



Serving Florida's gifted students and their families since 1979

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FLAG Banner

FALL 2013

FLAG's mission is to support educationally-appropriate programs for gifted students through exchanging information, promoting research, supporting constructive changes in all areas of gifted education, and cooperating with local and state organizations in reaching mutual goals and objectives in support of students who are gifted.

From the President

Dear FLAG Members,

Happy fall! Once again, FLAG has been busy at work assisting our membership and other gifted education advocates from not only around Florida, but around the nation, with issues and ideas that benefit gifted kids and their families.

In September, FLAG's Region V co-sponsored a Standards Symposium for Gifted Education with the School Board of Sarasota County. The audience ... nearly 100 strong, representing many different public, charter, and private schools throughout the state ... was treated to two keynote addresses. **Dr. Cheryll Adams**, whose National Association for Gifted Children's (NAGC's) handbook on the new Next Generation Science Standards is going to be premiered at November's convention, shared her work with this new body of goals and how it potentially affects gifted educations in the sciences and other areas into which science will have to be integrated. I kicked off the day-long event with information shared from **Dr. Joyce VanTassel-Baska** about the Common Core State English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. In between, participants attended excellent Standards-related breakout sessions provided by Dr. Adams,

along with FLAG Board member **Christie Ray**, the Federal Reserve Bank's **Lesley Mace**, and long-time gifted education math guru **Sue D'Angelo**. The response to the event was so heartening; it is always exciting when gifted education teachers have the opportunity to network with like-minded and -practiced peers!

Special Populations Committee Chairperson **Cathy Hooper** represented FLAG at the Coalition for Education of Exceptional Students (CEES) legislative planning meeting in Pinellas County in October. FLAG belongs to this consortium to assist in ensuring gifted education safeguards and initiatives are preserved with the Florida legislature each session.

Several FLAG Board members will be representing the State at the NAGC annual convention in Indianapolis in early November. We are honored to be meeting with **Dr. Paula Olszewski-Kubilius**, the immediate past president of NAGC, to be sharing all the work we have facilitated in Florida to assist gifted education teachers and parents in better understanding and translating the Common Core State Standards as they begin to be implemented. If you are going to the convention ... please find us and say hello!

As 2013 wanes, FLAG's leadership will transition as per election terms and other commitments. It has not only been my honor to serve FLAG as President since 2012, but also enriching to share this leadership, hard work, and most importantly the positive impact that has been made on members and other advocates with these stellar professionals, whose tenure will also conclude with the new year. My heartfelt thanks go to:

Bryan Allen Demeritte, Training and Supervision Committee Chair
Cindy Garber, Publications Committee Chair
Andrea Goddard, Region II Chairperson
Kathy James, Parent Liaison Committee Chair
Pam Jones, Legislative Committee Chair
Martha Kesler, (long-time!) Region IV Chairperson
Lori Moyer, Region V Chairperson
Tami Traiger, Region VI Chairperson

If you are interested in serving on FLAG's Board, please contact Stephanie Desmarais-Georgiades, who will begin her position as FLAG's new President on January 1st.

With much gratitude,

Shari Valencic, Ed.D.
FLAG President

FLAG Regional News

FLAG Region 3

from Cathy Hooper: As chairman of the Special Populations Committee, I would like to share a review of the most complete book I have found on special populations of the gifted. [Special Populations in Gifted Education: Understanding Our Most Able Students From Diverse Backgrounds](#), covers many special populations of gifted students including Asian, Rural, Native American, Black Adolescent, Highly Gifted, Twice-exceptional, Autism Spectrum, Hispanic, Dual Language Learners, Gifted Females, and Underachievers.

This book was written by Jaime Castellano and Andrea Frazier and won the Gifted Education Legacy Award. Today, our public schools are more diverse than ever and as a result, historically underrepresented groups are found more often in gifted classes. This book offers excellent information for gifted teachers who may not have had training for working with special populations.

FLAG Region IV

September, 2013: Region IV was the gathering place for the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) “Warm a Gifted Heart” national conference the took place in July near Orlando. Attendance among teachers and parents from the region was high. One of our FLAG members from Orange County, Regina Hellinger, was a presenter on the topic of overexcitabilities. Several regional FLAG members also participated as part of the children’s activities at the Conference.

Region IV welcomes new Gifted Coordinators Melissa Lyford (Lake County), Michelle Ferren (Seminole County) and Cindy Garber (Volusia) . Regional Coordinators met August 30 to discuss plans for the upcoming school year and work collaboratively on Professional Development opportunities for teachers and parents. This work group has also spent time aligning the Common Core State Standards with the *Florida Frameworks for K-12 Gifted Learners* to determine where gaps and overlaps occur.

We’re looking forward to another Region IV event this year with details TBA. There was great participation last year in a number of events and we’re hoping to stay on a roll. Watch the FLAG website for further information.

FLAG Region Map



Pink = Region 1 Dark Blue = Region 2
 Green = Region 3 Red = Region 4
 Yellow = Region 5 Indigo = Region 6
 Turquoise = Region 7

from Pamela Jones, Legislative Committee Chair

Superintendents around the state recently received a letter from Pam Stewart, Florida Department of Education. Briefly, it stated that the Governor Scott has issued an executive order to ensure Florida continues to implement high standards while the state is in the quest to find an appropriate assessment. The announcement was also made that Florida will be withdrawing as fiscal agent for the PARCC consortium. The department will be holding public hearings to get input and feedback for our educational system. The full executive order can be found online. Please continue to watch for information about the hearings and the email address you may utilize to submit your input.

jones_p@hcsb.k12.fl.us

Parents' Corner

A Parent's Perspective

A new school year is well under way and I hope that everyone is seeing success and happiness in all their children's academic endeavors. Realistically and unfortunately that statement cannot be 100% successful among all of us, so as a fellow parent of gifted children, let me tell you the first thing to do: DON'T PANIC!

- 1.) Have a conversation with your child and find out exactly what they perceive to be the problem.
- 2.) Have a conversation with your child's teacher and find out exactly what they perceive to be the problem. If it matches what your child is saying, the solution will be that much easier to determine! If they do not match, DON'T PANIC! Keep the conversation going, perhaps with all of you together in the same room, finding solutions that might work and be acceptable to all, especially for the student.
- 3.) Find resources, professionals, and other parents who might have experienced similar situations. Chances are pretty good that you are not the only parent who has ever had a child have this same problem. One example of such a resource is the SENG Model Parent Support Group. These groups are nationally run by SENG-trained professionals* who help parents help their gifted children in specific areas like siblings, peers, intensity, motivation, and dual exceptionalities. For more information, contact SENG (Serving the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) at www.sendgifted.org.

*In FLAG's Region 5, Tara Motzenbecker, NCSP (Nationally Certified School Psychologist), is a contact for such a support group in the area. She can be reached at (727) 519-3970 or tara@giftedandpsychevals.com

- 4.) Breathe in and breathe out. You are your child's best advocate and together you will succeed. Never ever give up.

Kathy James, R.Ph.,
FLAG Parent Liaison

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FLAG Announcements

21st Century FLAG!

FLAG's Internet and Technology Committee Chair **Christie Ray** keeps you abreast of everything "FLAG" using the latest online technologies!

Adobe Connect Board Meeting Platform



If you have "gifted" news to share with our organization and members, please contact Christie at dollfin343@verizon.net for details on how to do so!

FLAG continues to serve Florida's gifted students with your support!

Please urge your colleagues to join FLAG today!

Membership rates start at just \$30 per year.

Visit www.flagifted.org for details!

Technology Notes

So Your Kid Has an iPad. Now What?

Seems everywhere you look Americans have taken to the tablet. A popular choice is the Apple iPad. With the convenient kid-sized iPad Mini parents are using the tablet to entertain children while traveling, waiting in line at the grocery store or enjoying a dinner out in a restaurant. And it works. According to a 2011 Neilson study 70% of tablet-owning households with children under 12 say kids use the device. Most of the usage was for educational use or to play downloaded games. Schools are turning to tablets to replace books and engage students who were born into the digital age. In a study from PBS, 90% of parents stated that “educational value” was the most important criteria in choosing an app to download. So how do you choose an App?

The Apple App store features over 40,000 educational apps. The sheer volume can be overwhelming and can quickly fill a device to capacity. From interactive textbook manuals, to live books to iTunes U streaming content from educational institutions across the world your talented youngster can learn anything he or she would find of interest. One great place to start is smartappsforkids.com. Once you register with this website, a daily email will arrive with apps that are free or low cost and educational. The website screens apps for ad-free content. The site also offers the same for android users and for twice-exceptional or special needs kids.

Here are apps worth a look for talented kids and adults alike.



Khan Academy, a free app, allows your child to learn almost anything for free. A take-off of their website, this app holds a complete library of over 4,200 instructional videos



Storybook Maker will cost you \$3.99 but offers a bundle of creativity options for your budding author. Using drag and drop features, children can use the iPad camera or built in clip art to add art to their story. Stories can be narrated or sound effects can be added for additional flair. Final products can be shared by PDF.



Hold your iPad to the stars using StarWalk (\$2.99) and discover hidden worlds. This app shows the planets, stars, satellites and constellations located wherever you point the tablet. Tap on one of these to find detailed information about the space object.



Have a dinosaur enthusiast? This free app Dinosaurs, The American Museum of Natural History Collections will have your child “digging” dinosaurs. Pour through over 1000 photos of uncovered dinosaurs with details from where the bones were discovered to the paleontologist who found the dinosaur. Read stories and learn more about some of the most famous dinosaurs.



BrainPop has so much information your brain just may pop. The free version offers a Featured movie with a quiz at the end. Purchase the full version for \$6.99. Zany, engaging and humorous, follow Tim and his robot friend Moby as they explain the mysteries of the Universe. They tackle topics from gravity to event sequencing to algebra.

Sources:

<http://www.ipadnews.nl/tag/ipad-usage-statistics/>

<http://hub.uberflip.com/h/i/473190-children-kids-tablets-users>