

## President's Message

### Dear FCSG Parents and Teachers:

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. We begin another school year as a strong and growing organization. Membership is up, our volunteer ranks are solid (of course we can always use more help) and our financial health is excellent. This is all made possible by your membership dues and for that we say thank-you.

Remember, our memberships are annual and many of you recently received a renewal notice, so please take the time to enroll for this new school year.

Our goals for 2008/2009 are to do more of the same great things introduced in 07/08.

Last years mini-grant program was so successful we decided to offer grants twice a year for 08/09. The new professional development scholarships program was very well received by our teachers so we will continue it and increase the number of scholarships for 08/09. As I mentioned above, membership is up, but we still have only about 10% of TAG families participating. Of course this is up significantly from years past but I think we can do better! Encourage your friends and neighbors with children in the TAG program to become members. Remember, all the membership dues go right back to TAG students and teachers in the form of camp scholarships, mini-grants and professional development scholarships.

As in years past, the FCSG kicked off the new school year a little early. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with a planning and professional development day, lunch was provided for all

Fulton County TAG teachers. Door prizes (gift cards to Target, QT Gas Stations and Starbucks) were handed out and teacher mini-grants and professional development scholarships were announced. This event is an opportunity to say thank-you to our TAG teachers and they all greatly appreciate it. We will look forward to hosting this lunch again next year.

Listed below are the teachers you helped with your membership dollars.

#### Professional Development scholarships awarded to:

- Katie Searcy
- Kathryn Reissig
- Heather Herrin

#### Teacher mini-grants awarded to:

- Nancy Garrelts of Medlock Bridge
- Katie Searcy of Mountain Park
- Jennifer Bowers of Creek View
- Ann Scott Hanks of Ocee Elementary
- Thomas Sewell/Lynn Curtis of Hopewell Middle
- Windy Levesque of Medlock Bridge
- Linda Carrier of Summit Hill
- April Adrianson/Lee Phillips of State Bridge Crossing
- Nancy Moeller of Milton High
- Amanda Shams of Spalding Drive

TAG teachers (who are current members of the FCSG) will have the opportunity to apply for new mid-year mini-grants. These mid-year grants are designed to fund the purchase of materials teachers need to support current year TAG units.

Many parents may have heard about Renzulli Learning ([www.renzullilearning.com](http://www.renzullilearning.com)) from their TAG students. This is an exciting new tool being utilized by the FCSS TAG department and in some cases it is being employed throughout entire schools. We have scheduled an evening of Renzulli training for parents on Wednesday, October 15th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Autrey Mill Middle School in Alpharetta as our first Parent Speaker Night for the fall. This training will be conducted by the same Renzulli staff that will be training our teachers.

Thank-you to all our board members (the board is made up of both TAG teachers and parents) for all their hard work. As with any organization, the FCSG can not function without dedicated volunteers committing their time and talents.

We look forward to an enriching and exciting new school year.

#### For the FCSG Board, Paul J. Schutes



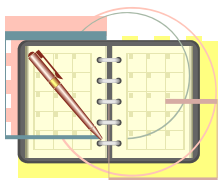
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### Mark Your Calendar

**Parent Information Session**  
**Wednesday, October 15**  
**6:00—8:00 p.m.**  
**Autrey Mill Middle School**  
**Come learn about The Renzulli Learning System**



## YOUR 2008/2009 FCSG Board

President: Paul J. Schutes pschutes@rpa100.com  
 VP North: Susan Muly smmphd@yahoo.com  
 VP South: Emmanuel Tillman etillman@playtilpromos.com  
 Treasurer: Windy Levesque Levesque@fultonschools.org  
 Secretary: Ann Scott Hanks hanks@fultonschools.org  
 Membership North.: Amanda Shams shams@fulton.k12.ga.us

Membership South: **OPEN**  
 TAG Advisory N.: Dennis Nelson dennisjnelson@comcast.net  
 TAG Advisory S.: **OPEN**  
 PTA Liaison: Bepie Lever bepielever@earyhlink.net  
 Newsletter: Kristan Goldfein kristan.goldfein@gmail.com  
 Website: [www.fultongifted.org](http://www.fultongifted.org)

## Parent Information

Excerpt from:

**Gifted Underachievement:  
Root Causes and Reversal Strategies  
A Practical Handbook for  
Guidance Counselors and Teachers**

By Alexander R. Pagnani  
The University of Georgia

Few things upset gifted education teachers more than the words “Why should we worry about the smart kids? They’ll be fine on their own.” High intelligence does not exempt these students from the emotional and developmental struggles of youth, and giftedness often adds a whole new collection of academic, social, and emotional challenges as well. Gifted students, like all students, possess specific educational needs and are put at risk for low performance if these needs are left unmet. Although it is difficult to make statistical estimates on underachievement and drop-out rates, recent academic research has consistently shown that a surprising percentage of our brightest students perform well below their academic potential. Seeley(1993) calculated that 15-40% of gifted students are at-risk for serious academic underachievement or school failure, and U.S. Office of Education data suggest that as many as 50% of students in the top 25% of their high school classes will never graduate from college (U.S. Dept. of Education, 1993). Worst of all, it is believed that 10-20% of high school dropouts come from the gifted population – an alarming statistic, which shows the magnitude and seriousness of the underachievement problem (Rimm, 1995). This handbook is a guide for the practicing educator, whether serving as a guidance counselor or teacher of the gifted, which seeks to expand awareness of gifted underachievement and offer helpful suggestions. Most gifted underachievers are good kids with serious challenges, and it is my hope that dissemination of this handbook will help we educators to better address the needs of this at-risk population.

## Teacher Mini-Grants

Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted makes available grants of up to \$250 each for special projects for the classroom for the 2008-2009 school year. The intent of subsidizing these projects is to enhance the education of gifted children in Fulton County.

### Deadline:

Applications must be postmarked by November 1 and should be mailed to:

FCSG  
P.O. Box 768321  
Roswell, GA 30076

### Awards:

Applications will be judged by a special committee of FCSG and checks will be mailed by the end of December. Grant recipients will be expected to provide a summary of their project at the spring 2009 meeting(s) of FCSG, as well as in the spring 2009 FCSG Newsletter.

### Please provide the following information in your grant application:

Applicant Name:

Address:

School Name:

School Address:

School Phone:

Title of Project:

Number of Students who will be served:

Grade Levels served:

**Purpose of Project:** (include situation, need or condition which prompted the application for these funds)

**Goals of the Project:** (include a clear statement of the overall aim for the project)

**Evaluation of Effectiveness of Project:** (include methodology to evaluate effectiveness of meeting goals)



- ⇒ FCSG Grants will be awarded only to TAG teachers in Fulton County to be used in the 2008-09 school year.
- ⇒ Priority will be given to current members of FCSG.
- ⇒ If you are applying for software, please include a short letter from your school’s Technology Specialist stating that he/ she is willing and able to install the specified software. Grants for software cannot be awarded without this permission attached.



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

Place  
Stamp  
Here



