

C-FB AGT Gifted Gazette

Newsletter of Carrollton-Farmers Branch Association for the Gifted & Talented

P.O. Box 111702 Carrollton, TX 75011

www.CFBGifted.org

Spring 2006

Helping Gifted Kids Soar!

Saturday, April 8 – Spring Symposium 2006

Nationally known author, consultant and speaker, Dr. Sylvia Rimm will address “The Pressure Gifted Children Feel and How Parents Can Help.” Thirteen workshops are planned along with a resource “Potpourri.” Potpourri participants include: DeWitt Perry’s award winning robotics and botball teams; books by Usborne (fundraiser for C-FB AGT), Duke-TIPS, Brainworks, KnowledgePoints, with more to come. **Early-bird registration due March 9th!** Walk-ins and late registrations welcome too. See www.cfbgifted.org



Reading Ideas

Being Smart About Gifted Children: A Guidebook For Parents And Educators by Dona J. Matthews and Joanne F. Foster - practical strategies for the education of exceptionally high ability children.

Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School by Judith Wynn Halsted – a discussion of social-emotional issues along with reading suggestions for children based on ages and interests.

The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids: How to Understand, Live With, and Stick Up for Your Gifted Child by Sally Yahnke Walker, Ph.D.



The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives. -- Robert Maynard Hutchins

About Advocacy

Ever wonder why you should and how you can advocate for your gifted students? TAGT’s Spring edition of *TEMPO* helps families and parent associations understand our vital roles in speaking up and speaking out on behalf of our gifted children. It is an excellent example of why I am a TAGT member.

We are thankful that our district supports gifted education. However, education for gifted Texans has many challenges. Did you know that Texas requires certification of teachers in virtually all areas EXCEPT gifted and talented education? Most school districts, including C-FB are finding themselves in dire financial straits as more students needing more academic support enter the program. Gifted students will continue to need strong academic resources and advocates.

The *No Child Left Behind* program has created troubling consequences for gifted education programs across the nation. Many Texas legislators are indifferent at best, to the educational needs of gifted children. It is important that we have strong local support of boards and gifted programs that enable all students to thrive. It is essential that all children be appropriately educated. Not leaving a child behind should not prevent other children from getting ahead. The Texas legislature is expected to address public education financing in April. Through TAGT we will be watching developments related to educating gifted Texans.

I encourage you to check out the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (www.TXGifted.org). TAGT presents conferences, offers scholarships and is a vital resource helping us and our children soar.

Mary Lovell



Interested in helping C-FB AGT? As the school year concludes, we are seeking volunteers to serve on next years’ board. It’s a great way to become more aware of resources for gifted kids in our district and around the state. Connect with board members at Symposium and ask them what they do. Re-join for 2006-2007 and note your areas of interest.

C-FB ISD Parent Connect: Do you want to know if your high school student was tardy for a class? Interested in knowing homework and grades **before** report card time? Check out **Parent Connect**, the online parent-school communication service. Sign up and get connected on C-FB ISD’s website.

Recommended Websites: Hoagies Gifted - www.hoagiesgifted.org
National Association for Gifted Children – www.nagc.org
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD – www.cfbisd.edu

Short News

LEAP Update! Welcome Claudia Galindo – Kindergarten LEAP - and Shannon Jahn – 2nd Grade LEAP - to McCoy's faculty. We are excited to have you join the program!!

C-FB AGT Summer Scholarship deadline is May 1st. C-FB AGT offers summer scholarships to gifted students attending academic or artistic summer programs. Applications must be postmarked by May 1st. Applications coming soon on www.CFBGifted.org. **Thank you** to Sheri Plybon for presenting an EXCELLENT workshop on summer scholarship applications prior to our February family game night.

February Games Night Terrific Success! Over 80 people came to enjoy an evening of games with their children. Take Ten, Lost in the Desert, Pictionary, Monopoly, Apples to Apples, Outburst, Cranium and so many more. Thanks to all who brought games and snacks and helped straighten up afterwards! It makes a super choice for a Campus Group activity!

Community News: On Friday, April 7th, Dr. Sylvia Rimm will present “*See Jane Win: Guiding Smart Girls Toward Success.*” This will be held at Brookhaven College starting at 7:00 p.m. Seating is limited, pre-registration encouraged. Email mslovell@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting more information. Books will be available for purchase, \$15. Presented by Farmers Branch/Carrollton American Association of University Women.

Summer Opportunities: If you are looking for summer camps for your children, you might want to check out www.hebagt.org and www.txgifted.org (Insights). There will also be information at Symposium about summer programs.

Swan Award Nominations: Do you know an outstanding supporter of gifted education on your campus or in the district? Please consider recognizing his/her efforts by a nomination for C-FB AGT's SWAN award. The deadline is March 17, 2006. Award announced at Symposium. See www.cfbgifted.org



From Gerry Charlebois, Director of Advanced Academic Services

GREAT things are happening in C-FB ISD!

Last week the AAS professionals updated one of our administrators on our AAS team's projects. It was truly heartening to listen while each gifted specialist shared her passions for children and their learning. We continue to strive to improve the programs and services for our C-FB students.

A few noteworthy items:

- Every high school has offered a **Pre-AP parent meeting** to inform parents about the College Board program offered at every middle and high school campus in the four core subjects. These classes are the forerunners of the AP courses and help to prepare students for success in college.
- The **Duke TIP** program is being offered for all **4th graders** and **7th graders** who qualify. Information has gone home through the campus counselors. C-FB also offers two prep sessions for 7th graders in **October and January** to help prepare them for taking the PSAT.
- In early April, Dr. Griffin will recognize **C-FB's top 100 PSAT** scholars in a ceremony held at Newman Smith High School.
- **SAGE**, Summer Academy of Gifted Education, for students entering grades 1st – 8th will be held at Polk Middle School from June 5th through June 30th. Information on the program and registration will be coming soon.