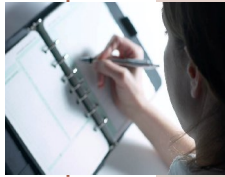


One Day Monthly

October 2009



Students need to learn abstract reasoning, time management, and to develop essential study skills to ensure success.

Volume 2, Issue 2

How Firm a Foundation

How firm is your foundation? The Word of God lays a strong foundation for our faith, and as Christians, we should rightly consider our spiritual undergirding. We must also consider the academic foundation we lay for our children; it is a practical application that should not defer us from our spiritual calling. As students, our children need to develop skills and disciplines vital for advanced achievement and a well-rounded life of service. The academic foundations our children build will serve them well as they will impact many areas of their lives.

There are many ways parents can create a solid academic foundation for their children in preparation for higher level education. Numerous styles of teaching will facilitate a fundamental education for students; these styles comprise a diverse, yet complete set of tools to assist parents in selecting how to educate the next generation for God. Most parents understand that core courses (English, math, science) are essential for education and that excelling in these areas will ensure their offspring's

opportunities to attend college as well as to win scholarships. Beyond the core classes lies an area that needs equal attention but is sometimes overlooked--Academic Development--that helps students build a firm scholastic foundation. Academic Development classes also teach students critical thinking skills and fundamental reasoning, which are vital in every subject they undertake. Students need to learn abstract reasoning, time management, and to develop essential study skills to ensure success. Parents rarely look upon these skills as separate, quantitative assignments; the skills seem to be a natural process inherent to schooling and thus are often overlooked or taken for granted.

Rather than teach foundational skills, most Christian and secular curriculums use a process of task-progressive training; teachers assign a set of tasks that teach progressively higher skills until the students attain mastery of a selected subject. However, not all children develop in the same way. Many children develop a capability naturally in

abstract thinking, while others require assistance to grow in conceptual reasoning. When people understand the recurring fear of the dreaded "math word problem," they see the natural failure some have in the task-progressive methodology. Although some children do develop broad-based academic skills through the task-progressive process, many students would benefit from direct, dedicated exercises in these vital areas of education. Every student's academic development could include Critical Thinking, Vocabulary, Study Skills, and Logic (informal or formal). A practical application of an Academic Development curriculum are vital annual assessment tests and college entrance exams: the SAT and the ACT.

Critical Thinking is a broad-based study and should be infused into your curriculum from the first to the eighth grades. Students need to develop several levels of thinking skills, including figural logic, verbal logic, logic through mathematics and informal fallacies. Critical Thinking is

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Homeschool Handyman	2
Comparing SAT and ACT	3
2009 College Fair	4

Coming in November:
Political/Community
Involvement
Upcoming Academic Fair

Editor: Susan Peisker
shpeisker@yahoo.com

Students Wanted for ODA Honor Society

The One Day Academy Honor Society, a chapter of the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society, is looking for new members.

"The purpose of the Honor Society is to recognize and encourage scholarship among homeschool students," said Mrs. Sherry Garia, who along with Mr. David Swarbrick, is an adult sponsor of the society. A student can apply for membership as early as the spring of their eighth grade year, but no

later than October 31 of their senior year.

To be admitted, students must have

- > A completed application form signed by a parent
- > A 3.5 GPA based on a 4.0 scale
- > A test score of 1800 on the SAT, a 180 on the PSAT, or a 90% on the Iowa, Stanford, California, or other nationally-normed standardized achievement test
- > Proof of at least five hours of

volunteer work in the past year.

Once accepted, students get together two to three times a year to elect officers, encourage each other, and discuss college plans. Also, being a member of the society can be put on a college application as an extracurricular activity "to demonstrate academic success."

Contact Mrs. Garia at sherryg@austin.rr.com for more information.

*-Kelly Rose Harold
Monthly Staff*

**Homeschool Handyman’s Corner:
Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills**
This month: HVAC Maintenance

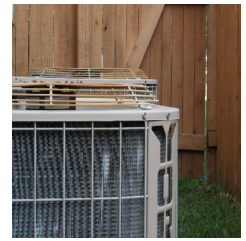
This month we will look at heating and air conditioning maintenance. Almost every home in central Texas has central air and gas heating. Begin working with your child by explaining the basics of your heating/air conditioning system. It may take some effort on your part to figure out exactly what kind of system you have, but the general principles are common. Heating and air conditioning systems are also normally tied together so it is proper to re-

fer to it as an HVAC system (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning).

Help your child locate and identify various HVAC components. Research the basic parts if you are uncertain. You should be able to recognize the compressor/condenser unit outdoors; the temperature control thermostat and air filter in the living area; and the blower compartment, evaporator coil and furnace in the attic or hall closet. Single-story homes

generally have one unit while two story or large homes have two or more, so don’t be surprised to find more than one of everything.

Three areas of routine maintenance should be discussed. The easiest and most frequent is a filter change. Explain that changing the filter often (every month or two) with a high-quality part will maximize air flow efficiency. This reduces energy usage (\$\$) and minimizes debris buildup around the evaporator coil



Begin working with your child by explaining the basics of your heating/air conditioning system.

“Set up a regular schedule for replacing the filter(s) and have your homeschooler help with this task.”

and in the furnace, which require professional cleaning (\$\$) when excessive. Set up a regular schedule for replacing the filter(s) and have your homeschooler help with this task.

An often overlooked maintenance item involves the A/C evaporator water drain. Explain how the cold evaporator attracts moisture from the air where it drips down into a drain pan and out to a drain line. This drain line can get clogged with organic gunk so that the water has nowhere to flow except into a secondary pan under the coil. When you see water in this backup pan and dripping from a pipe outside the house it means your

primary drain is blocked. Unclog it with a small plumber’s snake or air pressure. Keep the drain flowing clear by pouring bleach down the drain through vertical pipes installed for this purpose. Use caution while handling and pouring the bleach, and do this at least once a year, if not monthly.

The third maintenance item is to keep the A/C condenser clean. The big outdoor unit has a large fan on top that pulls a lot of air in through narrow fins to exchange heat removed from the expanding refrigerant at the evaporator. Grass and dirt tend to accumulate on these fins, which-- like a dirty air filter--restricts cooling air flow. A clean condenser is

more efficient and runs less often (\$\$). Cleaning simply involves spraying water through the coils, and should be done at least once a season. This is one task the kids may be eager to do, but supervise them and switch off power to the unit before spraying!

Photos and detailed information on these tasks can be found at my website, www.handyhomeowner.us Our next issue will discuss the exciting topic of toilets.

*-Jim Peisker
jpeisker@yahoo.com
Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 28 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.*

1,500+ titles!
80% under \$10
Order online 24/7

Home & Co-op Shows

Book Fairs

Business Opportunities

Love Learning with Usborne.com

Contact me today to get **FREE BOOKS** for your home library, co-op group, church, or organization

110% back in cash & books for your group fundraiser

50% Matching Grants with *Literacy for a Lifetime*

Michelle Nations - 512.569.1443
www.LoveLearningWithUsborne.com

AAA Texas

We're always with you!

Make an appointment with Bryan Johnson, AAA agent and homeschool dad, for a free review of your auto and homeowner’s insurance needs.

Bryan Johnson 512-336-6126
email: johnson.bryan@aaa-texas.com

Planning the High School Years, from page 1



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.
- William Butler Yeats

abstract thinking used in practical applications.

Vocabulary studies are vital! Developing a compelling vocabulary helps students become effective and meaningful communicators. Students that gain a passion for words will find just the right nuance of expression in a situation, more competently handle high level studies, and embrace the study of words, roots, suffixes, and meanings to see the interplay of languages and expression. Stu-

dents with well-developed vocabularies are empowered and persuasive in both verbal and written communication.

Study Skills are a set of proficiencies widely overlooked by homeschoolers. Families benefit from alternative education styles, but should remember to prepare their children for a competitive world. Meaningless measurements and propaganda are not the standard. Rather, Study Skills is a set of disciplines, tactics, and skills that will not only prepare students to be capable scholars academically, but also well-prepared in

practical life skills. Lessons include determining a student's learning style, learning time management, setting goals, prioritizing, taking notes, studying well, and testing efficiently as well as improving memory, and elevating reading speed. Students excel when they use effective tools for academic growth.

Logic teaches students "how to think." There are two classifications of the study of logic: formal and informal. Formal Logic is the wonderful study in the science and art of reasoning; it includes categorical and propositional logic.

Informal Logic emphasizes how logical fallacies are discerned, confronted, avoided, or debunked. Young people tend to revel in argumentation and debate; informal logic teaches them the reasoning behind logical arguments.

Assessment Test Preparation (Basic Standardized Tests: PSAT, SAT, ACT) is also a fundamental academic step for each student. These assessment tests are crucial for advancement to a post-secondary education (university level), but they may be more important in that they cement a student's academic skills in an application that quantifies student's achievements. Parents and students should not dread assessment tests; instead, they should look upon them as opportunities to enumerate students' vast accomplishments as well as the diversity of skills and talents into a single (or series) of nu-

merical equivalents for comparisons. Students must culminate and assimilate all their previous study and skills into the comprehensive goal of acquiring a substantial score or obtaining admission to college.

God has entrusted parents with the privilege and responsibility to oversee their progeny's maturation, as well as to work diligently to help them build a sure foundation. The solid framework of skills built through Academic Development facilitates students in becoming strong and capable scholars with firm academic foundations. Let's equip our children for college and life through giving them the tools they need to be a great success!

-Teaching for 18 years, Viv Lynn is Director of Standards of Excellence, and the One Day Academy Department Head for Academic Development

Comparing the SAT and the ACT		
	SAT	ACT
Preferred by?	Private schools; schools on the east and west coasts	Public schools; schools in the middle of the country; more colleges than prefer the SAT
Score Choice?	No	Yes
Highest Math Level	Algebra/Basic Geometry; test booklet supplies all formulas	Trigonometry (only 4 questions); test booklet rarely provides formulas
Skills Heavily Tested	Vocabulary and Reading; Math	Grammar and Reading; Math
Penalty For Wrong Answers?	Yes	No
Style of Test	Tricky, many distracters	Straightforward, fewer distracters
Structure of Test	<p>Critical Reading: three sections</p> <p>Math: three sections</p> <p>Writing: one essay and two other sections</p> <p>Experimental: one CR or Math section; looks like any other section</p>	<p>English: one section</p> <p>Math: one section</p> <p>Reading: one section</p> <p>Science Reasoning: one section</p> <p>Experimental: added to tests on certain dates; clearly added on</p>
Essay	25 minutes: topics are about life issues	30 minutes: topics are about high school issues
Scoring	200-800 per section, added together for a composite score; median about 1500	1-36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score; median about 21
When You Should Register	At least six weeks before the test date	At least four weeks before the test date
For More Information	Educational Testing Service (ETS) (609) 771-7600 www.ets.org The College Board www.collegeboard.com	ACT (319) 337-1000 www.act.org

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE
...purposing to serve others as unto the Lord... Col 3:23
WWW.TXSOE.COM

<p>Resources for the Home Schoolers</p> <p>SAT Prep (9-11th) ACT Prep (10-12th) PSAT (Summer 10-11th) Study Skills (7-12th) Critical Thinking (7-12th) Logic (9-12th) Vocabulary (MS & HS)</p>	<p>Additional information</p> <p>Schedules Locations Class Descriptions Online Registration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Viv Lynn 512-869-7371 vivlynn@txsoe.com</p>
--	--

One Day Academy

We offer a high quality, preparatory education, with degreed professional instructors, in a Christian setting, with the convenience of one day per week classes, for a fraction of the cost of private school. It can be done.



Find us on the Web:

<http://onedayacademy.com>

Announcements

- The **2010 Yearbook** is on sale. If you did not receive an orientation packet containing the form, you can pick one up at the campus sign-in desks, or contact Susan Peisker at shpeisker@yahoo.com for an order form. Please order by Dec. 1.

- Seniors! Sign up now for the **2010 One Day Academy graduation** to be held in late May. Contact Patti Ashley at p.ashley@onedayacademy.com for more information.

- Yearbook: **Senior ads and business ads** are available. Encourage your graduating student or support One Day Academy as you promote your business. Deadline is November 15. For more information: shpeisker@yahoo.com

- Two of our campuses now have **youth pastors** available for a few hours each week to spend time with the students: Dripping Springs and Georgetown. Please contact David Swarbrick at 736-8823 or the pastors at the campuses to learn more.

- **Math tutors** are now available:

Monday, SW Capstone: 11-2; Tuesday, Lakeline: 12-3

Wednesday, Georgetown: 10-12, Bastrop: 9:30-11:30

Thursday, RR Capstone: 11:30-1:30; Friday, South Austin: 10-12

2009 College Fair a Success

On Saturday, October 10, over 200 people gathered at the Hyde Park Quarries in Austin for the Central Texas Homeschool College Fair, which was sponsored by One Day Academy.

Over 40 colleges attended the fair, including such Texas state schools as the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University, while many private in-state schools also sent representatives. Additionally, more than 10 out-of-state schools came to the fair, along with two ROTC programs. Students and parents were able to meet personally with representatives from prospective colleges and bring home brochures and school memorabilia—as well as much information about everything from majors to housing to scholarships.

ODA Director David Swarbrick was pleased with the outcome: "It was a blast, and I was thrilled with it."

Some students were still not sure about where they would go to college, like Zoe James, who said, "I'm thinking I'd like to major in either fashion design or fashion merchandising, depending on which college I pick. I would actually like to go out of state if I can (somewhere southern, though!), but Texas is still fine with me."

Caitlin Maples is still researching colleges, too: "I'd like to major in photography but I also LOVE music, so I'll probably end up doing photography as well as something in music. I'm also looking for a college that's not too far away because I like being around Austin, my family, and my friends."

ODA College Advisor Lydie McVay, who worked to bring the college representatives to the fair said, "I believe the fair was a success because we had a great turnout of families and colleges. I also had the opportunity to review some of the evaluations turned in at the end of the

fair. One of the questions asked was, 'Is it true that the universities are excited about the home-educated students?'

"One of the representatives replied, 'Yes, we look for scholars, athletes, and leaders, and homeschooled students tend to display these qualities because their parents give them a lot of attention.' Another responded, 'Yes, homeschooled kids seem to be, on the whole, goal-focused and intelligent.'"

Special thanks to Mrs. McVay, ODA's Cinda Lewis, and other faculty who helped run the event, as well as to those who sponsored the event with ODA: The Word radio, Manasco Marketing Partners, and Michelle Nations of Usborne Books.

-Cassidy Woodall of the Monthly Staff and Emily Peisker of the One Day Academy Yearbook Staff contributed to this report.



Students and parents were able to meet personally with representatives from over 40 colleges at the Central Texas College Fair.
Photo by Emily Peisker