

# PENNSYLVANIA

A Statewide Network Sharing Information  
about HOMESCHOOLING in PA.

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# HOME SCHOOLERS

Newsletter 18

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Thanks to all of you who were able to support Jim O'Brien, a homeschooling father, in his bid for the State Senate. Unfortunately he did not win, and we all will need to work hard to find good support for our cause in the Senate.

Thanks also to all of you who were able to answer Mark Resetar's questionnaire that was included in the last issue. We will have his full report by the next issue of PA HOMESCHOOLERS. He remarked to Howard that it was very interesting to see the wide variety of reasons home educators have for wanting to teach their own children.

The October 3, 1986 issue of PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION, a publication from the Dept. of ED, is included to give parents information about the TELLS TEST, the statewide achievement test that 3rd, 5th, and 8th graders in the public schools must take. Some districts are requiring this test of homeschoolers also, although I don't think it is strictly legal that they do this, as your kids by rights are NOT enrolled students of the public schools. Now families can have the same info the teachers have about the specific goals of the test. This info could also be useful to other parents as a sort of minimum curriculum guide to reading and math.

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS COOPERATING WITH HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES IN PA.

(NOTE-- POLICIES VARY WIDELY, BUT THESE DISTRICTS HAVE DEALT WITH HOMESCHOOLING-- YOU WON'T BE A FIRST CASE IN THESE DISTRICTS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAYING APPROVAL WILL NECESSARILY BE EASY OR ASSURED.)

ABBINGTON	LAKEVIEW	
ALLENTOWN	LATROBE	
ALTOONA	MARPLE NEWTOWN	
APOLLO-RIDGE	MILLCREEK	TYRONE AREA
ARMSTRONG	MT. LEBANON	UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD
BANGOR	MT. PLEASANT	WEST CHESTER AREA
BEAVER	MT. UNION	WEST JEFFERSON HILLS
BETHEL PARK	MORTHAMPTON	WILLIAMSPORT
BLACKHAWK	NORTH HILLS	YOUGH
BUTLER	NORTH PENN	
CHESTER UPLAND	NORTH WESTERN	
CENTRAL BUCKS	PARKLAND	
COMMODORE PERRY	PEN ARGYL AREA	
CONNEAUT LAKE	PENN HILLS	
CRAWFORD CENTRAL	PETERS TOWNSHIP	
CRESSON	PINE-RICHLAND	
DOWNINGTOWN AREA	PITTSBURGH	
EASTON	QUAKER VALLEY	
EAST PENN	REDBANK VALLEY	
FAIRVIEW	RINGGOLD	
FLEETWOOD	SHALER	
FOX CHAPEL	SOUTH WEST BUTLER	
FRANKLIN REGIONAL	SOUTHERN TIOGA	
GIRARD	SLIPPERY ROCK	
HIGHLANDS	TAMAQUA	
JEFFERSON-MORGAN	TREDYFFRIN-EASTTOWN	
HOPEWELL	TRINITY	
KANE	TROY	
KISKI		

You'll notice in this issue that we've decided not to run the directory of families in each issue, due to space limitations. We will run the full directory each August issue, and anyone who wants a directory update at any time during the year can have one for 50 cents and an SASE. Instead, we hope that the expanded list of support networks of homeschoolers across the state will be of even more help-- call these local folks and they will be able to help you get in touch with MANY others nearby, as well as any gatherings or activities.

Another plus about the listing of support networks occurred to me just the other day, while I was meeting with our new superintendent. As we talked he finally said what I'd suspected must be festering there under the surface-- "Well, I don't doubt that IF parents have the time to do this sort of thing WELL (and I can't see how many COULD find this sort of time) that home education programs could be a fine ACADEMIC education". I took his emphasis to mean he was worried about the SOCIAL aspect of this "aberant" way of raising children. He said, grateful that WE brought it up, that YES that was what he was most concerned about-- the SOCIAL LIFE. So we shared with him some of the many ways homeschooling families I knew were finding to meet their children's social needs. I had a copy of PA HOMESCHOOLERS with me, and opened to last issue's CALENDAR page listing the wide variety of fairs, seminars and gatherings all across the state that homeschoolers could attend. He really looked it over carefully-- and he was IMPRESSED. He then made a surprising comment-- "Well, if you all have formed this sort of structure that children can take part in, then you have actually, in a sense, created your own PRIVATE SCHOOL". Now this is not how I look at these gatherings, but the important thing to me was that this man (who was certainly not keen on the whole idea of homeschooling), was so impressed with this amount of networking as to give it the supreme COMPLIMENT of saying we were our own larger school-- and therefore OK. So we are partly sharing this information on support groups and activities for the OUTSIDE world's edification, to show them that we indeed are not locking our kids in closets, but rather have MANY ways to go out into the world, often with our fellow homeschoolers.

As always, thanks SO much to all of you who have shared your experiences with others in this issue-- you are truly what makes the newsletter happen. Next issue's deadline is mid-February. Looking forward to hearing from YOU!

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE ABOUT COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS-- THERE ARE 501 DISTRICTS IN PA, SO WE CLEARLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THEM. ALSO DO SEND ON COPIES OF YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S HOME TEACHING POLICY. THANKS!

PA. HOMESCHOOLERS'  
MASTHEAD lettered  
by Jesse Richman, age 9