

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

Our Trip to the Volkening Farm

By Bethany Brabo

On September 15, 2005 we went to the Volkening Heritage Farm in Schaumburg. We did several things and here are some of them. There was a calf named Edwina who was just a couple weeks old. She was very cute, but had to be bottle fed because the workers were using her mother's milk. She liked to suck on our fingers. It didn't hurt because she did not have any top teeth, and her tongue was covering the bottom teeth. Her sucking felt like a vacuum!

Then we got to hand milk a cow. It was a challenge because the worker put some gel on the teats, which made them very slippery. After that, we went and saw the pigs. The mother, father, and piglets were all in separate pens. I got a little nervous when the baby piglets began squeezing under their fence and got into the papa's pen. However, it was okay because the father didn't seem to mind. Eventually, all the babies squeezed back into their own pen.

At the end, we picked apples and made apple cider. We then made our own pretzels. THEY WERE DELICIOUS! I had a very good time and am thankful for the opportunity to go.

By Evan and Ami Wise

Have you ever been to the year 1880? We have! We went to the Volkening Heritage Farm with the Co-op on September 15th. This farm is a museum of life from the 1880's. It's like walking back in time. The group did things like baking pretzels in an old fashioned wood stove, milking a cow and chopping wood with a sledge hammer and a wedge.

In the farmhouse, we each rolled a piece of dough and our guide showed us how to make pretzels. She warned us not to get too close to the huge stove which filled the room, since every inch of it was hot! She put the wood into one end and the



pretzels in another part to bake.

In the barn, we found a calf, and three cows. Our guide had us guess which cow was the mother of the calf. At first we were confused, but then we realized that her udder should be full of milk. We were right. We each got a chance to milk her. I was surprised that you could shoot the milk so far! It was like having a personal squirt gun.

In the yard, we learned that the 1880's farmer needed a lot of wood. Besides what they needed every day for cooking and other chores, a small barn had to be filled for the winter supply. We split a log by driving a wedge into it. It was harder than it looked and our muscles got tired before we finished. Even though we worked hard, the log would have to be split many more

times before the pieces would be the right size for the wood stove.

Doing the chores of an 1880's farm was hard work, interesting, and fun. We had a great time at the Heritage Farm and we recommend you take a trip there with your family and see it for yourselves.

by Mike Mattson

Last week we went on a farm field trip. My favorite part was milking the cow. I think it would have been fun. They had to do a lot of milking cows. They did laundry by using a big tub, they used water to rinse the laundry, and then they let the laundry dry outside. They used to make soap so that they could clean stuff. There was no cars or electricity for them to use.



From the Chair

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:2-3.

Every time I remember all our new and old faces at our first meeting in September I thank God. As the meeting began and more and more people trickled in, my heart swelled. All these families following God's call to be our children's

teachers. I smile as I think of the Muhr family teaching in the Jr. High years, or the Mattson's with all the little ones. Then there are all the new people answering the call for the first time. How I pray our support group will be there for each and every family as they answer the home school calling. Tri-County has humble beginnings some 18 or 20 years ago. Always led by one or more leadership couples and always seeking God's will for

the group. Even though the faces and names may change, we hope that every family that comes to Tri- County will find a group of loving, supporting, Christ centered people. Welcome to Everyone. It is my prayer that your year will be as none other. Put Christ first; continue on the journey, He knows the plans He has for you.

In Christ's Love, Sheri



The Cloverbud Sparks kids visited Farmer Jim's cattle farm in Yorkville. The kids enjoyed a hayride and were able to feed some of the cattle.

Meet Some of Your Leadership Members

Tony & Sharlavan Robinson

Hi, let us introduce ourselves, Tony and Sharlavan Robinson. We're excited about serving you this year on the leadership team. We have been homeschooling for 15 years. We have four children, Matthew 22, Melissa 19, Marc 11, and Mikaela 9. We are the coordinators over the Christmas party that will be Sat., Dec. 3, and the Co-op classes that are in full swing this 1st semester. We are also overseeing a new area, "Special Needs." TCHE wants to be able to minister to those families with

special needs children. We will also be coordinating the father/mother fellowships. If any of these areas of service are screaming at you to get on board give us a call 553-1815. Once again, we are excited about serving with you this year and our prayer is that the things done this year at TCHE may bring Honour and Glory to God. Col. 3:17

Tim & Laura Carlson

Tim and Laura Carlson have been mem-

bers of TCHE for five years. We have five children, two which have graduated, and three at home -11th, 9th, and 6th grades. We have been homeschooling for fifteen years. We have been involved in Crossroads homeschool basketball team for years.

Laura oversees the areas of Junior and Senior high fellowship group, graduation/promotion day, and field trips/parties. She is also the contact person for ICHE.

Library news...

By Beth Wilczewski

Did you know our homeschool library has many resources to help supplement your teaching? Plan to check some of them out at our next meeting. Here are just two of the many we have.

The Historical Devotion Series: This devotional series has a variety of 3-5 minute devotions on tape for kids about many historical figures in our country's history. For example, this week I listened to John Smith and Pocahontas. Each of these short devotions tells a little bit about the person and also brings in God's Word and an application for our lives. There is also a devotional



guide to go with it. They are divided into periods of history, so check out the time periods you need to supplement your history program.

Hero Tales, by Dave and Neta Jackson: With all the Narnia hype coming with the upcoming movie release of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, why not read about C.S. Lewis and find out why he wrote the series, The Chronicles of Narnia. In Hero Tales, C. S. Lewis's brief story of how he came to believe in Christ is told with some

other interesting tidbits of information about his life. Also, do you know who John Harper is? Interestingly, he was a very famous preacher in the 1900's. In 1912, he was invited by Moody Bible Church to come and preach. He booked a ticket for he and his 4 year old daughter to sail to Chicago on the ship, Lusitania, but at the last minute switched his tickets to the Titanic which sailed from London on April 10. Read about his tale and why he is described as the Titanic's last hero.

Also a reminder for those who checked out books from our Sept. meeting, please plan on returning those this meeting so others may also enjoy them. Thanks.

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Odds and ends...

➤ Scholastic and God's World Book Clubs: A reminder to bring your order forms and money to the Oct.6th meeting. If you are unable to be there you may send it to me by Oct 7th. The order will be placed on Oct. 8th and the books will be in at the Nov. meeting. Mail to: Beth Wilczewski , 11 Marlin Dr., Oswego, Il. 60543. If you have any questions please call 551-0951

➤ Please remember that all children are welcome at our meetings. Having said this, all meetings will not be of interest to children, so please bear this in mind when deciding whether or not to bring them. We will try to let you know when babysitting is available. All children must remain either in our room or the gym. Even older children may not wander around the school or sit in other rooms. Babysitting will be on a donation basis. I would encourage all who use it to be generous as we want to encourage our youth to be responsible and yet make it worth their while. Also remember, there is ABSOLUTLY NO eating or drinking in the gym.

➤ Remember our Art and Science Fair is around the corner.... Okay, not until March. However, you may want to start thinking about it now and incorporate it into your curriculum.

➤ October 20th is our mom's night out and it will be held at the Panera Bread in Oswego on Route 34. This will be our first mom's night out in a restaurant. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:30 p.m. for informal conversation and fellowship. Moms you won't have to bring a dish to pass; just bring yourselves and a some money for your dinner. Unfortunately, as much as your humble host (Diana) would love to buy you all dinner- I can't. But, please come and join in for the great conversation!

➤ Our first Dad's night out will be held in October. Pat Butler will be holding it and will email invitations soon. Watch for your invitation!

Field Trip Information

Field trip policies

Please note that for paid field trips, payment will be required upon sign-up. We will no longer take verbal sign-ups, with payment deadlines. It is simply too chaotic for the field trip coordinator to try and chase down payment on the due date. Instead, there will be field trip forms available in your newsletter or online. You

On-line field trip registration form

must make payment by the deadline or you will not be able to go. This may mean you have to pay for a field trip 30-60 days in advance. There will be no refunds unless a true family emergency (an injury or worse --you may make requests for refunds from the leadership who will decide if your situation merits refunds).

All checks should be made payable to Ruth Mattson unless communicated otherwise. If we do not receive minimum numbers by the deadline, Ruth will contact another home school group who are very eager to join us on our field trips.

Upcoming Field Trips

October-

Where: Yorkville Water Treatment Facility

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2005

Time: 1:00 PM.

The following people are signed up for October's field trip: Beatty, Brandau, Garrison, Krotz, Best, Carlson, Haag, Pfizenmeier, Bowman, Czerwien, Klaas, and Robinson.

We will meet at the Water Department shop at 610 Tower Lane in Yorkville at 12:50 p.m. Please do a Google map to get directions, or call the Yorkville City Hall. We need to cut down on the number of vehicles going on this trip, so please let Ruth Mattson know via e-mail (rmattson@invtools.com) what kind of vehicle you have and how many people you can accommodate a.s.a.p. If you see someone on this list whom you can share a ride with, please let me know that as well.

My goal is to cut down to 6 vehicles (or less). We will be caravanning with an employee of the water department to the actual water treatment facility. If you cannot attend this field trip, please let me know a.s.a.p. so that others who are on a waiting list can take your place.

Note: We already have the maximum number of individuals signed up for this event. If you still wish to attend, I may be able to set up a 2nd tour. Please contact me if you wish to be put on a list for this tour.

November- (for older students)

Where: The Billy Graham Center Archives at Wheaton College.

Date: November 1, 2005.

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM.

Description: See last month's newsletter for details on this field trip. Remember, the deadline is October 7th. Contact Ruth Mattson if you are interested.

Where: Fox Valley Publications

Date: November 18, 2005.

Time: 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM .

Description: This 45 minute tour is recommended for 1st grade through high school. We will have two tours — one for younger children at 1:00 p.m. and one for older students at 2:00 p.m. No children under the age of 6! No babies and no strollers. Some parents will act as chaperones, but if we have a large response we will want the maximum number of children to attend, so you may not be able to go in with your children. If you want to be a chaperone, sign up quickly so you can be counted in!

To sign up for this field trip, e-mail Ruth Mattson at rmattson@invtools.com,

or mail the form below by October 24. I will let you know by e-mail if you are confirmed for the field trip, and if you will be a chaperone. The limit on this field trip is 30 people, so sign up promptly so you do not miss out on a great field trip! Include the names and ages of your children, please.

January 2006

Where: Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Illinois.

Date: January 18, 2006.

Time: TBA.

Description: We are going to visit the historic Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, IL to see the FACE TO FACE PRODUCTIONS performance of Ben and Me. It's a celebration of Ben Franklin's 300th birthday! Ben and his pet mouse Amos sing their way through a musical production of Robert Lawson's delightful tale. What results is a fanciful, yet intriguing, portrait of one of America's founding fathers. Amos relates how their unusual partnership came to be, and how he became instrumental in Ben's many inventions and discoveries. Together they grow to understand the importance of freedom for a new nation revolting against British rule, and Ben is inspired to help write the Declaration of Independence.

This field trip is \$6.50 per person, including babies (you may want to get a babysitter for your tots!) Money for this field trip is due to Ruth Mattson in full by November 15, 2005. The contract and money will be mailed in after that, so please plan accordingly! You may sign up and pay her at the coop, or mail it to her home.

TCHE News

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