



ABC PEEL NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Earlier this month, Gina Heisz resigned from the executive position of President of ABC Peel chapter, and David Croome has stepped down from active duties within ABC Peel. I, Lori D'Aquila was nominated by the executive to take over as President during the interim period until our next AGM (to be held in the spring of 2008). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gina Heisz and David Croome for their many years of volunteer service, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

As your new President I hope to further promote ABC as a strong advocate in the support and education of all bright and gifted children throughout the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board. We currently have 2 new members on our executive from the Catholic board: Liam Donworth who is our web and domain administrator, and also SEAC representative for the Dufferin Peel Catholic district school board. We also have Natalie Chong Tai on our executive who also serves as the SEAC alternate to Liam.

Although there have been personnel changes within our executive, we have been working very hard to re-focus our efforts to provide exciting Parents' Nights and hopefully new Childrens' Programs. ABC Peel can only be as good as its' volunteers, and we rely solely on your membership fees, donations and support to sustain ourselves.

It is my goal to increase our membership and the awareness of ABC Peel within Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Those of you who have called our telephone support line, have come out to any of our Parent Nights, have children in a contained gifted class, or value the support we provide to all bright and gifted children, can do their part by sending along your annual \$40 membership fee.

The more members we have, the stronger our voice can become. I think you would all agree that the children are worth it!

PARENTS' NIGHT THIS MONTH:

Last month, our regular parent night had to be rescheduled. In the past we have noticed that many of our parent nights tend to conflict with interview days, open houses and other events held at the schools. Our next parent night is being held on Thursday December 13, 2007. For those of you who have not already heard, our topic will be, "An Enhanced Perspective on Secondary School".

We have confirmed the attendance of all 5 coordinators from the Regional Gifted Centres in Peel. Those attending will be:

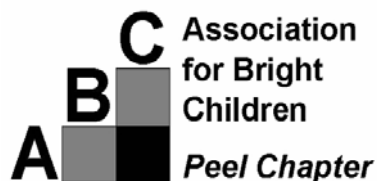
Lis Henry - Humberview Secondary School
 David Wingate - Heart Lake Secondary School
 Monika Quinn - The Woodlands Secondary School
 Lois McGinn - Glenforest Secondary School
 Jim Kinnie - Lorne Park Secondary School

We will also have a recent graduate from the Woodlands Secondary School to give you her perspective as an alumni of the enhanced program in high school.

The evening is open to all parents and children in grades 6 through 8. There will also be a question and answer period where your specific questions can be answered.

We hope that children who are in the process of considering high schools for 2008, or, children who are considering the many other regional programs in Peel will join us to see what the enhanced program at the high school level can offer.

The meeting will be held in the Inglewood room at the PDSB offices at 5650 Hurontario Street in Mississauga. The meeting is open to all parents, children in grades 6 through 8 and anyone interested in the enhanced option at the high school level. Please arrive by 7:15pm and the presentations will begin around 7:30pm.



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BOARD UPDATES:

At the recent Board of Trustee meeting on November 27, 2007, new SEAC representatives were appointed. Due to the resignations of David Croome and Gina Heisz, there were 2 open positions representing ABC at the SEAC table. Lori D'Aquila has been appointed to the position of SEAC representative for ABC, and Barbara Cyr has been appointed as Alternate.

GIFTED REVIEW:

During the last gifted review meeting held on November 7, 2007 it was announced that almost 2,400 surveys have gone out to parents. Dr. Sid Ali and Elana Gray are now in the process of data entry and collection, which is expected to take until the new year. During November and December, three different focus groups were held involving psychologists, SERT's and the principals of the regional gifted high schools. The next steering committee meeting will be held some time in January 2008.

CONTACTS IN SCHOOLS NEEDED:

Calling all members!

We would like to establish contacts in each of the ELC schools in Peel. If anyone with a child in any of the congregated gifted schools in Peel would like to help out, please pass on your name and email address. We can use your help in distributing flyers, our newly redesigned brochure and any other information about ABC. Please send your name, telephone number and name of school to: news@abcpeel.org
We really appreciate your help!

UPCOMING PARENTS' NIGHTS:

- January 31 - The Process of Advocating
- February 19 - Meeting rescheduled to Tuesday February 19, 2008
Topic: Aerospace Engineering Program at Ryerson University with Dr. Lassaline
- March 27 - Catharsis Night, panel of speakers TBA
- April 24 - Annual AGM, election of executive
- May 29 - Connie Gale, Principal of St. Mark Separate School- congregated gifted class gr. 5-8
Topic: Social & Emotional Needs of Gifted
- June 2008 - Annual ABC Peel Picnic — date and location TBA

BOOK REVIEWS:

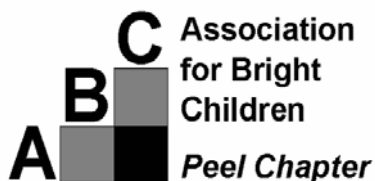
We would like to ask all children to send us a list of your favourite books. We hope to publish them in a future newsletter. If any children would like to write a review of a book, we can publish it in an upcoming newsletter. Send your lists or book reviews to news@abcpeel.org

Parents, you can also get involved by recommending a book about parenting, raising gifted children or any other topic you wish. Please pass along your lists or reviews to: news@abcpeel.org

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

The Peel board is asking for applications to sit on the new Parent Involvement Committee board. Here is a link to the application form. Deadline is Dec. 14, 2007

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/documents/PICApplicationPackage.doc>



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EdGO CONFERENCE:

Last month on November 30, 2007 the EdGO (educators of the gifted organization) conference was held at Martingrove Collegiate in west Toronto. For those who are unaware of this organization it was started by Otto Schmidt, a retired teacher in Toronto who has 31 years of experience in dealing with gifted children. Mr. Schmidt runs a private consultation company he started called, "Accent on Skills" The website can be found here: <http://www.AccentonSkills.com>. The conference has been held for the last 4 years and seeks to assist educators, parents, students and other community members directly involved in gifted education. Their website is <http://www.edgo.ca>

This was an all day event from 9:00 am until 3:15pm geared towards teachers of the gifted and special education teachers. The keynote speaker this year was Dona Matthews Ph.D. Her topic was, "How everything you used to think about giftedness is bad for children." During her talk she explained how we are now moving towards an evidence-based approach to gifted education. She believes that we need to shift from a "mystery model to a mastery model of giftedness." She gave five examples of how we need to move away from a "fixed/mystery" mindset, to a "growth/mastery" mindset. Some examples of these are;

- 1.) Some people are born smart vs. Intelligence develops over time.
- 2.) Praising children's intelligence is good vs. Praising children's intelligence is bad.
- 3.) Smart kids learn quickly/easily vs. Working hard makes you smart.
- 4.) Failure=lack of ability vs. Failure can be seen as opportunity for learning
- 5.) Some children are destined for success vs. Potential can not be measured.

Throughout the day there were many workshops available to choose from including:

- *Creative applications of Kohlberg's stages of moral development
- *How to work effectively with very young children
- *High level development forum
- *Differentiating curriculum for gifted students in the regular classroom
- *Lego Mindstorms NXT robotics
- *Meeting the needs of advanced children coming from developing countries
- *Self-publishing
- *Weaving higher order thinking skills into the multiple intelligence classroom
- *Meeting social/emotional needs of gifted students at the secondary level
- *Brain research and digital visual learning tools
- *Giftedness and spirituality
- *Gifted Ontario-graduates of Ontario gifted programs
- *Providing support to gifted students in the Resource Centre
- *Engineers without borders: leadership opportunities

Throughout the day there were vendors, publishers and displays in the cafeteria from various groups in Ontario such as ABC Ontario, Spirit of Math Schools, Blossoming Minds, Scholars Choice, Waterloo Unlimited, Strategic Transitions, TechSurge, Nallenart, Higher Healing, Spectrum Nasco Educational Supplies, and Nelson Education Ltd.

The final event of the day was held in the auditorium with a group of keynote speakers who discussed, "Growing up gifted-Personal and professional experiences with giftedness." This talk was given by a teacher of the gifted who has 3 gifted sons, and two of her previous students who are now teachers of the gifted.

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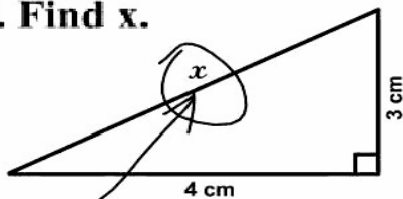
ADVOCACY WITHIN ABC PEEL:

Parent Advocate: Lori D'Aquila

Many of you may not be aware that, as members of ABC Peel you have access to an advocate who can come with you to your IPRC's, school team meetings or any meeting with staff at your child's school. Sometimes it can be quite daunting to sit at an IPRC for the first time with as many as 10 school board staff in front of you. As a recent graduate of the "Parent Consultant in Education Advocacy Training Program", I am available to help you advocate for your child's needs, whether it be to get a placement in a contained gifted class or help to write an effective IEP. There is a small mileage charge of 25 cents per kilometer to cover my expenses. If you have any further questions, please let me know at the telephone support line at 905-230-8281, or email me at: support@abcpeel.org

HUMOROUS EXAM ANSWERS:

3. Find x .



Here it is

2. A 3-kg object is released from rest at a height of 5m on a curved frictionless ramp. At the foot of the ramp is a spring of force constant $k = 100 \text{ N/m}$. The object slides down the ramp and into the spring, compressing it a distance x before coming to rest.

10 (a) Find x .
5 (b) Does the object continue to move after it comes to rest? If yes, how high will it go up the slope before it comes to rest?

$U = 3(9.8)(5) = 147.15$
 $U_s = \frac{1}{2}(100)x^2 = 50x^2 \dots?$
 NO. there is an elephant in the way.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do>

The History Channel provides short videos about what happened on "this" day in history.

<http://www.travlang.com/languages/>

This is an educational language site with sound files to help you learn basic words and sayings in over 70 different languages.

<http://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc/#/home/>

A link to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation website for children with interactive games and links to their favourite TV shows, cartoons and characters.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Telephone support: 905-782-0055

E-mail support: support@abcpeel.org

Website address: <http://www.abcpeel.org>

Membership Information: membership@abcpeel.org

Parents' Night Information: activities@abcpeel.org

Children's Programs: activities@abcpeel.org

Webmaster: webadmin@abcpeel.org

Send Us Your Ideas: news@abcpeel.org