



Gifted education opportunities
for children, parents and teachers

October 2009

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

I hope the term started smoothly for you all. The year certainly seems to have flown by and the last term always seems to be the busiest and shortest of all.

This newsletter has also been added to the Thinking Ahead website, so if you have any problems reading it, you can go to www.thinkingahead.com.au/oct_09.htm

Holiday Programs

I am still waiting to confirm the venue for the holiday programs but they will run during the week of January 18 – 22. Check the website for details of the venue in the next week or so. I will also let you know as soon as the program is finalised and registrations open.

If there are workshops you would like to see offered, let me know. Even better if you know of someone who maybe interested in presenting a workshop on that topic.

Teachers who are interested in offering workshops are welcome to get in touch with me. The sooner the better as I will be planning to have the program finalised in a couple of weeks. If you are not familiar with them, the Planning guidelines can be found at www.thinkingahead.com.au/teacher_a_workshop.htm

Blog

A couple of months ago I started to record thoughts, questions and interesting bits and pieces relating to giftedness on a blog. Some things come from questions or concerns parents raise, some from things I read, others from conferences I have attended and reading that follows. Feel free to check it out and let me know if you have any suggestions. I currently have a few things I am working on, but the more I follow things up, the more connected things seem to become.

To read the blog go to <http://derrin-thebrightside.blogspot.com/> or click on the Blog tab on the navigation bar on the Thinking Ahead website.

Webinars and Resources

*With technology, the world is shrinking. The advent of webinars provides some wonderful opportunities for parents and teachers to access expertise from around the world, while sitting at home. Several groups run webinars on a regular basis that may be worth checking out. (the only down side is the time difference..... Perth is currently 12 hours **ahead** of Eastern Time in the US)*

NAGC - WOW! (Webinars on Wednesdays) Free until the end of this year. Check the schedule here www.nagc.org/wow.aspx

SENG webinars Their next webinar is Oct 26th (it is 7.30am on Oct 27th for us) Working with the Social-Emotional Needs of the Gifted and Talented: Using the Gifted Identity Formation Model

(http://sengifted.org/webinar_mahoney_10_26_2009/using_the_gifted_identity_formation_model_mahoney_webinar_10262009.htm).

Check out other SENG webinars coming up at www.sengifted.org/webinar_upcoming.shtml

NAGC Virtual Convention NAGC (in the USA) are offering a chance to virtually attend their annual conference with a series of sessions available live for US\$99 for non members (\$79 for NAGC members). These sessions run from early evening through the night on November 7th for us. If you cant stay up all night, you can register for the Best Value Package for US\$199 which will give you access to just about all the conference sessions (they number in the hundreds) and view them after the event at your leisure. www.nagc.org/nagcvirtualconvention.aspx

Prufrock Press – several blogs of interest to parents and some for teachers, links from their home page <http://www.prufrock.com/>

Things coming up

Theatre Sports

A parent is organising a series of 5 Theatre Sports workshops for gifted kids starting on October 31 at the Claremont Community Centre, Hakea Room. There will be 2 sessions each week, for older kids (roughly Yr 4 – 7) from 11 – 1pm followed by a session for younger kids (roughly Yr 1 – 3) from 1 – 3pm. Cost for the 5 week series is \$100 which will include a healthy snack each week. The workshops will be run by The Australian Institute of Theatre Sports (www.theatresportsoz.com/). There are only 40 places available for these workshops. To find out more or register contact Carina by email cmarshall@tobob.com

Dr Deb Ruf visiting in 2010

WA is fortunate to have Dr Deborah Ruf coming our way in February/March next year. Details of her visit are still being finalised by will include opportunities for parents as well as teachers. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Dr Ruf completed her PhD in 1998 before founding Educational Options in late 1999 in order to help the families of gifted children, particularly highly and profoundly gifted children, to know where to begin their search for answers related to gifted issues. Her experience as a teacher, an administrator, and the parent of highly gifted children help her to show how to work with the schools and when to accept that the schools may not be directly able to provide what is needed.

Dr Ruf is well known as the author of *Losing our Minds: Gifted Children Left Behind*. This book has just been republished under the new title **5 Levels of Gifted** and describes differences within the gifted population, building a classification of 5 levels based on her experience working with gifted children and their different developmental pathways.

<http://www.giftedbooks.com/productdetails.asp?id=136>

You can read more about her on her website Educational Options

<http://www.educationoptions.com/>

Links for parents, teachers and kids

Advocacy - An article from Parenting for High Potential that provides some sound information about successful advocacy for gifted children. Although this has a US focus, the key messages apply just as well to us. www.nagc.org/PHP_June09Web/Advocacy.html

Elementary School Resource Site – a huge list of sites of interest to parents and teachers inc games, simulations, creativity, digital story telling, programming, typing programs (including some free ones) www.langwitches.org/portfolio/

K-12 Online Conference The K-12 Online Conference is **FREE** and invites participation from educators around the world interested in innovative ways Web 2.0 tools and technologies can be used to improve learning. Over two weeks, December 7-11 and December 14-17, forty presentations will be posted online to the conference site for participants to download and view. For more information go to <http://k12onlineconference.org/>

For teachers interesting in using IT resources in their classrooms check out the **Langwitches blog**, PD, slides, photos or if you are time poor, start at **Best of Langwitches** www.langwitches.org/portfolio/blog/

Interactive periodic table – great for budding scientists <http://www.ptable.com/>

Children's books online - download copies of a range of children's books
www.childrensbooksonline.org/library.htm

Freebies on the Net – Best places to download free books - a huge list of books that can be downloaded free of charge. Lots of choices for kids. Could be a great resource for kids book clubs. <http://groups.google.com/group/gatcawa-albany/web/freebies-on-the-net?hl=en>

Video or Animation Competition for students from Yr 4 – 12

3in6 is an animation competition for teams of school students conducted on Oct 29th – students have t just 6 hours to complete their 3 minute production. Categories from Yr 4 upwards.
www.3in6.vitta.org.au/

Getting Kids in Synch Online course Nov 1 - 14 US\$99

<http://shop.sensorytools.net/index.php?productID=2334&contentID=1678>

Online course Nov 1 - 14 US\$99 This may be of interest to any parents of children with sensory integration issues or to teachers or other health professionals wishing to understand a little more about how to help. Info from the website says: "**A Sensory Processing Approach to Challenges Associated with Autism, ADHD, Learning and Behavioural Disorders** A fun, informative and interactive seminar is designed for parents, therapists and other professionals. You will gain understanding of the basics of sensory processing and learn "ready-to-use" strategies to support learning, attention, social and emotional relationships and behaviour in children. Getting Kids In Sync is presented by international speaker Genevieve Jereb, OTR"

All the best for the rest of term. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or would like more information about any of the events mentioned. I will look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months.

Derrin Cramer

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