



GATCA WA

The Gifted & Talented Children's Association of WA (Inc)
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The Grapevine

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John Bailey

Vice President

Treasurer
Rosemary Harding

Membership Secretary
Kriss Muskett

AAEGT Representative
Derrin Cramer

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Tracey Taylor

**South West Advocates
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Lois Williams

For further information
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Publication deadlines
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Advertising and articles
must be received no later
than **July 10 2008**
for consideration
Please go to www.gatcawa.org
for advertising guidelines and
send advertising to
derrin@thinkingahead.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the final newsletter of this committee. It's been a great "year" in many ways, culminating in a wonderful event a just few weeks ago. Fiona Smith spoke eloquently and passionately to an audience of 100 members and guests. What a tremendous turnout and what a wonderful presentation.

On behalf of our membership, I'd like to thank the committee members who have worked so hard over the past 12 months. I have been acting president for the past few months because Fiona Leonard, our previous President needed to resign for personal reasons. I'd like (on behalf of the committee) to acknowledge her wonderful contributions to GATCA and gifted education in WA.

On another matter, and on behalf of the committee, I'd like to invite YOU to join us at this year's AGM. I am prepared to stay on after the brief AGM and field questions and lead a discussion on areas of interest to you. Other committee members may also be able to stay on.

We encourage all of you to join us on the 28th, and encourage you to consider becoming actively involved with the Committee – either as a general member or on the executive. All positions are available. At this point all committee members are keen to continue to support the Association in any way they can, but there are plenty of places available – at all levels. You will be well supported.

Please let me reassure you that taking up a position on the committee is a great way of really getting to understand more about giftedness and gifted education. It provides you with the chance to interact more effectively with others who are equally as interested as you, in a safe and supportive environment.

Most importantly, you can offer as much or as little as you like – as time, energy and confidence allow. If you have special interests or contacts you may care to "specialize" a little. Please do believe that every little bit helps, and numbers do make a difference.

I believe I speak from experience when I say this. I have been actively involved with the Association since 1995 and have seen the remarkable results – for individuals and for the broader cause of gifted education in WA – achieved by our Association. At the moment the political and economic situation is very positive, and I'm confident the next few years will see new gains for gifted children and their families. At the moment, the Department of Education and Training is putting money and energy into gifted education, and when that happens, non government schools are often "encouraged" to follow suit. We will continue to support you, and to advocate on your behalf.

I look forward to continuing to support the association in whatever capacity I can in the 2008 / 2009 year, and I hope I will be working with many of you during that time.

Best wishes
John Bailey

Please Note: the views expressed in this publication are those of the authors of the articles, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of GATCA WA.

What's New??

Discussion Boards: parents and teachers are urged to use the Discussion boards that have been included on the GATCA website. Follow the link from the navigation bar of www.gatcawa.org These Discussion Boards were made possible by a grant from AAEGT in 2007.

Study Scholarship: a \$500 scholarship is once again available to teachers undertaking further study in the area of gifted education. If you are undertaking post graduate studies in gifted education in WA and would like to apply for this scholarship please contact Kriss Muskett for more information.

Newsletter contributions: You are invited to send your experiences, children's stories, work samples or anything else that you want to see in the Grapevine to derrin@thinkingahead.com.au for consideration.



Websites and other places of interest.....

Sleek Geeks Science Prize - Open to school and uni students, this \$5K prize is awarded for a short film that communicates a scientific concept in an accessible and entertaining way. <http://abcmail.net.au/t/135611/674354/2908/0/>

Alice is a 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation for telling a story, playing an interactive game, or a video to share on the web. It is a teaching tool for introductory computing which uses 3D graphics and a drag-and-drop interface. www.alice.org

Public University Online is a university based on public online lectures worldwide and is open to anyone, free of charge, based on principles of sharing knowledge for the good of mankind. Lectures are available to download in various formats including text and audio and can be found by using an easy-to-use search engine. When you have watched/listened to the lecture, you can discuss it with others in online discussion fora. www.publicuniversityonline.com

All kinds of minds A not for profit Institute founded by Mel Levine which helps uses the latest research in neurodevelopment to help students who are struggling with learning to measurably improve their outcomes. Information for parents and educators and clinicians <http://www.allkindsofminds.org/index.aspx>

Publishers of gifted books and resources

A wide range of resources for teaching and parenting gifted children including articles, books, blogs and journals can be found on the **Prufrock Press** website www.prufrock.com

Free Spirit Publishing. A range of books about giftedness including the social and emotional side of the equation www.freespirit.com/

Many books from these publishers are available locally from Blue Banana Books. For more information and price lists in AU\$ please contact Deborah on 0421 931 923 or Quynh 0433 122 889

Great Potential Press is an award-winning publishing company devoted to books and videos for parents and teachers of gifted children. The site has some excellent resource materials for parents, teachers and homeschoolers that can be ordered from the US (all prices in US\$) Some resources are available from the Australian site www.greatpotentialpress.com.au/



Library update

The GATCA Library is now
located at

Perth Modern School in the Thomas St Building.

To find it, enter via Subiaco Rd - turn into the driveway on the east side of the gymnasium (the only two storey building) and follow the signs from there. A map is located on the GATCA website at www.gatcawa.org (see Diary page)

OPENING HOURS

The library will be open from
1-3pm on Wednesday
afternoons
and by appointment

NEW!

The 250 conference sessions from the **2008 National Association for Gifted Children** conference in USA have arrived. This set of 7 CD's includes the audio recordings of the sessions and printable handouts for many sessions.

The GATCA Annual General Meeting
will be held on

May 28th at 7.30 pm at Perth Modern School.

Please check the GATCA website for a map.

Nominations are called for all Committee positions.
Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website
at www.gatcawa.org

Book Reviews

Parenting Gifted Kids by James Delisle (Prufrock Press)

"Personally I think is a must read for every parent of gifted children as it doesn't get bogged down on facts and stats, is light hearted yet practical." GATCA parent

Gifted Young Children by Louise Porter

A comprehensive guide to identifying and working with young children with advanced development.

Memorise in Minutes: The Times Tables by Alan Walker (www.multiplication.com)

This 224 page book uses pictures, stories and activities to teach times tables and is filled with lesson plans, activities, worksheets and charts and is particularly good for visual learners. Also available from the website are a range of games including Time Attack which can be downloaded free.

Coming Events

Annual General Meeting

May 28th 7.30pm

Information Nights

These events are free to members. The venue for Term 1 Information nights will be Perth Modern School. Enter via Subiaco Rd (turn into the driveway on the east side of the Gym (2 story building) and follow the signs from there

Information Nights are held from 7.30 – 9.00 pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Discussion and coffee follows the information session.

Please check the Parents Forum on the website for more information each month about the topic.

May 7th Peter Scaife from Department of Education

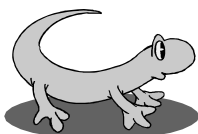
AGM May 28th (in place of June info night)

July 2nd please check the website

Please phone Kriss on 9385-7962 to let her know if you will be attending

Geckos

The Geckos Group meets regularly. Contact Kriss Muskett on 9385 7962 for more information.



Other groups will be formed if there is sufficient demand

Early Learners Group

A new group has recently formed for parents and pre-school aged children. Please see the article on the next page for more information

Contact **Frances Korngold** on **9562 3399** for more information



Meeting dates for this term

are:

Monday 5th May, 9:30am

Monday 2nd June, 9:30am

Monday 7th July, 9:30am

at the Warehouse Café,
Onslow Road, Shenton Park

Psych Assessments

Fiona Smith will be returning to Perth again later in the year. Please contact Kriss Muskett on 9385-7962 to discuss testing for your child.

Events organised by others

Postgraduate Certificate in Gifted and Talented Education at Murdoch University

Contact Dr Susan McKenzie on 9360 2527 or email s.mckenzie@murdoch.edu.au for more information

Physics, Chemistry and Maths Prep and Primer Classes

held at Murdoch University
Term 2 Prep courses for Yr 6 and above and Primer for Secondary Students commence week of May 5th. Yr 10 – 12 students may also now formally be enrolled with OUA and received credit to their WACE

Contact Jennifer Searcy at j.searcy@murdoch.edu.au or 9360 6015

Da Vinci Machines Exhibition

28 March - 21 July 2008 Perth Convention Centre

Experience the incredible inventions of Leonardo da Vinci come to life in this outstanding interactive exhibition of over 60 finely crafted machines based on original drawings by da Vinci, inc amazing flying machines, nautical, hydraulic and architectural innovations, groundbreaking applications of civil engineering and war machines.

For more information go to the website at <http://www.davincimuseum.com.au/DocumentRoot/php/home.php>

The Early Learners Group (Pre-school aged children)

Does your very young child seem unusually bright or advanced?

Are you or your child having problems dealing with this, or can you foresee problems in the future? Are you just interested in being proactive and learning more about giftedness?

Having an unusually advanced child is in itself delightful, but some problems may arise. For example:

- It can be difficult around other parents with less able children the same age.
- It can be difficult for the child to find playmates. They may have trouble relating to younger ones and older kids may be bigger and more boisterous.
- You may feel that the advice you are given is not appropriate to your child.
- You may be concerned about future schooling issues.
- You may find it difficult to find stimulating games and activities to enjoy with your child.

There are many other young children in the community whose intellectual development is very advanced. We offer you the opportunity to get together with parents and their children for support, to provide the children with some new companions, and to share ideas in an informal, fun atmosphere.

We meet once a month for coffee and a chat for parents, and to provide play time for the children. It may be that we will meet more regularly, based on demand. We will be arranging other activities from time to time to be held on weekends.

We look forward to hearing from other parents of very able pre-school age children who would like to join us. The group has proven to be of great value to many members and it is they who have suggested that we made this information more widely available.

We are currently based in Butler (northern suburbs), however, we meet in Shenton Park to provide a central meeting place. If you would like more information or would consider starting/joining a group in your area, **please contact Frances Korngold on 9562 3399 or email her at frances_korngold@yahoo.com**

We will next be meeting at the Warehouse Café, Onslow Road, Shenton Park (there is a small play area for the kids), on the following dates at 9.30am

Monday 5th May

Monday 2nd June

Monday 7th July

If you would like to join us, please let us know you will be there so we can make appropriate bookings with the café.



The Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (AAEGT) is a national body with representation from all Australian States and Territories

AAEGT Report

The main item on the AAEGT calendar this year is the upcoming national conference to be held in Hobart from July 9 – 11. Registration is now open and further information can be found on the conference website at www.giftedconference.org.au/. A flier can also be downloaded from the GATCA website. This is a great opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and share ideas with others in the field. The AGM of the AAEGT will also be held during the conference and all members of affiliated associations (which includes GATCA WA) are welcome to attend the meeting.

The AAEGT committee also meets regularly via teleconference as each state has a member on the Council. The AAEGT website is currently undergoing a change and you are invited to check out the latest at www.aaegt.net.au

The Australasian Journal of Gifted Education is published twice yearly and provides a valuable resource for professionals in the field. Subscribing to the journal via GATCA means you can get the 2 copies per year for just \$20.

Derrin Cramer

Originally from Sydney, Sue Prior taught in various schools in NSW and Perth for 26 years. Since 2006 she has been living in Thailand with her husband and children where she is teaching in a British International School. Sue is currently completing post graduate studies in gifted and talented education through Murdoch University and was awarded a GATCA study scholarship in 2007.

101 Languages of Global Gifted Students

Global gifted students finding their voices may help you find your own.

In searching for a way to find out what was really going on for gifted students in our school we thought we would ask some gifted students. Some of these students reminded me school is really all about learning anyway.

So as part of our International school's extensive self-evaluation into gifted and talented education, some student's views were canvassed about their experiences of school, teaching and learning. These are Third Culture Kids¹, but they are certainly not an homogenous group. They may be nomadic; a new school every couple of years, or may have never visited their country of passport nationality. Some may have attended this International school all their lives and never travelled internationally. They speak and understand a range of languages.



A questionnaire was developed using the recommendations from the Quality Curriculum Authority (QCA) in the United Kingdom, because we use the British curriculum. We had been working on our gifted definition for a whole school policy and felt strongly about including creativity so we gave it the title "*Celebrating Abilities Creativity and Achievement*". Then we distributed it to about 30 nominated students to fill in from year 5 through to year 13 (10-18 year olds). Not just any students. These were students whom some teachers described as gifted and a very small sample of the gifted population. Our school has a total student population of over 2100.

24 questionnaires were completed and returned. 17 of these were followed up with interviews and then 7 were filmed with permission, for a documentary on the concepts of voice, choice and challenge. These were common conceptual categories which evolved from the analysis of the responses. It became so interesting that I made it the focus of my major assignments for the postgraduate certificate in gifted and talented education at Murdoch University. I have turned it into a digi-documentary for use in our professional development at school and the focus of a critique of the available literature in this area of gifted student voice.

The 17 students who were interviewed were all currently successful in our school, articulate, well written, motivated and achieving very highly academically. So we didn't explore in this sample any other types of gifted students. However, surely the successful gifted are the products of our successful approach?

It's true the voices did not a chorus make but these themes that emerged were very interesting to explore further through interviews because choice and need for challenge are often referred to as an ingredient in giftedness.

¹ Ruth Hill Useem (1999) first coined the term, Third Culture Kids, over 40 years ago. Third Culture Kids are children who are members of expatriate families who have spent some of their growing up years in a foreign country and experience a sense of not belonging to their passport country when they return to it. <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21995.htm>

My sense is that they grow up between worlds. The culture of the international school becomes their main culture. (Sue)

The students described choice and challenge in various ways. It was very clear that teachers considering learning style preferences and creative ways of running classes were of great importance to them. Also the level of pace and challenge had to be personalised. There was no one way. As one student said it can be difficult for teachers to compromise in the classroom. The great teachers in the students' experiences understood this. These teachers delivered personalised learning with support and high levels of specific and personal communication. When I mentioned to one teacher that a gifted student had named him as an example of this, he seemed genuinely surprised and hugely delighted. He said he was just trying to connect with each child in his classes on their learning journey.

One student in particular was very interested to meet again because indirectly it became apparent through our conversations that her slight concern was that she did not know how to make choices and could not actually recall a time when she was particularly motivated. She said she did what was recommended and expected. This had been a successful strategy in school for her so far - she has 2 more years of school to go.

It has now shifted for me to that sense of purpose or mission that we talk about so much in schools. However whose mission or purpose are we talking about fulfilling anyway? At our school we say it's the student's purpose or potential. So now I'm interested in discussing with each interviewed student their individual life purpose divine spark, or entelechy, and how we can help provide opportunities to help them uncover this through support and challenge along the way at school.

As I'm discovering, raising awareness about giftedness has the double-edged effect of also raising concerns about giftedness. So it's not a simple thing to do an audit. You see the cracks, the worries, and the problems are voiced. It increases your own involvement with individual needs and expectations.

The benefit is, however, it may help you find your own voice in the process.

Bibliography

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Piirto, J (1999) *Talented Children and Adults: Their development and education*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Gifted Conferences coming up

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED (AAEGT) Biennial National Conference

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

July 9-11, 2008 <http://www.giftedconference.org.au/>

The 10th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

July 14 -18, 2008 <http://www.10apcgifted.org/>

18th World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, Vancouver Canada

August 3 – 7, 2009 <http://www.worldgifted2009.com/>