



September 18, 2008

Parents Advocating for Gifted Education

Volume 2, Issue 1



Of Special Interest:

- TAGT Conference Schedule <http://txgifted.org/2008-annual-conference/schedule>
- Destination ImagiNation® Returns to KISD
- Campus Reps: We Need You, Again!
- Next Meeting: October 14th Dr. Kimberly Tyler "Differentiating Instruction"

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Welcome Back—Returning Parents! And... Welcome to Parents New to KISD & PAGE

As PAGE enters its second year, we have much to be thankful for... but new challenges await.

Some have said that PAGE came a long way last year, for being only in its first year. For however "long we've come," we certainly all are thankful! We can be thankful for establishing the beginnings of a good communication mechanism with our District leadership and decision-makers.

Advocacy, in PAGE's definition, seems to start with involvement and communication. While we don't claim to be curriculum or programming experts, we seek to have informed opinions, and we cer-

tainly seek to be part of processes that ultimately determine the academic course of our gifted students. As someone along the way indicated, "No child left behind," isn't quite enough. It is a bit more like "every child should reach their full potential."

Lots of recent press indicates that this nation faces the real threat that our gifted students aren't always reaching their full potential—right down to dropping out, dumbing down, and disappearing from the circles in which some of this country's

greatest contributions have historically been made.

PAGE exists to help ensure that parents are doing whatever it is they can do to have their own children's potential be realized, nay, actually all this District's gifted children's potential be realized.

In this we face the many challenges we only began to appreciate last year. But with more and more help, from each of you, we will make more and more headway.

Welcome aboard. Please don't hesitate because you may not have helped out before. No one around here bites...

PAGE Seeking to Expand and Improve Network of Campus Reps

This is your chance to help PAGE know how to best help—at your campus!

Last year, PAGE initiated its network of Campus Representatives (CRs). One of the main functions of a CR, is to make contact with the G/T Specialist, administration, and others at each campus, and learn how PAGE can best support G/T activities, the G/T staff, and G/T-related efforts. With more than 20 elementary schools, your help is much needed at

these grade levels— but we have openings at all grade levels, K through 12!

The CR Coordinators this year are:

- Elementary Schools—Kellie Lee
- Intermediate/Middle Schools—Len Avecilla
- High Schools — Debbie Piland

These coordinators will be pleased to answer questions, and even more pleased if you volunteer to be a CR! Contact

any of them by e-mailing info@kidspage.com, and indicate what grade level you might be interested in representing.

And... we have openings on committees ! Are you interested in:

Programs? Fundraising? Communications? Hospitality? Membership?

Contact a Board Member, or write to info@kisdpage.com

A Brief Message from the First Vice-President (Programs)



Returning Board members:

From right— Ellen Borish, Jamie Thomas, Len Avecilla, Julie Hester,

Not shown— Victoria Milner, Debbie Piland, Sherry Simon

Almost the entire Board from last year has returned.

Thanks to **Savreen Robinson & Maureen Halbert** (who were not able to return, first and second from left)

Jamie Thomas summarizes what to expect this year...

Hello Parents,

Whether you are new to PAGE or a returning mem-

ber, the board would like to extend a gracious welcome to you. We are glad to have you!

Our first year was so exciting. We have great plans in store for the 2008-2009 school year as well. We will continue to provide child care during our meetings this year. Board members will be at the meetings starting at 6:30 to meet and greet you. Light Refreshments will be provided.

We will have a brief business meeting at 6:45 (at certain of our regular meetings). Our general meeting will start promptly at 7:00 this year. Our goal is to have you in your car by 8:15 (or earlier).

We know how valuable your time is! Please join us to find out how you can help best advocate for your child.

— Jamie Thomas
First VP

“A free-of-charge (TAGT) session on Wednesday, November 12th, from 4-7 pm.”

TAGT Professional Development Conference, Nov. 12-14, Dallas

TAGT has organized a free-of-charge session for parents on Wednesday, November 12th, from 4-7 pm.

TAGT (Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented) is conducting its Annual Conference at the Sheraton Dallas.

The conference is offers a wealth of information — for teachers and G/T specialists,

administrators, parents, and others. (Also note that there is a Parents Conference, offered in the spring — the content is more specifically focused on the needs of parents.)

During the November conference, PAGE members will make a presentation concerning the building of parent groups (Friday, November 14, 1.30 pm).

PAGE is also evaluating some transportation alternatives to facilitate parents attendance to the free-of-charge session on Wednesday. Consult our website for developments.

For additional information on the TAGT conference, also visit:

<http://www.txgifted.org/2008-annual-conference>

Destination ImagiNation “You’ve heard of spelling bees, quiz bowls, robotics competitions and science fairs. In fact, there is probably a special event for every subject taught at school. Well, DI is none of those things – and all of those things! DI is a place where kids take what they know and what they are good at and learn to apply it to solve challenges, working together and cooperatively with a team and pushing the limits of imagination to best not their competition, but themselves.

Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants’ creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways.”

- excerpt from the DI website, <http://www.idodi.org/what.html>

Destination ImagiNation

**Information Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 7:00 pm
KISD Education Center,
Texas Rooms II & III.**

Plans to Revive: The BLOG

At the July 22nd meeting, a mini-survey of attendees was conducted. Parents’ opinion was virtually unanimous that

offering such opportunities to hear from District decision-makers, and ask questions, should occur regularly. Creating a forum for parents, as well as opportunities for District policies and programs to be explained to parents, is one of the characteristics that is required of Districts in Texas that are designated as “Exemplary.”

In a PAGE Board meeting

during the summer, the concept of a BLOG was again discussed (as a mechanism for parents and others to communicate opinions, questions, etc.)

Look for more about the BLOG soon, but in the meantime, have a look at what was started last year (BLOG hasn’t been used or updated since spring-time)... Visit <http://parentsadvocatinggifted.blogspot.com/>

Visit <http://www.kisdpage.com>

Get more info! (Beginning with October e-publications)

This year, if you're reading any of our e-publications on-line (PAGE On 1 Page, or The PAGE Pages), and need more information regarding an announcement, an event, or something else covered in an article, you may see the icon shown at the right.



New ICON: Click it for additional details !

A Consortium

In an effort to pool resources, and provide a wider range of supports, PAGE makes first approaches to neighboring parent groups.

Many ISDs in North Texas have

Clicking on this icon will take you to the website page containing additional details whenever more information is available.

The July 22nd Meeting

There were 93 attendees at the meeting describing Keller ISD G/T programs for the 2008-2009 school year.

Laura Lockhart, KISD Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction, and Pam Cooper, KISD G/T Coordinator presented an overview of the District's 2008-2009 framework for G/T programs and services.

They described the uniform structure which has been decided upon for delivery of G/T services throughout the District. This may be summarized as: no less than 5 G/T-identified students (and no more than 50% of the total in any class) will be addressed by differentiating content for the G/T group—presumably addressing their specific needs, and challenging them as gifted students.

The BLOG: as it last looked (Spring, 2007)



G/T parent groups. Some are continually challenged, often by financial/funding constraints, to provide resources, speakers, and other services and support to their parent members.

In an effort to work together, PAGE has made the first contacts to some of these other groups, in order to explore how to pool resources and cooperate to support parents.

An exploratory meeting is tentatively planned for sometime in October. Hopefully, all groups will benefit from this initiative.

Parents submitted questions about G/T programs and services, a few of which were immediately addressed. Other questions are to be addressed in a combination of the September 18th PAGE meeting, a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) to be posted on the PAGE website, selected references (which are also provide an educational opportunity regarding several topics), and discussion sessions tentatively planned to be

held in multiple locations around the Keller ISD.

The material presented by Ms. Lockhart and Ms. Cooper may be found in its entirety on the PAGE website.



See related article: "Plans to Revive...", Page 2

Learn about TAGT Membership

<http://www.txgifted.org/about/membership>



"Parents submitted questions about G/T programs and services (to Keller ISD District Leadership)"

Parents Advocating for Gifted Education

PAGE

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*"When love and skill work together,
expect a masterpiece." - John Ruskin*



Early in 2007, a small group of parents, a former TAGT President, and a liaison from Keller ISD conceived the idea of a support and advocacy group for G/T students and their parents. In September of 2007, PAGE held its first general meeting. At the close of the 2007-2008 school year, PAGE had more than 170 member families, had launched its website and newsletter, conducted its first Parents Survey, participated in joint events with neighboring parent groups, and conducted regular meetings throughout the year featuring both local and nationally-recognized speakers.

We're on the Web !

www.kisdpage.com

Write for The PAGE Pages?

The PAGE Pages seeks contributions— from parents, teachers, G/T specialists, students— after all, can't anyone be a journalist?

This year, The PAGE Pages is actively recruiting reporters and other contributors. If you know of an event, if you have editorial or educational material, if you have any topic you think parents could benefit by reading here— please send along your contribution! e-mail it to info@kisdpage.com—your suggestion or contribution will be forwarded to the appropriate person, and reviewed for inclusion in the next issue.

Improvements, Inclusions, In-process...

Recently, we've had a number of suggestions for improving The PAGE Pages. Please do keep suggestions coming !

Among the ideas were:

Letters to the Editor
(this was planned for last year, but didn't make it before the last issue)

Student's Corner
(comments, questions, observations)

What would you like to see covered in The PAGE Pages?
E-mail suggestions to info@kisdpage.com

"When the Wright brothers had a dream that other people thought was crazy, and in spite of scorn and disbelief, they went right on dreaming and fiddling with their dream until it had wings to soar.

I have a feeling that they were probably not easy guys to live with during those dream-chasing days."

From...

