



GAPAGT Newsletter

Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented

February 2010

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Contact Us
gapagt@gapagt.org

President's Message

Linda Williamson, President, gapagt@gapagt.org



5th grade parents and Duke TIP

As the parent of a fifth grader, you may have received an invitation for your child to enroll in the Duke TIP program. You may wonder, as I did when my oldest received her letter; what is it? Is it worthwhile? The title – Talent Identification Program (TIP) – had me asking, “My kid is already identified. Why do I need this program?”

In my opinion “TIP” is a misnomer. It doesn't so much ‘identify’ gifted students as it does offer opportunities such as camps, home study courses and, most importantly in *my* opinion, early testing opportunities for the SAT and ACT while in middle school. Taking these tests makes it clear to students that what they're learning in school is *cumulative*, and hopefully they will approach their studies with that understanding in mind.

After the SAT and ACT tests, you will receive data comparing your student's test scores with all other Duke TIP participants *and* high-school students who are taking them when it counts. For students who wish to attend a university with tough admissions standards, it can be useful to know where they rank compared with their peers. And for the competitive academic, there is the possibility of getting awards. For more information on Duke TIP, visit their site at <http://www.tip.duke.edu/index.html>.

Family Game Night - Members Only!

Jennifer Smitherman, Membership Jennifer.smitherman@gmail.com

Friday, March 5th, 7:30 pm -- This event is FREE!

- Play the new 2009 Mensa Games as well as many old favorites.
- Bring a snack to share.
- There will be door prizes, and six lucky winners will take home a new game!

It's not too late to become a member! You can do one of the following:

- Download a [membership form](#) from our website to bring with your payment to the game night at Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Rowlett.
- Sign up when you get there! We will have forms available.
- Print and complete the [membership form](#) and send with your payment to: GAPAGT PO Box 474 Rowlett, TX 75030

There will be a short Association meeting for members to elect the Nominating Committee and approve budget changes.

Congratulations Writing Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in our Creative Writing Contest! These entries will all be published in an Award Winners Collection book and released at a book signing party in April. Pre-order your copy **by February 18** and save on shipping costs! Visit our web site at www.gapagt.org to download the order form or print the form at the end of this newsletter.

ELEMENTARY POETRY

1st Place:

Zac Bonar 5th Grade Hillside Academy "Lost in Life"

2nd Place:

Kimberly Onyekwe 5th Grade Hillside Academy "Lament of the Big Bad Wolf"

Honorable Mention:

Jones Kalarickal 5th Grade Hillside Academy "Right in Front of Me"
Sam Luttrull 5th Grade Hillside Academy "Miserable"

ELEMENTARY FICTION

1st Place:

Evan Jung 4th Grade Walnut Glen Academy "Backpack Adventure in Colorado"

2nd Place:

Kennedy Warren 4th Grade Rowlett Elementary "Save the Turkeys"

Honorable Mention:

Daniel Goins 5th Grade Walnut Glen Academy "Elementoidz"

ELEMENTARY NON-FICTION

1st Place:

Hannah Gilmore 4th Grade Club Hill Elementary "Doggie Days"

2nd Place:

Kelsie Coones 5th Grade Rowlett Elementary "Go-Cart Racing"

Honorable Mention:

Cristina Torres 5th Grade Rowlett Elementary "A Cruise to Remember"
Jacqueline Manessier 3rd Grade Walnut Glen Academy "A Wish Come True"

HIGH SCHOOL POETRY

1st Place:

Timothy Dang 10th Grade North Garland HS "Looking Outside My Window"

2nd Place:

Vincent Naidoo 10th Grade North Garland HS "Hoop Love"

Honorable Mention:

Mark Denker 11th Grade Garland HS "Eagle's Wings"

HIGH SCHOOL FICTION

1st Place:

Nicole Tsao 11th Grade Garland HS "Heartless"

2nd Place:

Allison Joyce 11th Grade Garland HS "Dorian Gray's Worst Nightmare"

Continued on next page

Contest Winners, cont.

Honorable Mention:

Robyn Bashaw	11 th Grade	Garland HS	"Please, Talk to Your Doctor"
Suzane Pham	11 th Grade	Garland HS	"Project Black"

The contest was open to students in grades 3–12 who were passionate about writing, regardless of whether or not they were currently participating in the district's GT program. Judges were Bill Raley, South Garland Branch Library Manager; Malia Moore, South Garland Branch Children's Librarian; Melanie Ferrell, former Austin Academy Honors English teacher (currently at Beaver MST) and Christine Johnson-Gallo, former IB English teacher at GHS (currently counselor at NGHS).

Mark Your Calendars & Sign up to Teach – SCOOP is Coming!

Diana Cooley, Programs dcooley@gapagt.org

Our Saturday Co-Op (SCOOP) GT Enrichment Fair is set **for May 1st at Austin Academy from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**. This is an opportunity to provide Outstanding Programs That Inspire Our Next-Gen Students (OPTIONS).

We are looking for parent or community volunteers to lead a 1-hour enrichment class twice that morning for elementary or middle school gifted students. We can't do it without you, so sign up now to lead a class based on your own interests, your child's interests, or choose from the list below. Contact Diana Cooley at dcooley@gapagt.org to volunteer or ask questions.

Class ideas that need someone to be the Co-Op Teacher:

- Chess (beginners, intermediate, advanced)
- Origami
- Lego Robotics
- Chemistry in the Kitchen (cooking classroom available)
- Rocketry
- Fashion Design
- Geo-caching
- Science Lab (light, energy, physics, snowmaking)
- Paper Airplane Contest
- Creative Problem Solving
- Musical Mystery Tour
- The Art of Improv
- Money Management
- Stampin' Up Card Shop
- Get Movin' (Games that work up a sweat!)

What other ideas can you offer from your own experience or the interests of your child? It's a Co-Op so make an offer!

SENG Kids' Film Contest

What does it feel like to be a gifted kid?

The SENG Kids' Film Contest invites gifted youth to show the world what it feels like to be gifted...in two minutes or less!

[Rules and Information...](#)

[About Our Judges...](#)

For more information, visit:

http://www.sengifted.org/resources/seng_kids_film_contest.pdf



Lone Star Leadership Academy

The Lone Star Leadership Academy is a week-long, residential, leadership development opportunity for outstanding Texas 5th-8th graders called Education in Action. *Education in Action* was incorporated by Texas social studies teachers dedicated to actively involving students in learning Texas history, geography, government and citizenship. This organization was formed to support the Texas education system. Programs take place during spring break and summer.

How It Works

- Upon acceptance into the Lone Star Leadership Academy Dallas/Fort Worth, participants' Superintendent is notified. In addition, each participant receives a Welcome Packet including student program guidelines and a press release to distribute to the local news media.
- Participants then join a delegation of other distinguished students representing schools from across the state of Texas and travel to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where they develop leadership skills while learning about the great state of Texas.
- Participants have the opportunity to learn about future career and internship opportunities, visit historically, scientifically and environmentally significant sites and be part of a rare academic experience.
- Upon completion of the program, each participant receives a Lone Star Leader Certificate of Merit to be added to his or her academic achievements.
- Program participants are assigned to a Leadership Group that gives students the opportunity to develop friendships with other students, analyze speakers' remarks, discuss important issues, reflect on program activities, prepare for upcoming events and form a strong relationship with their facilitator.
- Each participant receives a Leadership Notebook containing a detailed program schedule, speakers' biographies, site information and special interest stories.
- Learning objectives are extended through simulations relating to each day's topic. Simulations promote reasoning skills and teach critical thinking by allowing students to ask their own questions.

More information, including an informational video, is available at www.educationinaction.org.

Book Reviews

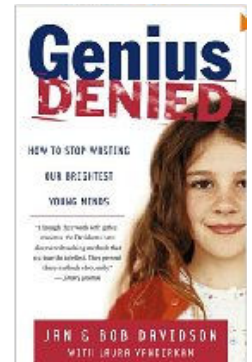
Adderholdt, M., & Goldberg, J. (1999). [Perfectionism: What's bad about being too good? \(rev. ed.\)](#) Designed for gifted students who are prone toward perfectionism, this book explores some of the possible reasons for perfectionism and offers strategies for learning how to ease up and get perfectionism under control.

Clark, B. (2002). [Growing up gifted: Developing the potential of children at home and at school \(7th ed.\)](#)

This comprehensive reference includes sections on brain research, the emotional and social aspects of growing up gifted, and current educational models. The sixth edition retains proven parts of the original version and combines it with the knowledge and best practices from a variety of sources.

2005 TAGT Legacy Book Award Winner!

Davidson, Jan and Davidson, Bob. [Genius Denied](#)
The Davidsons, creators of educational software and founders of a nonprofit foundation that helps educate gifted children, offer an absorbing look at how our nation is neglecting children of exceptional intelligence.



Texas Tuition Promise Fund

With the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, families such as yours can start paying tomorrow's college tuition now. You decide what you pay — from as little as a few hours of classes at a community college, to as much as six years of resident tuition and required fees at the most expensive public university in Texas. Payments can be made in a lump sum, installments, or pay a little as you go.

Tuition units can be used at Texas' public universities and community colleges and even out-of-state or private universities, with student families making up the cost difference.

Visit www.tuitionpromise.org and check out the planning calculator to find out what tuition types and payment options may best meet your goals.

The enrollment deadline is February 28, 2010 and extends through July 31, 2010 for children under one year of age. Explore and Enroll Today!



TEXAS TUITION
PROMISE FUND

A Prepaid Plan as Smart as You Are

TAGT Happenings!

Summer Scholarships

TAGT Summer Scholarships are designed for those gifted and talented students who wish to attend academic or artistic programs during the summer months. Gifted students, grades K-12, may apply for scholarships of up to \$400. The highest-scoring elementary student and secondary student applicants are chosen as Ann Shaw Scholars and receive \$500 each.

Application deadline is March 1. All applicants will be notified of their status by April 15. Scholarship winners must complete and return the necessary paperwork by June 15 or the award will be forfeited. Please note that for accounting purposes scholarship checks are made payable to both the program and the scholarship winner.

([Download PDF Application](#))

Click this link to see a list of TAGT [2009 Summer Programs](#).

TAGT Award Nominations

Every year the *Texas Association for Gifted and Talented* presents awards to outstanding persons in the gifted committee of Texas. Now is the time to show your appreciation of the work that a colleague, administrator, or parent has done to serve and support to our gifted young people. These nominations are due to the Regional Directors by April 1. If you know of someone that is worthy of one of the TAGT awards, please send a nomination to me at the address below.

All nominations must be submitted by a current member of TAGT. Below are links to all of the nomination forms.

- [General Information and Nomination Procedures \(PDF\)](#)
- [Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted Award \(PDF\)](#)
- [Outstanding Parent of the Gifted Award \(PDF\)](#)
- [Regional Advocate of the Gifted Award \(PDF\)](#)
- [Rising Star Teacher Award \(PDF\)](#)

TAGT 2010 Annual Parent Conference

As a follow-up to our recent statewide conference on Gifted Education last month in Houston, the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) will host a day-long program for families that will focus on issues and skills relative to parenting gifted children.

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center
4400 W. 18th Street • Houston, 77092

Cost: A modest fee of \$49 includes coffee and a breakfast snack and all conference handouts and materials. (Selected sessions will also be offered in Spanish.)

Featured Speaker: Dr. Rosina Gallagher, Nationally known author, speaker and President of Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG).

[Preliminary Schedule](#) • [Register Online](#)

Online registration deadline is February 10.

Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners

In the school-choice system of Garland ISD, students have options for which high school they will attend and gifted students can choose between applying for the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Garland HS or taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes at any high school.

The Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT) recently posted two studies online that compare these two options for meeting the needs of gifted learners. Although not specifically designed for gifted students, both provide a rigorous curriculum that helps students earn college credit while in high school. However, gifted students need more than just rigor to meet their educational needs.

To find out if your student would be better served by participating in one or the other, read the TAGT Position Statements on the "Advocacy and Government Relations" page at www.txgifted.org, or follow these links:

Gifted Learners and International Baccalaureate -
http://www.txgifted.org/files/pdf/IB_Position_TAGT_2008.pdf

Gifted Learners and College Board Advanced Placement -
<http://www.txgifted.org/files/pdf/AP%20position%20tagt%2006.pdf>

Expanding the Magnet Programs in Elementary School

Linda Phemister, GISD GT Coordinator, recently reported to the school board that there are plans to extend the Magnet programs, currently starting in 2nd grade at Beaver MST, Watson MST and the Classical Center at Vial, to begin at Kindergarten, including adding a dual-language program.

For students who are tested for the GT program and do not score high enough to be offered a place at the Academies in kindergarten, they will now have the option to attend one of the magnet programs starting next fall. Until now, if they did not enter the academies at kindergarten or 1st grade, they were provided differentiated instruction at their neighborhood campus and maybe moved in 2nd grade into a magnet school. The application and testing process for the Academies is already underway for next fall. However, information meetings and testing dates for the Magnet school are still open.

To view the announcement on the new Magnet programs and to download an application, visit
http://www.garlandisd.net/departments/Magnet_Programs/index.asp.

Legislative Update

During last summer's legislative session, the Texas Congress adopted House Bill 3 which includes language directing the Texas Education Agency to develop new accountability standards for gifted education. HB3 has been signed into law by Governor Perry. The responsibility now rests with the Commissioner of Education to develop and implement the standards.

TEA has solicited input from across the state using focus groups in the 20 regional educational service centers. TAGT has provided members with "Talking Points" to facilitate a well-rounded discussion that covers what are considered key issues in this process.

Although no focus group was planned for our ESC, Linda Phemister, GISD GT Coordinator, and Diana Cooley, GAPAGT 1st Vice-President, attended a focus group in Keller ISD on January 26. The results of that meeting will be compiled with those from other focus groups at a GT Leadership Conference in late February and eventually sent as recommendations to the Commissioner.

Specifically, the law requires that standards be adopted to evaluate school district programs for gifted and talented students to determine whether a district meets the requirements of the State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students.

Recommendations from our focus group included utilizing a State Rubric aligned with each section of the State Plan, and asking district school boards to evaluate and endorse the rubric, forwarding the results to TEA. The results would then be used to document current performance as well as form a basis for progression to Recommended and Exemplary levels. Incentives would give recognition to local districts that achieve or exceed these levels.

For more information, or to read the newly revised State Plan for GT, visit www.tea.state.tx.us and select "Gifted and Talented" under the A-Z index or click on <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6420>.

*Sec. 39.236 GIFTED AND TALENTED STANDARDS.
The commissioner shall adopt standards to evaluate school district programs for gifted and talented students to determine whether a district operates a program for gifted and talented students in accordance with:*

- (1) the Texas Performance Standards Project; or*
- (2) another program approved by the commissioner that meets the requirements of the state plan for the education of gifted and talented students under Section 29.123.*

Contest Winners' Book Pre-Order Form



GAPAGT Creative Writing Contest Award Winners Collection 2009-2010

Book Pre-order Form

DUE:
February 18, 2010

Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: TX Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Entries from all finalists will be published in a collection book through LuLu.com and released at a book signing party in April. Pre-order now and avoid shipping charges! Great for Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts, too. All proceeds benefit the programs of the Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented. One FREE copy will be given to each FIRST place winner in the contest.

_____ x \$15.00 TOTAL \$ _____

Pre-order copies will be delivered at the book signing party in April.
Return this form with your check made payable to GAPAGT by **FEBRUARY 18** to:

GAPAGT
P.O. Box 474
Rowlett, TX 75030

For office use:	Cash/Check # _____	Date Received _____	Received by _____
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GAPAGT Creative Writing Contest Award Winners Collection 2009-2010

CUSTOMER RECEIPT

Name: _____

_____ x \$15.00 TOTAL \$ _____

Pre-order copies will be delivered at the book signing party in April.

Paid by: Cash _____ Check # _____ Date ordered: _____

www.GAPAGT.org