



May 2011 Newsletter

CASE for Gifted Children

Support Organization for

CCISD Gifted Students, Families and Educators

CASE_gifted_children@yahoo.com www.CASEGiftedChildren.org

CASE Accomplishments 2010-2011

- Donated a \$1700 scholarship to WAVE for Ms. Burkhalter to attend Confratute, a top notch, national level conference on gifted education.
- Donated \$1000 for GT teacher training to CCISD Gifted and Talented Services department.
- Sent out legislative alerts & updates on the budget shortfall and the impact on gifted education & advanced academics to all members. Encouraged members to contact their representatives during these challenging times.
- Held 4 elementary luncheons to encourage communication and education between parents.
- Held 4 secondary luncheons to promote discussions about higher education and how our high schools are meeting the needs of our gifted children.
- Compiled five newsletters and distributed them to members.
- Honored our elementary AA specialists with an end-of-the-year luncheon promoting discussions between CASE and the specialists and how we can support them.
- Held 5 general body meetings bringing in speakers who discussed the challenges and benefits of raising and educating our gifted children and speakers who shared the options within CCISD for our kids. Highlights from our meetings:
 - Provided a variety of topics for parent education, including advanced academics, TPSP, underachievement, Credit by Exam, and "Survival Tips for WAVE Parents."
 - Had over 200 attendees at the CCISD/CASE meeting with Dr. James Webb, speaker on the social and emotional needs of gifted children. Dr. Webb is recognized as one of the 25 most influential psychologists nationally on gifted education and is a consultant with schools, programs and individuals.
 - Had 70 attendees at our April 19 CASE meeting with speakers Dr. Laura Mackay and Kathy Bailey.
 - Provided a comprehensive look at state and local budget issues affecting GT and advanced academics.
 - Coordinated an effort to send 200 postcards to our state representatives advocating for gifted education.



ELEMENTARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

Tuesday, May 10 @ 11:30 am

Red River B.B.Q.

1911 E. Main St. League City

Egret Bay (270) and FM 518

Did you have a chance to advocate for the future of GT funding? Do you have any questions? Let's wrap things up for the school year as we head into the summer. Please join CASE officers and parents for insightful conversation!

SECONDARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

Friday, May 20th 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!”

Important News & Information

CCISD School Board Elections May 14, 2011

CCISD school board elections are May 14 for districts 2 and 4. Check out candidates' views on academics at www.yourbayareanews.com. Early voting runs through Tuesday, May 10. See www.CCISD.net for voting locations.

Gifted Education Funding Alert!

This is a critical time for education in the state of Texas. Gifted education is in immediate danger of losing state funding. That will have a direct impact on gifted services and programs in CCISD. Cuts in state education funding translate into cuts in CCISD GT services and programs.

The most important thing you can do as a parent of a gifted student is to call or write your state legislators! Let Senator Mike Jackson and your state representative know that you value gifted education and support its funding. The Texas Senate and House are currently in the process of finalizing the budget. Now is the time to contact them before the budget is finalized. Once the budget is finalized, it will be in place for two years.

If we want gifted services and programs to continue in our district, we need to let our state representatives know!

To find your Representative's contact information go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>.

Kudos to Westbrook Parents!

Through your membership dues, CASE presented WAVE with a \$1700 scholarship donation at our February meeting. This scholarship has been given to WAVE 8th grade LA teacher Ms. Burkhalter for attending Confratute, one of the premier gifted education conferences in the country. This conference is held annually in Connecticut with gifted education experts from all over the country attending and presenting. Because of CCISD's budget shortfall, the district cannot send teachers to educational training outside of Texas. Your support is the only reason Ms. Burkhalter is able to attend Confratute! Thank you Westbrook parents for joining CASE in support of this scholarship fund.

Did you miss our April 19 meeting?

Check out www.casegiftedchildren.org for Dr. Laura Mackay's presentation on the state gifted education budget crisis and Kathy Bailey's "Top Ten Tips for Perfectionists."

Summer Learning Opportunities

CASE for Gifted Children along with Clear Creek I.S.D. maintains a list of fun and learning opportunities at <http://www.casegiftedchildren.org/>

SJC EnergyVenture Youth Camp - www.energyventurecamp.org FREE* SUMMER CAMP -GIRLS AND GUYS 14+ YEARS OLD

The camp is designed for participants to learn about careers in energy while having fun. The students perform lab experiments, win prizes for “best in class” team efforts, take a “behind the scenes tour of a refinery or chemical products facility and hear from guest speakers.

CAMP DATES/TIMES:

One week camps: June 13-17, June 20-24, June 27-July 1 and July 11-15
Monday through Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm Friday: 8 am to noon

LOCATIONS:

San Jacinto College Central Campus -8060 Spencer Highway, Pasadena 77505

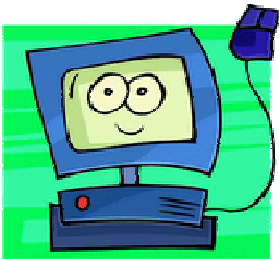
San Jacinto College South Campus - 13735 Beamer Road, Houston 77089

San Jacinto College North Campus- 5800 Uvalde Road, Houston 77049

COST:* FREE to girls and guys 14+ years of age, who qualify.

Parent/Guardian and student must attend registration event. Space is limited. Dates and campus locations are subject to change. Call the hotline for next registration event date: 281.478.2772.

Registration event today (May 9) from 3-6 p.m. at SJC South Campus.



Software & Programming Corner

In this edition of the CASE newsletter, we will focus on resources for the gifted student who's interested in software and programming.





Software Favorites

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



- Logical Journey of the Zoombinis ★ by The Learning Company, ages 9 and up (age 5)
- Zoombinis Mountain Rescue
- Zoombinis Island Odyssey

Help the Zoombinis complete their journey by solving lots of different puzzles...

-  Civilization IV by 2K Games, all ages (*age 8*)
 Sid Meier's Civilization is recognized as one of the greatest PC games of all-time. Take this incredibly fun and addictive game to new heights by adding new ways to play and win, new tools to manage and expand your civilization, all-new easy-to-use mod capabilities and intense multiplayer modes and options. Civilization IV comes to life like never before in a beautifully detailed, living 3D world. Older versions also Windows XP ready...
-  Civilization 3 Gold
-  Civilization 3 Expansion: Play the World
-  SimCity 4 Deluxe and Rush Hour Expansion Pack by The Sims, ages (*age 6*)
 Build a simulated city and help it grow and evolve

Programming & Simulation Software

- Micro Worlds by LCSi, grades 2 and up (*age 8*) <http://www.microworlds.com/>
 Logo based curriculum construction set, lets students learn through exploration, creation and construction. Includes Math Links, which is also good.
- Sketch Up all ages <http://www.sketchup.com/>
 Powerful yet easy-to-learn 3D software. We think of it as the pencil of digital design. This award-winning software combines a simple, yet robust tool-set that streamlines and simplifies 3D design inside your computer...
- StarLogo all ages (*age 11*) Free! <http://education.mit.edu/starlogo/>
 Programmable modeling environment for exploring the workings of decentralized systems -- systems that are organized without an organizer, coordinated without a coordinator. With StarLogo, you can model (and gain insights into) many real-life phenomena, such as bird flocks, traffic jams, ant colonies, and market economies (MIT)
- Scratch ages 8 and up. Free! <http://scratch.mit.edu/>
 Scratch is a programming language that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web.
- Python ages 11 and up. Free! <http://www.python.org/>
 Python is a programming language that lets you work more quickly and integrate your systems more effectively. You can learn to use Python and see almost immediate gains in productivity and lower maintenance costs.
- Alice ages 7 and up. Free! <http://www.alice.org/index.php>
 Alice is educational software that teaches students computer programming in a 3D environment.
- Greenfoot ages 13 and up. Free! <http://www.greenfoot.org/>
 Greenfoot is a Java development framework that supports many different kinds of scenarios (e.g., games, animations, microworlds).



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

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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