



Homeschool Hi-Lites

2009.1

www.earlyamericanmuseum.org

www.ccfpd.org

Something for Everyone

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Winter Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season, and is off to a positive 2009 start. 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 of 2009. We are very fortunate to have such a marvelous circle of silver and gold friends!

This newsletter includes more information on several programs mentioned in the last issue, and also a comprehensive on-going schedule of core classes in all three education departments – history, horticulture, and environmental. Hopefully this will make it easier for you to include our curriculum materials in your planning. Special one-time offerings will supplement this core class rotation. The one new class in this issue is “Lincoln’s Birthday Party,” see next page.

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 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 sosborne@ccfpd.org.

We have had a staff change in the Horticulture Department. Rachel Dawsey has left the District to be a stay-at-home mom! At this point, her replacement has not been hired, so any horticulture registrations will be made through Stacey at 217-896-2455.

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 late summer.

Wednesday, Feb. 25 -- Lincoln's Birthday Party -- Early American Museum

Celebrate Abe Lincoln's 200th birthday! Get a sneak-peek at our Redhed Room 2009 Lincoln exhibit. We will "get to know" Abe, the man, before his presidency. There will be several crafts, some stories, and some period music. And, yes, what's a birthday party without cake!

This class is designed for the whole family, with parental accompaniment required, and is 10:00-11:30am. Fee is \$3.00 per child, 4 and up. Registration and payment are due February 18. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Tuesdays, March 10 and 17 -- Civil War -- Early American Museum

Although Illinois saw no Civil War battles, our state was directly and significantly impacted by the war. We will focus on the effects of the Civil War on Champaign County citizens. Components include exploring our Civil War gallery, businesses, lives of farmers and soldiers, and period music provided by dulcimer-player Hillary Valentine. This is a two-part class with homework to do between sessions – you will attend both sessions.

This class is designed for students interested in and/or studying the Civil War, and is aimed at the fourth grade through junior high level. Parental accompaniment is recommended. Class will meet 9:30am-12:00pm both days. Fee is \$8.00 per child, which covers both days and materials. Registration and payment due March 3. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Tuesday, April 7-Remarkable Reptiles-Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Education Center

Reptiles are unique members of the animal kingdom. In this class we will focus on reptiles life cycles, survival strategies, and the physical characteristics of snakes and turtles of Illinois. You will also have the opportunity to meet our resident reptiles.

This class will be held at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Environmental Education 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 March 30th. For further information and to register call 217-896-2455

Wednesday, May 27-Botany Basics-Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Discovery Garden

Explore the world of botany in our Discovery Garden. Learn why plants are important and study their diverse structures and adaptations. Students will participate in a hands-on activity followed by a tour of the garden.

This class will be held at The Discovery Garden at Lake of the Woods 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 May 20th. For further information and to register call 217-896-2455.

Wednesday, Sept. 2-Tree-mendous Trees-Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Elks Lake Pavilion

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 Lake of the Woods, Elks Lake Pavilion 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 217-896-2455.

Wednesdays, Sept.16,30,Oct.18,28,Nov.18 --Settler Curriculum -- Early American Museum

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 towns.

This class will meet 9:30-11:30am each day, and is designed for ages 6 and up, with parental accompaniment required. Fee is about \$18.00 per child, depending on guest author's fee. Registration and payment due September 9. For further information and to register call Sandy at 217-586-2612.

Friday, Sept. 25 – Prairie Adventures – Early American Museum

The District education staff offers Prairie Adventures to schools, and we are reserving one section for home school families on Friday, September 25, at the Early American Museum, at Lake of the Woods. The program runs 9:00am-1:45pm, during which your section will rotate through 3 experiences with different focuses – settler's harvesting, prairie animals, and prairie plants.

This day is somewhat intense and quite busy! You will shock and shell corn, identify mystery animals, build a bison, witness a prairie burn demo, and more! It is recommended for children 9 years old and up, with parental accompaniment suggested. Fee is \$3.00 per child in Champaign County, and \$4.50 per child out of Champaign County. For further information and to register, call Sandy at 217-586-2612. Registration and payment due Sept. 18.

Tuesday, Nov. 3-Soil Science-Homer Lake Forest Preserve-Environmental Education Center

Students will learn about the diversity and contents of soil through hands-on investigations. They will look for decomposers in their own humus box, make mini mud pies to learn different soil types, and mix their own potting soil for planting seeds.