

ERCHA HOMELIGHT

(Eagle Rock Christian Homeschool Association)

www.homelight.org

April 2009



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- April 6th – Keepers at Home @ Calvary @ 6pm
- April 7th – Elite Gym play time @ 12:30 – 2:30
- April 13th – Monthly Meeting @ Calvary @ 6:30 – 8pm
- April 14th – Rec. Center - 2:30 – 4pm
- April 16th – TWEENS – Bowlero – 2:30 – 4:00pm
- April 17th – Child-Care Fundraiser 5 – 10pm
- April 21st – Elite Gym play time @ 12:30 – 2:30pm
- April 24th – Titanic Field Trip
- April 27th – Youth Rock Climbing 2:30 – 4:00
- April 27th – Mom’s night out @ 7pm
- April 28th – Rec. Center (Last One!) - 2:30 – 4pm
- April 30th – Christ in the Arts 7pm

Looking Ahead:

- May 11th – Used Book Sale
- May 28th – Biography Fair
- June 7th – **Graduation @ the Apple**
- June 12th & 13th – CHIOS Homeschool Convention @ College of Nazarene, Nampa
- June 18th - Father/Son golfing at Sand Creek @ 6:30 p.m.



“Thank goodness I never went to school, it would have rubbed off some of my originality” ~ Beatrix Potter

April Meeting – April 13th

This month’s meeting topic will be - *Curriculum Favorites* - bring your favorite lessons that have helped you this year with your homeschooling, and tell us about it! Also *Homeschooling Special Need Children* – Penny is sharing with us some useful information for us or any families you may know with special needs children.

Anyone who would like to oversee the kids program that night, let Kristine know

New Events:

Fundraising Opportunity

Every year Calvary Chapel Christian School has a huge fundraiser for their school. They have invited us to participate and raise funds for ERCHA by hosting child-care for the children of those who are attending. We will be watching them Friday, April 17th, from about 5pm – 10pm at “the Barn” at Calvary Chapel. It is \$8 per-child for the evening. This can be an overall fund-raiser for the entire group, or if the Youth want to spear-head it and use the funds for their activities that’s OK too. Anyone who is interested in helping baby-sit for either part or all of the evening – let Kristine know. Thanks!

Museum Field Trip

- Idaho Falls Museum – Titanic Exhibit
- Friday, April 24th at 2:00pm
 - If we have 15 or more kids they are only \$2.
 - For every 15 children, 2 adults get in for \$2.
 - Otherwise the adults are \$7.

Please RSVP to Melissa by April 20th

Christ in Arts

Thursday, April 30 @ 7pm: This is a great opportunity for the kids to show off their God-given talents and artistic abilities, from dancing, to piano, singing, visual arts, poetry recitation, Bible memorization....the only request is that the art-form is God-honoring:). Please let Kristine know by April 27th if you plan on participating so she can arrange the performance schedule.

Used Book Sale

Looking for an opportunity to sell your used curricula, and pick up something for next year? Bring your books to the May monthly meeting for a sale afterwards. You can start preparing by labeling your items for sale with your name and a price.

Also there will be Usborne Books: Peggy is offering great discounts for our homeschool group: 10% discount off of the purchased books and for every \$85 in books purchased you can receive \$45 in free books. (orders may be combined) An additional 8% S/H and 6% tax on their order will be necessary

Call or Email Kristine to help, or if you have any questions.

Father/Son golfing at SandCreek. - Thursday, June 18th 6:30 p.m. cost is around \$3. Contact Eric for more info at theater@homelight.org



ERCHA is the proud recipient of The National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) new Picturing America initiative. Picturing America provides an innovative way for citizens of all ages to explore the history and character of America through some of our nation's great works of art.

As one of the over 56,000 schools and public libraries nationwide to receive the program, we now have access to this high quality, free resource that we are using to engage our homeschool students with discussions of our nation's art, history, civics, literature, and more!

The images of people, places, and events illustrating American history give our students a chance to better understand our country's past and its ideals. What better way to see the courage of a great leader than through Emanuel Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*? How better to appreciate the power of American democracy than through Norman Rockwell's *Freedom of Speech*? These masterpieces are opening our students' eyes to America's rich history and culture while also providing an introduction to the broader world of the humanities.

For more information on the program, you can visit the Picturing America Web site at: www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov. Feel free to peruse the site, and check out the images and the great links included. Sit down with your kids and start conversations about the beautiful masterpieces!

Picturing America is distributed by the NEH in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA).

Information will be at the April meeting and prints will be available to see!!!

Reminders:

Biography Fair

We will be having our first Biography Fair on Thursday, May 28th. Please have your child think about whose biography they'd like to share. The library and Wikipedia.com are two good resources for your child to start doing their research. They may put together a lap book or board with information about their person and even dress up as them if they'd like. Each child will have an opportunity to give a 2 – 3 minute speech about their person.

I will have a time-line available so we can fill it up with different areas of time being represented. Please let me know as soon as possible who your child has chosen so I can share the list with the group for both ideas and possible repeats. Thanks for participating, our children are amazing!!

Jr. High Lagoon trip!!!

We're having a Jr. High Lagoon trip, probably around June or July. Lagoon is an amusement and water park in Utah around Salt Lake City. Now, Lagoon tickets aren't cheap, so there will be a series of fundraisers to help cover the costs. If you would like to participate, e-mail Kristine at kristinehaas@gmail.com, or Abi at drama_queen4963@yahoo.com.

Sumer Camp-Out

Just putting it out there...would like feedback on a weekend camping trip for the group in the summer. Contact Alexis with any comments or suggestions activities@homelight.org

On-Going Fun!

Open Gym

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 12:30 – 2:30pm. Cost is \$2.50. If you have any questions, call Michele. Also, Todd Pierce is offering a 30 minute instructional session for free for any who would like to participate. Todd and his wife Leslie, are homeschool parents, and used to teach gymnastics.

Keepers at Home: girls ages 6 – 11:

Keepers of the Home is a Christian based group, kind of like girl-scouts, where the

girls earn badges (for a sash) by working on various projects. It is for ages 6 – 11 and will be held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Calvary Chapel. For questions, or to sign-up email Michelle or Melissa @ keepers@homelight.org. April dates are April 6th.

Rec. Center

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 2:30-4pm. It's \$1 per child. Please only those who have racquets in the racquetball court. **April is the last month for the rec. center. We will move to parks in May.**

Mom's Night Out

Need some Christain fellowship with other homeschool mom's? Join us!

When: Monday, April 27th

Time 7:00 p.m.

Where : TBA - Will pick closer to the date...

If anyone has any suggestions, please email Alexis at activities@homelight.org

Scottish Country Dance

We are starting an adult class from 8-9pm on Thursdays beginning April 9. Only \$3 pp, so have a night out with your sweetheart for only \$6! This will start right after our mixed-ages class which runs from 6:30-8:00. We're currently meeting at Express Yourself Dance Studio, 575 E. 3rd St, I.F. (the old navy bldg across from the post office). Email Dean or Kathy shakespeare@homelight.org for more information. New dancers are welcome anytime!

Tweens: grades 4 – 6 (ages 9 – 12)

Bowling @ Bowl-ero, Thursday, April 16th – 2:30 – 4:00 (ish). RSVP to Kristine.

Favorite Books for Grades 4 - 6

Banks - The Indian in the Cupboard	O'Brien - Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
Babbitt - Tuck Everlasting	O'Dell - Island of the Blue Dolphins
Blume - Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing	Paulsen - Hatchet
Cooper - The Boggart	Rawls - Where the Red Fern Grows
Dahl - James and the Giant Peach	Sachar - Holes
Fitzgerald - The Great Brain (series)	Sachar - There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
Kehret - Cages	Spinelli - Maniac Magee
Levine - Ella Enchanted	White - Charlotte's Web
Lewis - Narnia series	Wilder - Little House series
Lowry - Number the Stars	Winthrop - Castle in the Attic
Naylor - Shiloh	Wrede - Dealing with Dragons

Youth: grades 7 & up (age 12 and up)

Rock climbing at Stonewalls on Monday, April 27 from 2:30-4:00
\$6.00 per person, includes harness, shoes- if you want them, and unlimited climbing

We will have a chaparone from 2:30-4:00, but you can stay later at no extra cost, if you want to

Babysitting fundraiser April 17th (for guys and girls): If the youth want to babysit for the fundraiser (see info above) and use the money for youth activities (or something really fun...) let Maurie know ASAP.

Favorite Books for Grades 6 - 8

Alexander - The Iron Ring	Montgomery - Anne of Green Gables
Avi - The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	O'Dell - Black Star, Bright Dawn
Cushman - Catherine, Called Birdy	Page - Christie and Company

Cushman - The Midwife's Apprentice	Raskin - The Westing Game
Gaeddert - Breaking Free	Smith - Thunder Cave
George - Julie of the Wolves	Smith - Jaguar
Jacques - Redwall series	Speare - The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Lawrence - The Wreckers	Tolkien - The Hobbit series
Lowry - The Giver	Wrede - Dealing with Dragons
Mikaelsen - Rescue Josh McGuire	Avi- Crispin – The Cross of Lead

If you haven't signed up for teen e-mails and would like to, please e-mail: youth@homelight.org and they will get you the information:)

Student Newspaper

Hey! The Junior High Newspaper will be out soon – if you are interested in receiving it please email so you can be on the list!): drama_queen4963@yahoo.com



Scholastic Books:

For everyone who has been interested in the Scholastic book orders, Melanie has been able to set up online ordering. If you are interested, please email Melanie with any questions!

Shakespeare: Our next reading is the light comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" We are reading May 1 & 8. Anyone (parents too!) is welcome to join us. Contact Dean or Kathy at shakespeare@homelight.org by April 20 to get a part - bit parts available.

For the little ones...

Oatmeal Playdough – 1 cup of flour, 2 cups of oatmeal & 1 cup of water. Gradually add the water to flour and oatmeal in bowl. Knead until mixed (this dough is sticky but unique texture). Model as with clay.

Library events - Book Babies -

For mothers with babies 0-24 months
Tuesdays @ 10:00 in the Children's Department.

Lap-Sit Story Time - For children 24 months to 3 years Mondays @ 10:30 in the large meeting room.

Toddler Time -

For 3 year olds
Thursdays @ 10:30 & 1:30 in the Children's Department

Preschool Story Time -

For 4 & 5 year olds
Thursdays @ 10:30 & 1:30 in the large meeting room

Did you know?? Book City, the used book store on 17th opposite the mall, is under new ownership and now has a very good Classics section! A huge number of Classics from all periods: ancient Greece to 20th century. Prices are reasonable, too. Check them out!

2008/2009 Year Book!

Picture requests!!! If you have taken pictures of homeschool activities, either at your home, or with our group, please start sending them to Alexis, either through email or hard copy. Please attach information regarding names and activities.

Also requested is a family photo of each family. It can be formal or informal, just something with your family. Please email or give a hard copy to Alexis by June 1st. Please attach information regarding names, and ages or grades (of children). If you are not homeschooling all of your children, we would still like the photo to include everyone. If you are unable to take one, or do not have one, Alexis can take one at the graduation party in June.

Also, individual pictures of each student is desired – again, hard copy or email to Alexis with correct spelling of the grade and the name.

The last day to submit photos will be the “Graduation” / End of the Year Party, June 7th. (but you don’t have to wait!) We will have a price of what it will cost in May. Thank you!

On-going Volunteer Opportunities:

- Youth Group (adult chaperones needed)
- Tween Group (adult chaperones needed)

Let Kristine know if you can help out! kristinehaas@cablone.net or 680-4963

Cultural Events

Peter Pan Joseph (Josh's brother) is playing Captain Hook in his school musical, Peter Pan, and would love for everybody to come see it. Steven is in it as well and is playing Joe's right hand man, Schmee. The dates are April 25th, 27th, and 28th. The 25th is a matinee and starts at noon I believe. The rest are evening performances and start at seven thirty at Hillcrest High School.

An Evening of Dance

The Idaho Falls Youth Arts Council is sponsoring 'An Evening of Dance' at the Civic Auditorium on **Wednesday, April 8, starting about 7 pm**. *The Scottish Country Dancers* and *Abi* will be some of the groups demonstrating that evening. Cost is \$6 pp with a family rate available.

Membership Information:

We request that each family fill out a new registration form which is available online at www.homelight.org We also encourage a yearly \$25 donation to Eagle Rock Christian Homeschool Association if possible. The money is used for the web-site, advertising, special events, and other ERCHA needs. You may make the check out to ERCHA or pay at the website with PayPal.

ERCHA ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chalmers & Kristine Haas – kristinehaas@cableone.net

Eric & Julie

Scott & Melissa

James & Misty

Paul & JoAnn

Alexis

Great Websites

www.homelight.org – Eagle Rock Christian Homeschool Association

www.chois.org – Christian Home Schoolers of Idaho State

www.hslda.org – Home School Legal Defense Association

www.iche-idaho.org - Idaho Coalition of Home Educators

[www.homeschoolbuyersco-](http://www.homeschoolbuyerscoop.org/homeschool/cfghhsjhjdnydbggssjehxgsaeydqtweyqeywetqyuirqeifeuch332u)

[op.org/homeschool/cfghhsjhjdnydbggssjehxgsaeydqtweyqeywetqyuirqeifeuch332u](http://www.homeschoolbuyerscoop.org/homeschool/cfghhsjhjdnydbggssjehxgsaeydqtweyqeywetqyuirqeifeuch332u)

www.parentalrights.org

www.dayspringhomeeducators.com/spelling_lists.htm

www.hometrainingtools.com

www.mathforum.org