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 Empower All Learners to Excel
Superintendent's Message 
Dr. Theresa Dunkin
November 8, 2011

Aptakistic-Tripp CCSD 102
1231 Weiland Road Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
847.353.5650 www.d102.org

First Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System on November 9

A nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System will take place at 2:00pm (Eastern Standard Time) on November 9, 2011.

Visit FEMA's website for more details.

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test-eas>

PTO At A Glance

Tripp Book Fair 2011

Wednesday, November, 8:00 am - 8:30pm

Thursday, November 17, 8:30am - 8:00pm, Tripp School Gym or NEW - access the Online Book Fair from 11/12-11/21/11.

<http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/>

Shop Online for the Holidays and Earn Money for the District 102 Community Care Fund

Visit SchoolStore.com and order from over 200 merchants including Target, Office Depot, Barnes & Noble, WalMart and many more. Questions, please contact Jodi Kearney at chris.jodi@prodigy.net or 847-821-9325.

2012 Entertainment

Books

If you are interested in purchasing an entertainment book, send a check to school for \$25 payable to

Expert Presents on Gifted Learning

Dr. Joan Franklin Smutny, educator, author and founder of The Center for Gifted, spoke with an audience of 30 parents, teachers and administrators at Aptakistic Junior High Wednesday night. The meeting's focus was continuous learning, with an emphasis on upcoming programs for advanced students.

Throughout the evening, Dr. Smutny emphasized that the "gifted" label depends on more than test scores. Children have individual interests and talents that parents and teachers can foster. Dr. Smutny stressed the importance of promoting creativity and innovation in the classroom rather than focusing solely on lectures and repetition.

Parents can also encourage learning outside school hours by taking advantage of the many cultural opportunities in Chicago and the suburbs. Visiting the Art Institute, the Museum of Science and Industry or the local forest preserve can serve as a catalyst to creativity. "We talk about continuous learning," Dr. Smutny said, "Chicago is continuous learning."

At the close of the meeting, parents asked questions of Dr. Smutny and school administrators. In response to questions, Superintendent Dr. Theresa Dunkin described District 102's inclusive gifted programs. "Gifted education is moving away from using a single score or two to provide a small group with about an hour of service per week. Gifted education is larger than this." Instead, she said, the district emphasizes a differentiated approach that fits each student's learning style and talents in the regular classrooms and within our vast array of performing arts, athletics, clubs, and services."

District 102 PTO. For more information contact Marcy Weinstein at 847-459-8269 or mweinstein68@comcast.net.

Want updates to all of our events?

Be sure to "LIKE" District 102 PTO on Facebook.

Vernon Area Public Library Events

11/8 Meet John Flanagan - Author of The Rangers Apprentice, 7:00-8:00pm.

11/13 The Gentle Giant - a puppet program for the whole family, 2:00-3:00pm.

Please register for library programs in person, online at www.vapld.info, or by phone at 847.634.3650.

Stevenson High School Presents

11/12 Comedy Sportz at 7:30pm in the Performing Arts Center

Tickets to SHS events or questions, call Barbara at 847-415-4121

Calendar Change for Kindergartner Parents

Please note that the dates of November 10 and January 13 affect PM Kindergartners/EC only, and March 1 and May 25 affects AM Kindergartners/EC only.

Dates

11/09 Pritchett 2nd Grade Concert, 7:00pm

Dr. Smutny praised District 102 for this individualized approach to learning. "The way you are talking about serving these children is in the context of the everyday classroom, making every classroom a center for enrichment," she observed.

Enrichment Opportunities

The Center for Gifted, in partnership with Northern Illinois University, will offer a series of courses for students at District 102 this winter. The program, which includes courses in sculpture, robotics and creative writing, among others, will run on Sunday afternoons from January 15 to February 12, 2012 at Meridian Middle School. Interested parents can find more information at <http://www.d102.org/teachinglearning/gifted-education.html>.

Partner with Teacher in Meeting Your Child's Needs

What do you do when your child complains of being bored at school? Ask your child for specifics. What does h/she mean by boredom? Does it mean your child needs more challenging work? Or maybe your child is overwhelmed with school work or does not feel like doing the work. Is your child not connecting with the teacher or lessons and rarely showing any excitement? Identifying the need or problem is the first step.

"How can you discover whether you're dealing with a significant problem" asks Judy Molland, an education writer and author of Straight Talk About Schools Today: Understand the System and Help Your Child Succeed. In her article, When Your Child is Bored at School, she notes that parents need to ask questions, listen, look for patterns, and talk to the teacher. Listen to what your child is telling others about school as well.

Once you have done your homework, Molland believes that one of three scenarios will emerge. A child may be under-challenged, overwhelmed, or isolated. Molland's list of tell-tale signs that your child is under-challenged:

- Very little studying, yet average or even good grades.
- Poor performance in areas of strong ability.
- Sloppy and disorganized work, with no interest in improving.
- Avoidance of study in subjects in which h/she has previously shown a strong interest.
- Speeding through projects and assignments.
- Reading extensively during class in a way that is out of synch with classmates.

The other two scenarios are equally as important. Does your child

11/10 Half-Day Inservice (PM Kindergarten/EC only)

11/11 No School - Veteran's Day

11/21 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/22 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/23 No School - School Offices Closed, DO Office Open

11/24 No School - Thanksgiving Day

11/25 No School - District Holiday, All Offices Closed

12/13 PARENT WORKSHOP - Internet Safety by Sarah Migas, internet safety specialist with the Illinois Attorney General's office, Fremont Intermediate School, 28754 N. Fremont Center Road, Mundelein, 6:30pm. Open to D102 parents.

12/19 Winter Break

1/3 School Resumes

1/15-2/12 Worlds of Wisdom and Wonder enrichment classes, The Gifted Center, MMS, Sundays, 2:00-4:30pm

1/25 Community Event Learning Opportunities

3/21 Community Event Learning Vision

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feel overwhelmed with the amount of work, and is it too challenging at times? Lastly, does your child appear to be isolated? Maybe your child needs personal encouragement from a teacher to be successful. Whichever concern exists, it is important to meet with the teacher.

Tips for Parents in Partnering with a Teacher

Dr. Smutny suggests these tips in partnering with your child's teacher:

1. Be informed about the school and district philosophy, the curriculum, and special services.
2. Communicate with the classroom teacher. Allow time for the teacher to get to know your child and build a rapport. Listen and discern what others are communicating. Be positive and make any criticism constructive.
3. Express support and be involved in volunteering and contributing in the school.
4. Be a strong advocate for your child. Take time to listen to your child and recognize subtle messages.
5. Realize that school cannot provide all the challenges, stimulation, and activity your child needs for fulfillment of his/her potential. Provide additional enriching experiences such as excursions, magazine subscriptions, a mentor, etc.
6. Identify the specific strengths and needs of your child. Provide stimulation and occasions to develop areas of passion and talent. Seek the support your child may need to overcome challenges, weaknesses, or frustrations. Foster positive qualities of character in your child such as responsibility, self-discipline, integrity, tolerance and more.
7. Remember that gifted education is not an exclusive privilege. It is instruction provided for all children according to their educational needs.

Resources

[I Know My Child Can Do Better!](#) by Anne Rambo, Contemporary Books, 2002. Provides insights on primary warning signs that a child is struggling, bored or under- or over-challenged at school, as well as resources and solutions for school-related problems.

[The New Public School Parent](#), by Bob Chase with Bob Katz, Penguin, 2002. Chase, a veteran teacher and two-term president of the National Education Association, provides parents with a detailed road-map for navigating the public school system.

[The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids](#) by Sally Yahnke Walker, Ph.D., Free Spirit Publishing, 2002. Gives parents

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encouraging, practical tips for living with a gifted child and handling the endless questions and high energy that often go along with giftedness.

[Straight Talk About Schools Today: Understand the System and Help Your Child Succeed](#) by Judy Molland, Free Spirit Publishing, 2007. This book is a helpful guide for any parent trying to navigate the elementary and secondary school system. It also provides good advice for dealing with teachers and administrators in order to help ensure your student's success in the school environment.

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