

All Things Homeschool

...helpful curriculum info and other useful stuff

THE HALF-WAY POINT



The end of the year is
almost here!

For many of us the school year is half-way done. So, how are things going with you?

Are you meeting your goals?

Is your [curriculum](#) working out as well as you hoped or is it time for a change?

DO YOU NEED A BOOST?

If you are in need of some [encouragement](#) for your home school program, there are many available sources.

Begin with your friends who are also teaching their children at home. Or, participate in homeschool [support](#)

groups or workshops near you. Also, check out library or [online](#) resources for helpful information and ideas.

This is also a wonderful time to try something new and exciting to keep the interest alive for you and your children.

Consider making a [lapbook](#) if you've never made one before or do a unit study on an interesting topic for all.

KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK!

THANKSGIVING MEMORIES

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I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday with family, friends, and safe travels.

Last Thanksgiving was unforgettable and we determined not to have a repeat of our first time dining out for the occasion.

Let me just say that our taste buds were not impressed, at all, at this restaurant.

So, one month in advance, I posted the suggested Thanksgiving Menu on a markerboard in our dining room. Then,

I encouraged the family to initial beside the names of the dishes they would prepare.

Our day was extra special because my dad had been discharged from the hospital the day before and I was able to speak with him on the phone.

We were even able to share our table with one of my daughters' co-worker and a friend of his.

There was plenty of food for the
fifteen of us.

A FUN FIELD TRIP

Recently we took a trip back in time. Well, not actually, but it was a trip to Cannonborough Village.

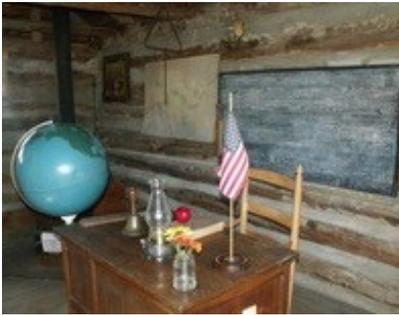
It is a really cool place that has lots of historical and "old time" stuff to see.

We saw old cabins and lots of tools that would have been used during that time.

We saw an old church building and the furnishings and items used back then.

There was an old schoolroom and we were able to go into a class-

room from that day and see the slates and books used. There was even a copy of a McGuffey Reader



that everyone could see and touch.

Everyone there was very friendly and really enjoyed teaching the

children and parents about their crafts.

In this photo, a typical one-room schoolhouse is shown.

We learned a lot and I would certainly go back again. Our children were really surprised to see the dinner table set with the *Blue Willow* pattern dishes that we own.

I know that the old days were not always "good old days" for many people but it was fun to see a glimpse of what life must have been like so many years ago.

WHAT'S NEW @ THE SITE

"Check out some of the new pages on my helpful site designed with you in mind."

You may want to save these first three to your computer or print out for next year. Also, be sure to look for our next series of worksheets coming soon.

- ⇒ [Thanksgiving Words](#) Worksheet lets your child create smaller words from the larger phrase Thanksgiving Day
- ⇒ [Thanksgiving Story](#) Worksheet allows your child to retell the original story in his own words
- ⇒ [Thanksgiving Trivia](#) Questions Worksheet asks questions about that memorable time
- ⇒ [Life of Joseph](#) Bible Quiz allows you to assess how much your child learned after reading about Joseph
- ⇒ Bible Quiz on the [Book of Job](#) asks questions about the events discussed in this Book of the Bible

Take a look at these new pages and leave me a comment. Thanks!

WORDS FROM WAYNE



Let me introduce you to my husband, Wayne. The Lord often uses him to teach me things about home education and family. So, I thought I would share some of his comments here:

This month I want to share an experience rather than a “Q & A.” I hope you enjoy:

Recently, we attended a Transfer Student’s Open House with our daughters who attend the local community college.

Wayne also went since he was off from work that day. He knows that it is important for our children and others to see that he is an involved parent, too.

We were really there to support them so we made sure **THEY** took the initiative and asked their own questions

from the reps of prospective four-year colleges.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a great lunch together, discussed some of their options, and set short-term goals.

Wayne really understands the importance of supporting our children in their spiritual, emotional, academic, and extracurricular pursuits.

Unfortunately, this is not a widely-heard viewpoint of fathers who typically are depicted as selfish, uncaring, and immature males in our culture.

A GUEST ARTICLE

Three Things that Helped Me Succeed in College

Today, I had to remind myself I’m eighteen years old and a college sophomore. Last year at this same time, I was terrified that I’d struggle to adjust to the new social and academic atmosphere because I had missed out on the [traditional high school](#) education. Instead, by leaning on three principles I was taught since childhood, I was able to do better than I’d ever imagined.

1. Do what you’re supposed to do, even when nobody’s watching.

There’s nobody looking over your shoulder in college, telling you to read your assigned chapters and create flashcards to study for exams. The responsibility of getting your work done, *done well*, and on time is com-

pletely on you. Having a good work ethic in the beginning is so much easier than having to create a whole new system of habits.

2. There is a time for everything.

You don’t have to spend all your time just studying or just partying. There is a balance. Sometimes I’ll forego studying to spend time with my family or help out at the horse stable where I volunteer, and sometimes I have to put away my new library book to drill in biology vocabulary. Life isn’t all play, but it’s not all work, either.

3. Put first things first. It’s easy to become discouraged or obsessed about everything in your life that needs to be done, but Matthew 6:33 says, “But

seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Imagine your life is like a wheel: there can only be one thing at the center, and everything else comes after it.

I’m halfway through the first semester of my sophomore year, so my college journey is far from over. But if I continue to exercise the principles my parents have taught me, challenge myself, and, most importantly, trust in the One who has a plan for me, I know I’ll do just great.

Submitted by [Julie Upshur](#), 18

A very intelligent and determined young lady who also happens to be our fourth oldest daughter



ALL ABOUT HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM



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CHANNEL

The place for information about homeschool resources and methods!

This newsletter is a labor of love to be able to connect with my readers. I hope to share with you a little more about our family and HOW we homeschool our children. Please feel free to send me your questions, comments, kids' contributions or reviews to www.AllAboutHomeschoolCurriculum.com/contact-me.html to be included in future issues.

Have a terrific month,

Claudette

THE BACK PAGE

Last month I mentioned the [National Novel Writing Month](#). I had hoped to join my daughters in writing the fifty thousand words but sadly *life* got in my way and I was unable to finish by the deadline.

We still had fun spending extra time together writing at Panera and at home, though.

I applaud them for their diligent efforts and congratulate them for completing NANO, even my nine year old. Way to go girls!

Here are some words from one of our winners:

Hi!

This November was my third year participating in the annual National Novel Writing Month event!

For those of you who haven't heard of it, it's where people all around the world and of every age use the month of November to write fifty thousand

words of songs, a novel, short stories, or even scripts! There are even some people who go above and beyond and write a million words!

I finished today with a total of 50,036 words, which is exactly nineteen words less than my first year. Either way, I'm very happy with my word count.

I love doing Nano because it challenges me to be a *better writer* faster than anything else I've tried or done. I like looking back at my old writings to see where I've improved or perhaps slumped in my skills.

The best part about the whole thing is that my sisters and I all try to outdo each other by writing the "hardest" gen-

re or by writing the most words. It's always a lot of fun, even though there's a lot of "all-nighters" and hours spent brain storming.

Perhaps next year you can join in on the fun!

~[Dominique-Alexis](#), Age 16

Our fifth oldest daughter

