



January 2007

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."
Martin Luther King Jr., American civil rights leader (1929-1968)

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Coordinators:

Amy Kennedy and Tracey Bujaki
Learning in a Family Environment
<http://lifehomeschooling.pbwiki.com/>

The Blab

Happy New Year!

TV Changed My Family's Life

Editor's Choice!

From the Editor-in-Chief of Homeschool.com, Elizabeth Kanna

Like many homeschooling families, my husband and I feel that there is never enough time to help our children learn as much we would like. Until I discovered how TV could change our lives! Yes, TV! Not the Joe Millionaire kind of television (we actually don't have cable so don't watch television) but by using a program that turned our television into a superior learning tool. I discovered an incredible program that has helped my children get really excited about history, master challenging math skills, learn geography and help my husband and me find more time to homeschool our girls in the midst of our busy lives.

We have become DVD Homeschoolers! The program that I discovered allows you to order several incredible educational movies that you can't find anywhere else, receive them by regular mail, keep them as long as you want and then return them by just dropping them in your mailbox. But here is the best part: the program sends you FREE Learning Guides via email for many of the movies you rent. The Learning Guides are fantastic. We have watched some of best IMAX and Discovery Channel movies and then expanded our children's learning by using the Learning Guide before and after watching the movie. My ten year-old's recent passion for softball led us to rent In a League of Their Own. The Learning Guide that was sent with the movie was packed with

incredible web links on the life stories of the women the movie was based on, thought provoking questions and vocabulary exercises. My daughter learned a lot about WWII, The All American Girls Baseball League and women's rights – which lead to some great conversations in our house! Our 13 year-old has become somewhat of a JFK historian (no kidding) after watching some great titles from this program and using The Learning Guides on JFK, which are actually like a complete unit study.

My experience with this program has been so fantastic that Homeschool.com has launched a DVD Homeschooling Program. For the cost of two or three rentals from your neighborhood Blockbuster you can rent quality titles from A&E, IMAX, Discovery, BBC, PBS and other studios and receive the well-researched, easy-to-use Learning Guides.

LIFE: Question of the Month

Thanks to Kim Kurylo for providing us the Question of the month to get us talking!! I don't know if we need a QOTM for that ☺ But its nice to hear what other people are doing and thinking. Please watch the board for this months question of the month to be posted.

Life Leadership Opportunities

We could use help with the group in several areas. If you would like to volunteer in any of the follow areas let Tracey or Amy know. Thanks

Party Coordinator
Middle School Boys
Welcome Committee members

Mom's Night Out



Mom's Night Out is a relaxed time of food and fellowship held once a month in Brighton. This is a great opportunity for new members to get plugged in and for those you know who may have questions about home schooling to come and learn more.

We will meet the 4th Monday of every month at 7pm.

Preschool Happenings

Join us for Preschool Craft Time:

January's Craft day will be the 15th 12:30-1:30 at Heather Ireland's home in Hartland.

We will be doing a winter themed craft and have our usual fun/game time. Please sign-up by January 8th, so I have time to prepare the materials. Cost is \$1./child

Thanks!
Amy
stackkennedy@sbcglobal.net

Physical Education Opportunities

Open Gym at Bounce

Come meet other home schooled children for some physical activity at Hartland Sports Center (BOUNCE) located off of M59, just east of Old 23 in Hartland.

We will be meeting at Bounce at least once a month for gym time.

Cost is \$4 per person (3 and over)
Please watch the group posts for dates and times or Contact: Angela Berry berryajj@prodigy.net for more information.

Roller skating

Rollerama in Brighton has scheduled open skate times for all Homeschoolers!!

Open skate will be every 2nd Thursday of the month, from 1:00 - 3:30pm. Admission is \$5.00 and this includes regular skate rental.

To make this even better, you do not have to sign up or pre-register. Just show up and enjoy!

Open Swim in Hartland



Open Swim is available in Hartland from 12:30-2:00 on Fridays. The Hartland pool is a "zero entry" pool which is perfect for even the littlest ones!! They also have

lap lanes, a water slide, and so much more!!

It is located at: 10635 Dunham Rd. Hartland, MI 48353 and is connected to the High School.

The cost is \$3 per person, children under 3 are free. And all ages are invited.

Only those swimming will be charged.

Lockers are available

They do enforce the rules and are particularly concerned that non swimmers not in a parents arms be wearing a life vest. They have life vests available for use at their facility. Rules for the facility can be found at: <http://hartland.k12.mi.us/~pool/index.html>

Gym Time

UHS/Liberty Baptist

LIFE will be offering Gym classes through the United Home School Co-op. Registration is \$30 per family for the rest of year (unless you are already aregistered family). There is also a \$5 equipment fee/10 weeks of class.

The Middle School is cancelled for this semester but you can come to the 5th hour class at Liberty Baptist at 3:00pm-4:00pm to study or play board games.

The Elementary School class will focus on providing physical activity while teaching a sport or exercise. This will be done through a variety of activities. This class meets at Liberty Baptist from 1:30- 2:50

Classes are limited to 20 students. To register or for more information, go to the UHS website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/unitedhomeschool/> .

Please email if you have any questions trishbriere@hotmail.com
 Thanks!!
 Trish

Presidential Challenge Group

I have started a group to take the President's Challenge together: LIFE_Gym&PE. And you're invited to be part of it!
 WHAT IS IT?

The President's Challenge is a series of programs designed to help improve anyone's activity level. Joining a group is a great way to make staying active easy.

To learn more about the President's Challenge, go to:
<http://www.PresidentsChallenge.org>

WHY JOIN?

Staying active with others can be a lot of fun. They'll help keep you motivated - even when you don't really feel like it. Groups are a great way to meet new people. There are even programs for people at different activity levels: the Active Lifestyle program aimed at beginners, and the Presidential Champions program for those who are already active.

Signing up for a group is simple. And there's no limit to how any you can belong to. You can join or leave at any time. All you have to do is register. It's quick, and there's no cost just to participate!

HOW TO JOIN:

1) Go to
http://www.PresidentsChallenge.org/login/register_individual.aspx

2) Fill out the registration form.
 * Be sure to include the following info during registration *
 Your Group ID Number: 49035
 Your Group Member Id/Name:
 Whatever you id you choose

3) After registering, start logging your activities. As you log activities you'll be able to track your progress toward winning a President's Challenge Award or Medal.

Hudson Mills Classes

Every month at Hudson Mill we have a program taught by a DNR person for 1 hour. It costs \$1 per child. This year it has been decided to have people sign up one month at a time, to reduce no shows. Watch for posts telling you when sign-up starts.

The classes are at 11:00 on the respective date.

Email Monica with questions
benton@livingonline.com

\$4.00 entry fee per vehicle or \$20.00 annual sticker.

Schedule:

- Jan 19th – Winter Trees
- Feb 16th – Winter Sky
- March 16th – Maple Sugaring
- April 20th – Keep on Rockin
- May 18th – Incredible Insects

Castaway Café

The cold weather is approaching more quickly than I would like. Let's get together in the cold months on the 1st Friday of the month at Castaway Café at 1PM. This is a walk in activity. Cost is \$6 per person (If we have 10 or more people we will get a discount) See you all then!

Field Trip Happenings

Please see the list on page Of the newsletter for the field trips that are coming up!

Tide Pool Program January 8th at 2:30pm at Shepard of the Lakes School in Brighton. **THIS PROGRAM IS NO LONGER TAKING SIGN UP**

January - Police Station tour. Watch for a post with more information to come soon!

U of M Planetarium on February 23rd - This Program is FULL!

LIFE Clubs

LIFE BOYS CLUB

This is a club for boys 7-11, who would like to get to know one another and have fun! Contact is Heather Ireland (ireland_h@yahoo.com)

LIFE - GIRL TALK CRAFT CLUB

This is a group of girls 7-10 who meet monthly to do crafts, snacks, games and make great friends. Contact is Linda Nagle (dljcnagl@comcast.net)

LIFE GIRLS CLUB 2

This is a group of girls 11-14 who meet monthly to do crafts, snacks, games and make great friends. Contact is Linda Nagle (dljcnagl@comcast.net)

LIFE MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS GROUP

This group is for boys 11-14 who want to get together to do fun stuff! **THIS GROUP IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF A LEADER**

LIFE HIGH SCHOOL GROUP

This group is for the LIFE Highschoolers to Chat and schedule activities. This group will be run by the kids themselves. Contact the adult supervisor Lucy Mckinnon mc6@ismi.net if you have any questions.

LIFE PRESCHOOL GROUP

This is a group just for the LIFE Preschoolers. This is where you will find all the preschool activities posted. And where all the preschool Talk will happen. Contact is Amy Kennedy (stackennedy@sbcglobal.net)

LIFE - FOOD COOPERATIVE

LIFE Food Co-op would like to provide a way of getting natural and organic foods at great prices. We also want a place to discuss nutritional information and exchange ideas. Contact Tracey Bujaki (tlbujaki@yahoo.com)

And don't forget LIFE's version of Freecycle:

LIFE Exchange!! You can join at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LIFE-xchange>

Have something taking up too much space? Do you need something? Post it here!

LIFE Boys Club Happenings

Boys club will be meeting at the Hartland Pool on January 19th from 12:30 – 2:30 (the drop off rule does not apply) Contact Heather Ireland for more information.

ireland_h@yahoo.com

Boys club is a drop off activity and everyone needs to volunteer once or twice a year to host a time. Check the Calendar for more dates and locations.

Middle School Girls Club

Calling all Girls ages 11-14!! If you think your daughter might be interested in participating in monthly activities with a great group of girls, check out the following site for more information about the upcoming events

LIFE GIRLS CLUB 2

Or email Linda Nagle at dljcnagl@comcast.net for more information.

Mom's Enrichment Night

This is a night for moms to show off there talent or fake a talent once a month. Everyone has something they enjoy to do whether its cooking, scrapbooking, cake decorating, knitting, needlepoint, reading, making jewelry, pottery, beads etc. Lets show others how to do it. Maybe, by showing others how to do something we may find ourselves enjoying it also.

Why shouldn't the older girls get to experience the fun of learning something new and enjoyable, while eating yummy snacks. It's our turn!!!

Who wants to join us in eating, socializing, and learning something fun WITHOUT the kids.

We will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

January 9th we will meet at Heathers home from 7-9pm Please bring a craft or activity that you are working on. If you are not crafty please just join us for some fun, snacks and beverages. (Heather will have a sewing machine available for use)

ATTN: MEN is in need of hostesses for February, March, April and May. Please consider sharing your knowledge with other LIFE moms. It can be held in my home if you choose.

Any questions please contact me at ireland_h@yahoo.com.

Thanks
Heather Ireland

Scholastic Book Orders

<http://clubs.scholastic.com/cool/login.jsp>

Scholastic Orders are due on January 31st

Heather needs all orders not being done online by this date so she can put in the order. Email Heather to get the user name and password for online orders. If you would like a paper catalog send Heather your address so she can mail it to you. Note: The History Club is not available online, you will need a paper copy of this club. Catalogs can also be picked up at: Preschool Craft Club, Boys Club or Mom's Enrichment Night.

Contact Heather Ireland at Ireland_h@yahoo.com

LIFE GROUP



CHAT

We have a new feature on the life group site. We have added a link to a group chat!

We will have a weekly time that we all can meet in the room to discuss what is on our mind. It will be moderated. We may even have a topic suggestion, to get the talk started, but feel free to talk about anything you like. Watch for a post about the day and time.

Feel free to use the room whenever you wish to meet other members and have real time discussions. **Note: The room will only be moderated during the LIFE weekly meeting time.**

Homeschool Shoebox Swap

This is group for home school families to swap "shoeboxes" that reflect their geographical area and their family. We swap inexpensive packages that contain items that are representative of where we live. Let the kids make a card or a picture, or share something they love about their area. Include some of the more interesting points about where you live and about you; maps, postcards, little things that show what you love about where you live. Let the kids get creative. It can be a lot of fun and educational. Pick up things on a nature walk; an interesting rock, pine cones, etc. Include anything you are willing to share about yourself, your family, and your corner of the world.

This is a great way to learn geography, since after you receive a package, you get to look up where it came from, and learn about an area where someone you "know" lives. You'll also be learning about your own area at the same time.

Go to the following link if you are interested in joining this group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hsshoeboxswap/>

Tell the moderator that you heard about the group from LIFE.

LIFE Valentines Party



Our Valentines Party is in the Works.

It will be sometime the second week of February.

Watch for more information to come soon!

Field Trip Briefs—What’s Coming up.....

Events in the Works:

- February- U of M Planetarium, Along the Tracks-Wild Swan
- March-A2SO Youth Concert & Wild Things-Wharton Center
- April -
- May- Twelfth Night-Wild Swan
- Oak Grove Alpacas and Alpaca Products - fleece processing

More information for each event will be posted at the time that sign up begins.

Enjoy!

Brenda

Other News....

2007 Mid-Michigan Graduation Ceremony

The Mid-Michigan Home School Graduation is sponsored by CHES (Christian Home Educators Support System). You do not have to be a CHES member to participate! It is open to any Homeschool senior in Mid-Michigan who has met their parent's requirements for high school graduation. The size of the ceremony is limited only by the location (The Garden Prayer Chapel at Mt. Hope Church in Lansing). This years Graduation will take place on Friday evening June 2, 2007.

Why should you consider Mid-Michigan Home School Graduation for your senior? CHES believes it will provide an opportunity for your senior to graduate in a group setting, while, at the same time reflecting on the uniqueness of your individual home school. This ceremony will be an opportunity to bring honor and dignity to each of the graduates. It will be made up of group elements representing unity, such as a class song or motto, and individual elements, such as selecting their own cap and gown color to reflect each students own personality.

Every family is an individual home school, granting a diploma to their student for completing their requirements for graduation. DIPLOMAS ARE NOT AWARDED BY OR THROUGH CHES. Parents or a family member of the graduate will personally present the diploma to their graduate. Each family or graduate will have a separate opportunity to share part of their school years, accomplishments, talents, personal blessings, etc. along with their future plans. One of the highlights of past ceremonies has been a multi media presentation with pictures highlighting the life of each graduate. As a group the graduates will represent the Mid-Michigan home school community to their friends and family who are present. Even though this year's graduation doesn't occur until June, it's time to start planning your graduation NOW. Phil and Beth Poole are serving as Coordinators for this year's graduation. Please contact them if you have any questions or would like to participate in the graduation ceremony. (pbjpoole@yahoo.com or 702-9614)

Impression 5 Science WorkShops

These workshops are popular and heavily attended so please register in advance if you would like to attend You can contact Michelle Balzer at balzer@impression5.org to register with the number and ages of children participating.

Homeschool families attending the workshop receive a group entrance fee rate of \$3.50 per person. Also, each workshop will have a \$2 or \$3 lab fee per student. Check in is at 10:00 am.

Each workshop is broken into the following grade levels and times:

Table with 2 columns: Grade Level and Time. Rows include Pre K and Kindergarten (10:15 - 10:45), 1st and 2nd Grade (10:45 - 11:15), 3rd and 4th Grade (11:15 - 11:45), and 5th Grade and Up (11:45 - 12:15).

Here are the dates, topics and lab fees for this years workshops:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Topic, and Lab Fee. Rows include January 11th (Light, 3.00), February 8th (Microscopes, 3.00), March 8th (Germs, 3.00), April 12th (Magnets, 3.00), and May 10th (Biospheres, 3.00).

For more information about the home school programs or to register please call Micaela Balzer at 517-485-8116 ext 44 or email at balzer@impression5.org You can also visit the Impression 5 website at www.impression5.org

Impression 5 Mind in Motion Program

A great way for a home school family to explore science in a learner driven experience. A theme is picked by home school students and then explored with Impression 5 staff. The program is held on Tuesdays from 1-2pm. Themes began in September and Conclude in May. Cost varies per theme. Each theme takes approximately ten sessions to complete. This is for grades 1st – 4th.

-Techno City

Cost is \$50.00 member/ \$65.00 non-member

January 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 20

-Forensic Experience

Cost is \$40.00 member/ \$55.00 non-member

February 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 17

May 1, 15, 29

Contact Impression 5 Science Center for more details: Micaela Balzer at balzer@impression5.org

Classifieds:

You can post anything you would like to buy, sell or any services you have to offer here!
Just let Tracey or Amy know by the 20th of the Month.

Foreign Language Classes and Tutoring Available with Marcie Levardsen:

Please visit the following website for more information

[Welcome to Kidspeak! provided by Bravenet.com](#)

Thanks Marcie Levardsen 810-629-1641
dwbtrhalf@aol.com

Marcie Levardsen dwbtrhalf@aol.com Has the following curriculum for sale please email her if interested.

Far Above Rubies, \$40. (Unit study 4-6 year curriculum for Christian middle/high school age girls.)

Need to get rid of finished curriculum and school books or other household items?

Tina Coyle would like to offer the service of selling curriculum and other household items and collectibles for you on **eBay**.

Currently operating an eBay store and researching all kinds of product trends and prices, she can get you a great return on those unused items laying around your house. For a small fee she will handle researching, photographing, and listing your items - any customer related questions or contact - and packaging and shipping. Just drop off your items and get a check or paypal payment when they are sold.

Just contact me at cac791@yahoo.com, or 810-225-7624 and I will give you further details
