

MARCH 2010
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The Encourager



Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

Dear SHIELD family,

When Karen asked me to write the devotion, my first thought was *I have nothing to give*. Before I could respond, God began to deal with me. *Maybe someone needs to hear about your year*.

As the day went on, I thought about all the bad days I've had this year. This has been one of my toughest years. I don't like to admit failure, and bad days feel like personal failure to me. But some days, it is just too much to bear alone. Those are the days my misery exceeds my pride. I pick up the phone or send an email. Every time God is faithful to send me to a friend who is having a bad day, too. In His love, God lets me know I am not alone.

Isolation is one of Satan's most powerful weapons. First Satan lies to me and tells me I am the only one feeling discouraged and frustrated. If he can keep me away from friends who will encourage me – who will share their stories of battles and victories – then I am convinced I am the only one struggling. I believe his lie. But if I reach out and make contact with another mom, I see I'm not alone. I'm not the only one who has bad days. I see another mom persevering, which gives me courage to keep going. One personal interaction can put the horribleness of my bad day into perspective.

Some days – on those worst days – I wonder if I made the right decision. I mourn what my children will never know: their mom, the successful career woman. Some days – like when I'm having trouble getting my five and eight year olds to clean their room – I wonder if that part of my life was all just a dream? How could I have been so proficient a manager, yet be inept as a parent? Perhaps they'd have been better off in daycare and school. If I had continued working, we would have had a completely different life. An easier life – a better life. There's another lie. Easier doesn't equate to better. Our life might be easier in some ways, but it would be completely void in others. We chose this life – and sometimes I forget that.

We all have bad days – weeks – months – years. But we have them together. That is a blessing, but can also be our biggest challenge. My kids are still at the ages where most days we are together 24/7. Some days that gets uglier than others. They see the worst of me. They see the worst of each other. But they also see how to apologize and have countless opportunities to practice forgiveness.

This year I've had far more bad days than I'd like to admit. I'd probably have fewer of them if I would humble my pride and reach out for encouragement sooner. But at the end of the day – good or bad – we get to spend our days investing in the most important earthly relationships we have – each other. Besides seeing the worst, we also get to see the best. The spontaneous fits of play between a teenager and a preschooler, who wouldn't even know each other if it weren't for home schooling. The hugs and kisses we are able to exchange, just because we are home together. The cuddle times under a blanket beside a roaring fire while we allow the history channel to be our “substitute teacher” for the day.

If you are having one of **those** days – or weeks, or months, or years – my prayer is that you will reach out for encouragement sooner rather than later. There are home school moms all around you who are having a bad day, too. You may be just the encouragement they need to continue to fight the good fight. My deepest, most heartfelt thanks to those moms who have kept me going this year!

Devotion by Janey Goude

Calendar of Events

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| March 12 (Fri) | Spring Academic Presentation Day , Lexington Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m. |
| March 12 (Fri) | Park/Picnic Day, Virginia Hilton Park , 12:00 p.m. |
| March 19 (Fri) | THRILL Meeting , Harvest Church, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please note: this date has been changed from original schedule. |
| March 19 (Fri) | Yearbook Meeting , Harvest Church, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Please note: this date has been changed from original schedule. |
| March 25 (Thurs) | Mom's Night Out , Kovachi's in Lexington, 7:00 p.m. |
| April 14-16 (Wed-Fri) | Standardized Testing , Riverbend Church |
| Cancelled | Field Trip to Eudora Farms , Cancelled |
| April 17 (Sat) | Spring Field Day , Mt. Horeb Church, 3-5 p.m. |
| April 22 (Thurs) | SHIELD Talent Show "Back to 2010"
Riverbend Community Church, 6:30 p.m. |
| May 4 (Tues) | Field Trip to Sesquicentennial Park, "Guided Nature Hike" , 1:30-3:00 p.m. |
| May 14 (Fri) | Achievement Night , Riverbend Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m. |

See below for details on many of these events

Dear SHIELD Leaders, Coordinators, Advisors, and Members,

It is that time of year when the SHIELD Team Leadership begins to look at the various volunteer positions that are filled and may need to be refilled for the upcoming year. We will soon have our first planning meeting for the 2010-11 school year and need your continued help. If you are currently holding a position within SHIELD (i.e. Club Coordinator, THRILL Advisor, Field Trip Coordinator, etc.), we need to know your intentions for the upcoming year. Please email Debbie Barney at dddbarney@gmail.com or call at 803-312-3433. Also, if you are not currently in a place of leadership and see a need, please let us know! The success of SHIELD rests solely upon the help of a team of wonderful volunteers!

Again, if you are currently in a coordinator/advisor position for the 2009-10 year, the SHIELD Leadership Team needs to know what your plans are for 2010-11. Please let us know by **March 8th** so we can begin planning for upcoming school year.

We thank you in advance for all you have already done for SHIELD and what you will do. Have a wonderful March!

Sincerely,

The SHIELD Team Leaders,

Debbie Barney
Beth Martin
Karen Collins

Spring Academic Presentation Day

Date: Friday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Theme: **Art, Literature & Music**

Location: Lexington Baptist Church, Reception Room

Academic Presentation Day is a time for your students in 3rd grade and above to present a 3-5 minute oral presentation on a topic of their choice relating to the given theme. This can be done in a variety of ways including skits, display boards, drama, reciting poems, displaying art, playing instruments, etc. Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are not required to give an oral presentation but may participate by providing a display.

All SHIELD members are invited to attend even if not presenting.

Registration is necessary so contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com by **Friday, March 5th** to register your children!

**Park/Picnic Day
Virginia Hilton Park
Friday, March 12, 12:00 p.m.**

Join SHIELD families for a park/picnic day!
This will follow the Spring Academic Presentation Day.

Field Trip to Sesquicentennial State Park

9564 Two Notch Rd
Columbia, SC 29223

www.stateparks.com/sesquicentennial.html

**Tuesday, May 4, 2010
1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Cost: \$2.00/child

“Guided Nature Walk”

Sesquicentennial Park Ranger, Stacy, will be our guide as we explore the park’s sand hill and aquatic ecosystems. We will learn the importance of urban green space and conservation of our natural resources as we are guided through the park’s various habitats.

Space is limited to 25 children for this field trip. To sign up, please contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com. To secure your spot, payment can be sent to 330 Poindexter Lane, Lexington, SC 29072.

Update on Field Trip to Eudora Farm

The date for this field trip was originally scheduled for Friday, April 16. Since that date conflicted with SHIELD's Standardized Testing, numerous attempts have been made by phone calls and emails to reschedule. Due to lack of response from Eudora Farms, this field trip is cancelled.

***** Mom's Night Out *****

Please make plans to join us:

Thursday, March 25th

7:00 p.m.

Kovachi's in Lexington

THRILL

(Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting
Lexington County Lives)

March Meeting Time:

- Friday, March 19th, **2pm – 3:00 pm** at the Harvest Church
Please note: this date has been changed from original schedule.
- Chapter 8 is to be read in *THE GREATEST AMONG YOU*

March's Service Project: **Lexington County Senior Games 2010**

Tuesday, March 16th: Training Session for those who will be helping with the Lexington County Senior Games. An email will be sent to THRILL members with the time and place.

Wednesday, March 25, 2010 South Congaree Complex
395 Oak Street West Columbia, 9:00am
Softball Throw, Shot Put and Discus

Thursday, March 26th, 2010 Tri- City
485 Brooks Ave. West Columbia,
9:00am
Basketball Free Throw (Men's and Women's)

Friday, March 27th, 2010 Lunch (Tri – City)
485 Brooks Ave. West Columbia, 12:00 noon
Awards Banquet

If you have any questions, you can contact:

Michelle Steyne, mlsteyne@aol.com, 796-9090

Elizabeth Collins, aikosmom@sc.rr.com, 356-5858

Angela Norman, angelanorman@bellsouth.net, 955-9185

Yearbook News:

The yearbook is finished!

We look forward to distributing it on Achievement Night. Make plans to be there!

MANY THANKS!

to all our members who submitted pictures, poems, and artwork to make it great!

Yearbook Staffers should start considering student leadership roles for next year!

Next Yearbook Staff Meeting:

Friday, March 19, 3:00-4:00 Please note: this date has been changed from original schedule. We will go back to the 1-hour format this month.

Standardized Testing:

Iowa Testing Times: April 14-16

3rd Grade	Wed. 9-10	Thurs. 9-12:30	Fri. 9-1:30
4th-8th Grades		Thurs. 9-12:30	Fri. 9-1:30
9th-12th Grades			Fri. 9-3

**Students must come for all days that their grade is testing.

**Students taking Core Battery only will finish earlier each day.

Registration is CLOSED

Contact Beth Martin at bethsmartin@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Join Us for

SPRING FIELD DAY

Saturday, April 17, 2009
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mt. Horeb Church
1205 Old Cherokee Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072

Games! Relays! More!
Fun for the Whole Family, Young and Old!

**Needed: Teens willing to do face painting! Contact
Ellen or Kristine if interested.**

Coordinators:
Ellen Nagelvoort at adamandellen@windstream.net
Kristine Fairchild at allbygrace@sc.rr.com

2010 SHIELD Talent Show

"Back to the Future"

Thursday, April 22nd

6:30 p.m.

Riverbend Community Church

1015 Corley Mill Road

Lexington, SC 29072

Please send your child's name, grade, and type of entry to valeriemharris@yahoo.com. All acts should be limited to 2-3 minutes. They may be musical, oratorical, or something totally original. Parents will be sent a questionnaire about your child's interests and ambitions so we can devise a "future" achievement for him or her.

We would also appreciate a fun snapshot. Please address your questions to Valerie Harris, 957-5388, or valeriemharris@yahoo.com.

Governor's Reading Honor Roll

The Governor's Reading Honor Roll is a way for SHIELD members to participate in a reading program sponsored by the Governor of SC. Any SHIELD family that chooses to participate logs 20 books for their 1-6 graders and then notifies SHIELD when completed. The Governor's Office requests that we keep a book log for each student. They do not ask us to turn in the logs to their office. So, please keep the log for your own records.

If your student would like to participate in the Governor's Reading Honor Roll, please contact Leslie Buzzell at jlbuzzell@gmail.com with your child's name and number of books read. Your student would need to read a minimum of twenty (20) books by **April 30, 2010**. You may include any books read this school year (since August). You may have your student set a higher personal goal if desired.

Certificates will be presented to the children on Achievement Night!!



Governor's Citizenship Award Program

Once again, SHIELD has the opportunity to participate in the Governor's Citizenship Award program. As in previous years, SHIELD has the opportunity to recognize one student as a Governor's Citizenship Award winner based on the following criteria:

Service - provides assistance to their community

Leadership - serves as a positive role model to their peers

Responsibility - is prepared for class and completes assignments on time

Character - consistently demonstrates respect for people and property

Discipline - follows directions and obeys rules

If you would like to nominate a SHIELD student for this award, please send in a written nomination explaining how the nominee has demonstrated the above criteria this past school year. A letter of recommendation (other than a family member) is also requested, including a phone number and the relationship with nominee.

ALL SHIELD students are eligible for nomination.

SHIELD will present the Governor's Citizenship Award Certificate at Achievement Night on Friday, May 14!!

Please send nominations and letters of recommendation to shieldhomeschool@gmail.com by **April 30, 2010**.

Mark your calendars for
Friday, May 14, 6:30-8:30

SHIELD Achievement Night!

Riverbend Community Church
1015 Corley Mill Rd, Lexington, SC

Come together to celebrate all God has done in our home schools this year!

This year our Achievement Night will have the following elements:

- Celebrating Kindergarten & High School Graduates
- Celebrating Academic Achievement by Class & Class Pictures
- Presentation of Governor's Reading Awards
- Yearbook Distribution & Cake!
- Display tables

Please RSVP now to Darby Reeves at
preeves1@sc.rr.com

We need the following information: Student Name and Grade for certificates (*Note that certificates will not have grade listed but the grade information will be used in calling students to receive their certificate by grade so that class pictures can be taken. Certificates will only be filled out for those who have sent an RSVP. If you cannot attend Achievement Night, we will still be happy to provide your student with a certificate, but it will be your responsibility to collect the it at a later time.)

KINDERGARTENERS: We need to know which kindergarten grads plan to participate in this event! **Contact: Leslie Buzzell at jlbuzzell@gmail.com**

SENIORS: We need to know which high school grads plan to participate in this event! **Contact: Darby Reeves at preeves1@sc.rr.com**

Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? Send the information to Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com.

Babysitters:

Elizabeth Barney, 312-4100 (cell)

Ashlynn Janzen, 957-0432

Kayla Collins, 358-0378

Music Lessons:

Chris Gaylord, guitar lessons in Lexington, 957-3458

Anne Meester, violin lessons, 422-3215

Other:

Crystal Clamp, Senior Consultant for The Pampered Chef® crystalclamp@sc.rr.com, 803-260-1538. Shop our catalog & OUTLET 24/7 at www.pamperedchef.biz/crystalclamp.

Katherine Shealy, Votre Vu Skin Care Consultant, www.votrevu.com/duette, katshealy@pbtcomm.net

Tammy Hendrix, Mary Kay Consultant, TammyHendrix@marykay.com, www.marykay.com/TammyHendrix

Joel Weeks, Licensed Builder, Home Repairs and Additions, 606-4759

Mike Kollmansberger, Computer Repair, 246-5616

Richard Barney, Roofing, 351-6078

Tommy & Linda Barnhill, Honda Specialist, 772-5144

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

Galatians 6:6

SHIELD 2009-2010 Leadership Team

Team Leader	Debbie Barney	deborahbarney880@aol.com	312-3433 (cell) 794-4757
Financial/Membership Leader	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Communications Leader	Karen Collins	jk-kids@sc.rr.com	358-0378
Website Coordinator	Dean Jacobs	shieldonline.org	
Student Club Coordinator	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Mom's Night Out Coordinator	Rebecca Smith	unlisted	unlisted
Library Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	808-5365
Field Day Coordinators	Ellen Nagelvoort Kristine Fairchild	adamandellen@windstream.net allbygrace@sc.rr.com	356-1360 359-4299
Field Trip Coordinators	Tracy Taylor Rhonda Hutchinson April Roebuck Karen Collins	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com rwhsmiles@aol.com roebucks_5@windstream.net jk-kids@sc.r.com	834-0316 730-8510 356-1310 358-0378
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Jennifer Aurednik (fall) Karen Collins (spring)	mitchandjen@windstream.net jk-kids@sc.rr.com	808-0667 358-0378
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne Elizabeth Collins Angela Norman	mlsteyne@aol.com aikosmom@sc.rr.com angelanorman@bellsouth.net	796-9090 356-5858 955-9185
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Linda Barnhill Robin Williamson Donya Jacobs Susan Liva Sue Faulk	elbeemee@bellsouth.net roknrobn31464@hotmail.com dddjacobs@msn.com srliva@juno.com smfaulk@juno.com	772-3184 568-4747 732-4627 359-3415 808-2873
High School Social Coordinators	Tami O'Brien Tina Hewitt Robin Knechtel	tamiobrien@sc.rr.com tinahewitt@gmail.com robin.knechtel@gmail.com	356-6074 446-4635 863-899-3853
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Talent Showcase Coordinators	Linda Barnhill Valerie Harris	elbeemee@bellsouth.net valerieharris@yahoo.com	772-3184 957-5388
Mid-year Meeting Coordinators	Darby Reeves Leslie Buzzell	preeves1@sc.rr.com jlbuzzell@gmail.com	951-8489 359-1934
Achievement Night Coordinators	Darby Reeves Leslie Buzzell	preeves1@sc.rr.com jlbuzzell@gmail.com	951-8489 359-1934

About Our Newsletter...

Newsletter submissions must be received by March 25 for inclusion in the April newsletter.

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com.