

President's Message

Dear FCSG Parents and Teachers:

Happy New Year!

As a new year begins many individuals and families have different traditions or rituals. Some take a look back at the year past and revel in the memories, accomplishments and challenges. Others make resolutions and still others work on long range plans. So it is in that tradition that we look back at 2007 and then ponder a little of what 2008 will hold. Looking back, 2007 was a terrific year, membership growth, new interest in student camp scholarships and teacher mini-grants, and a re-energized group of volunteers. But, most importantly, we were able to help teachers provide new and exciting curriculum to students and also provided access for students through the camp scholarship program to attend some very cool camps. Looking forward, we enter 2008 and the second half of the 07-08 school year a very strong organization. We currently have 579 members, which includes administrators, teachers and parents! This is a significant increase over our membership coming into 2007. Our financial reserves will allow us to increase the number student camp scholarships and

teacher mini-grants available this spring. In addition there is a special teacher grant under consideration that would fund a "super mini-grant" program in the 08-09 school year!

And as we roll into 2008 (the last half of the 07-08 school year) remember why the organization was founded and why we are so passionate about helping our teachers and our kids! Consider these statistics and quotes:

**Gifted and talented as a percent of enrollment: 6.3% (closer to 10% for Fulton county)*

--(National Center for Education Statistics)

**Out of every federal dollar spent for education, less than two cents goes to fund programs for gifted children.*

-- (US Dept of Education).

Gifted and Talented Children Statistics in the U.S.

**In September of each year, many gifted kids know as much as 60% of what's to come in that whole year. That's a lot of just sitting and waiting.*

--(Joan Smutny, Director of The Center for Gifted at National-Louis University, Chicago)

Our purpose is to advance the development of gifted children's potential through advocacy, and

educational support at the federal, state and local levels. Our focus is at the local level, where the "rubber hits the road". Your financial support allows our teachers access to funds they wouldn't otherwise have. Our efforts are targeted and they help the students in our neighborhoods and communities.

We are also very excited about the many people who have stepped up and asked how they can volunteer. We are working on ways to expand the number of positions on the FCSG board to better reach out to parents and teachers – there will be more news about this in coming months. We do greatly appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute not only financial resources but also precious time resources in supporting our kids and our teachers.

Please note and mark you calendars – the first Parent Meeting Night of 2008 is January 29th. Featuring Doc. Sentha a sought after speaker. There are more details about the event in this newsletter

Best Regards,

Paul J. Schutes
FCSG Board



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Upcoming Events

January 29, 2008
6:30pm
"World Is Flat ?"
What?



Did you know that:

The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language?

EDUCATION IN THE GLOBAL "WORLD IS FLAT" ECONOMY?

Not sure exactly what this headline means? Then please mark your calendars for:

Tuesday, January 29th 6:30pm Riverwood High School 5900 Heards Drive

Dr. Beheruz N. Sentha, President of the University of West Georgia, will present a very intriguing discussion about our world. "The world around us is changing very rapidly. While significant differences between countries still remain, the international playing field is "flattening" -- in the sense that what happens in countries half-way around the world will increasingly impact Americans and our professional and educational lives." The presentation focuses on some of these trends, the implications for American schools and for American society, and suggests ways in which we might prepare for this ever-changing, ever-flattening world.



Don't miss this much awaited seminar !



YOUR FCSG Board





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 Website: www.fultongifted.org

Parent Interests

I'm BORED!
 Oh, those dreaded summer words! Summer may be five months away, but it's that time of the year to book those summer camps. Your FCSG board has been busy at work collecting information about all different kinds of camps to peak the interests for all different types of children.

Please visit:
www.fultongifted.org
 for more information.

**WANT \$\$\$\$?
 SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT TIME**

Last year FCSG handed out over \$3,000 in Camp Scholarships to Fulton County students and Grants to Fulton County TAG teachers! **It is as easy as 1,2,3.**

1. Ask your TAG teacher for a form or visit www.fultongifted.org
2. Download scholarship or grant form
3. Fill it out & send it to FCSG

Don't Miss Out On This Great Opportunity!

ADVANCE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Not really into the whole summer camp scenario? You are in 7th grade or higher and want to really experience advance studies at the college level? Then please visit www.tip.duke.edu/ and view their Summer Programs list.

Summer Studies Program: Duke TIP offers students in grades 7-10 the opportunity to learn highly challenging material at a rate suited to their advanced abilities.

Field Studies: Duke TIP offers challenging adventures in science and humanities for motivated, dedicated, and talented 9-12 grade students with a desire to learn in a unique setting. Each Domestic & International Field Study involves travel to an exciting location that is ideal for research and creative exploration.

Just to name a few of the exciting topics that are covered by Duke TIP Summer Programs:

France: Paris Through the Eyes of its Greatest Minds, Tropical Ecology, China: A Leader in the Global Economy, Reel Expressions: Filmmaking, A Changing Earth: Geophysics, Earthquake Seismology & Crustal Tectonics, Pre-Law Institute, & more.

ELECTION TIME

The Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted Board is up for re-election this April. Many board members are staying on, but a few positions do need to be filled. This is a great organization that has been revitalized, is energetic about supplying all parents and teachers with invaluable information, and is fun! Think you don't have the time? There are positions to fit your interests and your schedule.

Open Positions for 2008/09:

Newsletter: Produce the FCSG newsletter four times a year

Secretary: Take notes at meetings. Possibly a shared position

South County Membership: Promote FCSG membership

South County TAG Advisory: Meet with TAG Liaisons

General Board: Give valuable input, general duties

To find out more, pick up an election flyer at our Parent Speaker meeting on Jan. 29th at Riverwood HS at 6:30pm.

You're also encouraged to attend our FCSG Board meeting on Feb. 11th at Woodland Charter School at 6:00pm.

All Welcome! Be Involved....Be Informed!



OUR PURPOSE

As a local chapter of the Georgia Association of Gifted Children, working with the Fulton County School System, the Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted (FCSG) is comprised of Fulton County parents, teachers, and other interested persons. Our purpose is to advance the development of gifted children's potential through advocacy, and educational support at the federal, state, and local levels. Meetings are held several times a year and feature speakers on giftedness, legislators, and educators discussing TAG programs. www.fultongifted.org

SUCCESSFUL PARENT MEETING!

FCSG was proud to introduce their first speaker of the 2007/08 school year on October 11 at Hillside Elementary. We were lucky enough to have **Dr. Nita Matthews-Morgan**, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at University of Georgia, lead over 80 parents and students through an interactive & intriguing program. www.braingym.org

MEMBERSHIP RISING!!!

FCSG's current membership is now up to 572! With your membership you also become a member of GAGC, receive informational newsletters, have access to free seminars, can apply for camp/teacher grants, and are in the know about groups, camps, websites for the gifted, and so much more.

October was our biggest push for our Fall Membership Drive. Each school received \$50 for every 10 families that joined FCSG. Know someone who needs to join? Point them towards www.fultongifted.org where forms can be downloaded and mailed into FGSC.



Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted
 PO Box 768321
 Roswell, GA 30076

Place
 Stamp
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