

## CHES MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 7, 2008

- **Attendance:** Angela Hoeger, Brittney Davey, Gina Miguel, Louise Gordon, Val Campbell, Kathryn John, Alicia Riley, Christi Baum, LeShundra Haughton, Tina Nassar, Nancy Bean, Deborah Zarate, Cristy Smith, Marcy Belmont, Vicki Slakey, Heather Stockman, Dani Sigurdson, facilitator.
- Thanks to Angela Hoeger for making Snickerdoodles to go with our fresh coffee!
- Meeting began with a reading of Goodnight Mom, written in the same format as, Goodnight Moon, by Margaret Wise Brown.
- Dani has some science handout available at her office.
- **Update on New PACT center** – Due to open December 20th! It was discussed that parents might be needed to help set up the new office.
- Sharing about the Valley Home Educators Conference last July - Some seminars that were attended were: Andrew Pudewa for Institute for Excellence in Writing, Linda Hobar for Mystery of History (Biblical approach, tying in Bible stories to history), and Adam Andrews for Teaching the Classics (Teaches how to analyze literature for K-12 students. This Socratic Method uses the art of questioning rather than lecturing.) It was discussed how we might raise money to purchase this program. The course syllabus and 4 DVD set can be purchased together for \$89.)
- **Classical Method Workshops/Seminars:** Instant Improvement in Writing seminar will be Wednesday November 19, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Calvary Chapel. Parents will listen to a live-taped seminar by Andrew Pudewa discussing how to work with key word outlines and complete an outline in the workshop. Dani will have some handouts on key word outlines to use with your students at home. Parents who would like to use the program might want to get a co-op together. *Received - Unit 1: Note Making and Outlines handout.*
- Parent Sharing - What curriculum they are enjoying the most: Teaching textbooks (Math program that begins with 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It covers algebra, geometry and pre-calculus. Math 4 will be available in December. A placement test can be taken online.), Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading, Accelerated Reader (A computer based program to practice reading), [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) (FREE online reading practice!), Right Start Math (Great for visual learners, uses the base 10 approach on an AL Abacus. Also uses math games to reinforce math facts. [www.alabacus.com](http://www.alabacus.com)), and If you have a musical child math CD's using music to learn math facts works well.
- **Odyssey of The Mind tournament discussion** – Teaching kids to think creatively. Kids work together every week to work on creative problem solving and team building activities. Training

is available for team managers/parents. A team name and costume pieces are created. Points are earned for creativity, long-term problem solving and how well they solve a “spontaneous” problem. All grade 2 kids get a medal! Kids are encouraged to incorporate their unique talents, music, tumbling etc. Creativity isn’t something you are born with, you can learn it. The next competition is in late February. 5-7 kids are needed to create a group, broken up by grade levels. A list has been created for those that are interested in participating, please see Dani or LeShundra Haughton.

➤ **Science sharing** – Thanks to all who shared!

- Tina Nassar has a science background and teaches her sons using a nature study format. She brought some history and science projects they’ve made. She shared many ideas such as purchasing praying mantis eggs to hatch and observe their lifespan. She also brought their science binders which include drawings and narrations. She prefers to use encyclopedias and a variety of books depending on what they are learning about instead of following a set curriculum. A few books she brought to share include: [Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method](#), [More than 100 Hands-On Science Experiments for Children](#) by Sally Kneidel, [Geology Rocks!: 50 hands-on Activities to explore the Earth](#) by Cindy Bolbaum, [Usborne Earth and Science](#), [Buzz](#) by Caroline Bingham a DK book, [History in Action: Roman Gladiators](#) by Silver Dolphin (includes a story and figures to cut out and follow along with the story.)
- Marcy Belmont is using Noeo and incorporates artwork. Her kids are loving this approach. She brought Science binders which include drawings, artwork and narrations. She also brought homemade windsocks created by her children to observe the direction of the wind. Her kids observed the daily weather.
- There was a comment that Noeo can sometimes have too much reading. It was suggested to skip some of it and concentrate on the projects to keep the kids interested.
- Several parents agreed that Janice Van Cleave’s books have fun experiments using household items that work well.
- <http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com/> - For help with Nature Journals. A local homeschooling mom who has 38 lessons (she is still adding more!) available on her blog, getting kids outside for at least 15-20 minutes for nature studies. Many different materials are used in creating the journals, watercolor, rubbings etc. Since she lives close, Dani will see if we can get her to come talk with us.
- <http://simplycharlottesmason.com/> - Also has ideas for Nature Study
- <http://homeschoolwithindexcards.com/index.html> - For more Science and Nature Study ideas.
- Val Campbell brought [The Illustrated guide to Home Chemistry Experiments](#) by Robert Bruce. A hands-on science program which includes 12 labs and writing lab reports for grades 6 and up. Written for grades 8 to HS. An investment in chemicals and glassware would also be necessary.
- Science Book List; Paula’s Archives handout ([www.redshift.com](http://www.redshift.com)) from Dani.

- Thanks to Le Shundra Haughton who lived in Thailand for 4 yrs. And went to China for missionary work brought some fantastic pictures to share.
- Westminster Woods meeting will be Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. This week provides the perfect opportunity to study nature.
- Agenda items for next meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>: *received - Teaching the Classics: A Socratic Method for Literary Education handout.* Read and we will go over the next section on CD during the next CHES meeting. *(This has been moved to January, as we have Barb McCoy coming to share her nature studies approach and artwork at the Dec. 5 meeting.)*
- California History Museum tickets won by LeShundra Haughton, bumper sticker won by Vicki Slakey!