

Gifted/Talented

Programs

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support

LaRoyce Bell, *District Coordinator*
Dr. Lucy Hunt, *District Specialist*
Catherine Estrada, *District Specialist*
Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, *District Specialist*
Wynne Wong-Cheng, *District Specialist,*
Psychological Services

GATE/SAS Coordinator's Update

June/July 2012

A great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage.

Sydney Smith

Updates and Deadlines

- Just a reminder that all end-of-year GATE evaluation forms are suspended for 2011-2012. Please continue to evaluate your program through data analysis, surveys, etc. A Parent Evaluation can be found at: http://www.lausd.net/lausd/offices/GATE/ParentEval_Nws-Ltr_English.pdf. However, no formal paperwork must be submitted to our office.
- The Gifted Office will be offering the final professional development opportunities for the 2011-2012 school year with seven salary point classes running concurrently at the Beaudry Building on June 21 and 22. Please sign-up for classes on the Learning Zone: <https://lz.lausd.net>. Sign-up even if the classes are waitlisted because people do "drop" the class which frees up space. New professional development opportunities will be released by September 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Look for streamlined identification in the High-Achievement & Specific Academic Categories for the 2012-2013 year!
- The GATE office will be closed from June 25, 2012 and will reopen on July 16, 2012.

Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards are a starting point for transforming the way we practice the art of teaching and for building stronger conversations among teachers, grade levels/departments, schools, districts, and states. There will be a consistent expectation throughout the country of what our students will need to know and be able to do at each grade level and course of study. The standards will provide a consistent set of expectations for all learners. The Common Core State Standards are a set of core understandings we want our students to have in order to be prepared for college and their careers ahead. The Gifted/Talented Programs Office will be offering training on how to integrate the Common Core State Standards with Gifted Program Standards and differentiated instruction beginning in the Fall of 2012.

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support has designed a webpage as a platform to provide useful tools to promote conversations and collaboration around the Common Core State Standards, and how to use them to guide decisions about rigorous teaching, learning, and assessment. This site can be accessed at: <https://sites.google.com/site/lausdcccsl/>.

Garden of Success!

Congratulations to Leo Politi Elementary School! Their schoolyard habitat was the subject of a recent *L.A. Times* article that highlighted the academic gains in science that resulted from the school's real-life, project-based learning. Politi Elementary partnered with the Los Angeles Audubon Society on the project. According to principal Bradley Rumble, "It was the synergy of real scientists working with educators which came together to make this happen." To read the article, go to <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-bird-school-20120416,0,1384226.story>.

Creative Summer Opportunities for Kids

As June approaches, many parents look for creative (and inexpensive) ideas to keep their children busy and learning during the summer months. Here are a few suggestions for summer fun:

- **Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA):** FREE NextGen memberships for kids; Andell Family Sundays feature thematic art-making and bilingual tours; www.lacma.org
- **Farmer's Markets:** Experience farm fresh food, music, petting zoos, and more; check out <http://projects.latimes.com/farmers-markets/> for a database of the Farmer's Markets in Southern California
- **Summer Concerts:** Free music abounds during the summer including the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier (www.santamonicapier.org) and the Pershing Square Summer Concert Series (<http://www.laparks.org/pershingsquare/summer2012.html>)
- **Cultural Neighborhoods:** Celebrate the diversity of Los Angeles by spending a day in one of our famous neighborhoods including Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Leimert Park, Boyle Heights, Koreatown, and El Pueblo de Los Angeles; visit <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/losangeles/0014021211.html> for destination and event suggestions

Summer Reading Ideas for Educators

Here are some suggestions for thought-provoking or inspiring summer reads for educators. You can even earn GATE professional development hours for reading and discussing these selections with your professional book club!

- *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know* by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.
- *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* by Daniel Pink
- *Five Minds for the Future* by Howard Gardner
- *Mindset* by Carol Dweck

Thank you!

The 3rd Annual GATE/SAS Parent Conference was held on May 12th. Over two hundred parents attended this incredible event. Thank you to the staff and students at Virgil Middle School for hosting the event and to Central Cities Gifted Children's Association for the generous refreshments. A big thank you to all of our presenters including Dr. Sandra Kaplan and Dr. James Webb.