

# The ROCK

## Letter From the President: Schooling through the dark days

March is supposed to come in like a lion, and go out like a lamb. I think after months of winter, especially in the years when snow comes before December, we see March and start anticipating warmer weather, and itch to get outside. But we often forget that March is the last month of *winter*, and a couple of last storms insist on having their due.

This is a tough month, waiting for that lamb to show itself. For many, several months of school are left in the school year. Kids and adults alike are getting cabin fever. Maybe math isn't clicking, the handwriting isn't improving and you are *still* waiting to hear your kids beg for school like they do in the catalogs. And waiting...

As the weeks drag on, homeschooling families can be left wondering, 'What sort of insanity did we sign up for, anyhow?'

I think of Peter in the boat, seeing Jesus walking on the water in the storm. Jesus calls to him and Peter steps out. Peter walks on water! It is only when he loses his focus on Christ that he falters and begins to sink. He starts to see the waves, and the impossibility of what he is doing overwhelms him. He cries out.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the impossibilities of schooling, of another day with illness, of another storm,—one with snow or one with tears—then cry out. He is here, ready to pull you up, to refocus you.

Call a trusted friend who will pray with you. Allow yourself to set your eyes back on the big picture, and away from the little things that add up to impossibility. Look ahead to 5 or 10 years in the future. Remind yourself of what will last, and of what will be lost. The little battles, the breaks to reset, the extra week of winter...these are the things of ash and dust. Brush them off and move forward, with eyes on the lessons and memories that linger even after a decade.

I remember when I thought my son would never get potty trained. My father and older sister kept telling me to relax. They promised me my son would not be in diapers at his graduation or wedding. Fat lot of comfort that was to me at the time! I grumbled to myself, 'they weren't changing endless diapers.' Now my son is almost eleven, and I can see how I wasted so much time fretting about something that didn't deserve my time. Why do we learn these lessons too late?

Maybe we don't have to. Maybe we can learn from one another. Let me encourage you. As you wait for the lamb of spring, never forget the Lamb of God is just a cry away. Love on your kids in these fleeting years. Forget the frustrations that would rob you of joy and peace. Know that they will write, they will add and they will love learning, as long as their teacher continues to skim over the water with her eyes on her Master.

## Event Review: Quarterly Meeting

In February we had our Quarterly Meeting. Notice the subtle drop of the word, 'Planning'? We are tweaking this event to make the most of the time we ask of you. We will hand out the newsletters with the calendars and pitch ideas, but the meat of our meeting will be about homeschooling.

At the February meeting, we discussed teaching philosophies. Without knowing *why* you homeschool and *how* you homeschool, every bump in the road—and there will be many—can knock you right off the path.

Having a list of reasons you can pull out when things get tough can make all the difference in the world to the ultimate success of homeschooling. Without knowing why you homeschool, the struggle can become perfectly pointless. If you haven't already, I encourage you to make a list to serve as your anchor.

Knowing what your teaching philosophy is will give you added peace of mind. When the light at the end of the tunnel looks dim, an awareness of how your methods *do* work will help you persevere. When your school doesn't look like your friends' schools, if you realize *why*, you won't panic. Another huge benefit to having a familiarity with teaching philosophies you use is that it will save you money and time when trying to buy something new and shiny that ultimately wouldn't work in your school at all.

Now, this doesn't mean you can't pick and choose from different teaching philosophies. You aren't called to be married to a philosophy! Instead, know what works with your personality, your life-style, the needs of your children, and the desires of your mate—not necessarily in that order! Establishing a foundational comprehension of what works will give you untold freedom from scrambling to research every curriculum or meeting anyone else's standards. You will be free to just teach!

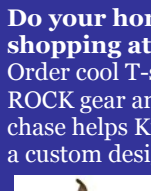
## March 2010



When you get overwhelmed waiting on spring call on the Lamb of God.

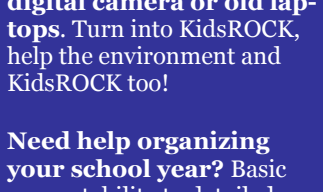
## Remember:

Collect your Box Tops! Last school year you clipped \$113 in coupons. Our goal this year: \$250!



[www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com)

Sign Up for [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) and earn \$\$\$ every time you search or shop online! Since October 2008 KidsROCK has earned \$178.68



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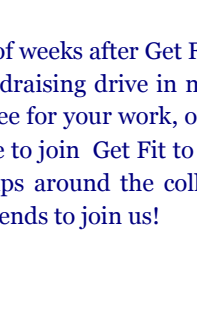
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Need help organizing your school year? Basic accountability to detailed lesson plans and more are available through KidsROCK Academy. All money earned is donated to KidsROCK.



[www.KidsRockAcademy.net/gettingstarted.html](http://www.KidsRockAcademy.net/gettingstarted.html)

For more information on teaching philosophies, please contact KidsROCK Vice President, Carla Dollar.

## Get Fit, Spring Fling, and a Fundraiser

This spring brings new things, and some old with a new look. We are starting Get Fit IV back on Mondays from 3 to 4 pm. Beginning March 15, it will be seven weeks of PE. This class is truly for the whole family. Anyone, in any condition, is invited to come on out to the college track to participate. Bring water, sun block and be ready for fun!

We want to support your goals to get and stay fit, so just a couple of weeks after Get Fit ends, we have the Spring Fling 5K walk and run. This will be our first fundraising drive in many years. We invite members to collect sponsors to contribute either a flat fee for your work, or a per-lap contribution. So mark your calendar for May 21. You do not have to join Get Fit to participate in the Spring Fling. If you are not wanting to do the 5K (12 laps around the college track), please come on out to support those who are. Invite family and friends to join us!

## Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 1—Registration deadline for all March events listed below
- Mar 1—Round Table Discussion, 6:30 *(limited space)*
- Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Lego Club, 3:00-4:15 **NEW TIME**
- Mar 12—Club PALS Host Meeting, 3:00
- Mar 15, 22, 29—Get Fit! 3:00-4:00 **NEW DAY AND TIME**
- Mar 19—Club PALS Shin Dig! Mandatory for all CP registrants
- Mar 19—Art History, Jasper Johns, 3:30 *(limited space)*
- Mar 19—Young Learners, You are Special, 3:30 *(limited space)*
- Mar 22—Council Meeting [click](#) to add to the agenda
- Mar 26—Club PALS
- Mar 26—Tour: Every Bloomin' Thing 3:30

- Apr 1—Registration deadline for all April events listed below
- Apr 5—Book Club 6:30 Please consider using the iGive or Box Tops website before ordering. [Email](#) for help.
- Apr 7—Tour: Wilber D May, meet 8 am
- Apr 16—Sewing Class 3:30-5:30 part 1 *(limited space)*
- Apr 16—Country Lapbook 3:30-5:30 part 1 *(limited space)*
- April 19—Council Meeting [click](#) to add to the agenda
- Apr 23—Sewing Class 3:30-5:30 part 2 *(limited space)*
- Apr 23—Country Lapbook 3:30-5:30 part 2 *(limited space)*
- Apr 30—Tour: Janesville Fire Station 3:30

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [email](#) us.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@kidsrockacademy.net](mailto:info@kidsrockacademy.net).



Mark your Calendars!

