

Dear Home School Families,

Welcome to the May newsletter! We have listed activities here but it is always a good idea to check the calendar on our website located at : www.familieslearningtogether.com for more information or details particularly on activities mentioned in earlier newsletters. You will see the activity and then when you click on each activity, you should be able to see all the details that pertain to it. Also previous newsletters are there if you prefer to look in those.

Funding – Just a reminder that we need to have all receipts in by June 15th in order to get cheques sent to you and our record keeping completed and sent to the accountant. There was a little confusion regarding the exact amount of funding for this year but it has finalized at \$740.50 per child. If you need a cover sheet to attach to your original receipts, please email us at k.d.snider@shaw.ca . Cheques will start to be written dated May 10th.

The next monthly activity will take place on Thursday, May 27th. It typically has been our annual bike ride and that will still be part of it but read the first item listed below to see how we are changing it somewhat, to make it more fun for both all ages and for those who don't bring bikes to ride. It should be great!

Also the next newsletter will be available on May 27th and it will be for the months of June – August as well as including some of the major activities for the fall as much as is possible. So if you have activities that you want to share for this, please get that information to us before May 25th.

For those of you who attended the convention this year, we hope you enjoyed it and we are also looking forward to next year's convention as Clay and Sally Clarkson will be the guest speakers which will be very good! Happy Homeschooling! Kathy Snider ☺

Activities:

Picnic in the Park, Play in the Park, Music in the Park, Bike Ride near the Park

This is very exciting indeed! Please note the brilliant changes in our normal annual bike ride day. We will still bike ride but there will also be so much more for all ages. The plan will be to meet at Bower Ponds instead of the previously mentioned area. So, on **Thursday, May 27th, at noon**, everyone should plan on bringing a picnic lunch (there will be no fire to roast wieners here) and a blanket to Bower Ponds and meet on the hillside area by the newly constructed outdoor Band stand. I've always thought it would be very wonderful to have our band play outdoors and now with this irresistible new band stand we can't contain ourselves. So... the band will play during the picnic time, entertaining you all as you eat and relax by Bower Pond. Then afterwards, there are many choices. Those with bikes can head out from there for the usual bike rides. Usually one group heads towards Discovery Canyon and another group towards Heritage Ranch. Those families with younger children that don't want to ride can try out playing at the wonderful new park on kind of the south-east side of Bower Pond. What fun that will be. Also if you don't bring bikes, you can enjoy a walk or feed the geese or ducks that you will see there. Pray for beautiful weather! You will also be able to pick up your June – August newsletter that will be full of interesting things as usual. ☺ I think everyone will have lots of fun enjoying one another's company and activities that will positively occupy all ages! Be sure to come and join the fun. ☺

Lazer Tag

Here's your last reminder to come and play lazer tag on **Friday, April 23rd at 2:00 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. The cost is \$17 for three games . Contact Jolene Hall right away to book your spot – email wjhall@xplornet.com or call 403.742.1669.

Girls Stamping Afternoon (K - Gr 5)

Monday, April 26th, 1 - 3 pm at the Tonne's house in Red Deer (59 Webster Drive)

- Cost is \$10 per child and they will each get to make 5 spring stamping projects. Taught by Ann Driscoll (Stampin' Up consultant).
- Each child needs to bring a labelled pair of scissors and some type of adhesive to use. If you have questions about this, call me.
- The kids will be divided into 2 age groups: K - 2 & Gr. 3 - 5.
- **RSVP by email or phone to Natalie by Friday, April 23.** ilovepicure@yahoo.ca or 403-348-5813

Skateboarding Wednesdays in May

Join the LaGrange family every Wednesday in May 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). The plan is that they will be there every Wednesday in May at 1 p.m. and anyone is welcome to drop in and join them. Gabe (13 yrs.) and Jonas (11 yrs.) love to skateboard and they are hoping to see if any other homeschoolers would like to meet there. If some are new to skateboarding they are willing and able to help them out. Moms you can either skateboard or visit! ☺

Park Days in Red Deer

With spring in the air, we want to remind you about our 'park days' coming up on each **Tuesday in May** and the first **two Tuesdays in June**. These will once again take place in Rosedale in the green area by the Rosedale Community Shelter. The time is from 2 – 3:30 p.m. and once again it is for all ages. Moms visit and little ones play on the playground equipment and there are activities like softball and soccer for two ages groups – younger children and the older ones. Sometimes the older group also play flag football. You can just show up and you don't need to call ahead. Also we appreciate those who volunteer to bring water melon to share when we are all thirsty from running!

Pattern Dance in Lacombe

Here is your last reminder about this dance on **Friday, April 30th** at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. The Blackfalds Pattern Dancers are organizing a dance that families are welcome to attend. The organizer David, has also agree to meet with any families from our group, at 5 p.m. to teach and go over some of the dances that will take place during the evening. This is a great opportunity and will be lots of fun. The dance includes a supper which starts at 6 p.m. and then the dance is after that. Tickets are \$25/each and ½ price for those under 17 years of age, free for children under 6. For more information contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723).

Band News:

May Band Session for 4 Wednesdays in May – starts Wednesday, **May 5th**, at the Oriole Park Shelter. Again this session is for those band players that have finished beginner band or intermediate or for any senior members that would like to join the fun. Times are : from 12:45 – 2 p.m. and the cost is \$18 per child (adults are free and senior band members are free to play as well).

Wednesday, May 26th Senior Band Members, please try and come out to this practise before we play at the outdoor band stand the following day. If you can only come to one day out of these two, then please choose Thursday for the performance.

Music in the Park – Thursday, May 27th - All Band players, here is your opportunity to have fun playing at the outdoor Band stand at Bower Ponds. You can read about this activity at the beginning of this newsletter but here we want you to know that you should arrive at 11:30 a.m. to get set up and have a little practise time since we won't have played for awhile. Be sure to bring all your music that we were playing and we'll see how well we remember it all! I'm sure it will be great. You might also want to bring some type of clips to clip your music to your stand in case there is a merry little breeze trying to rearrange your music. See you there. Actually please email Kathy to confirm that you can play there. You will also need to bring your own chair to sit on.

RDC Convocation – Senior band members who are in Grade 11 or 12 or adults (or younger with special permission – you need to check with Kathy to get this) you are invited to play with a group being put together specifically for this. There will be two rehearsals and these will take place on **Thursday, April 29th and Monday May 3rd from 7-9 p.m.** at the college and exact location will be emailed. Then you will play at the Convocation on **May 4, 8:00 am-11:30 am and 1:15 pm-3:00 pm** (two performances) with a big break in between each ceremony (lunch is provided). Contact Kathy asap.

Mother & Daughter Tea

Friday, May 7th at 1:30 pm and Ladies Tea.....Saturday, May 8th at 10:30 am

Here is a reminder about the Tea that will be held as a fundraiser towards helping to support a needy family that Faith and Lorraine met on their missions trip to Costa Rica. Therefore we are not giving a set cost, just asking for a money gift for them, so that we can be families helping a family. Both of these Teas will be held at the Haynes Community Church.(Please note: on the day of the Mothers/Daughter Tea, there will also be a time set aside as a craft time- where the daughters can make cards together for their Moms and the Moms can have a little more visiting time.)

We would love to have you! Please RSVP by May 1st so that we can prepare ahead and know numbers. To RSVP and for directions to the church, please call or e-mail: Dawn Rainforth @ 403-782-5417 (mobenac@hotmail.com) OR Lorraine Parker @ 403-784-3078 (mlparker@xplornet.com) ALL Ladies and Daughters are welcome, including grandmas...so invite anyone you know, for either tea- or both! This could be a good way to celebrate Mother's Day....and at the same time support another mom in a different part of our world!

Medicine River Wildlife Centre

Here is your opportunity to visit the very interesting Medicine River Wildlife Centre on **Thursday, May 13th**. The centre is here for the purpose of rehabilitating injured or orphaned wildlife. There is a visitor's centre as well as a nature trail to explore. Please check out there informative website for much more information. It is found at : www.mrwc.ca This facility can be reached by traveling 41 km west of Innisfail on Highway 54. Watch for signage to reach the centre. Turn south at Raven, travel 4km. Turn east, travel 1.5 km and arrive at MRWC.

OK... now to tell you about our visit there. The plan is that we will meet at 12:45 and divide into two groups. The first group will be for ages approx. 8 years old and younger (Gr. 2 and under) and then the older group will be for ages 9 and older (Gr. 3 and up). One group will have approx. an hour inside with various presentations where you will learn about the work that is done there with the birds and animals. You will also meet their owl – ‘Otis’ and learn facts about owls in general. While this is going on , the other group will be led on an outdoor nature walk on their designated trail there. Then the groups will switch. The cost is a donation and it is suggested that we give \$4 per student. If you wish to give more, you are of course free to do so and also you may wish to donate something off of their ‘wish’ list which you can find on their website by clicking on Help MRWC and then wish list.

This is a great field trip and you won’t want to miss it. So please contact Jen MacAhonic right away in order to get your name on the list. You can reach Jen by calling 403.746.3324 or emailing jen.weststitch@gmail.com . Also please note that there is a picnic site there at the centre and you are welcome to come for noon and eat your picnic lunch there and visit and play prior to the presentations.

Dutch Blitz Tournament

Tuesday, May 18th, will be your chance to come and play Dutch Blitz (card game) with fellow addicts! ☺ This will take place at the Rosedale Community Shelter just before park day. Bring your cards if you have some or just come and we’ll play. Our goal is to beat Victoria this year! ☺ It is a great game that your family can enjoy if you want to find our more about it as well. This will take place between 1 and 2 p.m.

Homeschooling Through High School – Parent and Teen Meeting

Here is a reminder of this meeting which will take place on **Tuesday, May 25th at 7 p.m.**, where we will be discussing homeschooling through the high school years. We are planning to have some homeschool grads there to share with you and even some young men! (In the past it seems all our guests have been females and so this time we want you to be able to hear from a former teen boy’s perspective). There are many choices for the highschool years but this evening we will be talking about homeschooling through high school from a traditional home school perspective without getting 100 high school credits but still preparing for options which includes apprenticeships and post secondary options. This meeting is for parents and either their teens or pre-teens. Please call the Sniders if you would like to attend. This will take place at– **The Door Church - 5315 Gaetz Ave** (located across from the old Alpha Milk Plant or 2 blocks north of Ross Street on Gaetz).

Annual Bike Ride/Picnic

Thursday, May 27 - please note the changes in this activity as described in the first activity in this newsletter.

Trap Shooting

Here’s a reminder that on **Friday, May 28th**, we have booked trap shooting with the Olds Trap Shooting group. This activity is for those who are approx. 12 years old and up to and including adults. Everyone should arrive at 10 a.m. and bring a picnic lunch. For more details please look at our calendar on our website at www.familieslearningtogether.com or check last month’s newsletter that you will find there.

To register for this activity and to get directions, you need to contact Debbie Sawatzky. Please use her email if possible: garden4@look.ca or call – ph. 403.782.7910.

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** - 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 at www.familieslearningtogether.com.

Bowden Police Dog Training Presentation

Our group is booked to watch the demonstrations which will be conducted 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.

We are supposed to let them know how many of us are coming, so 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, soccer or volleyball, sunscreen etc. ☺ Be sure to come!

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).

Wild by Nature

On **Tuesday, June 22nd** from 1-5 pm you have an opportunity to join other homeschoolers for orienteering/survival/games at the Wild By Nature Centre at Gull Lake. This is suitable for those 9 years old and up and they will be involved in a wide range of activities but orienteering will be one of the big activities. Young people will be taught to use compasses and then given instructions and basically have a scavenger hunt there they will find items – in groups- and then have a race to see who can start a fire and boil water first with the items they find – flint, cotton, etc. They will be shown their survival huts, and also play some ecology games where they learn about various aspects of nature, for example how the parts of a tree work or about a salmon chase. You can also check out their website for location and more information: <http://wildbynatureadventures.com/>. The cost will be \$15 for the afternoon's activities (it could be less depending on our numbers but we will let you know).

Please contact Debbie Sawatzky if your child would like to participate. Please use her email if possible: garden4@look.ca or call – ph. 403.782.7910. You can also make arrangements for payment with Debbie.

Sharing Bulletin:

Sewing Machine Class: “TAKE YOUR FEAR AWAY: Get to know your sewing machine”

Al from Al’s Sewing Machine Repair has offered to do a “get to know your sewing machine” class. Interestingly, he said that a lot of ladies don’t know the potential of their machine. Once we have 8-10 ladies confirmed we will set a Saturday aside sometime in May or June. The class will run from 10am-4pm. The cost will be approximately \$27-35. We will meet at his shop in the *Cronquist Business Park* (west of The Carnival) with our machines.

He will be covering a lot of information on your machine (bring a notebook!) from needles and thread to machine tension, technique to the purpose of all those feet that came with your machine. What **specifically** are you interested in learning?? Decorative stitch, bobbin thread, thread types, free motion quilting, how to use a zipper or blind hem foot, etc. Take the fear away and learn your machine. He will instruct us on regular routine maintenance that we can do at home to improve our machine’s performance. He is also going to create a few sewing problems scenarios that we need to solve.

So, if you are interested, please e-mail Malanie @ tolofsm@yahoo.ca with the following information (1) Saturday’s available in May and June, (2) preference of a catered lunch (for an additional charge) and (3) what specifically what you are interested in learning.

Private Music Lessons

Spring is the PERFECT time to try out piano lessons, practice your band instrument to prepare for the fall, or to simply enjoy playing music! I am back in the city of Red Deer and am now offering private lessons for piano and/or band instruments. I am also offering private theory lessons to prepare for the Preparatory Rudiments, Basic Rudiments, Intermediate Rudiments and Advanced Rudiments RCM examinations offered this summer. Half an hour lessons are \$15. Please contact Rhonda Snider for more information! (403) 348-0723 or rhondasnider20@gmail.com

To Give Away: If you are interested in having an aquarium, fish etc. please contact John and Charmaine at 403 346-4747 as they are looking for a happy home for it.

Wanted: Looking for a good used copy of Mystery of History Volume 1, as well as Math U See Epsilon teacher manual and DVD. Please contact Laura B. at cris01@telus.net or 309.2538.

Here is an inspiring poem for all our wonderful and dedicated Home School Mothers in our group. We’re putting it in for Mother’s Day!

My Mother's Garden

My mother kept a garden, a garden of the heart.

She planted all the good things that gave my life its start.

She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream,

Fostering and nurturing, the seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rain came, she protected me enough –

But not too much – she knew I'd need to stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong –

Markers for my pathway, that will last a lifetime long.

I am my Mother's garden; I am her legacy –

And I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.