

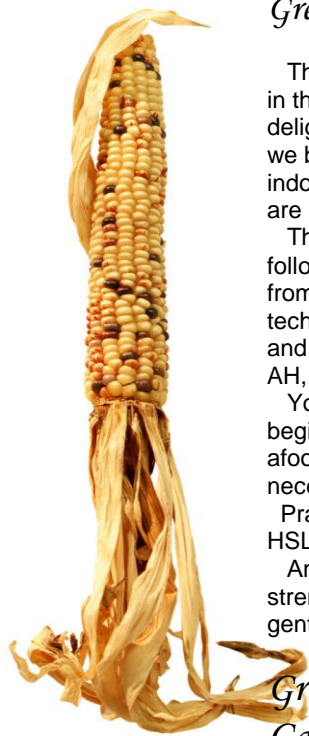
The Eclectic Report

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Logo design by Josiah Kopp



Greetings!

The Blessed Life Ranch folks awoke this morning to temperatures in the 40s. There is something dismal and at the same time delightful about the approach of autumn, followed by winter. Aren't we blessed to live in a land where centralized heating is the norm, indoor plumbing is ubiquitous, and grocery stores and our pantries are loaded with goods? Yes, we *are* blessed.

This edition of *TER* has more items of information for those following the Common Core debate (see sidebar), board column from Troy Durham on the joy of homeschooling, our office gal on technology, a bulletin board with a little of this and a little of that, and a reminder on the immunization laws in North Dakota (thanks, AH, for the tip).

You can start praying for the upcoming Legislative Session beginning January 2015. It seems there is usually some mischief afoot. Valuable lessons help us all learn that vigilance is a necessity.

Pray also for NDHSA board members who will be traveling to HSLDA's national conference the end of the month.

And I'll be praying for you that our dear Lord Jesus will continue to strengthen you for this journey, that He will make you wise and gentle; that you will exhibit love in all you do.

*Grace and peace,
Gail*



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Three years ago Jeff and I had the privilege of attending the HSLDA National Leaders' Conference in Chicago. While there, I attended a workshop on technology, social media and the future of homeschooling. The presenter of the workshop was trying to emphasize to state leaders and board members the importance these avenues were going to play in years to come. Electronic communication is what the newer generation of homeschoolers is most familiar with and so we as leaders need to embrace these changes.

I have to admit some of this has been a challenge for this old grandma, but I am also thankful that God has wired me in such a way that I have been able to learn these things fairly easily considering I usually have to figure it out by myself! I am constantly evaluating the website trying to think of how to make it as practical and easy to use as possible.

Lately I have seen the benefit of social media. I am a member of several North Dakota homeschooler Face Book groups. Several of these have had some great discussions this fall. What a great way for moms to talk to other moms about questions and struggles they are having in their own homeschool. I have personally connected with gals all over the state. I am really looking forward to the convention this March to connect face-to-face with my new friends!

The one downside I see is that occasionally a thread can get so long that if you don't go back and read the whole discussion you may get confused about a legal issue or misunderstand a question and see it as a requirement. So, I would advise to read carefully and in context. I am thankful for those who have started these pages. Many of them are support group leaders or longtime area homeschoolers. They have a wealth of wisdom to share.

The NDHSA also has a Face Book page you can *like*. It is listed under **North Dakota Home School Association**. One of the latest things we have added is a Face Book page just for support group leaders. This is a secret page so only support group leaders who request to be a part can communicate on this page.

This year Jeff and I, along with Karol, will be attending the Alliance and HSLDA National Conferences. There are more workshops dealing with technology. I am sure I will come back with even more ways to use this growing trend for the benefit of North Dakota home educators.

COMMON CORE

Thanks to Common Core, It Takes 56 Seconds to Solve 9+6
Yes, it's come to this: A local TV news station is now airing 'Homework Helper' videos for parents struggling with Common Core requirements.

[Watch the Video](#)

How the Federal Government is Involved in the Common Core

Despite laws prohibiting its involvement, the federal Department of Education has done more than any other organization to advance the Common Core. [Read more >>](#) (From HSLDA)

Poll Finds Rising Awareness, Majority Opposition to Common Core

The 46th annual public opinion poll on education policy from PDK/Gallup shows that a majority of Americans oppose the Common Core State Standards.

• [Separate Poll: Support Slipping for Common Core, Especially Among Teachers](#)

the BULLETIN BOARD

POSTCARD SWAP

I am a homeschooler from Wyoming. I recently joined a group on Face Book that is organizing an awesome 50-state Postcard Swap! My family (ages 4, 8, and 10) and I are so excited to start this!

But there are no home schoolers from North Dakota who have signed up yet! So I figured I would reach out to y'all to see if there is any interest in participating.

Hope y'all are able to participate! I believe 10 families are needed from North Dakota, but any amount would be great!

Contact me at:
Shawna Sundberg
307-431-0378

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/892865440727735/>

North Dakota Family Alliance

presents

Bismarck

Family Values Forum

Thursday, October 2, 2014

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Charity Lutheran Church

Sarah Perry:
Common Core:
the Quiet Revolution
and a Call to Action

For more info go to: www.ndfa.org

Science Field Trip

Gateway to Science is a hands-on science center located in Bismarck, N.D.



For 20 years, *Gateway to Science* has been using informal hands-on science to help students experience different scientific concepts. Currently, there are more than 90 exhibits on the floor on a variety of subjects. Air pressure, magnetism, nanotechnology, and H2O are just a few of the topic areas covered in the gallery.

Recently, we began offering our discounted Family Educator's membership to homeschool families. For more information contact Chris Dorfschmidt, Gallery Supervisor, at

chris@gscience.org

SAT Oct.11 Nov.8 Dec.6 Jan.24 Mar.14 May 2 June 6

ACT Sept.13 Oct.25 Dec.13 Feb.7 Apr.18 June 13

SAT and ACT test dates 2014-2015

Home School Legal Defense Association's ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

Kick off your school year with HSLDA's 13th annual essay contest! Offering **cash prizes** upwards of \$200, this contest is open to all homeschooled students ages 7-19 and runs through November 1, 2014. Our themes for this year's contest focus on **inventions**.

To get a sense of what to look for or avoid when writing an essay, you can [view the judges' comments](#) from previous contests or [read the winning essays](#) from previous years!

[View Contest Info & Guidelines](#)

Visit us at:

www.ndhsa.org

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Book: North

Dakota Home

School Association

Homeschool.com has the following information available free of charge. Click on your choice.

- [e-Newsletters](#)
- [e-Magazines](#)
- [Blog Posts](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Homeschooling Tip-of-the-Month](#)
- [Local Homeschooling Groups](#)
- [Homeschooling Message Boards](#)

Links from About.com Homeschooling

- [Record Keeping and Evaluation](#)
- [Teens, College and Career](#)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY and Extraordinary Field Trip

Feed My Starving Children is a nonprofit that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnourished and hungry people in nearly 70 countries. Prepackaged dry meals-costing less than a quarter each to make-are funded and assembled by donor-volunteers in the U.S.

FARGO event

The Fargo area event date is October 4. **Five hundred volunteers** are needed to package **100,000 meals** at a cost of **\$22,000**. Two ways to participate: volunteer to prepare the packages and/or donate monetarily to the project.

A Fun and Useful Field Trip

What a great field trip for homeschoolers to participate in, so go to www.fmcs.org and volunteer your family, support group, study group, or youth group.

The Meals

You will be preparing three dried, fortified meal packets, culturally-neutral and containing 6-12 servings. The MannaPack Rice consists of vitamin-packed flavoring, dried vegetables, soy protein, and rice. The MannaPack Potato-W is the 'baby food' meal for 7-12 month-olds and contains vitamin-packed sweet potato flavoring, potato granules and soy flour. The MannaPack Potato-D is the first and only food for people with severe diarrhea--a leading killer in developing countries. It contains a specific sweet potato-flavored vitamin mix which aids rehydration, potato granules and soy flour.

For more information contact Bonnie Lund at 701.212.5840 or bonnie.lund@excelenergy.com

THIS IS REALLY WORTH DOING!

Mom May Be A Great Teacher ...

... but Dad, are you performing your role in your child's education? No, it is not just paying for the supplies! Are you disciplining your family? Not just reading the Bible to them, but helping them understand the context and true meaning of the Word of God? You can do this whether you work out of the home or out of the state! Not a school curriculum but a tool for the family's daily Bible study and relationship with the Lord.
[Find out more ...](#)

What We Really Need...Thoughts at the Start of the School Year

By Andrew Pudewa

"Though true in one way, I also need to remember that all of us—whether we are 5 or 15 or 50—need to frequently reconnect with nature, need to sometimes sacrifice "school" for a good read-aloud, need to be willing to laugh and joke and play, and not always be so serious."

Read more at: www.TOSMagazine.com



Immunization Requirements in North Dakota

There is always a little confusion about what is and is not required by North Dakota law regarding government-mandated immunizations. The law requires that your SOI is accompanied by the child's immunization information. Form available at www.ndhsa.org

The Department of Health's website does not provide information on the **opt-out provision**, but their *Certificate of Immunizations* form includes it. The statement of exemption is at the bottom of the form and requires only the parent's signature. Health exemptions require a physician's signature. Required immunizations are: "... age-appropriate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, rubella (German measles), mumps, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), varicella (chickenpox), poliomyelitis, pneumococcal disease, meningococcal disease, rotavirus, and hepatitis A."

Here is the section dealing with your right to opt out: "Any minor child, through the child's parent or guardian, may submit to the institution authorities either a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the life or health of the child or a certificate signed by the child's parent or guardian whose religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs are opposed to such immunization."

For wise counsel on this controversial mandate, read *What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Children's Vaccinations* by Dr. Stephanie Cave. It is a balanced and practical approach to safely and wisely immunize your children to the level you determine.

Check the Century Code: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t23c07.pdf?20140910090400>

Relative section of the N.D. Century Code: 23-07-17.1. Inoculation required before admission to school.

BOARD Column

By Troy Durham, Fargo

I absolutely love this time of year! The air is cooler, the smells that come with harvesting fill the air, football season kicks off, and, oh yeah, school starts up again. Some might read that and say, "What do you mean school is starting up again? We haven't stopped!" Please disregard my comment about this subject and continue reading.

As this school year gets rolling--I am sure that some have been cracking the books for a few weeks already--I just want to emphasize a few points that are very important to your child(ren)'s education.

First and foremost, make sure you have filled out your Statements of Intent (SOI) and have sent them to your school district. If you have not done this, or are in need of the forms, go to our website, www.ndhsa.org, print them off, fill them out and send them in. They are to be filed at least 14 days before the start of *your* school year. If you haven't taken the time to become a member of the North Dakota Home School Association yet, you might as well get that done while you are visiting the site to print out the SOI forms. It's a good investment!

Secondly, and I would say most importantly, have fun with your child(ren)'s education this year! We can get caught up in the record keeping we need to be doing and making sure they are getting all the information we feel they need, but we must take the time to enjoy the process of learning. After all, learning is a lifelong event! Maybe one day instead of doing math from a book give your kids a shopping list (whether it is an actual list of items you need or it's just some stuff you want is up to you); the ads from the Sunday paper; a piece of paper, a pen; and a calculator. Assign them a dollar amount available to spend and tell them to give you a total price from the items on your list. Let them use the computer to find the best possible price on items from your list as well. Once they have the list all figured out, tell them you have a coupon for 20% off your entire purchase so they have to reconfigure the total amount. You can even tell them to figure the tax required for your local area.

Or how about this? Go to the library and get a book about trees. Have them go outside and find as many different leaves as possible then they can search the book to find what kind of tree it is. You could do something like that with birds as well. Instruct them to go outside and see how many different kinds of birds are in your area.

But whatever you do this year HAVE FUN DOING IT! Your child(ren) will remember it forever and it will show them that learning can be a lot of fun!



Homeschool Home Economics
Cindy Puhek, Homeschool Enrichment
 Wednesday, November 02, 2011

Why I picked the octopus pillow for my seventh-grade home economics project, I will never know. I guess I thought it was cute, and I chose it not realizing the curves of the legs and body would make it a more difficult sewing project than some of the other options. *Read more at: <http://www.crosswalk.com/family/homeschool/resources/homeschool-home-economics.html>*

www.ndhsa.org

PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Lora 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 the Feed My Starving Children Event. Ask God to call many to participate, pray and give financially.
- **Pray** for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them so that if they are called upon to make the ultimate avowal of their faith, death, their testimony will be 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, on your block, in your city.
- **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 because we are devoted to 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.
- **Pray** for single-parent homeschoolers.



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

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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 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: billbiby@msn.com

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