

# CLCN CHRONICLES

The official newsletter of the Christian Learning Center and Network

## September

## 2008

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |           |    |                                       |
|-----------|----|---------------------------------------|
| September | 6  | Home Depot free make-n-take           |
|           | 11 | Deadline to register for fall classes |
|           | 18 | Fall classes begin                    |
|           | 26 | Prophetstown fieldtrip                |
| October   | 1  | Scavenger hunt at Valpo Library       |
|           | 4  | Home Depot free make-n-take           |
|           | 16 | Speech class begins                   |
|           | 27 | County Line Orchard fieldtrip         |

### FIELD TRIPS

#### **Prophetstown** - Lafayette

September 26 - 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Come visit a Woodlands Indian settlement and get a hands-on trading demonstration. This is for all ages.

#### **Scavenger Hunt** - Valparaiso Public Library

October 1 - 2:00 pm

Children will be divided into two groups: 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades and 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

#### **Shedd Aquarium** - Chicago

October 13, 14 or 21 (waiting on final date)

Free general admission and the following classes:

Fish Files - 2nd - 6th grade

Lakeshore Biology - 6th - 12th grade

Comparative Anatomy - 8th - 12th grade

#### **County Line Orchard** - Hobart

October 27 - at 10 am - Take a wagon ride through the orchard (or pumpkin patch), have free access to the petting zoo, bring home a half-peck of apples per person (or pick a pumpkin), and have donut and apple cider samples. Children will be given lessons on photosynthesis, pollination, honey-making (by bees!), apple harvesting and apple handling. This fun-filled tour gives children an opportunity to learn while having a good time. Picnic shelters will be available to those that

would like to bring a lunch. Pumpkins or apples may also be purchased at the orchard store. More information can be found at [www.countylineorchard.com](http://www.countylineorchard.com).

### **Visualization Lab** - Valparaiso University

Nov. 3 - See a life-sized human DNA strand in 3-D format, among other amazing things using high-tech equipment. All ages welcome, with parent supervision.

### **Connor Prairie** - a living history museum in Fishers, Indiana

Nov. 13 - between 9:30 am-5:00 pm, with a suggested arrival time of 11:00 am. A video will be shown 2 weeks ahead of this date.

### **Follow the North Star at Connor Prairie** - in Fishers, Indiana

Nov. 14 - For ages 12 and up, NO EXCEPTIONS - due to the intense content of the evening. In this 1-1/2 hour time you will be treated like a fugitive slave. Groups of 15 leave every 15 minutes starting at 6:30 pm.

## **HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE CLASS**

Have you ever felt confused when reading literature, not able to gain the deep meaning that you expected? Are you unsure of all the literary terms you hear tossed around? This High School Literature Class will help you to better understand the classics and will enable you to know the meaning of the literary terms and recognize and use them in your reading. We will learn the terms in the context of the various literary genres, such as: short story, drama, non-fiction, poetry, mythology, and novel. From this experience, you will gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for fine literature.

A retired teacher and school principal, is teaching this class at Faith Evangelical Bible Church in Valparaiso. The teacher conveys information in an organized, easy to follow manner that helps students to take good notes. She has successfully taught several classes to homeschool students. Classes will be held on Wednesday mornings, but a specific time has not been set. Classes will begin mid-September and finish in May. This will be a full year class with a fee of \$200. The class will include small writing assignments, quizzes and tests.

## **CLCN FALL CLASSES - REGISTER TODAY!**

### **How to Be a Super Star Student**

This is a video class. The cost is \$24 for the class and meets on Thursdays, September 18th - November 6th at Faith Evangelical Bible Church; time to be determined later. When a high school student has trouble learning a subject like math or history, the problem may lie not in the teacher's ability or the student's I.Q. Instead, it is often simply because the student has never been taught *how* to learn. From the high school in the little town of Worland, Wyoming, comes a steady stream of honor students. They win scholarships, get into top universities, even have their writings published while still in high school. Why? Are they smarter than other kids? No. They have been shown how to become SuperStar Students by a widely-acclaimed SuperStar teacher, Tim McGee. Dr. McGee has found that many bright kids have trouble retaining what

they read and get tangled up when trying to do writing assignments. So he teaches two simple yet powerful techniques that will give students an edge not only in high school, but in college and adulthood. What do his Worland honor students have in common? A whole set of basic learning skills which most high school students are never taught:

- Developing an attitude toward learning that yields results
- Keeping a learning journal and developing study habits that pay off
- Using annotation to change ordinary reading to active reading
- Learning how to take and use notes to prepare for exams
- Using the secrets of "jam" writing and informal writing
- Discovering how to draft and edit the formal essay.

Dr. McGee is an impressive speaker who has changed the lives of his students with his powerful message about what it takes to be a great student—and how to do it once you've made the decision to excel. These lectures provide a front-row seat for lectures that have enthralled students and their parents around the country. They show how to build a foundation of achievement that will last a lifetime. Professor McGee's introductory lecture on learning and on the two character traits that every great student must possess—honesty and courage—is followed by lectures on note-taking, active reading, writing without pain, studying to succeed, and organizing time. The lessons are packed with information and insight that every student who wants to win needs to know. Parents, please note: Professor McGee devotes the last two lectures to you, with discussions on the best home educational environment and tips on finding the right college for your child.

### **You Decide, Applying the Bill of Rights to Real Cases**

The cost is \$30 and meets on Thursdays, September 18th - November 6th at Faith Evangelical Bible Church; time to be determined later. Court is now in session, and the honorable "judge" is *your* student! Kids decide on actual Supreme Court cases based on the first eight Amendments of the Constitution. As they analyze the Amendments and rule on cases. They sharpen their problem-solving skills in a relevant way. A great experience with judicial cases and critical thinking exercises. Intended for grades 6 to 12.

### **Speech Class**

Students will focus on public speaking by learning about choosing a topic, organizing speech information, listening skills, impromptu speaking, dealing with speech anxiety, analyzing persuasive claims, and working with visual aids. Students will present 3 or 4 prepared speeches to the class. Class limit is 10 students. Recommended age is high school. Cost is \$55 for first child and \$25 for additional siblings. The class will meet nine times at Liberty Bible Church on Thursday afternoons from 2-3:30 between October 16 and December 18, 2008.

The teacher is a pastor's wife and a homeschool mother four. She has a BA from Cedarville College and an MA in Communications from Miami University (Oxford, OH). Her teaching experience includes PACA (an MK school in Sao Paulo, Brazil) instructor in high school English and speech 2 years; Miami University - teaching assistantship 1 year; College of DuPage - adjunct assignments; Wheaton College - adjunct assignment; Moody Bible Institute - 6 years full time, communications professor.

## **Cake Decorating Class**

For more information, contact Dawn.

## **ART, ART, ART Co-op**

What is every child's favorite part of co-op? Art and gym - so that is what we are dedicating this co-op to. This year the students will be able to experience art mediums that perhaps are too expensive or too messy to have at home. We will also be getting a little art history in our explanation of the art technique we will be experimenting with each week. Come and enjoy a lot of learning and fun and bring your art smock. Junior high and senior high students will also be looking at the worldview of famous artist and how we can understand their art by understanding their worldview. These students will also have hands - on - learning of world cultures. Classes are available for nursery ages through 12th grade.

Art Co-op will meet on Thursdays from January 22, 2009 - March 12, 2009; from 9:15 am - 12 noon at Liberty Bible Church in Chesterton. Registration fee of \$25 per family is due November 4th. Required Teacher Training Workshop on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at Liberty Bible Church, room 140C. (No childcare will be provided.)

## **VOLUNTEERING - ADD TO YOUR GOVERNMENT CURRICULUM!**

Volunteer activities of all types are one avenue that a homeschool family may take to provide extra circular activities for their children. With the general election this fall, many families, of high school students in particular, are taking the opportunity to cover government and elections. Volunteering with a campaign is a unique experience that may help to supplement at home curriculum.

The Mitch for Governor Campaign is a grassroots, volunteer-driven campaign, dependant on the support and efforts of volunteers across the state. Volunteering with the Mitch for Governor Campaign will provide opportunities for your students to learn about the campaign process, participate in grassroots activities, and provide an excellent supplement to high school government curriculum and a resume builder for your students. Further, you and your students will be partnering with other families across the state in effort to support Governor Daniels and the Republican ticket.

There are a number of ways you and your family can be involved in your area. The Mitch for Governor Campaign works with GOP county party offices throughout Northwest Indiana. In Porter County, the typical weekly volunteer schedule is below.

Here is the Porter County Mitch for Governor Weekly Volunteer Schedule:

### Monday

Phone Bank: 6:00-8:30 pm - 212 E. Lincolnway (above BW3s) Valparaiso, IN

### Tuesday

Phone Bank: 6:00-8:30 pm - 1605 Adler Circle, Suite F (by the Bass Pro Shop...Mortgage suite)  
Portage, IN

Wednesday

Phone Bank: 6:00-8:30 pm - E. Lincolnway (above BW3s) Valparaiso, IN

Thursday

Phone Bank: 6:00-8:30 pm - 1605 Adler Circle, Suite F (by the Bass Pro Shop...Mortgage suite)  
Portage, IN

Friday

Phone Bank: 6:00-8:30 pm - 212 E. Lincolnway (above BW3s) Valparaiso, IN

Saturday

Phone Bank: Noon - 5:00 pm - 212 E. Lincolnway (above BW3s) Valparaiso, IN

Brad Powlen is the Regional Political Director for the Mitch Campaign in Northwest Indiana. If you have any questions about volunteering in Northwest Indiana, please feel free to contact Brad at (574) 276-8910 or [bpowlen@indgop.org](mailto:bpowlen@indgop.org).

## **HOMESCHOOL ICE SKATING**

From Christy Wronkowicz, skating director at Midwest Training and Ice Center, Dyer, IN:  
This special, daytime ice skating class is designed to enhance the curriculum of homeschoolers ages 6+. Classes take place during our mid-day public skate and include a 45 minute lesson and 45 minutes of practice time. Lessons will be grouped by age/skill level and will focus on fundamentals of learning how to ice skate (physical fitness) supplemented with learning that extends outside the traditional classroom (basic laws of physics, movement, rhythm, and music). This exploration of learning uses the human body as the subject and ice as the medium. I would be willing to work with your group on the day and possibly the time that would work best for the students. I know it was a very beneficial program for some of the homeschool students I taught before. If you could please contact me via email at this address or my personal e-mail address ([christinask8er08@yahoo.com](mailto:christinask8er08@yahoo.com)) or via phone at 219-558-8811, I would love to discuss this program more with you.

## **FREE CHICAGO MUSEUM DAYS**

Shedd Aquarium

Sept. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

Oct. 6-9, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25

Museum of Science and Industry

Sept. 2-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, 29, 30

Oct. 31

Nov. 27

Dec. 24, 31

Field Museum

Sept. 8, 21-26

Oct. 13, 26-31

Nov.10

Dec.8

Lincoln Park Zoo

Free everyday

## LENDING LIBRARY

CLCN has partnered with Liberty Bible Church for the Homeschool Lending Library. So go to the Liberty Bible Church Library and "check it out". Books in the homeschool section (as well as all the other books) are available to borrow for two weeks at a time. You just need to give them your name, address, and phone number for their records. For more information or if you have any books you would like to donate, please contact Amy. CLCN also lends out a **Geo Safari** and a **microscope**.

**Donations for the lending library are now being accepted.** If you have some homeschool books that you do not need any more, consider donating them to the library.

## 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](http://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](http://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.yahogroups.com](http://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](mailto:iahe@inhomeeducators.org) or write IAHE at 8106 Madison Ave, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227.

Some other helpful websites include: [www.ifhsonline.org](http://www.ifhsonline.org) Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling, and [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) Home School Legal Defense Association.