

FULTON COUNTY SUPPORTERS of the GIFTED

DECEMBER 2009

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President's Message

Dear Parents & TAG Teachers:

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

As parents of gifted children, we always have many other responsibilities competing for our time and attention – and these demands on our time seem to ramp up exponentially at the holidays! Even though you are very busy, parents, please take the time to thank our TAG teachers and administrators!

The FCSG board met on December 8th and approved 11 Mid-Year teacher Mini Grants. These Mini-Grants were offered for the first time last year and are made possible by your generous support of our organization. We distributed approximately \$2,500 in Mini-Grant funds to 13 teachers, representing 10 schools. This is always a rewarding experience for the FCSG Board; we exist to be advocates for Gifted Children and their teachers in Fulton County and providing these Mini-Grants allows for enrichment of many TAG programs. We also approved the distribution of the 2009 membership drive incentives. Congratulations to Medlock Bridge Elementary for signing up the most parents and receiving

\$250 in incentives for their TAG department!

The FCSG will close out calendar 2009 in a very strong financial position which will allow us to increase the number of Camp Scholarships and Mini-Grants offered in the spring of 2010 as well as provide for Mid-Year Mini-Grants again in 2010!

Again, all this is made possible by the generous support of our members. In these difficult economic times, many not-for-profit organizations have seen a significant decline in support. The FCSG has enjoyed increased membership and support in 2009. This is certainly a testament to how dedicated our members are as parents and teachers to our desire to ensure that our Gifted Kids get the best education possible and that TAG Teachers have the best classroom resources available to them.

I'll close on a personal note. I recently returned from two weeks in India where I had the opportunity to visit several schools (elementary grades through high school) in very rural and remote parts of the country. As with other emerging parts of the world, the classrooms were unbelievably small and extremely overcrowded. But, the children

were attentive, focused and polite. These children are fighting for their future; an education is fundamental to participating in the explosion of the Indian economy. But the conditions are certainly not ideal and would be appalling to most parents and educators here in the US.

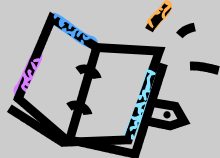
This perspective makes me thankful for the system we have here in Fulton County and in Georgia. Could our system be better? Yes. Do we always make sure we put the interest of our kids first when making decisions or considering changes? No. But, we have one of the highest-rated TAG systems in the nation, and our kids have opportunities and luxuries that kids in other parts of the world cannot even fathom.

So, as we move into the holiday season, we are thankful for our school system – especially our TAG Teachers and Administrators – and prepare to redouble our efforts to ensure that our kids receive the best possible education.

For the FCSG Board,
Paul J. Schutes



Mark Your Calendar



Parent Creativity Night

Tuesday,
February 2, 2010

2 locations:
Dunwoody Springs
Charter School
&
Professional
Learning Center

TAG teachers will give short presentations to parents about creativity activities they can do at home with their kids to stimulate critical thinking and problem solving skills.

YOUR 2009/2010 FCSG Board

President: Paul J. Schutes
VP North: Susan Muly
VP South: Emmanuel Tillman
Treasurer: Windy Levesque
Secretary: Ann Scott Hanks
Membership North:

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TAG Advisory North:
TAG Advisory South:
PTA Liaison:
Newsletter: Kristan Goldfein
Website: Piroska Werner

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2009-2010 FCSG Membership Drive

FCSG currently has over 460 members! This year for every 10 families that joined, FCSG awarded \$50 to that school's TAG department to be used to buy supplies and curriculum materials. The following 18 schools receive money from the membership drive incentive:

- Autrey Mill: \$50**
- Barnwell: \$50**
- Birmingham Falls: \$50**
- Cogburn Woods : \$50**
- Dolvin: \$100**
- Hopewell: \$100**
- Johns Creek: \$50**
- Medlock Bridge: \$250**
- Mt. Park: \$50**
- New Prospect: \$50**
- Ocee: \$50**
- River Trail: \$50**
- Shakerag: \$50**
- Spaulding Drive: \$50**
- State Bridge: \$50**
- Summit Hill: \$50**
- Taylor Road: \$50**
- Woodland: \$100**

Fall 2009 Teacher Mini-Grants

FCSG is an entirely volunteer venture established to support Fulton County TAG teachers and students. Each year teachers apply for FCSG "mini-grants" and professional development grants. Mini-grants provide funding for materials used to enhance the learning opportunities in the classroom. Professional Development grants fund TAG teachers' attendance at qualifying professional development conferences. Fulton County TAG students benefit from Summer Camp scholarships that help fund additional learning opportunities. In the last 3 years, FCSG has distributed over \$10,000 to teachers and students!

Congratulations to the following teachers who were awarded teacher mini-grants this fall:

1. **Thomas Sewell** — Hopewell Middle School — \$250 for a Protect Our Water materials.
2. **Ann Scott Hanks** — Ocee Elementary School — \$100 for Model Rocket and brainteaser books.
3. **Windy Levesque** — Medlock Bridge Elementary School — \$275 for Hands-on Energy materials.
4. **Jennifer Bowers** — Creek View Elementary School — \$200 for unit resource books and videos.
5. **Jan House, Pam Mynatt** — Cogburn Woods Elementary School — \$200 for critical thinking books and owl pellets.
6. **Wendy Courtade** — Sandy Springs Charter Middle School — \$300 for a karaoke machine.
7. **Marsha Young** — CH Gullatt Elementary School — \$160 for book set.s
8. **Nancy Garrelts** — Medlock Bridge Elementary School — \$225 for book sets
9. **Kathryn Reissig** — Abbots Hill Elementary School — \$250 for owl pellets and life cycle materials.
10. **Maryann D'Amelio, Suzanne O'Brien, Tom Dunmire** — Alpharetta Elementary School — \$600 for an ActiView 322 document camera.

Now kids can improve their vocabulary on-line while helping to end world hunger!



www.freerice.com

This site offers vocabulary quizzes. For each correct answer, 10 grains of rice are donated to the UN World Food Program.

Warning: This website may make you smarter. It also may improve your speaking, writing, thinking, grades, and job performance.

FCSG's president Paul Schutes wins Parent of the Year Award!

Georgia Association for Gifted Children presents the Parent of the Year award yearly to a parent who has demonstrated outstanding abilities at parenting the gifted child through involvement in and dedication to his/her school, community, and/or the state of Georgia.

Congratulations, Paul!



All of these opportunities are possible only through membership dues and contributions, as well as volunteer efforts.

Thank you for your continued support of FCSG.

Visit our website at www.fultongifted.org.