

CLCN CHRONICLES

The official newsletter of the Christian Learning Center and Network

December

2007

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION)

December 14 Rollerskating

BE A BLESSING THIS SEASON!

This information is from a Janna, a homeschool mom who also coordinates a special-needs ministry to many people in northwest Indiana. She is assembling holiday gift baskets for several families and is looking for additional items for the baskets. (For more info on the special needs ministry, visit www.unchurch.blogspot.com.)

This is a great opportunity for your family to reach out to special-needs families during the holiday season. . .

Many of you have asked me for specific suggestions of what to give the special needs families in the area. Remember that these families are experiencing loneliness and isolation as we enjoy the Christmas festivities, so any small token to let them know they are not forgotten will be greatly appreciated. Anything they wouldn't be able to buy for themselves, due to mounting medical expenses and lack of ability to go out, would be a wonderful expression of love. Here are some possible ideas, but feel free to add your own...

- gift certificates to just about anywhere
- earrings, small home or holiday decor, other pretty trinkets or small gifts
- subscriptions to magazines, netflix, or other
- music CD's or movies
- meals that can be frozen
- shoveling snow
- haircut, massage, manicure, etc.
- small house or car repair, vacuuming, dusting, etc.

I would like to thank those who are currently in the process of making items, or have already dropped things off or are praying about what you can give. Due to your generosity and thoughtfulness, so far many families will be receiving two Christmas trees, a man's coat, seven suet bird feeders, three lasagnas, many home-made cookies, ornaments and lights, seven poinsettias, candy, flavored cocoa, a Burger King gift certificate, personalized artwork, money, and more. There are many families that are in great need. I can't tell you how grateful I am that you are continuing to donate gifts, displaying the wonderful loving arms of Christ to the hurting and those that often feel hopeless. May God bless you richly, beyond what you can imagine!

FIELD TRIPS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Rollerskating - December 14th from 1pm - 3:30pm at Faith Evangelical Bible Church gym. This is being hosted by Dawn's family to raise money for a missions trip. We are suggesting \$1 per skater. There will be a variety of snacks and drinks available. All proceeds will go directly to the missions trip. Please enter through the doors at the back of the building. You need to bring your own rollerskates or rollerblades. Please make sure your skate wheels are clean and not too rough.

JAY WILE TO GIVE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jay Wile of Apologia Ministries will give the commencement address during the second annual CLCN Homeschool Graduation Ceremony next spring. Wile, who is well-known for his homeschool science curriculum, is also a popular convention and workshop speaker nationwide.

Saturday, May 10th is the date reserved for the event, which will be held at Liberty Bible Church. Homeschooled seniors in northwest Indiana are invited to take part in the ceremony and will be accepted through January. Participating seniors must agree with the CLCN faith statement.

Be watching future issues of this newsletter for updates on the graduation plans. We will have many opportunities for other homeschoolers to take part.

KIDS CAN EARN SIX FLAGS TICKETS

Looking for a great way to encourage your children to read? Your K-6th grade students can earn free tickets for Six Flags Great America for 6 hours of recreational reading. Please send a list of your students who qualify (I don't need a list of what they read,) along with a self addressed, stamped envelope to Dawn.

SPANISH CLUB LOOKS TO CONTINUE

Los Adventureros Homeschool Spanish Club (for junior/senior high students) is looking for 2007-08 members, as well as suggestions for a location to meet each month, due to Fun Friday being on hold for the time being. If you would like to be a part of this fun club, which provides enrichment opportunities in the Spanish language and culture, as well as leadership skills and offices for your transcript, please contact Fabesi or Donna.

HOMESCHOOL TALENT PRESENTATION AND BENEFIT

The Home Educators Reaching Out (H.E.R.O.) organization is inviting area homeschoolers to audition for a homeschool talent presentation and benefit, Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Faith Evangelical Bible Church, 305 E. 400 N., Valparaiso, beginning at 7:00 pm. Donations will be accepted for *Feed My Starving Children*, an organization committed to feeding God's starving children, hungry in body and spirit. Master of Ceremonies will be Don Tersigni, a professional comedian and homeschool dad. Don has appeared on HBO Comic Relief, ABC's America's Funniest People, FOX's Show me the Funny, The Michael Essany Show on E!TV. He was also comedy winner of Ed McMahon's "Next Big Star" TV show.

All current area homeschoolers are eligible to audition for the benefit. Any type of talent presentation is welcome, including parent/child acts. There is no age limit, and to encourage those just learning a new skill, categories will be as follows: Child Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced; Youth Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced; and Teen Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Auditions will be held approximately one month prior to the benefit. Please e-mail Donna if any of your family members would like to audition for the benefit. You will be notified in December when auditions will be held.

FREE FIELD TRIPS

Brookfield Zoo Free general admission is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays in January, February, October, November, and December. Additionally, Saturdays and Sundays are free in January and February.

Chicago History Museum Free on Mondays

Museum of Science & Industry December 24

Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center No free days; Admission \$3/person

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Free days are Thursdays; suggested donation of \$7/adult

Jane Addams Hull House Museum Free every day

Art Institute of Chicago Thurs. and Fri. evenings are free from 5pm-9pm until August 31.

Chicago Cultural Center Free every day

FREEBIES!

--On-line Activities and Games for Homeschoolers:

-A great learn-to-read website: <http://www.starfall.com/>

-Math, reading games and more: <http://www.funbrain.com/index.html> and <http://www.rainforestmaths.com/>

-Like to listen to Adventures in Odyssey? Check this out and listen on-line: http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/Adventures_in_Odyssey/

-HomeschoolRadioShows.com has free downloadable stories that are wholesome and timeless. <http://www.homeschoolradioshows.com/>

-Need to motivate a child to read or check on comprehension? Check out this site: <http://bookadventure.org/>

-For some fun ideas check out: <http://familyfun.go.com/>

--Register at Homeschool eStore to receive one free download per week. Previous downloads have included: an astronomy study guide, Monet and the Impressionists for Kids book that contains 21 activities, etc. <http://www.homeschoolestore.com/catalog/login.php>

--Home Depot hosts a FREE kid's workshop the first Saturday of every month where kids can make (or take home to make) a fun wooden kit? Kits have included a race car, butterfly house, plastic bag storage box, and a roller coaster car. Each month is a different kit. A work area is set up in the back of the store where kids and their parents can complete their project. Each child receives a Home Depot work apron the first time and can use it to keep the pins they will receive after completing each new project. The workshop runs from 9 to noon on the first Saturday of each month.

--Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative has a free lending library with materials for math, science, history, etc. in a searchable database? You can order and check out ten items for 30 days. They even mail the items to you for free and send a prepaid envelope with your order to return it all! They send the order within a day or two, so it generally gets to you the same week you order. To take part in the Freshwater Fred Lending Library, visit www.hepn.com/library/content/splash.asp.

--You can find/give away free items through the Freecycle network? This web-based group is located by zip code all around the country and provides a place to recycle items and ask for something you need. A free Yahoo account is necessary to join, but is simple and quick to set up. Go to freecycle.org for more information. This is a great way to share God's blessings in our lives!

YAHOOGROUPS.COM

To get in on our e-mail loop, go to www.yahooogroups.com and search for CLCN and join. This is an easy way to get information to and from homeschoolers in NW Indiana.

HOMESCHOOLING RESOURCES

The Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) sends out the *Informer*, a bimonthly magazine to provide information, inspiration, and support to homeschooling families. It is free upon request (317-859-1202 or iahe@inhomeeducators.org or write IAHE at 8106 Madison Ave, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227.

Some other helpful websites include: www.ifhsonline.org Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling, and www.hslda.org Home School Legal Defense Association.