



## Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented

### BCGT Newsletter

Fall 2010

#### BCGT Board 2010-2011

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Katherine Logue

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Visit us at  
[www.BCGT.org](http://www.BCGT.org)

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#### President's Corner

##### Eudemonia, Excellence and Extended

Almost a decade ago, when the first group of dedicated parents and educators pioneered the Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented, their support for gifted education was unprecedented as gifted education issues were relatively unexplored in our district.

Today, as we take over as the new co-presidents, we cannot help being struck by the new paradigms in this area. Although, gifted education in Illinois still teeters on the periphery of recognition, our vision as an organization has broadened considerably. We have tried to support excellence in many spheres, as reflected in the nature of our programs, and the change in semantics from "gifted" to "extended". What has remained steadfast is our appreciation for the extended programs in our district and our commitment to supporting them.

Striving for excellence is a desirable goal from time immemorial. Aristotle considered it to be the noblest goal in life. Eudemonia, from the Greek *eu* or good, and *daemon* or deity, means seeking excellence based on one's unique talents and potential. BCGT has stood for this vision of excellence that supports learners in their unique quest. From organizing science nights, to game book clubs and speakers that talked about various gifted issues to supporting a grant with our funds at Sunny Hill School, we have looked to you, our members, to help us define what is important to you.

In the last few weeks we have had two very successful and stimulating events, the Mike Byster presentation on Math and patterns and Michele Kane on gifted issues. We were thrilled to have so many of you engaged parents join us.

The latest issue of Newsweek ranks the United States, once the world leader, as 12<sup>th</sup> in the category of education. The top scorers being Finland and South Korea, with Canada and Singapore close behind. Among the barometers on which we score poorly is an "alarming decline in young American adults who have completed college." Our involvement in the larger cause of education is crucial to the future of our country.

This year more than ever before, we hope you will use this platform to network with other parents and educators. Join BCGT as a member and contribute in its quest for excellence. What is your vision of this excellence? What moves you as a parent and as a citizen? What defines success and failure in your opinion? These are questions we ask of you, as we look towards you for inspiration. Please take a minute to write to us at [bcgt@bcgt.org](mailto:bcgt@bcgt.org). We could feature your opinion, with your consent, in our Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Thank you for your support and for being a partner in this quest for excellence.

Shalini Parekh and Katherine Logue  
BCGT co-presidents

## Ask Julie!

*Julie Luck Jensen*

**Director of  
Extended Services  
Barrington CUSD 220**



Dear Julie,

How do I get my daughter Lily Louise into a gifted program in my school district? She is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade now, but my neighbor told me that children need to be in the gifted program by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in order to take AP classes in high school. Lily Louise likes math and is really good with computation. I just received a report with scores on her most recent achievement test. Her score was in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Wouldn't that qualify her?

How can I prepare Lily for future tests? My sister-in-law said I should buy some workbooks and look for a tutor?

I hope I don't sound like one of those pushy parents. My cousin's friend says it's never too early to guide your child into the best college. I only want the best for her.

Thanks for your help!

Looking out for Lily Louise

Dear Looking,

It's obvious you care about your daughter and do truly want the best for her. Since I do not know the name of your district, it is difficult for me to answer all of your questions. However, I can give you some things to consider as you gather more information about your daughter's current educational program.

Have you attended a back-to-school night at your daughter's school? That is usually where teachers share information regarding their classroom instructional programs. To know whether the current classroom math program is a good fit for your daughter it is important to also have a private conversation with her teacher. Contact the teacher to set up an appointment and come prepared with specific questions that will help you know more about your daughter's performance in the class room. Possible questions include: Does she catch on quickly to new concepts? Does she participate in class discussions? Does she ask for help when she needs it? Can she solve more challenging word problems using critical thinking skills? Does she seem engaged by the grade level work? Are her errors from carelessness or from lack of understanding concepts?

If your conversation leads you to believe Lily is ready for more challenging math work, ask the teacher if she offers opportunities for differentiated instruction. As differentiation is considered best practice for students of all ages, most districts expect teachers to adjust the curriculum and/or instruction to meet the needs of individual students.

If you feel differentiated math classroom instruction does not meet Lily's needs, ask the teacher if the district has a math program for high ability learners, often called a gifted program. If so, ask for contact information for the supervisor of the program. Before you ask to have your daughter participate in the program, find out specific details such as:

Does the program provide enrichment or acceleration? How often do students meet for the program? What assessments or other criteria are used for identification?

## Ask Julie!

Continued ...

The purpose of these many questions is to try to discern which learning opportunities are available to best engage your daughter and help her continue to grow. Scores are helpful, but they don't always give you a full picture. For example, achievement test scores provide information regarding demonstrated skills, but they don't tell us anything about a child's ability to reason. A cognitive abilities test is more likely to produce that type of information. You mentioned your daughter scored in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Is that a national percentile in which her score is compared to that of other students across the country who have taken the test? Or is it a local percentile that compares the score to other students in the same district? Is the assessment a group test or an individual one?

Be sure to go straight to the school district staff for advice and answers rather than depending on hair-raising accounts from well-intentioned friends, neighbors, and relatives. It is unlikely that a child's high school course selection would be determined by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. One of the most interesting things about children is that they develop at different rates mentally as well as physically. One child might be ready for abstract thinking at a much younger age than another. That doesn't mean that the "late bloomer" will not be ready for more challenging work by high school. In most high schools, students can enroll in AP classes after successfully completing a prerequisite class and being recommended by the teacher of that class.

Finally, I think you will also be pleasantly surprised at the number and diverse types of colleges and universities available to strong students. Don't limit your thoughts to a few "best colleges" you've heard about. By the time Lily Louise is ready for that exciting step, both you and she will know much more about her learning style, her abilities, and her interests. Just think of all the great questions you can prepare for those college visits! In the meantime, help Lily enjoy her developing years by providing a nurturing environment full of support and engaging learning experiences. Leave the workbooks behind and allow LL to apply her math skills to real life experiences!

Good luck!

Julie

## BCGT Happenings



BCGT has many events planned for this year – We have several events in November:

**Mon., Nov. 1, 6-7 p.m. - BCGT Children's Book Club.** Self Contained teacher, Georgia Nelson, will be facilitating a discussion of Catherine Fisher's thriller, *Incarceron* at the Barrington Area Library.

**Fri., Nov. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Family Game Night.** Join us for our most popular event of the year! Pizza and refreshments will be served. Free to BCGT members or \$2/pp or \$5/family for non-members. At the Barrington Area Library.

**Mon., Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m. - Julie Luck Jensen and Tim Martin** will present information about District 220's Extended Program. At the Barrington Area Library.

Visit our web site at [www.bcgt.org](http://www.bcgt.org) to register or for more information.

## BCGT Happenings

Continued ...

For more information on this amazing event, the *Barrington Courier Review* did an article on October 7<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it, you can read it on-line at the following link.

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/2777646,barrington-calculator-100710-s1.article>

We have some additional worksheets from the presentation on our website at [www.bcgt.org](http://www.bcgt.org).

The slides from Michele's presentation and a list of the books she recommended for further exploration can be found on our website [www.bcgt.org](http://www.bcgt.org).

### BCGT Presents: Mike Byster

Mike Byster, a nationally known math whiz, gave a presentation of his mathematical prowess at the Barrington Area Library Oct. 6.

By William Edward Donnelly, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Roslyn Road School



I think Mike Byster, The "Human Calculator" is the fastest person at solving any problem in his head. I learned a lot from him about figuring out how to use the two parts of your brain at the same time. He found the answers to three and four-digit numbers without looking at the problems and solving them in his head.

He said to add all the numbers in the ones place and then see how far it is from one hundred and write that in front.

He also taught us how to memorize a group of ten words by telling us a story that included all of them so we were able to remember them. They include: silver tray, crystal, glasses, red rose, banana, tomato, chocolate pudding, laundry detergent, a bar of soap, dental floss, and a loaf of bread. We tried this activity twice. The first average of the audience was 5.78 and the second average was 9.28. The audience all improved their memorization skills because he told us a story including the words because it made it easier to memorize. I LOVE MATH!!



### BCGT Presents: Michele Kane

The evening of October 5th, Michele Kane, a noted speaker on gifted education and current president of IAGC, spoke to us about the social and emotional aspects of parenting gifted children. It was a very interesting presentation with Michele providing information from several experienced and trusted sources in the field as well as her personal experiences as a mother of gifted children and as a teacher working with these children. We had a great turnout with parents and several of our extended teachers in attendance. The parent questions and discussions that followed the presentation were also very interesting – covering topics from the definition of “giftedness” to dealing with the emotional sensitivities inherent in many of the children.

Michele talked about some of the intellectual and personality characteristics associated with the children and the stresses that they experience because of these traits. She also

## BCGT Happenings

Continued ...

talked about some techniques to help them relieve the stress such as teaching them problem solving strategies, self soothing strategies like deep breathing, journaling and exposing them to service learning projects. Some strategies for parents of gifted children were also presented, including parents taking time for their own interests, joining a support group, such as BCGT, reading about issues related to this subject, or having some friends to talk to about their children.

A few of the books Michelle mentioned are –

- ***Sparks: How Parents Can Ignite the Hidden Strengths of Teenagers*** by Peter L. Benson
- ***Living with Intensity*** by Susan Daniels, Michael M. Piechowski
- ***Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy And Successful Children*** by James Delisle
- ***The Gifted Kids Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook*** by Judy Galbraith, James Delisle
- ***Raising your spirited child*** by Mary Kurcinka
- ***Peak Performance for Smart Kids*** by Maureen Niehart

## Check it out



### Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search

NUMATS uses the EXPLORE test—developed by ACT and normally given to students in grade 8—to determine the abilities of students in grades 3 through 6. The ACT and the SAT tests, typically used for college admissions, provide a more accurate picture of the mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities of students in grades 6 through 9.

After students test, parents receive **comprehensive information** about how their student measures up to other gifted students. This valuable feedback helps families plan for the future.

To find out more information about this program, testing sites and which test is best for your son or daughter, please visit their website at:

<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/about/>

### IAGC Parent Academy

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children is presenting a parent seminar on “*Understanding the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Gifted Children*”. It will be held on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 5 P.M. at IMSA.

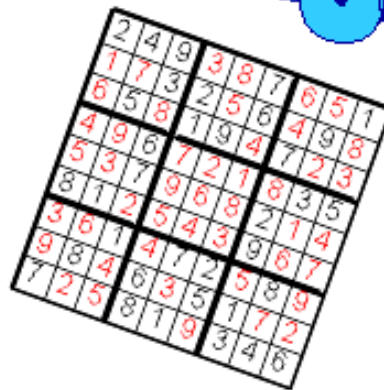
The keynote speaker is Andy Mahoney, noted gifted counselor and expert in the field. There are many breakout sessions available during the day covering various aspects of parenting gifted children.

More information about these sessions and registration information can be found on the IAGC website at:

<http://www.iagcgifted.org/images/stories/pdf/parent-academy-11-10.pdf>

**Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented**

# Family Game Night



**Friday, November 5, 2010**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm, Barrington Area Library**

**PARENTS, please bring your children.**  
**Let's Play!!!**

**Pizza & drinks will be served!**

*Free to BCGT members - advance registration is encouraged at [www.bcg.org](http://www.bcg.org). \$2 per person or \$5/family for non-members.*

**Bring your friends! Prize will be awarded to the top two schools with the greatest attendance.**

**Not Sponsored by Barrington Community Unit School District 220**

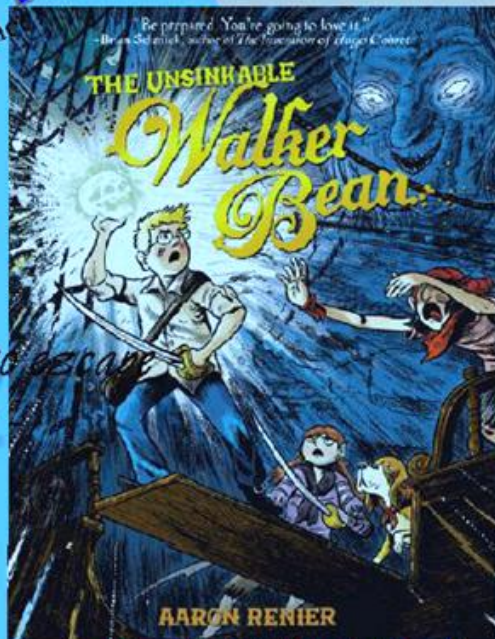
BCGT is an organization of parents and educators whose common purpose is to support gifted education in Dist. 220 by serving as a resource and advocate for gifted students, their families and faculty.

# BCGT BOOKCLUB

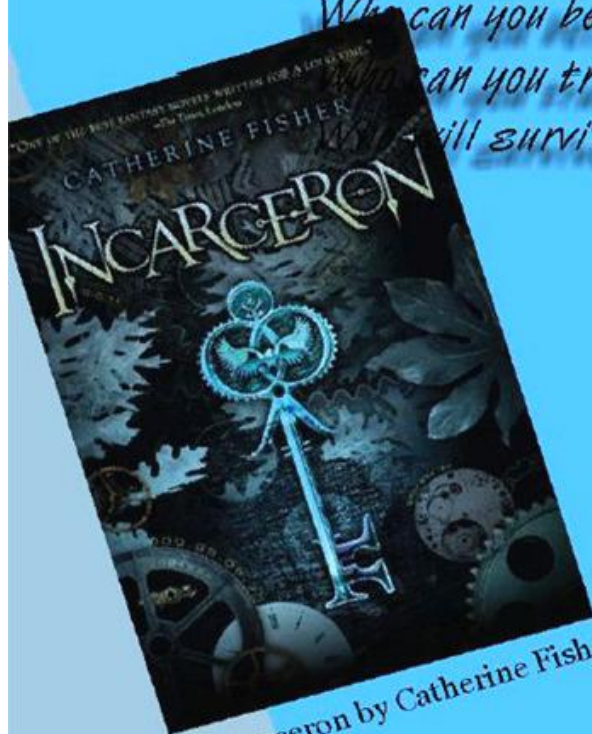
## PRISON BREAKS

Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. R. Lovelace  
*How can the truth be known?*

*Prisons from which there is no escape  
Allegiances forged and broken  
Who can you believe?  
Who can you trust?  
Who will survive?*



The Unsinkable Walker Bean  
by Aaron Renier



Incarceron by Catherine Fisher

**TWO BOOKS**  
**STEAM PUNK**  
**SAME THEMES**  
**DIFFERENT**  
**FORMATS**

Here's a bookclub that will make your mouth water - there will be cookies to go with the conversation. And the conversation? It will be fantastic.

This is the chance you've been waiting for to talk about great books and fantastic ideas with like-minded bibliophiles.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2010**  
**BAL: 6:00 - 7:00**

**REGISTER ON THE BCGT WEBSITE.**  
**4TH - 7TH GRADERS ONLY**

# **Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented**

*invites you to attend*

## **An Informational Session**

**Monday, Nov. 8, 2010**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Barrington Area Library**

**“Challenging the Academically Talented:  
Understanding Dist. 220's Opportunities for High Ability Students”**

*Featuring*

**Julie Luck Jensen**

**Director of Extended Services, District 220**

*and*

**Tim Martin, Counselor Liaison**

**Barrington High School Extended Program**

Join us for an evening of information  
as Julie Luck Jensen explains District 220's Extended Program  
and other services available for high ability students.

Tim Martin will share opportunities available  
for accelerated students at Barrington High School.

Best practices on parenting and teaching the gifted child will be highlighted.

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## Check it out

*Continued ...*



## NAGC 2010 Toy List

The National Association for Gifted Children has published its 2010 Toy List. These toys are selected based on evaluations by students and teachers and considered appropriate for a wide range of ages. Some of the new toys included on this list are –

- *Contraptions* by Mindware (for ages 7 and up)
- *Forbidden Island* by Gamewright (for ages 10 and up)
- *Pirate Code* by LEGO (for ages 8 to 12)
- *7 Ate 9* by Out of the Box Publishing (for ages 8 and up)
- *Zingo!* by ThinkFun Inc. (for ages 4 and up)

To view the complete list, please go to the NAGC website. The list can be found at:

[http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PHP/PHP\\_Article\\_Archive/Toy\\_Lists/9-10\\_Toy\\_List.pdf](http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PHP/PHP_Article_Archive/Toy_Lists/9-10_Toy_List.pdf)

## What's Going on at Lines

*By Sarah Giunchedi, Extended Program Teacher, Lines School*

## Classroom News



Fourth grade math students began the year with a study of place value and decimals. Afterwards, our students extended their learning by studying the ancient number systems including the Roman, Babylonian, Mayan and Egyptian. Students applied their knowledge to create their own number system, complete with unique symbols and place value. They presented their projects to second grade students.

Kiersten Keegan created "Shapeatania," which was discovered by flying squirrels who left Earth because they thought they were too good for it. Shapeatania uses a base 20 system.

Olivia Lee's system was created by the Olivitainians, who live on the planet Olivitainia. She said, "it was hard to come up with the symbols for my system because I had to think of 15 different ones."

Audrey Taillon's "Spacians Number System" was used by people who lived 1 million years ago. She said, "coming up with my own system was really easy for me."

Gavin Uhan's "Sportastic Number System" was used by Sportians who loved sports but suddenly disappeared one day. The symbols are all sports-related. Second-grader Jackson Paris liked Gavin's system and thought it was "a good idea because I like to play baseball."

Fourth graders ended the project with a true appreciation of zero and the ease of our base 10 system.

## Macbeth - the Opera

*By Nick Laning, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hough Street School*

Have you ever been to an opera? Well, everyone in my class has! First, we had to get to the opera. To do that, we walked to the train station to catch a train. Luckily, it's close to Hough. After waiting a bit the train came. On the way there everyone talked. That was quite unfortunate for the other people riding the train, because no one wanted to sit by

*The extended students at Hough attended a dress rehearsal of Macbeth, at The Lyric Opera of Chicago. For many this was their first experience seeing an opera!*

## Classroom News

*Continued ...*



Photo courtesy of Lyric

us, so it was like having our own train car. Once we got there, we walked for a bit to a courtyard across from the theater. When we arrived, we started to eat lunch. While eating, everyone talked and played with anything they could find. It was really cool eating lunch across from the theater; because you could watch the boats go by. Once we were done eating, we rushed across the bridge to the theater. Luckily, the bridge didn't go up, so we could get across without any delay.

We finally took our seats. I didn't really think there would be many people, since it was the dress rehearsal. Actually, though, there were a bunch of people! The theater was really cool because it had all these really awesome designs on the walls. Also, some of the paint that looked golden was real gold! I can't even begin to imagine how much money that would cost! After waiting for a while, the show started! I really loved how they did the special effects, because all of them looked completely real! My favorite special effect was the lightning and thunder. It actually felt like there was a storm going on! Another thing that I really liked was how they made the witches fly. It really looked like they were flying! One of the things that was different from the Shakespeare play was the witches scene, because there was a whole coven of witches – not just three. Also, in that scene they used special effects to create a giant fire. All in all it was really fun, and I would definitely go to another opera!

## ***Prairie Celebrates Cave Day!***

*By Armand Sarkasian, 6E, Prairie Middle School*

Attention all people of the Old and New Stone Ages! In case you missed it, here is a recap of your annual gathering: Known by many as The Great Cave Day, this event took place at Prairie Middle School on October 1<sup>st</sup> when the sun was at its highest. This annual gathering is a large celebration of learning about prehistoric people. Worn by all team members were phenomenal costumes consisting of skins and hides. The hunters (boys) brought their tools and weapons and the gatherers (girls) brought snacks. This gathering was a great way to cap off our learning about prehistoric people. The whole experience was truly one for the ages!



## As I See It



*Ms. Maggie Oberg*

*Extended Language Arts  
Barrington High School*

### ***How long have you been teaching?***

I have been teaching in this school district for 18 years. I taught extended language arts at the middle schools for 8 years and helped develop the current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program. Following that, I was the librarian at Station Middle School as well as Assistant Principal at Station. I was also the Technology coordinator for the district for a time. I have been in my current position at Barrington High School for the last 6 years. I teach 3 sections of freshman extended language arts, debate and a senior composition class. Having had my children go through the extended programs in this school district and having had a range of experiences at the middle school level as well as the high school has given me a unique perspective about the students going through this program.

### ***What do your students study in the freshman extended language arts program?***

We cover a lot of different areas in writing and literary analysis. Our curriculum and materials are the same as that used for the freshman honors program, but we go into greater level and depth in our analysis of the reading material. This year we are also looking at the “Hero” pattern of writing, which is one of the archetypal patterns in literature. *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, and Homer’s *The Odyssey* are examples of some of the literature we read. We look at the authors’ choices of words and settings and their impact on the reader. The students become more cognizant of the tone and choice of words which leads them to a deeper appreciation of the literature as well as understanding how to write from the perspective of the reader. We also do some creative writing and poetry and continue studying grammar and vocabulary. In addition to the fictional works, I provide weekly non-fiction articles to the students from recent news sources and we study and discuss the tone, the reliability of the author, the author’s purpose in writing the article and do a thorough analysis of the piece. It is a rigorous program, but my students are very creative and our discussions can be very lively. I really enjoy working with them and challenging their thinking.

### ***What advice can you give your students regarding high school and your class?***

When the students get to high school their work load gets much heavier and they need to focus on creating a balance between school work and other interests and activities. Parents can help their students make reasonable choices that will allow them to enjoy their time in high school rather than struggling exhaustedly through each day.

My students typically come in with a passion for learning. I want them to have an open mind to new thoughts and ideas. I expect them to make a commitment to do the class work and take responsibility. Also, I expect them to treat each other with respect and listen to everyone’s ideas. I try to keep my classroom light, positive and playful. I want them to enjoy the class and develop an appreciation for the craft of writing.

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## Kids' Corner



### ***Making our Way to Middle School***

*By: Shivani Majmudar and Nika Steffen, 6E, Prairie Middle School*

Moving from one grade to another is a big thing, but moving from elementary to middle school is a whole other transition. When first entering sixth grade, you are naturally filled with anxiety. How could you not be when you have heard rumors about golf carts chasing you in gym, strict teachers, and jam-packed hallways? While some are true, it's really not as bad as you may think. Although sixth grade wasn't what we expected, it is better than we had thought it would be. For example, we thought we would get lost on our way to our classes. In spite of the crowded halls, we get there on time! It's been over a month and we don't want the 6E journey to end. Our advice to soon-to-be sixth graders is:

- 1 – Go to CAMP SIXTH GRADE! !! It's a fun way to get to know your new school and meet new classmates.
- 2 – Learn your locker combination. You won't want to be one of those people who have to ask for help on the first day!
- 3 – Get to know your schedule. It's not good to be wandering around the hallways, looking for your classroom, when everyone is already there!

So, 5<sup>th</sup> graders, new friends, great lunches, and crowded hallways are just a year away! Moving to middle school may be nerve-wracking at first, but trust us – smiles and enjoyment are waiting to unfold right in front of your eyes! The secrets and excitement of the 6E team will have to wait another year for you 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

### ***I was Barraged!***

*By: Mira Parekh, 5th Grade, Roslyn Road School*

Here I am, having played the violin for just over a year in my school orchestra, thinking I knew what a violin concert should be like. Talk of turning pre conceived ideas upside down on their head! To begin with I had a conflict with my school science night where I thought I would rather have been. Little did I know, this was an orchestra concert that tours around the world, and this was a rare opportunity to see them right here in Barrington.



From the moment the concert began I was transfixed to my seat in disbelief. I pinched myself, was I at a rock or a pop concert or was this a string concert! They were world

## Kids' Corner

*Continued ...*

*Many students from our Extended Programs perform in our District Orchestras. The Barrington Courier and the Daily Herald wrote wonderful articles about this concert! Check it out online. The Herald article was on October 8 and the Courier article is at the following link:*

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/2797030,barrington-barrage-101410-s1.article>

class virtuosos, and they had taken it one step further. They performed electrifying, high octane songs with an added kick of its own; everything from the Celtic Jigs, to classical Latin Blue Grass. They even had a West African tune, where they invited audience participation.

It wasn't your everyday violin concert. They were dancing, sweeping, very energetic, and playing string instruments, all at the same time. They played with their whole body. At one point, they surprisingly removed the strings from their bow, and creatively looped



them around their violins to perform an innovative piece. Barrage did a workshop for McHenry County Orchestra students and many Barrington Orchestra students from BHS, Prairie and Station middle schools called "Energize Your Strings," where Barrage taught them 1 or 2 songs that would be performed in the show.

What stood out with this group were synchronized dance movements that paid tribute to the music. Who would have thought that without sitting on a chair, an orchestra could sweep us off our feet. I don't think I was the only one who was barraged by their incredible sound. Barrington was Barraged!




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*The extended self-contained students at Hough went on a field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. They were inspired by the paintings they saw at the Art Institute to write their own poetry. Here are some samples of their work and the art that inspired it.*

### ***The Honorable Men***

*By: Varun Rao, 5th Grade, Hough Street School*

In the dreary dark of the night sky,  
 With the moon shining on exotic souls  
 Who never sung of joy or felicity,  
 The children all lying,  
 Next to the love of their Caring Mother.

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## Kids' Corner

Continued ...

And the men, clad in their colorful gowns,  
Gaze at the twilight of the atmosphere.  
The angels from up above stare at the men  
Who have nothing to offer them but  
Their disgust and repulsion;  
Wait for the men who have  
Brought their honor and trust with them  
To hymn a tune of all of the  
Heavenly souls floating the skies  
With their sixth sense of brilliance.  
Give joy and happiness to all those  
Above who gave their consent –  
To all those Honorable Men below,  
Who cherished life with joy.



*The Assumption of the Virgin*  
El Greco 1577- 1579

## Her Drawers

By Dillon Davey, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hough Street School



*Venus de Milo with Drawers*  
Salvadore Dali - 1936

The lady stands still, but is always  
moving,  
Her arms are gone, and she tries  
to hide it,  
Everyone else tries to be soothing,  
Her drawers are closed, and empty.

Her face is sad, her love all gone,  
Her hair is braided back,  
She hates the watchers, and shudders at  
dawn,  
Her drawers are closed and empty.

She is wistful, thinking of the days,  
When she was glad and happy,  
Now all she does is try to see through  
the haze,  
Her drawers are closed and empty.

But then her drawers open, much to her  
surprise,  
And release all her happiness,  
The world is better, in her eyes,  
Her drawers are not closed and empty.

When she looks around, she now sees how,  
They admire her youth and beauty,  
The drawer in her head, deep in her brow,  
Is open and empty and waiting  
for thoughts.

A demeaning thought is dropped into a  
drawer,  
And she goes back into that state,  
Of always shutting out all of the world,  
Her drawers are closed and empty.

**Kids' Corner***Continued ...***Ode to Oreos***By Grace Mitchell, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Station Middle School*

The sweetest,  
Sandwich,  
Consumed.

A heavenly,  
Circle.

Maliciously,  
Unscrewed,  
Licked,  
Dipped,  
And Crunched.

A social cookie,  
The Oreo associates,  
In threes.

One crisp cookie,  
Slathered,  
With creamy,  
Luscious,  
Filling,  
Sandwiched,  
Between another,  
Crisp cookie.

The trio,  
Is proud.

Proud of it's,  
Name brand.

The printed,  
Logo on the outer layers,  
Displayed with triumph.

Down with the bargain brands,  
The classic Oreos chant.

Golden,  
Chocolate,  
Low-fat,  
Double Stuf,  
Peanut Butter Stuf,  
Mint,  
The Oreo is a cookie of variety.

Like an extended family,  
The flavors are distant relatives.

Resentful of milk,  
Milk's love for Oreos,  
Is not mutual.

Oreos know,  
That without them,  
Milk is irrelevant,  
To desserts.

They feel taken advantage of,  
And destroyed,  
As the soggy dairy seeps,  
Into their cracks,  
And crevices,  
Making known their imperfections,  
And weakness for wetness.

Oreos unite,  
Against milk,  
And will stay sweet,  
But serious.

## *A Big Thanks to our Lifetime Members*

Evelyn Ackermann	Harold and Kelly Henry	Ken and Jean Nowak
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## *Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented*

### ***Please Support Us!***

*BCGT is an organization of parents and educators whose common purpose is to support gifted education in District 220 by serving as a resource and advocate for gifted students, their families and faculty.*

Your membership enables BCGT to:

- Host nationally and locally renowned speakers in the field of gifted education
- Provide parent and family networking opportunities such as coffees and family game nights
- Issue classroom grants: In the past, in addition to fulfilling the smaller, specific wishes of teachers, BCGT made the largest single donation ever, \$3,000, to help fund a pilot program at Sunny Hill which helps target gifted students in early elementary school
- Support legislative advocacy for gifted funding
- Publish and maintain BCGT's newsletter and website [www.BCGT.org](http://www.BCGT.org)
- E-mail notification of programs, meetings and special events

*We offer a District 220 Lifetime Membership!* For your \$100 donation, you receive BCGT membership benefits for long as your children attend school in District 220. In addition to reduced membership fees, lifetime members will receive special recognition for their support on the BCGT website and in the newsletter.

## **Join Us Now!**

*Visit us on the web at [www.BCGT.org](http://www.BCGT.org)*



## *Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (required for us to send advance notice for BCGT events, meetings and reminders)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your email address will be kept private and will be only be used for communication with you about BCGT related events.

Schools where your children are currently enrolled:

- Countryside Elementary
- Grove Elementary
- Hough Elementary
- Lines Elementary
- North Barrington Elementary
- Rose Elementary
- Roslyn Elementary
- Sunny Hill Elementary
  
- Prairie Middle School
- Station Middle School
  
- Barrington High School
  
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me, I would like to get more involved in BCGT

***Please select a membership option:***

\$25 Yearly Family Membership

\$100 Lifetime Membership

( You will receive BCGT member benefits for as long as your children attend school in District 220. )

***One time donations also appreciated:***

Donation

***Send your contribution, payable to BCGT, and your membership form to:***

Keri Bowman  
1459 South Shore Ct.  
Barrington, IL 60010

[membership@bcgt.org](mailto:membership@bcgt.org)

**Please visit us at [www.BCGT.org](http://www.BCGT.org)**