

# All Things Homeschool

...helpful curriculum info and other useful stuff

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEB

During the month of February when everyone is preparing for Valentine's Day, why not encourage your children to show some love to each other!

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

I know, it sounds challenging, but with some creativity and mild competition it really could go over.

Here's an example: Suggest that your child selects one of his siblings or a close friend to do special things with.

You could offer ideas or allow him/her to come up with ideas of his own.

Gifts are fine but at this time encourage him to make things or spend time with the other sibling.

Teach the importance and special value of time and actions over *things*.

Encourage them to learn more about that person's likes and dislikes, and their reasons for them.

Go ahead and try it. It might prove very interesting for everyone!



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Most people are familiar with the lives and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, and a few others.

But, there were other notable Black individuals who had great achievements.

Why not challenge your children to learn about some of the lesser known but equally important African-American people, this year?

Suggest that they research different people on the Internet or use reference books. Read about their lives and summarize in a written report or oral presentation.

Share memorable quotes or use for handwriting practice.

## UNSUNG BLACK HERO

There are many unsung heroes to be remembered during Black History Month. Recently, during a visit to the VA Hospital in Charleston, SC, I learned about this brave hero:

Private First Class **Ralph H. Johnson, USMC** was born January 11, 1949, in Charleston, South Carolina. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at Oakland, California, in 1967, and was discharged to enlist in the Regular Marine Corps, July 1967.

In January 1968, he arrived in Vietnam and served as a Reconnaissance Scout.

During the early morning hours of March 5, 1968 during Operation ROCK, PFC Johnson and his 15-man reconnaissance patrol manned an observation post deep in enemy controlled territory. They were attacked by a platoon-size hostile force employing automatic weapons, satchel

charges, and hand grenades.

As the enemy raced up the hill, a hand grenade landed in the three-man fighting hole occupied by Private Johnson and two fellow Marines.

Realizing the danger to his



comrades, PFC Johnson shouted a warning and willingly threw himself upon the explosive device.

When the grenade exploded, PFC Johnson absorbed the impact of the blast and was killed instantly. His heroic act saved the life of a fellow Ma-

rine and prevented the enemy from penetrating his sector of the patrol's perimeter. His bravery earned the following:

- The Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously
- The Purple Heart
- The National Defense Service Medal
- The Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars
- The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm
- The Vietnamese Military Merit Medal
- The Combat Action Ribbon
- The Navy Unit Commendation Medal Civil Actions First Class and Good Conduct Marine Corps.

On September 5, 1991 the Charleston VA Medical Center was renamed the Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. To our staff and volunteers, PFC Johnson is much more than our namesake. He is the embodiment of the character and the values we strive to demonstrate every day as we care for those who have so bravely borne the battle.

## 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. I thought I would share some of his comments here:

The Scriptures say, "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked

one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father." - I Jn. 2:13.

These words show levels of progression and degrees of maturity.

*Children*, see God as a daddy and constantly need to be fed by Him because they don't possess many skills yet.

*Young men*, have gained some knowledge of who He is through their experiences and are beginning to mature.

*Fathers*, are those who

are seasoned and have matured in God to the point where they can nurture and help others to develop.

These steps are what all who profess Christ should be pursuing.

Just as you have hope for your children to grow and mature, so should all of us seek to grow, too.

Be encouraged, and know that the Body of Christ is designed so that there are others who can help you to become a mature son of God.

## HOMESCHOOL CONVENTIONS

By now you should have started getting information on upcoming events.

If not, you should or you can check into local events or those in nearby states.

### PREPARING FOR THE DAY

A few simple steps to make your trip more productive at the homeschool convention or fair include:

1. Try to get in on the early registration period and save some money. Also, volunteer opportunities exist where you are able to receive discount or free admission in exchange for working at the convention .
2. [Research](#) possible curriculum publishers you are thinking about using so you are familiar with them before the fair.
3. Compile your "shopping list" of prospective resources so you have a [plan](#) and aren't wandering around aimlessly and vulnerable to the persuasiveness of the paid salespeople a.k.a. homeschool *curriculum vendors*.
4. If possible attend without your children unless they offer children's programs for them. It can also be good to take your spouse or another home schooling friend.
5. Prepare ahead by purchasing a crate on wheels for your shopping ease, print return address labels to place on the sign-up sheets, and have snacks/water for the day.
6. Go to the fair with the confidence that comes from preparing yourself ahead of time.
7. Enjoy and have success!



# ALL ABOUT HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM



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*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 your questions, comments, kids' contributions or reviews to [www.AllAboutHomeschoolCurriculum.com/contact-me.html](http://www.AllAboutHomeschoolCurriculum.com/contact-me.html) to be included in future issues.

Have a terrific month,

*Claudette*

## THE BACK PAGE

### CURRICULUM STYLES

Some of the most common homeschool curriculum styles include traditional, worktext, unit study, and eclectic.

[Montessori](#) and [online](#) studies are also very popular methods of teaching at home.

A traditional style of teaching includes student texts, teacher guides, and tests such as those commonly seen in the [ABeka](#) and [Bob Jones](#) books.

Worktests are the types

of books seen in the Alpha Omega Publications *LifePacs*.

Unit studies are integrated forms of study where multiple subjects are taught based on a central theme. Some examples are *Five in a Row*, [Sonlight](#), and *Weaver*.

An eclectic approach involves assembling an assortment of materials and can be structured loosely or very rigidly, depending on your preference.

Many users of this system will pull from a variety of resources to teach their children.

Montessori teaching uses the philosophies of Dr. Maria Montessori to allow the child to learn based on **their** interests.

A curriculum develops around the child rather than trying to make the child fit the curriculum.

Online studies are increasing in popularity and sometimes may be the only option for a family to continue teaching at home.

ABeka, Bob Jones, and others offer this option to attend classes online.