



Expansions

Spring 2010

Message from the Gifted and Talented Coordinator

Dear Parents:

This Spring newsletter continues with the theme of “advocacy” and includes resources for parents to learn how to become stronger advocates for their gifted children. There are many myths that still persist in education, but one of the most difficult myths to dispel is “gifted kids will make it on their own”.

The first step in advocacy is knowledge. One of the best books written for parents is *The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids*, by Sally Yahnke Walker and I encourage you to read it. Another book is *Helping Gifted Children Soar*, written by Carol A Strip, Ph.D. with Gretchen Hirsch, which has been translated into Spanish; *Ayudando a los Ninos Dotados A Volar*. Both books include information about understanding and living with your gifted child, how to advocate at school, local and state levels, and how to cope with problems. Copies of these books are available for checkout through your child’s teacher.

I have also included a list of group organizations available here in Denver or on the web that will help you on this journey. The second step in advocacy is to identify allies. You are not in this alone. There are other parents in your schools, in our district and in the Denver metro area with similar concerns and needs. Together you can accomplish so much more. Although we don’t currently have a parent group in Adams 14, it is my desire to begin a SENG (Social-Emotional Needs of the Gifted) parent group for next year. One parent has already indicated an interest in working with me, but we need more to make this happen. Can you be that extra person?

Finally, to be a good advocate, you need to be persistent. The squeaky wheel does get the most attention, and you need to be vocal and share your message to those individuals who make decisions at the school and district level.

Cheryl Franklin-Rohr

Gifted and Talented Coordinator

Dates to

Remember:

Spelling Bee:

Elementary – Tuesday, February 2, 2010. 6 p.m. at Rose Hill Elementary

Middle School – Tuesday, February 9, 3/45 at Adams City Middle School

Destination Imagination Regional Competition: Saturday, March 13, 2010

Beyond Giftedness Conference: Friday, February 19, 2010: This conference has many sessions that are helpful for parents. Look at the following website for more information.

www.openspacecomm.com

Legislative Day at the Denver Capital: Thursday, February 18, 2010 – Students grades 8-12

Resources for Parents of Gifted and Talented Students

Local

- Contact your local Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT)
- Participate in local affiliate presentations
- Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented (BVGT, www.bvgt.org)
- Jefferson County Gifted and Talented (JAGC, <http://jeffcogifted.org/>)
- Participate in local GT events, speakers, brown bag lunches, SENG Discussion Groups, career fairs, math/science carnivals
- Be a voice for gifted education at accountability committee meetings, GT parent meetings, PTA/PTO
- Create a support team for advanced learners with teachers, administrators, and community members
- Take an active role in your child's education by communicating with teachers frequently

Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT: www.coloradogifted.org)

- Join CAGT (\$40 per year)
- Keep up to date with CAGT announcements and newsletters
- Familiarize yourself with Colorado's Mandate for Gifted Education (see Grassroots Gifted Toolkit on CAGT website)
- Read "STEMming the Tide: A Colorado Response to the National Crisis STEM education" (on CAGT website)
- Join us at Legislative Day at the Capitol – February 18, 2010

National Association for Gifted Children (www.nagc.org)

- Check out the "Parent" tab on the NAGC website
- Wednesday Webinars (<http://www.nagc.org/wow.aspx> \$39 member/\$59 non-member)

Supporting the Emotional Needs of Gifted (SENG: www.SENGifted.org)

- Sign up for e-mail alerts
- Webinars
- Participate in SENG parent groups

Open Space Communications (www.openspacecomm.com)

- Colorado-based company serving those who live and work with gifted children
- Sponsors a yearly conference, Beyond Giftedness, February 19, 2010 which has many parent presentations

GT Parent Survival Kit

Raising a gifted child offers wondrous opportunities for growth in parenting Skills! No one said it would be easy, so today's kit contains reminders from parents who have already walked this road. Keep your survival kit at hand for the many joyful, creative, challenging, trying, and never-endingly fulfilling moments we know you will have ahead.

Birthday Candle – symbolizes surprises. The candle is to remind you that the stress and intensity that often accompanies giftedness can be relieved with little 'packages' of thoughtfulness. Surprises can take many forms: gift telephone calls, lunch with your child, a note saying "I love you," or many hugs!

Magnifying Glass – look carefully and closely for moments to celebrate, for opportunities to learn, and for simple acts of kindness.

Toothpick – to help you pick up the good qualities in yourself, your children, your children's teachers.

Gold Star – to cherish the role each adult plays in nurturing a gifted child.

Button – to remind you that sometimes we need to 'button our lips' and listen.

Pennies – a little change never hurt anyone.

Almond Joy – a bit of JOY to draw from when the going gets tough ... and sometimes it will!

Marble – for those days when you feel like you've lost yours, here's a spare!

Paper Bag – use this special sack to collect and hold your concerns as you seek solutions. Positive problem-solving is a lifelong skill to model, but some problems can be hard to resolve. Put your own concerns/fears/emotions out of sight so new possibilities can come into view more quickly.

Eraser – everyone makes mistakes sometimes, and that's okay. Teach your child that a mistake is not indelible or permanent. Instead, taking risks and not expecting perfection is a powerful way to learn.

Rubber Band – eager learners should be stretched in different directions. It doesn't hurt them! Rather, encourage them to always reach and to see with fresh eyes what the world has to offer and can teach.

Playing Card – games offer many meaningful sharing and learning moments together.

Kite String – to remind you that children are like kites – meant to be lifted! Sometimes it is scary to let out more and more string, allowing the kite to fly higher. But that's what kites are supposed to do!

Kleenex – to swab away your child's tears or maybe your own. To wrap little hurts (even those not obvious to others), or to absorb the sweat from your own brow as you tenderly shelter your gifted child and yourself.

Lifesaver – to remind you that you are not alone as a parent of gifted child. Reach out when you need ideas, support, or the company of others who walk similar paths.

Minnesota/NAGC Parent Institute April 28, 2007 This list is adapted from work by Nancy Johnson

Many things can wait. Children cannot. Today
their bones are being formed, their blood is
being made, their senses are being developed.
To them we cannot say "tomorrow." Their name
is today. – Gabriela Mistral (Chilean teacher
1899 - 1957)

5291 E. 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022



GT Liaison Contact Information

GT Liaisons

ACHS Grade 9 James Howat (303) 853-7779

ACHS Grade 10 Heather Nolen
(303) 853-7765

ACHS Grade 11 Regina Stewart
(303) 853-7718

ACHS Grade 12 Lisa Garcia (303) 853-7771

LAHS Lindsey Abrams (303) 853-3304

ACMS Rita Rosenberger (303) 853-5456

KMS Emily Klein (303) 853-5541

Alsup Debbie Welner (303) 853-5736

Central Michelle Townley (303) 853-5608

Dupont Debra Neiswonger (303)853-5757

Hanson Virginia Valverde
(303) 853-5831

Kemp Colleen Urlik (303)5889

Monaco Tracy Morey (303)853-5932

Rose Hill Sigrid Bowen (303)853-5978

CLA Cheryl Franklin-Rohr
(303)853-3249

