

**December 2007**

## Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, January 8th, 7 pm - Rosalie Jones Administration Center: Gifted Program Evaluation Committee Recommendation. Please plan to attend as Dr. Wright will present the results of the Challenge Program Evaluation and the committee's Conclusions and Recommendations. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend and show your support of this committee's hard work and recommendation of an expanded program for high ability students.

## Contacts

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## Gifted Program Evaluation Committee: Close to Reaching a Recommendation

The committee met again in November to review achievement data, as presented by Dr. Jan Wright. Dr. Wright has conducted a very thorough comparison of test results of Challenge program participants versus students who are not in the Challenge program, but scored in the same range on standardized tests in second grade.

Results showed greater academic growth among Challenge students in most, but not all, areas – and there were some very interesting numbers amongst the Interdisciplinary scores as they relate to ISAT and MAP reading scores. In any event, the results continue to support the committee's recommendation of enhancing the program. These results will be compiled and presented to the Board, along with the results of the student and parent surveys, benchmark data, and student input in the formal program evaluation and recommendation at the School Board meeting on January 8th.



## Game Night Success!

The 3rd Annual CANDO Game Night was a huge success! Thirty-eight Challenge students attended, along with siblings and many parents for a total attendance of over 60 people! We were pleased to have Cindy from Toy Town/The Chalkboard join us with many of the latest and greatest games of this holiday season. Kids and parents alike enjoyed the hands-on opportunities! The big hits were Colorku, Bananagrams, Moon Sand and the old favorite, Blokus! The kids had a great time playing board games, eating treats and mingling with other Challenge students. The parents enjoyed a short presentation about the new toys of the season, and had the opportunity to purchase as well. The big draw of the night was the Webkinz raffle – every Challenge student received a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Webkinz.

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Looking for  
meaningful holiday  
teacher gifts?

Make a donation to Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence on behalf of your children's teachers. Indicate that you would like this money to be used for projects that directly impact the Challenge program. Your teacher, and CANDO, will be eternally grateful!

Two were donated by CANDO, and two were donated by Toy Town. The lucky winners were:

Ben Hejna, HWS 5th Grade  
Jared Kramer, AGS 5th Grade  
Connor Oroni, AGS 3rd Grade  
Amanda Gao, RMS 6th Grade

All kids were given a goody bag to bring home as well, courtesy of the great folks at Toy Town/The Chalkboard store. Please remember to make a visit to the Batavia store; they have a huge selection of great gift ideas, and nice people to help you choose the perfect educational gifts for all the kids on your list (as well as great teacher gift ideas!).

Thank you to all the volunteers who made Game Night a success!  
-Kate Chahmirzadi

## Resource Review

Please send any resource information to share to:  
lsmarder@sbcglobal.net or caroline@baty-barr.com

### WHAT CAN WE DO OVER WINTER VACATION?

- Museum of Science and Industry Star Wars Exhibit
- Free night at the Art Institute
- Ice Skating at the Daley Center
- Play one of the educational games you learned about from the CANDO Game Night
- Register for **DaVinci Academy** Winter enrichment courses beginning Jan. 12  
[www.dvacademy.org](http://www.dvacademy.org)
- Register for **The Scholars Programs** held in Jan. and Feb.  
[www.packerfoundation.org](http://www.packerfoundation.org)

### ◆ Davidson Institute Seeks Extraordinary Achievers to Receive \$50,000, \$25,000 And \$10,000 Davidson Fellow Scholarships.

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2008 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2008, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States.

There is no minimum age for eligibility. The deadline to apply is March 26, 2008. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows scholarship, or to download an application, please visit <http://www.davidsonfellows.org/>.

◆ **2008 THINK Summer Institute** The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is seeking profoundly gifted students, ages 13 through 16, who are interested in attending the 2008 THINK Summer Institute, a three-week residential summer program on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno where students can earn six college credits.

The 2008 THINK Summer Institute will run from July 12 through August 2. Tuition is \$2,700 and covers course credits, room and board, and the cost of planned programs and activities. Financial assistance available based on need.

To qualify, students must be 13 to 16 years old during THINK, and must meet or exceed designated SAT ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) or ACT ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)) scores. The deadline for early acceptance is January 30, 2008. To download an application, please visit <http://www.thinksummerinstitute.org/>.

## Mark Your 2008 Calendars!

When: Tuesday, January 8th, 7pm

Where: Rosalie Jones Administration Center

Why: Gifted Program Evaluation Committee Recommendation.

Please plan to attend as Dr. Wright will present the results of the Challenge Program Evaluation and the committee's Conclusions and Recommendations. Come show your support of this committee's hard work and recommendation of an expanded program for high ability students.

## Volunteer Opportunities



### Educational Resource Fair

- On Tuesday, February 26th, 2008, Rotolo Middle School will host 3rd Annual Educational Resource Fair: *Beyond the Classroom* from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. You can help in any number of ways, contact Caroline Baty-Barr at [caroline@baty-barr.com](mailto:caroline@baty-barr.com) or Lauren Mastrud at [lsmarder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsmarder@sbcglobal.net).

CANDO  
WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAY SEASON!