

## Spirituality and Giftedness

(Part 1, Adapted from:  
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/flames/spirituality/themes/0728kids.pdf>)

Gifted children are often highly sensitive, intuitive and aware. There is a need to address this spiritual side of their lives.

### Children need:

to **experience** colour and beauty deeply.

**stories** from the wisdom of old and from wise people who live a meaningful life today.

**music** that comes from the love within themselves, the earth, others and in the form of dance, poetry or song.

**movement** through games, touching and other interac-

tion with elements of the earth and sky filled with spiritual energy and wonder.

to **get their hands dirty** and make stuff that they can identify with. Whoever invented the desk in a classroom never experienced the wonder of a child ploughing through a pile of leaves and smelling the sacred scent of soil and decay and life itself.

Part 2, Rachel Kessler has exceptional insights and ideas about adolescents and spirituality and finding the gateways to the soul. Here are her ideas:

**Meaning and Purpose** can be found in community service and by analyzing teaching stories.

**Silence** is rarely used but is extremely effective in engaging spirituality.

**Joy** and expressing gratitude. Sharing pain is not the only way to find human connection.

**Creativity** is a gateway. It is often stifled as children get older and artistic expression dies.

**Transcendence** or moments of exhilaration when one goes beyond personal limits. **Initiation** rites of passage are important as children move into adulthood.

**Deep Connections** to self, others, history, life, traditions.

Kessler suggests that spirituality cannot be totally separated from faith.

### Nourishing Students in Secular Schools

<http://www.passageways.org/Resources/nourishing%20articleASCD-7-05.pdf>

### Exercises to Develop Spirituality in Children

<http://www.susankramer.com/spirituality.html>

### History of the Study of Children's Spirituality and Religion

<http://childspirituality.org/nazarene/historyofchildfaith.pdf>

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### Amazing Websites

#### International String Figure Association

<http://www.isfa.org/>

#### Street Mattresses (photos of what people throw out)

<http://www.streetmattress.com/sm.php>

#### The Death Test (how long will you live)

<http://community.sparknotes.com/death/>

#### Modiface (see how you look with other hair, lips, etc.)

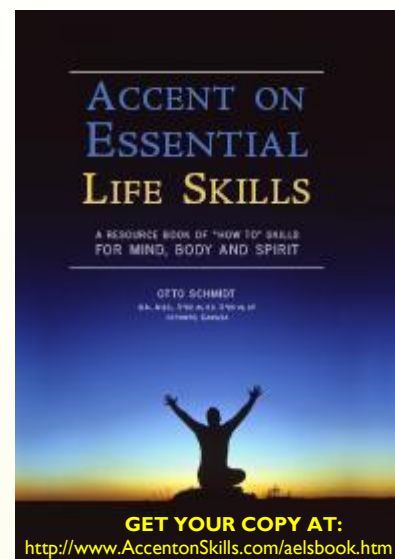
<http://modiface.com/>

#### Museum of Questionable Medical Devices (fraud and just weird stuff)

<http://www.mtn.org/quack/welcome.htm>

#### World Kite Museum

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



GET YOUR COPY AT:

<http://www.AccentonSkills.com/aelsbook.htm>

## News and Views

July 1 – Canada Day

July 1-8 – National Fishing Week

First Sat – International Day of Cooperatives

July 7 11 World Population Day

July 18 – World Youth Day

**We welcome contributions  
to this newsletter - articles or  
ideas, jokes, wise words,  
creative efforts,  
letters, trivia.**

**Email:**

**[GiftRap@DiscoverTeenergy.com](mailto:GiftRap@DiscoverTeenergy.com)**

### National Magazine Awards 2007

Congratulations go to Toronto-based "The Walrus" won the prestigious National Magazines Awards award for the second year in a row as Magazine of the Year. It received 50 honours overall in medals and honourable mentions.

It is published 10 times a year.

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

### Saving the Planet (by O.S.)

Here are a few ideas to save our planet that may sound a little daffy but give them some thought anyway:

1. Date and entertain locally within bike and/or walking distance.
2. Grow your own food in pots and plastic containers.
3. Buy in bulk food stores to reduce packaging and over purchasing.
4. Use both sides of a sheet of paper. Use a smaller font size and use grey-scale instead of black to reduce the amount of ink used.
5. Go to garage sales for purchases and hold your own instead of throwing out perfectly useable goods.
6. If you have a good quality pen, buy refills for it instead of throwing it out.
7. Keep old batteries in a box and take them to a hazardous waste recycling plant. Be a center for your neighbourhood.
8. Refill plastic water bottles. Better yet, get a good solid one and use it instead of throwing out countless plastic bottles that don't get recycled.
9. Learn to fix things instead of always throwing them out.
10. Use air conditioners sparingly. Keep curtains closed to keep out heat.
11. Have a walk to school with your kids each day. Don't chauffeur them.
12. Look after your car. Repairs are often cheaper than buying a new or used one.
13. Buy foods made closer to home. Save energy used in shipping from afar.
14. Don't start your car until the last second when you are strapped in, brake released, and all is ready to go. Saves idling and gas.
15. Use full strength vinegar to kill weeds and to clean your kitchen.
16. Use email and telephone instead of snail mail.

**Blossoming Minds**

[www.blossomingminds.ca](http://www.blossomingminds.ca)  
[mail@blossomingminds.ca](mailto:mail@blossomingminds.ca)  
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**Computer Top Tip**

Both MS PowerPoint and MS Publisher have Master Pages that can be designed and used on all future pages. The wording, colours, designs, pictures, etc. will all stay on the next pages. Then add new text boxes to any page. Go to "View" and find the "Master Page". <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/workessentials/>

**Noteworthy Scientific Studies**

(from sciene news by Peter Calami, Toronto Star)

**Familiarity and Repetition**

American scientists suggest that the sometimes significant influence of shock-jocks and doctrinaire newspaper writers can be explained. If people hear an opinion repeatedly by the same person, they begin to believe that it is a popularly held opinion or belief. Listeners have an increased sense of familiarity and trust. (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology)

**Increased Danger Online**

Everybody has seen the little yellow padlock on computer screens. This is a security indicator suggesting that your credit card use is safe from prying eyes.

The security depends on the inability to calculate a 1,024 bit composite number behind the encryption. There are two prime numbers multiplied together that create the composite (e.g. 87 X 61). However, by factoring (looking at all the numbers to multiply or divide into a number without a remainder) the number can be broken down.

New computers are getting faster and faster. Clustering of computers and multiplying the effort has resulted in a 307-digit number being broken down into its two component numbers in 11 months. That is roughly a century of individual computer time.

Quantum Computing in Waterloo, Canada is working on developing computers that make today's seem like adding machines. What about security then?

<http://www.cs.caltech.edu/~westside/quantum-intro.html>

- there are 6000 windows that get cleaned on the Empire State Building.  
- Anousheh Ansari 2006 --- 1st female "space tourist," on September 18, 2006, she paid \$20 million to ride on the Russian Soyuz TMA-9 capsule. also: 1st Iranian in space and 1st Muslim woman in

**Tidbits of Trivia**

space.  
- an acre of coffee trees produces about 10,000 pounds of coffee cherries. That amounts to approximately 2000 pounds of beans after hulling or milling.  
- after roasting, and when coffee beans begin to cool, they release about 700 chemical substances that make up the aromas.

- Coffee is grown commercially in over forty-five countries throughout the world.  
- Coffee is the most popular beverage worldwide with over 400 billion cups consumed each year.  
- Coffee lends its popularity to the fact that just about all flavors mix well with it.  
- there are more than 100 offenses that carry the death penalty in Iran.

**Creative Homes and Other Buildings (by O.S.)**

For inspiration to create truly unique and unusual homes, designers look to caves, fairy tales, modern art, whimsy and just plain free-flow explosions of strange ideas.

There is no limit to the artistic ability and imaginations of some people. The risk taking is worthy of honor.

See these sites for inspiration to build something other than a box.

**Unusual Homes**

<http://www.seattledreamhomes.com/PageManager/Default.aspx/PagelD=308601&NF=1>

[http://www.realtor.org/rmo/unusualprops\\_slideshow/unusualprops.html](http://www.realtor.org/rmo/unusualprops_slideshow/unusualprops.html)

**Free Spirit Spheres**

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

**Interesting Reading**

These wacky titles are real books:

**The Stray Shopping Carts of Eastern North America: A Guide to Field Identification**

by Julian Montague. A mock-scientific taxonomy of kinds of lost shopping carts.

**Tattooed Mountain Women and Spoon Boxes of Daghestan** by Robert Chenciner, Gabib Ismailov, Magomedkhan Magomedkhanov and Alex Binnie.

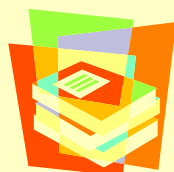
**How Green Were the Nazis?** by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, Thomas Zeller

**Proceedings of the Eighteenth International Seaweed Symposium**

<http://www.esquire.com/the-side/link/diagramprize-6>

## Cover N' Pages

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### Other Commandments to Consider in Daily Life

(from an article by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, The Catholic Register)

- Don't be afraid to be afraid or appalled to be appalled. How do you think the trees feel these days, or the whales, or, for that matter, most humans?
- About practically everything in the world, there's nothing that you can do. This is Socratic wisdom. However. About a few things you can do something. Do it, with a good heart.
- On a long drive, there's bound to be a dull stretch or two. Don't go anywhere with someone who expects you to be interesting all the time. And don't be hard on your fellow travelers. Try to smile after a coffee stop.
- Practically no one has the stomach to love you, if you don't love yourself. They just endure. So do you.
- When traveling on an airplane, watch the movie, but don't use the earphones. Then you'll be able to see what's going on, but not understand what's happening and so you'll feel right at home, little different than you do on the ground.
- Know that sometimes the only writing material you have is your own blood.
- Start with the impossible. Proceed calmly toward the improbable. No worry, there are at least five exits.

Pope John Paul XXIII wrote these commandments:

- Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
- Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or discipline anyone except myself.
- Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.
- Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.
- Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.
- Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I will not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.
- Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness.

### "Accent on Essential Life Skills"

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# The 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.

**Register:** Teachers in regular classrooms with gifted children, gifted program administrators/coordinators & facilitators, and home schooling parents are encouraged to register with us. Give us your details and full contact information: [mail@edgo.ca](mailto:mail@edgo.ca)

**Communication:** Use our website resources, subscribe to our "Gifted Voice" newsletter, attend our conferences. We can assist in many areas of gifted education. Share your ideas and concerns as we are also a member of a government special education advisory committee. **Our website is:** [www.edgo.ca](http://www.edgo.ca)

## Twenty-six Stages of Death

<http://www.anomalies-unlimited.com/Death/Stages.html>

**NOTE: The following is not intended to offend or disrespect the dead. Please try to experience awe and wonder at the incredible powers and forces of nature as they operate naturally beyond our control.**

### **Moment of Death:**

- 1} The heart stops
- 2} The skin gets tight and grey in color
- 3} All the muscles relax
- 4} The bladder and bowels empty
- 5} The body's temperature will typically drop 1.5 degrees F. per hour unless outside environment is a factor. The liver is the organ that stays warmest the longest, and this temperature is used to establish time of death if the body is found within a time frame.

### **After 30 minutes:**

- 6} The skin gets purple and waxy
- 7} The lips, finger- and toe nails fade to a pale color or turn white as the blood leaves.
- 8} Blood pools at the lowest parts of the body leaving a dark purple-black stain called lividity
- 9} The hands and feet turn blue
- 10} The eyes start to sink into the skull

### **After 4 hours:**

- 11} Rigor mortis starts to set in
- 12} The purpling of the skin and pooling of blood continue
- 13} Rigor Mortis begins to tighten the muscles for about another 24 hours, then will reverse and the body will return to a limp state.

### **After 12 hours:**

- 14} The body is in full rigor mortis.

### **After 24 hours:**

- 15} The body is now the temperature of the surrounding environment
- 16} In males, the semen dies
- 17} The head and neck are now a greenish-blue color
- 18} The greenish-blue color continues to spread to the rest of the body
- 19} There is the strong smell of rotting meat
- 20} The face of the person is essentially no longer recognizable

### **After 3 days:**

- 21} The gases in the body tissues form large blisters on the skin
- 22} The whole body begins to bloat and swell grotesquely. This process is speeded up if the victim is in a hot environment, or in water
- 23} Fluids leak from the mouth, nose, eyes, ears and rectum and urinary opening

### **After 3 weeks:**

- 24} The skin, hair, and nails are so loose they can be easily pulled off the corpse
- 25} The skin cracks and bursts open in many places because of the pressure of Internal gases and the breakdown of the skin itself
- 26} Decomposition will continue until the body is nothing but skeletal remains, which can take as little as a month in hot climates and two months in cold climates. The teeth are often the only thing left, years and centuries later, because tooth enamel is the strongest substance in the body. The jawbone is the densest, so that usually will also remain.



# **4TH Annual EDGO Conference**

## **“Choices in Gifted Education”**

(formerly Educators of the Gifted of Ontario – Teachers Association of the Gifted of Ontario)

**Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, 9AM – 3:30 PM**

**Location: Martingrove Collegiate Institute, 50 Winterton Drive  
Etobicoke, ON (Eglinton Ave. & Hwy 427), lots of free parking**

**A) Academic/Theory/Research**

**and**

**B) Curriculum Enhancement  
for all who work with gifted children  
and high achievers**

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**Registration Deadline: Wed., Nov. 27, 2007**

**\$75/person (includes membership)**

**Published by:  
Otto Schmidt**

*Gifted Programming Consultant*

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**Stephen Dubrofsky**

**speaker, teacher, instructor,**

**author, radio show host**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Jokes of the Month

A grandmother is watching her grandchild playing on the beach when a huge wave comes and takes him out to sea. She pleads, "please God, save my only grandson. I beg of you, bring him back." And a big wave comes and washes the boy back onto the beach, good as new. She looks up to heaven and says: "He had a hat!" (Myron Cohen)

Two guys are walking down the street when a mugger approaches and demands their money. They both pull out their wallets and begin taking out their cash. Just then one guy turns to the other and hands him a bill. "Here's that \$20 I owe you," he says.

A guy joins a monastery and takes a vow of silence: he's allowed to say two words every seven years. After the first seven years, the elders bring him in and ask for his two words. "Cold floors," he says. They nod and send him away. Seven more years pass. They bring him back in and ask for his two words. He clears his throats and says, "Bad food." They nod and send him away. Seven more years pass. They bring him in for his two words. "I quit," he says. "That's not surprising," the elders say. "You've done nothing but complain since you got here."

## What Will They Invent Next?

### Instant Street Assistance

In downtown Tokyo, anybody can get earphones and a portable media player to access embedded computer chips located in the city. Information is on directions, stores in the area, historical trivia. Eventually once perfected, it will be possible to zap information to passersby at any time. There will be visual maps, audio explanations, photos, and guides for many kinds of disabled people. The service will be in many languages for tourists. Enter a store and be greeted.

Ubiquitous Technology Project <http://www.tokyo-ubina.jp/en/ginza.html>

## Wise Words of Wisdom

Failure is not the opposite of success. Failure is an important component of success.

"Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph; a beginning, a struggle and a victory." - Mahatma Gandhi

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." - Michael Jordan

"Govern thy life and thoughts as if the whole world were to see the one and read the other." - Thomas Fuller

"If a man hasn't found something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Quality for sheep is what the shepherd says....Deep down we all know what is good. - from Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.

**TO ADVERTISE ON OUR WEBSITES AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER  
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