

# GT Family eNews

May 9, 2013

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## Thank You, Enrichment Coordinators

The GT Office coordinates robotics, spelling bee, chess, MathCounts, Odyssey of the Mind, and Shadows in the Arts each year. These programs rely heavily on a wonderful cadre of school-level volunteers (staff and parents) to coach and supervise. In addition, each program has a district-level coordinator who helps pull the season together. I'd like to take a moment to thank these incredible individuals.

- **Liz Rayment, Robotics:** Liz has served year-after-year as the coordinator for robotics in TSD (and beyond). Her tireless efforts to bring hands-on STEMS and 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning to our students have allowed this program to flourish. The Thompson Robotics Expo held in the fall is subsidized and organized by Liz and her non-profit Action Works. Liz is resigning from her post as robotics coordinator but will continue to carry the banner of robotics education in this area and throughout the state. Liz, thank you for your dedication and efforts on behalf of the students of our district.
- **Royce Lowe, Spelling Bee:** The coordination of the district spelling bee is no small task. Hundreds upon hundreds of words, pronunciations, and definitions are assembled each year into what eventually become the word lists for the elementary and middle school bees. Royce Lowe has served for

several years as the district's spelling coordinator. You probably know her by her smile and her ability to put nervous spellers at ease. Though Royce is stepping down from her post this season, her organization and ability to think through the details has provided a wonderful foundation for our spelling program. Royce, enjoy a house free of word-piles! You will be missed.

- **Brian Lindsey and Shirley Martinson, Chess:** If you attended a TSD chess tournament this year at Lucile Erwin, you had a glimpse of the work (and the fun) that goes behind a smooth-running tournament. Brian and Shirley are new coordinators to the district this year, and we have appreciated their efforts in keeping this program afloat. We're excited that they are returning for more fun next season!
- **Cheryl Gillpatrick, MathCounts:** The MathCounts program allows middle school "math-letes" to test their skills in competition. Cheryl coordinates these efforts in TSD and is always on the lookout for more teams to get involved. Her work to make math education more prominent and fun for participants is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Cheryl!
- **Melissa Sellers, Odyssey of the Mind:** If you are surrounded by people in ridiculously creative hats, chances are you're in the midst of an Odyssey of the Mind competition. Melissa became the district OM coordinator this past season and has spread her energy and skills of organization throughout the district. Teams have appreciated her ability to communicate and her support from the sidelines. This was a big job to tackle, but she has done it with grace and flair.
- **Marty Janssen, Shadows in the Arts:** Marty is one very-resourceful individual. Though he is new to the position of SITA coordinator, it is difficult to tell that he's not a veteran, as he hit the ground running, bringing new ideas and venues to this outstanding program. Come to the upcoming art shows and see the result of months of communicating, supply-shopping, coordinating sites, and recruiting top-notch artists.

### **Wait! You Aren't Cooking Dinner Tonight, Are You?**

Don't forget that you can help the Winona Odyssey of the Mind team pay for their trip to Michigan by having dinner at Winona Elementary **tonight** (May 9) anytime between 5:30 and 7:00 PM. Tickets for adults are \$5, kids are \$3, and children under three are free. All can be purchased at the door. While you're

there, make a bid in the silent auction. For more information or would like to make a donation, contact Candie at 970-488-9160.

### **Art is in the Air**

A number of art shows will be highlighting the work of GT students and enrichment programs in the coming days. Check out any or all of the following. Admission is free.

- The Fine Art of Photography featuring GT and LISA Photographers from Bill Reed, Conrad Ball, Lucile Erwin, Turner, and Walt Clark Middle Schools.
  - Tonight (May 9) from 6-8 PM and tomorrow (May 10) from 6-9 PM
  - Loveland Feed and Grain Building at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Railroad in downtown Loveland
- Collections: A Community Art Exhibition featuring elementary and middle school Shadows in the Arts student work—all schools represented
  - Tomorrow (May 10) from 6-8 PM, Saturday (May 11) from 1-7 PM, and Sunday (May 12) from 3-6 PM
  - Loveland Feed and Grain Building at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Railroad
- Installation Art featuring the work of the high school Shadows in the Arts students
  - Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17 from 6-9 PM
  - Pulliam Community Building, 545 Cleveland Avenue in downtown Loveland

### **Looking Ahead to Next School Year**

- Brown Bag Lunches will resume in the fall. Dates and locations TBD, but the first luncheon will include presentation and conversation around Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs). What does an ALP do for your student? What questions should you ask in an ALP meeting? How do you write the parent goals? Watch for more in the fall eNews.
- NOCO Family Night is coming again in the fall. Date and location TBD, but the group is planning some wonderful activities for kids elementary through high school and for adults. Watch for this exciting event coming in the fall!
- 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. Check out the new titles that are available for check-out next school year:

- 5 Levels of Gifted: School Issues and Educational Options, By Deborah Ruf
- Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children: A Parent's Complete Guide, by Barbara Jackson Gilman
- Advocacy for Gifted Children and Gifted Programs, by Joan D. Lewis
- Assessment: Timesaving Procedures for Busy Teachers, by Bertie Kingore (with CD-ROM) (additional copies now on our shelves for this popular title)
- Differentiating Instruction with Centers in the Gifted Classroom (K-8), by Julia Link Roberts and Julia Roberts Boggess
- Different Minds: Gifted Children with AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and Other Learning Deficits, by Deirdre V. Lovecky
- Early Childhood Gifted Education, by Nancy B. Hertzog
- How to Plan Rigorous Instruction, by Robyn R. Jackson
- If I'm So Smart, Why Aren't the Answers Easy?: Advice from Teens on Growing Up Gifted, by Robert A. Schultz and James R. Delisle
- If This is a Gift, Can I Send it Back?: Surviving in the Land of the Gifted and Twice Exceptional
- Letting Go of Perfect: Overcoming Perfectionism in Kids, by Jill L. Adelson and Hope E. Wilson
- Life in the Fast Brain: Keeping Up with Gifted Minds, by Karen Isaacson
- Motivating Gifted Students
- Project-Based Learning for Gifted Students: A Handbook for the 21st-Century Classroom, by Todd Stanley
- Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential, by Peg Dawson and Richard Guare (additional copies now on our shelves for this popular title)
- Smart Parenting for Smart Kids: Nurturing Your Child's True Potential, by Eileen Kennedy-Moore
- Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers (3rd Edition), by Judith Wynn Halsted (additional copies now on our shelves for this popular title)
- Special Needs Advocacy Resource Book: What You Can Do Now to Advocate for Your Exceptional Child's Education, by Rich Weinfeld and Michelle Davis

- Successful Strategies for Twice-Exceptional Students, by Frances Karnes, Kristen Stephens, and Kevin Besnoy
- The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help Your Child Make Friends, by Natalie Madorsky Elman and Eileen Kennedy-Moore
- When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers: How to Meet Their Social and Emotional Needs, by Jim Delisle and Judy Galbraith (additional copies now on our shelves for this popular title)
- When Gifted Students Underachieve: What You Can Do About It, by Sylvia Rimm
- Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades and What You Can Do about It: A Six-Step Program for Parents and Teachers, 3rd Edition, by Sylvia Rimm

## **Contacts**

Please note: the TSD Gifted and Talented Office will be closed for the summer beginning June 3.

- 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](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.

**Have a wonderful summer!**