

Careers Conference Tomorrow

The News Digest

If a doctor, or a lawyer, or a dentist had 30 people in the office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then s/he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job. ~Donald D. Quinn

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I'm sure you already know, but ***Gifted Children Often Present Quirks, School Challenges***. A guest article from Kim Waters of the Child and Family Solutions Center in Farmington Hills. Page 3

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Careers Conference Tomorrow

Upcoming Events ...

FRI, Oct 2
Careers Conference

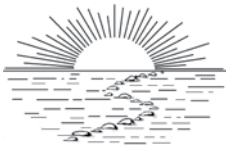
TUES - FRI, Oct 6 - 9
Scholastic Book Fair

FRI, Oct 9
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Deadline: Fridays, one week prior
to Thursday publication dates.

Email articles to:
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Steppingstone is an independent state-approved 501(c)(3) non-profit elementary school (K-8) for gifted students. Steppingstone does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, gender, religion, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of any school policy or program.

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SMART Center:
Preparing the sample



and running the test

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Catastrophic Events

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

Where do hurricanes and tornadoes from, and how are they different? Why do earthquakes happen more frequently in California than in Virginia? What causes volcanoes in Hawaii? These are some of the questions Upper Elementary students will be answering this year in science. The first nine lessons provide students with the opportunity to study how the heating and cooling of the earth's surface, the movement of air, and cloud formation affect storm formation. The next eight lessons allow students to investigate plate movement and faults, study the earth's interior, and use historical and scientific evidence to estimate future earthquake risk. The last eight lessons explore igneous rocks, volcano types, and how volcanoes change the landscape.

Next week, students will begin investigating the effect of surface temperature on the temperature of air above the earth's surface. Students will be simulating warm land and cold land using a convection tube, hot water, and ice while recording air temperature above the land in each situation.

Parents, on your ride to school, ask your children to observe the open fields that they pass and observe what they see. Fall and spring are perfect times of year to illustrate the cooling and heating of the earth's surface and how the air above the ground is affected. Also, engage your child in conversation about weather patterns during daily weather forecasts.

Research indicates that students should be provided opportunities to engage in scientific inquiry so that they can expand the skills necessary to develop investigative thought processes. Scientific inquiry needs to be guided by knowledge, observations, ideas, and questions. Making real world connections to the scientific inquiry process makes science learning more meaningful.

Mathematical Minds

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

Next week in math, students will continue to explore the concept of patterning. "Pattern is the underlying theme of all mathematics and is a powerful problem solving tool." Students will experience patterns visually, rhythmically, and through listening. They will analyze and extend a variety of visual patterns using many different manipulatives.

You can practice at home using objects around the house. Discuss and draw the patterns, then use different terms such as, ABA-BAB, 121212, or <><><>. Whatever you use, you will be creating mathematical minds!

Why is Physical Education So Important?

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

Every week the Intermediate students engage in a physical education class. Not only do they have a focused activity every week to practice, but also each student is required to run five laps everyday before recess can begin. It is so nice to see such a dedicated program supporting the importance of physical fitness. This is yet another aspect of Steppingstone that prepares our children for the future.

Here's Why...

1. Reduced Risk of Heart Failure
2. Improved Physical Fitness
3. Weight Reduction
4. Good Health Promotion
5. Self Discipline
6. Skill Development
7. Improved Self-confidence
8. Stress Reduction
9. Increase Their Love of School and Performance in Academics
10. Development of Lifetime Skills and Activities

To help your child understand the importance of physical fitness, please show them the list above. It always helps to hold a brief discussion after sharing any important piece writing. Also, to help enhance your discussion on being "fit," brainstorm reasons why practicing physical education now will help them in the future.

A Two Part Literature Program

Ms. Morse, Pre-High School

The literature aspect of the PHS class consists of two main parts. One part is what is on the planner sheet. This consists of novels that we are reading, currently *The Swiss Family Robinson*. Students create their own questions, answer teacher questions, draw pictures of what they imagine a scene looks like, define vocabulary as it relates to the text, and write responses to the novel.

The second aspect of literature occurs in weekly discussions about what it means to be a hero. These take place after reading excerpts and short stories concerning the topic of heroism. In these discussions, students will learn to define what makes a hero, to note the qualities of that distinguish heroes, and to analyze heroic characters. These lessons are more interactive, spark debates, and help students to communicate thoughts and ideas in an articulate manner

Next week, parents, for their at-home assignment students will be asking you who your hero is and why. Hopefully, this question will spark a conversation at the dinner table, and you can share your own views with your child. These discussions will help shape your child's character through their respect for you and your beliefs. Please take the time to have a thorough discussion and, above all, enjoy it!

Go Gold and Black!

Our first Spirit Day of the school year will be Wednesday, October 14. Do you know where your Steppingstone T-shirts are??

Spirit Day is the day that we recognize and acknowledge students. Parents, join your student at 12:15 for lunch that day and then stay to watch the event. You will be introduced to the student who is In The Spotlight, the Writer of the Month, Artist of the Month, and all the High Steppers of the month.

See you there! Go Gold and Black!



Gifted Children Often Present Quirks, School Challenges

Does your child complain about being bored at school? Has he or she been thought of as lazy, unmotivated, or not working to his or her potential? Is your child emotionally intense, oppositional, and defiant toward you and other adults? Does your child show signs of perfectionism, avoiding tasks that he is afraid he cannot do well the first time they are presented? Does she complete her homework but fail to turn it in the next day? Is she very bright but bringing home average to poor grades? Does he have severe sensitivities that cause him to cover his ears, cut the tags out of his clothes, or avoid whole categories of foods? Is she struggling with peer relationships, but able to carry on highly sophisticated conversations with adults? You might have a gifted child.

Gifted children are different from their nongifted peers. Despite the popular misconception that gifted children are so smart that they will have no problems academically or otherwise, gifted children can face a host of challenges. This can create unique situations in parenting and teaching.

Think of the bell curve. Most of us fall in the middle with average intelligence. We all recognize that children with low intelligence that fall at the far left end of the curve need special support academically and emotionally to help them meet their full potential. What many people fail to consider is that gifted children fall at the other far end of the bell curve, and they need special support academically and emotionally to help them meet their full potential.

Gifted children who are not in an appropriate educational setting often refuse to do school work that they feel is repetitive and that they have already mastered. They may act out in class and are frequently accused of not paying attention. While gifted children can have attention problems, one must consider the whole child and look closely at gifted traits vs. true ADHD. Gifted children are prone to anxiety, as they often have advanced awareness of what is happening around them but may not have the emotional maturity to handle the information. For example, a gifted 4-year-old may be able to read the headlines of the newspaper but will be frightened by the information.

Many gifted children are perfectionists. This may not always show up in neatness, but rather as avoidance. Think of the gifted student who brings a host of personal knowledge to school and knows many if not all of the answers without needing to learn anything new. Imagine when he hits middle school and is put into a foreign language class - for the first time he is being presented with something of which he has no prior knowledge, and this can often lead to anxiety and school work refusal.

Additionally, gifted children can have learning disabilities; these students are often called twice exceptional, being gifted and having a disability. They require even more specialized academic planning and emotional support.

Gifted children are often more difficult to parent, too. Gifted individuals are independent thinkers and are less likely to comply with authority figures just because they are authority figures. Parents are often frustrated by the fact that traditional parenting strategies may not be effective. While independent thinking will likely serve the child well as an adult, it makes it difficult to parent them. More positive nondirective parenting strategies are often highly effective. Love and Logic and Collaborative Problem Solving are two such strategies.

So if you know or think your child may be gifted, seek guidance and support from qualified individuals who are familiar with typical behavior in gifted children. With the right educational and social emotional support, your gifted child can thrive and you can enjoy them.

Kim Waters, M.S., L.L.P., is a limited licensed psychologist at the Child and Family Solutions Center in Farmington Hills. One of her specialties includes assessment and treatment of social and emotional issues in children that are related to giftedness..

Slippers vs Gym/Indoor Shoes

Parents, in an effort to consolidate storage and maintain greater space in the Commons, the teachers have asked that students keep only gym shoes at school. They have been sending slippers home, and we apologize for this unannounced change.

Social Studies Expo Corrections:

Correct date: THURS, Nov 12

Library Updates

Sally Gaines

Parents and children, remember that Nic Bishop, science photographer and author, is coming to the Farmington Hills Library this Saturday at 2:00 pm and again at 4:00 pm. It is your chance to meet a real author. Our library has his books *Butterflies and Moths*, *Frogs*, and *Secrets of Animal Flight*.

The Steppingstone Library Committee works weekly adding books to the library, being sure that the books are put away, filling the Power Reading shelves, and finding books for teachers. We are currently meeting Monday mornings and could use another person to help. If you are interested, please call Sally Gaines at 248-474-4269.



Scholastic Book Fair Comes to Steppingstone

The 2009 Scholastic Book Fair for Steppingstone School will be held Tuesday, October 6th through Friday, October 9th. Parents, friends, and family members may visit the fair in the morning from 9 am to 10:30 am and in the afternoon from 3 pm until 4:30 pm. The fair will be open from 9 am until 6 pm during parent teacher conferences on Friday, October 9th.

Parents, please note that students will have the opportunity to preview Scholastic books and media on Monday, October 5th. Students will complete a "wish list" of items they would like to own and bring it home on Monday after school. The wish list is intended to assist parents with their Scholastic purchases.

Parents may also purchase books to donate to the school. Books and media selected by classroom teachers will be on display if your family wishes to make a special gift to Steppingstone.

Proceeds from the fair support Steppingstone School. If you have any questions, please contact JaNele Jordan at janelejordan@hotmail.com

See you at the Book Fair!

Careers Conference Friday, October 2nd

from Kiyo

Thank you, parents, for volunteering to share your careers with our students. This piece of the curriculum was designed to provide students with the opportunity to begin thinking about realistic long-term plans for their futures.

If students have long-term career goals and plans for success, they are much more likely to tolerate and perform well in areas that aren't their favorite pieces of the curriculum. One of my daughters has a dual BA in psychology and early music, an MA in harpsichord performance and early music, and a doctorate in the same. When she was a PHS student, she claimed there was no reason for her to study math because she was going to be a pianist.

If you haven't already heard the story, I had some quick thinking to do and finally resorted to brain studies to say, "Studies show that the area of the brain that does math also does music, so studying math will only enhance your performance abilities!" Ta-daa! She bought it! She also went on to win the "Women In Engineering" award for her high school in her junior as well as her senior year.

She had a strong, long-term career goal and was willing to do whatever it took to excel, including the study of math. Parents, your child will be much more willing to develop skills in less favored subject areas if s/he has a long-term career goal that needs a high grade point average in a broad range of subject matter. You can continue this conversation periodically to reinforce, gently, the requirements for being accepted to the college of his/her choice and subsequent success in the career of choice.

We usually have 1 or 2 college recruiters here to talk to our students, especially the PHS students, about college requirements. This year, there will also be a talk about the major areas of study offered on their campuses, the degrees available, and the careers available as a consequence. Your feedback is important to planning; let us know your ideas for continued improvements.

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Special Programs Director, & Office Manager	Sandra Blay
Business and Facilities Manager	

STAFF

General Assistant, IT Specialist	Jason Roder
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Intermediate Elementary	Janelle Schultz
Upper Elementary	Linda Hoff
Pre High School, Faculty Chair	Keiko Morse
AIMS/TSC Representative	Carol Powell

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Japanese	Mieko West
Spanish	Ana Maria Gonzalez
Mandarin Chinese	Hong Lin
Computer	Dr. Reef Morse
Extended Day	Mary Gage
Fencing	Jerzy Radz
Performing Arts	Kathy Nellett

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