



Chapter Notes

Spring 2006

Membership

Calendar of Events

May 3rd
General Meeting
Election of Officers
10 am
MCAA

Dear Members,

It is that time again! May membership renewals are upon us again! Where does the year go? Congratulations to the Bullard Elementary Target teachers who were awarded \$200 for the highest percentage of membership to the Cobb Chapter. For the School year 2006-2007, the Cobb Chapter will award \$500 to the Gifted teacher with the highest percentage of participation in membership. Please support your school's gifted teachers by joining.

This year's membership is crucial to help us support the needs of the advanced learning students. The State has passed some incredible legislation that impacts our school systems financially without giving financial support.

- Classes sizes have been reduced. We support class size reduction, but the austerity cuts have not been

repealed. In addition, Cobb County will give approximately \$85 million back to the State in "Fair Share" revenue. This pushes our already stretched budget even further. And as far as class sizes go, the question is where will the extra classes be held? Many schools already have trailers, classes held in closets, and shared classrooms. We also know there is a trailer shortage as a result of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

- Teachers will be receiving \$100 gift cards for classroom supplies. The state is only paying for general education classrooms and the school system is to pay for the other teachers.
- Only state paid teachers are being given pay raises by the State. Administration, counselors, media specialist etc. are to receive pay raises, it must come out of the school system funds.

- The Governor put a freeze on health care costs. We all know costs are still rising, so the system must pay for the additional costs.

Cobb County is currently researching classroom needs. This is done every year at this time. However, with the above changes, there could be surprises. Fulton County has announced cutting programs (Arts and band) because they have a classroom shortage with an increased enrollment. Advanced learning classes require a smaller number of students in the classroom to receive the additional state funding. Whenever budgets are tight, gifted programs are at risk.

We are working very closely with the Georgia Association for Gifted Students and our sister chapters to protect gifted funding. Please join and help us to support the needs of advanced learners in Cobb County and throughout the state of Georgia.

Sandy Swint, president
Cobb GAGC



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Mind Bogglers

There are 99 children at a party. 59 eat ice cream. 61 eat cake. 44 eat cake and ice cream. 1 eats candy, cake, and ice cream. 22 eat candy. 7 eat candy and ice cream. 4 eat cake and candy. How many eat nothing?

A man with no map visiting a strange country comes to a crossroads where the signpost has been knocked down. How can he find his way without asking anyone for help?

If six frogs catch six flies in six minutes, how many frogs are required to catch 60 flies in 60 minutes?

Achievements of Note

Tritt Elementary School has been named a 2006 Georgia School of Excellence by the Georgia Department of Education. Tritt is one of only 20 schools statewide to receive the prestigious designation this year.

The following high school students are recipients of the 2006 Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation academic scholarships, which are based on academic achievement, school and community involvement, and outstanding displays of leadership:

Campbell -	Hannah Hill, Sally Nicely
Harrison -	Jacinda Koziara, Katelyn Wilkinson
Kell -	Sarah Beer, Stephanie Lamb
Kennesaw Mt -	James Cahal, Andrew Kovacs
Lassiter -	Adria Claire Hampton, Angela Bokeum Yang
McEachern -	Alyssa Roark, David Snively
North Cobb -	Anna Evans, Alexander Poma
Oakwood -	Jessica Cripe, Laura Danner
Osborne -	Julie Creasy, Candyce Nixon
Pebblebrook -	Mirian Hardaway, Natashia Lynch
Pope -	Emily Goff, Donna Huang
South Cobb -	Karen Allen, Kimberly Allen
Sprayberry -	Sanya Kyeyune, Devin Perkins
Walton -	Christina Storey, Yujing Xue
Wheeler -	Lindsay Haines, Joseph Ling

Michelle Stokes of the South Cobb Magnet Program and Lindsay Haines of the Wheeler Magnet Program have been named Regional Finalists in the Young Epidemiology Scholars Competition. Great work, ladies!

Congratulations to Kevin Plattenburg and Vanessa Ng of Wheeler High School on their selection to participate in Leadership Unplugged: A CNN Experience to be held at Georgia Tech in June.

Congratulations to Matthew Orr, Jonathan Boardman, and Vincent James of Wheeler High School who participated in the 58th annual Georgia Science and Engineering Fair, placing first, first, and second place, respectively.

This year, seniors at the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts have achieved a record 1.8 million dollars in scholarship offers. Wow!



Cobb Updates and Events

A big thank you to Post 4 School Board Member Laura Searcy who announced she will not seek another term. She has worked hard for gifted ed for many years.

Alison Bartlett and Sandy Swint were appointed by Dr. Sally Krisel, DOE Director of Gifted Education, to the "Gifted Education Subcommittee of the Governor's Education Task Force".

This committee is responsible for drafting a report on excellence in Gifted Education.

The 2005 Annual Report for the Cobb County School District is available online at the District's web site at www.cobbk12.org/annualreport05. It provides a comprehensive overview of District operations, financial results, testing data, and school-specific information from the past year.

Legislative Updates

This is a very good time to remind policy makers at all levels how important quality gifted education programs are -- to the many children who benefit directly, to schools that benefit from a commitment to excellence for ALL children, to communities, and to our society. - Dr. Sally C. Krisel, Gifted Education Specialist, Georgia Department of Education, skrisel@doe.k12.ga.us

Find out specifically what you can do at www.nagc.org.

News about current education legislation from the Georgia legislature can be found at <http://www.ciclt.com/page/default.asp>

Websites of Interest

Subscribe to the Pre-Engineering Times! It's not only a great resource for the classroom, but also for students and their parents as they make career choices and learn about the world of engineering.

To sign up to receive the monthly Pre-Engineering Times, go to <http://www.jets.org/programs/enewssi-gnup.cfm>.

The USA Mathematical Talent Search (USAMTS) is a free mathematics competition open to all United States middle and high school students. See www.usamts.org for information.

Something to Ponder

Field trips are "a more interesting approach to learning. Instead of people just telling you it, you get the experience."

- Mackinley Tan, 5th grader

Target Students Transitioning to Middle/High School

Students currently enrolled in a Cobb County elementary gifted/talented class (TARGET CLASS) will be placed in a middle school gifted/talented program. In middle school, gifted/talented classes meet each day for one or more class periods, during the language arts class and / or science class.

The move from elementary to middle school can be exciting and also very stressful for fifth grade students, especially gifted (Target) students. Many gifted students have a great sensitivity to their surroundings, to events, to ideas, and to expectations. Some experience their own high expectations for achievement as a pressure to excel. Constant striving to live up to self-expectations (or those of others), to be first, or best, can be very stressful. The typical adolescent urge for less dependence on parents makes it particularly important for students in the middle grades to

begin advocating for themselves, but they often do not know how to ask for help or what to ask for. The Gifted Kid's Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook by Judy Galbraith, and Jim Delisle gives a list of "Ten Tips for Talking to Teachers".

"Adolescence is a time for learning more about who one is, a time for forming a personal identity. For many adolescents, this involves trying on different looks, images, and patterns of behavior. In Parenting Gifted Adolescents, Glenda Griffin says "parents need to be tolerant during this experimental stage."

Myth: Gifted young people must learn to get along with their peers. Reality: A great goal – but which peers? social peers? chronological peers? economic peers? intellectual peers?

Gifted young people may mask their giftedness and develop alternative identities which are perceived as more socially acceptable, since most peer groups value conformity. I encourage

all parents of gifted students to listen more during adolescence and stay involved with your student.

There are many web sites and articles written about "gifted adolescents".

Hoagies' Gifted Education Page (www.hoagiesgifted.org/adolescents.htm) has many articles on Gifted Adolescents and Social/Emotional Aspects of Giftedness.

Also go to **Council for Exceptional ChildrenInformation Center on Disabilities and Gifted Education: Selected Reading: Gifted Education and Middle Schools** (<http://ericcc.org>) There are many articles of interest listed on this web site.

Linda Dudley

School Counselor, Dowell Elementary mother of 2 former Target students- Michelle, high school chemistry teacher, & Karen, 2nd year law student

The Gifted in America

Despite all the talk about America losing its edge in the global market, programs for the gifted and talented are threatened on several fronts. There are fewer classes for gifted elementary and middle school children today than there were a decade ago, said Jane Clarenbach, Public Relations Director of the National Association for Gifted Children. In 1998, 25 states reported that 80 to 100 percent of their local school districts provided services to gifted students; last year, there were 22 states reporting that level of services. Ms. Clarenbach said the federal No

Child Left Behind Law was "eroding support for gifted services." Passed in 2002, the law rates schools on how students perform on reading and math tests, pressuring districts to focus resources on students struggling to attain proficiency. Schools that score too low can be taken over. "It's important to help the kids who are struggling," Ms. Clarenbach said, "but it's important to challenge the kids on the other end, too." She said that while the extra \$90 million President Bush has budgeted this year for Advanced Placement math and science programs was good

news, "we need to do more K to 8 so more kids will be in a position to take the A.P. tests in high school." Each year, President Bush has eliminated the \$9 million Javits Act, the only federal financing for elementary and middle school gifted programs. Each year, a bipartisan Congressional coalition has saved it, this year led by Senators [Charles E. Grassley](#) and [Christopher J. Dodd](#).

Excerpted from
No Child Left Behind? Ask the Gifted
By Michael Winerip
April 5, 2006 The New York Times

Spotlight on Pebblebrook

The Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts (CCCEPA) is a magnet program at Pebblebrook High School. The program is open to any talented student in Cobb County who meets eligibility and audition requirements. Each student is enrolled in a major - voice, dance, drama, or technical theatre. A large number of students "double major" and take classes in two areas. Students study in their major concentration area for two class periods each day totaling two hours.

They are required to remain in the program every semester of their high school careers. Students are actively involved in extracurricular performances and are given the opportunity to work with top professionals in the arts from the Atlanta area and throughout the United States. In less than two decades, Pebblebrook has gained national recognition as a premier school for the arts in the United States. Pebblebrook graduates consistently go on to attend leading performing arts colleges, universities and conservatories. They are performing in

record numbers on Broadway, in regional theatres and opera houses, in national tours, in dance companies, in film, and with cruise lines throughout the world. Emphasis is placed on an academic approach to the arts, and training received during the school day is strictly classical. Auditions are held each spring for rising 9th graders, and at any time during the year for students wishing to transfer. Those wishing to learn more about CCCEPA can visit the website at www.cccepa.com.

Intelligent Behaviors

Excerpted from *Developing Your Child's Habits Of Success In School, Life And Work* by Dr. Arthur L. Costa

Considerable research demonstrates that successful people in most any walk of life display certain characteristics or dispositions. I call them habits of mind. They are patterns of thinking and behaving in intelligent ways and are displayed when confronted with life's dilemmas and problems. We want our children to develop those habits that lead them to become life-long learners, effective problem solvers and decision makers, able to communicate with a diverse population, and to understand how to live successfully in a rapidly changing, high-tech world. In this article, I describe 12 of those habits.

1. Persisting

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." (Dale Carnegie). Efficient problem solvers persevere even when the solution to a problem or challenge is not readily apparent.

2. Managing Impulsivity

"The sign of intelligent people is their ability to control emotions by the application of reason." (Marya Mannes). Successful people know how to monitor their own impulses and resist jumping to conclusions.

3. Listening To Others— With Understanding And Empathy

"If there is any secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from his angle as well as from your own." (Henry Ford). Successful people spend an immense amount of time and energy listening.

4. Thinking Flexibly

"Soften the rigidities within yourself and the universe will give you strength and vigor." (Arabic Proverb). Successful people consider alternative points of view.

5. Thinking About Their Thinking ("Metacognition")

"I cannot always control what goes on outside. But I can always control what goes on inside." (Wayne Dyer). Successful people are aware of themselves— their own thoughts, actions, and values and their effects on others.

6. Striving For Accuracy And Precision

"You go back to the gym and you just do it again and again until you get it right." (Arnold Schwarzenegger).

Successful people appreciate and strive for correctness, elegance, fidelity, and quality in a product.

7. Questioning And Problem Posing

"You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions." (Naguib Mahfouz). One of the distinguishing characteristics between humans and other forms of life is our inclination and ability to find problems to solve.

8. Applying Past Knowledge To New Situations

"I've never made a mistake. I've only learned from experience." (Thomas A. Edison). When successful people encounter problems or complex new challenges, one of the first things they ask themselves is "What do I already know about this?" "Where have I encountered a problem like this before?" or "What strategies helped me in the past that I can apply to this new challenge?"

Summer Camps

The Cobb Chapter of the Georgia Association of Gifted Children is pleased to present ideas for summer activities for gifted children. Please note that the Chapter does NOT endorse any of these activities, but merely notes them as a service to our constituents.

iD Tech Camps

This hands-on technology program provides weeklong, day and overnight summer camps for ages 7-17 locally at Emory University. Visit www.internalDrive.com or call 1-888-709-TECH (8324).

Exploring Engineer Academy

Georgia Tech offers a week long engineering program giving students hands-on opportunities to explore engineering as a career. June 4-9. Call Loren Sellers at 770-956-3184 or see www.atlantabsa.org/docs/explor.pdf

Vanderbilt Program for Talented Youth

An intensive, enriched 3-week summer residential program for gifted students in grades 7-11. For more information see www.Peabody.vanderbilt.edu/pty or call 615-322-8261

Summer Institute for the Gifted

SIG is the ultimate residential, academic, recreational summer program for gifted students in grades 4-11. Call 866-303-4744 or see www.giftedstudy.com

National Computer Camp

Provides a cooperative learning environment centered around computers. See www.NCCamp.com

Advanced Academy of Georgia Young Scholars Institute

Offers a full-time residential early-entrance-to-college for gifted high school students at the University of West Georgia as well as a fun-filled and challenging summer camp for highly gifted and curious rising 8th and 9th grade students. More information is available at www.advancedacademy.org or call 678-839-6249

Kennesaw Kids College

Offerings include art, robotics, computers, science, architecture, cooking, and more. More information is at www.kennesaw.edu/ConEd/kids or call 770-423-6765

U. of S. Carolina Adventure Series

A summer adventure program for 6th - 12th graders taught by USC faculty covering a variety of subjects including science, writing, law and criminology, medicine, robotics and more. For information call 803-777-9444 or see <http://ced.sc.edu/adventures>

Concordia Language Villages

Languages taught through immersion techniques. For information see <http://clvweb.cord.edu/prweb> or call 800-222-4750

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Hands-on archaeological research. For information call 800-422-8975 ext. 130 www.crowcanyon.org/programs/teens_and_families.html

Barnard Pre-College Program

Experience college life while exploring NYC. Open to rising juniors and seniors. For information, see www.Barnard.edu/pcp or call 212-854-8866

Science Spectrum

The Wheeler High School Magnet Program is offering a science and engineering summer camp called *Science Spectrum* for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students June 5-9 from 9 am -3 pm in the Magnet building on the Wheeler campus. Registration is open until May 19th with a maximum of 90 students. Forms are available at www.wheelermagnet.com or by calling Mary McGinnis at 770-578-3286.

Emagination Computer Camp

A combination of the traditional summer camp and the wonders of technology with programs for ages 8-17. Locally at mercer university. For more information, call 1-877-248-0206 or see www.computercamps.com

SCAD Summer Seminars

Savannah College of Art and Design offers one week residential programs for high school students and a 5-week summer college experience. For more information see www.scad.edu/summer or call 877-664-7223

Sally Ride Science Day Camp

A science camp for girls grade 6-9 at Agnes Scott University. June 12-16. For more information see www.agnesscott.edu/scottsummer/p_sciencecamp.asp or call 404-471-5949

The Green River Preserve

Campers have found here a place where they are free to be smart, curious and creative. For more information see www.GreenRiverPreserve.org or call 828-698-8828

Southern Poly: Summer Blast

For information call Gloria Downey 678-915-4956 or see www.oce.spsu.edu/programs/kids/kids.htm

Summer Camps

Summer Science

Looking for a great science opportunity this summer? Learn about engineering first-hand at Georgia Tech. One week and three week options for 10th - 12th grade. See www.ceismc.gatech.edu/summercamps

Girls Night Out at Georgia Tech

An overnight visitation program on June 25th and 26th. Students must have a qualifying PSAT/SAT score and an interest in studying math, science, liberal arts, management, architecture, computing, or engineering. See www.visits.gatech.edu/gno or call 404-894-2691. Space is limited.



Cobb Chapter of the Georgia
Association for Gifted Children

www.cobbchapter-gagc.org

3600 Dallas Highway
Ste. 230, PMB 260
Marietta, GA 30064

Intelligent Behaviors (continued)

9. Thinking And Communicating With Clarity And Precision
“True eloquence consists of saying all that should be said, and that only.” (Francois de La Rochefoucauld). Successful people use specific terminology, refrain from over-generalizing, and support their assumptions with valid data.

10. Gathering Data Through All Senses
“Tell me, and I’ll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand.” (Native American Proverb). Successful people realize that to learn and know something, in a strong sense, they must experience it in some personal way.

11. Ingenuity, Originality, Insightfulness: Creativity
“We need people who can read and write. But what we really need is people who can not only read the instructions, but also change them. They need to be able to think outside the lines.” (Richard Gurin). Successful people are deliberately creative.

12. Responding With Wonderment And Awe
“The most beautiful experience in the world is the experience of the mysterious.” (Albert Einstein). Successful people find enjoyment, enthusiasm, and fascination in their work and world.