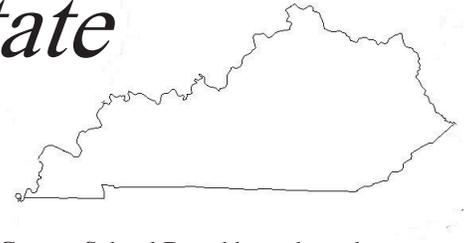


By Connie Laffin



Have you met the KHEA webmaster? He is a wonderful homeschool father who works as a campus minister. He has numerous volunteer commitments at church and with their local support group – yet he still makes time to build our website and keep it updated. WE LOVE YOU HAROLD !!!!! Thank you for all you do!

Have you checked out the KHEA website? (www.khea.8k.com) The website is loaded with information about homeschooling. We are constantly looking for “homeschool success stories” – homeschoolers whose achievements have been recognized by their local newspaper, TV or radio show, or service organization. If you have a homeschool success story, send it to one of our Board members and we will get that achievement posted on our website!

After Christmas, look for a new KHEA information site with downloadable PDFs. We’ll be posting a complete, updated electronic copy of the homeschooling resource packet, as well as having a quick and convenient place for members to download current and past copies of the KHEA newsletter.

KHEA continued from page 1

help build positive relationships in their community. Such teamwork creates a strong, grassroots foundation of positive public perception of homeschooling. Building those relationships community by community can shift homeschooling opponents into neutral and sometimes those critics even switch into reverse, and embrace homeschooling. By empowering you to be confident in your community, the face of homeschooling becomes personal and positive to your neighbors, elected officials, and community leaders.

That’s why we also, as a board, support homeschooling research. (See article on page 6. for the latest from Dr. Ray’s research on grown homeschoolers.) We sent a \$200 donation to Dr. Ray’s foundation in September. Being armed with facts on the success of homeschooling has taken the sting out of many an opponent’s darts.

As a board, we must be ready to monitor any potential legislative threats to our homeschool freedoms. Board

Madisonville – It seems that the Hopkins County School Board has adopted a policy regarding homeschools. This policy clearly violates the homeschool family’s right to privacy. Among other things, they have been asking for updates/grades from each family every nine weeks. HSLDA has been communicating with the School District’s attorney, discussing the legality and enforceability of the School District’s policies. Recently, the School District’s attorney agreed to advise this School Board to drop these homeschool requirements from their list of administrative procedures. However, according to HSLDA’s news article on this issue, on Nov. 3, they, instead, decided to require homeschoolers to report twice a year instead of four. <<http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/ky/200311110.asp>>. Please pray for families in Hopkins County as they continue to stand on the front lines of freedom.

LaRue County – This County School Board has a long history of misunderstandings over state homeschool regulations. In the latest difficulty, the School Board introduced a new DPP who indicated that it was his intention to “visit each homeschool during the school year.”

Once again, we want to emphasize the fact that legal difficulties concerning homeschooling often happen “without warning”. These messy situations often involve good, solid homeschool families. If you are under the impression that your school district will never give you trouble then think again. All it takes is a management change, a disgruntled friend, or some sort of a policy change and your family could be targeted.

member Bill Monroe will be checking in the weeks before and during the legislative season on any activity coming from the Kentucky House, while I’ll be keeping tabs on the Senate. We’ll also take the time to introduce ourselves to education committee chairpersons.

We love building relationships. Bill and I recently had the opportunity to spend almost two hours having lunch with Kentucky Education Department’s Homeschool Liaison Crichton Comer. In the process, we learned a lot about the concerns and motivations of one of the key players in the homeschool debate. We also had the opportunity to articulate our perspective and our concerns.

Your KHEA president recently had a productive discussion with the leaders of the DPP organization in Kentucky, and we’ll be inviting representatives of this organization to our seminars in Lexington and Hopkinsville.

We also touch base with our fellow defenders of homeschool freedoms, Christian Home Educators of Kentucky. We do this because we all work together to defend homeschooling in Kentucky.

This year, we’ve added a new partner to our relationship list: the state’s public

librarians. The KHEA board will be doing a presentation at the state’s public librarian conference in Lexington in May. As part of that presentation, we’ll be helping librarians better serve the homeschooling community. We will also be updating our homeschooling resource packet and will be distributing copies to librarians and support groups in early to mid-2004. In order to facilitate the maximum in communication flow to those seeking homeschooling information, we’re in the process of launching another website. This site will not replace our existing site, but will be a place where librarians, homeschoolers, and even the media, can download PDF documents on homeschooling. We’ll have the homeschooling resource packet in electronic format for anyone to print, as well as other documents. We’ll even have statistics and press releases for the media in a one-stop, quick and easy format for people wanting fast facts on homeschooling.

So folks, that’s what we do. We thank you for your support. We couldn’t do any of it without you. Together, we work to give our children educational excellence through home education.

Special Ed. for Special Kids

by Connie Laffin

What would it be like if all the flowers in the world were the same color? Or if all of the dogs looked exactly alike? What if all of the girls had brown hair, and all of the boys had red hair? What a boring, unimaginative world it would be! All children would be exactly alike. There would be no differences among them. I don't know about you, but I am thankful that each of us was created unique.

We are all special. Some of us are just a bit more special than others. For families with children who have physical challenges, learning differences, or emotional/psychological burdens, that "specialness" can make life difficult. Having home schooled a son with learning differences, I have had to face those difficulties myself. At times I have faced such a crisis of self-confidence that it threatened to overwhelm me. So I'd like to share a few questions I have been asked by folks who have been struggling with questions about homeschooling their "special" kids.

Am I qualified to teach my special needs child at home? — According to a study by Dr. Steven Duvall, homeschooled special needs children spend 75% of their school time actively engaged with the teacher or with learning materials. Special needs children in public schools only spend 40% of their school time actively engaged with the teacher or with learning materials. So in the end, the homeschooled children showed significantly higher academic results than their public school counterparts.

Can I stand being at home all day with my child? — I'm not saying that it will be easy, but given some time to adjust, both of you can learn to enjoy being home together. Patience is one of those things you learn by experiences.

Can I still access government services for my child if I homeschool? — Yes! The federal government requires the public schools and special agencies to give your child the same help public school students receive — *if* your child qualifies. Your child can be tested for learning disabilities, receive speech therapy or occupational therapy and even books on tape. Unfortunately, the public schools generally have a long backlog of their own students waiting for these services. Your name will be added to the end of a long list. Or you can look outside of government agencies to obtain these services at your own expense.

Will the public school fight me when I announce that I am going to homeschool? — This depends on the particular school, teacher, and child in question. It is always a good idea to join HSLDA before you withdraw your child from school.

If I homeschool, do I need an IEP? And how do I do an IEP at home? — It is a good idea to formally develop an IEP and keep the student's testing current through high school. That way if you find a reason to re-enroll your child in public school or if you need to get some special services while your child is going to college, your IEP will have the information you will need to make those transitions smoothly. For books about creating IEPs for homeschools, see the next question.

Where can I get books, materials, and support for schooling my special needs child? — You should look into joining Nathhan (National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network at www.nathhan.com) They specialize in gathering resource ideas for special ed "curriculum" and supporting special needs homeschool families. Another good source of special needs books/resources is Lifetime Books and Gifts: www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com.

To all of you with more "normal" children: Parents of special needs children need your support and encouragement. We carry an extra burden and often need the help of our friends to be free to do simple things like go to church or go shopping. We need our support groups to work with us and help us "belong" when we feel "too different." Are you willing to get involved in our lives? If you do, I guarantee that you will receive a blessing.

(Special thanks to a few of my friends: Thanks, Sue, for giving Ryan the time and space he has needed. You've done a great job! Thanks, Anita, for sharing your struggles and your joys in schooling your boys. When all is said and done, you have taken the time to love and enjoy your children while you have them. Your example has often given me courage to keep on with my own son. And Cari, thanks for letting me watch and share in the wonder as Allison came out of her shell and spoke in real sentences. I never cease being amazed at the miracle!)

Support Group Tidbits



Writing Workshop

The Southeast Christian Church Home Education Ministry is hosting a 2-Day Writing Workshop with Dave and Neta Jackson, author of the Trailblazer series, on Feb. 2 and 3 at SECC. Please contact Denise Doyle at ZBOBBOB@aol.com for registration information.

What can your librarian do for you?

KHEA will be speaking at a public librarian conference in Lexington in May. Librarians want to know how better to serve some of their most loyal patrons. Do you have suggestions to share with the state's librarians? Do you know of excellent, hard-bound book publishers that produce the kind of books you'd like to see added to the purchase list at your local library? What kind of activities do you like to see at public libraries? E-mail your feedback to Jan Fletcher, godloves@alltel.net. Or call Jan at 270-384-1728. Jan will be putting a presentation together after the new year and she welcomes your input.

Field Trip Opportunities

Louisville museum great resource

The Callahan Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind is a wonderful educational resource with its unique collection of artifacts and information describing the educational history of people who are blind or visually impaired.

The hands-on museum includes the types of tactile reading and writing systems used, and different aids for teaching geography and other subjects. Visit their website to learn more: <http://www.aph.org>. Click on "Perspectives" on the homepage to view the museum and to find out more about guided tours. If you would like brochures, please contact Anne Rich at arich@aph.org.

History Zone

The KY Historical Society announces History Zone – Saturdays from 1-4 pm for children 5-10 years old and their families.

In November — "Prehistoric Kentuckians" — Hunt for prehistoric art in the museum galleries, make and decorate a small ceramic pot, and design personal petroglyphs.

For info about activities in December or in 2004, go to <http://history.ky.gov> or call 502-564-1792, ext. 4424.

Need to join HSLDA? (Home School Legal Defense Association)
You can access an application online at www.hslda.org. KHEA members may use the KHEA discount number, # 291057, to receive a 15% discount on HSLDA membership.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

KHEA is still looking for men and women who would be willing to serve on the KHEA Board of Directors. Our current Board members (all 3 of us) cannot possibly take care of the needs of this growing organization. We need some help! Can you help us?

We don't need just anyone. Board members need to have a proven record of service to and with the homeschoolers they live near. The KHEA Board makes numerous decisions which affect all of the homeschoolers in the Commonwealth. Our Board members need previous experience in working with support groups and individual families so that they can make informed decisions.

Board members are not super-human. We are normal people who hold down jobs and homeschool our children with diligence. We are just as busy as all of you. The difference is that we have chosen to devote some of our time to serve the homeschool community in Kentucky. The Board responsibilities we carry are meant to mesh well with our personalities and our interests. We don't expect all Board members to be speech makers, love being involved in politics, or enjoy spending time with support group leaders. We need a wide diversity of people, talents, and interests.

The Board meets 4-5 times per year for about 3 hours on a Saturday. Some of our Board members travel 3 hours to attend the meeting which we try to hold in a centrally located position. Currently we are meeting in Elizabethtown, but the location of Board meetings is determined by the Board members attending. Between meetings, Board members communicate regularly by email and occasionally by phone. New Board members usually need some training in order to understand issues across the state. It takes a while, but we help them learn the information they need.

Currently, we need Board members who can help in the following areas:

- Website – We have a wonderful webmaster, but we need someone to give our website a bit of a facelift and some long needed attention.
- Web email loop – We need someone to initiate and monitor discussion on this email loop.
- Affiliated Support Group Benefits – we have several ideas about extra attention/information we would like to give to our affiliated groups. We just need someone to oversee that.
- Newsletter – we have an exceptionally fine newsletter editor. She can be ultimately responsible for the assembly and mailing of the newsletter. However, she REALLY needs someone to help her gather the content of the newsletter.
- Email inquiries – We need someone to answer the many homeschooling inquiries we receive.
- A master of data – If someone who loves computer data management would come on the Board, they could take over our data management.

Currently we have people who love to speak and do all things political. We would welcome people with these interests and skills, but we need the kind of help listed above more urgently. We are hoping that some of you will take this request to heart. Your support group can do without your help. Someone else will take over that role. And KHEA Board membership will not take away all of your free time. We need your help! If you care about homeschooling in Kentucky, then give Board membership some serious consideration. You can contact any one of us with your questions. We'd enjoy talking with you.

Connie Laffin 270-782-7384
Bill Monroe 502-839-1960
Jan Fletcher 270-384-1728

laffinatu2@hotmail.com
wmmmonroe@wmmmonroe.com
godloves@alltel.net

Websites of interest

<http://www.historychannel.com/classroom/>
The History Channel website.

<http://www.historyteacher.net/>
History Teacher website

http://www.historyhouse.com/columns/in_history.asp
History house.com

<http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/>
Women in world history.

<http://www.heroesofhistory.com/index.html>
Information on the heroes of American History

<http://www.nps.gov/cowp/Timeline.htm>
Revolutionary War timeline

<http://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/>
This site has information about Jefferson Davis and his influence. It also has a list of civil war links that may be useful.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/1492/intro.html>
This has information about early american history.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/our_america/index_flash.htm
This website has more interesting stuff than just history.

<http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>
This is an animated atlas for American History.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/>
National Park Service links to the past.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/>
Discovering Lewis and Clark.

<http://www.theaha.org/>
The American Historical Association.

Other websites of interest:

<http://akidsheart.com/>

<http://teachers.teach-nology.com/index.html>

<http://www.primarygames.com/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.edhelper.com/>

Winter Seminar will refresh you!

Support Group Leader's Seminar

It is not uncommon for support group leadership to feel a bit disconnected or out of energy. Besides tending to their homes, families and church obligations, support group leader's give whatever energy they can muster to the members of their support groups. They need your support and encouragement. This year do something special for these folks. Send them to one of the KHEA Support Group Leader's Seminars. Offer to watch their kids – even if it means taking their kids to the basketball games, birthday parties, and other Saturday activities that tie them down. Make it possible for them to get away and do something for themselves. Give them the time and freedom to grow by getting new ideas for your support group and updates on the status of homeschool freedoms in KY. And while they are there, we will pamper them a bit and energize them for the unique issues they deal with as support group leadership. Watch for more info in the mail.

Hopkinsville Jan. 31, 2004

Lexington Feb. 7, 2004

9:00am – 4pm

Lunch included

Affiliated Groups

\$ 10.00 per person

\$ 15.00 per married couple

All others

\$ 25 per person

\$ 30 per married couple

Know Something Special?

If you know of other events and resources that you want to share with homeschoolers through the KHEA newsletter, please send your announcements to:

kheanewseditor@hotmail.com.

Our next deadline is Feb. 1st!



Home School Sports Grows

The growth of homeschool sports across the United States has quietly outpaced the growth of homeschooling itself. Reflecting that growth, the Homeschool Basketball National Website (HBNW <<http://www.geocities.com/homeschoolbasketball>> has recently celebrated its third anniversary. Providing information, resources, and services, free of charge, the HBNW has grown to over 110 pages in its three-year history. Homeschoolers across the nation can access 24 hours per day, information on how to set up a team, tax exemption, insurance, scholarships, setting up a team website, open tournaments, resource links, state-by-state reports, college contacts, feature articles, bulletin board, history, developmental topics, and much more. The HBNW also has a backup national website, Homeschool Basketball USA, located at: <<http://www.eteamz.com/homeschoolbasketballusa>>. Kentucky homeschool basketball teams have their own webpage in the HBNW. You may access it at: <<http://www.geocities.com/homeschoolbasketball/Kentucky.html>>.

This past year, the HBNW became an official member of the National Christian Homeschool Athletic Association (NCHAA). The NCHAA works to develop homeschool sports across the nation by (1) setting standards for conduct and participation, (2) organizing and developing national and regional tournaments, (3) acting as a resource for colleges and universities seeking information on homeschool athletes, and (4) acting as a resource for homeschool parents looking for sports programs. National homeschool basketball, volleyball, and soccer tournaments have been major projects for the NCHAA. Persons interested in contacting the NCHAA may do so by reaching the director, Kenny Collins, by e-mail at: nchaa2@juno.com, or by phone at: (316) 267-1484. The NCHAA developed its own website this past year, NCHAA Sports: <<http://www.geocities.com/NCHAASports>>.

The HBNW was honored not long ago, by being named the first honorary member of the Homeschool Sports Network (HSPN). The HSPN website, <<http://www.hspn.net>> has become the nation's most-visited homeschool sports website. HSPN has recently introduced a major new service for all homeschool sports across the nation. The One Voice program seeks to unify all homeschool sports and offers a variety of TOTL services to help each team or program in its development. HSPN founder and director, Chris Davis, may be reached by e-mail at: coach4life@yahoo.com.

One monthly service of the HBNW, is the National Coaches E-Mail, sent out to hundreds of homeschool coaches and team leaders across the nation. The free monthly e-mail, along with all the content of the HBNW, is under the scrutiny of not only the NCHAA, but also a six-member National Advisory Board, with members from Oklahoma, North Carolina, Nebraska, California, Montana, and Kansas. Homeschool coaches and other team leaders may subscribe to this free monthly e-mail by contacting HBNW Webmaster Thomas Scheimo, by e-mail at: homeschoolbasketball@yahoo.com.

The HBNW, HSPN, and the NCHAA all offer free team locator services, designed to help homeschool students and parents find a team, as well as helping homeschool teams find other homeschool teams to schedule games with. All three place a strong emphasis on Christian character and good sportsmanship in the development of homeschool sports.



Adult homeschoolers far exceed the general population in college education, and community service, according to a 2003 research report from the National Home Education Research Institute, of Salem, Ore. Home School Legal Defense Association commissioned the report. An abbreviated version is available at <http://www.hslda.org/>. Just click "research" and it will take you to a page where you can download the PDF.

Among the findings: Over 7300 homeschooled adults were surveyed and 5,000 had been home educated for at least seven years. Over 74 percent of home-educated adults ages 18-24 have taken college-level courses, compared to 46 percent of the general U.S. population. Seventy-one percent participate in an ongoing community service activity, compared to 37 percent of U.S. adults of similar ages. Only a tiny fraction (4.2 percent) considered politics and government too complicated to understand compared to over a third of U.S. adults.

The complete research report, "Home Educated and Now Adults: Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits," is available from the National Home Education Research Institute. <<http://www.nheri.org>>.

Goal Setting for Students

by John Bishop

When we teach children how to set and achieve goals, and how to apply these principles to their school work, they learn how to take more ownership of their education. They learn how they play a significant role in their education and in their future. By learning how to set and achieve goals, how to overcome challenges, the importance of being positive, and how to measure their progress, children learn how to enhance and increase their chances for success.

In order for your child to “buy into” the setting goals principles you will have to help them answer three questions: “Why is this important?”; “How to?”; and “How do I use this today to make my life (and the lives of those around me) better?”

Simply telling a child they need to set goals is not enough in this rapid-paced MTV world. It is important to get them involved by using open-ended, discussion-stimulating questions that give them an opportunity to express themselves while you guide or facilitate the discussion.

Possible topics for discussion:

1. Discuss the key elements of setting goals and give your child samples and practice.
2. Discuss the importance of minimizing the “Bummer Words” – “no, can’t, won’t, never, maybe, and if.”
3. Assist in a discussion on how to develop an “I’ll Make It Happen” attitude for school work and for life.

4. Breakdown the goal setting discussion into small parts and discuss over several sessions. (i.e. What is Success, Principles of Goal Setting, Samples & Practice, Investing in Yourself, Measuring Your Progress, Meeting the Challenges, How to Get Started, and Summary.
5. Facilitate a discussion on how your child can improve their self image, take more responsibility, and eliminate excuses.
6. Discuss how they define success – now and five years from now.
7. Help your child understand the five ways to measure their progress toward reaching their goal.
8. Help them identify some potential roadblocks they may encounter in reaching their goals and how to overcome them.
9. In today’s world there are plenty of people who belong to the “it’s all about me” club. Facilitate a discussion about the importance of helping others.
10. Together develop a checklist of ten items to keep your child focused on how to implement goal-setting principles in their lives.

Having your child understand

these principles should have a positive impact on your child’s personal decision making, sense of purpose, school engagement, family communications, positive peer pressure, and higher self esteem. Children who know how to set and achieve goals realize that there will be challenges in their path, but they will not allow them to be insurmountable roadblocks to their future.

John Bishop is the Executive Director of Accent on Success™ and author of the “Goal Setting for Students®” program. For more information please visit our website, <http://www.AccentOnSuccess.com>.

Student wants input

Kate Jennings, an eight-year veteran homeschooler, is compiling stories about homeschooling that will show an “outsider” what special moments we have. She is accepting letters to and from family or friends, diary entries, poems, paragraphs — anything that we think is worthy. She says, “I plan for the publication to be informative, humorous, and creative. Anything that will reveal homeschoolers for the very special people we are. I think it will be a very artistic presentation of one of the most important educational tools that families have available to them. Any artwork (photos, drawings, etc) that ties in with the writing would be great,” for possible publication. Please email her at kjennings03@comcast.net with any thoughts you might have!

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