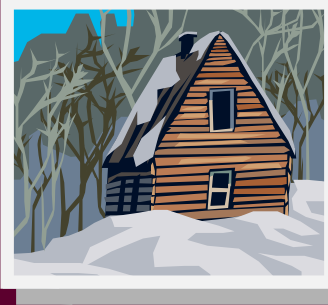


INDEPENDENT STUDIES

DATES:

- Feb. 4—RW 9:00 am Math by Mail Qualifying Testing
- Feb. 4—RW K-6 classes
- Feb. 7—ACT Prep Course
- Feb. 10—Family Science Night—RW 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 15—Tour WVNO—2 tours at 11 am & 1 pm
- Feb. 18—No RW classes
- Feb. 18,21—No School
- Feb. 24—Magazine Sale starts—Incentive assembly
- Feb. 25—RW K-6 classes
- Feb. 27—Open House 2-4
- Feb. 28—11th gr. Parent mtg.
- Mar. 1—Ellis Island—Ren. Theater 12:30
- Mar. 4—RW classes
- Mar. 9—3:15 7-12 Curriculum Choices—MCS
- Mar. 11—Speech Meet—Delaware Christian
- Mar. 14-18—OGT tests
- Mar. 14—8th gr. Parent mtg.
- Mar. 17—10:00 am RW Math by mail testing
- Mar. 18—RW classes—Heartland Staff; See us in Action Open House
- Mar. 24—American Toy Marble Museum 10:00 am
- Mar. 24—Tour of Harry London Chocolate Factory
- Mar. 25—end 3rd 9 wks.
- Mar. 28—6th gr. Parent mtg.
- Mar. 29—K-12 IS Talent Night
- Mar. 29—9-12 Community Service Day MCS
- Mar. 31—Apr. 2—MidWest Cincinnati Home School Convention
- Apr. 1—RW classes
- Apr. 4—7th gr. Parent mtg.
- Apr. 5—Scarlet Letter—Senior High
- Apr. 9—Flamin' Hot Breakfast
- Apr. 12—Mom's Night Out at Linda's (date change)
- Apr. 15—Grandparents Day—K-6 RW
- Apr. 18-25—Spring Break
- Apr. 29—Science Classes/ Open Gym K-6 time tba
- May 2-5—IS testing 1-8
- May 13-14—Used Book Sale
- May 17—7-12 awards night; senior recognition
- May 20—IS Field Day, Awards



Home Sweet Home

"Choose you this day whom you will serve. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

FEBRUARY 2011

Love Never Fails—"I Love You"

Thank you all for your expressions of concern and love last week when my husband's brother very expectantly died. I've done a lot of thinking about living each day as if it's our last. What would you say or how would you change how you act? Would you talk to your neighbor about Jesus, knowing you might not have another chance?

With Valentines Day this month, I'd like you to meditate on God's love that NEVER FAILS. If Jesus lives within us, we should also love as He loves through us.

IF I KNEW

IF I KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME THAT I'D SEE YOU FALL ASLEEP, I WOULD TUCK

YOU IN MORE TIGHTLY AND PRAY THE LORD YOUR SOUL TO KEEP.

IF I KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME THAT I SEE YOU WALK OUT THE DOOR, I WOULD GIVE YOU A HUG AND KISS AND CALL YOU BACK FOR ONE MORE.

IF I KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME I COULD SPARE AN EXTRA MINUTE TO STOP AND SAY 'I LOVE YOU' INSTEAD OF ASSUMING YOU WOULD KNOW I DO.

TOMORROW IS NOT PROMISED TO ANYONE YOUNG OR OLD ALIKE, AND TODAY MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE YOU GET TO HOLD YOUR LOVED ONE TIGHT.

SO IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR TOMORROW, WHY NOT DO IT TODAY? FOR IF TOMORROW NEVER COMES, YOU'LL SURELY

REGRET THE DAY.

THAT YOU DIDN'T TAKE THAT EXTRA TIME FOR A SMILE, A HUG, OR A KISS AND YOU WERE TOO BUSY TO GRANT SOMEONE WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE THEIR ONE LAST WISH.

SO HOLD YOUR LOVED ONES CLOSE TODAY, AND WHISPER IN THEIR EAR, TELL THEM HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM AND THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS HOLD THEM DEAR.

TAKE TIME TO SAY 'I'M SORRY,' 'PLEASE FORGIVE ME,' 'THANK YOU,' OR 'IT'S OKAY.' AND IF TOMORROW NEVER COMES YOU'LL HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT TODAY!

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Jn.



Important Reminders

For updates on activities specific to our program, check out the calendar at www.mcsflames.org. The new MCS website is now online. You can find daily announcements, calendars, IS information, forms, field trip information, and much more.

Emails pertaining specifically to home schooling and the IS program are sent regularly - **check your email every day.** Also check family folders at least once a week. They are in the MCS IS office and at RW classes.

Please **return any textbooks or materials from the Resource Room** you're not using; thank you for helping in this; these items are very expensive so we count on you returning them in a timely manner.

Flamin' Hot Breakfast— you will be receiving tickets soon; we are asking you to sell at least 10 per family. Marie will be emailing other needs we have. Thank you!

DVDs from It All Happened in the Country IS Christmas program should be ready soon. I'll send an email out when they're ready. I have sent in the copyright requirements so the DVDs are being copied now and will be ready soon.

- Check your folders at MCS, especially grades

Family Science Night—February 10

Thursday night, February 10, Nola Starling will be hosting a Family Science Night at RW in the cafeteria. We will break up into two groups of 15 families each. Experiments are geared for K-6.

The first group can sign up for 6:00—7:00 p.m. and the second group from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Families will stay together and do experiments together; all the supplies will be there complete with instructions. This is such a fun evening, one you won't want to miss.



Mrs. Starling will also be holding another Science Class Friday, April 29, 2011. This time classes will be broken up into a younger class and an older class. When your student is not in science class I will be overseeing an "Open gym." Hopefully, this will help you all so you can just drop off kids and pick them up instead of trips back and forth. Details will be in the March newsletter. Mark your calendars now.

IS Talent Night



Tuesday, March 29, will be our annual Independent Studies Talent Show at MCS. This is for all grades K-12 and has been a wonderful encouragement and opportunity for our students to showcase their talent.

Last year Adam Ritenour rode in on his unicycle to play the piano. Others recited their speech meet selections, sang, told jokes, danced, etc. Please sign up outside the IS office at MCS or at RW.

Live each day as if it's your last. Then you'll never have any regrets. Say "I love you" often and forgive quickly.

BE MINE

Heartland Retreat Sign Up

Heartland Outdoor School, scheduled for 3 days and 2 nights **May 9-11, 2011**. Cost approximately \$110/person if we have up to 35; \$100 for 36-52 students and \$95 each if over 53. Adult rates are half the student cost. Begin saving your box tops to help with the costs.

In order to become more familiar with Heartland Outdoor School you can sign up online to receive *Nature Notes*. You can subscribe by signing up at Heartlandretreat.com.

This is a great way to let students and parents know the camp, the staff, and enjoy some fun facts and activities. New this year at Heartland is an indoor climbing wall, a wetland/prairie grass area, "Email a Camper" link on the website and much more.

I know that \$110 is a lot, but I assure you, it is worth every dime you spend. The meals are wonderful, the activities outstanding, the rules strictly

enforced, and the staff excellent.. **You can save box tops to help and also use scrip credit!** Please sign up soon!

New this year will be the opportunity for you to **invite your friends that home school independently**. I do encourage you, however, to only invite those that you know are of like mind with our group with similar standards and behavioral expectation. I will be staying again this year and will welcome other adult supervision, both men and women.

The staff from Heartland will be with us March 18 during RW classes. Parents are encouraged to attend that day so you can ask questions.

There will be a sign up at RW for you at the next class. I'm excited and hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



This event is geared for 2nd—6th grade, however we did have Kdt.—8th grade participate last year and had a great time. Please let me know if you have questions. Last year we had a room just for the younger boys with a mom since they were a little afraid to be away from home; we can do that again this year as well.

Check out their website. I personally know the director. He was in our IS program when he was young. Joe Hughes loves the Lord, nature, and kids!! Last month he became a first time dad too. What a great combination.

Let me know soon if you're interested in participating and if you're willing to stay as a chaperone. I will be there the entire time.

Violin Lessons Available at MCS

Daytime & Evening Lessons. Call to schedule 419-775-5224. Limited lessons are available during the day at MCS as well.

Classes are available for Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced.

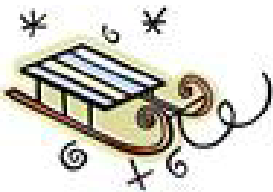
Half hour lessons are \$15.00

Halle Brook began studying violin at age 5 and is currently the Instructor of Violin at the Richland Academy. She is also a graduate of MCS.



Flat Stanley Where in the World Have you Been?

By Ms. Robin Rothaar



Flat Stanley is a Scholastic book by Jeff Brown

and in it Stanley Lamb Chops get flattened by a bulletin board as he sleeps. As a result of this, a world of adventures opens up to Stanley.

In our Ranchwood classes we have been charting where our Flat Stanleys have been since the summer.

We are using three maps: Ohio, United States, and World. On these maps we are using different colored stick pins for each class so we are able to tell how many places Flat Stanley has been for each group represented.

This has been a great activity as we have focused on both data collection and data interpretation, geography, creativity and fun.

Did you know that flat Stanley has been to at least tow other countries, that he went swimming in the Dead Sea, that he saw petroglyphs in Utah, that he's been to Disney World, Chicago and North Carolina? He's also been to the public library, bowling, restaurants, the dentist and many, many more places.

Although this began as a summer project, and we are involved in additional activities at this time, I would like to encourage you to

continue to take Flat Stanley with you on special outings or upcoming vacations. He can even go on trips with extended family members. Take pictures of these special times and send them in with your child.

There is a persistent rumor floating about that Flat Stanley is trapped in many of your digital cameras begging to be released. Let's start a Free Flat Stanley Campaign!

Finally, I want to thank those of you who have been so creative with this project. Your pictures, stories and posters have made our study most enjoyable.

Keep up the good work.

THE HOMESCHOOL EVENT OF THE YEAR—MIDWEST HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION CINCINNATI, OH MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2011 EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS AT : WWW.GREATHOMESCHOOLCONVENTIONS.COM

ACSI Events

Math by Mail is also a mail-in event . **The qualifying testing will be held Friday, Feb. 4 at 9:00 am before classes at RW. Actual testing will be held Thurs., Mar. 17 at 10:00 am at RW.**

The following have signed up: Sarah Johnson, Joel & Matthew Golias, Michael and Madison Adams, Hannah Earhart, Andrew Stephan. Anyone else?

Speech Meet is March 11, 2011 at Delaware Christian. We will have **tryouts for this regional competition Friday, February 4, during RW classes.**

Free Online Library

Go to www.storytimeforme.com and click on the "go to library" button. The online public library is a free online children's book library, no need to register or log in. This cite will encourage children to read entertaining, animated stories. Hope you enjoy this. Your child can follow along with the words as the story is animated and read to them!

Log onto [Www.mightybookjr.com](http://www.mightybookjr.com)

and click on "Subscribe now" and use the coupon code "learntoread" to get a one year free access to a library of 900 interactive children's books for ages 2-13. There's even a whole library of books for kids with special needs. All homeschoolers have been granted a free subscription free now through 12/31/11. Check out books, lesson plans, quizzes, story songs, games and puzzles that inspire early childhood literacy for ages 2-13.

or

For God so
LOVED the
world that He
gave His only
begotten Son
that whosoever
believeth in Him
should not
perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16



Ken Ham—Coming to Mansfield!

Crossroads Community Church in Mansfield is bringing Ken Ham from Answers in Genesis to Mansfield. The sessions on Monday, March 28 are planned for school students. It's FREE! We will make this a field trip opportunity.

The 9:00 a.m. session is titled "Dinosaurs for Kids: the 7 Biblical Ages of History" and is geared for grades K-6. The 11:00 a.m. session is entitled "Defending the Christian Faith Biblically and Scientifically" geared for grades 7-12.

We will have a sign-up sheet for this event. You can email Linda or sign up at RW.

Marie heard Ken Ham speak at the first CHEO Convention she attended when still considering homeschooling. It changed her family and helped confirm her conviction to homeschool.

We highly recommend that you plan to attend.

Go to www.crossroadswired.com/get-connected/not-ashamed-conference/ for times that Ken Ham will be speaking. The

conference begins on Saturday evening, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. and continues with a morning and evening session Sunday and Monday as well. He'll be speaking on the relevance of Genesis.

For those of you that aren't familiar with Ken Ham's ministry, he is the founder of Answers in Genesis and



the Creation Museum.

IS Field Trips



February 15—Tour of WVNO local TV/radio station in Ontario.

We will have 2 tours each with a maximum of 25 kids each. One group will go at 11 a.m. and the next at 1 p.m. There is a sign up sheet at RW for this event or you can call or email me.

Location: 2900 Park Avenue West in Ontario.

March 1—"Ellis Island" at the Renaissance Theatre at

12:30 p.m. Cost is \$3.50/person. This is geared for grades 4-8 but other ages are permitted.. Sign up at RW or by email.

Thursday, March 24—American Toy Marble Museum in downtown

Akron—10 a.m. Cost \$5 to participate in marble playing. All marbles they knock out they keep. This is free to adults and nonparticipating children. Take a sack lunch, then plan to proceed to:

1:00 p.m. Tour of Harry London Chocolate Factory in North Canton, about 15 miles south of Akron.

There are sign up sheets for these events at RW or call or email me as well.

Directions will be in the March newsletter

IX Center in Cleveland—Indoors Playground 3/30/11-5/1/11—discount ticket available for homeschoolers by calling Cindy Young at 330-262-9790.

Choosing Books

Even though I've used the public library for years, I did not know the following:

Pre-emergent books have a white label on the spine and contain few words, large print and large pictures.

Emergent books have an orange label on the spine and still have large print, and repetition of vocabulary & simple words.

Early Fluent books have a green label on the spine, smaller print, fewer pictures and more advance vocabulary.

Fluent books have a blue label on the spine. They have more complex ideas and advanced vocabulary.

Hope this helps you find the right books for your child!



Specifically 7th—12th

March 14—18—all 10th graders take the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) one section per day. Each section is allowed 2 1/2 hours. Mark your calendars now.

The next date to **take the ACT** test is February 12, 2011 with a registration deadline already passed. There is also a test date April 9 with a registration deadline of March 4 & a test date of June 11 with a registration deadline of May 6.

If you are interested in having your sophomore student take PSO

classes next year, your student must take the ACT in February. If you miss that, they can take the Compass Test. See your coordinator for information.

7th-12th grade students can take the **STAR Reading Diagnostic Test; just let me know and that can be given in my office.**

At the **upcoming homeschool convention in Cincinnati Mar. 31—Apr. 2** there are workshops planned for secondary students as well as elementary. The older students participate in a worldview

track that is excellent. I strongly encourage you to attend this convention as a whole family. I know you'll be encouraged.

Please let me know if you're attending; Mrs. Higgins, will be going so I will be teaching her RW classes that day, preparing our students for a tour of our state capitol this spring. We will still have RW classes that day!

Www.liveguitarclasses.com learn to play the guitar with a teacher at your home; you will learn how to play and read music at the same time. Check it out!

Volunteers Needed

It's hard to imagine that we are already thinking about the Used Book sale to be held May 13 from 5-8 p.m. and May 14 from 8-11 a.m. We have once again been given many books that need to be marked for quick sale this year. If you are available to help with this, please let me know. I plan to be spending more time at RW Thursdays and Fridays.



Reading Pens?

In some recent research I have been absolutely amazed at the technology available to help struggling learners. Check out the websites below and I think you'll be amazed too. A pen that reads to you? That could free up many moms' time if you have a student that has trouble reading.

<http://www.incrediblehorizons.com/scan-read.htm>

<http://incrediblehorizons.com/readingpens.htm>

<http://www.wizcomtech.com/eng/catalog/a/readingpensTS/>

<http://smallbusinesscomputing.com/testdrive/article.php/35>

Provides reading autonomy and fluency and enhance text comprehension.

Financial Peace Dave Ramsey

Andrew Stofer, graduate of MCS and employee of Modern Woodmen of America will be hosting an upcoming financial seminar at The Bookery.

If you're interested in more information, call Andrew at 419-566-3950.



Classes will begin February 7 at

RW Valentines Party



The next deadline for box tops is February. Remember, this can reduce the price for the Heartland Outdoor School or bring in money for the IS program which will directly benefit all of you.

We will be having a **Valentine's Day Party on Friday, February 25** since there is no school on the 18th. It works best if you just have your child sign their cards. You will need:

- K-1 = 14
- 2nd = 10 3rd—4th = 22
- 5th—6th = 17
- Parents should bring:**
- Last name A-D bring drinks
- E-W Bring cookies, veggies, etc.

Each student will also need a box or a bag decorated to put their valentines in. This year we are not doing contests on the boxes in hopes that this takes the pressure off of you as the parents.

Elementary News:

Mrs. Higgins is in **need of glass jars and shoe boxes for an art project.** Please bring those in as soon as possible.

The **next scholastic book order is due March 4.** If you have any questions, let Charlie know.

I can't encourage you enough to **be preparing your 3rd—8th grade students for the OAA tests.** Make sure you have them writing short responses and that you are covering the state standards. I'm praying for you all.

Test prep books for first and second graders taking the Stanford Achievement Tests will be in your folders February 25. That should give you plenty of time since testing isn't until May.

The Hignite Family



Hello, from the Hignite family. My name is Tracy and our family consists of Cody (12), Caleb (9) and myself. Denny was born and raised in Mansfield. He has worked at the Mansfield Post office since 1993. I was born in Marion, Ohio; we moved to Florida when I was 5 and lived there until I was 13. We moved to Mansfield in 1985. I have worked at Wilcox Sales & Service in one way or another since 1991. I left full time in 1998 when Cody was born.

Cody is an awesome young man. He is gifted in playing the drums, but right now focuses on his passion of playing basketball. He was blessed to make the 7th grade team at MCS this year and has done a great job. His team has only lost 1 game.

Caleb came into our lives 3 yrs. later in 2001. Caleb is a joy and challenge all in one, but what a blessing he has been. He is very creative. He loves to draw, sing and is even becoming interested in trying out for plays. He has an awesome imagination and is very sensitive spiritually.

I never thought I would home school, although my mom was continually encouraging me to do so. When the time finally came for Cody to start school, I knew I could not send him to public school, but wasn't sure I could home school on my own. A friend introduced me to the IS program and I knew that was for us.

For kindergarten we home schooled thru MCS. That's when they went every Friday

for 2 hours to the main campus and the resource room was in a "closet". We really enjoyed the program, but financially we decided after that year we needed to go on our own. We home schooled independently for the next 3 years, and when the boys were in 1st and 4th we came back to the program.

The boys are now in 4th and 7th grade and have enjoyed meeting new friends and their classes.

Here is a scripture that has been on my heart a lot lately. I think it will help on those hard days.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6