home is going to be roomy enough or if we need to find more space. Please contact Lori Dunbar at fldunbar@telus.net or 403-343-0463.

Red Deer Gym Days at the Collicutt

Gym days are planned for Mondays (1-3 p.m.) in January and February 2010 in the field house at the Collicutt! Last year this time was enjoyed by many during these colder months and therefore we'd like to see it happen again but just in a little different format. The plan is that everyone should buy either a Collicutt pass booklet from Alison or buy a month or two month pass at the Collicutt. It's a good time of year to do this! This way although we won't have a court booked exclusively to ourselves, we will have more flexibility and for the same price (actually this way will be more economical) you have the option of going swimming as well or skating, running and of course the field house activities. The plan is to be ready for swimming, skating, skipping, hula hooping, playing soccer, floor hockey, basketball, tennis, badminton, volleyball... What we do will depend on the type of equipment set up and available volunteer coaches (friends, teens, parents). If you have a skill/interest that you would like to share with us call Alison 403-347-7086 or she might just come knocking at your door anyway. :)

Plan on buying Collicutt passes in November for these fun gym days. When it is freezing outside you can pack a lunch and spend the day. Remember admission books are \$25 each and contain 12-child, 9-youth, 6-adult or 3-family passes. They do not have expiry dates and will save you 40% off regular admission prices.

If you want Collicutt passes talk to Alison ON OR BEFORE Friday, November 27th (Collicutt Day). That way she will have time to order and get them out before Christmas.

Sylvan Lake Swim Lessons and Baby Sitting Course

If you are interested in home school swim lessons at the Sylvan Lake pool please call Jenn MacAhonic right away! They are willing to have lessons for homeschoolers during the day and at a good price but they need to know very soon how many are interested. You can contact Jenn at 403.746.3324. Jenn also has information about a Baby Sitting Course offered there that your child may like to attend.

Calgary Activities News:

Our Home School Mom's supper in Calgary was great fun and it has been decided that there will be planned activities approximately every month for FLT families living there or others living further away who would also like to attend. If you are interested in planning an activity, please let Kathy know but for now this is a tentative schedule of activities that

are planned. First of all the plan is that on **Friday, November 27th**, there will be a gym/games time in the afternoon followed by a time for board games and/or knitting or learning to knit! If you would like to participate, please contact Kim LeMay at 403.547.8482. Kim will let you know the location as well as what supplies you will need for knitting.

Below you will see that we have booked skiing/boarding at COP on **Thursday, January 7th** and you need to contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723) to sign up for that.

For February, a bowling time will be the Valentine's Party activity and in March, Judi Sysak will let you know about the time for Lazar Tag. If you have any questions or suggestions, let us know!

Ski or Board at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary

We have booked **Thursday, January 7th**, at 10 a.m. for our group to ski or snowboard. In order to start at 10, we should meet there by 9:30 if you need to rent equipment or 9:45 if you have your own. Most groups stay up to 3:30 p.m. but it is possible for us to stay longer if we would like –just let me know ahead of time. The cost for the day is as follows: Lift and Lesson \$19 (including gst) and \$14 for either snowboard rental or ski rentals. Adults with our group would also pay student rates. There is a progressive lesson time and one can take lessons at the different levels for the whole time if they would like. In order to leave lessons for skiing on your own you have to be checked off to Stage 2 of Novice. You don't have to take any lessons as long as you check in and get marked off for being competent to do so. We will also get coupons to go another day for half price so you can let me know if you would like to do that another day as well and we can set a date for that. Please contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723) if you would like to come.

Chemistry Presentation at the Bennett Centre in Edmonton

Thursday, January 21st, we have booked a 'Classroom Chemistry' science day at the Bennett Centre in Edmonton located at 9703 -94 Street. The Bennett Centre with their programs are rated as one of the top 5 field trips in Edmonton and we've heard other good things about it. So we will try this one out for now and perhaps book another in the spring as they have others that look very interesting. This activity is intended for children ages approx. 9-12 years.

This program is scheduled to begin at 9:30 am (everyone arriving at 9:10) and end between 2:30 and 3:00 pm. Instruction, equipment, resources, and student booklets will be supplied. Hands-on laboratory experiments will be a feature of this program. Wearing lab coats the student scientists will: explore the properties of water, identify solutions as being acidic or basic, produce carbon dioxide, experiment with mixtures and solutions, observe crystal formation, test the surface properties of water and observe or carry out chemical reactions. All findings will be recorded in a student booklet. The cost to participate will be approx. \$20 per child depending on our numbers and so the exact amount may vary slightly and we'll know that closer to the day. You can sign up for this event by contacting the Sniders at : k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723.

Lacombe News:

Mom's Coffee Night at Kavaccino's in Lacombe, November 19 at 7 pm. Contact Gayle at zooroster2@yahoo.ca or (403) 782-9947 if you would like to attend or find out more about this night out for all homeschool Moms in the area.

Swim Lessons and Gym times in 2010 For planned swim times and gym times in 2010, you can watch for details in the next newsletter or call Shirley at the CUC pool at 782.2822.

Police and Fire Hall Tour – if you are interested in participating in this tour, you can contact Leanne Provost (leanimalauren@yahoo.ca). Dates aren't finalized but details will be given as soon as it is confirmed.

Rocky News:

Science Experiment Day, Potluck & Plate Making – **Thursday, January 28th** we are looking forward to getting together again at 10:30 a.m. at the Rocky Youth Hall for Science Experiments. We had lots of fun the last two years and look forward to a great time again this time! At noon we will have a potluck lunch and then we are planning time for plate making starting at 1 p.m.. That means that everything would be done in time for everyone to get to swim at 2 p.m.!

For the Science experiments we are planning to focus on experiments suitable for children ages 5 – 10 years old. We are asking each family with children these ages to pick an experiment to share with the others. It is more fun for the children to actually get to do it rather than watch and so if possible, please bring enough materials (bowls, pepper, soap etc.) for about 5 groups of children to do your experiment. You need to contact Kathy at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348-0723 to let her know if you would like to participate and also which experiment you would do. That way we can avoid duplicates. If you have older children, then they might like to be the ones to pick and set up the experiment to share with the younger ones! This should be lots of fun, so don't miss it!

Each family should bring food and drinks or dessert to share for the potluck.

Plate making – the cost for making a plate is \$12 each. We bring the special paper that each child draws his picture on as well as the markers. Then we send them away to be processed and that's where most of the cost comes in. After about 4 – 5 weeks the completed plates are sent back to us for pick up. Many families have done these over the years at all different ages and they are a great keepsake but durable enough to enjoy using everyday.

Sharing Bulletin

Deconstructing Darwin Conference - For those of you who missed the last Creation Science seminar here's your chance to take part in another one or ever more so if you enjoyed the last one you'll want to go to this conference in Sylvan Lake, Friday & Saturday, **October 30 & 31**. The times are from 6:30 – 9:30 Friday evening and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. It is a free multimedia-based presentation that promises to be fast-paced and thought-provoking for young and old alike. The DDC is being held in the gymnasium and theatre arts rooms of **Fox Run Public School** (2 Falcon Ridge Dr.) so there is lots of space for individuals and families.

The event features two dynamic speakers from Creation Ministries International, including Dr. Emil Silvestru (Ph.D, Geology), a former atheist and university professor who has been practicing science for more than 3 decades. Here is a link to his series on 100 Huntley Street: <http://100huntley.com/video.php?id=pRS7Efglrgo>

Information about the Presenters: <http://creation.com/richard-fangrad> <http://creation.com/dr-emil-silvestru>

Preview the Saturday night documentary, "The Voyage That Shook the World" at <http://creation.com>

The DDC promises to be a unique learning opportunity. Please feel free to forward this invitation, and if you have further questions you can visit CMI at www.creation.com or www.deconstructingdarwin.com.

From the Bowens: 40% OFF Homeschool Resource Materials

Fireside Learning Resources still has a good selection of various homeschool resources that they are clearing out for 40% off the already marked-down prices. Most of what is left is suitable for elementary grades covering a wide

selection from Language Arts, Math, Science, Art, Social Studies and Bible. Give Jenny a call at 403-347-6334 to set up a time to come over and have a look at what is available.

Activities for Home School Teens Are you 14 or older? (14 years and up, meaning that if you are 13 and turning 14 in the 2009-2010 school year (including summer 2010), this counts as 14.) Wanting to connect with other teens? E-mail Kyla at cattes@telus.net to be updated on activities that are taking place on the following days!: October 30, November 20, December 18, January 29, February 26, March 19, April 30, May 28 and June 25. This is open for home schooling teens under **any** school board.

'Art You Tube' to check out: Alexander Petrov, a Russian animator, has done The Old Man and the Sea in pastel oil paints on glass in a 20 minute video. You can watch the whole thing on Google videos or in 2 parts on YouTube. (There is one "d" word.)

For Sale: Full sized violin with case and bow. \$600 Call Charla at 403.347.0592.

Just Waxing - homeschooling mom has finally taken her years of experience and gotten her waxing certificate and opened her own business! Run out of her home in Rosedale Meadows in Red Deer. Appointments available in the afternoon or evening hours. Unbeatable prices and children are welcome to play in the next room during the appointment! Text or call Sheri at 403.318.0168 to have all your waxing needs met.

"Paradise Treasures" All natural home made soaps and accessories..(using theraputic essential oils) I also have sea salts and other items.. Contact Sandy Koenig at paradise_treasures4evr@yahoo.com... or 403-597-5095. She also will be selling out of their home at 4936 Westbrooke Road in Blackfalds and watch for open house days before Christmas.

'Nurtured Living' invites you to an open house in preparation for the approaching Christmas season. We have some existing stock from Mercurius Canada, Sarah's Silks, Custom Woolen Mills, Shoo-Foo Bamboo and Steiner Books and plenty of time to order products that would make the "perfect gift" for young and older who love being creative and enjoy working and living with natural materials. Check out our suppliers and see if you find that perfect gift.
mercuriuscanada.ca sarahssilks.com steinerbooks.org shoo-foo.com

Please join us in our home at 15 Mackenzie Crescent, Red Deer, **Saturday October 31**, between 12 & 4 pm or **Wednesday November 4** between 12 & 3 pm. If you have any questions please call Tanya at 403-550-3456

Family Musical Theatre Adventure at the WORD OF LIFE church December 10-13. 'Seeker, Carriers of the Kingdom' is produced by local author and Word of Life Centre Children's Pastor, Dian Layton, and is a powerful and fun musical adventure. Show times are Thursday and Friday at 7:00 pm, Saturday 1:00 pm, or Sunday 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$8 available at Scott's Parable Bookstore or online at www.wordoflife.ca. Submitted by Bonnie Olsen.

Be Kind Project by Rylyn Leighton:

Thinking of the bigger picture: I decided I wanted to cut my hair and because it was quite long, I asked my Mom if I could donate it. Mom and I researched where my hair could be used and decided to give it to a company that makes wigs for kids with cancer. I donated 10 inches and am excited to watch my hair grow and donate it again.

Speaking of Crafts.....

Craft Website: Crayola has an amazing craft website. If you go to Crayola.com there are hundreds of crafts they show you how to make.

The Familyman [Todd Wilson, Familyman Ministries](#)



I'm no crafting expert, although I do know of two important rules. Rule #1: Crafts are messy. They involve things like glitter glue, scraps of construction paper, permanent markers, finger paint, and white paste. Rule #2: Crafts are important ingredients for childhood.

Some of my best growing up memories involve making something with my mom. I don't have one single craft that I made left, but I can still remember making homemade play-dough and its saltiness. I can still smell the fragrance of white paste as I pasted loop after loop of red and green construction paper into a humongous Christmas chain.

My mom made masks out of paper bags for Halloween, puppets from socks, and Christmas trees out of the Sears catalogue.

Did I mention rule #1? AND they sound like a big pain whenever my children ask to do them, BUT . . . rule #2.

So . . . we let our children make crafts . . . and messes. Sometimes we guide the crafts, but other times we just smile and let them make a craft on their own. Then, when they're all done and holler, "Look what I made!" we say, "That's beautiful." Instead of griping, "You better clean everything up . . . and I better not find one sparkle of glitter on the floor . . ."

I still feel rule #1, but I KNOW and act on rule #2 (most of the time). Be real and smile, Todd

From Nancy Carter: Dear Home Schoolers,

Wow, can you believe that we're halfway through October already? Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here soon. If you plan on making handmade goodies to give for the holidays, NOW is the time to start.

I used to make Thanksgiving cards for the grandparents when the boys were little that said, "This little turkey is thankful for YOU!" with a [painted handprint turkey](#) on there. I think it's great to take time to have your children let others know just how thankful they are for them. The boys have also used tissue paper and old baby food jars to make [stained glass votive candle holders](#) for Sunday school teachers and other family members.

One year, we made [fleece scarves](#) for many in our family--including little cousins. They loved wearing a gift that their cousins made! Speaking of little cousins or friends, it's a lot of fun to make a [personalized memory game](#) or [fizzy stones](#).

Is there a new baby in the family? My little niece loved the [chenille flannel blanket](#) I made for her. Or your kids could make [trash bag wreaths](#). They are a lot cuter than they sound! And if you have some cute tins, [homemade caramel popcorn](#) is always a hit!

Enjoy every minute! Nancy Carter - From the Homeschool Minute and The Old Schoolhouse Magazine



Trash Bag Wreaths

Supplies:

wire coat hanger
about 4 white trash bags
Decorations (bows, ornament, etc...)

Instructions:

- 1. Buy the thickest white trash bags that you can.** The thicker the trash bags, the fluffier your wreath will be. It takes about 4 or 5 to make the wreath nice and full.
- 2. Cut the trash bag into strips about 6 inches long by 1 1/2 - 2 inches wide.** Just eyeball it. With the brand of trash bag that I bought, I just cut the bottom seam off and then sliced through all of the side seams on each side, leaving the bag all folded still. Then I just cut the strips at the width I wanted. *This is probably the hardest part of the whole process and it's not really hard, but a little time consuming.*
- 3. Bend the body of the hanger into a circle.** Leaving the hanger part on top as-is so that it can be used to hang the wreath. Don't worry if your hanger isn't perfectly round, the fullness makes up for all of that.
- 4. Have the child begin tying the strips on the wreath one at a time.** This is a great project to do while listening to a read aloud or watching a video. Quick and easy. Just tie it on there with one knot and then go on to the next one. As the wreath begins to get full, just push them all to one side so that they are as tight as they'll go. The more strips that you add, the better your wreath will look.
- 5. Add the decorations.**

When I do this as a group project and am counting pennies, I just buy the little red bows at Wal-Mart - a pack of 16 for \$1.97 I think. They'll just twist on there nicely. I also bought some little wooden slats in the craft department that my husband drilled 2 holes in so that we could tie twine on there and hang it around the hanger part. (That's exact, huh?!) Then I just wrote Merry Christmas and put the child's name & year on there with a red paint pen.

Years ago, when I did this with the boys to give as gifts to grandparents & neighbors, we hot glued red poinsettias on there instead of the bows and then I bought a cute clay/ceramic type ornament and wrote the boys name & year on that to hang around the hanger part. You can just decorate it however best suits your family.

This is a simple project that even my boys enjoy doing. It's inexpensive and the wreaths really do hold up well. Since they are made out of trash bags, they can be hung outside and the weather won't hurt them.