



# GATE News and Views



PVUSD GATE Services

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

October 2008

## Changes in the GATE Office

We are excited about the new school year and are looking forward to working with parents and teachers to support their advanced learner(s).

Lyn Olson is continuing her work as the GATE Coordinator. Ted Altenberg begins his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as GATE TOSA. David Manier, who served as GATE TOSA for '07-'08, has returned to the classroom and is teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Mar Vista.

In order to provide additional support to classroom teachers, and to build capacity at the school sites, we are initiating a GATE Liaison Network!

## New GATE Liaison Network

Thanks to generous funding support from the MAIA Foundation, we are offering stipends and additional perks to teachers willing to serve as their school's GATE Liaison. Modeled somewhat after the Tech Liaison Network, we hope to create a collaborative working group of teachers who will be able to assist their colleagues with resources and strategies for differentiating instruction and meeting the needs of gifted students, and help strengthen GATE services throughout the district.

### The goals & objectives of this program are:

- To increase the presence and awareness of PVUSD GATE Services at all school sites, among teachers, students, parents and the community.
- To achieve the district goal that every identified GATE student receives differentiated instruction targeted at their academic level throughout the regular school day.
- To increase the number of underrepresented students from immigrant and second language families graduating from college.
- To create a network of professionals for sharing information, supporting teachers and making recommendations.
- To increase communication to students and parents about how classroom teachers are meeting the needs of their gifted students.

14 of our 16 elementary schools now have GATE Liaisons!

**Amesti:** Meadow Haughey- 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Bradley:** April Nelson-2<sup>nd</sup> and Ari Parker-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Calabasas:** Randi Diccico-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Hall District:** Janet Krietzer-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**H. A. Hyde:** Susie DeRosa-

**Freedom:** Monica Cessarelo-4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Landmark:** Kim Black-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**MacQuiddy:** Debbie Walsh-4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Mar Vista:** David Manier-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Mintie White:** Nelly Gonzalez, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Ohlone:** Meghan Green-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Radcliff:** Gerardo Palafox-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Rio del Mar:** Carroll Mayer-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Valencia:** Danny Jacobsmeyer-4<sup>th</sup> grade

Giftedness is only a prediction of potential;  
it is not a guarantee of success.

It is important to help gifted children make the most of their potential. We must challenge and motivate them. These students do not always "make it on their own."

www.CartoonStock.com



"Mr. Wickers called me 'gifted' in front of the whole class. I'm ruined."

PVUSD GATE Services

[www.pvusdgate.net](http://www.pvusdgate.net)

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## FALL GATE Activities

- GATE Placement Committee meetings were held at each site, in which we reviewed the data and teacher comments on all recommended and tested students, and determined which students are identified as GATE.
- Parent and teacher notification of GATE students is underway, including their strengths and current academic achievement.
- GATE “Teacher Talks” in grades 3–6 provide time for classroom teachers to discuss their GATE students and how GATE staff can support teachers in differentiation.
- Orientation to California GATE standards and PVUSD GATE for new teachers at individual sites are being conducted at sites where requested.
- Ongoing support of classroom teachers as they differentiate the core curriculum for their students.
- Optional 15–30 minute “mini in-services” to staff, on a number of possible topics. Examples include:
  - *Questioning for higher level thinking*
  - *Creativity and the Core Curriculum*
  - *Icons for Depth and Complexity*
  - *HM Language Arts and ITUs (Integrated Thematic Units (4-6))*
  - *MindSets and Motivation*
  - *Scholarly Traits*
  - *Social Emotional Elements of Giftedness*
  - *Independent Study and I-Search*
  - *Acceleration*

## FALL Parent Meetings

This year we are pleased to bring to PVUSD Marte Mathews to speak at our Annual Fall Parent Meeting.

Ms. Mathews is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in San Jose, who specializes in gifted children and their families. She will be addressing some of the common social and emotional issues experienced by many gifted children such as perfectionism, intensity, peer relationships, and motivation.

You have two dates and locations to choose from:

- **November 6** – 6:30 to 8:30 PM at HA Hyde, 125 Alta Vista in Watsonville
- **November 20** – 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Mar Vista, 6860 Soquel Ave in Aptos

The first 30 minutes of the meeting will be an overview of PVUSD GATE services; we will concentrate on identification and differentiation. Feel free to skip the first part of the meeting if you have attended an introductory meeting in the past. Ms. Mathews will begin her talk at 7:15 PM.

Last year’s parent meeting had a fabulous turn out and our guest speaker on MindSets, Dawn Binder, received rave reviews from parents. We hope to see you there!

## K-3 GATE Students

Yes, Kindergarten students may come to school already displaying characteristics of giftedness. Formal screening for giftedness takes place in third grade; however primary grade (K–3) teachers provide an appropriately differentiated program for students who demonstrate an exceptional capacity for academic achievement. Parents and K–3 teachers are encouraged to contact the GATE office for support and information about how to keep these little ones challenged and making continuous growth.

## What’s a Parent to Do?

Here are some of the most recognized pieces of advice for parents of gifted children who are showing signs of pressure or stress.

1. Go easy: Gifted children usually find ways to stimulate themselves. Watch for areas of interest and expand on them at the child’s request. Don’t force them to pursue something because you “think it would be good for them”.
2. Don’t expect a child to good at everything: Often one who is gifted in math often struggles with a different subject.
3. Read more about the needs of your gifted child: Check our website [www.pvusdgate.net](http://www.pvusdgate.net) for links
4. Listen: Don’t assume that because they are gifted that life comes easily.
5. Be aware of your expectations of your child and cut them by at least 50%.
6. Give your child a chance to “be” —even if you know he or she could “do” more.
7. Get help: If difficulties persist between you and your child, or with your child at school, seek professional help from a counselor who has experience working with the gifted.

### Your PVUSD GATE Staff



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