

# 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

## Ben and Me Play

by Mike Mattson

On Wednesday, January 18<sup>TH</sup> we went to the *Ben and Me* play. It was lots of fun. Ben Franklin said a lot of Maxims, such as “waste not, want not”. Ben Franklin also



invented a Franklin stove. The smoke came out. I don't know how the smoke came out, but I know the smoke came out. There was also a mouse named

Amos. Ben discovered electricity when he touched the glass tube to Amos' tail. Ben also discovered that lightning was electricity when he sent Amos up on a kite. Ben helped write the Declaration of Independence. He was a very important man to our country.

## Library notes...

Hope you are enjoying all the resources our homeschool group has in its library this year. If you haven't had a chance to look, here are some of the new books we have added this year: *The Usborne Introduction to Art—Internet linked*, *William Bradford, Plymouth's*



*Faithful Pilgrim*, *Exploring Ancient Cities of the Bible*, *First Encyclopedia Series for younger children—also Internet linked*.

Also, the library will be set up at the February meeting so anyone who still has books checked out please bring them back so that others may enjoy them. Here is a list of families and the titles of the books that are out. If by some chance you have

(continued on page 3)

## Cloverbud Day



*Cloverbud Sparks' kids celebrated different cultures during their Internation Day. They sample various ethnic foods, completed craft projects, and learned important facts about Africa, Germany, Finland, and Mexico.*

by Leah Wilczewski

I had so much fun at Cloverbud Day. I learned all new things about different countries. I learned how to make skis from Finland and salsa from Mexico. It was so much fun. My favorite thing was making salsa.

by Jenna Butler

We learned about different countries at Cloverbud Day.

What I learned was that in Finland they made dough with a hole in it and they tied it on a string and they put it in the sun so they could bake it because they didn't have electricity. And it snows a lot in Finland too.

We learned about fiestas in Mexico. They use piñatas to celebrate birthdays. They fill the piñatas with candy. The kids can hit it or they can pull a string and the candy comes out. Another national tradition is to

break the top off of eggs and take out the inside and fill them with confetti. We made this craft and we decorated the outside of the eggs to make them look festive. Then we can break the eggs on people's heads. I cracked my egg on my friend, Brandon Wright's head. It was fun!



*Brandon Wright completes his sand buddy project*

We also visited Africa and Germany. In Africa we made salami sandwiches and a bottle buddy. In Africa they have giraffes that have black tongues and they can lick their whole face. In Germany we made snowflakes.

And when we were done we got to eat all the food we made. We ate salami sandwiches, salsa from Mexico, bread from Finland,

and a special cake from Mexico with a doll in it, and some German brownies. Then we all left and lived happily ever after! The End.

## National Weather Service field trip deadline soon



The place is the National Weather Service's Doppler Radar Station in Romeoville. The date is Wednesday, March 15<sup>TH</sup> at 1:30 PM.

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 3<sup>RD</sup>—you may sign up via e-mail or by phone if you don't have e-mail.

## From the Chair

*Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God.  
Colossians 4:2*

As I pulled up to the stoplight this evening, I was struck by how bright the lights were. The red was clearly red. It was a bright bold circle and I knew I had to stop. Of course, I was turning right and no one was coming from the left, and it was midnight and there probably wasn't a policeman in sight...in my mind I was wondering if I could just sort of slow down and just go. That is when it came to me. Wouldn't it be neat if God spoke to us like a stoplight? If when I prayed and needed an answer, he just gave me a red or green light. I would prefer no yellows. Big, bold and quick would be great. That way, I would always be clear in what to do. All of us know however that God does not work that way, and many times when he does give us a very clear signal we choose to ignore it. He

puts a blazing red in front of us and we wonder if we can slide through pretending that we still thought the sign was yellow. Or He gives us the green light and we are so busy that we miss it. We ask God for a green light and we hold back, hesitate, not trusting that he is answering our prayer. The new year is often the season that we evaluate our lives. We decide to make changes and often seek out God for His help. He tells us to "continue praying, stay alert." Translated: watch for the lights! On second thought, maybe God does work a little bit like the lights



Sheri Klaas

## CONTACT INFORMATION

PATRICK BUTLER  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher  
pat@appraisalservices.com  
(630)897-3339

FRAN & SHERI KLAAS  
Leadership  
(630)553-0317

PETE & SUE BRANDAU  
Leadership  
(630)553-3966

TIM & LAURA CARLSON  
Leadership  
(815)498-4915

DWIGHT & PATRICIA BOWMAN  
Leadership  
(815)695-5025

TONY & SHARLAVAN ROBINSON  
Leadership  
(630)553-1815

PAT & DIANA BUTLER  
Leadership  
(630)844-1259

## Odds and ends...

➤ As you may all know, we have been praying for Darcy's recovery from her pacemaker surgery. She has made it through her surgery. Praise God! There will be eight weeks recovery and two weeks with no driving. If you would like to send her a card her address is: 345 E. Lafayette, Somonauk, IL 60552 and phone numbers are: (630)385-8541 or (815)693-0335.

➤ Email correction from directory- Best family should be [bestfour@netzero.net](mailto:bestfour@netzero.net). The Obergs have also changed their email to [theobergfam@aol.com](mailto:theobergfam@aol.com).

➤ All TCHE members and homeschool friends are invited to meet and greet with Bill Brady who is running for Illinois State Governor. Bill is a homeschool advocate. Robin Ambrosia will be hosting at her home in Plainfield on Friday, February 3, 2006. Call Robin to RSVP at (815)823-3698.

➤ All those wishing to participate in the TCHE Art and Science Fair must be signed up with Pat Bowman or Sheri Klaas by February 14, 2006.

➤ Our first coop day was a very exciting day. Please make sure to check in with Sue Brandau for a new assignment sheet for all moms and dads. We had to make several adjustments, both for helpers and classroom assignments.

➤ Come to our February monthly meeting. It is for moms and dads alike. Is there a hobby or something neat that your family does that makes you special or unique? Come share with others in our group. You can bring props or what ever you need to bring fresh ideas to our group. Does your family have a neat book series you read together, participate in hymn singing, or maybe you do family nights or some other great ideas. February is a long cold month and it is a great time to try new things. Meeting is at 7:00 PM as usual at Parkview Christian Academy.

(Library- continued from page 1)

already returned them please just let me know.

- Haag—*Benjamin Franklin.*
- Piszczek—*3-IN-1, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.*
- Hanus—*First Encyclopedia of Science, The Geology Book, The Beginning of the World.*
- Gilley—*The Merchant of Venice .*
- Vaughn—*Historical Devotional and Workbook, First Encyclopedia of Seas and Ocean, First Encyclopedia of the Ancient World.*
- Brandau—*The New Americans, Medieval World.*
- Garrison—*Great Holiday Ideas.*
- Williams—*Survivors Guide to Homeschooling, Writing Skills for the Adolescent, Reading and Writing, Magic School Bus explores the senses Slattar-National Writing Inst. Writing Strands.*
- D'Argento—*How to Write Poetry Best-Hero Tales.*

Thanks, Beth Wilczewski.

## Newsletter tidbits

by Pat Butler



We could really use some more articles and photos for the newsletter. We usually get material from the same four or five people out of the 240 or so members that we have in our group. I try to take as many photos as I can when we attend TCHE events. But we're really at a loss when we don't attend an event and no one else provides us with photos or at least a short article. We used to get articles from the people in charge of coordinating the various activities in TCHE. Now we find ourselves writing a lot of those articles ourselves.

It's really useful for our group to have comprehensive information regarding upcoming events. That gives new members some sort of idea of what to expect when they sign up for an activity for the first time. For example, if someone is entering the science fair for the first time then they can get some sort of idea of what other kids have done in the past. Newer members can peruse the back issues of the newsletter on the website to see what events they might want to sign up for in

the future.

We have some wonderful co-op classes for our kids yet we've never received a single article or photo on any of the co-op classes. We've had some great monthly mothers' dinners and dads' dinners, yet we rarely receive any photos or articles about these events.

Next time you find yourself taking a picture at a TCHE event, won't you please take a few minutes to email a copy to us with a short article? How about if some of your kids write an article as part of their homework? Even the little ones can talk about the fun they had on a field trip and mom or dad can put their words into writing. If you teach a co-op class then why not take a few photos of your students and their projects?

It's much easier to do the layout work on the newsletter when we don't have to spend a lot of time finding filler material to fill up the pages, or having to write our own articles from scratch. If every adult member of TCHE would contribute ONE article each year then we'd be overflowing with material. Thanks!

## TCHE News

307 Boulder Hill Pass  
Montgomery, IL 60538