



Newsletter
September
2011

Hi {FIRST_NAME|Valued Customer},

Happy Holidays! Three terms finished already this year, time flies.

My apologies that this newsletter is a little late, I am currently enjoying the unseasonably warm sunshine in the north of Italy and have been a little distracted! But I have continued to gather snippets which might be of interest to you. Hopefully amongst them you can find something to help you out in the next short but busy term, or some holiday reading.

Resources

The book sales in August and September went well and many people grabbed the chance to purchase resources at discounted prices. If you missed out, a few more books will be available in late November.

Although I am away until November and there will be a delay in getting orders to you until then, there are plenty of copies of *Gifted Children in WA: Resources for Parents and Teachers* in stock and I will also have more copies of *Upside Down Brilliance* in stock in November.

A copy of the first draft of *The Beginners Guide to Life on the Bright Side* was sent off for comment just before I came away on holidays and work will continue on it when I return. I am also working (slowly) on the Visual Spatial Learners pack which I hope to have on the website in November sometime.

Blog

There have also been a few new blog posts in the past month so if you have a minute, click over and check them out. Comments are welcome and if you don't want to miss anything, you can subscribe to updates by email and be advised automatically when something new is added.

[The value of failing](#)

[The role of frustration in learning](#)

[Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home and School](#)

New in the Download Centre

[Using books to meet the social and emotional needs of gifted students](#), by Judith Halstead

[Academic Talent Development and Equity in Gifted Education](#) by Francoys Gagne

In the Midwest

Congratulations to the group of parents in Geraldton who have formed a support gifted group to support parents and provide opportunities for gifted children in the Midwest. Their official launch of *Expanding Minds Midwest* was on September 1st and attracted quite a few new members. If you are living in the Midwest region, you can find out where their Friday morning get together is being held and what else is planned by contacting [Kate Tonkin](#).

Family Activity Nights

Helen Susan and Marie have another family activity night coming up on October 7th. A flier with details of where to find the room at Murdoch Uni and the theme for each night can be downloaded from the [Thinking Ahead website](#).

John Geake

If you have been involved with Gifted Education for a while, or you have been reading widely, I am sure you will have come across the work of John Geake. John passed away on September 8th, aged 62 and will be missed by many.

After completing a range of qualifications and working in education for many years in Australia, John spent 8 years at Oxford Brookes University in the UK where he conducted neuroscientific research in the area of high intelligence and creativity, returning to Australia 8 years ago as Professor of Education at UNE in NSW. I first met John Geake at a conference many years ago. He was a colourful character who always asked thought provoking questions. He was recognised with the Eminent Australian award by the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (AAEGT) in 2002. He has written many books and articles, his latest book is called *The Brain at School* (available from Book Depository or Fish Pond) You can [read more John and his work](#) here.

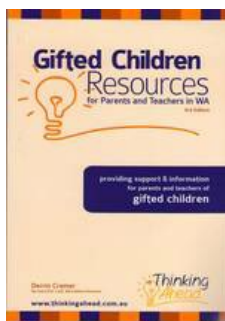
That is about it for this month. I hope you enjoy the collection of articles and websites below. If you come across something which may be of interest to others, let me know or add it to the Facebook page for others to check out too.

Regards

Derrin Cramer

Go to the [Thinking Ahead website](#)

Gifted Children: Resources for Parents and Teachers in WA



This 150 page A5 size book is packed full of information. It includes current information on programs and competitions plus a vast new collection of websites, useful readings and links to other services and resources. Entries are coded to make it easy to find what you are looking for.

Please note, there may be a little delay in getting your order to you during October while I am away on holidays.

Conferences

Links to Information you might find useful

Articles, blogs and Webinars

[Mark Zuckerberg isn't Mark Zuckerberg](#) – "Mark Zuckerberg" has become a codeword for the truly gifted exception and Seth Godin offers his thoughts on DNA and choices and success.



[Schoolchildren Can Also Learn Complex Subject Matters On Their Own](#)

This article reports on a study in Munich investigating what degree of direction is most effective, with some surprising findings.

[How our senses influence creativity](#)

Whether you have more of a global (holistic) or local (detail-oriented) processing style influences how you fundamentally perceive the world, and is one of the most prominent factors influencing creative thought. Situational factors also play a part. The results of this study are fascinating and suggest that the way we watch, touch, taste, listen, or smell affects our analytical thought, creativity, and categorization *automatically*, and without our conscious awareness.

[Can you imagine what school would be like if it were run like a really successful after-school program?](#) We rely on after school programs that do the important work that is not covered by school. "Schools operate under the delusion that academic content should be the primary focus of the program, rather than a natural by-product of it." It appears that empowerment, leadership and positive identity are key, not content. From the blog of Steve Miranda

[6 signs your child might be gifted](#)

Signs to look for outside an IQ test from the Arizona Association for Gifted

[International Research Association
for Talent Development and
Excellence](#)

26-29 November
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
<http://www.iratde.org/conference>

2012
Asia-Pacific Federation Biennial
Conference [Gifted 2012](#)
14-18 July 2012
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
<http://www.giftedness2012.com/>

13th International European
Council for High Ability Congress
[Giftedness Across the Lifespan](#)
12-15 September 2012
University of Munster, Germany
<http://www.echa2012.info/>

2013
20th Biennial Conference of the
[World Council for Gifted Education](#)
5-9 August 2013
Auckland, New Zealand
<https://world-gifted.org/>

Find us on Facebook

Thinking Ahead now has a Facebook page. Please come by and if there is something you have found which you think others might also be interested in, leave a link or a message.

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Facebook page](#)

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browser](#)

"Perhaps the most innovative thinkers include not only the ones with the greatest intellectual talents, but also the ones who blend that intellect with perceptive dysfunctions that allow them to function beyond the norm."

Kiesa Kay

(this quote appeared in the 2E

and Talented

[Our kids glorious new age of distraction](#)

Research shows mobile technology is really changing children's brains. An expert explains how we use that for good much of the panic about children's shortened attention spans isn't just misguided, it's harmful. Younger generations, she argues, don't just think about technology more casually, they're actually wired to respond to it in a different manner than we are, and it's up to us -- and our education system -- to catch up to them. Includes some points from the book "*Now You See It: How Brain Science of Attention Will Transform the Way We Live, Work, and Learn,*" and urges us to rethink how we educate children now they are immersed in technology in a way that has never happened before.

[21st Century Students](#) from School Tube.com. An insightful look at how the world has changed, how change is accelerating and how education needs to keep up. A great reminder of how different the world our children live in is from our own and (without saying so) how little education has changed to keep up.

[The Brain Rules blog](#)

[10 ways social media and the web is moving gifted education forward](#)

[What schools can learn from Google, IDEO and Pixar](#)

The value of embracing creativity, collaboration and play and how these things could help schools gain the competitive edge.

[The dyslexia advantage](#)

Steve Miranda looks at how discoveries about neural connections and tightly packed minicolumns (functional units) in the cortex, how they function and the tasks they excel at might be important in the classroom. The make up of your brain makes a big difference in whether you are stronger at fine detail processing or big picture tasks. Everyone's brain is uniquely wired and there is no such thing as "normal", everyone has different strengths and weaknesses.

Books

The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain

"Brock and Fernette Eide have delivered a compelling call to action in their new book *The Dyslexic Advantage*: it is time to stop classifying dyslexia as a learning disability and start appreciating that different brain-wiring patterns allow people to process information in unique ways. When it comes to learning, they argue, there is no good or bad, right or wrong, only a difference in style, which should be fostered rather than corrected." (from *Scientific American* review). This book by Brock and Fernette Eide was released Aug 2011 and is available in electronic and hard copy plus as an audio book (iTunes). Find out more [here](#).

The following titles are now also available as eBooks from [Great Potential Press](#), compatible with Kindle, Nook, and other e-readers.

Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family

Life in the Fast Brain: Keeping Up with Gifted Minds

Intelligent Life in the Classroom: Smart Kids and Their Teachers

Life with Gifted Children: Infinity and Zebra Stripes

[Brain Rules for Babies from Zero to Five](#)

How to give your child the best beginning. This book bridges the gap between what scientists know and what parents practice. written by John

J. Medina is a developmental molecular biologist and dad.

Critical issues and Practices in Gifted Education from [Prufrock Press](#)

A 20% discount off the print edition price of Educating Gifted Students in Middle School is available when you order it online from Prufrock Press' website, now until October 7, 2011. Enter discount code 106982. Also available in pdf format if you prefer.

Websites

Foreign language

Online language learning - [Digital Dialects](#)

Toys and Games

[Bright minds](#) – great stuff for inquisitive kids

[Tumbleweed glider](#) - information, template and links. Holiday fun

Spelling

[10 words you need to stop misspelling](#)

Online learning and games

[Yale Open Courses](#)

Open Culture

400 free online courses from top universities available via Open Culture, claiming to be the best free cultural and educational media on the web. Includes history, film, linguistics, philosophy, sociology, chemistry, computer science, business and many more topics.

[Imagine games](#) - a directory of computer game based learning products. Includes Third World Farmer which simulates some of the real-world mechanisms that cause and sustain poverty in Third World countries.

Online collaboration

[Dabbleboard](#) is an online collaborative application that's centered around the whiteboard. With a new type of drawing interface that's actually easy and fun to use, Dabbleboard gets out of your way and just lets you draw. Can be used for presentations and would be useful for tutoring if you are not able to meet face to face. Free and paid plans available

Online Games

[Lego universe](#) - online multiplayer game

Technology

[Photo peach](#) - I mentioned this one ages ago but it popped up again. Its free, share your photos, create slideshows, or embed in your website.

Books and Reading

[Shelfari](#) - create virtual bookshelves, see what your friends are reading.

Philosophy

[The History of Philosophy](#) (without any gaps)

Maths

[Total Breeze](#)

Holiday opportunities

[Curtin University School holiday sport program](#)

For Teachers

Differentiated Instruction

[6 Traits of quality pre-assessments](#)

[Differentiated instruction](#) - an example of a great way to differentiate instruction

[Link to the *Thinking Ahead* website](#)

[Link to the *Thinking Ahead* blog](#)

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