



Summer 2014

# The Informer

a publication of the Indiana Association of Home Educators

**100+** *Whole-Hearted Books to Fight Back the Culture*

**IAHE REPORT:**  
Indiana Legislative Session 2014

Keeping Preschool  
*Simple*

*Wonderfully*  
**Chaotic**

# EARN COLLEGE CREDITS AT IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rachel Logsdon is a recent Ivy Tech graduate who earned a college degree while still in high school. Rachel spent her freshman year of high school as a traditional student; then she was homeschooled for a year. Upon entering her junior year, she was ready for a change. Rachel considered returning to the high school she had attended previously, but her mother suggested another option: Ivy Tech Community College dual credit courses. Dual credit allows students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Rachel met with advisors at Ivy Tech, who pointed her toward a general studies program that also satisfied the requirements for her to earn a high school diploma.

There are several ways your student can take advantage of the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school, just like Rachel did:

- Students still in high school can take Ivy Tech classes and earn college credit, just as Rachel did. This is especially useful for families looking for a solution for courses that may be hard to deliver in a homeschool setting, such as advanced math, foreign language, and lab-based science classes. Students save time and money, given Ivy Tech's low tuition cost compared to other colleges.
- High school students can even enroll in Ivy Tech classes online, doubling up on high school and college credit while taking classes at home or wherever they have Internet access.
- And as your student begins considering college options, take a close look at Ivy Tech. Our credits transfer to four-year schools, so your student can start at Ivy Tech, complete the first two years of college, and save money as well as time. In fact, in the last year alone, Indiana students who started at Ivy Tech and transferred their credits to a four-year school saved \$32 million on the cost of college tuition.

Rachel Logsdon is just one of the Ivy Tech students proving it is possible to get a college degree faster than ever before. Now it's your student's turn. Encourage him or her to call **888-IVY-LINE** (888-489-5463) or visit [IvyTech.edu/Homeschool](http://IvyTech.edu/Homeschool) today. We ensure that nothing stands in the way, regardless of how fast students want to move.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION COST

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE **\$3,860**

OTHER INDIANA PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND ONLINE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES **\$13,000**

All costs pertain to residents of Indiana; based on full school year (9 months) at 15 credits/semester. Tuition costs do not include books or fees. Book costs vary, but the average is \$500 per semester. Valid as of the Fall 2014 semester based on most recent available tuition rate.



[IvyTech.edu](http://IvyTech.edu)

## The Informer Core Values

- To be Christ-focused
- To be Indiana-focused
- To be encouraging
- To be a resource

## IAHE

The IAHE is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

Our primary functions are maintaining visibility as home educators with civil government leaders, influencing the legislative process, sponsoring seminars for parent education, and publishing.

The IAHE is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Sixteen regional representative couples are in direct contact with local support groups across the state.

Our major source of income is our annual convention. With the growth of the home education movement, both our needs and responsibilities continue to grow, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.

### Indiana Association of Home Educators

PO Box 217, Stilesville, IN 46180  
317-467-6244

Fax: 317-467-6246

iahe@iahe.net

[www.iahe.net](http://www.iahe.net)

Find us on Facebook.com/IAHEfb



### BOARD MEMBERS

Steve & Penny Taylor  
Phil & Debi Ketron  
Frank & Jackie Franks  
Mark & Tara Bentley  
Tom & Lisa Heady  
Dan & Shawn King

### MANAGING EDITOR

Tara Bentley  
informer@iahe.net

### DESIGN DIRECTOR

Amanda Runge  
design@iahe.net

### WRITING DIRECTOR

Tawnee Hinton  
writing@iahe.net

Copy Editors: Misty Amstadt  
Cassie Bottorff  
Michelle Hallett

### ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Mark Bentley  
advertising@iahe.net

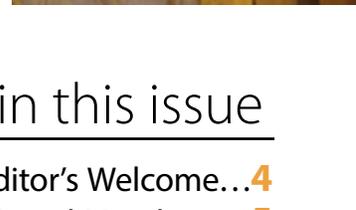
### COVER PHOTO

DepositPhotos.com:  
andresr #30392061

# Contents [Vol. 17, Issue 2]

## featured

- 8** { **2014 IAHE Convention Recap**  
Tawnee Hinton
- 12** { **100+ Whole Hearted Books  
to Fight Back the Culture**  
Jackie Franks
- 16** { **Today's IAHE**
- 18** { **Keeping Preschool in Perspective**  
Vicki Bentley
- 20** { **A Day in Our Wonderfully Chaotic Life**  
Shalynne Addison
- 22** { **Starting Preschool? Keep it Simple!**  
Rebecca Barnes
- 24** { **Legislative Update:  
IAHE Works on Behalf of Homeschoolers**  
Camille M. Cantwell
- 26** { **Building Connections:  
IAHE Legislative Day**  
Sandra Frazer



## in this issue

- Editor's Welcome...**4**  
IAHE State Map & New Board Members...**5**  
Meet Your New Regional Reps & Board Members...**6**  
Homeschool Time Out for Laughter...**21**  
Classifieds & Homeschool Business Ads...**30**

# Welcome

*a note from the editor*

## **The Informer Magazine**

*The Informer* is published quarterly by the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) to provide information, inspiration, and support to homeschool families. Subscriptions are FREE upon request. The mailing list for *The Informer* is never sold or rented.

The articles in this magazine reflect the freedom of home educators in Indiana to choose from a wide variety of homeschool philosophies and teaching methods. Opinions and attitudes expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Indiana Association of Home Educators. IAHE does not endorse or advocate any one method or philosophy. The Board encourages each home educator to seek God's will in determining what is best for him, his school, and his students.

## **ADVERTISING**

Advertising is available on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis. For ad information and rates, please download our Advertiser's Packet on our website or contact [advertising@iahe.net](mailto:advertising@iahe.net). We appreciate the advertisers who help us to bring this publication to you. Please let them know that you saw their advertisement. Publication of advertisements does not signify endorsement of items or services offered.

## **ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS**

Please see *The Informer's* Writer's Guidelines at [www.iahe.net](http://www.iahe.net) or contact [writing@iahe.net](mailto:writing@iahe.net).

## **COPYRIGHT**

© by the Indiana Association of Home Educators. Permission is needed to reprint any portion of the magazine, except where noted. Please contact us at [informer@iahe.net](mailto:informer@iahe.net).

## **SCRIPTURE VERSIONS**

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) and (NIV1984) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

In the process of planning this summer issue, new homeschool moms of young children were heavy on my heart. I have noticed an increase in homeschool moms visiting our IAHE Facebook pages and asking for recommendations for a preschool curriculum. I've watched as veteran homeschool moms have shared their experiences, and more importantly their encouragement to just keep it simple.

Preschool is a time to read. To play. To enjoy.

Our children grow up so quickly. In the world around us we see school institutions that implement structure and testing at ages younger than ever before. And families homeschooling for the first time feel the pressure to follow this trend instead of allowing their children to just be children.

For our summer issue we've pulled together some wonderful preschool articles and resources with these families in mind. If you know a family with young children, I encourage you to pass this issue along to someone this summer who might be considering homeschooling. I pray it will be a blessing to them!

As this issue goes to print, we're fresh from the 2014 IAHE Home Educators' Convention in Indianapolis. What joy it was to be with so many of you and your families! The convention is always a great way to connect with other homeschool families and to gather encouragement for another year.

We've also put together a report for you with information from the Indiana Legislative Session. The IAHE Legislative Committee kept very busy during this short session! We are blessed that the IAHE has a passionate group of volunteers who monitor potential threats to our homeschool freedom. I am personally grateful for the sacrifices that they make each year to dedicate their time and energy to fighting for us. If you would like to say thank you to our committee members, or if you would like to be more involved, send us an email at: [office@iahe.net](mailto:office@iahe.net).



## IAHE Regional Representative Map



# Meet Your NEWEST Board Members!

**TOM AND LISA HEADY** are completing their twentieth year of homeschooling this year. Tom is a Strategic Recruiting Liaison for Elanco in Greenfield. Lisa has a master's degree in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling. They love being involved in the music minstry in their church. Having been personally blessed and challenged by the experience of homeschooling, the Headys have treasured the time spent walking daily beside their children as they learn and grow together. They appreciate the opportunity to serve and encourage the homeschool community as board members. ■



### Regional Representatives

serve the homeschooling community throughout Indiana. Each representative is a veteran homeschooler who can help answer the questions of a family just starting out. They also communicate with local support groups in their region and keep them up to date on changes in the law and activities throughout the state.

You can contact your regional representative for information about spelling bees, sport clubs, book fairs, curriculum advice, workshops, standardized testing and convention information. They can also help you find a support group in your area, or if none is available, they'll help you start one.

#### Region 1

*Blair & Chelsea Todd*  
219-689-6091  
r1@iahe.net

#### Region 2

*Jason & Stacy Hanaway*  
260-350-0993  
r2@iahe.net

#### Region 3

*Jeff and Lori Bennett*  
765-461-8218  
r3@iahe.net

#### Region 4

*Pat & Kathy Balke*  
574-594-3815  
r4@iahe.net

#### Region 5

*Warren & Karen Whitesell*  
765-435-2206  
r5@iahe.net

#### Region 6

*Chris & Betty Broshears*  
317-501-9319  
r6@iahe.net

#### Region 7

*Shawn & Amy Canaday*  
317-773-3855  
r7@iahe.net

#### Region 8

*Bobby & Sherry Love*  
812-290-5686  
r8@iahe.net

#### Region 9

*Toby & Cindy Miller*  
812-442-0756  
r9@iahe.net

#### Region 10

*Greg & Kimberly Laskowski*  
812-508-9030  
r10@iahe.net

#### Region 11

*Dave & Eve Drew*  
812-631-1603  
r11@iahe.net

#### Region 12

*Jeff & Millie Leis*  
812-923-7807  
r12@iahe.net

#### Region 13

*Steve & Rebecca Barnes*  
765-857-2330  
r13@iahe.net

#### Region 14

*Paul & Pam Drook*  
317-855-7476  
r14@iahe.net

#### Region 15

*Jeff & Tammy Hierholzer*  
765-395-7137  
r15@iahe.net

#### Region 16

*Shawn & Theresa Slinkard*  
812-430-3115  
r16@iahe.net

# Meet Your **NEWEST** Board Members!

**DAN AND SHAWN KING** live in Clinton, Indiana with their four children and have been homeschooling for over twelve years. The Kings believe that the home is the best place to learn a love for God and the Bible and to nurture Godly character qualities in their children. Dan is the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. Shawn and the children are always close at hand, and the family stays tightly knit by serving, playing, and learning together as much as possible. Dan and Shawn have been actively involved in the homeschool community and are excited to take that a step further by serving on the board. ■



## New Reps for Region **14**

**Paul and Pam Drook**

---

Paul and Pam have been married for 26 years and have five children and three grandchildren. They have home-educated for the past nine years and live on the northeast side of Indianapolis. Their family is actively involved in ministry at College Park Church. Their desire is to glorify God through spiritual, scholastic, and social experiences. Paul teaches apologetics on the book of Genesis and Pam directs a Tapestry of Grace Co-op. Their aspiration is to empower families and help equip parents to confidently instruct their children with academic excellence and a biblical worldview by being a source of encouragement, support, and accountability. ■



## New Reps for Region **15**

**Jeff and Tammy Hierholzer**

---

Jeff and Tammy Hierholzer have been married for 33 years and are the blessed parents of seven children, four of which have graduated from home schooling. Jeff and Tammy have been home educators for 22 years and homeschool support group leaders for 14 years. They are hardworking business owners of Hierholzer Repair, and Jeff has been ministering at Somerset Christian Church with his family for 20 years. The Hierholzer family enjoys the blessing of sharing their home and farm with many individuals and hosting large group events. They are committed to God and their family, and look forward to encouraging and serving others as the Region 15 Reps for the IAHE. ■





# Investigate natural resources in an outdoor exploration at Minnetrista!

- Check out a Pond Discover Explorer Bag filled with observation tools and hands-on activities
- Discover insects and plants in natural spaces
- Observe wildlife in the Nature Area
- Visit the brand new Green Roof exhibit: Small Changes, Big Impact

## What will be your next Minnetrista adventure?

What will your next Minnetrista adventure be? Find out more ways your kids can learn and discover while having fun by calling 765.282.4848 or visit [www.minnetrista.net](http://www.minnetrista.net).



# *“I was personally refreshed and equipped”*

for the first time. Many of these families went on to attend the full convention and found that there were countless helpful exhibitors, workshops, and general session presentations to help new homeschooling families gain confidence and find resources to get them started on their homeschooling journey.

By Friday morning, the excitement and energy in the air were evident. Families were ready for a wonderful convention. It was amazing to feel the liveliness in the convention halls as homeschool families, veteran and new, scurried from workshop to workshop and exhibitor to exhibitor.

Heidi St. John, Andrew Pudewa, Israel Wayne, Peter Heck, and Bill Federer were among the speakers that the IAHE brought to convention families. Covering topics from “What About Socialization?” (Israel Wayne) to “A Busy Mom’s Guide to Romance” (Heidi St. John), the convention speakers had something for everyone. As an Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) user, veteran homeschooler, and convention attendee, Dawn Michael was thrilled to have the opportunity to hear Andrew Pudewa speak at the convention this year: “This year’s conference was fantastic! I especially enjoyed learning from Pudewa’s research about grammar. I also enjoyed his seminar on unique ways to keep boys engaged and interested in learning. At this conference, I was personally refreshed and equipped, and my calling to homeschool was clarified. I am more motivated than ever to stay the course.”

The exhibit hall was buzzing from open to close with authors, service providers, and supporters passionately sharing information about their

products, demonstrating their games, and eagerly discussing their products with booth visitors. There were even cheerleaders walking around recruiting for their homeschool cheerleading squad.

The excitement around many of the vendor booths was contagious. As crowds gathered around a booth, more people gathered to see what the fuss was about. Kids were playing math games, history games, and picking out stuffed monsters. They tried honey sticks and played brain games. And, of course, the freebies that were given away at each booth were a hit for the young and old alike. Who doesn’t like to walk away with a new bag full of goodies?

Exhibitors enjoyed the convention as much as the attendees. Sunny Muck of Classical Conversations said, “It’s enriching and encouraging to be in the midst of so many like-minded parents pursuing the education and character development for their children by making sacrifices for them and rearing them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

First-time convention attendee Amanda Yoshida said that she “liked being able to look through books before deciding to buy. And no shipping or free shipping was a nice bonus too. The variety of [workshop] topics available was a blessing; it was sometimes difficult to choose which one to attend.”

Many new families enjoyed the advantages of including grandparents in their family registration. With the addition of a Grandparent’s Track for 2014, the convention had no shortage



# VISIT BETHEL COLLEGE

*BethelCollege.edu/Visit*



- Tour campus
- Sit in on a class
- Meet with faculty and students
- Attend a vibrant chapel service

SCHEDULE  
YOUR  
VISIT NOW!

*BethelCollege.edu/Visit*



**BETHEL COLLEGE** is an accredited Christian college of the arts and sciences, affiliated with the Missionary Church. We offer more than 50 areas of study in arts and sciences, business and social sciences, education, nursing, religion and philosophy, as well as graduate, nontraditional and online programs. Bethel has more than 2,000 students from 25 denominational affiliations, 34 states and 19 countries. More than 10% of our students are home school graduates.



# "Join the conversation!"

[www.facebook.com/groups/IAHEchat/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/IAHEchat/)

of grandparents in attendance to support their families and to see what they could learn about being position models in their grandchild's homeschooling education.

The IAHE's 29th Annual Home Educator's Convention had something for everyone. Whether you were just considering homeschooling for the first time, or a veteran homeschooler with many years under your belt, the convention was a wonderful time of encouragement and refreshment for every family in attendance. ■



**TAWNEE HINTON** and her husband live with their four children in Central Indiana. Tawnee is a Support Manager for Classical Conversations and an officer in the US Navy Reserve. She has been a copy editor for The Informer for a year and blogs about her family's homeschooling adventures at [Adventures in Homeschooling](http://Adventures in Homeschooling). You can find it at [www.adventuresinhomeschooling.com](http://www.adventuresinhomeschooling.com).



**ZYREK CASTELINO** is the graphic designer at Verity Institute. Since 2007 he has been doing design work for Christian ministries.

## CONVENTION UPDATE

On April 28th, a tornado hit the home of the Tittle family of ReformationKids.com. Rob, father of the family, and Tori and Rebekah, two of their daughters have gone to be with the Lord. Their house was completely destroyed. We have been blessed to know the family as an exhibitor for the IAHE convention and we are holding them in our prayers in this difficult time. ■



**Shawn Joslin King**

Post little lines of wisdom or thoughts from 2014 Convention speakers that had an impact on you this year. Go!

Like • Comment • about an hour ago



**Israel Wayne** "Nothing that tastes THIS good could possibly be bad for you!"

-- Andrew Pudewa, joking around about coffee about an hour ago [Unlike](#) [👍 4](#)



**Israel Wayne** "If we are truly all about The Kingdom, we'll let go of a lot of petty stuff."

-- Jay St. John about an hour ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 6](#)



**Greg-Kimberly Laskowski** "White space is good. Create white spaces on your calendar." ~Heidi St. John

48 minutes ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 6](#)



**Theresa Hatfield Slinkard** "Know , love and serve God. Love and serve others." [Israel Wayne](#)

40 minutes ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 2](#)



**Krysten N Dave Moon** "God used to be the God of education. Now reading is the god of education. Why? Because it is testable. We can define good and bad, successful and failing... check yourself. Is your heart saying, "My pride is on the line! You have to read!" Fear cripples parents. Who is your God?"

~Andrew Pudewa 28 minutes ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 3](#)



**Debi Ketron** "The best way to maintain your homeschool freedom is to do a good job teaching in your home school." Senator Dennis Kruse

26 minutes ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 8](#)



**Tara Bentley** Wow!!! This is like a mini-convention in my newsfeed! LOVE IT!!!

12 minutes ago • [Unlike](#) • [👍 13](#)

# 100+ Whole-Hearted Books To Fight Back the Culture

—by Jackie Franks

Have you been searching for a great reading list of books for children? The kind of books that contain wholesome stories full of adventure that inspire a young heart to courageous living? I had fun creating this list of over 100 wonderful books that have been favorites for our own family.

We are all aware that there is a battle raging in our culture for the minds and hearts of our children, but how do we as parents prepare them to live in the world? How do we teach values and build character at home on a day-to-day basis to equip them for a lifetime? One of the best ways is to choose and read books that will champion and uphold what is noble, good, right, and true.

If you want even more book recommendations, be sure to check out Sarah Clarkson's *Read for the Heart: Whole Books for WholeHearted Families*. From timeless classics to modern favorites, from picture books to adventure novels to read-aloud favorites, Sarah's book contains more than 1,000 wonderful story recommendations for young people of all ages.

In her book Sarah Clarkson says, "The first thing a young heart needs is an education in all that is good. The classic children's stories are a persuasive picture of beauty and goodness. They create an inner world that is a secret world for children's souls, showing them through thrilling stories and stouthearted characters exactly what it means to be noble, good, and even holy.

"My parents... began with the great story of Scripture, filling my mind with the hero tales of the Bible. To this they added the innocent beauty of classic children's books, never underestimating the power of a good story to affirm and further illuminate the truths they were teaching me from Scripture. I was formed in my earliest childhood by an imagination filled with stories, Biblical and classic, that set my appetite for all that was righteous, true,

and lovely.

"Great literature also guides children through the second and harder wakening to an awareness of what is wrong. Insightful stories gradually confront children with the power of sin as it enters the tale of their lives and the stories they love. Characters like brave Lucy from *The Chronicles of Narnia* or David Balfour from *Kidnapped* who value what is beautiful and defend what is right will teach children that evil is something to resist and help them perceive the choice that must be made between right and wrong."

"Books can become powerful companions – teachers that will fan the flames of your child's heart and mind to life! Great stories, first in the Bible and then in classic literature can tune the inner workings of the heart from which, even in adulthood,



**“Books can become powerful companions”  
—S. Clarkson**

one will make decisions and form values.” ~S.Clarkson from *Read for the Heart: Whole Books for WholeHearted Families*.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The age designations for this list are only approximate. A child’s listening level will often be several grades higher than their personal reading level—it is OK to choose books from an older list if you’re planning on reading aloud to your children. I began reading aloud to our children from chapter books (such as Mr. Popper’s Penguins) before their third birthdays. Often I would take one at a time until they were hooked on wonderful stories and snuggling on the couch! Don’t underestimate your child’s ability to comprehend or listen to fairly advanced material.

What follows is a listing of just a few of the beloved books that we have read over the years. These are the books that our children will be reading to their own children some day.

**PRESCHOOL (READ-ALoud)**

- The Hat*, by Jan Brett (boardbook)
- Richard Scarry’s Best Word Book Ever*, by Richard Scarry (our favorite pre-reader ever)
- Good Night Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Runaway Bunny*, by Margaret Wise Brown
- Aesop’s Fables*, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle
- Storytime and the Millers*, by Mildred A. Martin
- The Complete Tales of Peter Rabbit*, by Beatrix Potter

**READ-ALoud / GRADE 1 (BEGINNING READING)**

- Bob Books, Set 1: Beginning Readers boxed set*, by Bobby Lynn Maslen (what we used in part to teach our children to read)
- The Little Engine That Could*, by Watty Piper
- The Little House*, by Virginia Lee Burton
- Wisdom and the Millers: Proverbs for Children*, by Mildred A. Martin (all the Miller Family series are excellent for many ages!!)
- Maybelle the Cable Car*, by Virginia Lee Burton
- Blaze and Thunderbolt*, a series by C.W. Anderson
- Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, by Virginia Lee Burton
- The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats
- Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina
- Amelia Bedelia*, a wonderful series by Peggy Parish
- Curious George*, by H.A. Rey

- Blueberries for Sal*, by Robert McCloskey
- Bread and Jam for Frances* (I Can Read Book 2), by Russell Hoban
- Loving One Another*, by Neta Jackson
- Frog and Toad All Year*, by Arnold Lobel
- Make Way for Ducklings*, by Robert McCloskey
- Story of Ferdinand*, by Munro Leaf
- Lentil*, by Robert McCloskey

**GRADE 2**

- Autumn with the Moodys* (5 book series is wonderful), by Sarah Maxwell
- Love You Forever*, by Robert Munsch
- The Boxcar Children*, by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- Mr. Popper’s Penguins*, by Richard and Florence Atwater
- Sarah, Plain and Tall*, by Patricia MacLachlan
- James Herriot’s Treasury for Children*, by James Herriot
- The Courage of Sarah Noble*, by Alice Dalgliesh
- Missionary Stories and the Millers*, by Mildred A. Martin
- Little House on the Prairie boxed set*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- The Velveteen Rabbit*, by Marjery Williams
- Town Mouse, Country Mouse*, by Jan Brett
- Winnie the Pooh*, by A. A. Milne
- Roxaboxen*, by Alice McLerran

**GRADE 3**

- Caddie Woodlawn*, by Carol Ryrie Brink
- Sarah Whitcher’s Story*, by Elizabeth Yates
- Thee, Hannah!*, by Marguerite De Angeli
- The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*, by Alice Dalgliesh
- Paul Bunyan and His Great Blue Ox*, by Wallace Wadsworth
- Dangerous Journey: The Story of Pilgrim’s Progress*, by Oliver Hunkin
- Pollyanna*, by Eleanor H. Porter
- Twig the Collie*, by Craig Massey
- The Borrowers*, by Mary Norton
- Mountain Born*, by Elizabeth Yates
- Stuart Little*, by E.B. White
- Story Times With Grandma*, by M.E. Yoder
- More Story Times With Grandma*, by M.E. Yoder

**GRADE 4**

- Brightly of the Grand Canyon*, Marguerite Henry
- Treasures of the Snow*, by Patricia St. John

photos: top- www.deepproostathome.com / background- sxc.hu- topfer

“One of the best ways  
is to choose and read  
books that will champion  
and uphold what is **NOBLE,  
GOOD,  
RIGHT  
& TRUE.**”

*Scout: The Secret of the Swamp*, by Piet Prins  
*A Little Princess*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Little Lord Fauntleroy*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Mary Jones and Her Bible (true story)*, by Mary Ropes  
*Shepherd of the Highlands*, by Lily A. Bear  
*Mama's Bank Account*, by Kathryn Forbes  
*Twenty-One Balloons*, by William Pene du Bois  
*The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame  
*Tell Me About Heaven*, by Randy Alcorn  
*The Yearling*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings



#### GRADE 5

*Run for Your Life*, by Betty Swinford  
*The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*The Swiss Family Robinson*, by Johann Wyss  
*My Side of the Mountain Trilogy (My Side of the Mountain / On the Far Side of the Mountain / Frightful's Mountain)*, by Jean Craighead George  
*The Bronze Bow*, Elizabeth George Speare  
*King of the Wind*, Marguerite Henry  
*Anne of Green Gables*, by L.M. Montgomery  
*Black Beauty*, by Anna Sewell  
*Cheaper by the Dozen*, by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr.  
*Gentle Ben*, by Walt Morey  
*Heidi*, by Johanna Spyri

*Johnny Tremain*, by Esther Forbes  
*Freddy The Detective*, by Walter R. Brooks  
*Old Yeller*, by Fred Gipson  
*Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe  
*Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls

#### GRADE 6

*The Door in the Wall*, by Marguerite De Angeli  
*Robin Hood: Children's Classic*, by Louis Rhead  
*Around the World in Eighty Days*, by Jules Verne  
*Paul Bunyan and His Great Blue Ox*, by Wallace Wadsworth  
*A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens  
*Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain  
*The Chronicles of Narnia*, (all 7 books in one) by C.S. Lewis  
*The Sign of the Beaver*, by Elizabeth George Speare  
*Encyclopedia Brown*, (older books of the series only), by Donald J. Sobol  
*Ester Ried's Awakening*, by Isabella Alden  
*Mr. Pipes and the British Hymn Makers*, (series of 4) by Douglas Bond  
*Amos Fortune, Free Man*, by Elizabeth Yates  
*Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott  
*The Yearling*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

#### GRADE 7

*Safely Home*, by Randy Alcorn  
*I, Juan de Pareja*, by Elizabeth Borton De Trevino  
*In His Steps*, by Charles M. Sheldon  
*The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day*, by Scott O'Dell  
*Dr. Oma: The Healing Wisdom of Countess Juliana von Stolberg*, by Ethel Herr  
*Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, by Jean Lee Latham  
*The Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan  
*The Prince and the Pauper*, by Mark Twain  
*I Dared to Call Him Father (true story)*, by Bilquis Sheikh  
*The Ocean of Truth (The Story of Sir Isaac Newton)*, by Joyce McPherson

#### GRADE 8

*David Copperfield*, by Charles Dickens  
*Oliver Twist*, by Charles Dickens

*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*, by Alfred Lansing  
*Whatever Happened To Penny Candy, (An Uncle Eric Book-indispensible to give understanding of how to think about money from an early age)*, by Richard J. Maybury  
*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank  
*Hittite Warrior*, by Joanne Williamson  
*The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom  
*The King's Shadow*, by Elizabeth Alder  
*A Piece of the Mountain (The Story of Blaise Pascal)*, by Joyce McPherson  
*Peace Child (Sharing the Gospel with Cannibals)*, by Don Richardson

### GRADE 9

*The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee  
*The Eagle of the Ninth*, by Rosemary Sutcliff  
*The Three Musketeers*, by Alexandre Dumas  
*Through Gates of Splendor*, by Elisabeth Elliot  
*Evidence Not Seen -the Jungles of World War II*, by Darlene Deibler Rose  
*Gulliver's Travels*, by Jonathan Swift  
*Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville  
*Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe

### GRADE 10 — THROUGH ADULT

*A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens  
*Ben Hur*, by Lew Wallace  
*The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexandre Dumas  
*Les Miserables, (Focus On the Family Radio Theatre Audio)*, by Victor Hugo (\*the book is extremely difficult, however, worth it! Possibly the best redemption story after the Bible.)  
*Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens  
*Hinds' Feet on High Places*, by Hannah Hurnard  
*The Robe*, by Lloyd C. Douglas  
*The Lords of the Earth: An Incredible but True Story from Papua's Jungle*, by Don Richardson  
*Nicholas and Alexandra*, by Robert K. Massie  
*The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis (almost better in audio)  
*Silas Marner*, by George Eliot ■



**JACKIE FRANKS** has been a wife to her husband and a teacher of her children in the home for 40 years. Now a new season has come, and with the blessing of her husband, she writes her blog as an encouragement to herself and others. (Titus 2: 3-5) *The habits of the home in one generation become the morals of society in the next. As William Ross Wallace said: "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world."*

Reprinted with permission. This post originally appeared on Jackie's blog at: [www.deeprootsathome.com](http://www.deeprootsathome.com). Photo credit: John-Paul Franks.

saves you  
time and  
money

flexible —  
work at your  
own pace with  
no meeting  
times

convenient —  
study when and  
where you want

# ONLINE DUAL CREDIT

from

## TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

120 courses  
available  
that will  
transfer

#1 baccalaureate  
college in the  
Midwest for six  
years running  
— U.S. News &  
World Report

165-year heritage  
of academic  
excellence

more information:

## ONLINE.TAYLOR.EDU

## Looking forward...

In 2013, the IAHE celebrated a significant milestone...our 30th Anniversary! We had a good time looking back and reminiscing about our history and the many wonderful things that we've accomplished together. We took the time to honor the founders of the IAHE and our previous board members. We are grateful for their years of service and their dedication to protecting homeschool freedom in Indiana.



If 2013 was focused on looking at our past, 2014 is all about looking forward. With a full Board of Directors and Regional Representatives, we are excited about TODAY's IAHE. Our team is passionate about home education. We are blessed to serve homeschool families in our local communities. We work vigilantly all year long to protect your right to homeschool.

We are looking forward to serving Indiana homeschool families for the next thirty years.



Indiana Association  
Six Board of Director Couples | Sixte

## Working for you across

# ENCOURAGE, PRO



photos: zyreka castelino

of Home Educators  
Ten Regional Representative Couples

across the state of Indiana...

**PROTECT, AND SERVE.**



# Keeping Preschool in Perspective

—by Vicki Bentley

I didn't go to kindergarten, nor did I have the benefit of a preschool program, yet I might be perceived by some to be a well-adjusted, academically adequate, productive person. As recently as twenty years ago, kindergarten was a half-day program in most areas, with an emphasis on school readiness. If there was an afternoon component (usually to save bus mileage in rural areas), it consisted of nap time, snack time, and play-based learning. Preschool was optional, primarily for those “of means,” and met usually a few half-days a week.

Fast-forward to today: Lowered compulsory attendance ages in some states and the common use of standardized testing for even the youngest children are among the catalysts for increased academic expectations for the pre-kindergarten child. Renee and Mike Mosiman, authors of *The Smarter Preschooler: Unlocking Your Child's Intellectual Potential* (2009, Brighter Insights Press), found that “in some cities, the competition to get into the best preschool is so fierce that admission requirements include testing, interviews, and stellar recommendations.” (Reminds me of the selective college admission process!)

The Mosimans continue, “Some parents even pay thousands of dollars for preschool consultants to help their child get a coveted spot. For some preschools, long waiting lists are not uncommon.” (Mosiman, pp. 2-3) These waiting lists include a considerable number of children who are yet to be born, with parents anxious to get their children on the fast track to the best schools!

Lest you think the Mosimans eschew early learning, let me assure you that they “believe it is your responsibility as a parent to unlock your preschooler's intellectual potential,” but they “urge you to create an intellectually stimulating environment, not an intellectually demanding one.” (Mosiman, p. 3)

In this sort of environment, described in detail in their book, parents aren't as concerned with racing to the next milestone as they are cultivating their child's talents, strengthening his or her weaknesses, and providing experiences—“hooks” on which to “hang” their future learning.

Five foundational abilities fostered in the preschool years release the child's learning ability: independence, order, self-control, concentration, and service. In *Mommy, Teach Me!*, Montessori-teacher-turned-homeschool-mom (of twelve) Barbara Curtis shares activities, tips, and techniques to help your preschooler develop these abilities and thrive at home.

In 2010, Mary Kay Smith, editor of *The Virginia Home Educator*, shared a comforting and freeing perspective on preschool in her fall editorial.

In our house it is clear that all men are not created equal. In fact, the self-evident truths suggest very strongly otherwise. This was driven home to my youngest daughter and me as we watched her physics professor lecture on computer memory. We like the professor a great deal and have learned a lot in this course, but it is quite obvious that his mind and our minds are nowhere near equal.

Recently we listened in awe as he discussed flip-flop semiconductor memory and explained his logical NOR gate circuit chart. But we just couldn't help it. As he went over the chart—and rapidly over our heads—the two of us looked at the diagram and discussed how we'd color it in.

We won't be applying for a science scholarship.

Your children aren't equal either. That realization might make you panic a bit at first, but in the end it should be liberating. There are two things about your preschool children I'd like to say clearly: The first is that it is important to give your children the freedom to be the people God made them to be. Yes, you need to expose them to every subject, but, just as you can't—and shouldn't want or expect to—turn willow trees into oaks, you can't force your artistic children to become mathematical geniuses (or the other way around).

The second thing is that we're dealing with preschool here. You don't have to start with all the information your children will ever need to know in life. It is important to remember that "pre" means "before."

Preschool children are not in school yet. This is the time to play with your kids, read to them, take them on field trips, and teach them skills at home. You don't need a curriculum in order to teach colors—go for walks in your garden and point them out. You don't need a curriculum in order to teach counting—take your kids grocery shopping and count the items in your cart. You don't need a curriculum in order to teach measuring—bake cookies together. You don't need a curriculum in order to teach matching—sort socks from the clean laundry. You don't need a curriculum in order to teach shapes—hunt for shapes through the rooms in your house.

What you need instead is a guide—ideas for activities, resources, and skills that will help prepare your children for kindergarten. After all, one of the wonderful benefits of homeschooling is flexibility and the chance to tailor your program to your own children. So relax and just enjoy your kids. You can be assured that they are going to pick up the skills they need. Remember that these skills are like potty training: by the time your children get to college, no one will care how old they were when they mastered them! ■

*This article is adapted from the February 2011 Early Years newsletter at [www.hslda.org/earlyyears](http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears).*

*Mary Kay Smith has homeschooled her three children from preschool to college. She is the editor of *The Virginia Home Educator*, and she writes and directs educational and biblical children's programs locally and internationally. This excerpt appeared as the Letter from the Editor in the Fall 2010 issue of *The Virginia Home Educator*, [www.heav.org](http://www.heav.org). Used with permission.*



**VICKI BENTLEY** is the mother of eight daughters, foster mom of over fifty, and grandma to nineteen wonderful grandbabies (and great-grandma to one!). Vicki has homeschooled 17 children alongside her husband Jim, and led a local support group of over 250 families for 14 years. She has served on the executive board and convention committee of the Home Educators Association of Virginia and has addressed state and national conventions, university teacher organizations, and many mothers' groups. She is the author of *My Homeschool Planner*, *Everyday Cooking*, *The Everyday Family Chore System*, *Home Education 101: A Mentoring Program for New Homeschoolers*, *High School 101: Blueprint for Success*, and other homeschool and homemaking helps, and coordinates Home School Legal Defense Association's Early Years program (Homeschooling Toddlers to Tweens) as well as their Group Services. Vicki has a heart for parents—especially moms—with practical wisdom and encouraging words.

**"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." —III John 4 (KJV)**

**"You Can Homeschool thru the Early Years!"**

(article and brochure)

<http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears/YouCanIntro.asp>

**The Virginia Home Educator, Preschool Edition, Vol 16, Issue 4**

[www.heav.org/resources/home-educator/preschool.html](http://www.heav.org/resources/home-educator/preschool.html)

**The Smarter Preschooler: Unlocking Your Child's Intellectual Potential by Renee and Mike Mosiman**

[www.amazon.com/Smarter-Preschooler-Unlocking-Intellectual-Potential/dp/0981642659/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1297435797&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Smarter-Preschooler-Unlocking-Intellectual-Potential/dp/0981642659/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1297435797&sr=8-1)

**Preschool Resources**

[www.hslda.org/earlyyears/PreschoolResources.asp](http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears/PreschoolResources.asp)

**"What to Do with Your Preschooler" by Vicki Bentley**

[www.hslda.org/earlyyears/Preschooler.asp](http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears/Preschooler.asp)

**Mommy, Teach Me!**

by Barbara Curtis

<http://store.nexternal.com/hslda/mommy-teach-me-p49.aspx>

**Slow and Steady, Get Me Ready**

by June Oberlander

<http://store.nexternal.com/hslda/slow-and-steady-get-me-ready-p25c1.aspx?Thread=True>

**"What Your Preschooler Really Needs" by Susan Lemons**

<http://www.crosswalk.com/homeschool/11541408/>

**What Your Child Needs to Know When by Robin Sampson**

<http://store.nexternal.com/hslda/what-your-child-needs-to-know-when-p69.aspx>



## A Day in Our Wonderfully Chaotic Life

—by Shalynne Addison

There are so many different types of schedules and routines for homeschooling families that it can be overwhelming trying to find one that fits. When we first started schooling, I assumed we needed to “do school” like I did when I attended public school. However, time and multiple children have changed my ideas on that. At our house, it seems like no one day is ever exactly like the last one! We currently have an eleven month old, a four year old, and an eight year old. Here is a little peek into a typical day at our house:

I have at least one or two wake-ups at night with the baby, and then my day starts around seven when my four year old awakens and comes to my room. I’ll be honest...I’m not a morning person, so we take our time getting up. I get breakfast on the table and after threatening to give his bacon to the baby, my eight-year old rolls out of bed. He is not a morning person either. My husband usually arrives home somewhere between us waking up and lunch. He works the night shift, so he eats, chats, and then heads off to bed.

After that, I get the kids started on their schoolwork. We often will do piano first thing since my husband is still awake and won’t be bothered by it. Otherwise, we start off with language arts, phonics, and our weekly reading with books from the library. While they start working, I try to get started on the dishes, laundry, and other chores. I stay close by so I can help as needed but still get some things done. If it’s a fussy day, the baby rides along in the baby carrier. If not, he usually busies himself with his toy basket or toddles around behind me. When the kids finish up, the baby is ready to nurse again, so we settle into the living room for read-aloud time.

After reading, we then delve into our other subjects. My oldest is a kinesthetic learner and enjoys doing activities that require movement and action, so I try to incorporate that into our day. Periodic stretching or jumping-jack breaks are great for busy guys like him! We also play a lot of games and do hands-on activities.

# “Embrace it!”

History is one of his favorite subjects, and I let him pick out library books weekly to go along with what topic we’re studying. He also loves using our dry erase boards (we have several in different sizes) for writing out math problems, practicing his handwriting, and of course, for drawing. For math, I also let him use manipulatives, money, or dice to go along with his math worksheets.

One thing that has worked really well for us - and that I highly recommend for others with little ones - is our “busy box.” It’s a crate I have made just for my preschooler that’s chock full of busy bags, which are different little preschool and early elementary activities in individual bags or boxes. Some examples are: beads to string on pipe cleaners, color matching cards, number and letter wheels with clothespins, an “I Spy” bottle, and an egg carton bead sort, to name a few. I try to rotate things around in it so she’s not always doing the same ones. It’s been a lifesaver for when I’m doing one-on-one time with my son and need to keep her entertained. (And it doesn’t hurt that most of the things in it are educational!)

Getting back to our day, we stop for lunch. Afterwards, I let the kids take a break and play with their LeapPad or my Kindle on which I’ve added educational games and apps. The baby nurses and naps, and I attempt to get the four-year old to nap. During that time, my oldest son and I work on any other projects or schoolwork and have one-on-one time.

After naps, it’s the end of our formal “school day.” That’s not the end of the learning, though, as I consider life skills a big part of education. The kids have time to play until we need to start dinner. They help entertain the baby while I do dinner prep and sometimes help me make it, load the dishwasher, change out loads in the washer & dryer, and other things. After dinner, we send Daddy off to work, then start baths and prepare for bedtime. The kids and I read a devotional and then I put them to bed individually. I shoot for my own bedtime around eleven...but that often depends on the littlest one!

So that’s our day in the life. Life can be crazy though, so some days our routine is thrown out the window – like if I’ve been up all night with a teething baby, if somebody is sick, or if we have appointments, etc. The great thing about homeschooling, though, is that we have the freedom and the time to do that. I advise you

not to try to fit yourself into someone else’s schedule– find what works for you and your family, even if it’s not exactly traditional. Embrace it!

## Recommended Resources

### **Ultimate Guide to Preschool Busy Bags - Walking by the Way**

[www.walkingbytheway.com/blog/ultimate-guide-preschool-busy-bags/](http://www.walkingbytheway.com/blog/ultimate-guide-preschool-busy-bags/)

### **Educational Kindle Apps - Wonderfully Chaotic**

[www.wonderfullychaotic.com/2014/02/educational-kindle-apps.html](http://www.wonderfullychaotic.com/2014/02/educational-kindle-apps.html)

### **Keeping Your Toddler Occupied During School Time, Confessions of a Homeschooler**

<http://www.confessionsofahomeschooler.com/blog/2011/09/keeping-your-toddler-occupied-during-school-time.html>

### **How to Homeschool with a Baby or Toddler (& Enjoy It!), Simple Homeschool**

[www.simplehomeschool.net/how-to-homeschool-with-a-baby-or-toddler-enjoy-it/](http://www.simplehomeschool.net/how-to-homeschool-with-a-baby-or-toddler-enjoy-it/)

### **Age Appropriate Chores for Kids, The Happy Housewife**

<http://thehappyhousewife.com/home-management/age-appropriate-chores-for-kids-printable/>



**SHALYNNE ADDISON** lives with her husband and three children in the cornfields of west central Indiana. They have been homeschooling for four years. She is a blogger and studying to be a doula. On her blog, she writes not only about homeschooling but also about marriage, geekery, birth, babies, and more. You can find it at [WonderfullyChaotic.com](http://WonderfullyChaotic.com).

## HOMESCHOOL TIME OUT FOR LAUGHTER

FAMILY MAN | todd wilson



A night at the Homeschool Mother Awards.

### A.B. Parker Family Guest House

10 minutes from the Creation Museum  
5 Bedrooms, sleeps up to 18  
Fully equipped kitchen  
Free Wi-Fi

[www.ABParkerHouse.com](http://www.ABParkerHouse.com)  
513.227.7877

# Starting Preschool? Keep It



—by Rebecca Barnes

As I look back over my early years of homeschooling, I remember being totally shocked by how easy it could be versus how difficult I had made it (in my own mind, that is). When I thought of preschool, I thought of workbooks and craft projects. I had even anticipated my first child being some prodigy reader and just taking off. Little did I know that preschool is not about numbers and letters but about overall development and recognizing a child’s readiness to learn. After reading some books and magazines, and then attending a few workshops at the IAHE convention, I was armed and ready.

The first thing you should know is that preschool is not necessary. Your child can be a very successful student without doing preschool worksheets or curricula. God created the little mind of a child to learn no matter what he or she is doing. As long as a child is actively playing and conversing, he is learning. Give your child lots of “raw” materials to facilitate that learning: building blocks, Legos, Play-doh, cars, materials to make roads for cars, etc. Don’t think such play is irrelevant to learning! It is an outlet for creativity, which can solve

a multitude of problems as he gets older. Never squelch creativity.

A BIG creativity killer is the television. Consider placing strict limits on what I call “tech” time. Tech time includes TV, handheld games, video game consoles, and computers—all of which can be useful for teaching, but too much time can have the opposite effect. For my family, when the kids were young they were only allowed a half hour to watch something on TV, and then another half hour of playing something on the computer. Of course this

was adjusted occasionally, especially when someone was sick, but the idea is that the child is using her brain—not amusing it.

Other than just good old-fashioned play, some other things you can do to prepare your kiddos for formal learning are:

Read, read, read! If they are able to listen long enough, start reading chapter books to them. If they are fidgety, let them draw or play with Legos or Play-doh while you read. Start with fun classics such as Little House on the Prairie or The Chronicles of Narnia. Reading to them develops listening skills as well as a host of other cognitive functions that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

Play games. A child learns to take turns as well as any skill a game has to offer. I tend toward “thinking” games. There are a plethora of games for the preschool age; look for those that teach thinking skills rather than games that are just silly. Preschoolers really don’t need any help with silliness—they are natural experts.

Illustration: amanda runge/photo: sxchu-ywwei



photo: sxc.hu ~ hortongrou

Practice fine motor skills. Anything that increases awareness of what their fingers are doing will help greatly in their readiness for writing. Get some lacing cards, or make some of your own. Get a tub and put rice in it and put pennies or other small objects in the rice. Have the child find them and place them in a bowl. Practice pouring—pour water, pour rice, pour sugar. Practice cutting. Draw some straight and wavy lines on a piece of paper and have your child cut them out. Praise the effort, even if they are nowhere close to the line. As time goes on, that will improve. Cutting is hard for little hands.

Teach shapes and colors. There are all sorts of preschool workbooks out there, but you can easily make your own. Play a game of drawing a shape—let’s say a square—and the child can trace it or cut it out and then go around the house to find as many different things as possible which are that shape. You can do the same with colors—teaching primary colors first. Do all kinds of sorting games to teach color or shapes. Get a package of foam shapes that are in primary colors and you can have them sort by color or shape. Mix it up.

Workbooks and curricula for preschool ages are wonderful resources, but don’t feel like you have to do everything in the book. You know your child better than anyone else! When my first child turned four, we began doing some workbooks. I found out rather early on that she was not ready. I spent many a day frustrating us both by trying to stick to the books. My last child started kindergarten level work at the age of four because she was ready. So don’t get frustrated! Go back to the fun side and test the waters again in six months. You’ll know when they’re ready.

Exercise! This one is so important. I’m sure you know how much energy a preschooler has. Set up an obstacle course where there

is lots of jumping, climbing, and running. All these help get out energy but also help develop a habit of daily exercise and practice for those large motor skills. I have been known to make my kids run laps around the outside of the house when the energy level is too high.

Rest! Believe it or not, the preschool age child still needs ten to twelve hours of sleep each day. Some may have outgrown naptime. If so, adjust bedtime to compensate. A sleepy kid can seem more hyper or just plain irritable, and neither is easy to deal with. Put them to bed early and let them wake up on their own as much as possible.

There are lots of books out there to help you with your preschoolers, so I encourage you to pick up a couple and glean from them what will work for your family. That’s the beauty of homeschooling: you go at the pace that the child needs and are not forced into a predetermined mold. Preschool is a delightful time of discovery—enjoy it! ■



**REBECCA BARNES** has been homeschooling her four daughters for 15 years. She and her husband, Steve, are Region 13 Reps and are active in their local church as well. She has had a wide variety of experiences in homeschooling ranging from the gifted to the average to special needs child—that learned very differently. She loves the closeness that homeschooling brings to the family.

**ENCORE**  
ORCHESTRAL STRINGS

Encore exists so that the process of choosing an instrument is relaxed, enjoyable, and fun.

We invite you to visit the store and experience Encore for yourself.

View all of the fine instruments from “The Studio” at:  
[www.encoreorchestral.com/studio](http://www.encoreorchestral.com/studio)

5282 E 65th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
[www.encoreorchestral.com](http://www.encoreorchestral.com)  
317.577.3434 • 1.800.974.4713

# IAHE

*Works on Behalf of Indiana*

## HOMESCHOOLERS



—by *Camille M. Cantwell*

The Indiana General Assembly (IGA) met from January until mid-March in what is known as the “short session,” but it was by no means a slow legislative session for the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) Legislative Team. Legislative Director, Debi Ketron, along with a team of volunteers, worked many long hours reading bills and amendments, testifying at public hearings, and negotiating changes to legislation on behalf of Indiana homeschoolers. Outlined below are some of the highlights of the 2014 session.<sup>1</sup>

One of the most visible legislative actions that many homeschoolers followed this session was House Joint Resolution (HJR) 3, the marriage amendment. The process to amend the State Constitution requires approval by two separately-elected legislatures in order for the amendment to be placed on the ballot for ratification by the electorate. However, both the Senate and House approved the removal of language regarding civil unions. This action delayed putting the question of defining marriage on a statewide referendum in November. With a recent lawsuit filed in Federal Court, it appears that this question may now be in the hands of unelected judges instead of the people of the state.

The IAHE legislative team stayed busy tracking bills potentially affecting homeschooling. Senate Bill (SB) 353,

introduced by Senator Allen Paul of Richmond, would have created an interim legislative study committee to review and study the economic vitality of communities, including “home school oversight.” Senators Dennis Kruse of Auburn and Greg Walker of Columbus worked with the IAHE to improve the language of the bill. Senator Paul listened to our appeal to exclude homeschools from the study, set the bill aside, and introduced a Senate Resolution without the homeschool language included.

### COMMON CORE AND DATA BILLS

While the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) does not directly affect homeschool families at this time, homeschoolers have taken an interest in this issue because of its potential to directly or indirectly impact them, their curriculum choices, and high school students who take

college entrance exams. In 2013, the Indiana General Assembly passed a bill putting Common Core on hold until further studies ensued.

During the 2014 session, SB 91, a bill to repeal Common Core in Indiana and replace it with Indiana standards, was introduced by Senator Scott Schneider of Indianapolis. This bill was amended in the Senate and House with questions remaining about its impact in removing CCSS. At the end of the legislative session, Senator Scott Schneider removed his name from SB 91 when it became evident that the bill was only symbolic since the federal ‘No Child Left Behind’ waiver requirement remained in the bill. Meanwhile, the State Board of Education continues to work on Indiana standards. On March 24, 2014 Governor Michael Pence signed the bill into

law. Early indications suggest that the jury is still out on whether the new Indiana standards will significantly depart from Common Core standards or simply be a re-write with a few twists.

Three data collection bills were considered this session as well. SB 277, concerning data protection, had died in the Senate earlier in the session. Later, it was resurrected by its author, Senator Pete Miller, when it was added to House Bill (HB) 1204. Senator Miller worked with IAHE to remove homeschools from being included as an “agency” requiring the transfer of student-identifying data under certain circumstances. IAHE is grateful that Senator Miller responded positively to our request; however, the SB 277 language was removed from HB 1204 in Conference Committee. HB 1320, also known as the “backpack” bill, would have required the Department of Education to establish a statewide student record repository, but it never passed the House and therefore died before it reached the Senate.

Finally, Rep. Steven Braun of Zionsville worked with the IAHE legislative team to amend HB 1003 to remove high school homeschools from being named in the bill. Senator Mike Delph of Carmel assisted IAHE with our amendment, and Senator Jim Smith of Charlestown introduced it. The bill would have allowed homeschoolers to submit educational, workforce, and other data to the Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK), the new name for the Indiana workforce intelligence system. By narrowing the scope of the bill, IAHE is working to keep homeschoolers from becoming a part of the data collection and storage of student-identifying information currently in place for public school students. Since homeschoolers are considered nonpublic schools, receiving no public money, we believe our data should not be collected and stored in statewide databases. The IAHE places a high value on privacy rights and will continue to resist any attempts by the State to include us in these bills. IAHE will monitor future legislative sessions and work to keep homeschoolers from being included in any data collection bills.

### MISCELLANEOUS BILLS

Two bills affecting high school athletics programs also passed this session. HB 1290, required information to be disseminated about the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest and originally included homeschoolers, but was amended in the Senate to remove homeschools. SB 222 made some changes to the law regarding a coaches training and liability in respect to players’ concussions in high school interscholastic athletic events. Homeschool co-ops who offer interscholastic athletic events may want to investigate further to determine if these changes will affect them.

Early education and kindergarten were other topics taken up in this session. SB 275, a mandatory full-day kindergarten bill, would have required a student to enroll in a full-day kindergarten program, starting in the 2014-15 school year, if the student was at least five years of age on August 1. Fortunately, this bill died in the Senate without a hearing. HB 1004, passed by the Legislature, provides a pilot program to allow vouchers for early education. The bill also creates a Pre-K and early learning study commission, as well as a longitudinal study of the students in the pilot program to determine achievement levels in kindergarten and beyond.

### ADOPT-A-LEGISLATOR PROGRAM

The increase in proposed legislation that seeks to include homeschool families highlights why we need to stay involved in the legislative process. One way to get involved is to participate in the IAHE Adopt-A-Legislator Program. This program “is an organized way for a homeschool family to focus on building a relationship with their own legislator to further the IAHE’s mission of maintaining visibility with civil government leaders. It is

a unique way for a legislator to learn more about home education in Indiana.”<sup>2</sup> To sign-up for the Adopt-A-Legislator Program, families must sign up for a free account and log into the private side of the IAHE website.

While the 2014 Legislative session may be over, the work of IAHE’s legislative team is not. Maintaining our homeschool rights and freedoms in Indiana takes hard work and a team effort. Whether a bill reader or a visible spokesperson, our volunteers allow IAHE to be the voice for homeschool freedoms in Indiana and keep an eye on legislation that would exert more state control over homeschoolers. We encourage every homeschooler to pray for, stay informed, and be involved in our civil government.

1. At the time The Informer went to print, all the bills mentioned in this article that passed the Legislature were signed into law by Governor Pence.

2. [www.iahe.net/adopt-legislator](http://www.iahe.net/adopt-legislator) ■

*“Maintaining our homeschool rights and freedoms in Indiana takes hard work and a team effort.”*



**CAMILLE M. CANTWELL** is a member of the IAHE legislative team. She has a degree in journalism and political science and worked for the Wisconsin State Assembly and Governor Tommy Thompson until 1989. She received her law degree at Regent University in Virginia and was admitted to practice law in Indiana in 1993. Her license is currently on “inactive” status. She and her husband David homeschool their two high school-age sons, Nathaniel and Joshua.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

## IAHE LEGISLATIVE DAY

—by Sandra Frazer

“We live in one of the best states in the country for homeschooling, so it would be easy to take that for granted. If our family can help protect those freedoms, we want to play a part.” These words, spoken by Heather Ruble, a home educating parent who participated in Legislative Day at the Indiana Statehouse with her two daughters, highlight the importance of familiarizing state officials with home education.

On February 25, elected officials from across the state of Indiana mingled with home educators at the Legislative Day sponsored by the Indiana Association of Home Educators. Interaction between state officials and home educators is vital to maintaining families’ rights to educate their children at home with minimal regulation.

Indiana’s one hundred representatives and fifty senators, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of education, treasurer, auditor, and other officials were invited to stop by a reception in the north atrium to meet with home educators and their families, view homeschool displays, and enjoy dessert. Groups such as the Rejoice Speech and Debate Club, the Lions football team, 4-H, homeschool co-ops, competitive robotics, Bright

Lights girls club, and TeenPact displayed some of the many opportunities home education offers. Individual families showcased Chinese cultural studies, volunteerism, and even played music during the lunch hour.

Governor Mike Pence proclaimed the week of February 23 “Indiana Home Education Week” coinciding with Legislative Day. A highlight of the day was when Governor Pence stopped by to express his support. Betty Broshears experienced his kindness firsthand: “Governor Pence was so humble to have his picture taken with our kids that came to represent our homeschool co-op, Greenwood Home Educators. Even when asked for a retake, when my son blinked for the picture, he obliged. He even joked with my son, holding my son’s eyes open for the next picture. We ended up getting a

really nice picture that the kids will always remember.”

Heather Ruble shared that the impact of Legislative Day went far beyond just the dessert reception saying, “My favorite part of Legislative Day happened long after the reception ended. Two members of the Statehouse maintenance staff were breaking down the tables, so I asked our kids to help them stack chairs. One of the men came over and said, ‘Every time [homeschoolers] come here, a kid helps me with something. I always notice that about you guys.’ It really blessed me that he didn’t need to be invited to the reception to see that homeschoolers are a part of something special.”

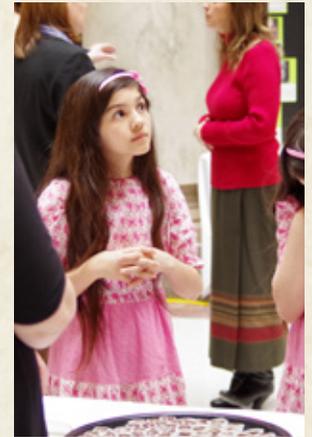
Thank you to all the participants, musicians, teen ambassadors, photographers, confectioners, and servers who donated their time to stand with the Indiana Association of Home Educators to preserve home education rights in Indiana. ■



**SANDRA FRAZER** works with the IAHE Legislative Team, representing home educators and working to protect homeschooling rights in Indiana. Sandra holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Business Administration from Indiana University. She and her husband reside in Morgantown and have three daughters, all currently attending college or graduate school.



Heather Ruble with daughters Julia and Grace, Governor Pence, and Russell and William Broshears with mother, Betty.



photos: governor pic: sandra frazer; top, bottom & top left: Anna Montgomery; remaining pictures: janesa potter / dearborn county

# Thank You!

## To Our Convention Sponsors

**Ohio Christian University** for sponsoring the lanyards  
**Grace College** for sponsoring the Crew 4:12 program polo shirts

**Verity Institute, Grace College, and Athanasius College** for judging the Essay Contest  
**Institute for Excellence in Writing** for sponsoring (\$100) the Grand Champion Essay Contest Winner

**A+ Tutor Soft** for sponsoring all first (8) place winners (\$80) in the P.E.A. Contests  
**See the Light** for sponsoring all three Reserve Champions (\$75) in the P.E.A. Contests

## 2014 P.E.A. CONTEST WINNERS

2014 IAHE P.E.A. Contest



### ART CONTEST

CHAMPION: Thomas Gruenloh  
RESERVE CHAMPION: Ethan MacKinnon

#### K-3RD GRADE

1st: Ethan MacKinnon  
2nd: Madeline Vida  
3rd: Joy Bannister

#### 4-7TH GRADE

1st: Joshua MacKinnon  
2nd: Rachael Hallett

#### 8-12TH GRADE

1st: Thomas Gruenloh  
2nd: Ezekiel Fredrickson  
3rd: Emma Todd

#### ADULT

1st: Cindy Miller  
2nd: Joshua Denton

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CHAMPION: Mariah Burger  
RESERVE CHAMPION: Rachael Hallett

#### 4-7TH GRADE

1st: Mariah Burger  
2nd: Rachael Hallett  
3rd: Grace Kimmerling

#### ADULT

1st: Cindy Miller  
2nd: Joshua Denton

### ESSAY CONTEST

2-5TH GRADE  
1st: Autumn Davids

6-8TH GRADE  
1st: Cullen Fervida

9-12TH GRADE  
1st: Olivia Waycaster

## TEACH YOUR CHILD TO PLAY PIANO

with

# PIXIE PIANIST

The book that helps you teach music to your child  
creative \* easy \* thorough \* fun



*I CAN PLAY! THANKS, MOM!*

go to [pixiepianist.com](http://pixiepianist.com)



you  
don't  
believe

## the real world waits for graduation.

So students at Anderson University begin reaching out into the world as soon as they step on campus. From a workday in the city during new-student orientation to an internship at the Flagship Enterprise Center, AU students work to build meaningful relationships, gain practical experience, and share the love of God through service. Come discover AU!



Anderson, Indiana • 800.428.6414

[www.anderson.edu](http://www.anderson.edu)



# HOMESCHOOLER TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL HISTORY BEE



On Tuesday, March 25, 2014, thirty-nine fourth thru eighth grade students from all over the state participated in the Indianapolis Regional Finals for the National History Bee. Out of these students, Thomas Wegmann finished in the top ten, and has advanced to the National History Bee competition in Atlanta, GA in June.

Thomas is the son of Lynn and Elizabeth Wegmann. The Wegmanns are members of the Fort Wayne Area Home School, (FWAHS). This year, FWAHS had the privilege of sending Thomas Wegmann, Christiana Salomon, and Wyatt Hanaway to the Regional Finals.

In order to qualify for the Regional Finals, students must first compete in the Area Competition. Only the top students in each area advance. This competition is comprised of three preliminary rounds. Contestants received points for each correct answer in each round. Once the three rounds are finished, the scores are tallied. The three top elementary students and the top ten junior high students then qualify for The National History Bee Competition. Those top students then compete for the Regional Championship in a competition held that evening in front of all their peers, family, and friends.

The National History Bee is a family friendly history competition that allows students to "show off" all their knowledge of American and World History. These students spend numerous hours studying and practicing for this competition. So if you have a student who has a love of history like Thomas, you might want to give The National History Bee a try!

## Congratulations Thomas and Good Luck at Nationals!

# CLASSIFIEDS & HOMESCHOOL BUSINESS ADS

Advertise in *The Informer*! Promote your homeschool family-owned business, place a classified ad, or advertise a ministry, service or educational opportunity that is directly related to home education. Contact [advertising@iahe.net](mailto:advertising@iahe.net) for details and rates.

## TIPTON BOOK SALE

June 3rd, 2014 / Noon to 4 P.M.  
 Tipton 4-H Building, 1200 S. Main Street  
 70+ tables, free admission and workshops, snack bar. \$5 table.  
 Patricia Shuck [TiptonBookSale@aol.com](mailto:TiptonBookSale@aol.com) or (765) 513-8545

## INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Discover how The Indianapolis Public Library can supplement your classroom activities with print resources and digital programs for all ages.  
 Visit [www.indypl.org](http://www.indypl.org) or call 317-275-4222.

## NEW TRIBES BIBLE INSTITUTE

Where Bible Education and Missions are One.  
 Come for missions or direction in life.  
 2 year Associate program; Credits transfer; very affordable; Grace oriented; Michigan and Wisconsin locations.  
[www.ntbi.org](http://www.ntbi.org)

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Bring the 2014 IAHE Home Educators' Convention to your home.



<http://store.resoundingvoice.com>

# INDIANA CAVERNS

GO FOR THE FUN OF IT!

One of America's Longest Caves & Full of Family Fun!

- Waterfall
- Underground Boat Ride
- Ice Age Bones
- Gemstone & Fossil Panning

### \$2 OFF

Per Adult/ \$1 OFF Per Child Up to 4 people.  
Only one coupon valid per family or group. Not valid with other discount or on major holiday weekends. IAHE

[INDIANACAVERNS.COM](http://INDIANACAVERNS.COM) Corydon, IN

SEILER • SCHIMMEL • BECHSTEIN • BRODMANN • CASIO DIGITAL • HADDORFF • PRAMBERGER • SHIGERU KAWAI • SAMICK • WM. KNABE I • YAMAHA

## Piano Solutions

[www.pianosolutions.net](http://www.pianosolutions.net)  
 INDIANA'S LARGEST SELECTION!

<p>Music/Methods</p>	<p>Piano Moving</p>	<p>Performances</p>
<p>Piano Sales</p>	<p>Tuning / Restoration</p>	

**Over 250 Pianos in Stock!**  
 Priced from -

- New Grands...5,988
- New Consoles...2,188
- Used Grands ...2,688
- Used Starter Pianos...588
- Digital Pianos...488

Piano Solutions, Inc.  
 575 W. Carmel Dr.  
 Carmel, IN 46032 **(317) 582-1946**

• CLAVINOVA • KAWAI • DISKLAVIER

# LIFE TOGETHER: Family Ideas

—by The King Family

## Dad's Direction

*"Help Them Reach Their Destination"*

I was driving down a two-lane, somewhat busy road just the other day when I noticed the traffic slow down and come to a complete stop. Since I was in a hurry, I began to complain and wonder what was taking so long. As I looked out the window, I noticed a small turtle crossing the road. As expected, he was taking his sweet ole time. After a few moments, the man in the front car stepped out of his car, picked up the turtle, and carried him across the road to his destination. This just seems like a silly story, but it has some very real truths for us homeschool fathers.

I began to realize that the turtle was slowly heading to a certain destination. It knew where it was going and was slowly making progress getting there. Our children are much like this turtle. They are heading towards a destination. The homeschooling journey always has a certain course and direction. Many times the progress to get to the destination is very slow. Sometimes we fathers get impatient and wish they would just speed up. I realized that day that maybe instead I need to slow down. Maybe I need to stop and let them cross the road at their own pace and be patient with them. Sometimes, I might just need to get out of the car, pick them up, and help carry them to their destination. I believe our spouses and children would be extremely pleased if we helped carry the turtles occasionally.

I share this story and my thoughts not to scold homeschool dads but rather to encourage us. We need to be turtle carriers. Let's slow down, be patient, enjoy the journey, and help our children reach the destination.



## Kids' Korner

### Bible Mystery Books

Do you like to crack cases?

Do you like having to hunt for the answers to mysteries?

Do you enjoy finding new things in the Bible?

Then this book is for you! The Scripture Sleuth by Mathew Halverson is a series of books written for just about every age group. (Don't tell our mom but we've caught her reading it too.) It is full of short mysteries with clues that take you to a passage in the Bible for the answer. If you really cannot crack the case, then there are answers at the back of the book.

We think you'll really enjoy these books!

Here is a riddle to crack that isn't in the book...

Where is the first mention of baseball in the Bible?

In the beginning. (Big inning. Get it?)

NOTE: We weren't paid anything to recommend these books to you. We just love them! Parents, there isn't any scary stuff in these books. You can find more information at [www.scripturesleuth.com](http://www.scripturesleuth.com).

## Mom's Morsel

### Local Homeschool Lending Libraries

Homeschooling is both a large investment of your time and finances. I often offer advice on how to homeschool on very tight purse strings and one of my first suggestions is to see if a local homeschool group has a lending library.

A homeschool lending library is simply a collection of homeschool materials that have been donated and collected by a local group. The materials are shared amongst the group's members and sometimes outside of the group. Books can usually be borrowed for up to one year but each group sets its own guidelines and recordkeeping methods.

Can your homeschool group be a blessing to others by setting up a lending library?

NOTE: Use caution in the types of materials that you allow in the library. The materials offered should align with your group's mission statement. Copyright laws will not allow some curriculums to be stored/borrowed in your library. ■

**The Kings** are a homeschooling family of six in Vermillion County. Dan is the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clinton, and Shawn operates a home-based business. The Kings have four children: Danny (16), Abbie (14), Noah (12), and Emily (10). The Kings serve on the IAHE board.

Encourage • Protect • Serve • Since 1983

Family "God bless you this year"  
 "thank you for all you do to serve the homeschooling community. we are blessed by your hard work and dedication."  
 "we are excited about attending this event again next year"  
 "wonderful Spirit-led fun speakers!"  
 "thank you for all you do. you are affecting generations to come. never underestimate the far-reaching effects of your sacrifice."  
 "the best way to maintain your homeschool freedom is to do a good job teaching in your home school"  
 -senator dennis kruse  
 workshops legislative updates  
 regional representatives  
 "great job! really encouraged me. great vendor selection. so good to be here!"  
 indiana association of home educators  
 29th annual exhibitors education  
 iahe home educators' convention  
 "know, love, serve God. love and let go of a lot of petty stuff." -Jay St. John  
 "thank you IAHE! ever year i am encouraged and uplifted at each convention. i go back home refreshed. this is my 16th year home educating. memories when i started and each year since the conventions have always blessed me. you have provided speakers that have spoken to me where i was. i thank you for your time and commitment"  
 "God used to be the God of education now reading is the god of education. why? because it is testable. we can define good and bad, successful and failing... check yourself. is your heart saying, "my pride is on the line! You have to read!" fear cripples parents. who is your God?"  
 -andrew pudewa  
 non-profit

**"Thank You!"**  
**2014**  
**IAHE Home Educators' Convention!**

