

Pocatello Christian Homeschool Association
Newsletter – December 2010

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I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Well, it's here! The holiday season is upon us! There is a lot to do this time of year, and the regular schedule of meals, laundry, home teaching, housework, etc still exists and needs attention. Our world doesn't stop because the calendar says it's holiday time, so be kind to yourself, and ask for extra help from your family. Keep your goals and expectations realistic, and spend time celebrating the part of Christmas that means the most to you.

Up here in Inkom, we have already had over 12 inches of snow (!!) and it's not even December! We have been shoveling and plowing our driveway a LOT lately! Makes me want to snuggle up with a cup of cocoa and a good book! The good news is that Pebble Creek ski area is opening this weekend, the earliest ever!

I (Kathy) also want to thank the families that came to Gate City Christian Church for the Operation Christmas Child workshop. We were able to fill (STUFF!) 57 shoeboxes that will be blessing children around the world. The kids had fun picking out what to put in them, and we watched a video showing the children in different countries receiving and opening the boxes. Just seeing all their smiling and excited faces, it can't help but tug at your heart. I am SO glad we did it! And the American Falls homeschool group put together another 29 boxes of their own! Well done, everyone!!

We hope your December has many joys, including the joy of being together and the joy of discovering new things. Please remember, amid all the activities and busyness of December, to have FUN, enjoy your kids, go sledding, bake cookies, listen to the corny Christmas music, light some candles, take a drive to see the neighborhood lights, send a Christmas card to someone who isn't expecting one, donate a box of food to the Food Bank, go see the "Nutcracker" ballet, and spend time being thankful for God's indescribable gift. May His blessings rest on you and your family. Merry Christmas!

"...And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn..."

Luke 2:6-7, KJV

Upcoming Activities:

December

Sat 4	Salvation Army lunch
Fri 10	Volunteer Day at the Idaho Food Bank
Mon 13	Nutcracker Ballet-school performance**
Thu 16	Deleta Skate / Pebble ski lesson signup
Sat 18	Cookie Exchange/sledding at the Gaspers
Sat 25	Christmas Day

** Only 20 seats available so you must RSVP to Kathy Gasper by Dec 11.

Coming up in January:

Mon 3	Pebble Creek ski lessons **
Fri 7	Volunteer Day at the Idaho Food Bank
Sat 8	Scottish Country Dancing
Mon 10	Pebble Creek ski lessons **
Sat 15	Titus 2 class: Pressure Cooking*
(To be determined)	PCHA Speech Competition
Thu 20	Deleta Homeschool Skate
Mon 24	Pebble Creek ski lessons **
Mon 31	Pebble Creek ski lessons **

** must be pre-registered

* more details to come later

Activity Details:

Salvation Army Lunch

Saturday, December 4 at the Salvation Army, located at 400 N. 4th Avenue (corner of 4th and Fremont) in Pocatello. A lot of the churches in the area rotate serving lunch at the Salvation Army all year. Thanks to Teresa Von Busch for inviting our group to join her church, Grace Lutheran. Here are the details from Teresa:

We have three families committed to serving on that day. IF you are on the list to help make food, please deliver it on Dec. 4th by 10:30 am. THANKS for being willing to give AND to serve!

Blessings,

Teresa Von Busch

Volunteer Day at the Food Bank

Friday, December 10 from 1 pm - 3 pm at the Idaho Food Bank, located at 555 S. 1st Avenue in Pocatello (Phone: 233-8811). **Note:** There was a conflict with doing the first Friday of December so we moved it to the 10th. POW/MIA folks are having their Christmas party in the warehouse on the afternoon of the 3rd. There are several families in our group who have expressed an interest in helping out at the Food Bank in Pocatello. We had a very informative and enlightening field trip there in 2008, so PCHA has set up a **monthly** volunteer slot with the Food Bank. We used to go once each quarter, but decided we could do it every month. We tried doing it right after Deleta Skate, but too many people had conflicts. So we will be going **the first Friday of every month**, from 1 - 3 pm.

This is a great activity for **community service**. Please set aside some canned or boxed food donations to bring with you to Deleta each month and the families who participate in this community service will take those donations to the Food Bank the following month. If your family is interested in volunteering at the Food Bank with our group (all ages welcome), please contact me (Kathy Gasper) at 775-3204 or kgasper2@yahoo.com.

Nutcracker Ballet School performance

Monday, December 13 from 11 am - 12 noon at Frazier Auditorium on the ISU campus. Every year, the Brindusa / Moore Dance company performs the Nutcracker Ballet for the community. There are matinees and evening performances lined up on December 10 and 11 that cost money if you want to go as a family. However, each year there are also two FREE performances

for the local schoolchildren in 5th grade. They are allowing homeschool families only to bring 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

5th graders from all the local public and private elementary schools will be invited. The coordinator of these FREE performances has contacted me to give our homeschool group a block of 36 seats in the balcony for the second performance. Here are the details:

What: A 1-hour long shortened performance of the Nutcracker Ballet

When: Monday, December 13 at 11 am

Where: Frazier Auditorium at ISU campus

Who: 4th, 5th, and 6th graders ONLY (homeschoolers only). ONLY 36 SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR OUR GROUP!! That includes the parents.

Please arrive 20-30 minutes prior to the performance starting time so that we can get everyone seated in a timely and orderly manner prior to the scheduled curtain time.

If you have children in the 4th, 5th, or 6th grade that would like to attend this performance, please RSVP by next Friday, December 10 to Kathy Gasper at 775-3204 or kgasper2@yahoo.com and let me know how many kids (remember, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders only) and if you would like to attend as a chaperone. First ones to respond will get the seats.

Deleta Homeschool Skate

Thursday, December 16 from 10 am - 12 noon at Deleta skating rink on Yellowstone. This is an ongoing event every month from September to May. The 3rd Thursday of each month is reserved for all home schoolers in the city. The kids get lots of exercise and the parents have a chance to visit. Parents and non-skaters are free, kids are \$3 (includes regular skates, roller blades are \$2 extra). There is also a laser tag area (\$2.50 for 10 min) and the Big Toy for little ones that is \$1.50. This is not a PCHA-sponsored event, but it is fun. Questions, call Deleta at 233-0431.

Scholastic Book Orders: From Melissa Jensen: I will have Scholastic book orders available each month at Deleta to any of you who wish to build up your homeschooling libraries. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase books at discounted prices with free shipping. There are many classic titles and authors. I will have book order catalogs for all grades (Toddlers - Upper middle school).

Book order forms will be available for pick up Thursdays at our monthly meeting at Deleta. Checks should be made payable to Scholastic Book Clubs.

You may place an order there or drop it off to me at my address: 2435 Hiskey in Pocatello.

The cut off date for this order will be the following Tuesday, Dec 21st and I will mail in the order on Dec 22nd. Books should be available for pickup at our January monthly meeting. For any questions, I can be reached at 232-2514.

****Bring donations to Deleta for the Food Bank please!!** PCHA families will be volunteering there **the first Friday of every month**, and we would like to bring food or cash donations with us at that time. Thanks!!

**** Dana Crist from Pebble Creek Ski Area** will be at Deleta in December regarding our lessons in January. All parents and students who are interested in participating should come for an **orientation at 10 am**. She will be handing out registrations/sign up sheets and collecting payment if you want to pay her instead of mailing it in. Thanks!

**** Pebble Creek Ski Lessons for Homeschoolers** will begin again in January of 2011. Our dates are **Mondays: January 3, 10, 24 & 31, 2011**. Grades 3-12 for skiing and 5-12 for boarding (3 & 4 graders with previous boarding experience may also enroll). Here are the details:

PEBBLE CREEK SKI AREA SKI AND SNOWBOARD PROGRAM

Ski lessons have been taught for 60 years at Skyline / Pebble Creek Ski Area. A program to teach skiing to area students as part of physical – life sports education began over 20 years ago. Today, the program also includes snowboarding.

We realize the need for a strong, structured educational program. Physical conditioning prior to ski/board lessons is strongly suggested.

Basic Program

SKI AND SNOWBOARD PROGRAM GOALS:

- To introduce students to a wholesome life time sport and leisure time activity.
- To promote exercise for a healthy lifestyle.
- To provide an atmosphere of learning while having fun.
- To introduce non-skiing/boarding students to the sport and to bring them to a novice skill level.
- To improve the skiing/boarding ability of students already familiar with the sport.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- An orientation session.
- Lift passes.

- Two-hour lessons.
- Afternoon practice time.
- Equipment rental for students who do not have their own equipment.
- Students are required to be in lessons and wear a ticket identifying the school.
(Season Passes and the Fifth Grade Passport are not valid for this program.)

THE COST:

Lesson & Lift Ticket	\$ 8 per day.
Rental Skis	\$ 9 per day
Rental Snowboards	\$ 9 per day.
Parent lift tickets	\$15 per day
Parent rental	\$ 9 per day

\$8.00 per day x 4 for lessons= \$32.00

\$9.00 per day x 4 for equipment rental= \$36.00

(\$3.00 per day x4 for helmet rental) *optional

AFTER PROGRAM COMPLETION:

Students who rent equipment for this program receive a card to use rental equipment free of charge for up to 4 visits with the purchase of a lift ticket.

Cookie Exchange / Sledding at the Gaspers

Saturday, December 18 at 1 pm at Kathy Gasper's house (in Inkom).

Instead of spending hours making a variety of different holiday treats at home, come to Kathy's house with a large batch of your favorite cookies or bars (and the recipe please) and swap them for many different kinds. There will be hot apple cider, hot chocolate, eggnog, coffee, and lots of fellowship. You'll have a great time and go home with enough variety to please your family. Kids are welcome! Have them bring their snow pants, hats, gloves and their sleds. We have a big hill for sledding. Yes, we have snow!! They can also decorate sugar cookies. We will have one of our PCHA moms, Suzanne Gill giving a workshop on cookie decorating. She is an award-winning cake decorator, so I am looking forward to her tips and advice! For directions to the Gasper's house, or questions, call Kathy at 775-3204.

Scottish Country Dancing

Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 5:30 - 7 pm at Calvary Alliance Church, located at 800 Marinus Lane in Pocatello. Use www.mapquest.com if you are not familiar with where it is. Join Dance Instructor, Kathy Byers, for a night of Scottish country dancing! This is conservative social dancing in which the only contact with other dancers is through the hands and hooking arms. It is for all ages and families, no prior experience is needed and no

partner is required. We had a blast in November!!! The dances have very simple footwork and can also just be walked. Casual dress & comfortable tennis shoes are recommended. Everyone can do this and you'll have so much fun learning it and laughing your way through the steps. We're skipping Dec., but the class will be scheduled monthly beginning in January. Feel free to invite friends and family. The larger the group, the more fun it is. This is a great inexpensive night out with the family! You may begin attending the classes at any time. Please RSVP to Heather Disselkoen (idahooo@juno.com) or respond to Kathy Gasper. RSVP's are not required, this just gives us an estimate, so we know how large of a dance area is needed. **Cost:** \$1.00 per night per person or \$5.00 per night/family maximum.

You can visit www.thistleandghillies.org if you would like to view some video of Scottish Country Dancing. (Keep in mind that these are seasoned dancers. We will begin with much simpler dances). Any questions regarding the dancing can be directed to Kathy Byers (kathyb@osioda.com). Hope to see you there!

"...And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid..."

Luke 2:8-9

Classifieds

Do you have homeschool supplies you won't be using and would like to sell or give them away? Do you have a skill (music, art, science, math, reading, karate, tutoring, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, dog walking, house cleaning, or babysitting) you would like to make available for fee or barter? You can put your ad here. Call Kathy Gasper at 775-3204.

(NEW) FOR SALE:

Video Text Algebra:

Excellent visual learning on VHS

Module A \$25.00, Module B \$25.00, New \$100.00 each

Check their website at <http://www.videotext.com/algebra.htm>

Abeka Science of the Physical Creation complete set \$15.00
Teacher Guide, Lab Manual, Teacher Guide Lab Manual, Quiz Key, Test Key

Contact Wendy Cowell at 226-5631

FOR SALE:

Bob Jones World Studies (7th grade), second edition:

--World Studies— Student textbook (SKU # 222125) This book has some shelf wear, but is in otherwise good condition.

--World Studies— Teacher's edition, Books 1 and 2 (SKU # 116616). These books are in great condition. They do have highlighting in them. I highlighted important points to remember.

--Student Activities in World Studies— Teacher's edition. (SKU# 122135) This is in great shape. The student's edition (SKU # 122127) has been almost all used. If you want it, I would throw it in for free b/c you would need to erase and/or type up new work pages.

--Test Key- These are loose pages. They are in great shape. I have tests 11-20 are unused. **I will sell these for \$35.**

Bob Jones Life Science (7th grade) second edition:

--Life Science— Student text (SKU# 235812). Book has some shelf wear but is in otherwise great condition.

--Student Activities in Life Science— (SKU# 102285) This book is partially used. There is just some erasing that needs to be done.

--Student Activities in Life Science Teacher's Key— (SKU # 102277) This book is in "like new" condition.

--Life Science Teacher's edition— (SKU # 102269) This book has highlighting in it. I also spilled some coffee on the edges.

--Tests 17-28 and the complete test key are included. **I will sell these books for \$25.**

Bob Jones Literature- Explorations in Literature is a second edition book. (SKU # 235929) This book is in excellent condition. **I will sell this book for \$10.**

Thanks, Kristi Davenport 238-1323 or kristilovescakes@gmail.com

FOR SALE: I have Switched-On-Schoolhouse from AOP (Alpha Omega Press) for 9th and 10th grade for sale...just make an offer.

Thanks Shelly Williams ellibuzz@yahoo.com

WANTED: Mom of 7 with a bachelor's degree in Business seeking temporary or part time employment. Skilled in clerical, reception, child care, food service, education, medical clerical. If you know of anything, please let Debbi Busack know. Dbusack@hotmail.com or 208-250-3994

Also, we have **free fresh potatoes** (all sizes) for anyone that would like them (and I mean we have LOTS!!!). Contact Debbi Busack at dbusack@hotmail.com or call 250-3994.

BABYSITTERS: Moms, do you need a break? A date night? A day to run errands? We have a solution -

SISTER SITTERS - Babysitting Services

Available weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Red Cross Babysitter Certified.

Pay is up to you! We want to BLESS you!!

3 Teenage sisters (age 16, 14 and 12) with experience with infants, toddlers and siblings (age 4, 7, 8 and 10). Also, they volunteer in the church nursery, toddler and preschool rooms.

References available upon request.

Please call mom Debbi at 250-3994. We live in Chubbuck and I can provide transportation.

"...And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord..."

Luke 2:10-11

Recipe Corner

By Vicky Shaw

Made this for Thanksgiving and we loved it. A perfect addition to the Christmas Table.

Sweet Potato Casserole

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, melted

1/3 cup milk

1 cup white sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla extract
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup light brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup all-purpose flour
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. In a large bowl, mix together mashed sweet potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted butter, milk, sugar, vanilla, and eggs. Spread mixture into the prepared baking dish. In a small bowl, mix together brown sugar and flour. Cut in $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter until mixture is crumbly, and then stir in pecans. Sprinkle pecan mixture over the sweet potatoes. Bake for 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.

(From Kathy Gasper) This time of year can be busy for us, so here is a recipe that you can have on the dinner table in about a half hour! (woohoo!!) I also like to make this for a hot lunch on a cold day.

Cowgirl Beans

First, start a pot of rice going to serve with this. Next, take out your trusty large skillet. Put in 1 lb hamburger, 1 finely chopped onion, and 1 minced garlic clove. Fry everything over med heat, break up hamburger as it cooks, and drain off fat. Add salt and pepper to taste, 1 TBS each Worcestershire sauce and vinegar, (1) 8-oz can tomato sauce, and (2) 15-oz cans of pork-n-beans. If it seems dry, add some water for simmering. Cover the skillet and cook for about 10 minutes until everything is hot. Serve over rice, with fruit salad and a vegetable (like corn).

"...And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:12-14

The Meaning of Christmas, Author unknown

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room, and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the [Christmas tree](#). He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask him.

The words choked in my throat, as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement, TEACH THE CHILDREN! I was puzzled: What did he mean? He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree.

As I stood there bewildered, Santa said, Teach the Children! Teach them the old meaning of [Christmas](#). The meaning that a now-a-day Christmas has forgotten!

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it on the mantle. Teach the Children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven.

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. Teach the Children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of that promise.

He then reached into the bag and pulled out a CANDLE. Teach the Children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness.

Once again he reached into his bag and then removed a [WREATH](#) and placed it on the tree. Teach the Children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection.

He then pulled out from his bag an [ornament](#) of HIMSELF. Teach the Children that [Santa Claus](#) symbolizes the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.

He reached in again and pulled out a HOLLY LEAF. Teach the Children the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent blood shed by Him.

Next he pulled out a GIFT from the bag and said, "Teach the Children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. Teach the Children that the wise men bowed before the holy

babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We should give [gifts](#) in the same spirit as the wise men."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. Teach the Children that the candy cane represents the shepherd's crook. The crook on the shepherd's staff helps bring back strayed sheep from the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper.

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. Teach the Children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth, peace and good will.'

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. Teach the Children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of a bell, it should bring people to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked at the tree and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the Children the true meaning of Christmas, and not to put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One who is, and I bow down and worship Him, our Lord, our God."

If you have anything you would like to include in the January newsletter (an article, advertisement, announcement, recipe, child's poem, etc), please contact Kathy (775-3204) or Shawn (478-9004) and we will be happy to add it. Also, if your church is having an event that you would like let us know about, we would be happy to spread the word...let us know. Until January, God Bless your family and homeschool.