

WEEKLY E-MAIL MESSAGES FROM GRHE - July 18, 2012

To submit items to our weekly email messages, send homeschool relevant messages to grhemsg@gmail.com PLEASE PUT THE NAME OF YOUR EVENT IN THE SUBJECT LINE. Only messages received from GRHE members will be considered for posting. Messages will be compiled and sent once a week, except for GRHE special announcements or special legislative matters that concern homeschoolers and need immediate attention. Thank you!

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL!!! Contact information is given in each message for your response or you can email directly to grhemsg@gmail.com.

Quote

"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."
Ignasio Estrad

GRHE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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Are you planning field trips for the fall?

ENCOURAGEMENT - from Ellyn

GRHE-SPONSORED EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

These events are sponsored by GRHE and meet our standards for our events. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECIDE IF THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR FAMILY.

1. GRHE LIBRARY NEWS

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Summer hours and days

Thursdays 1-3 pm

Location: 2226 Colonial Ave. across from upper level Towers

Open - June 21 28

Closed - July 5

Open - July 12, 19, 26

Open - August 2, 9, 16, 23

A drop box is available for returns.

Contact Info: ckempfamily @[gmail.com](mailto:ckempfamily@gmail.com) / 520-1186 or Tracy Caldwell- tracycaldwell@cox.net / 342-8369

2. CAMPBELL LABELS

I just received word today that we can receive 200 Campbell points for every 5 labels we turn in to Campbells company, but they have to arrive at their location in MN by July 27th. If you have labels, please turn them in at the GRHE library or give them to Bonita Whitlow at 100 Stayman Rd. Roanoke, VA or call me at 992-6135 and I can make arrangements to get them from you. This can really help us to get off to a wonderful start for the new school year. Thank you!!! Bonita

3. NEW HOME SCHOOLING MEETINGS

Please share this information with anyone you know that may be beginning or considering home education.

Thursday, July 19th

Thursday, September 13th

All meetings will be at Hollins Branch -Roanoke County Library from 6:30-8:30 pm

These meetings are for new and prospective homeschoolers with the purpose of helping families begin homeschooling. Topics addressed during the meeting include the Virginia Home Education laws, choosing

curriculum, support groups, and the advantages of home educating your children. There will be a time of questions and answers of any home school questions you may have.

4. PONY EXPRESS

The PONY Express needs an adult sponsor for next year. If you are interested in helping with that, please contact Valerie Benzinger at dbenzfamily@gmail.com or Priscilla Trice at omatrice@gmail.com .

5. WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT?

As GRHE begins to plan for next year's conferences, we would like to know which topics are of interest to you. In recent years, we have had conferences on preparing transcripts and on teaching children with learning disabilities. If you would like to see these topics repeated, or if you have other ideas, please e-mail your suggestions to Ruth Winn at ruth.winn@juno.com. Thank you for your help!

6. CLASSES, TUTORS, AND CO-OP LISTINGS

Updating the class and co-op listings for the 2012-2013 school year. Please send any updates that you have on your class or co-op. Example: Class availability, changes in schedule, class cancellations, etc.

Send info to

grhemsg@gmail.com

7. BLOG

GRHE is trying out the blog idea again. Check it out under the "Members Area", labeled Mom To Mom Blog....you can find it on the right, labeled "Mom To Mom". We are still ramping up, but would love your feedback and ideas for things you would like us to discuss.

8. DO YOU HAVE BOOKS FOR SALE?

Books for sale listings will be sent as a separate email throughout the summer.

Rules for listing:

1. Email sent to grhemsg@gmail.com with Books for sale in the subject line.

2. Limit of 12 books listed.

3. Format

Name of book

Details of book

Price of book

4. At the end of all your books for sale, state your contact information.

Name, phone number, email address

5. Listing will be on the list for 2 weeks. If you wish to renew your listing or eliminate books for sale, send another listing with updated books for sale message.

6. Following this format will help with the uniformity and clarity of each listing.

EXAMPLE:

Bob Jones Math– Grade 13 Like new \$10 for the set

Apologia –Frogs and Animals 2nd edition \$10

Seller:

Renee Campbell

Mnay26@aol.com

890-2633

.....
THE HOME EDUCATION LAW

***Notice of Intent Due - August 15th**

***Test Scores or an Evaluation from school year 2011-2012 is due August 1st.**

*** Use an intent form from HSLDA (if you are a member) HEAV or GRHE.**

*** Send scores and intent letter by certified mail with a return receipt. Be timely!**

*** The Virginia Home Education statute is explained at the following sites.**

HSLDA website

<http://www.hsllda.org/laws/default.asp?state=va>

HEAV website

<http://heav.org/va-law/virginia-homeschool-laws/>

GRHE website

grhe.org

FYI

Listed below are updated addresses for Salem City and Roanoke City Schools for Notice of Intent Forms. I will post other school systems asap.

Salem City Schools

C/O Susan Young
Student Services
510 South College Ave.
Salem, VA 24153

Roanoke City Schools

Hallie Carr

Office of School Counseling
PO Box 13145
Roanoke, VA 24031

THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF THE NEW HOMESCHOOL LAW IS TAKEN FROM THE HEAV HOMESCHOOL UPDATE

Curriculum Change Goes into Effect

The new curriculum description law went into effect July 1, 2012. Any parent who complies with §22.1-254.1 by filing a Notice of Intent or writing a letter to the local superintendent, must file a description of curriculum.

In past years, parents had to supply descriptions that included various elements of the superintendent's choosing--detailed course descriptions, outlines, textbook titles, methods of instruction, tables of contents, or scope and sequences. Now the description of curriculum is limited to a list of subjects to be studied during the coming year.

HEAV has notified all district superintendents by letter about the law change. If your superintendent requests additional information from you when you submit your Notice of Intent, please respectfully inform his office that the curriculum description has been clarified and the new law, §22.1-254.1(B), went into effect July 1. If you have supplied additional information in the past, you are no longer required to do so.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE NON-GRHE SPONSORED HOMESCHOOL EVENTS:

THESE EVENTS ARE NOT SPONSORED BY GRHE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE HOMESCHOOL EVENTS/activities directed by homeschoolers, for homeschoolers. GRHE does not endorse nor evaluate neither content nor quality of these events. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECIDE WHETHER THESE ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR FAMILY.

9. BOOK IT PROGRAM

Details on enrolling in the Book It program for next year can be found at

<http://bookitprogram.com/Enrollment/homeschool.asp>

10. CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS CHALLENGE INFORMATION MEETING

You CAN home school your middle school student, and they will not miss a thing!

Learn how Classical Conversations can be a help to you.

When: Monday July 30, 7-9 PM

Where: Blue Ridge Library Conference Room

Cost: Free

Contact: sherryshields@live.com or 977-3940

11.NEW COMMUNITY: CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS OF SALEM

Place: TBD

Time: Monday, Sept. 10, 2012

Foundations: 9:15 am – 12:00 pm 24 week program

Essential: 1 pm- 3 pm 24 week program

Director: Jennifer Murphy kevenandjeni@msn.com or (540)309-5620

Need more information? Come to a Classical Conversations Coffee at Starbucks on Main St.,

Salem Dates: July 24, 7-9pm, Aug. 2, 7-9pm, and Aug. 20, 7-9pm

Contact : Kristie Nary

Contact Email: knary@cox.net

Location : Radford Baptist Church 1293 Radford Church Rd. Moneta,VA

13.ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HOME SCHOOL CONQUERORS

(1) The Southwest Virginia Home School Conquerors is the Christian sports organization in the Roanoke Valley which provides opportunities for home schooled students to compete in various interscholastic athletic competitions. At this time we are taking applications from volunteers to serve in the following positions: (1) head coach for boys varsity soccer; (2) assistant coach for boys varsity soccer; and (3) head coach for boys varsity basketball. Please email our Director of Athletics, Keith Beasley, (keith@svhss.com) to apply.

(2) The Conquerors have sponsored girls basketball in the past, and we are willing to do so again if there is sufficient interest. For girls in grades 5 through 12 who are interested in playing interscholastic basketball, we need to know of your interest as soon as possible. Please contact our Director of Athletics, Keith Beasley, (keith@svhss.com) so that we may gauge the level of participation and plan accordingly. Tryouts/practice will begin in mid-October, but we would need as much time as possible to work on securing practice facilities, scheduling games, and confirming officiating crews for our teams.

(3) A general meeting of the Southwest Virginia Home School Athletic Academy will be held Thursday, July 26, 2012, beginning at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1887 Electric Road in Southwest Roanoke County. At this meeting, our board and the Director of Athletics would like to share the "state" of the organization and the vision with which we are moving forward. Also, there will be time to break into smaller groups to address each sport. (Please note that this gathering will serve as the Parents' Meeting for girls volleyball and boys soccer as both will begin their practices the following week.) We hope that all who are involved in our organization will be able to attend.

Questions may be addressed to Rev. D. Keith Beasley, MDiv, Director of Athletics - Southwest Virginia Home School Conquerors -keith@svhss.com

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." ~Romans 8:37

16.SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Rocky Mount Center for the Arts is offering classes and workshops throughout the Summer. The classes are \$5 per student per class and located at 220 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount.

*** Current classes offered weekly ***

Tuesday - ACRYLIC PAINTING

Wednesday - T-shirt PAINTING (student provides shirt)

Thursday - MOSAICS

Additional classes to be added based on interest.

Please call or email in advance to reserve a spot.

[540-483-1317](tel:540-483-1317) / rockymountarts@hotmail.com

12.NEW HOMESCHOOL BOOKSTORE OPENING

Homeschool Books & More is a new home school bookstore opening in Lynchburg in July. The location will be 1701 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502 (next door to the Sweet Peas Children's Consignment Boutique)

They will carry new and used educational books and home school curriculum. In the beginning, they will offer primarily used curriculum, so they need your used curriculum. Information on submitting used curriculum is available by contacting Tracy Krebs at tracyjkrebs@msn.com or their facebook page www.facebook.com/HomeSchoolBooks

The store will also offer the following:

- Coffee, drinks, snacks
- A worktable will be available to patrons to use for comparing and examining your curriculum options, or to price your books that you are bringing in for consignment.
- A playroom will be available to keep the kiddos happy while you browse and enjoy your coffee or tea.
- A classroom where we will have various events, classes, seminars and workshops (ideas and suggestions are welcomed!)

13.FOOTBALL FOR AGES 13-14

For those of you who have a child interested in football but they are too old to now play football with the rec league -- there is now another option. There is going to be an AAU football team for 13 - 14 yr. olds (so there is finally football after aging out of the county rec leagues). Until now, the only option for homeschool kids to play football is to enroll in public or private school. Here is the info. of the upcoming info. meetings plus a flyer attachment.

There will be two meetings to discuss the Blackhats AAU football. The first one will be held Wednesday, July 11, from 7:30-8:30pm at the Blue Ridge Library (28 Avery Row, Roanoke, Va. 24012) which is located across from The Bank of Fincastle on Rt. 460E. The second meeting will be Saturday, July 14, from 9:30-10:30am also at the Blue Ridge Library.

*****Parents only need to attend one meeting, whichever time is more convenient *****

Topics discussed:

1. Practice schedule and location
2. Equipment needed
3. Cost involved and what this covers
4. Goals for the players/team

Contact: Mark Harrison at 540-309-3934

(Sent in by Melissa de Pineda)

24.COACHES NEEDED FOR RVHR

Contact Al Bedrosian

cell: 540-309-8808

15.COLONEL SHIPP'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Virginia Museum of the Civil War is pleased to announce that there are still a few slots open for Colonel Shipp's Leadership Institute. The program will begin a week from Monday on July 23rd and run through the 25th; 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM each day. Young men ages 13-17 are encouraged to join the Camp for an exciting adventure in leadership. Explore the core values of Courage, Honor and Sacrifice through the lives of those participating in the Battle of New Market. Drill with reproduction weapons, eat period foods, and much more. I've attached all the needs registration materials, so please get your forms back to us as soon as possible. Would you like to register by phone or need more information, please call 866-515-1864. Email is also a good way to contact me:nadeausr@vmi.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Stacey R. Nadeau

Supervisor of Historical Interpretation

Virginia Museum of the Civil War

New Market Battlefield * Historic Bushong Farm * Shenandoah Valley Tourist Information Center

P.O. Box 1864

8895 George Collins Parkway

New Market, VA 22844

540-740-3101 (voice) 540-740-3033 (fax)

www.vmi.edu/newmarket

An accredited museum administered by the Virginia Military Institute.

(I can send the permission and registration forms to anyone who is interested. Send an email to grhemsg@gmail.com .)

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS Needed

1.NEEDED

I am looking for Abeka's 6th grade math answer key as well as the Teacher's book. Please contact me if you have these items for sale. Kristy Smith: kjrsmith@tds.net

2.NEEDED I am looking for a home school family in Cave spring area, which has first graders learning English reading and interested about learning Spanish. 540-989-8931 ,lucy_tamez1977@yahoo.com

3.NEEDED: OneYear Adventure Novel" program for the next school year. Contact HeatherFarmer 977-4038 or thehappyhippo2012@gmail.com

4.NEEDED: Abeka Math Concept Cards Please send email with your price. Linda sidon@verizon.net

5.NEEDED: Apologia Sciences: General Science, Physical Science, and/or Biology Please send email describing items forsale and price. Linda sidon@verizon.net

RESOURCES

Planning field trips for the fall?

1.Biltmore Homeschool Days - September 20 & 21, 2012

http://www.biltmore.com/groups/education/programs/home_school.asp

2.Colonial Williamsburg Homeschool Days September 8 – 23, 2012

<http://www.history.org/History/teaching/groupTours/SchoolandYouth/homeschools.cfm>

3. Fall Homeschool Day - October 5, 2012

Frontier Culture Museum - Staunton, VA

ENCOURAGEMENT

Balancing the Beam

by Ellyn Davis

<http://www.homeschoolmarketplace.com/e-zines/ejournaljul1012.html>

Home schooling has been both a journey and a task that I've undertaken for more than 25 years, not only in teaching my own children but in talking to countless others about it, explaining the nuts and bolts of doing it, and recommending the most helpful products.

I say home schooling is both a journey and a task because it encompasses both a vision for a destination and the day-to-day working out of that vision. I've found that those who have the most trouble with home schooling tend to see it as either one or the other.

Some lean towards the "task" side. You've probably seen these mothers. You may even have been one of them. They want to know all about curriculums, teaching materials, schedules, grade levels, academic milestones, organization, and the most effective ways of disciplining children. They are constantly overwhelmed, riding herd on their brood, talking about how hard things are and how unmanageable their children are. They may be frazzled, nagging, and complaining, but, by God, they are going to home school!

Others lean more towards the "journey" side. You've probably seen these mothers too, and often they are just as frazzled as the "task-oriented" mothers, but have reframed their frazzled-ness into a spiritual badge of honor. They see home schooling as something organic and alive, their children as creative beings who should not be restrained, the universe as loving and abundant. They are all about love, and light, and freedom. Their home and family life tends to swing between creative disorder and chaos.

When I think about these two extremes, I'm reminded of C.S. Lewis. Many years ago, Lewis wrote a profound essay called [*Meditation in a Toolshed*](#). Once, while looking for something in a dark toolshed, his attention was drawn to a single beam of light coming in through an irregular opening at the top of the toolshed door. As he looked at the beam and then came closer so that he was looking along the beam, he saw two very different realities. He says:

I was standing today in the dark toolshed. The sun was shining outside and through the crack at the top of the door there came a sunbeam. From where I stood that beam of light, with the specks of dust floating in it, was the most striking thing in the place. Everything else was almost pitch-black. I was seeing the beam, not seeing things by it.

Then I moved, so that the beam fell on my eyes. Instantly the whole previous picture vanished. I saw no toolshed, and (above all) no beam. Instead I saw, framed in the irregular cranny at the top of the door, green leaves moving on the branches of a tree outside and beyond that, 90 odd million miles away, the sun.

Looking along the beam, and looking at the beam are very different experiences.

Very different experiences indeed. For Lewis, looking **at** the beam and looking **along** the beam were metaphors for two very different ways of perceiving reality. But it also works as a metaphor describing these two very different ways of approaching home schooling: task or journey.

How you look determines what you see

As long as we just look at the beam of light, our vision is confined to the dark toolshed, but when we look "along the beam," we see the bigger picture of which the toolshed is just a small part.

When you look "at" the beam, you are standing "outside" of it. Standing outside the light allows you to objectify it, observe it, analyze it. But the problem is, in order to look "at" the beam, you have to keep the beam a certain distance from yourself.

But when you look "along the beam," the beam becomes no longer an object that you are standing before, observing, able to analyze. You become part of all that the sunbeam illuminates and you can see its source. However, by focusing on "looking along the beam," it is easy to lose sight of the toolshed and the current reality in which you are standing.

You can look at a beam, or you can look along a beam, but can you do both?

Two different experiences of life

Everything in life is like that beam of light. We are either standing outside it, analyzing and evaluating it, or we are "looking along the beam" seeing the real essence of it. And home schooling is no exception.

As C. S. Lewis remarked,

You get one experience of a thing when you look along it and another when you look at it. Which is the "true" or "valid" experience? Which tells you most about the thing?

The answer is: both ways of looking. Yes, a lover can probably tell you more about the subjective experience of love than a psychologist, but the scientist can tell you more about the objective experience from the point of view of the mental, emotional, and physiological effects of falling in love. From the lover's point of view, falling in love is a transcendent experience, while from the scientist's it is just a complex series of biochemical reactions. Which is it? Actually, it's both.

You can look *at* home schooling, you can study it, you can find out all the best ways of doing it, the most effective teaching materials, the most productive philosophy, the best practices, and you can objectify your children to the point that they are like looking *at* the beam. But to do so requires that you put yourself outside of the light that can be found in the journey. Objectifying things and people requires that you keep them "at arm's length." If you're going to do that, home schooling becomes little more than a home-based version of institutional schooling, without all the secular influences. In short, we have limited our vision and experience to the dark toolshed—the practical realities of life.

But you can also look at home schooling as a metaphysical, spiritual experience, a "calling" or "mission" or destiny. You can get so immersed in "looking along the beam" that you lose sight of the day-to-day toolshed aspects of life and get lost in things, like the sun, that are a million miles away. In church, we used to call that "being so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good."

I'll close with another quote from Lewis:

We must, on pain of idiocy, deny from the very outset the idea that looking at is, by its own nature, intrinsically truer or better than looking along. One must look both along and at everything. In particular cases we shall find reason for regarding the one or the other vision as inferior.

In fact, we must take each case on its merits. But we must start with no prejudice for or against either kind of looking. We do not know in advance whether the lover or the psychologist is giving the more correct account of love, or whether both accounts are equally correct in different ways, or whether both are equally wrong. We just have to find out.

Somehow, we have to be able to balance the beam...both look *at* it and look *along* it.

Here's to the ability to balance the beam!

Ellyn's website is the [homeschoolmarketplace.com](http://www.homeschoolmarketplace.com) and you can read more of her articles at her site.

<http://www.homeschoolmarketplace.com/e-zines/ejournaljul1012.html>