

THE GATEWAY
Second Quarter, 2008
Ninth Edition

GATE Expands 7-8!

Although LCUSD has always been committed to differentiation in the classroom K-12, one of the soft spots in the curriculum has long been suiting the needs of the GATE students Grades 7-8. Identified GATE students at elementary had access to pull-out and after-school opportunities plus daily differentiation, but there were not enough GATE opportunities at the critical juncture between elementary and middle school.

This year marks a change.

Dr. Jackie Luzek, principal for 7-8, has made a commitment to GATE students. This is a three-pronged response that involves GATE students, GATE parents, and GATE teachers. With this in mind, the activities have thus far been the following:

- **GATE students** were invited to a lunch gathering in October. Monthly **lunches** will be held for GATE students. Adhering to the research that shows the value of gathering GATE students as a unit, monthly lunches are being held at LCHS. The first was Friday, Oct. 24. Parents who are members of the GATE Advisory Committee contributed desserts.

A **speaker series** is under construction to respond to the critical thinking and other needs of the GATE students. Have a talent/skill/experience to offer? Please contact jluzak@lcusd.net.

A special **STEP** offering for GATE students is in place for the second quarter. The class, which is being facilitated by Hilary Gregg, filled to capacity early.

- **Parents** of GATE students were invited to a meeting Thursday, Oct. 16. There will be several parent meetings in the year. The fall meeting included guest speaker Pamela Erdman, M.F.T., who centered on the social and psychological changes GATE students (and their parents) are undergoing in middle school.

To expedite communication, Group Email has been produced for all families of GATE 7-8 students.

- **Teachers** of GATE students have been informed of these students' GATE designation.

Teachers will regularly be informed of strategies to further reach GATE students. Beyond differentiation in the classroom, they will be given additional skills for guiding the GATE student.

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GATE Pull-Out is HAPPENING!

The Pull-Out segment of the Gr. 4-6 GATE program is in place and happening. The first week of these classes began the week of Monday, Oct. 20.

Julie Roberts continues to be our exceptional pull-out instructor for all three sites. She teaches at LCE on Tuesdays, PCY on Wednesdays, and PCR on Thursdays. The kick-off topics for each grade level are as follows:

Grade 4: Mysteries (includes Sherlock Holmes, 5-minute mysteries, and classroom crime science)

Grade 5: Optical Illusions and Color (includes sciences behind light, prisms and the eye)

Grade 6: Fractals and Tessellations (includes the science of nature's patterns, Escher's illusions, and understanding the infinite)

STATE Application for GATE

Every three years the State Application for GATE funding must be filed. School districts may receive a one, two, or three-year funding response. On Sept. 8, LCUSD received from the office of Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the following: *Congratulations! Your district's 2008-2009 Gifted and Talented Education program application has been recommended to receive a three-year approval at the September State Board of Education meeting.*

PAGE Report

The October meeting of PAGE, Professional Advocates for Gifted Education, highlighted writing programs and approaches to support gifted learners.

- Writing and Math Programs at UCLA
- Faye Peitzman, Director of UCLA Writing Programs, explained several writing options for gifted and other strong writing students. These include week-end retreats during the school year at places such as Lake Arrowhead (March 12-15) and summer programs at various localities. For details regarding Young Writers' Workshop contact uclawp.org. For details about the UCLA Young Mathematicians' Institute, contact centerx.gseis.ucla.edu/MP.
- Recipe for Success: Language Arts Begins at Home
- A shared article by Nancy M. Robinson had these high-points:

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1. Bedtime needn't always be *reading stories*. Your children will love made-up stories too – perhaps collaborative.
2. Read some of the same books your children do so you can talk about them together. (A lot of them are deeper than you might expect!)
3. As your children mature, don't be surprised by their gravitating toward a steady diet of science fiction and fantasy. These genres generally by-pass the romance that characterizes most fiction written for older readers.
4. If there is a children's theatre in your area, patronize it, and graduate to adult theater as it seems appropriate.