

Gifted Education Advisory Council

Serving the LWSD Quest and Accelerated Learning Programs Community

www.lwsdgeac.org

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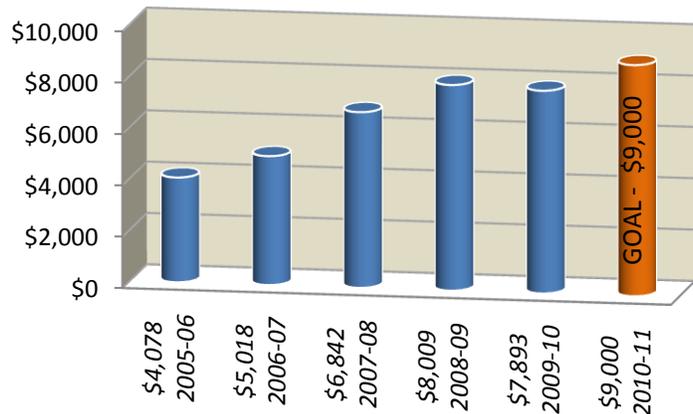
6th Annual Grant to LWSD Quest Teachers

The 2010-2011 grant cycle is currently underway. Our first year, 2005-2006, we funded 10 grants totaling just over \$4,000. For 2009-2010, GEAC funded 37 grants, totaling close to \$8,000. For the first time, we received grant applications from every full time Quest elementary and Junior High program. The grants impacted every grade level of Quest in the district. **This year our goal is \$9000.** Your teachers have received information about the grants. Please encourage them to apply.

Applications are due by January 18, 2011.

Annual Classroom Grants

- For Classroom Enhancement -



- Please join GEAC -

**To reach our Grant goal of \$9000, your help is needed.
Please consider joining and/or making a donation by January 31st, 2011.**

The GEAC Grant - A "Pool of Funds" for Quest

The GEAC Grant program was initiated in 2005 to offer an increasingly large pool of funds for Quest teachers to annually tap for their needs. This creates a chance for each teacher to think and dream, collaborate, search, and decide what resources will best support their ongoing efforts to enrich, supplement, and enhance activities for Quest students.

Mid-year, teachers are invited to submit applications outlining their requests. The GEAC Grant Committee reviews every Grant request and prioritizes them to best tap available funds, help avoid duplication, and ensure equitable disbursements based on need, use, timing, and location. The number and size of grants approved by GEAC are limited only by the amount of available funds.

GEAC Grants Can and Have Funded:

- Books (novel sets or literature, reference, textbooks, brain-teasers, etc. including rebinding)
- Science kits/tools/labs (ex: microscopes)
- Art programs and materials
- Teacher training and tools
- Vocabulary and writing resources
- Strategy games and puzzles
- Language materials
- Curriculum or theme-related simulations
- Graphing calculators
- Multi-media resources (cameras, camcorders, etc.)
- Supplemental enrichment materials and supplies (writing, science, math, art, music, etc.)
- Field trips, performances and assemblies
- Plus numerous other items/experiences to enhance students' educational experience!

Do you have an idea for resources that would enhance your child's Quest classroom and benefit your child's education?

Talk to your child's teacher and encourage them to apply!

GEAC's upcoming 6th Annual Grant to LWSD Quest Teachers is one of two ways GEAC gives over 93% of your donations directly back to Quest classrooms, and 6% to educational programs for gifted families and professional development for Quest teachers.

99% directly supports Quest classrooms & families.

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

What We Know about Upcoming Changes to Quest

My eldest son recently read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" which prompted me to re-read the stories. I was struck by the timeliness of one of my favorite Holmes quotes, "I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."

With all the concern about gifted education funding, however genuine, there is bound to be speculation about the future of gifted education in the Lake Washington School District (LWSD). It is only natural to let our minds drift to worst-case-scenarios and to want to proactively advocate for our kids. But Holmes reminded me to stick to the data, what we truly know is coming down the road, and to build upon the facts.

So what is certain? So long as there is funding available in the district, we know:

- 2010 is the last year of kindergarten testing for admission to the Quest program, which means that the 2011-2012 school year will be the final year of Quest service at the first grade level. This change is based largely on concerns about early identification of gifted students and research that suggests that IQ scores are unreliable with such young children.
- In 2012, *all* LWSD schools will shift to service K-5 grade students at elementary schools, 6-8 grade students at middle schools, and 9-12 grade students at high schools. This includes Quest students. Elementary Quest, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, will serve students in grades 2-5. Middle School Quest will serve 6-8 graders. Gifted students at the high school level will be challenged by accelerated programs like Advanced Placement and the Cambridge Program (at Juanita High School).
- LWSD was challenged by overcrowding issues this past year. Quest classroom locations are determined on a "space available" basis. It is *highly likely* that one or more Quest locations may need to shift in the upcoming school years to accommodate growing populations at the neighborhood schools. Neighborhood students always have priority at neighborhood schools.
- Budgets will be tight. The current state budget from Washington completely eliminates funding for gifted education, despite the 2009 addition of gifted education to the definition of basic education by the state legislature. Even if this passes, this does NOT automatically mean that LWSD will eliminate all gifted education funding and program support. It does, however, mean that gifted education funding will be closely examined, along with other budget items.
- LWSD has shown a commitment to gifted education. In the most recent budget cuts, creative thinking about transportation costs helped save the Pull-Out Enrichment program at the elementary level.
- Gifted Education Day in Olympia is scheduled for Friday, February 11th. You can now schedule your appointment to talk with the legislature and urge support for gifted education.

What can we do with this information? First, Co-president Debbie Napolitan and I urge you to contact your Legislators; let them know how important funding for highly capable programs is for your child. Next, stay informed; subscribe to the GEAC newsletter; and support the Washington Coalition for Gifted Education. Focus on what we know: gifted education is basic education for gifted kids. These kids benefit from the specialized instruction received in Quest in ways that would not be possible in general education classrooms.

Thanks for your continued support!

Upcoming Educational Opportunity - Co-Sponsored by NWGCA & GEAC

■ Connections - A Symposium for Parents of Gifted

Keynote Speakers:

Steve Curtis, Ph.D. "Appropriate Parent Expectations of Their Gifted Child's School Experience"
Nancy Hertzog, Ph.D. "Enhancing Creativity and Inspiring Curiosity at Home"

Saturday, January 29th, 8:00am - 12:30pm
Redmond High School Performance Center
17272 NE 104th St. Redmond, WA 98052

Breakout Session 1 Options:

- *What Your Gifted Child Wants You to Know*
- *Perfectionism: The Gift and the Rock*
- *Twice Exceptional Learners*

Breakout Session 2 Options:

- *Tweens*
- *Advocacy from Classrooms to the Capital*
- *BrainSports*

For more information and to register: www.nwgca.org

Questions? northwestgca@gmail.com

Gifted Education Day - February 11, 2011 Make Plans to Attend

Gifted Education Day - February 11, 2011

The Columbia Room, Legislative Building, Olympia 9am - 2:30pm

The purpose of Gifted Education Day is to meet with your Legislators to talk about Highly Capable Programs, why they are important, and how they have helped your child. Join advocates from around the state in this effort to educate all Legislators about the purpose and value of Highly Capable Programs. For more information, email The Washington State Coalition for Gifted Education: wagifted@earthlink.net. They can assist you in planning your visit.

If you are planning to attend, call or email your Legislators as soon as possible to request an appointment for February 11, 2011. Let them know you will be in Olympia for Gifted Education Day and want to talk with them about the programs for Highly Capable Children.

Parking is limited. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact GEAC Co-President, Jodi Gaertner at divergenz@gmail.com. She has offered to coordinate.

Gifted Education Day is jointly sponsored by The Washington State Coalition for Gifted Education, Northwest Gifted Child Association, and the Washington Association of Educators for the Talented and Gifted.

For the first time ever, an entire Quest class (Thoreau's 5/6) will be making a fieldtrip to Olympia to attend gifted education day; compliments of the GEAC Annual Grant Program.

Make plans to join them!

A Heads Up on Summer Programs - 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

■ 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 classes are neither sponsored nor endorsed by GEAC.)

GEAC Needs Your Help!

We appreciate our core group of dedicated volunteers, but need wider support so that we can better serve highly capable students and classrooms. GEAC has an immediate need for the following positions:

- Parent Education Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Grant Writer

No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to help.

If you are interested, please email us at info@lwsdgeac.org or contact either GEAC Co-Presidents: Jodi Gaertner at: divergenz@gmail.com or Debbie Napolitan at: dnapolitan@comcast.net

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 - Feb 2, Mar 2, April 6, May 4, & June 1

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: LWS 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.

The LWS Quest program serves over 1,000 students in 20 full time elementary classrooms and 3 pull-out, plus 2 junior high programs. Quest is almost twice as big as it was 5 years ago, and still has a wait list of qualified students.

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