

The Eclectic Report

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Face Book at: North Dakota Home School Association

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Logo design by Josiah Kopp

Happy New Year!

Oooh, didn't 2014 just zip by? Here in the mid-Red River valley we haven't enough snow to bother sweeping it off the entry ramp. But we have felt the breath-stealing cold. Some mornings it has been 20+ degrees *below* zero. And the wind chills—35-45 *below* at times.

I've heard it's a bit warmer in Bismarck though. Related to the legislative session? It is 2015, an odd year, so we have another 80 days of legislative wrangling, sometimes snooze-inducing hearings, backroom chit chatting and a plethora of proposed legislation. I've cheerfully worked my way through the first 250 or so bills; probably another 600-700 to go. Be in prayer about every aspect of the session. Much mischief can occur and it takes citizens to keep a vigilant watch.

Here's the good news though . . . the seed catalogs are already in the mail! I've received 8-10 already. It makes a soul cheerful just to peruse the offerings.

The NDHSA board of directors and staff are praying for you and we request that you pray for us as well that we would be wise, frugal, diligent, and gentle. I know from first-hand, long-time experience that our board already exhibits those characteristics; pray that we would all continue to grow more like Jesus and less like self.

Gail

The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



The New Year will already be here by the time you read this (I am writing on New Year's Eve to make my editor's deadline!) The New Year also brings the 2015 legislative session. I think it will be very important to remain vigilant this session with all of the Common Core hoopla. We have a bill watcher who has already read all of the pre-filed bills, but it is also crucial that we keep watch ourselves because a bad bill can be missed.

There are a number of bills that will likely be introduced this session in regard to Common Core. I have been in contact with a few people who are actively fighting this threat to parental rights. I encourage each one to contact your legislators (<http://www.legis.nd.gov> for all information pertinent to the 64th Legislation Session) as these bills are introduced. They may not affect us currently, but could have future harmful repercussions for private, parent-directed homeschools.

In light of this, I remind you that Gail Biby will be sending out her Legislative *WATCH* (LW) on a weekly basis again this session. We continue to send this to our mailing list as so many have expressed appreciation for it. If you do not want to receive it, just email Gail (billbiby@msn.com) and she will remove you from the list. Her updates are not homeschool exclusive, but include bills that are of interest to many conservative, Christian, politically-motivated and homeschooling families. The *LW* lists the bill number at the beginning of each paragraph so it is easy to scroll down to the bill you are following.

This past year has had many challenges for a number of homeschooling families. Many have experienced circumstances that seem tragic. We are troubled about the direction our state and country are headed. All of this unease can heavily weigh us down. I am so thankful that the King of Kings is not surprised by these things that disquiet our hearts. *He who watches over Israel does not sleep or slumber.* He knows us to the very number of hairs on our heads! May these thoughts fill your minds as you enter this New Year. May we rest in **all confidence** that the God who upholds the governments of the world is able to shoulder our burdens as well!

A note from our BOARD

From **Bev Skaar**, NDHSA board of directors

HAPPY NEW YEAR, fellow home educators. We trust you have enjoyed the Christmas Season with your family, extended family and friends. It is a time to thank our Heavenly Father for His incredible gift, His only Son, through whom salvation has come to all who believe. This is also the time we reflect on the past year with all its ups and downs, highs and lows, smooth sailing and rough seas.

As a family we have experienced deep sorrow as well as great celebration. Brian and I both lost our moms within a short time. The holiday season is different now. No more large family gatherings at the farm in western North Dakota or family trips to southern Saskatchewan to visit parents and grandparents. We are now starting new family traditions with our ever-growing family.

2015 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention March 19-21, 2015

Fargo's First Assembly of God

Keynote speakers:

Hal & Melanie Young

Featured speakers:

Steve & Annette Economides

HSLDA Attorney for N.D.

Dewitt Black

Look for your convention booklet in the mail SOON. For lodging options go to www.ndhsa.org and click on convention.

I am going to see you at convention – right?

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deut.6:7



Celebration time came in July with the birth of our second grandchild and first grandson!! Three weeks later we welcomed a new son-in-law. We are overjoyed!! God is good; God is faithful and we know He will remain so.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as you chart your educational course for this new year. Here are some favorite verses to encourage you along in your journey: Deut. 6:7,8,9; Prov. 2:6-9; Jer. 29:11; Eccl. 7:11,12,19; Rom. 15:13; and II Cor.9:8-10,15.

A great highlight for our whole family is the annual Home Educators Convention which we have attended since 1993. We look forward to seeing you and your family in Fargo March 19-21 at Fargo's Assembly of God church.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. Proverbs 2:6-9

ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING

From Kathy Ceceri, your Guide to Homeschooling, *About Homeschooling*, retrieved 1-06-15

Go here (right click) to read these articles:

<http://homeschooling.about.com/?nl=1>

What's the Best Age to Homeschool?

From preschoolers to teens, each stage has its challenges and rewards.

Search Related Topics: [teaching multiple grades](#) [homeschooling teens](#) [homeschooling preschool](#)

Will Online Homeschooling Work For You?

Online homeschooling can be a good choice for your students, but there are many issues associated with it as well. Here's how to tell if it's a good fit for your family.

Search Related Topics: [online homeschool](#) [computer resources](#)

How to Nurture Your Child's Creativity

Creativity is one of the main characteristics that will help children succeed in the years to come. Here are ways you can keep your children's inherent creativity going strong.

Search Related Topics: [creativity](#) [educational toys](#) [educational games](#)

How Homeschooling Can Bring Your Family Closer Together

Homeschooling has benefits that go beyond academics.

Search Related Topics: [homeschool and life](#) [homeschooling support](#)

One of the TOP education stories of the year according to *Education Week* (January 6, 2015, online edition) . . . just in case you're wondering about whether *privacy* means *private* and can the keepers of such be trusted.

Student Data Privacy in 2014: Revelations, Legislation, Controversy

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2014/12/student_data_privacy_year_in_review.html?intc=EW-2014_Review-EML

RESEARCH is Really IMPORTANT

From the National Home Education Research Institute and Dr. Brian Ray
[Support research based on a sound worldview – donate to NHERI.\[i\]](#)

Roughly 30 years ago, I was looking for any research related to parent-led education. Very little, back then, had directly addressed what we now call homeschooling. But one research project leapt off the pages at me, and I have referenced it many times since.

Studies by Barbara Tizard and her colleagues^[ii] are some of the first research I ever included in my reviews of research on home-centered learning, or home-based education, or homeschooling.^[iii] Many people think that children, especially those of the "lower class," will only be improved or "brought up" if specialized, professional, university-taught, state-certified, or state-licensed experts teach these children. This thinking, whether implied or explicit, is rampant in the United States and elsewhere. Tizard and her colleagues found, however, in their study entitled "Language and social class: Is verbal deprivation a myth?," the following:

- Despite the widespread belief, enshrined in the Bullock Report, that working class children benefit from nursery school attendance because of the teacher's 'measured attention to the child's language needs', the evidence suggests that they are much more likely to receive this from their mothers. (pp. 540-541)
- Startlingly to many, Tizard and Hughes further reported that **working-class (i.e., lower-class) girls were more disadvantaged by being in preschool than were middle-class girls.**^[iv]

That is, the working-class children were benefited more by being with their mums (mothers) than in schools run by professionals. Much research on modern-day homeschooling seems to be echoing what Tizard and her colleagues were finding over three decades ago, and contradicts the *ad nauseum* thinking of Head Start and preschool promoters.

Constant Drumbeat for Preschool by Professionals

What made me think of the research by Tizard and her colleagues? First, there seems to be a constant drumbeat in the United States that continues pushing for more and more preschool for more and more children. Some want universal preschool. Many want all of it to be paid for

by the taxpayer (i.e., the forced re-distribution of wealth). Second, regardless of the means by which preschool might be funded, does research actually convincingly show that preschool will benefit the child and society?

Researcher David Armor recently published a review of "... the major evaluations of preschool programs, including both traditional programs such as Head Start and those designated as "high quality" (p. 1).^[v] Many educators, the U.S. President, and many in the U.S. House and Senate continually promote more tax dollars spent on more preschool. Armor decided that any "... program that could cost state and federal taxpayers \$50 billion per year warrants a closer look at the evidence on its effectiveness" (p. 1). I agree.

Upon a detailed, methodologically sound, and fair review of the research, Armor concluded the following:

- Second, although preschool programs evaluated by the most rigorous research designs show modest but statistically significant improvements during the preschool years, these gains fade as children move into the kindergarten and first grades. The fadeout might be more accurately described as "catch up," because the cognitive growth that occurs for all children in the early elementary grades is far greater than the gains during the preschool years, so it may be that children who did not have preschool simply caught up with those who did. (p. 12)

Consistent with what researcher Armor found, I wrote the following in 2013:

- The author [Ray] has been distressed to see that although there is no clear evidence that the myriad ECE [early childhood education] programs, younger compulsory school attendance ages, and older compulsory school ages help children in general in any appreciable and consistent long-lasting way into their youth or adulthood, many uninformed politicians and policymakers, and educators and other businesses with vested interests in ECE programs and expanded compulsory school attendance ages, continue to promote the state expanding compulsory ages and funding ECE programs. (p. 3)^[vi]

Another Flashback

Both Armor and I might have saved some time had we simply told others what Tizard and her colleagues discovered just over 30 years ago. Armor, the many professional educators, policymakers, and lawmakers who continue to promote young children spending more time with professional educators would also have learned some important things if they had paid attention to researcher Edward Zigler and his work almost 30 years ago.^[vii]

Zigler examined the then-recent movement toward enrolling 4-yr-olds in academic programs. The research base and political forces that guided the direction of the movement are considered: remedial intervention programs for economically disadvantaged children, the need for change in decaying school programs, and the urgent need for increased day-care services. It is determined that the research base does not demonstrate that early schooling will be beneficial to middle-class children who constitute the majority of 4-yr-olds. It is suggested that early schooling may be an inappropriate solution to the current crisis in child care for working parents and that children's development may suffer if limited educational funds are expended on nonfunctional programs.

That is, even though educators and policymakers were pushing – 30 years ago – for more preschool with professionals for children, research did not support this.

What to Do

If educators and congressmen want to enhance children's academic, social, and physical-health lives beyond the third grade and save taxpayers billions of dollars, then they need to do all they can, scripturally and constitutionally, to strengthen the biblical and natural family. This includes mothers and fathers spending plenty of time with their tykes. During this time, parents would read aloud many good books to their children, children and parents would have many conversations, they would play together, and they would pray together.

Your financial help is very important. Remember, \$200 helps us put out one of these messages. Your donation of any size is very important for NHERI to continue doing its work. Two ways to help: 1. Send a check to: NHERI, PO Box 13939, Salem OR 97309 (using a check puts the largest percent of your gift to work at NHERI); 2. [Donate online](#).

Endnotes:

- [i] Every person, whether a researcher, journalist, academic, policymaker, judge, carpenter, or nurse, has a worldview or weltanschauung. Examples of worldviews are atheism, Buddhism, Christianity/scripturalism, communitarianism, critical theory, Islam, metaphysical naturalism, Mormonism, queer theory, Roman Catholicism, scientism, socialism, and statism.
- [ii] Tizard, Barbara, Hughes, M., Carmichael, H., & Pinkerton, G. (1983). Language and social class: Is verbal deprivation a myth? *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 24(4), 533-542.
- [iii] Ray, Brian D. (1986). *A comparison of home schooling and conventional schooling: With a focus on learner outcomes*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University, Science, Math, and Computer Science Education Department. (In partial fulfillment of exams for a doctoral degree; not Ray's doctoral dissertation.) (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 278 489). See also: Home centered learning annotated bibliography, online www.nheri.org, store, bibliography.
- [iv] Tizard, Barbara, & Hughes, Martin. (1984). *Young children learning*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; see p. 257.
- [v] Armor, David J. (2014, October 15). The evidence on universal preschool: Are benefits worth the cost? *Policy Analysis*, no. 760. Washington, DC: Cato Institute.
- [vi] Ray, Brian D. (2013, March 13). *Is there any solid evidence for expanding compulsory school age?* Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute.
- [vii] Zigler, Edward F. (1987, March). Formal schooling for four-year-olds? No. *American Psychologist*, 42(3), 254-260.

Michigan Health Officials Abuse Rule Making Authority

In contrast to Ohio, where the public was allowed to participate in the lawmaking process, Michigan state health department officials abused their rule making authority so they could fly under the radar to limit citizen participation and sneak vaccine exemption filing changes through the back door. Without notifying long-recognized vaccine stakeholders, such as [Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines](#) and NVIC, and without any legislative hearings, state health officials quietly gutted the non-medical vaccine exemption filing process by burying a rule change notice in on page 166 of a 240-page document published in the Nov. 1, 2014 [Michigan Register](#).

As of Jan. 1, 2015, Michigan parents filing a non-medical exemption form for their children first **will be required to ask a health department official to certify** that they have received one-sided state vaccine "education." Without that health department "certification," a non-medical vaccine exemption will not be accepted by a day care facility, school or other state-funded activity program.

NVIC Opposes New Michigan Rule

NVIC State Advocacy Director Dawn Richardson said: "In Michigan, state health officials abused their rule making privileges and failed to adequately inform the public and solicit feedback from families negatively impacted by restriction of non-medical vaccine exemptions. The Michigan legislature should make it a priority in the new session to quickly rescind the new rule, which endorses state-sanctioned discrimination against and coercion, harassment and intimidation of families making informed vaccine choices by assuming they are ignorant and in need of re-education."

Stand Up in Michigan and Your State Today!

Learn more about what NVIC is going to do in Michigan in the New Year and what YOU can do in Michigan and other states to protect vaccine exemptions by signing up today to use the free online [NVIC Advocacy Portal](#). As a Portal user, you will receive email updates about vaccine legislation pending in your state and have direct electronic access to your own state legislators so you can make your voice heard. You will also have immediate access to NVIC Advocacy Portal updates as vaccine bills move through the legislative process.

No matter what state you live in, please understand that the forced vaccination lobby could descend on your state unannounced in the coming year. Be prepared to fight back by being among the first to get NVIC Action Alerts about proposed changes to vaccine laws in your state and learn what you can do about it.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

~Pray for our board: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.**

~Pray for single parent homeschoolers. Help them if you can.

~Pray for all involved with the upcoming legislative session.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges: Alvin (and Becky) Reich, Jamestown; Nathaniel Breur, 12th grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); Nancy Larsen (and family) as she recuperates from chemo; and Jon Leedahl (Adie, too) as he recovers in Australia.

~Pray for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them to the very end. Pray for Iraqi, Syrian, and Libyan Christians. Need a reason to do so: check out Voice of the Martyrs.

~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 and his many years of wise, gentle, and patient assistance to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff.

~Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota.

~Pray that we will be known as Christians because we love God and love one another. **THANK God** for placing us in families.

~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 wisdom and that God will keep us from foolish leaders, prevaricating teachers, and silly pursuits. Help us, Lord; we are so desperately in need!

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 billbibi@msn.com

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NDHSA statement of faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

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: billbibi@msn.com