**GT Family E-News**

**September 8, 2011**

You are receiving this email as part of the Thompson School District's Gifted and Talented Community Email List. 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 email [jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org) and request Mailing List Removal.

**In this edition, you’re invited to come get involved with the larger TSD Gifted and Talented (GT) community. Find scheduled events and get a glimpse of the GT resources we have on hand for your use.**

**It Takes a Village: LEGO Builds**

If you or your 9+ year old student LOVE working with LEGO, drop in on one of the community build sessions to sort and assemble LEGO models.

**COMMUNITY BUILD SCHEDULE:**

* This **Saturday, September 10, 1-4:30 PM, Berthoud Public Library**
* Saturday, **September 24, 1-5 PM, Loveland Public Library**

Stay as little or as long as you like. See the finished work on **October 29** at the Thompson Robotics Expo, or better yet, you and/or your student can volunteer: [www.action-works.org/volunteer](http://www.action-works.org/volunteer). No experience is necessary.

We have an immediate need for volunteer coordinators and photographers. See [www.action-works.org](http://www.action-works.org) or contact our Robotics Enrichment Program Coordinator [liz.rayment@action-works.org](mailto:liz.rayment@action-works.org) for more information.

**BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)**

Join other parents and staff members at our **GT Brown Bag Lunches.** These lunches are held about once per month at different host schools in the district. You are welcome to attend any or all of these casual get-togethers to network with other GT families, share ideas, and ask questions regarding gifted education in the school district.

* Next BBL: **Wednesday, September 28, 12-12:45**, Ivy Stockwell Elementary (175 South 5th Street, Berthoud)

**Open the attached flyer for a full 2011-2012 schedule to hang on the fridge.**

**Coffee Chat**

Join us for this informal gathering time with other parents/families and district Student Services personnel. District staff from ELA (English Language Acquisition), Exceptional Student Services, and Gifted and Talented will be on hand to answer questions and get to know you.

* Monday, **September 19, 10-11 a.m**., Dazbog Coffee downtown (556 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln Place Apartments).

**Under the Stars: Parent Nights**

Perhaps you work and are unable to attend our lunches.

Maybe you want to hear some professional speakers discuss GT issues in the schools.

Do you wish to network with other parents of GT students?

Maybe you just want a break from the kids. That’s okay!

No matter your reason, we have a get-out-of-the-house-and-do-something-new excuse just for you. We’re organizing a **GT Parent Night Series** with different presentations each quarter. Details are still under construction, but you can tentatively reserve **Thursday evening, October 20**, for a Parent Technology Night. Learn about safety in technology related to your children.

Do you have suggestions for discussion topics or speakers? Please send me an email with your thoughts: [Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschools.org).

**Do You Wiki?**

We are in the process of updating our Northern Colorado GT Parents wikispace. Go to <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/> to see an updated calendar and news items, and post your comments and ideas.

**Resource Highlights**

**Online:** [www.storybird.com](http://www.storybird.com)

This is hands-down one of my favorite websites. This collaborative storytelling site for all ages allows you to choose illustrations from an eclectic collection of artwork, then tell a story, teach a lesson, or share your ideas in a creative way. There are many uses for a Storybird.

* My college students used this site at the end of term to share with incoming students what they’d learned during the semester.
* I used it with my out-of-state niece and nephew by starting a story and sending it to them to add to it. We went back and forth in this unique pen-pal collaboration until the story felt complete.
* I’ve used it with my own kids to have them teach me more about something about which they were passionate or to express themselves when words were failing them.
* The possibilities are vast. What can your family create?

**Enrichment Resource Center (at the District GT Office in the Administration Building):** *Raising a Gifted Child: A Parenting Success Handbook*, by Carol Fertig

We have a wonderful resource available to each of you. Our resource library is full of great titles for you to check out. I’m highlighting the above book in this newsletter because it is a wonderful starting place for understanding what it means to be gifted, how to advocate for your child, and how to support your child at home. If you’re well-read in the area of gifted education, this is a good reminder of the basics. If gifted education is new to you, this is a great first book. Stop by and check it out, or email me and I can have it delivered to your child’s school for pick-up.

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 my way: <Jennifer.Solt@thompsonschools.org>.