

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

“LIFE STARTS ALL
OVER AGAIN WHEN
IT GETS CRISP IN
THE FALL.”

--F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

--September flew by for me! How about you? Are you ready to move on to Month 2 topics?

We've been learning about the age of Exploration this past month, primarily in the 1500s. You may have noticed, some of those explorers were not very nice people. Nor were they interested in settling down and raising families. All they wanted was to find some gold, get rich, and go home.

But now we turn to somewhat of a kinder and gentler era—the age of colonization. We start our story with the stories of young families—the *Mayflower* Pilgrims—who are seeking a new home where they can worship according to the dictates of their own consciences. Other families follow. And we meet colonizers who care more about people than gold. We get to see the Golden Rule in action. When they treated the Native Americans with honor and respect, they were treated in kind. When they were cruel and unfair, they got treated the same way.

Before the Pilgrims came to the New World, they first fled to Holland, which had just signed a truce with Spain. For years, Holland had been trying to free themselves from Spain's rule. Because they knew what it was like to be told what to do, they were careful to welcome all those who wanted to be left alone. Life was good in Holland, but also very hard. And twelve years later, it was time to move on. But this provides our first link to our nation's study: Brave Little Holland. And by the way, is Holland actually a country?

And then we'll look at Spain, who Holland was trying to free herself from. And then we'll sail over to the Spanish Main, where an age of piracy set in with all that gold that needed to be shipped home.

It's fitting that our Nature study topic is the Ocean and Sea-Life with all those ocean crossings.

Finally, our Mother's University takes a look at Nature Study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We're excited to share that Monart® School of the Arts is now offering their "Drawing Thru the Alphabet Curriculum" with streaming flex access on their website at:

<https://monart.com/product/drawing-thru-the-alphabet-class-registration-new-pricing/>

You can enroll your youngest children at any time, as this program operates on an alphabetical rotation.

To make this program accessible to everyone, they've set a family-friendly price of just \$25 per month. It's important to note that active participation is crucial to sustain this affordable pricing.

This program is particularly beneficial for children aged 4 to 7. It not only teaches the alphabet but also improves hand-eye coordination, enhances handwriting legibility, and offers engaging simplified drawing projects.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to support our friends at Monart® School of the Arts!

--We are happy to tell you that the Catch the Vision intro course is now available in YouTube playlists for your convenience.

If you go to librariesofhope.com and access the [CTV course](#), look for the little YouTube button with an arrow next to the intro and also in the sections that are listed below.

We hope it will make it much easier to make your way through!

--Belle Ame at Home is going strong! You can join at any time at belleameathome.com. Just start with the Orientation week and then jump in wherever we are. Here are some of the comments from families who are using it:

"We've almost made it through six weeks of BAAH and I'm amazed at the difference it has created in our home! As many of you know, my family has used WEH/LOH for many years, but this has taken it to a new level.

"Very first thing in the morning, even before breakfast, we listen to the Inspiration Station and do the copywork. It has been such a lovely way to start the day and get the thought juices flowing. Right after breakfast dishes are done, everyone pulls out any Forgotten Classic (my non-readers listen to BelMonde stories) to read, or they might follow a rabbit trail triggered by the Inspiration Station. My girls keep a notebook where they just write down thoughts

Art credit: Children on a Dune by Ferdinand du Puigaudeau



“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good.”

(Luke 6:45)

What ‘treasure’ is filling the heart of your children?

What are the ‘fruits’ of their learning?

Art credit: Mother and Child in an Orange Grove by Virginie Demont-Breton



they’ve had or quotes they liked, then later I read through them and make comments so it turns into a conversation. They have found gems that I copy into my own notebook and I love the little peek into their souls and what is important to them. It’s also surprised me that these topics will pop into conversations later, often at dinner when they are telling dad about their day.

“So many of the classes are teaching us to slow down and focus. Along with that, because we can’t do everything, it is teaching us to prioritize. From the classes we’ve learned it’s okay to make mistakes, how to deal with frustrations when things don’t work right, and the joy of creating something beautiful.

“Through the Friendship Circles and clubs, my girls have learned things I could never teach them and met wonderful people who are their friends. It’s hard because we move so often, but these online friendships can continue no matter where we are. When we met at a Friendship Circle in-person activity, a friend commented at other homeschool gatherings there is still an awkwardness of kids trying to get to know each other, but with BAAH they are able to jump into conversations because they are all experiencing the same thing: “Did you do the Monart drawing? Wasn’t that Swedish Cake delicious? We had so much fun with the folk dance! Could you imagine being Henry Hudson?” and so many other connections.

“I’m so grateful to all the women and men who are making this possible. Just as a side note, other than Marlene, none of them does this as a full-time job. They are all very busy mothers and fathers, who might have full-time jobs elsewhere, as well as participate in service organizations, have church responsibilities, and other obligations. But they carve space into their precious time for us. THANK YOU!”

“If you haven’t signed up for Belle Ame yet. Please do yourself a favor and do it today! It’s wonderful. The instructors and storytellers are so engaging. My children are quite a wiggly, distracted bunch and they have been so captivated. I promise, mamas, this is not another thing to add to your to do list! It is a better way to get the support and relief you need, in an uplifting and enriching way. Such a great blessing for our families!”

“Amen. We’ve been homeschooling for 13 years and BAAH is the best thing we’ve ever done! My kids are so excited for “school” each day that they can hardly wait, and I feel the same way!”

“My hope for this school year was for my children to begin to love learning. They have been in public school and although we homeschooled last year, I was trying to mimic the public school system way too much, and as a result they didn’t love homeschooling. I discovered WEH at the beginning of the summer and have been learning about this philosophy every chance that I get. I just love it! I was so happy this week when my kids were sad that it was a break week from Belle Ame. They love watching all the videos and they want more! We also love watching the

inspiration station videos together. We do this as a whole group and then I read to them and teach them about something that I've been excited about. Then my high schooler studies for his classes and my younger kids do Belle Ame according to their own desires. In the afternoon they each do about 15 minutes of math. It's been wonderful! Thank you, Marlene! I am so amazed at all that you have done and still do every day."

"I want to say 'DITTO' to BAAH. The peace in my home has been incredible. I feel the support needed and my 3 oldest boys look forward to lessons. We especially love the Monart class. They keep asking, 'When is the next one?' This entire course is a whole new way of thinking for all of us and we feel like sponges just soaking up all the goodness."

--And a recommendation for our new revised Reading Record:

"I know many of you probably read the books online but I would highly recommend at least purchasing *My Reading Record*.

"It is just so handy and so nice for just working through the rotation. I am personally reading every single book, every single story.

"But also, what a book of achievement for my son. I just told him today that he is going to work through it again. Completely.

"And that I am not allowing him to grow up and move out until he does. LOL. I am not sure that we will really do that. But I will go through it and note approximate years he completed certain books.

"I was also pleasantly surprised to find My Book House and the Junior Classics all listed right there by rotation. This book alone is a resource worth far more than its price tag."



"The time will come when it will be told as a relic of our primitive barbarism that children were taught the list of prepositions and the names of the rivers of Tibet, but were not taught the wonderful laws on which their own . . . happiness is based, and the humanities by which they could live in peace and goodwill with those about them."

--Frances Willard

Art Credit: The Visit
by Hans Andersen Brendekilde

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--Pestalozzi, we're trying!

"If I can only in some slight degree succeed in making the Art of education begin in the sanctuary of home, more than it now does, and to put new life into the religious instinct of our race, from this tender side;

"If I should only have partly succeeded in bringing nearer to my contemporaries the withered rootstock of mental and spiritual education, and an Art of education in harmony with the noblest powers of heart and mind;

"If I have done this, my life will be blessed, and I shall see my greatest hopes fulfilled."

If you haven't revisited Pestalozzi's thoughts in *A Mother's Influence* for awhile, it's always worth the time. Even if only for a 'sip.'

"If we were all determined to play the first violin, we should never have a complete orchestra. Therefore respect every musician in his proper place."

--Robert Schumann

Children deserve that respect as well. Are you overlooking a child's unique gifts and talents because you are focused on that first violin position?

Art credit: A Fiddler by Wandalin Strzalecki



--I totally understand the need many of you moms feel for order and structure in your lives. So you schedule and plan, saying that if you don't do that, your kids won't do anything.

I see a variety of systems out there you have created.

But the thought occurred to me this morning--what if your husband--or your mother, for that matter--created a daily plan for you? What if they scheduled out your day and planned what books you were going to read and told you when activities and classes had been planned for you to go to as well as when you were going to do your household chores and what time dinner needed to be cooked and ready?

All with the best intentions in mind, of course! Nothing but the best for you.

I'm wondering how that would go over...would you love that? And then what if they made you accountable to them for it, demonstrating that you had accomplished their plans for you.

I can tell you how well that would go over in my house....

How many of you would love that? Take all the thinking out of it so you could just get up every day and put it on

“Art comes from within, not from without. Do not force; do not fuss; be quiet; wait for the child to hear the still, small voice from within.”

--Richard Wyche

Art credit: Untitled by Fanny Brate



auto pilot and work your way through their checklist.

Maybe some of you would. I'm curious...

I'm not saying there isn't a need for routine. I talk about that in the Rhythm of Life class. There's a balance in here somewhere, but for whatever reason, this thought struck me this morning.

Maybe it has to do with making sure they are part of the planning process?

--**For you with kids addicted** to their phones...which is almost everybody...take 7 minutes and listen to [this young man](#).

Our BAAH community is trying to meet this need. I am hearing from mothers almost everyday who are telling me their teens are beginning to wake up and are starting to connect again because of what is happening there.

We have to replant the wasteland. It will take time. We can wait for someone else to do it. Or we can sow and plant right where we are.

Thank you to all of you who are doing that.

--**There is an old Bible study series** I came across last night by J. Paterson Smyth. In the introduction, he instructs parents and teachers how to best teach their children. I just had to copy this down.... I recognize the Pattern for Learning.

“An ancient Roman orator once laid down for his pupils the three-fold aim of a teacher:

1. Placere (to interest).
2. Docere (to teach).
3. Movere (to move).

1. To interest the audience (in order to teach them).
2. To teach them (in order to move them).

3. To move them to action.”

Or as Dr. Melheim says, “You gotta open the kid before you open the book.”

And how do you open them? Stories and all the Arts have been used since forever. Combine that with a teacher’s spirit and personality, you will have a student ready to learn; not to learn for learning’s sake, but always with the aim to make use of that learning.

A body of water without an outlet, stagnates.

And so does learning.

--**Elections are on a lot of our minds.** Here is a reminder from a voice from the past--Mary Lyon--a pioneer in women’s education and the founder of a college in a day when it was improper for a woman to be educated.

“Educate the women and the men will be educated. Let the ladies understand the great doctrine of seeking the greatest good, of loving their neighbors as themselves, let them indoctrinate their children in this fundamental truth, and we shall have wise legislators.”



“WHEN THINGS FALL
APART...MAKE ART.”

Art credit: Happy Family by Dargelas