



C-FB AGT Gifted Gazette

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

P.O. Box 111702 Carrollton, TX 75011-1702

www.CFBGifted.org

Fall 2007

WELCOME!

Since 1979 C-FB AGT has advocated for appropriate educational opportunities for all gifted and talented students in the district. C-FB AGT is a voluntary, independent organization of parents, educators and friends of gifted education.

We achieve our mission by:

- Sharing information about educating high ability learners through meetings and special events;
- Informing members of legislative issues impacting gifted education;
- Networking with the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and other groups supporting education.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child has been identified as having exceptional academic ability. After this issue, newsletters for the school year will be distributed via email and posted on our website.

Completing the membership form will sign you up! CFB_AGTCommunications@verizon.net should be in your address book to receive the e-news. C-FB AGT members receive information, support and access to high quality programs, including the Annual Spring Symposium on Gifted Education.

Our calendar contains events for the entire family. 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.

Mary Lovell, President



CFB AGT Board 2007-2008

President:	Mary Lovell
Vice President:	Alex Sagcal
Secretary:	Karen Viegut
Treasurer:	Kathy Duda
Awards & Scholarships:	Melissa Marsh
Campus Groups:	_____
Communications/webmaster:	Jim Donahue
Communications/eblasts:	Ronnie Banerjee
Communications/newsletter:	_____
Fundraising:	Laurie Fantine
Historian:	_____
Hospitality:	Beth Martini
Legislative Liaison:	Melissa Marsh
Membership:	Bela Bhatia
Parliamentarian:	Carol Franzen
Summer programs/Library:	Linda Mahony
Spring Symposium:	Mary Lovell/Alex Sagcal/AAS
AAS Representatives	Gerry Charlebois & Tina Flatt



Calendar – Save these Dates!

Sept. 16 Parent Education Program. Gifted Children: Embracing Their Many Mysteries.

Wenda Sheard, boardmember, SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted). Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church 1641 West Hebron Parkway Carrollton See flyer. \$5 per adult includes pizza and drink. Childcare available. See flyer for more info.

Sept. 27 All Member Annual Picnic at the Park – Gussie Field Waterworth Park - Farmers Branch Bring your own Picnic 4:30 - 8 p.m. Raindate 10/04. Come when you can, leave when you must! C-FB AGT provides dessert and door prizes.

Oct. 18th All Member Parent Resource Meeting

Raising a Resilient and Gifted Tween/Teen. Get some tips and coping strategies for stresses children experience including social aggression.

Dr. Susan Sugerman, specialist in adolescent pediatrics and co-founder of Girls to Women Health & Wellness

TLC 2427 Carrick St. Farmers Branch 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

November 14-16-TAGT Annual Conference –

Houston – Incredible sessions, resources to help parents, counselors, teachers learn more about serving gifted children.

Save money and register by September 1 – See www.Txgifted.org for more information

Dec. 7 Holiday Family Game Night- DeWitt Perry Middle School 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Bring some games, snacks and children. Try out some new games or enjoy favorites. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

January 25, 2008 All Member Meeting Game Night & Summer Programs and Summer Scholarships

TLC 6:30 – 9 p.m. Games will be in Room 120. Scholarship tips will occur in separate room. More info coming.

Feb. 22, 2008- C-FB AGT Family Game Night at Blalack Middle School - 6:30 p.m – 9 p.m.

April 12, 2008 Spring Symposium – SAVE THIS DATE! Keynote speaker: Jim Delisle noted educator, author on parenting and educating gifted children.

Supporting Our Kids with Summer Scholarships

The generosity of our members and supporters made these scholarships possible! Thank you!

DeWitt Perry Robotics Team – C-FB AGT scholarships helped defray the cost of the team member's registration fees to attend the national competition.

Shahrukh Khimani - Blalack Middle School – SAGE

Chanuta Gavankar - R.L. Turner High – Yale Ivy Scholars Debate Institute

Alexander Fantine - McCoy Elementary – SAGE

Natalie Manning – DeWitt Perry Middle School – All-State Choir Camp

James Wahawisan – R.L. Turner High – National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine

Luis Castillo – David Blair Intermediate – SAGE

Sophia Glasser-Kerr – Country Place Elementary – Extreme Home Makeover – Art Edition

Bonnie Lewis Thompson Elementary – The Lone Star Leadership Academy



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Welcome Back from Gerry Charlebois, Executive Director of Advanced Academic Services

Summer is over. Bathing suits and towels are getting ready to retire. School clothes and spiral notebooks have taken their place. With the new school year, parents are looking for evidence that their child's classroom provides the appropriate level of rigor and addresses their affective needs as well. Moms and dads often share their concerns that their child will 'turn off' from school and learning if not challenged. They wonder if 'skipping' a class/subject/grade would provide the challenge they and the child seek.

My response is that we are building your child's **Learning Wall**. It looks very much like the brick wall of your son or daughter's school. Every brick is equally important. A brick on the second row from the bottom is necessary to the ninth row of bricks above. If it is missing or weak, each layer above weakens. My husband has shared stories about erecting hi-rise buildings in downtown Dallas. If the second floor of a building is the slightest bit out of line, the fifth and the thirty-eighth floor will suffer. This stands true to our curriculum and learning. Every brick of learning is important.

We must have high expectations and challenge for all students. Being the engineer of the classroom, the teacher matches instruction to the developmental level of the student. Rapid learning is likely when the difficulty of the task is matched with the ability level of the learner. If the child has mastered the content, they should continue to build the layers of bricks on their wall by exploring inter-relationships or causal connections. C-FB ISD has worked diligently to provide curriculum for our gifted students that addresses their rapid rate of learning and craving for challenge. This summer we have trained many, many teachers to help them differentiate instruction to meet the needs of our high ability learners.

If you have any questions or concerns about a specific campus or teacher, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Restivo, our Director of Advanced Academic Services. Our doors (and emails and phones) are open to you and we want you to understand the policies and practices the district employs to address the needs of your children.

Each child's **Learning Wall** should be strong with each layer building towards the next. Have a great beginning of your school year and help create a strong foundation in your child's **Learning Wall**.

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Six Things Parents Should Know about Gifted Education in C-FB ISD

1. In C-FB ISD, nominations for assessment for gifted services can be made by teachers, counselors, or parents.
2. The process takes time to work, be prepared for questions, but don't hesitate to advocate, if you believe your child is gifted.
3. Become familiar with concepts, vocabulary and the process. Learn how to be an effective advocate. Check out the district's website for the Department of Advanced Academic Services.
<http://cfbstaff.cfbisd.edu/cfbgiftedandtalented/>
4. There are many resources provided by C-FB ISD, C-FB AGT, TAGT, SENG and other supportive organizations that can help answer questions and provide guidance. See page one of this newsletter for some resources.
5. Each campus in C-FB ISD has a designated "GT Liaison." This liaison is most often a teacher and is a campus resource for gifted students and their parents.
6. Each ACE and LEAP student should receive an "ACE" or "LEAP" report card, in addition to their regular report card. This provides additional information on how the student is performing with respect to ACE or LEAP expectations. The district policy is to 'cluster group' ACE students together with a teacher of record who is has additional certifications or endorsements to teach gifted children.

"Giftedness is not something you do, it's something you are"
Jim Delisle

Why Join C-FB AGT?

*Are you interested in knowing more about how the district identifies and serves your gifted student?
Do you wonder about what it means to be 'gifted' and what it means to be a parent to a gifted child?
Are you interested in meeting other parents who have similar concerns?
Do you want to get resources tailored to these needs?*

Then join C-FB AGT now! \$20.00 dues (If your family qualifies for reduced price meals, the dues are only \$10) will provide an entire year's membership and ensure you get the latest news via our e-blast and website. You will also get preferred and complementary registration to the Annual Spring Symposium. This event has earned a reputation as being the best program for families of gifted children in the North Texas area. If you have any doubts, ask someone who has attended, or check out the program from last year which is on the website for reference. Members get our e-blast news and email alerts.

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Why Join TAGT?

The Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented (TAGT) provides excellent resources for parents and children. These include annual conferences, a quarterly publication (Tempo), scholarships and awards to children, parent groups and teachers. TAGT's generous grant award of \$1,000 funded our 2007 Symposium's workshops for children. TAGT's website offers excellent resources and an eye on the legislature to help ensure gifted children in Texas are properly served. Please check out the TAGT website. We hope you'll join TAGT and support gifted education in Texas. www.TXGifted.org. A membership form and information from TAGT is attached to this newsletter.

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Sharing a Thank You Note

The Perry Robotics Club wanted to take a moment to say 'thank you' to the AGT for all your continued support of our endeavors. This year's trip to Hawaii has been educational in many ways, not just for Robotics. Students have learned first hand about Pearl Harbor, the Kilauea Volcano, the Dole Pineapple Plantation, to name a few. Thank you again for all you do!

The members of the Perry Robotics Team

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The Davidson Academy of Nevada is Accepting Applications for 2008 – 2009

A free, public school for profoundly gifted pupils on the University of Nevada-Reno campus, The Davidson Academy of Nevada is seeking qualified students for the 2008-2009 school year. For details, please visit www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/admissions

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Parents Can Guide

Parents can guide their gifted child by helping him/her:

- Experience failure as well as success and learning how to deal with both.
- Face the natural consequences of taking his/her actions and decisions, when possible
- Develop self-discipline by taking responsibility for actions.
- Change unproductive boredom into productive behavior and not accepting the excuse "I'm bored."
- Tolerate new ideas and respect curiosity and questioning.
- Deal constructively with approval and disapproval of others.
- Find friends with similar interests and needs.
- Build a value system so s/he can value other people's ideas in addition to her/his own.

Courtesy of TAGT's Guide for Parent Affiliate Groups