



Contact: Stephanie Lenox
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: September 10, 2008

Homeschool Event at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

While some school-age children are loading backpacks and lining up at bus stops, a number of local youth remain at home, part of a national trend that in 2003 included 1.1 million homeschooled children and continues to grow, according to research by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Addressing the needs of this burgeoning group, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village will host the Annual Homeschool Event on Friday, September 19, 3-7 p.m. Designed as an opportunity for families to connect with each other and resources to enhance the homeschool experience, the event features presentations by educational experts, mini-classes offered by Village staff, a STARLAB demonstration and more.

Highlighted speakers include Dr. GwenEllyn Anderson, who will draw on her 30 years in the field of brain science to give a talk on "Brain Research and Its Implications for Young Learners." Renowned online instructor and curriculum writer Thelma English will lead a discussion on the "Homeschool Newbie". Joyce Padilla, a board member for the OCEANetwork that provides information and support for homeschool families, will present an overview with "Homeschooling: Past, Present and Future."

Throughout the day, local organizations and vendors will offer information and resources, and a free exchange table will be available for families to drop off gently used textbooks and educational resources. The museum will premiere its new "Homeschool

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

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Happenings” classes designed specifically for homeschool families, including a mini-class led by Evann Remington, President CEO of Organic Fresh Fingers. Participants will have the opportunity to pre-register for these classes at the event.

Events and workshops for homeschoolers have long been a tradition at the children’s museum, explained Education Director Sylvia Halsey. “A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village has the critical mass in both curriculum and pedagogy to create a learning environment that addresses the unique developmental needs of children,” explained Halsey. “The opportunity for a partnership with homeschool families... and to serve our communities children is rich.” The challenge, she explained, is keeping the event affordable for families. To assist with this, a limit of \$20 per family has been placed on admission.

Admission to the event is Homeschool Day is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers with parents and children under four admitted free of charge. Also during the event, participants are invited to explore the Village’s three historic houses filled with interactive exhibits as well as the 20,000-square-foot outdoor Discovery Center. The Village is located at the north end of Salem’s Riverfront Park at 116 Marion St NE. For more information about the event or participating in the geography fair, call 503-371-3631 or email info@acgilbert.org.

Schedule of Events:

3:30 – 4:15 p.m. Joyce Padilla, OCEANetwork Board Member

“Homeschooling: Past, Present and Future”

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5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Thelma English, Online Instructor & Curriculum Writer

“Homeschool Newbie”

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dr. GwenEllyn Anderson, Village Board Member

“Brain Research & Its Implications for Young Learners”

Vendors, Demonstrators, and Informational Booths (3-7 pm) include:

4-H Club of Marion County, ATA Ireland Tae Kwon Do Academy, Discovery Toys

OCEANetwork, Salem Classical Fencing and Usborne Books

Short Description:

Annual Homeschool Event

Friday, September 19, 3 – 7 p.m.

Connect with other local homeschoolers and learn how the Village can help you meet your educational goals. Events include mini-classes, demonstrations, vendors, “Parent as Teachers” workshops, resource discussions and pre-registration for workshops designed specifically with the homeschool family in mind. Immediately following, join us for a Star Party in Riverfront Park, just south of the children’s museum. \$5 members/\$8 nonmembers (children 4 and under free); max of \$20 per family. Parents of homeschool children, free. A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village, 116 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. Info: 503-371-3631 or www.acgilbert.org.

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