



# 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*

Fall Issue

HEBAGT Horizons Newsletter

September 2005

## What is HEBAGT?

The HEBAGT (Hurst-Euless-Bedford Association for the Gifted and Talented) is a parent advocacy group for Gifted Students and the G/T program in HEBISD. HEBAGT provides parent support and programs that allow parents to better understand what is going on in the school district concerning the G/T program. HEBAGT is also a source of information on TAGT (Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented) and its many programs such as the Parent/Teacher State Conference in autumn, and the Scholarship programs offered to both teachers and students for additional instruction in the summer. 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).

## TAGT 28th Annual Conference for Parents & Educators in Dallas on November 2—5

The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented Annual Conference will be in San Antonio this year on November 2-5. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parents and educators of gifted children to choose from more than 300 sessions featuring many nationally known presenters.

You will hear cutting-edge strategies, techniques, and research for challenging today's gifted youth as well as information about advocacy, scholarships, twice-exceptional children, and identification. There will be more than 175 exhibitor booths featuring educational products and books. A new event planned this year is a Family Day on Saturday, November 5, with a special registration fee of \$79 for up to two adults and four children. There will be special family activities session (children & at least one adult). Planned sessions include drama, science, robotics, art, with more being planned.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson, "The Role of Gifted Education in Equity and Excellence" and Jason Dorsey, "How Gifted Education Saved My Life". For details and to register visit the TAGT website at [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org)

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### 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@hebagt.org](mailto:info@hebagt.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.

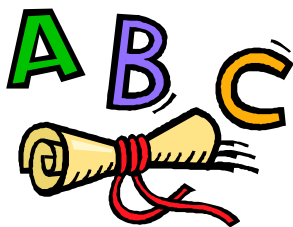
Last year we had the best number of submitted applications in recent years. I would hope that more will apply for scholarships and take advantage of this great benefit from TAGT. More information in the near future.

Robert Thompson, Region XI Regional Director

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## Congratulations

2005 TAGT Summer Scholarship Winners from HEBISD



*Caroline Carr  
Molly Cook  
Taylor Cook  
Andrew Taldo  
Viktoriya Koshevarova*

## Books are available in the Advanced Academics Office to borrow.

*Gifted Kids Survival Guide: Ages 10 and under*  
*Gifted Kids Survival Guide: Ages 11—18*  
*Survival Guide for Parents*  
*You're Smarter than you Think*  
*Entertaining Your Child*  
*Bringing Out the Best in Your Child*  
*Perfectionism: What's Bad About It.*  
*Stand Up for Your Gifted Child*  
*Who Moved My Cheese for Children*  
*Problem Child or Quirky Kid*  
*Understanding Those Who Create*  
*Distinguishing Characteristics of Gifted Students with Disabilities*  
*Multicultural Mentoring of the Gifted and Talented*  
*The Creative Child*  
*Underachievement Syndrome: Causes and Cures (Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades)*  
*Educating the Gifted: A Sourcebook*  
*The Developmental Education and Guidance of Talented Learners*  
*Education of the Gifted and Talented*  
*If I'm So Successful, Why do I Feel Like A Fake? The Imposter Phenomenon*  
*Growing Up Gifted*  
*SAT Study Guide*

If you would like to check out one of the books listed above, please call  
817-283-4461, ext. 2072

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## Note the Difference

Source: Janice Szabos, Challenge Magazine, Tennessee Association for the Gifted

### **A Bright Child:**

Knows the answers  
Is Interested  
Is attentive  
Has good ideas  
Works Hard  
Answers the questions  
Top Group  
Listens with interest  
Learns with ease  
6-8 repetitions for mastery  
Understands ideas  
Enjoys peers  
Grasps the meaning  
Completes assignments  
Is receptive  
Copies accurately  
Enjoys school  
Absorbs information  
Technician  
Good memorizer  
Enjoys sequential presentation  
Is Alert  
Is pleased with own learning

### **A Gifted Learner:**

Asks the questions  
Is highly curious  
Is mentally and physically involved  
Has wild, silly ideas  
Plays around, yet tests well  
Discusses in detail, elaborates  
Beyond the group  
Shows strong feeling and opinions  
Already knows  
1-2 repetitions for mastery  
Constructs abstractions  
Prefers adults  
Draws inferences  
Initiates projects  
Is Intense  
Creates a new design  
Enjoys learning  
Manipulates information  
Inventor  
Good Guesser  
Thrives on complexity  
Is keenly observant  
Is highly self-critical

## KUDO'S From Spring & Summer 2005

**Robert Ulmet** - a 7th grade GT student in Ms. Murr's Class at Bedford Jr. High, won the District Spelling Bee.

**Clara Telford** - a 6th grade PEAK student at Stonegate Elementary, received the HEB Council PTA Heart of Gold Award and the Colleyville Woman's Club President's Youth Volunteer Service Award. May 2005

**Aleigh Monroe** - a 5th grade PEAK Student at Stonegate Elementary, won 3rd place in the Regional Reflections Contest and was awarded the Award of Excellence at the State PTA contest for her inspirational essay "Playground Purple Flowers". April 2004

**John Stiles** - a 7th grade Hurst Jr. High student chosen to be a delegate for the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

**Alexandra Smith** - a 7th grader at Hurst Jr. High won the Overall Award in Excellence at District 11 level of the PTA Reflections Competition for her entry, "Earth's Angel".

**Stonegate Elementary PEAK Students** - have adopted the HEB clothes closet for the 2005 - 2006 school year.

### Congratulations to the Top 10 Geography Bee District Finalists and Winners!

#### 1st Place Tie

*John Stiles*, Hurst Jr. High  
*Newaz Ahmed*, North Euless Elementary

#### 2nd Place

*Samuel Visser*, Shady Oaks Elementary

#### 3rd Place

*Nikki Fox*, Spring Garden Elementary

#### Places 4-10

*Matthew Baumen*, Harrison Lane Elementary  
*Cole Pedersen*, Meadow Creek Elementary  
*Louis Bedford*, Stonegate Elementary  
*Katie Stroud*, Euless Jr. High  
*Kyle Short*, Donna Park Elementary  
*Blake Atwood*, Bedford Jr. High  
*Browning Hill*, Shady Brook Elementary

## Destination Imagination

The Destination Imagination team of L.D. Bell High School competed at the State Tournament. Team members were Vanessa Adams, and GT students Katie Raines Labron, Michael Stokes, Ricki Tucker and Eric Wilkins.

The Destination Imagination team from Spring Garden Elementary competed at the State Tournament and tied for 2nd place. This 5th grade team represented HEBISD at the Global Competition in May 2005 at Knoxville, Tennessee. Team members were Jonathan Beckett, Christopher Beckham, Lexi Reily, and GT students Breshell Hurley, Landen Oster and Byron Wilkes.



If you would like to include someone in the Kudos column, please email me at [newsletter@hebagt.org](mailto:newsletter@hebagt.org).

### President's Message

"I am excited about the upcoming school year! We have some great programs planned that will be both educational and informative. Don't forget to check out our new website at [www.hebagt.org](http://www.hebagt.org). We will continually update it with interesting events from around the Metroplex. If I can ever be of assistance to you, then feel free to contact me at [info@hebagt.org](mailto:info@hebagt.org)."

Tammy McDonald,  
HEBAGT President

## Calendar of Events

October 10, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest Speaker is Ms. Martha Sibley

October 6, 2005—7:00pm  
S.P.A.C.E. presents Dr. James Delisle in Southlake. Johnson Elementary School Auditorium 1301 N. Carroll Avenue

November 15, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest speaker is Dr. Richard Sinclair

January 28, 2006—Summer  
Activity Fair

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

April 2006—Talent Show

## Submerge yourself in a knowledge Utopia!

The University of Texas at Austin has created UTOPIA, the portal to a wealth of knowledge, research, and information built on the university's resources and offered to the public.

<http://utopia.utexas.edu/>

Through the website you can find information about credit by exam, including the opportunity to earn a Texas high school diploma through the Distance Education Center at UT Austin. Writing tips based on your responses to "Virgil," anti-procrastination and the college quest are practical stores of information.

## Welcome, parents of gifted students in HEBISD!

Thanks to the firm commitment of our school board and administration to our advanced students, the Advanced Academics department at Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD is in a state of continuous improvement.

For 2005-06 in HEBISD:

- There is a new, improved identification GT process which incorporates an added achievement component. The new component will give us more information about every child nominated for the gifted program.
- The second strand of our new gifted curriculum for Advanced Reading for 4-6 PEAK is being implemented. The yearlong theme is Power. Students will study all kinds of power in every content area, from the power of the written word to the power in an electrical circuit.
- Our elementary Advanced Academics Specialists have been busy this past spring and this summer. Committees of GT Specialists have created:
  - parent, student, and teacher surveys which will be administered this year to evaluate our gifted and talented program.
  - a teacher training video to train primary teachers across the district about the characteristics and needs of gifted students.
  - four planned experiences in gifted strategies for each grade level in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> for regular classroom teachers to use with their identified gifted students.
  - updated planned experiences in Spanish for students in our bilingual and Spanish Immersion classes.
- Secondary Advanced Placement students will take the end-of-course exam in May for every Advanced Placement course. The fees for the exams will be paid for by the school district. The national AP exams not only help students earn college hours while in high school but also provide school districts with feedback as to how their students are performing when compared to other advanced students across the nation. HEBISD will use this data to improve and strengthen advanced courses.
- Fifty-three International Baccalaureate diplomas were awarded for 2004-05 to L. D. Bell and Trinity High School IB seniors for an impressive 71% passing percentage. L. D. Bell has 125 IB students for 2005-06; Trinity High School has 81 IB students for 2005-06. Congratulations to our IB Coordinators, Tommy Newman and Judy Chapman, as well as to an outstanding group of master teachers at both high schools for encouraging and challenging our International Baccalaureate students.

Bettye Edgington, Advanced Academics Coordinator - 817-399-2090



*"No man walks taller than one who stoops to help a child."  
Baden Powell*

With sections for students, families and educators, the website offers numerous avenues to learn about subjects ranging from an algebra tutorial, molecular tissue engineering, brain research, foreign language topics, Texas, sports and even reading lists. The "You-T" area provides expert insight on everything from finances to health to parenting and photography. Want to start preserving your treasures? Check out the tips from the Humanities Research Center in the You-T art theme area. Is astronomy your child's passion? The Mac the Firefly Club brings the McDonald Observatory to your computer. History comes alive through related art.

Check out this Utopia whether you just want to learn something new or get help with a practical project.

## HEBAGT Meeting Information

September 12, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest Speaker is Dr. Gene Buinger,  
HEBISD Superintendent  
October 10, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest Speaker is Ms. Martha Sibley

November 15, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest speaker is Dr. Richard Sinclair  
February 21, 2005—7:00-8:30pm  
Guest Speaker is TBD

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

### 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**