

September 2008

Carrollton-Farmers Branch Association for the
Gifted & Talented

Join Now for
2008-2009 Year!
WWW.CFBGifted.org

The Gifted Gazette

Welcome back to school and to C-FB AGT !

Sometime folks ask: "What is C-FB AGT?"

C-FB AGT is a voluntary, non-profit organization of parents, educators and friends of gifted education. Since 1979 we have advocated for appropriate educational services for all gifted and talented students in the district. We collaborate with the district on behalf of our children, like the campus PTA. In fact, you'll see many of our board members active in campus PTA or on PTA Council.

C-FB AGT:

- Provides resources for parents at our meetings, especially the Annual Spring Symposium.
- Informs members about opportunities for their children and developments related to gifted education through our e-blasts.
- Provides scholarships for students to attend summer programs related to academics or arts.
- Supports an endowed fund for teachers of gifted students (Suzy Hagar Fund for Gifted Education) administered by the C-FB ISD Educational Foundation.
- Recognizes outstanding contributions through our Swan Awards.
- Networks with "kindred spirit" organizations.

This year we are experimenting with ways to further connect with our members. When you join C-FB AGT you'll get an email from CFBAGTNews@yahoo.com and will be invited to join the Yahoo Group: CFBGifted. When you accept this invitation you will receive emails, post information and can ask questions on line. Other members can respond to your questions and offer their comments.

C-FB AGT members also receive our e-blast news which provides reminders and news items in-between issues of *The Gifted Gazette*. We hope these services provide helpful and family-friendly resources for you.

Our website www.CFBGifted.org will also provide information for you.

The education our children receive is only as good as what WE provide for them. We are their first teachers and their first advocates. In partnership with our educators, we can accomplish wonderful things.

Of course, the very best way to connect with C-FB AGT is to join our board. We need fresh minds and hands to help all our gifted kids.

Alex Sagcal, President

October 7, Tuesday All Member Picnic at the Park

Gussie Field Waterworth Park - Farmers Branch Bring your own Picnic 5:00 - 7 p.m. Raindate 10/04. C-FB AGT provides dessert and door prizes. Show your colors — wear your C-FB AGT T-shirt or buy one at the picnic!

Oct. 23rd All Member Parent Resource Meeting Bright Boys —Special Considerations. Guest Speaker, Kathleen Fischer 7:30—8:45 p.m. TLC 2427 Carrick Street

Presentation covers social/emotional traits of giftedness; video clips offering common misconceptions and strategies for working with kids to fulfill their personal needs along with their talents.

November 12-14-TAGT Annual Conference —DALLAS — Incredible sessions, and resources to help parents, counselors, teachers learn more about serving gifted children.

Save money and register by October 10 — See www.Txgifted.org for more information

JOIN AGT and Subscribe to our Yahoo Group:

CFBGifted.

When you join you will also be added to our e-blast news list. For more information email:

CFBAGTNews@yahoo.com

C-FB AGT Officers

The elected officers for the 2008-2009 term and campuses they work at or have children on are:

- President: Alex Sagcal (Good Elementary)
- Vice President: Tim Isaly (Newman Smith HS and Country Place)
- Treasurer: Kathy Duda (Newman Smith and Ted Polk MS)
- Secretary: Linda Mahony (Newman Smith)
- Co-membership – Bela Bhatia (Perry MS, Newman Smith) & Meg Hawkins (Perry and McCoy)
- Co-hospitality: Beth Martini (Las Colinas) & Lisa Johnson (McCoy)
- Webmaster: Jim Donahue (McCoy)
- E-blast/Newsletter: Mary Lovell (Perry)
- Legislative: Melissa Marsh (Perry)
- Parliamentarian: Carol Franzen (McCoy)

In Memory

Bill Sheveland, a past AGT president, a tireless community activist and an advocate for gifted education died of a stroke May 30th. He was 72 years young. C-FB AGT honored Bill's service by awarding him the Swan Award posthumously at the August 28, 2008 School Board meeting. He is survived by his daughters Amelia and Anna who are LEAP alumnae.



SENG's Board of Directors Elects Sheri Plybon

Sheri Plybon, a passionate advocate for gifted students and a specialist with C-FB ISD's Department of Advanced Academic Services was elected to the board of directors of Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG). SENG is dedicated to fostering environments in which gifted adults and children, in all their diversity, understand and accept themselves. They work at having them be understood, valued, nurtured and supported by their families, schools workplaces & communities. Sheri concludes a 12 year term as a Vice President of the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented. Congratulations!

TAGT Announces Parent of the Year

Texas Association for the Gifted (TAGT) chose C-FB AGT's past president, Mary Lovell as the *Texas Outstanding Parent of the Gifted*. This award recognizes service in Region X, the State and will be presented at TAGT's conference in November. Congratulations!

What to Expect from Gifted Education in C-FB ISD

C-FB ISD services for gifted students recognize that our children are gifted every day, all day and therefore:

- ✓ Students are cluster-grouped and taught by a teacher of record with credentials in gifted education.
- ✓ The curriculum is differentiated. This means that while the curriculum must comply with TEA/District standards, ACE/LEAP students explore the subjects with more depth and complexity.
- ✓ You should receive an ACE or LEAP report card in addition to the standard district report card.
- ✓ Each campus has a teacher designated as the "GT Liaison." The GT Liaison should have campus meetings for parents/caregivers of gifted students during the year.
- ✓ Each campus has an assigned Specialist from the Department of Advanced Academic Services. These professionals provide assistance and resources to faculty, staff and parents..



Meet the AAS Team

These are the professionals in Advanced Academic Services and the campuses they proudly serve:

Gerry Charlebois is the Executive Director of AAS.

Dr. Janet Restivo, Director of AAS. Elementary schools: Blanton, Central, Farmers Branch, McKamy Rainwater, Rosemeade & Thompson.

Pat Cole: Specialist, LEAP Perry McCoy & Assessments.

Tina Flatt, Specialist. Elementary schools: Carrollton, Good, La Villita, McWhorter, Mont-

gomery & Stark. Blair Intermediate

Patty Parker, Specialist. High schools: Creekview, Newman Smith, R.L.Turner. Early College High School program, Bea Salazar & Mary Grimes Centers.

Sheri Plybon, Specialist. Elementary schools: Country Place, Davis, Furneaux, Landry, McLaughlin, Strickland, Sheffield Primary & Sheffield Intermediate.

Carol Schelp, Specialist. Elementary schools: Freeman, Kent, Las Colinas, McCoy, Riverchase & DeWitt Perry Middle School.

Nancy Terry, Specialist. Middle Schools: Bar-

bara Bush, Blalack, Vivien Field, Dan F. Long, Ted Polk & Ranchview High School.

AAS staff also has responsibilities for the Academic Decathlon, Pre-AP and AP programs, UIL, Destination Imagination, Creative Problem Solving, Invent America and other competitions that encourage academics.

These professionals are supported by **Ruthe Houser**, the Secretary for Professional Records and **Jeanne D'Amico**, Department manager.

AAS reports to Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Sheila Maher**.