



# March 2009 Newsletter

## CASE for Gifted Children

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

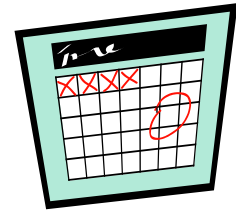
### CASE Meeting

### **Things to Know about your Gifted Child**

Thursday, April 9th, 7:00 PM  
Westbrook Intermediate School  
302 W El Dorado Blvd., Friendswood, TX 77546

CCISD Advanced Academic Specialists and other special presenters will lead break-out sessions to educate parents about special issues faced by gifted children. Participants will have an opportunity to attend two of the following break-out sessions: Bullying, Perfectionism, Underachievement, Visual-Spatial Learners, Highly Gifted Children, Asynchronous Development and Fun & Games. Officer Elections will also be held.

**Mark Your Calendar!**



### **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.

## News & Information

### **Duke TIP Scholar Weekends in Houston**

**April 18-19, University of Houston – Main Campus**

University of Houston in partnership with the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) is offering Duke TIP Scholar Weekends in Houston. Scholar Weekends are specifically designed for students enrolled in Grades 8 - 11.

The courses offered are:

1. Extreme Engineering: A Design Challenge
2. Is There a Doctor in the House?
3. Genes: How Do You Wear Yours?
4. Rhetoric and Reason: The Art of Argument
5. Suspended: Student Rights in School
6. Out of the Box: Writing Creatively

For detailed information, please visit: [www.houstonscholarweekends.com](http://www.houstonscholarweekends.com)



### **Summer Camps and Enrichment Opportunities**

The summer months provide a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their many and varied interests. Houston is fortunate to have a wealth of summer enrichment opportunities for children. Find information summer programs for GT students at [www.casegiftedchildren.org/Summer\\_Opportunities\\_09.doc](http://www.casegiftedchildren.org/Summer_Opportunities_09.doc).

# Language Arts Enrichment

Does your child always have his nose in a book? Is she writing her next great work of fiction? If so, this issue of the CASE newsletter is a must read.



- **Start a book club** at school or in the neighborhood. Book clubs are an excellent way for students to share their passion for literature. For more information on starting a book club, running a book club and choosing what to read, see [www.kidsreads.com/clubs/](http://www.kidsreads.com/clubs/).
- **Learn a new Language.** It is never too early to start learning a new language. The Harris County Library system offers two programs (Livemocha and Mango Languages) *free* to its members. Languages options include French, German, Spanish, Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and ESL. [www.hcpl.net/ref/dbsubs.htm#languages](http://www.hcpl.net/ref/dbsubs.htm#languages)
- **Free online classes.** Take advantage of the plethora of free online classes for your child. Many universities offer free open course material. Check out MIT's literature open courseware. <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Literature/index.htm>
- **Contests.** Encourage your language arts gifted child to enter his/her poem or story in a contest. Contest for many different ages are available. See Hoagies Gifted Education website for a listing. [www.hoagiesgifted.org/contests.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/contests.htm).
- **Print your own bookplates.** Children who love to read treasure their books. Let them personalize their books by printing their own bookplates. [www.myhomelibrary.org/](http://www.myhomelibrary.org/)
- **National Novel Writing Month Young Writers Workshop.** A fun, seat-of-your-pants novel writing event where the challenge is to write an entire novel in just 30 days. <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/>
- **Online Games.** Try these fun online games: [Etymologic!](http://www.etymologic.com/) ([www.etymologic.com/](http://www.etymologic.com/)), [TextTwist](http://www.etymologic.com/) ([www.etymologic.com/](http://www.etymologic.com/)), [Free Rice](http://www.freerice.com/) ([www.freerice.com/](http://www.freerice.com/)), and [Word Sandwich](http://www.wordsandwich.com/) ([www.wordsandwich.com/](http://www.wordsandwich.com/)).
- **Miller Outdoor Theatre.** Houston has many wonderful and free opportunities for enrichment including Miller Outdoor Theatre. Performances for all ages and interests are presented March through November. Your lover of literature will not want to miss the Shakespeare series in August. [www.milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com)
- **Summer Reading Programs** will be starting at your local libraries soon.  
Harris County Public Libraries [www.hcpl.net/](http://www.hcpl.net/)  
Helen Hall Library (League City) [www.leaguecitylibrary.org/](http://www.leaguecitylibrary.org/)  
Seabrook Library [www.sealib.org/](http://www.sealib.org/)

# Book Corner



*For Students:*

[Grammar Snobs Are Great Big Meanies: A Guide to Language for Fun and Spite](#) by June Casagrande

We all know one, some of us *is* one... a Grammar Snob! A fun way to learn grammar, while we learn to laugh at ourselves...

[The Wrong Word Dictionary: 2,000 Most Commonly Confused Words](#) by Dave Dowling

Even good writers sometimes find the right word elusive. Or is it illusive? The correct usage for more than 2,000 words that people commonly misuse is provided in this concise and accessible handbook that assures, insures, and ensures that anyone who wants to communicate accurately and effectively chooses the right word every time...

[Runny Babbit: A Billy Sook](#) by Shel Silverstein

Readers are introduced to Runny Babbit and his friends Toe Jurtle, Skertie Gunk, Goctor Doose, and Millie Woose, and are encouraged to plunge headlong into this phonemic flip-flop world of funny poems. "So if you say, 'Let's bead a rook/That's billy as can se,'/You're talkin' Runny Babbit talk,/Just like mim and he."

[Listen!](#) by Stephanie Tolan 

Award-winning story about a girl who loses her mom, and finds herself, with the help of a wild dog... Earned the Christopher Award, for media that "salutes the highest values of the human spirit."

*For Parents:*

[Developing Verbal Talent](#) by Michael Thompson

"Verbal talent is developed by new verbal experience. If this seems too obvious, we must recall that it flies in the mass face of an educational culture that avoids the shock of difficulty in the name of self-esteem; giving students things they can do, the theory is, builds their self-esteem. Developing verbal talent in gifted children doesn't work that way..."

[The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers](#) by John Gardner

"John Gardner was famous for his generosity to young writers, and (this book) is his gift to them. The Art of Fiction will fascinate anyone interested in how fiction gets put together. For the young writer, it will become a necessary handbook, a stern judge, an encouraging friend." -- The New York Times Book Review.

## Games

[Apples to Apples](#) the game of hilarious comparisons

[Bananagrams](#)

Grab more tiles, and reorganize existing tiles into new words - the banana bag stores the game and rules when they're not in use. Great for vocabulary building or spelling practice, too!

[In A Pickle](#) (10 and up)

Creative thinking and outrageous scenarios. Try to win a set of cards by fitting smaller things into bigger things -- a baby goes in a bathtub, which is in a house, in Hollywood. Play the fourth word card to claim the set, unless one of your opponents can trump with a larger word...

For more great book and game ideas see Hoagies Gifted Education Page ([www.hoagiesgifted.org/](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/)).



## **Join CASE today!**

**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 \$10 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)**

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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*To join please complete the form below and mail it, along with your check for \$10, to:*

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