

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Winter 2010

Gifted Education Day

Friday, February 5, 2010

Columbia Room, Capitol Building

Olympia, WA

9:00A.M. — 2:30 P.M.

The most important part of Gifted Education Day is your visit with your legislators. Bring your children to take part in democracy. We encourage individuals, families, gifted groups and classes to join us in Olympia.

If you plan to bring a class, it is never too early to start making your plans for funding and permission.

This is a critical time to support Gifted Education! Your presence will show your legislators how important Gifted Education is to you and your students.

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Washington State Specialty Endorsement in Gifted Education

New Specialty Endorsement in Teaching the Gifted Offered at Whitworth University

What is a specialty endorsement?

The Specialty Endorsement in Teaching the Gifted is a new category of endorsement in Washington State. It is an enhancement to a teaching certificate, but is not required for teaching gifted students, and it is not connected to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Highly Qualified provision. The value of the specialty endorsement in teaching the gifted is that it will serve to better prepare a teacher to work with this particular student population. The result is that it will increase training opportunities and specific classes that address the teaching of gifted students. Note that this is not a full endorsement; it is a unique, new category.

How can teachers obtain the specialty endorsement?

Whitworth University is currently the only school that has been approved by the state to offer this specialty endorsement. To learn about the coursework, requirements and timeline, please contact the Center for Gifted Education at gifted@whitworth.edu.

The choice of offerings are reasonable, comprehensive and affordable. There may be many teachers of the gifted who wish to acquire this specialty endorsement. We already have had many questions asking if there will be an automatic granting for experience. We have been very explicit that this is not possible. We will review transcripts and coursework and offer certain classes that will bring them up to date and a practicum and portfolio requirement that will represent their skills and knowledge in teaching the gifted. All candidates will be responsible for evidence of the eight standards and their competencies. Candidates will take the *New Directions in Gifted Education* class, complete a practicum and provide a portfolio including evidence of all the standards and competencies. All courses must be aligned to the national standards and the Whitworth Conceptual Framework, thus demonstrating knowledge and skills as well as dispositions needed by a teacher of the gifted.

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President's Message

Mary Freitas

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On behalf of the WAETAG Board, I want to extend my thanks to everyone who played a part in the 2009 Gifted Conference "Rising Aspirations," on October 23 and 24, 2009. I hope you had the opportunity to join more than 200 participants at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood, Washington to hear keynote speakers Dr. Bertie Kingore and Ed Zaccaro. Dr. Kingore, international speaker and author, and Zaccaro, popular presenter at math and gifted education conferences, entertained the audience while motivating and stimulating our minds. A huge thanks goes to the conference committee for putting on a mind-stimulating conference with a touch of pampering for participants mixed in.

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted, or WAETAG, has been helping educators since 1984. I don't think we have faced a more critical time as far as K-12 funding. At this time, Washington State is estimating there will be a \$2.6 billion dollar deficit. In December, Governor Chris Gregoire's 2010 supplemental budget eliminated the funding for highly capable students. Gov. Gregoire herself said she is not happy with this first budget, as it included service eliminations and reductions, and she will submit another budget in January 2010. Gov. Gregoire is required by law to submit a budget based on currently available revenue.

This is an important time to advocate for highly capable funding. We can write our legislators and remind them of the highly capable programs that exist and the importance of continuing to provide resources for students. The good news is that a few people can make a big difference. One year ago the Basic Education Task Force had been at work for two years drafting a new definition of Basic Education for the State of Washington. The task force, for the most part, was finished with their work. However, the definition of basic education did not include gifted. At the same time the State was looking at a six billion dollar deficit, and word on the street was that funding for gifted was gone. Our WAETAG Distinguished Leadership Award this year goes to a small cadre of women who – behind their backs – are referred to as the "Fabulous Four." These women dug in their heels and went to work. We want to honor Irene Greve, Marcia Holland-Risch, Barbara Maurer, and Barbara Poyneer for their energy, wisdom, generous offering of time, guidance and passion for gifted children. The dedication of these advocates represents years of continuous effort to improve the understanding and awareness of the needs of gifted children. Throughout their years of volunteer service to the cause, they have worn many hats: They have been parents and grandparents of gifted children; some have worked professionally for gifted children; they have served in leadership roles in Northwest Gifted Child

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2009 - 2010 WAETAG Board Members

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WAETAG Mission Statement

WAETAG was formed by educators dedicated to the improvement of educational opportunities for gifted students, by strengthening services to and providing information for professionals serving these students in all settings. Toward that goal, WAETAG has adopted the following aims and purposes:

- Increase public and professional awareness of the need for appropriate educational opportunities for talented and gifted students.
- Encourage development of programs for professional preparation and growth in gifted and talented education.
- Assist with national, state, and local legislation to provide consistent challenge for all students.
- Cooperate with other groups to organize and to enhance educational opportunities for all students.
- Support quality programs which increase challenging educational opportunities for all students.

Your WAETAG Regional Representatives

ESD 112

Charlotte A. Akin, M. Ed.

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On October 13 at the invitation of people in the Evergreen Public Schools, Marcia Holland, President of Northwest Gifted Child Association, spoke in Vancouver to a group of more than one hundred parents and educators. Her topic was "Respected and Effective Advocacy." Her audience included people from Portland, Evergreen, Vancouver, Washougal, Camas, Battle Ground, and Hockinson school districts.

Marcia told the group at the outset that she didn't favor the "spray and pray" method of presenting, where the presenter spewed out a little of everything and prayed that some of it stuck. In the best of teaching practices, she surveyed her group to find out the needs of those in attendance. These ranged from advocating for a single child in a single school to school board advocacy to state advocacy. Somehow, Marcia was able to cover each of these! She also gave a good overview of advocacy in the State of Washington and the progress that has been made over the years.

Marcia is a willing and able speaker. She was one of this year's WAETAG Distinguished Leaders for her work with the Washington State legislature, among many other accomplishments. She would like more opportunities to speak to parents and educators, and she comes at no charge to the districts. You can contact her at *mhollandrisch@comcast.net* if you would like her to come to your area or school district to speak.

Gifted Education Endorsement *continued from page 1*

We also offer other courses, which are part of our Master of Arts in Teaching, Emphasis in Gifted & Talented, that can be used for electives that are needed for the specialty endorsement. The courses are *Teaching for Independence and Responsibility*, *Teaching the Underachiever*, *Creativity and Analytical Thinking*, and various short courses offered during our Summer Institute for Professional Development.

What is the process at Whitworth?

An application form is available from Margo Long at *gifted@whitworth.edu*. Completing the application will start the process.

President's Message *continued from page 2*

Association, Washington State Advisory Board for Gifted, WAETAG, and the Coalition for Gifted Education. The fruit of their work and the work of others who worked with them this past year include: a specialty endorsement for teachers of gifted, the inclusion of gifted in the definition of basic education in the State of Washington, and an increase in the categorical funding for highly capable programs for the 2009-2011 biennium - a stunning achievement by itself.

Today their work goes on. They are moving forward to work with the Quality Education Council and the Funding Working Group for the implementation of ESHB 2261.

Gifted Education Day is February 5, 2010. Please consider what gifted education means to you and make arrangements, if possible, to join us in Olympia. A coalition of WAETAG members and other gifted advocates appearing in person from around the state will get far more attention than familiar faces they are used to seeing in Olympia. If you can make it a civics field trip and bring gifted students along, that would be the best scenario of all to make an impact on our Senators, Representatives and Governor. With so many other pressing concerns claiming their attention, they need to see and hear you in person. The Columbia Room in the State Capitol Building is reserved on Feb. 5th, 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and legislators have been invited to come and talk to you. I encourage you to come and share your knowledge of the unique needs of gifted students and why their needs should be met. Consider attending Gifted Education Day and bring students and parents with you. If you are unable to attend you can contact your Senator or Representative at the HOTLINE at 1-800-562-6000 (TTY for Hearing Impaired at 1-800-635-9993). You can leave a brief message on issues or ask a question. When leaving a message, be prepared to leave your name and street address. To learn more you can go to *www.waetag.org* and to learn more about the Capitol, you can go to *www.leg.wa.gov*. Contact your legislators and let them know how important meeting the needs of gifted students is to you.

In closing, I encourage you to join the team working for gifted children in Washington State! Come and bring others to Gifted Day, help on a committee, write an article for the newsletter, share resources which you have found effective for gifted students, write a letter to your legislator supporting gifted education, fill out a Call for Presenters Form, and attend the October conference. Let's work together as a team to keep the funding for gifted education and make a difference in gifted education for the future!

**It is a glorious
fever, that desire to know.**

Edward Bulwer Lytton

Important Dates

NOW	Write to or call your Senator or Representative, advocating funding for gifted education! 1-800-562-6000
February 5	Gifted Education Day 2010
March 15	WAETAG Summer Scholarship Application Deadline www.waetag.net

Summer Scholarship Opportunity

This year WAETAG will again grant scholarships to students wishing to attend summer university programs. As many \$300.00 scholarships as possible will be awarded (usually three).

To apply, students must complete and submit an application packet, which includes an information sheet, an essay, a self-evaluation, and a teacher evaluation. Application packets are available online at the WAETAG website (www.waetag.net); please forward this information, and/or copy and distribute these forms to interested students, 3rd to 12th grades. The application deadline is March 15.

Criteria: Funding will go to students who will profit most from the experience, who have a high interest in participating in a summer program, and who have a willingness to work. A committee of at least three WAETAG associates, education professionals with experience in the field of gifted, will evaluate the applications and choose the recipients. Please alert students that evaluators consider both the content and writing quality of the essays submitted.

Applying: Please print and give the application to students who meet the above criteria. Note that applications must be postmarked by **March 15, 2010**. No late applications will be considered. Applications should be sent to WAETAG, P.O. Box 1440, Battle Ground, WA 98604.

Students awarded scholarships must use the money to attend a gifted summer program at a four year institution. Please make sure that students and their families understand that they are responsible for applying to the summer program of their choice. In the past, Washington State University, the University of Washington, Western Washington University, and Eastern Washington University, to name a few, have offered classes in areas ranging from the arts to the sciences; families need to do some research to find a program that works best for them.

Again, we appreciate your efforts in helping to promote these scholarships.

Don't hesitate to call (360) 604-4001 or e-mail Charlotte Akin at CharlotteAkin@msn.com with questions.

Thank you for your support and for the work you do for our special population of students!

THINK Summer Institute

Profoundly gifted students, ages 13 to 16, are invited to apply for the 2010 THINK Summer Institute, a three-week residential summer program on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno where they can earn six college credits by completing two university courses. The 2010 THINK Summer Institute will run from July 10 through July 31. Application deadlines are **Jan. 13** (*for early acceptance*), **Feb. 24** and **March 31**. Tuition is \$2,700 and covers course credits, room and board and the cost of planned programs and activities. Need-based scholarships are available. To qualify, students must be 13 to 16 years old during THINK, and must meet or exceed designated SAT or ACT scores. To download an application, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/THINK.

Davidson Fellow Scholarships

The Davidson Fellows scholarship deadline is around the corner! Preliminary Submission Overview Forms are due **Feb. 17** and completed applications are due **March 3**. \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 scholarships are available to students who have completed a significant piece of work in one of the application categories: Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, and Outside the Box, defined as graduate-level work in any other field. Students must be 17 or younger to apply and be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident. Please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows for more information and to download an application.

Davidson Young Scholars

The national Davidson Young Scholars program helps profoundly gifted students under 18 discover others with similar interests and abilities. Young Scholar parents collaborate with the Davidson Institute's skilled team of Family Consultants who provide individualized services based on each family's unique needs with topics such as educational advocacy, social and emotional development, and talent development. Read Young Scholar Success Stories (http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/youngscholars/Article/Davidson_Young_Scholars_Success_Stories_422.aspx) about how the Young Scholars program has helped make a difference in these students' lives. The Davidson Young Scholar application deadline is the 14th of each month. For more information, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/YoungScholars.

Davidson Academy of Nevada

The Davidson Academy of Nevada, a free public day school for profoundly gifted pupils on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, is hosting public tours on Friday, Jan. 22, Thursday, Feb. 18, Thursday, March 25 and Thursday, April 15. To RSVP, please visit www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/Explore. The application deadline is **March 1**. The 2010-2011 application is available online at www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/Admissions.



Scoring More Energy from Less Sunlight

For spacecraft, power is everything. Without electrical power, satellites and robotic probes might as well be chunks of cold rock tumbling through space. Hundreds to millions of miles from the nearest power outlet, these spacecraft must somehow eke enough power from ambient sunlight to stay alive.

That's no problem for large satellites that can carry immense solar panels and heavy batteries. But in recent years, NASA has been developing technologies for much smaller microsatellites, which are lighter and far less expensive to launch. Often less than 10 feet across, these small spacecraft have little room to spare for solar panels or batteries, yet must still somehow power their onboard computers, scientific instruments, and navigation and communication systems.

Space Technology 5 was a mission that proved, among other technologies, new concepts of power generation and storage for spacecraft.

"We tested high efficiency solar cells on ST-5 that produce almost 60 percent more power than typical solar cells. We also tested batteries that hold three times the energy of standard spacecraft batteries of the same size," says Christopher Stevens, manager of NASA's New Millennium Program. This program flight tests cutting-edge spacecraft technologies so that they can be used safely on mission-critical satellites and probes.

"This more efficient power supply allows you to build a science-grade spacecraft on a miniature scale," Stevens says.

Solar cells typically used on satellites can convert only about 18 percent of the available energy in sunlight into electrical current. ST-5 tested experimental cells that capture up to 29 percent of this solar energy. These new solar cells, developed in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory in Ohio, performed flawlessly on ST-5, and they've already been swooped up and used on NASA's svelte MESSENGER probe, which will make a flyby of Mercury later this year.

Like modern laptop batteries, the high-capacity batteries on ST-5 use lithium-ion technology. As a string of exploding laptop batteries in recent years shows, fire safety can be an issue with this battery type.

"The challenge was to take these batteries and put in a power management circuit that protects against internal overcharge," Stevens explains. So NASA contracted with ABSL Power Solutions to develop spacecraft batteries with design control circuits to prevent power spikes that can lead to fires. "It worked like a charm."

Now that ST-5 has demonstrated the safety of this battery design, it is flying on NASA's THEMIS mission (for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms) and is slated to fly aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Solar Dynamics Observatory, both of which are scheduled to launch later this year.

Thanks to ST-5, a little sunlight can go a really long way.

Find out about other advanced technologies validated in space and now being used on new missions of exploration at <http://nnp.nasa.gov/TECHNOLOGY/scorecard>. Kids can calculate out how old they would be before having to replace lithium-ion batteries in a handheld game at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st5_bats.shtml.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

E.Q. Corner: Whimsy

"No sir, not a day's work in my life. What I have done I have done because it has been play." ~Mark Twain

Overcome terminal seriousness. Develop a sense of whimsy. People who lose their capacity to be playful are perceived as cold, dull, boring, sad, lonely, tight, rigid, etc. Instead, maintain the playful attitude that comes naturally to children. Work at spotting the incongruities, absurdities and ironies of life. Turn reality on its ear. The by-products will be less conflicts, less anger, less anxiety and less depression. In fact, playfulness may be more conducive to the production of peace than superb negotiation skills.

Whimsy Role Models

- Lucille Ball—the first lady of comedy brought laughter and emotional truth to her work.
- Charlie Chaplain—his films bring a promise of happiness blending the serious and playful.
- Maurice Sendak—portrays the dark aspects of children's imagination in his art and stories while capturing a sense of wonder and play.

Whimsy Inspiration

For kids:

Honk! By Henry Cole—a ballet-loving swan wins acclaim in a production of swan lake.

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran—a celebration of the magic of imagination as children create a fantasy world on a rocky hill across the road.

For adults:

Winnie-the-Pooh on Success by Roger E. Allen—In which You, Pooh and friends learn about the Most Important Subject of All.

American Gods by Neil Gaiman—a fantastical mystery adventure in an era of change.

From *6 Seconds E.Q. Activity Calendar*, March 2007. Go to www.6seconds.org for more information on emotional intelligence.



830 Cary Rd., Edmonds, WA 98020

Check your membership expiration date on the address label. If your membership is expired, please renew it by sending in \$35 and the form below. Membership includes newsletters, advanced conference mailings, student scholarship mailings, and news of advocacy and training opportunities. Stay with us for the students' sakes!

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YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS ARE WELCOME!

Share or review a favorite curriculum resource, describe your program, or a lesson, teacher, or student. We all need new ideas. WAETAG Newsletter offers you one more way to network. Please send material within an e-mail message or attached as a Word document .

Contact Kyra Richardson for newsletter details: dustinandkyra@msn.com, (509) 489-1175 (please do not call after 8 P.M.). For other information about WAETAG, please contact the WAETAG President (see President's Message on page 2).

If you receive this newsletter at work, please send us your home address on a membership form to assure you continue to receive prompt WAETAG mailings. Label it UPDATE.

WAETAG Membership Form

I wish to support meeting the needs of gifted children in Washington State.

WAETAG membership category: [] Individual/Parent (\$35) [] Student (\$15)

Name _____
Address (h) _____
Address (w) _____
e-mail _____
School District _____ ESD No. _____

Phone (h) _____ Phone (w) _____
City (h) _____ State _____ Zip _____
City (w) _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a:
[] Gifted Program Teacher [] Counselor
[] Classroom Teacher [] Researcher
[] Parent [] Student
[] Administrator [] Other
[] Public School [] Private School

As an educator, my level of work is (check one):
[] Preschool [] Primary
[] Intermediate/Middle [] Junior High
[] High School [] College

Mail membership form and check to WAETAG, 830 Cary Rd., Edmonds, WA 98020

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