

Why Gifted Children Drop Out of School

(by O.S.)

Studies show that many gifted children drop out of high school and/or university. Why? Here are some reasons:

- work and learning provided are beneath their ability. They need differentiation.
- general frustration with a system that they perceive as trying to make them a "cog in the wheel" instead of enhancing their individuality, talents, and skills
- because of their own efforts, they may already know the course content, sometimes better than the teacher, but they are still expected to do the same work as others in order to get their academic credits.
- expectations of teachers that gifted students do the work other students do to avoid favoritism. There is an important distinction between favoritism and the reality of greater and stronger ability.
- ineffectual gifted programs that provide

more work on top of regular work.

- students are "punished" by teachers for leaving regular classes. Fun things are scheduled during the time they are away.
- overemphasis on and repetition of basic reading, writing and number sense at levels far below their abilities
- school is considered so easy that it is a challenge to see how little one can do but still get top results. Over time, many learning habits deteriorate and can become severely weakened. Some gifted students can't cope when work gets very difficult or complicated.
- lack of skills training to make them producers of new learning. They are often expected to be consumers of learning like others.
- a taste of income and power in after-school jobs where they are appreciated and their skills and abilities applied effectively. This can give a false sense of security in believing that an education is not really needed. It also leads to abuse by some employers who see a brilliant, young and impressionable employee who is easily persuaded to be on call 24 hours a day.

Inside this issue:

- **Let's Celebrate! Calendar** 2
- **Teenage Cryptic Language**
- **Speaking Your Language**
- **Computer Top Tip** 3
- **Radio Therapy**
- **Tidbits of Trivia**
- **Interesting Reading**
- **Wedding Joke Backfires**
- **Buzz Words** 5
- **Foods of 2007**
- **"Doomsday" Vault** 6
- **Mini Owners Honors**
- **Jokes of the Month** 7
- **Amazing Invention**
- **Wise Words**

Amazing Websites

48 Laws of Power (Wow!!! Be the ultimate leader??)

http://www2.tech.purdue.edu/cg/Courses/cgt411/covey/48_laws_of_power.htm

International Computer Programming Competition Winner (Ski Stunt Simulator. Try it.)

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~van/sssjava/javademo.html>

WWII German Enigma Encryption Device Simulator (Try it. Play online) <http://www.xat.nl/enigma/>

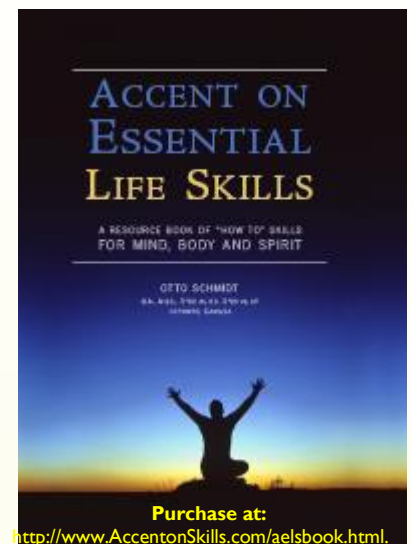
Funderstanding Roller Coaster Simulator (design your own coaster using forces of physics)

<http://www.funderstanding.com/kl2/coaster/>

Index of Biographies (list of famous mathematicians)

<http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/BiogIndex.html>

Gifted children have great potential. It is as important to meet their needs as it is to meet the learning needs of other children.



News and Views

March 3 – Full moon tonight
 March 8 – International Women’s Day
 March 11 – Daylight Savings Begins (1 hr. forward)
 March 10-18 - March School Break (Ontario, Canada)
 March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
 March 21 – First day of Spring! Vernal Equinox
 March 21 – UN Day to Eliminate Racism
 March 21 – World Poetry Day
 March 22 – World Day for Water, Int’l Goof-Off Day
 March 23 – World Meteorological Day
 March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day
 March 25 – Nat’l Community Shredding Day i.e. sensitive documents
 March 31 – National “She’s Funny That Way” Day – ways women make us laugh
 This is also National Nutrition Month, National Kidney Month, Red Cross Month, and Women’s History Month
 The last week of March is Bubble Week – competing teams try to set world records by fitting people into a soap bubble (www.bubbleblowers.com)

Understanding Teenage Cryptic Language

(by O.S.)

With two teenagers in our house, there are often words and expressions that are often baffling and allow too high a degree of exclusivity. To educate all those that wrinkle noses and raise eyebrows in puzzlement, here is what teens are supposedly saying according to one slang dictionary:

Booty Dancing - emphasis on gyrating, shivering and maximized quivering of the rear while dancing

Bumping - full of people. E.g. a party is really bumping

Grinder - a sandwich or sub e.g. I’m hungry for a grinder

Jammed - mad or irritated. E.g. My prof got jammed because of my marks.

Map - face. E.g. Get out of my map.

Popper - a person who is a wannabe or faker

Salvy - Salvation Army

Whodi - a friend. E.g. He’s my whodi (whoa –dee)

AHHHH, THE CRED!! I DON’T KNOW FOLKS!! IF YOU FIND SOME MORE, LET US ALL KNOW!!

Help for Parents to Understand Kid Lingo

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/11050/how_to_speak_and_understand_teen_lingo.htm

Learn More: Teen Language Dictionary

<http://parentingteens.about.com/cs/familylife//blawords.htm>

Internet Slang Decoder <http://www.noslang.com/>

Top 25 Slang Internet Terms Parents/Teachers/Guardians Should Know

<http://www.noslang.com/top20.php>

Yes, We Speak Your Language—any Language!

(based on an article by Judy Gerstel in the Toronto Star)

The Toronto Transit Commission has a service that will translate bus, subway and other information for riders speaking over 170 languages!!

How do they do that?? The project is run by the largest translation company in North America. A customer connects to a TTC line and says a few foreign words. Language Line Services operators, trained to recognize the many languages, will transfer the customer to a 3-way call with an interpreter who could be working in his/her home almost anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. There are about 60 calls per month at the present time. The service costs about \$700/month. The company was started by a California police officer who couldn’t communicate with his apprehended suspect.

Language Line Services ://www.languageline.com/

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On the home page of

[Http://www.DiscoverTeenergy.com](http://www.DiscoverTeenergy.com)

Computer Top Tip

Put Your PC Maintenance on Autopilot

Many people think that when a computer slows that there is something wrong with it. Some tweaking may be all that is needed.

Regular simple maintenance saves time and money and after setting things up on the Maintenance Scheduler, the computer can do the job on a schedule that you set. On this Microsoft related site are detailed instructions on how to set up scheduled tasks whenever you want them to. This can mean defragment, check the disk, clean up the computer, start virus checks. My computer is a relatively old one that runs at 450 Mhz compared to up to 5 Ghz. It still works at an acceptable speed because of regular simple maintenance.

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/moredone/maintenance.msp>

Radio Therapy from Associated Press in "24")

Argentina has a special radio station that broadcasts directly from a hospital for mentally ill people. Radio La Colifata - "crazy one" - was created 15 years ago to help patients relate better to the real world and feel that they were being heard by and connected to the public.

The program is live for 4 hours every Saturday. It is also heard on over 30 internet radio stations.

People recover their dignity by being productive as they play music, do interviews, read poetry and tell stories.
<http://lacolifata.openware.biz/index.cgi> (in Spanish)

Tidbits of Trivia

- the first woman to sail around the world by herself was Naomi James - June 8, 1978, 272 days, 53 ft. yacht.
- when flying from London to New York by the now retired Concorde, due to the time zones crossed, you could arrive 2 hours before you left
- about 30,000 pounds of Vaseline are used every day in the USA

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Toronto, Canada

o.schmidt@accentonskills.com

- "brain branding" is a marketing tool used by advertisers to determine consumers' needs. This could lead to neuroscience - assisted advertising. We may not want to feel good about a brand but our brains will be manipulated to make us like it.
- Hallmark makes cards for 105 different relationships.
- having an organized and neat house can save about 40% of the time when cleaning needs to be done.
- about 12% of stay-at-home parents are men. This is up from about 2% , 30 years ago.

Interesting Reading

Canadian Authors Association Literary Awards (awards and recipients, Read only the best.) <http://www.canauthors.org/awards/awards.html>

Pause: Putting the Brakes on a Runaway Life by Katherine Gibson. Bringing peace, pauses and breaks into life and ways to get out of the doldrums. Just breathe.

The Art of War by Sun Tsu. Strategies against opponents that apply to our own lives.

What is the What by Dave Eggers. Story of a real-life hero refugee from the Sudanese civil war.

Wedding Joke Backfires

At most weddings, the vows are exchanged with no problems. At an Austrian civil ceremony, the bride - as a joke - said "No." The official stopped the ceremony and refused to reverse his decision, despite the bride's pleas and crying. The couple had to again go through the whole process which took 2 1/2 months. Be careful!!



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The Most Annoying Buzz Words

(from Metro Toronto News)

Business executives list their most annoying buzz words:

- “outside-the-box”
- “synergy”
- “the big idea”
- “ROI (return on investment)”
- “paradigm shift”
- “strategy”
- “integrated solution”
- “customer-centric”
- “voice of the customer”
- “critical mass”
- “make it pop”
- “take it to the next level”
- “innovation”
- “organic growth”

Do you have any of your own?

Send them to us.

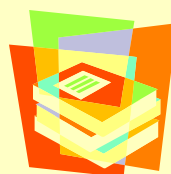
Buzz Word Dictionary

<http://www.buzzwhack.com/>

Funny Company Buzz Words

<http://www.ahajokes.com/off13.html>

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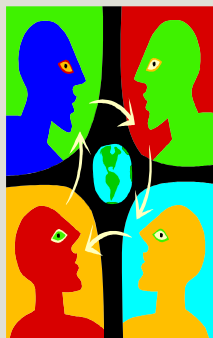
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Favorite Foods and Trends in 2007

(from an article by Amy Pataki in the Toronto Star)

Food trends suggest that 2007 will be a very interesting year. Here are some of the suggested favorites that people may be munching across North America:

- Tapas
- Malaysian food (the Malaysian government is even opening 8,000 restaurants around the world to advertise the food)
- Indonesian food
- High-end Greek and Japanese street food
- Salt (colored, rock, grey, volcanic, vanilla)
- Organic butter, homemade bread, aged sausages
- Olfactory cuisine (burning Rosemary branches, thematic scents, eating in darkness with hands, blind-folded wait staff)
- Fish and chips
- Quince, Jerusalem artichokes, caraway
- Herbal teas, sake
- Small servings - teeny portions at reduced prices

Norway's "Doomsday Vault" of Seeds (from a news report on CBC Radio)

Norway wants to build a special vault inside an Arctic island mountain to hold seeds from all over the world. A cave on Spitsbergen Island will be dug to withstand catastrophes like nuclear war or natural disasters that would destroy our sources of food.

Collection is being organized by the Global Crop Diversity Trust. Copies of seeds in existing world collections and others will be stored. The idea is to have a back-up in case of disaster.

There are about 1,400 seed banks around the world today, but many are in countries that are politically unstable or face natural threats of destruction in the environment.

The work is anticipated to start in 2008. Permafrost to ensure temperatures below freezing, metre-thick reinforced concrete walls, airlocks, and blast-proof doors will hopefully protect the precious contents.

The number of seeds of seeds expected to be stored there is unknown. The types of plants, as well, will be only be determined by the countries that contribute to the bank.

Related Article http://www.treehugger.com/files/2005/06/norway_seed_ban.php

Inside a Seed Bank Operation <http://lists.ibiblio.org/pipermail/permaculture/1997-March/000053.html>

We welcome creative contributions to this newsletter. Send us your articles or ideas, jokes, wise words, fun activities, letters, trivia.
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Back issues link is on the DT home page

Educators of the Gifted Organization

(EdGO) Toronto, Canada

[FORMERLY Educators of the Gifted of Ontario -Teachers Association for the Gifted of Ontario (EDGOTAGO)]

We are affiliated with the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children.

Our mandate: assist those who educate gifted children in public, separate, private schools, & home schooling. Teachers in regular classrooms with gifted children, gifted program administrators/coordinators & facilitators, and home schooling parents are encouraged to register with us.

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We can assist in many areas of gifted education.

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Visit our site: WWW.EDGOTAGO.COM

Mini Cooper Owners Get Special Attention

(from an article by Barnaby Feder-Toronto Star)

Mini owners are a fiercely proud group of car devotees. There is a real "tribal" feeling among them that causes them to be strong supporters of the brand.

With this in mind, a US company is engaged in an experiment in 4 cities to honor the owners. A small computer chip in the car signals to a billboard when the car is approaching. The billboard creates "personalized, playful, and unexpected messages" just for that owner! "Mike, the special of the day is speed." or "Mary, moving at the speed of justice." Birthday greetings, and the names people have given their cars will also be displayed.

To get the service, Mini owners filled in a questionnaire and that information is used to generate the messages.

Concerns about marketing integrated into the product, road safety, gaining rabid loyalty in this manner are still to be dealt with.

How do you feel about being tagged and followed around wherever you drive?

<http://blogs.automobilemag.com/1008718/features/clever-advertising-mini-motorby-billboards/index.html>

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Jokes of the Month

A man entered a pun contest. He hoped that one of the ten that he submitted would win something. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

In football you wear a helmet; in baseball you wear a cap. Football is concerned with downs; baseball is concerned with ups. In football you receive a penalty; in baseball you make an error. In football the specialist comes in to kick; in baseball the specialist comes in to relieve somebody. (George Carlin)

This greasy spoon restaurant was so bad, on the menu there were even flies in the pictures. (Richard Lewis)

Last year, I deducted 10,697 cartons of cigarettes as a business expense. The tax man said, "Don't ever let us catch you without a cigarette in your hand." (Dick Gregory)

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speaker, teacher, instructor,
author, radio show host

<http://www.familyground.com>

416-557-6659

Stephen@familyground.com

What Will They Invent Next?

Electronic Erasable Paper. Xerox Company is experimenting with a photocopying process that uses light to put words on paper. In combination with the special ink, the words fade out within 24 hours and the paper can then be reused. It is estimated that about 40% of all paper gets thrown away on the same day it is used. This would be a great saving for companies as well as the environment.

<http://www2.parc.com/hsl/projects/gyricon/>

Wise Words of Wisdom

"There is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it." - Alfred Hitchcock

"To him who is afraid, everything rustles." - Sophocles

"Where there is no imagination, there is no horror." - Arthur Conan Doyle

"Calamity is the test of integrity." - Samuel Richardson

"It is easy to be tolerant of the principles of other people if you have none of your own." - Herbert Samuel

Even when opportunity knocks, you must get off your seat to open the door.

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