



Saskatchewan Home Based Educators

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR'S LETTER



As we begin to wrap up another school year, many of us are looking ahead to a summer break—while others may be continuing their learning year-round. However your family structures your homeschooling rhythm, this season often brings a natural point of reflection. As the days grow longer and summer approaches, there's also an invitation here—to pause, to breathe, and to enjoy the moments that make homeschooling so meaningful. Whether it's unhurried mornings, outdoor adventures, or simply extra time together, these are the memories that last.

As you work on your year-end reporting, we're pleased to offer an upcoming webinar designed to help answer any questions you may have. Designed to simplify the requirements and give you clarity and confidence as you complete your documentation. We encourage you to join us if you're able.

Wherever you are in your journey right now—finishing strong, continuing steadily, or preparing for what's next—we're glad you are part of this community.

Inside this issue, you'll find a message from our SHBE President, a reflection on our 2026 Convention, information on upcoming webinars, current board vacancies, a featured HSLDA spotlight, and upcoming events and activities for families to enjoy.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions, ideas, or feedback. SHBE exists to promote parent-directed, home-based education in Saskatchewan, and your input helps inform our approach.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!



Janelle Claypool,
Communications Committee

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we come to the close of another homeschool year, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt congratulations to each of you. You've invested time, energy, and care into your children's growth—not just academically, but in character, curiosity, and life. That work matters more than can easily be measured, and it is worth pausing to recognize.

As June approaches, many of you are turning your attention to Annual Progress Reports. I want to wish you clarity and confidence as you complete them. There is so much more going on in your family that I encourage you to celebrate. At the same time, the Annual Progress Reports are more like taxes - keep them simple and direct. Do you do anything in your family or community to celebrate the end of the traditional school year?

And then comes summer—a season we look forward to with good reason. While the structure may ease, homeschooling certainly doesn't stop. In many ways, it shifts into high gear. Learning happens on the road, around the campfire, in conversations, in projects, and in shared experiences. Embrace the adventure. These moments are rich with opportunity and often leave the deepest impressions.

Thank you as well for making this year's convention such a success. It was a joy to gather together, to be encouraged, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this calling. The strength of our community continues to be one of our greatest blessings. I'm looking forward to another great experience next year as well!

I want to encourage you to consider serving with SHBE. This year, we have openings for a Zone 1 (Southeast) Director and an At-Large Director. If you have a desire to support and strengthen homeschooling across our province, this is a meaningful way to do so. Fresh voices and willing hands are always needed.

Thank you again for a wonderful year. I'm already looking forward to what the next one will bring.

Wishing you a joyful, restful, and adventure-filled summer.

Rod Amberson
President, Saskatchewan Home Based Educators

CONVENTION REFLECTION



Our 2026 Convention was one for the books. With over 850 attendees—including families, speakers, and vendors—it was our highest attendance to date. It was incredibly encouraging to see so many of you gather together, share ideas, and invest in your homeschooling journeys.

This year also marked our move to a new venue, and while it offered many wonderful features and a welcoming space for our growing community, it wasn't without a few challenges. Some rooms reached capacity more quickly than anticipated, and we recognize that space limitations impacted certain sessions. We are grateful for your patience and feedback, and we are already working on ways to improve space, flow, and accessibility for next year.

A highlight of the weekend was hearing from our keynote speaker, Greta Eskridge, whose messages encouraged and challenged us in our parenting and homeschooling. She reminded us that joy is not something optional or superficial, but something we can intentionally pursue—even in difficult seasons. There was a strong emphasis on building meaningful connections within our families, often through simple, shared experiences and a willingness to be present with our children.

We were also encouraged to see the unique strengths in each of our children, especially those with strong personalities and deep emotions, and to view those traits as gifts that can be nurtured and guided. Practical ideas were shared for fostering connection, understanding, and growth in our homes.

Another key takeaway from Greta's sessions was the value of slowing down and engaging with the world around us—especially through nature. Whether exploring outdoors or through rich, meaningful literature, families were inspired to cultivate curiosity, wonder, and hands-on learning in ways that are both accessible and life-giving.

As we reflect on this year, we are filled with gratitude—for your participation, your patience, and your commitment to building strong families and meaningful education.

We are already looking ahead with excitement and are pleased to announce that our 2027 Convention will return to the same venue in Saskatoon, at Elim Church, on February 26–27, 2027. We look forward to gathering together again and continuing to grow and learn as a community.

Thank you for being part of it.

BOARD VACANCIES

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES IN SASKATCHEWAN?

SHBE is currently seeking individuals to fill two volunteer board positions.

ZONE 1 REPRESENTATIVE

We are currently looking for a representative for Zone 1 which include the following school divisions; Southeast Cornerstone, Good Spirit, Holy Family RCSSD and Christ the Teacher RCSSD. This role primarily involves supporting homeschooling families in the region by answering questions, providing guidance, and assisting families in navigating any concerns that may arise with school divisions. This is a meaningful opportunity to support and advocate for homeschoolers within your community.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

We are also seeking a Director at Large. This position is an excellent way to become involved with the board and learn more about SHBE. The primary responsibility is attending monthly board meetings and contributing ideas, perspectives, and discussion as part of the team. No specific additional duties are required.

If you are interested in supporting homeschooling families and helping strengthen home-based education in Saskatchewan, we would love to hear from you!

UPCOMING WEBINARS

YEAR END REPORTING

May 21/2026 @ 7:00pm via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting Link HERE](#)

Join us as we review the requirements for your Annual Progress Report, including the Periodic Log and Summative Record. This session will provide practical guidance, clarify common questions, and include an open Q&A opportunity to support families as they complete their year-end reporting.

REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION PLANS

September 3/2026 @ 7:00pm via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting Link HERE](#)

Join us as we review registering with your school division and writing your Written Education Plans. This session will walk families through the process, review key requirements for Written Education Plans, and provide practical guidance and support to help you prepare confidently for the upcoming school year. This webinar will also have time for open Q&A.

SAVE THE DATE

AVOIDING THE SUMMER SLIDE

By Dinah Whitton - Originally published by HSLDA and reprinted with permission.

After a long winter, most Canadians look forward to enjoying the warm summer months. If you schedule your homeschool around the traditional school year, your students are probably excited about taking a break from the workbooks for a few weeks. But, when the summer fun is over, many parents are going back to the drawing board to help their children remember what they learned prior to the long break.

The summer slide or summer learning loss is a reality for most students that have an extended break from academic studies. After spending the majority of the year learning new concepts in reading, writing and math etc. that newly obtained knowledge can be quickly forgotten during a two month break. Research on this matter shows that students can lose up to one month or more of learning and test scores are significantly lower. In addition, students in lower income families tend to experience the most summer learning loss due to the lack of resources to maintain their academic skills. Fortunately, for homeschooling families, this research does not have to be a reality. Regardless of your income, there are many ways to help your children stay sharp while enjoying some downtime in the summer.

Keep Reading

While this may seem like the most obvious solution to summer learning loss, many parents get caught up with what their children are reading. Naturally, the first choice is quality literature but during the summer, let your children indulge in some 'off road reading'. There are various kid-friendly magazines available at the library and online. Having the freedom to explore a topic of interest in a fun way, will likely result in reading more. Audiobooks and ebooks can also support your child's learning throughout the summer. Browse HSLDA Canada's digital library and get lost in a fictional adventure in the car during road trips, on rainy days and even at bedtime.



HSLDA

SPOTLIGHT

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Sneaky Summer Learning

Since learning never really ends; use your summertime activities as an informal lesson. Whether you're visiting a museum or taking in a cultural festival, ask your children to tell you about one interesting fact they discovered. Encourage your children to journal about their day or even draw pictures about their favourite activity of the week. If you're going on a road trip, take plenty of pictures and look at them together. Consider printing them and creating a family album – let the kids put captions on them! Or, let your kids' digital creativity flow and get them to make a slideshow or mini-movie of your adventures.

Frequent Breaks Throughout the Year

The beauty of homeschooling is the flexibility it provides families. It's easy to fall in line with the traditional school year, but remember that this schedule is not mandatory. Create a schedule that works with your family's overall needs. Consider spreading out your breaks throughout the year instead of one long summer break. Planning a vacation outside of the typical school year breaks is also more cost-effective. Frequent breaks give you a chance to recalibrate and can reduce the risk of learning loss over a longer period.

Online Academic Games

While it is important to limit screen time, there are definitely ways to use digital devices to support learning. Spend a few moments researching quality fun games that your kids will enjoy. Most devices have parental controls so you can set limits and monitor your children's online activity. Maybe they're already playing a game that requires critical thinking skills or encourages creativity. Find out what they like to play and use your creativity to incorporate a learning opportunity.



 Legal Protection	 Homeschool Support	 Advocacy
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Protecting and empowering Canada's homeschool success since 1991.

HSLDA

SPOTLIGHT

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Soft Start Back to Homeschool

The transition from summer break to homeschool doesn't have to be tedious. Keep the fun going as you begin another exciting year of learning. Silly object lessons, hands on science experiments and trips to the library are just a few ways to ease into a new school year. Some families even start with half days toward the end of the summer. For example, academics in the morning and leisure time in the afternoon, then add in additional subjects as September rolls around. However, if you do use this method, be sure to discuss when the full schedule will resume so the expectations are clear.

Home educators have a unique opportunity to support their children's learning throughout the year and avoid summer learning loss. Plan ahead and include activities during breaks that support your family's academic goals. Everyone can truly enjoy some much-needed downtime and look forward to a progressive school year.

LEGAL NOTES: DEALING WITH AUTHORITIES

As a dedicated homeschool parent, you may be offended or indignant when your parenting or educational approach faces scrutiny. You likely have strong feelings about the best way to raise and educate your child since homeschooling is a very intentional parenting choice. Interactions with authorities can quickly become emotionally charged, yet it is the most important time to be calm and respectful.

To protect your family and homeschool, it is essential to have a positive — or at minimum, neutral — interaction with those in authority. Keep the following advice in mind when you are faced with difficult conversations, especially with authority figures.

- Communicate respectfully even if they are not respectful;
- Avoid hostile nonverbals (crossed arms, standing back, glaring, etc);
- Remain calm; never become angry or aggressive;
- Choose your words carefully; provide only the information needed for the issue at hand;
- Avoid contentious statements;
- Do not sign any documents (consents to share information, or voluntary service agreements) until you have them reviewed by a lawyer.

Don't be defensive. Respond with confidence.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Have an upcoming homeschool meetup, book sale, or community event? Contact us to have it featured in a future newsletter issue!

Homeschool Resources Sale



Join us for a community Homeschool Resources Sale! Connect with other homeschooling families & discover new-to-you resources! Shoppers please bring cash & your own bags.

Wednesday June 3rd
Cornerstone Church
315 Lenore Dr.
Saskatoon
12:30-3:30

Seller info:
Table rental \$10 each
You are in charge of your own display, pricing, & transactions.
Set up 12-12:30pm. Take down 3:30-4pm
Sign up deadline May 20th, 2025

To rent a table(s) or if you have any questions please email Rina: epic.jolt@protonmail.com

Come shop, browse, chat about curriculum & visit with other homeschool families!

We're looking forward to connecting with you!
~Anglea Loback, Karen Livingstone, & Rina Fradette~

NIPAWIN Homeschool PARK DAYS

SPRING/SUMMER
SCHEDULE
10AM-12PM AS
WEATHER PERMITS

NOT LIMITED TO
HOMESCHOOLERS,
EVERYONE WELCOME!

MAY 14 - PINEDALE PARK
MAY 21 - REGIONAL PARK
MAY 28 - KITELY PARK
JUNE 4 - PURPLE PARK
JUNE 11 - ELKS PARK (SCHULTS ROAD)
JUNE 18 - CENTRAL PARK SCHOOL
JUNE 25 - PINEDALE PARK
JULY 2 - REGIONAL PARK
JULY 9 - KITELY PARK
JULY 16 - PURPLE PARK
JULY 29 - ELKS PARK (SCHULTS ROAD)
JULY 30 - CENTRAL PARK SCHOOL
AUG 6 - PINEDALE PARK
AUG 13 - REGIONAL PARK
AUG 20 - KITELY PARK
AUG 27 - PURPLE PARK

PONY EXPRESS ON THE PRAIRIES

The original Pony Express in the United States transported mail on horseback between 1860-1861; this prairie version will ride along Highway 33 between Francis and Fillmore for a distance of ~25 miles in a time of 6-7 hours. A mail bag will be handed between riders and transported along the entire route. Want to join the fun? Sign up as a rider, send a letter, be a spectator, or meet us in Fillmore for historical displays, a canteen supper, and after-event festivities.

Saturday
June 6, 2026

Begin at Francis
Start @ 10:00am
Leave Tyvan @ 12:00pm
Leave Osage @ 2:00pm
End with a ride through Fillmore

Supper will be available for purchase at the Fillmore Recreation Centre. Come for the food, stay for some good ole' country music!
Note: This will be a DRY, family event.

Facebook Pony Express on the Prairies

306-861-7136

Send a Letter on the Pony Express!

#1

Write a personal letter Put it in an addressed envelope (must include recipients name town and phone number) Hand it to someone in the Kyle Family OR put it in another envelope and mail it to us (PO Box 50 Tyvan SK S0G 4X0) Letters will be sorted carried along the trail and available for pickup in Tyvan (1145am) Osage (145pm) or Fillmore (500pm)

#2

Write a personal letter Put it in an addressed envelope WITH A STAMP! Put it in another envelope and mail directly to the Kyle Family (see address in #1) Letters will be sorted carried along the trail and dropped in the local mailbox to make their way to the recipient (Letters with destinations not on our route that are without stamps will not be mailed)

#3

Write an encouraging note Put it in an envelope with the recipient name (if necessary) and c/o Fillmore Care Home Hand it to someone in the Kyle Family or mail it (see address in #1) These notes will be carried along the trail and dropped off (via horseback) at the Fillmore Health Centre!

Deadline is June 1 2026



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



Membership
HERE

Contact us for more
information

