

After-School Activities of Gifted Children

(by O.S.)

Some of the interesting things that gifted children do after school:

- Join school clubs and teams or start their own. This kind of activity encourages development of leadership skills. Clubs started outside of the school encourages community involvement.
- write for school newspapers. This is a good way for gifted children to express themselves freely. It also encourages social interaction, leadership and development of related skills such as photography, design and interviewing. It is a safe and easy way to be almost as creative as they want.
- run small businesses (website design, computer repair, jewelry making, etc.) They can use their skills

freely in a competitive market situation. This real-life, higher speed component can be a good balance to the slower pace they often get in school.

- many do extensive volunteering. Volunteering encourages being of service to others. Working with many different kinds of people will also help in their personality development. It can perhaps help take the edge off the "nerdiness" some gifted kids exhibit.
- mentoring positions. It is vital that gifted children who are highly expert in some area or field meet others, especially adults established in the field, who can share their interests meaningfully and take them further in their learning.
- work at leadership camps or clubs for small children. Leadership, creativity, problem-solving, social skills must be enhanced and enriched when working with very young children.
- student council and other political involvement, activist group leadership.

These involve real-life experiences that test all areas of the personality.

- internet message board/chat room hosts or directors. This is an interesting way of developing good communication skills with people possibly from around the world.
- If a gifted child is particularly expert in an area, some consider setting up an internet for-profit instructional course for the public.

Amazing Websites

Variable Speed of Light Theory (is nothing exact?)

<http://www.innsite.com/inns/B009030.html>

Conspiracy World (who wants to take over what and cheat whom) <http://www.innsite.com/inns/B009030.html>

Pillow Fighting League (girls only) <http://www.gopfl.com/>

Unusual Hotels of the World (truly amazing!!)

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

Underwater Photo Galleries(sunken ships of the world)

<http://www.hazegray.org/features/>

Unusual Foods in the World

<http://www.thetravellerslounge.co.uk/food&drink/unusualfoods.htm>

Stupidest Tattoos in the World

<http://www.wallstreetfighter.com/2007/01/lifetime-of-embarrassment-worlds.html>

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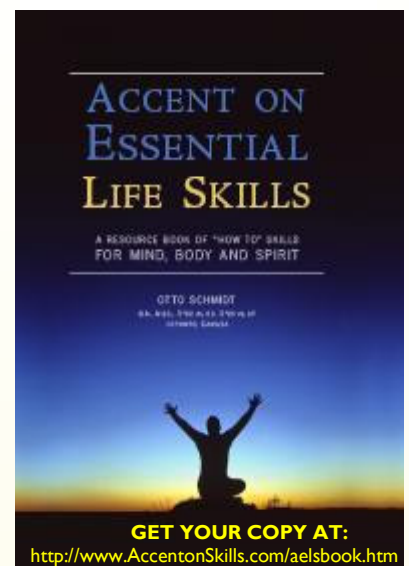
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News and Views

Let's Celebrate!

May 2 – Full moon tonight
May 3 – Sun Day, World Press Freedom Day
May 6 – Nurses Day
May 9 – National Teacher's Day
May 13 – Mother's Day
May 17 – World Telecommunication Day
May 21 – World Day for Cultural Development
May 21 – Victoria Day
May 25 – Africa Day
May 26 - National Day for Healing and Reconciliation - Canada
May 27 - Pentecost
May 28 - World Communication Day
May 29 – International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
May 31 – World No-Tobacco Day
May 31 – Full moon tonight
This is also National Tuberos Sclerosis Awareness Month

Getting Addicted to Positive Energy

(from Jon Gordon, Energy Coach)

Living life in a positive way is one of the best addictions you can ever have. Here is how to get it:

1. **Smile More** - increase serotonin in the brain and make others smile too.
2. **Give Compliments** - share them sincerely with others. Make yourself and others feel good.
3. **Write a Success Journal** - write down the one best thing that happened to you in the day. Focus on success which will increase motivation for more success.
4. **Take a Thank You Walk** - each day think about all the things you should be thankful for. Set up for a day of positive energy.
5. **Read Positive Tips, Quotations, Inspirational Words** - start the day with optimism, hope and energy.

Daily Motivators <http://greatday.com/motivate/>

Jon Gordon Energy Coach <http://www.jongordon.com/>

Ants May Help Solve Traffic Gridlock

(from a variety of sources)

As traffic gridlock becomes an ever growing problem, researchers are desperately looking for solutions. One way is designing new road systems that might reduce or eliminate the problem. Ants may be part of that solution.

Researchers in England studied how ants find their way back to the nest and came up with some interesting findings. Outward trails always have a fork at a 60° angle. Imagine a Y. Ants leaving the nest find two trails that angle at about 30°. On the way home they follow a gentle veering trail that always leads home. This is similar to the Roman road system that led to Rome.

The above information, however, does not solve the problem in existing cities. Here are some ideas:

- develop a system of small towns or cities that are strictly industrial or work centers and outside of the downtown cores.. They would be apart but in easy commute distance from each other.

- emerging video and computer technology may be part of the solution to better control stoplights or other signage.

Multiagent Intersection Traffic Management System

<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/kdresner/2004aamas/>

Picking the Perfect Pet

(from an article by Cheryl Wallach, Check-Up magazine)

Creating a new relationship within your life can be a challenge, especially if it is with a pet. Here are some things to consider when deciding whether or not to get one:

Time - will you give time for regular care of the pet?

Space - will the animal be relatively free to live an active life inside and outside the home?

Money - are there enough funds for regular upkeep, food, accessories, medical attention, etc.?

Children - will they be safe with the animal around and able to share in the upkeep?

History - is it the right breed with the right temperament and also the right kind of pet for the situation?

Future - will the animal still be wanted when grown up?

Your Needs - a lap pet? companion? protection?

Computer Top Tip

Always disconnect from the internet if your computer

is going to idle or you are doing internal work over a long time. It reduces the chances of unwanted entry, spying, information mining.

Some recommended protection:

AVG Antivirus 7.5 (free with almost daily updates) <http://www.grisoft.com>

Ad-Aware (free spy checker, regular updates) <http://www.lavasoft.com/> (see site top right side for free edition download)

McDonalds Versus the Dictionary

In the news recently it was mentioned that McDonald's is petitioning dictionary publishers in Britain to change the definition of "McJob". It appears to be serious business.

The current definition includes low-paying, unstimulating and offering few chances of advancement. McDonalds finds this to be derogatory. The 67,000 employees deserve better. The definition, it is suggested, does not reflect the reality of the jobs.

The company points out that their employees have a respectable role in the work world. Their jobs teach valuable skills. The prejudice exhibited hurts their people who are with talents, skills and abilities and are hardworking.

If this goes through, the world will no doubt have to find another word to adequately describe jobs that are low-level. How about "Joe Jobs". Oops! Joes of the world will probably protest then.

- there are over 256,000 sweat glands in the human foot. This is more than any other spot on the body.
- good quality running shoes can go through 300 pairs of hands during the manufacturing process.
- salt is used in over 14,000 products.
- Goderich, Ontario,

Tidbits of Trivia

Canada, has the biggest and deepest salt mine in the world - Sifto Salt.

- in a lifetime, the average person walks the equivalent of 4 times around the earth.

- five-pin bowling was invented in Toronto, Canada around 1909 by Thomas F. Ryan.

- a spa for men near Orangeville, Ontario, Canada offers

beer-based scrubs and pedicures while sipping a brew.

<http://www.innsite.com/inns/B009030.html>

- 96% of methamphetamine users become addicts. Only about 6% are able to get off using it. It can produce addiction n the first try and is so strong that it creates a "Swiss cheese" like effect in parts of the brain.

The Billionaire's List

(from an article by Stephen Summer, The Epoch Times)

There are almost a thousand billionaires in the world according to Forbes magazine. This is unprecedented in history.

Bill Gates is still No. 1 and is worth about \$56 billion. The first two spots are held by Americans but from three to five are held by corporate leaders in Mexico—telecom giant—\$49 billion, Sweden—Ikea head—\$33 billion, and India—steel magnate—\$32 billion.

The list grew by 178 new members and includes 53 nations.

Japan has been overtaken by India which has 36 billionaires worth about US\$200 billion.

The US has the most with 415 billionaires.

Howard Schultz of Starbucks Coffee ranked No. 840 with a fortune of \$1.1 billion.

The Secret

<http://www.prosperitysecrets.com/hunt.htm>

Interesting Reading

We Were Not the Savages by Dr. Daniel N. Paul. Acquire a better understanding of the history, hopes and aspirations of First Nations Peoples.

New York Times Best 10 Fiction Books of 2006

Absurdistan by Gary Shteyngart. (frustrated, oddball son of a wealthy Russian is stuck between the US and Russia and trying to get a visa to go home)

The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel (funny short stories of our longings & insecurities)

The Emperor's Children By Claire Messud (comedy involving 3 friends and their lives)

The Lay of the Land By Richard Ford (authentic life-size, troubled hero on holiday)

Special Topics in Calamity Physics By Marisha Pessl (murder mystery)

Falling Through the Earth: A Memoir By Danielle Trussoni (rough life of a girl who lives on the wrong side of the tracks)

The Looming Tower Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 By Lawrence Wright (world of Osama Bin Laden and the attempts to stop him)

Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War By Nathaniel Philbrick (Plymouth colony people, events, tragedies)

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals By Michael Pollan (being able to eat anything means choices and anxiety. Origins of four meals.)

The Places in Between By Rory Stewart (first tourist in Afghanistan post Taliban)

A Lost Opportunity for Forgiveness

(from an article by David Haskell, Toronto Star)

On September 11th, many people remember the 9/11 attacks in 2001 on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the USA.

Despite the passing of time, many people are aware that things have changed for the worse. The world is more fearful and hateful.

President Bush spoke to the nation and promised there would be “unyielding anger” and reassured the American people of the resolve to punish those responsible. Retribution would be inevitable, swift and severe.

What if instead of the War on Terror, Bush had let his Christian faith guide his actions? What if he had said “we forgive you” instead of “we will find you?”

Critics would suggest that anything like this statement would have led to riots in the street and Bush would have had to fear for his life. Enemy states would have seen it as weakness and prepared more attacks.

Haskell, the writer of this original article, suggests it would have led to the most significant shift ever toward world peace! You judge.

Psychologists, communication and cultural theorists have long known about “cognitive dissonance”. “It is the mental and emotional discomfort people feel when confronted with a discrepancy between what they say they believe and the actions they are performing.” A person either changes his/her belief to fit the actions or changes the actions to fit the belief. Most people have a strong need for consistency between the two and cannot stay in cognitive dissonance for very long.

About 85% of Americans are considered Christians and 9 of 10 say their faith is very strong or fairly important in their lives. They believe that forgiveness to those who do harm is part of their faith.

According to cognitive dissonance principles, people who heard the President forgive would have been strongly compelled to support and join in his action or abandon the strongest element of their faith! They might have taken their faith more seriously and instead of just hearers of the word, they might have become doers of the word. Love for one’s enemies would have been difficult but consistent with their belief systems.

Terrorists are not serial killers or mass murderers who commit crimes for personal emotional rushes. Most have a strong ethical code and know and respect the value of life. Who they kill are perceived as less than human.

The words of forgiveness would have proven terrorists wrong. Their rationale for the terrorism would have been invalidated. It is said that one is most human when one is most humane. Forgiveness is one of the greatest examples of a sense of love and humanity.

Upon Bush’s forgiveness, enemies of America all over the world would have suffered immediate cognitive dissonance and would have been forced to admit the humanity of the Americans they killed.

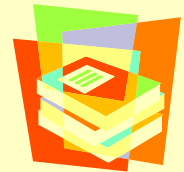
One offer of forgiveness would not have solved all the American problems. The offer, it is felt by Haskell, would, however, have changed the world to the good. Perhaps the moral superiority would have done more to bring about peace than the military superiority that is still not enough to do that.

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Books and Babies

(from an article by Ann Douglas, in City Parent)

Australian and American researchers have learned that toddlers as young as 2 years can learn to replicate a process after seeing the process being done in a sequence of real-life photos in a book.

Symbols or inexact drawings make the learning more difficult especially with younger and younger children. Real photos, however, work because the child does not have to make a link between a symbol and the real thing.

Nov 5, 2006 issue of Developmental Psychology article
<http://www.apa.org/journals/releases/dev4261352.pdf>



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Educators of the Gifted Organization (EdGO)

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

Toronto, Canada

Our mandate: assist educators of gifted children in public, separate, private schools, & home schooling.

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(COLUMN 4 ON THE HOME PAGE)

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Jokes of the Month

A woman goes horse back riding. It starts out slow, but then the horse starts to gallop. The woman is enjoying herself but all of a sudden she slips off and her foot gets caught in the stirrups. The horse doesn't stop and the woman is still being dragged upside down. She doesn't know what to do. Finally the Wal-Mart manager comes and unplugs the machine.

88888

Q: What do you find up clean noses? A:Fingerprints!

88888

A lady came up to me on the street and pointed at my suede jacket. 'You know a cow was murdered for that jacket?' she sneered. I replied in a psychotic tone, 'I didn't know there were any witnesses. Now I'll have to kill you too.'

What Will They Invent Next?

Form Fitting Door

This smart door has a series of narrow horizontal panels that senses and opens only as far as the exact size and shape of a body or object entering. This saves energy that usually escapes when a solid door is fully opened and can also prevent dirt, dust, leaves, etc. from blowing into a room.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1129528-1,00.html>

Wise Words of Wisdom

Cool jobs go to cool people...Experience finds those that explore the unexplained. Enlightenment shines its light on those who travel to dark places. – Stuart Knight

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. - Socrates

Women inspire us to great things, and prevent us from achieving them.-Dumas

The great question... which I have not been able to answer... is, "What does a woman want? - Sigmund Freud

A smile is a curvy thing that straightens everything out.

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