



HEAR What's Going On!

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2013

Geography Fair!

The HEAR Geography Fair has been our biggest event for a couple of years. We have an absolute blast!

Students create a display of an area/region/country of their choice. Parents, you determine the guidelines for the project. We've had students ages five to 17 create projects for this fair.

The students set up the displays and then roam around the room to travel the world. Each stop has many wonders. Last year, we stopped in Italy for gnocchi and Australia for candy treats. France even had a working model of a guillotine! All displays had lots of information and goodies to offer.

Creating the projects can be so much fun. You can immerse yourself in the location at home by enjoying the food or dressing in traditional attire from the area. Studying animals and vegetation is also a joy. Younger children love to see the variation in God's beautiful world.

At the fair, children will be given a map of the world so they can mark each country/area they visit. Older students and adults can participate in a fact finding scavenger hunt.

All *registered* participating students receive a certificate. We ask that each participant bring one item that represents the area in which you are presenting. The items are put together into one (or more) gift bags to be raffled off at the end of the fair. Projects are not judged therefore there is no placing.

There are thirteen displays (20 children) registered for this year's fair already! Don't forget to sign up!

Our website has an [FAQ sheet](#) and also pictures of past projects.



IMPORTANT HEAR DATES!

Don't miss out on upcoming events. Mark these dates on your calendar!

Feb. 8th: Enrichment Program Registration Deadline!

The deadline to enroll in this term's Enrichment Program is close. [Click here to for the enrollment form](#). Form and payment must be mailed to HEAR (address on the form) by Feb. 8th. [Click here for class details](#).

Feb. 18th: Geography Fair Registration Deadline - [register](#)

Feb. 19th: PE Lesson – Volleyball

Our monthly PE Lessons resume on Feb. 19th. Steven Byerly will lead the children in game(s) of volleyball from 10:30 – 11:30. Afterwards, kids enjoy free play. Bring picnic lunches and sports equipment for your family. Please put your name on your sports equipment. Registration is not required.

Feb. 28th: Geography Fair

March 5th: Enrichment Program resumes

March 11th: Curricula Show & Compare – [register](#)

March 21st: Scrap Exchange Field Trip [register for 11:00](#) or [register for 1:00](#)

Click on the calendar to view time, locations and registration information.

To View & Print this Term's Calendar, [CLICK HERE](#)



TESTING?!?!?



Debbie Thompson of [Triangle Education Assessments \(TEA\)](#) was our wonderful guest speaker at the midyear meeting in January. Debbie did a fantastic job and shared with us lots of valuable information. It is impossible to cover all that she shared but we'll hit a few highlights in this article.

First the dry part, Debbie reviewed the basic legal requirements for testing according to the NC Department of Non Public Education (DNPE). All homeschooled children age 7 and not yet age 16 are required by the state of North Carolina to be tested annually. The test must be nationally standardized and include grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. For more information about the requirements, [click here](#) to view a FAQ document created by TEA which has more information about testing requirements.

One of the most valuable tips that Debbie provided was to ask yourself, "what do I (the parent) hope to get out of the test?" This is a general rule of thumb for not only choosing the test but also how to administer the test. Here are a few examples:

- The minimum subject matter testing requirement is: grammar, spelling reading and math; however, there are tests that evaluate science and history as well. If you are trying to assess the overall level of your child, you should consider that when selecting the test.
- Do you want your child to guess at the answer? Again, if you are trying to assess your child's knowledge than you may not want your child to guess. On the other hand, teaching your child (before taking the test) how to reason by ruling out obviously incorrect answers can be valuable.
- Older students who are considering joining honor societies, applying for college and/or scholarships should consider testing in a group so that the test is given by an third party administrator (e.g. Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement). Some societies and colleges require that students be tested by a specially trained administrator.

Debbie also reviewed the most popular tests accepted by the NC DNPE. She informed us of who can give the test according to the publishers' requirements. Here is an overview:

- Woodcock-Johnson III can only be given by a specially trained administrator.
- Iowa requires the administrator to have a BA degree.
- TerraNova (California Achievement Test) can be given by parents without degrees.
- Stanford requires the administrator to have a BA degree and training.
- PASS can be given by parents for grades 3-8.

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- BASI can be given by parents for grades 3-12 but computerized version has to be done at a school or test center.
- Brigance can be given by parents for special need children at developmental levels of age 7 or below.
- ACT has to be done at a school authorized through www.act.org.

Debbie jokingly told us how she took the time to review each test to determine the number of questions and any differences in the tests. She advised that all of the popular tests are top-rated tests and none are more difficult than the others. She did strongly urge us to use the same test at least two years in a row in order to adequately gauge test results. To learn more about the different tests, the [FAQ sheet](#) on TEA's website is very helpful, especially number 14.

Another helpful question asked was "what test level should I choose for my child?" Often times, homeschooled children perform at a different level than the grade which correlates with his/her age. She suggested that parents use the child's reading level to determine the grade/level of test selected. She advises her clients not to choose a test level too advanced for the child to avoid discouraging the child.

Homeschool parents often wish their children could take Advance Placement (AP) courses in order to receive college credits. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing, according to Debbie, is a little know secret in the homeschool world. CLEP exams can earn a student from 3 to 12 college credits depending on a college's policy and credits do not expire. TEA offers CLEP exams and practice exams. [Click here for more information about CLEP exams at TEA.](#)

Debbie was very complimentary of our group! She said she felt very welcomed and enjoyed meeting us. Thank you for taking the time to introduce yourself and speak with Debbie. She stressed to me that we are more than welcome to contact her or the office with any questions we may have.

TEA is located in the Raleigh, NC area but has home testers and travel to other NC areas. Ph 919-387-7004, Orders 877-843-8837,

Email preferred: orders@triangleed.com.

Scholastic Books for Less!

The public schools have the opportunity to purchase Scholastic books for an incredibly low price. I used to get books for Nicky... sometimes for \$1 or \$2 dollars, sometimes a little more. But, after I withdrew him from public school, I didn't have that option anymore.

Sheree contacted Scholastic and found out homeschools can register their school in order to receive the discounted prices. She provided us the following information.

Each homeschool has to register individually with a parent registering as the teacher. Then each will be able to order their own books. Each school is required to order a minimum of 5 books a month through the book club.

1. Call Scholastic (1-800-724-6527) and select Book Clubs. Select the option for "new teacher". (If you do it online, there's a big delay while they try to verify your school.)
2. Explain that you're a homeschooler and would like to set up a book club for your school. They'll walk you through the process.
3. They'll give you an account number. If your mailing and physical address are the same, you can order online. If they're different, you'll need to call 1-800-742-6527 to place your order.

It's that simple. Here, you'll find all kinds of books and kits, including science kits with microscope and so much more. It's worth checking it out at <http://www.scholastic.com/home/>.

Information Provided by/Author: Sheree Brown



Members, we'd love to see you at the Geography Fair & Demo Night even if your child(ren) aren't participating!

CURRICULA SHOW & COMPARE!

Not sure if that curricula is quite what you're looking for?

Would you like to actually hold it before buying it?

Talk to parents who are currently using it?

Join us Monday, March 11th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church for an evening of browsing through fellow HEAR members' curricula. Bring what you are currently using or have used to allow other parents to see the curriculum and to ask your thoughts.

This is not the HEAR Used Curriculum Sale but more along the lines of a curricula show & tell. Members will each have a table on which to set out their curricula. No one will be presenting any materials. We can mingle and look through each other's curricula.

We hope you'll be there. The more families participating, the more curricula there will be to peruse. All HEAR members are welcome to come browse!

Please register if you'll be bringing curriculum so we'll be able to communicate to members what curricula will be available for viewing.

[REGISTER FOR THE CURRICULA SHOW & COMPARE](#)

DEMONSTRATION NIGHT – WITH A TWIST!

Demonstration Night is right around the corner, April 11th! This year's demonstration night will be filled with smiles and laughter!

Students are welcome (encouraged) to share with us their favorite poem, song, Bible verse, dance (folk, tap, ballet, etc.), speech or activity. They can demonstrate a sports move or a project they created.

We have a new option for those students who have projects but are reluctant to speak in front of a group. There will be an area designated to display projects. Bring artwork, needlework, photographs, crafts and more for display. Items made in enrichment classes, the Scrap Exchange, pottery classes, Buzzards Roost Art class, etc. are all welcome.

Invite family, friends and those interested in homeschooling. You don't want to miss this event.

Please register if your child be presenting or displaying items.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Event details (time, location) are on the HEAR calendar

CIVIL AIR PATROL

As many of us know, the JROTC is not an option for homeschooled children. However, many of us are not aware of the opportunities that the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol Cadet's Program offer our youth. And, there is a CAP Cadet's Program as close as Danville!

Cadets fly, learn to lead, hike, camp, get in shape, and push themselves to new limits. This may be the program for your child if he/she is dreaming about a career in aviation, space, or the military.

Civil Air Patrol cadets who earn the Gen Carl A. Spaatz Award often receive preference when applying for Air Force commissioning or entry into the Air Force Academy. Each year, approximately 10 percent of the student population at the U.S. Air Force Academy are former CAP cadets. These cadets experience a slightly higher graduation rate overall than other academy cadets. Other CAP cadets interested in a military career elect to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Homeschoolers make up a large percentage of CAP squadrons, as they offer chances for leadership and aerospace that cannot be found anywhere else. As a matter of fact, CAP does the flying for Air Force ROTC programs in the public schools.

To become a cadet, you must be at least 12 years old and not yet 19 years old. Cadets meet at the Danville Airport (424 Airport Drive, Danville VA) in a hangar next to Averette University's Flight School on Thursdays at 6:30pm until 9:00pm. Anyone at the terminal can direct you to the hangar.

The CAP motto:

**"Integrity First, Service Before Self,
Excellence in All We Do"**

Information obtained from Ruth Buslinger, Capt., CAP Danville Composite Squadron MER-VA-023 and from:

National website: <http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/>

Local website: www.vawg.cap.gov/danville

HEAR LENDING LIBRARY

The available materials list for the HEAR lending library has been updated. Don't forget to check it out. Email Melissa Vaughn a week before a HEAR event to request items. [Click here to view available materials!](#)

PBS Go Writers! Contest

It is time again for the annual *PBS Kids Go Writers!* Contest. Entrants must be in kindergarten, first, second or third grade. Children create and illustrate their own stories and submit them to be eligible for local and national prizes! National prizes include tablets and e-readers! Deadline for receipt of entries is March 14th so don't delay. Visit the [PBS Kids website](#) for more details.

UPCOMING PERSON COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS

February 5th

Dr. Gary Hill Pediatric Dentistry Services of Roxboro & Durham presents **Clean Teeth Storytime** Tuesday, February 5th at 4:00 PM in the children's area.

February 7th

Free to Read & Feed Teen Book Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 7th at 4 PM to discuss great books, play games and enjoy light refreshments. It's also a chance to give input on future teen programs & learn about great Young Adult titles from the librarian. The program will be held in the library gallery. Teen Book Club will be meeting bi-monthly, usually the first Thursday of the month, unless otherwise posted. Feel free to visit the [Teen Library Page](#) to get a list of the dates so you won't miss out.

February 14th

This month's program will be "Let's Map It Out" a study of Person County topography and our changing landscapes. We'll meet in the library gallery at 10 AM

February 19th

Celebrate Black History Month by coming to see the live dramatization of "**African Folktales**" performed by "Bright Star" Theatre Group at 4 PM in the children's area.



EDITOR'S NOTES

This edition was created by Susan Byerly. Notify Susan if you would like to volunteer to write an article or become editor of the newsletter.