

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

Fun In The Sun Family Picnic

Contact Information

FRAN & SHERI KLAAS
Leadership
(630) 553-0317

PETE & SUE BRANDAU
Leadership
(630) 553-3966

TIM & LAURA CARLSON
Leadership
(815) 498-4915

MIKE & PEG WRIGHT
Leadership
(630) 551-4647

TONY & SHARLAVAN ROBINSON
Leadership
(630) 553-1815

PAT & DIANA BUTLER
Leadership
(630) 844-1259

Our annual picnic will be at LaSalle Manor located in sunny Plano, Illinois on July 15th. Come one Come All and join the fun!

We will begin at 2:00PM and end around 8:00PM. Dinner is at 4:30.

TCHE will provide the meat, and condiments. YOU will provide 1 or 2 dishes to pass, your own dishes, tableware and drinks.

Our picnic is a lot of fun. We will have swimming, canoeing, and who knows what else! Please bring any child-size life jacket you may have for the canoes.

Bring any new families you may know from your church, or grandma and grandpa, too. Fun is Coming!



This newsletter is edited by Patti Hermes. Please send all articles and photos to me at momswor-ing01@yahoo.com by May 25th.

Don't Miss Our Last Meeting

Our last support group meeting for the school year will be held on **May 10th** (Note the change of date!) Bring in your curriculum that you love. We will be sharing "GEMS" Homeschool curriculum that we just love and want to share with others. It

can be one book you have found or your entire curriculum you use. It is the time of year that we all usually reevaluate and are open to new things. This is a sharing night. Come and be ready to share!! 7:00 at Parkview.

Praise vs. Praise: Did You Know There's More Than One Kind?

by Ami Wise

In my role as Mom, Teacher, and Ambassador for Christ, I have been guilty of lacking in the praise department. I'm right up there next to a four-star general when it comes to getting our schoolwork finished, but I usually motivate my children with an iron fist and not words of praise. I was recently e-mailed an article that had an eye-opening effect. This article, by Po Bronson entitled *How Not to Talk to Your Kids: The Inverse Power of Praise* (found in its entirety at [Po Bronson](#)), introduced a new concept to me: that all praise is not equal. Certain types of praise can be motivating and encouraging, while other words of praise can be **demotivating**--can actually have the opposite effect of our desire for them.

The article is definitely not anti-praise, but points out that protecting a child's self-esteem, at all costs, could be doing them a real disservice.

"Since the 1969 publication of *The Psychology of Self-Esteem*, in which Nathaniel Branden opined that self-esteem was the single most important facet of a person, the belief that one must do whatever he can to achieve positive self-esteem has become a movement with broad societal effects. Anything potentially damaging to kids' self-esteem was axed. Competitions were frowned upon. Soccer coaches stopped counting goals and handed out trophies to everyone. Teachers threw out their red pencils.

Criticism was replaced with ubiquitous, even undeserved, praise."

The article goes on to point out, through some very interesting tests, that praising a child about his innate abilities, as in *You are great at math!*, can backfire. According to this study, this type of praise, while meant to encourage and uplift the child and give him confidence for the future, can actually cause him to give up easily on things that he doesn't immediately grasp. The thinking may go like this: *I am supposed to be good at this, so if I can't get it right away, I must not be good at it, therefore, I don't want to do it at all.*

The study was very compelling, but too long to print here. It goes on to test what types of praise have the best effect. To sum it up, **praise must be deserved**. Praising a child continually makes its value drop. We've all had the positive comment from someone who thinks *everything* is great and it falls a little flat. But when you get a verbal reward from someone who infrequently passes it out, you feel really proud of yourself. Well, it's the same for our kids. And it **has to be 100% sincere**--anything less, and they will see right through you. Thirdly, the most effective praise is **very specific**. *I love the way you looked for openings to pass the ball to your teammate!* Finally, praise

needs to comment on the child's processing ability. Like, *I am so proud of how you concentrated on your math.* By applying praise in this way, students dramatically improved in their desire to rise to a challenge, try harder and wait longer to give up than those who had been given praise for their innate abilities.

One of the points I found most interesting was the fact that during the tests, only one line of praise was used. That is, one line of praise for innate abilities vs. one line of praising the process. The students' response was immediate and dramatic! Doesn't this mean that by changing one line of my personal dialogue with my own kids will probably have a dramatic effect as well? I can't wait to try it out!

By following the above guidelines, we can remind our kids of their ability to figure out stuff, to find the right sources that lead to the answers, to continue to persevere when the going gets tough. *Please*, please try to take the time to read or skim this article. It's incredibly interesting! You can find it in its entirety at <http://nymag.com/nymag/po-bronson/>

Praising God (and the Kids,)

Ami Wise

ICHE Convention

Illinois Christian Home Educators state convention will be held on May 24, 25 & 26 at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. It's too close to miss! The deadline for the registration forms for our group rate has passed, but you can still

go at the regular rate. Convention info and registration form at www/ICHE.org.



Legislative Day

Christian Home Educators Coalition of Illinois invites all home educating families to Legislative Day, Wednesday, May 2, 2007. Visit www.CHEC.cc for more information or look in the back pages of the ALLIANT MAGAZINE for the Advertisement. It carries all the details.

Letter from the Chair

“Thank God From Whom All Blessings Flow” Do you sing the Doxology at your church? We don’t, but I love it anyway, and had the opportunity to sing it last week while visiting my “families church”. It made me think of my many blessings.

Many months of the year are dedicated to certain people, or organizations. For instance, yesterday was Administrative Assistants Day. Or recently, Earth Day. Coming up one of my favorites, Mothers Day.

Well, I decided to dedicate this last letter of the season to your TCHE Leadership. They are each a blessing from God. Each bringing something different to the group, each deserving of a little heartfelt thanks. Without each couple our group wouldn’t be the same. Each couple has decided to stay on for another year, something of which I am extremely grateful.

Let’s see, First there are Pat and Diana Butler. They are not only delightful to be with, but have been in TCHE for around 4 years now. They are so dedicated to “updating” our group. Bringing us into “cyber spaces” that some of us really do not like to go. I thank God for them being so dedicated and running our web site, and getting our directory out. Diana has a heart for the special children of the world and is heading up our special needs support within our group. Thank you, Diana and Pat.

Next is Tim and Laura Carlson. They have homeschooled many years and have actually been on leadership now for a long time. Before Tim’s work changed he was a faithful support group “show-er-upper”. He led some of our ice breakers and is always good for cooking hot dogs for us at the picnics. Laura is an inspiration for those of us who wonder if we will ever make it through. She is more beautiful, and active now than ever. She is sharing her knowledge with us, and shares her spiritual wisdom as well. She organ-

izes our promotions, graduations and always helps set up and take down for the monthly meetings. Thank you, Tim and Laura.

Next is Pete and Sue Brandau. Pete, Hmmm What does Pete do? Besides give me a hard time? Oh yea, That’s what he does! Constantly and unflinching, he keeps up the humor! He also is always there to move tables, help with “techie” stuff that I hate, and give me a hard time! Sue is a worker bee, who keeps our books, and writes the checks. She organizes our Christmas party and always calls to see if I need help with the monthly meeting. Her spirit is light and friendly, and she laughs and keeps us doing the same. Thanks Pete and Sue.

On to Tony and Sharlavan. You have never met “BUSY” until you have spent time with Tony and Sharlavan. Yet, these two continue to volunteer and make everyone’s homeschooling experience a little better. They open their home and arrange “nights out” for all of us to enjoy. Some of them they do not even get to come to! I have counseled with each of them for homeschooling insight, leadership direction, and other things throughout the years. They are “gems” and deserve a Thank you. Thank you, Tony and Sharlavan.

Another couple is Mike and Peg Wright. Now, you should see these two work. Mike is the biggest fan of Peg, and his support of her and their family is inspirational. He does whatever it takes to make things work. He flips the burgers with the best of them at the picnic, and will always dole out a hug for anyone who needs one. Peg is a “can do” kind of gal. If you need it done, she will do it. She organizes all our reading programs, shops for parties, and is always there to set up and clean up. She is “Mrs. Natural”, and inspires our leadership to directions that some of us wouldn’t think of. She has lived, and experienced many different things, and frequently brings in fresh perspec-

tives. Thank you Mike and Peg.

Lastly, is my husband Fran. Fran is all about support. He watches the kids, cooks the dinners, makes the copies, puts a way tables, helps me to keep things in perspective and loves me through it all. He supports TCHE by helping organize the family picnic and taking care of things I let slip by. He also does any computer work that is beyond me, which is most of it. Thank you Fran.

There are many, many people who make TCHE what it is. I want to thank each and everyone of you who helped us have a great year this year. There are so many ways to be involved. Is God calling you to bless us with your talents for next year? There are many things that will need to be organized and run next year. Let me know how you would like to help.

I personally would like to THANK GOD for the Blessings he has placed on TCHE. We have the greatest homeschool families around. Thanks again to all of you, and if you happen to run into one of the above people, give ‘em a hug, and tell them thanks!

Blessings for a safe and joyful summer!

Sheri



What's New on the Web

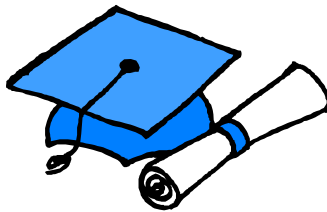
Come and see the launch of a new website geared towards families of preschoolers called Amazing Afternoons www.amazingafternoons.com . My goal with this website is to provide parents/grandparents a fun way to connect with their small children-ultimately strengthening families. Each weekly newsletter is based around a wonderful children's book-full of ideas and activities to do with a preschool child-all in an afternoon. Examples can be

found at www.amazingafternoons.com . As a previous early childhood teacher, I designed the activities to be creative, fun and educational. As a parent, I designed the activities to be user friendly, easy to get and do. As a past home-school mom, I know how hard it is to teach at home-especially with younger siblings around-so I know that this may be helpful to moms of preschoolers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Sue Dykstra at susied@amazingafternoons.com.

End of Year Promotions

Our Promotion Celebration will be Friday, June 1 at Parkview at 7:00 pm. Families will be given promotion certificates to hand out to each of their children. Parents will be given time to say a few words about their homeschool. It is a great time of sharing and fellowship. Cake and punch will be served afterward.

You will need to sign up for this event by Monday, May 14th. Please contact Laura Carlson at 815-498-4915 or tlamjeb7@cs.com. She needs to know the names and grade just completed for each child.



Here are some ideas on what you might want to include in your sharing time: How many years you have been homeschooling. Reflect on the successes and growth for each child. Reflect on your school year- the highlights, the struggles, the fun times... Each family will have approximately 3 - 5 minutes to speak.

If anyone would be willing to volunteer to help set up chairs or clean up afterwards, please let Laura know. Thank you.

May Couples Nite

Can you believe it, May is already here! Peg & Mike Wright will be hosting our final couples dinner at their home (22 Hawthorned Lane, Oswego, IL) on **May 5th**, aka Cinco de Mayo at 6:00 PM.

Please bring a Mexican dish to pass as it is el cinco de mayo. Please RSVP by calling Peg at 630-551-4647 by May 3rd. This one is shaping up as one not to miss!

