

Kids Stuff

Homeschool adventures abound

By ANGELA COOPER-McCORKLE

For 9-year-old twins Chloe and Liam Jarrett, going to school is as simple as getting out of bed and walking to the kitchen.

The kitchen is just one of the classrooms for the siblings and their 14-year-old sister Isabel. "Our whole house, the whole world is our learning space," said mom Jennifer Jarrett.

For the family, who are homeschooled, learning can and does happen anywhere.

Most days, mom Jennifer Jarrett is the teacher, and grandma has served as a substitute.

Just like children in schools, there are spelling bees, field days and holiday parties. Field trips include ones most school kids have tried, like seeing a play, but also visits to unique spots like a candy factory.

On Fridays the children attend the Family Academy in Snohomish to enjoy learning through play with other homeschoolers.

Big sister Isabel set the example for her younger brother and sister by going into business at the Family Academy: she practiced math and sales skills offering baked potatoes for sale by weight starting when she was 8 years old.

Chloe and Liam are in business now too, selling energy bars and more.

In Friday engineering lessons, the students have also pried apart e-reader tablets with screwdrivers and dismantled computers, seeing what it takes to make technology.

"We do basically everything fun," Chloe said.

During the rest of the week,

Liam and Chloe usually start their days reading books aloud over breakfast. There is time for scripture and favorite books like the Harry Potter series, Chloe said.

They usually finish school at about noon, the time many schoolchildren start lunch.

For the Jarretts, though, after school time comes chores. "You have to clean your room, that's horrible," said Chloe.

Liam is glad when chores are done to be able to go outside and play with friends.

Some homeschooling happens at home. For another homeschooling family, the Woodards, learning often happens out in the community.

Dad Dustin Woodard said, "There are as many ways to homeschool as there are children."

His kids: Aven, 13, Aniya, 10 and preschooler Azalea, 4, spent one day last week kayaking, creative writing, dancing, practicing soccer and picking up art from the state fair.

They did finish their big day of learning at home with some before-bed reading.

Aven and Aniya will also take a few classes at Monroe's Sky Valley Education Center.

Aven chose Robotics, Game Theory and Advanced Woodworking. Aniya picked Forest School, Woodworking, PE and Clay Sculpture. They'll learn other subjects at home.

They both have favorite memories of things they've learned.

Over the summer they went to Space Center Houston in Texas "and got to go inside the space shuttle and listen to talk by a retired astronaut," Aven said.

For Aniya, dancing took



Liam Jarrett, 9, and Nathan Hoyden, 11, study engineering in a Friday Family Academy.

center stage. "Last week... I learned five competitive new dances in only four days," she said.

And while little Azalea isn't quite school-aged yet, dad says she's excited to be learning about money,

figuring out what different coins are worth.

While homeschoolers study all kinds of subjects, sometimes in unusual spaces, Liam says the best part is just "being at home."

Fun things to do

Monster Mash

Dress up in costume for this mother-son dance party packed with fun activities, dancing and refreshments. This fun event will be Friday, Oct. 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. in Floral Hall at Forest Park, 802 E. Mukilteo Blvd. in Everett. Register under the mother's name. \$34 per adult-child pair, \$6 per additional child. 425-257-8300 ext. 2.

The Great Pumpkin

The giant pumpkin returns to the Sultan Library, 319 Main St., in October! Stop by Oct. 1-24 to enter the "guess the weight" contest.

Star Wars essay contest

Empire Writes Back! is a creative story writing contest for students in grades 2-8 involving The Museum of Flight in Seattle. The contest calls for fictional stories all kinds between 100 and 1000 words; submissions are due by midnight Oct. 1. Winners will receive free admission to the museum and must be

present on Oct. 13 as part of a Star Wars Reads Day celebration to collect their prize.

The rules and entry form are online.

The word count requirements are between 100 to 350 words for second and third graders; between 350 to 700 words for fourth and fifth graders and between 700 to 1,000 words for sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Please mail an entry to: Empire Writes Back! Writing Contest Attn: Education Department - 9404 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, WA 98108 or email to: empirewritesback@museumofflight.org. (Subject line: Empire Writes Back! Writing Contest)

Totally Tech!

Experiment with Littlebits, Makey Makey and Snap Circuits! Play Pacman using playdough, make a propeller spin, lights flash and more! Snohomish Library, 311 Maple Ave., Friday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.

Cheer Clinic

The Snohomish Panther Cheerleaders will be sponsoring a fundraising Cheer Clinic for all ages on Friday, Sept. 14 at the Snohomish High School aux gym from 3-5 p.m. The kids are then invited back later that evening to cheer at the home football game with the cheerleaders! The cost is \$35 (extra siblings \$5 off). For more information, contact Breezy Robinson, 425-263-1400, breezy2000@gmail.com