

# The Eclectic Report

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301  
1.701.662.NDHS (6347) [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
Facebook at: [North Dakota Home School Association](http://North Dakota Home School Association)

Volume 4 Issue 5 Editor: Gail M. Biby [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com) May 2014



Greetings!

The calendar says that Spring is here, so I'm going to go with that! The weather on the other hand is less spring-like. My window-sill garden is leaning toward the sun and I have been seen looking to the east and imagining how the big garden will look when planted. Sigh.

This month's TER has more on **CCSS**; the red box below the list of upcoming CCSS meetings is actually written for *Education Week* which leans far in the opposite direction to my beliefs. Looks like diverse groups are opposed. Also, I have included an item from [www.parentalrights.org](http://www.parentalrights.org) on **national databases** (which I have been following since the 2009 legislative session).

Be sure to read **Theresa's article** then pause briefly and thank God for the current homeschool freedoms we enjoy.

I've included an article by **Hal and Melanie Young** our 2015 convention speakers to help you get acquainted with them. The potpourri has information on ipad homeschooling, learning styles, poetry, gifts and the **Bible Bee**.

The article on **socialization** may be of interest, although *really* who ever uses that lame argument anymore?

The school year is coming to an end, summer is just around the corner, and we look forward to gardening, fresh produce, bonfires and s'mores, bird watching, swimming, our monthly church picnics at the Blessed Life Ranch, and time to be outdoors. We are blessed to live in this land at this time in history.

Count your blessings; we'll be counting ours!  
Gail



## The View from my Window By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Jeff and I had the awesome privilege of traveling to Oakes on April 12 to be part of a panel discussion on the early days of homeschooling in North Dakota. Also on the panel were Turk and Ann Nelson and Naomi Bucholtz. We had never officially met the Nelsons, but knew their name and when we saw them recognized them from many years of convention attendance. It was an amazing experience to visit together about the early days and many of the events. One of us would say, "Were you at...?" and the reply would be, "Yes," or "Do you remember...?" "Of course, we were there." Maybe that is why there is such a kinship among *the old timers*; it is the kinship born out of shared struggles.

As I prepared a few notes I went back to 1989 when homeschooling first became legal in N.D. This is what part of that law looked like: Parental qualifications were (1) be a certified teacher or (2) take and pass a national teacher's exam or (3) have a high school diploma or GED **AND** be monitored by a N.D. certified teacher of 2 years. Notice having a bachelor's degree was not good enough to qualify back then. Other points were: the statement of intent had to be filed **30 days** before you began to homeschool; you could only take classes or do extracurricular activities at a **public** school (not a private school) and standardized testing was given **annually**. All of this came with a sunset clause.

We have come a long way and all by the grace of God. As each of you wrap up the school year, take a minute as a family and thank the Lord for His providence, protection and provision concerning homeschooling in our state. Is our law perfect? No. Should we continue to move forward toward more educational freedom? Absolutely, but let's not forget to be thankful to the Lord and all those who sacrificed to bring us to the place we are at today.

*To God be the glory!*

## COMMON CORE

Notice location!  
**Bismarck** meeting is at the **Ramada** Inn not the Ramkota as previously stated.



JOIN US for a special presentation by Dr. Duke Pesta exposing the truth about the **Common Core State Standards** and the ongoing struggle to roll back its implementation.

**Bismarck, N.D.:** **Common Core: Dangers & Threats to American Liberty & Education**

**May 8** – Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – Ramada Inn, 1400 E. Interchange Ave., Bismarck, ND 58301

**Fargo, N.D.:** **Common Core: Dangers & Threats to American Liberty & Education**

**May 9** – Friday – 7:00 p.m. – Kelly Inn, 3800 Main Ave., Fargo, ND 58102

**Eureka, S.D.:** **Common Core Dangers & Threats to American Liberty & Education**

**May 10** – Saturday – 2:00 p.m. – Eureka High School Gym, 706 9<sup>th</sup> St., Eureka, SD 57347

Admission is free for all meetings; seating limited. For more info contact: [thestahls@bmi.net](mailto:thestahls@bmi.net)

(Sponsored by *Stop Common Core in ND.*)

### Resistance to Common Core Mounts

Critics of the standards for English/language arts and mathematics span the political spectrum, from tea-party members to union leaders.

(*Education Week*)

• **Special Report: Common Core in Action**

## Family FUN Days

**June 20-22, 2014**

Sponsored by the Wendell and Beth Sip family. Contact them at: [wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)

## National Student Database; Gates Foundation; and inBloom

Michael Ramey, Director of Communications & Research  
[www.parentalrights.org](http://www.parentalrights.org) April 29, 2014

### Concerned Parents Victorious Over National Student Database

In an [article last Monday](#), the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) announced the demise of the inBloom software firm as a result of parental opposition to its national student database. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, inBloom is the company that planned to manage and store personal data on public school students from across the nation.

At its height in 2012, inBloom boasted that nine states were ready to participate in the service, either through statewide efforts or localized pilot programs. Pushed by Common Core and Race to the Top, that number promised to grow. But as word got out, including through articles on [our site](#) and that of our [allies at HSLDA](#), parents became involved. And those parents were overwhelmingly opposed to the plan.

The WSJ report quotes Leanie Haimson, mother of a former New York City public school student, who said, "Hopefully, today's announcement that inBloom is closing its doors will make government officials, corporations, and foundations more aware that **parental concerns cannot be ignored.**"

We agree wholeheartedly.

It has long been recognized in our country that parents are the best defenders of a child's privacy and other rights. The Supreme Court more than 40 years ago held that "[t]his primary role of parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition," (*Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 1972). But in recent years, **educational elites and deep-pocketed special interest groups have been working to undermine this principle.**

InBloom, coupled with the Race to the Top-funded Common Core State Standards Initiative, was only the latest effort to delete parents from the education equation. But with the database failed and the Common Core gasping for life in several states, there may be more than hope for victory in the fight against nationalized education.

**Let's celebrate this victory of active citizens and parents who made a difference in protecting children by preserving their own decision-making rights!**

We also recognize that, like Common Core in certain states, inBloom could simply return under a different name. Given the track record of Common Core proponents, another covert effort to monitor students and mine their data for an advertising edge is not only possible but likely. So, like you, we will not be taking our eye off the ball. We will celebrate this victory with caution.

#### Action Item

Victories like the fall of inBloom demonstrate that concerned parents will respond to the threats when they arise. But even greater is our potential to **preserve parental rights before the danger is imminent.** There is no better way to accomplish this than by passing the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In the last 3 weeks, two new cosponsors – Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-1) and Rep. Lou Barletta (PA-11) – have added their support for the PRA. The full list of 74 cosponsors is available at [4pra.us/house](http://4pra.us/house).

If your congressman is on the list, please **send them a note of thanks** via email. (You can find their email address or web form link by clicking on your state at [parentalrights.org/states](http://parentalrights.org/states).)

If your congressman is not on the list, please call them today and **ask them to become a cosponsor of HJRes 50, the Parental Rights Amendment.** Tell them the case of Justina Pelletier in Massachusetts proves parental rights are not protected as they should be. And the fall of inBloom demonstrates that **standing against parents in America is never a wise business decision.**

Thank you for taking the time today to stand for parental rights, as you have stood throughout recent months to bring down this attempt at a national student database. Congratulations on this wonderful victory!

## POTPOURRI

### [The Power of Gifts – By Diana Waring](#)

"Just as we take the time to learn the features and benefits of our most prized electronic appliances, so we must take the time to learn as much as we can about the unique ways our children are wired, put together, designed." Read more:  
TOS.May.2012.ThePowerofGifts.DianaWaring[1]

### [Bible Bee: The Secret is Out!](#)

Searching classical sites, reviewing unit studies or choosing from many for an eclectic approach to build your 2014 school year? Try the new, unique curriculum for your whole family designed for the Bible Bee. It requires just 20 minutes a day! [Read more >>](#)

*From Pas. Jeff Hoverson on the Bible Bee in N.D.*

Spread the Word - Bible Bee registration is still open for ages 7-12.

This year there will not be a required local "oral" round for memory. The quizzing will be mostly written from studying a selected book of the Bible. The oral rounds are done in the home. You will still get the *family devotions folder* when you sign up which is worth it alone, even if you don't end up entering. You may also take it online if the locations are too far for you. There are more N.D. locations along with ours at Minot. The nationals are in Florida next fall. We may still have an ORAL local round in Minot if there is interest. Go to: [Bible Bee 2014](#) to sign up or call me if you have any questions at 701.340.8237 (c)

### [Mastering Communication through Poetry Contest](#)

Poetry is an excellent means for expressing deep emotions, which your children have, though they may not always know how best to share them. Take advantage of April as National Poetry Month by encouraging your children to communicate creatively and with excellence! Need ideas? The themes for this year's annual Poetry Contest (open till June 1) integrate poetry and music appreciation. [Check out the HSLDA Store](#) for great poetry resources. [Contest guidelines and entry form >>](#)

### [Home School Heartbeat: The Why and How of Learning Styles](#)

Is your child an auditory, kinesthetic, or visual learner? Discover your child's learning style! This week on *Home School Heartbeat*, host Mike Smith offers some helpful tips on finding appropriate curriculum and teaching methods to best accommodate your child's homeschool. [Read more >>](#)

### [Using the iPad for Homeschooling](#)

Sarah Dugger

Homeschooling with an iPad opens many doors. Educational games, e-reader tools, and videos are popular in my house!

[Read the full article here](#)

From next year's convention speakers Hal and Melanie Young

## Raising Real Men

[Hal & Melanie Young, RaisingRealMen.com](#)

Yeah, definitely, the "H" in homeschooling is for humor, because if you don't laugh you'll cry. Like the time you fling open the door of the family van in front of strangers and "The Excretory System" song blares out of the speakers. Or the time the nice lady in the store asks your son if he likes homeschooling and he says, "Sure! We don't have to do anything!" Please say you've been there, too.

Then there was the day we were reading our guys a book about France. "That must be Omaha Beach! You know, like D-Day," he said, pointing to a photo of sunbathers at a beach. "Why, honey?" He looked shocked, "Just look at all the dead people!" No, we hadn't been to the beach in a long time.

Have you ever noticed how they hate to do school unless you suggest the family take a day to clean house? If you try to take a spring-cleaning day, you'll be met with the biggest guilt trip you've ever seen, "But, don't you care if I ever get into college? I don't think this is a responsible thing to do. I have schoolwork to do! Don't you care?" Um, yeah. More than you usually do, son.

Then there are the funny times you feel brilliant. One year when the first day of school rolled around, we made quite a big deal about giving each child their books and telling them some of what they'd be learning that year. Our toddler got more and more antsy and when we got to the end said, "So, what I gonna learn this year?" The light bulb went on and Melanie said, "You could learn to go potty! We have rewards for that!" He was potty-trained two days later. No, our kids aren't competitive at all.

And do the characters in your life get even weirder when they find out how much your children love to learn? Like the orthodontist that gives your child a lecture about the chemistry behind the molds they make and then sends him home with a bucket full of the glop? Or the wag of an oral surgeon who grabs the nurse's arm during the procedure and says, "Nurse, nurse, look at this! Are those his brains?" You should have seen that kid's face!

It's a pretty strange life alright--and pretty wonderful! Keep laughing and take notes. We tell our kids they're going to make a fortune off of their autobiographies. They'll have more outrageous stories than the guy who wrote *Cheaper by the Dozen*. We're sure of it.

## Big Changes Coming with Redesigned SAT Test!

From Lee Binz, the HomeScholar

Big changes are coming. I hate change! Do you sigh every time you are faced with a software update? With each change, I'm sure it will be the last time I will ever be able to figure out my electronic device. Each change has a learning curve, and I'm never sure if it's worth the effort.

And now this. Another change to the SAT. Essay optional. No penalties for wrong answers. Mental math. Computer-based. Free test prep. What does it all mean? Think of this like "updating your operating system." It's a change, you can't avoid it, so you just need to deal with it. Learn about the change and how to use it as best you can. And then hope it's not a dud of an operating system!

Read "[How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the SAT](#)"

From an *Eclectic* reader.

Hello Gail,

I always look forward to the *Eclectic Report*. Thank you for your continued contribution to the homeschooling community. I do have several items you may wish to add to your list of "home school accomplishments". The first: the North Dakota State Geography Bee winner this year was a member of the Bismarck/Mandan Area Home Educators support group. Eighth grader Erik Johnson, son of Chris and Bonnie Johnson of Bismarck, took first place and will represent N.D. at the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C. in May. Secondly, the **Bismarck/Mandan Home School Middle School Science Olympiad team took 1st place** at the BSC Regional tournament on March 27th. Also on March 27th, the **Red River Valley Home School Middle School team** from the Grand Forks area took **1st place at the Valley City Regional competition**. Both teams will advance to the state competition on April 26th.

Thanks, Gail. Blessings to you and your family.  
Nancy L.

Let me know how these participants did!

## Homeschooling and Socialization from Crosswalk.com

*What about socialization? Don't homeschoolers miss out on socialization?*

I hear that question so many times. Many times it comes from a parent considering homeschooling who has had to field that question over and over again; other times it comes from those who just don't understand homeschooling at all. But ask any homeschooler and they will tell you the same thing: it is a misconception to think that your child will not get the socialization he or she needs just because you are homeschooling.

In fact the opposite is true. In homeschooling, your child will receive a stronger and much better socialization experience than their peers in school. Why? Because in homeschooling "socialization" does not mean spending your day with a room full of kids the same age. Instead, it means "socializing" with people of all ages and stages in life. This is real life. Where in life other than school do you ever spend all of your time with peers of the exact same age? And how is that training a student for success? When you homeschool your child you will likely get involved in a homeschool support group, a community club or activity, local classes...these will become part of your day. And when they do, your child will begin to socialize with individuals of all ages. That socialization will mean that your child will learn from those who are older, will be a leader to those who are younger and will have the opportunity to socialize in a much more realistic environment.

If you seek ministry and community service opportunities, your child will begin to work with adults as well as students of all ages. If you get him or her involved with a local drama group, church, music school, etc., you will see many opportunities for “homeschool socialization.” And you will begin to see your child mature as he or she takes on leadership roles and develops his or her talents and abilities.

*Why “the homeschool way” for socialization is better:*

Did you know that college admissions officers say that homeschoolers are much more prepared to interact with adults and professors at an intelligent level than those coming from public and private schools? Why? Because homeschoolers are interacting with individuals of all ages all the time! Therefore it is nothing new when they move on to the responsibilities of college or university. In addition, many have been leaders and mentors to those who are younger for so long that their leadership skills are already well developed. And this kind of real socialization is making them more successful. In fact, many business owners are actively seeking homeschoolers to help them succeed..

Chick-Fil-A is a prime example. Did you know that this restaurant chain makes a concerted effort to hire high school and college-aged homeschoolers? Andy Lorenzen, who is in charge of recruiting front line workers for the chain of restaurants says that his success depends on the quality of his hires. That is why he prefers to tap into homeschoolers. “They’re smart, ambitious and very driven,” Lorenzen says of his homeschooled employees. “They have a high level of loyalty to the business, are diligent and have a good work ethic.”

Homeschoolers are also finding their niche in college and the workplace, in internships and entry-level professional jobs. They also often become entrepreneurs.

Statistics verify that homeschoolers are far more prepared academically—in fact they score 25% higher on standardized tests than those who attend school. But their success is in more than just academics—their unique socialization opportunities are making them successful beyond academics.

**Bottom line: homeschool socialization is a non-issue. Don’t let it become one for you.**

*Jessica Parnell is passionate about homeschooling. A wife, mother and former public high school teacher, Jessica has transferred this passion into her career as Principal of Bridgeway Homeschool Academy. Her passion grows out of a deep desire to see every child reach their God-given potential and purpose through faith-based, customized, and flexible homeschooling. With over 25 years of experience helping over 24,000 families to homeschool their way, Jessica is dedicated to helping families understand the freedom that comes with homeschooling and to empowering parents, a child’s first teacher, to feel confident in taking control of their child’s education. [www.homeschoolacademy.com](http://www.homeschoolacademy.com)*

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## PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray for Ken’s and Llorra’s son as he continues to recuperate.
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. treaties and parental rights.
- **Pray** for homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA’s service to them.
- **Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group. Be a source of encouragement.
- **Intercede** for those with physical ailments; ask God to give them the measure of health that will most glorify Him.
- **Pray** that we will be known as Christians by our love for one another and our faithfulness to the Lord.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom.

**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb.4:15-16, ESV**

Send your prayer requests to [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billbby@msn.com](mailto:billbby@msn.com)

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### NDHSA statement of faith

Trusting in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we believe in Almighty God, the author of all creation; the Bible as the inspired Word of God, complete in 66 books and the basis of faith and practice; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His bodily resurrection and His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit.

### NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

### The Eclectic Report

Gail Biby, Editor

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Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 23 years. She writes a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby’s Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women’s newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill, and right next door to their daughter Aimee, son-in-love, Ray, and their six children. Contact her at: [billbby@msn.com](mailto:billbby@msn.com)

**NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301**

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**Not a member yet of NDHSA?** Family membership fee only **\$35**. Once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church, why not consider a donation to the NDHSA. All funds are used to continue the work of the Association and will be used with great frugality and wisdom. But even if God doesn’t lead you to donate, we hope that you will pray for the work of the NDHSA, the board of directors, and staff. **CHECK OUT NEW features at our website.**

**Join Home School Legal Defense Association** to protect your right to homeschool in N.D. and support their work on Capitol Hill. Go to: [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org) Receive HSLDA discount if a member of NDHSA.