



# Happy Holidays!

## December 2013 Newsletter

### CASE for Gifted Children

Support Organization for CCISD Gifted Students, Families and Educators

[www.CASEGiftedChildren.org](http://www.CASEGiftedChildren.org)    [CASE\\_gifted\\_children@yahoo.com](mailto:CASE_gifted_children@yahoo.com)

## CASE Website Updated

### CHECK IT OUT!

Handouts from the previous meeting and much more are provided under the News and Information Tab



### LUNCH SOCIALS

11:00am-1pm - Come when you can

#### ELEMENTARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Pomodoro's Pizza and Pasta - 1303 NASA Parkway, Webster

Please come and see what you can do to advocate for our gifted children!

#### SECONDARY PARENT LUNCH SOCIAL on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Red River BBQ - 1911 East Main Street League City

Enrollment choices discussion. Parents of 5th graders also invited.



## Upcoming WAVE Events

### Same dates at both campuses:

Westbrook Intermediate Commons & League City Intermediate Commons

#### Fifth Grade WAVE Tour

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

#### WAVE Parent Information Night

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 @ 7pm

#### WAVE Tours for Interested Parents and Private School Students

January 27<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>

## TO LEARN & GROW

# TO LEARN & GROW

Gifted learners are not test scores.  
They are not perfect.  
They are not easier to teach.  
They are kids.

With different learning needs.

Who will give up if they are not challenged.  
Who rarely get a place in educational laws.  
Who sometimes give up and drop out of school.  
Who are waiting for change.

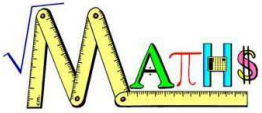
Who now sit hoping, wishing, to learn.  
To grow. To think.  
To climb out of the box.  
To change the world.  
To get something different.

Not because they are  
privileged, elite, or want "better."

But because they want the one thing  
that every kid, in every school,  
in the world deserves.

To learn and grow.

Krissy Venosdale  
venspired.com



# MATH CORNER



## “MATH MADE MAGICAL AND FUN” BOOKLIST

- ✿ The Adventures of Penrose the Mathematical Cat, by Theoni Pappas – Penrose, a cat with a knack for math, takes children on an adventurous tour of mathematical concepts from fractals to infinity. (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> & up)
- ✿ Amanda Bean’s Amazing Dream, by Cindy Neuschwander – Amanda Bean loves to count everything, from the books in the library to the popcorn in her bowl. If only she could count faster! Her teacher tries to persuade her of the virtues of multiplication, but Amanda remains unconvinced--until she has an amazing dream. (Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ✿ Anno’s Mysterious Multiplying Jar, by Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno – Makes the concept of factorials unforgettable through artistic pictures combined with clear text. (Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ✿ The Best of Times: Math Strategies that Multiply, by Greg Tang – Takes on the times tables, teaching kids innovative ways to multiply numbers without memorization. (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>)
- ✿ A Cloak for the Dreamer, by Aileen Friedman – In an entertaining introduction to the concept of geometry, a tailor's son attempts to create a cloak with only circles, with unfortunate results, and then works with his brothers to find a shape that works. (Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ✿ The Dot and the Line: A Romance in Lower Mathematics, by Norman Juster – The story of a straight line that falls in love with a dot. All of the line's romantic dreams were in vain, until he discovered...angles! (Grades Pre-K – 7<sup>th</sup>)
- ✿ Fractals, Googols and Other Mathematical Tales, by Theoni Pappas – Explore mathematical concepts including real numbers, exponents, dimensions, and geometry in humorous ways. (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> & up)
- ✿ Further Adventures of Penrose the Mathematical Cat, by Theoni Pappas – Penrose, no ordinary cat, takes off again on new adventures. (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> & up)
- ✿ Go Figure!: A Totally Cool Book about Numbers, by Johnny Ball – Investigates mathematical marvels such as why daisies always have 34, 55, or 89 petals, why the world's phone numbers appear in pi, and other patterns and paradoxes. (Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>)
- ✿ The Grapes of Math: Mind Stretching Math Riddles, by Greg Tang – Using rhyming couplets, riddles and visual clues, this shows readers creative ways to use patterns and combinations of numbers to solve math puzzles quickly and effectively. (Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>)
- ✿ The Greedy Triangle, by Marilyn Burns – Bored and dissatisfied with his life, a triangle visits a local shape-shifter to add another angle to his shape. Poof! He becomes a quadrilateral. But then he gets greedy and keeps adding angles until he's completely transformed. (Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>) The I Hate Mathematics! Book, by Marilyn Burns – Events, gags, magic tricks, and experiments to change one from a mathematical weakling into a mathematical heavyweight. (Grades 4<sup>th</sup> & up)
- ✿ If You Made a Million, by David Schwartz – Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician is ready, willing, and able to explain the nuts and bolts -- as well as the mystery and wonder -- of earning money, investing it, accruing dividends and interest, and watching savings grow. (Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)

For more titles, visit the CASE website, News and Information Tab under Resources at

<http://www.casegiftedchildren.org/newsandinfo.htm>.



# SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING MATH SKILLS



Mathematics is an anytime, all-the-time activity that encompasses every part of life. It is an integral part of grocery shopping, bill-paying, building a model airplane, decorating a room, baking cookies, or just getting to school on time. As a result, it is important that we, as parents or caretakers, work diligently to help guide our children toward a deeper understanding of and appreciation for mathematical skills and applications.

There are many strategies that we can use to help develop that passion in our young mathematicians.

1. Ask your child to teach you what they learned in math class. “Playing teacher” requires them to focus on the details of the concepts they are learning. It also allows you to identify flaws in their thinking, which may be posing a challenge to their learning.
2. Volunteer to work with the math class, so that you can gain an understanding of the strategies they are being taught. This is also a great opportunity to help children who are behind to catch up, allowing the teacher to continue moving forward.
3. Have your child correct missed problems on classwork/homework and tests that are returned by the teacher. Ideally, homework should be checked before it is turned in.
4. Make up additional math problems that are similar to what is being brought home to help reinforce the math concepts. Other resources that provide support include math workbooks and online worksheets from sites such as [mathfactcafe.com](http://mathfactcafe.com) and [softschools.com](http://softschools.com).
5. Read fun, level-appropriate books about math-related characters and plots. Ask follow up math questions to gauge their comprehension.
6. Make every set of numbers a math game. While in the car, have children quickly add up numbers to get sums (or multiply to get products) off of passing license plates, billboards, houses, the car’s digital clock, and road signs.
7. Teach children about money through:
  - a. chores and allowances (include percentages for spending, charity and savings),
  - b. grocery shopping trips that include a budget and comparison shopping prices,
  - c. performing additional tasks to save money for specific things they want,
  - d. watching the counter as the gas tank fills and paying in cash at the register,
  - e. rolling coins and cashing them in or depositing them at the bank,
  - f. providing a dollar limit that can be spent when ordering at a restaurant,
  - g. a pre-set budget for the season’s school clothes and allowing them to make choices,
  - h. the use of coupons at grocery stores, restaurants, and clothing stores,
  - i. shopping sales and determining discounted prices,
  - j. a personal monthly budget for which they are responsible, that includes expenses such as: cell phone charges, dining/food (eating out, concessions, lunches), clothing/shoes, toiletries, entertainment, and school purchases, and
  - k. allowing them to be the banker/real estate broker during a game of Monopoly.

For more strategies and info, visit the CASE website, News and Information Tab under Resources at <http://www.casegiftedchildren.org/newsandinfo.htm>.



## CASE for Gifted Children donated \$4000 to CCISD's Advanced Academics and GT Department

CASE for Gifted Children is pleased to donate \$4000.00 to CCISD's Advanced Academics and GT Department to provide teacher scholarships for the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented Conference in Houston.

We are confident that each teacher who attends this professional conference will increase his or her understanding of gifted children and learn new strategies which can then be shared with fellow teachers.



### What are the Pros and Cons of Grouping Kids for Reading Instruction Based on Test Results?

by Robert Slavin Johns Hopkins School of Education September 12, 2013

**Question:** What is the research related to the practice of grouping kids for reading based on test results of some sort and then sending them to classrooms for reading instruction based on this grouping? What are the pros and cons of this practice? I believe it is a current practice similar to the Joplin plan. I can find the research about the Joplin plan but is there any more recent research?

#### Response from Robert Slavin:

There is remarkably little research on grouping children for reading instruction, but I'll tell you what I know about.

As you note, there is a good bit of evidence supporting use of the Joplin Plan, and for this reason we use Joplin Plan in our Success for All program. In Joplin Plan, students are grouped based on their reading levels regardless of their age, so you might have a 3-1 (third grade, first semester) reading class composed of second, third, and fourth graders. In Joplin Plan, there has to be a common reading time across the school, so kids all go from their homerooms to their reading classes at the same time.

A key aspect of the Joplin Plan is that children are assessed in reading (on curriculum-specific assessments, ideally) every 6-8 weeks, so that as children make exceptional progress, their groupings can change. If children are not keeping up with their group we recommend tutoring or small-group assistance, not moving children to a lower group.

As you note, the research on the Joplin Plan (Gutierrez & Slavin, 1992) is supportive but quite old. I wrote a review with Roberto Gutierrez that included Joplin Plan, but I'm not aware of any additional studies in the 20 years after that.

There are several attributes of Joplin Plan that would make me cautious about using "very similar" grouping schemes. First, many teachers test and assign children to reading groups within the same grade (producing high, middle, and low fourth grade reading classes, for example). This can create several problems. First, it sets up reading classes for which teachers may have low expectations (e.g., low fourth grades). Second, it may not reduce heterogeneity enough to allow teachers to avoid ability grouping within classes. The major gain from Joplin Plan is the opportunity to teach all children together, without having to assign a lot of seatwork while the teacher is teaching one reading group. This greatly expands time for teaching. Grouping within grades but maintaining reading groups within each class would not provide this benefit.

Read complete article at <http://www.reading.org/general/Publications/blog/LRP/ask-a-researcher/literacy-research-panel/2013/09/13/what-are-the-pros-and-cons-of-grouping-kids-for-reading-instruction-based-on-test-results->



# TAGT CORNER



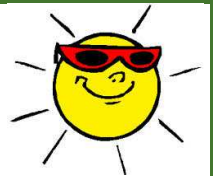
*Parents and Educators Dedicated to Meeting the Unique Needs of Gifted and Talented Students*

TAGT is the state advocacy group for gifted education in Texas. A \$25 Parent Membership pays for the Tempo subscription and gets you connected with TAGT. The \$55 Professional/Advocate Membership gives you the Tempo subscription and conference discounts AND goes a long way toward supporting TAGT's role as a statewide advocate for GT education and funding. Membership numbers count when it comes to state-level advocacy; legislators want to know how strong a force they are reckoning with based on the state advocacy group's membership.

Here's a great opportunity for us as parents to make a difference in gifted education. Visit <http://www.txgifted.org/about/membership> to learn more.

**Membership numbers count when it comes to state-level advocacy**

## TAGT SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS



Scholarships of up to \$400 are awarded to gifted students to who wish to explore academic or artistic programs during the summer months. Previous winners have attended programs such as Duke TIP, A&M Sea Camp, NASA Space Camp, and UH Summer Academy. There is no formal list of acceptable program, but students may consider The Davidson Institute, Armand Bayou Eco Camp, Lone Star Leadership Academy and various art, music and STEM Camps. These scholarships are based upon merit, not financial need.

**The application deadline for TAGT scholarships is March 1. The application will be available in January at <http://txgifted.org/tagt-summer-scholarships/>.**



## TAGT Conference

If you plan to attend the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) conference in Houston, December 4-6 we'd love to hear feedback from your experience! Please email us at [case\\_gifted\\_children@yahoo.com](mailto:case_gifted_children@yahoo.com).

## SAVE THE DATE!



- **January 16, 2014** – Westbrook PTA program "What to Expect in High School" at 6:30 PM
- All CASE Members are invited to attend the Westbrook PTA program "What to Expect in High School" at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2014. This is an opportunity for parents to talk to current high school students about their experience and ask lots of questions. Student representatives come from Clear Brook and Clear Lake High Schools and are both former WAVE and regular students. Parents with students zoned to any CCISD high school will benefit as curriculum and extracurricular activities are mostly similar.
- **Saturday, March 1, 2014, 11 am -4:45 pm** - "Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas!" at The University of Texas at Austin for students K-12, teachers, and families. Everyone is welcome. Cost: Free, no sign-up for activities. More Info at <http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/>.
- **March 17, 2014**- Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) application deadline [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu).



### SEABROOK SCIENCE MAGNET PROGRAM 5TH GRADE INFORMATION MEETING

Calling all 5th graders and their parents! Seabrook Intermediate is hosting four parent and student information meetings to learn about the Science Magnet Program, the application process, meet teachers, view the school, meet current and former students, and gain the answers to your questions about the Science Magnet Program.

Where: Seabrook Intermediate School Cafeteria (2401 East Meyer Road Seabrook, TX 77586 )

When: Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 @ 7pm

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014 @ 7pm

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 @ 7pm

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014 @ 7pm

You only need to attend one session. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Larsen ([jlarsen@ccisd.net](mailto:jlarsen@ccisd.net) or 281-284-3185). Applications are not currently available, but application information will be presented at each meeting.

## Getting Away With It

Listen to this intriguing story on *This American Life* (\*).

"How Oklahoma, against huge odds, came to have the first and best publicly-funded pre-school system in the country, and how one businessman joined the fight because a cardboard box full of evidence convinced him that pre-school was the smartest business decision the state could make."

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/477/getting-away-with-it?act=4#play>

(\*)*This American Life* is a weekly public radio show broadcast on more than 500 stations to about 2.1 million listeners. It is produced by Chicago Public Media, distributed by Public Radio International, and has won all of the major broadcasting awards.

**THIS  
AMERICAN  
LIFE  
FROM WBEZ**



## Lone Star Leadership Academy

*Experiential learning travel programs for outstanding students*

Lone Star Leadership Academy programs are Sunday-Friday experiential learning leadership development programs in the Dallas/Fort Worth (4th-6th graders), Austin/San Antonio (5th-7th graders), and Houston/Galveston (6th-8th graders) areas. Participants develop leadership skills and *experience* curriculum taught in classrooms through visits to historically, politically, scientifically and environmentally significant sites. Spring and Summer 2014 Program Deadlines: December 31, 2013.

For more information, including an informational video, or to download a program application, visit [http://www.educationinaction.org/houston/houston\\_programs.php](http://www.educationinaction.org/houston/houston_programs.php).

## Raytheon's MathMovesU Middle School Grant and Scholarship Program



MathMovesU invites 6th, 7th and 8th grade students nationwide to answer, "Math is in the world all around us. Morning, noon, and night—how does math move you or the world around you?"

Based on a PowerPoint submission, students will be awarded camperships of up to \$1,000 or scholarships of \$1,000 and their schools will receive matching grants of \$1,000 to be used for math-related programs. Students must demonstrate an enthusiasm for math and the ability to illustrate how math moves you or the world around you. Interested students must complete the application and mail it along with all other required materials to Scholarship Management Services by the postmark deadline date of February 7, 2014. For more info, go to <http://www.mathmovesu.com/#/middle-school-scholarship>.

## Davidson Institute News



### Davidson Young Scholars Application Available

The national Davidson Young Scholars program helps profoundly gifted students discover others with similar interests and abilities, utilizing their skills and talents to maximize their educational potential and make a difference in the lives of others. Please visit the website to learn more: [www.DavidsonGifted.org/YoungScholars](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/YoungScholars).

### 2014 Davidson Fellows \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 Scholarships

If you are a student who will be 18 or younger as of Oct. 1, 2014 and are working on a graduate-level project in any field of study, please consider applying for the 2014 Davidson Fellows scholarship. For additional information, please visit [www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows).

### 2014 THINK Summer Institute – Three-Week Academic Residential Program

The Davidson Institute is seeking gifted teens who are interested in attending the 2014 THINK Summer Institute. THINK is a three-week residential summer program on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno where students can earn up to six college credits by completing two university courses. To learn more about THINK, please visit [www.DavidsonGifted.org/THINK](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/THINK).

### The Davidson Academy of Nevada - Apply for 2014-2015 School Year

The Davidson Academy of Nevada, a free public day school for profoundly gifted pupils on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. For admission details, please visit the Academy's website at <http://www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu>.





# Winter Camps



## Armand Bayou Winter Camp

EcoCamp 1: Dec. 30 & 31, 2013 & EcoCamp 2: Jan. 2 & 3, 2014

<http://www.abnc.org/educational-programs/winter-camp.html>

Campers will get to play, learn how things survive at ABNC in the winter and be outdoors in a small group setting with encouraging educators. Each day offers a different topic that the children will explore and discover.

Children will be divided into age appropriate groups.

Winter EcoCamp is for children 4 - 13 years old. Call the Education Department at 281-474-2551x13 or x14 for details.

## Winter Camp Zoofari

<http://www.houstonzoo.org/education/camp-zoofari/>

December 30th and 31st; January 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Camp Zoofari is an action-packed, hands-on day camp for kids ages 4-12. Kids learn about the natural world, wildlife conservation and the animals that call the Houston Zoo home.



# Gift Ideas for the Gifted

**Looking for engaging gift ideas for your GT child?**

**Try these toys, software and games suggestions**

Retailers for many of these toys, games and software can be found on Hoagies shopping page (<http://hoagiesgifted.org/shop.htm>). Purchases made through this page help support the Hoagies website, an invaluable resource for gifted parents and educators.

Goldie Blox are the creation of a young, female Stanford engineering graduate who wants to inspire more girls in the STEM fields at <http://www.goldieblox.com/>.

Harvest Time Cooperative Game for young children at <http://www.novanatural.com/harvest-time-game.html>.

The Spinning Diabolo or juggle sets are great for coordination at any age.

Games for most ages: Yahtzee, The Settlers of Catan, DaVinci's Challenge, Bananagrams.



## CONTEST INFORMATION

The Perennial Math Competition is open to school teams, clubs, and homeschool organizations. A team membership is for up to 30 students at one competition level. There are three separate levels of competition:

Rookie (grades 3-4), Intermediate (grades 5-6), and Advanced (grades 7-8). Fourth grade students may participate on an Intermediate team if their teacher desires, and 6th grade students may participate on an Advanced team.

## COST OF PROGRAM

A Team membership costs \$75 and is good for 30 students in one level of competition. A parent may purchase an Individual membership for a child for \$20.

More info at <http://perennialmath.com/>.



## JOIN TODAY!

Has your child been identified as Gifted and Talented within CCISD? If yes, then your family should join CASE today!



**Do you work directly with Gifted and Talented students within CCISD?** If yes, then you should join CASE today.

**CASE for Gifted Children** is a non-profit support and advocacy group for parents, teachers and other supporters of gifted education within CCISD.

Membership in CASE is a great investment in gifted education at only \$12 per school year for the entire family. CASE has very low overhead and most of your membership dues will provide programs for parents/educators or scholarships for educators to further their G/T specific education.

**Communicate** CASE communicates current news and events that impact gifted children within CCISD through the CASE website, meetings, and parent/teacher network.

**Advocate** CASE is the parent interface with the district to advocate for gifted programs throughout the district. CASE was instrumental in the development of the WAVE program as well as contributing to other positive changes in gifted programming within the district. CASE also helps to equip parents to more effectively advocate for their children.

**Support** Raising a gifted child is no easy task. There are social, emotional, and educational challenges at every stage. CASE serves as a support group to provide parents a venue to interact and learn from other parents of gifted children.

**Educate** CASE endeavors to provide educational benefits to parents, educators, and students. Valuable information and resources are available through regular meetings and the website. In addition, teachers across the district are supported with funding for continuing gifted education.

[www.casegiftedchildren.org](http://www.casegiftedchildren.org)

[case\\_gifted\\_children@yahoo.com](mailto:case_gifted_children@yahoo.com)

**To join please complete the form below and mail it, along with your dues/donation via check or cash, to: CASE for Gifted Children, Susan Oh, Treasurer, 1321 Porta Rosa Lane, League City, 77573**

**--- Please Print Neatly ---**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues (please check one)      **Family (\$12)** \_\_\_\_\_      **Teacher/Educator (\$6)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation (please add to your membership)**    Gold (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_    Silver (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_    Bronze (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name(s)/Grade Level(s)/School(s) Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

I'd be happy to help with:    \_\_\_\_\_ Advocacy    \_\_\_\_\_ Social Events    \_\_\_\_\_ GT Faculty Support