

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Fall 2011

WAETAG 2011 Conference

*Cultivating Powerful
Programs for the Gifted*

Register Now at
www.waetag.net!

October 28th & 29th
Wenatchee

More details on pages 3-6

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Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted: Seattle SENG Summit

Kari DeMarco

What do you get when you combine the Emerald City, good weather, esteemed lecturers from around the world, parents of the gifted, gifted children and gifted teens? ENERGY! That is how I would describe this year's SENG Summit, held at the Seattle-Tacoma Double Tree Inn July 15, 16, and 17: energetic.

This burst of energy began over a year ago, with the SENG board planning every detail. The result was a fully-packed and smoothly-run conference. Kudos to Jane Hesslein and the others who worked so hard.

The energy really peaked over three days' worth of keynote speakers such as SENG founder and guru James Webb, as well as (for example) a gifted kid turned successful technology innovator turned professional poker player and TV host.

The conference also included breakout sessions on many diverse topics: OverExcitabilities, creativity, homeschooling, spirituality in gifted kids, underachievers, perfectionism, etc. I have been working with gifted students and their families for many years now, so it was a breath of fresh air to learn many new things at this conference. That energized me as an educator.

Many, if not most, of the attendees were parents. Perhaps that explains the new perspectives I gained. These parents were frequently raising kids who were newly identified, carried the twice- exceptional label or were profoundly gifted, so the energy, passion, and need to listen and learn were huge. These parents seemed to me to be thrilled to learn from the experts, as well as to share their experiences with each other as an impromptu support group. SENG is capable of supporting the emotional needs of the gifted kids' parents, too!

There was also a lot of energy, or so I heard, among the students themselves. The SENG Summit had structured activities for younger and teenaged kids throughout the conference, and I imagine they were a support group for one another, too. Isn't it always nice to know we are not alone?

Finally, I believe the energy will continue. Whoosh... off to our own homes, our own schools, our own communities. The SENG Summit provided those of us in attendance much food for thought. If possible, I would urge you to go to next year's Summit, which will be held in another state, but will be worth your energy to attend!

President's Message

Stephen B. Martin

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In early 2003 I represented Washington State at the NAGC Affiliates Conference in Washington DC. We attended information sessions to prepare us for visiting our congressional delegations to advocate for gifted children. One session stands out in my memory with particular vividness. Its subject was the new *No Child Left Behind* legislation.

NCLB was the reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), but included some sweeping new requirements. Under the 2002 law, states were required to test students in reading and math in grades 3–8 and once in high school. Reasonable, we thought. But the provision that really caught our attention was this one: All students are expected to meet or exceed state standards in reading and math by 2014.

There was laughter. In what real world is everyone proficient? And yet, this delusional goal has been driving education policy and practice ever since, and the “failure” to reach artificial Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks has eroded confidence in public education.

Those of us in gifted education and special education are well acquainted with the value of standardized tests to guide eligibility and instructional decisions. Regular assessment of individual student progress over time also provides useful information. But the practice of employing standardized test scores as the primary measure of a school's success or failure is not supported by logic.

As we launch the new school year, testing will be part of what we do. But we must be vigilant. What gets tested gets taught. Complex thinking skills -- skills essential to survival -- aren't tested, so they tend not to get taught. Likewise music, art, and civics. Let's remember, as parents and teachers, to make sure our children learn what they most need to know.

*Anyone who has never
made a mistake has never
tried anything new.*

~ Albert Einstein

WAETAG Mission Statement

WAETAG was formed by educators dedicated to the improvement of educational opportunities for gifted students, by strengthening services to and providing information for professionals serving these students in all settings. Toward that goal, WAETAG has adopted the following aims and purposes:

- Increase public and professional awareness of the need for appropriate educational opportunities for talented and gifted students.
- Encourage development of programs for professional preparation and growth in gifted and talented education.
- Assist with national, state, and local legislation to provide consistent challenge for all students.
- Cooperate with other groups to organize and to enhance educational opportunities for all students.
- Support quality programs which increase challenging educational opportunities for all students.

2011 – 2012 WAETAG Board Members

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As your private school representative, I attended the Private Schools Summer conference at Gonzaga Univ in Spokane in June. The conference was made possible by OSPI and Title 11 grants. The speaker, Gayle Gregory, focused on "Differentiation and Assessment in Light of Brain Research." Her key concepts for gifted learners included adjustable assignments, brain compatible differentiation, and the concept that one size does not fit all students. Her book, *Differentiated Instructional Strategies*, talks about learners in 4 categories: Beach Balls, Warm Puppies, Microscopes and Clipboards. Use these visual images and think about what kind of a learner you are (most teachers are clipboards) and what fits your students. The self-assessment techniques help students have ownership and the compact curriculum helps gifted students to enrich, move on and have choices. Another key point is that students are not getting enough sleep, especially teenagers, for their brain to process and "learn" new information. Have you thought of having a "snowball fight" where each student writes one thing new they learned on a piece of scrap paper, crumple into a ball and throw them at a target, then open and read, fun and engaging! Visit Gayle's website: www.gaylegregory.com, for more information.

You've heard of speed dating?

We're going to do speed lessons at our conference - oh, no!



Come with a snappy, tried-and-true lesson, tip, or strategy that you would like to share - quickly! And be ready to gather some from others to take away with you.

BEEP BEEP!

2011 WAETAG Conference: Cultivating Powerful Programs for the Gifted October 28-29 Wenatchee Conference Center Charlotte Akin

We have a great conference planned with something for everyone! On Friday, October 28 we are having a very special day for administrators and coordinators who want to know what the new legislation is all about and how it will affect their districts. We will have a presentation by OSPI in addition to Dr. Karen Rogers sharing the latest on various program models and how to evaluate them. We will end that great day with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Rogers and geared to answering the questions of those attending. The panelists will represent a variety of program models and a variety of school districts, both large and small.

Friday evening we will begin the main conference with a reception to register, socialize, and enjoy some entertainment. We will have the opening keynote address of the conference, as well.

On Saturday we will enjoy keynotes, a variety of break out sessions for parents and educators, vendors and good food. We are going to try something new this year, too. You've heard of speed dating? We're going to do Speed Lessons! Participants come with a tried and true lesson, tip or strategy that they can share - quickly! And everyone will be able to gather ideas from others to take away from the conference.

I hope you can come! And I hope you will share this opportunity with at least one other person in your district. Registration is on line at www.waetag.net.

News from a WAETAG Past President

WAETAG was founded in 1983 and has enjoyed outstanding leadership over the years. A list of all Past Presidents is on the Board page of our website www.waetag.net. We are reaching out to these leaders and asking them to share with us where they are and what they are doing. The first to respond was JoAnn Sims, who served as President from 1987-1988.

JoAnn writes:

I am currently in Hiroshima, Japan volunteering as Director for the World Friendship Center. It is a Japanese organization devoted to World Peace and a World without nuclear weapons. My husband and I operate a guest house and welcome visitors from around the world when they visit Hiroshima. We will be here from May 2011-2013.

2011 WAETAG Conference
Cultivating Powerful Programs for the Gifted
October 28 and 29, 2011



Our Keynote Speaker is Karen B. Rogers, currently director of research for GERRIC (Gifted Education Research and Resource Information Centre) and professor of education in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. In 1991 she wrote *The Relationship of Grouping Practices to the Education of Gifted and Talented Learners* for the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented. She is coeditor of *Talent in Context: Historical and Social Perspectives* and author of *Reforming Gifted Education: Matching the Program to the Child*, published in 2002. She is past-president of The Association for the Gifted (TAG) and is on the editorial boards of *Gifted Child Quarterly*, *Roeper Review*, *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, and *Gifted and Talented International*.

Our Conference Hotel is the Coast Wenatchee Center, 201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98001. Reservations at the WAETAG special conference rate of \$90 plus tax are guaranteed through September 28. Call reservations at 800-716-6199 and use our group code CWC-GF1744 or book your room online at www.wenatcheecenter.com.



2011 WAETAG CONFERENCE
Cultivating Powerful Programs for the Gifted
October 28-29, 2011
WENATCHEE

REGISTRATION FORM *Online registration is available at www.waetag.net*

Name _____	School _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher K-5
Address _____	School District _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher 6-8
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> ESD # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher 9-12
Phone _____ Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Private School	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator
		<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor
		<input type="checkbox"/> Parent
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

CONFERENCE OPTIONS AND PRICING

Administrators' Workshop Registration includes Friday meals and materials.

Educator Conference Registration includes Friday (reception and opening keynote) and Saturday meals and materials, keynotes and breakout sessions, and admission to the vendor marketplace. *One year WAETAG Membership is included with conference registration.*

Parent Track Registration includes Saturday meals and materials, keynotes and Parent Track breakout sessions, and admission to the vendor marketplace. *One year Northwest Gifted Child Association (NWGCA) Membership is included with parent conference registration.*

		Early Bird Registration before October 1	Regular Registration October 1 - 27	Onsite Registration October 28 - 29
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrators' Workshop (October 28) Friday only		\$150	\$175	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrators' Workshop plus Full Conference	Friday and Saturday	\$300	\$350	\$400
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference (October 28 - 29)	Friday 6:00 pm through Saturday	\$225	\$275	\$325
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Track (October 29)	Saturday only	\$100	\$125	\$150

Purchase order
 Check
 Credit Card Number _____ exp ___ / ___ code _____

Name on card _____

HOTEL

The 2011 WAETAG Conference location is the Coast Wenatchee Hotel | 201 N. Wenatchee Ave | Wenatchee, WA 98801 | 509-662-1234
 Reservations at the WAETAG special rate of \$90 plus tax are guaranteed through September 28 at 5:00 pm. Requests after this date will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. Call reservations at 800-716-6199 and use our group code CWC-GF1744 or online www.wenatcheecenter.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cancellations and refunds before September 15 are subject to a \$25 administrative fee | Registrations are transferable but not refundable after September 15 | Clock Hours and College Credits are available

Please return completed registration form and payment to or register online at www.waetag.net:
 Lisa Morasch | WAETAG Conference | 3606 SE 151st Court | Vancouver, WA 98683 | 360-256-5597 (fax) | 360-600-2170 (phone)

2011 WAETAG Conference
Cultivating Powerful Programs for the Gifted
Schedule of Events

Friday, October 28, 2011

9:00 – 3:30	Administrators' Workshop
6:00– 8:30	Registration and Vendor Marketplace Open
6:00 –7:00	Reception
7:00 – 8:00	Keynote

Saturday, October 29, 2011

8:00	Registration and Vendor Marketplace Open
8:00 – 8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome
8:45–9:45	General Keynote
10:00 – 11:00	Secondary Keynote and Elementary/Parent Breakouts
11:00 – 11:15	Morning Break and Vendor Marketplace
11:15 – 12:15	General Breakouts
12:15 – 1:45	WAETAG Awards & Scholarships Luncheon
1:45 – 2:15	Vendor Marketplace and Networking
2:15 – 3:15	Elementary Keynote and Secondary/Parent Breakouts
3:15 – 3:30	Afternoon Break and Vendor Marketplace
3:30 – 4:30	Speed Lessons
4:30	Conference concludes

Legislative Update from OSPI Highly Capable Program Staff

*Gayle Pauley, Director and
Jody Hess, Program Supervisor*

The Basic education act in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 28A.150.220) has changed, effective September 1, 2011, as follows:

(1) In order for students to have the opportunity to develop the basic education knowledge and skills under RCW [28A.150.210](#), school districts must provide instruction of sufficient quantity and quality and give students the opportunity to complete graduation requirements that are intended to prepare them for postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship. The program established under this section shall be the minimum instructional program of basic education offered by school districts.

(3) The instructional program of basic education provided by each school district shall include:

(g) Programs for highly capable students under RCW [28A.185.010](#) through [28A.185.030](#).

This change requires school districts to address the needs of Highly Capable students whether or not a district receives Highly Capable Program (HCP) funds under Chapter 28A.185 RCW. Districts are not required to accept HCP funds. If a district chooses to receive the state Highly Capable grant, the Application Form Package 217 and End-of-Year Form Package 250 must be submitted and approved. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required by this legislation to monitor districts receiving HCP grants and report to the Legislature at least every five years.

As the year progresses information about the inclusion of Highly Capable under Basic education will be updated.

Important Dates

NOW— Register for 2011 WAETAG Conference at www.waetag.net

Sept. 28— Last day to receive the guaranteed WAETAG Conference rate of \$90 per night at the conference hotel, Coast Wenatchee. 1-800-716-6199. Use our group code CWC-GF1744.

Oct. 28— Administrator's Workshop 9:00 A.M.— 3:30P.M.

Oct. 28—29 WAETAG Conference in Wenatchee

WAETAG Scholarship Update

Roger Daniels

2010-2011 was a banner year for WAETAG scholarship programs, with a record five students receiving Summer Program Scholarships and four students receiving Distinguished Student Awards. At the summer board retreat at the Coast Hotel in Wenatchee, site of the 2011 WAETAG Conference, WAETAG Board of Directors approved adjustments for both programs that will increase opportunities for gifted students in Washington.

WAETAG provided four hundred dollars toward the tuition costs for each of the winners of the WAETAG Summer Scholarships (winners were announced in the Spring 2011 Newsletter). The Board has approved an increase in the award to five hundred dollars (not to exceed tuition costs) for the coming year. In addition, the application deadline was moved to March first to allow for earlier application to the popular summer programs.

2011 Distinguished Student Awards were awarded to:

Kathleen Zhu, an eighth grade student in the Prism Program in Bellevue School District, ESD 121. Kathleen has excelled in her academic efforts and has been active in debate, Future Problem Solving, and community service.

Zara Guzman, from ESD 123, has excelled in academics as well as musical endeavors. She plays guitar and violin, performing with Mariachi Fenix and her church choir. She is also active in sports and community service.

Kiley Pugh, from Poulsbo Middle School, ESD 114, has excelled in all aspects of school life. In addition to her outstanding academic performance in the Agate Program, Kiley has participated with honors in "History Day" for the past two years and excels in dance, technology and community service.

Brittany Mendoza-Pena, a student in the Odyssey Program in Spokane, ESD 101, has been acknowledged for her academic excellence, leadership, and enthusiastic engagement in her school and community.

Congratulations to all our Distinguished Students! The Board has decided to expand the Distinguished Student Awards eligibility range to include high school students beginning this 2011-2012 academic year. It is our hope that the extended range (from 3-8 to 3-12) will allow each ESD region to honor one outstanding student. The cash award will remain at \$100. Nominations for distinguished students will now come only from teachers. Student bios and photos will be requested only of the winners. It is our hope that the adjustments to our scholarship/award programs will increase participation in these programs. Let your students know about the great summer opportunities available and encourage them to apply for a scholarship. And we encourage you to nominate an outstanding student for the Distinguished Student Awards as a way to recognize remarkable academic achievement, leadership, and community service.



PO Box 94045, Seattle, WA 98124

WAETAG membership is included in your conference registration. If you did not attend the latest conference, your membership may have expired. Please renew it by sending in \$35 and the form below. Membership includes newsletters, advanced conference mailings, student scholarship mailings and news of advocacy and training opportunities. Stay with us for the students' sakes!

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THE LAST CONFERENCE, YOU MAY NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS ARE WELCOME!

Share or review a favorite curriculum resource, describe your program, or a lesson, teacher, or student. We all need new ideas. WAETAG Newsletter offers you one more way to network. Please send material within an e-mail message or attached as a Word document .

Contact Kyra Richardson for newsletter details: dustinandkyra@msn.com, (509) 489-1175 (please do not call after 8 P.M.). For other information about WAETAG, please contact the WAETAG President at president.waetag@gmail.com.

If you receive this newsletter at work, please send us your home address on a membership form to assure you continue to receive prompt WAETAG mailings. Label it UPDATE.

WAETAG Membership Form

I wish to support meeting the needs of gifted children in Washington State.

WAETAG membership category: Individual/Parent (\$35) Student (\$15)

Name _____
Address (h) _____
Address (w) _____
e-mail _____
School District _____ ESD No. _____

Phone (h) _____ Phone (w) _____
City (h) _____ State _____ Zip _____
City (w) _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a:
 Gifted Program Teacher Counselor
 Classroom Teacher Researcher
 Parent Student
 Administrator Other
 Public School Private School

As an educator, my level of work is (check one):
 Preschool Primary
 Intermediate/Middle Junior High
 High School College

Mail membership form and check to WAETAG, c/o Betty Buzitis, 6811 191st Place SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036.

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