

Gifted Education Advisory Council

Serving the LWS D Quest and Accelerated Learning Programs Community

www.lwsdgeac.org

Issue: 6 - April 2011

6th Annual GEAC Grants

Due to the very generous donations of Quest parents and company matching funds, GEAC is offering TWO grant sessions this year. The first offering, in January 2011, funded 21 grants for a total of \$5,416. Applications for the second offering, with a budget of up to \$5,000, were due April 18. Last year, GEAC funded 37 qualified grants totaling just under \$8000. Please encourage your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to apply.

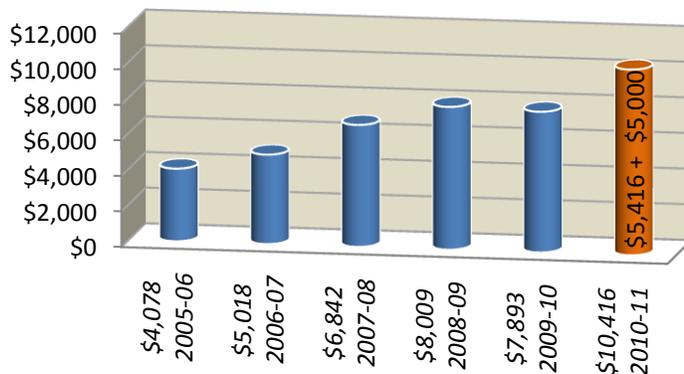
Thank you for your support!

2010-2011 Winter GEAC Grants Included:

- Fieldtrips (Entrance fees and/or transportation): SAM, Seattle Children's Theatre, Whole Foods, and Underground Seattle
- Novel Sets: The Defenders and True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
- Online program: Brainology - brain research and learning strategies
- Membership and materials: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and National Science Teachers Association
- Art materials
- Supplementary writing materials: Mentor texts
- Supplementary math materials: Workbooks
- Supplementary science materials: Texts
- Supplementary social studies materials: Constitution Game
- Vocabulary and writing resources: English I - Latin stems
- Multi-media resources: Flip cameras and tripods
- Poetry books
- Workshop: "Responsive Classroom"
- Plus numerous other items/experiences to enhance students' educational experience

Annual Classroom Grants

- For Classroom Enhancement -



- Please join GEAC -

Help GEAC meet our annual goals and plan for the 2011-2012 school year.

Visit us online at www.lwsdgeac.org.

It is not too late to make a donation!

Direct to Classroom Checks

Each August, for the past 6 years, GEAC has provided every Quest teacher with a check to start the school year. The initial amount was \$150/teacher. GEAC was able to increase it to \$175, and then \$200 two years ago. With your help, our goal is to give each teacher \$200 again for 2011-2012. Teachers use the money for items such as additional school supplies, supplemental curriculum, learning tools, novels sets, organizational materials for the classroom, etc. With our state and district planning budget cuts, help GEAC ensure that Quest teachers have the funds they need.

Annual Checks to Teachers

- For Classroom Enrichment -



From the Desk of from GEAC Co-President, Jodi Gaertner

It happened one spring. I ended up at a meeting for this geek thing, er, "GEE-ACK" they all pronounced it. The next thing I knew, I was nominated as the Vice President of Advocacy. That was four years ago. Since then, I have served on the board as VP of Advocacy, President Elect, and Co-President.

When I started my involvement with the GEAC board, I wasn't completely certain what I was signing on for. I knew that I agreed with the mission of GEAC. I knew that I wanted to support my sons and other gifted learners in the Lake Washington School District. I never imagined what else I would gain by serving on the board.

Some of the benefits of my work with GEAC have been:

- networking with parents of gifted kids from kindergarten through college age to get a glimpse at "the path ahead";
- learning about the Washington Coalition for the Gifted and other gifted education resources;
- learning, through the Coalition, about gifted ed policy in Washington state and nationwide;
- discovering a tremendous amount about the history of gifted ed in the LWSD and the important role of volunteers in growing the programs we have;
- accessing resources for "twice exceptional" kids -- kids who are gifted and have another special need like autism, specific learning disabilities, hearing impairment, etc.;
- visiting the LWSD Resource Center housed at the Redmond Town Center twice per month (once for the board meeting and once to meet with the Quest director, Dan, to plan) -- it's a great excuse to shop;
- accessing the knowledge of the Quest office staff -- there's not much that Sandy Malone-Long, Dan Phelan, and Janette Cimburek don't know about Quest and gifted education;
- making new friends who understand the unique set of joys and challenges of raising kids who can sometimes outlogic you... okay, who can *too often* outlogic you;
- learning about Operation Exploration, Bellevue's summer camp for gifted learners, which my oldest has attended and enjoyed;
- having the opportunity to meet numerous staff within the Quest program and to deliver checks to those hardworking staff; and
- being the one who can answer questions and provide reassurances to other parents of gifted learners.

When I think of all that I have gained from my few hours of commitment each month, it makes me excited to recommit to another year with GEAC.

Are you interested in making your own discoveries about the benefits of serving on the board? We will have a number of opportunities for service in the 2011-2012 school year. It stands to be an exciting year as the district plans for the transition to the middle school/four-year high school model. If you are interested in participating in the board, please contact me at divergenz@hotmail.com or come to our May meeting.

- Jodi Gaertner, GEAC Co-President

*Do you have a special talent you would like to share?
An area of interest you would like to get involved with?
We need your help.*

GEAC has the following positions available for 2011-2012:

Board Position	Responsibilities
Co-President	Primary contact for GEAC. Lead monthly meetings, meet monthly with Quest Director
President Elect	Misc. support to President and other Board positions
Treasurer	Annual budget, monthly financials, donations and expenses
Secretary	Meeting minutes
Parent Education Coordinator	Coordination of educational programs
VP Outreach	Communication: Newsletter, website, email
VP Advocacy	Share relevant information about WA legislative actions
VP Enhancement	Annual Grant program

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out - No prior experience necessary, just a desire to help. A number of long-time board members will not be returning next fall (moving, children graduating or attending different schools, etc.), and our Board needs new members!

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the GEAC Board positions, nominations are held each May at the monthly meeting.

Positions can be shared by two individuals, so if you want to get involved, but are concerned about the time commitment, recruit a friend to work with you.

If you are interested and/or would like more information, please contact GEAC Co-President, Jodi Gaertner at: divergenz@gmail.com.

SE2E - A New Group for Parents of Twice Exceptional Children

■ Seattle/Eastside Twice Exceptional (SE2E)

A new group is forming for parents of twice exceptional children. Parents from anywhere in the greater Seattle area are welcome.

Members-only message board: se2e.freeforums.org

Please register on the board to receive announcements of future events.

*For questions, contact Diana Laforanara at:
dianala@gmail.com.*

- Get Involved with GEAC -

Attend the May 4th GEAC meeting at 6:30pm at the LWSO Resource Center at Redmond Town Center and learn how you can help support the LWSO's Quest program. Meet other Quest parents, learn about opportunities for highly capable students and their families, and support your child's education.

Educational Opportunity - SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)

■ National SENG Conference - in Seattle

July 15-17, 2011

SENG's national conference will be held in Seattle this summer. The 3-day conference includes a wide range of programs for adults, teens and children. There will be 3 keynote speakers and 54 different breakout sessions to choose from. Attend one, two, or all three days. CPE credits are available. Held in Seattle this year, this conference offers a unique opportunity to learn about all aspects of giftedness.

Audience: Parents and grandparents of gifted children, educators, gifted adults and children, and mental health professionals.

Key Themes: Gifted Education, Misdiagnosis and Twice Exceptional, Parenting and Grand-parenting, Gifted Adults, and Multi-Cultural Outreach.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. James T. Webb, Dr. Nancy Robinson and Phil Gordon

Register by May 31, 2011 to receive a discount.

http://sengifted.org/2011_conference/index.shtml

(Provided for informational purposes only - This conference is neither sponsored nor endorsed by GEAC.)

If you are curious about GEAC, or want to learn more about the QUEST program and education for highly capable students, join us Wednesday, May 4th for our monthly meeting - the meetings are open to anyone who is interested.

Looking for a camp to challenge and engage your child this summer? Three local programs with opportunities for highly capable students:

■ Summer Institute for the Gifted

Offered by the National Society for the Gifted and Talented, Stamford, CT

Location: The Overlake School, Redmond, WA

Registration deadline: May 1

July 11-29, 2011 Completed Grades K-8

www.giftedstudy.org

■ Operation Exploration

Offered by the Bellevue School District (taught by PRISM teachers)

Location: Woodridge Elementary, Bellevue, WA

Registration deadline: April 22

July 5-21, 2011 Completed Grades 1-5

<http://www.bsd405.org/default.aspx?tabID=1156>

■ Summer Challenge

Offered by the University of Washington, Robinson Center for Young Scholars (for highly capable students)

Location: University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Registration: Begins Feb 1, 2011

July 11 - 29 Completed Grades 5-6

June 27-July 29 Completed Grades 7-9

<http://depts.washington.edu/cscy/programs/summer/>

(Provided for informational purposes only - these camps are neither sponsored nor endorsed by GEAC.)

Where is Quest?

- *Elementary Schools with Full Time Quest classes:*
Alcott, Franklin, Redmond Elem, Smith and Thoreau
- *Elementary Schools with Quest Enrichment Pull Out classes:*
Mead, Rush, and Sandburg
- *Junior High Quest classes for Language Arts, Social Studies and Science:*
Kamiakin and Redmond

Quest serves over 1,000 students in 10 schools across the district

Other Resources for Highly Capable Education:

- **Washington Association of Educators for Talented and Gifted (WAETAG)** www.waetag.net
The cornerstone of three organizations whose main focus is gifted education in Washington State. (Northwest Association of Educators for Talented and Gifted, Northwest Gifted Child Association and Washington Coalition for Gifted Education.
- **Northwest Gifted Child Association (NWGCA)** www.nwgca.org
- **Washington Coalition for Gifted Education**
Subscribe to Newsletter: [e-mail to: wagifted@earthlink.net](mailto:wagifted@earthlink.net)
- **Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)** www.sengifted.org
Subscribe to Newsletter: www.sengifted.org/articles_newsletter_archive/index.shtml

(Provided for informational purposes only - GEAC is independent of these organizations)

What Does GEAC Do?

- Communicates information related to highly capable issues and opportunities between LWSD, Quest office, schools, teachers, and parents.
- Provides financial support directly to Quest classrooms.
- Offers classes for parents including “Guiding your Gifted Child/ Adolescent” and “Transition to Quest”.
- Sponsors or co-sponsors information sessions for students and parents.
- Advocates for programs and funding for highly capable/accelerated learning programs at state and local levels.

What Can I Do?

■ JOIN & SUPPORT GEAC

Go online to: <http://www.lwsdgeac.org/>. Click on “Donate Now” and join GEAC. You can *donate online via PayPal* or by sending a *personal check* or *money order*. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 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. GEAC needs and appreciates 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: 2011 - May 4, & June 1

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

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

Redmond, WA 98052

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

■ VOLUNTEER TO BE A GEAC REP FOR YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM

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

GEAC strives to support and represent all 10 Quest school sites, including full-time, enrichment pull-out and junior high Quest programs as well as gifted education both before and beyond elementary and junior high school.

**GEAC c/o LWSD
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