

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Newsletter

Spring 2011

WAETAG 2011 Conference

*Cultivating Powerful
Programs for the Gifted*

Mark your calendar!
October 28th & 29th
Wenatchee

More details on page 4

Gifted Community Speaks Up, Gains Legislative Support for Funding

Marcia Holland



At the time of publication of this newsletter, the legislature has not finalized the 2011-2013 budget.

The extraordinary news is that parents, educators, and parent support groups of gifted spoke up loudly, effectively and in an organized way in December and January. As a result, funding for gifted education was included in both supplemental budgets for the 2010-2011 budget year with only minimal cuts. That effective effort set the legislative tone for support for gifted education for the rest of the legislative session.

At the time of this newsletter's publication, both the House and the Senate proposed budgets include funding for gifted. While the two budgets will have to be reconciled, it is our belief that the funding for gifted will be preserved.

There is no way that funding for gifted would have survived this tough economic budget environment without the committed, intelligent, and thorough efforts of the community of citizens who understand that there are children who have a learning difference called giftedness that requires academic accommodation. WAETAG says a heartfelt "Thank You!" to each and everyone of you who sent emails, made phone calls, wrote letters, and/or came to Olympia to urge legislators to meet their constitutional obligation to amply educate every child to his or her potential.

Fairness is not about everyone getting the same thing. Fairness is each child getting what he or she needs. Thank you for speaking up for fair treatment of the state's gifted children.

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Looking for summer opportunities
for gifted and talented kids? Visit
our website!

www.waetag.net

President's Message

Stephen B. Martin

president.waetag@gmail.com 425-224-6352



Dear Colleagues,

The outlook for Highly Capable Programs in Washington has changed dramatically over the past few months, and there is cause for cautious optimism. Thanks to the truly heroic actions of parents, legislators, and other advocates, the budget that passed both the House and Senate in April includes adequate funding for HCP. Further, the implementation of education reforms that mandate the inclusion of gifted education as part of basic education is now scheduled to take place in September of 2011 as originally proposed, rather than being postponed into the indefinite future. There is still a chance for shenanigans during the reconciliation process, but I believe we are in a much better place now than we were in January.

I am grateful to the WAETAG stalwarts who wrote letters and contacted legislators during these eventful months. And I want to acknowledge the amazing energy and effectiveness of our sister organizations, the Northwest Gifted Child Association and the Washington Coalition for Gifted Education. Together we prevailed on behalf of high-potential and high-performing students throughout Washington.

As part of our ongoing commitment to students, WAETAG has awarded five \$300 scholarships to help students attend summer programs for gifted youth this year. In addition, the first annual WAETAG Distinguished Student Awards are now being processed. Check the Fall Newsletter for profiles of our young scholars.

The WAETAG Board is always on the lookout for talented educators willing to take on a leadership role in the organization. Our goal of having Board representation from all nine regional ESD areas has finally been realized. If you would like to network with gifted educators in your area, please contact your Regional Representative on the Board page of our redesigned website www.waetag.net.

The 2011 SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Conference will be in Seattle on July 15-17. The program is rich, with keynote speakers including James Webb, Nancy Robinson, and Phil Gordon, plus breakout sessions covering the spectrum of emotional issues among gifted students. For more information, visit http://sengifted.org/2011_conference/programs.shtml. I hope to meet you there!

SENG in Seattle: July 15—17, 2011

For complete information:

http://sengifted.org/conference_2011_Seattle.shtml

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.

2010 - 2011 WAETAG Board Members

President: Stephen Martin

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Past President: Mary Freitas

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NWGCA Representative

Marcia Holland *mhollandrich@comcast.net*

Your WAETAG Regional Representatives

ESD 101: Mike Cantlon *satiric@comcast.net*

Programs & Learning Opportunities for Highly Capable Students in the ESD 101 Service Area

Central Valley School District

ABLE Learner Program <https://www.cvsd.org/capable.asp>
Pull-out model, located at Opportunity Elementary, for students in grades 2-5;
Extended Corp Program in grades 6-8
Pre-AP, Advanced Placement courses and Running Start offered in high schools

Cheney School District

ProQuest, an online resource for research and information
Mentor Studies, <http://www.cheneyisd.org/14512032172225323/site/default.asp>
an elective class for highly capable middle school students

East Valley School District

Planned Enrichment Program (http://www.evsd.org/documents/curriculum/pep_flyer.pdf)
Pull-out model, located at Otis Orchards Elementary, for students in grades 2-5

Mead School District

Quest Program <http://www.mead354.org/page.cfm?p=10459>
Pull-out model, located at each elementary school, for students in grades 4-6
Challenge Program - Support Resources provided through a Learning Facilitator at each elementary school
Honors, AP classes and Running Start offered in high schools

Newport School District

<http://newportschools.schoolwires.net/230910790594370/site/default.asp>
Half-day pull-out model for students in third and fourth grade
Honors math and honors reading for fifth and sixth grade students
Daily 2-hour block in an integrated humanities program for seventh & eighth grade students
Advanced English/Science/Math classes, College in the High School classes and Advanced Placement Classes for high school students

Pioneer School

<http://www.pioneerschool.com/index.html>
Private school serving highly capable students in grades K-5

Pullman School District

Hi-Cap, half-day pull-out program, located at Lincoln Middle School, for students in fourth and fifth grade
Academic Clubs and Teams offered in the middle school
Honors, AP classes, and Running Start offered in the high school

Riverside School District

S.O.A.R. Program (Student Opportunities at Riverside)
<http://www.riversidesd.org/15931012143428973/site/default.asp>
Part-day pull-out program, once a week, for eligible students in grades three through six

Spokane Public Schools

Odyssey Program - Full time magnet program, located at Libby Center, for students in grades five through eight
<http://www.spokaneschools.org/1742203295636780/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=55276&1742203295636780Nav=|&NodeID=295>
Tessera Program – Pull out program, located at Libby Center, for students in grades three through six <http://www.spokaneschools.org/1742203295636780/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=55277>
Honors classes offered at district middle schools
Honors, AP classes and Running Start offered in district high schools

West Valley School District

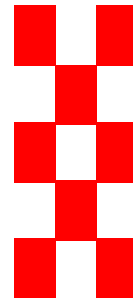
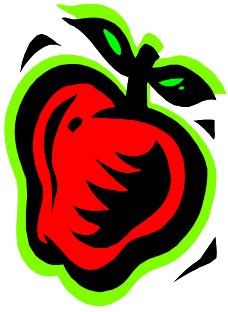
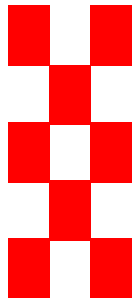
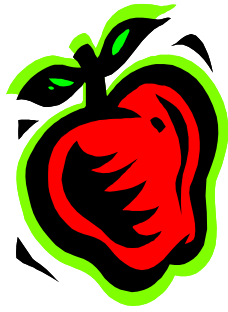
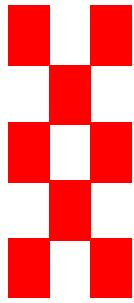
PACE Program (Program for Accelerated and Creative Education), grades three-twelve
http://special-programs-m.wvwsd.org/modules/groups/integrated_home.phtml?gid=2184810&sessionid=4c3257bf52efd02e91fe27e23a4821e0
Pull-out program for students in grades 3-5, clustered at Ness Elementary
One magnet, full time multi-age (grades 3-5) classroom, new this year
Pull-out program for students in grades 6-8, core group in Centennial Middle School
Mentor class, Honors, AP classes offered in district high schools

Extracurricular Opportunities

In addition, many highly capable students from school districts throughout ESD 101 participate in the following enrichment activities:
Destination ImagiNation
Future Problem Solvers
Knowledge Bowl
Lego Robotics
Math Is Cool
Math Counts
Math Olympiad
Odyssey of the Mind
Science Bowl
Science Olympiad
Various after-school clubs, such as chess, leadership, math, science, and so on

Summer Camps

Satori (EWU) <http://www.satoricamp.org/South/>
Cougar Quest (WSU) [http://www.cougarquest.wsu.edu/What is Cougar Quest.asp](http://www.cougarquest.wsu.edu/What%20is%20Cougar%20Quest.asp)



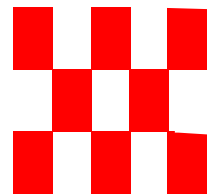
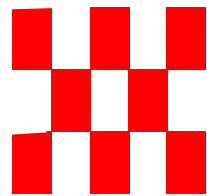
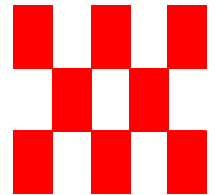
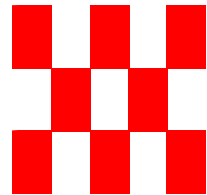
Save the Date!

October 28 - 29, 2011

wenatchee

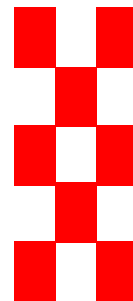
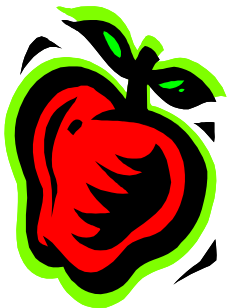
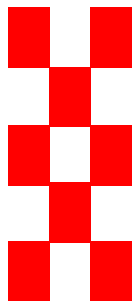
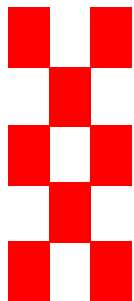
2011 CONFERENCE

*Cultivating Powerful Programs
for the Gifted*



Friday Oct. 28 - Special daytime session for Administrators/
Coordinators only. (Friday evening Keynote is for everyone.)

Due to changes for Highly Capable Programs resulting from the recent
legislative session that will affect all districts in Washington, we will be
offering a day for administrators to become familiar with the changes and
find program information and help as we all begin implementation.



WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

October 28 - 29, 2011

wenatchee

2011 CONFERENCE

Cultivating Powerful Programs for the Gifted

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

WAETAG 2011 Conference will provide tools to advocate for and meet the needs of gifted students. Presenters are encouraged to submit a proposal for sessions which relate to this mission.

Presenter:

Position/Title:

Organization or School:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Preferred Phone: ()

(H) (W) (Cell)

TITLE OF PRESENTATION _____

Please attach program description as word document

INTENDED AUDIENCE (check all that apply)

- Elementary Teachers Middle School Teachers High School Teachers
 Program Administrators Parents Other _____

COMPLEXITY LEVEL OF SESSION Beginning Beyond Beginning Advanced

TIME PREFERENCE (OPTIONAL) Saturday morning Saturday afternoon

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Rooms can accommodate up to 50 participants. Sessions will last 60 – 75 minutes.
- No AV will be provided. Please bring any equipment needed (including laptop and projector) and your handouts (enough for 50).
- Presenters are expected to register for the conference and will receive one 20% reduction of registration fee per presentation. Meals and conference materials will be available only for presenters who are registered.

DEADLINE: Please submit Presenter's Proposal **by July 11, 2011** to: Lisa Morasch, WAETAG Conference Coordinator, at imc360@comcast.net.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lisa Morasch at 360-256-5590 or imc360@comcast.net

Adequacy or Excellence?

Kari DeMarco

One year at the NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) conference, I was awed by the many amazing speakers, some quite well known in my field, and I tried to see as many of them as I could. But perhaps I was the most impressed by the one bearing the title “Demanding Excellence Amidst a National Environment of Adequacy” by a man I had never heard of.

The speaker was raised in a cattle ranching family, eventually entered and succeeded in the business world, and later became an educator. He is was given the honorary title National Administrator of the Year by NAGC. Well, I’m hard to impress, so the title alone didn’t do much for me. Nor did his fashionable outfit, good looks, or aw-shucks charm. Big deal. But upon listening to the speaker, Will Schofield, he really struck a chord with me, and perhaps with you. Read on.

Schofield is calling for a “counter-cultural, radical shift in focus from ‘adequacy’ to ‘excellence’ in education.” He states that the unintended consequence of *A Nation at Risk* and *No Child Left Behind* is an era of accountability. That would be fine, except that the accountability is for mere adequacy, basic competency. He says that the focus is on remediation, a narrow focus on *only* the “most fragile” to the frustration of our “most able.” He points out that people will spend time on that which is measured, and educators know they will be labeled “good teacher” or bad, “good school” or bad, based on getting the struggling students to adequacy. But what about those able to go beyond mere adequacy? Do they not also deserve our time and attention?

Schofield contends that it is not only moral to also serve the needs of the “most able,” but a necessary shift if our country is to regain its competitive edge, resurrect its failing economy. “There are a billion Indians in the world market, China is 1.2 billion strong. The world is changing. Our competition is elsewhere in the world,” he points out. Due to the “digitization” of work—meaning work that can travel over the worldwide web—70% of our jobs could go elsewhere. The average hourly pay in the Silicon Valley is \$156. In India they will do the same work for \$15 an hour. As Daniel Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind*, says, we need to help our young people not only master the basics, but do what Americans do best: invent, create, and think outside the box.

In Schofield’s words, “Shouldn’t we switch to a culture of excellence, enrichment, creativity, inquiry, celebration, calculated risk, high support, focus on unlimited potential of *all* (including the most able)?” He contends the president should avoid “tinkering” in favor of “a seismic shift” in education. He suggests we start with standards, but then go beyond the standardized test. Have students grapple with important concepts and engage in sustained inquiry, relevant thinking. Emphasize application of knowledge to produce something new and useful. “Character, competency, and rigor for all—pull them all up from the top,” he said,

demonstrating with his hands. “Focus on excellence, and be confident that everything else will take care of itself.”

Schofield also referred us to the movie *Two Million Minutes* by Robert Compton. It is about how gifted kids in three countries—India, China, and the U.S.—spend their four years (or two million minutes) in high school. For example, China has a nine hour school day and goes a full month longer. That adds up to a lot more time spent in class, and the students in the video claimed that even after the school day is through, studying is their first priority. India is a similar story.

Now perhaps, like me, you wouldn’t advocate spending quite so much more time in school, nor on endless studying after school. But perhaps you can see why we simply must not squander the precious time we do have with our students. Every minute should be spent helping kids live up to their own individual potential, no matter what that is. Every student, parent, teacher, and administrator should help students achieve not mere adequacy, but their own personal version of excellence.

Congratulations to WAETAG Summer Scholarship Winners!

Arghya Kannadaguli, 6th grade at Pine Lake Middle School in Sammamish. She is enrolled in a summer program on the campus of University of Washington.

Max Kauffman, 5th grade at St. Catherine School in Seattle. He plans to attend Next City course at Robinson Center at University of Washington.

Marnel Ramirez, 6th grade at St. Anthony School in Renton. Marnel will study math topics at the Robinson Center at UW.

Madison Schiller, 7th grade at Libby Center in Spokane. She plans to attend Satori Summer Camp on the campus of Eastern Washington University.

Alyssa Yun, 8th grade at Kilo Middle School in Auburn. She will attend Summer Stretch and Summer Challenge Programs at Robinson Center, UW.

Important Dates

July 11 **Deadline for presentation proposals for 2011 WAETAG Conference**

June 15 WAETAG Elections Deadline

July 15—17 SENG Conference in Seattle

Oct. 28—29 WAETAG Conference in Wenatchee

WAETAG Elections 2011–2012

Your ballot is enclosed. If you are a current WAETAG member, please vote and send in your ballot by **June 15, 2011**.

ESD 101: Mike Cantlon

Mike, who has a Master's Degree in education with endorsements in curriculum development, special education (including gifted education), and biology, began his public school career in 1978 as an educator for the Kent (Washington) School District elementary gifted and talented program. From there he went on to aid in the development of gifted and talented full-time self-contained programs in Kennewick as well as the Odyssey program in the Spokane School District. In 1984 Mike co-created and has directed for the past 27 years Satori, an extremely successful residential academic summer camp for gifted high school and junior high school youngsters. Satori has drawn from all parts of the United States and from as far away as South Africa and Japan. This camp is housed on the campus of Eastern Washington University where Mike has had the opportunity to teach as an adjunct professor for ten years. Mike Cantlon is an incredibly devoted and passionate teacher who spends his summers not only directing Satori camp, but also works as a teacher leader for People to People and has had the opportunity over the past eleven years to take high school student ambassadors to countries all over the world.

Mr. Cantlon has taught for both the Tessera gifted program and the A.P.P.L.E. (Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience) program, both housed within the Spokane School District. He has served on the boards of the Spokane Area Children's Chorus and Allegro Baroque and Beyond.

ESD 121: Roger Daniels

Roger Daniels is currently completing his seventh year as the Consulting Teacher for Advanced Learning Programs in Seattle Public Schools. Roger completed his Master of Architecture degree at University of New Mexico in 1990, and began work on a doctorate in education in 1992 at University of New Mexico with an emphasis on gifted education.

Roger taught in middle and high school gifted programs in Albuquerque, served on the Albuquerque Public Schools Gifted Task Force, was an ad hoc member of the New Mexico State Gifted Task Force and served as the resource teacher for Albuquerque Public Schools. In 2001, he moved to Washington, where he worked as resource teacher for Tacoma Public Schools for one year. Roger then moved to Seattle and returned to the classroom in Federal Way in 2002, where he taught in middle school special education classrooms. Roger Daniels has worked with Elizabeth Nielsen and Dennis Higgins at University of New Mexico and has attended extended workshops with George Betts, Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, and Richard Paul. He was a delegate to Russia through People to People Ambassador Programs gifted education exchange program, led by Joyce Van Tassel-Baska in September 2006.

ESD 121: Stephanie Kodis-Fisher

Stephanie Kodis-Fisher is the Highly Capable Teacher in the Tukwila School District. In the past she has been the Highly Capable Coordinator and Coach. In addition she has been a teacher for over 11 years in various grades and is a private educational consultant for the local community. She holds a Master's Degree in curriculum with an emphasis in Gifted Education. She has a passion for working with highly capable students with dual exceptionalities and students with potential. She recently worked with OSPI on creating a document on underserved populations. Mrs. Kodis-Fisher is an innovative teacher to create individualized programs for her students and learning plans for all her students to emphasize their learning styles and passions.

ESD 171: Kari De Marco

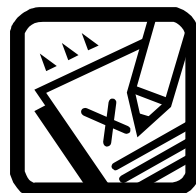
Kari DeMarco received her Masters in Teaching from Whitworth University and her administrative credential from WSU. She taught middle school English for 10 years, alternative high school for four years, elementary gifted pull-out for five years, and has been the enrichment coordinator in Wenatchee School District for three years. She is on the WAETAG board currently and enjoys all she learns in that role. She had the privilege of being on the OSPI Technical Working Group and is excited to see those plans come to fruition. She has two highly capable kids of her own and cares passionately about gifted kids and the teachers and parents who work on their behalf.

ESD 189: Linda Varner

Linda Varner has been a representative for ESD 189 for the past two years and is currently working as the Highly Capable Specialist for the Snohomish School District for the elementary and middle school Honors programs and has held this position for the last 5 years. Linda has taught in the 4/5/6 Highly Capable program for over 20 years. She coaches in the Future Problem Solving program and is currently on the board. Outside the classroom Linda enjoys working with her girls book club, Relay for Life and advocating for our Gifted and Talented students.

Private Schools: Betty Burley-Wolf

Betty Burley-Wolf has served as the WAETAG Private Schools Rep. for the past two years and was the Eastern Representative for the previous five years. She has been a member of WAETAG for over 20 years and attended and presented at many conferences. Betty has her master's degree in gifted education from Whitworth College and is the founding director of Pioneer School. Pioneer School serves gifted and highly capable students in Spokane Valley, grades K-5, and has been successful for 31 years. When Betty is not busy at school, she coaches ski racing at Schweitzer.



**Please return your ballot
by June 15, 2011**



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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