

Upcoming Events

- Friday, Oct. 12th - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee at Panera - Stop in and join us for coffee
- Monday, Oct. 22nd - 7:00 p.m.
"Meet the Administrators" Program, Batavia High School, Faculty Cafeteria

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Wow!

WOW! We're off to a great start! Thank you to the **nearly 40 parents and Challenge teachers** who attended the September evening program, "Measures of Academic Progress". I've received very positive feedback from parents and teachers alike this past week regarding the program and the evaluations confirm this feedback! Program evaluation feedback gathered during the meeting resulted in the following ratings: 4.5/5 when asked if it was a good use of their time - and rated the program 4.7/5 when asked whether the information was applicable to their children. The information was very timely, with parent/teacher conferences coming in November, and the MAP scores coming home within the last few weeks. Thanks again to Liz, Diane, and Lauren for their contributions. Please see related article, "Measures of Academic Progress" for more details and resources.

A quick apology for running past the 8:30 mark on Sept. 25th, the enthusiasm, questions, and input generated a very active and engaging evening. We had a lot of very good program content - each of which could have filled more than an hour alone!

I've said it before, but you truly won't want to miss our October evening session. We're planning a

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Meet the Administrators October Program

Please join us on **October 22nd from 7 pm to 9 pm** at Batavia High School (Faculty Cafeteria) for a "Meet the District Administrators" evening. Our panel will include: Dr. Jack Barshinger (Superintendent); Dr. Jan Wright (Assoc. Superintendent for Teaching and Learning); Elizabeth Selander (District Challenge Coordinator); Alan McCloud (Asst. Superintendent for Elementary Education).

This evening program, designed for CANDO parents, will be moderated in a "Meet the Press" format. The panel members will answer our questions and discuss the current state of the Challenge program. In addition, Dr. Wright will also provide a "sneak peek" at the results of the Challenge Program survey completed by parents last Spring. Don't miss this one!

We are collecting your questions in advance of the program in order to present them in a logical order - so please submit your questions by October 12th to Kate Chahmirzadi via e-mail as follows: kc_etiquette@yahoo.com

September Program Recap: Measures of Academic Progress

We had a full house at Rotolo Middle School where Liz Selander, District Challenge Coordinator, reviewed the identification process for the Challenge program, and highlighted the assessment tools that are utilized for placement. Thanks again to Liz for answering all our individual parent questions and helping us to navigate through the maze of assessment scores.

A few highlights / resources for those of you who may have missed the program:

- *The dip you may see in your child's MAP scores from Spring to Fall is SUMMER! Please keep summer bridge programs and enrichment programs in mind during the summer. The Summer Resource Fair planned for February in Batavia is a fabulous event highlighting many Chicago and Kane County area enrichment programs.*
- *Test scores are available through your respective school office; you are allowed to request copies of all standardized test scores within your child's file.*
- *Use your child's Lexile score (in the ISAT, page 2) to help guide them to books that encourage reading progress – but be careful to make sure that the recommended book is age appropriate.*

Diane Unger, Midwest Academic Talent Search (MATS) provided a very informative overview of the gifted level testing available through Northwestern University. They currently administer EXPLORE, ACT, and SAT tests on a yearly basis. Testing is offered for 3rd – 9th grade students at regional testing centers throughout the Midwest. A few highlights / resources:

- *Deadline for paper registration is October 30th; online registration will be available through December 1st*

- *Local testing is available in Downers Grove and Elgin*
- *Contact information: 847 491 3782 or www.ctd.northwestern.edu*
- *Results are sent to parents and to the respective school for use in planning and placement.*

Lauren Mastrud provided a short overview of IAGC (Illinois Associated for Gifted Children). Parent memberships are available for an annual subscription rate of \$50. This is a very active organization for parents of gifted students in Illinois. A few resources for your review and consideration:

- www.iagcgifted.org
- *IAGC Convention dates: December 9– 11, 2007 Renaissance Schaumburg (workshops and programs for parents are being held on Sunday).*

Wow! ...continued

very exciting program to be held on October 22nd at Batavia High School. "Meet the Administrators" will provide an opportunity to present our questions surrounding gifted education and the Challenge program to District Administrators in a "Meet the Press" format moderated by Kate Chahmirzadi. See related article, "Meet the Administrators".

CANDO is a very active, visible and growing organization within the District, and I'm delighted to hear from so many parents who are interested in joining us this year to fulfill our mission. I welcome any and all input, comments, questions and suggestions for future programming, please don't hesitate to contact me at ahejna1201@yahoo.com.

Kind regards, Ann Hejna
CANDO Chair

MAP Information

Liz Selander

At the CANDO meeting in discussion about interpreting the MAP test results I would like to clarify again that the test is an adaptive test. That means that questions are adjusted to the level of difficulty that a child can answer correctly. There is no ceiling on this test. It is incorrect to assume that there is a 3rd grade level, a 4th grade level, etc. A child who continually answers questions correctly continues to receive more difficult questions until enough data is collected for him/her to receive a RIT score. I apologize for any confusion.

UPDATE

CANDO Report: Committee Spearheads Evaluation of Batavia's Gifted Program

A group of Batavia teachers, administrators, and parents is working to evaluate the district's current gifted education (Challenge) program. This is the second year of the committee, which worked during the 2006-2007 school year to formulate the survey which was distributed to district teachers and parents of Challenge students this past May. Parents have been included in the committee for the 2007-2008 school year and CANDO has been invited to send two parent representatives to serve on the committee. Gwen Seeley-Josse and Maureen Mrenna have volunteered.

The committee will be meeting in the fall and early winter to assess data from the parent and teacher surveys, review achievement data for Challenge and non-Challenge students, and examine the gifted services offered in area "benchmark" districts. Batavia's "benchmark" districts include 7 school districts in DuPage and Kane Counties (Elmhurst 205, Wheaton 200, Naperville 203, Indian Prairie 204, Barrington 220, Geneva 304, and St. Charles 303) that share similar student demographics in terms of achievement and outcomes to BPS 101. Several of the benchmark districts are districts Batavia would like its student achievement and outcomes to align more closely with.

The committee is very thoroughly going through the surveys to discover what teachers and parents feel does and does not work in our present Challenge program. They are considering both the quantitative data and all of the comments so many attached to their surveys.

In addition, interviews will be conducted with present ninth graders at Batavia High School who have gone through the Challenge program to discover how it benefited them, and where they wished they had had more or better programming. These ninth graders were among the first to be given a replacement math program in their elementary school years.

Dr. Jan Wright will present the committee's findings and recommendations in a formal report to the Board of Education in early 2008. Parents are encouraged to plan on attending that board meeting. Gwen and Maureen will continue to offer updates on the committee in future CANDO newsletters, and welcome parents with questions or comments to contact them directly.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Resource Fair: The 3rd Annual Resource Fair: *Beyond the Classroom*, sponsored by the Kane County Regional Office of Education, will be held at Rotolo Middle School in February, 2008. Last year the event was hosted by Geneva Middle School North and was well attended by more than 100 attendees from the Tri-Cities/Kane County area and beyond. Fifty vendors including IMSA, the Shedd Aquarium, Kumon and the Discovery Center Museum in Rockford, were on hand with information about their programs.

Volunteers are needed to assist with placing signage to direct vendors and attendees the night of the event, registration the night of the event, assisting vendors as they set up, offering water bottles to vendors and more!

If you are interested in working with the planning committee, please contact Lauren Mastrud at Ismarder@sbcglobal.net or call 630-406-0147.

What is CANDO?

The mission of the Challenge Advocacy Network Development Organization (CANDO) is to:

- 1) *become a voice at the district and state level;*
- 2) *identify and arrange additional enrichment opportunities and a safe social environment for our children; and*
- 3) *provide educational programs for parents.*

Resource Review

Upcoming Events & Due Dates: For general information on any of these events or to request a different type of resource in future CANDO newsletters, please contact Lauren Mastrud at lsmaarder@sbcglobal.net or call 630-406-0147.

Date(s)	Event	Ages	Phone & URL
■ Da Vinci Academy (Elgin, IL)			847-841-7532 ext 226
11/3-12-15*	Saturday Enrichment Programs	<i>PK-8</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Beginning Spanish</i>	<i>Grades PK-1</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Young Artists' Workshop</i>	<i>Grades 1 - 4</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Grades 2 - 4</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Mythological Odyssey</i>	<i>Grades 3-6</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Sci-Fi & Fantasy Adventure</i>	<i>Grades 4-8</i>	www.dvacademy.org
	<i>Fun with Photoshop</i>	<i>Grades 3-8</i>	www.dvacademy.org
■ Fermi Lab			630-840-3092 or 630-840-8258
10/27	<i>GPS-y Trails for students</i>	<i>Grades 6-8</i>	www.ed.fnal.gov
11/17	<i>Lego Engineering for students</i>	<i>Grades 6-7</i>	www.ed.fnal.gov
■ Sci-Tech (Registration deadline 10/18)			630-859-3434, ext. 214
10/20	<i>Get Slimed 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m</i> Family Science Night includes pizza, pop, activities & admission to the museum.	<i>All ages</i>	scitech.mus.il.us
■ National Association for Gifted Children (Registration deadline: 10/26)			202-785-4268
11/7-11/11	<i>Annual Convention in Minneapolis</i>		www.nagc.org
■ Midwest Academic Talent Search (Paper registration deadline: 10/30)			847-491-3782
Early 2008	<i>Above grade-level testing</i>	<i>Grades 3-9</i>	www.ctd.northwestern.edu
■ Young Scholars Programs at Aurora University and Fearn Elementary			(630) 8GIFTED (844-3833)
10/7,14, 21	<i>Fall 2007 Enrichment Classes for Youth</i>	<i>PK-8</i>	www.packerfoundation.org/scholars/
10/28 & 11/4	<i>Fall 2007 Enrichment Classes for Youth</i>	<i>PK-8</i>	www.packerfoundation.org/scholars/
11/3	<i>Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT)</i>	<i>Kindergarten+</i>	www.packerfoundation.org/scholars/
11/3	<i>EXPLORE Test</i>	<i>Grades 3 - 9th grade</i>	www.packerfoundation.org/scholars/

The Gifted Education Cooperative Presents: *Teaching Self-Discipline to the Gifted Child* with Andy Mahoney, Nationally recognized counselor of gifted children and their families.
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007 7:00-8:30 p.m. @ Hinsdale Middle School Commons

For more than 20 years, Mr. Mahoney, a Licensed Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist, has explored and developed frameworks for the counseling and psychotherapy of gifted and talented people. He is a frequent

speaker at conferences, symposiums, consultations and training workshops for fellow counselors, educators and parents. This year, he is leading a training session for District 181 social workers to discuss the social and emotional needs of gifted

children. Please submit questions on issues related to discipline and motivation that you hope will be covered in advance to geco@arvamont.com or call Susan Portland at 630-920-1027 for more information.