

NOTES ON GATE-DAC MEETING OF JANUARY 9TH, 2012

16 school reps present, in addition to two visitors, Dr Calvin and her secretary, Dawn Stone.

- There was a discussion of “Meeting the Needs of Twice Exceptional GATE Students” and the articles written by Susan Baum, and Sarah Renzulli. “Twice exceptional” or **2e**, as it is often called, is a term used for children with high abilities accompanied by a learning disability. Susan Baum writes on this topic fairly extensively on the internet, and Wikipedia gives a comprehensive description. We went over this extensive handout in some depth at the meeting. It is pretty self explanatory.
- Often these children have no diagnosis; their scores are not always good across the board, and their behavior can be related to their giftedness and frustration. In California you can only be in one category, i.e. you cannot be learning disabled and gifted. There are 4 broad spectrums now but a 2e child can be in multiple categories.
- The recommended support for these children is either in the form of a formal IEP (Individualized Education Program) or a 504 plan. The 504 plan is a federal civil rights law that allows for provision of educational benefits for children with disabilities. The IEP is a plan put in place by the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), tailored by IEP evaluators to meet the needs of the 2E child. Detailed information on both of these can be found on Wikipedia. Both are very important for twice gifted children, particularly in California, where the GATE designation does not merit special education status.
- Dr Calvin highly recommended a book called *Expert Approaches to Support Gifted Learners* by Margaret Wayne Gosfield. By Middle School, all teachers of the child who is gifted should be on board and ready to take on those children. Often the 2E child is more interested in the “big picture” than the details and minutiae. The four main spheres are: writing, organization, reading, and memory. One cannot take one behavior in isolation. Time strategies are good for areas that are challenging, with time taken for breaks. PLAY is essential, take risks, and experiment. It is really important to know that children who overuse computers and other related media are at risk of a decrease in peripheral vision development, especially in the early years. The brain needs to be trained, as if it were a muscle. Although it is an organ, it is often referred to as the muscle of thinking. 2E children will need a lot of acknowledgement and

support from their parents and from their teachers. There is often a discrepancy between expectation of these children and actual performance.

- Parents are welcome at any of the Tri-County GATE meetings, which take place in Ventura.
- On the 2nd Friday of March, we “Recognize our Own”. GATE teachers etc. can be nominated for special recognition.
- The CAG conference in Palm Springs will take place on March 2nd-4th. The day of the 4th is for parents. Information and details on the event can be found at www.cagifted.org. Unfortunately, Odyssey of the Mind takes place that same week-end on March 2nd.
- There will be another Best Practices Workshop on April 21st, 2012 in Santa Maria.
- Gate Group Testing is scheduled for January 28th and February 11th, 2012 at Glenwood. There are 3 sessions on Jan 28th and two on February 11th. The testing will take about 1.5 hours total. There were 500 referrals this year, down from last year.
- There were no student recipients of the TCGC Grants this year but Leanne Turnak, the GATE rep for Earths Magnet School received a parent grant. She has organized a weekly Game Club at Earths where the GATE children play in one room, while the parents can talk in another room. The money will be used mainly to purchase some great games.
- I talked to Leanne Turnak about her coming to Wildwood to give a presentation on “Living with Intensity”, a talk she so ably gave at the GATE-DAC meeting in October, 2011. This has to be approved and arranged by Mrs Brunsell and Mr Hedin.