



THE TEACHING PIONEER
Southeast Texas Homeschool Association



***We invite you to join us for the
25th Annual Gulf Coast Home Education Conference
June 3 - 4, 2011
Houston Baptist University Campus
Come Take Advantage of Our
Informative Speakers
Valuable Training
Encouragement From Fellow Homeschoolers
Exhibitors From Across the Country
&
A Wide Variety of Curriculum and Homeschool Resources***

CONFERENCE 2011

25th Annual Gulf Coast Home Education Conference

Are you in the know? Here is what you need to know...

Used Book Sale – June 2nd 10-noon. Set up is 9-10 am.

Location: HBU Campus in the Morris Cultural Arts Building. Cost: \$5 to sell, \$2 to buy and kids are free. Children must stay with parents at all time and please don't bring wagons. Parking is on both sides of the Cultural Arts Bldg. So it won't be too far to take a load of books to the car. Visit our web at <http://www.sethsa.org/usedbksale.htm> for all of the Book Sale info and to view the HBU interactive map. This map is great for getting a feel for the Campus layout.

Art Contest – June 3-4th during the conference. This is a great opportunity for your student to show their talent. We had a great turn out last year, so fire up the brushes, pencils, and cameras. Visit the web for all of the details. We will need your child's name, address, phone number, media, and size of project <http://www.sethsa.org/contests.htm>

Volunteer – With a new venue we need lots of volunteers to help people get to the right place at the right time. Please consider supporting the ministry by giving us a helping hand. Your registration fee is covered if you volunteer. Email us at staff@sethsa.org if you would like to volunteer.

Volunteer spots we still need help with – registration, help with speakers, children's program (email us for the specifics – you might be surprised), teens to help on Thursday with used book sale and set up in the exhibit hall (their teen program registration will be covered)

Location – Be sure to check out the HBU interactive map. We will be using these buildings: Morris Cultural Arts Building, Hinton Center, Cullen Science Bldg, Mabee Theater, Atwood, and exhibit hall in Sharp Gym and Glasscock Center. <http://www.hbu.edu/hbu/ICM.asp?SnID=708783079> start the interactive campus map and after it loads you will be able to move the cursor over each building to see its name.

Teen Program - The **Mind Technologies Institute (MTI)** presents a special two-day science-based learning workshop; which encourages "positive" brain plasticity in all who attend (students or parents). This dynamic workshop helps attendees build a strong foundation for a student's educational experience by encouraging positive brain development. This makes it easier for students to learn more efficiently by using more of the brain.

As a result of attending this special SETSHA Learning Workshop, students (and parents) will double their reading speed over their entry levels on day one. They will measurably improve their ability to remember (by a factor of three) along with improving their ability to maintain focus and concentration. Attendees overall learning ability will double. Special attention is given to maintaining brain health. Thousands attending past workshops have stated that the "brain care" segments were as beneficial as the workshop itself. Be sure to visit the web for more details. Give your teen a cutting edge in school.

Kids Program – What's happening this year in our children's program? Well, first off we will have animals visiting us. One Acre Farms and The Zoo Mobile will be there to teach hands on about the animals and their habitats. Also, we will have Kid's Back Porch Productions, crafts, music and much more. Be sure to check out the web for all the details. Did we mention animals?

Speakers – It's crunch time and we are working hard to get all of our speaker information finalized so you will see it on the web. Soon! In the interim, you will see speakers and their workshop topics being added as they are finalized. This will give you some ideas as to what's in store while you wait for the final grid.

Exhibitors – We are constantly updating our exhibitor information as we get it. Be sure to visit their website if you aren't familiar with the company. Many times you will find great treasures at conventions.

Food Options – check out the web for all the options. <http://www.sethsa.org/foodopts.htm>

Lodging – HBU has been gracious to offer their dorm facility for lodging. The cost is \$20 per person per night. Maybe you and your girl friends want to drive in and stay in one of the suites. If both parents stay, kids cost \$10 per night. Remember, for the best price throw in your own linens.

<http://www.sethsa.org/lodging.htm>

CONFERENCE 2011

The SETHSA Staff wants to take the opportunity to invite you to be a part of this 25th celebration. Our heart is for homeschoolers and we need your support. Your attendance helps us keep the lights on during the year. As I was reflecting back over the years I ran across an old registration form for 1995. The cost to pre-register was \$12 for an individual and \$17 for a couple. For 2011 you can attend both days for \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. What a great deal for both days. As inflation hits us all we encourage you to be a financial contributor to SETHSA. Your attendance allows you to contribute to help us keep the ministry going. Tell your friends, clear your calendars, and come support 25 years of service. Thank you! We can't do it without you.

Heaven Sent Homeschool Choir

Enrollment for the 2011-12 school year is currently underway for Heaven Sent Choir.

Students may be enrolled by calling Kathie Fleming at 281-635-2365.

Under the direction of Leland Fleming, the choir strives to provide a high-quality, Christ-centered music education program to home schooled students in grades 1 through 12.

Rehearsals are one day a week at centrally located

Liberacion Baptist Church, 10331 Veterans Memorial Drive.

Heaven Sent ministers throughout the year in a variety of venues including hospitals, nursing homes, community events, and formal concerts.

High school students also have the opportunity to compete in district, region, and state auditions, as well take a Spring trip which includes additional performances.

In August, junior high and high school aged students will attend camp at Trinity Pines Encampment.

Elementary students will have a local one-day camp experience.

For more information about Heaven Sent Choir visit their website at www.heavensentchoirs.org.



Come by our booth at this year's SETHSA Conference.
We look forward to visiting with you.



Texas Home School Coalition



THSC is currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Volunteer editors to assist our Publications Team with daily and weekly tasks involving our website and communications

Skilled professionals to assist our Communications Team with corrections, web maintenance, and adding content to our website

THSC is also on Facebook and Twitter! We are looking for volunteers who are skilled and knowledgeable in social media marketing

Want to serve the home school community? Then **join the team** at THSC!

FREE Intro Unit Study Lesson on Texas History!

When she could not find the type of learning materials she wanted for her children, Lynn Dean, a Texas home school mom, decided to create her own. Written from a Christian worldview, **Discover Texas** enables the entire family to learn together, with everyone working at his own level and on his own interests. Using real books and real experiences makes this course one of discovery learning, as opposed to "reading the chapter and answering the questions."

Designed to teach Texas history, geography, and government to students in grades 4 to 9, chronological units guide students through the exciting story of Texas with fully illustrated articles, quality websites, unit study activities, and critical thinking lessons. Each unit includes teaching resources, reading suggestions, and a field trip guide to make lesson planning easy.

Home schoolers receive a \$15 discount on this program when they join the Texas Home School Coalition Association. This is just one of many benefits of membership in the Association. Join today and **Discover Texas!**

Take advantage of this great offer.

Serve up something new . . .
and help families in need!

When you buy *Family Favorites from the Homeschool Kitchen*, you'll receive over 300 inspiring recipes for nearly every occasion, letting you save your energy for what really matters—like family time around a flavorful meal. And, all profits go to help needy homeschoolers through the Home School Foundation!

Order today!
www.hslda.org/store
540-338-5600

Retail: \$29.95
HSLDA members: \$25.00



Special offers and discounts year-round!

GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

SCIENCE: INSPIRATIONAL STEPPING STONE TO GEOGRAPHY

Weather & climate, ecosystems & ecology, volcanic activity & earthquakes, ocean currents & tsunamis. We study them in science lessons, but they also appear in geographic studies. Science topics like these & others are simple stepping stones to geography when we tie concepts from textbooks to a location which opens a door to cultural understanding. Start with a science concept & connect it to a place that makes the concept more than something in a book but a relevant part of our world. Rainforest animals in the Amazon of South America...Weather patterns around the mountains of North America...Volcanic activity of Asia...European rivers & pollution...African desert flora & fauna... Whether simple steps or larger strides, let your science lesson be the springboard to a geographic journey for any age or level.

JAPAN: SCIENCE CENTRAL

While **Japan** is well known for its advances in electronics & the automobile industry, they lead the world in robotics & have received international recognition for their work in physics, chemistry, & medicine. It is one of the leading nations in scientific research. For a relatively small country in area, they have 6 climate zones & 9 eco-regions ready to explore. Pollution & conservation have been on their short list of concerns. Unfortunately, recent earthquakes, a tsunami, & a nuclear energy crisis have pushed new science related issues to the forefront of everyone's minds the world over. Understanding these issues in the context of Japan's topography & culture may help us better respond to the problems they are facing whether it be through our prayers or philanthropic endeavors. While science can be a great starting point, extend your studies to learn about Japan. Be inspired by the suggestions below or our Geo-Cise Q & A of the month.

MAPPING & COUNTRY BASICS: Locate Japan on a world map. Get a closer look with online maps of Japan or even satellite images. Identify its features & the features around it. What bodies of water surround it? Who are its neighbors? Find its 4 largest islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, & Shikoku. On which island is its capital of Tokyo? Where is Mt. Fuji? Make a flag. Japan's flag design is simple enough for any age. Combine it with a lesson on the circle & rectangle for early learners. Older students can learn about the climate, topography, industry, & agriculture. With almost 3/4 of Japan being forests or mountainous, most Japanese live along the country's coast.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: Set the dinner table with chopsticks & try some simple Japanese recipes-even rice works nice. And don't forget the tea! Try your hand at some Japanese calligraphy. Go to www.dictionary.com & click on the translator button. Write the word in English you want translated into Japanese. Then try copying the Japanese translation for your own writing practice. Even younger kids can learn to write a haiku poem with a little help. Choose a topic (animals work well), and describe it in a 3-line poem. Each line has a set number of syllables: 5, 7, & 5. Pick up a few fresh flowers or use some of the silk variety & let the kids find their inner *ikebana* (art of flower arranging). Be inspired by the art of Hokusai, Hiroshige, or others. Look for traditional Japanese music & research some of the more unique instruments. Use that leftover construction paper for some origami practice. Websites like www.tinyshiny.com has a page of ideas for kids to fold away from boats to birds, flowers to frogs. Find traditionally costumed kid color sheets at websites like www.Activity-Village.co.uk. In their Children Around the World collection, there are many countries represented. Celebrate along with Japan on May 5th. It is one of their national holidays- Children's Day, a time to celebrate kids AND their moms. You'll also find directions on how to make a carp kite & samurai warrior helmet. Close your study of this great nation with a walk through a Japanese garden. Many public gardens have sections that are of Japanese design-simple, serene, a treasure.

GEO-CISE: Japan

- 1-You may have heard of Japan being called "The Land of the Rising Sun", but do you know the official name which is related to this nickname?
- 2-An island is land completely surrounded by water. Japan is an island nation made up of 6,852 islands. What is a CHAIN of islands called?
- 3-Mt. Fuji is a well known symbol & widely visited place in Japan. But do you know what Mt. Fuji is?
- 4-The largest metropolitan area in the world is located in Japan. Where is it?
- 5-"Y" is the symbol of Japan's monetary unit. What does it stand for?
- 6-Is Japan closer to China or Russia?
- 7-There are several straits in the area separating the islands of Japan as well as separating Japan from a couple of countries. What is a strait?

(Answers on page 24)

Coming Soon!

Summer 2011



To get on our email list, or for more information, contact Mr. B at mrbaudio@sbcglobal.net

Mr. B's Audio/Video Camp

(2 sessions: 1/middle school, 1/high school)

Mr. B's Audio/Video Productions is offering a unique, interactive and engaging summer camp in media production to middle and high school students. Campers will enjoy discovering their talents in the multimedia industry as behind the scenes secrets are revealed. Their individual creativity will have a platform and audience as they learn to bring the *action on screen* to life.

Hi, my name is John Bertram. My wife and I are veteran home school parents. I work full time outside the home as an educator at a career and technology school teaching high schoolers audio/video production. This summer I am offering audio/video production camps to middle and high school students to help them determine their interest in this ever expanding multibillion dollar industry. It is only within the last 3 years that this has been taught aggressively in public schools because of the career opportunities afforded in this new digital age in which we live.

Camps will be held at 5015 Grove West Blvd. in Stafford behind The Fountains. There will be one camp session for middle school campers and another camp session for high school campers. Each session will last for 2 weeks, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Campers will celebrate their successes and accomplishments with a "Pizza Party Premiere" on the last Friday of their camp session.

Having been in media production for 35 years, I am confident that this camp will help your student make an educated decision regarding a career in multimedia production. It is also a great self-esteem booster if they just want to create entertaining videos for their friends on YouTube.

Ecstatic Electronics Camp

(for those entering grades 4-6 in the fall)

Charge your child's interest in the shocking world of electronics at this summer camp for campers entering grades 4-6 next fall. In today's digital age, our children are fascinated with technology. Help them discover the joy of creating that technology with their own hands by designing and building simple, yet fascinating electronic devices. Campers are so engaged in the fun of it all, that they are unaware they are learning basic electronics in the process. This camp focuses on awakening the creative aspects of their minds by introducing the foundation of the technology they love.

Camp will last 2 weeks, Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. On the last Thursday of the camp session, parents are invited to join campers as they celebrate their accomplishments and demonstrate their creation while enjoying pizza and dessert.

To get on our email list or for more information, contact Mr. B at mrbaudio@sbcglobal.net.

FOR SALE:

Piccolo w/case. Great condition. \$20

Selmer Bundy Clarinet w/case. Great condition. Cork intact. Pads look good. \$45.

(Missouri City/Sugar Land area)

For more information or pictures email denisebertram@sbcglobal.net





LESSON PLANS

By Vicki Bentley

HSLDA Early Years Coordinator

(This is from a newsletter article written when our younger girls were 13, 12, and 8 years old.)

When I began homeschooling in the 1980s, I didn't know anyone else who homeschooled. I was so afraid I'd do it wrong. Then I happened upon [A Survivor's Guide to Homeschooling](#) (Shackelford & White), and I realized—to my great relief—that there wasn't one "right" way to homeschool. We had the liberty to tailor our program and our schedule to the needs of our own family.

First my husband and I **set goals** for each of our children (Luke 2:52)—intellectual, physical, spiritual, social. I choose my curriculum with those goals in mind, making sure to cover the basics and character training above all else.

We decide on our **basic school year**. Some families choose to do formal school work all year long. Some work on a standard public school schedule, especially if they are in a neighborhood with lots of public school children, or if they have some children in conventional schools and others being home educated. We decided to work on an eight-weeks-on, one-week-off schedule, with two larger four-week breaks. This works well for me because, frankly, I figured I can do anything for eight weeks.

We begin in early August and have an eight-week session, then one week off, then eight weeks on, then four weeks off in December/early January. Then we go eight-on, one-off till the end of June (five total sessions). This gives us a week in between most sessions, which is long enough to work on a project, but not long enough to get bored. At the holiday time and in the summer, we take four weeks off, which is long enough for a big project (or break!), but not long enough for them to forget everything they've learned. This still gives us 40 "school" weeks, compared to our state's required 36, so we have four extra weeks to work with if we want to take a beach day or a laundry-catch-up day.

When the curriculum comes in, I go over each item to decide **what I intend to use** (some books may have sections I will not use, such as the projects, vocabulary, etc. if I am using a book as a supplement). This helps me to decide how long it will take us to go through the book.

For example, I will look at Saxon 65 and determine that if I have 40 school weeks but I want to leave Tuesdays as light days/catch-up in math and I want to be finished before camping at Sandy Cove in June, then I have approximately 156 work days to complete 140 lessons. If I do the additional tests, I cannot keep my slack Tuesdays. I decide to forego the additional tests in favor of my slack-Tuesday sanity checks/catch-up days and count each Friday's problem set as a test grade with no "looking back in the chapter." I also decide that, given the amount of built-in review and her skill level, Anna may do all the odds or all the evens on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but she must do all the problems on Friday. She will probably finish the book early, so we will just move on to the next one then.

On the curriculum-at-glance page of my planner, I lay out my **basic year plan** for the core subjects. This is just to give myself an idea of how to break things down later on; get an idea from the table of contents. For example, if you have nine months of school and the literature book has nine units, you know you'll probably want to cover a unit a month.

Sample:

Math: (Anna) 1 Saxon lesson per day, off on Tues; multiplication drills
(Leah) Building Thinking Skills MWF, 2 Miquon books a year M-Th,
Notebook math on Fri

Language: (both) 1 lesson LLATL weekly, Daily Grams/GEAS T/Th

Unit studies: list of units to be covered this year; proposed length of each

I have tried **time-scheduling** several different ways: I have given the girls assignments (written into their lesson plan book) and had them work until each subject area is completed for the day. I have given them set amounts of time for each subject, then made any uncompleted work "homework." Our most recent attempt finds us allocating a certain amount of time for each subject and then moving on, and when they complete our requirements, they progress to the next "grade level." We may change again!

Sample Plan

We start at 9 a.m., after morning jobs, breakfast, and family devotions. Our plan looks like this:

- **OT/Bible—30 minutes:** (if they finish early, they move on, but at 30 minutes when the timer dings, we move on anyway)
- **Math and speed drills—60 minutes:** This is still a labor-intensive area for us. This includes learning wrap-ups, math games, or multiplication table work, etc. as well as lesson and timed speed drills daily (same drill for a week to compete against her *own* previous record)
- **Daily Grams/GEAS—15 minutes:** (so I can target problem areas)
- **Language Arts (LLATL and/or writing assignments)—30 minutes:** (mine are quicker to catch on to language than to math)
- **Maps/Art—30-60 minutes:** (*Mapping the World By Heart* on Mon/Thurs takes about 30 minutes, but art on Wed/Fri runs over. When we start doing art in our Tues co-op, we will probably shave some time off our home schedule.)
- **Lunch:** (They SHOULD have finished all of the above at this point; sometimes we eat a little late!)
- **Quiet time—60 minutes:** (naps, personal reading, Bible reading - on their beds)
- **French—15 minutes**
- **Unit study (mainly history and/or science)—60 minutes:** (activities for younger grades are geared to whatever Rebekah is doing in her high school Far Above Rubies studies)
- **Reading—30 minutes or more:** (literature books, school-related reading)

With this schedule in mind, I plan accordingly in my **lesson plan book**. I keep Anna's and Leah's assignments in one planner that I supervise, while Rebekah has her own. I use a homeschool planner; you can just photocopy a weekly or daily assignment sheet, or use a notebook or computer, but I like the other features of the planner.

I started off by planning for the entire year at once, but I found that if I got sidetracked somehow, I got really stressed and felt the need to get caught up, even if I had slowed down because somebody didn't "get" something.

Then I tried just doing one session at a time (more on that later), which only "obligated" me for eight weeks; then I could regroup and rearrange as needed for next session. This would be great, except with my personality type (that sounds so much better than "character flaw"!) I would plan superbly for the first session, then forget/put off planning for the next session and would fly by the seat of my pants more than usual. So I decided to plan for the whole year, but give myself some catch-up time every so often so I don't get so stressed by keeping to The Schedule.

Regardless of how you do it, you will want an **overview** in mind for the year so you have a plan. How you implement that plan can be tackled once, at year's start, or periodically, but you need some standard to measure against as the year progresses. Note: That standard should not be your neighbor in the group. Your child is different than hers, your family is different, your teaching style is different. You measure against the goals God has given you.

Some people **write the plans** for the week/month/year in advance in pencil in great detail (i.e., under English: BJU English, pg.93, Prepositional Phrases, exercises 1-12), some just write the very basics, (i.e., under English: p 93, 1-12). Some people just go on to what's next in the book and log in what they did, journal style. Some people have the kids do it—whatever works.

Each day, when my girls finish their morning jobs, they can open the plan book and read down all the entries for the day; the page is marked with one of those fat black binder clips. They know the routine pretty well by now. They start their work and ask for help when needed. I am the only one authorized to check off that something is done (unless I give someone my proxy!) and all checks and writing are done in pencil. Test scores are logged in red ink/pencil in the plan book, in the same block as the exercise (as opposed to a separate grades page), so I can see the pattern from week to week. For the older girls who get grades, I keep weekly grades as needed (tests and other work), then total up weekly grades at end of the eight-weeks period.

Memory verses for Sunday school, work for Missionettes, extracurricular activities such as YMCA, skating, riding, dance, or youth development sports league, are all written in on weekly sheets.

Again, these are **guidelines** that have helped me, but there is no one right way to plan! You should glean from this and from others what you can and try different things until you find what works for your family.

Lesson Planning and Recordkeeping

1. Set goals for each child (intellectual, physical, spiritual, social – see Luke 2:52).
2. Determine what will be covered this year.
3. Order appropriate materials to accomplish goals.
4. Decide on "school" schedule.
5. Peruse materials and determine what you will cover and what you will not. Your curriculum is a tool, not a master.
6. Divide materials by number of weeks or number of days.
7. Build in some "down time."
8. Lay out a framework (1 math lesson per day Monday-Thursday with math game Friday; 1 LLATL lesson per week, 1 A Beka literature unit per month, etc.).
9. Write out a plan to accomplish your goals. Use pencil.
10. Measure yourself against the goals God has given you, not against your neighbor.

Southeast Texas Home School Association (SETHSA) is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to ministering to home schoolers in the southeast area of Texas. We receive over 4000 phone calls per year in which we inform and encourage new and veteran home educators. SETHSA provides central communication through our monthly newsletter *The Teaching Pioneer* as well as on the web, which contains information on legal updates, local news and activities. SETHSA hosts an annual conference each year with more than 50 workshops and over 100 vendors, as well as sponsoring Bees, reading incentive programs, homeschool days, and much more.

Individual subscriptions to *The Teaching Pioneer* are available.
Contact SETHSA via e-mail or phone to find out more information.

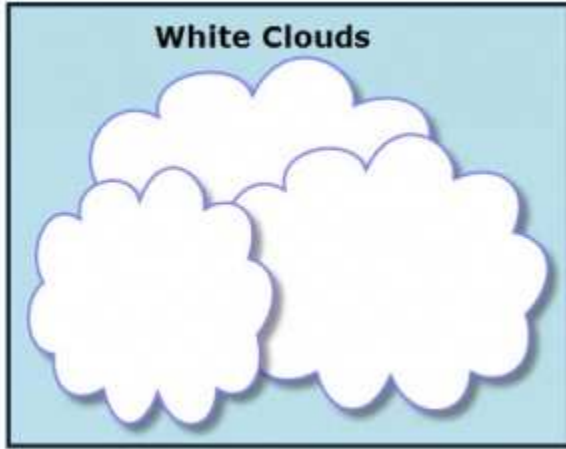
Your financial contributions help SETHSA better minister to the homeschool community and are tax deductible.
For more information or suggestions, e-mail, call, or write to:

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Cloud Colors is a science topic for your homeschool.

Janice VanCleave author of *Earth Science for Every Kid* wets your child's appetite with the exercise below. Use this to spark discussions about the weather and so much more. Who knows you may get a great unit study idea out of this topic. Be careful not to blow up the kitchen as you learn about science.

Cloud Colors By [Janice VanCleave](#)



Question: Why are clouds white?

Answer: Clouds are white because white light comes from the clouds to your eyes.

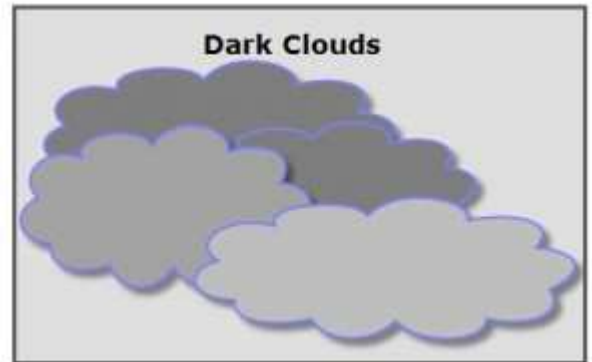
Now let me explain where this white light comes from.

1. Light from the sun is white. This means it is made up of all the colors of the **light spectrum**, which are the colors of the **rainbow**.
2. Clouds are made up of water in different physical states: gas, liquid, and solid. In other words, clouds can contain water vapor, water drops, as well as ice.
3. The water particles that make up clouds are large enough to **scatter** all of the sunlight that hits them. This means the water particles **absorb** (take in) the white light and then emits the white light in different directions. This makes the clouds look white.

Question: What makes clouds look dark?

Answer: The color of a cloud is due to the color of the light coming from the cloud that enters your eyes. Basically, the darker the cloud, the more light the cloud absorbs. Thus, less light is emitted by the cloud.

1. Dark clouds generally have a greater **concentration** of water particles. As the concentration of water particles increases, the less light emitted.
2. Thick clouds can look dark because the light continues to be scattered and little of it exits the bottom of the cloud. This is true for even clouds with a low concentration of water particles.
3. Some clouds are dark because they are in the shadow of another cloud.



Texas Lions Camp is a **FREE** summer camping facility dedicated to serving children from the State of Texas with physical disabilities, Type 1 diabetes and this year, a pilot program for children with Down syndrome. The camp is located on over 500 acres of hills and woodlands in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. Programs at Texas Lions Camp offer campers a chance to try new activities and create long-lasting friendships while developing greater self-esteem and independence. Children eligible to participate in the summer camp program must be between the ages of 7 and 16 and have a qualifying physical disability. Children with Type 1 diabetes must be between the ages of 8 and 15.

Texas Lions Camp is a non-profit organization funded by the Lions Clubs of Texas and other caring individuals. All children attend camp at **NO COST** to them or their families. The Texas Lions Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) and licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Each camper must have a sponsor from a Lions Club. For a list of eligible disabilities and more information please call or email: Pam Jernigan, Lions Club member ladybug@kw.com 512-635-7592

EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT

Why Our Model of Classical Education May Look Different

by Susan Wise Bauer

As **classical education** has become more popular, classical schools and websites have sprung up across the United States (and Canada too!). Yet classical schools and online recommendations while agreeing on the basics of trivium learning differ from each other in the practical application of this classical pattern to learning. And our recommendations in *The Well-Trained Mind* are no different. We suggest that the grammar stage occupies grades 1-4, the logic stage grades 5-8, and the rhetoric stage grades 9-12; other classical curricula seem to see the early grades as “pre-grammar” learning and begin grammar-stage learning in grade 3 or later. We’ve seen several arrangements of this system: one school labels the grammar stage as grades 3-6, the logic stage as grades 7-8, and the rhetoric stage as grades 9-12; another classical curriculum puts the grammar stage even later, around grade 4, locates the logic stage as beginning around sixth grade, and moves on the study of rhetoric in tenth grade. Infinite variations of this pattern seem to exist! The chronological study of history, which we suggest as “ideal,” is no different. Some classical programs follow a “sequential” history pattern, in which the history of a particular country or culture is mastered before the introduction of the next culture, even if the histories under study are taking place at the same time; some curricula are sequential in the early stages and chronological in the later stages; some are sequential all the way through.

In home schooling, the division of the stages of learning is flexible; home schooling is parent-directed education, so you ought to feel free to adjust your teaching style to your child’s strengths and weaknesses. But to do this, you need a clear understanding of why the stages of learning are divided the way they are, and why the chronological study of history is important.

Try to keep these central objectives in mind: The grammar stage is a time to build basic skills in language arts (reading skills, writing skills, grammar, spelling) and arithmetic. In the content areas history, science, literature, foreign languages, art and music your goal is familiarity and enjoyment, not complete mastery. You want the child to develop an interest in these subjects, and to be familiar with important events and concepts. During the logic stage, you are aiming for initial mastery that is, the child should be developing a sense of the “big picture,” or how different concepts and events link together in a larger pattern. And during the rhetoric stage, your goal is to teach the student how to think through ideas and express his or her own opinion about them. Until a student is familiar with history and enjoys it, he can’t move on to the logic stage of critical reflection on how familiar historical events might fit together. And until he has a grasp of the relationship between historical events and historical cultures, he can’t form an opinion on (for example) Josephus’s record of the wars between the Romans and the Jews, or Plato’s theories about the beautiful and the ideal.

These central objectives shape the way that we have applied the stages of learning to education. We suggest that the grammar stage begins in first grade earlier than some other curricula and schools because we feel that first and second grade children are capable of doing more than simply building basic math and reading skills. These skills are certainly important. But young children can also begin to develop familiarity and enjoyment with history, literature, and science. In the early grammar stage, you may not always get to the study of history and science every day (or even every week). But thinking of grades 1-3 as grammar-stage years will help you to encourage young children towards the exploration of history, science, art, music, and literature in a way that will lay the foundation for their logic-stage work.

We feel that the logic stage is most effective when it occupies an entire four-year segment of education. In many ways, this is the most challenging time in a child’s education. The brain is undergoing great development and a major shift in the way that material is understood. Observation tells us that this shift (displayed by an increasing impatience with rote memorization and a growing capacity to understand the whys behind principles and rules) generally takes place in late fourth grade/early fifth grade. It is true that the reasoning capacity takes some time to mature which is why many classical programs locate the logic stage in grade 6 or later. But this delay in the logic stage, while appropriate for some children, has the potential to frustrate many others who are ready to begin critical thinking earlier. And in practical terms, it takes time to teach children to think analytically. A two-year logic stage simply doesn’t allow the child’s mind sufficient time to complete this learning shift. A two-year logic stage gives just enough time to complete a two-year logic course, for example; the four-year logic stage that we suggest gives you a “transition year” in which you can introduce the child to critical thinking skills, two years for the formal logic course, and a “follow up” year during which you can use the various resources we recommend to apply the newly-learned logic skills to the subject areas. In our opinion, you should think of the logic stage as occupying at least three years.

There is less disagreement over the beginning of the rhetoric stage, which most classical programs begin in ninth or tenth grade. The primary concern here is a practical one: how long will it take the student to read through a Great Books list? If the student is mature enough to begin this reading in ninth grade, then a four-year rhetoric stage is preferable; the

EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT

Great Books list is very long and difficult, and three years is a very short time in which to cover a range of titles from Plato to T. S. Eliot!

This consideration how long does it take to progress from ancient to modern times? also shapes our division of classical education into three four-year stages. We feel strongly that the most productive way to study history is not sequentially, by civilization (first the Egyptians, then the Greeks, then the Romans...) but rather by chronology; you study the years 3000-2000 BC across the globe, finding out what's going on in each civilization at this time, before progressing on to 2000-1800 BC, 1800-1600 BC, and so on.

Many history curricula are set up for sequential, civilization-centered study. There are advantages to this method; it does allow the child to easily grasp what happens in a particular civilization, from its roots to its fall. But given the choice, we still prefer chronological study. Sequential, civilization-centered study is certainly coherent but it also obscures the similarities between cultures. For example, a typical elementary-age curriculum might cover Mesopotamia, then Egypt, then (much later) Europe. A child can learn about all three cultures without ever realizing that Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and European cultures all built big monuments at roughly the same time in history: Sumerian ziggurats, the Egyptian pyramids, and the stone megaliths and stone circles of Europe. A child who learns chronologically is much more likely to remember the dates and purposes of these monuments, because he's encountered them three times in three different cultures all during the same time period. Other examples abound: the progression from farming to walled villages, from walled villages to city-states, and then from city-states to empires takes place in roughly the same time period across the globe; burying servants and pet animals in graves to accompany noblemen and women into the afterlife takes place in Egypt, Sumer, and Anatolia all around the same time; different types of picture writing appear simultaneously in different cultures. These connections aid the child's memory.

Chronological study also makes the teaching of history easier, since civilizations are always visiting each other and borrowing from each other. Consider doing ancient history sequentially, or "by civilization" you will find yourself explaining that in the New Kingdom the Egyptians were fighting the Assyrians for possession of Mesopotamian real estate, but since you haven't ever talked about the Assyrians or where they live, this information is apt to leave the child's mind as soon as it enters. (Anyway, what are the Egyptians doing in Mesopotamia? That was another unit.) Chronological study opens the child's eyes to the relationships between different civilizations.

Finally, doing a chronological study improves a child's geography. Civilization study tends to do one area of the map at a time, so that students have difficulty understanding (for example) the relationship between the Nile Valley and Greece. More importantly, it may never occur to the student that someone might travel from the Nile Valley to Greece and back again, carrying customs and ideas with them. Sequential study, on the other hand, tends to impress on the child's mind the idea that civilizations are discrete and separate units that don't interact with each other (unless they're fighting a war).

Given the value of chronological study, then, the four-year repetitive pattern makes sense. It is difficult to study all the way from ancient times up to the present in under four years; this is particularly true in the middle and upper grades, when the child is completing a lengthy program of readings to go along with the study of history. "Sailing" through history in two or three years is a difficult project, and we think there's value in going through history once at each level (particularly in the logic and rhetoric stage levels), each time concentrating on a different aspect of learning: familiarity, then chronological and logical relationships, and finally interacting with ideas.

This is why our Great Books list for high school covers four years. We've seen three-year lists and five-year lists; one classical curricula does the progression of history once in grades 1-6 and again in 7-12. But we feel that a student should go all the way through the progression of history at the highest level (high school), using original readings (Plato, Aristotle, Josephus, etc.) Beginning ancient history in grade 7 or 8 means that a student encounters some of the most technically difficult literature on the list at a younger age, when many students are not yet quite mature enough to put the necessary effort into reading it. We find that students who encounter ancient literature in ninth grade are more likely to understand the ideas presented, and to persevere through unfamiliar forms of expression without giving up.

In the end, you should feel free to adjust any educator's classical pattern to fit your child you should decide whether to begin the grammar and logic stages later, the rhetoric stage earlier, and whether to do sequential or chronological study. There may be good reasons for concentrating on American history for a year, or for delaying logic study (or beginning it earlier.) But understanding the reasons why we've suggested the patterns that we do can help you make up your mind about what is best for your own family.



Answers in Genesis is an apologetics (i.e., Christianity-defending) ministry, dedicated to enabling Christians to defend their faith and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively. We focus particularly on providing answers to questions surrounding the book of Genesis, as it is the most-attacked book of the Bible. We also desire to train others to develop a biblical worldview, and seek to expose the bankruptcy of evolutionary ideas, and its bedfellow, a “millions of years old” earth (and even older universe). Learn more at www.answersingenesis.org.

Providing a variety of curriculum is just one way Answers in Genesis equips believers to give an answer for the hope that is within them (1 Peter 3:15). Our apologetics resources are available for all ages, preschool through adult. A is for Adam and D is for Dinosaur are wonderful picture storybooks to introduce creation and the the gospel by using the alphabet.

Answers for Kids Bible Curriculum is an excellent foundational tool for instilling biblical truths, beginning with the seven C’s of history - creation, corruption, catastrophe, confusion, Christ, cross, and consummation. In addition, the lessons explore common questions, “Where did God come from?”, “How did we get the Bible?”, and “What about dinosaurs?”, among many others. Demolishing Strongholds challenges older students to confront our secularly saturated culture in order to reach others for Christ. It teaches a creation-based biblical worldview and encourages students to stand on the authority of God’s word. An award-winning DVD-driven study unlike any other.

Answers in Genesis also has traditional academic curriculum available. God’s Design for Science series is an award-winning eight-year elementary science program covering life science, earth science, chemistry & ecology, and physical science. Combines operational science and God’s word for an understandable explanation of the natural laws which govern the world around us.

History Revealed is a one-year history course based on Ussher’s chronology of the world. Incorporates reading, listening, hands-on projects, timelines and geography into a student-directed exploration of historical events and periods. Includes fascinating archeological discoveries along with recognizing God’s hand through the ages as He works out His plan through nations and individuals.

All of these resources and much, much more will be available for you to look at fully at the Southeast Texas Homeschool Convention in early June. Furthermore, an AiG children’s speaker will be part of the children’s program as well. His biography and talk description follow.

Adam Brown is seventeen and has been speaking to children/teens for Answers in Genesis since 2009. He has a passion for God’s Word and is a three year alumnus with Worldview Academy. His ambitions include calling his generation to stand on the authority of God’s word with confidence and conviction. He is enrolled with CollegePlus! and is a homeschool graduate.

“Dinosaurs: God’s Great Creations” answers commonly asked questions about dinosaurs and the Bible, such as, “How did dinosaurs fit on the ark?” and “When did God create dinosaurs?”. Understand why dinosaurs did not live millions of years ago, but are in fact, described and explained by the Bible. (ages 6-12)

EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT

SETHSA Welcomes These New Exhibitors to the 2011 Convention

*The Puzzle Corner
Thirty-One
Busy Bee Activity Bags
Memoria Press
Latin & the Christian Trivium
Jim Hodges Audio Books
Piano For Life
Tapestry of Grace
YWAM Publishing
Answers in Genesis
Art Instruction Schools
Kid's Back Porch Productions
Liberty University
The Math Gym
Mind Institute Technologies
One Acre Farm
Carol Barnier
Peace Hill Press
Phil 4 Math & Physics
The Plan Bible
Simply Fun
Tabletop Truths
Trinity Classical School of Houston
Dallas Baptist University*



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook sign-up page. The header features the Facebook logo and navigation links for 'Remember Me', 'Forgot your password?', and 'Login'. The main content area includes the text 'Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.' and a 'Sign Up' section with the subtext 'It's free and anyone can join'. The sign-up form contains fields for 'Full Name', 'Your Email', and 'New Password', along with a 'Select Sex' dropdown, a birth date selector (Month, Day, Year), and a 'Sign Up' button. A link at the bottom of the sign-up section reads 'To create a page for a celebrity, band or business, click here.' The Facebook logo is also displayed in a large blue box at the bottom of the screenshot.

SETHSA IS ON FACEBOOK

Become a fan of SETHSA on Facebook.

We have created a fan page to help update information from time to time.

Mark us as a friend so that you can get current updates and information.

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

“Mondays in May Mini-League”

Time: 4:00 - 6:00pm

Where:

League America

10510 Westview, Houston, TX 77043



Cost:

\$20.00/week or \$80.00 for the month

Checks payable to HCYA (Homeschool Christian Youth Association)

Dates: Mondays: May 2, 9, 16, 23. Attend as many sessions as you can.

Ages: all girls ages 9-18; No experience needed; All skill levels are welcome; Homeschooled and non-homeschooled players are invited.

*First hour will be instruction by HCYA coaches and assistants

*Second hour will be team scrimmages based on age/skill level with coaches providing tips

RSVP to Godisgood0426@juno.com

And Provide the following information:

Name, age, skill level, t-shirt size YS-AXL by April 20 (I need to order t-shirts by that date)

Later registrations accepted

Mary Schulze

HCYA Lady Eagles Volleyball Director

Godisgood0426@juno.com

281.240.0438

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY

Free Seating at Woodlands Pavilion shows

Free mezzanine and lawn seating for all Houston Symphony concerts and Houston Ballet's performance, as well as free seating at the Star-Spangled Salute and Texas Music Festival Orchestra. Children's Festival is affordable fun for the whole family! Plus, picnics are welcome at all performing arts events. Bring your family to The Pavilion in 2011 and celebrate the arts!

No drinks. Strollers are not allowed except at the Children's Festival.

In general - 8 p.m. / Gates open at 7 p.m.

Houston Symphony shows

Friday, May 20

Dvořák's Cello Concerto

Thursday, May 26

"Let the Good Times Roll" - The Music of Ray Charles

Friday, June 10

Dancin' with the Symphony

Friday, June 17

Made in America

Texas Music Festival Orchestra

Free event

Sunday, July 3

Star-Spangled Salute

Houston Symphony

Free event

Friday, August 5

Houston Ballet

16th Annual Children's Festival

Saturday, Nov. 12, 13

Presented by Devon Energy

Tickets: \$8 in advance / \$10 at the door

see website for more info

<http://www.woodlandscenter.org/>

Homeschool theater discount offers

Available for multiple cities.

Houston BAA and TUTS offer a variety of shows at Hobby Center. Order now for CATS, and more. New seasons have been announced, includes the return of The Lion King.

Please check <http://www.jsoft.com/archive/taffie/events.html> for more information.

Please spread the word to help us make our group min. When offers become active, orders must be placed before the offers expire or you will not get the homeschool discount.

Questions contact Susan Frederick at sjf@jsoft.com.



WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY

Christian Youth Theater--Houston News

A terrific season of successful classes and shows for Christian Youth Theater is almost over and will resume in the fall – be sure to check the website in July for the schedule for 2011-2012! It isn't too late to catch performances of two of our shows: **Alice**, a CYT original pop/rock opera version like no Alice you've ever seen, will play through May 8th at Nancy Bock Center for the Performing Arts in The Woodlands. **Willy Wonka, Jr.**, Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir, will play at the Crighton Theater May 20th through 27th. You can purchase tickets online at our website, www.cythouston.org.

Summer is upon us, and so is camp time! CYT is offering theater arts day camps throughout the northwest Houston area. This summer campers 6 – 18 will discover the thrill of the Broadway musical, **THE LION KING**, through highlights from its powerful musical score. Based on the 1994 Disney animated film, **THE LION KING** continues as one of the most popular shows on Broadway, winning audiences over with its heartfelt story and breathtaking numbers. Experience life in the Pride Lands of Africa through performances of songs like I Just Can't Wait to Be King, Hakuna Matata and Can You Feel the Love Tonight. No, we just can't wait for CYT!

Campers 12-18 will enjoy a magical camp based on the music and shows of Andrew Lloyd Webber! Enjoy "The Music of the Night" as you perform songs from such hits as Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, Cats, and so many more!

Each camp includes workshops in voice, dance, and drama, as well as lots of high-energy games and a wild and wacky water day. All campers receive a camp t-shirt and participate in a showcase for friends and family at the close of camp on Friday evening. For camp information and registration, visit our website, www.cythouston.org.

CYT Houston's first overnight camp! For the first time ever, CYT will be offering an overnight drama and spiritual emphasis camp at Trinity Pines Camp and Conference Center in Trinity, Texas. This week-long camp, for ages 12-18, will be based on highlights from the classic musical **Guys and Dolls**, and will run from July 31st to August 4th. Join us this summer for a powerful, moving musical experience! The camp will end with a performance showcase for friends and family on Aug. 4th at 7:00 pm.

Schlitterbahn Galveston Homeschool Days

2011 Summer Season Home School Days

April 22 - June 26, 2011 (Sundays through Fridays Only)

August 15 - September 18, 2011 (Any Operating Day)

Special: Receive one FREE ticket for every 20 prepaid indoor tickets purchased. See order form for details.

Plan ahead! Download Summer Season Home School Days order form.

2011 Fall Heated Indoor Season Home School Days

Any Operating Day September 24 - December 31, 2011

Order form coming soon <http://www.schlitterbahn.com/gal/groups/>

This event applies ONLY to the Galveston location, does not apply to other Schlitterbahn locations.

HEP Bookstore

is proud to announce the opening of its new

DRIVER ED IN A BOX Retail Store



11665 Fuqua, STE 301
Houston, TX 77034
281-484-7755

Opening February 1, 2010

We are the "official" Driver Ed in a Box Retail Store for Texas!

Visit our booth at the summer conference!
The Katy Mills store has closed!
See HEP Bookstore for Driver Ed in a Box!

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

Six Flags Over Texas Homeschool Day

Thursday, May 5 11:00am to 6:00pm

Six Flags Over Texas invites Home School groups, associations and families to come out and enjoy an exclusive private day at the park on

- Order By Mail (4 ticket minimum): Complete and return this order form with a single check or money order. Mail order deadline is APRIL 22 for Six Flags Over Texas and AUGUST 5 for Hurricane Harbor. Tickets will be sent by mail.
 - Order by Phone (4 ticket minimum): Call the Ticket Hotline at 817-607-6150 no less than four (4) business days in advance. Only orders placed by April 22 will be eligible to receive the discounted parking offer. Phone orders placed less than four (4) business days in advance will be subject to an additional rush fee.
 - Order Online (2 ticket minimum):
 - For Six Flags Over Texas tickets, visit www.sixflags.com/overtexas and enter Promo Code: SFOTFAMILY. Orders placed after April 22 will not be eligible to receive the discounted parking offer.
 - For Hurricane Harbor tickets, visit www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbortexas; enter Promo Code: HHFAMILY. Hurricane harbor home school family day August 18, 2011
- http://www.sixflags.com/overTexas/assets/pdf/2011_SF_HSD_order_form.pdf

Home [School] on the Ranch

May 6, 2011 9am to 3pm

The George Ranch Historical Park presents "Home [School] on the Ranch," a day program specifically designed for homeschoolers. You'll travel back in time through four different sites - the 1830s Jones Stock Farm, the 1860s Ryon Prairie Home, the 1890s Davis Victorian Mansion and the 1930s George Ranch Home and focus on what home life was like in each of those time periods. Since public schools weren't widespread in the early days, the Jones and Ryon families were some of the first homeschoolers in the area! Bring the whole family for a day of fun and learning. And don't forget to wear your pioneer dresses and cowboy hats!

<http://www.georgeranch.org/education/homeschool/>

Arlington Book Fair

May 6-7, 2011

Arlington Convention Center

Annual Fair. One of the largest book fairs in Texas. Shop for books, attend workshops, meet other homeschoolers, be encouraged. Check website for updates. Hearth & Home Ministries <http://www.homeschoolbookfair.org>

HCYA 2011 Houston Area Home School Graduation

May 7, 2011

Champion Forest Baptist Church

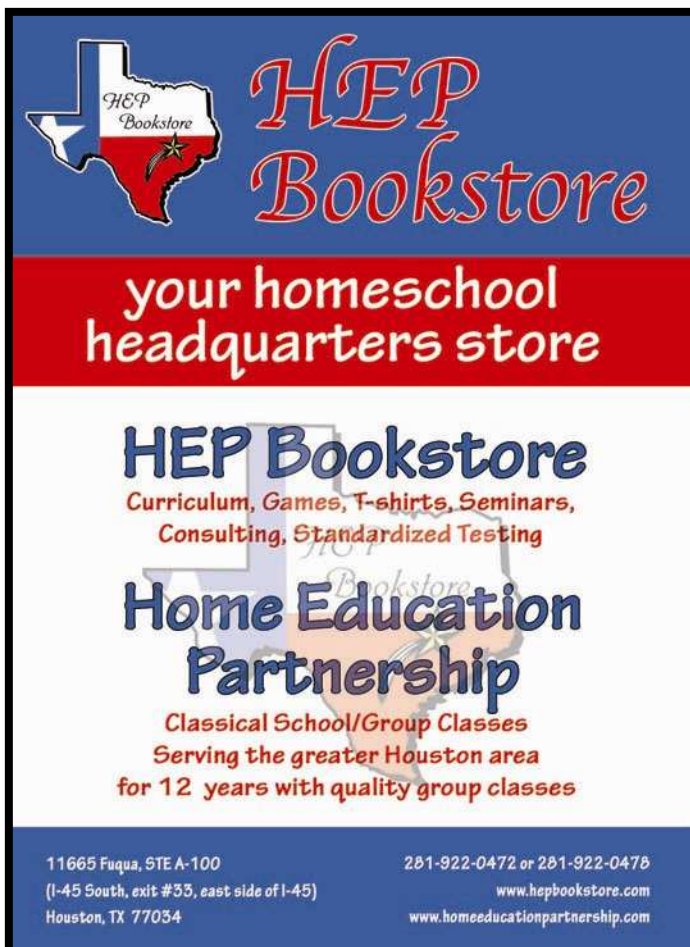
15555 Stuebner Airline Road

Houston, Texas 77069

Program: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Reception: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

<http://www.hcya.org/graduation.htm>



HEP Bookstore
Curriculum, Games, T-shirts, Seminars,
Consulting, Standardized Testing

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Classical School/Group Classes
Serving the greater Houston area
for 12 years with quality group classes

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(I-45 South, exit #33, east side of I-45)
Houston, TX 77034

281-922-0472 or 281-922-0478
www.hepbookstore.com
www.homeeducationpartnership.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

HEP Graduation

May 7, 2011

10am

Sagemont Church – Houston, TX. <http://www.heptx.com/graduation-2011/>

Spring Homeschool 2011 Semi-Formal Event

Formerly sponsored as CACHE DANCE

May 7, 2011

6:30pm to 11pm

The Lone Star Convention and Expo Center

9055 Airport Road (Fm1484)

Conroe, Texas 77303

Semi-formal private party including dinner followed by dancing and music.

Who: Homeschool High Schoolers (grades 9-12, 14 yrs. by date of dance), alumni and their guest.

You do not need to be part of any support group to attend. Dates not required.

Registration:

Now until April 1 – \$50.00

April 1 – 22nd – 70.00

No WALK INS! We will not accept any students or alumni in without paying for a ticket. Smoke-free and alcohol-free event! Must follow dress and conduct standards!

Questions: Billie Jo Craig 936-203-2866 billiejocr@yahoo.com

Bayshore Homeschoolers Annual Curriculum/Book Sale

Thursday, May 12, 2011 10-2.

Bayshore Baptist Church,

11315 Spencer Hwy.,

LaPorte TX 77571

The book sale is open to the public. A seller's fee of \$5 will be collected at the door. To reserve a table, email Marcy Naumann at j_naumann@juno.com or Brenda Ellis at elhouse@sbcglobal.net before May 5th. Please share this info with all of your friends, family and any homeschool group you know of!!!!

Pioneer Days Heritage Museum of Montgomery County, Conroe

(For Children 8-11 Years Old)

May 13, 2011 Registration begins

Pioneer Days begin the FIRST Monday after July 4th each year. Children must pre-register and pay a fee. Please call for the latest information. Each session is limited to 20 students with four adults to supervise.

You must register in PERSON. The cost is \$45.00. So if your family includes a child age 8 to 11, register

May 13th -- this program fills up fast!

Students who participate enjoy hands-on activities such as: Churning butter, Making beaded bracelets, Bow and arrow demonstrations and much more!

Sessions are three hours long:

- Morning Session: 9:00 AM until 12 Noon

- Afternoon Session: 1 PM to 4 PM

For more information, please call us at 936-539-6873 - muse@consolidated.net

<http://www.heritagemuseum.us/pioneerdays.shtml>

Houston Public Library Book Sale

May 13-15, 2011

George R Brown Convention Center, Houston

Annual Friends Book Sale. Thousands of books to choose from, see website for updates.

<http://www.friendsofhpl.org/annualbooksale.htm>

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

Girl Scouts and Texas Home School Association

Saturday, May 14, 2011 11:00am - 2:00pm

Girl Scouts Of San Jacinto Council has long been known as the premier informal educational organization for girls in southeast Texas, serving 26 counties. The council is one of the largest Girl Scout Councils in the United States serving more than 72,000 girls and 17,000 adults. GSSJC has numerous resources and innovative programs to enhance the homeschooling experience. As a troop leader, the homeschooling parent has the freedom to choose those opportunities that best suit the student's curriculum. Just look at what Girls Scouts can offer your daughter:

- Traditional values
- Family involvement
- Religious recognitions
- Achievement awards
- National/international travel opportunities
- Field Trips
- Scholarships

Outdoor activities such as camping, sailing, canoeing, backpacking and horseback riding

We are inviting you and your daughter(s) to preview the activities and many program opportunities available for girls of ages 11-13 years old.

What: "Girl Scout Pathway Preview"

Who: Girls in grades 6th - 8th

Where: Girl Scout Center
3110 Southwest Freeway
Houston, 77098

Cost: Free

This will be a fun-filled day of activities. For more information and to RSVP please contact Regina Zaragoza, Membership Manager at 713-292-0220 or rzaragoza@sjgs.org
Hope to see you there!

Schlitterbahn Surf & Save Home School Family Days

May 18, 19, 23 - 26, 2011

New Braunfels

Home School Family Days tickets are available for purchase from Schlitterbahn. Orders must be received seven (7) days prior to your visit. A minimum order of four (4) tickets is required. An advance ticket purchase is required as Home School Family Days tickets are not available at the gate.

Surf & Save Days

During Surf & Save Days, only the Surfenburg and Blastenhoff sections in Schlitterbahn East are open. Schlitterbahn West is closed. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the park, please refer to the park maps for a list of attractions in those sections.

Full-Park Days: May 28 - June 10, 2011

Blast & Save Days: August 22 - 26, 2011

During Blast & Save Days, only the Blastenhoff section in Schlitterbahn East is open. Surfenburg and Schlitterbahn West are closed. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the park, please refer to the park maps for a list of attractions in those sections.

<http://www.schlitterbahn.com/nb/groups/default-youthgroups.asp>

This event applies ONLY to the New Braunfels location, does not apply to other Schlitterbahn locations.

Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort <http://www.schlitterbahn.com/nb/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

Battle Of Temple Junction Civil War Re-enactment

May 20 - May 22, 2011

Induatrial Park, Temple, TX 76502 (Just one mile off of I-35 at Exit 302)

This event is open to the public.

A LIVING HISTORY DAY will be held on FRIDAY, MAY 20 for all area school children to witness and view demonstrations of the period. **BATTLES** will be held on SATURDAY MAY 21 and SUNDAY MAY 22 with LIVE CANNON FIRE. A LADIES TEA will be held on SATURDAY afternoon. Vendors and sutlers will be on site to sell various merchandise. Food and beverage will also be available for purchase.

This event is sponsored by the Major Robert M. White Camp 1250 Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Contact John Larson Jr. 254-760-3492 (sadler@embarqmail.com) or Steve Wooley 254-986-2264 (wool44@embarqmail.com) for further information.

FEAST Bookfair

May 20-21, 2011

San Antonio

Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (FEAST) <http://www.homeschoolfeast.com/>

CACHE Support Group Meeting

New Date: May 24th

Used Curriculum Sale 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Join us for a "Combo Night!" We will have veteran home educators available to personally answer your questions about homeschooling. AND... a Used Curriculum Sale!

CACHE Members may sell for free; non-members \$2 Children may play at the 7 Acre Wood for \$3. Carrie will have some tables available, but to be on the safe side you might bring your own table.

For more information, contact Karleen at cache questions@yahoo.com. If you want to sell, please RSVP to cachequestions@yahoo.com by May 20th.

IHM Dallas Home School and Parent Conference

May 27-28, 2011

Arlington Convention Center

1200 Ballpark Way

Arlington, TX 76011

Celebrating its 4th year, the largest Catholic homeschooling conference in Texas returns to the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, TX!

Please note that we did have to move the conference two months earlier than it was last year.

Friday May 27th, 2011 @ 2:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday May 28th, 2011 @ 9:30am to 4:00pm

IHM - Dallas Home School and Parent Conference

<http://www.ihmconference.org/northtexas>

Homeschool Week at Frontier Camp

May 29-June 4 - Home School Junior Week

June 5-11 - Home School Teen Week

Grapeland (Houston County)

Frontier Camp - A Christian youth camp located in NE Texas. During this week, all the campers are homeschool students, and most of the counselors are homeschool graduates. For ages 8-13.

<http://www2.frontiercamp.org/homeschool.aspx>

Homeschool Teen week - Must be at least 13 years of age (or turn 13 by Sept. 1) and not older than 17 at the time they come to camp. <http://www2.frontiercamp.org/homeschoolteen.aspx>; www.frontiercamp.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

CHEACT Summer Conference

June 24-25, 2011

Annual summer conference and bookfair in Austin. Watch website for updates.

CHEACT - Christian Home Education Association of Central Texas www.cheact.org

25th Annual Gulf Coast Home Education Conference

June 3-4, 2011

Come get away on the beautiful Houston Baptist University Campus. www.sethsa.org

Astro home school game against the St. Louis Cardinals

June 9

Attention home schoolers - here is the link for ordering discount tickets for the Astro home school game against the St. Louis Cardinals on June 9. This link was just opened so get 'em while they're hot! The Woodlands Home School Choir will sing the National Anthem for the game!

The link for special prices is: <http://houston.astros.mlb.com/hou/ticketing/groups.jsp?loc=homeschool>

You must click the green letter "T" to access the ticket page (by the date June 9)

You have to use "promotion and special offer" drop down bar for your seats and use the password "Home" for your savings. For groups of 20 or more - you can call Brent at 713-259-8316. Feel free to pass this savings on to your home school family and friends. If you are thinking about joining the choir and would like to sing at the game - please email astros@singandrejoice.com for more information. You must be almost 12 or older.

Bari Brumfield; The Woodlands Home School Choir singandrejoice.com

LeTourneau University Home School Symposium

June 27-30

For decades, LeTourneau University has gladly accepted and welcomed home schoolers into its close and unified campus community. Almost one-fifth of the current traditional student body were home schooled for their high school experience. LETU offers exceptional opportunities that help home schoolers ace the transition to university life.

Home School Symposium

Spend time this summer discovering a university that understands you. Join us June 27-30 at our Longview, Texas, campus for LeTourneau University's 2011 Home School Symposium to learn what it takes to conquer university life, spend time in worship, check out campus and hang out with other home schooled students heading to college.

Learn more about attending this year's symposium (eligible applicants are home school students who will be entering college full-time in the fall of 2012.)

Home School Scholarship

LETU offers what we believe to be the single largest endowment solely dedicated to home schooled students ever established. Starting in the fall of 2010, LeTourneau University is helping home schoolers around the world earn their degrees with the LeTourneau University Home School Endowed Scholarship, thanks to a \$5 million gift to establish an endowed scholarship fund specifically for home schooled students.

Learn more about eligibility and application requirements.

http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/_Admissions/for-homeschool/

Catholic Homeschool Convention of Central Texas

July 9, 2011

8:00AM - 4:30PM

St. William Catholic Church, Round Rock, TX <http://www.catholicfamilyeducators.org/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

NTHEN Summer Conference

August 5-6, 2011

Plano Convention Center,

2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX

See website for updates and online registration.

NTHEN - North Texas Home Educators Network <http://www.nthen.org>

Colleges That Change Lives Tour

Saturday, August 13, 2011 10:00 a.m.

40 very special colleges and universities—one public and 39 private— from 24 states and with enrollments ranging from 300 to 3,000. There is no fee charged for these events and pre-registration is not required.

Houston - Intercontinental Houston Near the Galleria <http://www.ctcl.org/events/houston11>

There are also events in Austin and Dallas.

Colleges That Change Lives www.ctcl.org

New Classical Homeschooling Classes Starting in the Spring Branch Area.

Try a Summer Science Course:

July 5th thru August 11th

God's Design for Life: the World of Plants.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 till 3:00

Grades 3rd-6^h ,Cost \$175

OR

Meet the Famous Artists of the 20th Century

Wednesdays from 2:00 till 4:00

Grades 2nd-6th ,Cost: \$150

Schedule for Fall Classes Coming Soon.

Plan on attending an informational meeting

May 13th at 7:00 pm.

Please call Elaine Hurtado for more information

or to register for classes

281.781.8794 or email: lehurtado05@gmail.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY CONT.

Scholastic 1/2 Price May book sale

Warehouse Sales are exclusively for school employees, school district personnel, homeschoolers, and Book Fair chairpeople / volunteers.

http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/events/warehouse/states.asp?st_abbrev=TX

Houston main warehouse
7400 Security Way, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77040

May 12-28

Weekdays (May 12-27): 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday (May 14, 21, 28): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

SECONDARY LOCATIONS

Conroe - Lone Star Convention Center

Mon., 05/16/2011 - Wed., 05/18/2011

Monday (May 16): 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday (May 17) 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday (May 18) 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Houston - UH Clear Lake

Mon., 05/02/2011 - Thu., 05/05/2011

Monday (May 2): 12 p.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday (May 3): 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday (May 4): 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Thursday (May 5): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Katy - Leonard E. Merrell Center

Tue., 05/24/2011 - Wed., 05/25/2011

Tuesday (May 24): 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday (May 25): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sugar Land - Sugar Creek Baptist Church

Tue., 5/3/2011 - Wed., 5/4/2011

Tuesday (May 3): 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday (May 4): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Answers to Geo-Cise: Japan

- 1-Japan's official name is Nippon-Koku or Nihon-Koku which both mean "sun origin".
- 2-A chain of islands, such as Japan, is called an archipelago.
- 3-Mt. Fuji is an active volcano. While this one may be the most widely known, Japan has over 100 volcanoes, most of which are active.
- 4-The largest metropolitan area in the world includes Japan's capital city & the area around it-the Greater Tokyo Area boasting 30 million residents (8 million in the city itself).
- 5-The yen (Y) is the main unit of currency in Japan & is divided into 100 sen.
- 6-While we might think of Japan as being closer to China, it is actually closer to Russia.
The Russian island of Sakhalin is only separated from Japan by a strait.
- 7-A strait is a narrow passage of water connecting 2 larger bodies of water.

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 <i>Six Flags</i>	6 <i>Home School on the Ranch Arlington Book Fair</i>	7 <i>Arlington Book Fair HCYA Graduation HEP Graduation Spring Semi-Formal</i>
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Bayshore Book Fair</i>	13 <i>Pioneer Day's HPL Book Sale</i>	14 <i>HPL Book Sale Girl Scouts</i>
15 <i>HPL Book Sale</i>	16	17	18 <i>Schlitterbahn</i>	19 <i>Schlitterbahn</i>	20 <i>Civil War Re-enact. FEAST Book Fair</i>	21 <i>Civil War Re-enact. FEAST Book Fair</i>
22 <i>Civil War Re-enact.</i>	23 <i>Schlitterbahn</i>	24 <i>Schlitterbahn CACHE Meeting</i>	25 <i>Schlitterbahn</i>	26 <i>Schlitterbahn</i>	27 <i>IHM Conference</i>	28 <i>IHM Conference</i>
29 <i>Frontier Camp</i>	30 <i>Frontier Camp</i>	31 <i>Frontier Camp</i>				

To turn calendar click "View" on your toolbar, then "Rotate View" and "Counterclockwise".