

Neag Center
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Gifted Education
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Development

NEWS & VIEWS

The latest in Gifted Education

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ONLY THOSE WHO DARE TO FAIL GREATLY CAN EVER ACHIEVE GREATLY.
– **ROBERT F. KENNEDY, FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL & U.S. SENATOR**

GIFTED AND GIVING: SERVICE LEARNING, PHILANTHROPY, AND VOLUNTEERISM

HIGH SCHOOLERS COMBINE SERVICE PROJECTS WITH CLASSROOM LEARNING. In their classrooms, students in Ohio are reflecting on their volunteer experiences as a result of the Cincinnati-based Mayerson Foundation, a service-learning program. Steve Elliott, who directs the program, said, "One of the advantages of service learning is strong reflection, having a teacher processing the experience with the kids. The reflection is pretty critical, discussing what we did, why we did that, what was the process, what did we learn."

<http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/16329998.htm>

THE JOY OF GIVING: TEACHING CHILDREN TO GIVE. Teachers and parents can make a difference in students' lives by helping them develop philanthropic behavior and skills in the classroom, students' lives, and their communities, thus becoming deeply aware of the role of each individual in building community. Included in this article is a description of Learning to Give (www.learningtogive.org), a K-12 project of the Council of Michigan Foundations, which provides formal lesson plans, activities, and resources to educate youth about philanthropy and volunteerism.

<http://www.learningtogive.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=25>



LEARNING TO GIVE

An Action of the Heart, a Project for the Mind



BRIGHT KID BLUES. By the time they enter kindergarten, some kids can read and do math. So why won't their schools let them skip a grade? <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=5f852b4d-e8co-4d54-81fe-2b3da8104fd4&k=71218>

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

SIX ED-TECH TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2007. According to *e-School News* editor, Gregg W. Downe, "educational technology at last has progressed to the point where differentiated, individualized instruction clearly is possible for students anywhere on the planet. It can be delivered at any time, in just the right form, with whatever frequency might be required. This has long been the dream of educational technologists." He highlights six emerging tech-trends he thinks will have a significant impact on schools and colleges in the coming year, including service-oriented architecture and 'cloud computing.'
<http://www.eschoolnews.org/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6781>



TEACHING THE NOTION OF NANOTECHNOLOGY. The science of manipulating super-small objects is inching its way into classrooms in Mexico and the United States. The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network is developing and distributing programs aimed at engaging schools in nanoscale science and engineering education, since, according to Carol Lynn Alpert, director of strategic projects at the Museum of Science, Boston, and a co-principal investigator of the network, "it is vital for Americans to have some understanding of today's scientific revolutions and the risks and benefits they offer."
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/18/AR2006121800905.html>

A LEARNING SYSTEM THAT OPENS MANY DOORS. Renzulli Learning Systems, developed by our very own Joe Renzulli and Sally Reis, made headlines as Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School field-tested it with *all* students. Read more about the system at
<http://www.courant.com/news/education/hc-covinvento117.artjan17,0,3823235.story?coll=hc-headlines-education>



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

EDUCATORS, PARENTS EAGER FOR AN EDGE OPT FOR IB CLASSES IN GRADE SCHOOLS. Education officials wishing to increase the rigor earlier in school are turning to the Primary Years Programme, designed by the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Organization. The program now is in 72 U.S. schools, up from 6 in 2000. The program, which is for students preschool age on, prepares "intradisciplinary," bilingual scholars who can deliver a major academic project by 5th grade and are prepared for deeper studies in high school and beyond. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/16/AR2006121600954.html>



FOUR STATES JOIN STATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM. Wyoming, Missouri, New Hampshire, and South Dakota are joining the 20 other member states in the State Scholars Initiative, which is a federally-funded program that gets business leaders involved in persuading students to take more rigorous courses, like physics, Algebra II, and foreign language, to prepare them for college or work. States get up to \$300,000 over 2 years to implement the program in at least 4 school districts. http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2006/12/15/four_states_join_state_scholars_initiative/

TEENS LOOK TO COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR ADVICE: STATE DEPLOYS PEERS FOR WORK, SCHOOL HELP. As part of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's pilot Outreach to Schools program, college students are being paired with high school students across the state to give them a jump-start on careers and college enrollment. The college students' work includes such tasks as helping set up job-shadowing opportunities and advising students on which courses to take and how to find financial aid. <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/16326971.htm>



MORE CHILDREN LEARN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE. The Language Workshop for Children has 9 schools around the East Coast, serving students 6 months to 9 years old and offering courses in Spanish, French, Italian, and Chinese. Francois Thibaut, who runs the program, said that not only is learning a foreign language easier for children than it is for adults but children who are exposed to other languages also do better in school, score higher on standardized tests, are better problem solvers and are more open to diversity. http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2007-01-09-language-children_x.htm



AT-RISK TEENS INSPIRED TO LEARN TOLERANCE, APPLY THEMSELVES, AND THINK OF EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Reality Street is a collection of journal entries written by fourteen eighth graders from Stone Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama (a Title I school, with 92% of the students receiving free lunch) through a Published Authors program created by their teacher, Barbara Murphy. All proceeds from *Reality Street* go into a trust fund for the children's college education. About 95% of these students are now in advanced English making high

grades. Sponsoring a program where the 8th graders can become published authors is a permanent part of the school's curriculum for the gifted program. The idea behind this project is to show the students that they can exceed their own expectations and be published authors. This year's class is writing books in Spanish for 2nd graders in Boulder, Co who are not native English speakers. Funding for the program comes from grants and donations. Two large defense contractors published *Reality Street* gratis. A lawyer did the legal work pro bono and PR person developed the media kit. The students also help with advertising their projects by giving speeches in the community. In August of 2003, six of the students made a presentation to over 2,000 teachers at an area staff development meeting. In a school with poor parental participation, the eighth grade class now has 99% parental/guardian/family participation and also outstanding support from the community. The local public library purchased copies of the book for distribution in all of the libraries. The mayor purchased copies to hand out to visiting dignitaries. Donations from the community made it possible for some of the class to fly to Washington, DC, where they presented a copy of the book to an assistant of Secretary of Education Rod Paige, Alabama's State Representative Bud Cramer, and to the Holocaust Museum. In addition, a copy of the book is also in the Library of Congress. Speaking to groups of adults from 20 to thousands has developed the student's oratorical skills and poise beyond their circumstances in life. Knowing that they have some money in a trust fund that came from their labors is an incentive to further their education. Through this program, they know what they can do and that they can go farther than they ever imagined. (from <https://www.teacherquality.us/Public/PromisingPractices.asp?PPCategoryID=9>)



MATH AND SCIENCE HEADLINES

GIFTED CHILDREN FROM 35-YEAR-OLD STUDY REVISITED – STUDY EMPHASIZES NEED FOR TAILORING EDUCATIONAL. This article provides a synopsis of the results reported in an article published in *Perspectives on Psychological Science* looking back on the first 35 years of a planned 50-year Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY). SMPY is a longitudinal study that follows over 5,000 mathematically and/or verbally precocious students in order to characterize the key factors that lead to creative work and/or high academic achievement, primarily in mathematics and the sciences.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=59911>

CTY LAUNCHES MATH, SCIENCE SITE FOR GIFTED PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS. Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY), along with 8 partner organizations, launched **Cogito.org**, a Web site designed to help gifted pre-college students develop their talents and interests in mathematics and science, connecting them with their peers around the world and with professionals already working in the sciences.

<http://www.jhu.edu/~gazette/2007/16jano7/16cty.html>



MONEY MATTERS

In this issue of "News and Views," we spotlight financial opportunities for teachers and talented students interested in social studies.



MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES

TEACHING GRANT – GEOGRAPHIC LITERACY

National Council for the Social Studies

Many teachers recognize great curriculum programs but lack the funds to purchase them. Social studies teachers are no exception. However, the Geographic Literacy grant is an opportunity to make a difference in the teaching of geography in your school. Write a short proposal detailing the program you wish to incorporate into your geography curriculum and how it will benefit students. A talented recipient will be awarded \$2,500 to purchase the program. Proposals must be postmarked by March 21, 2007. For more details, and specific guidelines on writing the proposal, visit the National Council for the Teaching of Social Studies website at

<http://www.socialstudies.org/awards/geographiclit/>

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner

MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES



STUDENT CONTEST – NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

National History Day began in 1974 and is a national competition for students in grades 6-12. Students conduct extensive research related to a theme and then present their findings as an exhibit, a documentary, a performance, or a paper. Both the junior division (grades 6-8) and senior division (grades 9-12) allow students to participate either individually or as part of a group of up to five. The contest starts locally and progresses to state and national levels. At the national level, students are eligible to win up to \$5,000 and college scholarships. Entry dates vary by region. For more information, or to start planning a team for this year or next, check out the National History Day website at <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/>.

SCHOLARSHIP – NEWSWEEK “MY TURN” CONTEST



Newsweek is sponsoring an essay contest that will enable talented high school seniors to win up to \$5,000 for college. Students must write a 500-1,000 word essay on a topic of the student's choice that shares an opinion, experience, or personal feeling that shaped or motivated him or her as a person. One first prize of \$5,000 will be awarded; a second prize of \$2,000 and a third prize of \$1,000 will also be awarded. Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2007. For more information, visit the Newsweek website at <http://www.newsweekeducation.com/myturn2007/index.php>.

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner

FUN FACTS

Reindeer like to eat bananas. The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache. Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. 'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand. The longest living cells in the body are brain cells, which can live an entire lifetime. Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

RENZULLI LEARNING SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS! <http://www.renzullilearning.com/>

Estimator Quiz <http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/EstimatorQuiz/>

This activity allows a student to practice answering questions using estimation. Users can choose to estimate addition, multiplication, and percentage problems.

Moneyville <http://www.omsie.edu/visit/featured/moneyville/activities.cfm#getreal>

On this fun and interactive website, you can practice your business skills and economic skills with "Get Real" and "Lemonade Stand." Play "Get Real" to see how you would do budgeting your money as either a high school graduate, a college graduate, or a graduate or professional degree graduate. Play "Lemonade Stand" to see how well you can run a lemonade stand. In this fun game, you need to determine how much lemonade to make and how much to charge based on the newspaper. Good luck making as much profit as possible.

Yucky Gross and Cool Body

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/flash/body/pg000029.html>

You think your body does some gross stuff? You have no idea! Come to this website to explore topics like snot and boogers, dandruff, spit, and ankle sprain. You can also learn about the body systems, such as the skin, the respiratory system, and muscular system. It might be gross, but it's true!

The Food We Eat <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/baylor/food1.htm>

When you had breakfast, you probably weren't thinking about powering your brain and your body, but that's exactly what your meal was doing. Food gives your body the fuel and raw materials it needs every day, especially in the morning. Come to this site to learn more about the food you eat and tips for eating healthy.

A Food Poem Puzzle and Activity <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/baylor/food2.htm>

On this website, there's a poem about the foods that fuel your body, but some of the words are missing! Fill in the blanks from the words below the poem. After completing the poem, set up an experiment to see how much fat is in some of your favorite foods. All you need is a brown paper bag and some sample food items.



University of
Connecticut

Neag Center for Gifted Education
and Talent Development
2131 Hillside Road, Unit 3007
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3007
Newsletter Editor and News Columnist:
Jill L. Adelson
jill.adelson@uconn.edu

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Contributed by Gara Field