

Gifted News

A Newsletter from Parents for Gifted Education (PGE) • District 205 • September 2003

Monthly Meetings To Continue at West

Staff,
Parents,
Principals, Administrators, and
The Gifted Psychologist
join together each month to share
what's happening with gifted
education for all grades in
District 205
on the
1st Monday of each month
6:30 PM
West Library

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY
OCTOBER 6th
Business at 6:30 PM

Program at 7:10 PM
A ROAD MAP TO
AUBURN ACADEMY
Auburn Faculty will outline the
Academy curriculum and
requirements to receive the
Academy Seal at graduation.
Comparison to traditional
curriculum and graduation
requirements will also be
available. A counselor will
outline the timeline and content
of standardized testing given by
the district as well as what is
needed and available privately.

Gifted Grant Gone

Previously our program received money from the state through a categorical grant. These monies were slated for personnel (psychologist, Ruth Harris and her secretary, curriculum advisors, reading and GLO teachers), staff for testing, testing supplies, staff development and supplies for each school. The money had to be used to benefit students in the gifted program. This spring our state legislature voted to change the funding of special programs, such as gifted, to a block grant. This literally ended the dedicated gifted grant. Each school district is now able to decide how the block grant is disbursed. While in theory they are supposed to continue funding special programs, there is no mandate requiring what level of financial support these programs receive.

BOE SUPPORTS GIFTED WITH \$\$\$

At a special meeting of our Board of Education in July, members voted UNANIMOUSLY to continue funding the gifted program at the same level as last year. The caveat was to movefunding for the Academy and CAPA curriculum advisors out of the "grant money" and pay them a differential to continue as advisors.

Please remember to thank board members for their support of our children's education in the gifted program.

Finally, despite funding cuts to the Regional Office of Education, Kishwaukee Intermediate Delivery System (KIDS) will continue to offer the Gifted Institute training as long as people register, but must now operate on a cost recovery basis.

Zero Based E-Mail list for 2003-04

Over the last few years, Terry Mohaupt has been kind enough to maintain our email address on his personal computer. Some families are no longer in the program and many of the addresses are no longer valid. Therefore the PGE board voted to develop our email address from scratch (hence zero base). The PGE liaison from each school will be responsible for compiling the contact list for their school for our new email account PGE@rps205.com. We ask your patience and suggestions for making this the most efficient delivery of information we are able to provide. But the only way it will work is if we have your address! So please:

FILL OUT and TURN IN the PGE DIRECTORY FORM!
Remember, membership is FREE. Donations to cover print costs are appreciated, but given a choice, we'd prefer to have a more inclusive membership and directory. So again:

**COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORMS ACCEPTED
BY MAIL OR PHONE THROUGH OCTOBER 3rd**

Call Jill @ 636-5199 or
Mail form to 5199 Woodie Ranch Ln, 61114

***Please submit Register Star Spirit Coupons found in every
Thurs, Fri and Sat edition through Oct 23 on behalf of Auburn***

New This Year:

GIFTED REPORT CARD With desegregated scores for West and Auburn.

EXIT POLICY

An Academic Review Flow chart was developed which outlines the correct procedure in the event a student is having difficulty with academics in the program.

ACADEMY HANDBOOK

Outlines the requirements and course matriculation for receiving the Academy seal.

ACADEMY/CAPA

COUNSELORS

By October 1, all students in the Academy and CAPA will be reassigned to either Mr. Keating or Mr. Meli. Both have gifted certification and understand the nuances of both programs.

ACADEMY ADVISORS

Beginning with the current freshman class, Academy teachers will voluntarily serve as advisors to students.

KING PLAYSPACE

The old wooden structure was replaced and the old field leveled and sodded.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

West will offer this optional program to top 2% of gifted students during 2nd semester.

High School Advocacy Committee (HAC)

This arm of Parent Council developed primarily as a result of the change to a six hour day at the high school. Parents from all four high schools, interested in bringing back the seventh hour or improving zero hour offerings, meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM in room 207 of the Board of Ed Building. Administrators and board members have attended to provide info and opinions. Auburn needs more representation! The group also plans to address other issues such as start times, attendance records and athletic eligibility. ??? 633-6818

2 Cents from the Treasurer

The PGE organization does not receive any funding from the Rockford School district and has resisted adding another fundraising event to the myriad already established. PGE relies on member donations for 100% of our income.

Money received by PGE is applied to several projects.

PGE Directory – Each Fall PGE compiles a directory of Gifted students and faculty at King, West, and Auburn. Last year, 900 directories were printed and distributed at an expense of \$819.00.

Teacher Appreciation – In the Spring, PGE hosts a reception for the Gifted faculty of all three schools (for which still need food donations). In addition, as a need arises, flowers, cards, and other considerations may be delivered to individual Gifted faculty members on behalf of the PGE membership.

Newsletters – While newsletters are invaluable in sharing information concerning the Gifted Program, they are not without significant costs of printing and postage to the over 1000 gifted students currently enrolled in the program. A typical mailing comes with a price tag in the area of \$300. We had four newsletters last year. Distribution to the elementary students through King and West has held down postage costs, but we have determined Auburn Academy Families must be distributed by mail. We save a lot of money by using email whenever possible, but do not have addresses for two thirds of our families.

Association Fees – Our local PGE organization is a member of the statewide Illinois Association of Gifted Children. This provides us a voice in state and national legislative affairs and an opportunity to network with professional educators at meetings and conventions.

Speaker Fees – In the past, our organization has hosted various speakers to present current information relative to gifted education or parenting gifted children. Due to decreased member contributions and participation, we have not scheduled a seminar in 2 years.

All monies received are greatly appreciated by PGE. But money alone is not sufficient to nurture our Gifted program. We also need your time, energy, participation, and input. Please consider attending a Board of Education or Committee meeting (times and location listed on the district website), or volunteer for the Teacher Appreciation event. Attend a PGE meeting to discuss other ways you can contribute to the on-going success of this program. Let the board know if there are programs or speakers valuable to our students. We are often reminded by administration that our program has survived in large part due to parental support. Your involvement is the most valuable resource to the PGE organization.

Gifted News

is a publication of Parents for Gifted Education, District 205, Rockford, IL

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WELCOME NEW STAFF!

KING

Elizabeth Franck- 4th grade
Ann Chachow- Reading

WEST

Mr. Leslie Smith Principal
Mr. Toldo- Asst Principal
Mrs. Arnold- Asst Principal
William Rowald- 6th Soc Studies

AUBURN

Mr. Buswell- Asst Principal
Mr. Hurder- Asst Principal

Please keep the family of Ashley Ketcher in your thoughts and prayers. Ashley was a CAPA student gifted and talented in dance. Her family is developing a memorial scholarship to benefit a graduating student in the program. PGE has sent a contribution. If your family would like to contribute, please send checks to Auburn with instructions to have the money placed in her memorial fund.