

Spring 2007

Convention 2007 huge success; Dr. Jay Wile returns to SHBE Convention in 2008 in Regina

The 16th annual SHBE convention was held on February 9 & 10, 2007 at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon, Sask. The convention was geared for adults and teens, 16 years and older. No "Teen Convention" was scheduled.

Registrations were up from 2006; about one-third were walk-up registrations. The attendance at the pre-conference session "Can I Really Do This?" gives evidence of the continued interest in homeschooling. Some of those who attended this session decided to stay for the entire conference. SHBE memberships are slightly higher than last year.

The final address on Saturday afternoon entitled "Hold On to Your Kids" given by the convention's keynote speaker, Dr. Gordon Neufeld, was open to the general public, not just convention registrants. The address was based on Dr. Neufeld's book by the same title.

Dr. Neufeld is a well-known child psychologist from Vancouver, B.C. Dr. Neufeld's other sessions were titled "Why Homeschooling Makes Sense" and "The Teachability Factor".

In Dr. Neufeld's opening address Friday evening "Why Homeschooling Makes Sense", he encouraged homeschoolers not to be defensive about the fact that they teach their children at home. The education system nationwide is breaking

down at the teacher-training level; some basic educational principles are not being taught anymore. In the light of this fact, he suggested a more appropriate response to queries about "why do you homeschool" would be to say "Why are you not homeschooling your kids?"

The 2008 SHBE Convention dates are February 29 and March 1; the Delta Hotel in Regina is the location.

Dr. Jay Wile, a home education curriculum writer and former SHBE convention keynote speaker, is returning as speaker for the 2008 convention. Dr. Wile has written Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics curriculum material for the homeschooling family.

The Used Books Room proved popular again as no-longer-needed curriculum material was made available to those still needing those books. Neil and Wanda Mehrer generously donated their time to coordinate the Used Books room. Many other volunteers gave of their time.

The post-secondary representatives noticed they had a drop in interest because the teens weren't there to stop and inquire about their schools. ☞

SHBE board appoints directors

The March 26, 2007 deadline for nominations for directors for SHBE Regions 1, 3, and 5 passed without any nominations being received by the election chairman. Regions 4 and 6 were also without a director on the SHBE board.

At the SHBE board meeting in Saskatoon on April 28, 2007, the following were appointed to serve as SHBE directors: Doug Schmuland in Region 5, Blair Andrew in Region 1 and Monteen Dent in Region 4 (the Saskatoon area). Ben Friesen declined to continue as director for Region 3 which leaves that position vacant.

(At the AGM held at Convention 2005, a bylaw amendment was passed giving the SHBE board the authority to fill board vacancies by appointment. Any such appointments only run for the remaining time left of that two-year term; then new elections will be held as per SHBE's bylaws.)

Ben Friesen has agreed to continue as Journal editor. ☞

**2008 SHBE Convention
February 29 & March 1, 2008
at the
Delta Hotel, Regina**

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From the president's desk . . .

Review board meets to discuss H.S. regs

by Doug Schmuland, SHBE president
& SHBE's Review Board representative

A few weeks ago I had a lengthy discussion with Dr. Brian Ray from the United States, about the state of home-based education in Saskatchewan. Some of you "veteran" home schoolers will remember that Dr. Ray was the keynote speaker at our very first conference in 1992. At the time I told Brian that for the most part Saskatchewan was very stable, with no "major" concerns looming. We talked about the University of Saskatchewan agreement and such, which was all very positive.

Then, on June 1, 2007, the Home-Based Education Review Board met in Regina, and as the new SHBE representative, I was pleased to attend. At this meeting, the Department of Learning presented a package for discussion which includes the complete re-writing of the Home-Based Education Regulations. This package consisted of a shortened version of the regulations with some clauses being moved to Department Policy. The Department is looking to fast track this package. So much for the stability!

None of the documents are in legal form yet, so they cannot be distributed. They were only presented in a format that would give instruction and guidance to those who actually write the proper legal form. Enough information can be gathered from

what was presented to raise some definite concerns. The "unique" language found in the Saskatchewan regulations is definitely up for discussion from the department's point of view. My point, as well as that of the other home-based education representative in attendance was that the unique language (not inconsistent with) and "flavour" of the Saskatchewan regulations was not up for discussion... period!

How this all plays out in the months ahead is not known. The next Home-Based Education Review Board meeting will be in late September, 2007. The SHBE board is very concerned with this development and is discussing the implications of this and formulating the actions needed to be taken by SHBE. We will keep you informed as this situation develops. Watch for province wide meetings over the summer to discuss the situation and get your input on what response and path should be taken.

This is going to get interesting! ☞

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The board of directors' phone numbers and email addresses are provided so that SHBE members can contact any of the directors with any of their concerns about homeschooling.

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Convention 2007

Dr. Gordon Neufeld's sessions:

Your relationship with your child is the key. When things are not going well in a relationship, it is time to "warm up the attachment" according to Dr. Gordon Neufeld. Attachment is the key principle in Dr. Neufeld's teaching on child behaviour.

Personal illustrations from his family life were sprinkled throughout his four lectures at Convention. Dr. Neufeld told a story about a time when his older son told him he was getting tired of having his little brother hit him. Dr. Neufeld sat the two boys down together and talked about the problem. The younger son agreed not to hit his brother any more, but

Swift Current families enjoy Show and Tell

On April 1, the homeschool families in the Swift Current area gathered to participate in a show and tell event. About 10 families came together and kids were given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have been learning. It was good to also have some grandparents there to show support. The afternoon started with a poetry recitation and musical presentations by some of the students. Displays included a display on ancient Egypt complete with mummified chicken, water bottle rockets, Mexican culture display, budgies, parts of a flower, knife making, woodworking, electricity, leverage demonstration using poles and ropes, Rice Krispie treats, hygiene, beekeeping equipment, seals and a model of a castle.

After everyone had time to look through the displays, the kids had a blast playing in the gym. Ice cream sundaes finished up the afternoon. Perhaps the best part of getting together is enjoying each others company and seeing how other people do things. Although no two homeschool families are the same, the results seem to be curious, creative kids that are excited about learning. ☞

as he made the promise not to hit, he punched his brother. The older brother and the father broke out laughing at the irony; this offended the younger son even more. Now there was more need to "warm up the attachment" before the problem could be addressed successfully.

Similarly in teaching situations, academic or non-academic, the attachment of parent (teacher) to child needs to be healthy for learning to take place. Although the homeschool style can have lots of structure or have little structure, the key is still the attachment.

Dr. Neufeld talked about the lack of attachment in today's society and what parents can do to foster attachment.

The two sessions on the Teachability Factor focused on the four stages of learning.

On other sessions:

A seminar by HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) representative, Paul Faris, and a seminar on SHBE's memorandum of understanding with the U of S addressed some of the political issues and gave insight about how we got to where we are as a homeschooling movement and how things work on the political side.

Night Skies: Consider the Heavens seminar gave rise to enthusiastic responses like "we're going to do this!" and "can't wait to get home to get out the telescope."

Bringing the Library Home gave information on what homeschoolers can do on library websites from their own home.

How to use more of the five senses to experience history was a lesson learned in the *Teaching Canadian History* seminar.

Teaching Techniques — 100% Mastery workshop brought requests for the seminar to return next year; the techniques taught are practical and given in achievable steps.

Workshop topics suggested for next year's convention included Distance Learning, learning difficulties, parent panel of "experts" on different homeschool styles and a teen panel of homeschool grads. ☞

2008 SHBE Convention February 29 & March 1, 2008 at the Delta Hotel, Regina

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Jay Wile

- Author of home education textbooks in Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Previous speaker at SHBE convention

Music in Honduras

by Rebecca Hankins-Vopni

This is an article (with just a few revisions) that has been in a couple of Saskatchewan music association journals. I just added the part about being a home educating mom which I was for many years—actually back in the days when we were working to get the Home School policies through the government so that we could educate in all parts of Saskatchewan—because at that time there were home schoolers in court for home schooling.

Twice a year for the past few years former home educating mom, Rebecca Hankins-Vopni has been working as a volunteer with AIM in Honduras.

Besides helping with medical clinics and at orphanages, Rebecca makes time for music. So when the clinics are no longer busy or when the work is done at the orphanages she takes out her violin. She is quickly surrounded not only by children but also by their parents and grandparents. It is a joy to see the happy smiles of those who live in the midst of poverty. Violins and fiddling are not common in Honduras.

AIM works in small, remote villages in Honduras. Not only are medical clinics brought to the very poorest of the poor in Honduras but also the team works to build houses, dig wells, provide safe drinking water and improve educational opportunities in these areas.

Rebecca has had the opportunity to share music at an SOS Orphanage, and Ninos de la Luz (Children of the Light) orphanage for Street Kids. The children were so interested in the pictures that she brought from Canada taken in our January 2007 storm!

Rebecca also teaches the basics to Honduran team members and others that are interested. It is so heart warming every time that Rebecca returns to Honduras to see the young Honduran people with the team and their eagerness to once again try playing a violin. AIM has purchased a guitar for one young man who has taught himself to play. Others have learned a few tunes when Rebecca has been in Honduras and 6 months later when she returns can still remember those tunes are looking forward to trying more.

Honduras is a Central American country whose musical culture is a mixture of indigenous, European and African elements. Traditional instruments in the country include the marimba and conch shell, which is now sometimes used alongside a guitar. The Honduran people are very friendly and very appreciative of the assistance that they have received from AIM. Honduras is the poorest country in Central America. The average Honduran family lives on less than \$3.00 a day.

Through short-term mission teams and projects, AIM provides opportunity for individuals and groups to experience hands-on service to the poor. AIM's mission is to demonstrate God's love by alleviating human need and suffering. In efforts to relieve human suffering we combat hunger, deprivation and physical affliction with the provision of food, clothing, shelter, medical care and other basic necessities of life. We also help facilitate the development of healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining communities by addressing larger issues of education, and food security

It is estimated that half of the people in Honduras do not have access to safe drinking water, and that 80% of disease is related to poor quality water. Of the 12,000 children in Honduras who will die of malnutrition this year, many deaths will be water related. AIM teams with Living Waters

International to provide safe drinking water in rural communities in Honduras.

In every endeavor, AIM seeks to exemplify Christian compassion and benevolence while conforming to the highest standards of integrity. AIM works with Honduran people so that we can together go to the most needy in their country. For more information on AIM please visit www.adventureinmissions.com

Highlights for Rebecca have included seeing the results from the work that AIM is doing in Honduras.

In January 2006 a baby that was near death was brought to the clinic. Since that time, she has had the chance to visit the family in their little mud/thatch house where the baby was now a happy eight-month old. Then this past January she got to go to the new house that AIM was able to build for this needy family and the little girl is now running around. What a joy to see. Houses built by AIM are one room concrete block/tin roof construction.

A village where AIM was able to dig a well and install water filtration systems no longer has the same high rate of disease that we used to see there.

She really enjoys getting to know the Honduran young people who work with AIM. And they all have stories - Emilio was suffering from leishmaniasis which if gone untreated could have been fatal. Emilio received treatment - has volunteered with AIM ever since and recently AIM has made it possible for Emilio and his sister to go to school as there was no opportunity for them to attend school up in the mountain where their family lives. Emilio is now 24. He also really enjoys music. Walking up the mountain to his home takes Rebecca about 2 hours. And of course there are no bridges over the rivers so depending on the height of the water it sometimes takes a while to find your way across a raging river!!!

Another young man, Leonardo, is 18 and AIM is trying to find a way to treat his epilepsy. His father was murdered and his mother washes clothes in the river to support her family.

And at last actually seeing a crocodile. Rebecca had been told that there were crocodiles in a river near a village where she was working but had not actually seen one until Feb. of this year. Two crocodiles decided to jump out of the water very very near to the boat she was were travelling in which made seeing them a lot easier.

She loves walking through the jungle even if it is up mountains to get to a remote village and it is 45 degrees Celsius. The children are initially very shy but after you return again and again they are a little more willing to smile and talk to you. Of course, it is great when she can understand and can even say something with her one University Spanish class!

And she enjoys trying different foods—sometimes we have a basic diet of rice and beans for days on end but then there are the days that we get to eat Iguana, Iguana eggs, tamales, enchiladas and many fruits that she has never ever seen before.

Two of Rebecca's sons have also volunteered overseas - in Mozambique, Barbados, and Mexico. So tell your home educating children, mom and dads, every skill and gift that you have been given can give you a special skill and ability when you are working in a third world country. Not to mention give you the opportunity to share with those that have so little.

Rebecca is looking forward to returning to Honduras in July 2007. ☺

Homeschool grad story special

Heather Schmuland — from Neil & Wanda Mehrer)

I would like to introduce my first homeschool grad story. I realize there have been a few other stories in the Journal which qualify as homeschool grad stories but this is the first story I have received and to date I still have had very few submitted to me. This story is from Neil and Wanda Mehrer who homeschool at Churchbridge, SK. They should have sequels to this "chapter" as they have more upcoming students. Thank you Wanda for taking the time to send me your story. I hope many others will follow your lead and send me their stories.

David (1980) was home schooled since Grade 2. During his later formal schooling years, we let him follow more of his own interests and develop his skills on the farm. He also developed people skills by having his own business starting at age 10. At age 14 he was able to go on a missions trip to Haiti with his dad to help some missionary friends of ours. At age 18, he went to Moscow, Russia to work in a Christian orphanage for 6 months. At age 21, he went back to Haiti for another missions trip. He also attended the Discipleship Training school with YWAM and went to Thailand with them for two months. Now, he & his wife Vanessa have been accepted by a Missions Board to work in Ukraine as missionaries with a prominent church. They hope to leave this summer or fall. They did not attend Bible School but they were required to have an extensive interview with the missions Board with many references required.

Darel (1982) went the apprenticeship route. In his later teens we also did not stress 'book learning' but let him follow his own interests which included a lot of reading of the subjects he was interested in and the opportunity to practice what he was reading in the mechanical field. After a time of having fun being a snowboard instructor, he went to a Disciple Training school with YWAM as well and on a missions trip to Alaska. Shortly after that he started working with a company apprenticing as a heavy duty mechanic. When he went to apply for his first year of school at NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology), they told him he would be accepted, but on a probationary basis because of his lack of a Grade 12 diploma. They told him he could be accepted as a full student if he wanted to take the entrance exam. They gave him the books on Monday and said he could come and write the test any Tuesday. This test included Math, Science and Reading Comprehension. He didn't study and went to write the exam the next day. He handed in his test and was going to leave when the person said he could wait to see if he passed. The person corrected it and said "You passed... and off the record, you got 97%". He passed his first year provincial exam with 97% and his second year provincial exam he said he slipped a bit with a 96%! He enters his third year in February 2007.

Stacey (1983) has been working mostly in childcare since she left home. She completed an Orientation Course in Child care and did well in that. She is taking more classes working toward an Early Childhood Development Certificate and is getting A's. She completed her Grade 7 Conservatory in piano when she was at home. Now she decided she wants to go to Bible School and has just been accepted at Hillsong Bible

School in Australia to work specifically on her music skills.

Dwight (1985) was also allowed to follow his own interests during the "high school" years. His main interest has been finance and business. He has had several of his own businesses including raising 1000 chickens per year with Darel starting at age 10, being a dealer for firewood processors and firewood, importing a firewood processor from Finland at age 18 and importing several from the United States. He has taken several financial courses including the Canadian Investment Funds Course. Last year he decided he wanted to get a degree in Business so is in process of doing it completely at home. When he is finished, he will have a fully accredited degree in Business Administration completing it all at home except for testing. He expects it will take about 11 months of study. He registered with a training center in the United States that provides information and books as to what tests he needs to have in order to obtain the degree of his choice. He studies at home and has to write his exams at a certified testing center. When he has enough credits (he has 87 of the needed 120) he will register with Thomas Edison University in New Jersey and his degree will be through them. Dwight is also involved with the local Toastmasters Club and has preached a couple of sermons. Dwight hosted a chat room at the 2007 SHBE conference in Saskatoon on the topic of the proficiency exams he is taking and how he plans to get his degree.

Of course, we are very proud of all of them. They have done well in their academic studies and certainly are not "socially inept" as is the biggest fear for some and have done well at whatever they have done. Their lack of a diploma has not hindered them in following and fulfilling their goals. Homeschooling has taught these students how to learn and gave them the opportunity to follow their individual interests. It gave them the self-confidence to help them accomplish whatever they wanted. This confidence has helped them to stand up for what they believe and not be so swayed by their peer group. It has also allowed more hands on learning that has practical application in everyday life. They have had time to learn money management through running businesses and they have had time to serve in their community.

Wanda has said if anyone would like to know more she can be contacted. Her e-mail is: mehrer@imagewireless.ca. Now for all the other interesting stories that are out there. Now that you've read another brave soul's article, please send your stories to Heather Schmuland at: blfarm@sasktel.net or Box 3351, Melfort, SK S0E 1A0. Please give the year your students were born. Thank you. ♪

**HSLDA is offering memberships
to SHBE members at a
10% discount**

Extreme Homeschooling

by Robert Frost

There were many reasons and concerns when we were deciding to home school our four children. My wife has an Education degree from the U of S. She also had a gift making teaching fun for our children. She taught them all to read before they were five. So when the first two went to public school, they were well ahead of the other kids. Some teachers were good and tried to challenge them academically, but soon we ran into other teachers who weren't interested in challenging them and even penalized them for being ahead. That's when we started to entertain the thought of homeschooling our children.

Our main reason to proceed down the home school path was to give our kids a better quality of education than that offered by the public school system. We wanted an education based on a Judeo-Christian foundation instead of a worldly, self-centered, universal theology where God is excluded from everything. Another reason for teaching the children at home was the amount of time my wife, Roxanne, would be able to spend with the children as they grew up.

Our main concern about home schooling was whether or not the children's grade twelve education would be recognized and whether our children would be able to enroll into a post secondary learning facility, namely a university. My wife and I both received university degrees, and we wanted our children to have that option available to them.

Friends of ours had been homeschooling for a couple of years, and we had heard of many different programs. We learned that some people thought homeschooling was as simple as trading hockey or football cards in front of the kids or letting them play with Lego blocks all day. Others did more structured programs that concentrated on reading, writing and arithmetic. Since we wanted more for our children, we elected to obtain a more structured Accelerated Christian Education or ACE course. This proved to be a very good program for both the children and my wife. It was laid out well with multiple work books or paces with a large amount of Canadian content to the material, and the children excelled. However, for grade nine and above, we wanted a more challenging and advanced teaching method than daily work books. We had heard all along that one of the best home education courses available was out of a Christian College in Pensacola, Florida called ABeka. ABeka's correspondence approach to home schooling is to use high quality text books and compact diskettes to present the material to both the student and the home educator. The student soon learns to independently glean the important information that is presented to them. It reminded me of the way universities teach their students: however, the ABeka material is Christian based and founded. Again we saw our children excel.

Another important feature about ABeka's program is being able to obtain a hard copy report card for the child's progress in academic achievement. If your child chooses to go to university, the first person you will have to deal with is the admission's administrator. Their job is to select the top candidates out of the total number of applicants based on previous academic achievement. If you cannot produce for them something solid and defined that shows your child's academic abilities, they have no choice but to deny them acceptance into their facility. When we went to admissions, we had report cards, SAT scores, dean's list awards, and everything else pertinent on paper that we could obtain from ABeka. We also had the home school liaison at the local university contact prominent U.S. universities to enquire about their ranking of ABeka and its graduates. The feed back was extremely positive with most of the institutions reporting that they selected ABeka


graduates first above all others due to their very high standings with respect to national SAT scores, which also reflected the high degree of education that they were allotted.

Three of our four children are presently attending a university. Our oldest son, RJ, is about to graduate with honors from the U of S in Saskatoon with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy. RJ has always shown a strong interest in becoming a lawyer. Last fall he wrote his LSAT (law entrance exam) and scored 98 percentile nation wide (Canada & U.S.). He has received over eighty acceptances from every prestigious law school in North America. After being invited has decided to go to the University of Toronto Law School, which is presently ranked number one among Canada's law schools. He begins classes in the fall of 2007.

Our second child, Danielle, is presently enrolled in the U of R in Regina. She is working towards a degree in Biology. She is the first home school student to be accepted into the College of Science at the U of R. Danielle received a scholarship this last semester for having the highest marks in science in the university. She plans on using her Biology degree as a pre-Medical program and hopes to obtain a Degree in Medicine from the U of S in Saskatoon in the near future.

Our third child, Joshua, is presently attending the U of R and is enrolled in his first year of Arts and Sciences. He has not yet decided what he wants to do, but he has also shown interest in possibly attaining a degree in Medicine.

Our youngest son, Adam, is presently enrolled in the ABeka correspondence course. He plans on going to the University of Regina for his pre-Med program and then going on to the U of S for Medical school.

Our initial decision to homeschool our children has been a good one for us. We are glad that we stressed a higher degree of instruction for our children. The homeschooling program that we selected and implemented has equipped our children with a highly respected God-centered curriculum. It is a sad thing to not give your children every opportunity and every advantage as they go out into this competitive world. 

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Home education good preparation for university

by Alicia Vopni-Summach

I was home educated from Easter of grade 1 through my grade 12. I really enjoyed the opportunity of unit studies, and doing lots of reading – Shakespeare and mysteries were some of my favorites. I loved field trips with my family – to museums, to meet home school families in Canada and the US, to libraries, to music and dance competitions. I am now 26. I loved being home educated and now that I am married, with a baby, I'm looking forward to home educating our son, Alex.

I started taking university classes at the age of 16, with Athabasca University, by correspondence. After I completed my grade 12 and several classes with Athabasca University, I applied to the University of Saskatchewan. Because I did not have a Saskatchewan grade 12, I was an unclassified student the first year. However after that I easily got into the degree program that I wanted. I completed my B.A. in Anthropology/Archaeology. I have completed two diplomas in piano, my A.T.C.L., and my L.T.C.L. I am also a certified neuroeducational developmentalist. I currently teach music (piano, voice, flute and theory) privately in Tisdale, Saskatchewan. My brothers were also home educated through grade 12.

My youngest brother is currently completing a B.Mus.

Degree at the University of Saskatchewan. He started Athabasca classes just before he turned 16 and he started classes at the U of S just before he turned 17. His first year was in open studies because he was so young. He is also a civilian instructor with 107 Spitfire Squadron Air Cadets in Saskatoon. Two of my brothers have also taken missions/discipleship training and have worked in third world countries. They have not had any difficulty finding employment when they have been in Canada.

I found that home education prepared me well for university. I was accustomed to doing a lot of research and to working on my own. However, other than music examinations the first examinations that I did were for University classes. I found that I made an easier transition to the level of self-discipline that university demanded than most of the students that I know that went to the public school. My family used to belong to SHBE. I would like to encourage everyone to continue home educating. I think it is important to realize that you can attend university, get a job, travel – whatever you feel you are to do after you have completed home education. Also it is interesting that the U of S is currently reviewing its policies regarding home educated applicants. ☺

KEEP IN MIND FOR NEXT YEAR - 2008

Honey Bee Music and Dance Camp

by Rebecca Hankins-Vopni

Tisdale, Saskatchewan is the place to be August 6 - 11. Music and dance students of all ages will be studying in Tisdale with more than 20 music educators, performers, and dancers from across the province. Classes/lessons are held in piano, guitar, strings, brass, woodwinds, voice, musical theatre, music for worship and more. And for those who like to dance or who would like to try dance there are classes in ballet, tap, jazz, Ukrainian Dance and Introduction to Ballroom Dance.

Honey Bee Music and Dance Camp is a family oriented camp with opportunities to continue music study in your instrument or voice or to try something new. Students participate in daily private lessons, ensembles, master classes, ear training and sight reading/sight singing classes and more. Honey Bee Music and Dance Camp students have many group opportunities that are sometimes unavailable to students studying music. There are always musical theatre groups, choir, orchestra, and wind ensemble at the camp. Many Home Educating families not only enjoy music study but understand the benefits of music study. Parents are always welcome at their child's classes. Many parents also take classes at the camp. There are several classes for adults including private lessons at all levels, adult ensemble, introduction to ballroom dance, introduction to violin teaching, music for worship and a sound/audio system class. The preschool class incorporates a dance class, musical theatre class and performance, crafts and Kindermusic. Private lessons are also available for preschoolers. And there is a family night at the Tisdale Pool and a Teen Pizza Night.

Students get to hear professional musicians and see professional dance performances at the three concerts and of course students get to perform solo and in ensembles.

In 2003 Tisdale and District Strings (a Saskatchewan non profit organization) and music and dance teachers in North

East Saskatchewan got together with the idea of starting a new music and dance camp to fill the need for summer music study in rural Saskatchewan. The name Honey Bee of course comes from Tisdale area being a major Saskatchewan producer of honey. Also students have performed the folk tune Honey Bee at the music camp! Since 2003 the camp has grown from an initial 30 students to over 90 students. Students come from all areas of Saskatchewan—many are from rural areas but students from urban areas also enjoy the camp as do students from Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. And the camp director is not only a professional musician but also a former home educating mom.

“I think Honeybee Music and Dance Camp has much to offer aspiring young musicians. The name is appropriate, as the week certainly “buzzes” with happy activity! Music Camp has some benefits that would be hard to duplicate in private lessons, such as the opportunity to play with an orchestra or in an ensemble, as well as the chance to hear performances by professional musicians. Music can sometimes be a lonely discipline, so it's wonderful for kids to have the chance to spend a whole week with other people who enjoy making music. Students also benefit from the chance to learn from a variety of instructors, with a variety of teaching styles and areas of expertise. Students have the chance to try out new instruments, and this experience might encourage them to continue with those new instruments once they get back home. As both an instructor and a parent of participants, I must say that this was a great experience for me and for my children.”

— Karen Unger, A.R.C.T., L.L.C.M., B.Ed (Home Educator and Piano and Theory Instructor at 2005, 2006 camps and looking forward to the 2007 camp.)

If you would like more information, please visit us at www.vopnimusic.com <<http://www.vopnimusic.com/>> or phone 873-5216 or 873-3735.

Calling for stories about homeschool grads & entrance to post-secondary institutions

Write one, write all—please do. Write up the story of how your homeschooled student was able to enter their next phase of education—university, technical or vocational school, apprenticeship program, Bible school, college or any other situation that you feel people would be interested in hearing about. Please include their names and birthdates or at least birth years. Please include the names of programs or courses taken. Include any pertinent conversations with any people and the names of their positions with the institution that helped you achieve your goal. If students have operated businesses you might want to include what type, how long they ran it and if they had employees or how they got started in that pursuit. The present plan is to compile the stories alphabetically by name. There have not been very many submissions for the booklet so far. Please tell any other former home school parents you know about this because they are the ones who've completed the job. They may no longer get the Journal but we want their stories too. Please send them to:

Heather Schmuland
P.O.Box 3351
Melfort, SK S0E 1A0 or
E-mailto: blfarm@sasktel.net

SHBE JOURNAL SASKATCHEWAN HOME BASED EDUCATORS

DEADLINES FOR SHBE JOURNAL: Deadline for ads & copy is one month before publication: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15.

AD RATES: full page - \$85, half page - \$50, 1/4 page - \$35, bus. card - \$15, class. ad (25 words) - \$7.

Please make cheques payable to SHBE. Ads must be PREPAID. Buy identical ad for four issues and receive 25% off; must be camera-ready and prepaid in full to receive discount.

Send ads or stories to:

Ben Friesen, SHBE Journal Editor
2831 Pasqua St., Regina, SK S4S 2H4
email: journal@shbe.info

WORD documents (stories) or PDFs (ads) ONLY please.

Viewpoints given in stories do not necessarily express the official position of Saskatchewan Home Based Educators Inc. Home educators come from a wide variety of philosophies and convictions about homeschooling.

SHBE website: www.shbe.info

SHBE mailing address:

Saskatchewan Home Based Educators Inc.
Box 8541
Saskatoon, SK S7K 6K6

Homeschooling: Yes, YOU Can Do It!

The following is part of the handout given to those attending the Moose Jaw and Area Homeschool Information Night, June 4, 2007, presented by Debbie Holm and Linda Karn. Sponsored by Saskatchewan Home Based Educators (SHBE)

What is homeschooling (or home-based educating)?

Homeschooling is not just teaching the 3 R's to your children. That is one small part. It can also be described as a joyful experience within a family, nurturing loving relationships between members, building characters that will last a lifetime and beyond, guiding young ones into a love of learning. Homeschooling is a career choice. Homeschooling is a lifestyle.

Is it legal?

Yes, it is! The Education Act states in section 157 (1)(c) "Exemption from school attendance is allowed if the pupil is in a registered home based education program." SHBE has put together the following list of the rights of home-based educators in Saskatchewan:

- The right to educate your child according to your conscientious beliefs;
- The right to privacy including freedom from home visits;
- The right to protection from intrusions by officials;
- The right to choose or make any curriculum for your children;
- The right to choose the approach, method and philosophy you want for your family.
- The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states, "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) Freedom of conscience and religion;" Section 2(a)

What should I do first?

Contact the Saskatchewan Home Based Educators (SHBE). This is a province wide association consisting of homeschool families. They support home based education through literature, support groups, web site and an annual conference as well as represent the interests of members through a government committee representation. They will send you a membership application and handbook including samples of the education plan, education philosophy and annual progress report.

Saskatchewan Home Based Educators (SHBE)
Box 8541
Saskatoon, SK S7K 6K6
www.shbe.info

What should I do next?

Contact the school division. Let them know that you are interested in homeschooling and ask for the appropriate information and registration package. This should include the Home Based Education Policy, Home Based Education Reimbursement Form, Registration Form, Parent Handbook.