

# the CHALKBOARD

November 2007

Volume 1 - Issue 3

## San Diego Christian Homeschools' Newsletter

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

*Proverbs 3:6*

### **“Why reinvent the wheel?”**

Now, how many times have homeschool parents heard that one? This is the type of statement that might make most people stop dead in their tracks and self-consciously ask themselves, “what was I thinking?” while robotically nodding their heads up-and-down in agreement with the critic who seems to be trying to convince them not to rock any boats of convention. Not so with homeschool parents. Am I right? It's not that homeschool families are rebellious or stubborn-willed, insisting on doing things their own way no matter what anyone says. No, that's not it at all. Homeschool parents, and their children after them, are creative thinkers.

Homeschool families understand that “reinventing the wheel” is not necessarily always a bad thing. After all, that first wheel was probably cut from stone and therefore not a very comfortable ride. Aren't we all glad that some creative person “reinvented” it, and that others kept on reinventing it as newer and better resources came along? The same principles apply to each of our own homeschools. We homeschool parents were raised in classrooms with lots of desks, colorful bulletin boards, stacks of identical workbooks, a different teacher each year, and dozens of other children exactly the same ages as ourselves. Well, it worked. We learned. That was school. Why reinvent it? “Why not?” is the response of the brave and somewhat curious homeschool parent. If we can improve upon it in even the slightest way, then that is what we want to do. Give us a chance to see for ourselves if it is even possible before you encourage us not to “reinvent the wheel”. I recently read somewhere that this statement is “all too often coming from a fearful competitor or an annoyingly cheesy salesperson”. It made me laugh as I recalled the very last person who tried to use this statement with some of my very favorite homeschool families. Nice try, but we will not bow down to the status quo.

While the statement does have a powerful truth to it, it also implies that someone is wasting time, energy, or resources trying to do something that has already been done well enough. It suggests that spending one's creativity on the task is inefficient or useless. The critic who speaks the statement is of the opinion that whatever “it” is that they don't want “reinvented” is perfectly fine just the way it is and cannot be improved upon at all. Or can it?

This month, among all the many things that we are grateful to the Lord for, let us not forget how grateful we are that He has blessed each of us with a measure of creativity - that special part of Himself he must have used when He created our planet, and fashioned our bodies, and formed our minds. Thank God for creativity, and for giving us minds that wonder if something can be done differently or even better.

Lisa Vaca, Events Coordinator

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## Homeschool Fire Relief

It is the mission of SDCH to minister to all homeschooling families in the San Diego area, as well as the heart's desire of all who serve as leaders in the group. We have set up a special outreach for homeschool families who have been displaced or suffered other losses due to the recent wildfires in San Diego County. If you are a homeschooling family who has suffered the loss of homeschooling items in these wild fires, or if you know of a homeschooling family who has suffered this loss, please contact **Homeschool Fire Relief** and let us know how we can help. You may send an e-mail to [HomeschoolFireRelief@yahoo.com](mailto:HomeschoolFireRelief@yahoo.com) or you may call 858-353-1439 or 858-610-0537. List the items you are in need of or the items you have lost and we will contact you right away. Your names and phone numbers will not be given out. Other details are not necessary. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

## San Diego Christian Homeschools Park Day Schedule

Park Days are scheduled for the second Friday of each school month at 2:00pm. Park Days that are rained out will be rescheduled.

### Park Days remaining this year:

<b>November 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Lindbergh Park (Clairemont)
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Lindbergh Park (Clairemont)
<b>January 11<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA
<b>February 8<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA
<b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA
<b>April 11<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA
<b>June</b>	<b>No Park Day</b> Join us for the End of Year Party
<b>July</b>	<b>No Park Day</b> Check website for summer events/activities

### November Park Day - Legos

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 2:00 pm  
Lindbergh Park in Clairemont (just off the 805 Freeway)  
4141 Ashford Street, San Diego, CA 92111

As the weather turns a bit cooler this fall we are exploring other wonderful parks around San Diego that might be a bit less breezy and a bit more convenient for those of us in the Clairemont area. Have your children bring their best Lego creation to display and join us at November Park Day for a sweet time of fellowship and adventure at the newly renovated playground at Lindbergh Park just off Interstate 805. We'll have even more activities to sign up for and look forward to. If you have a park location you would like to suggest for a future Park Day please contact any one of the SDCH Board Members with your suggestion.

Driving Directions to Lindbergh Park: Take 805 to the Balboa Avenue exit and go West on Balboa. Turn Left on Ekstrom Avenue and turn left again to stay on Ekstrom. Ekstrom turns into Ashford. The park is there on your left.

### December Park Day – Christmas Garb

Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 2:00 pm  
Lindbergh Park in Clairemont (just off the 805 Freeway)  
4141 Ashford Street, San Diego, CA 92111

December Park Day will be held at Lindbergh Park in Clairemont again and will feature a sneak peek of all the wonderful events and activities that are being planned for the New Year, and give you an opportunity to sign up early for the ones you want. As a special treat at December's Park Day, let's all wear our favorite Christmas clothing (hats, scarves, jingle-bells). Look for a new Park Day location in the New Year at a special location that is brand-spanking-new. Please contact us if you have suggestions for a Park Day location, or if you are interested in being the Park Day Coordinator.

Driving Directions to Lindbergh Park: Take 805 to the Balboa Avenue exit and go West on Balboa. Turn Left on Ekstrom Avenue and turn left again to stay on Ekstrom. Ekstrom turns into Ashford. The park is there on your left.



Last month's park day featured costumes

# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:00 Art Class	2	3
Daylight Saving End 4	5 6:30 Board Meeting	6 Election Day 2:00 P.E. Class	7 10:00 Old Poway Park Living History field trip	8 2:00 Art Class	9 2:00 Park Day 7:00 Livin Inside Out Performance	10 4:00 SDSU Inner/Outer space 7:00 Get-Together Game Night
Veteran's Day 11	12 Veterans Holiday 1:00 Nickel City 50 Tickets for 50 Homeschool Days	13 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	14	15 2:00 Art Class	16 Calico Ghost Town Field Trip	17
18	19 1:00 Craft Class: Gourds 7:00 Dads Prayer	20 10:00 Veteran's Museum 2:00 P.E. Class	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24 Sawdust Art Festival Winter Fantasy
25	26	27 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	28 6:30 Mom's Encouragement Meeting	29 2:00 Art Class	30 10:30 Outback 12:30 Girl's Book and Tea Club 7:00 Dads Cheesy Movie Night	

# December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 Mom's Brunch and Cookie Exchange
2	3 1:00 Craft Class: Knit a Holiday Hat 2:00-4:00 Shoebox Drop-off	4 2:00 P.E. Class	5	6 10:30 Albertson's Store field trip	7 6:30 SDCH Christmas Party	8 6:00 Swiftkick Demo Show
9	10 1:00 Holiday Hat Follow-up 6:30 Board Meeting	11 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	12	13	14 2:00 Park Day	15
16	17 6:00 Homeschool Info Open Mtg	18 2:00 P.E. Class	19	20 2:00 Girl's Book & Tea Club cookie exchange	21	22
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas 25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**San Diego Christian Homeschools**  
presents  
**2007-08 P.E. Classes and Presidential Fitness Program**

**Days/Time:** Tuesdays throughout school year, at 2:00 pm  
See schedule and lesson plan on website

**Location:** Mira Mesa Rec Center on New Salem Street

**Cost:** Free for members of SDCH,  
\$10 per child for non-members  
(\$20 max.) for the whole year

**Optional Items:** at year-end the Presidential Awards will cost  
each participant about \$3

**Bring:** Please bring your own water bottles and wear  
sunscreen and/or a hat or visor to P.E.

**Contact:** Lisa Vaca at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com) for  
questions/comments

**Website:** Visit SDCH on the web at  
[www.sdChristianHomeschools.com](http://www.sdChristianHomeschools.com)  
for P.E. schedule

### **BRAIN HIGHWAYS**

Adventures Trails by **Brain Highways** is 68 fun physical activities organized in fifteen packages to be used at home or at school. The program includes full color photos and video clips of the activities in action to help demonstrate the correct methods for each activity. With easy instructions and support pages for parents and teachers, this program is easy to follow and understand. Connections and correlations between the activities and brain development are explained in short, easy-to-read articles on neurological organization, sensory processing, the vestibular system, the proprioceptive system, the tactile system, and other related research. Go to [www.BrainHighways.com](http://www.BrainHighways.com) for more details.

**For Kids:** Adventure Trails offers balance and coordination challenges in fun, non-threatening ways.

**For Adults:** Adventure Trails offers quick, easy-to-read pages that teach why those specific movements are so important to brain development.

Used in multiple ways -- from birthday parties to family fun to integrating the challenges into your curriculum --Adventure Trails

makes it easy and fun to do the movements and exercises that help to improve children's coordination, attention span, and ability to learn.

### **PRESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD**

American children have been earning the **Presidential Physical Fitness Award** since 1966. Each of the five items in the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measures a specific aspect of fitness.

Those who complete the President's Challenge physical fitness test items and reach or exceed the 85th percentile are eligible to receive the Presidential Award for outstanding achievement (blue).

Those who complete the President's Challenge physical fitness test items and exceed the 50th percentile on all of the test items, but who do not achieve the 85th percentile on one or more, qualify for the National Award (red).

Those who participate in and complete the President's Challenge physical fitness test, but do not meet the 50th percentile on all test items, qualify to receive the Participant Award (white),

Earning any of these awards should bring pride to you. We encourage you to try for improvement from year to year. Remember that people who are trying to be fit and active are all winners!

#### **The Physical Fitness Test Items are:**

1. Curl-ups or partial curl-ups (for abdominal strength and endurance).
2. Endurance run/walk (for heart/lung endurance).
3. Pull-ups or right-angle push-ups (for upper body strength and endurance).
4. Shuttle run (for leg strength, power and agility).
5. V-sit reach or sit and reach (for lower back and hamstring flexibility).

**[www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org)**

### **P.E. & Presidential Fitness Schedule**

**November 6** – P.E.  
**November 13** – Presidential Fitness  
**November 20** – P.E.  
**November 27** – Presidential Fitness  
**December 4** – P.E.  
**December 11** – Presidential Fitness  
**December 18** – P.E.  
**December 25** – Christmas day, no P.E.  
**January 1** – New Year day, no P.E.  
**January 8** – Presidential Fitness  
**January 15** – P.E.  
**January 22** – Presidential Fitness  
**January 29** – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month, no P.E.  
**February 5** – P.E.  
**February 12** – Presidential Fitness  
**February 19** – P.E.

**February 26** – Presidential Fitness  
**March 4** – P.E.  
**March 11** – Presidential Fitness  
**March 18** – P.E.  
**March 25** – Presidential Fitness  
**April 1** – P.E.  
**April 8** – Presidential Fitness  
**April 15** – P.E.  
**April 22** – Presidential Fitness  
**April 29** – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, no P.E.  
**May 6** – P.E.  
**May 13** – Presidential Fitness  
**May 20** – P.E.  
**May 27** – Presidential Challenge Awards



## Art Class How Great Thou Art

This art class is a comprehensive beginner's art course for students 6 and up. Sections covered in this class are: Beginning Drawing, How to use colored Pencils, Blending with Watercolor Markers & Beginning Painting. This class also includes some art appreciation and art journaling.

**Dates:** Thursdays weekly  
**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
**Location:** (address available when you sign up)  
 Rancho Penasquitos

**Cost:** Members \$45.00 includes all materials for the entire year  
 Non-Members \$55.00  
**Contact:** Bea Host at [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com)

November Dates: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

**No classes in month of December**  
**No classes April 3-17**  
**Last class day May 28, 2008**



## Yellow Book Road presents Pseudonymous Bosch

Our SDCH students are excited to meet the “mysterious” author of the “top secret” book that every kid is talking about this fall. Yes, Mr. Pseudonymous Bosch himself will be available to autograph the “enigma” of a book he wrote earlier this year, and to shake the weary hands of those “puzzle-loving” readers who have actually been “brave” enough to turn it's pages...

**Note:** This event was cancelled by the fires in San Diego but Yellow Book Road informs us that it will likely be re-scheduled. No date has yet been set, but we let you all know when we have more information.

Keep an eye out for this info so that you don't have to miss out on this unique opportunity.

**Contact:** Lisa Vaca [Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com](mailto:Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com)

### The Name of this Book is Secret

By Pseudonymous Bosch  
 Hardcover, 384 pages.  
 Reading Level: Ages 9 to 14 and up.

This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story. This is the story of Cass and Max-Ernest, two friendless 11-year olds who come together to solve the mystery surrounding a dead magician and the clues he left behind. When they find a mysterious case containing vials of liquid labeled The Symphony of Smells with an encoded message asking for help, they decide to investigate...

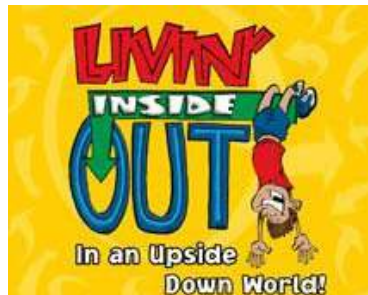
## Take a “Living History” Tour of Old Poway

Join SDCH at Old Poway Park and experience a “living history” field trip appropriate for any age or grade level. The history of rural Poway and early California will be covered, meeting the state learning requirements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and of interest to all grades. The tour includes presentations in the Nelson House; an 1800's Poway farmhouse, the Heritage Museum; which will focus on the pioneer time of Poway and the Kumeyaay Indians, and an Operation Lifesaver Train Safety presentation, complete with a train-ride aboard the Poway Midland Railroad!

**Date:** Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** 14114 Midland Road  
 Poway

**Cost:** \$2.00 per person all ages  
**Sign-Up:** It's not too late! Call or e-mail Lisa Vaca at [Lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:Lisa@starbasejeff.com)

## Live Inside Out Performance



Come see Sasha, Mariah and Meagan perform in Live Inside Out in an Upside Down World. This is a fun play for all ages. Join us for fellowship and dessert after the performance at the Host residence in Rancho Penasquitos

**Date:** Friday, November 9, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Canyon Hills Community Church  
 5020 Del Mar Heights Road  
 phone (858) 481-0424

**RSVP:** To Bea Host [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com)  
 by Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>

## SDCH Game Night

Studies show that playing games improves social skills, logical thinking, and aids in the development of neuro-pathways (it helps your brain). Join your fellow SDCH families for a night of great board games and fellowship. Bring a snack to share and get ready to have fun!

This is a FUN family event. All ages are welcome and encouraged to play games! We'll even have a special kids-games area set up featuring games for all ages.

**Date:** Saturday, November 10, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 pm to whenever???  
**Location:** Jeff & Lisa's house  
 (address available when your RSVP)  
 Mira Mesa

**Cost:** Free for everyone  
**Sign-Up:** at November Park Day or...  
**R.S.V.P.:** by calling Jeff and Lisa at 858-689-1322

## Inner Space / Outer Space Exhibition

Local homeschool families have received a special invitation from San Diego State University to attend their Inner Space / Outer Space Exhibition and Open House.

This event is very interactive, and allows the general public to see in operation many pieces of high tech science equipment, such as electron microscopes and telescopes, as well as interact with science students here at San Diego State University.

SDSU has provided a description of the free event, which we have posted on our web site, and they urge all of us to notify our homeschoolers of this opportunity to see equipment in operation and to learn how labscience works

Go to our web site at [www.sdChristianHomeschools.com](http://www.sdChristianHomeschools.com) and click on Events for more information, including a detailed description of the event and a color flier.

**Date:** Saturday, November 10, 2007  
**Time:** 4:00 – 8:00 pm  
**Location:** San Diego State University  
College Avenue South of I-8

**Ages:** All ages are welcome  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca  
[Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com](mailto:Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com)



## Join the other SDCH families as we gather at Nickel City and celebrate our first 50 days of Homeschooling!!!

Every SDCH kid gets 50 prize tickets, 40 nickels, pizza, salad, and drinks... and unlimited games if you bring more of your own nickels. SDCH adults get the lunch and can bring their own nickels to play if they want to. Please contact Lisa Vaca with any questions you might have.

**Date:** Monday, November 12, 2007 (note: that's the Veteran's Day Holiday)  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** 11610 Carmel Mountain Road  
(just off of I-15) next to the movie theater.

**Ages:** All ages are welcome. Drop-offs are allowed too (ages 8 and up), just check-in with Mrs. Vaca!  
**Cost:** \$10 per SDCH kid  
\$3 per SDCH adult  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca at  
[Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com](mailto:Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com)

### SDCH Members only please

## Operation Christmas Child by Samaritans Purse

From Franklin Graham's letter:

In the next few weeks, millions of caring people like you will be praying for children in the poorest areas of the world and filling shoe boxes with gifts for them. During the week of November 12-19, Operation Christmas Child will collect gift boxes at over 2,000 locations across the United States and then distribute them in over 100 countries.

We can join with him by contributing shoeboxes to his effort. Check our website at [www.sdChristianHomeschools.com](http://www.sdChristianHomeschools.com) for more information.

National collection week is Nov 12-19

Additionally, as a special volunteer, Sandy Hutchinson has the opportunity to take late drop-offs at her home on December 3, 2007 any time between 2-4 pm.

**Address:** (address available by contacting Sandy Hutchnson)  
Mira Mesa  
[shutchinson@san.rr.com](mailto:shutchinson@san.rr.com)

## SDCH to visit Calico Ghost Town

The 1880's were one of the most colorful periods in American history. As a nation, we were just beginning to feel birth pangs of the 20th century. However, the American west was just coming to life. Today, this bygone age lives on at Calico Ghost Town. Nestled in a quiet canyon, Calico's history is as rich as the silver ore taken from its mountains.

At Calico, you can relive the dreams of long-ago prospectors as you roam the tunnels of Maggie's Mine or climb aboard a railroad car destined for old workings to the north. Along the wooden sidewalks of Main Street, there are shops and attractions of every type. At each stop, you'll find everything from a ten-gallon hat to a three-course meal.

Rate includes admission and all the attractions. Cabins are only \$33 per night and sleep four people. Call for cabin reservations.

**Date:** Friday, November 16, 2007  
(optional overnight-stay in camp cabins available),  
**Time:** 10:00 am (town is open from 8am to dusk, attractions are open from 9am to 5pm)  
**Location:** Calico Ghost Town  
phone 1-800-TO-CALICO  
web [www.calicotown.com](http://www.calicotown.com)  
mail P.O. Box 638, Yermo, CA 92398

**Cost:** \$6.00 per person,  
ages 4 and under are free  
**Ages:** all ages are welcome to attend  
**Register:** It's not too late to sign up at November Park Day  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca  
by e-mail at: [Lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:Lisa@starbasejeff.com)

### Driving Directions from San Diego

From San Diego the drive time will be about 3+ hours. Please plan to leave at 6:30 to get there on time (too early is better than too late).

Take the 15 North to the 215 North, back to the 15 North (this will help you avoid the congested fwys of Riverside)

Just past Barstow take the #191 exit to Ghost Town Road and turn left.

## SDCH Craft Class: Gourds

Attend this fun and educational craft class and learn all about gourds while making a work of art you can keep or give as a special Christmas gift. Using a variety of tools and finishing mediums, we will be making gourd birdhouses, gourd bowls, gourd Christmas ornaments, gourd baskets, and more. You may purchase your gourd(s) ahead of time at our field trip to Mountain Valley Ranch's Pumpkin Patch, where they range in price from 50 cents to a few dollars. Gourds can also be purchased at many produce stores and even some grocery stores. Choose sizes and shapes that ignite your imagination.

**Date:** Monday, November 19, 2007  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Vaca home  
(address available when you register)  
Mira Mesa

**Ages:** 5 to 8 will require parent help with the tools  
9 and up do not need parent help  
**Cost:** Free for SDCH members if you bring your own gourd(s)  
or \$2 if you need us to get you a gourd(s).  
Non-members must pay \$2 for paints, tools, and other supplies, plus \$2 if you need us to get you a gourd(s).  
**Register:** Lisa Vaca at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)

## Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center

**Date:** Tuesday, November 20, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** 2115 Park Boulevard  
across the street from Balboa Park

**Cost:** \$3 suggested donation made at the door\*  
**Register:** Please sign up at November Park Day or P.E. on the 13<sup>th</sup> and pick up a detailed brochure with a map to the museum.



To honor our veterans this month the SDCH children and their families will present a large thank you "card" to the brave men and women who have served our country and now volunteer at the Veteran's Museum here in San Diego. Please have your children sign the "card" at Park Day even if you do not plan to attend this field trip.

The San Diego Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is one of the very few places you will find that covers all branches of service and is indeed a home for all veteran groups. Don't miss this history-rich presentation and tour by the very special docents who have actually been "over there!" Enjoy this museum's unique collections of memorabilia and artwork dating from the civil war to the present. Our field trip will also feature a fun scavenger hunt game for all ages. This is the place to see and hear history! [www.veteransmuseum.org](http://www.veteransmuseum.org)

\* This museum operates on the donations of their daily visitors like us. The suggested donation is \$3 per person or \$10 per family of four or more. We will not be collecting payments as you sign-up for this but will allow each person or family to give what they feel is appropriate at the door of the museum as we enter. Since the museum is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization your donation is tax deductible.

## Homeschool Dad's Prayer Time

Hosted by Wayne McBrayer

This is a dads-only meeting that serves as a special time for the God-ordained leaders of our homes to get together and pray for each other's families and homeschools. Fellowship and snacks to follow.

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*  
— James 5:16b

**Date:** Monday, November 19, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** (address available upon request)  
Mira Mesa

**Contact:** Wayne McBrayer at 858-566-3263  
or e-mail at [vadertyme@aol.com](mailto:vadertyme@aol.com)

## Homeschool Encouragement Meetings

Join other local Christian Homeschool moms about once a month for these friendly round-table discussions and receive encouragement in your personal homeschooling journey. With everyone given an opportunity to "share" in a safe, confidential environment, Encouragement Meetings are a great way to share personal concerns or "vent" our frustrations, as well as a great place to offer and receive support, suggestions, and prayer in all areas of our lives as Homeschool Moms. We will meet at various coffee spots of cafes around town. No childcare is available, but babies are always welcome. For times/locations or for more information please send an e-mail request to [SDCHgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:SDCHgroup@yahoo.com) or call 858-353-1439 or visit our website at [www.sdchristianhomeschools.com](http://www.sdchristianhomeschools.com).

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
**Location:** It's a Grind!  
13350 Camino del Sur  
Torrey Hills

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..."*

*- 1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 5:11*



One of Our Homeschool Dads Prepares for Laser Tag at the Homeschool Boomers event

## Girl's Book and Tea Club

Please read and come ready to discuss:

**Almost Home** by Wendy Lawton  
*A Story based on the life of the Mayflower's Mary Chilton.*

*Almost Home* is the story of the Pilgrims' journey to America, and of God's providence and provision in their journey. Several of the characters mentioned in the story – Mary Chilton, Constance Hopkins and Elizabeth Tilley – were actual passengers of the *Mayflower*!

Mary Chilton was a young girl when she left her home in Holland and traveled to America onboard the *Mayflower* with her parents. The journey was filled with trials, joy, and some surprises, but when she reaches the New World she experiences a new life, a new freedom, and a new home.

Wendy Lawton has taken the facts of the Pilgrims' journey to the New World, and from this information filled in personal details to create a genuine, and heart-warming story.

**Pages:** 160 (paperback)  
**Ages:** 10+

*This event is for girls in 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade and their moms.*

**Next Meeting:** Friday, November 30, 2007  
**Time:** 12:30 pm (following the Outback field trip)  
**Location:** Bea Host's House  
Rancho Penasquitos

**Contact:** Bea Host at [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com) for questions or request for directions.

## Homeschool Dad's Cheesy Movie Night

What could be better than fellowship, fun and freaky-bad movies? Well, probably many things – but come on out anyway. This is a time for the reclusive dads to come out of their caves and gather together to scoff at the very worst sci-fi that Hollywood produced during the decades of the 50s and 60s.

If you've ever seen *Mystery Science 3000* or *Disasterpiece Theatre* then you know how fun it can be to heckle a cinematic disaster – and if you haven't then you definitely need to crawl out from under your rock and see what its all about.

This will be the last Cheesy Movie Night of this calendar year, so jump on it while you can (and make sure to throw an elbow while you're at it).

**Date:** Friday, November 30, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** (address available upon request)  
Mira Mesa

**Contact:** Wayne McBrayer  
by e-mail at [vadertyme@aol.com](mailto:vadertyme@aol.com)

*Recap of Homeschool Dad's Cheesy Movie Night*  
By Marc Hutchinson

*Wayne: you were right. The cheese was thick tonight...so thick you could cut it with a knife!*

*Attending were the prince of provolone, the count of camembert, the squire of stilton, the duke of danablu, and last but not least the king of klosterkaese. All of us were entertained by an account of a trip to that fabled celestial orb once thought to be formed of green cheese.*

## Field Trip to Outback Steakhouse



Join your SDCH friends for an AWESOME free field trip to the Outback Restaurant in Poway, near the Target. On this field trip everyone gets something special... see last month's newsletter for a more detailed description.

This field trip is completely FREE and includes lunch! It is put on as a community service by Outback

Restaurants. Please remember to thank them for this wonderful gift to our group. Visit [www.outback.com](http://www.outback.com) for more details.

**Date:** Friday, November 30, 2007  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Location:** Outback Steakhouse - Poway  
14701 Pomerado Road  
Poway

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)

## SDCH Craft Class: Knitting Christmas Hats

Learn how to knit an old fashioned Santa-style hat just in time for Christmas. We will be using the green (med-sized) Knifty Knitter loom to make a warm and attractive hat in red and white yarns with a cool little pom-pom at the tip that will fit a child or small-adult head. Mrs. Vaca will bring an example to November Park Day for you to see. This project is great for boys and girls about age nine and up, however younger children can easily learn this type of knitting too, when accompanied by a parent assisting them. Some students may require more than one day to finish their hat. We will offer a second optional finish-day

You may pre-order your yarn and your Knifty Knitter (which you get to keep) at November Park Day. If you already own the green Knifty Knitter then you will only need to order the yarn. Please do not bring your own yarn to class. It is important for the class to all use the same weight and type of yarn so that group instruction can be more efficient. We will be using a special "quick" yarn that is purchased in bulk using our SDCH homeschool discount.

**Date:** Monday, December 3, 2007 with optional 2<sup>nd</sup> class (to finish if necessary) on Monday, December 10, 2007  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Vaca home (address available upon request) Mira Mesa  
**Ages:** 7 and 8 will require parent help  
**Ages:** 9 and up may not need parent help, especially if they are familiar with the Knifty Knitter loom.  
**Cost:** \$5 for yarn per hat, \$7 for loom, hook & needle (that you get to keep). Non-members are \$2 more, please.  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)

## Trip to the State Capitol

As many of you know, we have been in the planning stages for a trip to Sacramento for some time. We are looking forward to traveling as a group to the State Capitol and other sites of interest.

This event will take place in 2008.

Please contact Wayne McBrayer (858 610-0537) if you would like to help plan this event or if you have any questions.

## Mom's Christmas Brunch and Cookie Exchange

Join your fellow homeschool moms for a relaxing holiday brunch and tea as we fellowship and help to get each other into the Christmas spirit. Please plan to bring a brunch dish to share with the group and enough cookies for each guest to go home with some for her family. This was one of our greatest mom's events in the past and we know it will bless you all to join us this year. Please mark your calendars now so you won't miss it. This event is for SDCH members only.

**Date:** Saturday, December 1, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** The home of Bea Host  
Rancho Penasquitos

**RSVP:** to Bea Host at [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com)  
before November 24<sup>th</sup>

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## Albertson's Grocery Store Field Trip

**Date:** Thursday, December 6, 2007  
**Time:** 10:30 am to Noon  
**Location:** 7895 Highland Village Place  
Torrey Hills

**Cost:** Free for SDCH members,  
\$2 per person for non members  
**Sign up:** at November Park Day or P.E. on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Contact:** Lisa Vaca, SDCH Events Coordinator at  
by e-mail at [Lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:Lisa@starbasejeff.com)

A state-of-the-art grocery store recently opened in our area and SDCH has been invited to have a field trip there. Children of all ages will learn about the different departments within a grocery store and how you can find the healthiest foods when you shop there. We'll get to see behind the scenes into the freezers and bakery and receiving docks in order to learn all about the day-to-day operations of a major grocery store. There will also be plenty of samples and goodies for the kids to take home with them. This is a free field trip and is open to all ages, however it will be geared toward the learning abilities of the 1st through 5th graders. Please pick up the permission slip at Park Day when you sign up for this one and be ready to list any food allergies.

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## SDCH Christmas Party

Be prepared to dress for the occasion as SDCH presents our first Christmas party. Dinner will be provided and will be followed by a Christmas puppet-show that's sure to entertain children and adults alike. We will also play Christmas games and have crafts for the children as well as a gift-giving "event" (more info to follow on that). So join us for fun and fellowship as we celebrate the Birth of Christ.

This is a members-only event, but we accept membership applications all year long so there is no need for you to miss out.

**Please RSVP by December 1, 2007.**

**Date:** Friday, December 7, 2007  
**Time:** 06:30 pm  
**Location:** East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church  
4633 Doliva Drive  
Clairemont

## Swiftkick Karate Demo Show

**Date:** Saturday, December 8, 2007  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Escondido Charter Highschool  
1868 E. Valley Parkway  
Escondido

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** Sandy Hutchinson at [shutchinson@san.rr.com](mailto:shutchinson@san.rr.com)

Come and watch all the SDCH karate-kids and other homeschoolers as they show off all that they have learned this year. This karate demo performance will be a thrilling experience for all ages to see, and it may even spark an interest in your own family members. Sensei Cowell teaches weekly homeschool martial arts classes as well as adult and family classes too. Check out [www.SwiftKickMA.com](http://www.SwiftKickMA.com) for more details.



Tickets \$11 all ages

*Traditions of Christmas* is a spectacular show that is certain get your whole family into the Christmas spirit... and to remind us what Christmas is really all about.

This family holiday presentation has thrilled children and families for 15 years with its variety of song and dance, costumes, special effects, stories, and music portraying familiar "traditions of Christmas" on stage. Come find out the "truth" behind all your favorite Christmas songs. Guest appearances from favorite characters include Rudolph, Frosty, The Grinch, Charlie Brown and, of course, Santa Claus, who all pay special tribute to the "real" reason for the season: the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007  
**Time:** 09:00 am  
**Location:** East County Performing Arts Center  
210 E. Main Street  
El Cajon

**Contact:** Call Lisa Vaca at 858 689-1322 or 858 353-1439  
or e-mail at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)



SDCHers descend into the darkness on our Cave field trip.

## Exploring Homeschooling

Presented by San Diego Christian Homeschools

Do you know anyone who is considering homeschooling their children or do you think your friends and neighbors might be interested in learning more about homeschooling? Invite them to come to the Open Public Meeting at the Mira Mesa Library this month regarding homeschooling, presented by SDCH. The "experts" – homeschoolers just like us, will answer all of their questions.

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors who might like to know more about homeschooling. The Board will have brochures that you can distribute.

**Date:** Monday, December 17, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 to 7:00 pm

**Location:** Mira Mesa Library  
8405 New Salem Street  
Mira Mesa

**Cost:** Free and open to the general public!!!

**Contact:** The SDCH Board of Directors [SDCHgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:SDCHgroup@yahoo.com)  
858 610-0537 or 858 353-1439

## Make a Gingerbread House

Get together with your SDCH friends for this wonderful Christmas tradition and make a gingerbread house for your family, and taste some homemade gingerbread, too. Please plan to bring your own pre-baked gingerbread house kit with icing and decorations. These kits are usually sold at grocery stores and Costco or craft stores such as Michael's and Joann's. Go out and buy one early if you plan to participate with us. We suggest that siblings share one kit between them and come prepared to work on it together (trust me on this one, folks!) as it will be too lengthy a project for one family to try to make two or more houses and too difficult for one parent to help more than one child... besides, who really wants to have two or three or four of these things sitting around the house? One is more special.

**Date:** TBA

**Time:** TBA

**Location:** Cobb Home  
(address available upon request)  
Mira Mesa

**Ages:** open to all ages but each house-builder may require parental help

**Cost:** Free! Remember to bring your own gingerbread house kit and any additional decorations you would like.

**Contact:** Lisa Vaca at [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)

**Note:** Snacks will be provided. Please advise Mrs. Vaca of any food allergies.

## San Diego Christian Homeschools Board of Directors and Board Meeting Information

SD Christian Homeschools is a support group for homeschool families in San Diego County.

Website: [www.sdChristianHomeschools.com](http://www.sdChristianHomeschools.com)

E-mail: [SDCHgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:SDCHgroup@yahoo.com)

Voice mail: 858-353-1439 or 858-610-0537

We are the servant-leaders of SDCH for the 2007/2008 school year. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions, comments, or suggestions you have. It is our blessing to serve the Lord by ministering to you.

**President:** Valerie McBrayer [valerie.mcbrayer@sdsheff.org](mailto:valerie.mcbrayer@sdsheff.org)

**Vice President:** Rebecca Herman [rlh-aoii@pacbell.net](mailto:rlh-aoii@pacbell.net)

**Secretary:** Roxanne Kenny [roxannekenny@san.rr.com](mailto:roxannekenny@san.rr.com)

**Treasurer:** Bea Host [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com)

**Membership:** Janet Cobb [jilaree@yahoo.com](mailto:jilaree@yahoo.com)

**Events:** Lisa Vaca [lisa@starbasejeff.com](mailto:lisa@starbasejeff.com)

**Dad's Rep:** Wayne McBrayer [vadertyme@aol.com](mailto:vadertyme@aol.com)

**Website:** Jeffrey Vaca [jeff@starbasejeff.com](mailto:jeff@starbasejeff.com)

**Board Member:** Barry Kenny [krbak@aol.com](mailto:krbak@aol.com)

**Board Member:** Kevin Host [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com)

Please prayerfully consider joining our leadership team. Several great opportunities are still available.

### Board Meetings

Board Meetings are generally scheduled on the Monday evening before Park Day each month and meet at various homes of Board Members.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Wayne & Valerie's house

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Kevin & Bea's house

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Wayne & Valerie's house

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Rob & Janet's house

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Kevin & Bea's house

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Jeff & Lisa's house

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 – Barry & Roxanne's house

Please pray about how you can volunteer with us to serve the local homeschool community as a Board Member of SDCH. If you would like to attend a board meeting please e-mail Valerie McBrayer for address, meeting agenda, etc.



**Need to catch up on some sleep?**

**Come to a board meeting!**

Dear Homeschoolers,

We are happy to announce that we are now offering Scholastic Books through our homeschool group. Flyer will be available at Park Day or you may request them from Bea Host at [beahost@san.rr.com](mailto:beahost@san.rr.com). Orders will be placed once a month after Park Day, starting 10/12/07, from the prior month flyers. You can also place your Scholastic Book Club orders online using the SDCH password. This month's offers are filled with great books and software at terrific values.

To order online, go to the Web address below and enter our group's personalized user name and password.

[www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering)

Class User Name: sdch

Password: read

Remember, placing your online credit card order is completely safe and secure.

Plus, when you shop online, you can take advantage of exclusive online-only offers and choose from an expanded selection of books and software. Of course, you can always use the printed flyer instead and hand in your Book Club order form and payment at Park Day.

Our goal is for SDCH to earn points that will go towards our group's Reading Club (coming soon, look for info in the news letter) and also to get books for our future homeschool lending library. Thank you for your help in supporting SDCH and for encouraging reading among our children. If you have any questions regarding the Scholastic Book Program, please don't hesitate to contact Bea Host.

# San Diego Christian Homeschools

*"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:6*

## Event Registration Form for all Field Trips, Classes, and Special Events

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: NOVEMBER 2007

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your family a current member of SDCH? Yes  No  (if not please include possible non-member fees with form)\*

### REGISTRATION FORM DIRECTIONS:

1. Using the SDCH Newsletter, Website, and E-mail Updates, determine the items you wish to participate in.
2. At Park Days or other occasions place your name(s) on the sign up list of each item you are interested in.
3. Fill out this form indicating each item you have signed up for, number of family members, and total costs.
4. Add all items together, enter the sum at the bottom, and make your check payable to SDCH for the amount.
5. Place your form and check in an envelope and deposit it in the box at Park Day or mail it to Events Coordinator.

√	Name or Description of Class, Trip, Event:	Date/Time:	Adults	Kids	Total
	How Great Thou Art – 25 classes, all supplies	Thursdays, 2:00		____ @ \$45.00	
	Nickel City	11/12/07 at 1:00	____ @ \$3.00	____ @ \$10.00	
	Calico Ghost Town (under 4 free)	11/16/07, all day	____ @ \$6.00	____ @ \$6.00	
	Craft Class: Gourds - free, or \$2 for gourd(s)	11/19/07 at 1:00		____ @ \$2.00	
	Craft Class: Knit Christmas Hat (yarn & loom) Craft Class: Knit Christmas (yarn only)	12/3/07 at 1:00		____ @ \$12.00 ____ @ \$5.00	
	Traditions of Christmas, CCT/CYT Production	12/11/07 at 9:00	____ @\$11.00	____ @ \$11.00	
			____ @	____ @	
			____ @	____ @	

I have enclosed cash \_\_\_\_ or check \_\_\_\_ ( ck # \_\_\_\_\_ ) in the **TOTAL AMOUNT** of: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit this form and your payment, made payable to SDCH, in the red box at Park Day (envelopes are available) or you may send it by mail it to Lisa Vaca, SDCH Events Coordinator, at (address available upon request, contact [Lisa@StarbaseJeff.com](mailto:Lisa@StarbaseJeff.com)). The Treasurer will give you an itemized receipt. Please watch for e-mail announcements from the Events Coordinator regarding the items you have signed up for. If you have any questions regarding events please e-mail us at [SDCHgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:SDCHgroup@yahoo.com) or call Lisa Vaca. Thank you.

\*Some of our activities may include a small fee for non-members. Please see the Newsletter or the sign up sheets for details regarding the item(s) you are interested in. Note: Membership in SDCH is only \$15 per school-year for the entire family (grandparents too).