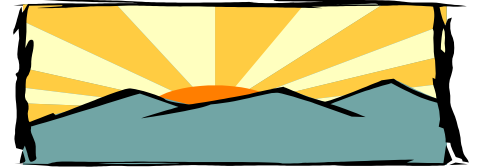


On the HORIZON

Special Interest Articles:

- Department Updates
- Think About It, Talk About It, Tell Us About It!
- KOI
- Monkey Madness
- NaNoWriMo
- Web Resources
- Recommended Reading!
- Coordinator's Column
- Mark Your Calendar! -dates to remember and more!

*Cypress-Fairbanks Gifted and Talented Department
10300 Jones Road
Houston, TX 77065*



Department Updates:

It's that time of year again...the weather is turning cooler (finally!), football season is here, and things are getting busy in the GT office! It's Open Referral Period! This is the one opportunity each school year that students may be referred for consideration for the HORIZONS Program. We have made great strides in providing information that will help parents decide on an appropriate course of action.

These pages of information have been placed on the HORIZONS portion of the www.cfisd.net website and we hope that everyone will take the time to review the

information presented.

The first document is in a question and answer format compiled of common questions we receive in our office about our gifted education program.

The second document is a pdf file that is titled "Should I Refer My Child?" In this presentation, we have addressed some common characteristics of giftedness and have outlined even more of the process of identifying students.

After viewing these documents, it is our recommendation that parents speak to either the school counselor or their child's teacher to help them determine how to proceed with their child.

If a parent wishes to refer their child for testing, it is important to keep these dates in mind: **October 1st through November 30th, 2009.** This is the Open Referral Period! Parents must request a Parent Survey form from their campus counselor at the elementary level, or the director of instruction for middle school and high school students. The completed form must be returned no later than November 30th. Students will be tested in January and/or February.

If you have additional questions about the process, please see your campus personnel for more information!



Think About It, Talk About It, Tell Us About It!

If you wish to share your child's response to this question, please email Sandra.Stocks@cfisd.net with your child's first name and age and their answer. We will include some of our favorite responses in our next newsletter!

Ask your child this question: If you were going to have a weird, unusual pet, what would it be? Why?



Our Own Little KOI Pond!

Although the mere mention of KOI brings to mind a peaceful fish best used in a water feature, the HORIZONS Department has brought to our schools a different meaning to KOI. Based on the research of Dr. Bertie Kingore, the Kingore Observation Inventory is a system of recording student behaviors and characteristics and planned activities that could help identify gifted students.

Each HORIZONS Elementary liaison has been trained on this information and is working to implement these procedures on their campuses. The purpose of the KOI is to help teachers recognize gifted and advanced potential within their classrooms.

Incorporating open-ended activities in a classroom setting provides teachers with information regarding individual students and their understanding of the content.

If you would like more information on the KOI, you may wish to visit <http://www.bertiekingore.com/Brady-TEMPO.pdf> for a great article on the KOI in TEMPO magazine!

Monkey Madness!

Have you ever wanted to be able to voice your thoughts, concerns, and opinions about the gifted education program here in CFISD? Have you ever wanted to find a way to get involved and help support our gifted students? We want to hear from you! With our district growing larger by the minute, we knew we had to find a way to listen to all your voices so that we can work together to serve our students in the best way possible.

With SurveyMonkey.com, we have discovered a website survey tool that will help us do just that! With your input, and your assistance, we can make our program stronger and make our students more successful by addressing concerns, implementing new ideas, and creating new programs.

If you wish to provide input on the HORIZONS Program here in CFISD, please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nTSZfgW_2f09aMM9J0nuNrhg_3d_3d. For parent involvement and opportunities, we have a survey just for you at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tge30XSEmZrhqBrkpEadHg_3d_3d.

We look forward to sharing the results in future newsletters!

What is NaNoWriMo?

The Young Writers Program of National Novel Writing Month is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing. Participants begin writing November 1. The goal is to write a novel by midnight, November 30. The word-count goal for our adult program is 50,000 words, but our Young Writers Program allows participants who are 17 years old and younger to set reasonable, yet challenging, word-count goals.

The *only* thing that matters in NaNoWriMo is output. It's all about quantity, not quality. The kamikaze approach forces you to lower your expectations, take risks, and write on the fly.

Make no mistake: you will be writing a lot of strange stuff, and some of it will be just plain bad. But that's a good thing! For 30 days, you get to lock that inner editor in the basement, let your imagination take over, and just create!

As you spend November writing, you can draw comfort from the fact that, all around the world, other National Novel Writing Month participants of all ages are going through the same joys and sorrows of producing the Great Frantic Novel.

In 2007, over 100,000 adults participated through our main site, and 14,000 young writers participated through our Young Writers Program.

So, to recap:

What: To meet your word-count goal, and write a novel from scratch in one month's time. You will be able to enter your chosen word-count goals in your profiles starting September 1.

Who: You! (You should sign up on the Young Writers Program site if you are 17 years old or younger participating on your own, in a K-12 teacher-led class that is participating in NaNoWriMo, or an educator facilitating NaNoWriMo in your classroom. If you are **13 or older** you can choose to sign up on the main site at www.nanowrimo.org. Just know that you will have to write 50,000 words since the adult site doesn't allow you to set your own word-count goal.

Why: The reasons are endless! To write freely without having to stress over spelling and grammar. To be able to talk about how cool our novels are any chance we get. To be able to make fun of real novelists who take *far longer* than 30 days to write their books.

When: You can sign up whenever you'd like to add your name to the roster of budding young authors and to participate in the forums. Writing begins November 1. To be added to the official list of winners, you must reach your word-count goal by November 30 at midnight. Once your novel has been verified by our web-based team of robotic word counters, the celebration begins.

Still confused? Just visit www.nanowrimo.org for more information! Have fun!

And drop us a line at Sandra.Stocks@cfisd.net if your child participates!



World Wide Web Resources for Parents

Hoagies Gifted Education Page

<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/parents.htm>

Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented

<http://www.txgifted.org/parent-pages/general>

Council for Exceptional Children

<http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=home>

National Association for Gifted Children

<http://www.nagc.org/>

Parents

http://www.ri.net/gifted_talented/parents.html

Kid Source Online

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/ed.gifted.html>

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

<http://www.sengifted.org/>



Recommended Reading!

So many times, we are asked, “Can you recommend a good book or article for parents? For teachers?” based on what we’ve seen, read, or experienced. We hope to make this column a regular feature so that we can keep updated on the latest literature and share that with our readers!

Carla Butler personally recommends **Smart Girls** written by Barbara A. Kerr, Ph.D.

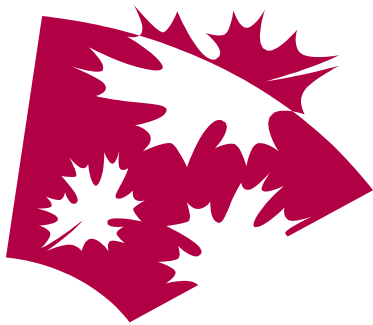
We often choose books based on a personal need for information or for entertainment. I have two very bright daughters and so was drawn to this book as a means to ensure that I’ve covered all the areas to help facilitate a successful future for my own children. The book provides an insight into the lives of gifted females and the challenges that they faced as gifted girls and young women.

Debra Woolley refers to **The Gifted Kids’ Survival Guide – A Teen Handbook** by Judy Galbraith, M.A. and Jim Delisle, Ph.D. (ISBN # 1-57542-033-1) as a favorite. From the back cover – “Written with help from hundreds of gifted teenagers, this is the ultimate guide to surviving and thriving in a world that doesn’t always value, support, or understand high ability. Full of surprising facts, step-by-step strategies, practical how-tos, and inspiring quotations, featuring insightful essays contributed by gifted young people and adults, this book gives you the tools you need to understand your giftedness, accept it as an asset (if you haven’t already), and use it to make the most of who you are.” The Gifted Kids’ Survival Guide – A Teen Handbook was written for teens from a teen point of view. Filled with issues facing gifted teens, Ms. Galbraith and Dr. Delisle turn to gifted teens to share their unique experiences with others. Being a teenager is hard enough without the added pressure of being gifted. Although this book was written for teens, parents and teachers may also benefit. Parents and teachers may gain a better understanding of what it means to be a teenager and gifted.

Sandra Stocks picked up a copy of **When Gifted Kids Don’t Have All the Answers** by Jim Delisle, Ph.D., and Judy Galbraith, M.A. This book is written in parent friendly language and contains a good balance of information, techniques, approaches, and activities to help your gifted child, whether you are the parent of a gifted child, or the teacher of a gifted student. Additionally, the list of resources and organizations in the final pages held some excellent options.

Coordinator's Column

by
Carla
Butler



On October 24, 2008, a seventh grade HORIZONS student from Aragon Middle School, Kristina Bates, was the guest speaker at The Green Building Symposium in Houston, Texas. Kristina was selected from other students in the Houston area to present a 5 minute speech directed at conserving energy. The focus for this business conference was "The Greeing of Houston's Business Culture" and contained an audience of over 100 business people from across the Houston area.

Kristina's speech, "Why Sustainability is Important to Future Generations" was focused, to the point and contained very reasonable recommendations appropriate for the conservation of energy. She was poised, confident and spoke clearly as she addressed this very important issue. I am very proud of Kristina's remarkable performance. I would like to invite you to view her extraordinary performance at

<http://www.motionbox.com/videos/4c96d0b21610e1c3c3?type=sd>.

I would like to invite teachers and parents to send us examples of students showcasing their talents in the community or in the classroom. We would like to use the newsletter as a vehicle to share those abilities across the district. Congratulations Kristina for a job well done!!

HORIZONS **Department Staff**

Carla Butler, Coordinator

Debra Woolley, GT Helping Teacher

Sandra Stocks, Secretary & Editor, On the HORIZON

*Sandra Beehner, Special Programs Assistant
Records/Assessments*

Allison Tucker, Office Assistant

Rosario Meehan, translator

Links to Linger Over:

www.wordcentral.com

<http://mathforum.org/k12/mathtips/beatcalc.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/quiz/>

<http://www.windows.ucar.edu/>

www.sheddaquarium.org

We're on the web!

<http://www.cfisd.net/dept2/curricu/gifted/gif ted.htm>

Save the Dates:

December 2nd – 4th TAGT Conference, Houston

February 20th DI Regional Tournament, Cinco Ranch

March 23rd HORIZONS Student Showcase, Berry Center