



This week in AEP
September 16, 2016

IN LANGUAGE ARTS

This week in LA, seventh graders shared their creations based on their books and understanding of conflict. We had some very creative works! Matthew K.'s poem spinning the classic *Lord of the Flies* in the style of Dr. Seuss and Kennedy H.'s poem for two voices inspired by Legend really stood out, as did Grace F.'s comic with its multifaceted artistic approaches. All of the students worked very hard and shared some deep thinking!

We also introduced Genius Hour to 6th and 8th grade (it is coming next week for 7th grade!). Genius Hour is based on a Google business practice, where employees are allowed to spend 20% of their time on a project of interest, provided that it can advance the company in some way. Likewise, we are beginning "Passion Projects" of our own to work on during Genius Hour. Proposals are due next week for grades 6 and 8. Talk to your student about their interests. Their passion project should be guided by a true desire to master something—and it can be anything at all—and should begin with an essential question.

An essential question cannot be answered with a simple yes or no, it must be researched, tested, composed; it guides deeper thinking, creativity, and analysis. For example, "What does it take to get a novel ready for publication?" or "How can robotics help patients with Parkinson's disease?" or even "How can I design and sew my own fashions?"

By allowing students the freedom to compose and pursue the answers to their essential questions, and then share their products globally, we can not only train them to be organized, to manage a timeline, and to research, but we also allow them to be true agents of change whose ideas can inspire others to greater heights. After all, if Shakespeare kept all of his writing in a drawer, we would never have the multitude of works based on his genius.

Genius Hour work will happen both in and out of the Gifted Resource Room. More info will come as we get further into the process.

Dear AEP Families,

Hello and happy almost fall! You'd never know it with 90-degree weather... but we are still having fun up here in the AEP resource room! We have been enjoying taking Dash on adventures and playing with our new games, testing out the Makey Makey, and climbing and jumping on our new bean bag chairs!



On My Bookshelf and Academic Contests

Check out *Raising a Gifted Child: A Parenting Success Handbook* on Amazon. It has received excellent reviews and could be a great resource for you:

<https://www.amazon.com/Raising-Gifted-Child-Parenting-Handbook/dp/1593633440>

Some of your students are creating entries for academic contests, such as the National History Day contest, the 3M Young Scientist's Challenge, or C-Span Student Cam. They will be working on these items during their Genius Hour time.

Links to these exciting opportunities are on my web page!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep your eyes open for news about our parent evening event on 10/20, a possible field trip in early October, and information regarding the Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), which is an early ACT or SAT experience to identify academic ability, measure growth, and connect students to resources and opportunities for advanced learning.

RESOURCES

If you have not yet checked out <http://sengifted.org/>, please do. It is a resource entirely devoted to the Social and Emotional needs of gifted children and adults, called "Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted". There is even information about starting a parent group in your area, if anyone is interested in training to become a facilitator.

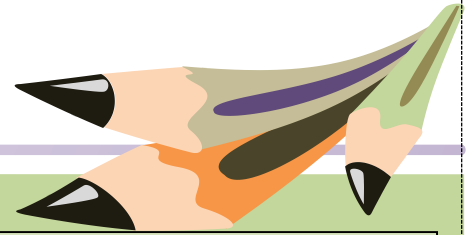
Also, several of you have asked for a list of characteristics and issues related to giftedness. Here are two good resources:

Common characteristics:

<https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/my-child-gifted/common-characteristics-gifted-individuals>

Problems of the gifted:

<http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/papers/giftedproblems.pdf>

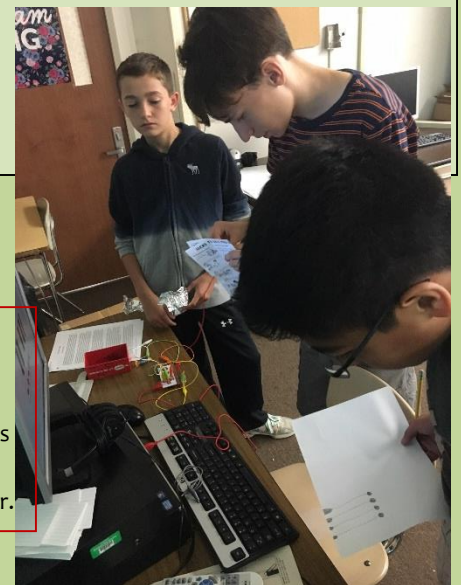


In the coming weeks we will begin social emotional work twice a month, including a book study, quizzes, and discussions geared towards understanding giftedness and how it impacts each of our daily lives.

I am also looking forward to tapping into my parent volunteer resources as well!

I hope you have a wonderful week ahead and have something fun planned! Check out the information regarding the chalk fest that I emailed you! It is this weekend and I KNOW some of your kids would love it!

Sincerely,
Sandy Bean



Wiktor, Brandyn, and Raihan check out the Makey Makey, right. Bottom, far left: Matthew's poem; middle, Grace's comic; right, Nadia's poster.

Lord Of The Flies Poem

On an island secluded a plane went kaboom!
Only children survived with no food to consume
Two boys found a conch shell and blew it with great sound
To summon the boys to come gather around

The smart one was Piggy, persistent, outspoken
Jack was the bully his mind was quite broken
With Ralph leading the group rules and laws they all tried
And the beast they all feared was just lurking inside

Out went their fire as a ship passed them by
A large fight erupted, Jack became the fall guy
Jack turned savage and some others followed his ways
They created a dance, got caught up in the craze

At the hands of their "friends" those we care for do die
Another was chased, run away he did try
He stumbled upon a man in the navy
Embarrassed they are but at least they are free.

