

Dear Homeschooling Families,

It's time to read another newsletter and the first in 2010! We hope you all had a great holiday and are enjoying the New Year! Speaking of holidays, before I forget I need to tell you that if your family has never played "Pit" before you need to do that! It is a fast moving, trading card game that can be played with up to 8 people and it ranked #1 in our holiday board games this year. We had played it many years ago but it came back strong this year. ☺

After holidays, it is common for people to find it hard to get back into 'non-holiday' life! As usual the Homeschool Minute weekly email addressed that issue and it was fun to read but since you are all over that, I decided to share part of the next one at the end of this newsletter and that one is titled: Keeping things in Perspective. I hope you enjoy it and are reminded to do just that so that we can be sure to enjoy the season of homeschooling our children. It goes quickly as Daryl and I will confirm, with finding ourselves currently in the 'empty nest' phase of our lives. But we are having a good time in this season too! We find ourselves enjoying holidays with our grown children and eating lots more leftovers as it's amazing how the food doesn't disappear nearly so quickly!

Next on the agenda we want to share with you some things that have been happening recently in regards to homeschooling issues specifically with organizations such as ourselves. The first thing is in regards to funding and you may have read about it in the last AHEA magazine. This year for the first time there has been a difference in funding for traditional homeschooling between private schools and public and catholic school boards. The difference is only \$13 which we weren't aware of and so instead of the funding being \$747 per child this year for parents, it is actually for private schools \$740.50 and so we wanted to be sure you knew about that as the difference will be seen in the last funding cheque in May.

Another change this year is one that will not affect the majority of you but it is that no funding can be carried forward to the next year. Some people sometimes don't get their receipts in on time and up to now, we have been able to give it to them the next year. That will no longer be the case. So be sure this year to have all your receipts in to us no later than the end of June. Also please note that receipts received by June 15 will be reimbursed before the end of June. Receipts coming in after June 15th will not be reimbursed until August. So we do encourage you to have them all in by June 15th.

Also sometimes families would ask to carry forward their funding so that they could make a big purchase the next year and again this will no longer be possible.

Some of you have also heard other possible changes that are being proposed and it is sometimes difficult to discern between what is rumour and what is actually going to happen. For example, it has been said that Alberta Learning would like to see boards such as ourselves and Wisdom, Education Unlimited, Thee and others contracting homeschool supervision from private schools, be eliminated and that the private schools themselves, instead of contracting, would need to supervise the homeschoolers directly. Then again others have said this won't happen. Obviously we don't want that to happen and we have been in contact with the other boards and are doing what we can to see that is doesn't happen.

We believe these boards provide quality support and special interest in homeschoolers that schools wouldn't have the time or interest or expertise for. Just last year we were monitored by Alberta Ed and were told that we provided exceptional opportunities for our families so we are quoting that back to them now! ☺

So, all that being said, we did want to share some of these things with you, since we have been asked about them. We don't want you to panic but we also want you to be somewhat informed though things aren't very clear at this time. Watch for the next AHEA magazine as they will be sharing as well. In the meantime please pray for the situation and we will update you when we are updated! We also trust that things will work out positively.

For now, we hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find some activities that will be fun for your family! Blessings, The Sniders ☺

Activities:

Monday Gym Days in February

If you haven't been going to the Collicutt on Mondays, you need to join the others and go for the month of February. Allison Rittammer says to just pay for admission and meet up with them at 1 p.m. most often in the field house. They do change activities and so it's a good idea to call or email (akrittammer@hotmail.com) find out the plan for the Monday activity.

Collicutt Admission Passes: Call Alison (347-7086) by Feb 5th. If she is unavailable, just leave a message and/or put a check in the mail.

Edmonton Oilers Reading Program- Give it a Shot

Here's another 'shot' at this reading program. Children in the age range of Grades 4-6 are invited to contact Bonnie Olson right away (olsenkb@gmail.com or 403. 343.9563) to say you want to read 5 books and have a chance to win tickets and go as a group, to an Edmonton Oiler hockey game. You will have from Feb. 1 to Feb 23 to read 5 books verified by your parents (size is not designated and so parents you can judge which books will be appropriate) Once you have done this you contact Bonnie again right away and we will be one step closer to getting our group's names in for the chance to win the tickets. There will be parent chaperone tickets available as well, so parents get your child reading if you want to go to the game too!

Band News:

This is a reminder that all bands start on **Wednesday, February 3rd**, for the second 10 week session, again at Balmoral Bible Chapel. They will be at the following times: Recorder Band from 12 noon til 12:55 p.m. Beginner band will be from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Intermediate band will be from 1 – 1:55 p.m. and senior band will be from 2 – 3:30 p.m.

We are excited to start again and senior band members in particular also have some good opportunities to look forward to during these next 10 sessions. First of all we have an opportunity to play with the Canadian Union College concert band during the month of March and then we are planning on having a concert with them on **Saturday, March 27th** in Lacombe at the College. They will play some songs and we will play some of ours and then jointly we will play 3 or 4 songs, so that will be fun!

Secondly, on **Thursday, March 11th**, we are planning to have a group attend the Symphonic Winds concert at Red Deer College at 7 p.m. We can get tickets for \$5 each and so all band members and their families and really anyone interested in band in the future, is welcome to attend. You just need to contact Kathy to get your name on the list by Feb. 15th. Then the following week, **Thursday, March 18th** we are invited to go to their rehearsal at the College from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. and they will play our songs with us and you can experience being conducted by their conductor, Steve Sherman. This is a very good opportunity and is open to other band members not in senior band as well to watch although only senior band members will actually play with them.

Then again in April, Senior band will play at the AHEA convention as well as at other venues such as Golden Circle etc. Other bands will also have concerts at various places in Red Deer as well.

Valentine's Day Bowling Party

It's a tradition! Be sure to find all the red clothes you own and put them on and come bowling. You can register to bowl when you come, you don't need to call ahead. The cost is \$3.50 per game/per person and you can bowl as many games as you or your parent wants you to! Shoes are included in that price. This will take place on **Thursday, February 11th** from 1-3 p.m. at Heritage Lanes (8 - 6200 - 67 A Street).

Please bring a peanut free valentine snack (cookies, squares etc) to share after we bowl. We are able to bring any snacks to the party except for the items they sell there, which are chips, chocolate bars and drinks. We will have pitchers of water or you can buy drinks there including jugs of pop for \$4.

Ski times at Canyon

You still have time to enjoy skiing or boarding at Canyon Ski Hill on Tuesday afternoons in February. **Feb 2, 9, 16, 23** from **1 - 5 p.m.** You must arrive 20 -25 minutes early if you are renting equipment and otherwise 10 – 15 mins. early is fine. You do not need to call ahead unless you are booking a lesson. For lessons, you must call by Thursday before the ski date and let the Parkers know – 784-3078. Also, you must pay and get your tickets downstairs from the Parkers.

Again the **costs** this year are as follows: **6-12 yr. olds:** Lift and Lesson \$17, Ski Equipment rental \$11; **13- 17 yr. Olds:** Lift and Lesson \$19.50, Ski Equipment rental \$12; **Adults:** Lift and Lesson \$25.50, Ski Equipment rental \$16. Snowboard rentals are \$16 and snowboard boots are \$10. Helmets are \$5.25.

Parker's Mission Trip Sharing

Lorraine and Faith Parker will be sharing their January adventures of mission work in Costa Rica with all who are interested on **Friday afternoon, February 19th**. Their presentation will take place at the Dunbar home (3 Onslow Square, Red Deer). Please contact Lori Dunbar (403) 343-0463 to confirm your presence in case we need a larger venue.

Wuthering Heights performance at RDC

Friday, Feb 19 you have the opportunity to attend the performance of this classical novel. This will take place on main stage in the arts centre at Red Deer College. The performance starts at 12 noon and will be done by about 2 p.m. including intermission time. Be sure to arrive at least 10 – 15 mins early to get seating organized. This show is recommended for ages 14 years old and up and it is a good idea to have read the book in order to get the most out of the experience! If you are interested in tickets, you can contact Kathy at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723 by February 3 to be assured of tickets. The cost is \$10/ticket.

Lego Classes:

Lego classes with Paul Desrosiers will take place again this year on the following **Fridays: Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19 and April 9**. Simple Machines & Robo Technology will take place from 10 am to 12 pm. Motorized Machines & Robotic Engineering will be from 1 pm to 3 pm. Location will be announced and in order to register for these classes contact Loretta Cote right away (ldcote@telusplanet.net or 346.9406). These are popular classes with the kids and so sign up soon! Below is a list of the classes and descriptions of them:

Simple Machines: Ages 5 -8 = \$80 for 10 hours

In Simple Machines students will be introduced to levers, pulleys, gears, wheels and axles, by building predetermined models as well as designing their own solutions to open ended problems. They will share the advantages/disadvantages of their designs with the instructor and fellow classmates. An introduction to motors may take place in the last class as an introduction to the next class in the series “Motorized Machines”.

Motorized Machines: Ages 7-12 = \$80 for 10 hours

In Motorized Machines a short review of simple machines will take place and then a discussion about what a motor does and what impact that has on compound machines (made up of more than one simple machine). Different types of motion such as Linear, Rotary and Oscillatory will all be discussed and investigated. In addition to building predetermined models students will also design their own solutions to open ended problems. They will present their designs to the instructor and fellow classmates. An introduction to programming the RCX brick may be included in the last class as an introduction to the next class in the series Robo Technology.

Robo Technology: Ages 9-14 = \$80 for 10 hours

Pre-requisite: Motorized Machines

In Robo Technology a short review of motorized machines will take place and then a discussion about robotic technology and what impact that has on compound machines. The student will be introduced to interfacing motors and sensors to the RCX brick and designing and implementing software programs to control those motors and sensors. Students will be teamed up and given an open ended challenge to put in practice what they have learned.

Robotic Engineering: Ages 9 and up = \$80 for 10 Hours

Pre-requisite: Robo Technology

In Robotic Engineering we will provide robotics instruction that serves as an exhaustive introduction to the NXT system and all concepts associated with mobile robotics. Students will progress through activities designed to teach programming, behaviors, systems, control, sensors, feedback, and more. Along the way, they will address key technology and science concepts. Students will be teamed up and given an open ended challenge to put in practice what they have learned.

In all classes students will learn vocabulary terms (names of the Lego pieces), they will follow instructions by building predetermined models, as well as design and engineer their own solutions to open ended problems. The tasks will require team work and collaboration with the instructor and other class mates. A “Take It Home” activity may be provided at some of the classes for further exploration of the ideas presented.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the class please feel free to contact me: Paul Desrosiers (403)728-0150 or email me at pauljrd@gmail.com

Lego Project Display

This is our third annual Lego Project Display and so you won't want to miss it! We had lots of fun with it last year and are looking forward to seeing new creations this year! So be sure to bring yours out to show others! On **Friday, March 26th**, your child is invited to bring something special to them that they have made out of Lego. We will have tables for them to display them on and they should also have two papers or cards to put by it with their name and age and creation name on it. If you are bringing something to display, you should arrive about 12:50 in order to set it up before people

arrive at 1 p.m. We are excited about this idea and trust that many of you will participate and enjoy displaying yours as well as seeing others! We discussed prizes and here is the plan in regards to that. Each person entering a creation will give us one of their cards with their name and age on it and we will put it in a 'hat' (hmmm someone must volunteer to build a Lego hat for this!). We will actually need two hats as we will have a random draw from these names in two age categories. One will be for those that are under 10 years old and the other for 10 and older. The person of the name picked will win a prize. If you wish to donate a prize for the group, let us know.

Participants are welcome to have help building a project or it may even be a family project – it's not 'cheating' to have help, as the projects aren't judged, just enjoyed – both in the building process and in the observing portion!

Next Activity Days at the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer

February - Thursday, Feb. 25th – We will start with the gym time first from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m followed by skating at the Collicutt arena from 2 – 3 p.m.

Please note that for skating time, skaters are reminded to wear helmets (particularly for those under 14 years of age). Some years they haven't allowed people to skate if they don't have a helmet and it's a good idea anyway. So be safe and bring a helmet to wear. In one part of the ice, you will be allowed to use sticks and have a game of hockey in a limited space and then part of the ice is for free skating.

March - Friday, March 26th - 1 – 1:30 Swap Meet and gym time from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. We will also have our lego display/creations on this day but they will be in an entirely different area than the swap meet. Read more about the swap meet below and be sure to enjoy the benefits of this annual event!

April – Thursday, April 22nd – Field Day and Gym times 1 – 2:45 p.m.

Swap Meet

Everyone is invited to take part in our annual swap meet which will take place on **Friday, March 26th** at the Collicutt activity day. The idea of the swap meet is for everyone to share their 'stuff'! It's a good chance to find a home for things you aren't using anymore and for you to find things that would be fun to use. You are welcome to bring books, curriculum, toys, sporting goods, and really anything you like. Our plan is to have some volunteers there to take the leftovers to the Good Will or a second hand store similar to that so that you don't have to take anything back home with you if you would like it that way. We have had good results in the past with people finding great things to try out and to see shared. It's also a good time to look for things before you spend money at the AHEA convention on materials that you could get for free! Call Kathy or Lorraine if you have questions.

Red Deer Swim Lessons

There is still room in the next set of swim lessons at the Rec. Pool in Red Deer will be held on the following dates: Tuesdays, **Mar 2, 9,16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13**. The swim time on the 13th is planned to be a family free swim day included in the price of the lessons. The cost will be \$35/student. This time at the request of some families we have been able to add classes for pre-schoolers ages 3 – 5 years. In order to do this and also have smaller classes, it will be arranged so that there will be 6 – 45 min. classes but divided into two times. Following are the times and levels taking place at each time:

2:00-2:45pm - Preschool: Sea Turtle/Salamander (ages 3-5, Beginner); maximum 6 participants; Preschool: Sunfish/Crocodile/Whale (ages 3-5, Intermediate); max 6 participants; Swim Kids: Levels 7-10; max 8 participants

2:45-3:30pm – Swim Kids Levels 1-2; Levels 3-4; Levels 5-6; maximum 8 participants in each group.

If you are interested in these lessons, please contact the Sniders at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723.

Gymnastics at Collicutt

We have another session of Tuesdays for gymnastics at the Collicutt Centre from 12:30 – 1:30. Please note that you need to sign up with Natalie Tonne if you would like to attend (ilovepicure@yahoo.ca or 348.5813). Without your name on the list, you won't be able to participate. Children of all ages and levels can attend. There will be structured activities but it will not be working towards a badge but recreational. Parents can pay when you arrive, you just need to be sure to sign a permission sheet/waiver for your child. The cost is \$5 each time. Also the times work perfectly again if your child is in swim lessons as they can go to this first and then go to swim lessons at the Rec. Centre or at least on the days that they are still on. Please let Natalie know if you want to participate and which days. Once you have signed up, you need to be willing to pay for the days you choose or find a replacement for your children's spots if you can't make it on a particular Tuesday. The **Tuesdays include: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, and 27.**

Tour of an Alpaca Farm

Thursday, March 11 at 2 p.m. you can go and visit an alpaca farm! It is located about an hour from Red Deer towards Rocky Mountain House. The presentation will take about 1 hr. and 50 mins. There will be all kinds of activities including visiting the alpacas and feeding them. You will also have a chance to see a demonstration of spinning and feel the fibre. There will be a chance to card from wool with hand carders and even use a loom and do a few rows of a project. You will also do some needle felting and take a little sampler home. Activities are suitable for ages approx. 7 years old and up. The cost will be \$4/child. If you would like to attend, contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723). Check out their website for more information and for directions: <http://www.zeldasteanook.ca/>

Symphonic Winds Concert at RDC

Thursday, March 11th, we are planning to have a group attend the Symphonic Winds concert at Red Deer College at 7 p.m. We can get tickets for \$5 each and you can contact Kathy for them (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723). It's a very good opportunity for an economical price! Join us and be inspired to play an instrument in the homeschool band and beyond. ☺

Triathletes Get Set!

You may recall that in the last newsletter, the Cotes shared the idea of training for the Woody's RV Triathlon in June. Well here Loretta is sharing the information about training for all ages that is available already for anyone (not just homeschoolers) that would like to take part in this. So, if you are interested here is the information:

Woody's RV World Triathlon Swim Training Program. We are designing it for emerging triathletes to improve their swim technique and to meet other triathletes to train and have fun with. It will run Sundays from **March 7 to June 20** (no sessions on April 4 and May 23) at the Michener Centre. There will be a kids' session (ages 5 to 15) from 11 am to 12 pm and a session for adults (ages 16 and up) from 12 pm to 1 pm. We will be having a variety of coaches at the sessions to assist with technique and training before the triathlon in June. Novice and experienced athletes are welcome. There will be a drop-in fee of \$5.00 for both adults and kids as well as an Alberta Triathlon Association (A.T.A) Membership and Insurance Fee to be paid by your second

session. The A.T.A Insurance fee is \$5.00 for kids and \$35.00 for adults. This is valid for the whole 2010 race season, so you will not be required to pay this fee when you register for any A.T.A triathlons in Alberta. For more information visit www.woodystriathlon.com. Please forward this to anyone you feel might be interested in joining us for swim practice before the triathlon. We hope this will develop into bike and run sessions if there is interest. Happy training! Hayley Goring hayley@woodystriathlon.com 403-347-6693

Poetry Recital

It's time for let Venessa know that you have chosen a poem to memorize and say at this year's poetry recital. Again this event will take place on **Tuesday, March 9th** at 7 p.m. at Balmoral Bible Chapel (just East of 30th Street on Highway 11). This is suitable for all ages! Please contact Venessa Kalist by email at dvkalist@telus.net or call 342.1716 so we have an idea of how many will attend. For those reciting poems, there is also an option of a musical addition to the evening as there is a digital piano available there.

Mom's Retreat at Pine Lake Salvation Army Camp

Here is a reminder that the Mom's Retreat dates have been changed to **Friday, February 12th and Saturday, February 13th 2010**. For those of you booked to come, here a reminder that the arrival time will be between 4:30 p.m and 6 if possible so that you will be ready for supper at 6:30 p.m. Also we will be having supper on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and so we will plan to be done and ready to leave by 7 p.m. The cost per person comes to \$80 for the retreat. If anyone wants a room to themselves it would be an additional \$10. Just to remind you, you do need to bring your own bedding and towels and snacks for evening or in between times if you would like them.

For directions to get to the camp please check out their website at: http://ab.salvationarmy.ca/pinelake/PLC_map.pdf For those coming for the first time, when you come into the camp, you go straight and then as the road turns to the left drive straight ahead past the first buildings until you come directly in front of the lodge where we will be staying. You can park here temporarily as you unload your things and then park back out near the main office.

We are looking forward to getting together and enjoying one another's company again with a variety of activities and topics discussed. You don't need to plan to bring dress up clothes for the Sat. supper. That was kind of a one time event we did last year but have different ideas for this year! ☺

The Symphonic Rehearsal Program

If you are interested in free tickets for the rehearsal of the next Red Deer Symphony's performance on March 20th, then read the information they provided for us here: The Symphonic Rehearsal Program provides a rare opportunity for students and teachers to go behind the scenes with the RDSO. Participants will hear the orchestra rehearse selections from the evening's concert and observe the Maestro working with the musicians to bring the music to life.

Tickets are free of charge and may be obtained by calling the RDSO office at 403-340-2948.

The rehearsal starts at 2:00pm sharp in the RDC Arts Center and all participants must be in place 10 minutes prior to the doors closing at 2:00pm. There will be an intermission at approximately 3:10pm at which time we will provide the children with juice and cookies, you can choose to remain for the second half or leave at this time if you like. The rehearsal will end at approximately 4:30pm.

March 20th concert: Spring Thaw - Somers- North Country (Canadian) Part- Tabula Rosa

Haydn- Symphony No. 103 (Drumroll) Guest Artists Brinna Brinkerhoff, violin and Kerry DuWors, violin

If you have any further questions or to reserve your complimentary tickets please contact them directly at 403-340-2948.

Christian Youth Theater

CYT families are busy rehearsing for our next production, **The Emperor's New Clothes**. This classic story, written by Hans Christian Anderson is filled with nuggets to use in character training. A perfect event to use towards the teachings of wisdom vs. foolishness, this show calls attention to how quickly a whole Kingdom can fall in their quest for good appearances. The Emperor in his vanity, hungers for a continual supply of beautiful, breath-taking clothes. He foolishly allows himself to be guided by swindlers disguised as tailors, who pretend to weave beautiful cloth to make him an elaborate set of clothing. The Emperor is deceived in his own foolishness and to make matters worse, it seems that nobody in the Kingdom has the courage to stand against the tide of lies and deceit. In wanting to appear wise the Kingdom has traded away common sense and good judgment.

You may purchase tickets for this event by calling Tari at 403 341 6021. Opening Show is **March 20th** and we close on April Fool's Day, **April 1!**

Tickets are \$5. Location TBA

* our summer day camps are being prepared for August / ages 5-18 welcome - Teen Camp is August 3 - 7th

AMA Home Ed. Driver Training Classes:

Here is the Driver Training class that many of you have been waiting for! The six classes will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays on the following dates in March: **Thursday March 11, Tuesday 16, Thursday 18, Tuesday 23, Thursday 25, Tuesday March 30, from 1 – 4 p.m.** After the fourth class on the 23rd, students can begin their 8 hours of in car lessons with their instructor, Mr. Don Taylor.

The cost for the course is \$549 plus gst = \$576.45 for AMA members and for non-members it is \$629 plus gst = \$660.45. To save you calculating the difference in prices is \$80 and a year membership I'm told is \$91.

Please register by calling Barb or Carmen at the AMA Driver Education office at 403.342.6730 before Feb. 16. We need 10 Home Ed. students to make this class happen and so you need to let them know right away as we want to prevent them from cancelling the class when I know of at least 10 that are waiting for this class!

Springboard Diving at the Michener Dive Tank

Canadian Amateur Diving Association (CADA) Learn to Dive Program for all Levels 1-4. Prerequisites: SwimKids 5 or higher and 8 years of age.

The staff at the Michener Pool are willing to create a homeschool program for us. We need to pay the diving instructor (who is fantastic) for two hours of her time with a minimum of six students (maximum of eight students) per hour long class. This activity can only happen if we have a minimum of 12 students!! **AS OF JANUARY, WE ONLY HAVE THREE STUDENTS REGISTERED!!**

Before classes begin, we must choose 4, 5 or 6 classes of instruction. Each hour of instruction will cost \$10. At this time, we are looking at Tuesdays during the month of March with one class from 1h30 - 2h30pm and the second class from 2h30 - 3h30pm. Please contact Lori Dunbar at fldunbar@telus.net or 403-343-0463 to book your spot.

Opportunity to Raise Butterflies

Once more this year, we are planning to do a bulk order of butterfly larvae from Wards Canada. We have done this for the past few years and many of us have enjoyed the experience with our children and it has been very successful over all! So be sure to take this opportunity to try it again or for the first time this year!

If you are interested, you can call Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723) and tell how many you would like for your family. We are estimating the cost to be about \$2.50 or \$3 per larvae and some recommend ordering in groups of 5 for better chance of getting at least a couple. Success rate they say is about 60-70% and it takes about 3 weeks to complete the process before your butterflies would be ready for release. Be sure to call right away and get your name on the list, as we want to order them by April 2nd so that they will arrive for the Collicut Activity day at the end of April.

Sharing Bulletin:

Interesting New Resource – You may want to check this out: **Download N Go™** is a brand new, innovative, E-Book series brought to you by Amanda Bennett and The Old Schoolhouse. Units are **theme based** and full of exciting discoveries and motivation to develop lifelong learners. This series is one that blends the **unit study** concept and **lapbooking** fun into one great adventure. Here is the website:

http://www.theoldschoolhousestore.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=429&zenid=5045794c9cf3faeb58201ad62be39375

Olympic Unit Study materials:

[E-Book: 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games--A Unit Study & Lapbook Project](#)

The 2010 Winter Olympics begin in Vancouver, BC, Canada on February 12. Help your children get the most out of the Olympics by using the Vancouver Winter Olympics unit study by Grace Bound Books. This study is also a lapbook which includes lots of activities, games, and puzzles. This multi-grade, family-friendly unit study covers all subjects and would be a great diversion from your usual studies this winter. The cost is \$7.

Cool Physics Website: <http://www.crayonphysics.com/>

Just thought I would pass on a REALLY cool computer programme that teaches the basics of Physics in a super fun way. My hubby came across it and showed me the demo and I was totally hooked! So, we're going to buy it and guess what? Until Jan. 15th, you can pay what you want and receive it. I believe it is normally \$20.00 but they're having a sale for the next few days. Anyway, have a look at the demo. You'll see what I mean.

Giant Teacher/Homeschool Resource Sale: Treat yourself to tons of great deals for K - Gr. 10 most in "like new" condition.

Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, History, Science, Fine Arts, teaching ideas and novel studies.

Wonderful laminated bulletin board sets, charts, mobiles, manipulatives and games.

Progeny Press, Evan Moor, S&S, Milliken, Teacher Created, McDonald, Grace and many other names you know and trust.

Call Ellen at 403-342-4611 to view and shop (128 Duckering Close). Cash only please, receipts available.

For Sale: Seasons 1 & 2 of "Little House on the Prairie" available. No scratches. \$20 each season. Contact Jenn M. at jenn.weststitch@gmail.com or 403.746.3324.

In Lacombe: DOODLEBUGS NATURE NURSERY - Registrations accepted throughout year. This is a nature-based "playschool" that includes outdoor play with focus on arts, mixed age groups (3-5yrs.), nature

walks, daily yoga, creative arts, hand-made natural 'green' toys - no PVC plastics, healthy snacks, songs and storytelling. The location is Casey's cabin 4628 Maple Drive (CUC campus)

Call (403) 358-4985 for more info Website: www.doodlebugsnaturenursery.ca This is recommended by Megan Wilkie and she says that lady leading it, Casey Craig is happy to include homeschoolers in this. Although she is currently licensed for pre-schoolers, she is fine with older homeschool siblings staying and being involved if a parent stays as well.

Violins for Sale: 3/4 size- Klaus Mueller Etude- with Kun shoulder rest, case and bow (\$230)
3/4 size with case and bow (\$1400.00) And good beginner violins....1/4 size with Kun shoulder rest, case and bow (\$100) Full size with basic foam shoulder rest, case and bow (\$100)
If interested in any of the above, please call Dawn at 403-782-5417 or 403-872-5417.

The Khan Academy: The goal of the Khan Academy (<http://www.khanacademy.org> or <http://youtube.com/khanacademy>) is to use technology to provide a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere. It is currently a library of 1176 videos on YouTube (and mirrored elsewhere) covering everything from basic arithmetic to advanced calculus, chemistry, economics and biology (submitted by Margaret Ebenal).

Ad from a Home School Dad: My name is Guy Tayler and I am a consultant with Investors Group. My goal in the next 18 months is to help 100 families by assisting them in gaining financial success. By keeping sound biblical principles at the center of my business I know I will be blessed as I help others. I can help families with Tax, Estate, Investment, Mortgages and Retirement planning (not to mention RESPs) as well as cash management. Investors Group has over 1 million clients in Canada with the majority being referrals from existing clients. For more information please call me 403-872-1185 or email me guy.tayler@investorsgroup.com see www.investorsgroup.com

Play it Again Sports is coming to Red Deer! This is a second hand sporting goods store and you can sell all the quality sports and fitness equipment your family no longer uses and also buy for your family at good prices. Local residents Chris and Kathy Flaman-Haley will be opening to buy sports equipment and gear on Feb. 1st at their store located at 4930 -53rd Ave in Red Deer. You can also check out their website at: <http://www.playitagainsportsreddeer.com/> .

Calgary Children's Fest website: <http://www.calgarychildfest.org/index.php> - recommended by Heather Standish and submitted by Venessa Kalist

Dear Homeschoolers,



I can still remember the day about 10 years ago that I broke down crying in the paint aisle at Wal-Mart when I ran into another homeschool mom and we started discussing our frustrations with our 6-year-olds not reading. I mumbled things like "He seems to have it one day and then the next he doesn't," "I'm not even sure he really knows all of his letter sounds," and then finally, "I could teach a class of 25 children to read. Why can't I get him to?!"

Teaching him to read was the most important thing to me at the time. It was how I was measuring (and felt like others were too) my success as a homeschool mom. I had lost perspective.

He, of course learned all of his letter sounds and how to read a little further down the road. But what was truly most important during all that time was:

Being obedient to homeschool because God called me to.
My relationship with my son.
The seeds I was planting in his heart and mind.
Encouraging him to have a love of learning and to view "school" as a good thing.

That's what perspective is all about. Keeping the main thing, the main thing. Someone once reminded me, "Never get so busy with the urgent things that you don't get to the important things." Perspective is what will help us to truly keep the most important things as a priority without becoming hyper-focused on the things that just **seem** most important at the time.

May we all ask God for His perspective on our homes and adjust our focus accordingly.

Enjoy every minute! *Nancy Carter*

Encouragement for homeschooling mothers! A 6-week Bible study written specifically for women who homeschool. Daily lessons encourage and equip moms on their homeschool journey. Visit our website at www.homeschoolingmothersbiblestudy.com or email janburt@cox.net for a sample or more information. Also available in the Schoolhouse Store.

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

I'm going to share a little phrase that I often use with my wife when she's struggling to keep things in perspective. I usually offer it up when she's telling me how one of our children isn't reading at the level they're "supposed" to be, she wasn't able to squeeze math in because they played a game, or she's wondering if she should be covering molecular biology.

That's when I pull out my special phrase and say kind of loudly, "Who cares?"

Now by saying "who cares" I'm NOT saying her thoughts and feelings aren't important, but I am saying, "Who cares that our child isn't reading at the level some expert sets . . . who cares that she wasn't able to get math in because she did something more important . . . WHO CARES if she skips molecular whatever?!"

I usually look her in the eye and say, "You're doing a good job, our kids are getting a good education, and they WILL be prepared for life . . . and WHO CARES about what anyone else thinks or says?"

Now, my wife usually counters with reasons why the experts may be right or how other children we know are so much further ahead. But I have an answer for that as well.

"Who cares?! We are not them and you're doing a good job, our kids are getting a good education, and they WILL be prepared for life."

Now I know that may be hard for some of you moms to swallow, and that's why your role is so important, Dad. You need to be the voice standing firm in the homeschool wilderness. So when your wife shares that she feels like she should be doing more, doubts her results, and wonders if the experts are right, then you need to whip out the phrase.

Listen to her feelings, put your arms around her, and then loudly say, "WHO CARES?! You're doing a good job, our kids are getting a good education, and they WILL be prepared for life."

Now that's the truth! Be real, Todd