

GT Family e-News

April 17, 2012

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IN THIS EDITION:

- **BROWN BAG LUNCH POSTPONED ONE WEEK**
- **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES**
- **FREE CHESS TOURNAMENT**
- **TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PARENT NIGHT**
- **GIFTED EDUCATION ADVOCACY**
- **JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**
- **CONGRATULATIONS ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS!**
- **CONTACTS**

April's Brown Bag Lunch=Rescheduled

Our monthly Brown Bag Lunch is open to all parents/guardians of Thompson School District gifted students. It is an informal lunch to ask questions, learn more about how to support the unique needs of our gifted students, and to connect with other families in the gifted community. Bring a friend, bring a lunch, and bring your ideas and questions!

Our April Brown Bag (originally scheduled for this coming Thursday) has been rescheduled (due to conflicting programs on the school's calendar) for next Thursday, April 26. This will be our last Brown Bag Lunch of the 2011-2012 school year.

- Thursday, April 26: 11:30-12:15.
- Location: Truscott Elementary School, 211 West 6th Street, Loveland. Please check in at the front office for visitor's pass and directions.
- Host: Patty Cooley, GT Teacher at Truscott, Centennial, and Monroe
- Opening topic: advocating for our kids and teaching them to advocate for themselves

- You do not need to be the parent of a Truscott or other elementary student to attend. Lunch is open to all parents of gifted kids in the district.

Summer Opportunities

If you're looking for opportunities for your children over the summer, you might want to take a look at the following sites, camps, and programs:

- Loveland High Robotics' 2012 Summer Robotics Camp
 - For kids entering 6th-9th grades
 - First camp: June 4-8
 - Advanced camp: June 11-15
 - 9 AM-4 PM
 - Go to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/> for more information and for registration information
 - Registrations due May 15
- Summer in Thompson—Experiences in Math and Science (ST-EMS)
 - For kids who have completed K-5th grades
 - Session 1: June 4-8
 - Session 2: June 11-15
 - 9 AM-Noon, Monday-Friday
 - Go to <http://thompson.revtrak.net> and click on "Summer School Registration" to register (complete course descriptions by grade are also located at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>).
 - Registrations due by midnight April 27; late registrations due by midnight May 11.
- University of Northern Colorado's Center for the Education and Study of Gifted, Talented, Creative Learners' Summer Enrichment Programs
 - Young Child Program: Ages 4-9, July 9-20, 9 AM-Noon, application due June 1.
 - Summer Enrichment Program: Grades 5-10, July 8-21 (residential program), application due June 15.
 - Leadership Enrichment Program: Grades 11-12 (past application deadline)
 - Go to <http://www.unco.edu/cebs/sep/> and select the program for the appropriate grade level on the left menu for information and registration materials.
- Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Centers' Summer Programs (residential programs at the Colorado School of Mines)

- CBK Shine: Entering grades 4-6, July 29-August 4
- CBK Glow: Entering grades 6-8, June 10-23
- The Luminary Project: Entering grades 8-11, July 1-21
- Applications must be postmarked by April 30

If you know of other summer opportunities that should be highlighted for families of gifted kids, please email me.

TSD Chess Tournament

Our end-of-the-year Swiss System chess tournament for kids in grades K-5 and grades 6-12 will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Conrad Ball Middle School. Registration forms and tournament schedules are available through your school's chess coordinator, GT teacher, or under the "GT Enrichment Activities" page at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/GT+Enrichment+Activities/>. The tournament is free and open to all district students.

Parent Night on Twice Exceptional Students

2e (or Twice Exceptional) kids are defined in our GT Office's Parent Packet as "students who are both gifted and/or talented in one or more areas, including intellectual ability, specific academic ability (such as reading, math, science, etc.), visual or performing arts, leadership, creativity, or psychomotor ability, and who also have a learning, emotional, communication or physical disability."

Please join us on Monday, April 23, for a Twice Exceptional Parent Night presented by Cheryl Franklin Rohr. There is no cost for the evening, and more information on the topic and the speaker are available at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

- **Date:** Monday, April 23
- **Time:** 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** The Board Room at the Thompson School District Administration Building, 800 South Taft, Loveland
- **Parking:** Park on the east side of the building and enter through the doors labeled "Entrance C."

NoCo Gifted Community Gathering

The NoCo Gifted Community is made up of a group of parents interested in providing support for the gifted community and in advocating for the improvement of gifted education in Northern Colorado and beyond.

Come meet the members and Board of Directors of this group, share ideas for a fall family fun night coming next school year, and provide feedback for how this group can support the needs of your family.

- **Date:** Thursday, April 26
- **Time:** 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** The Board Room at the Administration Building

Book Lists are Available for Junior Great Books

The 2012-2013 school year applications and book lists are available now for the Junior Great Books program. Applications are due on June 1. Now is a great time to stop by <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/> and download the information!

OM

Three Thompson School District Odyssey of the Mind teams have been invited to participate in the organization's World Finals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa May 23 - 26! The three teams—from Bill Reed Middle School, Garfield Elementary and Mary Blair Elementary—earned distinction at the Colorado State Odyssey of the Mind tournament held in Longmont on Saturday, April 14.

The team from Bill Reed placed first in Division II (middle school) for the classics problem "To Be or Not to Be," in which teams were asked to put a "musical spin on one of William Shakespeare's most famous lines." The production was also required to include elements of musical theater, creative scene and costume changes, use of a trap door, and various other specific elements. In addition to their first place honors, the team was awarded a "Ranatra Fusca" award for exceptional creativity, a distinction held in high regard and awarded cautiously and infrequently in Odyssey.

The team from Mary Blair placed first in Division I (elementary) for the technical problem, "Weird Science," while the Garfield team placed second in the same division and problem. In this particular problem, teams were asked to create a

presentation about a team of scientists who uncover the cause of mysterious events. Sponsored by NASA, this problem required students to utilize photographs from NASA's Earth Observatory to determine the location of their play. Teams also had to create a device scientists would use on their imaginary mission and incorporate a moving backdrop into their presentation.

Two other Thompson teams earned honors as well. Berthoud Elementary School's team earned third place in the Division I competition for "You Make the Call" in which teams designed and built structures made only of balsa wood and glue, then tested them for their weight-bearing capacities. Berthoud Elementary's structure, which could weigh no more than 15 grams, held 275 pounds! Team B from Cottonwood Plains Elementary also placed third in their division for "Odyssey Angels" in which teams were asked to create a scenario where students would travel to imaginary places, helping others and turning negative situations into positive ones.

A total of 13 teams represented the Thompson School District in the field of 95 total teams. Each had placed among the top four teams in a given division at the regional tournament in order to qualify for state berths. Other local schools represented included Lucile Erwin Middle School, and Coyote Ridge, Namaqua, Ponderosa, and Winona elementary schools.

Contacts

- Your school's Gifted and Talented teacher 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.