



# GAPAGT Newsletter

Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented

September 2010

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### Contact Us:

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## President's Message

Linda Williamson, President, [gapagt@gapagt.org](mailto:gapagt@gapagt.org)



Hello Parents of Gifted and Talented!

I'm Linda Williamson, your GAPAGT president for this school year. We have a great year planned that includes student enrichment, family fun, parent education and legislative action all designed to support the needs of your talented and gifted children.

For your children we will repeat two of last year's successful activities, SCOOP and the writing contest, and we have a new group tour planned. At the SCOOP program students spent a Saturday morning taking fun classes and enjoying a program from Mad Science. If you've never seen Mad Science perform, they are amazing! Our writing contest was a great opportunity for our winners to become published authors and even do a book signing!

For the family we held our pool party in August, and we will do our annual family game night for members only in February. This year we will include some European style games as well as some Mensa games. *If you are not sure if your membership has expired please contact our membership chairman, Jennifer Smitherman at [Jennifer.smitherman@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.smitherman@gmail.com).*

We also have several programs for parents scheduled this year. Visit our website at [www.gapagt.org](http://www.gapagt.org) for event information, and come back frequently for updates. Also GT programs are at risk of budget cuts. We are monitoring all legislative actions with regard to GT funding, and we may call upon you to contact your legislators if any of Garland's funding is at risk of being cut.

Your 20 dollar membership fee helps support GAPAGT efforts to bring you information about GT parenting while enriching your child's special needs through our website, newsletter and programs. We aim to keep you informed about curriculum changes and opportunities in both GISD and the state legislation. We also advocate for our gifted students at school board meetings and through the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT). See the article on page 4 about the TAGT Parent Conference being held in nearby Ft. Worth this year! This conference is chock full of information to support you as a GT parent.

Warm Regards,

*Linda*



## Movie Night!

Join us for a showing of the upcoming movie "Waiting for Superman" currently scheduled for release in our area on **Friday, October 1st**.

Davis Guggenheim, Academy Award-winning director of "An Inconvenient Truth," directs this documentary on the current state of public education in the US and how it is affecting our children. While the film follows five children in different parts of the country, it also addresses the valiant efforts of passionate teachers working to make a difference. The film won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival in January. It reportedly ends with a song written especially for the film by six-time Grammy Award-winning recording artist, John Legend, called "Shine."

The movie is scheduled to open at the Landmark Magnolia Theater in Dallas on October 1. For group tickets, contact Diana Cooley at [dcooley@gapagt.org](mailto:dcooley@gapagt.org). For more information on the movie, visit [www.waitingforsuperman.com](http://www.waitingforsuperman.com).

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Duke TIP Info at Austin Academy

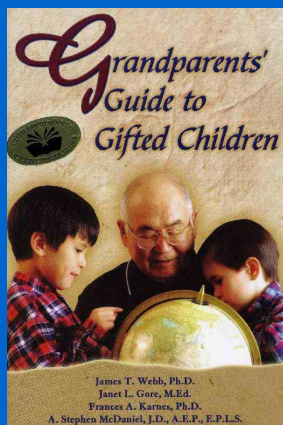
*Article by Rhonda Green, GAPAGT Communications*

The Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search identifies **academically talented 7th graders** based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. *Eligible candidates are then invited to take the ACT or the SAT as 7th graders, which allows them greater insight into their academic abilities.* In addition, they gain valuable benefits and resources for gifted students.

**Austin Academy 7th graders** received a letter in mid-September about SAT and ACT testing events in December. You can access a copy of the letter through this link to [Austin's website](#). Contact an Austin Academy counselor with any questions and for application information.

Academic talent searches help families find out how advanced students' abilities truly are. Traditional testing often fails to measure the variation among many gifted students who reach the upper limits of scoring on grade-level exams. By taking advanced above-level testing (at least two years above a student's current grade placement) through Duke TIP's talent search, gifted students and their families gain a far better understanding of where the student stands in relation to his/her gifted peers and what level of educational challenge is appropriate. Click the link below for more information about the testing process and about Duke TIP:

[http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent\\_searches/grade\\_7/test.html](http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/test.html).



## Buy ANY Book, Get One FREE

In honor of Grandparents Day (Sept. 12), for the ENTIRE MONTH of September, Great Potential Press is giving away one free copy of "Grandparents' Guide to Gifted Children" with every order. You must place the order online and enter the promo code "GGGC0910" to receive your free book. Offer good through the month of September at <http://www.giftedbooks.com>.



## The Creative Writing Contest Returns!

Article by Diana Cooley, Family/Community Involvement

For passionate writers in grades 3-12, here's a contest just for you. There is no theme; you can choose your own topic. Categories will include Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry. Entries will be due December 1st and must include a hard-copy turned in to the GT Liaison at your school (a list will be on our web site in October) AND a digital copy e-mailed to our contest chairman. Winners will be announced at our meeting in January. The best entries will be published and released at a book signing party in the spring. Sound like fun? Look for contest rules and entry cover sheets on our web site at [www.gapagt.org](http://www.gapagt.org).

Check out last year's Award Winners Collection book on Lulu.com at <http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/award-winners-collection-book-2009-2010/8360989>.

## GAPAGT Group Tour

Article by Diana Cooley, Family/Community Involvement

This year, the Family/Community Involvement Committee is looking for local businesses that provide company tours which would help our gifted kids understand how things work. The intense curiosity that drives our kids to take things apart, research a favorite topic, or practice a skill continuously keeps them always searching for new information.

If you have a suggestion for a possible tour, please contact Diana Cooley at [dcooley@gapagt.org](mailto:dcooley@gapagt.org). Group tours are one of the benefits of your GAPAGT membership, so send in your membership dues to receive tour information. **Our first tour this year will be to the [Cooper Concrete Company](#) in October.** Sign up today!

## Youth Chess Program at UTD

Share with your students chess at its best through The University of Texas at Dallas' Scholastic Affiliates Program. Your **scholastic chess clubs** can schedule Friday afternoon visits to the UT Dallas campus to see grandmasters (GM) and international masters (IM), get autographs, have pictures taken, receive a chess lesson from a master-level player, play individual chess games and visit with the members of the UT Dallas Chess Club.

**Register Now** for the Fall 2010 UTD Scholastic Affiliates Chess Program! Click here for brochure:

[www.utdallas.edu/chess/docs/chess-program-brochure.pdf](http://www.utdallas.edu/chess/docs/chess-program-brochure.pdf)

Click the following link for more information on Summer Chess Camps:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/chess/education-camp/camp.html>



## All-City Math and Science Team

Qualified 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in Math and Science are invited to join the TMSCA All-City Competition Math & Science Team. The team practices Mondays after school at Austin Academy and competes with other teams across the metroplex on scheduled Saturdays through March. Team members compete in four areas, Number Sense, General Math, Calculator, and Science, by answering a series of written problems or questions. The top 20 winners in each grade level are awarded ribbons, medals or trophies at the end of the day. Competitions are organized and run by the Texas Math and Science Coaches Association.

To be selected for the team, students must complete an assessment test and meet qualifying scores. **Testing is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Monday, September 20 at Austin Academy.** Students interested in trying out for the team should contact April Roell at [ajroell@garlandisd.net](mailto:ajroell@garlandisd.net). For more information about the team, visit <http://www.garlandidschools.net/page.cfm?p=528>.

## Featured Resources

### From the Davidson Institute for Talent Development

The Davidson Gifted Database at [www.DavidsonGifted.org/DB](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/DB) is a gateway to resources for and about gifted students.

This [Online Math Program Comparison](#) article provides a comprehensive chart of the main programs offered throughout the United States. Parents can use this chart to choose the online math program that works best for their gifted students.

This article, titled [Whole Grade Acceleration Success Stories](#), provides a collection of real-life stories about successful grade skips written from the parents' perspective. The various accounts cover an assortment of educational options, including public schools, private schools and homeschooling.

## TAGT Parent Conference 2010

TAGT strives to be a valuable resource not only to parent members, but to the public as well. Each year, TAGT hosts a parent conference full of informational sessions, noteworthy speakers and help for you as a gifted parent.



This year's TAGT Professional Development Conference will be held at the [Fort Worth Convention Center](#), at 1201 Houston St, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

For more information and to register, go to [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org).

