

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Spring 2012

Visit our website for:

- Links & resources for gifted
- Summer opportunities for gifted students
- Scholarship applications
- 2012 WAETAG Conference information and registration
- Previous issues of our newsletter

www.waetag.net

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What's New in Current Research?

by Chandra Tebay, MAT-GT, NBCT

Has even one year ever passed by, when you, as an educator of the gifted and talented, have not been presented with multiple inquiries about the validity of your program screening, identification, structure, teacher qualification, curriculum or other concerns? Inquiring minds want to know! Parents ask questions, the public asks questions, and administrators look to you for answers to best practices, as planning and purchasing decisions are made. Most of us are familiar with the "Creative Problem Solving" (CPS) decision-making matrix design. In this model, valid criteria lead to effective decisions. The purpose of this article is to review valid, empirical research that can add to your "criteria repertoire," and inform decision-making for your gifted education classroom.

In this issue, we look at selecting a math curriculum for your elementary students. To support this decision, we look at the findings of a five-year study by M. Katherine Gavin, et. al., titled *The Impact of Advanced Curriculum on the Achievement of Mathematically Promising Elementary Students*. Do gifted students really need a different curriculum than everyone else? Can't they achieve just as much, using the regular curriculum, and accelerating?

Gavin's study was done over five years and involved faculty from University of Connecticut, Northern Kentucky University, and Boston University, as well as teachers, administrators and students in ten schools of varying socio-economic levels. Twelve curriculum units of advanced math (Project M3: Mentoring Mathematical Minds) were designed by a team of national experts in the fields of 1) mathematics, 2) mathematics education, and 3) gifted education. The units were field-tested and the effectiveness of the units was measured, using a quasi-experimental design focused on achievement results for students in Grades 3 to 5 from 11 urban and suburban schools. There were two experimental groups and one comparison group. The comparison group was identified and selected in the same way as the experimental groups, and their demographics were similar, but they did not receive the Project M3 advanced curriculum.

The final results, from the analysis of data show that, in all three grades, students in the experimental groups *consistently* had *statistically significant* gains over the comparison group on standardized achievement tests (ITBS) and on open-response items from the TIMSS and NAEP assessments. In conclusion, it DOES make a difference which math curriculum is used. Curriculum units that are

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Vice President's Message

Charlotte Akin
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With services for gifted children now part of basic education, WAETAG - with its primary mission involving equipping educators of these children - sits at the very center of this change process. Because we take this mission seriously, we have a truly amazing conference planned for this fall, October 19 & 20 at the spectacular Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Once again, we will have a day prior to the conference for administrators only. This is to bring district administrators from across the state to a place where they can learn about the gifted population, the new legislation and a variety of programs and services that might be offered in their districts. *Please extend an invitation to administrators in your professional circle!* Our keynote speaker for the conference, Roger Fisher, is a local and esteemed teacher of gifted children. He has been a popular presenter at WAETAG for a number of years and has been in demand for staff development throughout Washington and Oregon for the past twelve years. With Roger, we will have a focus on instruction from someone who not only knows how to teach gifted students, but is experienced at teaching others how to teach gifted students. To compliment that, we will also be having featured speakers, Dr. Brock L. Eide and Dr. Fernette Eide, who will provide some theoretical frameworks highlighting current brain research.

The WAETAG Board will also be meeting over the summer to work on some long range planning in terms of finding ways to make sure that districts new to programming for gifted students have what they need to join us in being educators of this special population. This is both a serious challenge and an enormous opportunity. Plan to join us at the conference this fall. You, too, can catch the excitement!

"A tulip doesn't strive to impress anyone. It doesn't struggle to be different than a rose. It doesn't have to. It is different. And there's room in the garden for every flower..." ~Marianne Williamson

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.

2011 - 2012 WAETAG Board Members

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Coalition Update

Irene Greve
Acting President
Washington Coalition for Gifted Education

The Washington Coalition for Gifted Education is looking ahead to fall election issues. State legislature and the governor's office will change, thus it is important to contact legislators and their challengers to share with them our concerns for highly capable students now within basic education. The coalition will meet early in June to refine the message we will carry across the state.

The Coalition focus will include: restoration of funding for Centrum, Destination Imagination, and Future Problem Solving; accurate data collection that includes data for longitudinal studies on HC programs; support for increased professional development for teaching HC students (the Highly Capable issue submitted for the PTA Legislative Assembly). If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive articles and information from the Coalition, please contact us at wagifted@earthlink.net. Visit us on our blog wcge.wordpress.com or on Facebook.

News from a WAETAG Past President

Todd Christensen 1994-1995
todd_christensen@msvl.k12.wa.us

After many years as a principal and program administrator in the Edmonds School District and later in Marysville, I did finally retire from full-time administrative work. I do still continue to work in the field of gifted education part time as the Director of the Hi-Cap Program in the Marysville School District.

In my non-school time, I am building boats with a friend and business partner at our shop in Silvana, WA. We design and build welded aluminum boats for commercial and sports fishing.

Important Dates

June 23—Celebration of Talent, Spokane
www.prodigynw.org

June 30—WAETAG Election Deadline

July 11—Deadline for presentation proposals
for 2012 WAETAG Conference

Oct. 19-20—WAETAG Conference, Tacoma
www.waetag.net



Celebration of Talent

Sponsored by Prodigy NW and Whitworth University

“I have never seen such a rich array of educational and experiential sessions all offered on one day for a very low cost in Eastern Washington. It should not be missed!”

~ Marcia Holland, President
Northwest Gifted Child Association

For more information, see page 4.

Visit our website today!
www.waetag.net

What's New in Current Research *continued from page 1*

concept-based, accelerated, enriched, and encourage students to problem-solve, like a professional mathematician, contribute to their mathematical achievement. The Project M3 curricular units meet these criteria and can be found online at <http://projectm3.org/>. Full text of the Gavin, et. al. study can be found in *Gifted Child Quarterly* (Summer 2009): 188-202.

Celebration of Talent – Inland Northwest

Regional Conference for Gifted Youth, Parents & Educators



Saturday, June 23, 2012 ~ 8:30 to 4:00



Sponsored by Prodigy NW and Whitworth University

Don't miss this inaugural event designed to enlighten children, parents and educators on the subject of giftedness and the unique challenges and benefits that it brings. Gifted students will participate in a variety of fun and unique learning experiences with like-minded youth. Parents will interact with other parents and professionals on the challenges and joys of raising gifted children. Educators will participate in a forum dedicated to gifted education and receive professional clock hours for their involvement. Children must be at least four years of age to participate.

Registration Fee: \$25 per person or \$40 for a family
Educator Fee: \$35 (includes \$10 for professional clock hours)

**To register or for additional information visit: Prodigy Northwest at www.prodigynw.org
or call Deb Johnson at 509-599-4200.**

Sponsored by Prodigy Northwest and Whitworth University

Camp Metamorphosis

Whitworth Summer Program for Gifted Children

July 16-20; Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30 on Whitworth's campus

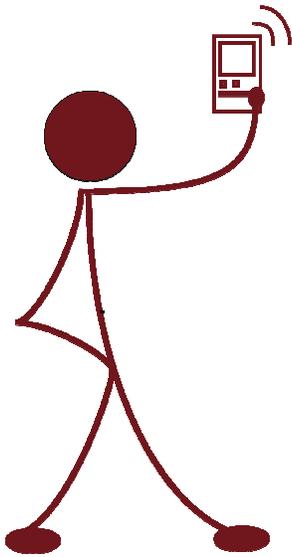
This exciting day camp is for **students entering grades 4-6** to develop communication and collaboration skills, while having the opportunity to explore academic areas.

Mornings: Participants share common experiences exploring movement, visualization, Tai Chi, personal storytelling and leadership

Afternoons: Each participant will select two of the following programs to investigate for the entire week: cartooning, geometric explorations, physics, sustainability, digital storytelling, or acting.

www.whitworth.edu/campmetamorphosis • 509-777-3226





Gifted 2.0

Hi-Cap **Instruction** for the Digital Age

2012 WAETAG CONFERENCE

October 19-20 | Hotel Murano | Tacoma

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER Roger Fisher is a Gifted Enrichment Specialist and Staff Developer for the Evergreen School District in Vancouver, WA. He is also an independent consultant, speaker, and life long learner with a passion for all things gifted. Roger is a former WAETAG conference chair and is currently working on a book, *Cognitive Monsters & Intellectual Heroes for the 21st Century*, which has influenced his planning for the 2012 WAETAG conference. His energy and passion for teaching gifted children ignite in a way that motivates children and adults to see beyond the monotonous structure of the typical curriculum to realize a world of opportunity, excitement, and possibility.



GUEST LECTURERS Brock L. Eide, M.D., M.A. and Fernette Eide, M.D. are physicians and authors (*The Dyslexic Advantage* and *The Mislabeled Child*) who have an international referral practice, specializing in learning differences, in the greater Seattle area. They have lectured widely and published extensively in the fields of gifted education, learning disabilities, and twice exceptionalities, such as giftedness and dyslexia.

In addition to the programs of our keynote speaker and guest lecturers, conference attendees can count on exceptional **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**, the innovative sharing of **SPEED LESSONS**, valuable resources and shopping in the **VENDOR MARKETPLACE**, along with the opportunity for **NETWORKING** with friends and colleagues.



Gifted 2.0 **Hi-Cap Instruction** for the Digital Age
2012 WAETAG CONFERENCE
October 19–20 | Hotel Murano | Tacoma

BREAKOUT PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

Presenter:

Position/Title:

Organization or School:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Preferred Phone: ()

(H) (W) (Cell)

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION (50 WORDS OR LESS):

INTENDED AUDIENCE (check all that apply)

Elementary Teachers

Middle School Teachers

High School Teachers

Program Administrators

Parents

Other _____

COMPLEXITY LEVEL OF SESSION

Beginning

Beyond Beginning

Advanced

BRIEF PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY (50 WORDS OR LESS):

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Rooms can accommodate up to 50 participants. Sessions will last 60 minutes.
 - Limited AV will be available. Please bring any equipment needed (including laptop and projector) and your handouts (enough for 50).
 - Complimentary conference registration is provided
-

DEADLINE: Please submit Breakout Presentation Proposal by July 11, 2012 to:
Lisa Morasch, WAETAG Conference Coordinator, imc360@comcast.net.
14034 SE 35th Loop, Vancouver WA 98683.

QUESTIONS? Contact Charlotte Akin charlotteakin@msn.com

WAETAG Elections 2012-2013

Your ballot is enclosed. If you are a current WAETAG member, please vote and send in your ballot by **June 30, 2012**.

Vice President: Kari DeMarco

Kari has been an educator for over 20 years, teaching elementary gifted, middle school English and alternative high school and has been the K-12 Enrichment (gifted) coordinator in Wenatchee School District for five years. She has gifted children of her own, so fully understands the value of each student learning something new each day. She has served on the WAETAG board for three years and continues to learn more and more from those with whom she works.

Secretary: Susan Casey

Susan has taught at Pioneer School in Shelton, WA for over twenty years and is currently the co-coordinator of highly capable programs in her district. 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 secretary for two years and was the representative for ESDs 113 & 114 for the previous year. 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 south-west representative and has been the secretary for the past several years.

ESD 123: Heather Westendorf

Heather Westendorf has been working in the Pasco School District, where she has been teaching language arts and social studies to highly capable eighth grade students, for the past eleven years. She has a Master's degree in Gifted Education. Heather has been the co-representative for ESD 123 and looks forward to being able to reach out to other highly capable teachers in ESD 123 to offer support and a connection to WAETAG.

ESD 105: Suzie Bennett

Suzie Bennett has been a WAETAG representative for ESD 105 for the past two years. She received her Master's degree in Professional Development and her administrative credentials from Heritage University. Suzie has been involved in education for the past 23 years, with gifted education as the main focus for 13 years. During this time she has had the opportunity to teach and coordinate curriculum for Grandview School District's gifted program, and is currently teaching sections of gifted education within the Sunnyside School District. She has also been the parent of a highly capable child and knows what unique qualities these children portray. Beyond the classroom, Suzie is very involved in her community, coaches, and loves spending time with her family.

ESD 171: Kathryn Moody

Kathryn Moody has a deep passion for gifted education, and she comes by it naturally. She was a precocious learner herself (still is) and has two gifted children of her own. Kathy has been working with gifted students in Wenatchee for several years now, and is working on her Master's degree in gifted education at Whitworth University. She is equal parts good listener, devil's advocate, and quiet leader. She always seeks to help every student maximize his or her potential.

Private Schools: Sandi Wollum

Sandi Wollum currently serves as head of school at Seabury School, an independent school, located in Tacoma, that serves gifted children in grades preK – 8. Prior to coming to Seabury, Sandi spent nearly 20 years in Sumner School District, including teaching in the district's self-contained elementary gifted program and serving as the district's gifted program coordinator. Sandi taught at Seabury for 3 years before assuming her current role as head of school in 2005. She is a passionate advocate for gifted children and gifted education, and believes those in both public and private education who understand and are committed to meeting the needs of our state's gifted children need to work together to raise understanding and awareness, and to support program options for families. Sandi is the mom of a 14-year-old gifted son and is active in her church and community. She is a member of Tacoma Rotary Club #8 and a Senior Fellow with the American Leadership Forum. She looks forward to the opportunity to serve on the WAETAG Board!



**Please return your ballot
by June 30, 2012.**



PO Box 94045, Seattle, WA 98124

WAETAG membership is included in your conference registration. If you did not attend the latest conference, your membership has 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!

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THE LAST CONFERENCE, YOU MAY NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 at president.waetag@gmail.com.

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, c/o Betty Buzitis, 6811 191st Place SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036.

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