

GT Family eNews

April 16, 2013

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Register for the TSD April Chess Tournament

TSD students in grades K-12 are invited to a FREE district chess tournament at Lucile Erwin Middle School on Saturday morning, April 27. All ability levels are welcome. This is a great opportunity to get a feel for chess competition.

Please note that we have a quick-turnaround for the registrations, as they are due in the district GT office no later than April 23 (or to your school's GT teacher by April 19—that's next week).

Registrations are available from your child's GT teacher OR for download at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/GT+Enrichment+Activities>

Please include an email address. If there are fewer than six registrants for any grade level, that level will be cancelled and families will be notified via email. High school students: this means you need to recruit your friends to come compete with you.

Join Us for the Final Lunch Meetings of the School Year

GT Parent Brown Bag Lunches are informal monthly meetings hosted around the district to give parents an opportunity to meet one another, ask questions, share ideas, provide support, and, of course, eat. You do not need to have children at the host school or in that particular grade level (or even enrolled in district schools) to attend. Join us THIS FRIDAY for the last Brown Bag of the 2012-2013 school year.

Brown Bag Schedule:

- Friday, April 19, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM, at Centennial Elementary

The 2e Lunch Bunch is a separate brown bag lunch for families of twice-exceptional students (those who are both gifted and receive Exceptional Student Services, or ESS). Both the GT Parent Liaison and a member of the district's ESS staff meet monthly with this group. All lunches are held at the Thompson School District Administration Building (800 South Taft, Loveland) from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. Your children do not need to be formally identified as either GT or ESS in order to meet with us.

2e Lunch Bunch Schedule:

- Tuesday, April 23

Summer in Thompson—Experiences in Math & Science (ST-EMS) Registration is Currently Open

Summer in Thompson—Enrichment in Math and Science (ST-EMS) classes, for students who are completing grades K-5, are returning with two morning sessions: June 10-14 and June 17-21.

Register online at <http://thompson.revtrak.net>. All classes meet at Conrad Ball Middle School from 9:00 AM to noon Monday-Friday. Classes are filling quickly, so register today!

LHS Summer Robotics Camp Registration is Open

Are you interested in building robots? Working with a team to solve problems? Having fun using math, science, and technology? Register now for a five-day robotics camp led by the Loveland High School Robotics Team.

Two camps are available this year. Both meet at Loveland High School and run from 9 AM to 4 PM.

- Students entering 5th or 6th grade: June 3-7
- Students entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade: June 10-14

Download a registration at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com> and register by May 24. Questions? Contact Ken Gwynn at 970-420-9221 or gwynnklhsrobotics@gmail.com.

Summer Spanish Classes

GT parent Carolyn Bouchard is once again offering Spanish classes for ages 6-12 this summer. "Learn Spanish with Songs!" begins Tuesday, June 4, and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3:00 PM during the month of June, at 555 Grant Ave. in the First United Methodist Church building. The cost is \$25 and covers a song book and crafts. Teenage helpers are welcome. Call Carolyn to book your child's spot: 970-481-2818.

NOCO Gifted Community

If you'd like to learn more about the important role of advocacy for your GT student or would like to connect to other families raising gifted learners, attend the next NOCO Gifted Community meeting on Thursday, May 2, from 6:30-7:30 PM, in the TSD Administration Building's Aspen Room.

Park on the south side of the building. The meeting room has an outside entrance just before the main entrance of the building.

Enrichment Position Openings

Have you been a volunteer in TSD and have a passion for furthering enrichment opportunities for our students? You may want to consider applying to serve as an enrichment coordinator in the district. The TSD Spelling Coordinator and the TSD Robotics Coordinator positions will soon be posted on the district's employment

webpage and applications will be accepted. If you have some time to give, please consider applying for one of these two positions when they become available in the coming weeks.

Looking Ahead at Enrichment Teams 2013-2014

If you are currently the coach or sponsor of a TSD enrichment team or you are thinking about serving in this capacity in the next school year, please keep reading.

The GT Office coordinates six enrichment programs for the Thompson School District: Chess, MathCounts, Odyssey of the Mind, Robotics, Shadows in the Arts, and Spelling. These teams are eligible to receive funding to help with initial national memberships (one per school per program) through the GT Office. Teams must register with the district prior to meeting with students in the fall.

Because the Board of Education has adopted a new category under district sponsorship called “Strategic Partner,” the district is revising the agreement form and training materials. These will be sent to all current coaches, sponsors, and schools registered with the district in the current school year. If you are not on this list, please send Jennifer Solt an email with a request to receive this information: jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org.

Visit the GT Website

The Northern Colorado GT Parents’ Wikispace is a great place to get gifted education information from the district GT Office, and it has been updated so it is easier to navigate! Click the link below and then bookmark this site:

<http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com>

Literacy Resources and Enrichment Resource Center

Literacy is a focus area in our district for 2012-2013 both through the Integration Project and through the district-wide annual goal. You can support literacy growth at home. Read on for this final installment of online literacy resources.

“The Gifted Reader’s Bill of Rights” can be found at www.bertiekingore.com/readers_bill_of_rights.pdf. Open this and think about what this means for your student. Ask your child what it means to them, and explore ways to support their unique reading needs.

“Ways a Parent Can Help a Child with Reading” includes a number of very practical tips any parent can do at home to keep kids’ literacy skills growing. Visit <http://www.fortheteachersblog.org/ways-a-parent-can-help-a-child-with-reading/#.UW1167WG18E> to see the list.

“Mind the Gap: Engaging Gifted Readers” by Donalyn Miller is a blog article written for teachers but addressing the following questions that are also pertinent to parents:

- How do I know if a child is a gifted reader?
- My gifted child used to love reading, but now he hates it. What can I do?
- How do I provide appropriate material to gifted readers who read at a higher level than their age?
- Which books can you recommend for gifted readers?

Additional resources are available through the GT Enrichment Resource Center.

The GT Enrichment Resource Center is located at the Thompson School District Administration Building, and it is open to all parents, teachers, and community members. To check out a book from the Enrichment Resource Center, email or call me (Jennifer Solt) and do one of the following:

- 1) Make an appointment to come in and browse the library.
- 2) Ask for a specific title (or suggestions) to be sent through inter-school mail to your child’s school.
- 3) Reserve a time to pick-up a resource from the front desk at the Administration Building.

What resources have you found helpful? If you have favorite websites, games, reading materials, organizations, etc. related to gifted education, send your suggestions for future highlights or additions to the Resource Center: Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschoools.org.

Contacts

- Your school’s gifted and talented specialist is your primary resource. If you don’t know who that is or how to reach that individual, please contact me...
- Jennifer Solt, Parent Liaison and Enrichment Coordinator:
jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org, (970) 613-5057. Or, you may wish to speak to...

- Carol Swalley, District GT Coordinator:
carol.swalley@thompsonschoools.org, (970) 613-5058.