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Legislative Update

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

By Erin and Charyti Jackson

Homeschooling is basically a continuation of parenting. Dads and Moms have taught their children to use silverware, potty train, and many other skills. Children are eager to learn and one of the easiest ways to teach them is through living life. For example, learning colors and counting can just be part of life – Sam, please get me the red bowl; Sarah, let’s count apples as we buy them.

Reading to children is one of the biggest things that a parent can do to help their children. Even if a child can read, reading books above the child’s grade level can help with vocabulary and learning as sentences become more complex. Those who are in high school can still enjoy spending time during family read aloud times. From the classics to more modern books, there is a wide variety of literature available. Our children have watched movies to realize that there is actually a book written. So off we go to find the book. Then there is the hearing of “Mom, they didn’t put such and such part in the movie.”

With older children, one of the best things is to be able to have in depth conversations. High school gives you the chance to go on field trips without having to worry about diaper bags, sippy cups, snacks. It’s a time to make some great memories and conversations.
(cont. on page 2)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (CONT.)

We've had the chance to do several once-in-a-lifetime activities because homeschooling gave us flexibility to do those activities. Homeschooling allowed us the freedom to be able to rearrange our schedules when emergencies arose. And we weren't worrying about homeschooling hours because we start logging hours starting July 1.

And one of the biggest things to remember above all is that your child is unique in where they are academically. Please don't be stressed about where they are or where you think they should be. As long as they are making progress is all that matters. If they are struggling with something, change how the subject is being taught, switch to a different curriculum, or don't be afraid to back off for a bit. On the other side, if a child is flying through the concepts being taught, be willing to skip repetitive problems, go up a grade level, or even change curriculum.

As you get ready to start your homeschooling year, whether it is your first, second, third, or even 15th year, please take the time to enjoy your children and your homeschooling journey!



A LITTLE OF THIS AND A LITTLE OF THAT

ZOOMS

Will we make our 1,000 hours? How do I log this? What is required in Missouri to comply with Missouri homeschooling law? How do we do a transcript? Is it hard to homeschool high school? These questions and many others will be answered in free FHE zoom workshops. There is both New Homeschooling and Homeschooling High School Workshops. And our new Thinking Outside the Box Zoom workshop. Please check the FHE events website page for dates and details.

<https://fhe-mo.org/events>

FHE TURNS 40 IN 2023

MONTHLY DRAWING WINNERS

January—Shauna G., Region 6w, Homeschool Journal
February—Becky & Ryan J., Region 3, Homeschool Journal
March—Noelle & Dustin D., Region 3, 1 Year Membership
April—Francine & Patrick Z., Region 5, 2 Year Membership
May— Angie S., Region 4, First Things First
June—Teresa & Andrew G., Region 4, 1 Year Membership
July—Who will win a 2 Year Membership?

Bulletin going Digital: FHE is always trying to be good stewards of the money you entrust to us thru your memberships. We will continue to issue a bulletin at least twice per year, post it to our website, and then email you with the link for easy access. However, we will no longer be mailing you a physical copy. We appreciate your understanding. To access the bulletin online, either follow the link given in your email OR log into the website and the Newsletters are in the Members Only Section tab found at the top of the page.



FROM STRUGGLING LEARNER TO WORLD LEADER

Excerpts By Kim Quon, Region 5 Director

Posted November 2, 2015,

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If you've been in the homeschool circles for long, you know that there is a saying that goes around. If someone asks homeschooled child what grade they are in, they will likely ask "what subject?" Our children all have skill sets, but not all of them are extremely academic. They may excel in the arts, or in sports, or any variety of talents. Many need to work with their hands. However, don't discount their abilities just because they are unable to spell Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious OR quote the never-ending numbers of Pi. Meet them where they are and progress from there and NEVER, EVER give up on them. Below is a wonderful reminder of what can happen when we just let our children thrive and learn at their own pace.

In 1940, Hitler and his Nazi forces were infiltrating North Africa. In Europe, country after country had either fallen to Germany's military forces or buckled under Nazi pressure.

On May 10, Nazi parachutists landed deep inside the Netherlands and captured bridges. Though Belgian, British, and French troops were working to defend it, the Nazis had also entered Belgium that same day. And, also on May 10, the Nazis had crossed the tiny country of Luxembourg. By May 12, they were in France. On May 13, the Dutch Queen and her government fled to England. On May 14, the Dutch army surrendered. Hitler's forces headed toward the English Channel. By the end of May, thousands of British troops, along with soldiers from Belgium and France, were trapped on the French coast alongside the English Channel.

The British military was in a race to rescue them before Hitler destroyed them. British leaders feared the worst and believed they might only be able to rescue one in four or maybe even just one in ten. When the Belgian king surrendered his army to the Nazis on May 27, the situation grew even more dangerous. What happened amazed the free world.

From May 27 to June 4, French, Belgian, Dutch, and Norwegian ships worked alongside the British Royal Navy to rescue the troops from the French port of Dunkirk. Assisting these naval forces were trading ships from the British merchant marine and more personal boats owned and piloted by volunteer British citizens than anyone will ever know. In the end, the British lost 68,111, but 338,226 men, including Belgian and French soldiers, were rescued. England had not been invaded since Norman forces under William the Conqueror landed there and defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. If the Nazis had their way, that was all about to change. Though a large British force had been evacuated, they had left behind a massive number of supplies, which the Germans confiscated and later used against Allied troops:

2,472 guns · 63,879 vehicles · 20,548 motorcycles · 76,097 tons of ammunition · 416,940 tons of provisions

This is where our struggling learner enters our story. Sir Winston Churchill had been serving as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for sixteen days when the evacuation of Dunkirk began. He was sixty-five years old and had become one of the most eloquent men in the history of England with an intellect few could match.

Few, if any, who knew Winston Churchill could have imagined this when he was a little boy taught at home by a governess or later at school or when he was a teenager at another school. His marks were terrible in math, in French, in Latin, and in Greek. In any subject that interested him, he excelled. If it did not interest him, he was considered a miserable failure in the eyes of both his teachers and his parents. His test-taking skills were abysmal. During one crucial exam, he was unable to answer a single question — even the answers he knew.

(continued on page 4)

When parents of students came to school on one special day, the boys were paraded in front of them in the order of their school performance. At the end of the line was Winston Churchill. Early in his school experience, Churchill became fascinated with the English language. He became an excellent writer and speaker, too, in spite of his lisp. After becoming an officer in the British army and while serving in India, Churchill had long hot days with almost no responsibilities, so he devoured books about things he wanted to know and thought would be important in his future career, which he hoped would be in Parliament like his father before him.

Many in England would have surrendered to Germany as other European nations had done, but not their Prime Minister. On the day the last man was rescued from Dunkirk, Churchill ended his speech to the British House of Commons with these words:

“Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God’s good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.”

A boy whom no one believed in finally grew up. He took longer than most boys do, but he grew up in the end. And in World War II, he led the United Kingdom to a victory few could have imagined when he came to power in 1940.

So be encouraged, Moms and Dads. Your little ones will grow up and know what they need to know. Don’t try to push a round peg into a square hole. The “round peg” can roll with the best of them if you just give them the freedom to be who they are meant to be. Remember that neither you nor anyone else can ever teach them everything. But teach them to love learning and how to learn. And you never know what they may accomplish when they are grown!!



Homeschool Day in the Capitol Rotunda

March 5, 2024

12:15-2:00 PM

Find details here:

<https://fhe-mo.org/2023fhehomeschooldayatthecapitol>



WHAT ELSE DO THEY NEED TO LEARN?

By Charyti Jackson, Executive Director

As we start looking at planning the next school year, much of the focus is on the academic side. So, let's take a look at the other side, the things that help to not only make a well-rounded adult, but some are skills that are needed or helpful to know.

FINANCES: One of the big areas is finance. This is an area that will have an impact on the person their whole life and really covers so many things. Besides budgeting and taxes, there are the more complex areas like buying a car. Which it is not just the car but checking the oil, checking the tire pressure, changing a tire, insurance, maintenance, taxes, inspection, license plates, etc. Other big things are buying a house – what is needed to make sure a person is ready to buy a house, what goes into the process of buying a house, what are the normal steps in buying a house, what are some reasons why to or not to buy a house, house maintenance insurance, taxes, appliances, setting up the utilities, yard care including lawn mower care. If borrowing money, the steps of the process, documents needed, interest rates and how they affect the end cost of the home.

FIRST AID: Knowing CPR and basic first aid can be skills that we hope are never needed but could save a life. Same as some of the basic street smart such as never leaving your drink unattended at any event. Being aware of your surroundings at all times. Not being afraid to say no. Going to activities in groups. Keeping wallets, purses, and cell phones safe.

DOCUMENTS: The care of and keeping of important documents. First, they need to know what are considered important documents like birth certificate, social security card, high school transcript, high school diploma, will, insurance papers, paper showing a loan paid off or major bill paid off. The second thing to know is where to store these and why. The goal is to make sure if something happens the documents are preserved. One option is at a bank vault. Secondly, they might be kept at home in a fireproof safe which if there is a fire, your young adult needs to understand they should not open the safe until the safe is completely cooled. And also wanting to make sure the at home storage is where the items can quickly be grabbed if the need to evacuate arises.

OTHER SKILLS:

- Filling out employment applications, job interviews, retirement (401K, IRA, Roth, company match), understanding insurance (health, car, rental, house)
- Setting up a checking account and savings account, how to write a check, paying the bills online
- Time management, etiquette, organizing, planning a vacation or an outing or a get together, gift wrapping
- Cooking/baking, swimming, sewing on a button/mending, hemming, cleaning, meal prep and meals, shopping, laundry, how to use a grill, how to use a combination lock
- Lists usually go by people's last names, not first names

This is just a small sample of some examples of skills or knowledge that parents may want their children to know before they head out on their own.

Used Sales & Resource Fairs

Mark Your Calendars



St Louis Regional Area Annual Homeschool Resource Fair

July 8 from 10:00-noon
DaySpring Fine Arts
2500 Metro Blvd, Maryland Heights 63043

Free for the whole family

Come to see what resources, classes, and programs are available to you in our area. Museums, Dept of Conservation, JA Biztown, Daniel Boone Home, St Louis Aquarium, Support Groups, Fine Art Programs, Scouts, Community Colleges (for dual enrollment opportunities), regional libraries, and more.

Kansas City Regional Area Used Curriculum & Resource Fair

July 22 from 1:00-4:00 pm
The City House
14300 E. US. Hwy 40, Independence 64136

Shopping is free!

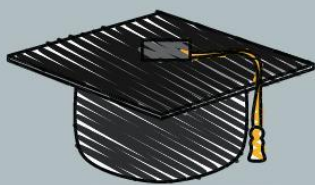
Go to <https://fhe-mo.org/region3> for details on renting a table.

Bring small bills if you are coming to shop.



2023-2024

Schedule



- 8/26/2023 - Kick-Off - noon to 2:00 pm - Connection Point Church UPDATE
- 9/14/2023 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 10/12/2023 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 10/23/2023 - Registration for Fall Dance closed.
- 10/28/2023 - Fall Dance
- 11/9/2023 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point - LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION!
- 1/11/2024 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 1/19/2024 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR FHE GRADUATION. All fees must be paid.
- 2/8/2024 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 2/12/2024 - Registration for Winter Dance closed
- 2/17/2024 - Winter Dance
- 3/14/2024 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 4/11/2024 - Senior/Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 4/15/2024 - Registration for Prom closed
- 4/20/2024 - Prom
- 5/10/2024 - Graduation Rehearsal - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Connection Point
- 5/11/2024 - Graduation!! Seniors need to arrive at 12:30 pm in the Choir room. Senior pictures happen at 12:45. Parents need to arrive by 1:15. Doors will then open to the public.



FHE 2024 Graduation is on the ball with dates and places to continue the long standing tradition in the Kansas City area. Join us on **August 26 Kickoff Meeting** noon-2 pm Connection Point Church, 10500 East 350 Highway Raytown

[Facebook Group Link](#)

[Website Link](#)



BOOKS – THE BASICS STILL APPLY

By Al Schmidt, past Executive Director

We are immersed as a society in the so-called “technological” or “digital” age. This is not necessarily something we sought out. None the less we cannot avoid it if we could. Communications, recordkeeping, and banking are only a few of the major areas where we cannot live without technology under present circumstances.

In the area of home educating our children, we at least have options whereby we can cut back or greatly minimize the “techno” influence should we choose to do so. Irrespective of what we are told by experts, the basics of a good education are still grounded in the fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic. These basics need not be digitally driven. Believe it or not, good books (i.e., those with paper pages!) still exist in sufficient quantity and variety. Sure, it takes effort to gather the correct ones required for your child’s coursework, but their use in your home school operation can be highly beneficial.

Books need no electricity to operate (maybe some lighting?) and can be easily page marked or book marked when reaching a stopping place and laid aside to be picked up later. Many books, older and newer ones, come with eye catching coloration, highlighting, or illustrations that enhance the reading experience. This usually applies whether such books are confined to a specific subject (i.e., English, history, science, etc.) or some good outside reading books for pleasure.

Books don’t need a signal or Wi-Fi, etc. and thereby lend themselves to a greater variety of study locations. If we want to merge traditional books with technology, then audible books can be very helpful. Even better is to have the traditional book at hand to follow along as the book is read aloud.

In any event, we are able to customize our home school however we choose to be more basic where possible. Limiting screen time at electronic devices and promoting more studying with books can be very liberating.... oftentimes for just the mental/visual relief it offers. Books remain great tools to train our children in most all subjects. Give it some thought. You may be surprised by the benefits of your home school experience.

2024 Conventions—Mark Your Calendars

<p>Bloom and Blossom Conference Springfield February 23-24, 2024</p>	<p>Great Homeschool Conventions St. Charles March 21-23, 2024</p>	<p>Midwest Parent Educators Kansas City April 5-6, 2024</p>	<p>Teach Them Diligently Conference Branson May 16-18, 2024</p>
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REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL, JUNE 2023

By Sheryl Schmidt, FHE Lobbyist

Oh! Wow! What a session this was! You should have received the final 2023 Legislative Session wrap up report in May. The House and Senate adjourned on May 30, 2023. The 2024 session will begin on January 3, 2024. For the rest of the year, the legislators will be back in their districts and communities. They will be attending local events and activities. These local events and activities lend themselves to opportunities for you, their constituent, to build good relationships. These relationships are very important when it comes to contacting them on an important issue. If you have established a good relationship, they will be able to put a face to the phone call or email.

The most important thing is for you and your family to be polite, kind, and courteous. Remember, when contacting and getting to know your legislator, you are also being a representative for homeschooling. Get your children involved. Have them write notes of encouragement and thankfulness for the service your representative and senator give to your district. This will help your children to have an appreciation of those serving the state, and the legislators love to see the well behaved respectful young people taking an interest in our state government.

If your legislator asks a question about homeschooling or an issue relating to homeschooling that you are not comfortable answering, just tell them you will have the FHE lobbyist contact them. Then send me an email or give me a call. I will be happy to answer their questions. staff@fhe-mo.org
Do not feel like you must have all of the answers.

Have a wonderful summer and a great new school year. Every year is full of new beginnings and opportunities to learn.

FHE Membership	FHE Board of Directors and Staff
1 year membership—\$20	Erin and Charyti Jackson, Executive Directors/ Region 1 Directors
2 year membership (new members)—\$35	Don and Kim Quon, Asst Executive Directors/ Region 5 Directors
Autorenewal after 1st year—\$18	Robert and Donyelle Barnett, Region 7 Directors
<i>First Things First</i> —\$10 donation + \$5 shipping Homeschool Journal—\$20 donation + \$7 shipping	Sheryl Schmidt, FHE Lobbyist
Join/Renew/Order <i>First Things First</i> — https://fhe-mo.org/	(All FHE Board & Staff are uncompensated, volunteer positions)