

Dear Home School Families,

*Well here it is, the June – August homeschool newsletter! To me it is exciting because it kind of symbolizes the beginning of summer to me. I love all the activities and opportunities that summer brings for our families. Many feel more freedom to live and learn naturally throughout the summer even though really we have the opportunity all year round! I read a quote recently in my son , Wade’s golf instructor’s manual. Here it is: ‘ **Who dares to teach, must never cease to learn**’. This was so inspiring to me in that no matter at what age we are, we can be challenged to enjoy learning. There are so many things to learn about and discover! As homeschooling parents, we are privileged to keep learning along with our children and that benefits them too. There are other applications to the quote as well but you can enjoy what comes to your mind from it ,which is part of the joy of enjoying quotes.*

Anyway..... speaking of quotes and summer I need to share one more:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain

Now with that, I hope you find some enjoyable activities that you maybe didn’t even think of by reading this newsletter and sharing bulletin. Even if you live far away it will give you ideas. For example our children loved summer sports day camps at the College in Red Deer but they can be found in many cities and even small towns usually have great library reading summer programs that are awesome and our homeschool children usually win many prizes because they are used to reading so much!

Maybe summer will be a good time to take the time to learn about digital scrapbooking so that your children’s homeschool projects next year have a real zip to them.

On the practical side of things, please remember all receipts need to be in by June 15th and if possible we like to have notification forms in by the end of June.

Now on the not- so –practical side of things, Daryl and I are pleased to announce the recent arrival of our new healthy grandson, Nathan, who was born 3 weeks ago. We are blessed!

Check out the end of the newsletter for Summer advice from the Old School house Home School Minute. Happy Father’s day to all our great HomeSchool Dads ! Happy Summer days to all! The Sniders ☺

Activities

Park Days in Red Deer

Don’t miss the last two park days on **June 1st** and **June 8th** in Rosedale in the green area by the Rosedale Community Shelter. The time is from 2 – 3:30 p.m. and it is for all ages. Moms visit and little ones play on the playground equipment and there are activities like soccer, flag football and parachute play. Also we are excited that we have gotten in our new Omniken soft football, volleyball and soccer ball to try out as well. You can just show up and you don’t need to call ahead. Also thank you to those who have brought watermelons to share and if you haven’t brought one yet, please do so on one of these last two days! Thanks.

Skateboarding Wednesdays in June

It has been decided that the skating boarding days in May were good ones and so they will be continued on Wednesdays for the month of June as well (starting **June 2nd**). So those of you who have been going, you are welcome to keep coming and if you haven't gone yet, there is still a chance to do that. Everyone at all skill levels is welcome and tips will be shared! The LaGrange family will continue to be there every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in June at the outdoor skatepark in Red Deer (which is located just to the west of the Red Deer arena where the farmer's market is on Saturdays in the summer).

Alberta Steam Train Ride – Stettler to Big Valley

For those of you signed up to go on this trip, this is a reminder that it is on **Thursday, June 3rd** - so be sure to remember to be there after paying for your tickets!

The train leaves Stettler at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 3:55 p.m. We would need to meet at 10 a.m. to load. For further reminder of details you can find them on our website calendar www.familieslearningtogether.com .

Introductory Canoe Lessons for Youth

Hot off the presss! Join the Rittammers in these sessions. When: **Mondays, June 7th, 14th and 21st** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Where: Three Mile Bend Ponds and Red Deer River Cost: \$30 per youth Age: 11 to 15 year olds

This canoe course is a beginner level course that is intended to introduce you to basic canoe strokes and skills. The first two Mondays will be held at Three Mile Bend ponds and the last day will be a canoe trip on the Red Deer river through town assuming water levels will permit this. This day may be a little longer due to the shuttle etc. The cost includes use of all equipment. We will need a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 participants for this course.

The Red Deer Canoe and Kayak Club has been around for about 40 years and offers canoe and kayak courses as well as various paddle trips on local rivers. You can check out their website at www.rdckc.org. Kelly Bogle is a certified Intermediate Lakewater Tandem instructor and has been teaching for about 15 years. Please contact Kelly at 403-343-3882 or rkbogle@telusplanet.net if you have any questions and/or want to sign up.

BASICS fitness Youth A.R.M.Y. Camp

Back by popular demand BASICS fitness is excited to be offering our Youth A.R.M.Y. outdoor fitness boot camp. New for June and the fall session, we are now opening up registration to ages 6-12!

A – ll **R** – ecruits **M** – ust be **Y** – ouths! Join us Monday afternoons for a one hour fitness boot camp specifically designed for kids ages 6-12. This fun, team based boot camp will have your kids exercising with out them even realizing it! Teamwork, discipline, leadership and FUN are emphasized in this fitness camp for youth. A minimum of 5 registrants are required for boot camp to run. ARMY camp is limited to 15 participants, register early to avoid disappointment! ARMY cadets must be prepared to train in all weather conditions as the boot camp is held outdoors. No class Oct. 11.

Location: Clearview Community Hall Mon. **June 7 – 28 1:30-2:30 pm** \$30 **Sep 13-Oct 25 1:30-2:30 pm.** \$40

To register go to www.basicsfitness.ca and click on the join now icon or call 403.550.0023.

A Day at a One Room Schoolhouse

If you are interested in having your child experience this event which will be a half day during the second week of June, please contact Lisa Hildebrandt at 403.346.3998. This would take place at Heritage Square here in Red Deer for the morning and then it would be followed by a picnic there afterwards. There is room for only 12 students between the ages of approx. 6 – 12 years of age so contact Lisa quickly. If there are more people, we will try and arrange another time if not this year, then next June as well.

Bowden Police Dog Training Presentation

There is still room in this field trip if any more people would like to do. Again it takes place on **Wednesday, June 9th at 2 p.m.** The demonstration lasts approximately 45 minutes and is free of charge and interesting for all ages. We have been asked to arrive just shortly after 1:30 p.m. and to park on the south side on grassy area. To get there you take Exit 365 off the Queen Elizabeth II highway (Hwy #2) at Innisfail, travel east and follow the signs. Please contact the Sniders if you and your family are planning to attend (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723).

Sylvan Lake Beach Day

Tuesday, June 15th is the day chosen to enjoy a day at the beach with other homeschoolers. We will plan to meet at the same place as last year which is towards the south end of the beach area near the large open area where volleyball is played. The plan is to meet any time between **11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** and bring your chairs, picnic lunches, beach toys and we'll bring our new Omnikin volleyball and soccer ball. Be sure to join the fun!

Rosebud Theatre – ‘Oliver’

There is still room to attend this play on **Saturday, June 19th**. We are booked for the 12 noon seating for the meal prior to the show which starts at 1:30 p.m.. The group ticket price is \$44.50 for adults (ages 13 year old and up) and \$29.50 for children ages 4-12 years old. Children under 4 are not allowed. Many of you are familiar with Rosebud Theatre but for those of you who aren't, it is located in the town of Rosebud near Drumheller. Check out their website for a map and further information. If you would like to attend, please contact the Sniders (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723).

Recital

For all those music students that have pieces all perfected because it's the end of the year for lessons, please contact Rhonda Snider at rhondasnider20@gmail.com or 348-0723 and sign up for our year end recital which will be held **Thursday, June 24th at 10:30 a.m.** at the Piper Creek Lodge (4820-33rd Street). It doesn't have to be music only and if some of you who memorized poems for the poetry recital would like to come and say your poem – that would be great too! Once again we encourage you to share your talents and bring joy to others at the same time. Thanks!

Calaway Park

This year we are excited to book a trip to Calaway Park, by Calgary on **Friday, June 25th**. The cost this year is \$18 (including gst) for all ages with the exception of those 2 and under which are free. We need to purchase the tickets ahead of time (this is a good group price with normally tickets being about \$34- just so you know) therefore, if you would like to join the fun you need to register by contacting Lorraine Parker at mlparker@xplornet.com or 403.784.3078 with your name and how many you need tickets for. You also need to mail her a non-refundable cheque by June 18th so that the tickets can be purchased in time. Gates open at 10 am. – so we are asking all our group to meet there by 9:45 by the guest services area on the right side of the regular entrance booths so that you can get your tickets from Lorraine. The park will be open until 7 p.m.

Concessions are available on site but you are also welcome to bring a picnic lunch. It will be lots of fun and a great way to celebrate the end of June with other homeschoolers!

Play in a Day by Christian Youth Theatre

Location: Liberty Christian Assembly Starts – **June 25**, 5:00 pm Show – **June 26**, 7:00 pm

Christian Youth Theater needs adventurous teens (ages 12 to 18)! We have 24 hours to put together a show! We are going to have a great time getting ready! We will be hunting for props, and costumes in a fun scavenger hunt. Some will learn sound while others practice their lines or are on crew. We will be finished for the day on Friday at midnight and then regroup on Saturday morning at 7am to rehearse all day. We will then be ready for the performance by 7pm that night! Cost \$50/meals included. Download registration forms at our website www.CYTcentralalberta.com . Phone 403.341.6021

Create Your Child's Own 'Published Book' /Artwork on Canvas

Recently, I have been excited to see wonderful Poetry books, Children's story, art work ect. produced by our homeschool children. Their books can include pictures they have drawn by having them scanned. Then their artwork can be reproduced in their books as well as on canvas to be hung up and displayed or given as gifts or sold as their artwork. There is such great potential and it is exciting for the children and parents and families. Therefore, we would like to present an opportunity on **Monday, June 28th from 1 – 3 p.m.** for Moms and older teens to be able to learn how to do it or how to do it better through digital scrapbooking through Heritage Makers with homeschool Mother/daughter team Barb and Ashley Wall from Calgary. Check out more information they are sharing in the Sharing Bulletin found later in this newsletter.

This event will take place at **The Door Church – 5315 Gaetz Ave** (located across from the old Alpha Milk Plant or one block west and ½ block north of 53rd Street Music Store). It will be a lovely place to have it and so if you would like to attend this event, please contact mother/daughter team Loretta and Amy Cote at ldcote@telusplanet.net or 403.346.9406. There is also potentially two more days in the summer: **July 23rd and August 20th** that we could have available for making projects so if you are interested you can let us know when we meet on June 28th or by telling the Cotes. You may even want to host one of these summer dates.

Discovery Canyon

Tuesday, July 13th – 11:30 – 3 p.m. We've decided to pick a warm sunny day again this year to get together and enjoy time at Discovery Canyon (located at Riverside Golf course on the north-east side of Red Deer). For those of you who have never been there, there is a water slide to go down on a tube, water to play in and a sandy beach area as well. The only cost is to rent a tube and that is around \$3.50. The slide is suitable for ages approx. 12 and under (bigger people don't slide as well). It is a great spot. You can bring a picnic lunch and there is also a concession as well. We will plan to meet on the west side of the water area. If it happens to be really bad weather, we will postpone it to the following Tuesday (the 20th). See you there!

Maritimes Band Tour...2012...??

My mom Kathy and myself are absolutely THRILLED to announce that we are looking in to the possibility of taking the senior band on a band tour to the Maritimes in June, 2012. We think that the trip would be approximately eleven days and would consist of playing and sight-seeing throughout Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. We would stay with host families throughout the different provinces that are either homeschool families or through a Church and perform for them as well. For those of you who know Shannon Coulliard, we'll be sure to meet up with her and have her play bassoon with us too! The question that you are asking yourself is – what does this have to do

with ME?! Let me tell you! If you are not already playing with the band, now is the time to sign up for beginner band in the fall so that by the year 2011/2012, you will be playing in the senior band and able to go on the trip! Feel free to contact myself, Rhonda Snider to tell me how excited you are about this!! (403) 348-0723 or rhondasnider20@gmail.com

Band and Musical News:

We are pleased with another very good year of band and choir and now we are encouraging lots of you not to miss the fun next year and join with us to make music. We are planning on another musical production in the fall led by Rhonda Snider. This will start **Wednesday, Sept 15th** at 11 a.m. We hope many of you will participate again as the more the merrier for projects like this!

We will once again be having recorder band, beginner band and this year we will be combining intermediate band and senior band and meeting on **Wednesdays** at Balmoral Bible Chapel. We go for 10 weeks in the fall and the bands will go for another 10 weeks beginning in February 2008. Please let us know if you plan to participate as it helps us prepare the music etc for the new season. It is a great musical opportunity and we hope many of you take advantage of it. Also please check with us if you need an instrument as we do have some available and you can even have them over the summer if that helps.

Please note the times below for the various bands. We want to give these to you now so that you can plan your other lessons and activities around them. The cost is \$25/person for the bands and musical participation. For the musical there is an additional cost of approx. \$10 for the choir t-shirts and approx. \$10/family for the materials. Senior/Intermediate Combined Band: 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. Beginner Band: 12:30 – 1:30 Recorder Band 12:30 – 1:15 Choir 11 a.m. until noon (depending on the stage of the fall production).

Fall Mom's Brunch at Meadowlands Golf Course

This year, our very popular Mom's brunch will take place on **Wednesday, September 1st** at a new location as you may have already noticed. We will be meeting at Meadowlands Golf course which is located a mere 13 minutes to the west of Red Deer just north off of Highway 11 by the second entrance into Sylvan Lake. You can check out their website to see where we are going and a map: www.meadowlandssylvanlake.com If you click on to special events, you can see the facility where we will be meeting.

It will be great fun to meet and inspire one another to great things to come for the new year! We plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. and will be done by 2:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15/person. We will have the September newsletter there as well with all the fall activities listed.

HS Mom's First Annual Golf Tournament –Also we are excited to announce that after many years of having our brunch at a golf course, we will be having our first of hopefully many annual homeschool Moms' golf tournaments. Now take the term, 'tournament' lightly as it will just be an opportunity for us to golf together but we will have to have a huge trophy or something where we can put all our names on. ☺ We have booked tee times starting at 9 a.m. and so let us know if you would like to take part in that as well. The cost is \$27 for 9 holes. If you haven't golfed too much but would like to, then check out lessons with Wade under the sharing bulletin so you can get all practised up! Homeschool Dads, if you feel left out and would like a golf event, let us know and we will arrange to have one for September. You must book ahead to come to either of these events, so that we can give them exact numbers, so please contact Kathy, Lorraine or Rhonda by August 25th.

Fall Mom's Supper in Rocky

Thursday, Sept 2nd, at the Tamarack Inn. We will meet from **5:45 to 9 p.m.** The cost for this roast beef smorg is \$17 (including tax and gratuity and cheesecake for dessert and tea and coffee). Please mark it on your calendars as there won't be another newsletter before this day. You need to call Kathy by August 25th if you plan to be there. It's a great way to start the new school year!

April 2011 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 Sidney (on Vancouver Island), visit the Ocean Discovery 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 \$880, including food and lodging while on board. A \$250.00 deposit secures you a bed, with the balance due November 1, 2010. 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 home schooling mom of 6 children and this will be my 6th 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 lynne.gg@hotmail.com.

Red Deer Swim Lessons

Swim lessons in Red Deer will be starting in October again this year on Tuesday afternoons likely starting at 2 p.m. again with classes for all ages. More details will be in the fall newsletter but we wanted to let you know this now so that you can plan around it. If you would like to be put on the list now, you can contact the Sniders and let them know (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723).

Fall gymnastics

We are also planning to have gymnastics at the Collicutt Centre on Tuesdays worked around most of the swim schedule and so again if you are organizing your fall ahead of time, you can get your name on this list as well as it does fill up quickly and if we have more, we will try and organize a second class. Let us know: k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723.

Lacombe - Homeschool Moms' coffee nights at Kavaccino's in Lacombe, 7 pm the third Thursday of every month. This is for all homeschool Moms from any group. Call Gayle at (403) 782-9947 for more information or to be added to the e-mail reminder list.

Sharing Bulletin

What in the World? Everyone wanting to enjoy this Current Event monthly publication again or for the first time next year, please let us know (k.d.snider@shaw.ca). We will put your name on the list, take off \$10 from your funding for the year and then each month email you the password so that you can access it and print it. This is an awesome way for you and your children to be informed of what is happening in the world. It gives a nice overview of current topics and some relevant questions to answer or discuss. It can be your 'Social Studies' curriculum! Next year we will have three levels again and they are intended for Grades 3-5 (Canadian Reader), Grades 5-7 and 8-10. If you want to check out a sample issue, you can do so at their website www.lesplan.com.

Summer Band Day Camp at RDC - This day camp takes place this summer August 16th – 20th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. We always encourage our home school band members and those interested in becoming one to attend this camp if possible. In one week, you learn almost what you would in a year of band! It is great. Call Red Deer College to register. There are two bands: one for beginners and then one for the next level up. Call Kathy if you have questions.

RDC Sports day camps - These sports camps are also a good chance to learn volleyball and basketball. Some are combination camps and others are specifically for one sport. Children in grades approx. 4 and up are able to attend. Again call Red Deer College to register.

Passion Play – If you have never attended the passion play in the Badlands, it's a great idea to do it! This takes place in July. There are afternoon and evening performances (personally I recommend the evening as it is cooler). Check their website at www.canadianpassionplay.com or call 1.888.823.2001.

Musical Ride –the famous Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride will be in Alberta this summer and more specifically in Red Deer on August 1st. You can call ticket masters for tickets and get more information on this website: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mr-ce/ask-dem-rider-cavalier-eng.htm>

Collicutt passes For Sale - Order by JUNE 4, 2010: Collicutt Books for \$25. (\$10 funds FLT activities) and be prepared for the rainy days this summer! Choose 12 child, 9 youth, 6 adult or 3 family passes in each booklet. Payment needed when ordering. Please contact Alison 347-7086 for more information. This is your last chance until September! No expiry date.

Music for Young Children - Heather Standish is pleased to announce that Rhonda Snider is a qualified Level 1 Music for Young Children teacher! Rhonda will be teaching out of Heather's Red Deer music studio in September. At this point, Rhonda will be offering Monday daytime classes: 4 year olds at 11am-12pm, 5 and 6 year olds at 1pm-2pm, and 7 and 8 year olds at 2:15pm-3:15pm.
Heather has a few spots available for 4 year olds (Wednesday at 4:10)

MYC offers your child the opportunity to develop piano skills as well as gain a well-rounded music education. Parent participation required. Classes include singing, games, ear training, individual and group keyboard, rhythm instruments, composition and lots of group fun! Beginner ages: 4+ years.
Classes run September to May. Contact Heather at 403.729.3873 or Rhonda at 403.348.0723.
MYC....the 'high' note in music learning! www.myc.com

Skateboarding Lessons: My name is Gabe LaGrange and I am 13 years old. I have been skateboarding for a few years now and have recently started to teach lessons. I have been sponsored by the West 49 Flow Team for a year now. If you are interested in lessons, I charge \$10/hour. I can be reached at 403-346-5466 anytime.

Guitar Lessons: My name is D.J. LaGrange and I am 17 years old. I have been playing guitar for five years and the piano for 11 years. I am a member of a local band called Half Chance Heroes who recently won a contest to play at the Central Music Festival. I am interested in teaching beginner to intermediate guitar lessons in your home for \$15/hour. I can be reached at 403-346-5466 evenings and weekends.

Golf Lessons: Anyone interested in learning some useful tips to improving your golf game or basics for getting started? Home School Moms, you may be wanting to join the first ever homeschool Mom's golf outing in September and this will get you all ready. Contact Wade Snider at 403.597.4624 to make arrangements. Cost is \$10 per half hour lesson and they would likely take place at Riverbend Golf course driving range. Thursday lessons are available.

Beginner Guitar Lessons

I am offering an 'introduction to guitar' class that will cover basic chording, strumming, melody lines and tab reading. It is perfect for those of you who have an interest in playing guitar but haven't gotten started yet! The classes will be group taught with 3 people per class and each class will run for approx. 10 weeks. \$15 per lesson (45mins). Contact Rhonda Snider – (403) 348-0723 or rhondasnider20@gmail.com

Piano Lessons

I am excited to be back in Red Deer and teaching piano once again! Lessons are 30mins long at \$15 per lesson. Feel free to contact me for more information! Rhonda Snider (403) 348-0723 or rhondasnider20@gmail.com

Affordable and fun sewing classes for home school students in Red Deer taught by a home school Mom and daughter team. . Previous students have won 1st and 2nd place in the Westerner craft exposition with their projects. Classes include machine quilting, alphabet pillows, panda and ladybug blankets, purses and totes, mother and daughter projects, dog clothes, laptop protective cases, pajamas.... and other fun projects and gift ideas. Great for Christmas gifts.

Want to try sewing but don't have a sewing machine? Two or more of your children want to take a class together but only have one machine? Have a great sewing machine but don't want the kids fiddling with it? *New Singer sewing machines available for use in class if needed.* That darn sewing machine!!! Learn what your machine can do... adjusting tension... different stitches... basic maintenance so you can get along with your machine

Classes will be announced in the Sept. newsletter. Meanwhile, if you or your child has spare time in June and there is enough interest for classes before summer, classes can be arranged. To accommodate your schedule, please call to express your interest and time preference as class sizes are quite small.... Kim and Chalace Campbell 403 342-0478.

School of the Psalmist – Dawn Hrywkiw - Director

Are you looking for quality music instruction for your children during daytime hours? We have openings for lessons in voice, piano, violin, guitar & drums, plus limited evening openings at our downtown Red Deer studios. Call 403-346-6198 for more information or check out www.schoolofthepsalmist.com.

For Sale by owner (needs to be bought by a home school family!) 5.29 Acres with a 1512 sq foot 1 ½ story older home on a full basement. The house faces west with a view of the mountains and the most amazing sunsets. Upstairs has three bedrooms with a full bathroom. Main floor is totally hardwood & tiled and has, entry way, 3 piece bath with a sauna, kitchen (maple cupboards) with eating area, living room with a wood stove and formal dining area, a den used for an office, could be a bedroom, craft room or music room. It has a nice sized play room, den, spare bedroom used as our home school room, laundry and a big cold storage room. Too many upgrades but to mention a few, new pressure tank, shingles, siding, windows, 900 square feet of deck, paint. Large garden plot already planted and a built in huge dog run. Property is 80% treed with walking trails cut through the woods. Located only ¼ mile off pavement, and 17 min to Red Deer or Sylvan. Please call Julie or Darren Shipowick if interested 403-754-5697.

For Sale: Kindergarten Horizons Home School Curriculum Kit. Everything included except workbooks (available from CHER). Paid \$ 139.95 Asking \$50. If interested: email bemholly@yahoo.ca OR call : (403) 346-7402.

For Sale: Two casio keyboards. They are smaller ones and come with stands. Cost is: \$40/each. Contact Jodie Knapp.

To Give Away: Jr. Golf clubs – irons 4 down to a wedge and a putter. Also nike golf/runner type shoes in great condition. Contact the Sniders at 348.0723.

Heritage Park Festival of Quilts Saturday and Sunday May 29 – 30. 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Regular gate admissions apply. On display are heirloom quilts, festival committee member quilts, the quilter of distinction's collection, quilting guild collections, contest participants and other interested participants. Our homeschool teen, Gwynnda Wheatley age 13, from Cochrane will be displaying her second quilt, a hand applique wall hanging that she machine quilted herself. Look for her in the guide, her quilt number is 435. There will be over 700 quilts on display.

Christian Youth Theatre Summer Camps and Fall Classes: Check out the August Summer Drama Day Camps for children ages 5 to 18. More information on these Disney camps available on their website below.

Fall classes start on September 9 and all those registered may audition for CHARLOTTE'S WEB that will be performed in November 2010. Download registration forms at our website www.CYTcentralalberta.com . Phone 403.341.6021

Ihana Choir for Youth – age 14 -21 This choir is intended for youth in Central Alberta who either already love to sing or who want to experience the joy of music through singing. It will be led by Lisa Ward who has had many successful choirs in Red Deer for the past 22 years.

Audition dates right now are Monday, May 31, 5:15 – 7 p.m. More dates will be added as needed. This is a new choir and they are hoping for 30 members in it. The choir will be rehearsing starting in September on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (By the way, ihana (pronounced EE-Hah-nah) is a Finnish word which means wonderful, marvellous, exquisite, etc. This is a great opportunity! You can contact Lisa by email: lisaward@me.com or phone 403.886.2677 or check out her website: www.lisalward.com .

Digital Scrapbooking with Heritage Makers: Check out Barb Wall's website : www.publishedmemories.com to see a taste of what you can do with the new technology of digital scrapbooking. For those who are traditional scrapbookers there are a lot of ideas to help save you time and money as well, so RSVP (for the June 28th event in Red Deer found earlier in this newsletter) and come prepared to see some really neat projects and ideas of how to memorialize your families most important stories and ideas. Here is a quick preview of a project that she recently made of her family creed. It is a 8x20 canvas that she wanted her family to be able to see everyday. Digital scrapbooking has even more options than only making books. Click [here](#) to see the preview of what you can do.

For those in the Calgary area, Barb can be contacted at barb@publishedmemories.com to set up a workshop or a digi-demo in your home if you are interested. She is hosting workshops at her home over the summer months on Wednesday June 23 @ 7:00 PM, Wednesday July 21 @ 7:00 PM or July 21 @7:00 PM. RSVP. in order to attend.

Breana Langendoen is also a consultant with HM she will be hosting the workshops with Barb and for anyone in the Rocky area she is available to set up a digi-demo for anyone interested in HM. They can check out her webpage @ www.cherishmemories.ca, or contact her @ bblangen@telus.net.

Poetry and Writing Competitions

Hey kids! I got my poem published in a book! It's a great book and I got an Award of Excellence for writing the poem.

You could too! You could also get your poem published in this year's book! Why don't you try it, it's great fun! Call me if you have any questions at (403)-728-0139. By Jessie Branson

A note from the Mumma: This competition (Open Ages Poetry Contest) is open to anyone, even adults (I'm trying to write a poem this year - Jessie has inspired me!). Go to poetryinstitute.shawbiz.ca for contest details and forms.

Deadline for this year is July 30, 2010. If you want to read Jessie's poem, on the website click on Winners, then Whispers on the Wind 2009 Winners, then under Awards of Excellence click on her name. It's a little ripper!

There are also other contests (deadlines in brackets): Young Writers Poetry Contest (November 19, 2010); Young Writers Creative Writing Contest (March 15, 2011). And for adults (18 and older): Adult Short Story Contest (July 30, 2010). No entry fee. Happy writing everyone!

*****Websites with full of Charlotte Mason ideas and materials to enhance your homeschooling!**

Ambleside Online is a website offering free curriculum and book lists following the Charlotte Mason method of education. The book lists and resources are laid out year by year/grade by grade. The site also has many links to outside sources for poetry, art study, composer study, etc. It can be found at www.amblesideonline.org.

Simply Charlotte Mason has many helpful resources for parents who wish to homeschool using Charlotte Mason's educational ideas. There is quite a bit of free material at the site as well as books for sale. It is at www.simplycharlottesmason.com.

Check out this great writing website: www.nanowrimo.com Many of our homeschool students have been enjoying writing activities and competitions on this website so be sure to check it out. They have for example – writing a novel in a month in November which has been an awesome event.

Free online resource – from **Focus on the Family** on teaching your children integrity: Tools for Growing Godly Character

As a faith-filled parent, you want to help your children develop Christ-like attitudes and behaviour. But this important responsibility can seem overwhelming. How do you know where to start?

Kids of Integrity is a set of free resources that will help you coach your kids with confidence and a clear sense of direction. Better still, *Kids of Integrity* will excite your children about living “God’s way.”

Check out their website: <http://www.kidsofintegrity.com/> and get ideas for covering such topics as contentedness, faithfulness, forgiveness, harmony, honesty, kindness, perseverance, respect, self-control, clear communication and more.

Making Summer Special

from the Home School Minute (Old Schoolhouse)

May 26, 2010

Dear Homeschoolers,

Well, I'm keeping my column short this week because I'm enjoying a break this week at the BEACH! Yay!!

Even as I was telling my husband that I may need to go back to a year-round schedule with the boys next year, I still believe that whether you are schooling or not, you need to do some fun things to make special summer memories with your kids. Whether that's inviting friends over for a water gun war, taking in some free summer movies, spending time with extended family and friends, doing a little camping in the great outdoors, or just camping in your living room, the important thing is that you're having fun together.

Spend some time tying those heart-strings and making memories together. Don't take a single day for granted. Remember that love and joy are some of the fruits of the spirit.

Enjoy that fruit and enjoy every minute! Nancy Carter [THM Editor](#)



Mercy Every Minute

[Deborah Wuehler, TOS Senior Editor](#)

Let me give you an idea of how my family normally handles summertime. Most years, we have not taken a huge summer break, but prefer to school year round; yet light on the academics through the summer. Here are some benefits I have found of schooling year round:



- The children stay on some kind of routine, no matter how simple, throughout the year. When they are not on a normal routine, they seem to go a little stir crazy.
- We don't stress out when we don't accomplish as much as we wanted during the school year, as we know we have the summer to keep at it.
- It takes the pressure off of finishing a book by a certain date as we usually finish sometime during the summer.
- We can take days/weeks off throughout the year when necessary, or just because, whether it is summer or not.
- We can travel anytime throughout the year and avoid the crowds (and the sunburn!) and save summer for other special fun projects.
- The children (and I) don't forget what we've learned over a long summer break.

Whether you take a break or not, make plans to have some extra fun this summer. Enjoy special time with your children every day in some small way. Believe me; they grow up way too fast. I just graduated my second son from high school last week. It seems like only a few years ago that I wondered if I could really teach this hyperactive child, and I thought I'd never see his graduation day. But, he has excelled beyond what I could ask or think. Why? Because God rewards our obedience to teach our children in our home where they belong. All glory belongs to Him.

~Deborah

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The Familyman

[Todd Wilson, Familyman Ministries](#)

OK, here's the deal, Mom: Summer is fun. Don't ruin it by "schoolifying" it. Don't try to make every fun moment a school moment. I've heard you before:



"Ooo . . . look at that butterfly . . . let's all look at it and imagine what it would be like to be a butterfly. Can anyone identify the thorax? Who knows what the Latin name for butterfly is?"

"Now that we're back from the lake why don't you write a small paragraph about your experience."
"Sure, you can go outside . . . but take your nature journal."

Am I the only one that feels nauseous after hearing that kind of homeschool-speak? Mom, don't worry about MAKING summer fun, just let it happen. It will be fun . . . I promise. Just don't get in its way.

I'm going to have some unreported, uneducated fun right now . . . go and do the same.

Be Real, Todd

