

GIFT RAP

NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2008 Volume 8 Edition I

Working with "Severely" Gifted Children

(by O.S.)

In over 30 years of working with gifted children, the most interesting people to work with are what I jokingly call "severely" gifted. The "wow factor" is there!

They stick out only too clearly with their brilliance and present some of the greatest challenges in education. Meeting their needs is often very difficult in educational systems teaching to a norm.

Many "average" people get intimidated by someone who may be at a super genius level. It is even more difficult when that genius is a child.

There are many responses that people have toward highly gifted chil-

dren: acceptance, wonder, intimidation, jealousy, qualified judgment, dismissal, acceptance on a quaintness level, disbelief, shock, quiet determination to stay calm.

Here are some examples of "severely" gifted children:

- a 12 year old Iranian boy who came to Canada in the late 1990's. In Iran, a selection process finds the top 100 girls and top 100 boys to go to a special school. He had the highest scores out of both groups! His reports showed that he took 14 courses a year with almost perfect marks in each. He was assessed and operated at just below university level.
- a high school girl was a super whiz at computers.

She designed a school board website and did private work for clients. She is presently a software engineer with Google.

- a high school girl was off for over a year with a debilitating disease. After recovering and returning to school, she got caught up with all her work in a very short time and continued with top marks afterward.

- an exceptionally brilliant teen girl was on a TV talk show. She spoke in full sentences when she was about 8 months old. She was an accomplished musician. At age 15, her boyfriend was in his mid 20's because of maturity compatibility.

What can teachers and parents possibly do for these brilliant children?

1. Teach them personal thinking, researching, self-awareness, leadership, thinking skills instead of trying to find enough knowledge and facts to keep them happy. Let them move themselves forward as fast as they can with guidance.
2. Find other intellectually equal peers, friends, mentors, and/or advisors.
3. Be prepared to possibly provide extra moral and emotional support especially in the early years.
4. Encourage them to stay humble through volunteering, charity work, mentoring others, etc.

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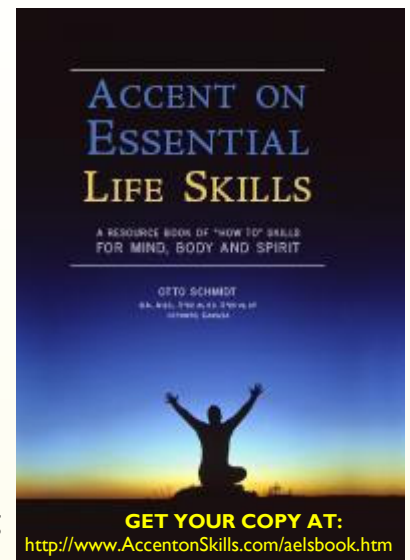
Journey of Mankind: The Peopling of the World (DON'T MISS THIS! video journey over 160,000 years)
<http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/journey/>

Free TV Shows Online
<http://www.free-tv-video-online.info/internet/>

Wall of the World (WOW! needs 65 million engraved names to become the 8th wonder of the world)
<http://www.walloftheworld.org/eng/>

Nature of Emotions (detailed chart of human emotions and our reactions caused by them)
<http://www.fractal.org/Bewustzijns-Besturings-Model/Nature-of-emotions.htm>

Puppets as Agents of Change
<http://www.wppuppet.com/pp2007.html>



News and Views

Let's Celebrate!

U.N. declared Int'l Year of the Potato

Jan 1 – Happy New Year

Jan 7 – Orthodox Xmas

Jan 11 – Sir John A. MacDonald's birthday
(1st Cdn Prime Minister - 1867)

Jan 20 - Muharram (Islamic New Year)

Jan 22 – Full Moon tonight

Jan 23 – Saddest Day of the Year
(winter, Xmas bills in, and more)

Jan 25 – Robbie Burns Day (Scotland)

Jan 27—Family Literacy Day

This is also Alzheimer's Awareness
Month, and March of Dimes Month

Honoring the Potato

(from the Toronto Star "Bites")

Potatoes have served as a staple food for centuries throughout the world. It is time to honour this often taken-for-granted nutritious vegetable.

In strategies to feed the poor, the potato should be getting far more attention. It is rich in carbohydrates, vitamin C, and proteins. It provides more nutrition, more quickly, on less land, in harsher climates, than any other major crop that people grow. It has the capability of feeding many in developing countries at low costs.

McCain Foods is the world's largest producer of French fries and potato related special foods. It has 60 production facilities on 6 continents and sells more than \$6 billion of products.

"If beef's the king of meat, potato's the queen of the garden world." *Irish Saying*

History of Potatoes

<http://whatscookingamerica.net/History/PotatoHistory.htm>

What is Time?

(by O.S.)

As a sacred mystery (one that has no answer), "time" ranks up there beside death, love and how they get the caramel into a Caramilk chocolate bar.

Most people tend to see time as something moving. It comes, is in the present and then flows on past. They imagine it as something that is abstract but active.

A few years ago, my family and I were in a northern Ontario city and went on a haunted tour led by the author of "Haunted Ontario", Terry Boyle, who has written several books on spirit sightings. Given that spirits seem to time travel, I asked him how he thought of time. His answer was fascinating.

He said that to him, time was a matter of layers. People of the past lived in their layers and we live presently in ours. Time, therefore, doesn't move. It just is. If you think about it from this point of view, there is a sudden and dramatic realization that we don't need to rush anymore. We just need to live and enjoy ourselves within our time layer. Realize that we invented moving time!

Relating his idea of time to spirits and ghosts, he suggested gaps or holes in the walls of the layers and that somehow the living energy of the person, still in existence in a different form, can cross the barriers and move into other layers. It was also suggested that we are

on the top layer because ghosts tend to be from the past and not the future. This man has talked directly to hundreds of people who have had experience with spirits.

The big question is before us. Are we humans learning to be spirits or are we spirits learning to be humans? Think about it.

Haunted Ontario Website

<http://www.hauntedontario.netfirms.com/>

What is Time?

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/t/time.htm>



Blossoming Minds
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Computer Top Tip

When cutting and pasting pictures, forms, etc. from the internet into a document, flyer, etc., sometimes the picture has a will of its own. It can't be moved or placed exactly where you want it or upsets other lines of text. Try this if you see solid black lines around a picture and black squares in the corners.

If in MS Word, go to "View" and click "Toolbars" and click "Drawing". A toolbar will open at the bottom (keep it there as it is very useful). Open a "Text Box" (a little 'A') in the document and paste the picture into the box. The box can now be moved around freely.

A second option is: highlight the picture, right click on the mouse, click "format picture", click "layout" and click "square". This removes formatting and allows free movement again. The picture should have small clear dots in the corners.

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- rats have belly buttons.
- the most popular name for a British baby is "Jack". Second— Mohammed.
- parents who adopt spend more money on their children than do biological parents.
- growing rhubarb in the dark and harvesting it by candlelight can make it

- Tidbits of Trivia**
- taste sweeter.
 - each year Britons ruin approx. 885,000 cell phones by dropping them into their toilet.
 - in a study of tonsillectomy operations, about 82% of post-operative bleeding happened close to the full moon rather than the new moon.
 - 4 year old poor children will

- have heard about 13 million words. Children in affluent homes will have heard about 45 million.
- The most popular dog names are: Max, Molly, Buddy, Bella, Lucy. Cats: Max, Chloe, Lucy, Tigger, Tiger. Top pet names that are also top 10 human baby names: Jacob (Jake), Bella, Sophia.
- over a lifetime, the average woman owns 111 purses.
- before filters and low-tar cigarettes in the 1950's, adenocarcinoma was one of the rarest of lung cancers. Today it is the most frequently diagnosed.

Family Time and the Media

A Vanier Institute of the Family report shows patterns of interaction within families:

- the average worker's time with the family is down 45 minutes.
- information once available only to adults is now available to kids who often have their own computers in their own rooms.
- TV use is down to about 3 hrs per day but the number of sets is up.
- 26% of toddlers have TV sets in their bedrooms.
- there is an increase in family members watching on their own and not together. They are also eating alone more.
- studies show that excessive TV watching can cause attention problems, impair cognitive development, increase aggressiveness in children.
- younger children often play video games for up to 3 hrs per day. Teens tend to socialize on the internet.
- 60% of teens have pretended to be someone else online.
- 30% of teens have used fake identities to explore the adult world away from supervisors.

Annual Report
http://www.vifamily.ca/about/annual_report_2006.pdf

Interesting Reading

How to Talk about Books You Haven't Read by Pierre Bayard

2008 Canada Reads Contest Finalists:

Lullabies for Little Criminals by Heather O'Neill.

A Complicated Kindness by Miriam Toews.

Brown Girl in the Ring by Nalo Hopkinson.

King Leary by Paul Quarrington.

From the Fifteenth District by Mavis Gallant.

Icefields by Thomas Wharton.

Not Wanted on the Voyage by Timothy Findley.

Cover N' Pages



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more

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the idea of ghosts and spirits suggest that time can be affected in some way.

There have been many experiments relating to time using human consciousness and also psychic powers. Pre-cognition and retro-cognition suggest the ability to see the past and future as if they coexist.

The following are provocative stimulators of thought about time:

The Philadelphia Experiment

On Oct. 28, 1943, time was manipulated. Apparently, the USS Eldridge, a naval destroyer, became totally invisible due to modified electrical fields around it (Einstein supposedly witnessed it). The ship reappeared 20 minutes later in Norfolk, 375 miles away. The ship gave off a greenish phosphorescent light. Sailors were mentally and physically ill, some burned, some stuck inside the walls and floors of the craft. What really happened nobody knows.

Chernobrov Time Machine

Starting in 1987, The Russian scientist Vadim Chernobrov used electromagnetic pumping devices and was able to create a magnetic impact that produced a time delay of about 1.5 seconds in an hour. In 2001, he used another machine to produce a slow down of about 10%. He and his assistants put themselves into the magnetic field and reported feeling like being in two distinct places at the same time.

Science suggests that time travel exists only if a particle goes faster than the speed of light. However, as that speed is neared, the mass of an object would increase so much that the barrier of speed could not be crossed. A proposal is that space-time deformations could produce "wormholes" that would allow crossing of the barrier.

Philadelphia Experiment

<http://skeptdic.com/philadel.html>

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq21-1.htm>

Chernobrov's Time Machine (photo)

<http://www.faraday.ru/content03.html>

Time Travel for Beginners

http://www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/home/John_Gribbin/timetrav.htm

Experiments with Time

(from an article by Leonardo Vintini, Epoch Times Argentina Staff)

Einstein believed that the distinction between the past, present and future was only an illusion. He also referred to "time" as the fourth dimension.

Think about this. If you never moved spatially in relation to height, width or depth, time could not be represented graphically. If our special coordinates never changed, we would simply exist in something that we have created called "time." We are, however, always at the mercy of time.

Is it possible to manipulate time? Science fiction writers intrigue us with the possibility of time machines and

We welcome creative contributions to this newsletter.

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Gifts from the World

(from an article by Leslie Scrivener, Toronto Star)

The gift giving is over now but those that have been given to the world by creative countries continue to give. Here are gifts we have received over the years from many countries:

England: Joseph Priestley, a chemist tried to replicate the effervescence of mineral springs and developed carbonated water found in soda, water, and pop.

Switzerland: unemployment insurance plans were first recorded there in 1789. It was for workers who were injured in industrial accidents.

Iran: simple windmills with sails were used in the 7th Century for irrigation and grinding of grain.

Egypt: the earliest toothbrushes were twigs with frayed ends. They were found in tombs dating to 3000 BC. They are still found in remote parts of the world. Bristle brushes were developed in China using stiff hairs of Siberian hogs.

Philippines: Francisco Quisumbing, a chemist, developed the quick drying ink used in fountain pens. Special fountain pens had to be invented to use this ink.

Hungary: Laszlo Biro, a Budapest proofreader and editor developed the first useful ballpoint pen. The rotating ball rolled quick drying ink onto the paper. Marcel Bich simplified the design and the Bic pen was introduced in the 1950's.

Greece: gave the world the idea of lawns found as early as 400 BC.

Norway: in 1899, the Norwegian inventor Johan Vaaler gave the world the paperclip.

Italy: gave us the gift of the modern highway. Two lanes were built in 1925 to encourage the purchase of cars. As early as 100 AD, Romans were leaders in traffic management, stop signs, one-way streets, and alternate side street parking.

Kazakhstan: (no not Borat!) Apples can be genetically traced back to a single species growing in the Tien Shan mountains.

France: gave us tennis which was first played by Medieval French monks batting a ball around in a courtyard. French aristocracy liked it.

Portugal: gave us port wine.

Sri Lanka: gave us the world's first elected woman prime minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike in the 1960's to the 1990's.

Japan: in 1958, we received instant noodles.

Educators of the Gifted Organization (EdGO)

Our mandate:

assist ALL who educate 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

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.

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Jokes of the Month

A young mother is pregnant again. One day the woman and her son are out shopping and a friend asks the little boy if he was excited about the new baby. "Oh, yes!" the little boy said. "And I know what mom and dad are going to name it, too. If it's a girl we're going to call it Mary, and if it's another boy we're going to call it Quits."

A teen-aged boy with spiked hair, nose ring and baggy clothes was overheard telling a friend... "I don't really like to dress like this, but it keeps my parents from dragging me everywhere with them."

"You're in amazing shape at 78, John." the doctor said. "How do you stay so healthy?" "Well, my wife and I made a deal. Whenever we fought she would go into the kitchen to cool down and I would go outside." "What does that have to do with it?" asked the doctor. "I spent a lot of time in the great outdoors."

What Will They Invent Next?

Fuelless Water Heater

With only the power of a small electric motor to turn a special turbine inside a boiler, water is pummeled and twisted and boiled into steam. It is claimed that the energy coming out is greater than the energy put into making the steam!! This goes contrary to scientific laws that state you can't get more out than what you put in.

See the video and decide for yourself.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh_-DUKQ4Uw&mode=related&search

Wise Words of Wisdom

It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test.—Elbert Hubbard

Property may be destroyed and money may lose its purchasing power, but character, health, knowledge and good judgment will always be in demand under all conditions.—Roger Babson

“The man with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.”—Mark Twain

“Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see too late the one that is open” - Alexander Graham Bell

“Running from your problems only increases the distance to the solution.” - Devin Peltier-Robson

You are not responsible for what people think about you. But you are responsible for what you give them to think about you.

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