

Gifted Resource Council Online

—Put Your Child In Touch with www.cybam.com/grc
—Use It Yourself

Did you know that GRC is online? GRC's Web site is another valuable resource for gifted children, their parents and teachers.

The Web site is organized into three primary sections: *About GRC*, *Programs*, and *Resources*, with subheadings clearly delineated under each.

Where to Start

Sign Up Now! is the place to get all the information you need if you have not enrolled your child in GRC's next enrichment program.

Check the *Articles* section regularly to make sure that you are up to date on the latest parenting articles to be posted, then turn to the *Family Resources* section to access other resources for gifted students and their parents.

Just for Kids

Although children today spend hours each week playing games on computers and using the Internet to communicate with friends, few spend enough time using the educational enrichment opportunities available on the Web.

Kids Link is a powerful resource designed just for the special enrichment of curious children. Links to thirty-two different Web sites are included, ranging from local attractions like the St. Louis Science Center and Young Saint Louis—an Internet newspaper focusing on the activities and accomplishments of local kids—to NASA's K-12 Internet Initiative or the Smithsonian Museum Online, from PBS's Nye Science Labs Online to Yahoo!igans, a Web guide for kids.

The GRC Web site offers amazing informational resources for children who have been taught how and encouraged to access them. Parents who involve their children in this way are preparing them for future success as a resourceful learner.

Make It Easy For Your Child

- ★ Encourage your child make GRC's *Kid Links* the starting point for online adventure and learning.
- ★ Arrange a shortcut to www.cybam.com/grc on your child's computer.
- ★ Spend time with your child exploring the educational opportunities available through the GRC Web site.

★ Play some of the educational games with your child, talk to your child while he or she is engaged in some of the scientific discoveries available, and show your excitement for what your child is learning.

★ Enrich the list. Click [tell me](#) and let our webmaster know about other valuable links you want her to add to our Web site.

Parenting Articles

The *Articles* section of the GRC Web site is the newest resource for parents. GRC has begun to include practical articles for parents in its newsletter, *mindwonders*. These and other articles are readily available by topic under the *Articles* subsection of the Web site.

Tips for Parenting a Gifted Child addresses common parenting issues like "Healthy Self-Esteem" and "What Should I Say When I Don't Know the Answer?" These articles blend theory with practical advice and focus heavily on the very important psychosocial development of gifted children.

Why choose GRC Programs? contains articles which describe specific programs and how they benefit gifted children. They probe beneath the list of courses and thumbnail descriptions to explore how the curricula, the teachers and the guiding educational philosophy of GRC work together to create wonderful enrichment opportunities for gifted children.

Dialogue with the Director

What is the connection (or should I say “link”?) between smiles and the Internet? How often do you see people smiling as they face a computer screen? What is it that gives each of us the greatest happiness? Such questions are meandering through my mind as I think of this column, Gifted Resource Council and its mission, and the GRC Web site.

I smile as I think of Mary Angert, a dedicated GRC Board member and Learning Lab instructor, who shares her computer talents with eager young people on Saturday mornings. I smile even more broadly as I think of the innumerable hours that Mary has donated to GRC and its mission of connecting “the community, the schools and parents to help bright and talented children achieve their potential.” Mary has done this quietly, behind the scenes, as the designer and developer of Gifted Resource Council’s Web site since its inception in 1996. She has never tired of accepting ideas and suggestions to make the site better, more meaningful and more accessible to readers who are searching for information to guide them in nurturing a talented child. Hopefully, this effort has put a smile on the faces of children and adults alike.

Yes, I have seen smiles on the faces of students intent on discovery before a computer screen! And I do believe that children smile before computers more often than adults! What is it that

prompts these smiles? A sense of accomplishment? The thrill of discovery? The satisfaction of mastery over a machine? The joy of new-found knowledge? The sheer pleasure of learning?

These are truly the things that bring smiles to the faces of gifted young people, whether they are involved with computers, the Internet or observing the way a caterpillar moves across a hot sidewalk. Smiles borne of discovery and learning. These are the smiles that bring a smile to my face! There is truly no greater satisfaction in my role as Executive Director of Gifted Resource Council than that which I feel observing the myriad of smiles on children’s faces as they engage in GRC programs. Smile with me! Share the joy of children learning! Scan the photos in this edition of *mindwonders* to find a child’s special smile.



Sue Flesch, GRC executive



*The “Cerebrum Sisters”
enjoy Creative Convention
at GRC’s Academic
Challenge Cup.*

*One of GRC’s Math, Marvels
& More “Scholars”
manipulates a geometric
creation.*



Did you know???

... GRC has just begun its 19th year
 ... serves 2,500 gifted students every year
 ... and enrollment is **surging!**

Learning Labs Attract More Students

J Fall enrollment was **270—highest since '92!**
J Winter enrollment was **354—second highest ever!**
J **Total enrollment for the year was the highest ever!**
J **70 classes** were held this year, ranging from Science at Hogwarts to Ultimate Team Challenge 2001.
J **15 classes** of the 40 offered during the winter session were **filled to capacity—an all-time record!**
J **All winter classes for preschoolers and kindergartners were filled to capacity.**
J Almost **40 parents** attended each of the Parenting Classes on Saturdays during Learning Labs.
J Students attending winter Learning Labs came from **64 zip codes!**



Academic Challenge Cup's Creative Convention promotes concentration and delight!



An Ancient Academy "Scribe" proudly displays her newly created amulet.



Two smiling ECO Academy "Entrepreneurs" rest on their product!

Academic Challenge Cup Sets Third Successive Record

J **1,425 students** participated in Academic Challenge Cup 2001— **a new record for the third successive year!**
J Students in grades 2-8 came from St. Louis City and County, St. Charles County and Southern Illinois.
J **490 students** participated on Thursday, including 38 teams in the LinguisHTIK competition and 60 teams in Equations—a **new single day record!**
J 2nd and 3rd graders who participated in Creative Convention came from **34 schools and 10 districts.**
J **150 parents** participated in the Parenting Classes held during the competition.
J **14 volunteers donated 300+ hours** helping organize and staff Academic Challenge Cup!

Thanks to . . .

. . . the following individuals who made financial contributions to Gifted Resource Council from May 2000 through April 2001. We apologize for any names which may have been inadvertently omitted or misspelled.

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How can I find the ideal school for my child?

By Dennis O'Brien

Many parents are concerned about identifying a school which will nurture and challenge their child's giftedness. Hometown parents of young children as well as newcomers to the region are often eager to assure the best possible environment for their child, despite the personal sacrifices it may entail.

Here are some ways to find a school which is a good match for your child.

P Call for information about the gifted programs at various school districts and ask follow-up questions of the districts' gifted coordinators.

P Evaluate the range of services provided by various districts. For instance, Rockwood busses gifted elementary students to the Center for Creative Learning for a full day of intensive enrichment each week and provides pullout support in their home schools.

Clayton, at the other end of the spectrum, provides enrichment specialists to serve students with learning problems as well as those with special talents in an effort to downplay the giftedness of a few and stress the "enrichment for a wider population and individualizing services as much as possible for a broad range of students." Most districts provide something in the middle, like pullout classes and homework compacting.

P Network with other parents to verify that a school's climate and educational philosophy are what you believe them to be.

P Consider independent schools. Although they may not have programs specifically tailored for gifted children, many provide an environment

in which gifted children thrive. Because of the much lower student-teacher ratio, independent schools can provide more individual attention.

Independent schools also select children to match the special mission of each school, and this makes for a more committed student and parent community. According to studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, children who attend independent schools are assigned twice as

much homework as those who attend public schools and are more likely to take honors classes in high school than their public school peers. For more information,

call Independent Schools of St. Louis at 314-567-9229.

P Keep in mind other considerations, including the harmony between family values and school climate, opportunities for character-building as well as academic challenges, the amount of nurturing available as well as the school's educational philosophy, and the realistic costs vs. the benefits of a better opportunity.

Dennis O'Brien is a licensed clinical social worker, experienced educator and therapist, and executive director of KidzLink, an organization serving medically fragile children.

Keep other considerations, like family values and costs vs. benefits, in mind.

If you have questions or for more information, call 314-842-0666 or visit our Web site: www.cybam.com/grc

Gifted Resource Online, continued from page 1

Make It Effective For Yourself

H Download or print key articles you will want to re-read.

H Share articles and the Web site address with other parents.

H Arrange a shortcut to www.cybam.com/grc and make it your portal to online support of your gifted child.

H Click [tell me](#) and let us know the topics and questions you would like us to address in future articles.

Online Resources for Parents and Teachers

Two sections, *For Instructors Only* and *Family Resources*, contain links to an incredible variety of Web sites and resources to help teachers and parents reach gifted children more effectively.

Sites range from the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) to enrichment and summer programs, early entrance programs, educational resources and services, gifted publications, distance learning programs and many dozens more. All these valuable resources are organized into categories, listed with brief descriptors and accessible with just

the click of a mouse!

About GRC, *mindwonders*, Membership, etc.

Here readers can explore our mission statement and meet our Board of Directors, key staff and supporters. The GRC calendar is posted, and parents can learn about the benefits of becoming supporting members of GRC. Complete editions of the GRC newsletter, *mindwonders*, dating back to 1998, are also accessible.

Gifted Webmaster

GRC's Web site has been maintained and steadily improved by Board Member Mary Angert. Her work earned a tip of the hat by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in its ranking of nonprofit, community Web sites.

Web hosting services have been donated by CyberAmerica, www.cybam.com.

Mary welcomes your suggestions, and we suggest that you let her know what you like best and that you appreciate her volunteer efforts. You can do all this on the Web site by clicking [tell me](#).

BECOME A MEMBER OF GIFTED RESOURCE COUNCIL

Now *you* can participate in shaping America's future by becoming a member of **Gifted Resource Council**, a not-for-profit education agency serving bright and talented young people. Your tax-deductible contribution will enable us to improve existing programs, extend offerings and reach more children. Your membership will not only benefit gifted children, but also entitle you to receive the following:

Member: \$40

- * Priority registration for all programs
- * \$10 discount off a Learning Lab registration
- * **FREE parenting classes**
- * Use of GRC Library
- * Free registration at selected workshops and lectures

Friend: \$60

- * All of the above, *plus*
- * \$10 discount off a Summer Program

Sponsor: \$100

- * All of the above, *plus*
- * Additional \$25 discount off a Summer Program (\$35 total)

Patron: \$250

- * All of the above, *plus*
- * One FREE Learning Lab course or
- * Learning Lab scholarship in your name at your request

Institutional Membership: \$100 (for schools and other organizations)

q Member *q* Friend *q* Sponsor *q* Patron *q* Institutional

Name (as you wish your membership to be listed) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

I am also interested in helping as a volunteer. Please contact me. *q*

Please mail check to: Gifted Resource Council, 12225 Eddie and Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63127

GiftedResourceCouncil *P* Spring 2001 *P* Enhancing the potential of talented young learners

mindwonders

informs the public about activities of Gifted Resource Council and about issues relevant to the development of bright and talented children and youth.

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Enhancing the potential of talented young learners

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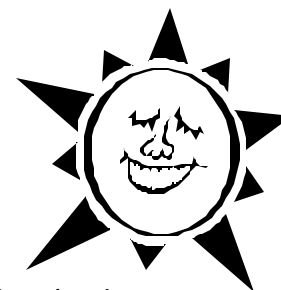
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Summer Academies
June 18 - July 27
will be held at
Flynn Park Elementary School
7220 Waterman
(close to Washington University)



Still a few openings!
Call 314-842-0666 for details

Gifted Resource Council is a not-for-profit education agency serving the greater St. Louis Metropolitan area. Its purpose is to bring together the resources of the community, the schools and parents to help bright and talented children achieve their potential.