Greetings!

I'm a parent of 2 GT boys. Both are very different, and both require advocacy on a regular basis. There are many myths about gifted individuals, and they certainly don't come one-size-fits-all. It's tricky business knowing how to effectively advocate for our children.

Advocacy can span beyond the traditional classroom discussions, including social and emotional advocacy, twice exceptionality, early entrance into school and other areas.

In my role as a parent member of the Gifted Education State Accountability Committee, I am thrilled to see that there is a high emphasis on empowering parents in multiple areas of advocacy. This newsletter touches on only a few of the areas and tools that can help parents be effective advocates for their children.

Michelle Stout - GT Parent Liaison

Gifted advocacy: A call to action
Gifted children are often a challenge to schools. No surprise there - c'mon, they are a challenge for us, too.
Learning Opportunities

**Beyond Giftedness Conference**

This conference occurs every February in Colorado and features a keynote presentation by a leader in the field of gifted education, breakout sessions and exhibitors, a *parent workshop*, and the opportunity to connect with others in the field of gifted. Details for the Beyond Giftedness Conference.

**Whole Mind and Whole Brain**

*Nadia Webb*

Intelligence is not static. The brain is a complex system that changes in response to social forces. "Psychological" experiences of loneliness, social support, affectionate touch, intellectual challenge, social stability or bullying can alter the brain at the smallest levels, including the lifespan of a neuron, as well as how we later think, learn and love as adults.

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**Social Emotional**

The Universe is Expanding

When gifted children's social and emotional needs are not addressed, they may experience negative outcomes including one or more of the following:

- **Underachievement**: performance that is not consistent with one's ability.
- **Development of a "false self:"** hiding abilities, adopting a false persona that is more consistent with the values and interests of peers than one's true values and interests.
- **Depression**: Failure to accept oneself, to fit in with peers, and to form a cohesive identity in addition to a heightened sensitivity to global problems may lead to depression among those with high ability.

*An Interview with Christine Fonseca: Social and Emotional and Other Needs of Gifted Children*

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**Webinars and Podcasts**

**New Parent Footprint Podcast with Dr. Dan and Dr. Stuart Shanker on Self Regulation**

"There is no such thing as a bad kid." Dr. Dan Peters welcomes international parenting expert Dr. Stuart Shanker for the latest episode of the Parent Footprint Podcast.

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**Early Access**

Advocating for our gifted child can be an uphill climb in a culture where advocating for giftedness is perceived as "championing rights for those who are innately more privileged". Read more

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Supporting Smart Girls
Webinar with Dr. Lisa White -
Last Chance to Register!
Smart girls in today's culture experience a lot of ups and downs. In this one-hour webinar, Summit Center's Dr. Lisa White, licensed psychologist, discusses the difficulty of being a smart girl, cool things about being a smart girl, the (sometimes unrealistic) expectations that bright girls face, trouble with fitting in at school and with peers, portrayals in the media, and what parents and schools can do to help. For parents of girls ages 6-16, $40 per person.
Learn more and register

Legislative

Registration for Legislative Day 2017 at the Capitol: Celebrating Excellence is now open! This exciting event will be held on February 23, 2017 at the state capitol.

Legislative Day is in its 18th year of providing this unique opportunity for students grades 8th through 12th, and adults, to experience first hand how our state government works.

There are two major components to the day:
1. The student's involvement
2. The teacher visits to the capitol

Advocacy Skills for Parents from Diverse Populations

Building Diversity in Gifted Programs

When children demonstrate advanced capabilities and strengths in their early years, it's very important to match their learning abilities and needs with appropriate learning opportunities and environments.

When does early access to school become an option, and how do you know if it is the right option for your child and family?

Thompson School District Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade

Giftedness exists in all populations of students. How can schools better identify gifted English Language Learners?

Parents are usually the first ones to figure out that their child is gifted, but that message often doesn't get to the educators in schools. Many schools don't even test ELLs for giftedness, and most teachers aren't trained to identify those students.

Read More
Whether it be shadowing a legislator or being part of a group, and
2. The GT Advocacy Session for adults and students to learn particulars of current legislative issues.

Why the New Education Law Is Good for Children Left Behind

Things TED Taught Me ... About Gifted Advocacy!

I'm a recent convert to TED talks. And a recent talk 'caught my eye'. Chris Anderson, one of the suits at TED, presented a talk about global innovation and its exponential growth as the result of video becoming more widely viewed due to the expansion of bandwidth accessibility around the world. Read More

Ted Talks & Video

Chris Anderson_How Web Video Powers Global Innovation

Jennifer Senior_For parents_happiness is a very high bar

Search our GT library for titles specific to your questions, concerns, and interests.

Inspire Students to Write About Their Barriers

The 2017 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest is a chance for diverse students in grades 4-9 to share their personal stories and how they use Jackie Robinson's values to face their barriers. Now Also Available In Spanish

Local Organizations

Twice Exceptional
The NOCO Gifted Community is an official affiliate of CAGT, the Colorado Association of Gifted & Talented.

The purpose of the NOCO chapter is to follow the CAGT mission to foster an understanding of all gifted children and their exceptional needs, and to advocate for appropriate education through partnerships with educators, parents, administrators, and more. Learn More

The Ultimate Plan to Help Gifted Education

"Gifted education is not going to fix itself. No matter how many gifted people talk to each other about how much their children need different educational experiences, we still cannot move the mountains of politicians and corporations who stand in our way." Read More

Gifted Kids at Risk: Who’s Listening?

Cutting Through Edu-Speak

Okay, I have read every parent tool kit; I feel completely prepared for my upcoming parent teacher conference. But, it never fails; I feel completely inadequate when faced with "edu-speak".

We've all been there: sitting across from the teacher who is using highly complex words when discussing kindergarten math, lengthy phrases that must mean something important and those blasted acronyms. It's very intimidating, and frankly, derails my well-intended advocacy nearly every time.

We are not alone. Valerie Strauss, Washington Post educational journalist and Liz Willen, editor of the Hechinger Report agree. Read here

Parents, we must not be afraid to pause the conversation. Request..." that educators define the terms they are throwing out. Ask them for clear explanations." Using "real words will tell a truer story" about your child.

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