

Professional Development Day 2015

Agenda

9:00 **Registration and Breakfast Yogurt Bar**

Enjoy a bowl of yogurt with a selection of toppings: fresh fruit, granola, seeds, dried fruit, maple syrup. We will have other healthy snacks and some treats. Coffee and tea.

9:30 **Welcome from Fundy Home Educators - Jillian Ramsay**

9:45 **Morning Devotion - Hold the Line - Holly Myers**

Feeling any oppression lately? Are you isolating yourself and waiting for the battle to be over? Our own flesh and outside pressure tempt us to give up or retreat. We must "hold the line" for our family, for our neighbour and, ultimately, for Christ's sake. True freedom is fought for on the battlegrounds of the heart, the home and the community. As home educators, we come together to learn from and lean on each other in order to be victorious in our mutual endeavour of glorifying and enjoying Him through our family. Let's learn how to "hold the line" together by using weapons of humility, compassion and sacrifice.

10:15 **Snack Break**

Grab a quick snack and another cuppa, mingle and check out the book swap table.

Book Swap

Anyone is welcome to take books from this table. We will have them sorted according to subject. This is a great chance to bless others with your gently used curriculum and hopefully take something great home for your shelves.

10:45 **Introduction of the Morning Speakers - Heather Milbury**

11:00 **Attend Session A or B**

Session A: The Early Harvest, High School at Home - Heather Christ

While her experience may not be similar to yours (only one child, worked full-time while homeschooling), Heather would like to encourage those who wonder if they are really able to teach at home through the high school years. Sharing practical tips, resources and personal anecdotes, Heather hopes to give you some ideas on how this could work for you. Her words are not just for parents of high schoolers; middle school or even late elementary is not too soon to catch this vision. The early harvest gives us a foretaste of what will come a little later on; and so it is with homeschooling those later years.

Session B: Second Generation Homeschool - Emily Vail

Wondering what your kids will think of their education when they grow to adulthood? Here are some thoughts from someone who has been there, survived and even chosen to do the same (crazy) thing with her own family! Emily will be sharing the things she appreciates most about her home education; she will be sharing what she is choosing to do the same and what she is choosing to do differently with her kids.

11:45 **Lunch** - Relax and be served a tasty lunch of:

Curry Squash Soup (*Vegan/Gluten Free*)

or

Smoky White Turkey Chili (*Trim Healthy Mama approved*)

and

An **Autumn Salad** with whole grains, roasted sweet potatoes and a maple dressing.

The option is with or without goat cheese.

There will also be a cheesecake selection for dessert.

12:45 **Introduction of the Afternoon Speakers - Heather Milbury**

1:00 **Attend Session A or B**

Session A: Beyond the Books - Angela Long

Angela loves, loves, loves books! Curling up with a great book - either read aloud or in the hands of students - is one of her favourite things about homeschool. She would like, however, to challenge you to take it "beyond the books"; Angela will share some fun ways to expand on an amazing novel (or even a dry textbook!) by integrating art, music, home economics, geography, history, science and even math into your current read. Enriching a novel by appealing to all of your child's senses will not only help your children learn, but will also create family memories that will last. She hopes that you are inspired to think outside of the box and to have fun with your students.

Session B: Homeschooling Students with Special Needs - Natalie Gray

Natalie will share the joys and challenges of homeschooling children with special needs. She will describe the journey with her talented autistic son and her creative dyslexic daughter. This workshop will include a list of resources available for special needs students as well as an opportunity for participants to share their personal experiences.

1:45 **Better Together - Panel Discussion**

Enjoy a tasty treat during our final session with the panel, discussing the importance of being a part of a local homeschool support group.

We would love to share with you the things that bind us together as moms and how we can keep our homeschools healthy; for example, we strongly encourage friendships with other homeschool moms. There is something special about the bond with another woman, a homeschooling mom, who has all of her kids in her home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This friend will offer you grace when she knows all too well that you have been running 9 consecutive days with no break and no alone time; she will offer you accountability when you need to rally the troops and get back to the books; she will gently explain to you that taking on another commitment is going to make you lose your ever-loving mind; she will "get it" when you have to move the morning's nature-walk finds, a telescope, "artwork " and a basket of laundry off of the dining room table before you can share a cup of coffee; she will encourage, inspire, pray and, above all else, never (ever!) say: "You should just send them to school, it would be easier."

This is a great chance to ask questions to a group of other moms that really "get you". Panel members include: Tammy Bigney, Carol Flower, Angela Long, Heather Milbury, Grace Peachman, Katie Peterson and Jillian Ramsay.

2:30 **Closing Remarks - Jillian Ramsay**

Remarks from HENB

Closing Prayer- Carol Flower