

Getting creative with homeschool projects

By Edie Jones
Correspondent

Heading into another week of the stay-at-home order, how are you adapting? It's certainly not easy! Not the least of these adaptations is the homeschooling that has been thrust upon parents.

For families with younger children the need to be creative is a challenge. Some fun examples: tape on a sidewalk in a stained-glass pattern to be colored in with chalk; an extra-large cardboard box becoming a playhouse; and surprising friends by hiding plastic eggs in the friends' yard, leaving a note, ringing the doorbell and running away.

Puppets work well for teaching ideas and lessons. Small paper bags or socks can be easily transformed with gluing, stitching and creating. Use them to share stories or help a new reader sound out words. Your child can create stories from pictures to read to their stuffed animals. Old *National Geographic* magazines have great pictures for collages. Coupled with a world map they become wonderful geography lessons.

For help with older kids I found valuable information at www.afineparent.com.

On April 13 they featured seven veteran homeschool teachers. Highlights follow:

- Break the work into short time periods, taking many active breaks.
- Change the location of where work is done.
- Use the outdoors as a teaching tool.
- Read to or teach younger children while they do artwork.
- Allow listening to music while studying.
- Keep expectations realistic. Write goals for each day, letting students pick the order in which they are accomplished.
- Explore vocabulary, math, and history while engaging in hands-on science experiments.
- Pick a three-hour block

of time. Define what is and isn't allowed during that time (educational apps and websites okay, no screens for entertainment, texting or social media) Include reading, audiobooks, traditional lessons, workbooks, and artistic pursuits. Be sure expectations are understood. Have a different objective for each hour (first hour covers language arts, math, etc., second anything involving books, third for games, documentaries, podcasts, online learning, etc.) Stay flexible.

- Help your kids become independent thinkers. Create a template that your child fills out every day with questions similar to the following:

- What did I learn today that helped me today and/or in the future?
- What was my biggest challenge and in what way did this challenge benefit me?
- Where did I show a great attitude today?
- What am I most grateful for today?

These can be answered written, verbally or both. Sharing their answers allows you to encourage them in becoming independent thinkers.

- Look for your child's best learning style. How do they like to learn? Is it through listening, watching, or touching an item? Is it while singing or moving? Do they want to talk about what they are learning or sit quietly and think about it? Know the learning outcome you are after. Let your child guide you to the best way to get there.

- Focus on relationships. Read together and play outside together.

- Focus on all the needs of your kids: physical, including large muscle and small muscles of hands through art projects and crafts. Spiritual and emotional, as well as intellectual.

- For teens, limit social

See **HOMESCHOOL** on page 14

Aspen Lakes provides for food bank

Golfers are still hitting the links at Aspen Lakes Golf Course through the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. While dining facilities are closed, the greens remain open — and golfers have been helping the Sisters community as they play.

Sisters Kiwanis reported last week that Aspen Lakes Golf course ran a special food raiser for the Kiwanis Food Bank during the off season. When a golfer brought in three cans of food or three non-perishable items, they could play 18 holes of golf for \$25 (a 50 percent discount on regular green fees).

"Because of this, they donated 5,089 pounds of food," said Doug Wills, one of the Food Bank's directors. "You can see just a couple days worth in the pictures."

The Food Bank has continued to serve the community through the pandemic, with a modified every-other-Thursday schedule to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Aspen Lakes Golf Course conducted a food drive among its golfers, and donated 5,089 pounds of food to the Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank.

mitigate exposure risk for volunteers.

Wills noted that the donated food goes a long way toward stretching the budget for the pantry.

"We pay an average of \$2 to \$3 per pound for our food," Wills said. "The 5,089 pounds they donated saved us between \$10,000 and

\$15,000. That is huge for us. Plus, all the food we distribute goes to folks in need that reside in the Sisters School District, so it stays local. If you look at what Aspen Lakes did with giving each golfer \$25 off their green fees, they also donated several thousand dollars to the food bank."

Christian academy closes its doors

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

After serving the Sisters community for over two decades, Sisters Christian Academy is closing its doors permanently.

Robby Gilliam, Board Chair and Acting Principal of SCA made the announcement last week.

Gilliam said that the decision was based largely on declining enrollment over the past two years. That was exacerbated by the forced closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gilliam said that parents surveyed in recent weeks had indicated that they had made other plans for schooling for next year, indicating that enrollment would not recover.

"It ended up being more of an enrollment issue than a cash-flow issue," he said.

The pre-school program from SCA will be absorbed into the offering of WellHouse (formerly Westside) Church. Teacher Mary Ryan, who

attends the church, will bring her curriculum with her to "make that pretty seamless for the community," Gilliam said.

Gilliam expressed the board and the staff's appreciation to Sisters.

"We are just thankful and grateful to the community for over 20 years of support," he said. "We've just been honored to serve the community for 20 years."

Quality Truck-mounted CARPET CLEANING
Quality Cleaning 16 years in Sisters!
Reasonable Prices
— Credit Cards Accepted —
ENVIROTECH
541-771-5048
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB#181062
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Stitchin' Post is OPEN
IN PERSON & CURBSIDE SERVICE
10:00am-4:00pm, Monday - Saturday
(until further notice)

For curbside pickup: Call ahead and order/pay via phone, and we will bring your order out to your car. OR email stitchin@stitchinpost.com with your order and phone number, and we will call to get your credit card info.

Kismet Fabric by Valori Wells arrives this week!

Stitchin' POST
SEWING & FIBER ARTS
EDUCATION, INSPIRATION & CREATIVITY

311 W. CASCADE AVE.
SISTERS, OREGON • (541) 549-6061
stitchinpost.com

BLACK BUTTE
CHIROPRACTIC • ACUPUNCTURE • MASSAGE
Formerly Bigfoot Wellness

WE ARE OPEN
fully for CHIROPRACTIC and ACUPUNCTURE, MASSAGE by prescription

— We are taking all precautions. —
Be well, get outside, and we look forward to seeing you!
Sarah, Kevin, Chandra, Jackie and Nylissa.

www.blackbuttechiropractic.com
541-389-9183
392 E. Main Ave., Sisters

\$3 OFF
40 LB. BAG OF BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED!
Regularly \$22.95, Now \$19.95 — While Supplies Last

SISTERS FEED & SUPPLY
for all your wild birdseed needs.
102 E. Main Ave.
541-549-4151