



GIFTED SERVICES GAZETTE

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Quarterly Parent Meeting

Our third quarterly parent meeting is **Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:00** p.m. More info to come in next month's newsletter.

Recording from parent night- November 11, 2021 - [Link](#)
Available on the WESD website- Academic Services- Gifted- Family Nights



Update on the WESD Parent Gifted Committee

Would you like to be involved?

A group of WESD parents have begun to meet virtually and discuss plans for a gifted parent group. This group will support the needs of gifted students and their families by providing resources, advice, information for new gifted parents and/or maybe a book study. The group may decide to host in-person meetings or meet-ups for students to meet intellectual peers. Advocacy may also be a part of this groups' goals as well. The group is still in the planning stages developing their goals and mission statement. They are still looking for more parents and family members who are interested in contributing to the gifted parent group. rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org to be connected with the WESD parent group.

Gifted Testing:

WESD offers cognitive ability testing from grades pre-k to 8th. We are excited to now have transitioned fully to the **online** CogAT 7 test. The online version provides detailed score reports for parents, the ability to take the test in eight languages, and special accommodations to help identify second language learners.



We are completing Fall testing 2021 and look forward to working with the 70+ new students who recently qualified for gifted services this year. We also have 100+ students who were close to qualification and are being serviced as temporary students. These students will retest next year. Any student who scores above the 80th percentile in one area in grades K-2 or above the 85th percentile in 3rd-8th grade may retest next school year. Students who tested this year, but did not meet these benchmarks should wait two school years to test, as test scores do not vary considerably from year-to-year for most students. If you have questions please contact the gifted coordinator at rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org.

If you would like to refer a child for testing, talk to the gifted teacher on your campus or complete the screening form and permission located on the [Gifted Services webpage](#). The next test session will be in the Spring (February/ March)

“Kid in the Corner” Spreads Kindness

In November, Francine Sumner worked with GLC (Gifted Learning Center @ Sahuaro) students in grades K-6 to spread a message of kindness and hope. Her organization, Kid in the Corner, started shortly after her son Zach died. Zach was a gifted student who was fighting hard to conquer his mental illness. Zach was a funny, smart, well-liked kid, but he was convinced that he was the “Kid in the Corner.” This sense of isolation and insignificance fueled his depression and enabled his decision to end his life. His mom thought, “If only he could have seen the outpouring of love and support for him after his passing. It wasn’t that nobody cared. It was that nobody knew what to say. When people don’t know what to say, they say nothing.”



Zach’s mom Francine spoke to the students about some of the big emotions our gifted students sometimes feel and how to look out for each other and support one another. She told them it’s okay to sometimes not be okay and to have a trusted adult to talk to. She also stressed “reaching out” to students they feel might be struggling or feeling like they are the “kid in the corner” and asking, “Are you okay?” The students painted rocks with positive messages to place around the school. She was also a speaker at the virtual parent night on November 11, 2021. The students at the GLC took the “Penny Pledge” and hope to spread this message of kindness to other students at our schools.





Gifts for the Gifted

If you are looking for a toy for the imaginative, curious, gifted child in your life, here are some suggestions of toys and games for gifted children and their families to enjoy.

Source: <https://www.thespruce.com>

<p>Educational Insights Kanoodle Extreme at Amazon <i>This board game has more than 300 challenges that test your child's spatial awareness and critical thinking. (\$12.38)</i></p> 	<p>Renegade Game Studios Architects of the West Kingdom at Amazon <i>Fun for middle schoolers and up, this game guides your child through building a kingdom and tests their strategic thinking. (\$44.74)</i></p> 
<p>SmartGames IQ Blox at Amazon <i>This travel-friendly game tests your child's cognitive skills with over 120 different challenges. (\$10.99)</i></p> 	<p>Puzzle Baron's Logic Puzzles at Amazon <i>If your child loves riddles and mysteries, this book of logic-based puzzles is sure to keep them occupied for hours. (\$12.00)</i></p> 
<p>SmartMax Start XL at Amazon <i>Get preschoolers interested in building and design with these fun magnetic bars and spheres that can be shaped countless ways. (\$69.99)</i></p> 	<p>Dalton Labs Molecular Model Kit at Amazon <i>For visual learners, this chemistry model kit can provide a fun way to learn the atomic structure of different molecules. (\$25.99)</i></p> 
<p>Robobloq Robot Kit at Amazon <i>For kids who are ready to take the next step in coding, this robot can be built six ways and programmed to do a variety of tasks. (\$139.99)</i></p> 	<p>Winning Moves Rubik's Cube at Amazon <i>Sometimes the best toys for gifted kids are the classics. The Rubik's Cube is perfect for puzzle lovers looking for a challenge. (\$9.42)</i></p> 
<p>ROBOTIME 3D Puzzle Music Box Craft Kit at Amazon <i>Kids can build this music-playing robot from the ground up from laser-cut pieces of wood, then ask him to play a tune. (\$35.99)</i></p> 	<p>Think Fun Rush Hour Shift at Amazon <i>Competitive kids will love this two-player game that's a logic-race to see who can get their car out of the traffic jam first. (\$21.99)</i></p> 

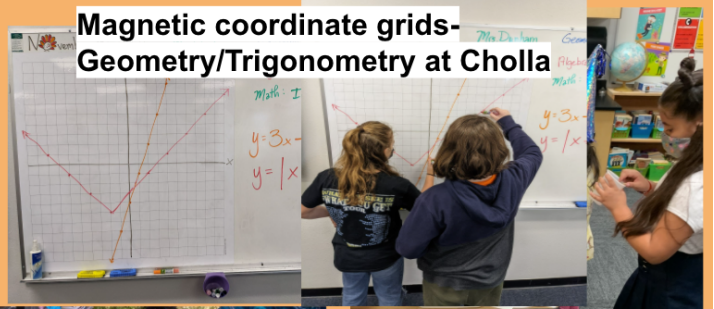
Dr. Van Meter recommends these family games...

<p>Snakeoil Game: Quickly combine two word cards from your hand to create a zany new product - and pitch it to the player who is the wacky customer for the round. Encourages creativity! My students would beg to play this and would create "Shark Tank" presentations to sell their products. (\$24.99)</p> 	<p>Gobblet: A little like tic-tac-toe but you gobble up your opponent's pieces and line up 4 Gobblets to win. This develops strategic thinking, problem solving skills and memory. (\$29.99)</p> 
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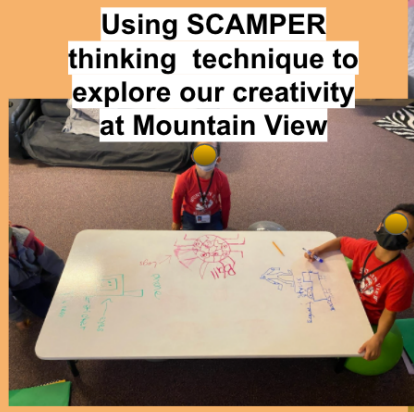
More Great Gifted Happenings in November



Fictitious Animals and adaptations at ALTS



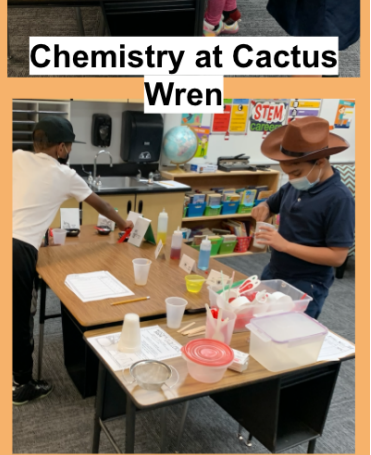
Magnetic coordinate grids- Geometry/Trigonometry at Cholla



Using SCAMPER thinking technique to explore our creativity at Mountain View



Greek vases at the GLC



Chemistry at Cactus Wren