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Rib Mountain

Thank you for taking the time to read our GT newsletter. We are working very hard to improve communication with our families, and this newsletter has become an efficient way to share information with our stakeholders. Please feel free to share any ideas YOU may have by emailing krpeterso@wausauschools.org. If it's information important to you, chances are very good that it would be meaningful to other parents as well.

GT Coordinator Corner

Thanks to all the parents/guardians/teachers who were able to attend our annual GT parent informational meeting held on September 20, 2018, at Rib Mountain Elementary School. New this year, we invited parents of GT identified middle school students as we now have a Middle School GT Learning Resource Teacher, Mr. Aaron Boller.

This annual meeting began with an opportunity to meet and chat with your child's GT Learning Resource Teacher as well as to sign up for some great prizes. We gave away a couple games to students and a couple great books to parents which support educating/raising gifted children. While everyone could not go home with a prize, everyone WAS exposed to our resource cart filled with great resources we'd love to share with our parents. The check out process is quite easy. All you need to do is indicate a resource you're looking for and sign it out. We'll be happy to send it home with your child. At the meeting, we shared that our resources could use some updating, so we encouraged parents to share topics of interest and promised we'd try to find those resources to match.

The informational portion of the meeting was next, and it began by reminding everyone that we all share something very important in common: *Educating gifted children is challenging but very rewarding work.* Some of the information shared had been discussed in the past. New this year; however, was information relative to middle and high school. We discussed services provided at each tier (classroom differentiation, middle of the pyramid programming, and individualized services), how GT teachers spend their time, collaborative programming services, and more.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we posed this important question: *What worries, concerns or challenges do you face as a parent raising a gifted child?* Anyone who wanted to could share. This was a great opportunity to solidify the fact that others share similar worries/concerns/struggles and it was nice to know that we're not alone in these struggles.

Topics parents shared were as follows:

- Boredom- *What really is boredom?*
- Challenging children who give up easily when things get difficult.
- Keeping children occupied at home because it can be exhausting to keep them stimulated.
- Balance.
- Feeling the need to be perfect and having a hard time with this idea.
- WAVE Program and isolation that might accompany working alone on a computer.
- Love the pull-out programming, but child gets discouraged when other work is just at grade level.

As the 18-19 school year progresses, we will strive to provide you with information in our newsletters relative to these and other important topics. We'll also look for resources related to these topics to add to our collection.

Thanks for being our partner in educating your child!

The Social and Emotional Challenges of Being a Gifted and Talented Student

Among many triumphs and gains, being a gifted and talented student also comes with challenges, disparate for every student and his/her situation. Difficulties faced by gifted students often include thinking they are "uncool" or care too much about school, feeling as though if they don't succeed they will let down others or pose an image of someone they are not, and of course the stereotype that smart students with good grades never do anything wrong, or that they are kiss ups and tattletales. I am a gifted and talented student, with a special focus on writing, and I hope that this article will help you better understand the struggles and frustrations faced by GT students.

Cool. It's kinda a funny concept. "Cool" is a word, with many different and personalized definitions. It's a stereotype, a goal, a mindset, I could go on and on. But the point is, everyone's idea of what it means to be "cool" is different. A struggle that is often faced by intellectually talented students, especially boys as I've noticed, is to think that to be smart is somehow *not* cool. I know a student who thought that to be considered "cool" in his group of friends, he must pose as a stupid guy who can't tell red from blue. I knew that this was definitely *not* the case and that this person actually had a very high level of thinking and could read, write, and do math very well. This just goes to show the influence the word "cool" and its many meanings has on all of us.

Another social challenge faced by intellectually gifted students is the pressure to succeed, or fear of failure. I know students personally who believe that if they hand in a test they didn't study very hard for, or a paper in which they could have instilled more effort, that they will somehow look like a poser or fraud. This of course, probably sounds crazy to you, but these feelings are real. For example, a gifted student could be expected to walk into a room with quiet respect, sit down, and start reading a book. Meanwhile, an average student may be expected to walk in and begin chatting with their friends or going online. All this is supportive of the fact that we are all bound by images, expectations, and stereotypes.

-Simone Williamson, Horace Mann 7th grader

Parent Resources

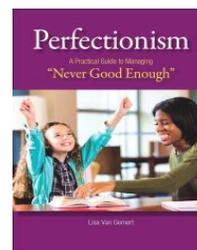
Here are some articles based on the worries, concerns and challenges addressed at the parent meeting:

[Perfectionism](#)

[Social Emotional Needs](#)

[Boredom at Home](#)

Here is a book recommendation as well:



Elementary Leadership Program Summary 2018

Forty fourth-graders and forty fifth-graders attended the three-day WSD Elementary Gifted and Talented (GT) Leadership Conference held on October 4th, 9th, and 17th. The GT Leadership Conference is designed to bring together some of our most talented fourth and fifth grade leaders from across the district for three days of intensive leadership training. The sessions were held at the Boys and Girls Club of Wausau. The students engaged in activities that explored what it means to be a leader, the characteristics of leadership and the traits they see in themselves and classmates that will help them develop into strong leaders. We also listened to guest community leaders who provided insight on leadership qualities. The students participated in activities involving problem solving, risk taking, decision making, planning, communicating, conflict resolution, and time management.



5th Grade WAVE Students



Fifth grade WAVE students participated in a math collaboration day at Rib Mountain Elementary School on October 11. The purpose of this event was to allow for deeper level thinking and a hands-on learning experience. It was amazing to see the quick friendships that formed and the excitement as they shared their love of math and learning. A special thank you to Daren Catlin, District Math Coordinator, Cheryl Borta, GT Learning Resource Teacher, and Carrie Clemment, Math Teacher at John Muir for taking time to help plan and run this event.

