



New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition News

Volume XX, Number V

May/June 2009

Coordinator's Report

The NHHC Board met on Saturday, March 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Elkins Public Library, 9 Center Road, Canterbury, New Hampshire. The Coalition board established a Guidebook Revision Committee at our March meeting. Guidebook committee meetings are open to the public; dates and locations of committee meeting are posted on the Coalition website (www.nhhomeschooling.org).

The board also finalized details for our annual spring homeschooling workshop at the March meeting. A couple of weeks after our meeting, we discovered that the space we reserved for the workshop was not available because of renovation delays. Fortunately, the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications graciously allowed us to use their exceptional facility for our Spring workshop—many thanks to the directors and staff of the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications.

I'm pleased to report that the workshop this year was successful. Thank you to our generous sponsors for their financial support: The Concord Fencing Club, New England School of Archery, Inc., and The New Hampshire Telephone Museum. Thank you, too, to the panelists and other volunteers who contributed to the success of the 2009 homeschooling workshop.

Volunteer opportunities don't end when the annual spring workshop is behind us. Are you interested in being one of the first to learn about homeschooling events and activities going on in New Hampshire? Would you like to work alongside fellow homeschoolers to organize our bi-monthly newsletter? If so, we're looking for a volunteer to assist with our newsletter layout. If you're interested in serving as the Coalition newsletter layout editor, please contact me

(jmg227@cornell.edu) or any Coalition representative (www.nhhomeschooling.org/nhhcreps.htm).

The Coalition Board will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Elkins Public Library in Canterbury, New Hampshire. We will tally the results for District Representative annual elections and elect a new slate of Officers at the June meeting. All Coalition meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Grady

Used Curriculum Sale

Thursday June 4 at Trinity Baptist Church, 80 Clinton Street in Concord, 7-9p.m. Table set up 6:15-6:55

Anyone can set up a table at no cost. E-mail rosbek@comcast.net with your name, phone number and what you need for tables by May 28. Educational toys and games are fine.

Meeting Notices

Saturday, June 27 : NHHC Board Meeting, Elkins Public Library, 9 Center Road, Canterbury New Hampshire, from 9 A.M. until 12 Noon.

Tuesdays, May 12 & June 9: Home Education Advisory Council. HEAC meetings are usually the second Tuesday of the month at the New Hampshire Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, in Concord, from 3:30 until 5.

All are Welcome

Seeking Homeschool Picassos, Eschers, and Rembrandts

Do you like to sketch or draw? Why not publish your favorite black-and-white artwork in the next edition of the NHHC Guidebook?

The Guidebook Revision committee is seeking homeschooler artwork for the upcoming edition of our Guidebook. If you're interested, please send original, black-and-white artwork to: NHHC, P.O. Box 2224, Concord, NH 03302. Package the artwork so as to prevent damage while in transit, and write "Do Not Fold" if using an envelope. All artwork will be returned.

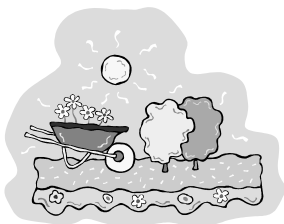
Young Inventor Winner

Once again Cody Claus won Fidelity Investments' Young Inventor's Program but this time at the state level. Cody won Best in Grade last November for his invention of the Locking Clothes Hanger and on April 4 he won Most Marketable. At the Invention Convention 139 inventions were judged, 14 were from second graders of various New Hampshire schools. Cody represents Homeschoolers.

Cody says about his Locking Clothes Hanger: 'Everybody needs one.'

Seasonal Employment For 18+ Homeschoolers

Homeschoolers 18 and older are wanted for landscaping work in the Seacoast area. The season runs through to November. Applications can be downloaded from the web site at www.studleyflowergardens.com.



Art Contest at Opera House

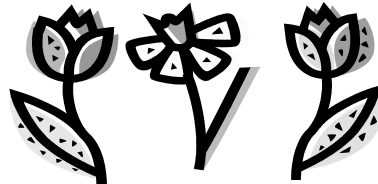
Homeschooled children are invited to participate in an art contest for elementary school children based on Opera North's August 2009 productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at the Lebanon Opera House. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce students to the multiple dimensions of opera, including the story, singing, orchestra, acting, costumes, and scenery. *Carmen* has a special chorus scene in which Upper Valley children will participate. There is a student matinee performance of *The Barber of Seville* on Wednesday, August 19 at 2 p.m.

For a list of resources as well as information on the two operas and ideas for student artwork see http://www.operanorth.org/on_family.html. Student artwork should be submitted electronically by May 15. If submitting electronically is difficult, special arrangements can be made.

Barbara Duncan, Opera North Volunteer

special_events@operanorth.org

Home office: 802-333-3664



NHHC Newsletter Staff
Abbey Lawrence, Editor
PO Box 97
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816
539-7233 abbey@worldpath.net

Contributors : Jane Grady, Diane Lachance, Abbey Lawrence

Portions of NHHC publications may be reprinted for information purposes provided that credit is given to the New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition. Contributors retain full rights to their writing, and their permission should be obtained before reprinting.



Study Trip to South Dakota

Tamworth Learning Circles School announces a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, including time spent at Badlands National Park and Devil's Tower National Monument, June 4- 10, 2009.

Two days of study prior to our journey give participants the opportunity to become acquainted with options available to them while on the trip. Activities are offered each day to achieve goals set forth in each participant's study plan. We visit natural and cultural history museums, as well as sites important to local historical events. We hike local trails to access examples of the local ecology. When applicable, we meet local people who play important roles in maintaining historical and ecological value of the region.



Upon our return, participants develop a final presentation of their project. High school credit is available. For more information about this and other educational travel opportunities, please visit our web site at www.tamworthlearningcircles.org, or call 603.986.7257.

Special Homeschool Group Rate at the Polar Caves

Mondays through Fridays from May until June 15 any home schooled child can get the same rate offered the schools (\$7.50 per child) and one parent can also get the chaperone rate of \$10.

The Polar Caves were formed as a continental glacier moved southward over New Hampshire, covering mountains and valleys. As the ice sheet thawed, great blocks of granite cracked and loosened from Hawk's Cliff. These massive granite blocks fell at the base of the cliff forming a series of caves. Learn more at www.polarcaves.com.

Notes From the Editor

I've been more distracted than usual the last month, which partly accounts for the lateness of the newsletter. The drama group we are involved in presented its fifteenth annual Shakespeare production the beginning of



May; for two weeks my youngest--carrying on the family tradition of acting with this group-- and I were at the theater every day, and consequently not getting much else done. It's always worth doing, and I'm always a little relieved when it's over, but it is also a reminder of the freedom that homeschooling allows us, to dedicate ourselves to so time-consuming a project. A splendid performance it was, too, of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*--my heartfelt congratulations and affection go out to the entire cast of Perform It Young People's Stage Company.

Then on May 7 we went to a performance of *Twelfth Night* presented by another group of talented, hardworking teens, the Homeschool Theater Guild. Another fine performance--congratulations to all.

Jane Grady mentions in her Coordinator's Report that we are looking for a newsletter layout person. Diane Lachance has given five years to the job, and I'm grateful to her for her professionalism and discerning eye. Also for her patience with those of us who take a more relaxed approach to deadlines. I've said before that I take Douglas Adams's view: "I love deadlines. I love the whooshing sound they make as they go by."

Thanks, Diane.



We Asked Homeschoolers

What are your favorite outdoor homeschool/family activities?

Letter boxing, sketching, cooking on a walk or hike. Make and use a solar oven. Outdoor weaving area between two trees or poles on porch.

Learning the historic lore about locations & visit, science, photography, gardening.

Planning out longer outings choosing a route, activities to do, food to bring or cooking while camping, reading up on (research) area we are to visit.

Enjoy picking flowers and fauna for pressing & making our own dyes. Making wreaths out of Lilac branches. Harvesting fiddle heads soon.

Working on our own walking trails, we make signs line with personalized tiles and rocks put out cute items to find. Making lean-to's and bon-fires.

We like to sing and perform plays in a special secret clearing our trail leads to.

When it gets warmer we will be swimming in the ocean, lakes & streams.

Wet sponges are fun to throw at each other.

We have a game we made up it is played like Duck, Duck, Goose; but ours is called Drip, Drip. Drop and you can use a little cup if it is warm or a pail if it is a scorching hot day.

Reba

Homeschooling has allowed us to enjoy a number of outdoor activities that we might not otherwise have pursued as a family. Skiing and golf would be at the top of the list. The savings offered to students and parents has made skiing a very affordable sport for our family. Skiing mid-week makes it more enjoyable due to the smaller crowds. As for golf, small nine hole golf courses offer a more affordable

game, but this sport does remain a bit pricey.

Archery is a close second on our list. New England School of Archery travels to a wide area of the state and offers reasonable prices and excellent instruction. Bear Brook State Park also has an outdoor archery course which trails through the woods for an excellent variety of target shooting.

The remainder of our activities compete for third place. Going to the ocean mid-week in May, early June and September is a must at least once every year. With fewer people at the beach, kite flying and other games can be done with greater abandon. Visiting historic sites, the Audubon, and other outdoor educational field trips has been a favorite to do in both small and large groups. Wilderness classes can be found at many of the centers in NH. Notable among these would be BU's Sargent Center in Hancock, Appalachian Mountain Club and the Audubon.

We have also gone snowshoeing, made portable art tables for drawing outside, hiked mountains and explored bike trails.

With no hill for sledding, we have constructed sledding hills with snow from the yard. While never a long ride down, we have managed to build steep, curvy paths to replace distance with thrill.

During the homeschool years staying indoors has proven to be a challenge. When stuck inside, we maintain birdfeeders for our feathered friends as a distraction.

Diane Lachance

Our family likes to play outside for hours, boffer fighting Thermopylae and Genghis Khan . They also do archery practice. Gardening, we have just finished making beds for our herbs and veggies with broccoli, cabbage and potatoes being added this year. We are working on building plans for a retaining wall and trees to our sliding hill that is our back yard.

d

REPORT FROM THE HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Abbey Lawrence
PO Box 97
Tuftonboro, NH 03816
abbey@worldpath.net
539-7233

I presented the Council's annual report to the State Board of Education on April 7. Last year I was asked about the number of homeschooling families in the state, and the percentage of homeschoolers, here and in other states; this year I had some answers. I also went over the results of surveys that several homeschoolers distributed to SAUs to determine the number of homeschooling programs put on probation.

Board member Daphne Kenyon thought that such data should be gathered by a "non-advocacy" group, which should also inquire about "other problems." Fred Bramante suggested--Daphne Kenyon had also mentioned this last year--that homeschooled students should have a student ID number so they can be tracked. State Board members probably do not understand the intensity of opposition to this idea and would be shocked that some parents find the idea of the State keeping track of their children ominous.

I also told the Board about the meeting that my fellow HEAC member and State Representative Paul Ingbreton had with Commissioner of Education Lionel Tracy in March. Chief among our concerns was that the Advisory Council had not been kept informed or consulted on the two bills that were introduced this year, which represented a drastic rewriting of the home education law. The bills were finally made public in mid-January, too late to discuss them at the January 13 HEAC meeting, and by the February meeting, the Department had already decided to support them.

Interestingly, when on March 13 the Commissioner was a guest on NHPR's Laura Knoy show, he told a

caller that Department support for the bills was based on a perceived need "to report out the performance of students in some way." Later that same day, after hearing from several people about the evaluation requirements already in the homeschooling law, Mr. Tracy posted a retraction on the NHPR website, noting that "RSA 193-A is filled with accountability requirements." Whether that conclusion will be sustained in the next legislative session, when a revived HB 368 emerges from study, remains to be seen.

State Board Chairman John Lyons, at the conclusion of my report, assured me that the Board supports homeschooling and regards it as a valuable option.

The Advisory Council meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through June. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.



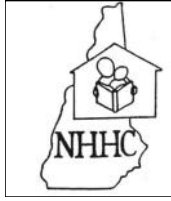
For Our Next Issue

We Want to Ask Homeschoolers:

For those who have sent a homeschooler off to college: In hindsight, what advice do you wish someone had given you in advance?

Send contributions to abbey@worldpath.net.

When submitting a contribution, be sure to include how you would like your name to appear in the newsletter.



New Hampshire
Homeschooling Coalition
PO Box 2224
Concord, NH 03302-2224
www.nhhomeschooling.org

In This Issue: Artists Needed, Seasonal Employment, Used Curriculum Sale,

***New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition
Join Us!***

We're here to serve you! Members receive newsletters, discounts on seminars, legislative updates and information, social activities and support. You can attend NHHC meetings and serve on the board. You have a vote. Help us become the best support group for you and membership is free!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____ Is this a renewal? _____

Confidentiality. You may release my name to: ___the news media ___other homeschoolers

I belong to a local support group. Name _____

Contact name and phone _____

New Hampshire Home Education Guidebook, \$12 (incl. shipping) \$ _____

I would like to receive my newsletter as a paper copy through the mail \$15 \$ _____

I would like to receive my newsletter via email. (circle one) Yes No \$ N/C

I would like to make a donation to NHHC. \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____