

# WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Fall 2010

## WAETAG 2010 Conference *Proficiency is Not Enough*

Register now!  
**October 15th & 16th**  
Friday evening, all day Saturday

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**[www.waetag.org](http://www.waetag.org)**

### WAETAG Distinguished Leader Award Who will YOU nominate?

The WAETAG Distinguished Leader Award is presented each year to one or more individuals for outstanding contributions to the education of gifted and talented students. Such educators are recognized at the annual WAETAG conference. Any WAETAG member may nominate educators for consideration.

Please submit a one-page letter supporting the nomination for this award. The letter needs to include the nominee's contribution in one or more of the following areas:

- Demonstration of excellence in teaching gifted and talented students
- Commitment & advocacy for gifted and talented students and programs
- Published curriculum, articles or research
- Service to WAETAG or other gifted and talented and professional organizations
- Leadership within a school, district or state

Think of those individuals who have made contributions to students, co-workers, and/or the field of gifted education. Who has positively touched the lives of gifted and talented students or educators in your area?

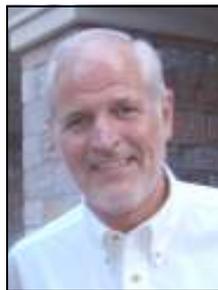
Please send the nomination form and supporting letter(s) to Charlotte Akin, P.O. Box 1440, Battleground, WA 98604.

***The deadline is September 30, 2010.***

## President's Message

Stephen B. Martin

president.waetag@gmail.com 425-224-6352



The WAETAG Board met for two days in July to finalize plans for the fall conference and complete work on some other important projects. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group of educators helping to guide our association. I look forward to introducing them to you all when we gather in Bellevue on October 15th and 16th.

Michael Clay Thompson will be our featured speaker. I never tire of Michael's inspirational yet practical approach to meeting the challenges of gifted learners. If you have not already done so, please visit [www.waetag.org](http://www.waetag.org) and register for "Proficiency Is Not Enough," the 2010 WAETAG Conference. There will be excellent presenters on a wide range of topics, and vendors displaying products of interest to educators and parents alike.

Enclosed with this mailing is a ballot for election of WAETAG officers. Open positions this year are Vice President, Secretary, and Regional Representatives for ESD 101, 105, 113 and 123. We do not yet have nominees for 101 (Spokane) and 105 (Yakima). Ballots may be cast by mail by September 30.

We will also be asking for your approval of the Board's proposed changes to the WAETAG Constitution and Bylaws, which can be reviewed at [www.waetag.org](http://www.waetag.org).

As each new school year begins, I go hunting for words to inspire and provoke and agitate the brain cells a bit. Consider these thoughts as we prepare once more to engage with gifted students:

*I imagine a school system that recognizes learning is natural, that a love of learning is normal, and that real learning is passionate learning. A school curriculum that values questions above answers...creativity above fact regurgitation... individuality above conformity, and excellence above standardized performance... And we must reject all notions of 'reform' that serve up more of the same: more testing, more 'standards,' more uniformity, more conformity, more bureaucracy. ~ Tom Peters*

*One can never consent to creep when one feels the compulsion to soar.  
~ Helen Keller*

*We need a metamorphosis of education - from the cocoon a butterfly should emerge. Improvement does not give us a butterfly, only a faster caterpillar.  
~ B. H. Banathy*

*Chaos breeds life, where order breeds habit. ~ Henry Brooks*

I wish you a passionate, soaring, metamorphic, and perhaps even chaotic new school year. Your students will love it!

## 2009 - 2010 WAETAG Board Members

**President:** Stephen Martin  
[president.waetag@gmail.com](mailto:president.waetag@gmail.com)

**Past President:** Mary Freitas  
[m-freitas@lycos.com](mailto:m-freitas@lycos.com)

**Vice Pres.** (pro-tem): Charlotte Akin  
[cakin@egreen.wednet.edu](mailto:cakin@egreen.wednet.edu)

**Secretary** (pro-tem): Susan Casey  
[stanya10@comcast.net](mailto:stanya10@comcast.net)

**Financial Mgr.:** Betty Buzitis  
[betty.buzz@frontier.com](mailto:betty.buzz@frontier.com)

### Regional Representatives

**ESD 112:** Lisa Morgan  
[lmorgan@egreen.wednet.edu](mailto:lmorgan@egreen.wednet.edu)

**ESD 113**(pro-tem): Laurie McGovern  
[lmcgovern123@gmail.com](mailto:lmcgovern123@gmail.com)

**ESD 114:** Jan Kragen  
[jkragen@nkschools.org](mailto:jkragen@nkschools.org)

**ESD 121:** Roger Daniel  
[drdaniels@seattleschools.org](mailto:drdaniels@seattleschools.org)

**ESD 121:** Stephanie Kodis-Fisher  
[fishers@tukwila.wednet.edu](mailto:fishers@tukwila.wednet.edu)

**ESD 123** (pro-tem): Chandra Tebay  
[tebayce@hotmail.com](mailto:tebayce@hotmail.com)

**ESD 123** (pro-tem): Heather Westendorf  
[heatherwestendorf@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherwestendorf@yahoo.com)

**ESD 171:** Kari DeMarco  
[Demarco.k@mail.wsd.wednet.edu](mailto:Demarco.k@mail.wsd.wednet.edu)

**ESD 189:** Linda Varner  
[Linda.Varner@sno.wednet.edu](mailto:Linda.Varner@sno.wednet.edu)

**ESD 189:** Becky Ballbach  
[rballbach@everettsd.org](mailto:rballbach@everettsd.org)

**ESD 101, 105:** Open  
**Private Schools:** Betty Burley-Wolf  
[betty@pioneerschool.com](mailto:betty@pioneerschool.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Gayle Pauley  
[Gayle.Pauley@k12.wa.us](mailto:Gayle.Pauley@k12.wa.us)

## 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

### Private Schools

#### Betty Burley-Wolf

betty@pioneerschool.com



The world's number two golfer wants America to be number one in science! Phil Mickelson's science project is a summer camp/academy for teachers of third, fourth and fifth graders to improve their math and science teaching skills. Go to [sendmyteacher.com](http://sendmyteacher.com) to apply for this week-long class. Teachers who apply by Oct. 31 may get to go on an all expenses paid trip to the academy. Mr. Mickelson says, "It's hard to teach a subject when you don't feel good about it or lack confidence. We bring teachers on an all-expenses paid trip, put them up at a good hotel with good food and give them good instructors. We treat them like professionals. We hope that by getting them excited about teaching science, we'll have more American kids excited about studying math and science." Many companies such as Exxon Mobil worry that American kids don't get enough math or science compared to their peers in China and India. In public schools, in the lower grades, the majority of math and science courses are taught by people who never studied those subjects in college. The academy aims to help teachers kindle interest in math and science at a young age; by 8<sup>th</sup> grade it's too late if they don't have the basics. Our gifted students deserve the best teachers can offer in math and science, so WAETAG teachers should hurry and apply for this great opportunity!

### Attention WAETAG Members:

We will be voting on revised WAETAG Bylaws at our annual membership meeting during the WAETAG Conference. Please go to our website to read the proposed changes.

[www.waetag.org](http://www.waetag.org)



### Your vote can help SENG win \$250,000!

SENG is competing for a Pepsi Refresh Grant, and they need your vote. Go to:

<http://www.refresheverything.com/seng>

Please join the SENG Fan Page for more news!

<http://www.facebook.com/sengifted>

## The Technical Working Group

Charlotte Akin

OSPI has convened a Technical Working Group to give recommendations to the state legislature regarding implementation of the Basic Education Act (BEA), scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011. In the BEA, programs for highly capable students are - for the first time - defined as part of their basic education. The Technical Working Group will be looking at issues of funding, program models, assessment, and equity of access for students of color, as well as for students from poverty. The group met for the first time in August and had Mary Ruth Coleman speak to them about equity issues. As the group meets throughout the fall, Dr. Coleman will return as well as other national experts to give guidance and offer expertise. The group will break into smaller groups in order to focus on the specific issues. They will then bring their recommendations to the larger body for review before sending them off to the legislature. It is expected that the Technical Working Group will be finished by December.

### Northwest Gifted Child Association NWGCA CONNECTIONS Conference *Raising Your Gifted Child* January 29, 2010

Redmond High School Performing Arts Center

#### Where is a Parent to go to Learn More about Raising Gifted Children?

Parents of gifted rarely have the opportunity to get information about the specific academic, emotional and social needs of their gifted children. They have even less opportunity to talk with other adults candidly about the delights and the challenges of raising truly bright children.

The goals of the conference are to provide parents of gifted with the opportunity to CONNECT, INTERACT, and EXPLORE.

#### Why come to the CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE?

- Do you have questions about your child's exceptional abilities and differences?
- How often can you talk with educators and other parents who understand about the joys and challenges of raising a high-ability child?
- Will you invest half a day reminding yourself of the joys of raising a high-ability child?

Don't miss this rare opportunity to continue to learn how to help your children manage their giftedness.

For more information, look up NWGCA on Facebook!

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*Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted*

## 2010 CONFERENCE Proficiency is Not Enough



Hilton Hotel, Bellevue, Washington  
the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup> & all day October 16<sup>th</sup>

Register today online at [www.waetag.org](http://www.waetag.org)

The 2010 WAETAG Conference will feature presentations from national & state experts on topics and exhibits of interest to educators and parents of gifted students . . .

**Featured Speaker**  
**Michael Clay Thompson**

During his thirty years as teacher, administrator and scholar, Michael Clay Thompson has inspired thousands of students, parents and educators to love language and literature. Michael is the author of numerous books of language arts for gifted children, including *The Word Within the Word* series, *Caesar's English*, and *The Magic Lens* series. He is currently in demand as a consultant, speaker and workshop presenter. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Gifted Children and is an online instructor in Language Arts for the Northwestern University Gifted Learning Links program. He has been a faculty member of the Wake Forest University Summer Institute for Gifted Education, the University of North Carolina/Charlotte Summer institute for Gifted Education and The Cullowhee Experience. He has served on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of Gifted & Talented and on the regional Board of Advisors to the North Carolina/South Carolina Future Problem Solving Program. He has been consultant to the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary, consultant and Lead Scholar for the National Javits Project for Language Arts and President of the Indiana Gifted Association.

# WAETAG

*Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted*

## 2010 CONFERENCE

### Proficiency is Not Enough



Hilton Hotel, Bellevue, Washington  
the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup> & all day October 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Schedule of Events

##### Friday, October 15, 2010

6:00 p.m.	Registration and exhibits open	
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Reception	
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Keynote Presentation	Michael Clay Thompson

##### Saturday, October 16, 2010

8:00 a.m.	Registration and exhibits open	
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Welcome and Keynote	Michael Clay Thompson
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	BREAK	
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Elementary Keynote	Michael Clay Thompson
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break out sessions I (Secondary and Parents)	
11:15 a.m. – 12:15p.m.	Break out sessions II (Elementary, Secondary, Parents)	
12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	WAETAG General Meeting and Lunch	
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Secondary Keynote	Michael Clay Thompson
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break out sessions III (Elementary and Parents)	
3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Keynote Presentation	Michael Clay Thompson



# WAETAG Elections 2009-2010

Your ballot is enclosed. If you are a current WAETAG member, please vote and send in your ballot by **September 30, 2010**.

## Vice President: Charlotte A. Akin

Charlotte Akin (M.Ed. U of Portland) is an experienced teacher of gifted students in cluster, full-time, and pull-out classrooms. She is a published author in the field of gifted education and has received teaching awards at the local, state, and national levels. Charlotte currently teaches part time in the highly capable program which she also manages in her district. She works with districts, teachers, and parents in program and staff development and other issues involving the education of gifted children. Charlotte has been a WAETAG representative for the past three years.

## Secretary: Susan Casey

Susan has taught at Pioneer School in Shelton, WA for over twenty years. She has been active in the Creative Arts field for nearly 40 years directing children's choirs, instrumental music, visual art classes, and musical theatre as well as teaching a broad range of academic subjects, including NW Indian Studies. For many years Susan worked as the district's Vertical Team Coordinator and primary grant writer for Pre-AP funding. For seven years she served as Pioneer's District Hi-cap Coordinator while also offering pullout classes for intermediate HC students. In this role she was responsible for state applications, individual student learning plans and HC program assessments. Susan has been the WAETAG representative for ESDs 113 & 114 for the past year, and she wishes to remain active as an advocate for gifted education and the arts in her school and community.

## ESD 113: Laurie McGovern

Laurie McGovern is a second grade teacher at Pioneer Primary School in Shelton, Washington. She is the director of an extended-day program called Imagination Station. She offers workshops on the arts of many cultures, story-theatre opportunities and teaches technology workshops in her district. She served WAETAG as the southwest representative for several years and has been the secretary for the past five years.

## ESD 123: Heather Westendorf

(Co-representative with Chandra Tebay)

Heather Westendorf has worked with highly capable students on both sides of the district. She has been working in the Pasco School District, where she currently teaches language arts and social studies to highly capable eighth grade students, for the past nine years. She recently completed her Master's degree in Gifted Education. She looks forward to being able to reach out to other highly capable teachers in ESD 123 to offer support and a connection to WAETAG.

Heather would also like to work with administrators to help them understand the needs of the gifted students and how they can best meet the needs of the highly capable.

## ESD 123: Chandra Tebay

(Co-representative with Heather Westendorf)

Chandra Tebay has been practicing in the field of education for 19 years. Her background includes a BA in Business Finance/Economics (EWU) and a BA in K-8 Elementary Education (EWU), with state endorsements in Business Education, Marketing, Art, Pre-K through 8, and ECE. Most recently, she was awarded the degree of MAT: Gifted and Talented from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, as well as, her National Board Certification. Chandra has specialized in teaching and working with highly capable students and their families in the Kennewick Opportunities for the Gifted Program for the past nine years.

Chandra serves her community through membership in Kiwanis International. She also enjoys building with Habitat for Humanity, when time allows. Hobbies include running, hiking, bicycling, alpine skiing, travel, and knitting. Chandra served as Chairperson for WAETAG Fall Conference 2007 and is pleased to serve again, as we continue to affect excellence in practice for Gifted Education in the State of Washington.

### Important Dates

**Sept. 30**—Deadline for on-time registration for 2010 Conference (late registration is available for a \$50 fee)

**Sept. 30**—Deadline to turn in nominations for WAETAG Distinguished Leadership Award

**Sept. 30**—Deadline to turn in WAETAG Election Ballots. Vote today!

**Oct. 15 & 16**—2010 WAETAG Conference: Proficiency is Not Enough



PO Box 94045, Seattle, WA 98124

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!

CHECK MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE ON ADDRESS LABEL

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, P.O. Box 94045, Seattle, WA 98124

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