

Dear Home School Families,

We welcome you to the start of another homeschooling year! We have been busy planning activities and thinking of good things to do together but if you have more ideas be sure to share them with us. We have some information here that we want to share with you now before you get to the activities!

First of all, for your information, the funding this year is \$747 per child and again half is available at the beginning of the year and half in May. Receipts can be submitted at any time between now and June 15th.

Also we are planning on making a Family Directory this year for Families Learning Together. This directory is for the purpose of making it easier for you and your children to contact one another and not to be used for any other purpose. If you do not want your family information such as names or address or phone numbers in that directory, you must let us know right away. We haven't done this for a few years but we have had many requests and have checked into it and are planning to go ahead with it this year again. Also if you live farther away and again do not want to be included, let us know right away. For many you will be glad to have this as it is very convenient for us all to stay in contact. We are planning for it be available Oct. 1st.

We also want to tell you about the new T-shirts that are being made for Families Learning Together. We have done this in the past but again not for quite a few years and again we've had requests. We think that it will be fun for children (and parents too if they like) to have t-shirts to wear to activities and feel like part of the group! We can also identify one another more easily. Therefore you have the opportunity to order a t-shirt by contacting the Sniders at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723 and letting her know what you would like to order for your family. There will be the words: Families Learning Together on the front of the t-shirt as well as possibly a logo or design of some type as we are having that worked on right now. The plan is that the shirts will be available October 1st at the first Collicutt activity day. The cost of the t-shirts will be \$12 each and will come in youth (xs,s,m,l,xl) and adult sizes(s,m,l,xl).

Be Kind..... OK..now we want to tell you about an idea for a theme that we would like to encourage you to join in on with us! And yes, that theme for the next couple of months is..... Be Kind. Now that doesn't sound too complicated and should be easy because you're all nice anyway!! We are suggesting that if you are interested, we'd like you and your children to take up this 'banner' and think of ways both that you can 'be kind' and encourage others to 'be kind' as well! This is one activity that you can participate in no matter where you live in the province! ☺ As a matter of fact, even out of the province as our daughter, Karla, from West Virginia, has agreed to work with us and put together a 'Be Kind' booklet as each of you as families or children submit things for that book. For example we'd like to hear about your 'Be Kind' projects or individual stories of interesting incidents of the results of doing a kind act. Now in the end, the only ones that will get a 'Be Kind' book are those that submit things to it! We're hoping that encourages you to participate! We are also looking for poems, quotes, Bible verses, stories, songs both original and appropriate ones that you may find. Oh..... I'm so excited! ☺

Another thing we want you to work on is a 'Be Kind' poster and these we would like by October 1st so that we can display them at our first Collicutt activity day. After that day, we will check where we can hang them, for example it might be a kind gesture to share them with a nursing home for them to enjoy! They may even start their own 'Be Kind' campaign! ☺

A verse in Proverbs comes to my mind that says: "Joy fills the heart that is planning for good" (I think I'll put that on my 'Be Kind' family poster). Anyway...my prayer is that joy will fill your hearts – both parents and children as you plan for good in your 'Be Kind' projects over the next couple of months and I'm looking forward to hearing of good things. We're hoping to find some 'Be Kind' buttons to give those who submit their stories, posters etc.

I'm looking forward to another great year of homeschooling and trust you all are too. Enjoy our theme and we have more in store to share as we go along! Blessings and remember to 'Be Kind'! Kathy ☺

What in the World?

The September issue of the Canadian Reader and Level 1 and 2 of 'What in the World?' is now available. This is a Canadian on-line publication of current events. I believe it is a great resource and look forward to it for myself as much as I do for my children. For this first issue, I am putting the password in the newsletter so that everyone in our group can try it out to see if you like it or not. Many families used it regularly last year for their own interest and also to feel good about having 'done Social Studies'!

The other situation is that for everyone that told me they wanted it, I put their name on a list on my computer (very efficiently) and then I had a computer crash. I had most things backed up but not that list. So the plan is now that if you would like to receive this monthly for the rest of the year, please email me again (sorry) with your email address and I will put you on the new list. As well by doing this, you agree that it is ok for \$10 to be deducted from your funding for this. You would then get the monthly passwords for all three of these for that one price – it's a great deal really. The only one who doesn't have to pay is the Sysak family from Bragg Creek because they started this whole thing of getting us all hooked on What in the World! ☺

So enjoy your issue but I do want to also remind you that we pay for a subscription to this for our group only and have agreed to that with them, so this is one time when it isn't appropriate to share each month. To download your personal copy, please go to <http://www.lesplan.com> and scroll down to the 'Current Issues' section at the bottom of the page.

The password to open the September issue of the Canadian Reader, is 'horse' (all lowercase letters). The password to open the September Level 2 materials is 'storm2' and the password for Level 1 is 'flu3' (all lowercase letters).

Activities:

Kerry Wood Nature Centre – Pond Study

Sign up quickly for this event, which will take place on Monday, **September 14 at 1 p.m.** at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre. You will need to arrive at 12:50 and this is suitable for ages 6 – approx. 10 years old. The cost will be \$5/child to participate. There are two hours of related activities for your children to enjoy and so call Kathy at 348.0723 to book your spot. Also it is recommended that participants wear rubber boots!

Band and Choir News

We are excited about the music opportunities again this year. I will start again with a quote that I believe is so inspiring when we are considering musical opportunities for our children.

Quote:

Long after the toys of childhood are forgotten, the gift of music remains.

Wednesday, September 16th is the big opening day when we start our 10 week fall session of preparing for our Musical and also our bands.

Musical:

We are excited to announce that this year's Musical is entitled: 'Fish Tales'. This musical includes three stories which involved fish in the Bible. The first one is "Great Fish for Grateful Folks". The second one is 'Good Fish for Easter Day' and lastly "Many Fish for Fishers of Men". All this takes place at a Fishing Derby! I (Kathy) have already been learning and constantly singing all the great songs and look forward to having everyone else sing them together!

Please arrive ready to begin right at **11 a.m.** on the 16th. Again we will meet at Balmoral Bible Chapel as we have in the past years. This will be the week to find out all about the musical, hear the songs and get a CD. Then you can decide if you love it and then starting the next week, the 23rd, those who are interested in auditioning for a part, will meet at 9:45

a.m. with the choir meeting again at 11 a.m. Mrs. Geneva Siemens will be back to lead our musical and once again we will be happy to have Moms work on the set and props again as they so faithfully have done for all our other musicals. This musical is suitable for ages approx. 6 yrs. old and up. Teens ask us if it is suitable for their age and we encourage you to participate. It is with the addition of our teens that we are so successful and we would love you to come. The cost is \$25 per child plus \$12 per family for the CD and other materials. This can be paid for after the second week or deducted from your funding. The other cost would be the cost of the T-shirts which will likely be around \$12 each. Just so you can plan ahead, final presentations of this will take place during the second last week of November.

Band:

Come one and all and join the band! There is a band to suit every playing level including no experience at all. Children, teens, parents and grandparents you are all welcome. It is an awesome chance to enjoy both learning to play and just playing together at the senior band level.

Senior band spends the first ten weeks on preparing Christmas music and a variety of other music and so we are looking forward to that.

Please call Kathy if you have any questions about finding an instrument or choosing which one or just to let us know that you are playing so we can get all the music ready.

Following are band times: Senior Band: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.; Intermediate Band: 12:30 – 1:55

Beginner Band: 12:30 - 1:30; Recorder Band 12:30 – 1:15

The cost is \$25 for each 10 week session and parents are free.

Paint Ball

Friday, September 18th from 11 a.m.– 1 p.m. (or 2), we have booked a time for paintball at Sylvan Lake Paintball, which is located just north of Sylvan Lake on Highway 20 and then west on Twnp Rd. 39-2 and it is right across from the Jarvis Bay Provincial Campground. This is intended for ages - approx. ages 10 and up. The cost is either \$20 or \$22 depending on the size of our group. It includes 140 paintballs, gun and mask. Coveralls aren't mandatory but you should wear older clothes if you don't use them. Cost to rent coveralls is \$5. You can buy more paintballs or start out with 500 and pay \$37 or \$39.

Please call the Sniders to book your spot for this activity (348-0723). Also please note that you need to sign a waiver for your child. We only book this once a year, so be sure not to miss out on this opportunity!

Monday Library Time

Between 1 – 3 p.m. each Monday at the Red Deer Public Library, homeschoolers are welcome to come and work on projects, read, find books, study, visit and enjoy learning together. This was started last spring and has been enjoyed by families and so it will continue this fall. You don't need to contact anyone just drop in and check it out.

Guzoo

We decided to plan a trip to this unique animal zoo on a Saturday so that Dads can come along as well! So, mark down, **Saturday, September 19th** on your calendars to visit the Guzoo located not far from Three Hills. Check out their website at: www.guzooever.com and you will not only be able to read about Guzoo but you can click on contact us and then you will be able to click on a map to get directions.

The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and under 5 is free. You don't need to book ahead, but just show up there and enjoy the animals. If you want to meet others there from Families Learning Together, then plan to arrive at 1 p.m. and you can enjoy each other's company as well! If you've never been here before, be sure to go! If you have any questions or are wondering about who else is going along you can ask Lorraine Parker at 403.784.3078.

Airplane Rides

Sky Wings at the Penhold airport is once again offering 15 minute flights over Red Deer and area and a tour of their facility. We have currently booked the date of Monday, **September 21st at 10 a.m.** Three people can fly at a time and so

when you call us, please try to have groups of three already but if you don't we can put threes together. We have done this other times and it has been very popular. The cost this year will be \$28/person. If the weather isn't suitable for flying, an alternate date will be given. So if the weather looks bad, please call us the morning of the flight to check. Please don't call Sky Wings as they will be getting ready for us to arrive! Please call Kathy or Daryl at 348-0723 to book your flight and to make sure you get a spot.

Fort Normandeau

Come visit Fort Normandeau on Friday, **September 25th** at 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Here are the details:

Please arrive 10 – 15 mins. early to collect money and divide into groups. The first group is for children in Grades K – 3. They will be learning about Red Deer in Pioneer days and will enjoy a variety of activities including making ice cream.

Children in grades 4 – 6 will be in another group and enjoy a program called "Of Two Peoples". This will include a lively fur trading game at the fort.

Both programs for the two different age groups will last 1½ hours and the cost is \$4 per child. Please contact the Sniders at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723 if you would like your child to participate. There is limited space, so please call early. The activities will go ahead rain or shine as they can adapt them to indoor areas although dress appropriately for outdoors, as that will be the first choice for the programs. Have fun learning about our area during a different time period!

Girls K - 5 Stamping Afternoon

Monday, September 28th, 1 -3 pm. At the Tonne's house (59 Webster Drive)

Once again, Ann Driscoll (Stampin' Up consultant) will be teaching the girls 5 projects each to take home (fall themed). Cost is \$10 per child and can be paid that day. They need to bring their own scissors and scrapbooking type adhesive. RSVP with names and grades to Natalie Tonne (403-348-5813 iloveepicure@yahoo.ca) before Sept. 23rd to hold your place or for more info.

Gymnastics

We are trying to arrange some gymnastics drop in times at the Collicutt again this year but haven't heard back from them yet. So please check that out in our October newsletter. So play outside for another month and then you can look forward to gymnastics taking place indoors. For the winter session, we are planning on some gymnastics at Thunder Country just so you know as well.

Collicutt Passes for Sale

Here is your opportunity once again to get a good deal on a Collicutt Pass. Admission coupon booklets are available for sale from our Home School Mom – Alison Rittammer, either at Collicutt activity day or by calling her at 347-7086. You can choose from 12 – Child, 9 – Youth, 6 – Adult or 3 – Family (2 adults including children/youth living in the same residence) for only \$25 which is 40% off regular admission prices). You have until Oct. 8th - a week after the first activity day to get back to Alison. After this you will have another opportunity in November to purchase more as they make great Christmas gifts. Also the good thing about buying them this way, is that a portion of the money goes back to our group and this fall that will be put toward a special event. So that's a bonus. ☺

Activity Days at the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer

Thursday, October 1st, Thursday, October 29th and Friday, November 27th

On our first activity day, which is Thursday, October 1st this year, we will be having a **Craft time** for all ages between 1-2 p.m. upstairs in the area between the soccer pitches where we usually meet. We will have a variety of tables set up with crafts that the children can choose to do. There will be no cost to making the crafts except for one craft and that is Plate Making. We have done the plates almost every year and it has become a tradition for many. It will be one craft to choose

from but there will be lots of others as well. The price for the plates is \$12 per plate and that needs to be paid that day either with cash or using funding. The plates usually take about 4 weeks to get back as they are sent away for processing. If anyone has a favorite craft that they would like to set up for others to do, please let Kathy know. We need great ideas to make this day lots of fun for the kids.

Gym time will be from 2-3 p.m.. There will once again be areas and games for pre-schoolers up to approx. 13 years of age. Pre-school gym time is very informal with parents staying nearby while the children play on the equipment provided there.

Swim time – before or after the gym time you have the option of swimming at the Collicutt pool and the cost to participate this year when you tell them you are with the homeschool group is \$3 per child. Adults accompanying children ages 7 years and under are also \$3 and otherwise they are \$6. Let us know if there are any questions in this area.

Scholastic Books - Natalie Tonne will be bringing Scholastic flyers again that you can order from her. Please check the sharing bulleting for more info. **Usbourne Books** – This year once again, Venessa Kalist will have flyers for Usbourne books to order from her as well.

Penny Carnival – please note that we will be having our 8th annual Penny Carnival at the Collicutt Activity day on **Thursday, Oct 29th**. We'll tell you more about it in the next month's newsletter but we wanted to give you a sneak preview to let you enjoy the anticipation of it and to let us know if you have an event that you would like to run for the children. Teens, pre-teens, Parents or Grandparents we encourage you to help us run these events – let us know if you are happy to do that! It's very rewarding to see the kids have lots of fun and the more volunteers we have the more fun everyone has!

Now for those of you who like to plan ahead, these are the Activity days for after Christmas:

Bower Ponds Party, Thursday, January 28th, Collicutt activity days: Thursday, Feb. 25th, Friday, March 26th, April Thursday the 22nd. At the end of May we will have our annual bike ride.

Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Theatre

I'm always on the look out for activities that will help us all learn about our country and I'm excited about finding this one. It does involve travelling to Canmore AB, but read their description and then think about it!

'The award winning OH CANADA EH? DINNER SHOW is a musical celebration of Canada which provides a truly unforgettable Canadian experience. Meet singing Mounties, lumberjacks, a hockey player, Anne of Green Gables and many other Canadian characters as you enjoy the songs and scenes of Canada. Multi-talented performers sing Canadian songs in a friendly, wilderness atmosphere inside a rustic log cabin. While you are enjoying the show, our performers also serve your meal. Our cast and crew are looking forward to making you feel welcome during your visit to our area.

This show is geared toward families of all ages. The entire show is squeaky clean and has something for the whole family to enjoy. All shows which include meals receive: French Canadian Pea Soup Fresh Homemade Bread Fresh Garden Salad Roast Beef, Alberta Grade Eh?! Fresh Atlantic Haddock Roasted Manitoba Chicken Roasted PEI Potatoes New Brunswick Medley of Vegetables Maple Chocolate Mania Cake Coffee & Tea.' They suggest to come hungry!

Check out their website: www.ohcanadaeh.com This show also takes place in Niagra Falls as well as Canmore so when you are thinking Canmore is far away just remember that at least you don't need to fly there! ☺

We have booked spots for our group for **Friday, October 2nd**. Call the Sniders if you would like to attend (k.d.snider@shaw.ca 348.0723) . Arrival/seating time is 6:15 p.m. and it will be all done at 9 p.m. Our group price is \$59 for an adult ticket and this includes a child ticket (for ages 2 – 16) when the child is in the same family. So... it's a great deal if you bring Grandma and Grandpa, and Auntie and Uncle too! Extra children tickets are \$26. It's a great way to learn about Canada as they cover songs and characters from the Maritimes to the Pacific Ocean. The show is located at 125 Kananaskis Way. We hope lots of you can come and you can use funding to cover your tickets since it's still early in the year and you have funding available! Just an idea. :)

Conservation and Hunter Education Training Course

We are pleased to tell you about this two day course that is being offered to our students ages 11 years and up. This course is required to be taken in order to hunt and besides it is very informative and interesting! It will take place on Tuesday, **October 6th** from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Thursday, **October 8th** from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$80 and includes the books and crest and test. Please contact Debbie Sawatzky at garden4@look.ca or 403.782.7910 if you would like to attend. The instructor needs to know by September 21st so that he can order the right amount of materials. This will take place in Red Deer and you can find the location when you talk to Deb or as soon as it is confirmed. This course can be taken on line as well but it is fun to do it together and the instructor brings in a variety of articles to see and handle which is also a great addition to the course. To find out more details about what is included in this course you can check out their website at: <http://www.aheia.com/>.

Lacombe Corn Maze

What would the fall be without going through the cornfield maze?! We are excited to go again and have booked **Wednesday, October 7th** for this event. There will be a fire and for those wishing to cook their hotdogs, you can come around 5:30 or 6 p.m. and then eat and go through the maze. We will start having people enter the maze at 6 and the last entrance time is 8 p.m. We are allowed to stay until 9 p.m. The cost for children ages 4 – 12 yrs. is \$5; 13 yrs to adult - \$7 and 2 yrs and under are free. These prices are assuming that we have over 20 people which we always do. (If for some reason there weren't that many the price would go up by \$2 each. This would likely only happen if it were raining and no one would come anyway! But we're expecting a beautiful evening. ☺)

Directions: Go one mile west of the Hwy. #2 overpass by Lacombe, on Hwy. #12 and then ½ mile south on Range Road 27-3. It is suitable for all ages and there is room for strollers too! You don't need to call ahead of time but just show up.

Red Deer Fall Swim Lessons

These will take place once again at the Recreation Centre (lose to downtown, by the Museum). This year they will once again be on Tuesdays from 2 – 2:45 p.m. for 7 weeks. The first 6 weeks will be the 45 min lessons and on the 7th week it will be a recreational swim day for the students taking the lessons. The cost will be \$34 per student and payment can be made with Kathy Snider (either by paying her cash or cheque or using funding deduction). You will also need to fill out their registration forms which you can get at the Mom's lunch or have it emailed to you. Following are the dates: **Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, Swim day Nov. 24th**.

Trip to Tyrrell Museum and Reptile World

On **Thursday, October 22nd**, we have booked times to visit both these spots. We will start by visiting Reptile World which boasts of having the largest reptile collection in Canada. We will begin there at 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Here you will have 45 mins for a self- guided time to look at reptiles of your choice, followed by a 45 min. hands-on presentation which will include holding Brittany, their 13 year old boa constrictor. It is recommended to bring your cameras! The cost is \$3/person with ages 3 and under being free. You can check directions on the website for directions from Calgary and from Red Deer, I was told that you would be traveling south on Hiway #21 and you would turn left or east on Hiway #9 and you would see it in 25 mins.

From here we would go to the Royal Tyrrell Museum and we ask that people would arrive at 12:45. Here at 1 p.m. sharp, students ages 6-8 would take part in a one hour fossil casting program that is very popular. The rest of the group would have a self-guided tour of the museum at the same time. Then at 2:30, students 9 years old and up would have their time for fossil casting and the others would have time in the museum.

Admission to the museum is free and the cost for those participating in the program is \$7 per person. Younger siblings are free to come and tour in the museum but we were asked that no younger siblings be in the room where the fossil program takes place. You are free to stay until closing at 5 p.m., otherwise the older group will be done at 3:30.

Please contact the Sniders if you are planning to come. We need to know our numbers to call into them a week in advance. Also the fossil casting groups have a limit, so call early!

Check out their websites and have fun! <http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/> <http://www.reptileworld.net/>

Student Photos

Student photos will be taken again by Imagine That Photographics on **Tuesday, November 10** beginning at 1pm. Please call or email Natalie (403)348-5813 ilovepicture@yahoo.ca to arrange a time on this afternoon or if you have any questions. The background will be plain dark blue.

Beauty and the Beast Production at RDC

This year's production at Red Deer College is 'Beauty and the Beast', Disney's tale that is as old as time! Join Belle, The Beast, and a host of colourful characters during this magical performance. This is suitable for all ages. We will have tickets for the matinee school performance on **Monday, Nov. 30th** at noon at the College – Main Stage. Tickets are \$13 a seat for all ages. We have booked 150 seats for our group and expect them to fill up. So don't be disappointed and contact the Sniders right away at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723 to book spots for your family. You will also need to make arrangements to pay for the tickets to reserve your spots either by mailing a cheque or using funding.

Tour the Legislative Building in Edmonton

We have booked a tour of our provincial legislative buildings once again this year in Edmonton on **Wednesday, December 2nd** arriving at 1 p.m. at the 107th Street Pedway Entrance. We have left it a little later so that you can have the opportunity to have a tour when all the Christmas decorations are up and it is looking beautiful and festive. Well, all the decorations will be up except for the decorations on one tree which our group will have the honour of decorating! So it will be fun and even if you've gone before you will want to go again!

You will need to give yourselves time to park (bring some change if the free parking area is full) 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, then a group picture with MLA Mary Anne Jablonski (you can get a free one from us later), then participating in an activity called "Community in Contest" where you will be talking about the three levels of government. It's a popular game/activity to enjoy for all ages. Then we will decorate the tree and be done by 3:30 p.m. One little detail is that we need to bring decorations for the tree and therefore if someone would like to volunteer to coordinate that, that would be great!

This truly is a tour every child and parent should try to go to if you live in Alberta. 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.

Lazer Tag

Save your money and come and play lazer tag on **Friday, December 4th at 1:30 p.m.** Lazer Force is located at #3 – 5239 – 53 Ave (next to A & B Sound just to the north of Superstore) and is a great spot to play. This is suitable for ages approx. 8 years old and up and Moms and Dads you'll have a great time playing as well. The cost is \$17 for three games which takes approx. 1 hour to play. 20 –22 players play at once and they divide into two teams. We can also bring snacks and teams can take turns playing and if we have about 40 people we will be done at about 3 – 3:30. There is also a viewing area upstairs where those waiting to play can watch. Contact the Sniders to book your spot – 348-0723.

CanWest – CanSpell – National Spelling Bee 2009

Please note that our home school group will be having a spelling bee open to children in Grades 4-8 in January 2009. We will be registered as a participating school in the CanWest spelling bee and the winner of our bee is eligible to go on to compete in the District finals in February and from there have a chance to go to the Northern Alberta Regional Finals in Edmonton. After that, winners compete in the national finals in Ottawa in April. Last year Christy Martin represented us at the Northern Alberta Regionals for the second year in a row at the bee and so come and give her some competition this year! If your child is interested in this event, please let the Sniders know right away so that we can get the spelling list to you when it is available.

Mom's Retreat -February 2010

We are busy planning for our Mom's retreat this year in February, however details have not been finalized. If you would like to let us know your opinion as to where to have it, please feel free to do so. We have the option of going where we did last year at the Gull Lake Retreat Centre or this year the renovations are completed at the Salvation Army camp where we had been meeting prior to last year. So....let us know what you think and we will also continue to look into and let you know more in the next newsletter.

Lacombe News:

Sewing Classes in Lacombe - starting in the fall at The Sewing Shop located at 4512 43 Ave, Lacombe AB T4L 1W3. Phone/Fax: 782-7770 **Email:** larson99@telus.net

There will be sewing instruction for children ages 6 and up and classes are unparented. Registration Fee \$15.00
Classes start mid-October Cost \$90.00 (8 hours of instruction)

A 10 hour adult beginner class will also be offered in November if there is enough interest. Please contact Bev if you are interested.

Home School Gym Classes at CUC

These popular gym classes are being offered once again and there will be 12 classes on Tuesdays, 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm from September 15 - December 1. Cost \$72.00. Minimum age 10 years. Call Shirley – 782.2822. They offer a nice variety of sports and games that you won't want to miss!

Swimming Lessons at CUC - Swim lessons for children 6 years old & up will be held at the CUC pool on the following dates: Tues. & Thurs., Oct. 1 - Oct. 29, 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$25. For both the swim lessons and gym classes you can register by contacting Shirley at the CUC rec centre at 403.782.2822. Call asap so that either the classes aren't full or the opposite where they cancel thinking they don't have enough.

Rocky News:

Rocky Hockey - The ice slot for homeschool skating will be again Tuesday's from 1-2 p.m. This will start September 1, 2009 and go till March 16, 2010. Any skaters must be wearing a helmet. If you are playing hockey it must be a hockey helmet. There is no cost for participating.

Swimming The first rec. swim times at the pool will be Sept 17 & 24 from 1 – 2 p.m.. Laura Satermo will take registrations and payment for swim lessons on these days. 1-2 p.m. Lessons start Thursday, Oct 1st and you will get the times of lessons and rec swim from Laura when you register. Remember to thank Laura for all her hard work in making this happen! Thanks Laura!!

Rocket Building Day You are invited to participate in a rocket building day. If you are interested, please contact the Sniders (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723) The cost will be approx. \$15 per rocket and you will receive a kit and Wade Snider will instruct us in how to put it together. After they are all together, we will have a time to launch the rockets and you will be surprised how high they can go! This is a fun activity that we have done in the past years and thought it would be fun to do again. You can either build a rocket for each child depending on their age or build one as a family (although of course one each is more exciting if they are a little older). We are planning to do this on Thursday, September 24th at 10 a.m. at the youth hall. We will build them in the morning and depending on the time either launch them before swimming or if there isn't enough time, the plan will be to launch them after the rec. swim time.

Sharing Bulletin:

Creation Science Seminar – Please take note that one of our home school fathers, Vance Nelson with Creation Truth Ministries will be presenting the following two seminars along with Mr. John Mackay of Australia: The Evidence for Creation from Down Under - **Tuesday, September 15th** in Calgary (Bethel United Reform Church) and **Thursday, September 17th**, in Red Deer at Crossroads Church. These are Home School Family Conferences and so are designed for all ages to learn from and enjoy. The conferences begin at 9 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person, or \$45.00 per family. Below are a list of the different sessions:

9:15 a.m. -10 - Vance Nelson: “Dragons: The Missing Link in Dinosaur History”

10:15 -11 a.m.- John Mackay: “From Adam or the Apemen - the real history of the world Part I”*

11:15 -12 noon - John Mackay: “From Adam or the Apemen - the real history of the world Part II”*

1. -1:45 p.m. - John Mackay: “From Adam or the Apemen - the real history of the world Part III”*

2. -3 p.m. - Vance Nelson: “Living Fossils: Confirmation of Creation”

There is a book table to find great creation resources from during the breaks. Also check out their website: www.CreationTruthMinistries.org or you can call Vance Nelson at 403.872.9475 for more information.

Writing Resources for Parents – Here’s two great resources:

1. Here is a seminar you can listen to online from Julie Bogart who wrote the "Writer's Jungle". It comes highly recommended by one of our homeschool Moms, Carla Langendoen, so try it out! It is called: "Nurturing Brave Writers" found at <http://schmownce.com/julieunplugged/posts/7668>. You may also want to check out her website which is www.bravewriter.com.

2. **Writing with Children** – a workshop for parents, teachers, tutors or any adult interested in teaching children to write successfully. Teacher and consultant, Betty Wiebe presents Structure and Style – “Writing with Children” – a two-part workshop – Saturday, October 17th and Saturday, January 16th, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each of those days at the Balmoral Bible Chapel in Red Deer.

“But I don’t know what to write!” If you have ever heard this cry of despair from your children, you are not alone. Students of all ages and abilities struggle with basic writing skills. In this session, learn how to provide the structure and support which motivates students to write high quality paragraphs and stories. As they gain confidence, they will be able to use their skills to develop thoughtfully constructed stories, essays, reports and critiques. Various styles will be introduced to enhance compositions. When students are given the “tools and rules” of writing, you will hear the joyful cry, “When do we get to write?”

This two-part session is intended for adults who want to help children (grades 1-12) write successfully. Take-home practice lessons for your children will be given after the first session to help you apply the writing skills learned. Bring some writing pieces back with your questions to further build writing skills, and be prepared for even more great instruction!

Betty Wiebe is a highly acclaimed teacher and consultant, with 23 years of classroom experience. Betty’s classes and individual students have won national writing awards. This two-part session is highly recommended by Deb Kobza, author and creator of “History Tellers”. **To register, go to www.structureandstyle.ca.** For questions regarding the sessions, email Betty at betty.wiebe@ghsd75.ca or call 403-443-7925. **Registration deadline is October 13.**

Christian Youth Theater's fall classes begin Thursday night September 10th. Register early (Sept. 1) and receive a \$25 discount. We offer sibling discounts and for those who are needing financial assistance we have scholarships available (up to 50% off). This semester we are offering core classes in Drama, Voice and Musical Theater. We’re also registering 6 and 7 year olds in “Our Gang” which is a class designed especially for this age group.

Registered students, ages 8-18, are able to audition for our tour group A Christmas Carol. Classes: 4:30-6:30 pm
Rehearsals for A Christmas Carol: 7:00-8:30 pm

For more information or to download a registration form please visit KingdomCYT.com or phone 403 341 6021.

Piano Lessons - I am a home school grad and have 6 years of teaching experience. Students of all ages, including adults, are welcome. Also willing to teach beginner theory lessons. Costs are as follows: \$45 a month, per student, for 30 minute lessons; \$68 a month, per student, for 45 minute lessons. For more information call Jolene McArthur at 403-224-2836 (Bowden).

Kayak Story Contest: Check out this opportunity for your child to enter a writing contest!
<http://www.historysociety.ca/kayak/Other/Contest.aspx?rdr=true&LangType=1033>

“Bible Quizzing” - There is a **Bible Memorization** program called “Bible Quizzing” with a purpose of teaching kids to **hide the Word of the Lord in their heart**. This year, they will be studying and memorizing verses from the books of **I & II Corinthians**. Kids must be 11 years old and in grade 6 to participate, and up to 18 years old. In Red Deer, they meet every Tuesday evening from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Deer Park Alliance church building, and commit to attending 5 quizzing tournaments throughout the year at different places around central Alberta with other quizzers. (It is an International group). The cost is \$75 per child, as well as the cost for each tournament (~ \$30 each). It is a lot competitive fun; the kids meet lots of other kids; they are really encouraged to excel at their goals; they learn to encourage others and especially to memorize and put into practice God’s Word. The parents must also commit to participating however they can, as verse checkers, chaperones, drivers, teaching Bible studies and/or as coaching help. If anyone has any questions and to sign up, please call Dorothy Weber at (403)-347-3853 (a.s.a.p. their first meeting was yesterday, Sept. 1). You can also talk with Margaret Ebenal at (403)-347-8776 as their kids have been involved for quite a few years. Check it out! ☺

To Give Away - Sony Computer complete with monitor, cordless mouse and keyboard.

For Sale - Saxon Math 54, with text, test book, and answer book \$30 and Investigating God's World 5 (A Beka Book Science Series) includes text, teacher's, test & answer books \$15. Please call Joan @ 346.8970.

For Sale - Brand new Konos timeline for sale - \$50 or obo (paid \$65). Call 403.887.8885

For Sale - For a fun homeschool project try bringing a new puppy into the family. We again have a litter of havanese puppies available. Havanese dogs are hypo-allergenic and non-shedding, great with children and a good house pet. Give Lorraine a call if you are interested and would like more information. 403-784-3078 or email mlparker@xplornet.com

Scholastic Flyers will be offered again this year by Natalie Tonne. Pick up copies each month at the Activity Days. Payment needs to be made with orders and can be cash, cheque or PO from FLT if you have funding left for fall and dropped off by the date on the back of each month's flyers. Orders will be delivered at the next month's activity day. For any questions, call or email Natalie at 403-348-5813 iloveepicure@yahoo.ca

Usbourne books – Venessa Kalist will once again be bringing Usbourne book flyers and information to each Collicutt activity day as well. You are also welcome to contact her about ordering their great resources by contacting her at: 342.1716 or dvkalist@telus.net .

In the Rocky area you can contact Myrna Oystryk (403.722.2874 or moystryk@telusplanet.net)to learn about or purchase Usbourne books.

Recommended Websites: Here is a really cool site!! www.wonderville.ca

Once you are on your skateboard, go to the movie theatre and watch the movie about mining in Northern Alberta! But that’s not all to see.

The link below is for a free Homemaker’s Course for girls – on the basics of Home Economics.<http://www.futurechristianhomemakers.com/FCHLessonsIndex.html>

Another site is “Art of Eloquence” by JoJo Tabares <http://artofeloquence.com/index.php>

Music For Young Children in Red Deer – Contact homeschool Mom and experienced MYC teacher, Heather Standish (403.729.3873 or myc4fun@hughes.net) to learn about these classes for your child. Some opportunities include a class on Wednesdays at 2:45 for 5 and 6 year olds that still has room available as well as two afternoon classes for 4 year olds that have spots available.

Free Books: While at a recycling site a fellow homeschool mom encountered dozens of slightly used to new text books (math, canadian history, science, geography, atlas/maps etc.) that had been disposed of by a school. If anyone would like to see and have some of these books her name is Lisa and she can be reached at 886-4122.

Work Experience Opportunity: Friendship Factor is an outreach ministry to women that has been running for nearly 20 years. The purpose of this ministry is to reach out to women from Red Deer and Central Alberta and show them the love of Christ in a non-threatening, friendship setting. We call Friendship Factor “the gateway to the Church.” We meet weekly at CrossRoads Church, on Wednesday mornings (from Sept 16, 2009 – May 12, 2010), with an average attendance of 90 women and 75 pre-school children and infants.

We have a team of very dedicated childcare workers, and they are such a blessing, but there are simply not enough of them! This could be a great opportunity for a mature home-schooler (12 and up) to get some experience, volunteer hours, and a little bit of spending money (\$15 per morning, 8:45-11:30am). The exciting thing is that Friendship Factor is not JUST a ministry to women – the children’s ministry of the program is huge! For many of the kids, this will be the one and only place they will learn of the love of Jesus – and our workers have the blessed opportunity to teach them! Contact: Lucy Lynett, 403-346-3433, lynett@telus.net.

Two Classes for homeschool students recommended by Loretta Cote:

Logic/ Philosophy: Give your middle school or high school student the skills needed to craft accurate statements and identify the flawed arguments found so frequently in editorials, commercials, newspapers, journals and every other media. This course is designed to teach the argumentative adolescent how to reason, create a sound argument, and see with clarity the false arguments advertisers use to target them. Text used: The Art of Argument, An Introduction to the Informal Fallacies.

For more information call Loretta (403) 755-4580. Available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at my home in Red Deer or any other toddler friendly place.

Beginning/Intermediate Latin for Early (K-3), Elementary (2-6), Secondary (7+), and Adults: Learn about the basis of modern Western civilization and languages by studying the language and culture that started it all. Age-appropriate materials make learning Latin fun and easy! “Low impact” Latin for adults also available on request. Books and activities from “Classical Academic Press”. For more information call Loretta (403) 755-4580. Available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at my home in Red Deer or any other toddler friendly place.

April 2010 Interactive Sailing Trip

You could be one of the 15 students, age 12 – 18, taking part in 5 days and nights of exploration and wonder aboard a beautiful 68 foot sailboat in the Canadian Gulf Islands (located between Vancouver and Vancouver Island). You will need to be anxious to take part in ship duties, nature watching and navigation.

We will meet in Sydney (on Vancouver Island), visit the Marine Ecology Center (where we’ll be introduced to a wide spectrum of the creatures we may encounter during the trip), and board the ‘Island Odyssey’. With the attention of a highly interactive crew (skipper, first mate, and naturalist) we’ll travel among the southern Gulf Islands, daily venturing on land to discover and experience B.C.’s plant and animal wildlife.

The cost is \$865.00, including food and lodging while on board. A \$250.00 deposit secures you a bed, with the balance due November 1, 2009. Beds are reserved on a first come first served basis. It truly is a life changing experience.

Following is the web site of the company we sail with: explore@bluewateradventures.ca. I, Lynne Gorbahn, am a homeschooling mom of 6 children and this will be my 5th trip. I am constantly amazed at the amount of knowledge the students so easily absorb. Please contact me, for further information at **780-586-3682** or lynnegg@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Used DVDs of "Acorn the Nature Nut". Please contact Anna Maria Blair at 403.346.5033 if willing to lend or sell. Thank you!"

Wanted: History Tellers books/materials Call Bonnie at 403.343.9563.

To Give Away: Fish - 3 clown loaches, 3 flying foxes, 3 australian rainbows, 1 clown plecostomus, 1 autocyclus No tank, only fish. Take all or take a few. All would fit in a 25 gal tank or bigger. Contact Krisanne in Calgary at krisanne@telus.net or 403.217.2845.

Homeschool Rec Hockey at Caroline at the Kurt Browning arena. This will take place on Thursdays Jan 7-Mar 25 (12 classes) from 2:00-3:00 pm. The cost will be \$50 per child and this is intended for ages 6 and up. Boys and girls are welcome and will learn the basics of hockey- laterals; stick handling etc depending on skating abilities. No contact hockey. Each child will need a helmet, stick, shin pads and elbow pads. Parents will have to sign a waiver, so if their child gets hurt Arden, his helpers, and I won't be liable. For more info and to enroll contact Darlene Loomis at 403-722-2590 or loomis@xplornet.com.

Activities Booked by Lori D. -

Below are some activities booked and available for you arranged by Home School Mom, Lori D. Lori has organized these events and they are open to all homeschoolers interested in participating. She has been busy planning and so here are many events listed for this year. Most of these events will be held in Innisfail as you will see below, but that's not far away! Thanks for all your work and sharing Lori!

HISTORY EXTRAVAGANZA - We will be doing a **History Fair** (Sept-Nov email outs) with the final fair date on **November 27**. This event will be similar to past events (Science, Geography and Literary Fair). For those that have participated and come to the event they find it very educational and fun! Pick a **historical event, person or invention**. Each family will choose one history piece of work on or each child in the family could choose their own history piece.

We will kick off this event on **September 14th** with the first email being sent out and working in the comfort of our own homes for 10 weeks. You can arrange it in your schedule as you see fit, daily, weekly, monthly, last minute....whatever works for you and your family! On **Friday November 27th** we will have our History Extravaganza where each family will be given a table to showcase their piece! This will be an opportunity for families to see what other families have done, as well as an opportunity to invite your family and friends to celebrate the learning that happens in the wonderful world of homeschooling. The Extravaganza will take place at the **Innisfail United Church** from **1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**. There will be an opportunity for each family to "showcase" their table. In order to re-coop rental costs I will be charging each family **\$5 in order to participate**. Any funds over the rental fee will be used to advertise the event, create certificates of participation for the kids and add to the festivities of the day! Rumor has it that a special person from history will be coming for a visit (more details to come). I will be opening this up to ALL homeschoolers so feel free to spread the word!

As always I will send out weekly emails with suggestions of projects to work on. We could do costumes, act out a short scene, write a story, maps, food.....etc...PLEASE don't feel obligated to do any or all of the emails, they are simply suggestions to get creative juices flowing where no juice may be visible! You are greatly encouraged to have the kids lead and be creative all on their own!

I will need to know you are interested in participating via an email and I will “register” your email address in a distribution list that will be used to send out the weekly emails. You won’t get the emails or have a table(s) set aside for your history piece unless you “register” with me. **The deadline for registration is September 8th.** I hope you will join us as we explore history like never before! If you have any questions/comments/concerns/suggestions feel free to email me at lori.desrosiers@gmail.com Lori D.

Phoenix Classes 2009/10 all held at the Innisfail United Church – details below:

All material costs are included in class costs (no additional fees will be charged). Registration deadlines will be on the **1st of each month** (no exceptions)! We need 10 as our MINIMUM number of students in order to run the class. Maximum class size will be 15 with the exception of the Country and Math Mayhem days. **Ages 6-8** classes are 45 minutes of instructional time; **Ages 9-12** classes are 1 hour and 15 minutes of instructional time; **Ages 13+** classes are 2 hours of instructional time

Some exceptions to the ages for the classes can apply – as long as your child can keep up with the material and/or if you are willing to sit in and help your child, or if your child doesn’t mind being oldest in a young class or youngest in the older class. But the material will be geared for the age group indicated.

We are also discussing doing a Fun with Shakespeare class for all age groups – if you want your kids to have some exposure to Shakespeare in a fun way please let me know if you would be interested in having a class like that. Please indicate on your registrations the name and age of the children registering. **Registrations must accompany payment in order to hold your spot. Registrations and payment can be made to:** Lori Desrosiers lori.desrosiers@gmail.com, R.R.#1 Site 9 Box 5, Innisfail, AB T4G 1T6 **Here are the classes!**

October 9 - Can we build it? Yes we can!

I’ll Huff and I’ll Puff - 10:15-11:00 a.m. Ages 6-8 –After reading *The Three Little Pigs*, students will build a house that will not blow down or will it? This class will include the Science topics Building Things, Testing Materials and Designs and Building with a Variety of Materials \$15.00 per child.

Overcoming Inertia - 10:30-11:45 a.m. Ages 9-12 - In this class we will be making things MOVE! Bring your best building skills and together we can make some wonderful moving creations!! All in the name of science of course! This class will include the Science topics Wheels and Levers, Building Devices and Vehicles that Move \$20.00 per child.

May the Force Be With You - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 13+ - Do you know how a Roller Coaster works? What on earth is a current anyway? And how on earth do some of the worlds tallest structures and bridges even stay upright? Come find out! This class will include the Science topics: Structures and Forces, Mechanical Systems, Electrical Principles and Technologies \$35.00 per child

November 13 – The Write Stuff!

Phonics Fun! – 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Ages 6-8 – Come join Miss Nicole for this fun class for early readers and writers. Stories, crafts and learning, come have some fun with your phonics! \$10.00 per child.

Ready, Set, Write! – 10:30-11:45 a.m. Ages 9-12 – If you have a struggling writer this class will put the FUN back into writing! By using a Readers Theatre format kids won’t even know that they are writing! Come read, write, act and enjoy \$15.00 per child.

Essay Apprentice – 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 13+ - You do not have to be a wizard to learn to write excellent five-paragraph essays but you do need some basic skills and practice. This class will help you learn how to write the essay as well as use some writing prompts to help you develop your writing skill. Some after class support via email will be offered if students want to get feedback on their final essay. \$22.50 per child

January 8 – China and Japan! 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. – All Ages - That’s right our Country theme is back but this time we couldn’t choose between China and Japan so we are doing both! Using a compare/contrast model we will look at the similarities and differences between the two countries. Topics will include, geography, a bit of history, food for course,

language and perhaps some money math. Costumes are encouraged and all ages are welcome! \$45.00 per child which includes all supplies.

February 12 – Math Mayhem! 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – All Ages – Join us for a day filled with games, songs, magic, poems, riddles, tricks and bake a pi?! All in the name of making math fun! \$42.50 per child

March 12 – Up, Up and Away! (Planet Earth, Flight and Sky Science)

Planet Earth - 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Ages 6-8 – Become a weather person as you predict and announce seasonal changes that take place throughout the year and then become a pilot and find out how air and aerodynamics effect flight. (Seasonal Changes, Weather Watch, Air and Aerodynamics and Flight are topics covered in this class) \$15.00 per child

Sky Science and Planet Earth 10:30-11:45 a.m. Ages 9-12 – Learn about this special planet we call home and it's place in the Solar System. \$20.00 per child

Sky Exploration 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 13+ - What's beyond our Solar System – go where no homeschooler has gone before! \$35.00 per child

May 14 – Animals, Plants and Ecosystems

Animals, Animals - 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Ages 6-8 – based on Eric Carles book Animals, Animals we will look at the life cycles of different animals especially small crawling and flying animals. If Miss Clare can manage it, you will also get your very own meal worm to take home and record his life cycle for yourself!!! \$12.50 per child.

Plants and Trees - 10:30-11:45 a.m. Ages 9-12 - Plant Growth and Changes, Plants for Food and Fiber, Trees and Forests. Our world wouldn't be able to survive without them. Plants and trees are very special and provide so much for so many. Lets get dirty, plant a few plants and learn more about what makes them so wonderful! \$17.50 per child

Ecosystems - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 13+ - Wetland Ecosystems, Interactions and Ecosystems, Freshwater and Saltwater Systems, Biological Diversity - Come build a wetland and look at the effects of destruction, understand more about what makes the planet so diverse and look at how we all interact together. Hands on, messy, but above all, fun and interesting! \$30.00 per child

Spice up your Learning by Making Lapbooks! By Alene Veenstra

We discovered this learning method last year and had a blast making loads of lapbooks. Lapbooking can be done by any learner in any subject - from pre-school to high school. With this educational method, you make mini-books, flap-books, tab-books, and so much more about a larger topic, all the books are put together in a large folder. (We actually made books and then bound them with a spiral book binder for most of ours.)

AND there are so many free lapbooks on the internet!!! All it costs you is paper, glue, printer ink and a few trips to the library. My favorite site is www.homeschoolshare.com It has everything from social and science to book report type lapbooks. But there are many more. I have spent many many hours searching and have found some pretty good sites. Here are some good ones to try: www.squidoo.com/lapbooking ; www.homeschoolhelperonline.com/lapbooks.htm ; www.lapbooklessons.com ; www.scrapbookingtolearn.com

Many of these site also have templates for the "mini-books" that you use. I made up tons of them on colored and just have them in a drawer ready and waiting for use. NOTE: regular paper seems to work better than card stock.

And there are even a few good sites that you can purchase pre packaged lapbooks. www.handsofachild.com (They have freebies every month as well) A good way to find more sites or to see other peoples lapbooks for ideas and inspiration is Google "free lapbooks" "free lapbooking" "free shutterbooks"

To see some of ours or to get some help feel free to contact me at 403-845-7316 or javeen@telus.net .

Have fun, but one word of caution IT IS ADDICTIVE!!!

Thanks Alene! ☺

