

CASE June Mini-Newsletter

Over 100 students, parents, and teachers attended the farewell gathering for Mrs. Candace Silcott, retiring WAVE Liaison. The majority attending were current and former WAVE students, and Mrs. Silcott was very surprised and happy to see them all. Because of our very generous WAVE families, we were able to present Mrs. Silcott with a 6-month supply of her favorite Harry & David pears, a \$125 gift certificate to Amazon.com (to supply her Kindle with lots of books!), and a \$75 gift certificate to Pappa's Restaurants. She was also presented with a rotating world globe engraved with:

Candace Silcott
Your vision, passion, and dedication have touched many lives.
Thank you from WAVE Families.
1996-2011

We are sad to see this amazing educator leave, but we wish Mrs. Silcott the best as she starts her next adventure in life!

Only days into summer vacation and the kids are already bored? Have them enter the CASE Brochure Art Contest!

CASE Brochure

Art Contest 2011

ART WORK ENTRY FORM

Deadline for entries: September 1st

Art Work should be on an 8X10 format, landscaped or portrait, color or black and white. (Remember if you use color; make sure it has enough contrast for being copied in black and white.)

Please complete the following and return to your campus AA specialist.

Title of Art Work: _____

Medium: _____

Name of Student: _____ **Grade:** _____

School: _____

There is no fee to enter this contest. Contest is open to all students of CASE members. All entries will receive an acknowledgement from CASE. Winning entries will be published in the CASE brochure along with artist's name for a 2 year period. If you would like to join CASE, please mail a check for \$12 (payable to CASE) to Katie Raterink, Treasurer, 5306 Kingsmill Rd, Friendswood, TX 77546. Please include your name, email, student(s): grade and school for 2011-2012 school year. Visit us at <http://www.casegiftedchildren.org>.

Summer Camp Opportunity!

The University of Houston Clear Lake/
Environmental Institute of Houston
Presents:

Discovering Nature Camp

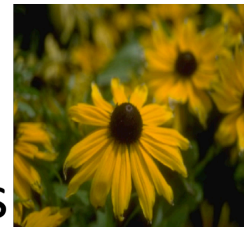


For students entering Grades 3 – 6

July 11 – 14, 2011

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Limited to 12 Participants



Activities include Bird Watching,
Fishing, Animal Tracks, Outdoor Habitat

And much more!

Cost: \$125/child



REGISTRATION:

Name _____ Entering Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Attach check/money order payable to UHCL and mail to:

Wendy Reistle, UCHL/EIH/Box 540

2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Houston, TX 77058

Phone: 281-283-3045 reistle@uhcl.edu

Neither this organization nor this event is sponsored,
endorsed or otherwise affiliated with Clear Creek ISD.



GT Legislative Update

We received the following legislative update from Tracy Weinberg, Associate Director of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT). This update has been posted on www.TXGifted.org.

Legislative Update

June 10, 2011

After a lengthy (16 hour) and sometimes rancorous debate, the House passed its versions of Senate Bills 1 and 2 which deal with school finance. Amidst all the wrangling, there were a few moments of consensus in which fundamentally shared values and commitment to the citizens of Texas, including our students, shone through.

Though different in form, the overall school finance plans passed by the House and Senate both appropriate approximately \$4 billion less than what would be needed to maintain current spending levels with projected growth in student enrollment. Next year, all districts will receive between 5% and 6% less than this year; the funding for the following year would be variable based on a district's relative wealth.

One important amendment was added to the House-approved version of Senate Bill 1. Sponsored by Rep. Diane Patrick R-Arlington (with work by Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, behind the scenes), it would make the proposed formula cuts in the basic (and regular) program allotments temporary for this biennium, and they would expire on September 1, 2013. Thus these cuts do not become the "new normal" and thus, the starting point for the next biennium's budget. After much discussion, it was passed by a voice vote, indicating broad acceptance by members of both parties.

Note that the regular program allotment is where formula funding for gifted education resides. Thus far, there are no changes to that formula, beyond the cuts that all programs face for the next two years.

Another noteworthy development was an amendment added to the House-approved version of Senate Bill 2. Sponsored by Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, it would use any increase in the Economic Stabilization Fund (aka Rainy Day Fund), above the amount currently projected (~\$6.5 billion), to cover the cost of enrollment growth in our public schools (expected to exceed 170,000 for the coming two years). The extra funding needed to cover the cost of serving all those new students is estimated at \$2.2 billion. It is likely that the fund will exceed financial expectations in the coming two years, and his amendment gives public schools first claim on any additional money in the fund, up to \$2.2 billion.

Be aware that any changes made to the Senate version have to be approved by the Senate itself, and for Rep. Howard's amendment to be approved will require 2/3 of members to approve it, as that is the bar for future spending from the fund. It is also possible that the Governor could veto the bill with that provision included.