Early Access

Early Access to Kindergarten and first grade is for four and five-year-olds, respectively, as an exception to the normal age requirements per Board Policy JEB. This is for children who are highly gifted (97th percentile or higher) and who would benefit from acceleration (children who are in the top 3 percent or less of the gifted population.) The early access application is open January 2, 2020-April 1, 2020. For more information about early access please click here.

ALP Progress Monitoring

Progress monitoring data is used to inform instructional decisions. Gifted student data is monitored at the same scheduled intervals established by the district for all students. Some students may need more regular check-points to monitor student success or needed scaffolding. If at any time it is determined the student is not on target, modifications should be made in the programming options, curriculum and/or instructional strategies provided to the student. As always contact your GT Resource Teacher with questions.

GT & JAGC Panel Discussion

Join us on Monday, February 24, 2020 from 6:30 - 8:00pm in the 5th floor Jeffco Ed Center Board Room for a JAGC panel discussion. Various GT stakeholders will be on hand to answer questions you may have about gifted education in Jeffco, and we would like to be prepared to answer questions you may have. This will be our last Parent Learning opportunity of the year -- don’t miss it!

Please submit questions you would like answered in this short survey by Feb 9 to help guide our discussion and panel makeup on Feb 24: https://tinyurl.com/JAGC2020

GT Parent & Student Resource Page

Be sure to check out our Student Opportunities webpage for travel experiences, camps, resources, etc. Also, our Parent Resources webpage has info on upcoming and past parent seminars, presentations and useful links for families of gifted learners.

GT Advisory Council GTAC

Our district GT Advisory Council (GTAC) has been continuing to meet -- thanks to those parents, students and educators who have volunteered for this vital committee! We continued to review how we can improve our Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs), especially for secondary students. We next hope to outline gifted programming expectations for all schools. For more info on GTAC and a link to the notes from this meeting, see our GTAC website.

SPARKS Camp 2020

The SPARKS Enrichment Program for Jeffco Gifted & Talented learners, again held at Wheat Ridge High School from June 8 - 19, is a summer experience for district GT students entering 1st through 8th grade. Our classes provide an engaging learning environment in a variety of topics for Jeffco gifted students. Due to our current capacity, we will no longer be able to accept incoming kindergartners or non-Jeffco students. See our website for more info -- as we are implementing a new platform this year, registration will open on Feb 14!
Brick by Brick: Lego Expo at Stevens Elementary!

Learning content (facts) matters, but what matters more is giving students the opportunity to apply that content to real-world situations, problems, and scenarios – where they get the chance to practice skills such as communication, self-direction, civic engagement, problem-solving, and creativity.

It was through this lens that GT students in grades 2-4 at Stevens Elementary imagined a better world as part of the FIRST LEGO City Shaper and Boomtown Build seasons. FIRST-(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), is an organization that partners with Lego education to design challenges that combine the engineering design process with hands on learning and real world application.

FIRST Lego League Jr. is for students in grades K-3. This season's theme is Boomtown Build, where students design and create a new building for Boomtown-a fictional city-out of classic Lego bricks. FIRST Lego League is for students in grades 4-8. This season's theme is titled City Shaper, which requires students to complete a research project that solves a problem of urbanization. Students also design and build a robot out of Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits and program their robot to perform a series of functions using block coding.

Stevens GT students in grades 2-4 (some were part of FIRST Lego League Jr., some were part of FIRST Lego League) started the season learning about major leaps in human development. Advancements such as capturing fire, language development, agriculture, the industrial revolution, and the Internet age. Students then identified problems associated with urbanization such as habitat loss, water shortages, homelessness, traffic congestion, and the affordable housing crisis. Finally, students developed solutions to these problems by elevating transportation systems to relieve surface street congestion, offering the infrastructure to provide multi-modal transportation to city residents, designing a lifestyle cart for the homeless-that includes a sink, bed, and storage area-and by zoning cities for mixed use areas that cut down on traffic while increasing access to affordable housing. In order to conceptualize these solutions, students used traditional and motorized Legos to model their ideas.

The culmination of this process was a FIRST LEGO expo held at Stevens Elementary on December 13th. LEGO League Jr. teams from Columbine Hills Elementary, and Stevens Elementary, and Lego League teams from Stevens and Boulder Valley School District shared their LEGO builds and what they learned throughout their season. Students explained their solutions to humanity's most challenging problems, to parents, families, peers and evaluators. Elementary age kids were also exposed to coding, robotics, and technology opportunities available to them in the future, through the FIRST organization. High school LEGO robotics teams who traveled from schools around the metro area demonstrated their robots' functions and then invited their younger peers to test and drive them.

The FIRST Lego Expo at Stevens on December 13th provided 36 students from Jeffco and across the Denver Metro area the opportunity to fulfill our Generations vision, one Lego brick at a time.

-By: Duncan Dotterrer, Stevens Elementary

GT Legislative Day at the Capitol

GT Legislative Day at the Capitol allows students, families and educators to advocate for gifted education and experience the legislative process in action at our State Capitol. Secondary students can shadow a legislator, and there are events for families as well. Legislative Day 2020 will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020.
Building Our Capacity at GT Mental Health Day

Over 100 counselors, school psychologists, social workers and social-emotional learning specialists from throughout the district joined us this past Wednesday, January 29 at the Ed Center for our 5th annual GT Mental Health Day! Each year, the GT Department hosts a day dedicated to learning all about how Jeffco mental health professionals can better support gifted students. As GT students come with a unique set of social and emotional needs, we want to build the capacity of those who support GT students in all of our schools and offer strategies to better meet their needs.

This year’s GT MH Day featured guest speaker Terry Bradley, who has decades of experience in working with gifted learners and has presented on their social-emotional needs throughout Colorado and at the national level. Terry was a trainer for Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) groups and has authored curriculum on running student discussion groups. Terry presented on A Gifted Child Is More Than Just a Brain: The Affective Aspects of Giftedness.

We also had a variety of breakout sessions for mental health professionals to choose from, including sessions on meeting the affective needs of secondary students, bibliotherapy, twice exceptional students, ADHD, and stress and the gifted learner. This is part of our ongoing effort to build our capacity to meet the needs of gifted learners in Jeffco!

Jeffco Writing Challenge

The Jeffco Writing Challenge is open to all Jeffco students in K-12. Poetry, short stories, non-fiction or dramas are all welcome. Deadline for submissions is February 21, 2020. For more information visit the 2020 Jeffco Writing Challenge. This year’s prompt encourages students to “Describe a game or app you would like to design to make the world a better place.” First place winners in each grade win $100; 2nd & 3rd place win Tattered Cover Gift Cards! Submissions are due Feb 21!

JAGC NEWSLETTER

The Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC), an affiliate of our state GT organization, the Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT, coloradogifted.org) has just release a new newsletter with great info for GT families Check it out at jeffcogifted.org. The next JAGC meeting will be on Feb 13 at Dutch Creek Elementary, and is open to the public from 6 to 7 PM.