

# GT Family e-News

May 10, 2012

You are receiving this email as part of the Thompson School District's Gifted and Talented Community Email List, or this is forwarded to you from someone who receives this e-News. If you have been entered onto this list in error or no longer wish to receive e-News and other notifications as part of this list, please reply to the individual who sent this to you (look at the FROM line in the email) and request Mailing List Removal.

## IN THIS EDITION:

- OM COORDINATOR
- ROBOTICS CAMPS
- COMPUTER CAMPS
- YOGA CLASSES
- MENSA MEMBERSHIP OFFER
- GIFTED EDUCATION ADVOCACY
- JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
- SHADOWS IN THE ARTS 2012
- CHESS, OM, AND ROBOTICS RESULTS
- RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS
- CONTACTS

## **Job Opening: Odyssey of the Mind District Coordinator**

The Thompson School District is looking for an OM District Program Coordinator for the 2012-2013 school year. Individuals with strong organizational and time management skills and familiarity with the Odyssey of the Mind program are encouraged to apply at the following site (look for "Odyssey of the Mind Sponsor"):

<http://www.applitrack.com/thompson/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp?internaltransferform.Url=&all=1>

It is the responsibility of the OM Coordinator to provide the support and communication necessary for building level staff, volunteers and teams to form, practice and compete at all levels while keeping within the regulations and

expectations established by the school district and Odyssey. The coordinator acts as a liaison between the state OM organization and the Thompson School District and its OM teams. The coordinator works in connection with the District GT Parent Liaison and Enrichment Coordinator to manage the OM budget; to submit national, state, and regional registrations; and to support school-level sponsors and coaches. The coordinator is expected to attend state-level OM meetings, support trainings at the regional level, and work with building OM sponsors to help form teams, complete and collect required paperwork, meet deadlines, and understand program specifics.

The position requires 100+ hours per school year and can, for the most part, schedule his/her own work times.

### **LHS Summer Robotics Camp**

Registrations are being accepted for Loveland High Robotics' 2012 Summer Robotics Camp. The camp is for kids in grades 6-9 and runs from 9 AM to 4 PM June 4-8. An advanced camp runs June 11-15. For more information and a registration form, go to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

**Registrations are due May 15.**

### **Summer Computer Camps at CSU**

iD Tech Camps develop key STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills through both overnight and day camp options for kids ages 7-17. Although many of the courses are already sold out, camps are still available in Game Design for iPhone and iPad (12-16), 3D Game Design, FPS Game Design, 3D Game Modeling, Web Design and Flash Animation, and Programming in Java.

For more information, visit <http://www.internaldrive.com/locations/co-summer-camps-colorado-computer-camps/colorado-state-university-fort-collins/>.

### **Summer Yoga Camps**

Om Ananda Yoga has summer camp offerings June 11-15, 18-22, and 25-29, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information, go to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

### MENSA Membership for Kids

American Mensa is offering membership qualification to kids of all ages for FREE in May. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/GiftedGuru> or <http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/print-an-application/> for more information.

### 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. If you are interested in being a part of the email conversation or in learning more about the group and any upcoming meetings, please contact me ([Jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org](mailto:Jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org) or 970-613-5057) with your contact information. I will pass this information on to current group organizers.

### 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!

### Shadows in the Arts

The TSD Shadows in the Arts (SITA) program is a cooperative endeavor among teachers, artists, and the Gifted and Talented Education Office. It is designed for community artists to work with a small group of students for a day at a host school to introduce the student to the artist and his/her particular medium. The program is organized by SITA District Coordinator and artist Dena Kirk. Students are nominated by their art teachers based on their genuine interest in the arts, artistic talents, maturity, and an eagerness to be a part of the program. Congratulations to the following students who were nominated for the 2012 SITA program, held in April and early May.

### **Elementary Program, Guest Artist: Kerri Ertman, Host Teacher & School: Robyn Hall, Namaqua:**

Alexis Nygard (Berthoud), Shannan Sellmer (Berthoud), Lauryn Starke (BF Kitchen), Trevor Lee (BF Kitchen), Beau Farago (Big Thompson), Marit Gjælde-Bennett (Big Thompson), Emma Litchford (Carrie Martin), Penelope Thyne (Carrie

Martin), Elizabeth Key (Centennial), Stephanie Key (Centennial), Liam Whitacre (Centennial), Kennedy Burch (Cottonwood Plains), Makenzy Rohall (Cottonwood Plains), Elaina Martin (Coyote Ridge), Mikayla Pennock (Coyote Ridge), Alycia Torres (Garfield), Andrew Hernandez (Garfield), Delaney Lord (Ivy Stockwell), Kiera Eason (Ivy Stockwell), Faustino Rowley (Edmondson), Yatziri Gonzalez (Edmondson), Emma LeVane (Lincoln), Maddison Rozeski (Lincoln), Cheyenne Mehn-Chavez (Mary Blair), Beatriz Lopez (Mary Blair), Addisyn Samuelson (Monroe), Anmol Grewal (Monroe), Caitlin Skees (Namaqua), Cassie Urtel (Namaqua), Alize Kenders Carrasco (Sarah Milner), Heather Dager (Sarah Milner) Ami Jones (Stansberry), Elli Carman (Stansberry), Sergei Sobczak (Truscott), Kaden Musick (Truscott), Jaden Polvini (Van Buren), Santiago Scalise (Van Buren), Maddy Nistler (Winona), Colin Wilkerson (Winona)

**Middle School Program, Guest Artist: Ann Surbeck, Host Teacher & School: Tanya Miller, Conrad Ball:**

Avery Zink (Bill Reed), Caitlin Parets (Bill Reed), Deanna Dunkerson (Conrad Ball), Mitchell Ward (Conrad Ball), Craig Ruby (Conrad Ball), Mia Trojovsky (Conrad Ball), Avery Achziger (Conrad Ball), Emily Marsden (Lucile Erwin), Kayla Blomquist (Lucile Erwin), Madeline Lehnherr (Walt Clark), Michael Donaldson (Walt Clark), Julie Goss (Walt Clark), Neida Roman (Walt Clark)

**High School Program, Guest Artist: Pat Saunders-White, Host Teacher & School: Brian Causer, Loveland High School:**

Brittany Baker (Ferguson), Haleigh Shotts (Loveland), Shaylyn Jackson (Loveland), Blake Foster (Loveland), Sarah LaSalle (Loveland), Cameron Culley (Mountain View), Alison Miller (Mountain View), Arrynne Davenport (Mountain View), Jenna Wilson (Mountain View)

**Chess, Odyssey of the Mind, and Robotics Results**

**Chess:** The Thompson School District Free Chess Tournament was held on Saturday, May 5. No elimination Swiss System competitions were held for elementary students in the morning and secondary students in the afternoon. 81 students from across the district competed. Some pictures are available at the GT Enrichment Activities link at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>. The following are the final standings for the top places.

#### K-3 Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Luke Namesnik, Loveland Classical, Grade 3
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Caden Neumiller, Big Thompson, Grade 1
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) Kyle Marchman, Coyote Ridge, Grade 3
- 4<sup>th</sup>) McKenzie Lindgren, Coyote Ridge, Grade 3
- 5<sup>th</sup>) Dustin Mock, Coyote Ridge, Grade 2

#### 4-5 Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Hunter Ogg, Cottonwood Plains, Grade 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Nicole Rogers, Cottonwood Plains, Grade 4
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) Anand Vissa, Coyote Ridge, Grade 5
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Micah Mock, Coyote Ridge, Grade 4
- 5<sup>th</sup>) Jared Ogg, Cottonwood Plains, Grade 5
- TIE
- 5<sup>th</sup>) Kiera Eason, Ivy Stockwell, Grade 5

#### Middle School Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Brandon Lindsey, Lucile Erwin, Grade 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Luke Slayback, Conrad Ball, Grade 7
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) Ben Marquardt, Turner, Grade 6
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Alex Paradise, Turner, Grade 6
- 5<sup>th</sup>) Zac Marquardt, Turner, Grade 8

#### High School Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Jacob Schafer, Thompson Valley, Grade 9

#### District Chess League Award:

Congratulations to the Coyote Ridge Chess League Team for receiving the HUGE school trophy for their winning play in the TSD Chess League. The CRES team is coached by Brian Lindsey, Veronica Thompson, and Mike Malvey, and sponsored by GT teacher Audrey Elens.

**Odyssey of the Mind:** Four TSD OM teams have been invited to participate in the organization's World Finals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, May 23-26. The four teams—from Bill Reed Middle School, Garfield Elementary, Mary Blair Elementary, and New Vision Charter School—earned distinction at the Colorado State OM tournament, where a total of 14 teams represented TSD in the field of

95 total teams. Each team attending state 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 Berthoud, Coyote Ridge, Namaqua, Ponderosa, and Winona elementary schools.

**Robotics:** Some of our TSD robotics teams had the honor of participating in the 2012 VEX Robotics World Championship in Anaheim, California, in April, along with six hundred teams from around the world. Congratulations to the following participants who were among only five from Colorado who returned from the event with division high school awards. All of the following have been invited to present before the Colorado Board of Education in June.

TEAM 974, HAZARDOUS: Chase Rayment (BHS), Mark Stewart (WCMS), and Jason Garner (CBMS). This team earned the Create award for innovation in design.

TEAM 1069-E, CRITICAL MASS: James Wood, Kaleb Stennis, Veronica Mizer, Kaitlyn Wood, Mitch Sandell, and Zach Sandell, all of BHS. This team won the Excellence award.

TEAM 1069-D, PALLADIUM: Jonathan Schlagel, Brian Montero, Caleb Hammel, Nicolette Power, and Ryan Pea, all of BHS. This team won the Build award for creativity and teamwork.

## **Resources**

**Enrichment Resource Center (at the District GT Office in the Administration Building):** I am not reviewing a title from the Resource Center this month, as our office will be closing for the summer on May 25. If you have any resources checked out from the Center, please drop these off at the front desk of the TSD Administration Building (800 South Taft), with a note to give these to Jennifer Solt or take to the front desk of your child's school and ask that the books be sent through interschool mail to Jennifer Solt @ LS/GT.

If you're looking for good titles to check out from the public library or to purchase for your own home library, take a look at the reviews from our e-News archive at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

If you've read something related to gifted education or your kids have read a wonderful book they think other gifted kids would enjoy, please submit these titles to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/> by clicking on the "Reading Lists" link on the left menu pane.

**Online Article: "I Am a Twice-Exceptional Student"**

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/03/28/26collins.h31.html>

This past month our Parent Night focused on twice-exceptional (2e) kids: those who are both gifted and disabled. This is a thought-provoking article written by a 2e student that speaks to the urgency of understanding the needs of 2e students in our schools with the intent to focus on a student's strengths.

**Online Short Story: "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.**

<http://www.tnellen.com/westside/harrison.pdf>

Though written in 1961, this short story's dark message still carries weight today. Its content may appeal to older gifted students who may be able to relate to the frustration of being weighted down or held back in order to be the "same" in ability as everyone else. The hyperbole of the intellectual elitism of Vonnegut's story can set the stage for thinking and discussion about the importance of our individual gifts and differences.

## **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](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org), (970) 613-5057. Or, you may wish to speak to...
- Carol Swalley, District GT Coordinator:  
[carol.swalley@thompsonschoools.org](mailto:carol.swalley@thompsonschoools.org), (970) 613-5058.