

# Family Education Center

## News Notes

American Heritage School and Family Education Center  
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736 N 1100 E American Fork, UT 84003  
(801) 642-0055

### MOVING FORWARD



Let thy bowels be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. D&C 121:45

### FAMILY LECTURE SERIES

Friday, September 9th

7:30 - 9:00 PM

CHEIKO OKASAKI

Lectures are held in the auditorium of American Heritage School & Family Education Center and are free and open to the public. We invite those ages 14 and older to join us. For more information call 801-642-0055. Lectures will not be held during the spring and summer months but will begin again September 9th. All lectures will be held the second Friday of the month.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Family Education Center would like to thank Brent Barlow for sharing his time and talents with us as part of the lecture series. A summary of his lecture on "Why Marriage Matters" will be sent directly to you when completed.

### SUBSCRIBE NOW

To subscribe to our free on-line News Notes please email [FEC@AHSmial.com](mailto:FEC@AHSmial.com). Questions should be addressed to Cheryl Karr at [CKarr@AHSmial.com](mailto:CKarr@AHSmial.com) or by calling 1-(801) 642-0055, ext. 503

### NEW CHAIRWOMAN



Laurie Swim has been named the new Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees at American Heritage School & Family Education Center. Mrs. Swim follows in the footsteps of her husband Gaylord Swim who passed away February 5th from cancer.

Laurie Swim is a former member of the Young Women's General Board of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was recently released as the Committee Chair for the new YW Campground in Heber, Utah. She is the mother of five grown children and we are delighted to have her at the head of American Heritage. Jeff Acerson will continue as Chairman of the Family Education Center Board.

### EXPLORE LIFE! SUMMER CAMP

AGES 8-12 COST \$199

Experience "Colonial Williamsburg" at American Heritage School this summer. Enjoy speaking with Abigail Adams and Patrick Henry, grooming and riding horses, practicing George Washington's "Rules of Civility, making your own ink and quill, learning the Minuet, conducting art and science experiments and much much more. Sessions run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Session #1 June 20-23; Session #2 June 27-30. Registration forms are available at school or can be downloaded at [www.american-heritage.org](http://www.american-heritage.org) under Family Education Center.

## LIBRARY RESOURCE

Let us help you build your family library. We have just placed an order for some wonderful books that will be arriving soon here at American Heritage. Titles include:

<u>Child's Garden</u> of Verses	\$7.95
<u>Common Sense</u> by Thomas Payne	\$9.95
<u>Rules of Civility</u> by Washington	\$9.95
<u>Benjamin Franklin Quotes</u>	\$9.95
<u>George Washington Quotes</u>	\$9.95
<u>Stories of Great Americans</u> by Edward Eggleston	\$14.95
<u>History of the U.S. and Its People</u> by Edward Eggleston	\$24.95

If you would like to purchase one of these books please come by the school or call 642-0055 ext. 503 to hold your copy. There are limited quantities.

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## LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND SELF-RELIANCE IN EDUCATION

BY PAUL T. MERO

For the Annual Conference of the Alliance for the Separation of School and State - November 20-22, 2004

(Note: The author was asked and invited to prepare a discussion document to address the ideal that Latter-day Saints should home school their children. While this discussion document does not comprise the full spectrum of thoughts that can, and should, be discussed, it hopefully provides a solid basis upon which to thoughtfully and prayerfully ponder this important subject.)

There is no gospel doctrine of public education. We must ask ourselves, if we are to be honest with ourselves, why no such doctrine exists. On the other hand, there is a gospel doctrine of the family – family is the fundamental unit of society. In fact, it is the fundamental unit of eternity. This doctrine speaks louder than worldly arguments favoring any worldly philosophy.

Very good reasons may exist in favor of public schools and for placing Latter-day Saint children in them – a popular reason, so nobly uttered, is that our children are to be a leaven to the world – but no such reason outweighs the often-nagging ideal of becoming a parent in Zion. We must ask ourselves what that expression, a parent in Zion, truly means.

There is only one “sacred cow” in the world of Latter-day Saints and that is Heavenly Father’s plan for His children. This plan centers on the home and on parents upholding their sacred obligation to teach, train, and rear their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If that can be done in public schools, then so be it. But there is no question, that is, we know with certainty, that it can be done elsewhere all according to the Father’s plan.

I am one Latter-day Saint that has tried to answer these questions and ponder the ramifications of each step. I have read the history of education in Utah (i.e., of the Latter-day Saints) and I see the tainted hand of politics and bigotry against Zion. The record of the early Brethren against public schooling is much too long to share here. But the record exists – in all reality, public schools were an external condition (some might say a punishment) imposed upon the saints for statehood. Of course, this history alone does not preclude adaptation for self-preservation, not by any means. Utah saints, “the Church” for so much of the modern dispensation, did what they needed to do in Utah, and in relation to the federal government, to survive. Nonetheless, this history is unavoidable. It informs honest descriptions and answers to any questions regarding how we are to educate Zion’s children.

But “old” history is not enough. There are “new” histories to contend with, some being written every day. Self-reliance in education is one of those new histories being written – a back-to-the-future history no longer hidden amidst years of political persecution, social conformity, and worldly excuses. Parents in Zion do have a choice as to how they educate their children. A choice they can live up to with great sacrifice. A choice based upon gospel doctrine, and not simply worldly circumstances. A choice made possible by political freedom, transcendent technologies, and the absence of any gospel doctrine precluding it.

Even still, this question – does the Latter-day Saint belief in self-reliance extend to education? – is a profound conundrum pitting parental hearts against the externalities of the world. Good luck.

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Paul Mero is a member of the American Heritage Family Education Center Board and is President of the Sutherland Institute.

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Sign up for Explore Life! Summer Camp  
Ages 8-12 \$199

Session #1 June 20-23 Session #2 June 27-30

Call 642-0055 ext. 503 for more information

This camp is open to all children ages 8-12 whether or not they regularly attend American Heritage School. See pictures at [www.american-heritage.org](http://www.american-heritage.org).