

April 2008

Upcoming Events

- Thurs., April 17 **Springfield Day**
Join Us - Please Don't Leave
Our Children Behind Day
- Rescheduled: Fri. April 25th - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee at Panera
- Sat. May 3 - Sat. May 10, 2008
Children's Humanities Festival
The programs of the Children's Humanities Festival aren't just "kid stuff". They are designed to be as engaging for adults as they are for young people. Weekend and weekday evening performances are guaranteed to accommodate your schedule. This is a hidden gem among the larger Chicago Humanities Festival... check it out to see what you have been missing! www.chfestival.org

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Visit us on the web! www.bataviacando.org

\$5 Million Cut from IL Budget - Springfield Day Now More Important Than Ever



ATTENTION: With Springfield Day next Thursday, April 17th, the presence of families and students means more than it ever. Are you aware of the devastating news: the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently cut the \$5 million dollars allocated for gifted education that the state legislature had approved in their last budget. Gifted students across the state will not realize any of that funding, nor will their teachers.

Our message to our state legislators on April 17th's Springfield Day must be very clear - funding gifted education in Illinois must be a priority. Legislators need to respond and explain how this could happen and how they are going to correct it in the future. Your legislator must hear from you. The ISBE board made the decision on what programs they would choose not to fund in order to address the state's budget problems. Each ISBE board member needs to also hear from each of you [<http://www.isbe.net/board/Default.htm>].

A recent Tribune article about the funding cuts can be http://www.chcagotribune.com/news/localchibudgetcuts_29mar29,0,7555199.story

We must renew our efforts to ensure gifted students receive the education they deserve. Here are the details: Springfield
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April 1 Program: Searching for Books

On Tuesday, April 1, a group of CANDO parents gathered at the Batavia Public Library for an informative presentation by Joanne Zillman, Head of Youth Services and Debbie Hassi, Youth Services Librarian focusing on finding reading materials for high level readers, "Lexiles, the Library, and You."

Joanne and Debbie demonstrated how to utilize a reference database to choose content-appropriate books for advanced readers. Finding books for our children using their Lexile scores and the Novelist links from the Batavia Public Library website can be extremely beneficial. Novelist is a website which allows the user to search for a book by title or subject, similar to a library catalog search, but in addition, it allows you to refine a search by grade level or Lexile reading score. The new addition to this system is the ability to cross-reference with LINC to determine availability with a single click.

Lexile reading scores appear on ISAT and MAP test results. If you do not know your child's Lexile scores, you can ask his classroom teacher. The first time your child will get a Lexile score is when she takes the MAP test in the fall of second grade.

The Youth Services staff have compiled a few handouts to assist patrons in finding books by Lexile as well a list of popular books and their Lexile scores arranged by interest levels.

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Junior Achievement Volunteers Needed

Batavia parents, Junior Achievement, www.ja.org, is in need of parent volunteers for a 3rd grade classroom at Hoover-Wood Elementary and a Kindergarten classroom at HC Storm Elementary School.

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

These classes need to start end of April and may not run without volunteers. Parents would teach 5 sessions, each about 30-45 minutes in length depending on grade level. All information and materials are given to you by Junior Achievement. To see what students learn in each grade, visit www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml. For example, in 3rd grade, students will operate a bank, fill out deposit slips, and balance a checkbook! If you are interested, please contact Karen Kuramitsu, Area Manager for Junior Achievement, at kkuramitsu@jachicago.org (preferred) or 630-517-1850, by April 15th, Tuesday.

"Teaching Junior Achievement was so much fun. It was easy to do. The Junior Achievement kit that I got had everything in it. The kids loved the lessons and didn't want it to end." - Parent Volunteer

Springfield Day continued...

Day is next week, April 17, 2008 - This promises to be a fun and educational day! We are in the process of making arrangements to meet with our local legislators. Schedule for the day:

- 10:30am: Arrive in Springfield and park. (If we have time, watch the proceedings in the Capitol)
- 11:15am: Check in with IAGC on the Lawn area between Capitol and Howlett Building
- 11:30am: Large Group photo, Introduction, and Meet & Greet
- 11:45am-11:50am: Line up to enter the Howlett Building.
- 12:05pm-12:35pm: Lunch at Howlett Hall of Flags or Hear Speakers at Howlett Auditorium
- 12:50pm-1:20pm: Lunch or Hear Speakers
- 1:25pm: From the Howlett, go through the underground tunnel to get to the Capitol. We will have people to direct you. Entering Capitol this way will save us from going through another security (possibly a stricter one) at the Capitol.
- 1:25pm: Optional Children's Activities: t-shirt decorating, letter writing, card making, and/or button making. Student teachers from the Illinois State University Professional Development School Internship Program will help run the activities.
- 1:30pm: Take photos with Legislators. Give letters and cards. Share with them your stories and the need for funding. Watch the proceedings.
- 1:45pm-3:00pm: Meet with your local Senator and/or Representative
- 3:00pm or earlier: Walk to Lincoln Presidential Museum
- 5:00pm: Walk back to parking and drive home.

Cost: Parking: between \$5 - \$7

Lincoln Presidential Museum (optional): \$7.50 for adults; \$3.50 for children.

When you have decided to attend, please contact Heather Gagliano at hgagliano2002@yahoo.com She will send you information regarding parking, the Lincoln Museum and a detailed list of what to bring.

April 1 Program continued...

Joanne and Debbie also explained that Lexile scores, publisher's suggested reading levels and Accelerated Reading levels do not necessarily correlate with each other as each company computes reading levels with different criteria. However, each can be a useful tool when looking for reading materials appropriate for your child.

The library also offers a growing collection of audiobooks: books on cassette tape, CD and new playaways. Audiobooks were recommended as a way to introduce your child to a new genre.

Joanne and Debbie ended the evening with a plug for the Batavia Public Library Summer Reading Program. It will kick off on June 4th and run June 14th – August 9th this summer.

For more information, please call the Youth Services Department at (630) 879-4775.

K-2 Parents Wanted

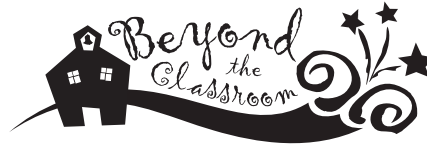
If you know parents of especially bright children entering grades K-2, tell them to join us at the next coffee at Panera Bread (date/time) and find out what CANDO is all about.

If that's inconvenient, have them contact Ann Hejna at ahejna1201@yahoo.com. Contact can also be made through the CANDO website: www.bataviacando.org.

TIME Magazine Gifted Article

If you didn't catch the recent article about gifted education in TIME magazine, you can find it by visiting <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1653653,00.html>.

Featured in the article is Jan Davidson, who heads up the Davidson Institute. Jan and the other TIME sources make excellent arguments for gifted education. Example: "We take for granted that those with IQs at least three standard deviations below the mean...require 'special' education. But students with IQs that are at least three standard deviations above the mean (145 or higher) often have just as much trouble interacting with average kids and learning at an average pace."



Fair Chair...

- Would you like to meet other parents with gifted/talented kids?
- Would you like to meet parents from other districts with gifted programs?
- Would you like to meet representatives from extra-curricular organizations?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you could be a co-chair for next year's Annual Resource Fair.

You will have support from another chair person and others who have worked or led the fair committees for the last three years. Now in its fourth year, the planning and processes are documented and can be carried with relative ease.

For more information, contact Lauren Mastrud@LSMarder@sbcglobal.net



Book Corner

- Infinity & Zebra Stripes: Life with Gifted Children*

by Wendy Skinner

All Children Deserve an appropriate educational challenge -- but frustrating barriers and unexpected surprises often prevent this from happening. This is why parents need to speak up and effectively advocate for their children. Wendy Skinner shares her family's struggle and eventual success in working with the school system to meet her children's needs. Enlightening anecdotes of the author's experience demonstrate strategies for minimizing parent-school conflict. Learn how to build trusting relationships with teachers and administrators, and how your voice can change your child's life.

- A Love for Learning: Motivation and the Gifted Child*

by Carol Strip Whitney, Ph.D.,
with Gretchen Hirsch

Spark the motivation in your gifted children or students! Keep them eager and excited at home and in the classroom! Gifted children are susceptible to many de-motivating factors, which can lead to depression and academic underachievement. The authors present concepts and techniques to counteract those factors, allowing a child's motivation to skyrocket.