

SW COLORADO REGION - Gifted and Talented Education (970) 769-2187

Special Interest Articles

ALM K-3 (Autonomous Learning Model)

Twice Exceptional II

On-Line Professional Development

Important Dates

Jan 18-19, 2007
USTARS Winter Institute
Denver, CO

Jan. 25, 2007
Regional GT Meeting
Cortez, CO

Feb 22, 2007
Legislative Day at the Capitol: Celebrating Excellence
CAGT
Denver, CO

Feb 23, 2007
Beyond Giftedness Conference XIV
Featuring Barbara Kerr
Arvada, CO

Oct 1 & 2, 2007
CAGT Annual Conference
Denver

"Real-World" Let's Hear From Our Kids

Please send me anecdotes from and/or about kids that others may enjoy reading in our newsletter.

Betsey Krill
SW GERC - Gifted Education
Regional Consultant
bkrill@sjboces.org



Advanced by Design
REACH-Out and Nurture
Exceptional Abilities

REGIONAL GT MEETING - FEATURING JACQUELIN MEDINA – STATE DIRECTOR GIFTED EDUCATION – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next Regional GT Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25 from 8:30-4:00 at the SW BOCES building in Cortez. We will have a packed agenda with a presentation from Jacquelin Medina, Supervisor/ESS, and Director/Gifted Education Exceptional Student Services Unit. We will also review updates from the State concerning the ECEA Rule Adoption, GT at the secondary level, RtI, ALPs and other timely information. The afternoon will include professional development to be sure everyone returns to their building with useful tools and strategies to share with colleagues and students. Please let me know if you need funding to provide for a substitute and/or lodging so you are able to attend. This is a great chance to learn more and connect with advocates for gifted education in our region.

Our third and final regional meeting is scheduled for March 15 in Durango. It will include information from the State Directors' Meeting about identification and programming for talent areas.

GT STATE RULES AND GUIDELINES – ADOPTED NOVEMBER 9

We are pleased to announce the Colorado State Board of Education adopted ECEA Rules pertaining to gifted education on November 9. The proposed Oct. 2006 rules are on the CDE Gifted Education Page:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/download/pdf/gt_ECEA_ProposedRules_Oct2006.pdf

- Gifted Education rules include detailed explanations and guidelines concerning:
 - Definitions
 - Criteria for identification
 - Identification procedure
 - Programming
 - Matched to student strengths, needs, interests
 - Aligned with current practice
 - Evaluation and accountability
 - Personnel
 - Professional development
 - Budget
 - Reporting
 - Auditing
 - Records

The state will be developing a website to address frequently asked questions pertaining to the implementation of the rules. Some of the questions I have already heard include:

- Tell me what is different and how will these rules affect the classroom?
- Will this make identification easier and ensure consistency between districts?

Are we required to write an ALP (Advanced Learning Plan) on all students? Do we

ALM K-3 AUTONOMOUS LEARNING MODEL

An autonomous learner is "one who solves problems or develops new ideas through a combination of divergent and convergent thinking and functions with minimal external guidance in selected areas of endeavor". (Betts and Knapp, 1981) Although originally developed to meet the diversified needs of gifted and talented secondary students, it is also appropriate for primary aged students. The ALM model focuses on the development of five basic dimensions, orientation, individual development, enrichment, seminars, and in-depth study.

THE YOUNG GIFTED LEARNER & THE AUTONOMOUS LEARNER MODEL (Book and CD ROM) By George T. Betts, Royal E. Toy and Kaylee A. Vasquez, available from ALPS Publishing and an excellent source of activities for use in the regular classroom.

TWICE EXCEPTIONAL II

October 12 and 13, Daphne Pereles, from CDE, worked with GT teachers, psychologists, resource room teachers and classroom teachers on programming needs of those students identified as being both gifted and having learning and/or emotional challenges.

Aside from valuable "team-time" to talk about programming for specific students, it was an opportunity to engage in K-12 articulation concerning our special needs students and the importance of planning for transitions from level to level.

Our presenters provided us with a link to a newsletter devoted to helping twice-exceptional students reach their potential. Practical ideas, inspiring articles and common-sense approaches make this newsletter (available in hard copy or electronically,) a "must" for all educators. www.2eNewsletter.com

LINKS FOR INSPIRATION

Virtual Field Trips

www.eduweb.com
www.whitehouse.gov/kids/tours
www.mbayaq.org/lc/
www.ext.vt.edu/resoures/4h/virtual/farm/main.html
www.internet4classrooms.com/vft.htm

Science Web Links

www.enature.com
www.crystalballscience.com
www.pbskids.org/dragonflytv
www.funology.com



ON-LINE CLASSES - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Experts 'R' Us This class embeds professional development, promotes collaborative instructional planning in the work you do every day with kids, and is based on the book, *Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design* by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Jay McTighe. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants.

Differentiating for the Gifted Learners

Social Emotional Needs - both one credit and available on-line, will be available through CDE in early 2007. Flyers will be distributed once revisions to the pilots have been completed.

Dr. Robert Seney is offering two spring classes through Fort Lewis Continuing Education, **Parenting Your Gifted Child** and **Reading with Your Pre-Schooler**. Contact the Fort Lewis College Continuing Education Department for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHARLOTTE - THE 53RD NAGC CONVENTION

This year's conference in Charlotte offered 350 sessions and activities over four days. The Gifted Education team from Bayfield was able to attend and returned inspired with many ideas. Topics ranged from "Leadership that Sustains Gifted Programs," to "Challenging Gifted Students in Middle School Science." Let's plan to send a regional team next year so mark your calendar for Minneapolis, November 7-11, 2007.

RtI - RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

RtI refers to ensuring general education provides instructional interventions to support student learning prior to identifying students for specialized educational services. In the world of gifted education, this refers to documenting efforts that our students have access to differentiated curriculum, flexible pacing, cluster grouping, and other universal interventions available to all students in the regular classroom. www.Interventioncentral.org offers some examples of tools that might be helpful when progress monitoring our students with promise for GT identification.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Nicki Massieon, GT teacher in Durango, for her article, Bend it like Trent: A Student Profile of Trent Andrews, published by CAGT

Upcoming Newsletter Articles