

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

DATES:

- Mar. 1—Ellis Island—Ren. Theater 12:30
- Mar. 4—RW classes
- Mar. 7—NHS Induction
- 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. 5—Ohio Statehouse & Supreme Court Tours
- Apr. 6—3:15 7-12 Curriculum Choices—MCS
- Apr. 9—Flamin' Hot Breakfast
- Apr. 12—Mom's Night Out at Linda's (date change)
- Apr. 15—Grandparents Day—K-6 RW
- Apr. 18-22—Spring Break
- Apr. 25—School back in session
- Apr. 29—Science Classes/ Open Gym K-6
- Apr. 29 1-3 pm—K-6 Curriculum Choices RW
- May 2-5—IS testing 1-8
- May 9-11—Heartland Outdoor School
- May 13-14—Used Book Sale
- May 17—7-12 awards night; senior recognition
- May 20—IS Field Day, Awards
- May 27—1:00 K-6 Awards RW following classes
- June 3—last day of school
- June 5—3:00pm Graduation at Berean Baptist

Check your folders at MCS, especially grades 7-12!



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

MARCH 2011

Homeschooling: Troubling Times?

(Taken from Baptist Press 2/22/2011)

"As the practice of homeschooling continues to grow, an expert has noticed a "marked increase" in the scrutiny that parents and students can face when they choose to pursue an education at home.

Michael Farris of Home School Legal Defense, says, "I think what we're seeing is unfortunately a growing trend." Some of the most severe cases are happening overseas in countries such as Germany and Sweden where families are being fined thousands of dollars for homeschooling their children and government authorities are removing children from homes.

Germany is one of a handful of nations that bans homeschooling, with a Hitler-era law giving German states the right to take custody of children who don't attend school.

Farris says, "So there are trends

there, but the more frightening trends for American homeschoolers are the trends in the United States."

Farris details a third wave of argument that seeks to curtail or crush the homeschooling movement. The first wave, years ago, he wrote, was to accuse the movement of being unable to provide an adequate education. The second wave was to criticize its students for being socially inept. Both were proven wrong, Farris wrote.

"But there is a third wave coming. I court that many of you have any idea of the intensity and breadth of the elitist movement that is taking dead aim at our movement," Farris wrote. ". . . Here is their assertion. Christian homeschooling parents are effectively transmitting values to their children that the elitists believe are dangerous to the well-being of both these very children and society as a whole. What are these values? Homosexuality is a sin. Men should

be the leaders of their families. Jesus is the only way to God. All other religions are false." Farris quoted law professors from Northwestern University, George Washington University and Emory University who have called for a ban on religious education in both private and homeschooling contexts.

Farris said, "Religious liberty means the government has no jurisdiction over what you believe and the soul is at liberty. No one can be punished for what they believe or don't believe. We have the historic battle coming back and the forces of tolerance are opposing the forces of liberty."

Ephesians 5:15-17 "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

I'm so thankful for the liberty we yet enjoy. Be in prayer and make

Important Reminders

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

Check your email every day.

Also check family folders at least once a week.

Please return any textbooks or materials from the Resource Room you're not using;

Flamin' Hot Breakfast— your tickets have been put in your folders; we are asking you to sell at least 10 per family. There are sign up sheets outside the IS Office as well as at Ranchwood. We need supplies and also servers. We're looking forward to a successful day!

DVDs from It All Happened in

the Country IS Christmas program have been put in your folders. If you haven't already paid for your DVDs please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Magazine Sale—I hope you've received your packets. The sale ends March 10. Your orders and money can be turned in during classes March 4, March 9 or 10 when coming for after school classes. Prizes will be delivered to the IS office and I'll contact you about picking those up.

Remember, your family can earn \$150 if you sell 50 subscriptions!

MCS is using all the proceeds from this sale for the building fund.



Roscoe Village Home School Days

April 25, 26
Living History Exhibits & Hands-On Crafts;
Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War

For information on pricing and times please refer to the Home School Days brochure at www.roscoevillage.com or contact Roscoe Village at 800-877-1830 or by email at rveducation@roscoevillage.com.

Activities include: Monticello III Canal Boat Ride; Johnson –

Humrickhouse Museum.



Picture Yourself in the People's House

2011 is the 150th anniversary of the Ohio Statehouse. This historical celebration is an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to demonstrate their creativity by participating in the celebration. Students are asked to create a work of art based on the theme: Picture Yourself at the People's House.

(I have registration forms in the IS Office)

Complete an entry form, create a work of art and follow the guidelines. Artwork and instructions can be uploaded to the Ohio Statehouse website, www.OhioStatehouse.org.

Submissions will be accepted from September 30, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

The student artwork will be made available for the Governor, legislators and local businesses and storefronts to highlight the art.

If you have questions or need clarification please feel free to contact the Capitol Square

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



Heartland Retreat



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.

11:00-11:35—3rd-6th graders

11:45-12:30—parents

12:35-1:00—K-2nd graders

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, Heartlandretreat.com. 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



Testing:

March 14—18 OGT testing—10th grade, 11-12th grade retakes—MCS

May 2-6 at Ranchwood —Stanford Testing for grades 1-2

OAA testing for grades 3-8

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 March 4. That should give you plenty of time since testing isn't until May.

There are also Test Prep books for grades 3-8 for the Stanford Test. Even though we're not giving that test, it would still be good preparation. If you're interested in those books, let us know or you can sign them out of Resource Room.

Homeschool Numbers Still Rising

(continuation from P. 1)

Over 20% of the private school population homeschools. "So we're comparatively small, but homeschoolers are disproportionately representing the best and the brightest. That's what I think they don't like. They don't like seeing the next generation of top leaders being taught in a way that effectively transmits a Christian worldview," Farris said.

A study released recently by NHERI said more than 2 million children in the US are homeschooled. Homeschoolers account for nearly 4 percent of the school-

age population, or 1 in 25 children, and the institute said homeschooling is rapidly becoming a mainstream education alternative. Homeschooler score an average of 37 percentile points above the national average on standardized achievement tests.

"The proof is in the pudding," Farris said. "The executive editor of the Harvard Law Review right now was homeschooled. Homeschoolers that I've taught are now on full-ride scholarships at Pepperdine Law School, George Washington Law School, University of Virginia Law School and a

number of others." "We need to stand up for a permanent protection for parental rights," he wrote. "In another 20 years, it will be too late. . . Persecution is on its way. It is in the law reviews today. It will be in the courtrooms tomorrow." Homeschool families need to stand together to respond to the increased scrutiny aimed at



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 Actual testing will be held Thurs., Mar. 17 at 10:00 am at RW.** The following will be competing: Ethan & Adam Ritenour, Danny White, Sarah Johnson, Matthew & Joel Golias. Congratulations!

Speech Meet is March 11, 2011 at Delaware Christian. The following students will be representing IS in Delaware:

Sarah Heining, Grace Surber, Ben Starling,, Phoebe Hupp, Rebekah Hupp, Joshua Johnson, Katie Walthour, Danny White. Congratulations!

K-6th Grade Curriculum Choices

Parent Meeting will be held Friday, April 29 from 1-3 p.m. At RW. That is also the same day as science classes. More details will be coming. We will provide someone to supervise kids either for open gym or on the playground if you have need.

7th—12th grade Curriculum Choices will be held Wednesday, April 6 at 3:30 p.m. at MCS, Room 109.

Yearbook Orders:

Order forms are in your folders. The deadline to order K-4 yearbook is Friday, March 11—IS pictures included—cost \$18

The deadline to order 5-8 yearbooks is also, March 11.— cost \$15

The high school yearbooks can be ordered sometime in the near future. Watch your emails for details.

*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 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 RV.

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

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 RV or call or email me as well.

Directions can be found at mcsflames.org under IS field trips. Click on the links provided and find directions.

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.

Ohio Statehouse & Supreme Court Tours—April 5 (see p. 5)

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 Ranchwood.

Each family is asked to bring 2 dozen cookies that evening; We will provide coffee and punch.



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. The schedule will be as follows for 10th graders taking the OGT for the first time:

Monday, March 14 - Reading - 12:20-2:50 p.m.
Girls Rm. 109
Boys last name B-M Rm. 100
Boys last name P-W Rm. 101

Tuesday, March 15 - Mathematics - 8:15-10:45 a.m.
All Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, March 16 - Writing - 12:20-2:50 p.m.
Girls Rm. 109
Boys last name B-M Rm. 100
Boys last name P-W Rm. 101

Thursday, March 17 - Science 8:15-10:45 a.m.
All Multipurpose Room

Friday, March 18 - Social Science - 8:15-10:45 a.m.
All Multipurpose Room

Juniors & Seniors retaking OGT tests will be arranged individually; Linda Hoeflich will be doing all senior OGT

testing.

The next date to **take the ACT** test is 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 either have taken the ACT test or have passing results of the Compass. Course registration for next year will take place soon and proper paperwork will begin at that time. Watch your email for important dates and 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. It's not too late to sign up. 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!

Ohio Statehouse/Supreme Court



4th-8th graders only

We are scheduled to tour the Ohio Statehouse and Ohio Supreme Court Tuesday, April 5. Our tour of the Supreme Court begins at 10:30 a.m. and is a 75 minute tour; the court is in session that day. The Court is two blocks from the Statehouse so we will be walking.

The Statehouse tour begins at 2:00 p.m. And is an hour and a half tour. The senate is in session that day as well and begins at 1:30 p.m. Depending on lunch, we may be able to sit in on session before our 2:00 tour. We also hope to meet with one or

both of our Representatives—Rep. Jay Goyal and Sen. Kris Jordan.

The tours are free. However, we are charging \$5 for a lunch consisting of a sandwich, cheese stick, apple slices, cookie and drink that will be ordered from the Café at the Statehouse. The choices of food are limited in the area; there is no convenient way for us to take our own lunches and store them. The easiest way to handle lunch is to order.

We will meet at the back parking lot at MCS at 8:00 a.m. If you are going directly to Columbus let me know so we can plan

a place to meet.

Parking is always quite a challenge, so I encourage you to carpool from MCS. Be prepared to walk quite a distance even if it's raining. You will need money for parking which costs \$5 -\$10 or more for the day. Maps and specific information will be given you when you sign up.

We are limited to 50 for this day. Sign up by email, signing up, or calling soon.

Check out www.ohiostatehouse.org

RW Valentines Party



We will be having a **Valentine's Day Party on Friday, March 4** since there is no school on the 18th or 25th. 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. Parties will be held in the last classes this year instead of throughout the day.

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.

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.

Volunteers are also needed to set up at a Used Campus Wear Room being set up at RW.

The Johnson Family

Ron and Brenda Johnson began homeschooling in historically rich Richmond, Virginia. By the time their oldest was in third grade they moved to Washington DC, taking weekly trips to the Mall.

Ron Johnson works for the department of Defense and currently is working in Columbus at the Defense Supply Center. Brenda is a school teacher and taught until she became a mother.

The Johnsons began homeschooling because Ron travelled so much with his job.

When the Johnsons moved to this area they sent their oldest child to Clear Fork for 4th grade and Mansfield Christian for 5th and 6th. At that time, Rebekah asked to be homeschooled for high school.

The Johnsons have four children: Rebekah, 10th grade, is in Image and

does sign language she learned at church to sign for three deaf church members.

Sarah is in the 7th grade. Josh is in the 5th grade and plays baseball, basketball and soccer. Grace is in the 3rd grade and plays soccer and basketball.

All four kids are in summer swim team and participate in 4H.

The Johnsons attend New Life Church of Christ in Bellville. The younger three Johnson children have always been homeschooled.

One of the blessings of homeschooling for the Johnsons is that they still get to travel a lot.

Brenda says, "The greatest joy is to teach your child to read."



Registration

2011-2012

You should have received your registration packets for 2011-2012 by now. I encourage you to prayerfully consider sending those back as soon as possible. It really helps us to plan for the following year when we know how many families are returning.

I have been encouraged as I've researched other home school programs in the state that our Independent Studies Program offers much more opportunity and resources than most in the state, and at a much lower cost.

I have always believed that the Lord has blessed our program because it was founded on the attitude that "whatever we can do to minister to the needs of the community, that is what we'll do."

This year Mansfield Christian celebrated its 50th anniversary. Stay tuned for many special events as we look back on 50 years of God's faithfulness to us.