

the CHALKBOARD

December 2007

Volume 1 - Issue 4

San Diego Christian Homeschools' Newsletter

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

Proverbs 3:6

Reflections on the Holidays

By the time this makes it to you all, Thanksgiving will have already passed in a flurry of family, food and fun and Christmas will be bearing down on us all like a candy coated freight train. Although this time of year is one of great joy and anticipation, it never fails to bring to my mind Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation, which said in part:

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

This message was delivered at a time of great strife in our nation, when we were in the midst of the Civil War, and really shows the quality of Lincoln's faith in God. It always serves to remind me what the season is really all about and where I should keep my focus.

So let's all remember to take time this month to lift up our voices to God Almighty in songs of praise and thanksgiving for the abundant blessings that he has heaped upon us all year long, and especially for the most precious gift of all: his son, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Jeffrey Vaca
Newsletter Editor

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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:

December 14th	Lindbergh Park (Clairemont) (Christmas Garb)
January 11th	Lopez Ridge Park (Mira Mesa) (Traffic Signals)
February 8th	Standley Park (Golden Triangle) (Valentine Exchange)
March 14th	Camino Ruiz Park (Mira Mesa) (Kites)
April 11th	TBA (Swiftkick Demo)
May 9th	Nobel Athletic Park (Univ City) (Library field trip)
June	No Park Day Join us for the End of Year Party
July	No Park Day Check website for summer events/activities

December Park Day – Christmas Garb

Friday, December 14, 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, lets all wear our favorite Christmas clothing (hats, scarves, jingle bells, light up Christmas ties, etc.) If you would like to bring some Christmas cookies or other goodies to share with everyone at December Park Day please do so (remember that we have some kids in the group with nut allergies so label your goodies well). Please contact us if you are interested in the fun, satisfying, and blessing-filled position of Park Day Coordinator.

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

January Park Day – Traffic Signals

Friday, January 11, 2007, at 2:00 pm
Lopez Ridge Park in Mira Mesa (see map on website)
7245 Calle Cristobal, San Diego, CA 92126

A safe and happy New Year will be the focus of our January Park Day at Lopez Ridge Park in the north Mira Mesa area. Don't miss this very special Park Day. Mr. Vaca will be presenting a fascinating and informative field trip on Traffic Signals, so you won't want to be late. This park has a large, safe, fenced-in, paved path so we would like to encourage the kids to bring their tricycles, bicycles, and scooters (don't forget the helmets and other safety gear) for riding after the Traffic Signal presentation so we can all practice "traffic" safety and have some great fun at the same time.

Cheeky Monkey

The editor of Cheeky Monkey, an online arts magazine for and by homeschoolers, has invited our group to participate in it's inaugural issue by having our SDCH children submit samples of their creative work. Please have your kids prepare some artwork, poetry, short stories, or photography and submit them to the editor of Cheeky Monkey before December 15th.



You may go to the magazine's website at www.CheekyMonkeyMag.com for submission instructions. And then look for their first issue to come out in January of the new year.

La Jolla Cave Field Trip: A dad's perspective.

September 22nd, our group took a trip to La Jolla Cave. I had never been there or even knew about the place. The day started dreary and rainy, but by the time we got there, the sun was out and it was comfortable. We walked inside and for the first time I heard our groups name called; "SDCH members gather at the stairs". We walked down the 143 stairs to look out of the cave shaped like the Planter's Peanut Guy's head profile. We spent about 10 minutes looking out and taking pictures.

It was a short, but a pleasant field trip. We walked back up the stairs and then down to the cove where our kids ran and played in the water. As I sat next to Jeff and looked out at the ocean, I reflected on the changes that had come in such a short time. We had left a group we loved and worked hard to make a great group and now here we were striking out on our own. However, with God's help, He has led us on a path that 3 months ago, I would have never dreamed of. Bylaws, guidelines, field trips, prayer, elected board, and God guiding our decisions. All and all, a great day and great start.

And as the old Carpenter song goes, "We've Only Just Begun."

Wayne A. McBrayer

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 Mom's Brunch and Cookie Exchange
2	3 10:00 McGlenn Science Class pt 1 2:00-4:00 Shoebox Drop-off 3:00 Craft Class: Knit a Holiday Hat	4 10:00 McGlenn Science Class pt 2 2:00 P.E. Class	5	6 10:30 Albertson's Store field trip 6:30 Decorate for party	7 6:30 SDCH Christmas Party	8 1:00 Dec. Nights at Balboa Park 6:00 Swiftkick Karate Demo Show
9	10 1:00 Holiday Hat Follow-up 6:30 Board Meeting	11 9:00 Traditions of Christmas 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	12 10:00 Gingerbread Houses	13 5:30 Living Nativity	14 2:00 Park Day Deadline to submit for Cheeky Monkey Magazine tomorrow	15 4:30 Middle & High School Christmas Party at Vogt's
16	17 6:00 Exploring Homeschool Open Info night at library	18 12:30 Yellow Book Road, P. Bosch 2:00 P.E. Class	19	20 2:00 Girl's Book & Tea Club w/cookie exchange	21	22
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas 25	26	27	28	29
30	New Year's Eve 31					

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		New Years Day 1	2	3 2:00 Art Class	4	5
6	7 6:30 Board Meeting	8 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	9	10 2:00 Art Class	11 2:00 Park Day and Traffic Signal field trip	12
13	14	15 2:00 P.E. Class	16 7:00 Workshop: Learning Styles at the Lowther's	17 2:00 Art Class	18	19
20	MLK Jr. Birthday 21	22 2:00 Presidential Fitness Class	23	24 2:00 Art Class	25 2:00 Girl's Book & Tea Club 7:00 Dad's Night	26 1:00 ICR field trip
27	28 7:00 Mom's Encouragement Meeting	29 1:15 Arco Olympic Center field trip	30	31 2:00 Art Class		

**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 for
questions/comments

Website: Visit SDCH on the web at
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 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

P.E. & Presidential Fitness Schedule

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 – 5th 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 – 5th 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

**THERE ARE NO CLASSES THIS MONTH
CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 3rd 2008**

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: The home of Bea Host
(available upon request)
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

**No classes April 3-17
Last class day May 28, 2008**

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 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: (available upon request)
Mira Mesa
e-mail shutchinson@san.rr.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 Sandy Hutchinson (shutchinson@san.rr.com) 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
(available upon request)
Rancho Penasquitos

RSVP: to Bea Host at beahost@san.rr.com
before November 24th

IF you have not signed up yet and you would like to attend, please e-mail or call Bea ASAP.

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. We will wear our Hats to the December Park Day for our Christmas Garb event. 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 knitting day to finish up the hats before Park Day.



It is too late to order a loom now but you may purchase one at Michael's or Joann's. Contact Lisa Vaca for loom size details and too see if there is enough yarn pre-ordered for your hat(s) or if we can get it elsewhere.

1st Day: Monday, December 3, 2007
Time: 3:00 pm (immediately after the science class)
Location: The home of Bea Host
(available upon request)
Penasquitos

2nd Day: Monday, December 10, 2007
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: The home of Lisa Vaca
(available upon request)
Mira Mesa

Ages: 7 and 8 will require parent help
Ages: 9 and up may not need parent help
Contact: Lisa Vaca at lisa@starbasejeff.com

**Albertson's Grocery
Store Field Trip**
Hurry and sign up now...
space is
limited and it is filling up fast!



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
Contact: Lisa Vaca, SDCH Events Coordinator by e-mail.

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.

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 a gift-giving "event".
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: 06:00 pm
Location: East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church
4633 Doliva Drive
Clairemont

RSVP: If you have not already responded with your RSVP, please do so ASAP to Bea Host at beahost@san.rr.com

This is an SDCH Members-Only event

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

- Micah 5:2

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

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 for more details.



Date: Saturday, December 8, 2007
Time: The event lasts from Noon until 10:00 pm
(Hannah dances at 1:00 pm)
Location: Balboa Park, on Park Boulevard in San Diego
Contact: Jeff or Lisa Vaca at Lisa@starbasejeff.com
or 858-353-1439

In the spirit of the holidays, participating Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on this weekend, which will be the 30th annual celebration of Christmas on the Prado. This beloved San Diego event features sparkling lights, theatrical and musical entertainment, exotic foods and drinks throughout the Park, unique gift shops featuring the works of local artisans, plus carnival rides and games for younger children.

On Saturday at noon the fun begins early. At 1:00 pm come and see Hannah Vaca and her dance class perform a special Christmastime dance in the Casa Del Prado courtyard, next to the Botanical Gardens building. If you are interested in meeting there and touring the event as a group please call Lisa's cell phone at 858-353-1439. It's always a lot of fun for the kids to do this together as a group.

We suggest parking in the Zoo lot and walking in to Balboa Park, as the parking is difficult on special event weekends. There is also free parking at various locations downtown with free shuttles available to take you directly to the event. Please go to www.BalboaPark.org for more details and a parking map.



15th ANNUAL
Traditions
CHRISTMAS
 A MUSICAL SPECTACULAR

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: 9:00 am
Location: East County Performing Arts Center
 210 E. Main Street
 El Cajon

Contact: Call Lisa Vaca at 858 353-1439
 or e-mail at lisa@starbasejeff.com

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: Wednesday, December 12, 2007
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Rob and Janet Cobb's 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.
Contact: Lisa Vaca at lisa@starbasejeff.com
Note: Snacks will be provided. Please advise Mrs. Vaca of any food allergies.

13th Annual Living Nativity

Join your fellow homeschool families as we once again enjoy this special event together as a family. There is no cost to attend the Living Nativity but there will be an optional dinner sold at the end of the tour. It features authentic and delicious Middle Eastern foods served buffet style. The cost for the dinner is about \$8 per person (we suggest having your little ones share a plate between them as it is a lot of food).

Date: Thursday, December 13, 2007
Time: arrive at 5:30 pm to meet our group,
 event begins at 6:00 pm
Location: Horizon Christian Fellowship, North County
 6365 El Apajo Road
 Rancho Santa Fe
Cost: Free. An optional dinner is available for
 about \$8 per plate.
Contact: Jeff or Lisa Vaca at lisa@starbasejeff.com
 or 858-353-1439

The Living Nativity is Horizon Christian Fellowship's Christmas gift for your whole family – complete with breathtaking scenes and dramatic re-creations of the life of the Savior, Christ the Lord. You will walk thru the Middle Eastern Marketplace, see live actors and animals portray the history and culture of the time, and enjoy authentic Mediterranean cuisine. Return to the first century with us and witness Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The Living Nativity is a pageant for the Master – and a gift for your entire family. Go to www.horizon.org for more details.

Driving directions:

From the 5 freeway: Exit Via de la Valle (east). At El Camino Real go right (south). At next light, which is San Dieguito Road, turn left (east). Follow San Dieguito Road up the hill into Fairbanks Ranch. Turn left at El Apajo Road (a 3-way traffic light). The church is ¼ mile down on the left at 6365 El Apajo Rd

From the 15 freeway: take 56 west, exit Camino Del Sur and go right (north). At San Dieguito Road turn left (west). Stay on San Dieguito Road all the way into Fairbanks Ranch. Turn right on El Apajo Road (a 3-way traffic light). The church is ¼ mile down on the left at 6365 El Apajo Road.



6th through 12th grade Christmas Party

The Vogt family is hosting their annual Christmas Party for middle schoolers and high schoolers who love the Lord and want to celebrate His birth with likeminded friends and family. There will be games, swimming, lots of fun and getting to know each other.

This is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

Date: Saturday, December 15, 2007
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: The home of Kurt and Megumi Vogt
 (address available upon request)
 Mira Mesa
Contact: Kurt or Megumi Vogt
 at vogtyonemoto@earthlink.net



Exploring Homeschooling

Presented by San Diego Christian Homeschools

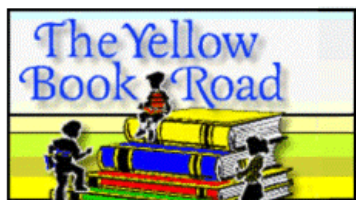
Do you know anyone who is considering homeschooling their children or do you think your friends and neighbors might be interested in learning more about homeschooling? Invite them to come to the Open Public Meeting at the Mira Mesa Library this month regarding homeschooling, presented by SDCH. The "experts" – 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
858 610-0537 or 858 353-1439

If you are available to help us "host" this event by showing up at the Library and handing out information or talking with others about your own homeschooling experiences please contact the SDCH Board and plan to join us for this awesome opportunity. Thank you.



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...

Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Time: 12:30 pm
Location: 7200 Parkway Drive
La Mesa

Cost: Free to attend the event (book is available to purchase)
Sign-Up: December Park Day or P.E.
Contact: Lisa Vaca at 858-353-1439 or Lisa@StarBaseJeff.com

Note: This is an event that had to be rescheduled due to the wildfires in San Diego in October. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet this famous children's author.

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...

Girl's Book and Tea Club

Please read and come ready to discuss:

The Day Christ Was Born: The True Account of the First 24 Hours of Jesus's Life

by Jim Bishop

Jim Bishop, author of *The Day Christ Died*, vividly chronicles the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, renewing the sense of awe and wonder we experience at Christmas. Relive the journey to Bethlehem, the first Christmas night, the visits of the shepherds and Magi, the flight into Egypt, and the quiet, joyous return. All are recalled in the framework of a gripping, unfolding narrative that is biblically accurate, yet filled with rich, dramatic detail. Using the same skill exhibited in his previous book, *The Day Christ Died*, about Good Friday, Bishop's book is a reverential reconstruction of the people, places, institutions, and events associated with the first Christmas.

Pages: 128 (paperback)
Ages: 10+

In addition to discussing the book "The Day Christ Was Born", the girls will also have a cookie exchange. Girls, bake your favorite Christmas treat and wrap them in 5 individual little packages, you may also bring some on a plate to share at the tea. Tips: Make cookies half the normal size to make the batch go further; Place cookies in center of napkin or cellophane paper, bring corner together and tie with curling ribbon; Craft stores sell little cellophane bags with ties that are easy to use. IF you are joining our club for the first time this month please let Bea know as soon as possible so that you are not left out on the cookie exchange.

This event is for girls in 5th through 7th grade and their moms.

Please note that we normally meet on the 4th Friday of the month, but due to Christmas we are meeting on a different day this month

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 20, 2007
Time: 12:30 pm (following the Outback field trip)
Location: Sharon Meins' House
(address available upon request)
Claremont

Contact: Bea Host at beahost@san.rr.com with any questions or request for directions.

SDCH Workshop: Learning Styles / Teaching Styles

What is your teaching style? What are the learning styles of your children? How can your own learning style (and teaching style) aid your children and help them grow a life-long love of learning? Join us as we explore these topics together in a fun and informative workshop on learning styles. This event is for parents only please.

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2008
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: The home of Scott & Erica Lowther in Penasquitos
(address available upon request)
Rancho Panasquitos

Cost: \$2 per family for SDCH members
\$4 for non-members
Sign-Up: December or January Park Days
Contact: Lisa Vaca at 858-353-1439
or Lisa@starbasejeff.com

Institute for Creation Research

Earlier this school-year we had to cancel out field trip to ICR due to the San Diego wildfires. We are excited to be able to have another opportunity to walk through this amazing museum and "look" at the six-days of creation.

All the SDCH families (dads and grandparents too) are getting together for a special tour of the ICR creation museum this month. We like to plan an event or two each month on a Saturday so that the whole family can join in on the homeschooling adventure. ICR opens at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays so you can get there as early as you want to. They have arranged a special tour guide to walk us through "time" in their creation museum. The museum is free. They operate on the donations of visitors and other benefactors, and the money they make from the sale of their books and DVDs. If you would like to make a donation to ICR you will find a drop-box in the museum lobby.

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2008
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: 10946 Woodside Avenue North
Santee, 92071

Cost: Free! You may make a donation to ICR in the lobby drop-box if you would like.

Sign-Up: at December or January Park Days
Contact: Lisa Vaca at 858-353-1439 or Lisa@StarBaseJeff.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.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2008
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: TBA

San Diego Christian Homeschools Field Trip to:

U.S. Olympic Training Center

The U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista is the first USOC training facility to be master-planned from the ground up and is dedicated to the development of America's future Olympic athletes. The Training Center rests on a 150-acre complex adjacent to Lower Otay Lake in San Diego County. The center has sport venues and support facilities for nine Olympic sports: archery, canoe/kayak, cycling, field hockey, rowing, soccer, softball, tennis, and track & field. This is another one of our field trips that was postponed due to the wildfires last year. We hope you will all be able to join us for this special tour.



Date: Tuesday January 29, 2008
Time: 1:15 pm

Ages: All ages are welcome
Cost: Free
Contact: Lisa Vaca at Lisa@starbasejeff.com or 858-353-1439

The Olympic Training Center is located at 2800 Olympic Parkway. Driving directions from San Diego are: take I-805 South to the Olympic Parkway exit. Travel eight miles east to the Copley Visitors Center. Meet our group by the entrance.

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

- 1st Thess. 5:11

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
E-mail: SDCHgroup@yahoo.com
Voice mail: 858-353-1439

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. Please prayerfully consider joining our leadership team.

President:	Valerie McBrayer	valerie.mcbrayer@sdsheriff.org	(858) 566-3263
Vice President:	Rebecca Herman	rlh-aoii@pacbell.net	(858) 831-9395
Secretary:	Roxanne Kenny	roxannekenny@san.rr.com	(858) 541-0967
Treasurer:	Bea Host	beahost@san.rr.com	(858) 780-9283
Membership:	Janet Cobb	jilaree@yahoo.com	(858) 547-0591
Events:	Lisa Vaca	lisa@starbasejeff.com	(858) 353-1439
Dad's Rep:	Wayne McBrayer	vadertyme@aol.com	(858) 610-0537
Website:	Jeffrey Vaca	jeff@starbasejeff.com	(858) 689-1322
Board Member:	Barry Kenny	krbak@aol.com	(858) 541-0967
Board Member:	Kevin Host	kevin.host@Rxsol.com	(858) 780-9283

Board Meetings

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

December 10th	6:30 – Kevin & Bea's house
January 7th	6:30 – Wayne & Valerie's house
February 4th	6:30 – Rob & Janet's house
March 10th	6:30 – Kevin & Bea's house
April 7th	6:30 – Jeff & Lisa's house
May 5th	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.

SDCH Member – Classified Ads



Computer Laptop Style Desk: \$25

Dimensions: 26" L x 47"W x 27.5"H

Contact: Patti Klunk
Phone: (858) 337-8701



Computer Laptop Style Desk: \$25

Dimensions: 23" L x 27.5" W x 29"/50" H
(detachable top)

Contact: Patti Klunk
Phone: (858) 337-8701



Hemnes IKEA brand twin bunk beds. (2 sets): \$200 each

Contact: Patti Klunk
Phone: (858) 337-8701

Piano for Sale

1939 George Steck baby grand piano for sale. Originally paid \$5000 for it, asking \$3000. It's a beautiful dark cherry wood. It was recently tuned, and was played often and kept on an interior wall. There's a very small chip on one of the keys and the shift pedal is loose. It will have to be moved by a piano mover, at your cost. I'm not even sure how they got it in the house!

Contact: Kelly (858) 274-6965 or mamakelly@SDBGlobal.net

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: _____

Is your family a current member of SDCH? Yes No (if not please give us your information below so that we can remind you the dates/times of the items you are signing up for, and please include payment of any non-member fees with this form)*

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Names (& ages) of Children: _____

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
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	
			___ @ ___	___ @ ___	

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 8661 Perseus Road, San Diego, CA 92126. The Treasurer, Bea Host, will give you an itemized receipt. Please watch e-mail announcements from the Events Coordinator regarding items you have signed up for. If you have any questions regarding events please e-mail us at SDCHgroup@yahoo.com or call Lisa Vaca at 858-353-1439. 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). You may contact the Membership Coordinator, Janet Cobb at jjlaree@yahoo.com, to register your family or receive further details.