

## 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](http://www.CFBGifted.org)

Winter 2006-2007

### **SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2007!**

#### **TIMELESS TOOLS TO GUIDE GIFTED STUDENTS**

This is the premier event for GT parents, teachers, and children in the region! Last year over 200 people attended!

**April 21, 2007**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Technology Learning Center**

Keynote speaker:

**Kathleen Fischer**

#### **“Red, Purple, But Never Pastel: The Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Kids”**

Kathleen is a popular local speaker who addresses needs of children, and gifted kids in particular. She is a mother of three, a registered nurse, and has earned a master's in health education and an endorsement in gifted education.

High ability kids are blessings and challenges! Their unique social, emotional, and academic needs often converge and create whirlwinds.

Ms. Fischer will share common misconceptions about gifted students and considerations of how social/emotional traits of giftedness can harm high-ability kids. She will also provide strategies, tips and tools for working with these kids to fulfill their personal needs along with developing their talents. There was an overwhelming response by parents who attended her Spring Symposium debut in 2006. We're looking forward to having her back this year for another sensational symposium.

The symposium also features workshops for parents and children. We will have workshops for students in grades K through 5. Students in grades 6 and up are also welcome. We are planning the workshops now. Our goal is to have a variety of topics to meet your interests and needs.

Registration forms will be distributed through the campuses in February and online at that time.

C-FB AGT members who pre-register by the posted deadline receive complementary registration! Join C-FB AGT now to receive your complementary registration!

We need volunteers to help with registration, hospitality, and arrangements. Please contact Mary Lovell at 972.418.6036 or [www.cfb\\_agt\\_president@yahoo.com](mailto:www.cfb_agt_president@yahoo.com)

#### **▶▶ MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ◀◀**

#### **▶▶ January 26- Scholarship Clinic and Family Game Night- TLC 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

It's never too early to learn about scholarships and get tips on writing applications. Following this informative meeting, we'll play family games !!! Bring a snack/dinner and be prepared to have fun! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **▶▶ January 27, HEB/Birdville AGT Summer Program Vendor Fair: 9:00 a.m. –noon**

Probably the largest fair of summer activities for gifted students in our region. Workshops provided on TAGT Scholarship applications. Location: Birdville Fine Arts/Athletic Center at 9200 Mid-cities in North Richland Hills. Located on Precinct Line just north of Kohl's Department Store. The meeting rooms are located upstairs under the eaves of the football stadium. Check out [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org)

#### **▶▶ March 3, 2007 Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas !**

Where: The U. of Texas-Austin 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Who's invited: Students K-12, teachers, and families.

*Everyone is welcome!*

Cost: Free, no registration

Choose from more than 350 enrichment activities on campus. Try building a bridge with engineering software, watch water flow uphill in a hydraulics lab, see world-famous paintings in the new Blanton Art Museum, deliver the TV news in a real broadcast studio, watch University students perform a scene from Shakespeare, and much much more. Go to [www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut](http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut) for more information.

Contact: Barbara J. Langham

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#### **>>>> Support our Teachers <<<<**

The Suzy Hagar Fund of the C-FB ISD Educational Foundation provides financial support to teachers pursuing education in gifted education. This legacy honors Suzy Hagar and her passion for helping gifted students. We hope to complete our endowment this year and make our first award at symposium. If you are looking for a way to honor a special person, please consider the C-FB ISD Educational Foundation and designate your donation to the Suzy Hagar Fund. <http://www.cfbisd.edu/pr2/foundation/>

#### **>>>> C-FB AGT WINS GRANT FROM TAGT! <<<<**

The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) awarded C-FB AGT a \$1,000 grant to support our Symposium children's programs. Thank you to TAGT. For more information on other TAGT initiatives, check out the website below.

Web Resources: National Association for Gifted Children: [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented – [www.TXgifted.org](http://www.TXgifted.org)

Hoagies Gifted Education Page – [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)

\* \* \*      2007 C-FB AGT Logo Art Contest      \* \* \*

C-FB AGT is seeking a fresh look, and we **need our students to create it!** In connection with Symposium 2007, we are seeking talented student-artists to design this look. There will be a \$100 prize and the thrill of seeing the design on our symposium materials! Please see [www.cfbgifted.org](http://www.cfbgifted.org) for entry rules. Deadline is February 7, 2007. All rules must be followed!

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### News from Advanced Academic Services

Warm Greetings!

The first half of the school year has been very busy. We have implemented a new language arts curriculum from the College of William and Mary for all the elementary campus Teachers of Record. Our libraries of Junior Great Books have been increased so teachers can bring the books into their classrooms and share them in a Socratic seminar format. In November, more than twenty C-FB teachers attended the state gifted conference, TAGT, in Austin. Several of our teachers did presentations to share their knowledge with other educators throughout the state. Many teachers attended evening and Saturday trainings to stay current with gifted staff development.

Parents should watch for news of PreAP Parent meetings that will be offered in January at each of the high school campuses. These sessions will predominantly be for parents of fourth through eighth grade students who wish to learn more about the PreAdvanced Placement and AP classes. Watch our AAS website for specific dates. We will also be communicating through our new phone message system – Connect Ed.

At the high school, all AP teachers are busy formatting their syllabi to be submitted to the College Board for an audit. Every high school in the nation who wishes to include an AP course must have teachers submit their syllabus for approval. It is a lofty process.

We continue to provide training for our teachers and study sessions for students taking AP courses. Currently, while I am in my office writing this newsletter, there are more than 150 science students receiving tutorials in physics, biology, and chemistry to help prepare them for the AP exam next May. They could be shopping!! They chose to study and prepare! We have the best students!!

My very best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy 2007!

Gerry Charlebois  
Executive Director, Advanced Academic Services  
[charleboisg@cfbisd.edu](mailto:charleboisg@cfbisd.edu)

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### News from C-FB AGT Families

C-FB AGT earned some complementary registrations from TAGT to attend the annual conference's Family Day. Two member families attended and share their experiences:

As a former TAG student from the '80's, I had no idea there were so many opportunities for parents and families to get involved to support our kids! TAGT had dozens of sessions set up to meet the needs of all ages. We attended with our daughter Katie (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and son Joey (K) at Las Colinas Elementary.

The first session was *Science in the Movies*, led by a special effects and student coordinator. He engaged the kids in science experiments that highlighted science and safety. The session ended with a very small child picking up a large adult using a series of pullies ([www.scienceinthemovies.com](http://www.scienceinthemovies.com))

We also attended a 'hands on' workshop called *The Power of Polymers*. The kids had a great time making bouncing bubble mix and playing with fake snow. Thank goodness we had 'wet wipes' with us! The last workshop was *Silly Stories and Superlearning*. This presenter told stories that taught the kids each combination of numbers that add to 10. I tested this every week or two with Joey and the lesson still sticks! I can ask 'Who goes with swinging and to make 10' and he answers "Baby 3 Bee". The basis of this technique is to use auditory, visual, tactile and kinesthetic learning to quickly learn math facts ([www.memorizemathfacts.com](http://www.memorizemathfacts.com))

Before, after, and in-between we visited exhibits that shared educational toys, books, camps and lots of other activities. The absolute highlight of the trip (for the kids) is the Mexican Jumping Beans they received at the exhibit. They still care for them and treat them like pets!

Thank you so much for making this opportunity available to us

- Beth and Glenn Martini & Katie & Joey

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There were so many wonderful sessions that it was difficult to decide which ones to attend. The keynote address by Dr. James Delisle provided compelling insight and real-life examples of the kids he has worked with over the years. Dr. Delisle's new book was the springboard for his talk, so Barb went to his session, "The Top Ten Tips for Raising a Happy and Successful Gifted Child" and had a very moving discussion with him afterward. We also participated in *Science in the Movies* and had an incredible experience! Clay and Grant then found out how to make kitchen polymers. They worked on their own experiments, made 'blobs' and had a terrific time.

Clay attended a session on the *Special Concerns about Parenting GT Kids* and received some comfort and some ideas!

At another session we learned a new game called Palabra. It's a cross between Scrabble and Uno with multiplication thrown in for extra excitement. It can be played with 2 to 12 players and gets really interesting.

Overall, this was a wonderful experience that we highly recommend. We saw many exhibitors who had great ideas for keeping our kids interested, busy and learning! We also had an opportunity to tour the State Capitol and take in some history. Thank you so much for sharing this experience!

- Barb and Clay Russell & Grant

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

### Where Are They Now?

#### A LEAP Parent's Perspective submitted by Pat Iyer about her daughter, Monica

Our daughter joined LEAP in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In middle school and high school, she was in the pre AP and AP classes. I credit her experiences in LEAP with helping to make her the well rounded person she is. I believe she benefited in two ways: She was exposed to the joy of learning more, and she acquired the resume which helped her earn entrance into a good university (U of Chicago).

She did have a lot of homework, but she learned time management and the work she did was almost always INTERESTING. I just wish every student could have the benefit of the dedication and creativity of the LEAP teachers. She was encouraged to expand in all areas, intellectually and practically, to value knowledge for its own sake, and to be able to use facts to form her own judgments. I feel she was educated as an individual, not just as the member of a group of classmates.

Monica graduated from the university with honors this last June. She is taking a year off from formal education, and teaching English abroad on the island of Reunion (off the coast of Africa). Her intellectual growth doesn't stop with leaving the formal classroom. She continues to read on an amazingly wide variety of subjects. She is applying to law schools for next fall.



#### Lesson: BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU ASK FOR ...

Our last "e-blast" included a *Call for Authors* to contribute to this newsletter. Well, students took us up on the offer to be published. We hope you enjoy these contributions from classes at McCoy (Leap) and Freeman Elementary (ACE)!



#### On National Book Week No One is Meek –

by Michael Shin (Gr.4 Ace)

It hits our school, Freeman. It becomes a never-ending story to tell. On Monday morning at Freeman the never-ending story began. On that same Monday morning we made a bookworm and it was so much fun but that was only the beginning. On Tuesday we did a bookmark contest and whoever won will receive a prize. On Wednesday a wonderful guest reader came and read us a little bit of *A Wrinkle in Time*. On Thursday we got our results for the contest and well Karla a student from Ms. Ford's class (I'm in Ms. Ford's class also) .....Won! On Friday we had the Character Book Parade. That was when the school was full of joy and excitement. Students were so glad and curious that they just couldn't control themselves from wandering around. That was the never-ending story but that was also the beginning because there is next year!

#### Newsflash!! National Book Week hits Freeman Elementary –

by Nicholas Cantrell (Gr. 4 Ace)

Everybody begs to have at least one more day of joy and laughter. They were really excited. The week-long activities culminated on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> with a book character parade. At least ¾ of the students dressed as their favorite book character. Some were lions, tigers, airplanes and even a few teachers wore costumes. But if you didn't have your book with you, you couldn't participate.

This has been an insider report on National Children's Book Week at Freeman Elementary.

#### What Happened on Christmas Eve

by Phong Nguyen (Gr.4L)

"I CAN'T WAIT 'TILL CHRISTMAS! I CAN'T WAIT 'TILL CHRISTMAS!" shouted Alex Xela. It was December 24, 2006 which was the day before Alex's favorite holiday, Christmas!

He was always excited about Christmas like every other child in the world. The children love the presents, food, presents, family, presents, and presents. But, up in the North Pole, something was wrong. One of the reindeer, Sacker had gone missing! All the reindeer were mourning because of their fellow reindeer friend. Without Sacker, Santa wouldn't be able to deliver presents to any of the good boys and girls!

All the greatest elf detectives were on the job but none of them could find a suspect. Meanwhile, Alex Xela was dreaming about all his presents, Santa and everything else about Christmas.

Finally, the detectives found some reindeer tracks and, more curiously, elfish tracks. Everybody's first thought was Schniter, an evil elf that always wanted to be a workshop elf. Even more curiously, Schniter wasn't with them.

As every body was still looking for Sacker, Santa was looking for an alternate reindeer or anything that can fly and pull the sleigh as powerfully as Sacker. When they finally found a reindeer, his name was Rudolf. But the only problem was that he couldn't fly.

It seemed like Christmas wasn't coming this year, but then Santa had an idea. He took out his magical pocket filled with flying powder and sprinkled it over Rudolf and he suddenly flew over their heads.

It was 1:00 am and people were stirring, happily waiting for the merry and jolly Santa. Little did they know that Santa was going to be very, very late that night.

Santa got all his presents and took the reins of the reindeer and set off on his yearly trip around the world. Santa finished all but one house in the world in the nick of time. The last house belonged to Alex. Santa slid down the chimney, walked over to the tree and put down all the colorful presents. He turned, took a cookie and climbed up the chimney. All that the townspeople stirring heard were jingling silver bells climbing into the night. Christmas was saved thanks to Rudolf.

***Freezy Breezy* By: Caroline Self** (Gr. 4 Ace)

"Alert! Alert! It's 30 degrees! Get your winter coats on!" the newscaster shouted. "Mom, I'm not going to school! "Oh, yes you are. Your school is still open!" That's right, another day of school. "Whoa!" I said, as the wind almost knocked me down. "This is a freezy, breezy morning." Once I got in the car, I was shivering so much I could hardly move. After my mom dropped me off, I went inside the school. Once I stepped into my classroom, the heat warmed me up. Later in the day a classmate noticed that snow was drifting out of the sky. We pleaded with our teacher to let us go outside. She was nice enough to let us, once we had all bundled up. Once we stepped into the winter wonderland, I tried to make a snowball but my hand was numb. I'll never forget this day!

**Gilligan by Lauren Smith** (Gr.4L)

I was trying to find a way to spy on my sister and her friends, without them looking! Finally I gave up and walked in on them. I looked at Gilligan their beta fish, and asked "Why is he floating at the bottom? Also, did you know there is condensation on the bowl?"

"You're kidding, right Lauren?" called my sister, Melissa. "No she's not, look! Oh we must have put him in - HE'S NOT BREATHING! We must have put him in chlorinated water, they can't breathe that."

"I'll turn the water on. Ok, we'll put him in there. That's better. You do know that they can't breathe that." I said. "Great. Just great. He's dead. Let's go tell mom."

We took him downstairs (Megan was holding him) and were almost done telling my mom what happened, when Megan shrieked "HE MOVED! HE MOVED!" My mom was baffled as we ran back upstairs and added more water (Gilligan still couldn't breathe). While Megan and Emily stayed with Gilligan, Melissa and I warmed up non-chlorinated water and put it in his bowl. Finally, Gilligan was happy to be in his shiny clean bowl!

Two months later Gilligan died, though not from the ordeal but from old age; he was 4. Good-bye Gilligan...

***The Koala Rap***  
**By Tannah Oppliger** (Gr 3L)

*Some people think I'm a bear,  
But I'm really a marsupial covered in hair.  
I spend most of my time in the eucalyptus trees  
While I feel the breeze, flow in the leaves.  
I carry my baby in my pouch,  
And the kids think that it's a couch.  
The babies are really, really small  
And they also aren't very, very tall.  
People think we're so, very cute,  
In our little, furry, thick, gray suit.*

***The Roo of the Skies***  
**By: Joshua Nathaniel Jordan** (Gr.3L)

As it soars through the air it looks like it flies,  
That's why I call it the roo of the skies.  
During the season the males hop with the  
greatest of ease,  
it's the females they would like to please.  
It is the alpha male they'd like to defeat,  
If they are hunted they could be lunch meat.  
And finally without further ado,  
I bid you goodbye you wonderful roo!

***Reef Octopus***  
**By: Fernando Martinez**(Gr.3L)

Quiet as a lion stalking its prey  
Is the Blue Ringed octopus  
Predator of the seas  
Mainly it eats crustaceans  
It hunts them down with ease  
I call it puny predator of the seas

**The Trip I'd Never Forget** by Ryan Durkee (Gr.4L)

I was bolting through the woods, my lungs were on fire. Everything was so strange here, the trees weren't like anything I'd seen before. To make matters worse it was raining **huge** droplets of rain on my back. The rain was so thick. Even worse, there was a bear trying to get me. I could hear the bear's snorts. Then I felt a sharp sting of pain as I ran into a tree. The rain stopped as the bear emerged from the rain. It crept closer and closer then it opened its mouth to reveal endless rows of jagged teeth. Then it said "Wake up we're at the campsite." I woke up.

While my dad set up the campsite, seven other boys and I hiked in the woods. At one point we came to a fork in the road. We went on the path on the right. At one point three of the boys left. The four that remained were Daniel, Matthew S., Matthew B., and Nicholas. Then a few minutes later the path ended. We decided since there was a path, there must be another way out. We started heading back, when we saw what we had missed earlier, a hidden path! We went through the hidden area, and then the trouble started! (Oh, no) The trees were low lying and thorny. It got darker. Matthew B. and Nicholas were in a place surrounded in thorns. We could hear their deafening screams. I bolted into the thorns and pulled them out, and all three of us were cut and bleeding. Then the trees were so low we had to crawl to avoid getting cut even more.

Once we could stand again, we started to think we were lost. Daniel saw an opening. We headed toward it. When we got there we saw a man fishing in the lake. We were still on the path and followed it until we came out of the woods. Finally we found our campsite but we couldn't find our parents. Later that day we went on that path again, but this time nobody got injured or turned back. We went on that path two more times. Matthew S. and Daniel named that path Prickly Forest.

When we had to go home I took one last look at the campfire. A ghostly hand appeared and took a flaming stick from the campfire and spelled out the words: **stay away** in the air. I blinked and the words faded. The only thing it left me with was a feeling of pure terror. My friend asked me why I was staring. I just replied "Oh nothing."

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

**Grandma's House!**

by Itati Martinez (Gr.4L)

There's a place that I always have on my mind. It's a calm and peaceful place where the birds are always singing and where the sweet aroma of the flowers just slightly grazes your nose.

The best part is the emerald green plants that are all around and the leaves with their bright colors blowing away.

If you take some time to sit down and relax, it would be the perfect time to daydream or just listen to the beautiful songs the birds sing. The lime green grass gives off its bright color and the sun is as big and bright as 1,000 light bulbs put together. There is one huge tree that has bright red and orange leaves coming off the branches. It's the prettiest tree that I've ever seen.

My favorite animal there is the squirrel that emerges out of nowhere and climbs up the tree as fast as a cheetah.

In the night you can see the huge silver moon lighting the sky and the stars shining brightly. You can hear an owl's hooting and the grasshoppers chirping.

But wait, that's not the best part yet. The best part is that it's the place where I feel very comfortable because my whole family is always there with me. It makes me feel like I'm at home, even though I'm at my grandmother's house.

Now can you see why my grandmother's house is my favorite place ?

**THE RED FORT**

by Ahona Mukherjee (Gr.4L)

"P.U!" "It stinks!" I groaned from the back of the taxi. "Look behind you," replied Mom. "*More stenches,*" I thought as I clambered out of the car. "Wow," I whispered. The Red Fort stood looming over me like a monstrous red giant. A golden glint attracted me. Advancing forward, I saw that the glint was the sun reflecting off the great golden gates of the Red Fort. The fort was huge!

Timidly I stepped inside. Immediately my ears burst because of the noise and yelling that people made. People had set up a market! There was jostling, shouting, and dust, which stung my eyes. Looking ahead, I saw a luscious green garden with three pearly white buildings and one rust red building. A marble throne sat at the back of the building. A tablet at the front of the building said that the king would greet his subjects there. One of the white buildings was the king's bath and restroom building. Even though we could barely see it, the bathtub had tiles inlaid with precious jewels. The second white building was the king's residence and balcony. The third white building was not for the king, but for us. It is a museum!

That was not all the sites though, no way! There was one more building. Unfortunately I could not get into the last building because we did not have a pass. I am not sure, so do not trust me 100% on this, but I think it had the armor, weapons, and shields etc. of the many kings' army.

Outside I wanted to take one last look at the Red Fort, so I leaned against the railing. I followed an intricate pattern all the way down from the top of the fort. When I met a dead end, I found myself face to face with a moat!!

Don't worry, I did NOT fall in. The moat was empty. It had dried after being there for thousands of years. I asked my mom how deep the moat was. She said she did not know, but she knew about how long the fort was. Can you guess? No? Too hard? 900m by 550m! My mom also informed me that Shah Jahan, the creator of the Taj Mahal had lived in the fort.

Sadly, we had to leave. I did not want to leave such a grand place, but I was going home.

HOME, SWEET, HOME!!

**KING PARROTS**

By Elayna Bonnewell (Gr.3L)

**Kings?**

**I don't think so.**

**Not afraid of human contact**

**Get eaten by, or is the**

**Prey of: snakes, hawks, and wild cats.**

**African, Asian, Australian, and South American**

**Range in size from 3in. - 3ft.**

**Rarely on the ground.**

**Offspring cry for food when young.**

**To eat, they hold their food with their feet, look at it, and eat it.**

**Some may live to be 50 years old.**

**A Day in the Life of a Birdwing Butterfly**

By: Lauren Honea (Gr.3L)

There was once a Birdwing Butterfly,

And it was flying through the sky,

Then it came upon a bird,

The bird thought what it saw was absurd,

Then the bird came to see,

That dinner the butterfly shall be;

Off they went chasing in the sky,

"You won't ever fly as fast as I," said the Birdwing Butterfly:

The bird said, "You will be dinner in my mouth,"

As they flew down south;

On to New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and to northeast

Australia and all the rest,

The bird said, "Never mind I'll just go back to my nest,"

So, the Birdwing Butterfly,

Had a flashy fly through the sky.