

TGIF Advisory Minutes October 12, 2009

TGIF (The Gifted in Fremont) functions like a PTA for GATE parents and students, with Julie Williams serving as the district staff person to TGIF.

For more information on TGIF, visit www.tgifremont.org.

Minutes from TGIF Meeting on Monday, Oct. 12, 2009 at FUSD board room

AMC

For the first time, TGIF is facilitating GATE student participation in AMC—the American Math Competition. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades compete at one level, and students ninth through twelfth compete against one another. Gifted elementary students are also encouraged to participate, starting at fourth grade. Fourth and fifth grade take the same test as sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Information about the national competition is available on the AMC website. The number of students are limited per school, however, at some Fremont schools not enough students are participating in this national competition that offers awards and prizes. The test for fourth through sixth graders will be administered on Nov. 17 from 3:30 to 5 at the Fremont Unified School District office.

AMC has defrayed some of the expense, charging \$10 to register initially. Now that the initial deadline has passed, the cost is \$20. **Two days remain to register for the 4-8th grade test.** High school students have until Dec. 9 to register since the test will be given in February.

Visit www.tgifremont.org for enrollment forms. **The forms can be downloaded and must be submitted to the GATE office ASAP, by Wednesday 10/14.**

Summer Program Fair

TGIF is organizing an expanded Summer Program Fair on January 29 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at American High School with a range of vendors offering programs for summer enrichment and exploration. The fair will be open to the public and will also target students and their families from Union City and Milpitas .

The chairperson for the event emphasized that programs will fit all family finances, from free programs that may include local community service, to more expensive programs abroad. Vendors will likely represent tutorial programs, camping experiences, colleges locally and across the nation as well as organizations such as the International Children's Association that offers opportunities for students locally and in Asia . The fair is geared for parents who don't want to see their students waste time during the summer, but want their students to achieve and take on new experiences and gain a competitive edge, taking advantage of opportunities. Vendors will also represent the arts, music, study abroad and internships. Anyone interested in working with the committee chair should contact mhado@hotmail.com.

Gate Olympics

Gate Olympics is set for May 21, 2010, with the likely location at Washington High School . A new format used in 2009 generated more enthusiasm from GATE students, especially high school students since a variety of problem solving opportunities was presented through word, logic, and visual problems. Papers were graded and prizes were awarded. The event, held for more than 10 years, will happen from 7 to 8:30. Parents are needed to help set up and assist. Information is available on www.tgifremont.org.

Talent Show

The TGIF talent show and showcase is in danger of cancellation. Twenty-four parents have volunteered to assist with the show, however, a chairperson is needed to work with parents to establish the format, set a date, and arrange auditions, among other duties. Unless someone steps forward, TGIF will cancel the show. In the past, Fremont sent a prodigy to perform for the opening of the CAG conference, a statewide organization for gifted.

TGIF's Mission

The president of TGIF reviewed the mission of the organization to create opportunities for GATE students and communicate with parent members via representatives, meetings and newsletters. A community meeting for all GATE parents is set for Monday, Nov. 9 from 7 to 8:30 at the Fremont Unified School District.

Scholarships, Field Trips and Workshops

Information about grants and scholarships is available on the TGIF website and include a \$1,000 math scholarship with a Feb. 15 deadline and artistic scholarships ranging between \$10,000 and \$25,000 with a deadline of March 3, 2010.

A host of other opportunities include art and poetry contests, presidential service awards, science and technology awards, environmental projects. Students with a teacher and parents can write a grant request to fund a project at their school, such as the genetics fly breeding that occurred last at Warm Springs Elementary.

Workshop to assist students with SAT, PSAT and ACT strategies are also held. Students as young as seventh grade who take the SAT have received offers from colleges for full-ride scholarships. The College Board does not retain the scores for students under the age of 12 who take the SAT. Such universities as UC Berkley and Stanford have programs for talented young students and use these national tests as a way to recruit students to their programs.

Upcoming events

Nov. 20: Game Night
Jan. 29: Summer Program Fair
Feb. 19: Math Game Night
March 8: College Planning Night at FUSD
May 21: Gate Olympics
June 8: Gate Showcase, Awards and Ceremony

Field Trips

Nov. 11: King Tut and de Young Museum
Nov. 23: Monarch Butterfly Ed Tour
Jan. 18: Elephant Seals Ed Tour
Feb. 12: Labs at Monterey Bay/Aquarium (high school)
Feb. 15: Money, Finance and Economics (Federal Reserve)

Spring Break: Chemistry, Genetics, Physics, Electrical Engineering (among others and students must sign up for the entire week)

Field trip costs are \$58 and do not require a parent chaperone. There is still availability on all field trips. Sign ups are not yet posted for the January – February trips, but will be on the web site soon.

At the school site

Teachers are required to differentiate instruction. School Site Councils are required to update the SPA plan annually. Each school site must host a well-publicized meeting for GATE parents annually.

GATE testing

GATE testing for third graders will likely occur in February and March, over two months rather than one, in 2010. In 2009, GATE team of Julie Williams and Diane visited two school sites each day and a more workable plan is expected in 2010 with one school per day for Fremont 's 28 sites.

Information

Parents reported TGIF's Weekly Reminders as an invaluable source of information. TGIF info is available at their web site and through the Fremont Unified School District web site searching departments, then to GATE.

Minutes by Johnna Laird, D-21