

The Community Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education  
cordially invites you to attend our bimonthly meeting featuring

**Terry Freedlander**  
**Beth Andrews**  
**Wendy Bokota**

on a panel that will provide an overview and answer questions on

**Almost Everything You Want to Know  
About Gifted Education**

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 6:30 p.m.*

*Location: I.U.S.D. Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine*

**COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE**

**"When the music changes, so must the dance."**  
~ African proverb

The music has changed for gifted education across California, and Irvine is changing the steps to the dance. From my perspective, this new dance will be rich, lively, and purposeful.

With a focus on teaching students to think creatively and critically, our classrooms will be brimming with 21st century learning strategies that foster innovation and prepare students to think with depth. For the GATE world, this is good news. The shift will not happen overnight, but it's an excellent beginning.

New faces and names are associated with GATE and APAAS. Catherine Holmes, Coordinator of Categorical Programs, is now replacing Mark Sontag with overseeing the GATE and APAAS program. Jocelyn Jazwiec has moved one desk over to serve as administrative assistant for the Math and Science Department, while Sheri Swanson, administrative assistant for Visual and Performing Arts, has taken over the GATE administrative duties. My role hasn't changed much, except that I'll be back at the District Office two days a week for planning and coordinating the programs.

Other changes include a revision of the GATE identification criteria with a new cut-off score of 460 in both the CST English Language Arts and Math components. We're also looking at alternative measures for identifying students through multiple criteria for a more qualitative approach. As we have a better understanding of how this might be implemented, more information will be available. OLSAT and private psychologist options are still available as additional means for identification.

The teacher's role is instrumental in any effective program for gifted learners; therefore, we have been re-evaluating our professional development program and working on developing more accessible opportunities for teachers throughout the year. In addition to our current three-day GATE Professional Development, teachers will also be able to participate in topic-specific workshops to further assist with providing their students a qualitatively differentiated program geared for students of high ability. Some topics are the following: classroom management, instruction practices for advanced readers, instruction practices for advanced mathematicians, social-emotional needs of gifted students, and adding *differentiation* into the instruction. If you have additional ideas for topics, we'd love to hear from you.

*(Continued on next page)*

## CAC-GATE CHAIRPERSONS' MESSAGE

By Terry Freedlander

On behalf of the Community Advisory Committee - GATE Board, I would like to welcome back continuing students and families, as well as new families. This is my third year serving as Chair of the CAC GATE Board. I look forward to working with our committed volunteer Board of returning Board Members, Wendy Bokota, Secretary, and our Vice Chair, Senthamil Selvan.

Wendy Bokota has been volunteering in her children's classrooms and also held various positions in our PTA, including ACE Coordinator, Vice President of Programs, Parliamentarian, GATE Parent Representative and Legislative Action Representative. She has served as Legislative Action Chair for the Irvine PTA and participated in the 4th District PTA Advocacy Team. Wendy is also actively involved with the IPSF Board as a community leader and has been voted IPSF Parent of the Year for Irvine Elementary schools.

Senthamil has proactively participated in helping children at school as a parent volunteer and as art master teacher. He served as IUSD Science Fair judge and delivered talks at IUSD Career in Science conference for the last several years. Senthamil has been mentoring high school students under the Davinci Science Program at Newport Harbor High School.

My advocacy for the GATE and APAAS Programs at IUSD stems from my desire to be involved with the education of my son and daughter. My sixth grade son is in the GATE program at Turtle Rock Elementary. My eighth grade daughter is taking GATE curriculum at Rancho San Joaquin Middle School. Being involved with the great staff at IUSD along with the dedicated staff at Turtle Rock and Rancho has been a significant experience for me.

As the school year starts, we are focused on the teacher mini-grant program as well as planning future quarterly GATE CAC meetings. We are unfortunately unable to provide GATE Day this year due to budget and staffing changes at IUSD. In the past IUSD staff has been significantly involved with the planning and execution of GATE Day. For next year, we are planning a GATE Day for students that will be entirely planned and executed by parent volunteers. Please email me with interest at [tfreedlander@gmail.com](mailto:tfreedlander@gmail.com).

Your GATE CAC Board is committed to providing communication and information via the school Parent Reps. We encourage you all to get involved as active participants in the CAC/GATE parent group. We need your commitment to excellence in education for your children, as evidenced by the nurturing and support you provide to your children. Our Irvine schools would not be considered amongst the best in the nation if we did not have an active, committed parent community such as the one in Irvine.

### COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE *(Continued from page 1)*

On a personal note, I feel very fortunate that, while many school districts across California have had to cut back or eliminate their GATE programs, IUSD has made conscious decisions to make our programs even stronger. As our students constantly grow and change, it's exciting to know that IUSD's GATE programs will also be growing and changing to meet the needs of our students. At our CAC-GATE (Community Advisory Committee) meeting on October 27th, you will be able to meet our wonderful CAC-GATE Board: Terry Freedlander, Chair; Selvan Rathinam, Vice-Chair; and Wendy Bokota, Secretary. We will be having an open forum for discussion, questions, and answers about IUSD's GATE programs.

If you're new to GATE, or want to know more about our programs, you'll definitely want to attend this meeting.

Other opportunities that you might want to take advantage of during the year:

1) OCC-GATE's Annual Conference on October 24, at UCI. For more information, go to <http://occgate.org>

2) UCI Extension's free online access to their GATE webinar series on:

- *How to Relate Successfully with Gifted Youngsters*
- *What Differentiation Should Look Like*
- *Building the Parent/Teacher Connection*
- *Understanding IQ Testing & Special Programming for Gifted Learners*

Go to <https://learn.uci.edu/cms/login/index.php>. Click on New Account, and when prompted to enter an enrollment key, use `gate_access`.

3) NAGC's free GATE Webinars on Wednesdays (WOW) are available at <http://www.nagc.org/WOW.aspx>.

As we adjust to the tempo in the music, we might trip a few times in the process, but each step will help us to handle new changes with poise, grace, and style.

Sincerely,

*Beth L. Andrews*  
Beth L. Andrews

## Nominations Are Now Open!



If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, in serving on the Nominating Committee or running for the board of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE), please fill out the nominating form below and mail it to: Nominating Committee Chairperson, Wendy Bokota, c/o IUSD-GATE, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604. Please respond by November 9, 2009. Elections will be held at our April meeting.

For the office of:

**Chairperson** (must be a GATE parent who has been a CAC-GATE member) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice Chairperson** (can be either a parent or staff member of CAC-GATE) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_ **Treasurer** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve on the Nominating Committee:

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Telephone No.) \_\_\_\_\_

(e-mail address) \_\_\_\_\_

### Johns Hopkins University Talent Search 2010

Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth (CTY) is sponsoring Talent Search 2010 for highly able and highly-motivated students beginning in the second grade. The Talent Search provides an assessment of mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities, interpretive and guidance materials, and opportunities for students to be recognized and honored. CTY invites applications from students who are in grades two through eight, and meet the following academic requirements:

- Achieve scores at or above the 95 percentile or higher on a nationally normed test;
- Earn scores at advanced levels (advanced proficiency, distinguished, honors, etc.) on state tests or;
- Demonstrate superior academic performance.

Some of the benefits of Talent Search 2010 include:

- Assess a student's high academic talents and/or reveal previously unrecognized abilities, which can also be a great confidence-builder.
- Receive statistical data about Talent Search participants; test scores by grade
- Be recognized by Johns Hopkins University for academic talent via certificates and awards
- Receive email news items for gifted students and their families, as well as updates on CTY's programs
- Potentially qualify for hundreds of courses offered by CTY's Summer Programs and Distance Education

CTY Talent Search application fee is \$37.00.

Complete information and applications are available online at: [www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/index.html](http://www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/index.html)

### THANK YOU!

To Board Member Gavin Huntley-Fenner  
for his continued support and efforts as  
IUSD School Board Liaison to the  
GATE and APAAS programs.

### UCI Academic Talent Search

(Grades 6-10)

The UCI Academic Talent Search (ATS) is for grades six through ten. It identifies students with extraordinary mathematical and/or verbal reasoning abilities, assists participants in their placement in pre-college programs, and offers information and materials which will aid parents and educators of high-ability students. By participating in ATS, students will gain valuable information about their mathematical and verbal abilities early in their academic career, enabling them to plan the most appropriate college-preparatory program.

To be considered for participation in ATS, you must complete the following steps:

- **Complete** the Academic Talent Search application form online at the ATS Website: [www.admissions.uci.edu/ats/](http://www.admissions.uci.edu/ats/).
- **Register** to take the PSAT or the SAT. (Select a test location and date, available online.) You may complete an electronic form or a paper form; to obtain a paper application, contact the ATS office at: (949) 824-7424.
- **Submit** your completed application, fees and all required enclosures to UCI by posted deadline. Complete all required items on your application in order to avoid a delay in processing.
- **Fee:** \$30.00 nonrefundable registration fee, in addition to testing fees (see ATS website above). You can pay online, or send in a check, made payable to "UC Regents."

Send paper application and fees to:

University of California, Irvine  
Academic Talent Search  
204 Aldrich Hall  
Irvine, CA 92697-1075

After your application has been processed, you will be emailed confirmation materials, directions to your test site, and the location of where to park. Complete information (including eligibility, fees, application procedures, test locations/times, etc.) can be found on the ATS website: [www.admissions.uci.edu/ats/](http://www.admissions.uci.edu/ats/).



**Irvine Unified School District**  
 Gifted and Talented Education  
 5050 Barranca Parkway  
 Irvine, CA 92604

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## CALENDAR FOR 2009-2010

- October 19 *Staff Development Day* - Schools not in session K-12. School staff involved with professional development and program improvement.
- October 21 *Ask-A-Scientist Night* - Rancho Middle School; 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Grades 6-12)
- October 24 *OCC-GATE Conference at UCI (for parents and teachers)* - "Gifted Education: Riding the Wave of the Future"
- October 27 *Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting* - Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m.
- November 5-8 *NAGC (National Assoc for Gifted Children) Convention* - St. Louis, Missouri
- November 14-February 24 *Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)* - 3rd-6th grade students can take this optional test to become GATE identified. Registration material available at [http://www.iusd.org/parent\\_resources/gate/index.html](http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/gate/index.html)
- December 5 *SAT and subject tests* - register by October 31, 2009
- January 23 *SAT and subject tests* - register by December 15, 2009
- January 26 *Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting* - Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker: TBA
- January 30 *Astounding Inventions of the Future* - Irvine Valley College (Grades K-8)
- February 2 *APAAS Parent Orientation* - Oak Creek Elementary, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- March 3 *District Science Fair* - Northwood High School (Grades 6-12)
- March 5-7 *CAG (California Association for Gifted) Annual Conference* - Sacramento
- May 1 *SAT and subject tests* - register by March 25, 2010
- April 27 *Honors Vocal and Instrumental Concert* - Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall; 7:00 p.m.
- May 25 *Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting* - Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m. - **Guest Speaker:** TBA
- June 5 *SAT and subject tests* - register by April 29, 2010
- June 28- July 23 *Summer School* - Grades K-8

*\* All dates are not confirmed and are subject to change \**