

EXPANSIONS

A newsletter for the parents of gifted children

Fall 2008



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A Note from the Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Services

I am so excited to join Adams County School District 14. I have been a teacher for 29 years in Jefferson County Schools. I completed my Masters in Gifted and Talented from University of Northern Colorado in 1988 and have a GT Endorsement from the state. For the past seven years, I was a GT Resource Consultant; working with K-12 schools in supporting staff and parents to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. I have presented at national and state level conferences in a variety of topics, and I am a state level presenter for Twice Exceptional (students identified as gifted with a learning disability) students.

Collegiality and collaboration is critical to our success and I want to support teachers, students and parents as we strengthen our instructional programming for gifted and talented learners.

I look forward to working with you and your student this year. Please feel free to contact me at (303) 853-3249 or by email at cfranklin@adams14.org if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Cheryl Franklin-Rohr

This year, we are pleased to have GT Liaisons in each building that will be assisting your child with Gifted and Talented Services. Below is a list of each Liaison and their contact information. In most schools, the Liaison is responsible for completing your child's yearly Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), as well as coordinating all clubs and competitions. To contact your child's GT Liaison, please refer to the list below.

ACHS: 9th Grade– Michael Hicks mchicks@adams14.org
10th Grade– Regina Stewart rbstewar@adams14.org
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Hanson: Robert Andrew reandrew@adams14.org
Kemp: Colleen Urlik cepassmo@adams14.org
Monaco: Tracy Morey tnmorey@adams14.org
Rose Hill: Sandra Cook-Heisser scook@adams14.org
Community Leadership Academy: Cheryl Franklin-Rohr cfranklin@adams14.org





*"The future
belongs to
those who
believe in the
beauty of
their dreams."*

*Eleanor
Roosevelt*

Fun Times at Gifted and Talented Summer Camp

This summer, a number of our GT students were able to participate in a 2-week summer camp hosted by the University of Northern Colorado. Students in 5th-10th grade participated in the Summer Enrichment Program. Students in the 11th and 12th grades participated in the Leadership Enrichment Program. Adams 14 sponsored 8 students to attend this camp, and we hope to offer the same to students in the summer of 2009. Below are some reviews of the camp from our Adams 14 participants.

My Experience at UNC By: Emma Bryant (6th Grader at Hanson PK-8)

When I got the invitation to go to UNC I filled it out right away. I really hoped that I would be chosen to go to the camp.

The first thing that happened in the camp was that we were assigned a room and a room mate. Then we got to pick our classes. We had four periods each day. The first day was the hardest because we had to find our teachers and every one was in a hurry. I almost missed my second class of the day. Each class was very interesting. My first class was Cold Case Renaissance. Then I had photography, then Cracking the Code. My last class of the day was Add or Propaganda. I had tons of fun and learned a lot. We had lunch in between my second and third periods. The food there was delicious. They had a grille, an Italian restaurant, a sub station and salad bar. That night I finished unpacking. My favorite part of camp was Super Saturday and Sunday. The reason why was because on Super Saturday we got to pick different classes that had crafts and dance classes. After classes we went to our first option. This is fun, messy and exiting. Some are swimming and art. The really fun ones are the messy ones. After that we had dinner and went back to the dorms and relaxed for a while. Then we went to the other option. Then we went to the dorms and had floor time. Which is when we had to stay on the floor, and then we got to visit the other floors. Finally after two weeks it was time to go home. The camp was fun but it was good to be home. This was my time at camp. I think that I will go back next year.

By: Christia Martinez (5th Grader at Monaco Elementary)

This past summer I went to a summer enrichment program for two weeks. There were about ten girls in one group and our counselor's name was S.J. She was really nice. We had all of our meals in a college cafeteria. I think it was pretty fun because we could sit where ever we wanted to and I think any fifth grader would like eating in a college cafeteria.

For our classes we could choose what we wanted to learn about, like Flickology, which was the study of "Flick" in the movie "A Bug's Life" or SEP Press, which was making a newspaper for the whole SEP or LEP program. Another class was "Can you Handle the Truth" which was a Philosophy class. My last class was a Guerilla Art class, where we could express ourselves and use spray paint on cardboard, and even make sculptures out of ordinary rocks.

In the afternoons, we had options we could choose from like swimming, playing regular games, or we could get messy with paints. In the evenings, we had other options we could choose from. Those options were play "Zombies in the Graveyard," or even choose something called "Syrup Wars" which was the most popular game to play. Another messy evening option was "Duck, Duck, Gross" involving mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, and relish! I met a lot of people that made me feel at home and some high school students that were nice and helpful.

By D. J. Owens (5th Grader at Central Elementary)

SEP was an experience I will certainly never forget. When I first got to my dorm, the sheets were laid out on my bed, and my dad helped me get my bedding together. When that was done, my roommate, Adam, came in with his parents. Then my grandma and my dad embarrassed me so much! After that, Adam and I said our goodbyes, and my parents and his left. Then later in the day, my new friends (Jack, Noah, and Paul) picked our classes. I chose Hikology, Improve your Improv Comedy, Wired Electrical Connections, and Survival of the Fittest. They were all very interesting. I made many friends there. Some of them are still in contact with me via e-mail. On the very last day mostly everyone's parents came, and we all showed them what we learned. After all of that was finished, the parents left and we got yearbooks! We spent about an hour signing yearbooks and things like that. Then we went to our dorms and got ready for the dance! We partied at some place on campus from 4:30 P. M. to midnight. Finally, the next day we packed our things and waited for our parents. All of my friends left one by one until I was one of the last ones. Then my parents came. I said goodbye to all of my friends that were left, and I went. S. E. P. was a great social and learning experience.

Leadership Enrichment Program by Molly Gonzales (12 Grader at Adams City High School)

Going to LEP was the highlight of my summer. This is a place where gifted minds are challenged during the summer. In LEP there's a leadership class every morning. This is a way to think deeply about what it means to be a leader, how to be a leader, and what a leader really is. You don't have to be a leader going in to the program. One of the best things is the fact that you learn a lot about yourself as a potential leader. To help exercise these skills you are able to help a teacher lead an SEP class. These kids really look up to whoever's in LEP so the whole two weeks you're expected to be a role model.

The relationships I made at LEP are by far the best part. I wouldn't trade the friendships I made for the world. The people there are insightful, creative and all around fun. This is the most amazing environment, because everyone is encouraged to be themselves and have fun. From the moment you walk in everyone makes you feel so welcome and by the time you leave you'll have "the glow." The glow is the feeling you get when camp turns into home and friends turn into family. The only way you can know what the glow is, is through experience. It is simply impossible to describe. If I could go again and again every year I would without thinking twice. I didn't think it was real, but by the time I left I was most definitely glowing.

What is an Advanced Learning Plan?

Gifted and Talented Programming begins with the creation of the Advanced Learning Plan. The ALP is a tool for monitoring children with outstanding potential and for planning the necessary steps and instruction for students to gain exceptional skills in their area of strength. It acts as a planning guide for making instructional decisions about materials, programming options, and assessments for gifted and talented students based upon strengths, interests, learning characteristics, and social-emotional needs.

At fall conferences, the ALP is reviewed with teachers, parents and students. At the elementary level, this is during the parent/teacher conferences and it is the classroom teacher who facilitates this process. At the middle school, this document is shared within the team organization. At the high school level, each of the GT Liaisons has met with their ALP students (based on grade level assignments) and student goals have been selected based on students' strength areas and instructional needs.

We hope that you had wonderful meetings with your student's teachers. If you have any questions about the ALP, please feel free to contact the Gifted and Talented Liaison at your student's schools or contact me, Cheryl Franklin-Rohr at 303-853-3249.

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."

Thomas Jefferson





News from Dupont by Debra Neiswonger, GT Liaison

Dupont Elementary is experiencing a great fall! On September 25th winners for the summer reading program were awarded their prizes. These are students who did reading logs or read online during the summer. The program was done to help support the retention of great reading skills that the instructors of this Colorado Reading First school worked so hard to teach them. Students were able to choose their prize from a variety of items that included bikes, cd players and boom boxes.

Mrs. Revoal, The Dupont Elementary Art teacher has been working hard with students. Twelve students, representing all of the grades, have artwork hanging at the Adams 14 Administration Building. Please go by to view it when you have a chance.

The school also had a Fire Hydrant Design contest with the 5th graders. Students submitted their designs and the first place winner got to actually paint a fire hydrant with Mrs. Revoal. Congratulations to our top three winners. 3rd place went to Jackie Cazares, 2nd place went to D.J. Quinlivan and 1st place went to Brad Sharpe. Brad's fire hydrant of a ghost can be seen at the north parking lot at Dupont Elementary.

Coming up, 5th graders will soon be receiving their lists of spelling words from Scripps in order to prepare for the spelling bee coming up early in 2009. The winners from each participating school will get to compete at the district level. Winners there go to state and the winner there will go on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. Dupont is one of the schools to be invited by Imagination Makers Theater Company to participate in a poetry writing contest. Winners will have their poems selected for use in future performances by the theater company. This is a terrific way for students to experience firsthand the amazing power and impact their writing can have.

Also, we will soon begin Destination Imagination again with Miss Neiswonger. Last year we won the North-Metro Regional Competition for our division and got to go to the state competition! The students had a wonderful time researching different historical people and figuring out how to make sounds to simulate everything from rain to a dishwasher. They had to create a skit and perform it with props that were made with only the materials on hand. This year should be just as much fun!

News from Kemp by Colleen Urlik, GT Liaison

Kemp Staff has been busy working with and meeting the needs all students! Some focus in the primary grades has been to use higher-level vocabulary in connection with reading, writing, and math. Meanwhile in the intermediate grades, literature circles, grouping by student needs, and programs such as Junior Great Books are being utilized during instruction. Our Specials teachers have also been busy collaborating with classroom teachers and extending individual student's learning whenever possible, not only in the areas of art, music, and physical education, but also in math, creative thinking, and leadership.

This year at Kemp, there are a number of enrichment afterschool opportunities available, including a primary Science Olympiad group, Choir, Challenge 24, Geography Bee, Destination Imagination, and Spelling Bee. Plus, the entire Kemp community came together for our Family Math Night on September 25th from 5:45 pm to 7:00 pm! Not only did all the families in attendance receive fun math activities to do at home, but they also received pizza and a free calculator!

Lastly, at our Parent-Teacher Conferences we talked about all our amazing students and got to know the Kemp families even better! It's already a great year at Kemp!



News from Rose Hill by Sandra Cook-Heisser, GT Liaison

Rose Hill teachers are offering several site-based after school activities during the 2008-2009 school year, under the guidance of principal, Samara Williams. These activities offer students opportunities to develop talents and enhance knowledge. The following are newly formed clubs, programs and contests planned for the year:

Challenge 24 A math club, which culminates in the spring with a district competition.

Chess Club A club formed to teach the game of chess and offer game play opportunities every Tuesday afternoon. Coach: Sandra Cook-Heisser

Destination Imagination A school friendly community based program that each year offers different problems to solve creatively. D.I. culminates with a competition in the early spring. Rose Hill has done well with these teams in years past. Coach: Drew Hoelscher

Geography Bee A program hosted by National Geographic with a school bee, district bee and national Bee opportunity. Coach: Marnie Heil

Science Club Science investigations held every Wed. afternoon for all future scientists from Rose Hill. Coach: Drew Hoelscher

Spelling Club A district favorite, the students practice spelling words from the National Spelling Bee handbook and participate in a school bee, possibly the district, state and national bee. Coach: Cristine Goodman



Christine Lohr and Sandra Cook-Heisser are running and judging their Annual Scary Story and Art Contest for 3rd -5th graders. All creative writers and artists submitted their entries by Oct. 30th and prizes were given for first place winners with various category opportunities. Ms. Cook-Heisser G/T Liaison 2008-2009 will also host Heart Idiom and Poetry Contest this school year.

News from ACMS by Rita Rosenberger, GT Liaison

Adams City Middle School offers math acceleration at the 7th grade in the form of two Algebra I classes taught by Christy Gelhausen and Lacy Mueller. Bertha Orona teaches the 8th grade Algebra I class for clusters A and B.

Mr. Shields' Computer Technology class pushes students to engage their higher level thinking skills with current programs such as PowerPoint. Later in the year, all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be eligible to participate in the middle school spelling bee sponsored by Rita Rosenberger and Jo Stone.

Becky Dion is sponsoring MESA club for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. This is a great opportunity for our interested math and science students to work ahead on challenging, futuristic problems!

Clubs and Competitions for 2008-09

The Gifted and Talented Office will continue to sponsor clubs for enrichment activities at each of the school sites. Currently, we are supporting the following clubs:

Spelling Bee, Challenge 24, Chess Club, Destination Imagination, Geography Bee, Science Club

If you want to help your student participate in any of these activities, please contact the GT Liaison to find out who is the sponsor for each club. Each of these sponsors has information to help students be successful. For example, for the Spelling Bee, each school has access to study booklets that help the student practice for the correct way to participate.

Just keep in mind that this is a "fun" competition! All of these clubs and competitions have a common goal to provide enrichment opportunities for our students.

"You can't hit a target you cannot see, and you cannot see a target you do not have."
Zig Zigler



Adams County School District 14
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Expansions is printed quarterly by Adams County School District 14. Your suggestions are welcome! Please send comments/questions to: Student Services (GT Program), 5291 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022. You may also contact the District GT Coordinator at (303) 853-3249 or via email at cfranklin@adams14.org

2008-2009 Gifted and Talented Staff

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*Become an active
member of your student's
GT experience.....
Read together!*