

# WASH LINES

Newsletter for the  
Willmar Area  
Scholars at Home, Inc.

December 2016

## Westview Village Christmas Program

By Becky Jaenisch

Do your kids play a musical instrument? WASH would love for them to play for the elderly residents at Westview Village on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Willmar. WASH will be doing a Christmas program on **Wednesday, December 14** at 1:00 p.m. Kids can play a musical piece, read a story, recite a memorized portion or read a poem. We will sing Christmas songs with them, play a couple of games, and enjoy cookies together. We have Joseph, Mary and the manger scene costumes. We would like the young kids to come put on a costume and the older kids to take turns reading the story of Jesus' birth. Please bring cookies to share with the residents. Juice and paper products will be provided. Please come at 12:45 to get your costume on or read over your reading. Please RSVP if your child will play a musical piece or another reading so they can be added to the program. Please RSVP to Becky Jaenisch by text at 320-894-4763 or email [mbjaenisch@yahoo.com](mailto:mbjaenisch@yahoo.com) by **Tuesday, December 13**, so we can plan our program. Merry Christmas!!



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## Thank you to Diane Bakker!

By Cindy Roberg

The WASH board would like to thank Diane Bakker for her many years of serving our families with the Passport and Ambassador Clubs. She did an *outstanding* job, and we are so grateful for the years God called her to this ministry. Since many of our WASH families want to continue learning about the countries of our world, the Board is seeking someone who would consider the development of a new program we can offer. If you have interest in serving God through a ministry such as this, whether it be leading or assisting, please contact one of the WASH Board members.



*The deadline for the  
January newsletter  
submissions is  
December 28*

## Operation Christmas Child Box Delivery!

*By Diane Bakker*

Our last WASH activity with Operation Christmas Child was delivering our 19 boxes to the collection location at First Covenant Church. Eight families also helped First Covenant pack more boxes with the supplies they had collected. We folded boxes, packed boxes, wrote notes to the children, and even learned how to make t-shirt jump ropes!



Since WASH paid for our shipping labels online, we should receive an email sometime in the future that tells us which country will be the destination of our boxes. Please keep praying for the children that receive them and for all the volunteers that it will take to get them there!

If you have mature children 13 or older, consider signing up to volunteer at the processing warehouse in Eagan during the next month. The warehouse changes location each year but this year, it is very near where we packed food at Feed My Starving Children! Weekends are booked but they certainly need help during the weekdays and that might work well for homeschooling families. For more information, visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/volunteer-at-a-shoebox-processing-center/>.



I'm so proud of our WASH families! Even though many people have packed boxes with their church in the past, our members really dug into this project and did thoughtful shopping with the guidelines from Operation Christmas Child. Because of this, 19 more kids will not only receive a precious gift, but they will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus and that really is the best gift!



## Teen Social/Dance

*By Melissa Geer*

Teens, mark your calendar for **January 28, 2017**, for a Teen Social/Dance at the Geers'. Come for an evening of fun, food and "cuttin' a rug" from 6:30 to 10:00 P.M. We will have Myron Hollitz here, a dance caller, to call an evening of line dances, square dances and fun group dances. Do you have 2 left feet? No problem! Myron instructs us of all the moves and it's a guarantee for a fun night. There is plenty of room for a good time. Our address is 25825 Co. Rd 1 NW, Brooten. Directions: 6 miles west of Hwy 71 (Pete's Surplus) on MN Hwy 9, 1.5 miles north on County Road 1, # 25825. **The cost is \$5.00 per teen.** Bring a snack to share. Beverages and a good time will be provided. Parent are welcome. Any questions call 320-366-3626 or email [mgeercpa@gmail.com](mailto:mgeercpa@gmail.com). See you then!

## Science and Nature Conference

*By Becky Jaenisch*

The Southwest West Central Service Cooperative is offering a Science and Nature Conference for grades K-8 on **May 10, 2017**. Early registration is **March 21** and final registration **March 28**. This is the 23rd annual and is a great conference for kids. This event is held at SMSU at Marshall.

## Passport and Ambassador Club

By Diane Bakker



On Nov. 4th, thirty students "traveled" to India and got a glimpse of Indian culture! Part of our class was making our own textile print in a similar way that Indian artists create beautiful hand-printed fabrics. We had blue hands for a while but it was worth it!

Winter weather moved the Ambassador Club to Nov. 21st! Twenty-two students made wonderful projects about something specific that interested them about India. Here is a sampling:



**Quinn**– Salt dough map and animal facts



**Elliana**– Bengal tiger sculpture and Amy Carmichael report



**Joelle**– Highlights of India display



← **Audra**- India's traditional dress and sari tying demo.

## Passport Club and Ambassador Club Update/Wrap-Up

By Diane Bakker

Since the fall of 2012, Passport Club and Ambassador Club has traveled to 13 different countries: China and the Terracotta Warriors, Taiwan, Germany, Belize, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zambia, Brazil and India! It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about different cultures and countries and how God is at work everywhere! I have thoroughly enjoyed preparing and teaching each one. However, at this point in time, after much prayer and wrestling in my heart and mind, I know it is time for me to wrap it up simply because I do not have the time it takes to continue doing this from scratch. That was a very difficult decision to make because I love doing it and I love working with the students that came along on each journey! But I know that sometimes God has us wrap things up, even when they are good things.

HOWEVER...we will be going out with a bang! In May, we would like to have one final activity by attending the Festival of Nations in St. Paul! Whether you have ever attended Passport and Ambassador Club or not, we would love to have you hop on a charter bus and learn about a boatload of cultures and countries all in one day. Festival of Nations has booths representing different countries, an international cafe/food court where you can purchase food from all over the place, a bazaar where you can purchase items, stages of performances representing different countries, demonstrations of arts and crafts from around the world and exhibits. Visit their website for more info but please know they are in the process of updating it for 2017 --<http://www.festivalofnations.com/>.

*Passport/Ambassador cont.*

We would arrive about 9:00ish in the AM and stay until about 1:00ish. Unlike our annual WASH bus trip, we will be inviting anyone from grades K-12 with a parent per family because our day will be much shorter and you will move around with your own family meeting their special interests. Depending upon how many people are interested, student ticket prices would be somewhere between \$15-20 and adults around \$18- \$23. That includes the bus seat and admission. No food is included in this price but you can either buy lunch at their international cafe or pack your own (you will need to carry it with you). If the bus gets full, the price will be lower and we would refund you any extra money. If you save what you probably would have spent on two more Passport and Ambassador Clubs this year, your ticket will be paid for!

There are two days specifically for students (general public not allowed) and we'll go one of those days. This is where I need your input. If you are seriously considering going (you aren't for sure committing yet), please let me know which day would work best for you. The options are **Thursday, May 4th** or **Friday, May 5th**. (If this makes any difference, Willmar Prom is May 5th.). Please email [washactivities@live.com](mailto:washactivities@live.com) how many people in your family (grades K-12 and adults) would like to attend and if you would like Thursday or Friday or you would be happy with either. From there, we'll set the price within that range and reserve a bus which just so happens to be available those days! We will put the actual registration in a future newsletter. Please send your input by December 8th.

I hope you can join us! -- Diane Bakker (Passport and Ambassador Club Teacher)

## Willmar Teen Filmmakers: Camera Training

*By Becky Jaenisch*

The Willmar Public Library will offer this free class Friday, December 23, at 3:30-5:30pm. Learn how to use our new camera equipment! This workshop is part of a larger series of teen film making workshops that will be offered throughout the next year. The series will culminate in a film festival and YouTube channel showcasing teens' work. *Sponsored by the Best Buy Foundation.*



## YMCA Homeschool Phy Ed

*By Becky Jaenisch*

The YMCA offers an opportunity for physical education in a fun, safe and cost-efficient setting. The program is developed for students in two age groups. As participants, you will register for either K-3rd or 4th-7th grade sessions. This program will develop participants' teamwork abilities, peer interaction, motor skills coordination. The program fee is \$5 per participant. The following dates are scheduled: **December 9**, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12. Ensure all sessions take place as scheduled by registering in advance. Registration deadline is the Wednesday preceding the scheduled class. The 4th-7th grade classes will be 8:15-9:15 a.m. and the K-3rd class will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. Please dress children appropriately for the scheduled activity. Report directly to the gym and be ready for some fun! **December will be basketball.**

### ALERT about YMCA

**During the months of September and October there was a low number of registrations for the YMCA Homeschool Phy Ed class. They had to cancel the class both months. In November there was just enough kids to have the class. If this trend continues in December they will most likely discontinue this program. Please remember to register by the Wednesday preceding the class, which is the deadline.**

## Thrivent Members

By Becky Jaenisch

Are you a Thrivent member? They have a special program called "Action Teams." If you are a Thrivent member you can apply twice a year for \$250 each time. This money is given to you on the basis that you will do a volunteer project that is either educational, service, or fundraising. In the past WASH has received this "seed money" (grant) for educational purposes. The process takes 15 minutes online to fill out their questions. They send you a email if your approved and in 2 weeks they send you the \$250 for your project. If you would be willing to use your account to apply for this please contact Becky Jaenisch by [email\\_mbjjaenisch@yahoo.com](mailto:email_mbjjaenisch@yahoo.com) as WASH would be grateful. It costs you nothing, and it is just a way for Thrivent to inspire volunteering and generosity in our communities.

## Winter Solstice

By Becky Jaenisch

It is the shortest day and longest night of the year. Get outside to see how many of our holiday traditions from caroling to mistletoe have come from ancient traditions related to this special night. Meet in the Interpretive Center Theater at Sibley State Park for an indoor presentation, followed by an outdoor bonfire and a wassail social. **December 21, 2016**, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Outdoor winter programs may be canceled in inclement and dangerous weather. Sibley State Park is located on US Hwy 71, 15 miles north of Willmar. Questions, call 320-354-2055.

## Newsletter Submission Policy

WASH exists to be a support to home educating families in the Willmar area and one way we do that is through our monthly newsletter. The policy that we have adopted as what is published in the newsletter is:

*The WASH Board of Directors reserves the right to publish or not publish any information they deem best. When an article is considered for publication, the board will take into consideration the WASH calendar, WASH's liability for any event, and the article's benefit to the homeschooling community. If you would like to have an article published, please e-mail your articles to [info@washlines.org](mailto:info@washlines.org). The board will look over your article, publish it if appropriate, call you with further questions, or let you know that the article can not be published and the reason why. If you have any questions on this policy, please contact a member of the board.*

### Calendar of Events

YMCA Phy Ed . . . . .	December 9
Westview Christmas Program. . . . .	December 14
Winter Solstice. . . . .	December 21
Willmar Teen Filmmakers . . . . .	December 23
Teen Social/Dance . . . . .	January 28
SMSU Conference Early Deadline . . . . .	March 21
Science and Nature Conference . . . . .	May 10

### WASH Board

Feel free to contact a member of the WASH board with any questions or comments! You can also send an e-mail to [info@washlines.org](mailto:info@washlines.org)

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