

# Valley Home Educators July 2006 Newsletter

## Wenatchee Scholastic Chess Club

Every Sunday 6-8PM  
Grace Lutheran Church (1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee)

The Wenatchee Scholastic Chess Club is beginning its summer program schedule starting July 16th. Anyone with an interest in playing, regardless of their skill level, is welcome to attend. The focus is on enjoying the game, improving gameplay and sportsmanship, and optionally preparing for the tournament season.

There have been dozens of controlled studies on the benefits of chess in developing mental acuity, particularly in children. Chess has the benefit of being a game that anyone can play, but that increases with complexity the more one understands its nuances. A single chess game provides the players with dozens of mental puzzles to solve, in an environment where good decisions will be rewarded with a gain of material, and less optimal decisions will be punished by having your opponent take your pieces. Children who play chess learn to concentrate on solving complex problems and to accept the consequences of the decisions they make. These skills ultimately have been shown to translate into better overall learning in traditional studies like Reading and Mathematics. The best part is they get all these benefits by simply playing a game they enjoy.

When the regular school year starts, the scholastic chess tournament season also begins. Parents and kids who are interested can enter these tournaments and test what they have learned by playing other kids from throughout the region. Most of these tournaments are broken into multiple skill-based divisions with multiple trophies for each division. Everyone who enters has a reasonable chance of being awarded some kind of trophy.

Typically a scholastic club is affiliated with a specific school with membership restricted to just its students, but this one is not. It was started by the Grace Lutheran Church several years ago, but is open to anyone. For home-schoolers this has the benefit of not only being able to introduce all the proven benefits of chess to their children, but without the issues of dealing with a school you don't attend.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [donlester@gmail.com](mailto:donlester@gmail.com).

## SPELL TO WRITE AND READ SEMINAR

July 28 - 29 2006 - 8:30 - 6:00 PM both days.  
The River Academy, Wenatchee WA  
Deadline for registration is July 20

Call Local Hostess - Patty McMullen 509-665-2415 for more information.

Based on a time proven method and decades of scientific research, Spell to Write and Read shows how to teach a comprehensive language arts program over a 4-6 year period. SWR helped high achievers, slow reader, new readers, PK -12th graders and ESL students. Sarah Moser, a SWR Endorsed Trainer from WA

State, is a student of the author, Wanda Sanseri. Sarah, a committed Christian, has experience as a classroom teacher, tutor, home educator, adult instructor with special experience in reading remediation for grades 3- 12. The seminar includes specific, targeted training for participants.

Cost - \$100.00; Seminar alum \$50.00 (from SWR, TRH, or TRHS)

Core Kit fee \$105.00 plus 8.8% WA State sales tax

(Kit includes SWR, Wise Guide, Phonogram cards, Phonogram CD, Spelling Rule Cards) Core Kits may be purchased ahead of time and shipped directly to you or may be picked up at the seminar if ordered by registration deadline. If ordered after the deadline they may not arrive in time.

### **BIOLOGY LAB FOR HOME SCHOOLERS!**

- \* 1 year of High school level Biology laboratories (I've taken students as young as 8th graders).
- \* Lab work begins late September, 2006; ends early June, 2007.\* We will meet on Tuesday mornings for 1 ½ hours from 9:15-10:45 AM.
- \* 4-week break for Christmas & New Year in December.
- \* 2-week Spring break in late March.
- \* Cost: \$40/month per student (8 total payments during the year) plus a \$30 one-time lab fee.
- \* We use *A Beka* Biology text and lab books (parents purchase) plus supplemental materials I provide
- \* Minimum class size is 8, maximum is 14
- \*
- \* For further details, please contact Rob Fitch
- \* Home phone: 662-5589; Home email: [rfitchk@aol.com](mailto:rfitchk@aol.com)
- \* Work phone: 682-6755; Work email: [rfitch@wvc.edu](mailto:rfitch@wvc.edu)

### **ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY LAB FOR HOME SCHOOLERS!**

- \* One year of High School level Human Anatomy & Physiology laboratories.
- \* 1 year high school level Biology recommended as prerequisite.
- \* Course begins late September, 2006; ends early June, 2007.\* We will meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:45 AM.
- \* 4-week break for Christmas & New Year in December.
- \* 2-week Spring break in late March.
- \* cost: \$40/month per student (8 total payments during the year) plus a \$30 one-time lab fee
- \* We use Anatomy & Physiology Coloring books (parents purchase) plus supplemental materials I provide.
- \* Minimum class size is 8, maximum is 14

For further details, please contact Rob Fitch  
Home phone: 662-5589; home email: [rfitchk@aol.com](mailto:rfitchk@aol.com)  
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## Columbia Christian Homeschool Co-op

The new CCHC fall registration info is up at the website. Check out the class offerings and registration information at the following web site. <http://www.ncwhn.net/CCHC.htm>

### WANTED

I would like to buy or borrow the "Teaching the Classics" seminar by Adam Andrews. It is a set of DVD's and a course syllabus. Please call Michele at 667-9754 or email me [michelet@tumwater.net](mailto:michelet@tumwater.net) if you can help. Thank you!

**Email subscriptions to Valley Home Educators are free. To subscribe please send an email to Sandy Briggs at [esbriggs@aol.com](mailto:esbriggs@aol.com) with VHE Subscribe in the subject line. To unsubscribe send an email to Sandy with VHE Unsubscribe in the subject line. Information and events of interest to homeschool families are welcome. Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 25, 2006**