



# HEBAGT

**Hurst-Euless-Bedford—Association for the Gifted & Talented**  
*An organization of parents and professionals who support the special needs of gifted and talented students*

Winter Issue

HEBAGT Horizons Newsletter

January 2006

HEBAGT is a parent affiliate of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented. TAGT provides support as we work to understand the needs of our gifted students and a stronger voice with which to provide support for the development of these children.

Here are some of the major benefits of individual TAGT membership.

\* TAGT Summer Scholarships - For details see the new edition of TAGT Insights online at [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org) and be sure to attend the HEBAGT Summer Activity Fair on January 28. You do not have to be an individual member of TAGT to apply for a TAGT Summer Scholarship. Insights is an annual publication featuring scholarship opportunities for gifted children, parents, and educators.

\* TAGT Conferences - Including the Annual Professional Development Conference for Educators and Parents, the leadership conference, and multiple parent conferences--reduced rates for members; breakout sessions; fabulous keynote speakers; exhibitors featuring products and services of interest to educators and parents of the gifted.

\* Advocacy, year-round legislative interaction at the state's capitol.

\* TEMPO, a quarterly journal with in-depth, scholarly articles on key issues and research topics in gifted education.

\* Member access to TAGT website - Up-to-the minute information on TAGT events and activities, online audio interviews, and gifted education research tools

\* Electronic newsletters, filled with association news, upcoming events, and legislative activities sent quarterly to your email inbox.

HEBAGT has a stronger voice because it is a TAGT Parent Affiliate. You can gain additional information and networking as an individual TAGT member. Please join today!

Take a look at our website at [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org) or email us at [info@hebgifted.org](mailto:info@hebgifted.org).

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Heading

## HEBAGT Officers

Tammy McDonald	President
Beth Ethridge	1st VP & Programs
Himani Reddy	Membership
Robert Thompson	Treasurer
Open	Parliamentarian
Rick Peters	Legislative
Karen Mixon-Dowdy	Publications

HEBAGT— PO Box 366, Bedford, TX 76095  
Website: [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org), Email: [info@hebgifted.org](mailto:info@hebgifted.org)

## HEBAGT New Website

HEBAGT has a new and improved website! It is now at [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org). Here are some of the changes to our website:

- We have the Current Events scrolling on the home page.
  - There is a "What's Hot" button listing things that are important for G/T Students.
  - There are maps and driving directions available for each event under the "Calendar of Events".
  - We now have information under "Summer Scholarships" regarding the TAGT scholarships. These scholarships are given by how well you fill out the application, not by financial need.
  - We will be putting our newsletters on the site.
  - We will be adding photos of our meetings on the site. Feel free to submit photos that you have taken at any of our meetings.
  - Our new e-mail address is: [info@hebagt.org](mailto:info@hebagt.org).
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## TAGT Scholarships

School is just starting up and in a few months your HEBAGT organization will be talking about "Summer"!

After the first of the year your Gifted and Talented group will be offering the opportunity again to visit with vendors that offer summer camps and also an opportunity to learn about TAGT (Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented) Scholarships. Watch for the newsletter announcement on the date and times.

Last year we had the best number of submitted applications in recent years. I would hope that more will apply for scholarships and take advantage of this great benefit from TAGT. More information in the near future.

Robert Thompson, Region XI Regional Director

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## Congratulations

### HEBAGT Sends Parent Leaders to State

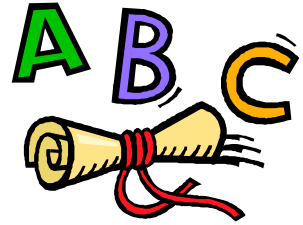
Two former HEBAGT Presidents are now leading the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented. Rick Peters served as President-Elect last year and in November became President for 2006. Only one other president has come from the ranks of the parent members in their history.

Robert Thompson is now serving TAGT as Treasurer, so 2 of the 5 TAGT Executive Committee members are HEBAGT parents. Congratulations to both men.

Dr. Richard Sinclair, Dean of the Texas Academy for Math and Science (TAMS) at UNT, who was the featured speaker at the November HEBAGT meeting, is the new Region 11 TAGT Executive Board member.

## ABC's of Gifted Advocacy

Raymond F. "Rick" Peters



All children deserve a chance to develop their potential including the gifted! Advocacy to meet the needs of gifted children can be served in many ways at the grass-roots level.

Establish positive communication with your child's teacher. Help the teacher to understand your child by sharing stories.

Join both HEBAGT and TAGT to become informed. Your voice will be stronger as a member of these groups that are dedicated to the development of gifted children.

Become active in your child's education. Volunteer to help your child's teacher (during school or after), depending on your own work responsibilities. Volunteer to serve on the various HEBISD committees. Time spent in this way not only develops a relationship with your child's school, but serves as a shining example to your child as to the value you place on their education.

If ever a need exists to elevate a concern, always start with the teacher and never skip a step in the "chain of command".

Get the facts about gifted education. Did you know that Texas has a funded mandate for gifted education? The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted/GifTal> provides what Texas law calls out in the way of gifted services. The acceptable category is required by law. While the higher levels are optional, several school districts across the state have achieved the recognized level.

Get to know your legislators. The coming year will bring a special session on school finance and your help might be needed to give gifted children a voice. Without grassroots support, we could lose much that has been gained. Our local legislators appreciate information from their constituents about issues before them. It is better to develop a relationship early so that they well know you as a valued source of reliable information and support for gifted education. Changes to legislation can occur at a fast pace so stay informed through HEBAGT and TAGT.

Always remember that giftedness is not a status symbol but a real learning difference that must be addressed. Gifted children have a diversity of backgrounds and needs. The payoff if these needs are addressed can be great for both our society as well as for the child.

HEBAGT's own website at [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org) provides news about local, regional, and state programs as well as a wealth of valuable links and advocacy information. Many thanks to our current webmaster, Travis McDonald!

Hoagies Gifted Education Page at [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org) is the preeminent source of information on all things gifted. TAGT at [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org) provides information about activities, advocacy, and contacts across Texas. NAGC at [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) has recently updated their page to add source material to assist parents and gifted advocates.

Developing the potential of our gifted children is not only important to us as parents, but in the grand scheme, our state and our nation must be able to compete in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by allowing these children to become the creative forces and leaders that they are meant to be.

## KUDO'S From HEB

One of Bell Manor's fourth grade Advanced Academics students became a certified scuba diver at San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea State Park in Toyavale, Texas.

According to his dad, read below letter, Nathan Coward is one of the youngest certified scuba divers in the metroplex.

Nathan is a fourth grader in Stacy Herron's Class and Susan Harper's Advanced Academics/PEAK class for reading. He is cleared for publicity and photos according to FERPA guidelines.

Letter: Please join me in congratulating Nathan on becoming a P.A.D.I. certified Open Water Diver.



He was able to complete all of the required skills and tests this weekend at Balmorhea and passed with flying colors. This is a major accomplishment and we can all be very proud of his achievement. He is, according to PADI statistics, one of the youngest certified divers in the Dallas, Fort Worth Metroplex. We also attended a "Star Party" at the McDonald Observatory Saturday night that inspired us to get his telescope out and start using it again. He is very knowledgeable about the stars and constellations.



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### Mark your calendar for Explore UT!

What: "Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas!"

When: Saturday, March 4, 2006, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: The University of Texas at Austin

Who's invited: Students K-12, teachers, and families, everyone is wel-

Plan a field trip to "Explore UT," and choose from more than 300 educational activities on campus. See robots playing soccer, deliver the TV news in a real studio, learn about the origins of vampires in literature, find out about emergency preparedness for tsunamis and earthquakes, watch a mock trial, and more. It's a great enrichment opportunity for Gifted and Talented students.

Now's the time to start planning—to inform parents, students and teachers. They can go to [www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut](http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut) for a sampling of activities. Explore UT offers \$25 reimbursement to the first 100 buses to register on the Explore UT Web site. Register your bus online, [http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/K\\_12\\_bus.html](http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/K_12_bus.html). By return e-mail, you will get information about drop-off locations, bus parking and a group lunch option. After Explore UT, which is Saturday, March 4, 2006, the University will contact you to arrange the reimbursement.

Eat as a group in a university cafeteria; At Explore UT, you have the option of eating lunch as a group in the Jester Center cafeteria. The cost is only \$5 per person, payable by purchase order, cash, check, MasterCard or Visa. This option gives students the experience of dining in a real university dormitory.

Reserve seating when you register your bus, or do it now. See the University's Housing and Food Service Web site, <http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/index.php?site=0&scode=6&id=1158>. Another option is to bring sack lunches and picnic on the lawn.

For more information, contact Barbara A. Langham, Explore UT communications consultant, 512-346-2261

## Mapping Fun on the Web

### Calendar of Events

January 28, 2006—Summer Activity Fair

February 4, 2006 TAGT Parent Conference, Keynote Speakers: Dr. Paul Beljan & Dr. Debra Toxclair, Odessa, TX

February 21, 2005—7:00-8:30pm Guest Speaker is Wendy Conklin

April 28, 2006—HEBAGT Talent Show at Spring Garden Elem. 2400 Cummings, Bedford

### Other Local Events

April 8, 2006—Carrollton-Farmers Branch Association for Gifted & Talented Annual Spring Symposium, "Helping Gifted Kids Soar" Guest Speaker, Dr. Sylvia Rimm Workshops for Adults & Children

Google Earth is Google's entry into mapping fun <http://earth.google.com/>. It not only has mapping tools like those on [www.MapQuest.com](http://www.MapQuest.com), it has added in satellite imagery. Photos were taken over 3 years by high flying aircraft and satellites, and some areas are lots more detailed than others. Some cities have 3-D views from the ground up. Users share interesting finds. [Http://moon.google.com](http://moon.google.com) will even show you small areas of the moon! You do have to download the free product and it requires certain graphics cards.

People have begun to put these features to work for specialized maps. One example is Gmaps Pedometer <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/> A marathon runner created this site to help record distances he traveled during a running or walking workout. Zoom down to your neighborhood, double click on your house and then double click a block away to see how it works!

There are related websites such as Google Maps Mania <http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/> This site is a game similar to Risk <http://www.capturethemap.de>. Have fun with maps!

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## Book Reviews

Two recent books that I highly recommended are: ***Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our Brightest Young Minds*** by Jan and Bob Davidson, published by Simon and Schuster. The book takes a close look at how gifted education "achieved" its currently low status in public education and how parents and schools can change this situation. It has an excellent appendix, "What You Can Do," and an exhaustive bibliography.

***Grandparents' Guide to Gifted Children*** by Dr. James Webb, Janet Gore, Dr. Frances Karnes, and A. Stephen McDaniel, published by Great Potential Press., is exactly as advertised-it provides an excellent resource for gifted geared to grandparents. Besides an excellent overview of gifted characteristics, it provides detailed suggestions for effective and positive grandparenting, including financial planning for one's grandchildren. This book has information I have not seen anywhere else.

Also be sure to read The Templeton National Report on Acceleration, ***A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students***. It is available for free on their website, [www.nationdeceived.org](http://www.nationdeceived.org). Below is a review printed last year that is offered once again. It remains the book I most often recommend.

As an educator with 20+ years experience in gifted education, and the father of a gifted teen, I am often asked by parents for books that will help them understand the intensity that many gifted children possess. I wholeheartedly recommend ***Raising Your Spirited Child: A Guide for Parents Whose Child Is More Intense, Sensitive, Perceptive, Persistent, Energetic*** by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, published by Perennial. Even though the book is 13 years old and is not specifically about "gifted" children, I have yet to find a more informative book for parents. It provides many positive ideas to help you learn to live with intense children. If you are the parent of a child described in the title, you will read this book and say, "Aha!"

Reviewed by Tracy Weinberg, TAGT Associate Director

Save the Date!

Spring Symposium 2006

# *Helping Gifted Kids Soar*

a conference for Parents, Educators and their Gifted and Talented Students



Saturday, April 8, 2006

Do you wonder why your gifted child sometimes struggles with schoolwork?

How can you help your children achieve their potential?

Come to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Symposium for some answers.

Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Sylvia Rimm, psychologist, columnist, author of **Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades –and What You Can Do About It** and **See Jane Win**, a New York Times best seller. Says Katie Couric, NBC Today show host: “Dr. Rimm is a welcome voice of calm and reason -- someone who offers practical advice with almost immediate results.”

There is no membership requirement. It is not necessary to have a student enrolled in the district to attend. Conference is complementary for all C-FB AGT members. Registration forms will be sent home with all identified gifted students in C-FB ISD and will also be found on the C-FB AGT website at **www.CFBGifted.org** or in the school office. For membership information, visit this web site, email us at [membership@CFBGifted.org](mailto:membership@CFBGifted.org) or call 972.418.6036.

*Workshops for parents, teachers and students grades 1-12*

*C-FB ISD Technology and Learning Center  
2427 Carrick Street  
Farmers Branch*

*Sponsored by Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD/Advanced Academic Services  
Carrollton-Farmers Branch Association for the Gifted and Talented  
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD/Special Education Department*

## SUMMER ACTIVITY FAIR

### Sponsored by:

Hurst-Euless-Bedford Association for the Gifted and Talented (HEBAGT)  
Birdville ISD Association for the Gifted and Talented (BISD AGT)

**DATE:** Saturday, January 28, 2006

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon \* Come-and-go Event

**PLACE:** 1849 Central Drive, Bedford, TX, in the Pat May Center  
The Pat May Center is behind the Administration building  
and faces Pennington field

**OPEN TO:** All parents and students interested in educational and artistic summer camps/programs.

We will have around 20 different booths representing educational and artistic summer camps/programs in the area. We will also have brochures on camps that are in the area but not able to set up a booth. Although the event is sponsored by the gifted and talented, many of the camps are open to the general public, so feel free to invite all of your friends. Some of the camps even have scholarships for financial need.

We will also have mini-seminars to go over TAGT scholarships. The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) offers scholars for Texas students in grades K-12, who have been identified as gifted and talented, for the purpose of attending academic or artistic programs during the summer. They will even consider applications from private school and home school students on a case-by-case basis. We will have the scholarship seminars every 30 minutes starting at 9:15 and ending at 11:45.

Here are some of the camps that plan on setting up booths:

Rising Stars Math & Science Academy  
Lonestar Leadership Academy  
UTA Engineering Camp  
Starlight Performing Arts  
Creative Arts Theater School (CATS)  
Summer Institute for the Gifted  
Irving Arts Center  
Sea Camp/Galveston  
G/T Scholars/Univ. of Arkansas

College 4 Kids/TCC  
UTD Chess Camp  
Camp Kiowa  
Camp E=mc2  
Mathworks  
Duke Tip  
Pepe Le Potter  
ArtsNET  
SMU Gifted

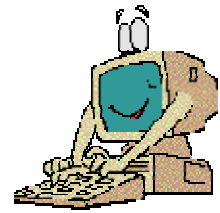
For more information, please contact:

Tammy McDonald at [info@hebagt.org](mailto:info@hebagt.org) or 817-267-5185

Wendy McGahey at [5mcgaheys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:5mcgaheys@sbcglobal.net) or 817-788-1484

## WE NEED YOU!

We will need several go-getters to work as officers with HEBAGT for next school year. Most of the officers hold down full time jobs and are still able to help out with our organization. If you are interested in joining a fun and exciting organization, then contact Tammy at [info@hebagt.org](mailto:info@hebagt.org)



## The Lone Star Leadership Academy

The Lone Star Leadership Academy is a weeklong residential leadership development program for outstanding Texas 5th-8th graders. This program is listed in TAGT's Insights guide to summer programs for gifted students. In addition, gifted and talented students may apply for TAGT summer program scholarships of up to \$300 to participate in the Lone Star Leadership Academy. An informational parent letter is attached.

Lone Star Leadership Academy is a Monday-Friday experiential learning leadership development program for outstanding 5th-8th graders from across the state of Texas. Participants experience curriculum taught in Texas classrooms through visits to historically, politically, scientifically and environmentally significant sites. Programs take place in Dallas/Fort Worth (5th/6th graders), Austin (6th/7th graders) and Houston/Galveston (7th/8th graders). Career speakers introduce participants to a wide variety of career and internship opportunities. Texas teachers facilitate leadership groups, simulations and leadership activities. TAGT offers scholarships of up to \$300 for participation in summer programs including the Lone Star Leadership Academy. Visit [www.educationinaction.org](http://www.educationinaction.org) for more information including an informational video.

## Resources for Parents

TAGT's website: [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org)

Davidson Institute for Talent Development: [www.ditd.org](http://www.ditd.org)

Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP): [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu)

E-mail list that discusses Gifted & Talented in Texas: [www.egroups.com/group/texastag](http://www.egroups.com/group/texastag)

Gifted Development Center: [www.gifteddevelopment.com](http://www.gifteddevelopment.com)

Information on Issues for the Gifted & Talented: [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC): [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

Neag Center for Gifted Education & Talent Development: [www.gifted.uconn.edu](http://www.gifted.uconn.edu)

Texas Education Agency Advanced Academic Services: [www.tea.state.tx.us/gted](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted)

Questia: an online library: [www.questia.com/CM.qst?d=am3](http://www.questia.com/CM.qst?d=am3)

## HEBAGT Meeting Information

February 21, 2005—7:00-8:30pm Guest Speaker is Wendy Conklin

Topic is “Stimulating Creativity in your Home”

Ms. Conklin’s website: [www.mentisonline.com](http://www.mentisonline.com)

All meetings begin at 7:00pm, at the Pay May Center, 1849 Central Drive, Bedford

### Benefits of Membership

- To provide a support forum for parents of gifted and talented children and to encourage parents’ participation in public education and other programs for gifted children.
- To keep parents and educators updated on local, state, and national legislative programs which benefit education for gifted and talented children.
- To familiarize parents with the administrators of the HEBISD who are the decision makers for the G/T programs.
- To inform parents and educators about resources available to gifted and talented children to achieve their utmost capabilities.
- To send out informative e-mails and newsletters regarding important issues for gifted and talented children
- To find out changes being considered for the G/T curriculum and be able to voice your opinion on these before the changes are implemented.

### Hurst-Eules-Bedford Association for Gifted and Talented Membership Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Wk/Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student names(s), grade level(s), school(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent  Teacher  Administrator / Is this a  new membership?  renewal?

**Please check one:**  Individual Membership (\$7)  Family Membership (\$10)  
( 2 voting members )

**Please bring to meeting or mail to: HEBAGT, P.O. Box 366, Bedford, TX 76095**