

# Gift Rap

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2006

## No Child Left Behind?

### Statistics from the Davidson Academy of Nevada

Up to 20% of high school dropouts test in the gifted range. (*Handbook for Gifted Education*, 2003)

Less than 15% of U.S. students have the prerequisites even to pursue scientific or technical degrees in college. (William Brody, President of John Hopkins University, Congressional testimony, July, 2005)

45% of new U. S. patents are granted now to foreigners. ("A Quiet Crisis is Clouding the Future of R and D," *Education Week*, 25 May 2005)

About 1/3 of all jobs in the

U. S. require science or technology competency, but currently only 17% of Americans graduate with science or technology majors...in China, fully 52% of college degrees awarded are in science and technology. (*National Summit on Competitiveness*, December 2005)

In the fourth grade, U. S.

students score above the international average in math and near first in science. At eighth grade, they score below average in math, and only slightly above average in science. By 12th grade, U.S. students are near the bottom of a 49-country survey in both math and science, outscoring only Cyprus and South Africa. (William Brody, President of John Hopkins University, Congressional testimony, July, 2005)



Want more? Visit <http://presskit.ditd.org>

## Portage County Gifted Events 2006-2007

There are many upcoming opportunities for gifted students and their parents in Portage County this year!

For more information about any events, contact Mr. Hatcher or Mrs. Winters.

An updated list will be provided in each James A. Garfield Local *Gift Rap*, but as of October here are some upcoming events:

### Tuesday, October 24

Destination Imagination Team Managers Training  
FREE!

Location: Portage County Educational Service Center, 320 E. Main St., Ravenna

### Monday, February 26, 2007

Middle School Leadership Seminar (with the Ohio Leadership Institute), Maplewood Career Center, Ravenna

### Saturday, March 17, 2007

Destination Imagination Regional Tournament, Aurora High School

### Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Portage County Math 24 Tournament, Maplewood Career Center, Ravenna

Look for upcoming county gifted parent meeting dates coming soon!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Internet Resources for Kids	2
Get Organized!	2
Perfectionism vs. the Pursuit of Excellence	2
Getting in to America's Best Colleges	3
Destination Imagination	3
Contact Information	4
Thinking Challenge	4

### Gifted Program Goals

- Enrich and enhance the curriculum at all levels for identified gifted students
- Develop and expand gifted services to meet the needs of students at all grade levels
- Create and implement staff development activities that will provide teachers with strategies to assist them in the identification and differentiation of services for gifted students
- Provide classroom and gifted teachers with materials and resources to provide for the needs of gifted students
- Develop services to meet the social, emotional, physical, and academic needs of gifted students

## Get Organized Without Losing It: A Shopping List

To get organized, you don't need fancy furniture or a PDA or Palm Pilot. You don't need special computer software or an MP3 player with built-in calendars. You don't need a parent who says, "Do your homework!" You don't even need a backpack which weighs a million pounds. But Janet Fox, author of the book *Get Organized without Losing It*, recommends the following items for keeping yourself organized without "losing it":

- a backpack with at least two compartments
- A clear plastic pouch
- Homework folder
- Pocket folder
- 2" three-ring binder
- Subject dividers
- Zippered pencil pouch
- Sheet projectors
- Two-pocket, three-hole punched folders
- Portable three-hole punch
- Small box for small items
- About 10 sharpened pencils
- Two rubber erasers
- Two small pencil sharpeners
- Scissors
- Small ruler
- Small bottle of glue or glue stick
- Roll of tape
- Paper clips
- Small stapler
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils
- Locker shelves
- magnetic hooks, file pockets

## Perfectionism vs. the Pursuit of Excellence

What is the difference between perfectionism and the pursuit of excellence? How can you become a pursuer of excellence?

1. Perfectionism means thinking *less* of yourself because you earned a B+ instead of an A. The pursuit of excellence means thinking *more* of yourself for trying something new.
2. Perfectionism means being hard on yourself because you aren't equally talented in all of something; sports, for example. The pursuit of excellence means choosing some things you know you'll be good at—and others you know will be good for you or just plain fun.
3. Perfectionism means beating yourself up because you lost the student council election. The pursuit of excellence means congratulating yourself because you were nominated, and deciding to run again next year—if that's what you want.

How can you become a pursuer of

excellence? By:

- determining the sources of your perfectionism
- Reassessing your feelings about failure and success
- Standing your ground against people who pressure you to be perfect
- Learning ways to be easier on yourself so you're free to take risks and try new things.

From *When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers* by Delisle and Galbraith

## FUN (and educational) Web Sites for Kids

### Eyewitness to History

[www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com)

The first page of this web site states that it is "your ringside seat to history from the Ancient World to the present." This extremely interesting and user-friendly site allows visitors to "travel back" in time and experience history through the eyes of those who lived it.

### EcoKids Online

<http://ecokids.earthday.ca/pub/index.cfm>

Eco Fact of the Day: Did you know that cheetahs concentrate on one objects so hard that they can actually bump into trees without seeing them? This and many other interesting facts can be found on this award-winning web site sponsored by Earth Day Canada. This site is designed primarily for children and offers information about the environment through games and activities.

### Comic Creator

<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials.comic/index.html>

This site is a really slick way to make your own comic strips.

### Alphabet Organizer

<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/alphabet>

Make up your own pages for an alphabet chart or book.

## It's Time for Destination Imagination!

It is time to begin DI practices! This year will be exciting as teams will have to focus on new challenges.

Challenge categories

- A: Technical/Mechanical
- B: Theater Arts/Science
- C: Theater Arts/Fine Arts
- D: Theater Arts/Improvisation
- E: Structural and Architectural Design

Committed students and parent-coaches select and prepare the central challenge for competition in March. Creative thinking, recycling, and problem-solving are hallmarks of the program. Teams are



composed of five to seven students. They solve the challenge and create and present an eight minute skit to the judges. Parent-coaches supervise but must let the kids create the solution on their own. A maximum of \$100 is allowed to be spent on most challenges. That means creativity must be used when finding materials, supplies, and props.

While preparing the team challenge, teams also practice "instant challenges." This second phase of competition teaches the students to think on their feet! At competition, the students will be given a scenario and then two minutes to prepare an original solution. It is a great deal of fun for all of those who participate.

There will be a Team Mangers Training on Tuesday, October 26, 2007 at the Portage County Educational Service Center, 320 E. Main St., Ravenna for interested coaches. See Mr. Hatcher or Mrs. Winters for more information about Destination Imagination!

## Getting in to America's Best Colleges

### From U. S. News and World Report

1. Grades don't matter the way you think they do. Perfect As are not as impressive as they used to be. Instead, your transcript will be scoured to see if you took full advantage of challenging options at your high school.
2. Don't be a joiner. Do what you love. Show a commitment to one or two of your burning interests. Show proof that an activity is a theme of your life.
3. Sorry, you'll have to spend less time at the beach. Think of summer as a time to work on the "theme" mentioned in #2. Internships? "There's nothing more tiresome than reading your 785th essay on how going to an impoverished Latin American country helped the well-heeled applicant learn that poor people can be happy." (Duke University Admissions Counselor)
4. Maybe SAT isn't the right answer. The SAT probes vocabulary, math, and abstract reasoning. The ACT examines grammar, scientific reasoning, and trigonometry, but less math overall. Take practice tests for both, and register for the one that is better suited to your strengths. Most colleges accept either the SAT or ACT.
5. Take a good, long look beyond the Top 20. Many lesser-known schools just keep getting better. And, over 50% of applicants to Vanderbilt University and Smith College are accepted.
6. Be realistic—and sharpen your "hook". "Although they are loath to admit it, many selective colleges target certain groups for admission—to expand the physics department, to add women's ice hockey, or to thank alumni for past contributions." So, call coaches, musical directors, and department chairs to see what they are seeking in students.
7. Show they how much you really, really care. Contact and contact again. Kenyon College and Colorado College, among others, maintain databases of every potential student's email and visit. If you are serious about the equestrian team and Latin, contact professors or coaches in each discipline.
8. Consider applying early to beat the crowd. Colleges deny it, but if you apply for early decision and promise to go, your chances of being accepted improve. Or, just apply as soon as you can, to allow your teachers to write *really good* recommendations!

From U. S. News and World Report, September 17, 2001.

## ***Gifted Services***

### **James A. Garfield Local Schools**

Derek Hatcher, Gifted Specialist

Office

James A. Garfield Elementary

10207 State Route 88

Garrettsville, OH 44231

(330) 527-2184 voice

(330) 527-3015 fax

dhatcher@mail.garfield.sparcc.org

**Website: <http://Garfield.sparcc.org/Elementary/Gifted/gifted.cfm>**

Rachel Winters, Gifted Coordinator

Office

Portage County Educational Service Center

326 E. Main St., Third Floor

Ravenna, Ohio 44266

(330) 297-1436 voice

(330) 297-1113 fax

R\_winters@sparcc.org



*Coming Soon!*

***J. A. Garfield's  
Gift Rap online!***

[http://garfield.sparcc.org/  
Elementary/Gifted/gifted.cfm](http://garfield.sparcc.org/Elementary/Gifted/gifted.cfm)

## **Thinking Challenge**

Here are some logic puzzles to keep your brain “running”!

### 1. Who Won?

Two brothers decided to run a 100-meter race. The older brother won by 3 meters. In other words, when the older brother reached the finish, the younger brother had won 97 meters.

They decided to race again, this time with the older brother starting 3 meters behind the starting line. Assuming that both boys ran the second race at the same speed as before, who do you think won?

### 2. 100-Meter Dash

When Bob and Sue ran an 100-meter dash, Bob won by 10 meters. When Sue then raced 100 meters against Larry, and Sue won by 10 meters.

If Bob and Larry raced, running the same distance of 100 meters, by how many meters would Bob win?

### 3. A Dog and Two Travelers

Two men were traveling with a dog. Joe's walking speed is 3 km per hour. Alan's walking speed is 6 km per hour.

One morning Joe left the hotel by himself and walked down a road for 3 km before Alan left the hotel with the dog. While Alan walked down the same road, the dog playfully trotted back and forth between the two men at a speed of 10 km per hour. How many kilometers had the dog run by the time Alan caught up with Joe?

Answers from June

1. The early bird catches the worm.
2. Everything that glitters is not gold.
3. A fool and his money are soon parted.
4. Look before you leap.
5. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
6. Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
7. Waste not, want not.
8. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good.