

SUPPLEMENTAL MHE OFFERINGS

BIBLE STUDY, HOMESCHOOLING LADIES

Coordinator: Tracie Bremner

FOR YOU, MOM!!! Every Tuesday morning through the school year Women Alive Ministries (WAM) at Prairie Lakes Church offers a community-wide ladies Bible study know as Tuesday Morning on the Corner. Their vision is to create an environment that allows women in the Cedar Valley to grow spiritually in community while providing quality age-appropriate childcare and home school programming for their children, infant through 5th grade. They do this through offering multiple study tracks that range from book studies, to character issues, to topics that are relevant to our heart. Studies vary in-length. The most recently added track "Living In-Between" is designed for the women whose season doesn't allow her to attend regularly, or maybe is unable commit to homework. Each week is a stand-alone DVD study by a Bible teacher and speaker followed by group discussion and interaction.

Our start date is Tuesday, September 9, 2008, from 9:15-11:15 a.m. with childcare opening at 8:50 a.m. We are located at the corner of Viking and Hudson Roads in Cedar Falls. At our initial meeting all the track options will be presented and you will have an opportunity to sign up for the one you wish to participate in.

Please note: There will be a homeschool fee each semester of \$50.00 per child with a \$80.00 per family cap. There is a 15-student minimum and 25-student maximum. Homeschoolers should sign up early, as this is a very popular activity. All other childcare, infant through pre-K, is by donation.

BLACK HAWK CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Coordinator: Sonya Thrall

Black Hawk Children's Theatre (BHCT) presents plays adapted from well-known works of young people's literature. We meet at the Center for the Arts at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the show. Plays last one hour with an optional questions and answer time to follow. Every person must purchase a ticket. Prices are \$10.00 each for parents; \$1.00 each for students. To order tickets, complete the Black Hawk Children's Theater Ticket Form and mail with payment to Tracy Noyes before August 4, 2008, or in person on August 4, 2008 at Bethany Bible Chapel between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Payment must be received August 4, 2008.

The following is a list of the 2008-09 BHCT season (as well as the description provided by BHCT), and dates for the school performances we will be attending.

Alexander Who's Not Not Not Not Not Not Going to Move - Tuesday, October 7 @ 11:30

Alexander is back, and he's angrier than ever. Based on the best-selling children's book by Judith Viorst, it follows the life of that lovable little boy who's faced with one of the biggest traumas possible. His family's moving; will he go or will he stay? Will he drive his parents crazy? You won't want to miss this wildly funny story.

Anne of Green Gables - Thursday, January 15 @ 11:30

A classic tale about the original feisty little girl, she starts out an orphan but weaves her way into the hearts of all. Don't miss this funny and heartwarming adaptation of one of the most beloved stories of all time.

The Velveteen Rabbit - Thursday, March 5 @ 11:30

Another timeless classic, Margery William's wonderful heartwarming tale, comes to the stage. It is about a boy and the toys that he loves so much. Everyone loves their toys, and these toys can love back in this wonderful, and just in time for Easter, tale.

Rumpelstiltskin - Thursday, April 23 @ 11:30

This is a world premiere adaptation of the Brother's Grimm classic fairy tale. This wonderful adventure will bring out the humor and the warmth in the story of the little man who can spin straw to gold and the Queen who makes an incredible deal with him.

BOOK CLUBS

Coordinator: Tracy Noyes

A packet of book club offers (Carnival, Scholastic, Trumpet, and God's World) will be available monthly at Friday Co-op. You may order from any book club by filling out the appropriate order form(s), writing one check for all payable to **Metro Home Educators (MHE)**, and returning your order to the BOOK ORDER hanging folder in the member box at the welcome table. **Please place your money and orders IN A SEALED ENVELOPE. NO LOOSE MONEY, PLEASE.** Extra envelopes can be found in the BOOK ORDER hanging folder. You will pick up your books two weeks after the order has been placed at the MHE welcome table. Every order earns MHE credits to purchase additional resources for the MHE library.

BOOK-IT / McDONALD'S

Coordinator: Jennifer Determan

“Book-It” is a six-month incentive reading program for children in grades K-6 sponsored by Pizza Hut. Students can earn a FREE personal pan pizza monthly. Parents choose reading materials, set goals, and monitor progress. Registration must be completed by contacting Pizza Hut at www.bookitprogram.com or by phone at 1-800-426-6548 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m. cst).

McDonald's offers a similar reading incentive where children who read ten books receive a Free Happy Meal. Pre-registration is again required. You may register by contacting Jennifer Determan as listed above.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Coordinator: Amy Lyon

Box Tops for Education is an easy way for you to help MHE by doing things you do every day. Through Box Tops you can earn cash for MHE by buying groceries, shopping online, or making purchases with a credit card. Best of all, MHE receives cash to use on whatever we need most -- up to \$60,000 each year!

Three Ways to Participate

Clip -- The Original Box Tops for Education. Clip Box Tops for Education coupons from hundreds of General Mills products throughout the grocery store. Just look for the Box Tops coupon so you know it's a participating brand. Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents when MHE redeems them -- up to \$20,000 per school year. Turn in your collected Box Tops to Amy Lyon at Friday Co-op (Box Tops Mailbox), or contact her by e-mail or phone if you have questions about the program.

Shop -- The Box Tops for Education Marketplace. Shop online at the Box Tops for Education Marketplace. Go to boxtops4education.com and make purchases at more than 200 quality online stores. Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase will be donated to MHE -- up to \$20,000 per school year. (See list of online stores on the web site.) Your "school" is Metro Home Educators, Cedar Falls, Iowa. (The location of MHE for this promotion is determined by the address of the coordinator.)

Charge - The Box Top for Education Visa™ Card. Charge with the Box Tops for Education Visa Card. There is no annual fee and a low APR. Use your Box Tops Visa Card at more than 20 million locations worldwide and a full 1% of your purchases will be donated to MHE - up to \$20,000 per school year.

COMMUNICATIONS HOTLINE

Coordinator: Adria Tyler

Messages sent over this system must contain information pertinent to homeschoolers associated with MHE. [NOTE: This is not a forum in which to chat or exchange information.] The Communications Hotline is a way to advise families of situations occurring within the community or among our families such as cancellations or postponements, opportunities for homeschoolers, legislative alerts, field trips, etc. It is beyond the intended scope of this system to cover a greater range of information. If there is a question whether a message reflects these guidelines, Joy will bring it before the board for a final decision. When requesting a message, please e-mail Adria Tyler at adriatyler@msn.com. Please format your information in the exact wording you want Adria to communicate. We will transmit hotline communications by e-mail notification. If you have any trouble receiving your messages, contact Adria. If your email changes at any time during the 2008-09 year, please advise Tracy Noyes, Registrar/Treasurer in order to update the directory and Co-op mailing lists. She will advise Adria of the change.

Please note: In the event of inclement weather, please check e-mail or the website within 1-1/2 hours of the event to ensure the event would be held as scheduled.

DIRECTORY

Coordinator: Tracy Noyes

The Directory provides a MHE membership listing, including names, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and children's birthdays. Inclusion of your family in the directory is optional, but all MHE members will receive the directory as part of their MHE membership. Directory information is not to be circulated outside of our group. You must be a current member of MHE to be listed in the directory. It is helpful, but not required, to include names of all children in your family, not just those currently being home educated. Please use the MHE Application Form 2008-09 to submit information for the directory.

Mass mailing with our directory for other purposes outside of Metro Home Educators' Board approval is prohibited.

FIELD TRIPS

Coordinator: Sheena Carnes

Organized field trips can provide great learning opportunities for our children. Field trip outings will be posted on the website, when possible in the mailboxes at Friday Co-op and, by email correspondence. Any input on field trips is welcome. Contact Sheena with your ideas and contact information. To avoid conflict in scheduling, contact Sheena before planning any field trip opportunities.

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT

The Grout Museum offers programs for homeschoolers. The workshops for 2008-09 are still under construction. A few workshops have been listed below as teasers to get you excited for the year ahead. When Grout sends us their final schedule, we will post on our website. Keep watching.

Wed., Oct. 22, 2008 – “Outreach to Space” from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Imaginarium

Wed., Feb. 25, 2009 – National Engineering Week with a ‘brand new engineering challenge’ from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Imaginarium

HOMESCHOOL HEROES 4-H CLUB

Leader: Paul Herring

The Homeschool Heroes 4-H Club usually meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Bible Church, 125 Orchard Drive, Cedar Falls. Your children will have opportunities to participate in a business meeting, stand up in front of the group to share, listen and learn from others, and get to know other homeschooled children. Children should be accompanied by at least one parent. No nursery for toddlers or preschoolers is provided, but they are welcome to come and sit with parents. To be a member, your

child must enroll in at least one project from the Iowa State Extension Service. The child may also enter finished work in the Black Hawk County Fair held in July, although fair participation is not required. 4-H is meant to be a cooperative effort of the whole family and of families working together.

Pre-registration is required using the Homeschool Heroes 4-H Club Registration Form. This form and fees are to be mailed to Paul Herring as indicated at the bottom of the form. **The deadline is September 1, 2008.**

The cost to join our club is made up of two fees: a club fee and a county fee. The club fee schedule is \$10 for the first child, \$5 for the second child with a \$15 family cap. The county fee is \$20 for each child 4th grade and above. (K-3rd grade children pay no county fee.) Scholarships to help cover the county fees are available from Black Hawk County Extension for those with special financial concerns. If you want to receive a scholarship, please indicate this on the "Scholarship Request" section of the "Homeschool Heroes 4-H Club Registration Form".

**Our first meeting will be Saturday, September 13th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
at Trinity Bible Church, 125 Orchard Drive, Cedar Falls.**

KALEIDOSCOPE CHILDREN'S SERIES

COST: \$1.00 / SEAT

GBPAC Contact: Molly Hackenmiller 273-3682

The Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center offers performances for homeschooling students and parents at \$1.00/seat. For more information, go to www.uni.edu/gbpac. Click Education/Outreach and then Kaleidoscope Series. These programs sell out quickly. Tickets are already on sell.

LIBRARY, MHE

Coordinator: Caroline Keiser

The MHE library provides books and resources for MHE members. Located at Valley Lutheran High School, library materials will be available for check out on a two-week basis in conjunction with Friday Co-op. The library does not assume responsibility for evaluating the content of every book. Subscription to the library is included in the MHE membership fee. Invest free time every Friday to check out the library. If you have suggestions on books/tapes you would like to see added to the library, contact Caroline. The library will be open at 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Friday Co-op dates.

MOMS NIGHT OUT (MNO)

Coordinator: Jackie Trainer

Mothers can enjoy Mom's Night Out -- a monthly get-together for moms. Each month Jackie will post the event, location, time and activity on the website and through email correspondence. Nursing babies are welcome. If you would like to host a Mom's Night Out, please contact Jackie.

NICHE

Box 158, Dexter, IA 50070

Voicemail: 1-800-723-0438

info@the-niche.org

The Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators (NICHE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of home educators in Iowa. The web site (www.the-niche.org) provides information about homeschooling in Iowa, including the legally defined options and choices available to home educators. It also recommends lesson plan forms to submit to the local school district. Each June, the group sponsors a curriculum fair and conference in Des Moines. A one-year membership is \$20.00 and includes a one-year (10 issues) subscription to *The NICHE Newsletter*. Send your request to: NICHE, Box 158, Dexter, IA 50050.

PROJECT FAIR / FINE ARTS NIGHT

Fall Coordinator: Amy Lyon

Spring Coordinator:

Fine Arts Coordinator: Sheena Carnes

All students are invited to participate in these fun-filled nights. Children (individually or as a family) may choose to submit art, science, or geography fair projects. Children will have an opportunity to make a short presentation at their ability level. This will be a chance to showcase their hard work and to see what others in the community are doing. Watch the website and information in mailboxes for more details on dates and locations.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Coordinator: Tracy Noyes

School pictures are scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2008, at Bethany Bible Chapel. Babies, toddlers, preschoolers and complete families are also welcome to have their pictures taken. Pictures will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will take school pictures in conjunction with MHE registration. If you require a specific time for your family photos, please contact Tracy to reserve. Your reserved time will be honored.

Andrea Roethler will be taking our pictures again this year. An order form can be found at the end of the handbook and on the website. Forms will be available on August 4. The best deal is to order the CD of your photos. All family members will be on one CD. You will receive a waiver allowing you to have your photos printed off at any photo lab. When using the lab, you will need to provide a copy of the waiver to the lab for their legal records. Walden and Wal-Mart have the same professional labs. If there is a problem with the print out, they will print again at no charge. Other labs in town don't have that same quality lab or the no-charge reprint option.

We will not be doing the Identification Cards this year. Although some stores indicated they would require homeschooler moms to have identification, these stores honored education discounts.

WEB SITE [weteachathome.com]

Coordinator: Kristi McCrary

The MHE website will be our most effective resource for families. This website will be up to date with current news and information regarding the activities and community opportunities for homeschoolers in the Cedar Valley. We do not necessarily endorse every opinion offered at these events. To post on our website, organizations and opportunities must meet educational or recreational focus and be of interest specifically to homeschool families.