

NTCH Newsletter

Network of Teaching Christian Homes



www.ntch.info

January 2011

JANUARY MEETING:

Tuesday, Jan 18th, 7:00pm
Presbyterian Church of Manchester
394 Lydall Street, Manchester

During the Christmas holiday, I had the opportunity (misfortune?) to visit the mall. I don't visit there often because, as a man, I really hate to shop. Adding to my discomfort, I also hate crowds, and high prices. This does not mean that the mall is inherently bad per se, but this quintessentially American temple to consumerism does offer a microcosm of the things we unfortunately hold dear as a society.

My two boys were with me, and as I looked around, I found myself questioning how much of our environment I should allow them to soak in, how much to teach them about, and how much I should steer a wide path around. The "Victoria's Secret" store was easy – cross to the other side and look away. But what were "Miracle Eyebrows" my boys wondered? And how about all the fashion clothing stores whose ever-so-lifelike mannequins were wearing very little? What about all these gadgets that every one of the children were carrying?

In fact, every store carried the same message - that "who you are" is not nearly as good as "who you will be" once you purchase their goods. How do I deal with each one of these? The questions came so fast to my mind that they started to overflow; my only recourse to recoil and exit the mall as quickly as possible. Not exactly the shining example of Godly wisdom I'm supposed to be imparting to my children.

This experience left me with the disturbed feeling that I am ill equipped to carry out the biblical command to both teach my children about the world and protect them from it. As homeschoolers, our task in this regard is made both easier in some respects and harder in others. To help and encourage each other, **our meeting for January 2011 year will be entitled "Exposure without Influence – teaching our children wisdom in this crazy society"** I look forward to your thoughts, experiences (good and bad) and suggestions on how we can all walk that fine line.

We hope to see you there.

Your servant in Christ,
Ron

IOWA Testing

Is anyone interested in Iowa Testing this year? Please contact Ron Hocutt ASAP if so. Here is some basic information about the Iowa Tests:

What type of test is the ITBS?

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test (NRT).

What is does "nationally standardized" mean?

A nationally standardized test is a test that each test-taker is administered in the same way across a specified reference population (e.g., age groups, grade groups, etc.). Therefore, the score interpretations are based on a comparison of the test taker's performance to the performance of other students in the nation.

What is a norm-referenced test (NRT)?

It is a NRT because it compares students' abilities rather than to a criteria. Thus, the ITBS allows educators to get a look at the performance of their students in relation to the rest of the nation. A NRT is designed to highlight achievement differences between and among students.

How valid and reliable is the ITBS?

The ITBS was developed at the University of Iowa, and is based on over seventy years of on-going research.

What does the ITBS measure?

The ITBS measures the skills and achievement of students from kindergarten through grade eight and provides an in-depth measure of important educational objectives. It also yields reliable and comprehensive information both about the development of students' skills and about their ability to think critically. It measures students against their peers.

Test subjects in the ITBS are in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.



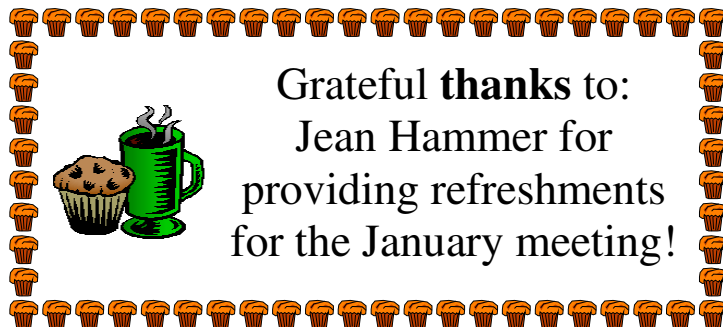
Northwest Park's Annual Cabin Fever Festival

Jan 29, from 12:30 to 5:30pm
Northwest Park, Windsor, CT



This event will include contests, games and prizes such as, a snowball throwing contest, a snow shoe race, a snow creature building contest, an adult/child sled pull race, and many more. It will also include exhibitors and educational activities such as a reptile show and an animal tracking skills class. Cross country skis and snowshoes will be available and the Northwest Park sugarhouse will be open. This is a wonderful winter event for the whole family! Hamburgers, chili, and other refreshments will be for sale until 3pm. Tell your friends and family! \$3/person. Children 2 and under are FREE.

Directions: From Hartford and points south: Interstate 91 to exit 38, Right on Poquonock Ave (Route 75 north), Travel approximately 1 mile. Take 1st left (Prospect Hill Road) after traffic signal. Go to traffic circle and bear right onto Lang Road.
For more information about the park visit <http://www.northwestpark.org> or call (860) 285-1886 for more information about the festival.



Grateful **thanks** to:
Jean Hammer for
providing refreshments
for the January meeting!

Attention Students!

Start thinking about your ideas for your science fair project! NTCH is planning to hold a Science fair in the Spring. Stay tuned for details!

Hymn Sing-a-Long

3rd Friday *This* Month—January 21st
1 —2pm @ Manchester Manor
385 West Center Street, Manchester
Call or email Karen Cupit for details.

*Thanks to all who joined us in December for
Christmas caroling at Manchester Manor
We had a great turnout!!*

**We're planning a group trip
to the Science Center in
January. Stay tuned to your
email for details.**

The NTCH Board

Chairman	Secretary/Treasurer	Membership Coord.	Newsletter Editor
Ron Hocutt (860) 386-6255 ron@ntch.info	Karen Cupit (860) 895-1134 karen@ntch.info	Jean Hammer (860) 647-7591 jean@ntch.info	TC Cupit (860) 895-1134 tc@ntch.info