



## Celebrate Gifted Awareness Week 2009! 15 to 22 June

### Ideas for teachers, centres and schools:

- Showcase the work of gifted and talented learners throughout your school.
- Provide a parent, whanau and community information evening for sharing your organisation's initiatives in gifted and talented education.
- Feature gifted and talented education in your newsletter.
- Run a competition for students – this could be anything from a scrabble-a-thon to a poster contest.
- Share your achievements and those of your students with the local newspaper – ask for a feature story or write a letter to the editor.
- Write to your local Member of Parliament (template and other information provided).
- Encourage your gifted and talented learners and their parents to contact their local MPs, sharing their experiences.
- Invite your local MP to visit. Encourage him or her to talk with teachers, students and parents.
- Facilitate gifted and talented learners in the creative expression of their experiences with the aim of sending a 'gift' to their local MPs. For example, they might write a poem, create a story, draw a picture or write a jingle or lyrics.
- Host a movie evening! Show a film about gifted and talented individuals. See Hoagie's web page for ideas (<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/movies.htm>).
- Run a book discussion group based on biographical or fictional depictions of giftedness. See <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/biographies.htm> or [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/featuring\\_gifted.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/featuring_gifted.htm) for some great ideas!
- Join an association for gifted and talented education (see contact details).
- Dedicate a staff meeting to professional discussions and dialogue about gifted and talented education.
- Distribute professional readings to your staff about gifted and talented education. Facilitate professional discussions about these.
- Have a special day to celebrate giftedness. Perhaps you could set aside 'a tall poppies day' when students dress in red, draw or create poppies, or plant a garden of poppies. Or how about an 'unfurling of the koru day' to show development and growth, dressing in green, etc. Students can dress as their gifted and talented heroes and heroines and have a 'hero parade'!
- Enter NZAGC online competition for children, parents and professionals [www.giftedchildren.org.nz](http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz)
- Explore the Ministry of Education's recommended online resources for gifted kids at [http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/support/index\\_e.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/support/index_e.php)
- Host a talent quest! Acknowledge the wide range of talents in your students.
- Celebrate Professor George Parkyn's birthday on 17 June with a birthday party. See <http://www.georgeparkyncentre.org/georgeparkyn.html> for details about Prof Parkyn and his contributions to gifted and talented education.
- Find out about local and regional services for gifted kids in your area. Visit providers like the GEC one-day-school or GKP programme.
- Attend an event hosted by one of our organisations. Visit our websites to find out what is happening in your area!

Ideas compiled and provided by the Gifted Education Centre, giftEDnz - The Professional Association for Gifted Education, the Gifted Kids Programme, the New Zealand Association for Gifted Children, REACH Education, Christchurch Association for Gifted Educators (CAGE), North Canterbury Support for Gifted and Talented Children and WAGCY.

### Ideas for professional development providers and teacher educators:

- Tell your colleagues and students about Gifted Awareness Week.
- Send out daily emails with facts, resources and ideas about gifted and talented education.
- Start writing, edit or submit an article for *Tall Poppies*, *APEX* and other journals  
[www.giftedchildren.org.nz](http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz)
- Join a national or international organisation for gifted and talented education.
- Recruit members for national and regional organisations – spread the word about giftEDnz, NZAGC, and other networks.
- Host a teaching and/or research evening for your local educators, parents and whanau or community members.
- Write to your local Member of Parliament (template and other information provided).
- Send out a press release via your institution. Seek opportunities for publicity within your institution via newsletters, magazines and other communications.
- Dedicate a staff meeting to professional discussions and dialogue about gifted and talented education.
- Distribute professional readings to your staff about gifted and talented education. Facilitate professional discussions about these.
- Investigate the opportunities for your students and colleagues to learn about gifted and talented education across teacher education and professional development programmes offered by your institution.
- Contact your local citizen's advice bureau and add your name to their contact list for gifted and talented education.
- Attend an event hosted by one of our organisations. Visit our websites to find out what is happening in your area!

### Ideas for parents and families:

- Join an association like the NZAGC, NCSGTC, etc.
- Start a local branch of NZAGC or find out what is happening in an established local branch [www.giftedchildren.org.nz](http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz)
- Take out a book on giftedness from the NZAGC or your local library.
- Write to your local Member of Parliament (template and other information provided).
- Get together with other families with gifted children for a fun time together or a chance for adults to share their experiences and find out about other like-minds.
- Explore the parents section of Hoagie's Gifted for ideas and support  
<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/parents.htm>.
- Check out the parent support offered by the Ministry of Education on the tki www site (<http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/talented/parents>).
- Enrol in a course on parenting gifted children if there is one in your area (For example, see what's on offer at [www.communityeducation.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.communityeducation.canterbury.ac.nz) )
- Request a copy of the Ministry of Education 2008 publication, *Nurturing Gifted and Talented Children* ([http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/talented/parents/nurturing/index\\_e.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/talented/parents/nurturing/index_e.php)).
- Make an appointment this week to see your gifted child's teacher and find out how they are doing.
- Explore the Ministry of Education's recommended online resources for gifted kids at [http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/support/index\\_e.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/gifted/support/index_e.php)  
Celebrate with your child, something they have been working on or achieved.
- Pop some popcorn and enjoy a family movie evening watching films about gifted people. See Hoagie's movie list (<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/movies.htm>) for ideas.  
Visit an art gallery, museum, or historical place to create a family learning experience.
- Validate your child's passions by letting them go on, and on, and on, about them at least for a day.
- Write to your local Member of Parliament (template and other information provided).
- Gift your son or daughter's centre or school with a membership to an association, a journal or magazine subscription or other resources to support gifted and talented children.
- Attend an event hosted by one of our organisations. Visit our websites to find out what is happening in your area!

**During and after Gifted Awareness Week, let your Board know about your successes, activities, media coverage, and ideas for Gifted Awareness Week 2010!**