



# The Home Front

## February 2007

### Mark Your Calendar:

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. - Ps. 1:3

#### Leadership Team:

##### Audrey Britt

President, Support Group Meetings Coordinator, Newsletter Publisher  
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##### Cindy Wright

Vice President, New Member Coordinator  
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##### Susan Reichenbach

Treasurer, Recitation Coordinator, Book-It Coordinator  
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##### Deb McPherson

Special Classes Co-Coordinator  
Phone: 845-7601  
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#### Other Program Coordinators:

##### Christy Sattler

Friday Arts & Fun Co-Coordinator  
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##### Beth Reeves

Field Trip Coordinator, K-2 Activities Coordinator  
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HOME FRONT EMAIL:  
HomeFrontEd@aol.com

#### Friday Arts & Fun February 2, 9, and 16 Grace Church

For more information contact Deb McPherson, 845-7601.

#### Support Group Meeting Tuesday, February 20 Grace Church 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Do you have questions that just have not been addressed at previous support group meetings? Well, this is the meeting you've been waiting for. We will break up into two groups: moms of high schoolers, and moms of elementary school students. We will discuss what's on your minds, so come prepared to share your thoughts/questions.

We will also spend some time talking about how to get the most out of the homeschool convention. Learn from convention-goers how to get the best shopping experience from the Exhibit Hall and how to choose the best break out sessions.

For more information please contact Audrey Britt, 846-3767.

#### Field Trip An Afternoon on Ice Friday, February 23

Come show us your triple axel! All ages! We'll meet at the Lahaye Ice Center at Liberty University on Friday, February 23 between 1 and 4 pm. to ice skate. The cost is \$5 to skate (regardless of age) and \$3 to rent skates. (If we have a group of 15 or more that are there at 1:00 (or shortly thereafter) we will all be able to participate in \$1 off the skate rental.) Reading books or chatting together safely in a chair is free. No need to sign up, just show up. If you have additional questions, contact Beth Reeves at 386-0416 or Reevesbeth@yahoo.com.

For more information please contact Beth Reeves, 386-0416.

#### Class for New Homeschoolers Homeschooling - Starting Well: Where and How to Begin Tuesday, March 27, 2007 Grace Church 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Homeschooling has seen exponential growth over the last few years and as a result we are getting many inquiries regarding how to get started in the process. So the Home Front leaders have put together a mini-workshop to give them a head start in preparation for a lifetime of teaching/learning. Our topics will include:

- 6 major educational approaches & curriculum selection
- 4 main learning styles
- A brief look at the law
- Qualifications for Homeschooling
- Panel of Veteran Homeschoolers to Answer Your Questions

In addition each attendee will receive a packet of information and resources which will include reading lists for more information on the topics we covered, forms needed to turn in to the local school system, and a list of support resources in our area.

Please get the word out to friends or family members who are considering homeschooling. RSVP to Audrey Britt, HomeFrontEd@aol.com by Friday, March 23. Please let us know if childcare is needed. For more information please contact Audrey Britt, 846-3767.

**IEW SEMINARS IN  
RICHMOND, VA  
FEBRUARY 19-21, 2007**

**Andrew Pudewa, from the Institute for Excellence in Writing will present three events:**

**(1) Rebuilding Your Educational Paradigm (FREE!)**

**Monday, February 19, 2007 7:00-8:30 PM**

*An Evening Presentation for all teachers, parents, grandparents, and families*

Escaping the "conveyor belt" approach of institutional education by which most of us were shaped isn't easy, but it has to be done. For many parents, our greatest handicap as teachers is our own education--but it need not be so. In this inspiring and empowering session, you will not only come to understand the nature and purpose of the today's educational system as it was originally conceived and designed, but you will see a shining alternative path, one that develops true thinkers, leaders, and communicators--so desperately needed in today's world.

**(2) Teaching Writing: Structure & Style (\$89.00/Participant)**

**Monday & Tuesday, February 19-20, 2007**

*A two-day Seminar for Teachers, Parents, & Tutors of Children Grades 2-10*

The structure and style syllabus teaches models and techniques for English composition which logically build upon each other, allowing students to become familiar and competent with a variety of writing formats and styles. As opposed to many "creative" writing approaches, this more classical system stresses modeling and builds a firm foundation of specific skills.

Parents, Teachers, Tutors and students find the Structure & Style approach to be practical and effective, allowing for easy integration of writing into content areas of history, science, religion, literature. TWSS video course has been given Practical Homeschooling Magazine's Reader's Award: First Place in Writing/Composition, every year from '99-'06.

**(3) High School Essay Prep (\$50.00/Participant)**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

*A One-day Seminar for High school age students and teachers*

The High School Essay Prep class is an excellent way to get immediate experience and inside tips on how to do your best on the timed, 25 minute response to a prompt required on the new SAT test. Participants will actually write two full essays, carefully study and then apply the College Board evaluation criteria to sample essays, while receiving a detailed booklet of resources and lesson plans for continued practice.

Additionally, students will learn special structure and style tools for use in composing the college application "personal essay"--an entirely different type of writing task. The complete process will be presented: choosing the question, creating the outline, and polishing a final version. Participants will leave with a clear concept of the task, their own outline for an actual personal essay, and several new tricks and techniques to add to their repertoire.

Although this seminar is specifically designed for those who will be taking the SAT or submitting college applications within the next 1-2 years (and especially those teaching such students), it is also useful for general writing practice, tools and tips. It is open to all students, regardless of their experience with IEW courses or materials. A lot of actual writing is done during this six-hour class.

**To Register call: 800-856-5815 or visit: [www.writing-edu.com/registration](http://www.writing-edu.com/registration)**

**All three events are being held at:      Covenant Christian Fellowship  
542 South Park Blvd.  
Colonial Heights, VA**

# HOMESCHOOL MANAGEMENT

## SOFTWARE REVIEWS

### **(1) Homeschool Tracker**

Use this [free](#) version of the Homeschool Tracker to

- Track attendance and hours
- Manage, copy and reschedule assignments
- Track resources
- Generate reports

The following link to a review is offered from a real user. If you wish to look at the product, or download the Tracker, load the second link.

<http://teachmagazine.com/pages/articles/focus.php?ID=95&parent=36>  
[www.tghomesoft.com/tracker\\_basic.aspx](http://www.tghomesoft.com/tracker_basic.aspx)

### **(2) Edutrack Software**

Cost: \$59

For more information, check out: [http://www.contechsolutions.net/products/eths\\_pc/](http://www.contechsolutions.net/products/eths_pc/)

Here is a review by Michelle Crooker, our own computer expert. We have asked her to review this product as some have been asking about recordkeeping, especially for high school.

Edu-Track is my personally preferred homeschool tracking software. I have been using Edu-Track for almost two years and plan to continue using it.

The main screen of Edu-Track is the Lesson/Activities window. This is the window where the user can enter daily lesson plans. Lessons are entered according to course/grade level, subject and activity. The lessons can be sorted by any of these fields or by date. There is a time column which can be updated after an activity is completed, or before with the anticipated amount of time that will be needed – this is an optional column.

Edu-track also allows for scoring of lessons. This is done quite simply by entering the points received and the total possible points, the percentage is then calculated for the user. This is also an optional column and can be ignored by those who do not wish to provide standard grades.

Lessons can be added in bulk at the beginning of the year with the use of a repeated event option or nightly (or weekly) as lessons are completed. It is a bit of a pain at first, but the skill is quickly acquired. If the user enters lessons ahead of time and then does not manage to complete them on the original day, there is a neat bumping feature that allows the lesson to be bumped ahead by any number of days by pressing the “+” key.

One issue with Edu-track is that the windows do not resize nicely. For example, in the lessons / activities window, there are three preset window sizes that can be obtained by clicking on an icon, it isn't too bad, but it would be nice if it would resize to any size.

Another neat feature of Edu-Track is the Student Data window. In this window there are numerous tabs to keep track of just about anything about the student. Edu-Track keeps track of titles, duration, descriptions and dates of books, movies, audio media, software and games. As well as a place to keep track of Field Trips, Testing, Goals and Achievements. There is also a section to list Curriculum and to keep track of supplies (on hand, borrowed, or loaned).

# Home Education: A Journey of Discovery

June 7, 8, and 9, 2007  
Greater Richmond Convention Center

Speakers include **Doug Phillips** of Vision Forum, **Dr. Emerson Eggerichs** of *Love and Respect*, **Ken Ham** of Answers in Genesis, and **Mary Hood**, the *Relaxed Homeschooler*, are just a few of the many inspiring and innovative speakers you can look forward to hearing.

Workshops: More than 110 fabulous workshops—offered by some of the best homeschool speakers in the country—are sure to inspire, encourage, challenge, and teach. **Follow a track or pick & choose from all 110+ workshops—the choice is yours!** Special tracks include Virginia History Track, Creation Science Track, Struggling Learner's Track, Life-Skills Track, Entrepreneurial Track, or Beginners Track.

Register now online at [heav.org](http://heav.org) or print out a mail-in registration form. Home Front Educators and some of our members have reserved rooms at the Marriott. If you are interested in sharing a room, please contact Audrey Britt, [homefronted@aol.com](mailto:homefronted@aol.com)

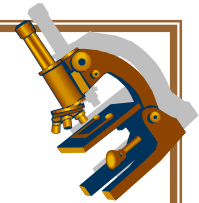


## Home Front Needs You!

Home Front Educators is in need of someone to help in coordinating field trips. Beth Reeves and Angela Weaver are hard at work bringing great opportunities to your family. However, they need one more person to join their team. You would brainstorm as a team and be responsible to coordinate only 1/3 of the field trips for the year. If you would like to help out, please contact Beth Reeves, 386-0416.

## “CELL”-A-BRATE THE DIFFERENCE

February 14, 2007



The Science Museum of Western Virginia is offering a class to investigate the difference between plant and animal cells on a microscopic level. Join in for some hands-on experience using microscopes in the lab! The museum must have a minimum of 5 students in order to conduct the class so sign up today at [www.smwv.org](http://www.smwv.org).

Class is open to home schooled children ages 6 and up. The cost is \$10 per class for members (of smwv) and \$20 per class for nonmembers. Each class will include class time and take home items/activities, including a certificate of completion. Pre-registration is required, with a minimum class size of 5 necessary for the class to occur. Please pre-register by downloading application and mailing or faxing application.

If you have questions, call 540/857-4381.