

What's Happening With IAGT ...

- As a fundraising venture, at future General Meetings we hope to have books pertaining to the special needs of gifted children available for purchase
- IAGT Winter General Meeting January 28, 2003 - TAGT Scholarship Workshop (explore scholarship opportunities for summer enrichment programs)
- IAGT Spring Newsletter – April 2003
- IAGT Spring General Meeting May 6, 2003 - Poetry for Now and the Future (a creative evening designed to encourage written expression)

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What's The Difference?

Did you ever wonder how an assignment for "gifted" students differs from one designed for "regular" students?

In Social Studies:

****Regular classroom: Research and make a map charting the locations of the original thirteen colonies and the dates they were settled.

****Gifted Classroom: Research then describe what it must have been like for the Pilgrims when they landed off the coast of Massachusetts in 1620. Compare it to arriving at the same point today. Consider the impact of the arrival of the Puritans on the native

people. Write your observations in diary form. (This assignment uses instructional strategies appropriate for gifted learners: it encourages inquiry, problem solving and independent thinking, promotes critical and creative analysis, leads to diverse classroom discussion, and allows for student-made products beyond the traditional "book report".)

In Math:

****Regular Classroom:
24 + 5 = ____

****Gifted Classroom:
29 = ____



Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria

Example: 100 – 71, 58/2, (16 + 3) + 10, What is the largest prime number less than 30?

(Encourages critical thinking skills through the use of multiple steps and complexity of operations.)

ADD or Something Else?

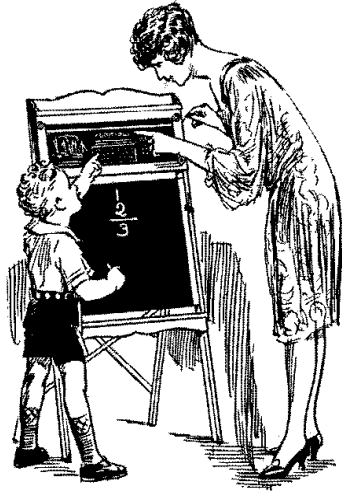
Something other than attention deficit disorder might be the cause of behavioral problems in children. Experts recommend the following (adapted from the Dallas Morning News, 8-7-02):

1) Visit the classroom to observe the seating arrangements and talk to the teacher. Is your child being bullied, sitting too close to friends, or acting out to "fit in"?

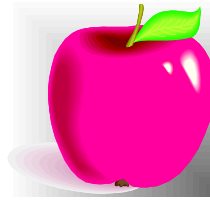
- 2) Is your child being challenged with appropriate material for his/her learning needs?
- 3) Ask for an educational screening to test for learning disabilities. Yes, gifted students can suffer from learning disorders.
- 3) Poor nutrition (for example, too much caffeine or sugar), and lack of sleep can lead to behavioral problems and short attention spans.

- 5) Talk to other parents with children in the same class to look for clues in classroom management.
- 6) Talk to your child's previous teachers.
- 7) Read behavioral reports in your child's permanent files.
- 8) Don't be intimidated - it is unlawful for school officials to threaten special or alternative education if parents refuse to put their children on Ritalin.

Teacher Talk!



A GT Teacher is 2001-2002 Teacher of the Year at Britain Elementary School



It doesn't take long to figure out why **Lori Cross**, a 3rd grade GT teacher at Britain Elementary School, was chosen as the 2001-2002 Teacher of the Year on her campus; even a short conversation reveals her enthusiasm and passion for teaching as well as learning. Her advice to new teachers is simple: fill your classroom with

and laughter," and your students will succeed.

Mrs. Cross feels that the advanced nature of the GT curriculum gives students more freedom to explore their interests and specific areas of talent. She believes they must be allowed to work in a rich and varied educational setting, which provides the greatest challenge a GT teacher must

face: making sure the needs and interests of each student are met. Her goal is to identify, enhance, and challenge every child in her classroom by providing an environment where they can excel.

Talking to each child individually is Mrs. Cross' favorite activity each day. Whether editing their creative writing stories or simply listening to the thoughts, dreams, and ideas of her students, she is always exploring ways to meet the specific needs of every child in her class.

Her advice to parents of gifted children is as simple as

(Continued on page 5)

¿Habla Español?

Please say "Si!"

We desperately need someone who can translate our various forms and handouts into Spanish, and who would be willing to speak to Spanish language parents who have questions about our association. If you can help us, please call Shannon South (972) 253-7876 or Glenda Servin (972) 790-5047.

Appreciation

Successfully navigating through the Irving Association for Gifted and Talented's first year could not have been negotiated without the help of a few key people. Our gratitude goes to:

Stacy Bennett, for researching names of GT parent groups around the country;

Stacy Bennett and Glenda Servin, for researching and putting together the original format for our bylaws;

Rose Stiggleman, for her extraordinary help in making copies of our membership forms and other handouts during the 2001-2002 school year;

Dana Edwards and Tonya Hilton for their constant support during our first and most challenging year;

Karen Rosenthal, for her expertise in all things procedural and financial;

Kassandra Bell, for her patience, skill, and style in the newsletter/logo arena;

John Quinn, for establishing our IAGT web site and linking us to sources relevant to families with gifted children; and to **Margot and John Quinn**, for getting us over the "copy mountain" that we must climb at the beginning of each school year.

And a huge thank you to

Shannon South

without whom none of this would have ever happened!

Thank you!

Mrs. Cross recommends that parents love and accept their gifted children the way they are.

Web Site Growing As Educational Resource

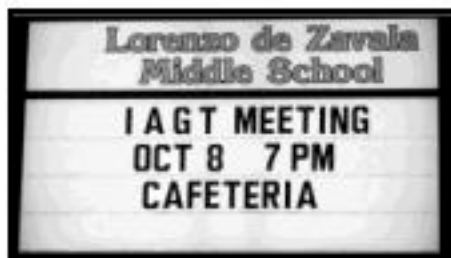
The IAGT web site continues to be developed as THE Internet place to visit for all things "GT." In addition to providing our membership with up-to-date IAGT and IISD information, we've designed the web site to be a first

stop for visitors to find links to similar online locations. "Link exchanges" also are providing a no-cost means to spread the IAGT mission statement and goals to visitors interested in providing the best for

their gifted kids. This year we're also constructing a parallel site in Spanish to better serve our diverse audiences. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Visit us online at
www.irvinggt.org

KIDPROV PACKS THE HOUSE!



We're delighted to proclaim our October 8th IAGT General Meeting a resounding success. Held at DeZavala Middle School, families with gifted students packed the cafeteria and enthusiastically joined the members of the Kidprov improvisational troupe in exercises and skits designed to challenge, educate, and entertain everyone from 6 to 60.



With well over 300 people in attendance, there were plenty of volunteers to participate in improvisational skits that emphasized not only creativity, but verbal and math skills as well. Adults and students performed with the Kidprov actors as they invented travels in a taxi, interviewed aliens, and became human fractions...with a little fishing and Irish clog dancing thrown in for good measure!



Kidprov Alien Interview Skit

Alongside the performance arena, parents picked up copies of newspaper and magazine articles containing general information about gifted children, as well as handouts outlining specific state requirements for gifted education.



Kidprov What'cha Doing Skit

Drawings for door prizes were held at the end of the program, with students winning imaginatively designed bookmarks, nose pencil sharpeners (a specialty of Kidprov), an encyclopedia of word and math puzzles, and a gift certificate to Half Price Books.



Kidprov Story Time Skit

Look for pictures from the evening to be added to the IISD's Gifted and Talented web site at www.irvingisd.net



Kidprov Fraction Skit

Thanks to Debbie George, the IISD's Kidprov to our meeting, Bill McAlister, meeting on the school's marquis and students and their families; and most of night to join us in our "gifted experience."



Director of Gifted and Talented, for bringing principal at DeZavala, for announcing our allowing us to fill his cafeteria with gifted all, to the families who turned out on a rainy

The IAGT wants to continue to provide meetings that serve both our gifted students and their parents, but without your financial help we will have to cut back on our efforts to support and advocate for our GT students. If you have not yet joined the IAGT for the 2002-2003 school year, please fill out and return the membership form included in this newsletter.



Kidprov Taxi Skit

*We need
your
support!*



Kidprov Remote Control Skit



Door prizes



Irving Association for Gifted and Talented Membership Form 2002-2003

IAGT Mission Statement:

The Irving Association for Gifted and Talented is an organization of parents and other individuals who unite to address the unique needs of gifted and talented students. We encourage and endorse policies that support the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of the gifted child.

PLEASE JOIN NOW. Dues are \$7.00 per family.

Make checks or money orders payable to IAGT.

Mail this form with your dues to: Karen Rosenthal
600 Shadow Ridge
Irving, TX 75061

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

GT Student Name: _____

(Include all GT students if you have more than one.)

School: _____ Grade: _____

Would you be willing to deliver IAGT handouts to the front office of your child's school? Yes No

If yes, which school? _____

Would you be willing to set up an IAGT information table at Open House or Meet-the-Teacher Night at your child's school? Yes No

If yes, which school? _____

Would you be willing to assist IAGT in any other way (such as donating paper, fundraising ideas, bilingual translations)? Yes No

If yes, in what way? _____

CLUSTERS REPORT

Glenda Servin, District Clusters Coordinator

What a wonderful state of affairs ... IAGT made great progress our first year, and has achieved foundational success. As the new District Clusters Coordinator, I look forward to facilitating the growth and development of all three school clusters in the IISD.

As last year's Nimitz Cluster Coordinator, I partnered with many school liaisons to form a productive communications team for the IAGT. The Nimitz cluster is still building a

school family, and I'm excited to announce that **Cristy Stephenson** is the new Nimitz Cluster Representative (formerly the Nimitz Cluster Coordinator position). She will now host the Nimitz Cluster Meetings, while I look forward to coordinating with the MacArthur and Irving cluster School Liaisons to find committed people to serve as Cluster Representatives.

It has been my privilege to

work with the Gifted and Talented parents of IAGT who care for the needs and concerns of our GT children. Enough cannot be said of their tremendous contribution to our GT students and their families.

Call me at (972) 790-5047 if you have a heart to be an active part of this wonderful GT family. Any participation, small or big, makes a difference in our children's quality of life as they navigate the GT journey.



Note Taking for Beginners

Is the transition from elementary school to middle school a difficult one for your child? Learning to take notes is an important skill for our children to master as they face their first semester tests.

The Parent Institute

recommends that your child take notes whenever the teacher:

- ** Repeats something
- ** Speaks more loudly or more distinctly
- ** Gives a list of items
- ** Defines a word
- ** Pauses to give students

time to finish taking notes

- ** Says things like, "The point is ...", or
- ** Summarizes the main idea at the end of class

Teacher Talk!

(Continued from page 2)

her advice to young teachers: check books out of the library or purchase books to read about the gifted child.

While pursuing her state GT endorsement, Mrs. Cross became acutely aware of the special emotional needs and problems a gifted child can have. "Parents," she says, "can help most by reading about the gifted child and realizing that they do not excel in all subjects."

Mrs. Cross recommends that parents love and accept their gifted children the way they are. "Encourage and nurture," she says, "but let them follow their own hearts ... parents should also feel free to confide in their child's teacher and share any concerns they might have about their child."

From being selected as a Minyard's "Teacher of the Week", to her place of honor

in the Nimitz Hall of Fame (for being the teacher who most influenced a student's life), to Lee Britain's Teacher of the Year award, Mrs. Cross exemplifies what every teacher wants to be and what every parent wants their child to experience: a dedicated educator with equal parts heart and intellect.



IAGT Contact List

District Clusters Coordinator:
Glenda Servin (972) 790-5047

District Coordinator:
Shannon South (972) 253-7876

IISD Director of Gifted and Talented:

Debbie George (972) 273-6130

IAGT Web site address:
www.irvinggt.org

E-mail: gifted@flash.net

It has been my privilege to work with the Gifted and Talented parents of IAGT who care for the needs and concerns of our GT children.

Glenda Servin

A Note From Your IAGT Board:

We're working with the IISD administration to encourage the formation of a GT Advisory Committee (consisting of parents, professionals, school district administrators, and representatives from the business community), which would address the specific needs of our gifted students.



Annual Membership Renewal

Reminder:

If you want to continue receiving our IAGT newsletter and General Meeting reminder postcards, you must renew your membership for the 2002-2003 school year. Your dues enable us to offer our publications to IAGT members,

distribute IAGT General Meeting publicity to all IISD gifted students and their families, and provide educational material at all General Meetings. Your financial support is critical to the success

of the IAGT's communication system, which is an integral part of our organization's mission. Our combined voices will support and promote quality gifted education in the Irving Independent School district.

We're on the web!
www.irvinggt.org

Notification to IAGT Members

Copies of IAGT bylaws will be available for viewing at the January 28, 2003 General Meeting. A vote to approve the bylaws will be taken at the General Meeting on May 6, 2003.

If you have questions, call Shannon South (972) 253-7876 or Glenda Servin (972) 790-5047.

School Liaison Roster

We're pleased to announce our IAGT School Liaison roster for the 2002-2003 school year. If you have questions or concerns and would like to contact your School Liaison, or if your child's school is not listed and you would like to volunteer to help us, please call Glenda Servin at (972) 790-5047. Our gifted children need you!

Elementary Schools:

Barton - Laurie Elmore
Brandenburg - Shaun Jester
Brown - Cristy Stephenson
Davis - JoAnn DeBorde
Elliott - John Quinn
John Haley - Debra Morrison
Lively - Lynn Ince
Schulze - David Solis
Townley - Laura Logan

Middle Schools:

Bowie - Lisa Enrique
DeZavala - Jamin Whitaker
Houston - Lori Lorenz
Lamar - Glenda Servin
Travis - Laura Stringer

High Schools:

Irving High - Becky Scherschell
MacArthur High - Sherry Boone

Irving Association for Gifted and Talented

1805 Spanish Trail
Irving, TX 75060