

Gifted and Living in a Small Community

(by O.S.)

I received an email from a parent with gifted children who lived in a small community far from major cities. The question was what to do with her gifted children who were limited in the resources many others take for granted because they live in large cities? Here are some suggestions:

**go into online chat communities set up for gifted children to engage in conversation. Some are mentioned at www.edgotago.com

**take advantage of the natural environment that is probably much closer than in large cities. Study ponds, flora & fauna, weather systems, soils & ecosystems

**the internet will probably be the greatest source of knowledge – the content of learning. It can also be a source of some excellent skills training e.g. calligraphy, mini-golf course design, sandcastle building techniques, etc. Make a list of materials

needed and purchase them next time you visit the city, in order to continue the interest at home.

**There are many outdoor skills that can be learned: gardening, mapping, orienteering, fishing – making lures, research how to survive in the outdoors during different seasons

**Music – create, write, play and record your own. Learn different musical instruments. To develop the dream, send off demo tapes to music producers. (a group of 19 year-olds called Tokyo Police Club did this)

**Parents can network and get their children together as often as possible. Have a theme for the day e.g. debating, activism issues, creative new games to play, foods of the world, etc.

**Develop and nurture questioning and curiosity skills. Whenever a solid stimu-

lating question arises, follow up with some home-made experiments or make phone calls to experts.

**Access experts and mentors on the internet and in local neighbourhoods, communities to whom a child can go for answers and conversation.

**Enter contests online or via newspapers, magazines, etc

Inside this issue:

Let's Celebrate! Calendar	2
- Values	2
- Truffles	
- Doolally	
Lottery Odds	3
Computer Top Tip	4
Tidbits of Trivia	4
Giller Book Awards	4
Best Place on Earth to Live	4
Willow Academy Enriched Private School	6
- Jokes	7
- Inventions	
- Wise Words	

Amazing Websites

All About Snow – Castles, Snowballs, Snow Art, etc.
<http://www.niksula.hut.fi/~mnikkane/>

Apology Note Generator (when you just can't find the right words)
<http://www.karmafarm.com/formletter.html>

Canadian Snow Sculpture Team (get ideas from the beautiful sculptures in the gallery!!)
<http://www.snowsculpture.com>

Eskimo Words for Snow (15 different ones relating to various stages and conditions of snow)
<http://www.princeton.edu/~browning/snow.html>

Global Avalanche Centre (records from around the world)
<http://www.avalanche-center.org/>

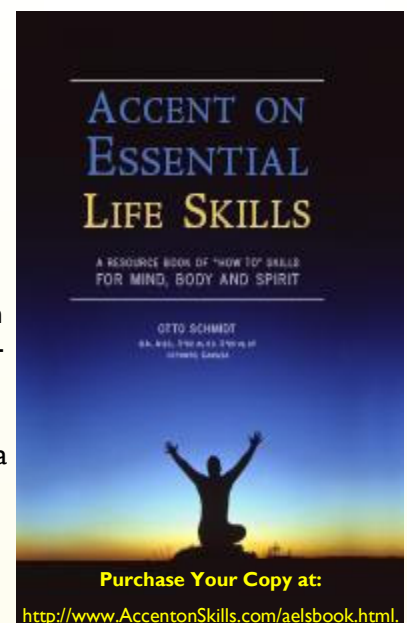
How to Detect Lies
<http://www.blifaloo.com/info/lies.php>

Internet Lies and Deception
<http://marylaine.com/lies.html>

Memory Archives (record your life on these sites for future historians and history buffs to study)
Canada: <http://www.inmylife.ca>
USA: <http://www.memoryarchive.org>

Snow Research Center (Very interesting!! Mission: to research and engineer solutions for technical & social problems related to cold weather, snow, and ice)
<http://www.snowresearch.org/>

World's First Bullet Proof Clothing Boutique
<http://www.miguelcaballero.com>



News and Views

Jan 1 – Happy New Year
Jan 3 – Full Moon tonight
Jan 7 – Orthodox Xmas
Jan 11 – Sir John A. MacDonald's birthday (1st Cdn Prime Minister - 1867)
Jan 20 - Muharram (Islamic New Year)
Jan 23 – Saddest Day of the Year (winter, Xmas bills in, and more)
Jan 25 – Robbie Burns Day (Scotland)
This is also Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and March of Dimes Month

Truffles: Fantastic Fungi

(from an article in the Toronto Star)

Truffles introduce themselves by their smell. It's almost like royalty entering the room. Who would guess that this underground fungus growth found in the forests of northern Italy and in a small part of Croatia could cause such a stir in the rest of the world.

There are two main kinds of truffles that are shipped around the world. The growing season begins usually in October to December for white truffles and the black are available for about 8 months of the year. The crated products are wrapped in paper towel to wick away moisture. Too much and they rot; not enough and they dry out. When eating one, it should have a noticeable crunch. Before you do this, however, be aware of the price of that crunch.

Delicatessens usually show their prices per 100 grams but truffles are sold by the gram!. The white sell for about \$8/gram and the black costs about \$2/gram. That works out to \$8000 and \$2000 respectively for a kilogram! The prices are based on their rarity.

Truffles are generally eaten raw. Only a small amount, say \$30's worth will feed about 10 people when used as a garnish with rice, eggs, pasta and other relatively neutral dishes. The intense aroma and flavour are allowed to come out this way. White truffles are more delicate than the black. Black truffles have an intense fragrance that will quickly fill small enclosed spaces. Cut open, they look like brains with veins.

We hear about them. Perhaps some of us have tried them. Anyway, now you know a little more about them and perhaps will try them. Enjoy.

All About Truffles <http://www.mssf.org/cookbook/truffles.html>

Hey, Go Doolally Over Hinglish

(from an article by Paul Majendie, Toronto Star - Reuters News Agency)

Is the world ready for Hinglish? It better be because it points out the globalization of India and is one of the fastest growing hybrid languages in the world. It is a combination of English, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi. Baljinder Mahal is the author of a new dictionary of Hinglish words entitled: The Queen's Hinglish: How to Speak Pukka.

The words he has found go back to the British Raj and up to today's modern advertising slogans. Here are some samples: "doolally" - crazy. It is military slang for a town called Deolali where a sanatorium was located. "filmi" means melodramatic, "bevakooof" is a fool, "glassy" is what you feel when you need a drink. "badmash" is a hooligan. "prepone" is used when you want to move a meeting forward in time, as opposed to "postpone."

The language is getting to be quite trendy and is used in Bollywood movies, the corporate world, in advertising and by the elite. Children love to use it as almost a secret language.

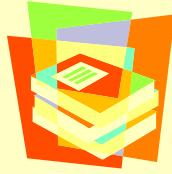
Language is never static and this is a good one to watch as it moves across the world in a short time.

The Hinglish Dictionary

http://www.harpercollins.com.au/global_scripts/product_catalog/book_xml.asp?isbn=0007241127

Cover N' Pages

Dreamed of publishing
your own book?



Go ahead and write it!

We can make your dream come true!!

Let us do the custom work for you:

- Design a beautiful color and/or textured cover
- Format pages and compose pictures/photos
- Professionally bind and print your books
- On-demand printing, suiting your quantity and budget

We specialize in:

cook books, wedding albums, personal histories,
family biographies/albums, textbooks, manuals, and
more

Wyman Chu 416-219-9338

Toronto, Canada, wyman.chu@gmail.com

Your Chances in Lotteries

(by O.S.)

We all get flyers advertising lotteries for hospitals and charities. We also feel a legitimate need to give, but are we getting the facts about our odds of winning? Over the years, the odds seem to have changed greatly in the purchaser's favor. In earlier lotteries, odds were about 1 in 25 or so. Lately it has come down to about 1 in 9-10. These numbers cause people to buy because their chances of winning have greatly improved - or so it seems.

In a recent flyer it was suggested that people have a 1 in 5 chance of winning. Wow! How could anybody resist buying a ticket?

Here is what was in the fine print. There were 54,702 valuable prizes. Only 300,000 tickets were to be sold. Dividing the number of tickets by the number of prizes gives roughly 1 in 5.

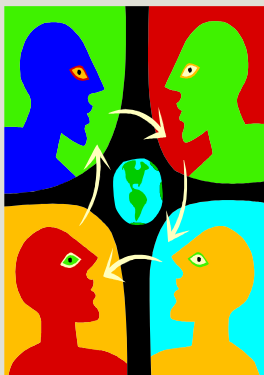
Think, however, about each draw. Your chances are 1 in 300,000 in the first and if each ticket goes back into the big pool, each of the 54,702 draws has the same odds- 1 in 300,000. We should still give generously to honest charities.

ZEBULON INTERNATIONAL GROUP

WORLD-WIDE BUSINESS IMPLEMENTATION

*CONNECTING YOUR BUSINESS AND/OR SERVICE
TO OTHERS ALL OVER THE WORLD*

DISTRIBUTOR, SERVICE, EXPORTER, IMPORTER



DOUG LASH

416-932-2399

FAX: 416-932-9306

[HTTP://ZEBULONGROUP.COM](http://ZEBULONGROUP.COM)
DLASH@ZEBULONGROUP.COM

145 GLENGROVE AVE. W.

TORONTO, CANADA, M4R 1P1



Supply Chain Systems

Sandy Donald

Logistics Specialist

416-997-6847

sdonald@supplychainsystems.com

<http://www.supplychainsystems.com>

Toronto, Canada

Helping individuals, small, medium and large
companies purchase, ship and store goods
around the world.

We specialize in business planning, systems
analysis, purchaser/supplier relationships,
order management, logistics operations,
distribution operations, setting up transporta-
tion networks, system optimization, customs
clearance processes

Computer Top Tip

Which version do you send - "resume" or "resumé"? How do you get a cent sign - "¢" or a degree sign - °? There are times when you need alphabet letters with accents on them and other symbols. To save time searching files and converting languages, try this. To get an "á" hold down the ALT key, type 131 on the calculator, release ALT. Remember: hold down the ALT button first, type the number and then release ALT). Here are some common ones that people often use:

é - 130 ä - 132 ¢ - 667 « - 174 » - 175 ° (degree) - 0186 © - hold ALT+CTRL+C ® - hold ALT+CTRL+R (Footnotes) - ALT+CTRL+F ™ - ALT+CTRL+T

On a new document sheet or a copy of an old one, experiment with numbers and make a list of the ones that give you symbols you need. Just press numbers in order and see what you get. For wingdings, start with low numbers: 2-☉, 3-♥, 4-♠, 5-♣, 11-♂, 15-☼

The usual way which takes more time is with MS Word, click on "Insert" at the top, then on "Symbol". (ALT+"i", and then a plain "s". This lets you insert virtually any special character from a choice of hundreds of symbols in different type fonts. Select and insert all the symbols you might use in a document at the top of your page before you start the work and then copy and paste as needed. Note the special characters list for copyright, etc.

The best is to take a deep breath, go through the sites mentioned below and make up your own chart of the ones you use most often. Save search time.

ASCII Character Codes <http://www.lissaexplains.com/fun2.shtml>

ALT Key Codes and Charts for Languages that use Accents & Diacriticals <http://www.starr.net/is/type/altnum.htm>

MS Word Shortcut Keys <http://www.5starsupport.com/info/shortcuts.htm#3>

ALT Codes <http://www.coloryourprofyle.com/phade/alt.html>

Wingding Codes <http://www.coloryourprofyle.com/wingdings/wingdings.html>

More ALT Key Codes <http://groups.msn.com/TOPSupport/altkeycodes.msnw>

UN Survey Shows Norway is Top Place to Live -

Associated Press

This is the sixth year that Norway has ranked as the number one country in which to live. 2- Iceland, 3- Australia, 4- Ireland, 5- Sweden, 6- Canada, 7- Japan, 8-USA.

The factors that determined this are: wealth of the people, levels of education, low unemployment, economic boom.

Despite their ranking, Norwegians complain about high taxes and weaknesses in their cradle-to-grave welfare system.

The five lowest countries were: 173 - Guinea-Bissau, 174 - Burkina Faso, 175 - Mali, 176 - Sierra Leone, 177 - Niger.

A number of countries were not ranked: Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia because of insufficient data.

Norwegians earn 40 times more than Niger and have almost 5 times the literacy rate.

Tidbits of Trivia

- Loneliness increases the blood pressure of elderly people as much as smoking or a lazy lifestyle.
- A Twinkie will last about 25 days without going bad.
- Grape-Nuts cereal does not have any nuts or grapes. It was

named after one of the ingredients - Maltose - which tastes like nuts and was known as "grape sugar".
- The first 911 call was placed on Feb. 16, 1968 from the city hall of Haleyville, Alabama to their police station.

-- In 1911, Bobby Leach was the first man to survive going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. He died 15 years later after slipping on an orange peel. The most common name given to pet goldfish is "Jaws".

Interesting Reading

Largest annual Canadian prize for fiction - \$40,000. List of contestants:

WINNER: Vincent Lam for his short story collection, Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures, published by Doubleday Canada. This book will be made into a TV series.

Rawi Hage for his novel De Niro's Game, published by House of Anansi Press

Pascale Quiviger for her novel The Perfect Circle, translation by Sheila Fischman, published by Cormorant Books

Gaétan Soucy for his novel The Immaculate Conception, translation by Lazer Lederhendler, published by House of Anansi Press

Carol Windley for her short story collection, Home Schooling, published by Cormorant Books



willow
academy

enriched academics in
a nurturing environment

willow academy

a pioneering independent school in midtown Toronto offering enriched academics in a nurturing environment to bright, creative, curious children in JK-Grade 6

has moved to...

250 Davisville Avenue

NE corner of Mount Pleasant & Davisville - Close to Davisville Subway Station

- 6,600 sq. ft. of newly designed space created by an award winning architecture firm
- Large auditorium available for performances and Physical Education program
- Across the street from a beautiful park
- Plans for programs include expanding existing Gifted & Academic Programs for 2006/2007 and introduction of Grade 7 classes for 2007/2008.

For information call 416-972-6717

or visit [HTTP://www.willowacademy.ca](http://www.willowacademy.ca)

A SPECIAL PRIVATE SCHOOL THAT MEETS NEEDS OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Willow Academy, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Willow Academy is a pioneering independent school in mid-town Toronto offering enriched academics in a nurturing environment to bright, curious and creative children in JK to Grade 6. Willow Academy is unique in that it offers two programs both designed to develop the whole child: an enriched academic program and a gifted program. Multidisciplinary thematic units in both programs are based on Renzulli's Schoolwide Enrichment Model and Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. Stimulating and challenging learning activities are tailored to individual needs, strengths and interests. Willow's dedicated teachers are committed to academic excellence and enrichment teaching and learning. The faculty includes specialists in gifted education,

French, music, physical education, drama and art. The low teacher-to-child ratio offers an outstanding opportunity for effective individualized and small group instruction. For the 2006-2007 year, Willow Academy is expanding both its academic and gifted programs as it moves to large, brand new premises to accommodate its rapidly growing student body. Our website is [HTTP://www.willowacademy.ca](http://www.willowacademy.ca)

Willow Academy Director, Tammy Barrett, says that the biggest concern amongst parents of gifted children is finding a school that provides academic challenges, while at the same time fulfilling the students' social and emotional needs. Ms. Barrett suggests the following five questions for parents to ask the principal of any school that they are considering for their children:

1. How does the school provide a differentiated curriculum for each student?
2. How does the school teach to a child's strengths, while recognizing his or her areas of struggle?
3. How does the school meet the socialization challenges of gifted children?
4. What types of programs does the school have in place to teach and encourage the students to be responsible and compassionate members of society?
5. How does the school ensure that their students retain their natural sense of curiosity and develop into lifelong learners?

Above all, Ms. Barrett believes that it is crucial for parents to spend time observing in the classrooms prior to making their final decision about the school.

"Accent on Essential Life Skills"

a resource book of 48 personal "how to" skills

- * Improve: thinking, creativity & self awareness.
- * For children ages 7+ & adults
- * Use skills in personal, educational, & business settings
- * Valuable gift for teachers & business people

Order at: <http://www.accentonskills.com/aelsbook.htm>

Staff Development with a Difference!

Try a Personal Life Skills Training Workshop

Ideal for school staffs, parents, adults in business and corporate settings. Student workshops available too.

Otto Schmidt, 416-226-2332, Toronto, Canada
o.schmidt@accentonskills.com

Parent College

Our mission is to educate parents to help them create a more nurturing and cohesive family unit and become better teachers, counselors, advisors and parents to their children.

Stephen Dubrofsky

speaker, teacher, instructor,

author, radio show host

<http://www.familyground.com>

416-557-6659

Stephen@familyground.com

**Published by:
Otto Schmidt**

Gifted Programming Consultant

Accent on Skills

[HTTP://www.AccentonSkills.com](http://www.AccentonSkills.com)

Toronto, Canada

**Contact us about
Skills Training Workshops
for businesses & educators**

Phone: 416-226-2332

o.schmidt@accentonskills.com

All Rights Reserved.

DiscoverTeenery.com

Copyright, 2007

Jokes of the Month

Last night I went to a 24-hour grocery. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey, the sign says you're open 24 hours." He goes: "Not in a row!" (Steven Wright)

My grandfather always said, "Don't watch your money; watch your health." So one day while I was watching my health, someone stole my money. It was my grandfather. (Jackie Mason)

A man goes to a psychiatrist and says, "Doc, my brother's crazy, he thinks he's a chicken." The doctor says, "Why don't you turn him in?" The guy says, "We would. But we need the eggs."

You are Invited to Visit

Enrichment Headquarters

*activities database, gifted education,
links to all schools, leadership, teens
in crisis, activism, entertainment,
money matters, travel, much more.*

<http://www.discoverteenergy.com>

Make me your home page!!

Educators of the Gifted of Ontario

Supporting all educators of gifted children in:

CLASSROOMS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, HOME SCHOOLING

Visit and peruse our extensive resources

in all areas of gifted education

[HTTP://WWW.EDGOTAGO.COM](http://WWW.EDGOTAGO.COM)

What Will They

Invent Next?

Keio University in Japan developed a new prototype of an umbrella that allows images to be projected to the inside open surface from a small mobile projector attached to the handle.

Net Browsing Pelius Umbrella

Click this link to view:

http://uk.gizmodo.com/2006/09/26/pileus_umbrella_has_projector.html

Wise Words of Wisdom

Be humble for you are made of earth. Be noble for you are made of stars. – Serbian Proverb

"Everything around us is impermanent. Hence strive with earnestness!"

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

"The work will wait while you show the child the rainbow, but the rainbow wont wait while you do the work." -author unknown

"My goal is simple. It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.—Stephen Hawking

**TO ADVERTISE ON OUR WEBSITES AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER
CONTACT US AT: giftrap@discoverteenergy.com**