



Winning in the World

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This newsletter is edited by Patti Hermes. Please send all articles and photos to me at momswor-king01@yahoo.com by September 25th.

Mike, my 12 year old son, struggles with certain things. The medical community labels it "High Functioning Autism". Most social rules, the verbal and non-verbal ways that we all interact with one another – facial expressions, tone of voice, body language, etc. – are almost totally lost on Mike. Many of his peers are uncomfortable around him. Ruth and I know that dealing with the world will sometimes be very difficult for him.



The following is a recent exchange I had with God, played out over the course of a couple of days.

Ron: Hey, God. Please let Mike win. Mike is entering a science project in the 4H competition at the county fair. You know how much I want for him to do well. You saw how hard he worked on this – 14 hours in one day! Such persistence, which is difficult for him. Please reward him with a purple ribbon. Dare I ask You if Mike could win the Class Champion award and be allowed to compete at the State Fair in Springfield? OK, just a purple ribbon would be fine.

By Ron Mattson

Ruth: Mike! You won!! You won!! You're going to Springfield!!!

Mike: Did all the other boys not win?

Ron: No, they didn't. *You* won! -- Mike, is everything OK? I see that you are crying.

Mike: If the other boys didn't win, then they don't get to go to the State Fair, right?

Ron: No, they don't.

Mike: Oh! That makes me very sad.

God: Ron, there's your purple ribbon.

Ron: God, I see something far more valu-



able than a purple ribbon: In Mike, I see a heart of gold.

God: My heart. Mike may not always win in the world...

Ron: ...But he wins in

Heaven.

God: And today he wins in the world, too

New Philharmonic: Music American Style

COD Theatre Presentations

McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn

Recommended for grades 3 to 8

Tuesday, 10/9 at 9:30 am, 50 minutes

Maestro Kirk Muspratt leads your students on a musical journey to discover our country's rich musical heritage. New Philharmonic, the professional orchestra in residence at the MAC, performs works by Aaron Copeland, Scott Joplin, Carmen Dragon, John Philip Sousa,

Lerner and Lowe, George Gershwin, and John Williams covering over 100 years of Americana. Maestro Muspratt weaves the musical fabric of the people of our nation through vocal examples, solo piano, and full symphonic orchestration. These sounds bring to life many of the benchmark events that shaped America's history such as slavery, immigration, nationalism, the movement west, including the musical contributions made by the diverse groups of people that make up the melting pot that is the United States of America. For more information, go to <http://www.cod.edu/ArtsCntr/schoolstage.htm>

If you would like to attend: Please send an email to pdstelter@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday, September 6 and let her know how many seats you would like to reserve. Then send the money (\$6 per person – child or adult) by Sept 10 to 418 Fawn Dr, Oswego 60543. Make the check out to Debbie. No tickets are needed – just meet in the lobby 15 minutes before the performance so that we can be seated in our group. If you have any questions, call Debbie at 551-7760.



Bowling with Kane County

Bowling with the Kane County Christian Homeschoolers group will be at St. Paul's Lanes located at 550 Second Ave. in Aurora. We will meet on the first and third Fridays of each month from Sept. to May. Our first session will take place on Friday, September 7th at 1pm. Cost per person will be \$4.00, which includes 2 games and shoe rental. All ages are welcome and parents are

also encouraged to join in the fun. This is a very relaxed atmosphere and noncompetitive in nature. Please note that since this is located at St. Paul's school, entrance to the facility can only be accessed at the Second Ave. door that has St. Paul's Lanes on the awning above it. There is a buzzer at the door to alert the staff to open it for you. If you have any further questions,

please free to contact Donna Tate at 630-466-7309 at email at dmaztate95@wmconnect.com. Come join us, the more the merrier!



Homeschool Skate Sessions at Aurora Skate Center

Who: Any Homeschooled child and their parent(s)

What: Social exercise, weekly event.

When: Every Thursday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM beginning Thursday, September 13, 2007.

Where: Aurora Skate Center; 34W113 Montgomery Road, Aurora,

IL 60504

Why? Just for the fun of it. Roller skating is the #3 cardiovascular sport according to the AMA and American Heart Assoc. (#s 1 & 2 are walking and swimming).

Cost: Admission is \$5 and that includes any type of rental skate, if needed. Parents skate free.

Remember: Check the "Activities Calendar" on our website for up-to-date daily happenings and directions to the rink. www.SkateAurora.com or email us at SkateAurora@sbcglobal.net.

Field Trip to Graue Mill and Museum

Our first field trip of the season will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2007, at

The Graue Mill and Museum

3800 York Road, Oakbrook

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Tour begins at 9:30 a.m.

Adult \$3.25 paid at the door

Children \$1.25

All Ages

From the website:

"Graue Mill and Museum, an operating waterwheel grist mill and homestead, is dedicated to maintaining a bridge between past and

present generations in the belief that understanding our history is vital to our future. The Museum provides programs -- for school children and others -- that include milling, spinning and weaving and living history presentations, as well as artifacts which illustrate the way of life of area residents between 1850 and 1890 and the impact mills such as Graue Mill had on our culture."

"The mill was a major center of economic life during the 19th century and was also used by Fred Graue to hide runaway slaves on their journey to freedom in Canada. President Abraham Lincoln reportedly visited Graue Mill during a trip from Chicago to Springfield. Three generations of the Graue

family operated the mill for 60 years until modern milling methods rendered the old mill obsolete and the building was abandoned."

Free parking is nearby, and picnic tables for lunch. They have a good website to check out, www.grauemill.org

Tour will include a discussion of the role the mill played in the Underground Railroad, plus milling operations and period handiwork. There is a gift shop which will not be included during the tour, but may be visited independently.

Hope to see you there!!

Small Groups: Economics and Reading

Tracey Joyner is interested in forming a small group for ages mature 3rd grade up (I suggest cut off be 7th or 8th grade) to learn basic macro and micro economics. The topics will include money movement, government spending, savings, multipliers, etc. I will recommend a book later to purchase, but to get an idea please see <http://rainbowresource.com/proddtl.php?sid=1183934473-554008&id=012368> for an idea.

I am keenly interested in my older

children learning about this topic this year but want to include more interested children, as the more the merrier. I also don't know how many students I would take. Although the following fact does not remotely qualify me for the job, my undergrad degree was in Economics.

Also, I am interested in organizing a very casual reading group for boys. I am thinking meeting once or twice a month. All genre, all formats (written word, audiobook, graphic novel)

would be welcome, the goal is to get kids to discuss cool stories and interest reluctant, frustrated or slower readers, while fueling the fire for ravenous readers. I would moderate only on an as-needed basis, letting the group lead the discussion. We could even switch homes once we get an established membership base. At the end of the meeting, I would type up a list of books presented and give the boys time to 'be boys' for while. Plus a snack, of course.

Local Piano Teachers have openings

Sheila Lehman has found a good piano teacher in Oswego. She has extensive piano and voice training. She has openings for homeschoolers for the fall. She is very structured with a list of expectations from each student - which we really liked. Her name is Heather Hruska and she is located in Boulder Hill - across from Home Depot. Her number is 551-2471.

Gail York recommends a piano teacher in Yorkville that has openings for the fall. He is a Christian man that she has used for several years. He uses Faber piano books and also teaches chord charts to those interested in being a part of their worship band at their Church. If you are interested in more information please call Josh Motley 630-742-2996.

PE at the YMCA

The Plano YMCA is having Homeschool Fitness on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons this fall. It is a new program. For more info, see their fall brochure at <http://www.foxvalleymca.com>

The Oswego Y is also having Homeschool Fitness, on Mondays and Wednesdays in the mornings. <http://www.heritageymca.org/oswego>.

Saxon Author announces Grammar Program

Dear Home Educator,

I am the author of the *Saxon® Math* middle grade books that thousands of homeschool families have used. (I wrote the manuscripts for *Saxon Math 54*, *Math 65*, *Math 76*, and *Math 87*.) For many years I have believed that the approach John Saxon and I used to write math books would be just as effective for teaching English language skills.

A few years ago I commissioned a team of authors to create a new language art series using the Saxon® methodology. I am delighted to share the news that four grade lev-

els of *Grammar and Writing* are now available to homeschool families.

Please take a moment to visit our site at StudyGrammar.com. There you will find more information about this comprehensive and effective language arts program that has won praise and a loyal following from early users. Currently this program is available only through www.StudyGrammar.com.

On a personal note, I understand the dedication, love, and sacrifice of parents who educate their children at home, so I am deeply gratified that so many homeschool parents

have chosen to use Saxon Math. We taught two of our children at home for a few years, and I know what a difference there is between various programs available for home use. I benefited from using an excellent language arts program as a student, as did our children, and I am hopeful that thousands of students will likewise benefit from *Grammar and Writing*, just as they have from *Saxon Math*.

Wishing the best for you and your children,

Stephen Hake



More small groups: Science and Beekeeping

I (Rebekah Brummel) am going to be having a science/outdoor education class for the month of September at my house in Plano. The class will take place every Thursday in September (6, 13, 20, 27) from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. Ages 2nd grade and up. There will be 12 spots in the class (2 are already full, so if you are interested please call me soon.) The class will be outdoors (weather permitting) so please send the kids dressed to hike in the woods and get dirty. the cost of the class is \$50 per

child for all 4 classes. If you are interested, please call me (Rebekah Brummel) at 630-552-3310.

Harry Patterson will be teaching the class. He has a masters degree in Outdoor Education. He was a teacher in North Aurora for many years before retiring. He now teaches Science for the Young Scholars program run by Aurora University. He also runs Aurora University's summer outdoor ed camp in Lake Geneva. He is also a sculptor, bee keeper, and tennis

coach. My son Jack took a Science class he taught last year and it was fantastic. . _Very hands on and Jack loved it. I am so excited that he has agreed to come out and do this class!

He is also willing to do a bee-keeping class on Saturday, Sept. 22 10 a.m. at his home in North Aurora. He maintains bees for many park districts and also has hives at his home. The bee-keeping class would be for all ages and moms would be asked to stay.

Next Meeting September 6th at 7PM

Our September meeting will feature CHEC. They will come and talk to us about homeschooling in Illinois. If you have questions regarding homeschooling, and any laws... this is your chance to get your questions answered.

Our Hostesses for the September

Meeting are Val Pierson and Penny Pfizenmaier. Please arrive 30 min. prior to beginning of meeting.

Set-Up Helpers: Val Pierson and (?)

We are still looking for Someone to help with set up and take down for our monthly meetings during the months of Sept.— Dec. This requires

you to be at Parkview at 6:15 and leave after everything is put away and back into place.

Please contact Sheri Klaas if you can help.

From the Chair ...



Are you excited? Are you nervous? Are you questioning yourself? Are you questioning your new or old curriculum? Do you hate the beginning of the year? Do you love the beginning of the year? Do you jump into it with excitement and thumping heart or do you jump into the new year with weights on your feet? Isn't it funny? The truth is on any given day, from approximately August 1st - September 1 I feel all these feelings. Most of them on any given day, and it changes by the minute. I am here to tell you that it is OKAY! Yep, it is OKAY!! Weather it is your 15th year homeschooling or your first, we all go through all these feel-

ings. Christ knew it would be like this for us, so he gives us words of wisdom, words of inspiration. When you are doubting yourself, questioning your stability and sanity, go to 2 Chronicles 20:15-17. It reads like this:

Be strong and courageous and get to work. Don't be discouraged by the size of the task. For the Lord our God is with you, he will see to it that everything is finished correctly.

See, voila...God will see to it that EVERYTHING is finished correctly. So, Jump into this new season of homeschooling unfettered. Quit worrying, Quit question-

ing....Get to Work!

Blessings to all of you for this year. I and your leadership team pray for each of your families and we hope that this year is filled with many unexpected blessings from above.

Lastly, a hearty welcome to all of our new families. We hope you find many lasting friendships in our group, and may your home be a place filled with the love of learning and the love of Christ.

Blessings,

Sheri

Odds n Ends

Froots in Yorkville is looking for homeschool students 16 and over to work days, weekends and/or evenings. If interested please call: Steve Eisnaugle at 552-9218. Please identify yourself as a homeschooler.

Is anyone in need of a dishwasher or stove, or do you know someone who is? I have a GE Profile dishwasher and a Whirlpool Supercapacity 465 gas stove available FREE to a good home. Both appliances are white and are 10 years old. Of course they work! I have been gifted with newer appliances and

need to find a loving home for the older ones. Call me if you are interested. Pete will donate them to BFI unless someone calls soon. Sue Brandau, 636-6547

I was wondering if anyone knew of someone that could teach sign language to my high school age son. Thanks, Sheri Strange, momccm@prodigy.net or 630-879-5880

Sandwich Fair tickets will be available for pick up at the Sept. meeting

for those that ordered them. You can make arrangements to pick them up from Laura Carlson by calling her at 815-498-4915.

Looking for a good home: female, blonde husky/malamute mix dog. Under 50 lbs. Housebroken, Spayed, Very friendly. Family unable to keep her. Contact Selina at 815-751-1668.

TCHE leadership is offering to mentor moms new to homeschooling in our group. If this is your first year of homeschooling and you would like to be mentored, please contact

From the editor ...

Welcome back to a new school year! If you're like me, you're probably hanging on to the final weeks of summer with everything you've got.

Well, to help get you in the mood for school, we've got a whole new list of favorite web sites, compliments of Sherri Ursini. In fact, this is just

Part I of her list, to be continued next month.

Don't forget to plan ahead for the first field trip of the school year, to Graue Mill and Museum. It should be great educational fun for parents and children alike.

Also on the calendar is a super se-

cret Moms Night Out. Watch your email for the last minute details (date and time!).

Always remember, you don't have to go it alone. We're all in this together. So let's get on back to school!

Patti

This month's favorite homeschooling web sites provided by Sherri Ursini.

www.brainpop.com – BrainPOP is an educational program, providing content spanning 7 main subjects including: Science, Math, English, Social Studies, Health, Arts and Music, and Technology (requires paid subscription)

www.dltk-kids.com -- DLTk's Crafts for Kids features a variety of fun, printable children's crafts, coloring pages and more including projects for holidays, educational themes and some of our children's favorite cartoon characters. Free site.

www.pearsonlearning.com -- Pearson Learning Group has the precise solutions to meet your teaching needs and help all your students succeed. Pearson Learning Group is part of Pearson Education, the world's leading publisher of educational materials for grades PreK-12

www.readinglesson.com -- The Reading Lesson, a multimedia award-winning phonics course is child-friendly, easy to use, fun, and low cost! Try all our free downloads and see if it is not the most straight forward phonics reading course you have ever seen!

www.bookadventure.com -- Book Adventure is a FREE reading motivation program for children in grades K-8. Children create their own book lists from over 7,000 recommended titles, take multiple choice quizzes on the books they've read, and earn points and prizes for their literary successes. Book Adventure was created by and is maintained by Sylvan Learning.

www.evan-moor.com – Educational publishers

www.welltrainedmind.com -- *The Well-Trained Mind*, by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer, serves as a resource for parents wanting to educate their children according to the classical model of education. This site complements the information in the book, providing updated resources, articles, links and other information useful to parents who are actively involved in their family's education.

www.gwnews.com – God's World News, good news that inspires kids!

www.rainbowresource.com -- Since 1989, our family business has worked hard to help homeschooling families stretch their budgets while providing worthwhile products. We currently offer over 35,000 quality products in all subject areas, for grades PK through 12 and beyond!

www.lisawelchel.com -- Ms. Welchel is married and homeschools her three children. She feels her current role, as a wife and mother, is her greatest, and most challenging, role yet. With a goal to refresh and equip other mothers, she is the founder of MomTime Ministries, MomTime Get-A-Ways and "Personal Mom Coaching."

www.highschoolscience.com -- Apologia provides fun and challenging K-12 creation-based science curriculum specifically designed for the home school.

www.cbd.com – Christianbook.com

www.easygrammar.com -- *Easy Grammar* texts use the prepositional approach combined with effective strategies. This helps students to understand grammar, a tool for speaking and writing properly.

www.sonlight.com -- Sonlight Curriculum® is a Christian homeschooling company that specializes in literature-based homeschool curriculum programs.