



# March 2011 Newsletter

## CASE for Gifted Children

Support Organization for  
CCISD Gifted Students, Families and Educators  
CASE\_gifted\_children@yahoo.com [www.CASEGiftedChildren.org](http://www.CASEGiftedChildren.org)

### Next CASE Meeting

Tuesday, April 19th 7:00 PM  
Westbrook Intermediate School  
302 W El Dorado Blvd., Friendswood, TX 77546

Save the Date!



### SECONDARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am  
The Egg and I

557 West Bay Area Blvd, Webster, TX 77598



Join parents of intermediate and high school children and CASE officers for a lunch social.  
"Please come and see what you can do to advocate for our gifted children!"

### CASE for Gifted Children needs YOU!



Consider lending your gifts and talents to CASE to serve the needs of the GT children in CCISD. We are looking for a few new people to serve as **CASE officers** next year, please consider submitting your name for consideration. The ballot will be open through the end of March.

### ELEMENTARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

March 10 (Thursday) @ 11:30 am  
Tierra Luna Grill -17062 Saturn Ln, Houston, TX 77058



Do you have questions/concerns about how G/T education will be impacted by the upcoming budget cuts? Please join CASE officers and other parents for an informal luncheon on how we can advocate at the elementary level!

## Summer Learning Opportunities

It is not too soon to start thinking about summer. CASE for Gifted Children along with Clear Creek I.S.D. maintains a list of fun and learning opportunities at <http://www.casegiftedchildren.org/>

# Important News & Information

## SENG-Model Parent Support Group For parents of bright, gifted or talented children

You are invited to participate in a guided discussion group to learn about the social and emotional needs of bright/gifted/talented children, and the parenting issues related to those needs.



The emphasis is on positive aspects of parenting, avoiding power struggles, and helping these children learn appropriate life skills while enhancing the parent/child relationship.

Topics will include: *Identification/Characteristics, Parent Relationships, Sibling Relationships, Communication of Feelings, Stress Management, Depression, Motivation, Tradition Breaking, Peer Relationships, and Discipline.*

For more information on SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted) visit

[www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org).

Facilitator: Julie Wilcox

Duration: 8 weeks, beginning March 29

Time: 1:30 pm.

Location: Westbrook Intermediate, Room 275

Cost: \$25 make check payable to Julie Wilcox to purchase book "A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children" by Webb, Gore, Ahmend, and Devries.

Registration: PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register early; class size is limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Julie Wilcox at [jwilcox@ccisd.net](mailto:jwilcox@ccisd.net).

## State and CCISD GT Funding Alert!

According to the *Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented* February update, the state Legislative Budget Board has suggested a 13% reduction in all formula funds, which would include gifted education and advanced academics. It is unclear at this time as to whether the Legislature moves in that direction. Any state cuts in GT education funding will directly reduce GT program funding in CCISD.

As CASE parents, we need to be advocating for our gifted kids and for the gifted kids of Texas **now**. We need to let our state and school district know that we value gifted education! State and CCISD GT funding could experience large budget cuts at a moment's notice.

This is the time to be proactive. Let your elected officials know that gifted education is important to your family and families in Texas by:

- Writing your state representatives ([Who represents me?](#)).
- Writing CCISD school board members and attending board meetings ([www.ccisd.net](http://www.ccisd.net)).

**Explore UT** <http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/>

Saturday, March 5, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ The University of Texas at Austin  
Students K-12, teachers, and families are welcome. Free, no sign-up for activities.

Choose from more than 400 learning activities. For more information, contact Barbara Langham at 512-346-2261, [blangham@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:blangham@austin.utexas.edu).

## Houston Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival



Julia Robinson  
Mathematics Festival

**March 19**

Sixty of the most engaging mathematicians from across the US will converge in Houston to run a mathematics festival for students and teachers in the area. Come experience intriguing puzzles, problems and activities. The festival is named in honor of Julia Robinson, a mathematics professor at UC Berkeley who is famous for her solution to Hilbert's tenth problem.

The festival is free to the public, but advanced registration is requested. For more information go to: <http://www.msri.org/web/msri/static-pages/-/node/251>.

## **Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)**

The Duke TIP 4th/5th Grade Talent Search provides academically talented 4th and 5th graders and their families resources and encouragement to enhance their educational opportunities. Application deadline is **March 25, 2011**. [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu)



## **Google's Science Fair** Age Range: 13-18



Recommended Website: <http://www.google.com/events/sciencefair/>

This is a worldwide, web-based science fair! Students can enter and compete (individually or in a team of 2-3) to win cool prizes. The Grand Prize includes:

- An all-expenses paid 10-day vacation to the Galapagos Islands with National Geographic Expeditions!
- A \$50,000 Scholarship
- An experience at CERN, Google, LEGO, or Scientific American
- A personalized LEGO Prize

Just submit an "interesting, creative project that is relevant to the world today" and then: plan your science project, conduct your experiment, write up your results, create either a two-minute video or 20-slide presentation giving an overview of your project, and follow the <http://www.google.com/events/sciencefair/how.html> to submit your project by April 4, 2011.

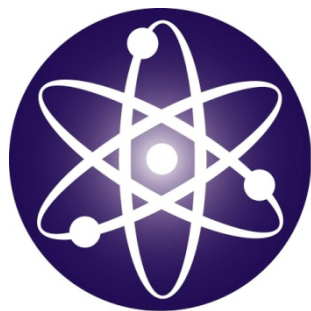
## **A Note from Gifted Education Press**

We are offering a complimentary copy of Gifted Education Press Quarterly. We are now in a major political battle with federal and state governments to maintain gifted education programs in the public schools. We need your support in making *Gifted Education Press Quarterly* a resource

available to all educators and parents who want to maintain and expand programs for gifted students!

To receive their WINTER 2011 issue email them at:

[gifted@giftededpress.com](mailto:gifted@giftededpress.com).



# Science Enrichment

In this edition of the CASE newsletter, we will focus on resources for the scientifically inclined gifted student. If your child can't get enough science, here are some ideas for science enrichment.

## Science Online

There are endless science resources online, here is a sampling.

[Biology4Kids.com](http://Biology4Kids.com): information on cell structure, cell function, scientific studies, plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and other life science topics.

[The University of Virginia Virtual Lab](http://The University of Virginia Virtual Lab): The University of Virginia's "Virtual Science Lab" uses leading-edge visualization software to depict science and technology affecting our daily lives.

[Bill Nye's Climate Lab](http://Bill Nye's Climate Lab): It is an innovative educational initiative developed and presented by Chabot Space & Science Center. Chabot is proud to partner with Emmy-award-winning science educator Bill Nye the Climate Guy and world-class science advisors to inspire kids and families to reduce energy consumption and find solutions to a warming planet.

[The Photographic Periodic Table of the Elements](http://The Photographic Periodic Table of the Elements)

[Planetquest Timeline](http://Planetquest Timeline): NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

## Book Corner



[The Way Life Works: The Science Lover's Illustrated Guide to How Life Grows, Develops, Reproduces, and Gets Along](http://The Way Life Works: The Science Lover's Illustrated Guide to How Life Grows, Develops, Reproduces, and Gets Along) ★ by Mahlon Hoagland and Bert Dodson

This book is what happens when a biologist and artist share an interest in life from bacteria to humans, and collaborate on taking their knowledge public. Superbly written, delightfully illustrated, and supremely informative...

[The Universe in a Nutshell](http://The Universe in a Nutshell) ★ by Stephen Hawking

It's no secret that many people who own [A Brief History of Time](http://A Brief History of Time) have never finished it. Hawking's The Universe in a Nutshell aims to remedy the situation, with a plethora of friendly illustrations to help readers grok some of the most brain-bending ideas ever conceived...

[Q is for Quark: A Science Alphabet Book](http://Q is for Quark: A Science Alphabet Book) ★ by David Schwartz Really cool science alphabet book, for beginner to adult!

# Games & Toys

[Jurassic Jumble](#) ★ from the makers of SET (or from [Amazon](#))

Fun family game of switching and swiping dinosaur cards and bones, for up to 9 friends or family members of all ages!

[Snap Circuits Extreme](#) from Elenco

Give your child an exciting, hands-on introduction to electronics. This kit contains over 80 color-coded, real circuit components that snap together to create working electronic circuits and devices. Recommended for children 8 and older, this set offers over 750 do-it-yourself projects that will give your child an entertaining, concrete education on how electronics work.

[Crazy Machines: The Wacky Contraptions Game](#) by Viva Media

Create your own Rube Goldberg style contraptions. Cool Physics engine with air-pressure, electricity, gravity and particle effects, and Experiment with gears, robots, explosives and more in your own virtual lab (Mac or PC, now for Vista)

## SENG Survey for Parents of Gifted Children: Your Experience with Your Child's Doctor



SENG is sponsoring a research study to help improve medical services for gifted children. Phase I invites parents feedback about their experience with their child's doctor. Thank you for taking 10-15 minutes of your time to help make a difference. [Take the survey.](#)

For your generous time, Great Potential Press, a publisher of gifted materials, is offering survey participants a one-time 20% discount on their purchases. Access to this special offer is provided at the end of the survey.

## Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities invites applications from outstanding high school sophomores.

The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, a residential honors program housed at Lamar University in Beaumont, is now accepting applications from high school sophomores. The Academy is one of only two special schools in the state created by the Texas Legislature for gifted and talented high school-aged students to spend two years in a university setting. Academy students receive a full scholarship to take courses at Lamar University; upon graduation from the program, students typically complete 60 or more college credit hours.

Academy students have been accepted to the nation's finest colleges and universities. Last year, the 36 students in the class of 2010 garnered over 3.5 million dollars in scholarships. Graduates of the program have become leaders in the fields of law, education, medicine, the humanities, fine arts and sciences.

Sophomores in high school who would like to apply for admission should have a track record of academic excellence, as well as a commitment to improving themselves and the world around

them. Interested students should contact the TALH Admissions Director, Scott Stevenson, at [scott.stevenson@lamar.edu](mailto:scott.stevenson@lamar.edu) or 409-839-2995. More information about TALH may be found at [www.texasacademy.org](http://www.texasacademy.org).



## Join CASE Today!

Now is the time to renew your membership or join CASE. Membership dues are only \$12 per family annually.

**CASE** is a support and advocacy group for parents, teachers and other supporters of gifted education within the Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD). The parent, teacher and community membership of CASE has been instrumental in not only maintaining the valuable gifted programming within CCISD but in contributing to the expansion and improvement of these services in a time when financial constraints have cut gifted programming in Texas and across the nation.

Membership in CASE is a great investment in gifted education at only \$12 per school year for the entire family.

**Communicate –**

CASE communicates current news and events that impact gifted children within CCISD through the CASE website, meetings, and parent/teacher network.

**Advocate –**

CASE is the parent interface with the district to advocate for gifted programs throughout the district. CASE was instrumental in the development of the WAVE program as well as contributing to other positive changes in gifted programming within the district. CASE also helps to equip parents to more effectively advocate for their children.

**Support –**

Raising a gifted child is no easy task. There are social, emotional, and educational challenges at every stage. CASE serves as a support group to provide parents a venue to interact and learn from other parents of gifted children.

**Educate—**

CASE endeavors to provide educational benefits to parents, educators, and students. Valuable information and resources are available through regular meetings and the website. In addition, teachers across the district are supported with funding for continuing gifted education.

[www.casegiftedchildren.org](http://www.casegiftedchildren.org)

[case\\_gifted\\_children@yahoo.com](mailto:case_gifted_children@yahoo.com)

-----  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name(s)/Grade Level(s)/School(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

*To join please complete the form below and mail it, along with your check for \$12, to:*

CASE for Gifted Children, Katie Raterink, Treasurer, 5306 Kingsmill Rd., Friendswood, TX 77546