



Record Keeping Thoughts...

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Book Review: Writing from the Heart</i> | 2 |
| <i>Book Give-Away</i> | 2 |
| <i>AHE Handbook Update</i> | 2 |
| <i>Shaping Hearts and Hands</i> | 3 |
| <i>Foundations</i> | 3 |
| <i>Curriculum Review: Homeschool Tracker Plus</i> | 4 |
| <i>A Look Back... Portfolios</i> | 4 |

As I was working on looking up texts and SOP quotes for this newsletter, I found where writing was very important even in early Bible times to record numerous things. Some were for reasons of remembering an incident (good or bad), writing for a record to witness to others, and some just to record history as proof. I found that interesting as I studied those verses and was relating them to homeschooling.

Record Keeping sometimes seems pointless to many of us, but it is a very important part of what we are doing as we school our children. Some in our group will testify that having a record has saved them from problems that occurred when nosy neighbors re-

ported them to the local authorities. Others will tell you how precious it is to look back and see progress from year to year, what an encouragement it can be and what a blessing to see God working in your children's lives. For some actually making a choice to record work, saves them space by helping them sift through the paperwork and save the best and toss the rest. I've found that in keeping records, that I feel less overwhelmed and more organized.

Record keeping can vary from journaling about your days, to keeping a portfolio of each year's work. Some prefer building forms that fit their family to keep records and others prefer to use computer

programs. Each family will have their own preferences based on their personal likes, time and lifestyle.

Hoping your ideas will be sparked about record keeping with the ideas shared this month.

Warmly, ~Melissa

Special points of interest:

- Theme: Record Keeping and Writing
- Upcoming Themes inside
- FYI for Homeschool Easy Records
- Sharing Ideas...new column!

Announcing...

Behind the scenes of AHE, we've been working hard together to create another new arm of ministry within AHE. This arm may not appeal to everyone, but it may be a preferred choice for

some. It is for this reason that it was created.

AHE has opened its very own blog. You can find it by going to aheblog.org. Our new blog team leader is Ann and she has al-

ready created a nice warm home for you all to visit. You will find her introduction of the blog itself on page 3 of the newsletter. Welcome, Ann, to the AHE Team!

Book Review: Writing from the Heart

Writing from the Heart by Daniel and Christine Kirk

We've tried several writing curriculums out there. This is one that we've enjoyed as a whole. The pace was enjoyable to all my kids. The wording speaks to the student and is understandable. And the content was applicable and showed growth in my children's writing abilities. This book can be used from late elementary to early high school.

The journal activities in the book focused my children's minds on the Bible and Christian principles. The writing

lessons covered journaling, descriptive paragraphs, essays, and story writing. The appendix had a section on how to critique/grade writing and a section on inspiring creativity in writing.

The step by step approaches to each style of writing helped my children grasp the style without feeling overwhelmed. The positive reinforcement of ideas was a nice change from many books which promote fantasy or silly story writing.

This book could be used more than once, allowing more prac-

tice with these particular styles of writing. I tended to use it only once, but was very glad I did. It introduced essays to my children in such a manner that they no longer were overwhelmed when they heard the word "essay". To me, there is benefit in finding a resource that can calm the mind and help my children feel more confident in their own writing abilities. It is not the end all of all writing instruction, but a good book for children who are overwhelmed with writing and for those who want a more Christian thought process when it comes to writing.

Book Give-Away

Book Give-Away. No winner for the April Book Give-Away. We had no entries for the drawing.

May Book Give-Away

I have 3 small booklets called "Great Ideas" which are ideas for teachers from the Learning Magazine. One focuses on Language Arts, One focuses on So-

cial Studies/Science, and the other one has an assortment of subjects it covers. The activities are meant more for elementary aged children. My disclaimer is that I've read these and found a couple goodies to include in my days, but some activities are classroom oriented and will not work for you. How-

ever, they may be a "great idea" jump-starter for you. I thought someone might enjoy reading these to get some new creative ideas.

To enter the drawing, just reply to the newsletter email and write "May Give Away", including your name and email address.

No winner for April Book Give-Away! I received no entries for the drawing! Don't forget to enter this month!

AHE Handbook Update...

Just a short note to update you about the handbook.

We are currently revising our 25th edition of the handbook. We have some new ideas and are very excited to share the handbook with you. This project is taking a bit longer than anticipated.

I wanted to let everyone know that we are working hard be-

hind the scenes to finish this as quickly as possible as we know some are waiting so patiently for it. We do appreciate your patience!

I wanted to let you all know that the next 2-3 months of my schedule will be tentative. I (Melissa) am nearing the end of my pregnancy and time of change, sudden change, will

likely be a part of our days until life settles back into a new normal. Just wanted you to be aware if things seem to be taking longer than anticipated.

You can watch for updates about the handbook on the website, see the back page for that link under the AHE Resources.

Shaping Hearts and Hands, www.aheblog.org

I am so pleased to share with you *Shaping Hearts and Hands*, the new Adventist Home Educator blog. We truly hope that this blog will be a blessing to each family that visits the site.

What will *Shaping Hearts and Hands* be about? Well... all of us! The True Education principles that Ellen White shares in her writings. A fun new play dough recipe. A nature photo perfect for drawing or inspiring further study. The

everyday details that weave our daily lives into a lifestyle of learning.

We want to know what you are thinking and feeling, so please join in the conversation by adding your comments on the blog. If a post uplifting, or you try a craft idea mentioned, please let us know!

To keep up with the latest posts on the blog, you have several choices. Bookmark the page so you can easily find us later. You can

also add aheblog.org to your blog reader list. In addition, *Shaping Hearts and Hands* will be accessible from our Facebook group page. Finally, if you click the button on the blog's sidebar, then you can sign up to be updated by email.

Please keep our blog efforts in your prayers as we plan and write.

By Ann,
AHE Blog Team Leader



Shaping Hearts and Hands

Visit us at aheblog.org

Foundations: Record Keeping and Writing

"Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness." Isaiah 30:8NIV

"I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you." 1 Corinthians 4:14

"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things." 2 Corinthians 2:9

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:5

"When very young, chil-

dren should be educated to read, to write, to understand figures, to keep their own accounts. They may go forward, advancing step by step in this knowledge. But before everything else, they should be taught that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. They should be educated line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; but the one aim before the teacher should be to educate the children to know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent." {CT 168.3}

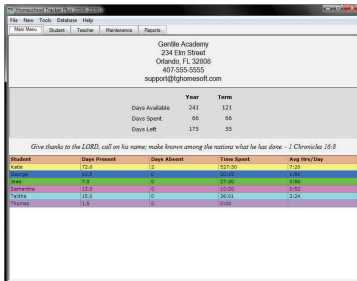
"Before attempting to study the higher branches of literary

knowledge, be sure that you thoroughly understand the simple rules of English grammar and have learned to read and write and spell correctly. Climb the lower rounds of the ladder before reaching for the higher rounds." {CT 219.1}

"No Gall.--Every article you write may be all truth, but one drop of gall in it will be poison to the reader. One reader will discard all your good and acceptable words because of that drop of poison. Another will feed on the poison, for he loves such harsh words.--Letter 91, 1899." {CW 65.3}

...be sure that you thoroughly understand the simple rules of English grammar and have learned to read and write and spell correctly.

Curriculum Review: Homeschool Tracker Plus



Homeschool Tracker Screen Shot of Main Menu

www.homeschooltracker.com/

Homeschool Tracker is a record keeping and a planner program all in one. For those that like to keep track of records by the computer, this is an excellent option.

With Homeschool Tracker, you can get the Basic Edition via a free download. This lets you play with the program a little bit to see if it is something you would like and stick with. The Basic Edition is that, very basic. There are enough record keeping and planning activities that you may never feel a need to get the Plus version. I would think it would be plenty especially for an elementary child.

The Plus version has more perks, more teacher options, more report generating options, and the ability to create a

transcript. There is a lesson planning section that is not available on the Basic version. You can create lesson plans for your curriculum and save them for another child. There are options to archive lesson plans, books, and more until you are ready to use them again, eliminating clutter on your screen for the immediate year, without erasing data you will use again for another child.

The Plus version does cost money, however you will receive a CD with the program on it with a code that will allow you to upgrade to newer editions for free. This upgrade option lasts for the lifetime of the company. No more needing to repurchase because the item has been outdated or because your 5 year limit to upgrade is up. This makes this product an exceptional value.

This program is not for everyone. Realize this product has many options to help homeschoolers of many different areas comply with their local standards. You might not need to use the program to the fullest extent and could find it bogs you down if you try. However, if you live in a more strict area, or have a personal need to have more detailed records, this program is wonderful.

Check out the website above to learn if this program is right for you. Try out the Basic Edition, first, before purchasing to see if it would be something you would use. It's a great time to try it. Over the summer months you can get to know the program and decide if it is right for you.

A Look Back...Portfolios By J.S. from CA, Volume 6, #5

Some Ideas for a Portfolio School work – book reports; drawings; maps; book lists; timelines; tests; be sure to document basic education – reading, writing and arithmetic.

Photographs – take pictures of field trips; your children preparing meals; reading; reciting at church, working on honors at Pathfinders; doing community service; visiting Grandma.

Letters and notes – photocopy letters, thank you notes, business letters your child has written and put in the portfolio.

Field trips – keep brochures; child's report or drawings, etc.

Awards; certificates; church bulletins from programs your child participated in.

Copy of your daily schedule; yearly goals; course of study.

Personally I feel that a portfolio should be more than a record of school work, but a reflection of your child's life. Don't overlook spiritual learning, scripture memorization, spiritual insights your child has. When you look at them months or years from now you will see God's leading and protection.

Let your children include the things important to them, things that reflect their personality. Pictures of friends, pets, grandparents, projects, etc.

Supplies Needed:

Large binder

3-hole punch

plastic cover sheets

lots of paper (some recommend using only acid free paper and pens which will last much longer – you decide if it is worth the

extra expense)

notebook dividers (if dividing by subject, unit or month/season)

camera and film

Don't get Discouraged

It takes time to get into the habit of keeping portfolios. It also takes time to maintain them. Some families "save up" materials to go in the portfolio and spend a school day each month putting things together and writing about the pictures they have. I'm encouraging my older children to put things directly into their notebook as they do the work or get the keepsake.

Keep working on it and it will get easier with practice. And I think you'll find that keeping a portfolio for homeschool, will be a nice project and record of the work you accomplished.

Upcoming Newsletters

Upcoming Issues:

#150 - Health/PE and Summer Learning

Deadline for submissions:
June 2nd

#151 - Planning and Home Arts

#152—Routines/Schedules and Science

The upcoming themes for the next 3 months are shared so that if you have anything to share about the theme idea, you will have time to prepare a piece for the newsletter. We are looking for:

- Curriculum Reviews
- Book Reviews
- Personal Applications of 'True Education'
- Work Articles
- Service Articles
- Featured articles (your choice)
- Lesson Plans or Unit Study Ideas
- Themed Articles
- Favorite Quotes and inspirational thoughts
- Your thoughts!

As always, submissions are invited regardless of upcoming themes... they may be saved for later, or if a newsletter is a little light, it may be included regardless of the theme of the newsletter.

(If you have a topic of interest, please share so we can add it to our list)

Submissions can be sent to the following email:

adventisthomeducator@gmail.com



Next Month's Theme: Health/PE and Summer Learning.

Got a thought, don't forget to share!

Sharing Ideas... next month... summer learning!

This next month I would like you all to share your summer learning ideas.

I'd love to hear your summer activities, no matter how structured or unstructured they may be.

Also your summer routines would be fun to share.

Sharing summer work and

service ideas would be great to add in as well.

You can submit a short article, a short quip to be added to an article with quips from others, or just a nice idea.

Send your ideas to: adventist-homeducator@gmail.com

Sharing Ideas is a new column for us to share small bits on a particular topic to encourage others together!

Please consider sharing your ideas!

Homeschool Easy Records... FYI

Note taken from the HER website... <http://www.dataplus.biz/HER/>

Notice: As of 1/1/2010 the sale of new and upgrade versions of HomeSchool Easy Records has stopped. This is due to incompatibilities with 64-bit

Vista and Windows 7 operating systems. Our sincere apologies. Downloads and online lesson plan access will continue for existing customers until June 30, 2010. When online lesson plan access terminates, your program will continue to operate cor-

rectly. Program support will continue indefinitely (questions emailed to support@dataplus.biz) or as long as the web server can be kept operational.

The Adventist Home Educator

www.adventisthomeducator.org

The Adventist Home Educator
3450 Quail Avenue
Manly, Iowa 50456
Email:
adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

AHE Resources:

AHE e-Newsletter ... You are reading it now. Short monthly articles to encourage you with home schooling. Sharing ideas among friends in a topical format. When email lists are too much for you, a monthly newsletter can encourage you and help you feel connected among friends. The newsletter tries to present information in such a way that it is clutter free.

AHE Handbook - Available currently by e-book. The handbook is a compilation of ideas shared between other Adventists. This book is currently unavailable. The 25th edition is in the editing process and we hope to have it for you in the next few months. Check out the website for more details on our handbook updates.

<http://adventisthomeducator.org/ahe-resources/ahe-handbook/>

The **AHE-List** is a place for Adventist homeschoolers to come together for friendly and informative discussion about home education from birth through high school. With an emphasis on true education, we share our ideas and experiences relating to teaching methods, learning styles, scheduling, curriculum choices and many other homeschooling topics. This is a place where we can help others along their homeschooling journey and also learn some new things ourselves. Susie is our moderator and she does a great job keeping the list on topic for homeschooling discussions. To join, send a blank email to:

AHE-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE-Living... is a friendly place for sharing encouraging words as we work together to create grace-filled, loving homes and pure hearts for the Kingdom. This is a place to visit about child rearing, home decorating, healthy cooking, health and wellness, family relationships, spiritual growth and family worships, sewing and crafts, gardening and flowers, and other topics near and dear to our hearts. LaDonna is our moderator and she does a great job keeping the list a warm and cozy place to join together with friends. This is a supplemental group affiliated with AHE; a place where we can

discuss all aspects of Christian living. You will need to be a member of the AHE-list in order to join. To join, visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AHE-Living/>

AHE-Swap...if you have curriculum to purchase or to sell, here is another outlet for getting the word out. To join, send a blank email to:

AHE-Swap-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE Teens...is a place for our teen children to interact with other Seventh-day Adventist homeschoolers. To join, parents need to send an email to Melissa at onthefarmin-iowa@myclearwave.net with their children's names, ages, and email addresses.

AHE Website The AHE website moved to a new server in January of 2010. We are still in process of formatting, so please forgive us for any incorrect links or pages; and please share with us if you find any mistakes. Thanks!

www.adventisthomeducator.org

AHE on Facebook...Search for "The Adventist Home Educator" on Facebook and click "like" to connect with us there.

AHE Blog, *Shaping Hearts and Hands*, is a place you can find Adventist Homeschooling applied. We'll share principles and how we apply them to specific situations, so that you can learn to do the same. Plus some warm encouragement in a more homey atmosphere.

www.aheblog.org