



GAPAGT

Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented
Newsletter

February 2009

President's Message

Jacki Hulm, President, gapagt@gapagt.org

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The year is more than half over, and GAPAGT now has a dual focus – maintaining our momentum on the current year's activities while preparing the groundwork for next year.

Still to accomplish this year are **two book studies** that Diana Cooley is coordinating. These were well attended last year, and she has found a way to try to enrich our bodies as well as our minds through the creative "Walk and Talk" format. I hope you will be able to get at least one of the books, read along, and attend as many sessions as possible.

We will also be offering scholarships to qualified students who want to attend Camp GISD but need a little help. We will have our Family Game night for members only (you can join up the night of the event and participate) as well as our GT Roundup, where parents who are new to the GT program can network with more seasoned parents.

And to prepare for next year, **we are looking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for GAPAGT.**

Members will determine and identify potential candidates to fill each board position and recommend a slate of candidates for approval by the association. This is an important part of the process to ensure that GAPAGT is a dynamic, supportive resource for parents of Gifted and Talented students. Please consider serving on this committee.

If you want to volunteer, or have questions, please contact me at gapagt@gapagt.org **before February 16.**

Thank you for your continued support!

Jacki

From the Desk of the Coordinator...

Linda Phemister, Gifted/Talented Education Program & Magnet Program Coordinator

Spring assessments are under way, and we continue to have large numbers of students interested in participating in our G/T Program. The following information reflects applications from English-speaking students.

Grade Level	Applicants
Kinder	265
1 st	160
2 nd	112
3 rd	52
4 th	70
5 th	50
Art (2-5)	85
Music (2-5)	60
Middle (6-8)	162
IB (9-12)	200
PAE (9-12)	Totals unavailable at this time

Our Bilingual G/T Program continues to grow. The total number of students being assessed is not yet available; however, preliminary numbers indicate about 1450 Pre-K through 2nd graders were tested.

At the January 15th GISD Board of Trustees meeting, the Gifted/Talented and Bilingual Education Departments presented a proposal to move 1st grade bilingual students from their regular campuses to the G/T Academies for the 2009-2010 school year. The Kindergarten students would be added for the 2010-2011 school year. We believe this move would allow for appropriate academic placement and faster scholastic growth for these gifted youngsters.

Plans are under way for the Superintendent's Scholars Program. The top high school sophomores are honored at this ceremony. This year over 160 students will be recognized and offered the opportunity to participate in the GISD PSAT/SAT Preparation class. This class greatly increases scholarship opportunities for these top students.

Please feel free to contact the G/T Education Program Office at any time.

Non-Profit Status

Do you know anyone with experience applying for nonprofit status for an organization that might donate some time to help GAPAGT complete their paperwork? If so, please contact Melody Buller at gapagt@gapagt.org. Obtaining non-profit status will enable GAPAGT to access additional resources and funding options, allowing us to expand the programs and activities we can offer our members and associates.



"Her topic will...focus on the pressures and challenges facing gifted adolescents and how parents can help them manage the load."

Program Plans & Guest Speakers

Diana Cooley, Programs, dcooley@gapagt.org

There is no program scheduled for February. Instead, we will be hosting our "Members Only" event and kicking off our spring book studies (see following article).

Our next program will be **April 17**, and will feature special guest, Kathleen Fischer. Her topic will be *"Keeping the Balance: Parenting Leadership Teens,"* and will focus on the pressures and challenges facing gifted adolescents and how parents can help them manage the load.

Ms. Fischer is a Registered Nurse with a Master's degree in Health Education and an endorsement in Gifted Education. She combines her passion for the teenage years with her observation and research on families and kids, and speaks to groups across the metroplex.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Friday, April 17** at the First United Methodist Church in Garland, 801 W. Ave. B. The potluck dinner will begin at 6:30 and Ms. Fischer's presentation will start at 7:15. Bring books for the book swap and pick up information on summer enrichment activities for gifted kids.

Spring Book Studies: "Walk and Talk"

Diana Cooley

Join us this spring for some exercise and good discussion as we combine our book studies with a 20-30 minute walk once a week for each six-week study. We're offering both a daytime study (Friday lunch) and an evening study (Mondays) so you can pick one or both depending what fits your schedule and which book you'd like to discuss.

After walking, we'll finish the talk over lunch or coffee/tea. Barnes & Noble in Firewheel Mall has agreed to stock both books for purchase, or you may order a copy online. We'll try to cover one or two chapters a week so we can complete both books before our next program in April.

This is a great way to meet other parents of gifted kids and talk about common concerns. If the weather is too bad for walking, just come for the talking time! For more information or to sign up for one or both book studies, contact Diana Cooley at dcooley@gapagt.org.

Fridays for LUNCH

February 20, 27; March 6, 13, 27; and April 3
 Book: "Talent is Never Enough" by John C. Maxwell
 Walk: 12:15 – 12:45 pm @ Embree Park
 (meet at Gale Fields Rec. Center, 1701 Dairy Road in Garland)
 Talk: 12:45 – 1:30 pm (bring your own lunch)
 @ Kimberlin Academy (Enriched Art Room),
 1520 Cumberland Drive, Garland

Monday NIGHTS

March 2, 9, 23, 30 and April 6, 13
 Book: "Raising a Gifted Child" by Carol Fertig
 Walk: 7:00 – 7:20 pm @ Barnes & Noble (meet in front of B&N and we'll loop around the nearby shops)
 Talk: 7:30 – 8:30 pm @ Coffee Shop inside B&N
 190 Cedar Sage Drive, Garland

Book Reviews

TALENT IS NEVER ENOUGH

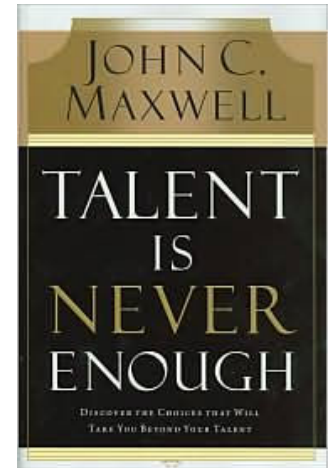
John C. Maxwell

Some talented people reach their potential and others self-destruct or remain trapped in mediocrity.

This book examines historical and contemporary examples of “Talent-plus” people in action and offers 13 key choices you can make to maximize talent. This is not just artistic talent, but refers to natural gifts we all have. Maxwell believes first that you have talent, and second, that you can improve it.

Looking at the compelling stories of many who succeeded and a few who did not, we get a fresh perspective on the possibilities we have in ourselves and our children. Developing those gifts is not only possible but becomes a priority.

The book is published by Thomas Nelson, Inc and is available for \$20.79 through Barnes and Noble, www.bn.com.



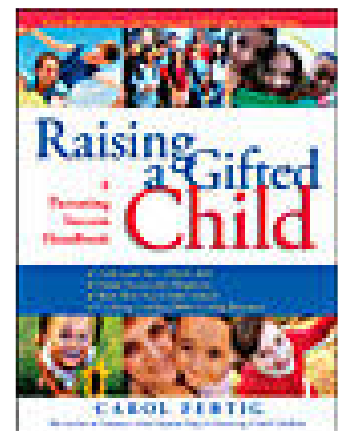
RAISING A GIFTED CHILD

Carol Fertig

The focus of this definitive resource is on empowering parents by giving them the tools needed to help their gifted kids both in and out of school. It offers a large menu of strategies, resources, organizations, tips, and suggestions for parents.

If you've ever wondered what it means to have a gifted child or how to parent them through the typical stages of childhood when they can be so intense, this book is a great resource. This book covers common issues such as testing, perfectionism and social/emotional issues; as well as how to navigate the school setting and become an advocate for your child.

The book is published by Prufrock Press and is available for \$16.95 online at www.prufrock.com.



Important Changes Proposed to the Membership Cycle

Linda Williamson, Membership, thewilliamsons@tx.rr.com

The Executive Board will recommend to the membership at the February Association meeting that beginning March 2009, we change to a one year annual renewal cycle and revise the dues structure to a single flat fee of \$20.

Your membership will begin **when we receive your application with payment** and lasts for one year. You will receive a renewal notice one month prior to expiration. The **single flat membership fee of \$20** will replace the current 3-tiered structure and cover all members in one household. However; donations above and beyond this fee are still welcome to help our growing organization!

Save the Date for Family Game Night!!

Linda Williamson

Check out the **2009 MENSA Mind Games**, as well as favorites that we introduced to you from 2008.

We have each of the five new games, and 'experts' will be on hand to teach you the games. We will hold a drawing at the end of the evening, so five lucky winners will be able to take home one of these great games.

If you can't make it to the game night, you can fill out the order form (see next page) and mail it to us at the address below. We will have all orders sent to one location to save on shipping. The deadline for ordering is **March 6th**. This is also a fundraiser for us.

This is a "members only" event, so if you are unsure whether your membership is current, please email me at thewilliamsons@tx.rr.com and I will look it up.

Please remember that before March 1st 2009, our membership cycle ran concurrent with the school year, so you may need to renew your membership to attend this event.

Mail memberships and game order forms to:

**GAPAGT
PO Box 474
Rowlett, TX 75030**

MENSA Games Order Form

2009 GAMES NIGHT ORDER FORM


- 
7890- APPLES TO APPLES, PARTY BOX **\$35**
 Absolutely hilarious card game where everyone's opinion counts on th comparisons between people, places, things and events.
4-10 players 10-Adult

- 
7907- META-FORMS **\$20**
 The ultimate logic puzzle game. Players have to place 9 geometrical pieces onto a 3x3 grid. Players learn how to use advanced logical concepts and how to prove the solutions.
1- player 6-Adult

- 
7706- SET **\$14**
 Get sets of 3 cards by matching color, shape, number and shading.
1 up players 6-Adult

- 
7954- QWIRKLE **\$25**
 Players attempt to score the most points by building lines that share a common attribute-either color or shape.
2-4 Players 6-Adult

- 
7955- SKULLDUGGERY **\$25**
 A strategy game with a unique board. Players try to be first to complete the maps and find buried treasure while avoiding dangerous animals and enemy pirates.
2-4 Players 8-Adult

- 
7959- AMUSEAMAZE **\$25**
 A spell-binding word race in a letter maze, where even little words are winners. The board changes each time the game is played, as it's played, so it's never the same game twice!
2-6 Players 8-Adult

- 
7960- EYE KNOW **\$30**
 A board game featuring trivia with a poker twist. Players identify images, answer compelling trivia related to the image and collect cards while placing strategic bets.
2+ Players 14-Adult

- 
7961- JUMBULAYA **\$30**
 Players build new words, rearrange tiles and claim lines while simultaneously searching for a jumbulaya.
2-4 Players 12-Adult

- 
7962- PIXEL **\$20**
 Don't let the situation slide out of control in this fun strategy game of slide , point, align and win. The first player with three in a row wins!
2-4 Players 6-Adult

- 
7963- TIKI TOPPLE **\$16**
 A fast-paced strategy game. Players try to maneuver their secret tik is to the top of the line by playing the right combination of action cards. The player with the most points wins!
2-4 Players 10-Adult

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 351 CONCORD ROAD,
 NORTHFIELD, NH 03276, USA
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CODE	ITEM	QTY	TOTAL
SUBTOTAL			
US SHIPPING add 10% (min.\$10)			
TOTAL			

ACCT.# _____ EXPIRES _____ SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

FAX 1-603-286-4156 ~ PHONE 1-800-397-4156

E-mail: zanca@zancas.com www.zancas.com S3(ZANCA)FLYERAD, 2008 GAMES NIGHT 1/25/08

TAGT Parent Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2009
Wagner High School/Judson ISD
3000 N. Foster Road
San Antonio, TX



Some of the featured topics and speakers:

- **Keynote Address: Ten Things Parents Should Know about Gifted Students**—Dr. James Webb
- **Motivation and Underachievement**—Dr. James Webb, Great Potential Press
- **Why is My Gifted Child Driving Me Nuts? Exploring Dabrowski's Theory of Overexcitabilities**—Michelle Swain, Round Rock ISD
- **Helping Gifted Students Deal with Stress and Perfectionism**—Michelle Swain, Round Rock ISD
- **An Introduction to Twice-Exceptional Learners**—Rachel Colvin-Jenkins, Baylor University
- **Parent Groups: Practical Pathways for Stability and Growth**—Leonard Avecilla, Parents Advocating for Gifted Education (PAGE), Keller ISD
- **A Look at Personalities and Giftedness**—Suzy Dudich, Educational Consultant
- **Advocating for the Gifted in Your District: A Team Approach**—Ernie Pyles, Boerne ISD parent
- **Keep the Flame Alive: Motivating Kids to Learn at Home and at School**—Priscilla Lurz, Northside ISD
- **What We Can Learn from Japanese Schools**—Diana Larson, Judson ISD
- **Growing Your Parent Group: Four Keys and Loads of Ideas!**—Tracy Fisher and Barbara Geller, Coppell Gifted Association

BILINGUAL

- **Explorar el Cerebro Bilingüe**—Teddi Beam-Conroy, Northside ISD
- **Avanzando Productos con Tecnología**—Marina Sattler, Northside ISD
- And more sessions to come!

For more information and to register online, go to www.txgifted.org.

Scholarship Opportunities from TAGT

Don't miss this year's opportunities for scholarships, grants, and awards from the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented!

The 2009 edition of *Insights*, the TAGT Catalog of Scholarships, Grants, and Awards is online now! [Download the full document](#) or visit www.txgifted.org to access individual applications, instructions, resources, and maps.

Since 1982, TAGT has awarded nearly one million dollars in scholarships, but donations have only covered a small fraction of the cost. If you value the TAGT Scholarship Program, show your support with a donation via www.txgifted.org/donate.

2009 Summer Programs for High School Students

- **FREE!!** MIT announces its **MITES Program**, (Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science), a challenging **6 week summer program** that prepares promising rising seniors for careers in engineering and science. If you are selected, all educational, housing, meals and activity costs are covered. You must, however, pay for your own transportation to and from MIT. To apply, go to <http://mit.edu/mites/WWW>. **Deadline is Feb. 2.**
- **FREE!!** The **National Center for Health Marketing's Global Health Odyssey Museum** is pleased to offer the 2009 CDC Disease Detective Camp (DDC). DDC is an academic day camp for students who will be high school juniors and seniors during the 2009-2010 school year. Campers will take on the roles of disease detectives and learn how CDC safeguards the nation's health. The camp will be offered **twice** from **June 22-26 and July 13-17**. For more info and to apply to go WWW.cdc.gov/gcc/exhibit/camp.htm. **Deadline is April 20.**
- **FREE!!** The **American Legion** sponsors a week-long summer leadership program called Boys State. This year's program will be held at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland from **June 21-27**. If you are a junior interested in a leadership opportunity see your guidance counselor right away for more information or check the following link www.legion.org/programs/youthprograms/boystate#.
- The **Leadership Center at Morehouse College** presents the 2009 Coca-Cola Pre-College Leadership Program. There are 2 programs, one for male students completing their sophomore or junior year, and the other for male students completing their senior year. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). The curriculum focuses on personal and interpersonal leadership skills. The program runs from June 20 to June 26. The cost is \$400.00. To apply, go to www.morehouse.edu. Application access is listed under "Events at the Leadership Center." **Deadline is February 20.**
- **University of Maryland, College Park: Women in Engineering**, E2@UMD, **July 12-18 or July 19-25**; rising juniors and seniors. Go to www.wie.umd.edu/precollege or call 301-405-3283.
- **University of Maryland Young Scholars Program** targets rising juniors and seniors who have a strong academic record and a desire to excel to experience college life while earning three academic credits. Fourteen courses are offered for three weeks from **July 12 – 31, 2009**. Visit www.ysp.umd.edu/pr.
- **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Science & Engineering Apprenticeship program (summer)**. This program places academically talented H.S. Students (at least 16 yrs old, sophomores/ juniors) with interest in science & math in Dept. Of Defense laboratories for an 8-wk period over the summer. This is an invaluable experience in the world of scientific research, with hands-on exposure to scientific & engineering practices not available in the HS environment. **It is a paid apprenticeship** (\$2,000) and the students are assigned a scientist or engineer as their mentor. To apply online or get more information about the program: <http://WWW.usaeop.Com>. Students must submit their transcript (minimum GPA 3.0) and teacher recommendation to the program director for consideration and daily transportation is the student's responsibility. Program runs from **June 22 - August 14, 2009**. **Deadline is February 27.**
- **CITY YEAR, WASHINGTON DC (AmeriCorps)** - Graduating seniors who are not sure what they want to do after high school should consider applying for a paid community service position with City Year, Washington, DC., a group of 17-24 year olds committed to full-time service for ten months in the Washington, DC community. Benefits include: living stipend (\$200 per week), health care coverage, free metro pass, and \$4,725 educational scholarship. For more info: www.cityyear.org or email: cmurphy@cityyear.org/dc or call: 202-776-7780, Amanda Seligman. **Recruitment open houses will be held once a month at their headquarters: 918 U Street, NW, 2nd floor, Washington, DC 20001.**

Lone Star Leadership Academy Call for Outstanding Student Nominations



EDUCATION IN ACTION'S 2008-2009 CALL FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT NOMINATIONS!!

Education in Action invites you and your fellow teachers to nominate your outstanding 5th-8th grade students for participation in the Lone Star Leadership Academy online at: <http://www.educationinaction.org/~eiatx84/educators/nominations.php>.
FINAL NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR SUMMER 2009: FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009.

Education in Action is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young Texans to be informed and active leaders in their communities. Education in Action's experiential learning programs take outstanding 5th-8th graders from across the state of Texas on weeklong TEKS-based Lone Star Leadership Academy programs to the Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin and Houston/Galveston areas during summer break. Participants experience what they are learning in school during visits to historically, politically, scientifically and environmentally significant sites with a focus on leadership throughout. There is no limit to the number of students a teacher may nominate as long as they meet the application requirements.

Application Requirements:

1. Are currently in the 5th-8th grade
2. Maintain an 85 or higher average
3. Receive an educator recommendation (your nomination) based on demonstrated leadership ability.

[View this list to see if student nominations from your school/district have already been submitted for summer 2009 Lone Star Leadership Academy programs.](#)

For more information, visit www.educationinaction.org or call 817-562-4957. Education in Action looks forward to receiving your nominations and to your outstanding students' participation in summer 2009 Lone Star Leadership Academy programs.

Monica Hayes
Educational Outreach Director
Education in Action
www.educationinaction.org
P.O. Box 2285, Keller, TX 76244
817-562-4957

Education in Action hires Texas educators to facilitate summer programs. Employment applications are available at www.educationinaction.org.