

Talented and Gifted News

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2007

Special points of interest:

- Interest Surveys
- Pre-Assessments
- Differentiated Assignments
- PEP Development
- October Conferences—PEP Parent—Student Input
- After School Clubs
- TAG Identification Process
- Lego Robotics
- Bend Research, Inc.
- Worldmaster Challenge

Inside this issue:

<i>OATAG Conference—Cottage Grove</i>	2
<i>Chess with Mr. Weeks</i>	2
<i>Toastmasters with Cheryl Stewart</i>	2

November issue:

- Wordmaster Challenge Language Arts Contest*
- American Mathematics Competition*
- Spelling Bee and Pentagames*
- How we grade TAG student work*
- In-class differentiation*

TAG Happenings



During the past three weeks, teachers at Sisters Middle School have conducted interest surveys of all students, pre-assessed TAG students' level and rate, differentiated assignments when relevant, and created quality Personalized Education Plans that will be available for parent input during the upcoming conferences October 17 and 18.

Please meet with your child's teachers at that time, review the preliminary Personal Education Plan and make an appointment for a later date to discuss, approve or amend the document.

Many teachers have already begun to cluster group, to challenge their high achieving students with assignment exten-

sions, and to assign open ended projects.

Several students are also participating in a first year foreign language class at Sisters High School, either in French or German.

Toni Coleman's after school Lego Robotics program started Oct. 2 and will run every Tuesday from 3:00—4:30 pm through the middle of November, and 5th Grade Chess with Jack Weeks is back as an afternoon activity on Mondays, beginning October 8th.

As part of the ongoing identification process, the Oregon Department of Education has just released the latest values (RIT) that convert State Assessment scores in

Math, Reading and Science into percentiles.

We have also received the last of cumulative student records for out of district/state transfers, whose identification process was interrupted by the move or who were identified in a specific area.

Sisters Middle School will continue an incomplete TAG identification process under Oregon Department of Education guidelines and local policies and honors TAG identification that mirrors the same process.

For clarifications please contact Isolde Hedemark via Schoolloop or at 549-2099 ext. 2015.

Club Activity and Competitions

Toni Coleman is again offering **Lego Robotics** as an after school enrichment program. The sessions run from October 2 to November 13. Meeting time: Tuesdays 3:00-4:30, Cost: \$ 50. Contact Toni Coleman 549-8521x4018

Bend Research, Inc. Invitations to participate in this year's Invention have been distributed in all Science classes. The challenge is to be inspired by the features or anatomy of bugs to invent something bene-

ficial to humanity. Entries are due at the Bend Research offices in Tumalo by 5 pm on November 9. For more information visit the contest web site at www.cocc.edu/invention or call 383-4100.

TAG Conference at Cottage Grove—continued

Deidre Kanzig, Kristi Taylor, Megan Schoenecker and Isolde Hedemark will be attending the two-day 2007 OATAG conference in Cottage Grove on October 12 and 13.

Keynote speaker, Michael Clay Thompson, will be addressing “Challenging High-End Learners at School and at Home”.

Many other experts in Talented and Gifted education will speak in break-out sessions on topics from TAG Kids: More than Grades, to Advanced Vocabulary: A Coherent View of English, to Underachieve-

ment: An Overview of Contributing Factors and Potential Solutions.

Andrea Morgan, Oregon Department of Education TAG specialist, will introduce the Toolkit for TAG administrators and Nathan Levi is scheduled to provide practical ideas for improving reading, writing, and thinking in gifted students.

Teachers will also have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from other school districts to share, discuss and brainstorm new opportunities for their high

achieving student population.

During these collaborative sessions, representatives from the OMSI Outreach Program are expected to outline programs and resources the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry can offer all schools.

Todd Jeffery will speak on the subject of Love and Logic for Parents.

After their return, conference participants plan to share their findings and relevant publications with all staff at Sisters Middle School.

Toastmasters Club with Cheryl Stewart

This extracurricular program is based on the Toastmaster model of helping young people develop their communication and leadership skills so they may become tomorrow's leaders. Toastmasters is based on the belief that every young person has the potential to become a good communicator and leader but this potential needs to be developed.

Cheryl Stewart will lead an 8 session workshop in which participants will **learn** speaking and leadership skills; **learn** to overcome nervousness, when asked to speak before an audience; **learn** to organize and present their ideas logically and convincingly; **listen** carefully to others' ideas; **offer** advice that will help others improve their speaking and leadership skills ;

participate in and even **lead** group discussions and meetings; **increase** their self confidence; **make** new friends and have fun.

Start: week of October 29th Day/ Time: TBD, Cost: \$20 scholarships available. Contact: Cheryl Stewart at cherylstewart@earthlink.net or call 541-382-7962

5th Grade Chess with Jack Weeks

“Stay after school and play!” is the motto of Mr. Jack Weeks, who continues to work his magic with 5th graders who exhibit knowledge of chess basics.

He meets with his young protégées every Monday from 3:00—4:00 in Mr. Nicklous' room



(# 245), beginning October 8th, 2007.

Any 5th grader interested in devoting time to the study and improvement of their chess game is welcome.

Mr. Weeks provides game boards and playing pieces, as

well as the instructions for an enjoyable, stimulating, and challenging activity.

No registration is required for this activity. Mr. Weeks donates his equipment, time and expertise to the children of Sisters Middle School. Thank you, Mr. Weeks!