

The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Delicious summer is here and everything about it declares, "Come outside. Sit and watch the grass grow. Cheer the Schirado girls' horsemanship. Weed in the garden. Mow the lawn. Sit in the warm sun and store up the 'sunshine vitamins'. Don't even think of w___er."

While lounging in the shade, you can read this issue of the NDHSA's e-newsletter. Be sure to read Faith Durham's thoughts on *changing* thoughts and actions. Of course, there is more on CC in the side bar. Important update on parental rights is worth perusing. Read about HSLDA's photo contest and their attorney for N.D., Dee Black. Check out the Bulletin Board for a whole bunch of this-and-that.

Enjoy your summer; enjoy your children; search and study God's splendid creation; glorify your Creator in all you do. Next TER will come out in August and will feature back-to-school information.

Grace and peace to you and your dear ones.

Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Mrs. Deckert's column will resume in the August edition. Please **pray** for Theresa and her family as they deal with the recent suicide of her brother. He was a recently-rededicated Christian (Give praise with us!) and left behind 3 adult children and his aged parents along with his siblings. Pray for them as they walk through a time of great sorrow.

A New Opportunity

By Faith Durham, age 15, daughter of NDHSA board members Troy and Kristin Durham

I have grown up in a God-fearing homeschool family, knowing but never really realizing the world around me. I sort of knew in my head the sinful ways of the world, but I hadn't experienced them until February. That's when I joined a public high school's track team. The swearing, dirty jokes, total disregard for anything modest, and complete disrespect for authority, shocked and amazed me. To a girl who had never been a part of any of this, I couldn't understand why on earth people could act like this and think that it was normal. But then I realized something.

Something that could change my thoughts and actions. Without God's grace, without my parents or anyone that loves and cares for me, without them, I am nothing. I am broken. And I realized something else. I *do* have God's love and grace. I *do* have a wonderful home. I *do* have a fantastic life filled with friends and family who love me. I asked myself, "So, why not share it?" Why not share a life that is so richly blessed; a life though not perfect, still overflowing with love? God answered my question. He said, "Then go and do it." Since then I have been trying to obey. Every day as my dad drives me to practice, I pray that God would help me love these girls (I also prayed that God would help me open my locker. I had a stubborn lock☺). Loving others isn't always easy. You will usually have people who think they are better than everyone else. You will also have people who think everyone else is better than they! But God loves every one of them.

Many times we ask God for opportunities to be a light for Him, but when that moment arrives, we purposely avoid it. For example, one day at practice I was walking with a girl who had just re-injured her ankle. You could tell that she was feeling low and needed some comfort. I could have taken the opportunity to pray for her and show her God's love, but I didn't. Why? I was afraid of the rejection that might follow. Afraid of how everyone might label me. I realize now, through my Mom and Dad's guidance, that it's okay to be different. But at that time, it seemed too scary to even think about. As time passes, I will still ask God to give me opportunities, but one thing will be different: *I won't be afraid because I know God will always be with me.*

There is one thing I want to point out: **I believe that without being raised in a Christian homeschooling family, I would be a much different person today.** At a young age my parents encouraged me to have a close relationship with God and all of my family members. Even if my parents were Christians and I went to a public school I wouldn't have the same morals and values that I do now. I'm not saying that everyone who goes to a public school is bad, but being in that environment day-after-day, 24/7 drags a person down. It can make you question some of your own morals and beliefs. I believe that homeschooling has helped prepare me for this experience. Being able to study a Christ-based curriculum has set a solid foundation for the future. I will always encourage people to homeschool their children, but I also understand God has a plan for everyone. And for some, homeschooling isn't a part of the plan. For me, though, homeschooling has been such a blessing, and I am so grateful for my parents' choice.

COMMON CORE

From Focus on the Family's *Citizen Link*

Two More States Block Common Core

by Bethany Monk

Public school students in two more states will no longer have to conform to Common Standards.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a law that will replace the national initiative with state-developed standards and tests by the 2015-16 school year. [Read More](#)

From the Heritage Foundation's *The Daily Signal*

Is Common Core Dying Out?

School might be winding down for the summer, but states are putting on a crash course in how to reclaim education decision-making authority.

[Read More](#)

From HSLDA
Oklahoma: Governor Signs Bill Ending Common Core!

Concerned parents responding to HSLDA's national email alert helped persuade Oklahoma's governor to reject the Common Core standards in her state. [Read more >>](#)

From *Practical Homeschooling*

Mary Pride

This magazine is always on the cutting edge. Go to: www.home-school.com

Read about:

- "Common Core & College"
- "The new SAT"
- Antony Kolenc's "Homeschooling is a fundamental parental right."
- Kuni Beasley's "How to Know If College is the Best Option"

Exciting Developments in the Fight for Parental Rights

Senator Lindsey Graham last week introduced the Parental Rights Amendment in the U.S. Senate – and that may not even be the biggest news of the week. In a nutshell, the following stories seem to say that **sometimes it pays to push back, and it always pays to push forward.**

JUSTINA PELLETIER

Both Liberty Counsel (on behalf of Lou and Linda Pelletier) and the Massachusetts Department of Human Services have petitioned the Massachusetts family court to send Justina Pelletier home. It's probably the first thing they've agreed on yet. Under such circumstances, **it is extremely unlikely the judge will deny their request**, leaving only the question of timing: when will Judge Joseph Johnston hear the case again and send Justina home? (A hearing is currently set for June 20, but the judge has the authority to expedite the process.)

While this is likely not the end of the matter – the state's unconstitutional violation of this family's rights could likely result in at least one lawsuit – it will certainly be a significant victory for this family and for parental rights.

CHRISTY DUFFY

Meanwhile, a medical center in Michigan last week “messed with the wrong mom” and ended up with proverbial “egg on its face.” The medical office posted notice that **under a new law adolescents are required to have a 5-minute confidential conversation with a nurse or doctor – no parents allowed.** But when mom Christy Duffy refused and sought an explanation, she was surprised to learn that *no such law exists!*

We were glad with the help of HSLDA's Mike Donnelly and a partner at the Kallman law firm in Michigan to be able to put her on the trail of that information. Confronted with the facts – **Michigan's medical privacy law has not been amended since 2004**, and includes no requirement for such a “confidential conversation” – the practice was forced to remove the sign and admit their error.

But that wasn't the end. Christy took the story to Glenn Beck at *The Blaze* – and we're bringing the story to you – to make sure all parents are aware of your rights. A leading medical organization has been trying for years to push this “HEEADSSS assessment test” in an effort to find and prevent abuse. But laws forcing these interrogations on patients would violate individual liberty and family privacy rights.

“If *government* doctors were using this, there would be constitutional issues immediately,” we **wrote back in 2012**. “Private doctors, however, are not limited by the Constitution.” This means your doctor can ask for that interview, but the government would violate the Constitution if it mandated them. **You have a legal right to refuse.** Keep that in mind the next time your doctor's office tries to tell you otherwise.

THE PRA IN THE SENATE

The Parental Rights Amendment was introduced in the U.S. Senate last Wednesday by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) joined on as a cosponsor almost immediately. We will continue to pursue additional cosponsors in the weeks ahead, and ask that you call your senators if you haven't already to get them on board. Read how to reach them and what to say [here](#).



Did you know?



Dewitt Black is our contact attorney at Home School Legal Defense Association. He has shared our struggles and triumphs since 1990. He and his wife, Ricci, have homeschooled their four children.

He is a diligent and persistent liaison for parent educators in North Dakota. Dee is also the contact attorney for AK, AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, MS, MT, NC, PA, SC, TN and the territory of Guam.

I (editor) have had the privilege of working with Dee since 1991 and have witnessed his steady, wise, and persevering leadership. May God be praised for the immeasurable help he has provided to homeschoolers.

Behind the scenes? Yes.

Always on top of things? Yes.

A good friend to parent educators in North Dakota? Absolutely!

And I am thankful to God for his gentle friendship. Thanks, Dee!

Summer is just around the corner!
Time to grab your camera (or smart phone) for HSLDA's annual
Photography Contest!

www.hsllda.org



Offering **cash prizes** upwards of \$200, this contest is open to all homeschooled students ages 7-19. We try to choose themes that leave plenty of room for imaginative interpretation, so we invite you to be creative and have fun!

Category 1 (ages 7-10) theme: Interesting

Category 2 (ages 11-14) theme: Memorable

Category 3 (ages 15-19) theme: Ordinary

Each student is invited to enter up to three photos relating to the theme for their age category.

At [hear it from the judges](#), you can view the judges' comments from previous contests to get a better sense of what to look for or avoid when taking pictures. Also, look at the [winning photos](#) from previous years to get an idea of what the judges are looking for!

Guidelines and entry forms can be found on our [website](#), as well as information about our other annual contests, which include art, poetry, and essay writing.

The Bulletin Board

From Mike Smith, president of Home School Legal Defense Association

As you homeschool through high school, or think about the high school years, college preparation is high on your priority list. **A critical part of college preparation is testing**, and the most popular tests for college bound high school students are the ACT and SAT.

The SAT has been in the news lately due to the rollout of the [redesigned SAT](#). Diane Kummer, HSLDA's high school consultant, [recently wrote about](#) the redesigned SAT.

For parents who are **concerned about the Common Core**, one big question has been whether the redesigned SAT will disadvantage students who have not been taught with curriculum that is aligned to the Common Core standards. HSLDA and many others [strongly oppose the Common Core](#), and **we have been closely reviewing the redesigned SAT** to see if it will impact homeschool students. **At this time, we have not seen any evidence that the redesigned SAT will harm homeschoolers in any way.** David Coleman, the president of the College Board, and his team have been incredibly helpful in providing us with comprehensive information about the redesigned SAT, and we are continuing our review.

HSLDA is continuing to review the redesigned SAT. We have directly told David Coleman and his team at the College Board about the homeschool community's dead-set opposition to Common Core indoctrination being included in the redesigned SAT, and they take this concern very seriously. We will provide updates about the redesigned SAT in the coming months.

Editor's note: Who would be making these important contacts and continuously monitoring attempts to usurp parental rights in America, if HSLDA wasn't alert and willing to take action? Another good reason to be a member family of Home School Legal Defense Association. Membership discount if you are also members of NDHSA. Go to www.ndhsa.org to join. Then go to www.hslda.org to join.

www.ndhsa.org

A note on **Family FUN Days** at the Wendell and Beth Sip farm:

The cut-off day was June 7. We try not to turn anyone away so if your plans have changed, contact us and say you'd like to come. We will be glad to work you in. Planning is more difficult when we get 10 families that all call last minute! :) We are so looking forward to seeing you all and we will send an update before camp on directions to our farm and any last minute news. If you have any questions, please just let us know! :)

The Sips
wbsip@loretel.net

How to Navigate the Jungle of Standardized Testing

Jessica Parnell

How do homeschooled teens know when, where, how, and what kind of test they need to take?

[Read the full article here](#)

Keeping Art Simple and History Alive

Jennifer L. Padgett

For those of us who are not art history majors, teaching art and history simultaneously can be overwhelming.

[Read the full article here](#)

From the North Dakota Family Alliance:

Celebration of Life with the Allen Family

June 23 - 7:00 p.m. - Concert
Bismarck's Century Baptist Church

June 24 - 6:00 p.m. - Picnic -
7:00 p.m. - Concert

Fessenden City Park
Enjoy a family-fun evening with award-winning gospel-singing family of 10!

Minot Family Values Forum

July 22 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Minot's Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
Speakers: Kim Ketola & Windie Lazenko

[Click Here for more information on these events.](#)

[How to Interpret Standardized Test Scores](#) (click title)

On homeschoolers and the MILITARY
January 2014: "Major Victory for Homeschool Military Enlistees"

From Veritas Press
Saying Goodbye to 12-Step Formulas
by Joel Belz

Over the summer months, we will feature a three-part series by Joel Belz on raising children with a biblical worldview without falling into the trap of becoming formula-followers. Mr. Belz is the founder of God's World Publications, but he is first and foremost a parent. We hope that this series will challenge and inspire you to continue to raise God-seeking children.

We humans love formulas.

We like it when someone promises that if we simply follow a 7- or 10- or 12-step set of instructions, happy results will be guaranteed. (The numbers 7, 10, and 12 are especially attractive to those of us who remember their strong biblical significance). We scoop up the manuals that assure us that, if we follow them faithfully, our marriages—or our children, or our health, or our investments and family budgets—will turn out perfectly.

[Read more...](#)

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.** **Praise** God for them and their cheerful service.
- **Pray** for Mrs. Theresa Deckert and her whole family as they learn to go on without their loved one. Ask for strength for each of them for this journey. Beseech God to call to Himself those not yet His.
- **Pray** for Meriam Ishag, a Sudanese Christian, convicted of apostasy for becoming a Christian (death sentence) and adultery for marrying a Christian (100 lashes). She is imprisoned with her two children (both under 3), but because she is a new mother she has been granted a 2-year reprieve. NOTE: Sudan government operates under the Islamic legal code. For more on this horror got to: www.BreakPoint.org.
- **Praise** God for His sovereign care.
- **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. Thank God for Dee Black.
- **Praise** God for His redemptive plan . . . even before the foundations of the world.
- **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 during these summer months.
- **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.
- **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 or billbiby@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

The Eclectic Report is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal

issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney of reference, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbiby@msn.com.

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: billbiby@msn.com

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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 Receive HSLDA discount if a member of NDHSA.

Visit our professional, beautiful, helpful and encouraging website: www.ndhsa.org

In August *The Eclectic Report* will be a back-to-school issue. Do you have any questions you would like covered? Any thoughts on implementation of the law, relationships with public school officials, suggestions for outreach, or support group formation and continuance? Send to office@ndhsa.org or billbiby@msn.com

Quips from **Keep a Quiet Heart** by Elisabeth Elliot

"If you knew what God knows about death," wrote George MacDonald, "you would clap your listless hands."

"No success in life can compensate for failure at home."

"It is His providence that has put us where we are. It's where we belong. It is for us to receive it—all of it—humbly, quietly, thankfully."

"Think of the great Unseen Company that watches and prays as we 'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' [Hebrews 12:1, NIV]! Think of that and be of good cheer—it's **much too soon to quit!**"