



# Gifted Services Newsletter

## Elementary K-3rd Grade



### Upcoming Events

**Saturday Nov. 5, 12, 19**—YES, Your Extraordinary Saturday, visit:

<http://www.mity.org/index.php/your-extraordinary-saturday>

**Saturday, November 12th**

— MCGT Annual Conference, visit: [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net)

**Saturday November 19th**— Family Fun Fair. Visit:

[www.cse.umn.edu/funfair](http://www.cse.umn.edu/funfair)

### Gifted Services Department

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### Fall 2011

#### Welcome from Cheryl Peterson, K-3 Coordinator, Gifted Services

Within the next few weeks, I will be meeting with all of the Cluster and Talent pool students and getting them started with their *Thinking books*. Each student will be given a thinking book to help them record ideas about the topics we cover in small groups as well as to explore their own thinking and independent projects. I will meet with students about once a month. When we meet, students will staple an information sheet about the topic and home extension activities into their thinking book. The topics usually develop based on the interest of the groups. I will also work with students on identifying their learning strengths and needs, developing intelligent habits (**Habits of Mind**), and working on an independent or small group learning topic. This is my favorite part of my job and I can't wait to start!

At Spring Lake Park, we believe in personalizing our instruction for each of our students. Our teachers, staff, and coordinators all work together to provide a learning experience that addresses individual differences, including those of high ability students. The majority of my time is spent providing the support to make sure that happens. This is where my relationship with you as a parent is critical. The classroom teacher is certainly your first and most important point of contact with any questions and concerns. However, I am happy to work with you to better understand your child and his/her needs for developing an appropriate plan of action.

Feel free to ask me questions or help direct you to additional resources. Please E-mail [Cpete1@district16.org](mailto:Cpete1@district16.org) as this is the best way to reach me. You may also contact our administrative assistant, Angell Pearson at 763-783-5219 or at [apears@district16.org](mailto:apears@district16.org)

Put your thinking caps on!  
Cheryl Peterson



Last school year, all of my Gifted students participated in an *invention unit*. As a result, we created a great photo book entitled, "Got an IDEA? A Kid's Guide to Inventing". A copy of this book is available at each of the school buildings plus parents may also view an electronic copy using the following link through Snapfish:

[http://www2.snapfish.com/snapfish/projectshareewelcome/l=15112573009/p=274221316712894186/g=41751546/cobrandOid=1000/COBRAND\\_NAME=snapfish/otsc=SYE/otsi=SPBKlink/](http://www2.snapfish.com/snapfish/projectshareewelcome/l=15112573009/p=274221316712894186/g=41751546/cobrandOid=1000/COBRAND_NAME=snapfish/otsc=SYE/otsi=SPBKlink/)

In addition to the book, I spotted *real* products over the summer that showcase some of the ideas our students had this last year including: an electronic device for remembering your phone, a holder for ice cream cones, and even a decorative jean like diaper!

Check out this site and keep playing with those great ideas! <http://www.inventionatplay.org/>

## MATH and all it's Challenges

I know in my house this week I've had a feeling of dread every time the math homework gets pulled out of the backpack. For one child it's way too easy and seems to be a silly waste of time. For another, it's way too hard and offers a small battle of wills. Some of you can relate, either through your own experiences or in helping your child struggle with math concepts. For others, your child may be a high achieving math student and struggle with finding the right challenge. Either way, as parents you can make the math experience fun and challenging by making it real. Having your child help with planning a trip (calculating mileage, time, cost), manage the weekend schedule, helping with cooking, or shopping and using coupons to meet the family grocery budget are simplistic ways to involve your child in math. Many different board and card games also help with mathematical concepts and logical thinking skills. Here are a collection of various websites you may wish to check out.

### Math Help Websites

	In this resource you will find...
<a href="http://www.coolmath.com/">http://www.coolmath.com/</a>	vivid games for different mathematical subject areas
<a href="http://www.coolmath4kids.com/">http://www.coolmath4kids.com/</a>	
<a href="http://www.funbrain.com/">http://www.funbrain.com/</a>	arcade-style games to help with math or reading skills
<a href="http://www.agrademath.com/">http://www.agrademath.com/</a>	worksheets, flashcards, and homework help
<a href="http://www.freerice.com">www.freerice.com</a>	practice in several subject areas. The best part is, when a question is answered correctly, 10 grains of rice are donated to the World Food Program!
<a href="http://www.factmonster.com">www.factmonster.com</a>	Reviews of several topics, including math
<a href="http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com">www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com</a>	an interactive math dictionary geared for kids
<a href="http://www.aaamath.com">www.aaamath.com</a>	guided practice for a variety of math skills
<a href="http://www.mathwire.com">http://www.mathwire.com</a>	interactive standards-based problems centered on a theme.
<a href="http://www.multiplication.com">www.multiplication.com</a>	games focused on learning multiplication facts

A very powerful way to increase your child's math skills are to work out problems together and model you thinking for your child. *These websites* provide challenging problems for the whole family!

<a href="http://www.figurethis.org">www.figurethis.org</a>	Weekly "Challenge Sets" for the family created by NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics)
<a href="http://www.krazydad.com/">http://www.krazydad.com/</a>	Free printable puzzles
<a href="http://www.mathcounts.org">www.mathcounts.org</a>	Challenging problems sets that change weekly. (See "Problem of the Week" on right side of page.)

## What does a Gifted Coordinator do?

The role of the Gifted Coordinator is to coordinate the systems and programs that support student learning, particularly with students that display high abilities and related needs. This work includes working on the National and State level to promote high standards for gifted education, training and supporting teachers, and assuring that our district curriculum and programs meet the unique needs of these learners. Some of our specific duties include:

- ◆ Provide direct pro-active (affective) services to identified students
- ◆ Coordinate academic enrichment, challenges and competitions
- ◆ Support teachers in the education of gifted and talented students
- ◆ Dialogue with parents and teachers regarding the needs of students
- ◆ **Facilitate student identification**



## Upcoming Events:

**YES, YOUR EXTRAORDINARY SATURDAY:** EXPO for Excellence Elementary School, St. Paul, MN - **Grades 1-4**

**Saturday Nov. 5, 12, 19.** Check out <http://www.mity.org/index.php/your-extraordinary-saturday> for details and tuition information

## **MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(\$55 for adult members, \$70 non-member; \$35 per child)

**Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011**

8:30-4:30

University of St. Thomas, Terrence Murphy and Opus Halls, Minneapolis



A fun and informative day for children *and* parents: Children attend a variety of grade based sessions while parents listen to a keynote address by Dr. Schroeder-Davis and attend a choice of adult sessions covering various topics. Last year my two children attended with me and LOVED it! They can't wait to go again this year! For more details and registration go to the MCGT website at [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net)

## **FAMILY FUN FAIR (FREE!)**

**Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011**

10 a.m.–4 p.m.

University of Minnesota, Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



Fascinating activities, hands-on exhibits and entertaining presentations showcasing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics add up to a day of fun and learning.

This year's highlights include:

- ⇒ Interactive science and engineering exhibits
- ⇒ Physics Force shows
- ⇒ Energy and U shows and much more!

More details are coming soon - visit [www.cse.umn.edu/funfair](http://www.cse.umn.edu/funfair)

## **SAVE THE DATE—"The Works, Family Engineering Event" (FREE!)**

**Saturday January 21st, 2012**

Hosted by Gifted Services @ WMS, 1-3 pm

**All families welcome.** Follow The Works on their website: [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org)

\*More information following winter break