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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

Social-emotional health is equally important to the development of strong academic skills. The strongest foundations are built when schools and families are partners in this work. Developing a strong and healthy child demands a strong and healthy partnership as this work is not easy.

Schools need to engage families in social-emotional learning for their children by working together to develop strong home-school relationships. Schools need to work with families to find out what their goals are for their children and to collaborate when setting goals in school so they more closely align. Lastly, mutual support is key. When home and school work together and support one another, students benefit.

Families then build upon the work of schools with the goal of helping their children to develop critical skills, both academic and social-emotional, so they may be applied in all environments.

Some critical skills for families to develop include the following:

***Focus on a child's strengths and celebrate those strengths.** It can be tempting to focus on areas in need of growth, and while this is important to do, we cannot forget to honor and acknowledge what children already do well.

***Use visual aids to help children with planning.** Show children a picture of what a clean bedroom looks like or the steps involved in the getting dressed for outside play. Hopefully, showing them what you want will set them up for success.

***Ask your child about his/her feelings to help develop self-awareness.** What does it feel like when you're frustrated? What does it feel like when you're nervous? Teaching your child to pair their feelings with how they look when they feel this way, will help them build self-awareness.

***Stay calm when YOU'RE angry, and model cool-down strategies to help build self-control.**

***Be willing to apologize and teach your child that conflict is a normal and natural part of life.** We need to teach kids to attack problems not people.

***Encourage helping and sharing to grow empathy, cooperation, and communication skills.**

By working together, families and schools both win because a strong partnership can only positively influence children. If our goal is strong, well-adjusted, and happy individuals who have the academic and social-emotional skills to navigate our world, then we've accomplished our goals. Doing this together makes it just that much more rewarding!

Thank you for the role you play in this process. Keep up the great work!

~Adapted from an article written by Leah Shafer, writer for [Usable Knowledge](#).

-Tammy Steckbauer, GT Coordinator

For your
Calendar

GT Music Experience
April 29 – May 2, 2019

Elementary Leadership
Conference
Oct 2, 10 & 15, 2019

WATG State Conference
Oct 3 & 4, 2019

Parent Resources

As our department continues to focus on social and emotional aspects of the gifted student, we have linked you to a few articles that you may find helpful.

[De-Escalating: Helping Gifted Children Identify Their Emotions and Regain Control \(Sarah Young\)](#)

[Helping Parents Help Children in Traumatic Times \(Marianne Kuzujanakis\)](#)

[Strategies for Dealing with Over-Excitabilities \(Regina Hellinger\)](#)

Teacher Resources

[Teaching Gifted Learners to Manage Stress in High School \(Elizabeth Shaunessy\)](#)

[Social and Emotional Issues Faced by Gifted Girls in Elementary and Secondary Schools \(Sally Reis\)](#)

[Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration: Implications for Teachers of Gifted Students \(Sal Medaglio\)](#)

Book Bowl Summary 2019

On Thursday, February 21, 2019, the WSD Gifted and Talent Department sponsored the annual Elementary Book Bowl at GD Jones. Twenty-six teams total comprising of 183 WSD students from grades 3-5 participated in the competition. There were over 40 adult volunteers and coaches for the students. Those who helped with the program included: Elementary and middle school teachers, parents, WSD paraprofessionals, WSD administration, librarians, and Wausau West students.

[Click here](#) to see photos of the winning teams.

Art Cluster Reception 2019

On Saturday, March 2, WSD 4th and 5th grade students were recognized for their artwork at the Marathon County Public Library. [Click here](#) to see an interview that aired on WAOW.com.

Summer Enrichments

Summer offerings not specifically endorsed or affiliated with WSD:

[WSD Afternoon Academy Programs Grades 3-6](#)

[2019 Center for Talent Development Summer Programs at Northwestern University](#)

[SOAR Middle School Summer Camp at Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI](#)

[WI Center for Academically Talented Youth at UW Madison](#)

[Summer Youth Programs at UW LaCrosse](#)

[John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth](#)

[STEPS for Girls at UW Stout](#)

[College for Kids at UW Stevens Point at Wausau](#)

[Red Oak Writing Middle and High School Creative Writing Camp in West Allis, WI](#)

[Engineering Leadership Academies at Marquette University](#)

[Summer Explore! At Marquette University High School](#)

[Concordia Language Villages](#)