

TCHÉ 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

Nutcracker Suite Ballet

By Payton Klaas

I went to the Nutcracker Suit. I liked it very much. My favorite part was the Russian Dancer Dance. It was neat because they were tumbling over each other, and yelled, "hey'.. It was cool. I also liked the Arabian Dancers. They could do neat acrobatics. Their costumes were authentic looking.

When the play was over we went to a Chinese Restaurant. I had my favorite, Chicken Fried Rice. It was the best I ever had. The waiters and waitress are really from China. They spent a lot of time with us, taught us a couple words in Chinese and let us look at their Chinese newspaper. It was a great day.

By Bailey Klaas

I went to see the Nutcracker Suit Ballet. The dancers did a great job. My favorites were the Russian Dancers. I loved their dance. I thought all the costumes were really good. I was surprised that each of the dancers had several different parts. I was also amazed that the little kids in the ballet did such a good job. I really enjoyed the ballet.

After the ballet we went to Szechwen Garden, my favorite restaurant. The waiters are very nice, and the food is really good. I had a great day!



(1 to r)-Sheri Klaas and Sharlavan Robinson

(1 to r)-Sharlavan Robinson
Riley Klaas, Payton Klaas,
Mikaela Robinson, Bailey
Klaas, John Brandau,
Marc Robinson, Jordan
Wright, and Sue Brandau.



Missions in Mongolia

Ami Wise

Allow me to introduce you to Jean Ensor. She is a 75 year old retired teacher and she is my mother. Her remarkable walk with God is unique in that she makes several trips a year as a missionary to other countries.

Jean recently returned from an astounding trip to Mongolia where hundreds of public school teachers attended a conference whose subject was

“What Christians Believe.” While informing these teachers about the message of Christianity, the missions group was able to present the entire gospel and invite the teachers to take the next step and become believers. Large numbers of the teachers came to saving grace, including the minister of education. But this is only a very recent phenomenon.

In the 13TH century, Kublai Khan requested of Italy that 100 Christians come to Mongolia to explain Christianity to his people. His plan was that if the teachings

were embraced, this would become their national religion. Unfortunately, no one answered this call. Later, the same request was made of representatives of Buddhism who came in great numbers. Their teachings were adopted instead of Christianity.

This story made me feel like we, as Christians, had dropped the ball-albeit before we were born. Now, it seems God has given us and them a second chance. Many Mongolians have come to see

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Buddhism as a hopeless cycle—they know they cannot be good enough to reach the heaven they so desire! Through Jean, I have come to know their plight and feel their desperation to find the true God. I am determined to do something, even if it is a small thing, to help the gospel reach them.

It so happens that a vital part of the Mongolian culture is to arrive with many small gifts. This is where I found it easy to help. Good fortune has it that many of the things they enjoy the most are either free or of very little cost to us here in the states. For example, last fall, I sent all those little Happy Meal stuffed animals that pile up in the closet. Can you believe that these are helpful in spreading the gospel? What a hoot! Other items they love are the freebies that come from sales reps--pads of paper, pens, flashlights, post-it-notes, etc. They are very useful on this mission field.

So, if you're interested, why not clean out those back seats and forgotten corners and use this stuff to further the message we hold so dear? I'll be happy to collect anything you come up with and pass it her way.

Plan now for Valentine's Day

TCHE's Third Annual Valentine's Day Party is coming up soon. The party will take place at Helmar Lutheran Church in Newark at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, February 14.

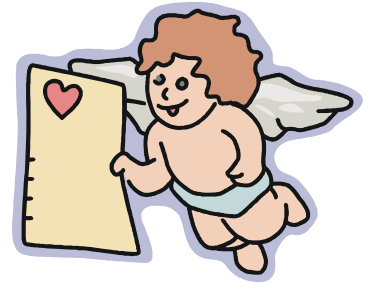
What we need from our membership is to sign up now! The deadline to sign up is January 23, 2006. If you do not sign up by this date, you may not participate in the party! You may mail your registration and fee to Ruth Mattson, or sign up and pay the first day of co-op. There will be no sign-ups past January 23. Also, we are limiting the number of children to 75 total, so advanced sign-up is encouraged.

There is a small fee to help cover costs of the party. If you have 1-3 children, you must pay \$1; if you have 4-5 children, \$2; and 6 children or more, \$3. The fee is due by January 23 and is refundable if you are unable to attend. Also, information needed for sign up is names/ages of children, what you are willing to bring (h'ors doevres,

dessert, drink), and what you are willing to do (decorate, coordinate games, help with crafts, serve food, help with mail delivery, or wherever needed, etc.).

Older children (age 12 and up) will be doing something separate from the younger children. If your children are older, please plan on helping coordinate something interesting for them (movie, game/activity, etc.). Younger children should make a Valentine mail box and prepare approximately 60 valentines by simply signing their names (please, do not have children address valentines to specific individuals). Also, each family should bring one bag of individually-wrapped candy.

All families will be required to help clean up after the party!



Come Share your Stories! Please come join us for a Creative Memories get together. We'll have fun sharing stories and learning about preserving memories.

Please bring two or three photos of a special person or event in your life. We will create a photo safe Short Story Card that you can display in an album, at home or at the office. You could also give it as a gift.

It is for the January Mom's Night Out on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 PM. This will be held at Plano Christian Church and there is no charge. She will be leading a class but there will also be separate space to just crop for people who need some time to catch up on that. Any questions, email at mjcperson@sbcglobal.net or call me at (630)-552-1196. Thanks a lot- Jessica Pierson.

Have you seen the Kinderiste Project resource?

The Kindersite Project at ww.kindersite.org needs the help of Homeschooling families globally. Our mission is to offer students, of all ages, a simple, safe and engaging *Introduction to Technology* and to study the results of the introduction, using Internet resources. The Kindersite consists of hundreds of items of rich multimedia content divided in to games, songs and stories. The site is already being used as a resource by hundreds of Home schooling families across the globe and in over 9,200 schools in 125 countries.

The Kindersite is a major Internet resource for many educators for two reasons. First, its mission to try to under-

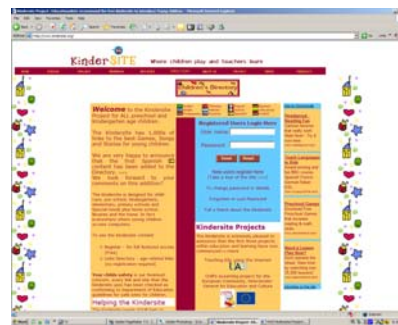
stand if digital technology can succeed in education by using a large-scale, global, research. Secondly, as a free resource that

helps students, with their caregivers or educators, to use Internet content safely and easily

With many grateful thanks for any help you can give to the project. I would also like to draw your attention to our new project, the World Education Database

<http://www.world-education-database.org/> that is a resource for dissemination across local/regional or global education.

Joel Josephson - Founder and Executive Director.



Field trip participation

By Ruth Mattson

TCHE has many strengths, and one of them, if I may toot my own horn, is our field trips. We offer a variety of field trips ranging from local businesses to professional organizations offering educational opportunities. I have been in this position for nearly three years now, and I am proud of what I have offered our members in terms of hands-on educational experiences. When I organize a field trip, the local professionals have always provided us with an excellent learning experience -- however, if you try and duplicate this within your own family, they often will not make themselves available at the same level that they will for a group. Part of your benefit to belonging to this organization is our *strength in numbers* that home-schoolers who venture on their own don't enjoy. Our farm field trip is a perfect example: we were able to enjoy for a

reasonable fee nearly three hours of hands-on learning. If you attended the farm on your own, all you could do is look but not touch—the Schaumburg Park District caters to groups because that is how they pay their staff.

What I am noticing is we generally have the same people attending our field trips, and many of you are not taking advantage of what we have to offer. The recent trip to a local newspaper printer was a real disappointment to me. This field trip was fifteen minutes from Yorkville, it was free, and it was open to everyone over the age of six. It was just as interesting to the adults as it was my six year old. We only had about fifteen children signed up, and we were able to accommodate thirty!

Please ask yourself what is keeping you from going on some field trips? Do you have little ones who are too young? Perhaps you can hook up with another family in the same position and you can trade babysitting services while the other parent takes the older children on the field trip. Some of the field trips may be costly if you have a large family—but you can budget for one or two of these field trips a year. Most of our field trips are free, though.

Do you have older children and you feel many of our field trips are geared toward younger children? Perhaps you could step up to the plate and organize one to two field trips for older students. I have lots of great ideas, but my oldest child is ten, so that is who I am targeting right now.

National Weather Service field trip



The place is the National Weather Service's Doppler Radar Station in Romeoville. The date is Wednesday, March 15 at 1:30 P.M.

The March field trip is for students ages ten and up due to the complexity of the subject. This

field trip is limited to twenty people, so students will be given top priority.

If we have enough students signed up, one or two chaperones will be named, so please note you may not be able to go into the facility with your children. Deadline to sign up is February 15—you may sign up via e-mail or by phone if you don't have e-mail.

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Annual Science Fair

Now that Christmas is over and academics are again the focus of our households, let us turn our attention to the science fair projects which we began last month. Were you able to research and choose a science topic? Did you write a short paragraph summarizing your research and stating the problem you wish to test? If not, begin now, it is not too late. Once you have stated the problem it is time to form a hypothesis, or educated guess, about the solution to your problem.

Your hypothesis will help you choose a method for finding a solution. Basically there are two ways to test your hypothesis,



by conducting a survey or by experimentation. In surveying you will

make observations about the way things are. These observations will be your data. In an experiment, you will control all the conditions of two or more

groups, the control group and the experimental group(s). The differences between the groups are your data.

This month you will be working on forming your hypothesis and designing

your survey/experiment. A hypothesis must be an educated guess which means you must read and think, so give yourself time for this step. Then choose the best way to obtain data to test your hypothesis (survey or experiment) and design your project. Figure out what materials you will need and how much it will cost. Begin assembling materials needed. If you can, begin testing and collecting data now. Good science is repeatable, so the more data you collect the more respectable your results will be. Keep March 2, 2006 open on your calendar for the science fair. Happy testing!
Patricia Bowman.

From the Chair

"We must always remember this- Christ was created not as a season but as a gift. This gift is for eternity therefore Christmas always is"

Kimber Anne Engstrom

Today, as I write this, it is the day after Christmas. One day, and I spent it picking up, cleaning up, reminiscing the past couple days. Sad isn't it that it is all "over" so fast? I want to bask in the happiness of Christmas Eve. The Holiness of Church, The Christmas Pageant, The Fun of

Christmas Morning, The Squeals of Delight, The Yummieness of Good Food and Blessings of Family and Friends. As the New Year arrives, how do we keep that special feeling? Well, I would suggest a word that many of us laugh at, but silently yearn for. Simplicity. Christ was the model for it. He came as a simple baby, with simple clothes and led a simple life. Sometimes as homeschool parents we might lose sight of the joy or spirit of Christmas as we begin the "rush" to change all that is wrong with ourselves and everyone around us. We realize it is

January and we are not where we thought we would be in our curriculum. I am sure not many of us are listing "more things to run around for", or "Make my life more hectic" on our New Years Eve Resolution list this year. Perhaps if we can remember that Christ is not just a season, but a daily gift, we can keep that joy in our hearts a little longer this year. Perhaps if we give of ourselves more in simple ways, of friendship and mentoring, Perhaps if we remember how He came and the life He led, we to can have a more simple year in 2006.

Sheri Klaas

Odds and ends...

- Come one, Come all, Come and Join us for our 3RD annual Art and Science Fair! Get those gadgets working and those plants growing. Paint and sew. All projects accepted. Please contact Pat Bowman or Sheri Klaas if you plan to participate.
- Coop Begins On January, 23RD. We start at 9:00 AM. Please try to be courteous to the teachers and be there on time. Also, all students and teachers are to use the door on the side. Please do not use the door that faces the parking lot, by the offices.
- Cloverbuds will not meet at the normal time in January. We will meet on January, 23RD at 1:30 PM. In February, we will go back to our normal schedule.