

CLCN CHRONICLES

The official newsletter of the Christian Learning Center and Network

February

2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION)

- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| February | 1 | Deadline for registering creations for Talent Show |
| | 2 | Deadline to order Standardized Tests from BJU
Home Depot Make-n-Take |
| | 4 | Deadline for Poetry Contest |
| | 7 | Spring Co-op begins
Fieldtrip to Rich Schiller's studio |
| | 8 | Fun Friday (Spanish Club meets) |
| | 8 | Ice Skating at Deep River Waterpark |
| | 9 | Homeschool Talent Presentation and Benefit |
| | 15 | Roller Skating at FEBC |
| | 21 | Box Tops deadline (turn in to Tricia at Spring Co-op) |
| | 22 | Fun Friday |
| March | 1 | Home Depot Make-n-Take |
| | 4 | James and the Giant Peach performance |
| | 7 | Standardized Testing for 3 rd -8 th grades |
| | 14 | Standardized Testing for 9 th -12 th grades
Fun Friday |
| | 21 | Roller Skating at FEBC |
| | 28 | Fun Friday |

Coming Events May 10 - 2008 CLCN Homeschool Graduation

FIELD TRIPS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Ice Skating at Deep River Waterpark on Friday, February 8th, at 1:50 pm.

The ice skating planned for Friday the 1st has been rescheduled to Friday the 8th. You now have all week to email names of children 12 and under who have read 4 hours of fun reading to receive a FREE ticket. Email Dawn to sign up your child(ren) for a FREE ticket. Your ticket can be used any time before 2/24/08.

Tour Rich Schiller's Studio! Rich Schiller, of Valparaiso, creates amazing, lifelike models and props used in photography and films. A fieldtrip to his studio is planned for **Thursday, Feb. 7,** at 1:30 pm. He will have two projects to show that he is currently working on. Here is a quote from his website . . . rich4props.com . . . *Custom models, props, 3-D illustrations and unique prototypes. That is what I do. These are not digital models. These are actual objects that can be touched, filmed, photographed, and displayed. The work involves design, sculpting, molding, casting, wood-working, metal-working...whatever medium or process will result in a final fascinating object.* There is no age limit for this fieldtrip, however younger children **MUST** be closely supervised. If your child cannot refrain from touching, please consider not bringing him or her. There is a maximum limit of 20 students.

Rollerskating - February 15th from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm at Faith Evangelical Bible Church gym. This is being hosted by the 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. This event will be held the 3rd Friday of each month, as an ongoing physical education and fundraising opportunity.

James and the Giant Peach Performance - We have an amazing opportunity to see a live performance of James and the Giant Peach for only \$2 a seat, at the **Chicago Street Theatre**, on Chicago Street in **Valparaiso**, one block west of the YMCA. The performance is **Tuesday, March 4th at 9 am** and is approximately 1 hour, with no intermission. If you would like to reserve a seat for either performance, please mail a check (made out to **Community Theatre Guild**) to Donna as soon as possible.

BAKE-OFF COORDINATOR WANTED

CLCN is in need of someone to coordinate its annual Bake-Off, usually held around Valentine's Day, during a Fun Friday afternoon. Prizes for the winners will be gathered by someone else. This is simply someone to plan the event and direct it that day. For more information, please contact Amy.

CO-OP BEGINS NEXT THURSDAY

"**Amazing Animals in the News**," will run for six consecutive Thursdays, February 7th through March 13th from **9:15 am - 12:15 pm**. Please arrive by 9:00, so everyone will be ready to start promptly at 9:15. Location: Liberty Bible Church, 824 N. Calumet Ave, Chesterton (if you need directions the website is www.lbchurch.org) Please enter **DOOR C!**

Kindergarten through 6th graders will explore different ecosystems and the amazing animals that live in them. In conjunction with that, the teens will learn the newspaper process, from

planning, reporting, photography, writing and editing, to layout and publishing. They will also edit and publish a co-op newsletter to give each family on the final day. Submissions for the newsletter will come from stories and art submitted by the younger students, as well as contributions from the teens. The pre-school class will explore an animal alphabet. An amazing live-animal show will conclude the co-op sessions.

Things to bring for children in K5- 6th grade:

- toilet paper tubes - empty
- scissors
- markers
- shoebox for diorama
- paint shirt
- newspaper to cover table while painting
- pencil
- crayons
- glue - school glue not glue stick
- folder or notebook to keep papers in

Bring supplies the 1st day of co-op. *If you have extra shoe boxes or toilet paper tubes, please bring them in.*

The last week of co-op will consist of a live animal show, presentations by some of the kids, and an exciting gym time. Dads & Grandparents welcome.

EVENT TO SHOWCASE LOCAL HOMESCHOOL TALENT!

The HERO Homeschool Talent Presentation and Benefit will be held Saturday, February 9th, 2008, at 7 pm at Faith Evangelical Bible Church in Valparaiso, and will feature well-known comedian and homeschool dad Don Tersigni as emcee. This will be an evening to laugh, share homeschool humor, and watch some great talent presentations from area homeschoolers. Both performing talents, as well as display talents will be showcased, including artwork, writing, photography, and inventions. Homeschool-baked treats will be served as well! A video presentation for *Feed My Starving Children* will also be shown. There is no admission fee, however your generous donations that night will help feed starving children worldwide. Please bring your family and friends to show your support for homeschooling. This will be a very memorable evening. Please see attached flyer for further information. This flyer can be printed and distributed to any interested persons.

WANTED!

Artists - Writers - Photographers - Inventors - Bakers for the **HERO Talent Presentation and Benefit** listed above.

Artists - any medium

Writers - any form, from poem to book!

Photographers - scrapbooks, too

Inventors - all inventions welcome

Bakers - to supply treats for intermission

All ages of students (both current and former homeschoolers) are encouraged to participate . . .
best efforts, please!

Please mount, frame or encase each item for display in a manner that will best display its quality.

Baked treats should be placed on a special serving plate/tray.

Each participant's name and talent will be written on a display card, which will accompany the display.

Contact Holly Howe to register. Include name, age and description of display item.

Deadline is Friday, Feb. 1!

Use your talents to honor God and raise money for starving children!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOMESCHOOL GRADUATION

"**A Significant Life**" is the theme chosen for the 2008 CLCN Homeschool Graduation, and nine area seniors will be receiving their diplomas during the ceremony. Dr. Jay Wile, Apologia Ministries founder and author of the popular Apologia science textbooks, will present the commencement address during the ceremony on Saturday, May 10th, at 2 pm, at Liberty Bible Church in Chesterton. Mark your calendars!

A great opportunity exists for your family to support these nine fellow homeschooling families as they celebrate their accomplishments. **Volunteers are now needed in several areas:**

- **Advanced string students** are needed for the string orchestra. Please send name, instrument played, and level of ability (number of years playing, etc.)
- **Ushers** are needed to distribute programs before the ceremony and guide people to the reception following. (Would prefer homeschool students.)
- A **Hostess** is needed to coordinate the kitchen area (set up the food table, keep it stocked and provide kitchen clean-up following the reception.)
- **Kitchen Workers** to assist the Hostess
- **Food donations** in the following areas - cheese cubes, fresh fruit pieces, assorted cookies, small water bottles

- **Decorating Assistants** to help the Decorating Committee on the reception tables.

Please contact Donna with your name and which area you would like to help. You won't want to miss this memorable and encouraging event . . . one that will spur you on in your homeschool adventure!

FIELD STATION EXPLORERS 2008

(Nature and Science Exploration for children in grades K-4)

The Field Station Cooperative is housed in a newly renovated historic site located within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. For the second year, the Field Station will be offering its popular after-school Explorers program. Students in grades K-4 come to the Field Station once a week to participate in fun, hands-on lessons that focus on science, nature and art.

During the fall and spring, as the weather conditions and available sunlight permit, the majority of the class is taught outdoors, maximizing the use of the natural surroundings. In the winter, students spend most of the time indoors, with outdoor lesson days scheduled into the calendar for special projects and events. The lessons are designed around a theme (unit) that provides continuity between the weekly classes and keeps the children interested and engaged.

Grades K-2 will be Thursdays from 4:30-6:00; Grades 2-4 will be Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00
Another Class Option is for Grades 2-4 (flexible) on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 (*currently taking names*)

Class Size is 15 students, one teacher and one aide; Class Dates: 10-week spring term - Week of March 3 through week of May 12

Tuition Cost - 10 classes - \$15.00/class=\$150.00 (*monthly installment plan may be arranged upon request*)

Registration for Spring Term is February 22-28 for Returning Winter Explorers or February 29 is Open to General Public.

The class is taught by Becky Woldt, a current Field Station preschool teacher and former Naturalist at the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center. Becky has her bachelor¹'s degree in Environmental Science and has developed and taught a variety of environmental science education programs for young children. The National Park Service also takes part in the program with a park service ranger joining the class once each term.

If you think your child would be interested in the program, please visit the website listed for additional information.

The Field Station Cooperative is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Financial assistance may be available; if you think your child would qualify, please inquire through the Explorers¹

contact at our website.

The Field Station, 399 Howe Rd., Porter, IN 46304, (219) 926-2500, www.fieldstationkids.org

SPANISH CLUB RESUMES, ELECTS OFFICERS

The Los Adventureros Homeschool Spanish Club held its organizational meeting Jan. 11, during Fun Friday, and planned activities for the coming semester. Ten members were listed for the 2007-08 school year.

Elected officers for the year were Pat, president; Stacie, vice-president; Gaby and Kimmie, co-cultural advisors; Ellie, historian; Rachel, treasurer; and Bethany, secretary.

Anticipated activities for the next few months include eating at a Spanish/Mexican restaurant, visiting the Mexican Museum and a tortilla factory in Chicago, and hosting a birthday fiesta.

The Spanish Club also plans to enjoy a cultural presentation and share the Spanish language during a designated part of the business meetings.

The group's first activity took place Jan. 25 at the home of advisor Fabesi, when she and her husband, Joey, walked the members through the steps of preparing authentic Mexican enchiladas . . . YUM!!!

New members are always welcome. The group hosts a business meeting during the first Fun Friday of each month, from 2 to 3 pm, in the Liberty Bible Church café. An outside activity is planned for later in the month.

BOX TOPS ARE DUE!

The due date for sending in Box Tops for Education coupons is coming up. I will have a collection box available at the spring co-op at Liberty. I need to have all coupons turned in to me by **February 21st**. The coupons can have ragged edges, as long as the expiration date is readable. Thank you for taking the time to collect and save these coupons. The money we earned will be used by the CLCN board to expand our lending library. If you have any requests of how this money should be spent, please feel free to talk to me (Tricia) or any of the CLCN board members.

IUPUI ANNOUNCES 2008 POETRY CONTEST

IUPUI received a good number of entries last year from high school aged homeschooling students, so they want to make sure that we are informed of this year's contest. It's free to enter, and there are cash prizes for the winners. All of the information is available online at: <http://www.opd.iupui.edu/poetry> Deadline for entry is Monday, Feb. 4, 2008. Awards will be given March 29, 2008. You can contact Professor Richard Turner at 317.278.4697 or by e-mail at rturner@iupui.edu.

FREE FIELDTRIP IDEAS . . .

The Field Museum is FREE during February! From single-celled organisms to towering dinosaurs, the Ancient Americas to Egypt and Africa; from the young to the young at heart, The Field museum has something for everyone to discover: Evolving Planet; The Ancient Americas; George Washington Carver; Sue the *T.rex*; Crown Family PlayLab;and more. Start discovering now at www.fieldmuseum.org.

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

Chicago History Museum Free on Mondays

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

Jane Addams Hull House Museum Free every day

Chicago Cultural Center Free every day

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

--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!

LENDING LIBRARY

CLCN offers a Lending Library to its members. There are books available that appeal to parents and kids. We also have a Geo Safari and microscope available. All items are available to check for a 2-week period. Please contact Dawn for specific instructions.

YAHOOGROUPS.COM

To get in on our e-mail loop, go to www.yahogroups.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.