

# *Homeschool Hi-Lites*

**2011.2**

www.museumofthegrandprairie.org  
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## *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. Regardless of our readiness (or lack there-of!), fall will be upon us 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 2012 classes, and the comprehensive on-going schedule of core classes in history, plant science, and environmental science. 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 Jennifer at 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 Jennifer at [jnadwodney@ccfpd.org](mailto:jnadwodney@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 programs through Ralph Bonati at 217-586-2612. 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, 2012. (You can also find our newsletters in many local libraries and at [www.museumofthegrandprairie.org](http://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org).)

## **\*\*\*FALL Classes\*\*\***

### **Thursday, Sept. 1-Tree-mendous Trees-Homer Lake Interpretive Center**

What can breathe without lungs, has a heart that doesn't beat, and makes its own sugar? A tree of course. In this program, we'll explore the world of trees. We'll learn about the layers of trees, what they provide us, and use a dichotomous key to identify some local trees around us.

This class will be held at the Homer Lake Forest Preserve Interpretive 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 August 26th. For further information and to register call Stacey at 217-896-2455.

### **Wednesdays, Sept.14,28,Oct.12,26,Nov.16 --Settler Curriculum – Museum of the Grand Prairie**

This is a 5-part course covering settlement information of Champaign County, daily life of adults and children, one room school, prairie plants and animals, writing historical fiction stories, and more. You will attend every day. There are enough extensions/information provided that this can easily serve as your social studies unit for the duration of the course. Each morning includes an interactive presentation, guided family discovery of a museum gallery, activities, and participant sharing time. There is homework each session and a couple of family field trips in the C-U area. My goal is to engage each participant, parents and children alike, in actively discovering the historic past of C-U and surrounding communities.

This class will meet 9:30-11:30am each day, and is designed for ages 6 and up, with parental accompaniment required. Total fee is @\$18.00 per child. Registration (class usually fills quickly) and payment due Sept. 7. For further information and to register call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

### **Friday, September 23 – Prairie Adventures –Museum of the Grand Prairie**

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 9:30am-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, Oct.7-Soil Science-Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve – Discovery Garden**

Students will learn about the diversity and contents of soil through hands-on investigations. Children will learn about the importance of decomposers, such as bacteria, fungus, and worms. Soil types will be investigated, and then the kids will plant some seeds to take home and grow in their gardening soil.

This class will be 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 Sept. 30th. For further information and to register call Ralph at 217-586-2612.

## **\*\*\*2012 spring classes\*\*\***

### **Friday, February 3 – Nature of Winter – Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Interpretive Center**

Take a break from the indoors and gain a new appreciation for this surprisingly active time of year. We will explore physical and behavioral adaptations that allow local flora and fauna to survive winter, and hike to observe these first hand.

This class will be held at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, from 1-3pm. It is designed for children 8 and up. Parental accompaniment is not required. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Registration is due by January 27. For further information and to register contact Stacey at 217-896-2455.

### **Wednesday, March 7– Activities “By the Books!” – Museum of the Grand Prairie**

In preparation for this morning, your family will read one or more of the following settler-themed books: Farmer Boy, by Laura Ingalls Wilder; Happy Birthday, Kirsten!, from The American Girls Collection; L is For Lincoln, by Kathy-jo Wargin; and Kindle Me a Riddle, by Roberta Karim. (All of these books are available through the Lincoln Trails Library System.) 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 settler chores, crafts, and games not often done during public events (or the settler course).

This class is from 9:30am -11:30am, and will be held at the Museum of the Grand Prairie 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 March 1. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

### **Tuesday, March 27– Native Americans – Museum of the Grand Prairie, LoW**

Ancient native peoples is the topic of the day. Life thousands of years ago, settler life, and modern life will be compared and contrasted through discussion, activities, and exhibits. (Mammoths and extinction will be mentioned.)

This class will be 9:00am-12:00pm, at the Museum of the Grand Prairie, and is designed for ages 6 and up, with parent accompaniment recommended. Fee is \$4.00 per child: registration and payment due March 20. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

### **Friday, April 13 – Aquatic Ecologist – Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Walnut Hill Shelter**

Through hands-on scientific investigations, we will introduce you to the ecology of aquatic ecosystems. You will use nets to collect aquatic organisms, and simple kits to test the water quality of the lake. We will tie your findings in to a discussion of watersheds, pollution and water conservation.

This class will be held at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, from 1-3pm. It is designed for children 9 years and up. Parental accompaniment is not required. Fee is \$3.00 per child. Registration and payment are due by April 6. For further information and to register, call Stacey at 217-896-2455.

**Tuesday, April 17- Botany Basics - Lake of the Woods, Mabery Gelvin Botanical Gardens**

This class will be held in the gardens outside the Museum of the Grand Prairie, from 10-11:30am. Students will learn some basic botany content, learn how to identify trees using a key, and plant some seeds to take home.

This program is designed for ages 8-12, with parental accompaniment recommended. Fee is \$3.00 per child; registration due by April 10. For further information, 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>
<b>Environmental</b>			
reptiles	trees	aquatic-ecologist	insects/spiders
<b>Plant Science</b>			
botany basics	soils	botany basics	seed safari
<b>Historical</b>			
Civil War	settler course	by the books Native Americans	by the books Oregon Trail
<b>En,PS,&amp;His</b>			
	prairie adventures		prairie adventures