

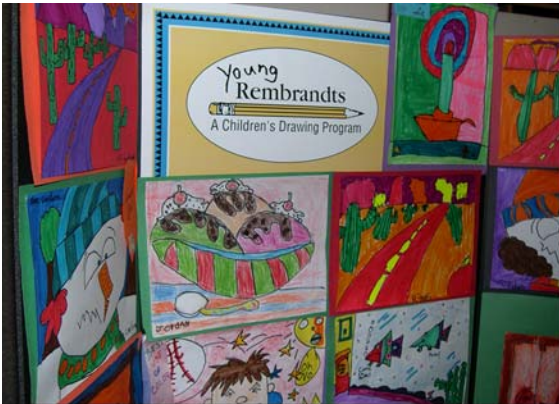
TCHE News

news for the Tri-County Christian Home Educators



And all of thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children Isaiah 54:13

TCHE Annual Art & Science Fair



(l to r, t to b)- Young Rembrandts art display, Brandon Wrights' rock display, Hannah Wilczewski's Soap Experiment, Dr. Kenneth Stanfield giving out presents, Andy Thompson's Pendulum display, and various sewing projects.

Mark March 3, 2004 on your calendar as a day to remember. It probably started like every other day. Your family had breakfast. You did some school. Maybe you even did some chores. Then, before you knew it, it was time for lunch. Then, you had to do more school, and naps for the little ones (if you are so blessed). And, "OH NO, it's time to make sure we're ready for the Art and Science Fair!"

Alas, we all were! This year's event was a success! About 75 kids participated.

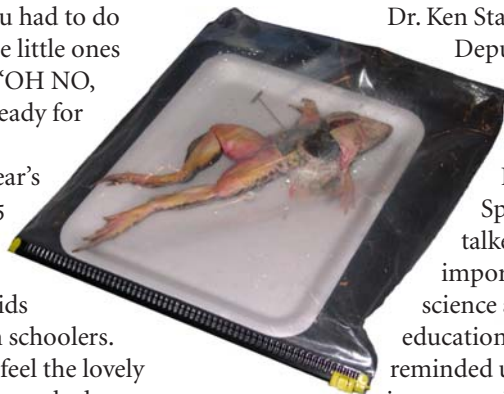
We saw beautiful art displays made by 50 of our kids ranging in age from 5 to high schoolers. We also were able to see and feel the lovely sewing projects 11 of our girls worked on so diligently this year. And, yes we were amazed by the talent and creativity of 24 of our children as they displayed in their

science projects.

And, who walked in completely unexpected? Senator Chris Lauzen. He is a friend of TCHE and he is always welcome—a nice surprise for us all.

Dr. Ken Stanfield, Deputy Director of Fermilab was our Keynote Speaker and he talked about the importance of science and art in education. He reminded us how important it is to keep

our kids curious and eager to learn and that we are all lifelong learners. He also said that we don't know if we have an



Albert Einstein amongst our youngest learners. Some inspiring words indeed!

A little bit of ice cream with a cherry on top (of course) was a perfect end to this night-to-remember! March 3, 2005—the night of the TCHE Art and Science Fair.

The following kids were participants in the science fair- James Bowman, Bethany Brabo, Joshua Brabo, John Brandau, Bob Burdette, Rachel Burdette, Allison Butler, Jenna Butler, Tim Carlson, Victoria Czerwien, Katie Engel, Colton Foster, Moriah Foster, Rory Hicks, Bailey Klaas, Payton Klaas, Riley Klaas, Michael Mattson, Abby Thompson, Andy Thompson, Hanna Wilczewski, Leah Wilczewski, Brandon Wright, and Jordan Wright.

The following kids participated in the art portion of the program- Rachel Burdette, Lizzy Goll, Angela Halmagyi,

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Legislative Day is coming up in mid-April

Many of our families have studied our state this year. We are encouraging families to make this trip to Springfield to help round out those studies.

Legislative Day is an important event for ALL of us. It is our chance to have a face for our Representatives and Senators.

Illinois is a wonderful state to



Last year's trip- (l to r) Payton Klaas, Mikaela Robinson, Marc Robinson, Riley Klaas, Leslie (Senator Lauzen's staff), and Bailey Klaas.

talk to a few senators, some representatives, and let them know we appreciate them and would like them to leave us alone! (nicely).

homeschool in. This is in part due to all the homeschoolers ahead of us who have let their congressmen/women know not to touch our "laws". Every year there are a few who would like to creep in and get a "piece" of our "rights" as homeschoolers.

This is our day to talk to a few senators, some representatives, and let them know we appreciate them and would like them to leave us alone! (nicely).

There are two ways you can enjoy this day- you can follow the CHEC schedule for one day or the TCHE schedule for 2 days. Both schedules are listed in the box at the lower right. We'd love to have you join us for the second day. We will be visiting some of Illinois' historical sites and the New Lincoln Museum. Come join the fun! We have blocked a limited number of rooms for this trip at the Fairfield Inn. It has a pool and a continental breakfast. The cost is \$79.00 (includes tax). There is no need to sign up if you are only going to Springfield for the CHEC schedule. You must sign up by April 7TH if you will be coming with us and following the TCHE schedule. Please call Sharlavan at (630)553-1815 or Sheri at (630)553-0317 for more details or to sign up.



Legislative Day Schedule

CHEC SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

- 1:00 PM Kids sing *My Country Tis of thee* at the Lincoln Statue
- 1:15 PM Rally
- 2:30 PM Visit with Legislators (take them Pies)
- 4:00 PM Douglas Park for picnic (weather permitting)

TCHE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

- TBA Departure
- TBA Arrive in Springfield in the morning and go to Senator Lauzen's office.
- TBA Lunch
- 1:00 PM Sing (see above)
- 1:15 PM Rally (see above)
- After Rally State Capitol Tour
- Lincoln's home
- Evening is on your own.

Thursday, April 21, 2005

- AM 2-3 hours- New Lincoln Museum (\$7.00 per person)
- TBA Lincoln's Tomb
- TBA New Salem State Park (Abe's first home). 2 hours.



Reminders

- The next monthly meeting will be on April 7TH at 7:00 PM. at Parkview Christian Academy.
- Our annual book fair is coming up May 5TH. Call Diana Butler at (630)844-1259 or Sue Brandau at (630)553-3966 for more information.
- The next mother's dinner will be on April 12TH at 6:00 PM. It will be held at Sharlavan's, 655 White Oak Way in Yorkville. You may contact her at (630)553-1815.
- We will be conducting a survey soon regarding our member's thoughts on how well we are doing and what direction we should take in the future. Check your email soon!

Michael Mattson- award winner

A big congratulations to Michael Mattson, who received the Christian Leadership Award from Master's Academy Christian Karate School. Michael is the first child to ever receive this award from Master's Academy since it's inception 14 years ago. A plaque was presented to Mike at a karate tournament on February 19 by Rev. Dave Pearson, which reads "Presented to: Mike Mattson, For your outstanding testimony, gentle spirit, and shining example to others. May God bless you as you serve Him. John 13:35". Mike participated in the tournament competing in kata and sparring.

If you or your children are interested in learning karate from a Christian perspective, the club meets Wednesday nights at 5:00 PM at Crossroads Christian Youth Center in Big Rock. Rev. Pearson is a 5TH degree black belt with an excellent demeanor with children. Prices are very reasonable. For more information, call Ruth Mattson at (630)552-8809.

Odds and ends...

- Laura Carlson found a nice website that lists activities that are especially appropriate for kids. Check out <http://dukhome.northstarnet.org/wsche/RESOURCE.HTM>.
- Crossroads Physical Education Spring 6-week session of baseball starts April 5TH and runs thru May 10TH. This is a coed class for ages 6-14 that will be held at Crossroads Christian Youth Center in Big Rock on Tuesdays from 1:30-3:00 PM. Cost is \$30 per session or \$7 per class. . There is also the Homeschool Nationals Track Team for boys and girls in 5TH -12TH grades. If interested in these activities, call Crossroads for more information at (630)556-3202.
- HEART, the DeKalb County Home School Group, is having their Curriculum Sale on Monday, May 16TH from 5:30-7:30 PM. The sale will be held at Glad Tiding Church, 2125 N. First Street in DeKalb, ILL.
- *The Music Man* will be held April 14TH AND 15TH at Holy Angels School in Aurora, ILL. All are welcome to attend free (donation appreciated). This is a great event for the whole family.
- Tired of the big convention up here and looking for a smaller one? There is a Southern Illinois Convention on June 3-4. Key note speaker is Norm Wakefield. For more detailed information, visit www.iche.org.
- Just to let everyone know- Plano Christian Church has once again graciously agreed to allow us to use their church for our next coop year. However, we will be changing the day to MONDAY. This is indeed a change and if you are like me (Sheri), you will need to change your mental schedule of how life and school works. Start now.

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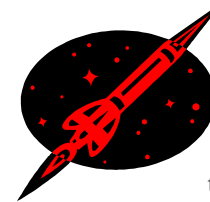
(Science Fair- from page 1)

Rosie Mertens, Jessy Muhr, Ellissa Carlson, Bailey Klaas, Victoria Czerwien, Allison Schleifer, Andreea Garrison, Amber Schleifer, Erin Best, Justin Best, Helen Bowman, James Bowman, Joshua Brabo, Ben Carlson, Angelina Czerwien, Natalie Czerwien, Victoria Czerwien, Matthew Daly, Michael Daly, Katherine Engel, Andreea Garrison, Lavinia Garrison, Stephanie Garrison, Angela Halmagyi, Amber Harmon, Sarah Harmon, Connor Haskins, Will Haskins, Rory Hicks, Ian Horn, Michelle Horn, Jessica Kee, Jonathon Kee, Bailey Klaas, Payton Klaas, Riley Klaas, Michael Mattson, Jessica Muhr, Marc Robinson, Mikaela Robinson, Elijah Rodríguez, Josiah Rodríguez, Micah Rodríguez, Rachel Rodríguez, Allison Schleifer, Amber Schleifer, Cloe Schleifer, Noah Schleifer, Abby Thompson, Andy Thompson, Allie Vaughn, Larissa Vaughn, John Paul Weir, Ray Williams, Brandon Wright, Jordan Wright, and Tiffany York.

Lots of additional photos can be viewed on the TCHE News website.

Rocket launch field trip

Pat Butler is planning a field trip to Sheboyhan, on May 13-14TH to watch the launch of dozens of high powered rockets. This is part of the *Rockets for Schools* program that includes rocketry competitions between junior high to high school



aged kids throughout the midwest.

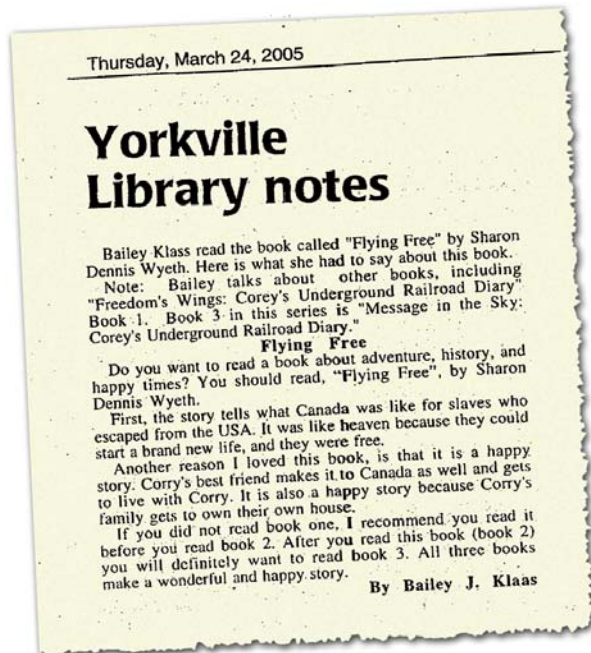
Pat would eventually like to get some of our kids entered in this competition and this would be our first

opportunity to see how the program works. Pat met the organizers of this event and they have invited us for a behind the scenes look at the program.

Besides the exciting rocket launches, there will also be a chance for kids to meet real NASA astronauts and hear some speeches by people in the aeronautical field.

Plans are still being firmed up for this event and this can be a one or two day trip
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Do You Know About the Yorkville Reading Club?



Bailey Klaas' article in the Kendall County Record

The Yorkville Public Library is offering a monthly reading program to children in grades 3-6. The librarian, Mrs. Rita Feltes, picks a topic and assigns work for the following month. The topics vary and have included unit studies and book reports.

This past month, Bailey Klaas submitted her book reviews on three different books and these were submitted to the local paper, The Record, in Yorkville for publication (above). Congratulations Bailey!

When asked what she likes about participating Bailey said, "I like the leader and the books she picks for us to read because they're challenging."

Other children involved in this program are: Payton Klaas, Michael Mattson, Caleb and Derek Piszczek, and Marc and Mikaela Robinson.

If you are interested in learning more about this group you may contact the library, Sharlavan Robinson or Sheri Klaas.

(Rocket Launch- from page 3)

depending on your plans. The rockets involved are really big rockets and extremely exciting to see lift off.

The NASA people generally bring some exciting hands-on exhibits too.

Last year's winner of the competition was another home school group from Kendall County! Prior to the competition, the teams spend many months learning about aeronautics and building their rocket. This is an educational program that Pat would like to introduce locally.

Contact Pat Butler for more information or to let him know if you might be interested in going.

Arboretum Field Trip

Join us as we head out to the Morton Arboretum on Friday, April 29TH at 10:00 AM to enjoy the beauty of nature. Also, families can "clock in" to work a shift in "The Plant."

This free, fun, family activity area, which received an award of excellence from The National Arbor Day Foundation in 2004, helps children to explore the processes that make plants grow.

Included are spring crafts and nature activities, as well as a potting area where you can prepare, plant, and take home your own seedling. Bring your own lunch, or dine at their restaurant. To sign up, please call Ruth Mattson at (630)552-8809. The deadline to sign up is April 22ND.

Burnout?

Are you ready to be done "schooling" for the year? Are you sick and tired of your kids? Are you considering not keeping your children home next year? Well there is hope! There is support! Make sure to not miss our next support group meeting. We will be talking about BURNOUT. What is it? How to get past it? What is the roll of a support group? And most importantly - who can lead us through it? Next meeting is April 7th at 7:00 pm at Parkview Christian Academy. Be ready to participate!!

TCHE News

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