

Gifted Education Advisory Council

Serving the LWSD Quest and Accelerated Learning Programs Community

www.lwsdgeac.org

Issue: 1 – Dec 2009

What is GEAC?

Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization started in 1989 to serve the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) Quest program. GEAC works in coordination with the LWSD and the Quest program similarly to how a PTSA serves your local neighborhood school. All GEAC members are parents and volunteers; our operating budget is funded 100% by direct donations/corporate matching. Thus, your \$support serves the special needs of highly capable students/families, assists Quest teachers, and provides supplementary and enrichment materials for Quest classrooms.

Annual Sponsorship, plus Matching ~ it all adds up!

Over the last 5 years, GEAC has contributed over \$48,000 directly to Quest classrooms for teachers to use toward special projects, field trips, training, books, cameras, kits/materials/supplies, and other needs they have. Last school year, a total of \$8,000 was made available to fund Grant applications. These efforts are made possible only through the generous donation of time and dollars from our membership, with matching and grant support from local companies like Microsoft, The Fred Meyer Foundation, and Boeing.

This school year we have budgeted \$8000 for grants, and our goal is to provide \$9,000—your financial support is vital in helping to reach this goal.

Please consider joining us to further help our children's education.

- Please join GEAC -

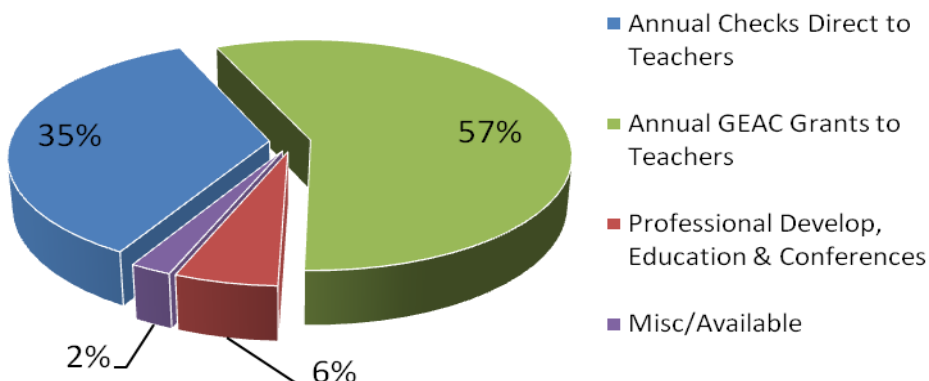
*Help us reach our goal of funding \$9,000 in grants to Quest teachers this school year.
Donate by ☺ 12/31/09 ✨ for a tax-deductable contribution for 2009.*

What Do We Do?

- Improve dissemination of information related to highly capable issues and opportunities between LWSD, Quest office, schools, teachers, and parents.
- Provide financial support including more than \$48,000 into Quest classrooms for special projects, field trips, training, books, technology, and supplies over the past 5 years.
- Offer classes for parents including "Guiding your Gifted Child" and "Guiding your Gifted Adolescent".
- Sponsor or co-sponsor information sessions about topics such as: Twice-Exceptional Students, Advanced Placement Q&A, Applying to Highly Selective Colleges, and Brain Sports (Math, Chess, Robotics, etc.)
- Coordinate efforts to advocate for gifted education such as the 2008-2009 effort to save funding for gifted education at state and local levels, plus ensure the definition of Basic Education includes Highly Capable.

Annual GEAC Funding

Where Does Your Money Go?



For the past five years, 92% of donations have gone directly back to Quest classrooms, with 6% of the remainder to educational programs for gifted families and professional development for Quest teachers.

98% helps Quest classrooms & families.

Where Do Donations Go?

■ Annual GEAC Grants to Quest Teachers

Last year, GEAC gave 22 grants for a total of \$8,000 to Quest teachers. Grants included special projects, field trips, training, books, cameras, and science kits. *The budget for this year is \$8,000 and our goal is \$9,000.*

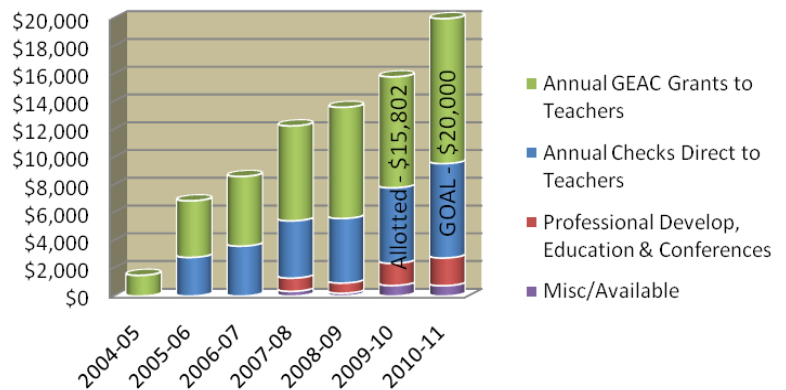
■ Fall Direct-to-Classroom Checks for Teachers

For the last 5 years, GEAC has provided each Quest teacher with a check at the beginning of the school year to purchase classroom supplies, enrichment materials and supplementary curriculum. These checks have averaged \$175/year, and this past August, GEAC was able to fund \$200/Quest teacher.

■ Professional Development, Education & Conferences

GEAC organizes, initiates, and funds educational classes, information sessions, and conferences for gifted families, and supplements professional development for Quest teachers.

Annual GEAC Funding



LWSD Quest and GEAC serve hundreds of families who are spread across the District. *Full Time program* students attend **Alcott, Franklin, Redmond EI, Smith or Thoreau** Elementary Schools. *Enrichment Pull Out* students spend one day per week at **Mead, Rush, or Sandburg**. *Junior High Quest* students enjoy a clustered grouping of highly-capable learner peers for Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science at **Kamiakin or Redmond** Junior High Schools. *That totals nearly 1,000 students across 10 different schools!*

What Can I Do?

■ JOIN & \$SUPPORT GEAC

Fill out and return the Membership "Enrollment" form (in email) via mail, or go online to: <http://www.lwsdgeac.org/>

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. You can *donate online via PayPal* at <http://www.lwsdgeac.org/> or by sending a *personal check or money order*. All donations are tax-deductible as per allowed by law and many companies match \$.

Please follow-up with your employer for the appropriate matching gifts form.

Thank you for your annual support!

■ ATTEND ANY GEAC MONTHLY MEETING

Are you interested in learning more about gifted education? Please join us at any of our regular monthly meetings which are always open for anyone interested.

GEAC Monthly Meeting Dates:

1st Wednesday: 2010 - Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, & June 2nd

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: LWSD Resource Center, 1st floor (free parking behind building & in Redmond Town Center)
16250 NE 74th Street
Redmond, WA 98052

(NE corner of 74th Street and Bear Creek Parkway, next to the Marriott.)

■ VOLUNTEER TO BE A GEAC REP FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Contact us at info@lwsdgeac.org for more information.

GEAC works throughout the district to support Quest teachers and students so that they may differentiate the curriculum to better maintain an enriched and enhanced learning environment for our children. Your support will benefit your child(ren)'s classroom, school, and other Quest grades and classes within LWSD.

**GEAC c/o LWSD
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