

Valley Home Educators February 2009 Newsletter

**NO ice skating Thursday, Jan 29.
The Event Center has another event planned.
Ice skating will resume the following Thursday as usual.**

**THURSDAYS from 10:00 - 11:30 (Note the time change from past years)
Town Toyota Center Ice Rink near Walla Walla Point Park, Wenatchee
Cost - \$4.00 per person \$2.00 Skate rental**

THIS IS NOT A DROP OFF EVENT. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO STAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN. Children left unattended will not be allowed to skate.

Skating Rules are posted by the Ice Rink Staff.

Everyone Skating must pay entry fee. (No fee for parents who just watch)

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Count for Fun, Count for the Future February 13-16, 2009

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY-Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation.

"Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education Vice-President, Judy Braus.

Volunteers take part by counting birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. The data help researchers understand bird population trends across the continent, information that is critical for effective conservation. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists, a new record.

"The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent wide bird-monitoring projects," said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director John Fitzpatrick. "With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented striking changes in late-winter bird distributions."

Participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest each year. Last year's winners have been chosen and are now posted on the web site. Participants are also invited to upload their bird

videos to YouTube tagged "GBBC." Some of them will also be featured on the GBBC web site. All participants will be entered in a drawing to win dozens of birding items, including stuffed birds, clocks, books, feeders, and more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

From the Washington Homeschool Organization

2009 Legislative Session Begins One of the many wonderful things about homeschooling is the opportunity for "just-in-time" learning, or "real-world" learning. We all have such an opportunity right now during the 2009 Legislative session. Your elected officials are currently in Olympia, drafting and discussing laws that will affect you and your family, and as American citizens, you can participate in this process! WHO encourages you to contact your legislators (at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>) and make an appointment this month to meet with them, introduce yourself and your children, learn about the bills they're working on, express your opinions, and thank them for their work. Legislators love to hear from their constituents, and are more than willing to make time in their schedules to meet with you for 15-20 minutes (or have lunch!) and hear your opinions. They'll even bring up the legislative photographer and have your picture taken with them, and send it to your local newspaper! Ask them about opportunities for your older students to page in the house or senate, or to be a legislator for the day. And what an opportunity for your older children to see the legislative process up close and personal! Take a tour of the capitol buildings and grounds, sit in on the Senate or House proceedings, and become more comfortable with the workings of our state legislative system. Who knows what fires you might ignite in your children, as they see first-hand how democracy works, and how they can be involved in the process. When you get home, we'd love to hear from you how it went! We welcome submissions to our newsletter (from parents and children) about your experiences, and know they will encourage others to also get involved and learn more about our legislative system. Send your articles to WhosNewsEditor@yahoo.com. And celebrate that we live in a country where we can participate in our own governance!

**VHE received this email and is passing it on to all of you
to respond as you choose.**

Good Morning, Valley Home Educators,

I am writing you this brief note to let you know about Christian Communicators Northwest (CCNW), a homeschool debate league formed specifically for Christian homeschooling families in Washington and Oregon. CCNW currently has debate clubs in Salem, McMinnville, Corvallis, and Bend, Oregon and Port Angeles and Vancouver, Washington. In addition a club is currently forming in the Beaverton, Oregon area that will join us during the 2009-2010 school year.

Two of these clubs, Corvallis and Bend, have started from scratch without any prior experience in homeschool debate. Do-It-Yourself resources are available to help anyone, regardless of experience, teach introductory debate (while learning at the same time) and form a debate club. I am currently putting together additional resource materials that I believe will provide additional help to those starting new clubs.

Information about CCNW is available at our web site, www.ccnwdebate.org. You can find the information about getting started in debate by following the "Getting Started" link on the left side of the home page.

We would love to have new debate clubs join us in CCNW. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me by email at any time.

Sincerely,

Ray Engel
Christian Communicators Northwest

OPTions for Parent Teachers

We're excited about our class. Join in the fun, encouragement, and get ready to homeschool! We're taking registrations for the next qualifying course that will be held at the Garfield Book Company March 7 and 14, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: Pacific Lutheran University

OPT website: <http://home.comcast.net/~paulah-c/>

E-mail: homeschooloptions@hotmail.com

OPT office: 3020 Issaquah Pine Lake Road PMB 578 Sammamish, WA 98075

Call or e-mail: Paula Harper-Christensen, 425-391-6498,
homeschooloptions@hotmail.com or Janice M. Hedin, 425-432-9805,
elcamino6486@msn.com

"I can honestly say that after five years of college, this was the best class I've ever taken!" OPT Attendee

"You gave me permission to relax and enjoy my kids again; what a blessing."
OPT Attendee

"We are not only more excited about our decision to homeschool, which we would not have thought possible, but we feel more excited about being parents."
Parent of two children, March 2008 OPT Class

WANTED: Veritas Press New Testament, Greece, and Rome student pages or CD with student pages. We had the CD that we bought with the kit but it has been misplaced. It is the fill-in-the-blank and activity pages that are filled out from the cards. If I could borrow or copy (since I already paid for it) that would be great.

Janet Searles, 669-6639, jangar7988@juno.com

FOR SALE - Moody Press editions of the Sugar Creek Gang. They are in excellent condition with colorful covers. I doubt many have even been opened or read. The numbers I have are 1-4, 5-7 and 9-34 along with a double volume titled "The Chicago Adventure". That should total 33 books. I would like to sell the entire set for \$50.00. If people should have questions as to any titles, they can email me a b.cheadle@verizon.net

Dianna Cheadle

Email subscriptions to Valley Home Educators are free. To subscribe please send an email to Sandy Briggs at 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 March Newsletter is Feb 25, 2008