

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Winter 2011

Summer Scholarship Opportunity

The deadline for the WAETAG Summer Scholarships, available to 4th –12th grade students, is March 1, 2011.

See page 4 for details!

Find applications at www.waetag.org.

Gifted Education Day

Friday, February 11, 2011

The Columbia Room, Legislative Building

Olympia, WA 9:00 A.M.—2:30 P.M.

Gifted Education Day is sponsored jointly by The Washington Coalition for Gifted Education, Northwest Gifted Child Association and Washington Association of Educators of the Gifted and Talented. The purpose of the day is for teachers and parents to meet with Legislators to talk about highly capable programs, why they are important and how they have helped individual gifted children. Join advocates from around the state in this effort to educate Legislators about the purpose and value of highly capable education.

Inside

President's Message	2
WAETAG Board of Directors	2
Mission Statement	2
From Your Regional Representatives	3
Summer Scholarship Info. 2011	4
Summer Scholarship 2010 Thank You	4
Helping Parents Advocate...	5
Specialty Endorsement in Teaching GT	5
Winter Edufest Information	5
Important Dates	5
WAETAG Membership Form	6

www.waetag.org

Distinguished Student Awards 2010-2011 School Year

WAETAG is pleased to announce the **Distinguished Student Awards** program for the 2010-2011 school year. This award program is designed to recognize distinguished achievement in academics, leadership, or the arts, in children grades 3 through 8. One child per ESD Region can be named a WAETAG Distinguished Student and that winner receives a \$100 award and a WAETAG Certificate of Excellence.

Nominations are accepted during March and April, and awards will be made in late May. WAETAG will publish the names of all Distinguished Students in the association newsletter, and winning students will be featured on WAETAG's web site.

We hope that the **WAETAG Distinguished Student Awards** inspire children to achieve to their full potential, highlight high-ability students, and draw attention to the educational needs of our nation's gifted and talented students.

For more details and the student nomination form, visit www.waetag.org.

President's Message

Stephen B. Martin

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



Dear Colleagues,

As of this writing, funding for gifted education has been entirely eliminated from the Washington state budget. Not reduced. Eliminated. While programs can perhaps survive a temporary reduction in funding during an economic crisis, recovering from complete defunding is usually not possible. Gifted education in many districts would inevitably be phased out. Identification of students and professional development for teachers would be unsustainable, and leadership would disperse.

The Washington Coalition for Gifted Education advises us that the budget situation this year is especially complex. There has already been one supplemental budget adopted during the recent special session. There are negotiations underway in preparation for a likely second supplemental budget in early January to make additional cuts to balance the 2010 budget. There is a separate discussion now beginning for the regular budget covering the 2011 - 2013 biennium. Stay apprised of developments by joining the Washington Coalition for Gifted Education email list (contact wagifted@earthlink.net to subscribe, or become a fan of WCGE on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wagifted), and joining e-mail lists of parent organizations concerned about these issues.

I have attended meetings recently where corporate partnerships, foundation grants, and private contributions are suggested as replacements for lost state funding. This is not a solution. The education of all children is a primary function of local and state government. This requires reliable funding, not an annual gamble. Competitive grants and bake sale proceeds are not acceptable foundations for either educational quality or educational equality. The negative consequences for students of relying on such "solutions" are unambiguous.

I grew up in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, one of four states (Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania are the others) so designated. The idea of providing for the common good from the common wealth is strong in me. I urge you to become extremely well informed and tirelessly proactive in support of the highly capable children we serve. They are in a sense the wealth we all have in common – let's invest unstintingly in their success!

**Save
the
Date:**

2011 WAETAG Conference
October 28 & 29, Wenatchee

2010 - 2011 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

Meet Your New Representatives

ESD 101: Mike Cantlon

Mike, who has a Master's Degree in education with endorsements in curriculum development, special education (including gifted education), and biology, began his public school career in 1978 as an educator for the Kent (Washington) School District elementary gifted and talented program. From there he went on to aid in the development of gifted and talented full-time self-contained programs in Kennewick as well as the Odyssey program in the Spokane School District. In 1984 Mike co-created and has directed for the past 27 years Satori, an extremely successful residential academic summer camp for gifted high school and junior high school youngsters. Satori has drawn from all parts of the United States and from as far away as South Africa and Japan. This camp is housed on the campus of Eastern Washington University where Mike has had the opportunity to teach as an adjunct professor for ten years. Mike Cantlon is an incredibly devoted and passionate teacher who spends his summers not only directing Satori camp, but also works as a teacher leader for People to People and has had the opportunity over the past eleven years to take high school student ambassadors to countries all over the world.

Mr. Cantlon has taught for both the Tessera gifted program and the A.P.P.L.E. (Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience) program, both housed within the Spokane School District. He has served on the boards of the Spokane Area Children's Chorus and Allegro Baroque and Beyond.

Mike is currently enjoying his 35th year as the husband of Barbara Ninos-Cantlon, a long time musician for the Spokane Symphony Orchestra and a music teacher for the Spokane School District. They have three children and two grand children.

ESD 105: Susan Bennett

Hello! My name is Susan Bennett and I am your newly appointed WAETAG ESD 105 representative. I have been in the field of education for over 20 years, where the majority of those years have been within the Grandview School District. I have Master's Degree in Professional Development and Administration and have been involved in teaching and challenging students in the Grandview School District's Highly Capable Program for the past 12 years. Currently, I teach part time in the Grandview School District Highly Capable Program and spend the other part of my time as a Staff Developer.

The highly capable program in Grandview targets 3rd through 5th grade students identified through recommendation and entrance test scores. Identified students are

then clustered together into a regular grade level classroom, where their teacher differentiates the curriculum to meet their various needs. Clustering these students together provides them with opportunities to interact with peers within a close academic range. In addition, these students are pulled out to attend the highly capable class during the week for rigorous and challenging activities. Currently, our district is looking into restructuring our highly capable program. If you have any innovative ideas, I would love to hear them.

As your WAETAG ESD 105 representative I would love to hear from districts in my region to share ideas, programs, or words of encouragement. Also, if there is any way I can assist you, please let me know. You can contact me at sbennett@gsd200.org

ESD 123: Chandra Tebay & Heather Westendorf

Chandra Tebay has been in education for 21 years, initially teaching in the areas of Math and Science at the middle school level. She has been with Kennewick School District for 14 years and has specialized in Early Childhood Education (grades 1-3) in Kennewick's Gifted and Talented program (KOG). Chandra was awarded her Master's of Teaching: Gifted and Talented in 2007 from Whitworth University.

Heather Westendorf has served in the teaching profession for 19 years. For the past several years, she has been teaching highly capable middle school students in Pasco School District in the curricular areas of History and Language Arts. Heather earned her Master's Degree in Gifted and Talented Education in 2010.

ESD 123 is a geographically broad area in Washington State. Its larger areas include Tri-Cities (Pasco, Kennewick, Richland) and Walla Walla. Its smaller areas range in size from Prosser to Starbuck, which consists of a two-room schoolhouse, covering K-8. Gifted programming ranges from self-contained offerings in the larger districts to pull-out programs in the mid-sized districts. Integration and cluster grouping are often options in less populated districts.

Current areas of need for teachers of the Highly Capable throughout ESD 123 include: 1) curricular training for new teachers of the gifted, 2) refresher courses and current research updates for veteran teachers of the gifted, 3) development and sustenance of parent support groups, and 4) networking opportunities for all.

With the current state funding crisis, some of the districts, with more established gifted programs, are considering cutting out programming altogether, in order to maintain budget requirements. Not realizing that gifted education classes provide a basic education, meeting the student at the level of his/her actual academic need, school boards,

Continued on page 5

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.org); please forward this information, and/or copy and distribute these forms to interested students, 4th to 12th grades. The application deadline is March 1st.

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 1, 2010**. No late applications will be considered. Applications should be sent to Roger Daniels, 1400 Hubbell Place #501, Seattle, WA 98101.

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 or e-mail Roger Daniels at 206-252-0132 or drdaniels@seattleschools.org with questions.

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

News from Grateful Scholarship Winners

Our 2010 scholarship winners all sent letters of thanks to us for supporting their study over the summer. The excerpts below give a representation of their experiences and their gratitude for what meant a lot to them. Their experiences were made possible by your membership in WAETAG.

From **Eamonn Neff**: Thank you very much for the scholarship you gave to me. It helped me attend the Satori summer camp, which was a wonderful experience for me. I learned more than I had hoped to know. I learned several dances, discussed ethical issues, and learned how to use improv. Without the scholarship I got from you, I would not have been able to afford to go to Satori.

From **John Low**: Microbiology has been a subject that I would like to pursue in the future, thanks to the exposure to the microscope and microorganisms. The structure of these tiny creatures and their roles in the natural environment have captured my interest...after taking the "Biotechnology" class, it has made me feel certain about pursuing a job in biology. Filled with important information and varied educational topics, "Biotechnology" has gotten me one step closer to my future goals.... After exploring the fundamentals of DNA, my class and I explored the uses of DNA in society, including crimes, genetic engineering, and the techniques that utilize DNA. One of the most informational and eye-opening activities that took place during my course was exploring ethical issues concerning the process of cloning...we students were able to interact with each other when doing certain activities...by working together I was able to make several new friends... The Saturday Academy class "Biotechnology" has been a terrific educational class.... Thank you WAETAG for granting me this scholarship which has allowed me to experience this enriching course.

From **Attila David Melegh**: I would like to express my gratitude for assisting me to attend the University of Washington's geometry course and therefore enabling me to further my knowledge of mathematics this summer.... Since the age of 5, I have dreamt of becoming an aeronautical engineer, which would satisfy my everlasting love of drawing and designing planes...this camp has taught me everything about geometry which is a key factor to becoming an aeronautical engineer; therefore this camp has brought me closer to my childhood dream.... I was able to strengthen and enrich existing friendships as well as forge new ones. Having friends in a class such as this is important not only for the companionship, but also for motivations. This is because it creates an atmosphere of competition that promotes fun.... I would have never received such an opportunity if it hadn't been for your kind assistance. Thank you.

**For Summer Opportunities
visit our website!
www.waetag.org**

Specialty Endorsement in Teaching the Gifted

EARN YOUR SPECIALTY ENDORSEMENT ONLINE through Whitworth University

Current, practical information and strategies for teaching gifted learners

For complete program details, an application or information, contact Center for Gifted Education, Whitworth University, 300 W. Hawthorne Rd., Spokane, WA 99251
Phone: 509-777-3226 e-mail: gifted@whitworth.edu

Helping Parents Advocate for Gifted Children

In September, WEATAG board members Susan Casey and Laurie McGovern hosted an informational meeting for parents of gifted and talented students at a local library in Shelton, Washington. Marcia Holland, president of Northwest Gifted Child Association (NWGCA), was the guest speaker. She shared from a parents point of view and followed up with a lively discussion recommending resources and services for parents of gifted and talented children. Marcia also mentioned what support for HC students might look like in a public school environment, reminding us that *each child should have the fundamental right to develop at his or her own level, to be challenged at that level and learn something new every day.*

Marcia stated that parents can impact their child's education if they first educate themselves regarding the true meaning of "giftedness." Parents should become familiar with the terminology used in gifted education while learning how to meet the unique social and emotional needs of their own gifted children. Parents were also advised to seek out educational opportunities beyond the school day, as well as during vacations.

If parents of highly capable learners are looking for support within their local school district, parents should educate themselves with school district policies and become acquainted with school board members, teachers and administrators. Parents of the gifted and talented students can hook up with other parents who share the same concerns by contacting SENG and/or by talking with fellow parents within their school community who would be willing to voice their concerns at local school board meetings.

Parents may also want to ask teachers or administrators the following questions: "What accommodations are being made to differentiate lessons?" "How does the teacher adapt curriculum in the classroom to reach students with unique learning styles or needs?" and most importantly, "What can we do to help?"

In her presentation to Shelton parents, Marcia concluded by stating that *in the long run, parents who choose to advocate for their gifted or talented child ultimately influence the greatest changes within their local school districts.* It's vital that parents of HC students become active participants in school board decision-making processes.

Important Dates

NOW	Write to or call your Senator or Representative, advocating funding for gifted education! 1-800-562-6000
February 10-12	Edufest, Coeur d'Alene, ID
February 11	Gifted Education Day 2011
March 1	WAETAG Summer Scholarship Application Deadline www.waetag.net

SENG in Seattle

July 15—17, 2011

For complete information:

[http://senggifted.org/
conference_2011_Seattle.shtml](http://senggifted.org/conference_2011_Seattle.shtml)

Winter Edufest 2011

Winter's Premiere Conference on Gifted Education

February 10, 11, 12

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

At the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort

For information, contact Marcia Wall at 208-659-7259 or mrwall2@hotmail.com.

ESD 123 continued from page 2

and administrators are making curricular decisions that often do not meet the needs of the gifted students or their teachers. One example observed is district requirements to deliver lessons with "fidelity to the curriculum." This requirement excludes approaches that are more highly suitable to the gifted student, such as compacting and differentiation by acceleration, extension, enrichment, etc. We find a need for training in pedagogy to assist teachers of the gifted in modifying their delivery of information in ways that best serve the learning styles of the highly capable student, particularly in the early elementary grades.

The size and varied experiences of ESD 123 schools make it a challenge to find optimal ways to address the needs throughout our service district. Many school districts, without an identified gifted educator, do not send teachers to WAETAG events. Our plan is to find ways to reach out to all teachers of gifted students within our service district. We have begun by identifying area needs and are initiating a plan to introduce SENG to service district 123 within the year.



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

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