

# The Eclectic Report

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Volume 4 Issue 7 Editor: Gail M. Biby [billboby@msn.com](mailto:billboby@msn.com) August 2014

Greetings!

The summer months sped by so quickly that there remains a long list of 'to dos' in my notebook. My favorite on the list is weeding. See now, you're thinking "Weeding! Is she a little off her rocker?" I find such pleasure in cleaning up messes and getting everything clean and organized so I guess that explains it.

At this time of the year homeschoolers are getting organized, too. If you're a little unsure about our homeschool law just go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and download a copy. Our law is easy to understand and relatively easy to implement. If you need a statement of intent or immunization record, they are available for download at our site, also.

We feature several publications at the site, plus interesting articles and a listing of N.D. support groups associated with the NDHSA (almost 50 of them!). Once you read the law and other pertinent items at our site, if you still have questions contact our office administrator at [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org). And don't forget: Your membership matters. We have a sage and frugal board that uses all funding with wisdom. You can join at our website.

Gail

P.S. Look for the little pencil icon for information on back-to-school issues.



## The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Well, it is that time of year again. Do you have all your books out, supplies on hand, and **statement of intent** (SOI) filed?

Following is important information concerning the SOI (some of this may be new so don't skip over it). First, be aware that there are several different versions floating around. Some are old ones from our office and others are issued by the N.D. Dept. of Public Instruction. For the current SOI, go to our website and click on publications on the left hand side. The item at the top of the drop box is the current statement of intent. We encourage you to use our form as those available from your local public school or from the DPI's website may ask for information not required by state law.

The primary teaching parent is the one who must meet the parental qualifications according to the N.D. Attorney General. I encourage families to list both parents and send in the parental qualifications for each.

If you are going to take the **testing exemption** you must declare that on your statement of intent when you submit it this year. You must also send the qualifying documentation. The documentation can be for either parent.

An SOI must be filed annually for each child between the ages of 7 and 16. Once they turn 7 you need to file even if it is in the middle of the year. (This is the view of the current DPI administration – not mine).

Once a child turns 16 you no longer have to file a statement of intent. There are a couple of **exceptions** to this, however. If your child is taking a public school **class** or is involved in an **extracurricular** activity through the public or approved nonpublic school, then you must continue to file. Also if your child receives any sort of federal benefit such as **Social Security payments**, you must continue to file as this is verification that the child is a fulltime student. Young people considering entering the **military** will also want to continue with their filing.

Be aware that if you no longer file an SOI on a child reaching age 16 he/she is considered a drop-out by the Dept. of Public Instruction for statistical purposes. There have been a few instances when this has been a problem for a family, so please consider this as you plan your year. If you have any questions email me at [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or call 701-662-6347. If I do not answer, please leave a message as the office is only open part time. Have a great year!



Logo design by Josiah Kopp

# COMMON CORE

From **Concerned Women for America** on CCSI/CCSS:  
[Click here to see our stance on Common Core.](#)

From **Wallbuilders** on CCSI/CCSS:  
WallBuilders is actively opposed to Common Core -- an attempt to nationalize and standardize progressive mediocrity in education. We have produced a DVD on CC and hosted numerous radio programs (archives at [www.wallbuilderslive.com](http://www.wallbuilderslive.com)). David [Barton] is a regular speaker at Common Core educational conferences. Information on problems with CC is available at [www.HaltCommonCore.com](http://www.HaltCommonCore.com)

From the staff of **Practical Homeschooling #112**:

Interesting article on the Common Core Language Arts changes. Hint: subheading- "Who Would Have Thought the Written Word could Be So Boring?" ([www.home-school.com](http://www.home-school.com) January/February/March 2014.)

From **Home School Legal Defense Association** (linked at our site [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)) <http://www.hslda.org/commoncore/>  
**Did you know?**

- N.D. has completed teacher professional development for CC implementation.
- N.D. has completed all curriculum guides and instructional materials for CCSI.
- N.D. is currently developing a teacher evaluation system to go along with the CCSI.
- N.D. will need an additional \$33 million of new expenditures to meet requirements of CCSI.
- N.D. public schools will be piloting PARCC and SBAC assessments in the fall of 2014.
- P-20 development is required by N.D. state law.



## Gone to be with Jesus

Ruth Beechik, well-known homeschool author, entered into the ultimate rest on Nov.27, 2013. Many (especially *older* parent educators!) are familiar with her many books including:

*You Can Teach Your Child Successfully* (1988) and *The Three R's* (1985). Dr. Beechik was 88.



## Federal Student Financial Aid Issue Resolved

By Dee Black, senior counsel HSLDA, contact attorney for ND

**Home School Legal Defense Association** recently assisted an Alaska homeschool graduate who was being denied admission to a New York community college and federal financial aid she needed to attend. The college was insisting that the applicant furnish a letter from the Alaska Department of Education verifying that the state considered her to be a high school graduate.

HSLDA Senior Counsel Dewitt Black sent a letter to the director of financial aid at Jefferson Community College in Watertown and provided him with information about Alaska's homeschool law and the federal law governing financial aid to students. Black explained that Alaska law does not require parents to notify state officials of their decision to operate a homeschool or report any information about their homeschool to state officials. Further, Alaska law does not require a homeschool graduate to obtain any credential from the state to verify that the student has completed a secondary education.

Regarding the student's eligibility for financial aid, Black's letter pointed out that federal law prohibits colleges that receive federal funds from requiring an accredited high school diploma or GED in order for a student to be eligible for federal financial aid if the student "shall have completed a secondary school education in a home school setting that is treated as a home school or private school under State law." Fulfillment of this requirement is verified during the college admissions process when a student supplies a college with a transcript and other evidence of meeting the credit hour requirements for the completion of a high school education. Under this program, homeschool students may self-certify their completion of a secondary school curriculum, just as public and private high school graduates may self-certify their receipt of a diploma. They are not required to obtain any state certification of homeschool completion unless the law of the state in which they completed their homeschooling provides for the issuance of such a certification.

After receiving Black's letter, the community college admitted the homeschool graduate and processed the student's request for federal financial aid.

### Protect Your Family

We greatly value you and your support—it is a privilege to serve you! If you or someone you know is not a member of HSLDA, will you consider taking a moment today to join or recommend us? Your support enables us to defend individual families threatened by government officials and protect homeschooling freedom for all. **Join now.** (ED's NOTE: **When you join NDHSA you may use our group ID number to receive a discount on HSLDA membership fees.**)

*Courtesy HSLDA. Used with permission. Senior Counsel **Dee Black** answers questions and assists members with legal issues in AK, AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, MS, MT, NC, PA, SC, TN, and GUAM. He and his wife homeschooled their children.*



## KIN COOK-OFF WARS

at the

### Sip Family Annual Labor Day Camp

**WHAT:** The "Kin Cook Off Wars" is our version of "Chopped"! Four members of your family will compete against 3 other family teams for a total of 4 teams of 4 chefs.

#### BASIC RULES:

- You need 4 members of your family, preferably 2 guys and 2 gals, (1 guy per team required!).
- Each competing family may bring up to 15 ingredients of their choice.
- We will have 4 mandatory ingredients (undisclosed) announced at the Cook Off. These are the only ingredients you can use.
- We will have an appetizer and dessert round. Food will be judged on taste, presentation, and creativity.
- Send email by Aug. 15 to [wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net) declaring your intent to participate. Four family names will be drawn to compete.
- Drawing results will be emailed to all entrants.
- Entry date extended to Aug. 9; drawing likely on Aug. 10

**SPEAKER:** Wally Long from Missouri.

**REMEMBER:** currently we are only taking reservations for the entire weekend. Please verify your family name for registration by sending us an email ([wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)). Including your intent to attend on FaceBook does *not* register you!

Non-competitors will *watch* the kitchen action *while* we eat snacks!!

And you *DO* want to be a part of this!!

**Let the fun begin!**

~ Rebecca Sip for the Sip Family



TO: Homeschoolers and friends

**ISRAEL:** Dennis Prager University has developed very good five-minute education clips; following are links to several regarding Israel. One is about an unfortunate movement called BDS movement which is being embraced by some liberal churches. In my opinion, we should be educated, concerned and oppose it. Here are two 5-minute links:

1. [BDS: The Attempt to Strangle Israel - Prager University](#)
2. [Do You Pass the Israel Test? - Prager University](#)



**DEBATE CLUB** opportunity: Travis Butcher from Montana is open to coming to North Dakota to help us get a debate club going. ARE YOU INTERESTED? I have a couple families interested; one from Valley City. I realize many families may not be aware of NCFCA (National Christian Forensics and Communications Assoc.). Click here to learn more: [National Christian Forensics and Communications Association - About NCFCA](#) I will soon have exciting news to announce about an NCFCA Montana Camp planned for the second week in September in Billings. This will be a great way to kick off a new school year; students will receive the equivalent of a Semester Credit in communications training. Mark your calendars for the week of September 8. I don't know if you could work a road trip into your schedule, but we would love to have ND families come to Billings, Montana. If you are interested we will work to find you host housing. This will be on a first come, first served basis. We would also like to help you establish local NCFCA clubs in ND.

**FROM:** Travis Butcher, NCFCA Montana State Rep.

8000 Butcher Rd., Winifred, MT. 59489 (H) 406-462-8000 (C) 406-350-2915 (F) 888-218-7223 (E) [trevisbutcher@gmail.com](mailto:trevisbutcher@gmail.com)



**Let Pas. Jeff know if you are interested.** Travis is a very energetic, motivated and evangelistic homeschool dad with valuable testimonies about the MT club. Pas. Jeff plans to have him come.

# The Bulletin Board



## LOOKING for:

- A copy of the N.D. law?
- Copies of the statement of intent?
- Contacts for local support groups?
- Membership information?
- Immunization form?
- Testing tips? Testing exemption parental qualifications?
- N.D. Scholarship program?

Find it all at:

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

## Homeschooling a child with challenges?



[www.chask.org](http://www.chask.org)



## How to Decipher Standardized Test Scores

Here's help making sense of those confusing standardized test results (and a little perspective on their usefulness). (From Kathy Cecerri, About Homeschooling, 6-16-14)

## Why I Don't Make My Son Share

[www.moms.popsugar.com](http://www.moms.popsugar.com)

(ED's note: I snatched this from our daughter's FB. I have thought in a similar way regarding the subject and I think she makes some very valid points.)



## Head Start

Guess what? More than \$180 billion since 1965 has been spent on a continuing educational boondoggle: Head Start. Just one quote from the article's executive summary: "No significant impacts were found for math skills, pre-writing, children's promotion, or teacher report of children's school accomplishments for abilities in any year. . . ."

(From Mary Pride's magazine, *Practical Homeschooling*, available \$17.95/yr., subscribe at [www.PracticalHomeschooling.com](http://www.PracticalHomeschooling.com) or send to Home Life, P.O. Box 1190, Fenton, MO 63026-1190.)

## The Old Schoolhouse magazine



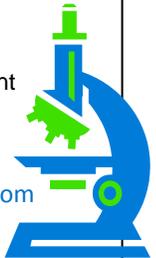
has ceased quarterly publication of the paper-based magazine and now provides free instant access online ([www.TOSMagazine.com](http://www.TOSMagazine.com)). Read advice and encouragement from nationally known experts *anytime, anywhere*. You can receive their weekly note *The Homeschool Minute* ([www.TheHomeschoolMinute.com](http://www.TheHomeschoolMinute.com)) and join the *Schoolhouse Expo* every month with homeschool speakers at a FREE online webinar ([www.SchoolhouseExpo.com](http://www.SchoolhouseExpo.com)). And if that isn't enough you can purchase their Annual Print Book (1<sup>st</sup> edition had over 270 pages; \$12.95) featuring columnists you may know: Dr. Brian Ray, Andrew Pudewa, Diana Waring, Deb Wuehler, Karen Andreola, Hal and Melanie Young (our 2015 keynotes) and many more. Visit [www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com](http://www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com)

I'm a Christian homeschool dad of 8 and I sell, service and repair **microscopes**. I have them starting at **\$125**. They conform to requirements of Apologia, Sonlight and other homeschool biology curriculum and come with a 5-year warranty. Curriculum providers sell them for around \$250, so there is significant savings. Contact me with any questions. I know buying a microscope can be intimidating and I speak to many homeschool moms every year. Check out my website at [www.homeschoolmicroscopes.com](http://www.homeschoolmicroscopes.com). I also have some used microscopes also compliant and even less expensive with the same warranty.



Grace and Peace,

Pat Luna, Chief Executive Servant  
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## Suggested Resources for the Homeschool



**Answers magazine** (from Answers in Genesis) is the best creation science magazine on the market. We use it with our sciences. Has a kids' section; filled with interesting, sometimes challenging, articles to help the reader better defend a literal 6-day creation; to subscribe: 1.800.778.3390 or [www.answersmagazine.com](http://www.answersmagazine.com); print edition \$24/yr. digital edition \$18/yr. Approx. 100 pages/ quarterly edition.

**Acts & Facts magazine** (from Institute for Creation Research) is another very helpful product for teaching our children to defend a literal 6-day creation. Free of charge. [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org). Monthly publication with approx. 25 pages.



[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

## 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.

**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.**

# The Spirit First



By Mrs. Llor Knight, NDHSA board member, West Region Support Group Coordinator

It's that time again. Time to cut the grass a few more times before it withers and dies, time to clear out the garden of remaining produce, to finish the canning and freezing to enjoy throughout the coming year, to pack the camping gear and stow it until next year, to empty the pool and pack it away, and all those other end-of-summer activities. In other words – it's "back to school." I always thought that phrase was a misnomer for homeschoolers. We're always *in school*, even during those days when we don't get out the books or notebooks. Homeschooling is a lifestyle, not just an educational choice. It is a mind set, remembering that we are always teaching or training our children something.

The definition of teaching is "the act or business of instructing." That is the bookwork, the textbook, the math problems, the sentences diagrammed, the spelling words dictated, the literature experienced, the maps drawn, the science experiments shared, and the music lessons practiced. Homeschooling is more than teaching; it includes training.

The definition of training is "to draw along, to entice, to allure, to exercise, to discipline, to teach and form by practice." As a homeschool parent we are always in training mode – even when we don't plan a lesson schedule (especially when we aren't doing the *teaching things*.) We train our children to trust God in the difficult times when they see us in prayer, in the Word – seeking His solace and direction, and in His house listening to the message He has prepared. We train our children to be good parents by the way in we parent them. Do we take time individually with each of them? Do we listen to their desires, their doubts, and their dreams? Do we discipline them in love and thereby show them a loving heavenly Father who desires their heart, their mind, their strength and might, and yes, even their soul? Do we train our boys to be diligent, thoughtful, competent workers to enable them to provide for their families? Do we train them how to treat a lady – including holding the door?

Do we train our daughters to be keepers at home, to care for others, to be a loving, thoughtful, diligent "Proverbs Thirty-wonderful" wife? Do we train them to be chaste ladies? Do we train our children to be courteous, to not interrupt, to eat with manners, to write "Thank You" notes, to take the initiative, to answer the telephone politely, to be determined without being stubborn, to pick up after themselves, and to be on time? Do we require and reward them for being content, courageous, diligent, flexible, generous, helpful, honest, joyful, kind, loyal, obedient, respectful and responsible?

As we go "back to school" don't forget: school is much more than teaching from books and filling of notebooks. School for the homeschool child is life – spiritual, mental, and physical. Put the spirit first and the others will follow. Here's wishing all of you a blessed school year!

## PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** **Praise** God for their lives of devoted 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. Pray for others on a similar journey.
- **Pray** for Christians running from Iraq. Beg God to strengthen them so that if they are called upon to make the ultimate avowal of their faith, death, their testimony will one of victory to the very end.
- **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 homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group making back-to-school plans.
- **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](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billbibi@msn.com](mailto:billbibi@msn.com)

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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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 [billbibi@msn.com](mailto:billbibi@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 24 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: [billbibi@msn.com](mailto:billbibi@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