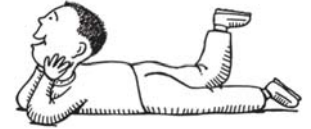


TCHÉ News

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

Art & Science Fair 2006

By Anna Kennedy

Once again this years Art and Science Fair was a huge success. A special thanks to our wonderful ladies like Sheri Klaas and Pat Bowman who put so much work to make this event so wonderful for our kids. Thank you for your vision and dedication. I would also like to thank all my art students

who throughout the year have worked very hard in art classes.

I think our Art display reflected the kid's hard work and creativity. I am so

proud of all of them. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate all my Art Olympic participants. You have truly stepped up to the challenge and showed a true Olympic spirit.

For those who are reading this and are not familiar with this event, here are a few details. Each participant had to research an artist or an art period (most chose an artist) and then write letter to him/her and put together a birthday care package.

Another project was to choose a country, name it after an artist and design a flag to represent that country. The last project was to create a scrapbook about an

artist or several artists. Younger art students had to color a page, make a paper collage, and come up with a

creative way to show Italy and the Olympics together. This assignment challenged not only the students creativity but their research ability and knowledge of the artist they chose for their project. There were 3 projects. For each completed project the student was eligible to receive 1 medal. Each child decided what medal they



(l to r) Riley Klaas displaying her goldfish science experiment. Some of the many visual art projects displayed in the gym.



wanted and then worked on their project. The results were phenomenal.

Those of you who were at the Fair had an opportunity to view the projects. I think you will agree that all the projects were AWESOME!!! What creativity. I love when my students go above and beyond to reach their goals and in this case everyone who participated exceeded my expectations.

As your art teacher I am beaming with pride. WELL DONE!!! I would like to also

express my heartfelt thanks to all of you parents for your support as well. I know you worked hard alongside your children.

Editors note: Information on the science portion of the Art & Science Fair appeared in last month's newsletter. Also, photos of the entire event will be available soon on our website that's located at www.appraisalservices.com/tchenews.htm.

The Medallists

Gold Medallists

Dakota Beatty
Helen Bowman
James Bowman
Jessica Kee
Sophie Kennedy
Bailey Klaas
Mason Klaas
Payton Klaas

(gold continued)

Riley Klaas
Mikaela Robinson
Brandon Wright
Jordan Wright

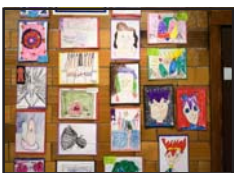
Bronze medallists

Erin Best
Michelle Mattson

Mark Mattson
Michael Mattson
Evan Wise

Silver medallists

Charlie Brandau
Raymond Hanus
Len Pfizenmaier
Katlyn Williams



It's all about books...



The library is officially closed for the year. I hope you all enjoyed all the resources that we have.

Thank you to all of you who have ordered from the book clubs this year which has allowed us to get many new books free for the library. We are still receiving those books and will throughout the summer, so look for some of those new books in the fall.

Those of you who still have books out, please return them at the April meeting. Here is a list of the people who still have books out:

- Vaugn—*Historical Devotional and Workbook, First Encyclopedia of Seas and Ocean, Ancient world Encyclopedia.*
- Brandau—*The New Americans, Medieval World Encyclopedia, Introduction to Art.*
- D'Argento—*How to Write Poetry.*
- Slattar—*National Writing Institute Writing Strands.*
- Hanus—*First Encyclopedia of Science, The Geology Book, The Beginning of the World.*
- Gilley—*The Merchant of Venice.*
- Best—*Hero Tales, Child training and the Home School.*
- Politowicz—*3-in-1.*

(continued at the top of next column)

From the Chair



Focus: That is a tough word sometimes. I find it hard to focus sometimes at this time of year. In part because spring brings all kinds of newness after the winter. My mind skips forward to the conference coming up, the summer and all it holds, and my mind reels into next year. What we will do the same. What we will do different. How better behaved my children will be. How much more we will do, and learn! I get so excited about the future, that I forget to FOCUS on NOW. God doesn't promise us a tomorrow, or next year. Another word that is similar to focus is priorities. If I am not focusing on God and my family now, then perhaps my priorities are not in order.

- Piszczek—*Dietrich Bonhoeffer.*
- Klaas—*Salute to Courage, Liberty Tree.*
- Williams—*Black Books, Christian home Educational Curriculum, Creating Transcripts, Historical Devotions.*

This is the list that I have, if by chance you have already returned the book, please give me, Beth, a call at 551-0951

Book Club News SCHOLASTIC

There will be one more book order placed this year for anyone who is interested, however it will be turned in a little different. Anyone who is interested in placing a book order from Scholastic or God's World, be sure to pick up the forms at the April meeting. Because our May meeting is the book sale, you will need to get the book form and money to me another way—you may mail it to me or catch me at 4-H or Cloverbuds. I will be placing the order on May 8th so I need all your forms by that time. Also, since there will be no meeting in June, I will call you when your books come in and figure out a way to get them to you. Here is my address if you want to mail the information to me: Beth Wilczewski, 11 Marlin Dr. Oswego, IL 60543. If you have any questions, please call 551-0951.

Book Fair

TCHE Book Fair will be on Thursday, May 4th. If you'd like to sell curricula, books, and resources, please call or email Sue Brandau. Bringing a table helps our set up, but is not necessary as we have some. It will be at Parkview Christian from 6:00 - 8:00P.M. You may come as early as 5:00 to set up. We do require that you help us clean up by putting your table away when it is all over. If you do not wish to sell, please come to see if there is something that may be of use to you. Please spread the word to family and friends. We will advertise in the local papers, local radio, and other homeschool groups, but word of mouth is sometimes better.

April Meeting

Do you love your curriculum? Thinking of changing but do not know what to change to? Well, do not miss our April meeting. It is curriculum night. We will have a panel of TCHE members who use an array of curriculum. Each will describe what and how they use it. The good, the bad and the —you know. Come and join us for a night of fellowship and support. If you are not officially on the panel and have something absolutely wonderful that we all should know about, make sure to bring it and share with all of us.

Promotion Day

Promotion Day coming Friday, June 2 at 7 pm at Parkview. Come join in a special time to reflect on your school year and



celebrate as we promote our children to the next grade.

Families will be presenting certificates of achievement to their children and will have an opportunity to share a little something about each child.

We have the following needs: someone to be in charge of family sign up, a set up crew, an MC, certificate maker, refreshment person, and a take down crew. Please contact Laura Carlson at 815-498-4915 by the April meeting.

Sheri.

ICHE Convention

The ICHE Convention is approaching. The dates are May 18-20TH. If you wish to register early and save money, then I have good news! We can save \$10 off the early bird rate by registering as a group. We need at least 15 people to register together and we can get the group rate. Here's what we need to do:

1. Fill out a registration form...on page 16 of the Alliant magazine or print one online at the website www.ICHE.org. Please do NOT register online. We must register as a group. Only go to the website to print off a form.
2. Get the registration form to Sue Brandau no later than April 6TH. That is the night of our TCHE meeting on Curriculum so you will want to be there for that! I need the form, not just a list of names.
3. Pay Sue B. when you hand her the form. I must have all the money up front. Look on the form to see what you need to pay, depending on how many days you will be attending. Note the group rate column. You receive \$5 off of one day and \$10 off two or three days. **PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TCHE, NOT ICHE** as I have to send in one check for us all.
4. Wait patiently for the convention so we can get refreshed and psyched up for all the new things we'll be wanting to try!

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 (630)553-1815

PAT & DIANA BUTLER
Leadership
 (630)844-1259

Odds and ends...

- Jerusalem Marketplace AD 30. Go back in time and see the world of Jesus - AD 30. Take a tour of the sights and sounds of the marketplace with its townspeople and the Roman guards at the first Easter. It is a great event to take your family to. It will be held at Morningstar Community Church on April 7 from 6:30pm - 7:45 pm and April 8 from 2 pm - 5 pm and 6 pm - 7:30 pm. The church is located on the corner of Barnes Road and Prairie on the southwest side of Aurora
- Graduation Celebration for our Jr high and Sr high graduates to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Watch for announcement on time and place. Please contact Laura Carlson at tlamjeb7@cs.com or call 815-498-4915 if you are interested in participating in this event.
- Come one. Come all. Put July 23rd on your family calender. It is our Annual Family Picnic at La Salle Mannor Retreat Center, located in Plano, IL. TCHE will provide the meat for lunch, you just bring a dish to pass. This is a fun, family and homeschool outreach event. Bring grandma and grandpa, and friends you know that are thinking of homeschooling. There is swimming, hiking, softball, tennis, and canoeing. Lots of family fun to be had. Mark your calender now, and don't let the day pass away.
- Hello. My name is Jean Cole and I am a homeschooling mother of two young children. I have developed a workbook for beginning readers and a teacher planbook. Please look over my website and pass it on to your members if you feel they could benefit from my products. www.capublishing.net.
- Please take a few moments to complete out survey on page 6 to give us some feedback about our year. Your input will be valuable in shaping events and offerings for next year.

Field Trip News

By Ron Mattson

What do heated snow gauges, a giant volleyball, and cool computer software have in common? Well, we saw all of them on our March 15th field trip to the Na-



tional Weather Service's Doppler radar station in Romeoville.

Mr. Jim Allsopp gave a very interesting tour of the facility to 19 students and 4 adults. Touring the outdoor portion of the facility, we were introduced to

several weather observation instruments, including the anemometer (measures wind speed), the non-recording and recording rain gauges, and the heated snow gauge, which melts the snow that it collects so that technicians may record the actual amount of moisture, as opposed to the number of inches of snow.

Also outside, we saw the Doppler radar dome. The dome itself is spherical and is made of fiberglass panels. At 38 feet in diameter, it looks like a giant volleyball! The radar transmitter sends out signals with approximately 450,000 watts of electromagnetic energy! By comparison, a microwave oven generates only about 1000 watts. I'll bet you could heat your oatmeal in hurry with a Doppler radar!

Inside, we saw a real mercury column barometer that recorded the pressure on a paper drum for a 24 hour period. We also saw a small storm shelter room that had 10 inch thick concrete walls and a 1-1/2 inch thick steel door. If you're going to get hit by a tornado, that looked like the place to be.

The heart of the operation is the forecasting room. Here, specialists used sophisticated computer software to analyze radar returns, as well as visible and infrared images from a weather satellite. Students learned that the weather satellite orbits the earth at about 23,000 miles altitude. At this distance, its angular speed matches the rotational speed of the earth,

meaning that the satellite hovers over the same spot continuously. This is perfect for weather observations.

In addition to analyzing radar and satellite images, the weather forecasters used computers to generate weather forecasts. A single forecaster is responsible for issuing the forecast for the entire Chicagoland area, affecting over 8 million people. In addition, the forecasters issue storm watches, advisories, and warnings, such as tornado warnings. Mr. Allsopp showed us the radar images from the previous Sunday's storms, including the one that spawned the tornado that caused extensive damage in Springfield, Illinois.

The students asked many questions, some of them more relevant than others. Mr. Allsopp answered the good ones, and brushed off the others like an old pro. The students learned that there are reasonably lucrative career opportunities in the field of meteorology, including weather research, forecasting services with the National Weather Service or private companies, and broadcast opportunities.

The field trip was very informative. I would recommend it highly for a repeat for our group in a couple of years. If your student is age 10 or older, and is interested in science, this is a good one.



My trip to the weather radar station

By Mike Mattson

On March 15th I went to a weather radar field trip. There were lots of things there, like maps, computers, thermometers, radar, and phones. These things helped the men to find out what the weather was going to be. The weather man said it was going to snow and rain that night. The maps were on the computer.

Travel back to the Civil War

On Friday, April 21 we will be travelling back to Civil War times! The Sandwich Historical Society and Sandwich Park

District will sponsor a Civil War Encampment event for us at 2:15 p.m. It is located



at James Knights Park, 1001 North Latham Street, in Sandwich. If you would like to

attend, please sign up by sending an e-mail to Ruth Mattson, or calling her at (630) 552-8809. If you do not have e-mail you can sign up at the co-op on Monday, April 3. The last day to sign up for this event is Friday, April 7th. The Sandwich Historical Society is providing us with a study guide for this, which will outline the village of Sandwich's involvement and significance in the Civil War. If you would like a copy of this document, you may request a copy from me for my cost to copy it and mail it (to be determined once I receive the document).

Visit Wilder Park in May

Join us for the last field trip of the year on May 24, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. We will begin with a picnic lunch at Wilder Park in Elmhurst, next to the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst. We will then



tour Lizzadro Museum at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 per student, and \$1.00 per

parent. Students will receive a bag of rocks for that cost to begin their own rock collection. The field trip will last just under two hours. Your tour begins in the Museum's lower level exhibit hall "The Rock & Mineral Experience" with an introduction by a tour guide. The students then watch a 15 minute video introducing them to the various exhibits in the Museum. After the video the group is given directions by the tour guide about Museum rules, the scavenger hunt quiz, and the Gift Shop.

(continued on page 5)

(Wilder Park- from page 4)

The scavenger hunt quiz pertains to both levels of the Museum. The group splits in half to take the quiz (2 to 3 students per quiz). The students on both levels of the Museum answer questions by finding the exhibit. The groups then switch levels. The lower level group is allowed to go through the Gift Shop in small groups accompanied by an adult.

Sign up for this field trip by listing all in your family who will attend on a sheet of paper, the ages of the children, along with payment for everyone. Please note all students must pay the \$1.50 — it would be too difficult to keep track of who wants rocks and who doesn't! You will not be signed up until you pay. The deadline for signing up is May 5, 2005. You may mail payment to Ruth Mattson at 1412 Aspen Lane, Yorkville, IL 60560 (make checks payable to her) or making arrangements to drop by her home. There will be no reservations accepted after that date, so please mark your calendars if you wish to attend.

TCHÉ News

307 Boulder Hill Pass
Montgomery, IL 60538

How are we doing?

The following is a questionnaire to help the leadership know what you think of our group, how you think our group is doing, What direction you feel our group should be moving and so on. Please fill it out and return it to Sheri Klaas. Your input is very important as your leadership team decides next year's schedule and events. Thank you for your time and your thoughts.

Family name _____

1. Circle the activities your family was/will be involved in 2005-2006

<i>Monthly Support Meetings</i>	<i>Coop Classes</i>	<i>Christmas Celebration</i>	<i>Valentines Day Party</i>
<i>Science and Art Fair</i>	<i>Field Trips</i>	<i>Mothers Dinners</i>	<i>Couples Night Out</i>
<i>Book Fair</i>	<i>Graduation</i>	<i>Fathers Dinners</i>	<i>Teen Fellowship</i>

2. Please name specific ways TCHE has helped meet your families homeschool needs _____

3. List specific needs your family has that are not addressed by our support group _____

4. If we were to have a teacher willing to teach high school classes, your family be interested in classes (circle interests)

Science	Government	Math
English	Speech	Literature

5. If you have participated in the Coop Classes this year, Please rate your families satisfaction level (1-best 5-least)

1 2 3 4 5

6. What type of topics would you like to see covered at our monthly meetings? _____

7. Do you enjoy having speakers at the monthly meetings? Yes No

8. Please give any remaining opinions or remarks. We are open to all _____

9. The committee my family would like to be a part of in 2006-2007 is-

<i>Host of monthly support meetings</i>	<i>Coop Classes</i>	<i>Christmas Celebration</i>	<i>Valentines Day Party</i>
<i>Science and Art Fair</i>	<i>Elementary Field Trips</i>	<i>Mothers Dinners</i>	<i>Couples Night Out</i>
<i>Book Fair</i>	<i>Jr./Sr. High Field Trips</i>	<i>Graduation</i>	<i>Fathers Dinners</i>
<i>Teen Fellowship</i>	<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Newsletter help</i>	<i>Fundraising</i>

Thank you for taking the time to fill this out.

Sheri Klaas
205 E. Kendall Dr.
Yorkville, IL 60560