



HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Valley Christian School

September 2005

A Note From Kathie ...

When we traveled with our five children for our year in Europe, we never had the chance to use the Euro rail passes that many individuals use, nor did we take the railway through the Chunnel, but from time to time we had opportunity as we traveled in our motor home to observe and admire the sleek bullet trains, to ride the decrepit trams of Eastern European cities, and to become acquainted with the cogwheel trains of Switzerland, the trains that use a gear, "cog wheel", meshing into a special rack rail between the outer rails to climb very steep grades of up to 38%. (Standard railroads can only climb grades of around 5% and up to 9% for short sections.)



The home schooling engine is polished, fueled, and almost ready to roll. You're getting ready for the trip and the countdown is on. The engine is a sparkling clean, lean machine. The plans are made, the course has been plotted, the purchases made. Everything is standing in readiness as the final days of waiting tick by and the smoke begins to pour forth from the smoke stack. The whistle sounds, everyone says their final goodbyes to summer, and the September trip is a reality. You, the engineer, are making the final checks of the instruments, the fuel, and your resources.

All aboard! With tremendous effort, the wheels groan as they begin to move and the train pulls out of the home schooling station. Another year of adventure begins. Bon voyage!

Kathie

Registration Deadline - Sept. 30, 2005

The month of September is often the time when home schooling families are making their final decisions as to where to register and what curriculum to use, and for some, these are difficult decisions to make. Valley Christian School is offering homeschoolers two options again this year: Support or Rebate. (See page 2 for full details.) I would welcome any questions you might have and can be contacted by phone at 604-826-1388 or by email at info@valleychristianschool.ca.

Fall Home Schooling Classes

Once again, Valley Christian School will be hosting classes taught by home schooling parents for home schooling children from the Abbotsford, Mission area. The planning meeting is being set for Monday, October 3rd at 9 am in the VCS library. (Perhaps a couple of teenagers could supervise the younger children in the gym.) This is open to those families registered with us as well as those who are not, with a respective fee structure. What classes would you like to see offered? Do you have a skill you might like to teach, whether it be sewing, cooking, science, a language, scrapbooking, or whatever?!? Would you like to join us?

Returns/Orders

If you have loaned materials from the office, please return them or call me to make other arrangements. Our Book Room is currently stocked with a good variety of consumables, texts, teacher editions, and readers. You are welcome to come and check it out.



Special points of interest:

- *October 3-9 am - Meeting re fall home school classes.*
- *October 6,7 - Pro D Days - VCS closed.*
- *Oct. 20 10:30 am - School Photos for Option 1 registered homeschoolers*
- *Oct. 21 - Pro D Day - VCS closed.*
- *Nov. 10 - Pro D Day - VCS closed*
- *Nov. 18 - Auction / Fundraiser - great stuff to buy for Christmas*
- *Dec. 9 - VCS Christmas program*
- *Dec. 17-Jan. 2 - VCS holidays*



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We're on the Web!
www.valleychristianschool.ca

Interested?

- In registering your children?
- In fall home schooling classes?
- In a Mexico missions trip?
- In learning assistance contacts?
- In World Book bargains?

Please give me a call at 604-826-1388.

In 2005-2006, Valley Christian School is again offering two options for home schooling families:

Option 1: Support & encouragement, borrowing texts & readers, purchasing consumable workbooks from our main suppliers at our cost, opportunity for involvement in a nominal-cost-to-you weekly event. CTBS testing if desired. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in.

Option 2: Rebate for home schooling materials you have purchased to a maximum of \$125 per child, based on reimbursement for purchases made by the parents for receipts submitted. This is a registration only option and gives those seeking complete independence and responsibility that option. CTBS testing is available. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in. Christian curriculum is receiptable. If desired, involvement in the weekly/monthly events can be arranged on a fee basis.

Please take care to keep your receipts from curriculum and resource purchases so that they can be submitted to us by May 31, 2006. We will send the rebate cheque to you by July 15, 2006. Please send these on time as doing the work in one batch helps keep our costs low. Late claims will be discounted by \$10 and there is a final deadline of August 31, 2006.

Fun Fall Adventures

A friend of mine was telling me about their summer adventures. Because she has a home-based business, their family cannot take a vacation away from home. Instead, she begins work at 6 am each day so that she has the afternoons with her children. As a treat, once a week, she loads up the van, picks up grandma, and heads out for an adventure. The only rules that they have are that they cannot go far and they must not go to the same place twice. Sometimes, they head out in the morning without any idea where they will end up! If they see something that interests them, that is their adventure. (Now, we do that when we are on vacation elsewhere, but we don't do that locally!) This last summer they visited McLennan Creek Goat Dairy in Abbotsford, the Blackberry Kitchen at Heritage Park in Mission, Greenhill Acres Farm in Chilliwack, Femcliff Gardens in Mission, Tuscan Farm Gardens in Langley, Silverhill Apple Orchard in Mission, a British store in Chilliwack (followed by eating fish and chips), etc. etc. Actually, these would make fantastic fall adventures too!



Mexico Missions Trip

One of the home schooling families registered with us spends most of their year in Vicente Guerrero on the Baja Peninsula of Mexico. They are on staff with IDF, which, among other things, builds houses for needy Mexican families. Carol said that they would be delighted to have several home schooling families join them for a week or two this year.

Several years ago, our family traveled to the same town and spent a week serving the Mexican people in the Foundation for His Ministry orphanage. We did a variety of things. My husband and two of our boys 'destructed' an adobe brick building so that a new building could be built on site. My daughter and I looked after babies in the nursery, helped in the sewing room, washed curtains for the chapel, weeded gardens, cleaned guest accommodations, etc. All of us went on as many outreaches to the neighboring towns and outlying areas as we could. There we helped hand out spoonfuls of peanut butter and cups of milk to hungry children, helped tousel children color pictures with precious bits of crayons, listened to the fluid Spanish version of Bible stories we knew well, while holding several children on our laps. Around us we saw cardboard shacks and dwellings made of blue tarps. We had stepped into the world of the Oaxacan people of Mexico, and it was a wake-up call for ourselves and our children. It changed the way we look at people and the way we look at things. If you would like to join several other families and experience Mexico together in this way, please give me a call.

