



September 2011 Newsletter

CASE for Gifted Children

Support Organization for
CCISD Gifted Students, Families and Educators

www.CASEGiftedChildren.org

CASE_gifted_children@yahoo.com

CASE MEETING

September 15, 2011
7 p.m. at Westbrook Intermediate

CCISD Gifted Services Overview and
Get Connected - GT Parent Networks



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SECONDARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

Friday, September 23th at 11:30 am

Café Express

19443 Gulf Fwy., 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!”



Lunch anyone?



ELEMENTARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL

Friday, September 30th at 11:30 am

Café Express

(shopping center w/ old Border's)

Welcome back to a new school year! What are topics of interest to you in the coming year?
Meet other parents and CASE officers at an informal luncheon to give your input.



Lea Dodson - Weber Elementary

My name is Lea Dodson and I have worked in Clear Creek ISD for 5 years. I have taught kindergarten and third grade, and am enjoying my first year as the gifted and talented teacher on my campus. I love working with GT students because they are hungry for a good challenge. The sky's the limit and I love watching each child fulfill their potential. On my down time I love to read books, walk my dogs, and work outside (when it is not too HOT)! Thanks and Gig 'Em! (I'm also an Aggies class of 2007! Whoop!)

Rachel Templin- North Pointe Elementary School

I have been teaching for 18 years. On a personal note, I have 3 children. Two are current students at A&M and my youngest is a senior at Clear Brook High School. My favorite thing to do is to travel with my family. On a professional note, I have taught in kindergarten, 2nd grade and 4th grade classrooms and this is my fourth year as an Advanced Academic Specialist. My passion is teaching and in my current role I have the ability to reach many students. I love getting to know and working with students across the school. I really enjoy being able to bring some of the research based methods that are typical in the gifted class to the entire school through School Wide Enrichment. I also enjoy this position because I can be creative in the curriculum and I can use hands-on activities, problem-based learning and technology to enrich the curriculum.

Ana Cantu - Bilingual Advanced Academic Specialist at McWhirter

I came into education working for the Department of Defense early childhood programs located in the city of Worms, Germany and Böblingen, Germany. I then worked inside the King Ranch teaching middle school social studies. When my husband joined the Houston Fire Department, I came to Houston to teach Bilingual fifth grade; I have now been the Advanced Academic Specialist in McWhirter for seven years. I speak Spanish and English fluently and know some German, Italian and French. I have two boys that are currently in the gifted program and I am a member of CASE because not only as an advanced academic specialist but as a parent there needs to be advocacy for gifted children.

Mickey Shannon

I have been teaching in Clear Creek Schools for 36 years, eight as a GT specialist. I feel working with GT kids is so rewarding because they understand that you "get" them and they have a place to be themselves and not conform. I gravitated to GT because I recognized growing up without such a program what was missing in my own education. My best memories are when I have a student who is now an adult come up to me in the community and say that I made a difference. I literally take the "road less traveled" It is my goal to visit every county in the United States. I am over half way there.

REFERRALS FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The Clear Creek Independent School District Gifted and Talented Program is accepting written referrals for students in grades K-12 for the 2011-2012 school year. Referrals are accepted, ongoing, from the following: teachers, students, administrators, special education personnel, counselors, or parents/guardians. The referral must be submitted in writing to the Advanced Academic Specialist located at each of the elementary schools or the campus counselor at the secondary levels. It may also be submitted to the GT office located at 2425 E. Main Street, League City.



The Gifted Program is designed for students who demonstrate significantly above-average achievement or potential in the areas of general intellectual ability, specific subject matter aptitude, and creative/productive thinking skills. Criteria for selection include cognitive skill tests, professional recommendations, classroom performance and portfolio samples.

The **deadline** for students in **grades 1 – 12 is October 1, 2011**. The deadline for accepting referrals for students in **kindergarten is December 1, 2011**. For more information, please contact the Gifted and Talented Program office at 281/284-0081 or the elementary Gifted Specialist.



Coming Soon!

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.*

AP Art History Now Available Online

Clear Access, CCISD's Virtual School, has been established to enable students to take high school courses online, outside of their regular schedule, through a computer and internet connection. Beginning in the Fall, Clear Access will expand its offerings to include **AP Art History**.

The Advanced Placement Art History course enables highly motivated students to do college-level work in art history while still in high school. The course involves significantly more time and commitment than most high school art courses and is intended for students seriously committed to the study of art. The evaluation is based on a written examination.



Who should sign up? AP Art History is open to Juniors and Seniors only, students who are self-motivated and organized, students who have successfully completed any of the following classes: Pre-AP/ AP World or US History, Pre-AP/AP English, GT Leadership, AP Studio Art 2D, 3D, or Drawing.

Registration : August 8, 2011 - September 16, 2011. Visit the Clear Access website at <http://www2.ccisd.net/forstudents/clearaccess.aspx> for more information.



CASE Brochure Art Contest 2011

The CASE Brochure Contest is in full swing. Entries must be submitted to AA specialists by October 15, 2011. This contest runs every 2 years to give our students the opportunity to be published in our brochure which is used until the next contest. Additionally the 2 winning entries will receive certificates and the additional exposure of their work appearing on our meeting boards. This is a great way to practice entering contests and working on something of your own.

For the first time we have expanded the contest to include a written 40 word or less entry. Students may enter both categories art work (hand drawn or painted flat art work -no photographs please) and/or written expression (prose, poetry, even a quote). The theme is broad so that students can be creative.

Winning entries will have that spark of interest, the wow factor, or depth of knowledge about being GT. Some ideas include writing about what it feels like to be GT in this world, or how parents, teachers and others can best support you, types of curriculum that is helpful or that which is not, and so much more. CASE stands for communicate, advocate, support, and educate for GT students. Any art work that encompasses any of those ideas would be great. You can even put a note with why you chose the image that you did. Example: You paint a rose bud and include a note about how with care, it blooms. It is all up to you - this is not a box type contest. So send us your creative entry and make sure that when it is reproduced that the image is not lost in black and white. (We do a few brochures in color but most are mass produced in black and white.)



CASE Brochure Art Contest 2011 ART WORK ENTRY FORM Deadline for entries: October 15th

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 GT 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.

Texas A & M University Chemistry Open House



Saturday, October 22, 2011

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

<http://www.chem.tamu.edu/openhouse/>

Every year the Texas A&M Department of Chemistry hosts a free, open to the public, Chemistry Open House and Science Exploration Gallery to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

The Chemistry Open House features the popular Chemistry Road Show (<http://www.chem.tamu.edu/roadshow/>), guided lab tours, hands-on and computer activities, door prizes and science goodie bags. The Chemistry Road Show is recommended for all ages and includes demonstrations of popular science.

Several departments including Physics, Engineering and Biochemistry are represented at the Chemistry Open House.

STAR Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY



Rensselaer invites academically talented rising seniors, who are underrepresented minorities or young women, to apply for the STAR (Science, Technology, Arts at Rensselaer) program. Students accepted to participate in the STAR program will receive a confirmation packet from Rensselaer. The STAR program begins the evening of Thursday, October 13 with a dinner reception and concludes Saturday, October 15 at the close of the Fall Open House.

Weekend activities will include: Interactive leadership activity, Academic experience, Undergraduate research overview and tour of laboratories, Campus tour, Student panels, Student organizations and clubs fair, Lodging and meals with current students.

Students may apply online to participate in the STAR Program by going to <http://admissions.rpi.edu/STAR/>.



SAVE THE DATE!

- ❖ Sep 15 (Thu) CASE meeting, 7pm, Westbrook Intermediate School
- ❖ Nov. 1 (Tue) CASE meeting, 7 p.m. Westbrook Intermediate School
- ❖ Nov. 4th (Friday) Secondary Parent Lunch Social
- ❖ Nov. 11th (Friday) Elementary Parent Lunch Social



First Annual Energy Day Festival

October 15, 2011

11 am – 5pm



Hermann Square, City Hall, Downtown Houston, TX

A FREE, Family Friendly Festival

- State of the art technology showcasing energy innovation, efficiency & conservation
- Kid friendly demonstrations & booths focused on energy-related scientific breakthroughs
- Opportunities to learn about energy careers
- Live music, prizes, food, and fun for all ages

2011 Art, Essay, and Photography Contest

Presented by the Houston Geological Society in celebration of
National Earth Science Week- October 8-16, 2011
In collaboration with the Consumer Energy Alliance Energy Day
And the Houston Museum of Natural Science Energy Conservation Club

Art contest: “Picturing Our Ever Changing Earth” Grades K-5.

Use artwork to show the ways in which the Earth’s air, water, land, and living things change over time.

Essay Contest: “How Change Shapes Our Planet” Grades 6-9

Discuss the interactions between Earth systems such as the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Consider these questions: What role do people play in these processes? How are people affected by these processes? How do we collect data and study these processes?

Media/ Photography Contest: “A World of Change in My Community” All Ages

How is your community influenced by long-term and short-term changes in Earth’s atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, or biosphere?

Gifts and cash prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place entries in each category. Winners and teachers will be publically recognized and receive their awards at the Consumer Energy Alliance Energy Day on October 15, 2011.

ENTRY DEADLINE- Friday, September 30, 2011. For submission rules and instructions go to <http://www.hgs.org/2011-art-essay-and-photography-contest/>.



**Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented
Professional Development Conference**
Austin Convention Center • November 30-December 2, 2011

Whatever your role, wherever your location, the TAGT Annual Professional Development Conference is your premier opportunity to learn how to meet the unique needs of the gifted and talented children in your life, and to connect with thousands of your peers.

Register before **October 19th** to get the Early Bird Discount, a savings of \$50 on the two-day conference.

<http://www.txgifted.org/tagt-registration>

Keynote Address
Thursday, December 1st

Dr. Bertie Kingore
The Rights of Gifted Learners
When Life-Long Learning Is the Goal

Featured Session
Friday, December 2nd

Ian Byrd, Deborah Mersino, Joel McIntosh and Dr. Lynette Breedlove
Transforming Education through Social Networking Tools

Join Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented
*Parents and Educators Dedicated to Meeting the
Unique Needs of Gifted and Talented Students*

TAGT is the state advocacy group for gifted education in Texas. A \$25 Parent Membership pays for the Tempo subscription and gets you connected with TAGT. The \$49 Professional/Advocate Membership gives you the Tempo subscription and conference discounts AND goes a long way toward supporting TAGT's role as a statewide advocate for GT education and funding.

Membership numbers count when it comes to state-level advocacy; legislators want to know how strong a force they are reckoning with based on the state advocacy group's membership. Here's a great opportunity for us as parents to make a difference in gifted education.

TAGT membership forms will be available at the CASE meeting on September 15 (or you may join online at www.TXGifted.org). <http://www.txgifted.org/about/membership>.

**Join CASE by Oct. 15th, and 100% of your dues
will go towards GT teacher scholarships.**



Has your child been identified as Gifted and Talented within CCISD?
If yes, then your family should join CASE today!

Do you work directly with Gifted and Talented students within CCISD? If yes, then you should join CASE today.

CASE for Gifted Children is a non-profit support and advocacy group for parents, teachers and other supporters of gifted education within CCISD.

It's like a booster club for the G/T kids within the district.

Membership in CASE is a great investment in gifted education at only \$12 per school year for the entire family. CASE has very low overhead and most of

your membership dues will support either the students directly or the educators with furthering G/T specific education.

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

case_gifted_children@yahoo.com

--- **Please Print Neatly** ---

Date: _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Check Number _____ or Cash _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Student Name(s)/Grade Level(s)/School(s) Attending: _____

I'd be happy to help with: _____ Advocacy _____ Social Events _____ GT Faculty Support

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

CASE for Gifted Children, Susan Oh, Treasurer, 1321 Porta Rosa Lane, League City, 77573