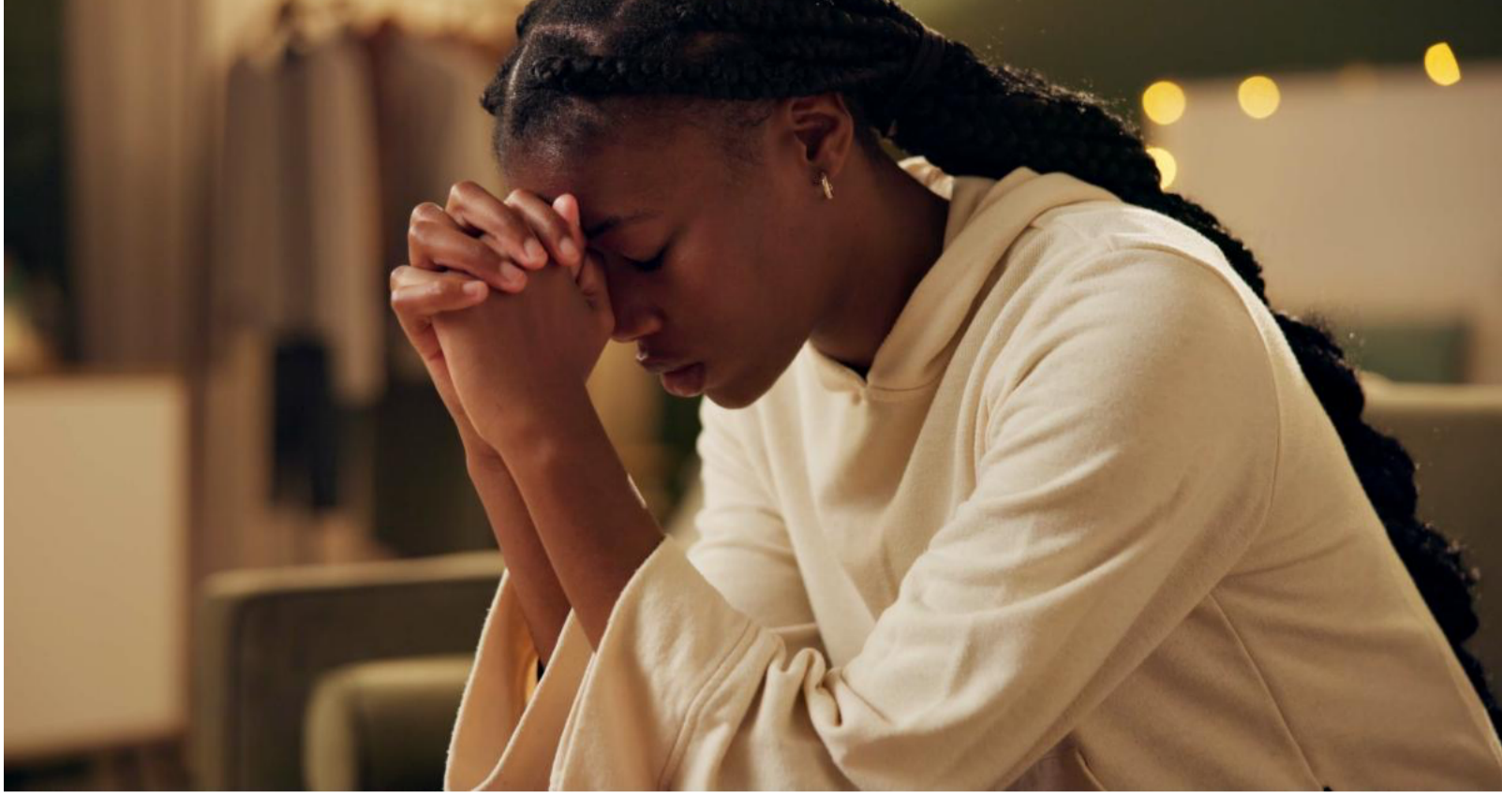




Dear friends,

Every once in a while someone contacts me, sharing something of their family’s adventures with Christopherus or the struggles they have as homeschoolers...or they might share a verse or experience that helps them grow spiritually. The following is such an offering, a gift sent from the heart of someone who used to homeschool but whose children are grown.

I am so touched by the kindness that reaches out from this wonderful prayer and moved by the author’s humble acknowledgement of the Holy Spirit as inspiration for these words.



I hope that it will help many of you as you struggle with a relationship to screens, whether your own or that of loved ones, especially youngsters. This friend says she realized that ‘nothing but divine intervention was going to help my son and all the other children out there (and adults) who are addicted to screens.’ This is so true. While it is possible to ensure that your young child has no exposure to screens (though screens used by other people will not escape her notice) there will come a point when that becomes incredibly difficult if not impossible. All it takes is one child in the homeschool co-op to bring a phone to a get together; all it takes is the ‘need’ to have a phone when an older child has activities outside the home (and that need can be real—classes, practices, rehearsals and get togethers are usually organized via social media) and there you go. How to mitigate the effects? How to ensure healthy boundaries? How eventually to create a teen and then adult who can self regulate with his phone?

There are many things you can do to delay and soften the inevitable screen use and those things are extremely important. But...there are individuals whose addictive tendencies—and we all have them, just some of us are much more susceptible to their influence—ensure that they become dominated by their screens.

What to do?

Prayer is one powerful option. We are not alone in this world and the dark spiritual forces which thrive in the addictive realms of life can be overcome by the spiritual sustenance we can receive from prayer. The following is offered to you to help. I join the woman who submitted it here in a heartfelt wish that it will help many of you. All feedback on this topic welcome.

[And here is a link to several articles I have written](#) or recorded regarding children and computer use.

I love to see what things you are working on, even though my boys are grown now. And speaking of my boys, I am writing to you to share a prayer that I wrote when I realized that nothing but divine intervention was going to help my son and all the other children out there (and adults) who are addicted to screens. Please feel free to share it at your discretion. I would love to see it spread far and wide and thousands of voices raised in supplication for freedom from this enemy. It was inspired by the Holy Spirit, so all the credit goes to Him, and there is no need to include my name.

Prayer for Our Loved Ones Addicted to Screens

Heavenly Father, who alone is good and great,
Who searches our hearts and knows the depth of our strength and our weakness,
To you Lord God we pray for those
Whose eyes and ears and hearts have been captured
By images and false promises,
For their desires and their hearts have deceived them.
But you, O Lord, have a strong hand
And a compassionate heart.
You are the God of reversals,
The God that delivers us from our enemies,
From enslavement, making the blind see and the deaf hear.
You kill the giant with a stone in the hand of a boy.
You part the sea, turn hearts and raise the dead.
And you alone satisfy.
O Lord God, look down on your children
And in your infinite goodness and mercy,
And in the mighty power of your holy name,
Shatter these bonds.
For your love alone that has been poured out, in and through us;
For the glory of your Son who died in demonstration of this love,
A love that withholds nothing and brings freedom,
Lead your children out of this darkness.
Ever our good shepherd, hear our prayers. Amen.

Because of our commitment to being a screen-free curriculum and parenting approach, we are struggling a bit financially. We would be so grateful if those of you who value our work publicize Christopherus as much as you can, both to local homeschoolers and online. I don't 'do' social media, but I know many of you do—any testimonials about Christopherus to blogs and various platforms would be so appreciated by me! Thank you.

Fall Webinars

Upcoming topics: The Buck Stops with You (free webinar which is a foundation for the three to follow on discipline); Discipline: early years through age 8; Discipline: age 9 through 13; Discipline: the teenage years; Sex Education; Rhythm (the webinar which was postponed/cancelled a few months ago).



I would also like to present a webinar on Advent and Christmas for those of you for whom these festivals mark important times in the cycle of the year.

More details next newsletter!

We now sell many of the webinars recorded earlier this year. Topics include Child Development; Embracing Being a Homemaker; Nurturing Gratitude in Teens; and many more. [Click here to see all titles.](#)

Connect with Christopherus families

Wanting to connect with other Christopherus families? [Our Networking page](#) is the best place to look but every once in a while I like to open up this newsletter to helping folks connect. Here’s Megan from New York....

I am looking to connect with Christopherus families who have rising third graders, to share and prepare with over the coming year, growing in our "synergy of living relationships". I home/unschooled myself from fifth grade to university and love being on the Waldorf path with our daughter. We live in western New York, with Waldorf homeschooling friends throughout the country but often travel to meet friends in person. I've benefitted from Christopherus resources since we began. I'd be happy to host an online cohort gathering on a regular or semi-regular basis. If you'd like to participate, you can email me wnywaldorfhomeschool@gmail.com. Also, I have a facebook group Waldorf & Forest Homeschool Friends with about 1,900 people from around the world at www.facebook.com/groups/waldorfforestfriends.

Two more seventh grade publications available soon!

In about a week you can order the Seventh Grade Curriculum (we’re just waiting for the proof to return to us from Lulu). This curriculum is much smaller than those of earlier grades mainly because language arts, astronomy, chemistry, history and (late winter) human physiology are all sold separately.

We sell 7th and 8th gr publications in this way because homeschooling children of this age is not at all like homeschooling younger children: there are so many variations in how one approaches not just how one teaches, but what one teaches. Any set curriculum is bound to miss as much as it may hit the developmental needs and reality of 13 and 14 year olds. And by these grades, all Waldorf schools have specialty teachers who take up subjects that are beyond what the class teacher can manage. We encourage you to do the same and so for some subjects, us providing guidance is more appropriate than lessons.

Seventh grade chemistry is chugging along nicely and it will be available in a month or two. It is focused on fire, water, air and earth, the objective foundations of all further chemistry explorations which, critically for 13 year olds, can be experienced with their senses and are easily seen to be a part of life, whether in the compost heap, the photosynthesis of plants or the action of oxidation in leaves or on metals. Chemistry is usually taught in conventional education by examining the abstractions of atoms and chemical formulae and is generally based in test tubes, not in living systems and beings. In eighth grade the students will take significant steps in that direction, but not yet. If we want to raise the next generation to have real connections and care for the living world, then we need to help them always feel the reality of those connections as we teach, grounded in life around us.

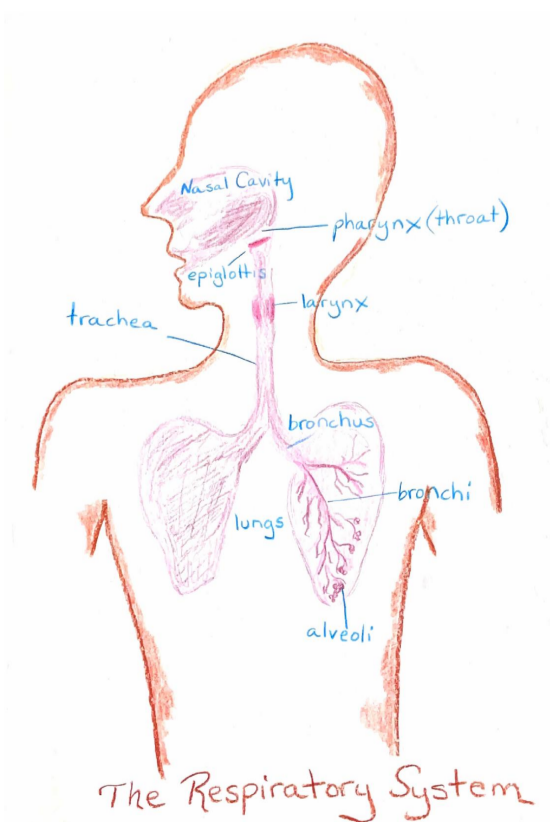
Therefore soil and water testing, photosynthesis, the oxygen/nitrogen cycle, the observation of the three states of water, of how things burn and other practical hands-on lessons will fill the three weeks dedicated in the year’s schedule (see Seventh Grade Curriculum for schedules).



Seventh grade chemistry consists of a series of videos for you, the teacher, so you can instruct your child. There is also a lengthy PDF of experiments and demonstrations so you can plan your lessons accordingly. Some background information is provided by links to other sources—some of the experiments can also be found there.

The main thrust of Christopherus chemistry is to help your child be as accurate, precise and clear as possible when describing what he observes. He will be asked to verbally describe phenomena as well as write short reports and sketch what he sees. He must not be disturbed by family activities and noise while this is happening. As I say over and over again in various seventh grade publications, by this stage of homeschooling, you must be prepared to hold some lessons in the evening or at other times when other siblings are occupied or asleep. There is just no getting around that. Homeschooling children of this age means that one must expand into weekends and evenings, both because of the increased workload but also so that the wonderful bustle of family life does not intrude on those studies which must be done in peace. Therefore, a three week main lesson might, for some of you, become an evening or two a week for many weeks. This is not ideal, but when one homeschools, one has to do what one has to do!

Human physiology is the last part of seventh grade for me to complete—I hope to finish it by late winter 2024/25. At that point, the Christopherus seventh grade curriculum will be complete and I will turn my attention to 8th grade!



So much of 8th grade is dependent on what one is planning to do for high school. Most of our 8th grade materials will be focused on choices and different possibilities. The first of our new eighth grade materials (which will join our [8th gr language arts](#) and also [electricity materials](#) which are already available) will be chemistry, human biology and American history. Stay tuned!!

Hoping you all are enjoying the last weeks of summer (or winter in the Southern Hemisphere)!

Til August,
Blessings on your homeschool journey,
Donna