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○ AUGUST | ○ 2011

Georgia Enrichment Program
for Homeschoolers
Newsletter

Roberts *Review*

Welcome to GA-EPH!

I am very excited about our upcoming year. We have many new and returning families taking over 30 classes for Session One! We continue to grow each year. I can remember starting with just eight families with a few classes. I'll give you a brief background of the program.

I wanted a central location for classes one day a week for my kids, so we wouldn't have to drive to various places throughout the week. In 2004, I started the program under GHEIN. We only had a few classes to offer. After our first year, GHEIN dissolved. I wanted to continue offering classes. We needed to be a non-profit organization in order to continue using the City of Acworth facility. So, I partnered with Homeschool Excursions for 2 years. In 2007, I decided it was time to start my own non-profit and GA-EPH was formed. There have been several names and some simply refer to the program as "Roberts School." Through the years, I have been dedicated to providing a quality secular program for homeschoolers. Each year, I'm amazed of the quality of classes, instructors, students and parents we have within our group. YOU are what makes our program so GREAT!

I hope you all take the opportunity to make new friends this year. I know the parents enjoy coming to Roberts just as much as the students. If you are an oldie, please take the time to introduce yourself to someone new.

Please feel free to share your comments or concerns. I look forward to a great 2011-12 program year!

Teri Verhine
GA-EPH

MUST Summer Lunch Program

By Anna Young

Remember all of those bake sales last year? This summer that money, plus many volunteer hours, went toward the MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program.

Over the summer, a student volunteer group (organized by Jade Glasgow) has been volunteering twice a week at MUST Ministries, an organization that provides food, clothing, and assistance to families in need. The students have been contributing to the Summer Lunch Program, which provides lunches to children who are on the reduced or free lunch program during the school year.

While volunteering for the MUST Summer Lunch Program, the students have been involved in almost every step of the process, from making sandwiches, to organizing the lunches and packing them for distribution. They enjoy every step and are very excited to volunteer for the

program again next summer.

This group now consists of eleven members: Lindsay Bick, Rebecca Miller, Jasper VonBuseck, Sam Fulkerson, Laycie and Torrie Addington, and Simon and Anna Young, Wyatt and Austin Richardson, and Jade Glasgow. Collectively they have worked close to 100 hours with MUST this summer alone and have raised \$340 for the cause. Over this school year, the group hopes to raise money for next summer in various ways (such as setting out a donation jar every week and holding more bake sales).

Not only is this volunteer student group planning on participating in the program again next year, but they also plan on contributing even

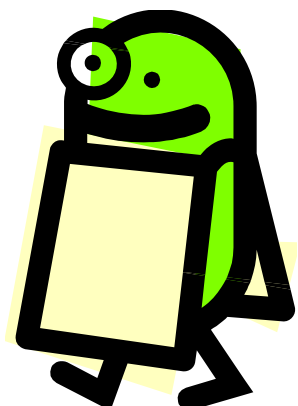
more hours and raising even more funds, so that even more children can receive a sack lunch during the summer. But to do so, they need your help.

If you would like to help this group with their Summer Lunch Program, it's simple. Just bring some extra money each week to the Roberts School to drop in the donation jar or maybe to spend at a bake sale. With your help, lunches will be available to children in need.

If you support any causes that you want featured in the Roberts Review Please contact Anna Young at anna298@gmail.com



Photo by Torrie Addington



Advertise in Our Next Issue

You have the opportunity to advertise in our next issue (September 2011). Let us help you get the word out about your product or service!

The cost per issue will be \$5 for a business card-sized ad and \$10 for a ¼ page ad.

To place an ad, please contact Jade Glasgow at j.trailblazer@gmail.com

The Field Trip

By Laycie Addington

Maisie did not like field trips, not in the slightest. She didn't like the crowded, cramped, and not to mention stuffy bus. She didn't like being crammed into the small bus with two dozen loud, wild children. If you can believe it, she very much disliked field trips in general. They were boring, tiresome. She held a particular dislike for field trips involving the oppressive heat of August at a zoo that seemed very far away from her town – which, of course, this particular trip did.

What she did like, however, besides reading, was painting. But she couldn't very well paint in this bus, with children jumping from seat to seat all around her, screaming, and shouting, and laughing. By some miracle, her wonderfully curly honey-colored hair was spared as a wad of gum soared through the air from the other side of the bus and just barely missed her head. Looking up in that direction, she glared with bright blue eyes at the boy she suspected of the crime. He snickered with his friends for what seemed the longest time, but soon enough, they had other jokes to occupy their attention. Settling back into her seat uneasily, wishing bitterly that she'd never had to be dragged along on this trip. Suddenly she felt someone sit down beside her. When she turned her head, she saw a boy she hadn't noticed before in all the noise and chaos.

After glancing around at all of the other obnoxious children for a moment, he turned his attention toward Maisie, whom he was now sharing a bench with. He had very wrinkled clothes, and his hair stuck up in every direction. The side of his face was red, as if someone had hit him, but his curious brown eyes didn't seem to show any sign that he was upset over it.

"Hello," he said. "I'm just trying to get away from all of those trouble-makers. They're too pushy. I hope you don't mind."

"No," she replied timidly. She could certainly understand that.

"I can tell you don't want to go to the zoo," the boy stated. Maisie shot a questioning glance at him. "I can just tell," he continued. "I wasn't really wanting to go either, especially with this bunch. But, you know, it could be more fun than either of us thinks it will be." She didn't show any sign of agreement. "You look bored," he said plainly. Then he turned his attention forward and closed his eyes. She gazed at him for a few moments, but all he did was sit there, eyes closed.

"What are doing?" she asked with a hint of annoyance.

"I'm in the Sahara, chasing after desert pirates on my trusty camel," he opened one eye, looking earnestly at her. "Would you like to join me?"

"No, thank you," she answered with some sarcasm. "The Sahara's too hot for me."

"Oh," he said, pulling himself away from the desert and back to the bus. "I guess you're right. Well, what about exploring the wilds of the jungle? Or sailing the entire ocean? Or... or maybe... riding horseback through Sherwood Forest?"

She felt his eager gaze on her and looked back at him. Sighing, she supposed pretending would be better than sitting around and waiting. Giving in, she closed her eyes, and began to imagine herself riding along, the trees far above her head, the path underneath her horse's feet. Suddenly, the boy was there too, riding alongside her. A slight breeze blew some leaves about, making the trees sway.

"This is much better than sitting in that bus, isn't it?" the boy asked knowingly.

Maisie nodded, smiling. She very much preferred the sound of the horses' hooves and the wind whispering softly through the branches to the noise and confusion of those crazy children. She found that she was suddenly wearing a long green dress and her hair was in braids, while the boy was wearing a large dark red shirt and a leather belt with a long shining sword.

"Wait, what's that?" he asked, turning around in the saddle. It was the sound of another horse, galloping toward them from down the path. When the horse came into view, the children found that it was in fact several horses, and on each of them was a dark rider, shouting for them to speed on.

"Oh no!" the boy yelled, urging his horse forward. "Forest robbers! Come on!" She kicked her horse's sides and off it went, speeding after her friend. The dark, shadowy men seemed to glide after them, moving faster and faster as they ran for their lives through the forest.

Maisie looked forward, and light blinded her eyes – they were almost out of the forest now. She could see the spreading meadows outside of the trees, and rolling, white puffy clouds in the sky. If only they could reach it! With a gasp of surprise, she found she was suddenly thrown forward off of her horse, catapulted into the air. She was flying right toward a tree! Covering her face with her hands, she braced herself, a tiny shriek escaping from her mouth.

To be continued next month in "The Field Trip", Part 2

*If you would like to write a short story
to be featured in the Roberts Review,
please contact Laycie Addington
at goldenfire.2009@gmail.com*

Calendar Of Events

Important dates for GA-EPH:

August 17: First day of Roberts School

September 28: Sign up deadline for second Session

Other Homeschool Days:

Friday, September 16

Atlanta Botanical Garden | 9 a.m. - noon

\$8 per student | \$8 per chaperone (max 2 per student)

No registration required | Parking not included | No outside food or drink permitted.

The Garden hosts an exciting day of tours and activities exclusively for homeschool groups and families.

Supplement your life science, botanical and environmental studies curriculum by visiting a tropical rain forest, a desert house and a native pitcher plant bog. Tip-toe through the treetops on the Canopy Walk and observe edible plants in the Edible Garden. The Garden also has a 2-acre Children's Garden focusing on the interactions between people, animals and plants.

Friday September 30, 2011

STONE MOUNTAIN HOMESCHOOL DAY | 10:00am - 5:00pm

A great way to experience Stone Mountain National Park if you haven't already!

No reservations necessary | Many physical and educational activities available.

More information at: <http://festivals.stonemountainpark.com/mini-section/default.aspx?id=30>

Regular Homeschool Events:

Twice a Month

Tellus features special programs just for homeschool students twice a month. The unique programs expose students to the concepts in science and include hands-on activities.

Registration begins August 30 | Call [770-606-5699](tel:770-606-5699).

First Tuesday of EVERY MONTH

HOMESCHOOL DAY AT MOUNTASIA

Unlimited games and mini golf for \$6.00 only | Unlimited go-karts for an additional \$8.00

Reservations are required! Reserve by calling [\(770\) 422-7227](tel:770-422-7227) OR by emailing jadams@placeentertainment.com

175 Barrett Parkway, Marietta, GA 30066

Third Thursday of EVERY MONTH (after August 18th)

Escalade HOMESCHOOL DAY | 12pm - 2pm

\$8 per climber | kids under 4 are \$6 and have their own play area | plus they have pizza for \$1/slice.

Escalade indoor rock climbing gym is air conditioned and is a great way to allow your kids to be more active.

Escalade Rock Climbing Gym [\(770\) 794-1575](tel:770-794-1575)

3694 Kennesaw South Industrial Dr, Kennesaw, GA 30144

*If you know of any other homeschool events
that should be on this list, please contact
Lindsay Bick at worldlover89@gmail.com*