

Holistic Home Education

Learning with the heart & hands

By Leah Jade
© Leah Jade 2024

I share this whole Year's worth of Home Education Journaling to highlight the possibilities for education beyond the classroom.

My purpose in sharing the Home Education option as an alternative for a growing number of families is for many reasons. For one, education must be holistic, in order for it to “stick”. Otherwise it seems as though so much just washed over the duck’s back so to speak.

What I feel can often be lacking in school environments in general, is an atmosphere that inspires learning in a natural and non-coercive way. While I’m not one to say children don’t need a nudge here and there...

I feel that engaging a child’s mind happens far more easily when the relationship with their “teacher” is strong, when the teacher is inspired, and understands how the knowledge will directly benefit the learner.

This body of writing was originally written as a simple (year’s worth of) Home Education Journal - shared with the intention of serving as a window into what a year of Home Education can look like.

This was the first year of Home Educating our youngest daughter and the fifth year of Home Educating our eldest. So, it is a mere example of how one family has journeyed through teaching our own.

This was never intended to become a book, though in retrospect, it makes sense to compile it into one, for the many countless families looking at Home Education as an option for their future.

So with encouragement, I would like to take this opportunity to say that if this is something you feel called to explore, then consider it a seed planted that has the power to bear fruit.

I only hope to share what has helped our own family navigate the challenges of this way of living. While there are just as many, one may say, as the alternative, these are the ones that we prefer to take on, for the many fruits born of facing them.

JANUARY



First month of 2024 Wrapped Up

It's already February. How has the first month of homeschooling gone?

Here's what we got up to.

We did The Good & the Beautiful Language Arts and Math lessons most days in the morning after breakfast.

Days often began with poetry and songs, sometimes Auslan practice included, before the lessons.

Morning studies went mostly in the regular 2 hour blocks. This often includes a life skill such as cooking (math measurements) and reading recipes. Other days it would be a History chapter from the Story of the World.

In our gap, the girls would play in the yard or their room (as they are now). Other days we'd be riding bikes, visiting the park, skipping or going for walks.

We did daily reader reading for Miss 5 who is now becoming quite fluid in her first level readers.

We've been using:

~ Victorian Readers

~ The McGuffey Readers set

~ Ladybird Peter & Jane set (level 3)

~ Usbourne First Readers

~ Little Bear First Readers

Children don't need to be rewarded with prizes for learning. Let your children discover that learning IS the reward.

Ann Hansen
@innerparentcoaching

Miss 9 devoured the following:

~ the Twins at St Clare's book set,

~ The Penderwicks,

~ The Big Flood (a TGTB) 4th Reader, and is onto

~ Whole Sir Cumference math book set

~ the second Martha years book in our never ending Little House collection.

We also read aloud:

~ an Usbourne Little Women,

~ Peter Pan

~ a Heidi book

~ Paul Jennings Rascal set

~ The Princess & the Goblin (audiobook on YouTube)

~ The Findouters audiobooks (on YouTube at bathtime)

So it's fair to say... true to form... we read a lot!

In the mid afternoons we like to get another study lesson session in so it's not too much at once. Usually it's a Language or Math session with reading, unless it's a Science chapter or Art tutorial.

Other than that, it's catch ups every week with friends in the forest or somewhere fun.

We also recently began Guitar lessons for miss 9! So that, along with Swim club and now monthly Art lessons... will keep us all quite occupied I imagine!

Stay tuned for how things develop as we go. For now... we're quite happy with the ways it going;) Hope that sneak peak offers a little insight into what a home education can look like.

Thanks for reading!



Shading session for Miss 9's journal

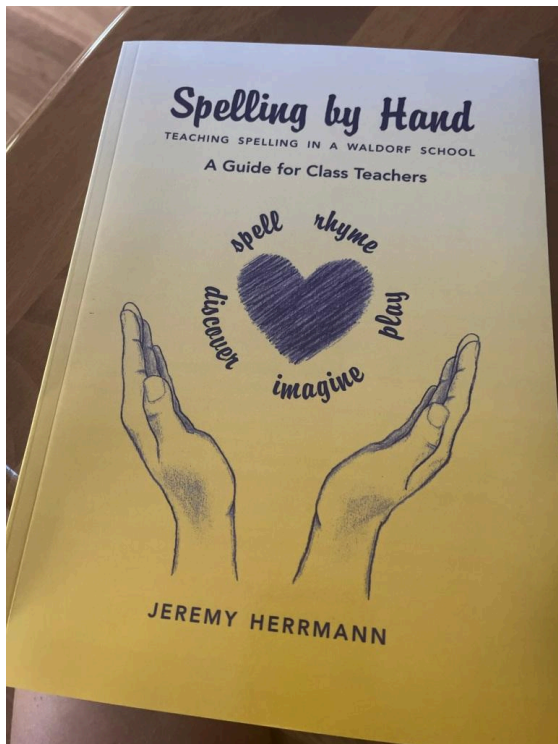




New book set Sir Cumference



Backyard Raspberry Harvesting



New book for Mama (Steiner based)



FEBRUARY



Excursions ~ Reads ~ Games ~ Resources

This last month we hit the ground running with the girls beginning.

- Ballet lessons,
- Ongoing Swimming Club
- & Miss 9's Guitar lessons

It's the most we've ever done at once to be honest. But it's starting to feel like a flow between our ongoing commitment to balance and breath between the Yang aspects of life.

Prefer to listen instead? Here's this month's Wrap up over on the Podcast!

Fulfilling Family Values

The value we place on the slow life and minimalism has truly helped us adjust to these changes by not burning out. But I see now how easy that can happen!

It just so happened that the weekly community house Painting session was fully booked the day we thought we'd first try it out... so we took it as a sign we should do our own thing at home.

We certainly weren't bothered by it, as we were happy to do our own Journal Watercolour piece of Thistle, which was a beautiful time spend workshopping together!

Scrapbook Journal Art



Watercolour Session ~ Thistle



White Clover Nature Journal by Miss 9

History ~ A Natural Interest



Learning all about Ned Kelly at the Avenel Maze

Aside from an opportunistic visit to a regional historical society museum and impromptu Historically educational (Ned Kelly informational tour) Maze visit, most of our weeks have been spent in play, study (including reading) and family time.



Walking our way through the Labyrinth

Scienceworks

While in the city on business, we were able to head to Scienceworks for a visit which was a lot of fun (and learning) for us all. While there, we bought a couple of great Usbourne books we were keen to read.

On our way home and on our walk the next day we listened to a couple of Natural Science podcasts as well.

The following week we attended our first fortnightly STEM Science Club at our local library, where the girls dipped their toes into the world of Coding for the first time.

In a couple of mornings, we finished reading *The History of Science*, which was a fascinating blend of the 2 key learning areas, weaving areas of interest together.

A snippet of our Scienceworks adventure.

Modelling & Exemplification

With the awareness that we learn best by example, that we teach most through Exemplification... I thought I'd share what I myself have been up to.

I'm currently undertaking Advanced Yoga Teacher Training after recently completing further a Yoga Certification in Yin Yoga.

I also have a few books on the go, that the children see I'm reading with great interest, mostly on Human Behaviour & Spirituality / Self Development.

I can see the influence this energy has, where the children are frequently keen to work on new projects themselves, writing new stories, plays, making puzzles and games or self teaching the keyboard or with eager (Classical & Blues) guitar practice.



Practicing Blues Guitar with Dad

This months reading resources:

- This month, Miss 9 completed an 8 chapter book series (Fancy Nancy). This was over a duration of time between many other reads, since we first sourced them a couple of years ago.

- She finished reading the first in The Enid Blyton Adventure series and is now up to Number 5 of The Famous Five set.
- Miss 9 Read The Cabbage Patch Fib (Paul Jennings)
- We also finished reading Beyond The Heather Hills of our 23 Little House series period book collection!
- Miss 5 moved on from the Ladybird Level 3 of the Key Words with Peter and Jane set.
- Several Usbourne Phonics readers: shared reading among the girls (Miss 9 helping Miss 5)
- I read aloud the 2nd book (about the medicinal properties of Violet) of the ~ Herb Fairies ~ set (for the second time) to both the girls. They clearly enjoy these a great deal, weaving elements of the stories into their play afterwards.
- Read aloud – My Nut I Think, Enid Blyton (multiple times)
- Library book: A House in the Woods, Meet Nellie Melba & Exploring the World of Computers – Hardware

Currently the children are reading:

- Level 4 of the Ladybird Readers set (Miss 5).
- The Secret Garden (together with 2 copies, with Miss 9), while Miss 5 listens in.
- We've also jointly been reading the Life of Fred Math story books with both the girls, getting through a couple of chapters each. I love these & they get a good laugh from us all!
- History Curriculum ~ We are now at the Indigenous Australian Chapter 11 of the Story of the World Series. We've been learning a lot! And loving it!
- Library books.

Bedtime Reading:

Our February bedtime books with Miss 5 have included:

- Little Bear and Friends – First Readers (shared reading)
- Meet Ella – New Teacher title (shared reading)
- Miss 9 usually reads a Famous Five or another Enid Blyton at bedtime between the Little House collection.

Games we've been playing this month:

- Chess with Dad

- Checkers with Poppy
- Wildcraft with Mama
- Twister at a friends
- Who is it?
- Monkey Bingo

My own reading:

Formation of Character by Charlotte Mason

&

The Four Agreements Audiobook (YouTube Free)

(When? Bath or Walking time)

Curriculum Incorporated

We are continuing to use The Good and The Beautiful Math, Language Arts and Science, as both children enjoy and gain value from these. We also use Lisa Mills Online Course for our Auslan (L.O.T.E) lessons – though the girls have only sat through 1 this month, reinforced by practice with me.

As you can see, Curriculum is simply woven into everything else we do and have always done. It is certainly not something we depend on for our overall education.

With Auslan, much of our learning comes from the other resources we use, including the Dictionary, YouTube and App.

Documentaries & Movies watched

- The Famous Five
- The True Story of Ned Kelly
- Shirley Temple

PE / Fitness / Health

Below is a few ways we've incorporated Health & Fitness into our life.

- Skipping
- Tennis
- Scooter

- Cycling
- Park play
- Tree climbing
- Bush walking

MARCH



Sound of Music

What's New This Month?

We have had a few “excursion” outings to The Big Smoke, had interstate AND international visitors, and tried all sorts of new foods at various restaurants.



Sanctuary Snaps

The outings have included an impromptu visit to Red Kelly's (Ned Kelly's father) grave, while we were listening to Ned Kelly's autobiographical audiobook (The Jerilderie Letter) in the car on our way home from trading our old car in for the 4x4.



Finally a 4x4!

We visited the Healesville Sanctuary with friends and while there our littlest was sneezed on by an Echidna at the Animal Hospital after its surgery! We also got to touch some of its toothpick-like spikes that we discovered "shed" at certain times.

Our new foods included sashimi, tuna steak, jumbo crayfish and abalone sea snails... all of which were beautiful, to our complete surprise! After that... we had an impromptu visit to The Melbourne Museum where Dinosaurs were on exhibit. We also explored the Etymological display and the First Peoples area while there.



Wild Caught Seafood BBQ

Finally we also went to The Sound of Music – Musical! This was the highlight! It's a much loved story and movie in our family and we quietly sang along and enjoyed it thoroughly! Aside from this...

Music:

Musically, our girls have been enjoying their keyboard playing at home and Miss 9 is now practicing Song Of Joy Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Fur Elise, while Miss 5 is working on Happy Birthday (both of their own accord).

Seasonal Stories...

To welcome Autumn... we've been learning a new poem called The Mountain Ash Fairy. Miss 9 already knows it by heart. We also read:

A Year on Our Farm and The Autumn Story of Brambly Hedge

The girls also started reading their new Sylvanian book which they have been enjoying together. Miss 9 did her usual drawing and painting quite regularly and read the Hans Christian Anderson – The Little Mermaid to Miss 5 and...



For our read alouds and bedtime stories, we've been reading:

- The Children's Book of Virtues,
- The Elves and The Shoemaker
- Brambly Hedge Autumn Story
- The Secret Garden
- The Story of Easter
- Sneetches by Dr Seuss
- The Beggars Greatest Wish
- Summer Flower Fairies
- Autumn Flower Fairies
- Being Brave (Reader)
- Claudine at St Clairs
- Famous Five – Five off to Camp
- Secret Secret 1st in series

- James and the Giant Peach
- Mary Poppins Returns
- The Story of Jesus (Mary Batchelor)
- Finished: On Top of Concord Hill
- Read: Meet Letty – 1841 from Our Australian Girl series
- The Middle Ages (book 2)
- Continued: Story of The World – Medieval Times
- Referred to: Kingfisher & Usborne World History reference books
- Readers (shared reading page for page): The Little Mermaid (first readers)
- Three Little Pigs &
- The Billy Goat Gruffs
- Continued with: Victorian & McGuffey's First Readers

Curriculums:

- Math, Language Arts & Science lessons (The Good and The Beautiful)

Technology based resources used:

- Audiobook: Dingoes at Dinnertime (The Magic Treehouse series)
- Audiobook: Tonight on the Titanic (The Magic Treehouse series)
- Audiobook: Sarah Plain and Tall (Youtube)
- Documentary: The life of Laura Ingalls wilder (Youtube)
- Bramble Hedge Books – Autumn & The High Hills (Free on YouTube)
- Movies/ Shows: The Little Mermaid, Brambly Hedge (Autumn) & Little House on the Prairie (Youtube)
- Zoom ~ Guitar Lessons for Miss 9
- Keyboard for self taught Music lessons

Games:

Hide & Seek, Naughts & Crosses, I spy (car rides), Snap & Yoga classes

For Health Science / Physical Education we used:

Herb Fairies Curriculum, Yoga lessons with Mum, Walking, Ballet, Backyard cartwheels, Trampoline , Skipping, Swimming (Club Awards Presentation) and visits to the Park.

Exemplification:

For my own reading, I've been studying my additional 300 hour Yoga Teacher Training after recently completing a Yin Yoga Teacher Training, so ...

Much of my reading has been Yoga focused. This has included completing the titles:

Yamas and Nyamas

The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali

Light on Yoga

APRIL

This month was beautiful! In our southern land down under, April is a closing of Summer... a slowing down time. It's name means "open" in its Latin roots, but to us... it's the opposite here.

We've needed it after such an active Summer! So... this is what our month looked like in my notes overview looking back.

WEEK 1

The Twins at St Clair's, Ladybird Readers set, Kangaroo (Animal poetry story)

Curriculum: Usual TGTB & SOTW

Audio: All about the Lung Channel -Points Functions & Indications (helpful for treating colds, especially in Autumn), The Famous Five book 7

Excursions:

Junior Rangers at the local National Park – Mini beasts Science exploring of Wetlands Eco Health.

Watched

Mrs Doubtfire, Peter Rabbit, Sound Of Music Documentary & Mary Poppins 3.

Personal Reading

Hatha Yoga Pradipika

Week 2

Mama unwell with a cold ...

Movies

Watched: (much more than usual screen time with me being unwell for several weeks)

Back to the future

Charlie and the chocolate factory – lesson (character and honesty win the game of life/get rewarded)

5 little peppers

Chitty chitty bang bang

Titanic – fast forwarded 2 sections

Books / Reading:

Read: SOTW Volume 2 – Medieval times (Vikings in North America)

Page for page readers with Miss 5

Peter & Jane Lady bird

Bedtime: Little bear

Time for rhymes

Puffing Billy

Brer Rabbit audio

Showed Geography book cover to miss 5, asking which river it was pictured. She identified it as the Nile correctly!

Music



Music Play with family

Keyboard & Guitar Practice:

My heart will go on

Somewhere over the rainbow

Alleluia

What a wonderful world

Reading music practice

Guitar practice & lesson

TGTB Lesson on Scotland Lochs was a hit.

Personal Reading: Light on Life by B K S Iyengar

Week 3



Bird nest spotting by the river

Family visits – fort building and nest spotting by the river with cousins.

Movie: Peter Rabbit

Read: Books in Peter Rabbit collection. Retold funny parts of movie with great animation

Wrote to pen pal (friend).

Reading Enid Blyton Secret Seven collection

Started new book of Little House Collection (a 3 year reading journey)

Regular Poetry recital & Auslan song practice

Games: Chess & Monopoly

Art: Bird drawing

Excursions:

Visited nearby Pump Track

Book shop browse – Snapped up some goodies

Botanical gardens visit.

First time kicking footy at local footy game



Fitness / Health PE

Rail trail bike rides, park plays, trampoline & walks

Music

Keyboard / piano lessons

Watched: Christmas Orange (beautiful movie on the blessing of kindness and sharing)

Piano learning app lessons.

Home Economics

First braid – Miss 9 for miss 5.

Mending stockings & Chores

Week 4

Usual Curriculum: TGTB Math, Language Arts & Science

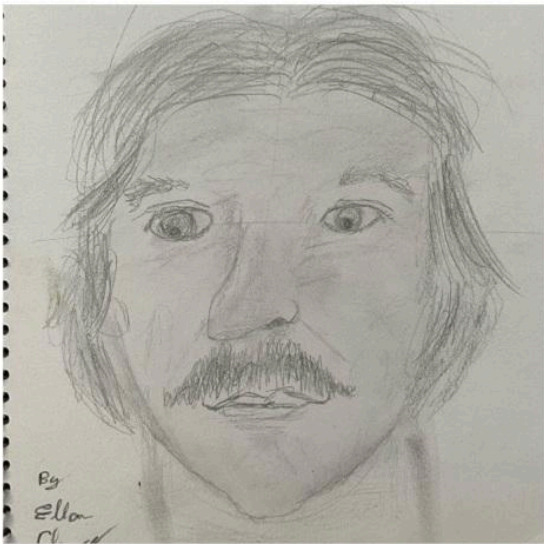
Teach me Homeopathy (Science)

SOTW History

Arts

Art:◦ Simply Piano & weekly Guitar Zoom Lessons (Music)

- Drawing: Sketching & Shading birds people & objects
- Puppet making for a play (Mary Poppins characters)



Drawing & Paintings by Miss 9



Birds by Miss 9

Reading

5 y/o Page for page shared Reader read aloud (daily)

9 y/o Reading: Daily Enid Blyton, The Babysitters Club & Little House collection (Historical focus / Natural interest)

LOTE

Auslan practice

Home Economics

- Bread making
- Garden to plate (harvested pumpkin & celery in soups)
- Helping with chores: mop, dust, compost, tidy, laundry
- Apple & Pear crumble making



Above: Showing Poppy Bird Drawings

Physical Ed / Health / Fitness



Skating with friends

Wetlands nature walk

Rail trail walk

Bike riding

Park visit

Scooting

Swimming lesson

Games

Chess & Park visit with friends

Poetry Tea Party (poetry recital)

The Mountain Ash Fairy & The Song of the White Clover Fairy, by Cecil Mary Barker

Personal Mama Reading

- Light on Life by B K S Iyengar
- Utopia by Thomas Moor
- The Smartest Kids in the World

Healthy Home Healthy Family

Excursions

Local Heritage Festival – Pioneer Homestead (plus dairy, stables and barn) tour, sheering, rope making.













MAY

This month's calendar was packed! The highlights were certainly the events and exhibitions by a mile!

While I share less these days... I felt pulled to share such an inspiring experience with some of our day at the Da Vinci exhibition!

With a new puppy in the family... I'll be leaving this month's wrap up here to catch up on rest. So... until next time... I'll leave you here with our list of reading, listening, activities and viewing for the month.

Quick key focus / thought from the month...

Worry less. Thank & listen more. Keep it simple. Have discipline and thank yourself later!

Read:

- Lily the Pixie
- Little Bear
- Winnie the Pooh – read aloud
- Across the rolling river (little house prequel book)
- Level 6 & 7 Peter and Jane
- Shakespeare – Romeo and Juliet Usbourne
- Browsed Vincent Van Goh &
- Leonardo Da Vinci by Elle Linda Buchholz
- Who Was Einstein (Who Was HQ)
- Began: Little Bush Maid – set in Northern Victoria in the 1800s.

- TGTB Level 2, Historical read aloud story on G.W Carver
- Stories of the Saints (Joan of Arc chapter)
- Caddie Woodlawn
- The Wizard of Oz (second time

Library borrows:

1. Bob Ross Art – Practical
2. My Australian Girl series
3. Range of history books including:
4. Titanic, Dairy of a Time Traveller &
5. What Happened When in the World – History as you've never seen it before (A DK book) A wonderful book!

Music:

Weekly guitar zoom lessons (Miss 9)

Piano : New songs – Swan Lake & Edelweiss & continued practice of learned songs.

Miss 5 – Not taken with Piano app. Tried and enjoyed 2 sessions of Music Master Class on YouTube & finally began zoom lessons.

Audiobooks:

1. Vikings studies 5 audiobooks
2. Mr Galliano's Circus (Blyton)
3. Cherry Tree Farm (Blyton)

Documentaries:

1. 5 Ways Theodore Roosevelt Changed America

2. History of FDA

3. Pure Food and Drug Act

4. The Great Depression

5. Who was William the Conqueror

Movies:

1. Requested after reading about history's funniest movie makers "The Marx Brothers" from 1905, featuring manufactured food safety themes from the PFD Act of 1904. Fascinating correlation!

2. I.Q (Based on Einsteins life (Comedy)

3. The Wizard of Oz

4. A girl of the Lumberlost (set in 1908 Indiana)

Home Economics:

- Making scones & pancakes
- Fluffy hotcakes (new recipe)
- Tiramisu making
- Made beanie and bag for Doll
- Chores: laundry, floors, dishes, compost
- Beanie making

Play:

- Lego (building titanic)
- Dominos
- Who Is It

- Imaginative play with gnomes
- Monopoly
- Foxed (board game)

Physical Education:

- Bike rides,
- Ballet Dance
- Swim lesson
- Walks
- Tree climbing
- Park play

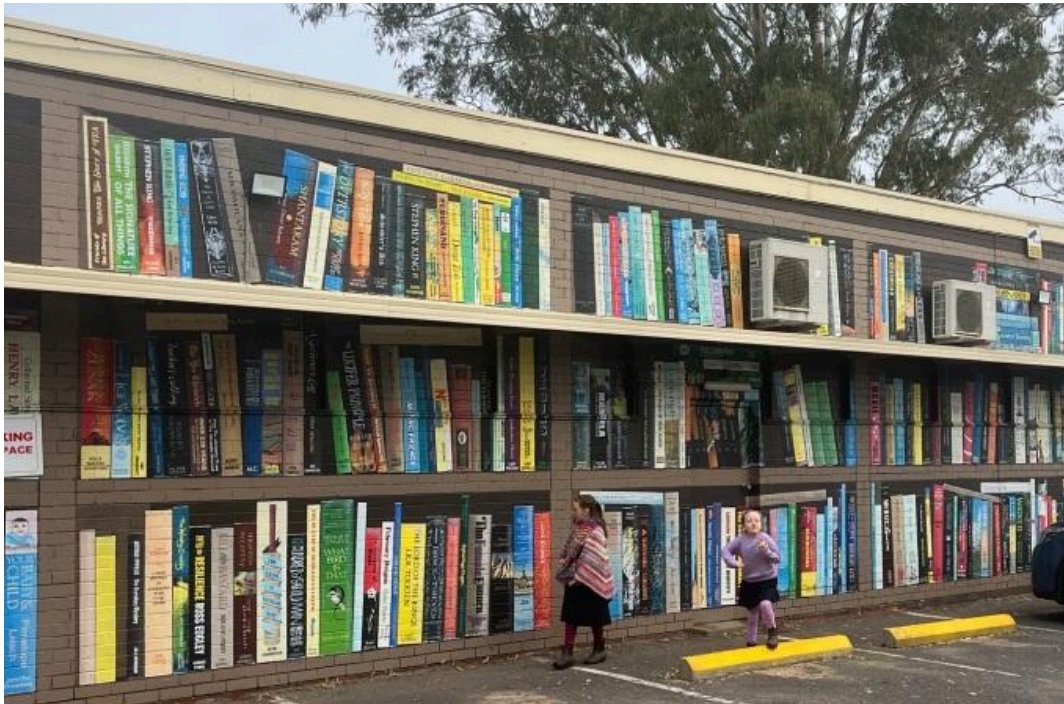
Art / Excursions

1. Paint by numbers at community house (2 sessions)
2. Da Vinci Exhibition
3. Scott sisters Botanical Art Exhibition
4. African Drumming Workshop
5. Anne Frank Exhibition
6. STEAM Club at the library
7. Lego club at the Library
8. Pentecost at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Additional:

- I: Copywork from Peter & Jane (in self directed play/ game)

- E: Journal entries & Sketch of Einstein & Mona Lisa















- TGTB,
- SOTW &
- Health & Homeopathy Curriculum (Language & Math 4-5 days weekly & History & Science weekly)
- Narration for SOTF Chapter 15 (Medieval Times) ~ Microphone use, applying grammar with Thesaurus use.

My (own) reading:

1. Partly read: St Hildegard of Bingen
2. Began: The well watered woman
3. Continued to read: Homeschool Bravely by Jamie Erickson
4. Listened to: Finding Hildegard
5. Finishing: Smartest Kids in the world
6. Completed: Utopia
7. Watched: History of the British Monarch

8. Listened: The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself

9. Read: Dumbing us Down by John Taylor Gatto, The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling (2nd time).

10. Read: Geeksforgeeks.org (Einstein article)
<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/what-did-albert-einstein-invent/>

11. Researched: Marquee of Montrose History (ancestral relevance)

12. Read: The Benedictine Way of Life : <http://www.stellamaris.NSW.edu.au>

13. Started: Wear your warrior

Watched:

Who was St Benedict

Researched:

Understanding Classical Education CiRCE Institute

Why are there differences between the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Bibles, and what are these differences?

Want to read: Mystical Christianity

Shakespeare hamlet

JUNE



















In the next couple of days, our youngest has her 6th birthday! As we are off to a Ballet performance in the city tomorrow and have the family over to help celebrate, I wanted to share the monthly wrap up early to make sure I squeeze it in.

Time has been going fast... filled with reading, art, walking, puppy training, music practice and home life. For us, the main thing has been about balance... to maintain good health and functionality.

The Puppy has kept us on our toes, helping us get outside even when it's not that nice. He has been such great company with so many cuddles!

We've spent time with family, gone to local sports events and had friends visiting... so as usual, we've been quite occupied this month, in addition to life chores, admin and general upkeep.

One thing I've been appreciating is my Homeschooling diary from Inspire My Homeschool! It's been a great tool to jog down any ideas and notes at random lately!

Aside from this... we have been in the garden a little as the seasons call for it; alongside our renovation which has been a big part of our weeks these last few months!

One thing we've been really happy with is our decision to trade our van in for a home! We have kept this event pretty quiet as we are excited to see it all completed in the coming months!

It was a no brainer for us... as we've spent so much time travelling over the years that we felt it time to lay down roots and knuckle down on a productive food garden.

We are intentionally laying low and soaking up our family time between the work involved in maintaining our business and restoring a period home.

So... here's what our home education this month has looked like below.

Until July... happy winter friends!

Reading:

Little city by the lake

Peter & Jane 7 books a, b & c

Spot book

Fitzroy readers

Curriculum readers

Science stories

Story of the world volume 2: Medieval Times

The Merry Adventure of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

Meet Ella – The Three Little Pigs

A Little House of Their Own

Assortment of Library books (mostly art of history based)

Audiobooks:

Famous Kings of the Medieval World

Mr Galliano's Circus

Who did what

1st Book Club session via zoom on The Wizard of Oz (Scholastic Edition)

Who was Joan of Arc?

Home economics:

- Vegetable gardening (seedlings, weeding, mulching, watering, harvesting & pruning herbs)
- New Puppy (lots of care, training and responsibility)
- Home chores (fold laundry, floors, dishes)
- Cooking / food prep- Soups, snacks & breakfasts

Art:

Drawing (Castle for Medieval journal)

Music practice: Keyboard, Learning songs & Classical Guitar

New second-hand Music books (practice keyboard songs reading music).

LOTE

Auslan lesson online

Auslan song practice

French book

Latin book

Outings:

Bush walking

Park visits

Footy ground bike laps

Rail trail rides

Library visits

Curriculum:

The Good & the Beautiful

Math, Language Arts, Science

Finished: Miss 5 completed prep Language Arts book

Games:

Monopoly

Foxed

Lego

Movies:

Fairytale a True Story

Princess of Thieves

Heidi

Finally, for my own reading:

I've had a few great books on the go; including:

The Underground History of American Education

Dumbing Us Down

Homeschool Bravely

Hildegard of Bingen

The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila

The Imitation of Christ

Mystical Christianity

JULY



So as our eldest daughter turned 10, we had a big month! We celebrated (just), as we weren't feeling the best, having been taking turns having colds in the family. But, we managed cake and a special celebration all the same. We went to a live performance of Beauty and The Beast, which was a special time together, surprising her (with a few clues along the way, Thanks Matt!).

This month, Miss 6 has taken off with her independent reading enthusiasm! It's been like watching a budding flower bloom! Lessons continued daily through the week with lots of walking with the Puppy and the usual once or twice weekly homeschooling gathers.



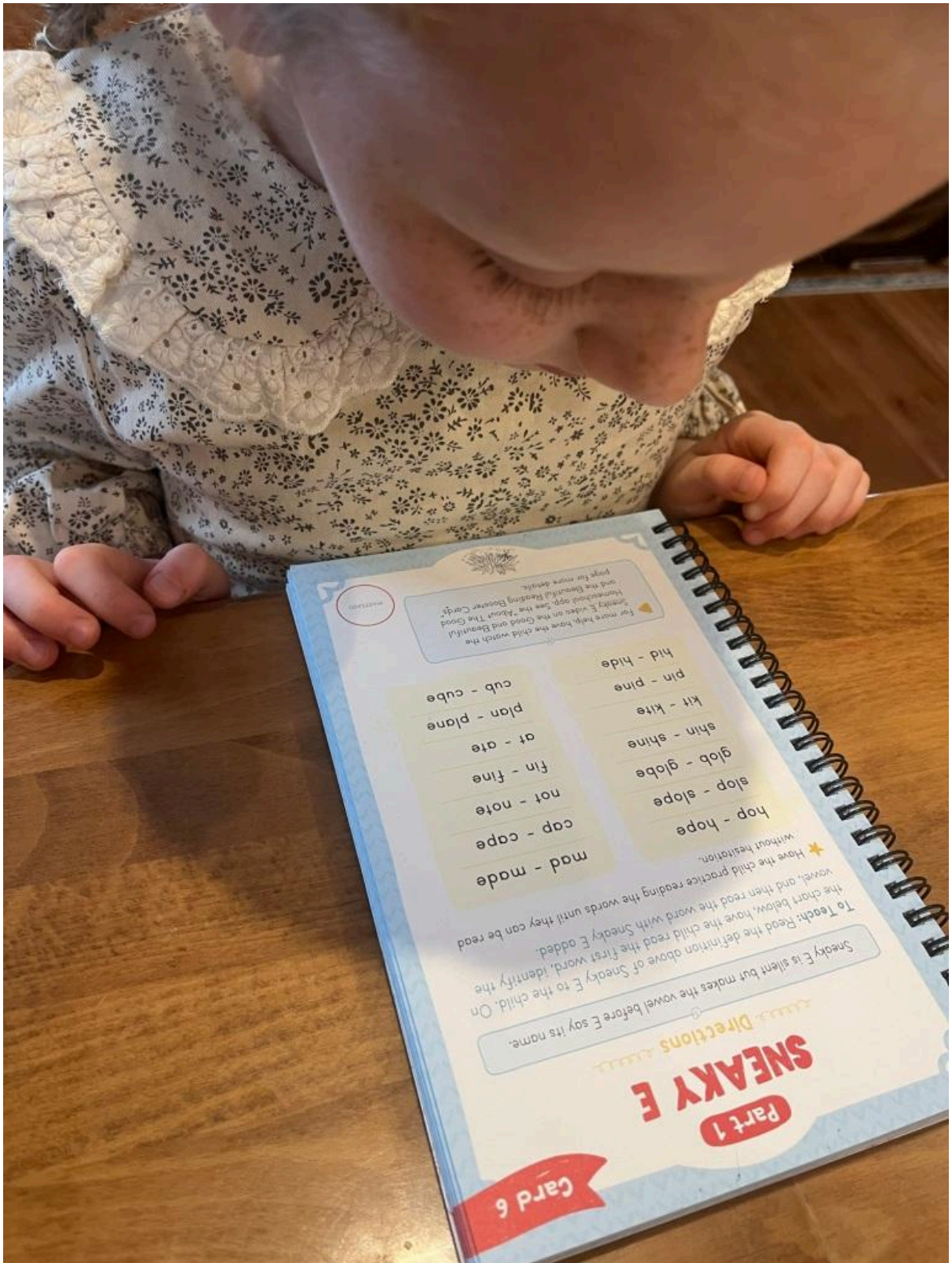




Other than that, the girls have spent a great deal of time inside and out in their usual play together or art creating. For reading and everything else... I've kept a somewhat consistent note log to share. As I have been continuing on my own personal educational journey that never ends... I've slowed right down on the Podcast front... but I'm sure when the inspiration arises... you'll be hearing my voice again soon.

For now, I hope you enjoy this little window into our Home education life. Thank you for reading:)





Card 6

SNEAKY E

Part 1

Directions

Sneaky E is silent but makes the vowel before E say its name. To Teach: Read the definition above of Sneaky E to the child. On the chart below, have the child read the first word, identify the vowel, and then read the word with Sneaky E added.

★ Have the child practice reading the words until they can be read without hesitation.

hop - hope
slop - slope
glob - globe
shin - shine
kit - kite
pin - pine
hid - hide

mad - made
cap - cape
not - note
fin - fine
ot - ate
plan - plane
cub - cube

For more help, have the child watch the Sneaky E video on the Good and Beautiful Membership app. See the "About The Good and Beautiful Reading Program Cards" page for more details.





INSPIRED BY ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

Anne ARRIVES



ADAPTED BY
KALLIE GEORGE

PICTURES BY
ABIGAIL HALPIN

From the world of *ella* AND *Olivia*

Meet *ella*



Tooth
Trouble

REBECCA MCRITCHIE



DANIELLE McDONALD

LADYBIRD  TALES

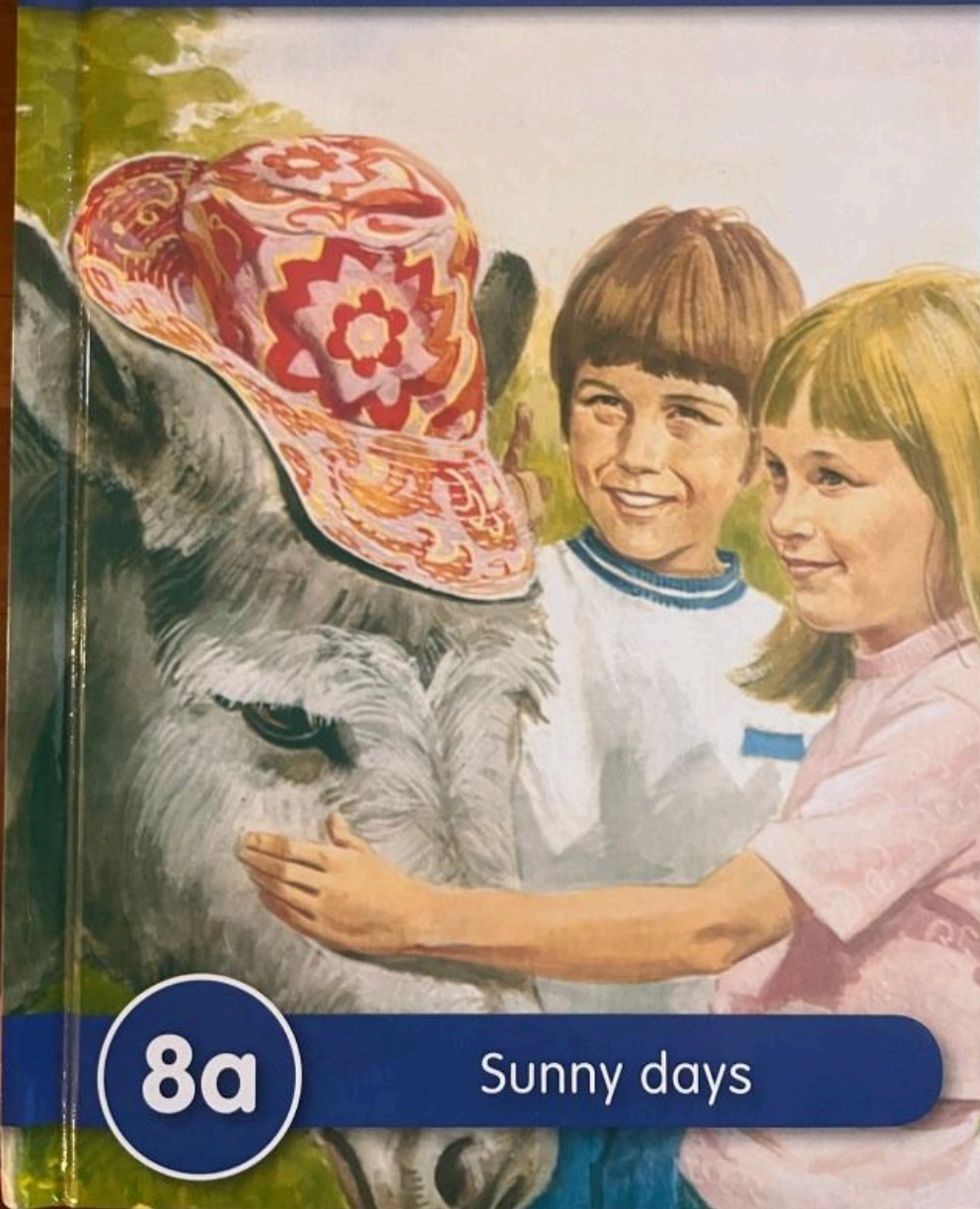


The Little
Red Hen



Key Words

with Peter and Jane

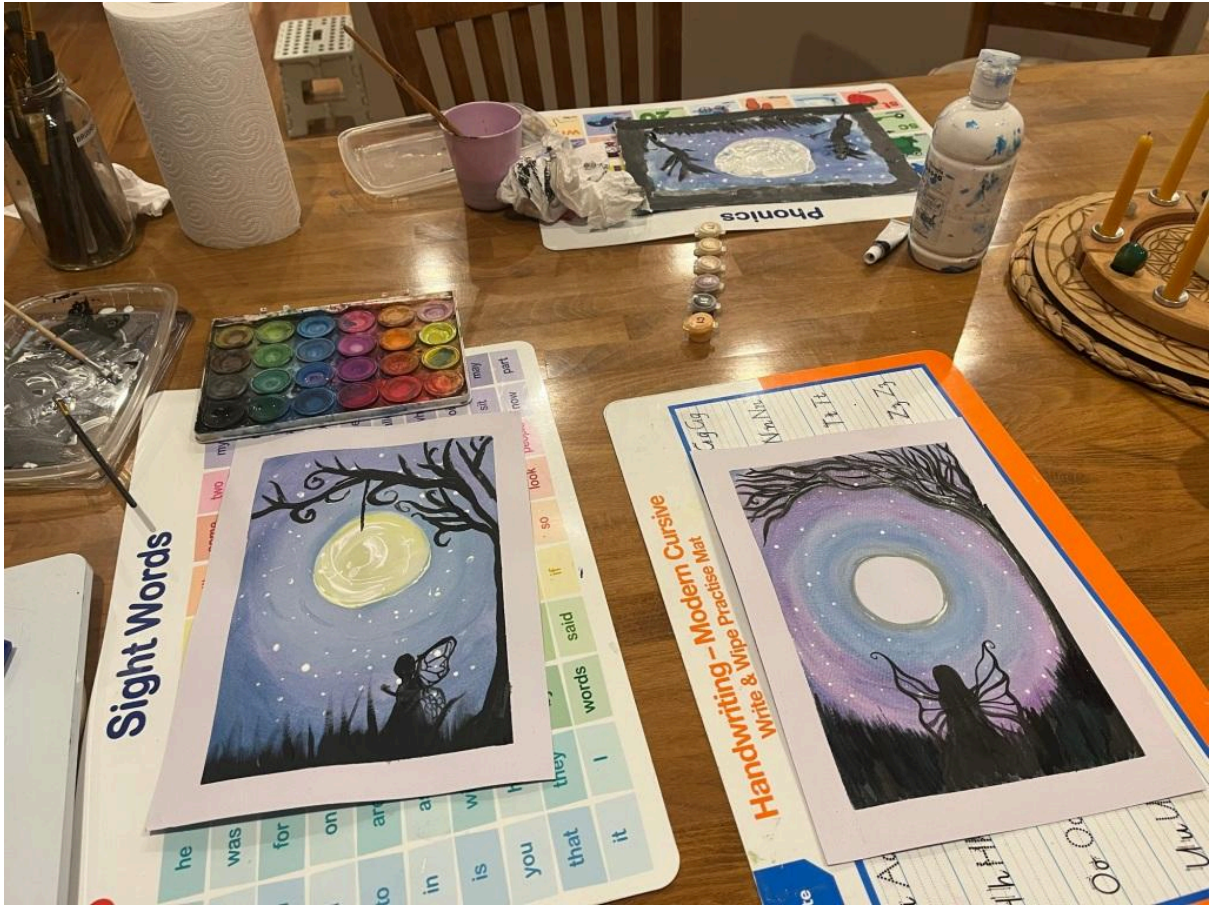


8a

Sunny days









Readers:

Anne Arrives (Anne of Green Gables reader)

Little Red Hen

Little Red Riding Hood

Peter & Jane 7 c, 8 a & 8 b

Literature:

Caroline Years of Little House Collection-

Little City by the Lake

A Little House of their Own

Charlotte Years – Little House by Boston Bay (discovered the poem that formed the American National Anthem, written during the war at the time the English burned down Washington White House. A brilliant inspiration of independence) Right on Independence Day coincidentally!

Chapter 16 SOTW

Audiobooks:

In Grandmas Attic (beautiful Christian friendly book recommended by a friend)

Domestic Arts:

Handcraft: Embroidered Banksia

Cooking & Cleaning contributions: pancakes, cakes, cinnamon scrolls, cookies, soup, pudding recipe from Little House book.

Learning and practicing knitting (Miss 10 made a dolls cloak)















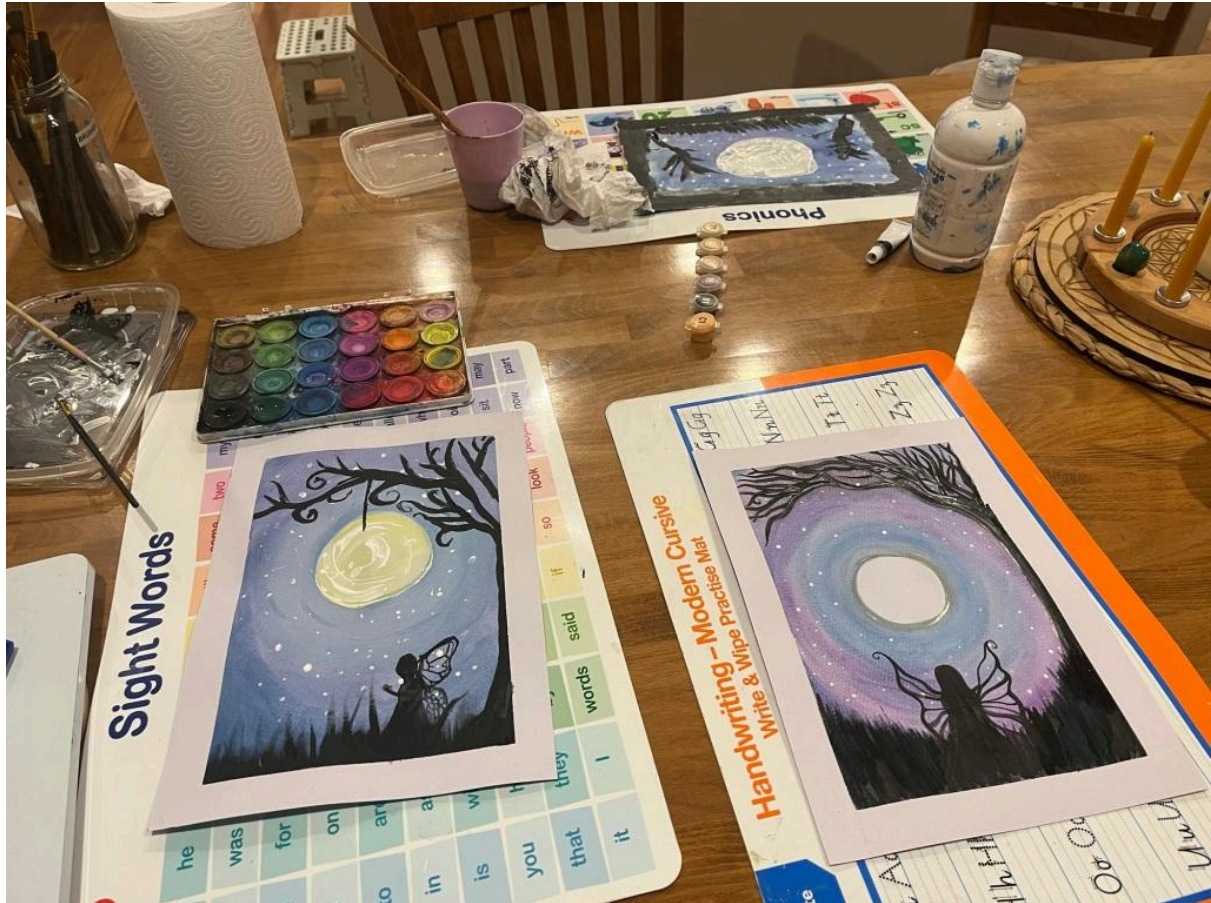


Curriculum:

TGTB Math, Science & Language Arts, SOTW

Art:

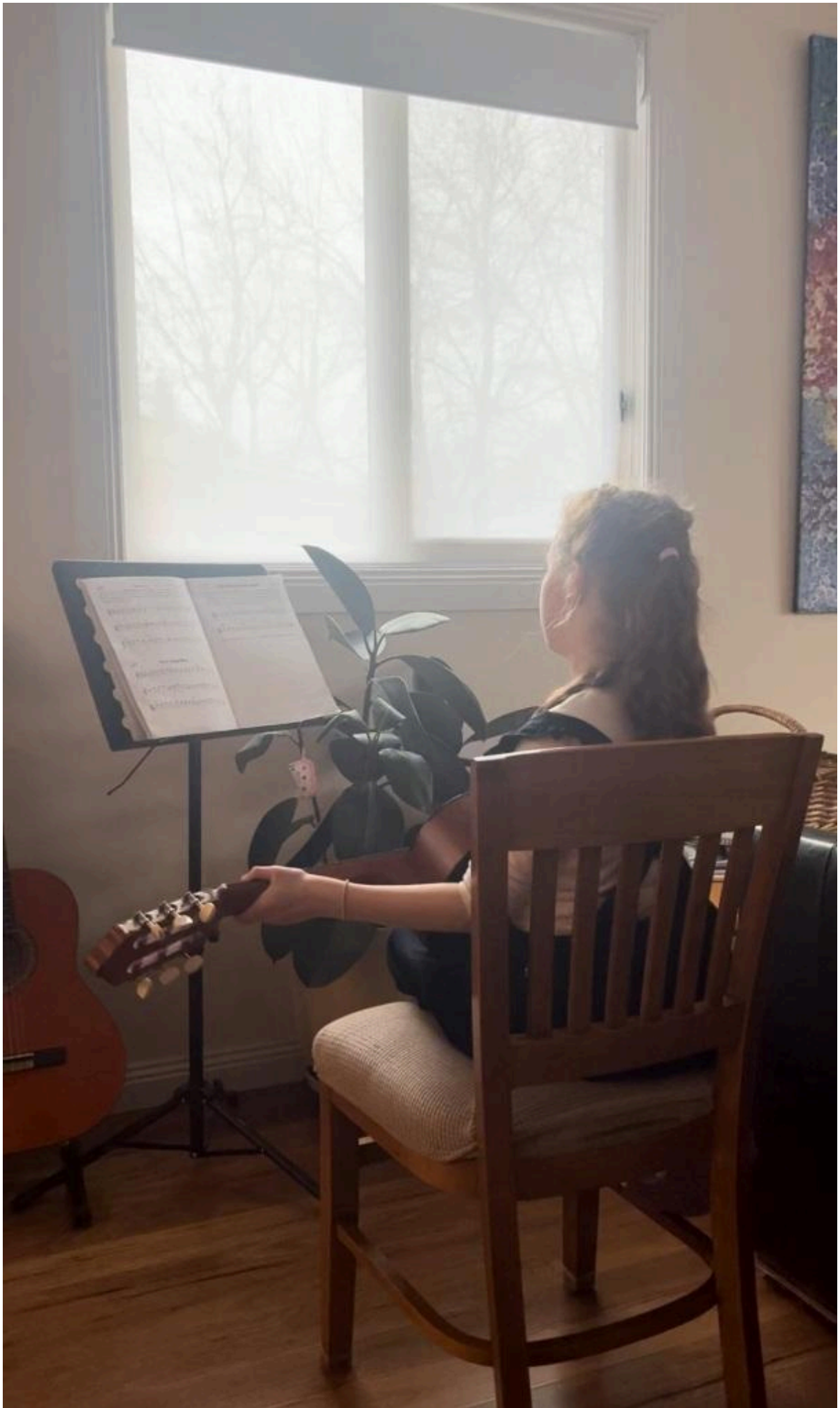
Paintings, Knitting, Embroidery, Music practice, Play performance with cousins





Painting Fairies & Fungi

Music:





Lavender's Blue (singing & keyboard practice)

Guitar Lesson book practice

Poetry:

New poem: Recitation of Winter by Margaret Morgan

Try Again (currently reciting) A poem about Perseverance

Puppy training:

Sits

Stays

Leave it

Come to Name

Crate trained

Walking

PE







Trampoline

Park

Walk

Bike riding

Rollerblading

Scooting

Tree climbing

Games:

Monopoly

Cards (snap)

Puzzles

Watched:

Beauty and the beast

FORMED Shows:

The Little Flower Saint Therese

Our Lady of the Rosary Catechism lessons

Little Saints – Our Lady of Guadeloupe

Little Saints: Saint Benedict

Outings:

We had a special overseas family member visit from the USA, so the whole family went out to dinner over the holidays which was a blast! The girls LOVED spending time with their cousins... even performing a play together – right out of the blue!

We all had colds BUT managed to get out for our eldest 10th birthday celebrations to see Beauty & The Beast live in the city (which was amazing).

We attended the free STEAM Club at the local library also which was great value!

Skate park, Homeschool Gathers, Park, Rail Trail, Missionary Sisters of Service Bush walk Fundraiser and BBQ.

Mama reads:

St Joseph's Baltimore Catholic Catechism (reading)

The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Sienna (listening)

Completed "The Imitation of Christ" audiobook

Completed: Our Lady of the Rosary Online Catholic Catechism Course

AUGUST

August is an exciting time seeing the return of the sunshine in our part of the world!

Our Home education life has been quite full again this month. So we certainly have the challenge of refining our choices around events, come Spring!

Here's our top pics from the month & a wrap up of all resources used and activities we took part in.

















ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



THE DIALOGUE *of* ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

A conversation with God on living your spiritual life to the fullest

READ BY ADRIANNE PRICE | UNABRIDGED



[Listen to this month's Podcast Episode 40!](#)

Excursions:

Our Local Homeschooling Collective ~ Dindi Wild + Free Co gathered in the woods for a fun day out learning all about Fire Starting & Safety in the wilderness.

This was a lot of fun for all of us. The children got to play games, climb trees and start a fire together as a team, cook and share a bbq.

It was lovely to see the team work! We must say it was one of this month's highlights, along with our weekly homeschool get togethers with friends!

We also had a Wildschooling Waterfalls adventure with our Wild + Free Co on Snake safety ~ which was a blast!

Another event we had was an Award winning Author talk with Vikki Conley at our town hall as well... with the local schools for a read aloud and some puppet play!

Some other outings included:

Going to the Pop up Youth space at the Library

STEAM Club at the Library

Lego club at the Library

Park play

Wetlands, footy ground & rail trail walks with Puppy

For Online learning:

Our girls attended 2 X National Science week Virtual excursions (Ocean trivia & Species survival)

For reading...

Miss 6 Finished reading:

Peter & Jane 8c

Apple Family

& 9 a Peter & Jane reader

&

Starting re reading Amelia Jane Again (chapter book ~ page for page shared reading)

Read aloud: Hour of Olympics (Magic Tree House series book)

Miss 10 read:

2 X Ella at Eden series books, & is

Currently reading:

Diary of Anne Frank

& Jack & Jill

We also Watched short Documentaries on:

Urban Agroecology Urban Homestead documentary

Saint Bernadette,

Saint Mary MacKillop

Saint Clare

Saint Hildegard of Bingen

Saint There's of Lisiux

For entertainment, we

Watched:

Nanny MacPhee &

Brady Bunch (little one with fever)

Mama reads / read alouds:

I Read: The Good Life Permaculture library book

Read: Maker Wild – Outdoor Projects library book

Saint Hildegard of Bingen's Medicine

Completed lessons reading in the Catechism (including videos)

Reading Currently:

Dialogue of St Catherine of Sienna

Home ec:

Help cooking & cleaning

Music:

Guitar & Keyboard

Auslan songs: sing a rainbow @ you are my sunshine

Weekly Singing (Hymns & other songs from play list).

SEPTEMBER



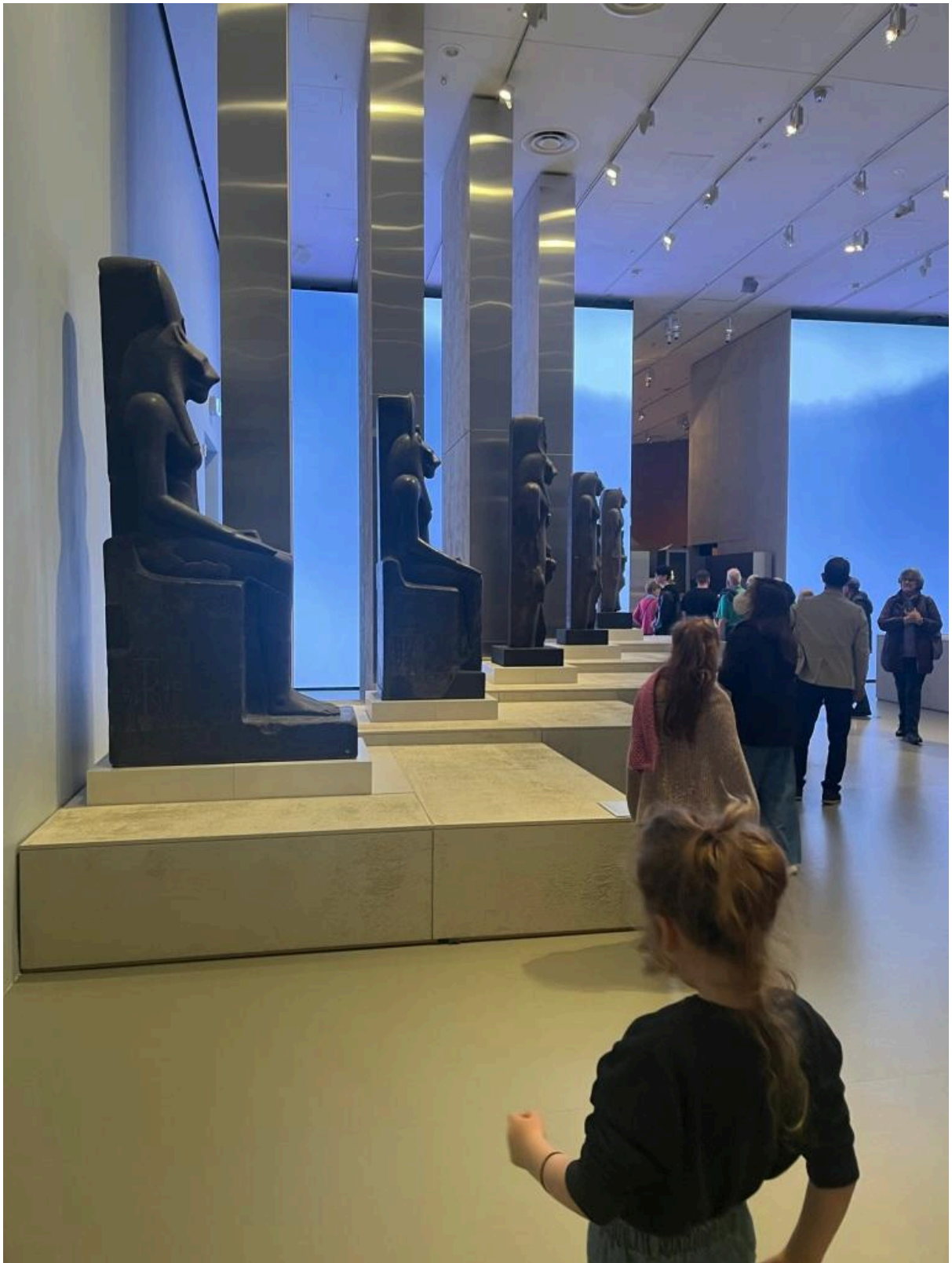




Saint
Therese











September was a warmly welcomed return of the sunshine to our world!

Here's a snippet of what we got up to!

It's been a time of pacing ourselves, working in the garden once again, thankfully... and learning through life.

My biggest take away / more so focus message; has been... There is great value in Motherhood! And through this focus alone, we can change the world!

Reads:

Magic Treehouse books X 3

SOTW – History Series + reference books.

The Sleep Book – Dr Seuss

Girls Who Made History

Amelia Bedelia readers

Peter and Jane 10a Reader

Enid's Blytons version of Robin Hood

Naughty Amelia Jane Again (again:)

Mr Meddle Muddles

Watched:

The Brady Bunch

Outings:

National Gallery – Pharaoh Exhibition

Healesville Sanctuary X 2

Emu zoo keeper talk

Echidna talk.

Bushranger survival 101 excursion at the wetlands.

Fortnightly Park Home Ed Catch up

Mass

Play:

Bedroom dolls imaginative roll play

Play in back yard

Puppy walks, play & training

Games:

Guess Who

Trampoline

Park

Bike rides

Scooting

Rollerblading

Home:

House chores (laundry, dishes etc)

Cooking

Mama reads:

Habits for a Sacred Home

Gospels

Illuminations of St Hildegard

Mother Culture

Missional Motherhood

Favourite Quote: Atmosphere is a third of Education (CM Homeschooling)

Want to read:

Holy Hygge

Micheal's gentle wife

The Life Giving Home

Love and Responsibility by Pope John Paul 2

NOVEMBER

Read

- Under the Hawthorn Tree
- Joan of Arc by Mark Twain
- Readers
- Anne of Green Gables
- Peter and Jane book 12 a
- The Wishing Chair Again by Enid Blyton (Ella)
- My First Bible (together)
- Under the Hawthorn Tree (audio)
- Wildflower Girl (audio)
- Ella and Olivia books (series/collection)
- History quest - race through Rome
- DK Find Out - Pirates

Random questions

- Where do chia seeds come from?
- What is gluten?

- What is a Pilate?

Mama Reads:

- Hildegard's Spiritual Remedies

Notes: "Gluttony and bitterness are the parents of wickedness which makes mankind a monster.

- Daily Bible reading
- Listened to: Catholic vs Protestant Bible (Considering Catholicism) Podcast
- Why Did the Protestant Reformation Happen (Knowledgia YouTube)
- Counsel of Trent - Catholic Apologist talks
- Smart Loving Marriage Course:

Appreciation focus.

Watched:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Nf8VchKL9v8?si=9-7kZN4IP1CEUBql>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/RSBnokolJDM?si=RzBMQOLK9MKS9r0c>

Art:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Piano lessons

Want to read / New resources recommended:

- Rome Sweet Home
- The Readaloud Handbook
- Honey for a child's heart
- Fable Haven
- Readaloud Bible stories
- Emily Calandrelli science YouTube - Emily's Wobserlab
- Sophia Laguna
- Arrietty watch
- Under the Hawthorn Tree
- Irish Potato Famine
- Watch Arc of the Covenant

Homeschool Resource recommended:

- Twinkl website
- My Fathers World Christian Curriculum

Documentary

- The Amish Way of Life
- 10 Differences Between Catholics and Protestants - Dr Taylor Marshall
- Why Catholics Use Scripture and Tradition (Ascension Presents)

Movies Watched:

- Joan Of Arc
- Kindness
- Home Alone
- The Last Straw (focus on Kindness)

Excursions

- Weekly Park catch ups (Tue, Wed)
- Pool visit
- Dog walking
- Bike riding
- Bible study group
- Library catch ups w friends
- Botanical art Science workshop
- Local Agricultural Show - Art sections

Reading Notes:

Christianity BEGAN as an oral "tradition".

Proverbs 17:27 in Other Translations


27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. 27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

OCTOBER



This is my last monthly wrap up! It's been 10 months of sharing our Home Education life behind the scenes, and I feel that it's time to go back to the good old Paper Journal... something the children can have as a Keepsake. I've enjoyed sharing and the conversations resulting from it and give thanks for those who shared their appreciation for it.

I will park this blog here, to possibly share any new resources on the resource page in future, but otherwise, please enjoy this last months wrap up! We have a fully booked remainder of the year, so I feel it's a great time to stay focused on the family. Here is what we got up to this month.

Thank you for reading. With blessings, Leah 

Read:

- Who Is Jimmy Carter – 1st Centenarian (Past) American President (Birthday)
- Miss 10 read ~ Who Was Rosa Parks
- Miss 6 completed reading Ladybird Reader Peter and Jane 10a
- Miss 10 read ~ Who Was Jane Austen

- Peter & Jane Reader 11a
- The Hundred Dresses (audio)
- Joan of Ark by Mark Twain
- Secret Seven books (current series)

Watched:

- Rosa Parks Story – <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8vmf98>
- Martin Luther King Jr (I Have a Dream Speech)
- Robin Hood movie: Princess of Theives
- Theodore Roosevelt's Man in The Arena Speech on YouTube
- Anatomy and Physiology of the Pancreas

Literacy:

Miss 10: Writing a story: The Life of Fairies

TGTB Curriculum

Music:

Keyboard & Guitar Practice

Sheet music resource: Piano Song Download website & new EcoTank Printer

Curriculum:

- Hallowtide Unit study (Into the Deep Curriculum)
- The Good and The Beautiful (Science, Language Arts, Math, Handwriting)
- Ladybird Readers: Peter & Jane for Miss 6
- Story of the World: History

Mama Reads:

- Then she remembered
- New Testament (entirely again)
- Teaching from Rest
- Read aloud revival
- The Read Aloud Family

- But Then She Remembered by Katie Westenberg (Spotify)
- Saint Hildegard's Illuminations
- Navy SEAL Admiral McRaven Speech
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBulGBCF9jc>

Home Economics:

- Miss 10: Ironing hem of & making dolls skirt
- Puppy training (recall, find it, sit & stay)

Outings:

- Junior Rangers; Flora Explorer & Minibeasts Excursions at Badger Weir
- Wysteria Flowering at Allowyn Gardens
- Op shop drop
- Shopping – buying a few odds and ends with Mama waiting outside with Puppy
- Local monthly Market
- Kids First Aid Certificates
- Home Ed Meet
- Wetlands Homeschool Guided Tour
- Music Concert
- Sunday Masses
- Saint Therese of Lisieux Exhibition at Saint Patrick's Cathedral
- Saint Mary McKillop Heritage Centre

Health

- Walking dog
- Play at park
- Climbing trees
- Trampoline
- Riding bikes
- Chores
- Dental Check

Notes from reading:

Interruptions are not equal or the same as distractions and excel our attention and retention of a task... increasing our focus and short term memory. Studies have shown.

Motherhood is by design a constantly interrupted role for a reason! Like Jesus, we need to embrace interruptions! Not idolise "time"!

Children thrive on sameness (what we deem as "monotonous" as adults). Built on rhythm. There is Glory in repetition! Recite Bible verses. Learn them by rote!

We exult in monotony! Like oral traditions of ages gone by throughout ancient to modern civilisations. Seer the truth into the soul!

Identity in truth means sameness. Not difference.

Instagram is founded upon **idolising** the moment! (Account deactivated)

Passage to memorise: 2 Peter ch 1 v 3-8 (Beautiful)

Retrieval (tell n retell) increases learning (Musical Multiplication & Song recitation)

Read a devotional

Key Lessons:

- The word of God is timeless and timely.
- Live quietly. Your value is not in being seen.
- Memorisation increases the plasticity of our brain.

Proverbs listening notes:

Wisdom is a woman. Learning through the experience. The pain of the birth of new wisdom brings fruit of life.

Want to read – new titles discovered:

- the cabin faced west
- All of a kind family
- Give your child the world
- Where the red fern grows

- The Wingfeather Saga
- Red Scarf Girl
- Raising Kids who read
- The read aloud handbook
- The delight of reading in an age of distraction
- Books Children Love

New Resources Discovery:

https://www.viaclassica.com/via-classica-cChristian-education-and-western-civilisation?fbclid=IwY2xjawGGQepleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHa2lMLgionMQVYu04jiB5MvrJUk9DXlsXGDAYSqHJzWwCWgzDCTFibAE5w_aem_8txiCwL8xC_nQ-0KkTG_OA

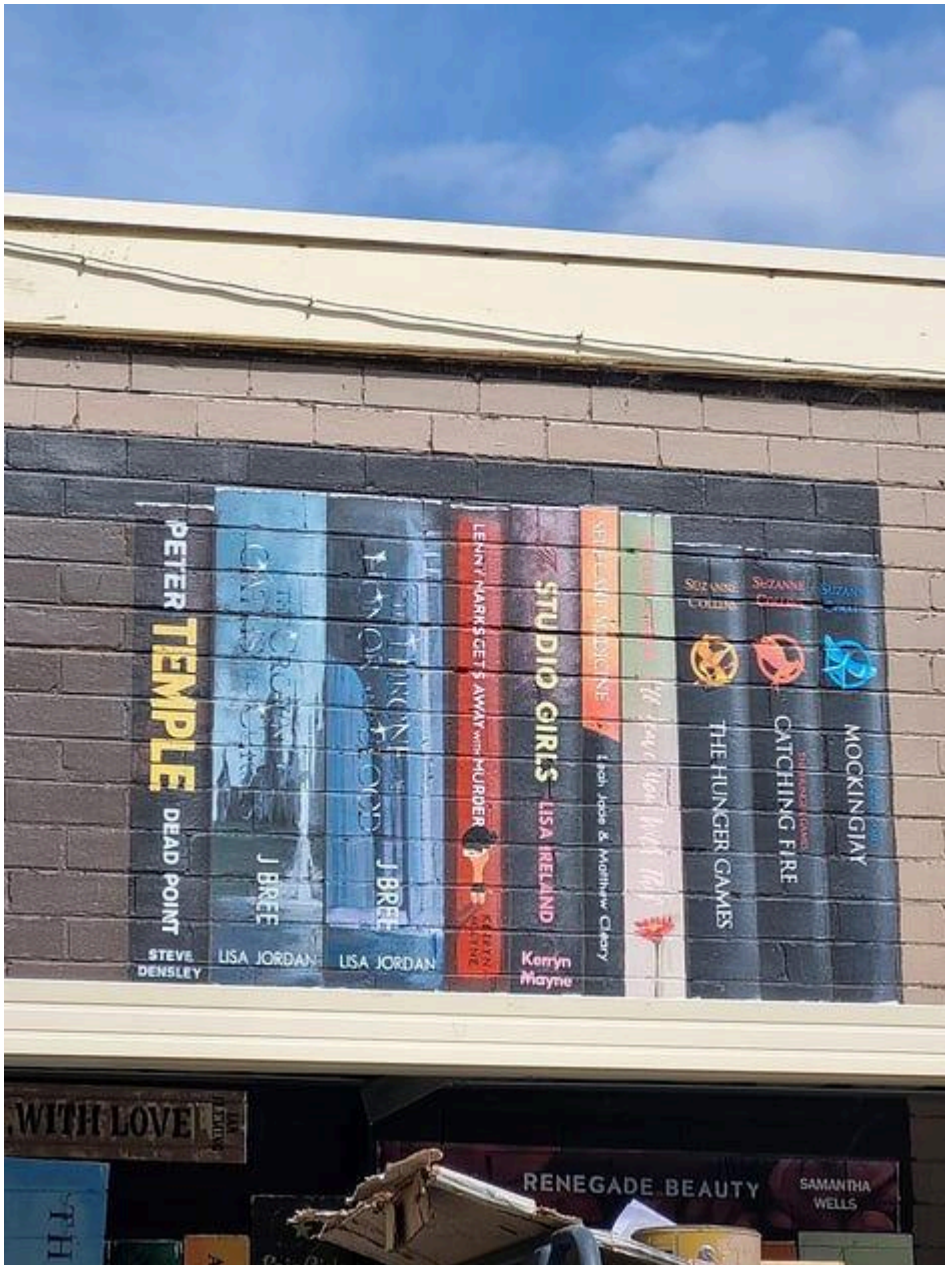
Favourite Bible Passage: 1 Peter 3.3

1 Corinthians

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28)

NOVEMBER



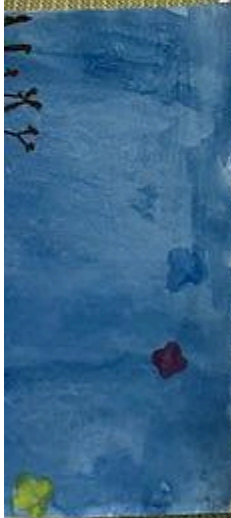


by Ellen



Kangaroo tail

Kangaroo tail



OtherWAYS

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 181

November 2024



home ed camps ranger's apprentice **HEALING AFTER SCHOOL CAN'T**

DINDI WILD & FREE CO. kids' creations looking back on home ed

Australia's longest-running alternative-education magazine





Yea Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Association
Annual Yea Show 2024
FOURTH SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER
11.40
11.7
SECTION **K** **Second Prize**
AWARDED TO *Elle Cleary*
MEDIUM *Water Colour*
FOR
Yea Show - Country Excellence





November in Pictures

I figure since I'm keeping up the journal, I might as well pop it somewhere in the hope that it may serve in some small way, contributing seeds of ideas, wonder, inspiration or possibility in whoever it finds. That, ultimately is what I feel called to write for (and always have).

So, thank you for being here, and having faith that this may offer even just a little insight into what this type of Educational 'alternative' can

look and feel like for a family. Even if your's look entirely different, I imagine that even seeing what's outside our own 'way'... can offer a wonderful gift of growing understanding.

So, as always, I welcome you to share your own feedback and thoughts, any time! This is just a collation of those things I've noted, that we've chosen to do, read, pursue and mention as noteworthy, if you will, through this month.

Aside from this, it's been the usual life challenges of keeping up, tidying up, tending to chores, (striving to) remain patient with one another, mess making and all the rest of the common commotion that goes with everyday family life (minus the before and after school rush really;).

Aside from all this, we featured in the Otherways Magazine this months too! Check it out over on the [Dindi Wild + Free Co](#) page!

What we've Read:

- Under the Hawthorn Tree (Spotify)
- Joan of Arc by Mark Twain
- Readers
- Anne of Green Gables
- Peter and Jane book 12 a
- The Wishing Chair Again by Enid Blyton (Miss 10)
- My First Bible (Miss 6)
- Wildflower Girl (audio)
- Ella and Olivia books (series/collection)
- History quest - race through Rome
- DK Find Out - Pirates

Random questions

- Where do chia seeds come from?
- What is gluten?
- What is a Pilate?

Mama Reads:

- Hildegard's Spiritual Remedies

Notes: "Gluttony and bitterness are the parents of wickedness which makes mankind a monster.

- Daily Bible reading

- Listened to: Catholic vs Protestant Bible (Considering Catholicism) Podcast
- Why Did the Protestant Reformation Happen (Knowledgia YouTube)
- Counsel of Trent - Catholic Apologist talks
- Smart Loving Marriage Course: Appreciation focus.
- The Readaloud Revival
- Wildflower by Drew Barrymore

Art:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Piano lessons

Want to read / New resources recommended/ discovered:

- The Readaloud Handbook
- Honey for a child's heart
- Fable Haven
- Readaloud Bible stories
- Emily Calandrelli science YouTube - Emily's Wobserlab
- Sophia Laguna
- Arrietty watch
- Under the Hawthorn Tree
- Irish Potato Famine
- Watch Arc of the Covenant

Homeschool Resource recommended:

- Twinkl website
- My Fathers World - Christian Curriculum
- Catholic Homeschooling Curriculums (through a Facebook group)
Compiled in list.

Documentaries:

- The Amish Way of Life
- 10 Differences Between Catholics and Protestants - Dr Taylor Marshall
- Why Catholics Use Scripture and Tradition (Ascension Presents)

Movies Watched:

- Joan Of Arc
- Kindness
- Home Alone
- The Last Straw (focus on Kindness)

Excursions

- Park plays - Friend catch ups
- Pool visit
- Dog walking
- Bike riding
- Bible study
- Library catch ups
- Botanical art Science workshop (Library)
- Local Agricultural Show - Art sections
- Birthday Parties
- Dentist visit

Reading Notes:

Christianity **BEGAN** as an oral “tradition”.

Proverbs 17:27 in Other Translations

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. 27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

DECEMBER

This December, the Yea CFA hosted a Free Homeschooling Fire Safety Awareness Excursion for Dindi Wild + Free Co.

We had all ages in attendance, from little siblings to mid teens.

This presentation was delivered by CFA volunteers who presented an engaging and interactive educational experience for all.

The excursion covered a range of topics, such as:

- How to identify 'hot spots' or fire hazards around the home
- How to help your family develop a home fire escape plan
- Basic actions for extinguishing clothing fires and treating burn injuries
- The science behind fire according to the fire triangle

- How families and communities get ready for the bushfire season

Fire Safe Kids is entirely free of charge and provides:

- strong links to the Victorian Curriculum for all levels of primary interactive and engaging activities
- giveaways for students including stickers and certificates
- pre- and post-visit lesson plans and support materials for homeschooling parents.

The wonderful Yea CFA Volunteers lead our Home Educators through a valuable learning experience.

The families & children were all very much engaged and are so grateful for the information shared by the team! The truck tours were a wonderful way to learn about the important work our Volunteers perform in our community!

Fire Safe Kids is a fantastic educational program! We cannot recommend this experience highly enough!

Also this month, being the 12th consecutive month of sharing our Home Education journey will be the last of it's kind. From here, I'll be embracing a new year with more community oriented pursuits. I hope you've enjoyed this last 12 months seeing inside our Homeschooling Journey, and I hope to continue to reach you through a more perceptive style of Holistic Homeschooling Talk.

Here, finally, I share this last month's activities and reads. Enjoy.

Reads

- The Ugly Duckling
- Peter and Jane 12a
- Marion and the 40 Thieves
- Anne of Green Gables book 2
- Seed to Sky - Life in the Daintree
- Shakespeare
- Curriculum readers
- Peter & Jane 12b

Mama reads

- Advent and Christmas, Wisdom from St Therese of Lisieux
- Podcasts with Father Mike Schmitz
- Listening to Catholic & Christian Apologetics (youtube)

Excursions

- Swimming pool
- Dog walks
- River play
- Pottery
- Library
- Skate Park & Park
- Raspberry Farm
- Nana & Poppy's
- CFA Fire Safe Kids

Art

- Keyboard lesson
- Pottery
- Watercolour painting
- Pot painting

Music:

- Keyboard lesson
- Miss 10 Self taught:
- Joy to the world
- Noel
- Silent Night

PE

- Trampoline
- Walking, Bike riding, swimming, Climbing & Play at park

Home Economics

- Nana's Birthday Cake making (sponge)
- Seasonal wardrobe declutter
- Laundry
- Dishes & other chores
- Pet care
- Kitchen Garden harvesting for meals

- Decorating Christmas trees