



Talent Development UPDATE

Davidson Elementary
3rd Quarter News
March 2011

Help Your Child at Home and at School

- ✍ Let your child have time alone to daydream.
- ✍ Value the individuality of your child. Don't expect uniform giftedness and/or achievement.
- ✍ Help your child understand and accept his/her giftedness.
- ✍ Set realistic expectations for performance at home and at school-advanced intellectual ability may make the child seem older and more mature than he/she is.
- ✍ Go places: museums, historic sites, new cities, national parks, universities, libraries, etc.
- ✍ Provide opportunities to explore many different areas of learning and physical activity.
- ✍ Encourage your child to pursue his/her interests and to specialize in specific areas.
- ✍ Start early to teach study skills, research skills, time management, goal setting, and task completion.
- ✍ Help your child make choices and allow him/her to live with the consequences of those choices.
- ✍ Provide opportunities for your child to be with mental peers (others who share similar intellectual ability or interests).
- ✍ Provide lots of books, paper, pens and pencils, and building toys.
- ✍ Encourage your child to begin writing early by dictating stories to you and later by keeping a journal.
- ✍ Praise for effort as well as for accomplishment. Watch for perfectionistic tendencies.
- ✍ Teach independence skills (how to do laundry, cook, clean, etc.) and assign work responsibilities.

Anne S. Napier
Partners for the Advancement of
Gifted Education (PAGE)

Our Talent Development students have been very busy!

MATH OLYMPIAD

Many of our 4th and 5th Grade Talent Development students have been participating in the Math Olympiad Challenge. This world-wide problem-solving competition allows the students to practice a variety of strategies to add to their toolbox of problem-solving skills. These strategies can be used in isolation or in combination to solve a variety of advanced level real-world math problems. Students have just completed their fifth and final challenge. Our high-scorers will receive recognition on the morning newscast! (Learn more at www.moems.org!)



WORDMASTERS

Many 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade students have also been participating in the WordMasters Challenge. This national competition encourages growth in vocabulary, analogies, and analytical reading. WordMasters addresses higher-level word-comprehension and logical abilities and helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Students have recently received their third word list in preparation for their final challenge. High-scorers will also receive school-level recognition – good luck! (Practice at <http://wordmasterschallengeprepsite.com>!)

Family Feedback

If you ever have questions, concerns, or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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Exercise Your Brain

Here is a sample Math Olympiad problem from a previous contest:

Ashley, Brenda, and Cate play a game with marbles. The winner of each round of the game gets from each of the other players as many marbles as the winner had at the start of that round. After Round 2, Ashley has 5 marbles, Brenda has 6, and Cate has 7. How many marbles did Ashley have at the start of the game?

You can see this contest requires a lot of high level problem solving!

Try this Hidden Meaning puzzle:

TIJUSTME

Think Creatively ☺



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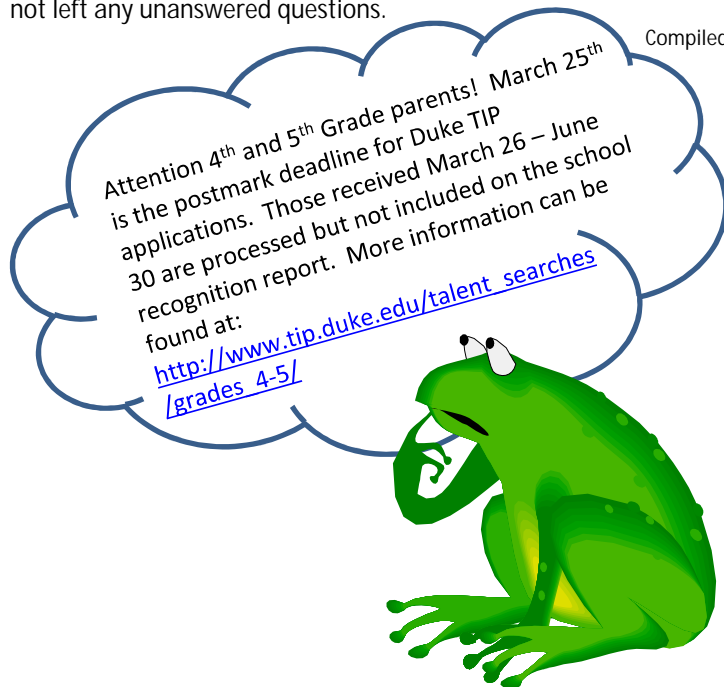
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As EOG testing quickly approaches, even the strongest students may require a refresher in test-taking strategies. Testing tips are especially important for our 5th Grade students, as middle school class placement relies heavily on EOG performance data. Check out the testing tips below to ease anxiety!

- BREATHE! Oxygen to the brain will help you think. Think positive - "I can do this!" ☺
- Read the question and ALL answer choices before marking anything.
- Answer what you are sure of first. Mark those that you want to check again, put a ? on any skipped. Don't be afraid to skip a question. There are often answers in the choices in other questions. If you are not sure of an answer, line through wrong answer(s), and come back to the question later.
- Do not choose an answer that contains information you have never heard of!
- Find KEY WORDS or phrases in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.
- Choose the BEST overall answer when more than one choice seems correct.
- Do not change your answer unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice, or you misread the question.
- If you finish early, go back and check your work – that means reread and actually resolving the problems! Make sure you have not left any unanswered questions.



Compiled from the New Hanover County Schools and Monticello High School websites.



Improve Your Child's Thinking! Ask these types of questions...

- Analysis Discuss how something works or how it's organized. "Name the different categories of animals you studied."
- Synthesis This involves thinking about old information in new ways. "What if Christopher Columbus lived today? Where could he explore?"
- Evaluation Help your child be creative without worrying about right or wrong. "Imagine you could go back in time. What would you do during the Civil War?" "How might you change history?"

Summer Opportunity...Camp Broadstone!

Camp Broadstone is Appalachian State University's year round outdoor adventure and retreat center with a specialized summer camp for academically gifted youth. Its 55 acres of woods and meadows are located in the small community of Valle Crucis nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Check out the website for more details: www.campbroadstone.com