

Homeschool Hi-Lites

2010.2

www.earlyamericanmuseum.org
www.ccfpd.org

Something for Everyone

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As I sit and write this, it is very HOT and HUMID! Summer certainly is here. I hope everyone is enjoying changes this season brings. I always enjoyed the “laziness” of summer versus school months while my children were young. I found it so relaxing not to have homework every night, bedtimes, etc.! I feel kinda bad to remind you that fall will be here all too soon! The CCFPD educators have some great programs planned for your teaching enrichment. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and extend a warm welcome to our new families. We are very fortunate to have such a marvelous circle of silver and gold friends!

This newsletter includes updated information on fall semester classes mentioned in the last issue, early info on spring 2011 classes, and the comprehensive on-going schedule of core classes in all three education departments – history, horticulture, and environmental. Several of you have passed on the fact that you like having this schedule, and I truly appreciate your feedback. Thank you! Its goal is to facilitate your ability to include our curriculum materials in your planning. Special one-time offerings will supplement this core class rotation.

It's inevitable that our homeschool families grow up, switch to public school, or move away. If you no longer have a use for this newsletter, please call 217-586-2612, let us know, and we will take you off the mailing list. Also, if you would prefer to receive an e-mail version of the newsletter, please forward that address to sosborne@ccfpd.org.

Please make Historic program registrations through Sandy Osborne at 217-586-2612, Environmental program registrations through Stacey Clementz at 217-896-2455, and Plant Science (formerly horticulture) programs through Ralph Bonati at 586-2612. We hope you find something that complements your curriculum units this year, and look forward to seeing many of you. The next newsletter will be in your mailbox early January, 2011. (You can also find our newsletters in many local libraries.)

Wednesday, September 1 – Insects and Spiders – Homer Lake Education Center

It's no mystery – insects and spiders are everywhere! Learn about their lifecycles, habitats, and adaptations. We will turn someone into an insect and a spider, learn what it's like to see through the eyes of an insect, and go on a bug hunt.

This program is designed for children 6-11 years old with parental accompaniment recommended. Class is 10-11:30 a.m. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Registration and payment are due by August 25. For further information and to register call Stacey at 217-896-2455.

Friday, September 24 – Prairie Adventures – Early American Museum

The District education staff presents Prairie Adventures as a multi-disciplinary experience, incorporating settlers' harvesting, prairie animals, and prairie plants. Investigate Buffalo Trace (the prairie across from the museum), witness a prairie burn demo, see/touch harvesting tools and bison bones!

The program runs 9:00am-1:30pm, and is a somewhat intense and busy day. Most of it will be outdoors, with significant walking, so dress appropriately. It is recommended for children 8 years old and up, with parental accompaniment suggested. No toddlers or strollers. Fee is \$3.00 per child; for further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Friday, October 15–Seed Safari–Discovery Garden Greenhouse, Lake of the Woods

Kids will learn about the variety of seeds that plants produce, seed structure, and how plants disperse seeds. Students will go on a short hike around the Botanical Gardens to search for wild seeds.

This class is designed for 6-12 year olds, with parental accompaniment recommended. Class is 10-11:30 a.m. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Pre-registration and payment required by Oct. 8. For further information and to register, call Ralph at 217-586-2612.

Wednesdays, October 27 & November 3 – Oregon Trail – Early American Museum

Enhance your westward movement curriculum with this 2-part offering. Through primary documents, exhibits, discussion, and activities, you will gain new perspective on this event in our history. If you have participated in our settler course, this is a great follow-up for the 8-15 year-old. Chronologically it ends with the Civil War period, which will be offered the following spring. (Participation in any one of these classes is **definitely not** dependent on having taken any of the others; I only mention this sequence as I am frequently asked by mothers.)

This class will be held at the Early American Museum, from 9:30-12:00, both days, and you will attend both days. There will be a homework assignment to complete between classes. It is designed for children ages 8 and older, with parental accompaniment suggested. The fee is \$8.00 per child, which covers both days and materials. Registration and payment is due Oct. 20. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Wednesday, December 1 -- Activities "By the Books" – Early American Museum

In preparation for this morning, your family will read (PLEASE!) one or more of the following Christmas- & winter-themed books: Christmas in the Big Woods, by Laura Ingalls Wilder; Kirsten's Surprise, from The American Girls Collection; Prairie Christmas, by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk; A Prairie Boy's Winter, by William Kurelek; The Long Winter, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. (All of these books, and many more similar options, are available through the Lincoln Trails Library System. Don't all wait till the last minute!)

On the 1st, we will briefly discuss the books, see some artifacts that will look familiar from the books, and do many activities "By the Books". You may even come dressed up as one of your favorite characters! This will be a great experience-filled day with Christmas/winter activities (some outside!) not usually done at the museum. (If you participated in the April "By the Books" program, this will be a similar format with mostly different activities.)

This class will be from 9:30am -12:00pm, and will be held at the Early American Museum at the Lake of the Woods. It is recommended for ages 2 and up, with parental accompaniment required. Fee is \$3 per child; registration and payment due November 19. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

*****Spring 2011 programs*****

Fridays, March 4 & 11 – Civil War – Early American Museum

Although Illinois saw no Civil War battles, our state was directly and significantly impacted by the war. We will focus on the effects of the Civil War on Champaign County citizens. Components include exploring our Civil War exhibit, businesses, lives of farmers and soldiers, and period music provided by dulcimer-player Hillary Valentine. This is a two-part class with homework to do between sessions – you will attend both sessions.

This class is designed for students interested in and/or studying the Civil War, and is aimed at the fourth grade through junior high level. Parental accompaniment is recommended. Class will meet 9:30am-12:00pm both days. Fee is \$8.00 per child, which covers both days and materials. Registration and payment due February 25. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Thursday, March 24—Hatchet--Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Environmental Education Center

This program is designed to complement Hatchet, a story of a young boy's adventure in the wilderness by Gary Paulsen. Students are required to read this book before attending the program. Students will interpret the book through hands-on activities, including basic survival skills.

This class will be held at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Environmental Education Center from 1-3pm. It is designed for student 8-12 years old. Fee is \$3.00 per student. Registration required by March 18th. For further information and to register call 217-896-2455.

Wednesday, April 6-Remarkable Reptiles-Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Location TBD

Reptiles are unique members of the animal kingdom. In this class we will focus on reptiles life cycles, survival strategies, and the physical characteristics of snakes and turtles of Illinois. You will also have the opportunity to meet our resident reptiles.

This class will be held at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Environmental Education Center from 1-2:30pm. It is designed for children 6-12 years old with parental accompaniment recommended. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Registration and payment are due March 30th. For further information and to register call 217-896-2455

Friday, April 22-Botany Basics-Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Discovery Garden

Explore the world of botany in our Discovery Garden. Learn why plants are important and study their diverse structures and adaptations. Students will participate in a hands-on activity followed by a tour of the garden.

This class will be held at The Discovery Garden at Lake of the Woods from 10-11:30am. It is designed for children 6-12 years old with parental accompaniment recommended. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Registration and payment are due May 20th. For further information and to register call Ralph at 217-586-2612.

On-going District core-class rotation schedule

| <u>odd year spring</u> | <u>odd year fall</u> | <u>even year spring</u> | <u>even year fall</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Environmental | | | |
| reptiles | trees | aquatic-ecologist | insects/spiders |
| Plant Science | | | |
| botany basics | soils | botany basics | seed safari |
| Historical | | | |
| Civil War | settler course | By the Books Native Americans | By the Books Oregon Trail |
| all 3 departments | | | |
| | Prairie Adventures | | Prairie Adventures |

The CCFPD offers a variety of loan kits to teachers and groups. Please visit our web sites or call an educator to learn more about these resources. Most are appropriate for 3rd grade to adults.