

GIFTED GAB

4th Quarter 2009/2010 Edition 4

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Gifted Education
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GIFTED WORLD AT DYSART JULIANN MCCARTHY EDD, NCSP

Message from the Director

Oswald Chambers, a prominent Scottish Protestant minister in the early part of the 20th Century is attributed to the quotation "If you are going through a period of discouragement, there is a time of personal growth ahead." The current recession is providing all of us with opportunities for personal growth.

As with everyone, Education continues to feel the effects of the recession. Arizona has been particularly affected by the decline in revenue and the supplementary funding provided for Gifted Programs has been snipped from the legislative budget. Dysart will continue to comply with the regulation to identify



What's Happening?

and provide services to students who are gifted. However, the supplementary gifted grant assisted Dysart in providing such things as assessment tools, summer gifted testing, supplementary classroom resources, stipends for teacher to obtain their gifted en-

endorsement, and professional development for teachers, gifted teachers, and gifted specialists. All this has been greatly diminished during the current school year and will be gone for the upcoming school year.

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TESTING DATES FOR 2009/2010

Fall Testing Dates:

Referrals due August 28, 2009

Testing window: September 8 to 25, 2009

Spring Testing Dates:

Referrals due January 29, 2010

Testing window: February 8 to 26, 2010

Kindergarten Testing:

Referrals due February 5, 2009

Testing window : March 22 to 31, 2010

Summer Testing Dates:

Referrals due May 28, 2010

Testing window: June 3 to 14, 2010

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BORED VS. BORING CONTRIBUTOR TISH BRUENE

by [Carolyn K. director, Hoagies' Gifted Education Page](#)

Never, ever, say your child is bored in school.

Bored, for a gifted child, is better described as frustration with the lack of progress.

Repetition is a part of learning, parents and educators agree, but research shows gifted children need far less repetition than most students. Once a gifted child has shown mastery of grade level concepts, or worse, mastery of concepts grades beyond their current level, then what is the value of more repetition?

Remember, boring is not bored

Sometimes this distinction gets us, and our kids, in a bit of confusion. If the child is bored, because she learned the material years ago, nothing is new, there is no challenge or depth, it's all superficial... that is one thing. That's a signal to find harder material, challenge the children, delve into depth, accelerate the subject, and more.

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Message from the Director

This year Dysart's allocation was \$55,386.00. However, the legislature cut off disbursements of the funds in January, and only \$13,847.00 of that original allocation was received. No further disbursements of these funds will be forthcoming. We have been informed by Mr. Peter Laing, Director of Gifted Education and Advanced Placement at the Arizona Department of Education, that no funds will be allocated for fiscal year 2010.

One immediate change that is created by this loss of funds is Summer Gifted Testing. As the current funds must be spent in this fiscal year which ends on June 30, it is necessary to move the 2010 Summer Gifted Testing Dates into this fiscal year. The changes are as follows:

But then there is boring. Some things we must learn are boring. Learning math facts, whether addition, subtraction, times or division, is just plain boring. There are ways to perk them up a bit for some kids, but in the long run...memorizing them is just plain boring. It still has to be done, and as Nike says, Just Do It!

So be careful not to mix up bored and boring. Yes, boring material can be ... well, boring. But it has to be done, eventually. Earlier is usually better than later. Memorizing multiplication facts while learning long division is one thing -- it's do-able -- but struggling without knowing those same multiplication facts cold when attempting prime factoring is sadly overdue. And this is not what we need to rescue our children from. We need to rescue them from bored, not boring.

Referral Deadline: May 28, 2010,

Testing Window: June 3-14, 2010.

Whether Dysart will continue to test students for Gifted eligibility in the summer has yet to be determined.

Most importantly the impact of this on your students in the classroom will be minimal as the funds were used to supplement the classroom. Gifted services will remain. Some changes in those services may be necessary if Proposition 100 does not pass and the DUSD is required to make deeper cuts in the local budget to manage the cuts inherent in the legislative budget.

Discouragement does not take its place among us. We will continue to strive for excellence in our programs despite the obstacles placed before us.

THE GIFTED CHILDREN'S "BILL OF RIGHTS"

As we come to the close of another year I wish that ALL students were able to enjoy everything about their learning environment. That said: as educators, we work hard to accomplish just that.

Here is the "Bill of Rights" for Gifted Students; however, it should be for ALL students.

We wish you a safe and happy summer.

JoMarie Russo-Prunier Gifted Specialist

Gifted Children's Bill of Rights

Provided as a service of the
National Association of Gifted Children

You have a right to:

- ...know about your Giftedness.**
- ...learn something new everyday.**
- ...be passionate about your talented areas without apologies.**
- ...have an identity beyond your talent area.**
- ...feel good about your accomplishments.**
- ...make mistakes.**
- ...seek guidance in the development of your talent.**
- ...have multiple peer groups and a variety of friends.**
- ...choose which of your talent areas you wish to pursue.**
- ...not be Gifted at everything.**

Del Siegel
2007-2009 NAGC President

Perhaps the Poems

By

Daria Earley

(Canyon Ridge 7th Grade)

I don't know where all the good ideas for poems went
Maybe they left with the animals,
Falling sick and hunted
Or maybe possibly floating up in the air
With all the pollution
Turning green and coughing
Or sent off to war
Never to return
Stolen with people's money
Running away with hope
Maybe they left with morals
Begin to flee with the hunted
Stole all identity from all humans
Left the dying world
And the oblivious dying people
And then when the world finally breaks
Collapsed from the pressure
Destroyed from the outside in
Then maybe they will look
And see the destruction that was caused
Will they all come floating down
Only to realize that all the poets
Are dead from
Extinction
Pollution
Wars
And more
The Earth was dead
Along with its people

Summer Fun

By
Kristen Edwards



The end of the school year is drawing near and summer is fast approaching. At this time in the year, parents often begin to plan what they will have in store for their children over the summer. Trips to the park, water park, local attractions and out-of-state destinations quickly fill up parents' and children's schedules. An important piece to keep in mind, however, is just as children's bodies and imaginations need stimulated over the summer so too do their minds. Gifted students benefit from being provided with opportunities to engage their creativity and abilities. Included below are some opportunities which may help to ensure your gifted child has an exceptional summer:

National Association for Gifted Children:

Visit www.nagc.org. Once you have reached the website, move the cursor to the sidebar (on left) and select the Parents tab. Then click on Summer Opportunities. This particular page provides parents with a helpful guide on possible summer opportunities for gifted children.

Hoagie's Gifted Education Page:

Visit www.hoagiesgifted.org. Once you have arrived at the main page, click on the Parents tab that appears at the top of the webpage. This website provides resources and links to resources that can be easily used with gifted child within the comfort of your own home.

Summer Institute for the Gifted:

Visit www.giftedstudy.org. This website provides parents with information on day and residential programs available to K-11 at different universities throughout the country.

Duke's Summer Talent Identification Program:

Visit www.tip.duke.edu/summer_programs. Find further information on a summer program that targets the needs of gifted students while providing interaction with other gifted children and expert instructors.

Arizona Association for Gifted & Talented:

Visit www.arizonagifted.org. Once you have reached the main page, please click on the Parent tab (under Resources) on the right side of the webpage. A Summer Camps and Programs link will appear on this new webpage (under Resources for Parents). This local organization will provide parents with opportunities for gifted children available in Phoenix and surrounding areas.



Also, remember as a parent you hold the power to make the summer special for your gifted child with trips to places such as the Challenger Center, Science Center and the new

aquarium at the Wild Life World Zoo. Your efforts and ideas can turn a local attraction into a world of wonder for your gifted child. So go on and enjoy a spectacular summer with your child!