

# GT Family E-News

March 30, 2012

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## Parents of 2e Kids

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 "Board Entrance"

### ST-EMS Registration Is Now Online

The Summer in Thompson—Experience in Math and Science (ST-EMS) program (formally Enrichment in the Valley) is coming June 4-8 and June 11-15. This is a great time to go online and look at the course descriptions for all 30 classes at <http://thompson.revtrak.net> and click on “Summer School Registration.” If you’d like a consolidated view of the courses, go to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/> and download the ST-EMS flyers.

### NoCo Gifted Community Planning Session

Since January, a group of GT parents has been meeting to launch a new group to develop the GT community in Northern Colorado and to advocate for the needs of gifted learners. With a new Board of Directors now in place, the group is ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work. The first project is a GT Family Fun Night planned for next September. But **the group needs YOUR ideas** to make this a success. Come see what it is all about on Thursday, April 26. Invite your friends and come share your ideas and enthusiasm and learn a little bit about the NoCo Gifted Community.

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

### Spring Break Fun

Looking for something interesting to do over spring break? Check out one of these ideas:

- April 3: Denver Children’s Museum, 4-8 pm is “Free Tuesday” sponsored by Target
- April 6: Chatfield Botanic Gardens’ free day
- April 7: Denver Art Museum’s free day
- Denver Firefighters Museum has a coupon for a free adult admission when you buy one:  
<http://www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org/SCFDCoupon.html>
- Loveland Museum/Gallery
  - Entrance to the museum is free and includes a wonderful hands-on historical displays, plus special displays in the galleries.

- Time is running out to see Portraits of the Prairie: Nebraska Landscapes That Inspired Willa Cather, by Richard Schilling. The exhibit closes on April 15.
- Classes for kids: <http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/index.aspx?page=1679>
- Rialto Theater: <http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/index.aspx?page=118>
  - Bill Chrastil, Saturday, March 31, 7:30-9:30 pm
  - Concert for Biodiversity, Saturday, April 7, 7-9 pm
- Check out these free downloads for parents from Free Spirit Publishing (link from GT specialist Diane McInturff of Berthoud Elementary): [http://www.freespirit.com/parents/downloads.cfm?subj\\_id=17](http://www.freespirit.com/parents/downloads.cfm?subj_id=17)
- Nominate a great student in grades 3-6 for the CAGT Distinguished Student Awards. More information can be found at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

### **Brown Bag It in April**

On Thursday, April 19, join other parents and staff members at our monthly **GT Brown Bag Lunch**—our final lunch for the 2011-2012 school year. This is a casual lunch that all are welcome to attend in order to network with other GT families, share ideas, and ask questions regarding gifted education in the school district.

- **Date:** Thursday, April 19
- **Time:** 11:30-12:15
- **Location:** Truscott Elementary, 211 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- **Host:** Patty Cooley, GT Specialist
- **Starter Topic:** Gifted advocacy

### **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**

News from Odyssey of the Mind District Program Coordinator Sue Teumer: Last Saturday, March 24, was the Longs Peak regional tournament for Odyssey of the Mind held at Berthoud High School. The Thompson School District was represented by thirty-one elementary teams and three middle school teams. Several of our teams placed in the top four teams of their divisions, earning the

right to advance to the state tournament in April. Those teams invited to the state tournament include:

**Problem 1: Ooh-Motional Vehicle**

Division 1

4th place - Winona Elementary School

**Problem 2: Weird Science**

Division 1

1st place - Mary Blair Elementary School

2nd place - Cottonwood Plains Elementary School Team A

3rd place - Garfield Elementary School

4th place - Winona Elementary School

**Problem 3: To Be or Not to Be**

Division 1

2nd place - New Vision Charter School

3rd place - Coyote Ridge Elementary School

4th place - Ponderosa Elementary School

Division 2

1st place - Bill Reed Middle School

**Problem 4: You Make the Call**

Division 1

1st place - Berthoud Elementary School

**Problem 5: Odyssey Angels**

Division 1

2nd place - Namaqua Elementary School

3rd place - Cottonwood Plains Elementary School Team B

4th place - Garfield Elementary School

Division 2

3rd place - Lucile Erwin Middle School

The Reporter Herald's story can be found at

[http://www.reporterherald.com/news/education/ci\\_20249584/loveland-area-students-go-an-odyssey-problem-solving](http://www.reporterherald.com/news/education/ci_20249584/loveland-area-students-go-an-odyssey-problem-solving).

The State Tournament is Saturday, April 14, at Twin Peaks Charter Academy in Longmont. Congratulations to all the TSD teams on their outstanding showing at Regionals!

## Resources

**Enrichment Resource Center (at the District GT Office in the Administration Building):** *Smart but Scattered*, by Pam Dawson and Richard Guare

If you're looking for ways to help your preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade child (or older) reach his or her potential by getting organized, resisting impulses, staying focused, using time wisely, planning ahead, following through on tasks, learning from mistakes, staying in control of emotions, solving problems independently, or being resourceful, you've stumbled upon a *wonderful* resource. This book focuses on brain research related to the "executive skills" needed in day-to-day life. I recognized my children in the pages immediately and was thrilled to find some practical activities and techniques to enhance our daily routines in ways that add up to significant skill-building in areas that will impact them for life.

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 my way: [Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschoools.org](mailto:Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschoools.org).

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 (we're located at the GT Office at the Administration Building).
- 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.

## 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.