

# LCSC High Ability Newsletter

Volume 4,  
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October, 2013

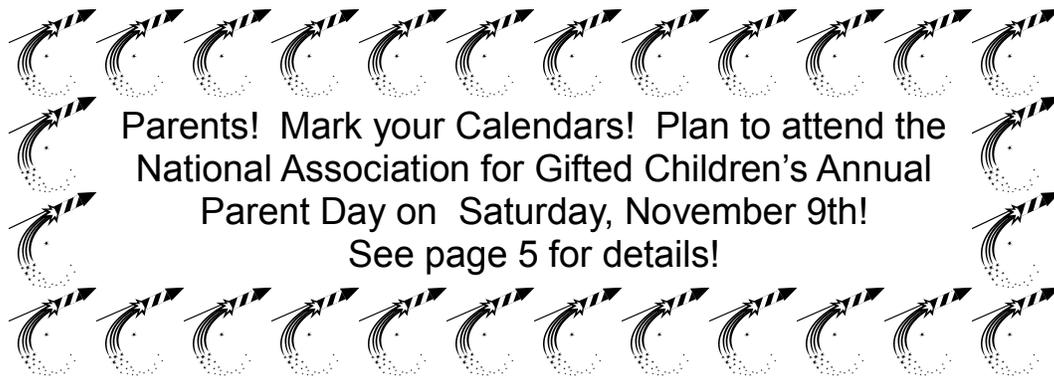
## Must See Web Site!

www.thinkfun.com  
 "Our mission is to ignite your mind! For people of all ages who want to challenge their mind and sharpen their skills. ThinkFun is the world's leader in addictively fun games that build reasoning and creative thinking skills through play."

"To repeat what others have said, requires education; to challenge it, requires brains."  
 – Mary Pettibone Poole

## Highlights of this Issue

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Parents! Mark your Calendars! Plan to attend the National Association for Gifted Children's Annual Parent Day on Saturday, November 9th!  
 See page 5 for details!

## Annual Identification for High Ability Services

Each year LCSC teachers and parents nominate students for possible inclusion in the High Ability Program. The High Ability Program offers services to students who exhibit a need for more advanced curriculum and/or faster paced instruction. To qualify for services, students should have test scores in the top 7% of the nation. Students are expected to score in the 93rd percentile and above in reading and/or math as well as have an OLSAT score that places them among top students.

Parents who would like to nominate their children for screening should complete the KOI Parent Nomination Form which can be found on the LCSC website. The form should be returned along with work samples to Kari Ottinger at the LCSC Administration Center no later than December 13, 2013.

The screening process takes place between December 15 and the end of March. Parents will be notified of the committee's decision near the end of the school year. If parents do not agree with the committee decision, they may submit a request for an appeal.

Keep in mind that teachers strive to differentiate the curriculum for all students whether or not they are identified for High Ability services.



Registration is open for our Fall 2013 Saturday Adventure Programs! Programs available for students as young as second grade, high school students, and parents!

These programs are designed to provide hands-on, exciting learning experiences outside of a regular classroom setting. Explore new content areas, encourage critical thinking, and discover new information while having fun!

Our Parent Program Series will continue with our third offering, "Intensity, Perfectionism, and Stress." The program will be facilitated by Miki Hamstra, certified SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Model Parent Facilitator and Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development.

New this fall for high school students is a college prep program, "Your Future is Now," featuring guests from across Ball State's campus. Topics to be covered will be the application process, searching for scholarships, standing out in essay responses, mock interview practice, and resume feedback.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.bsu.edu/academy/youth/>

## College Prep Program

October 26 · 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. · Grades 10-12  
Only \$25! · **Sign Up Now!**  
Parents attend free with students!

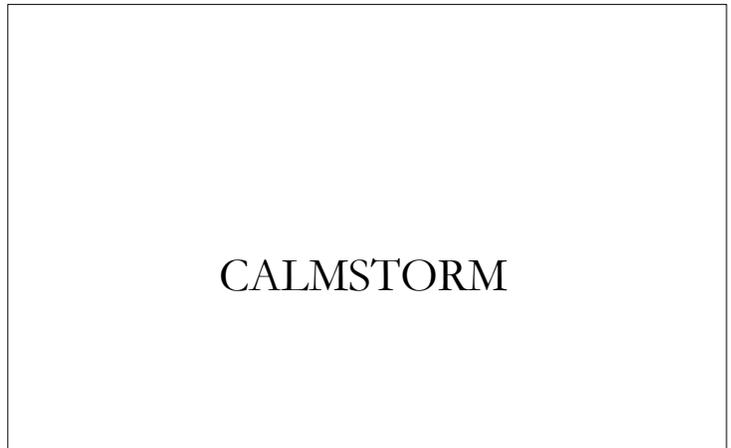
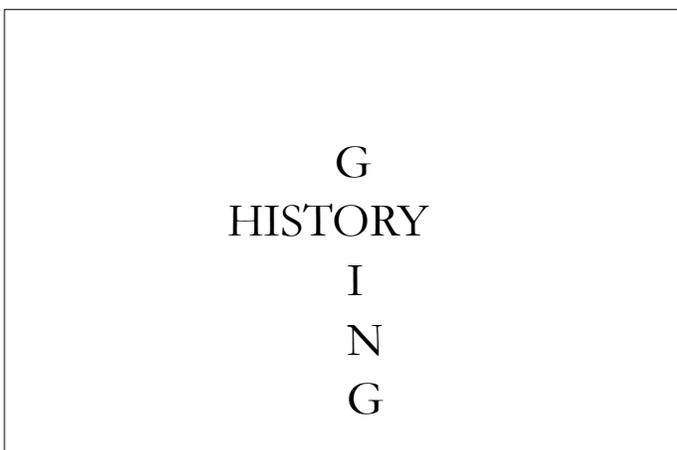
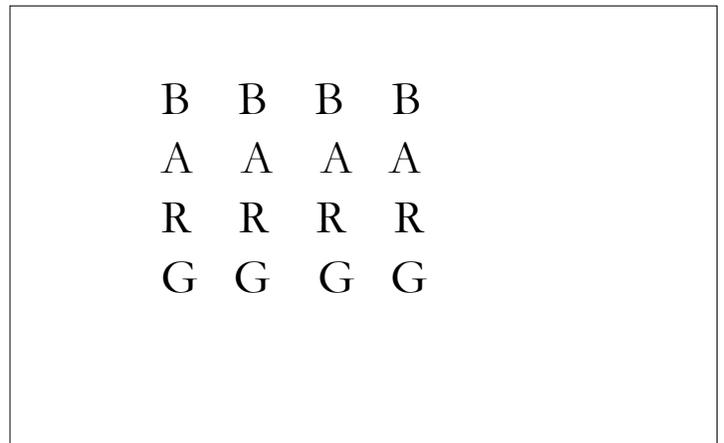
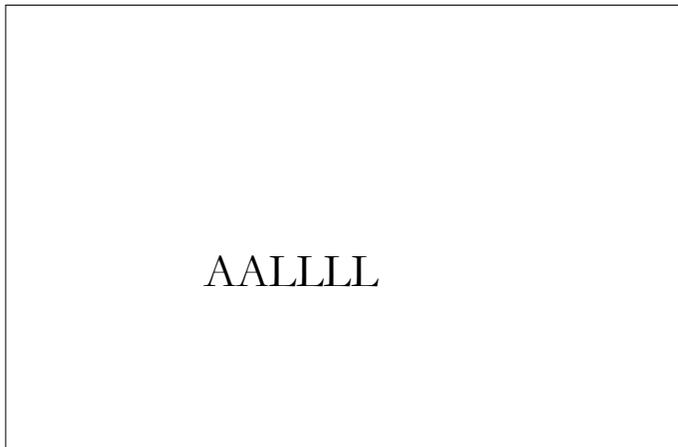
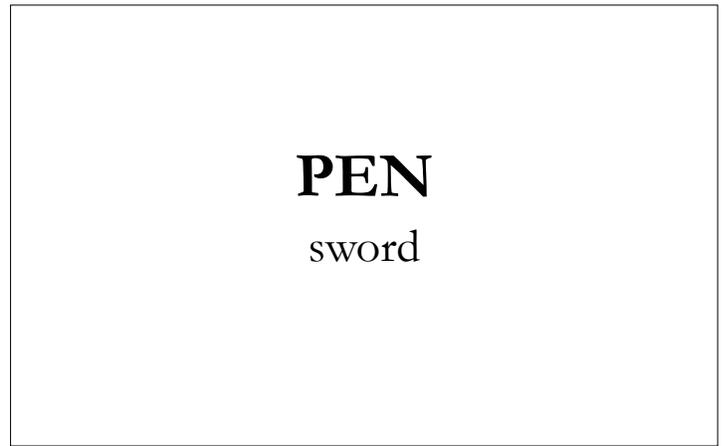
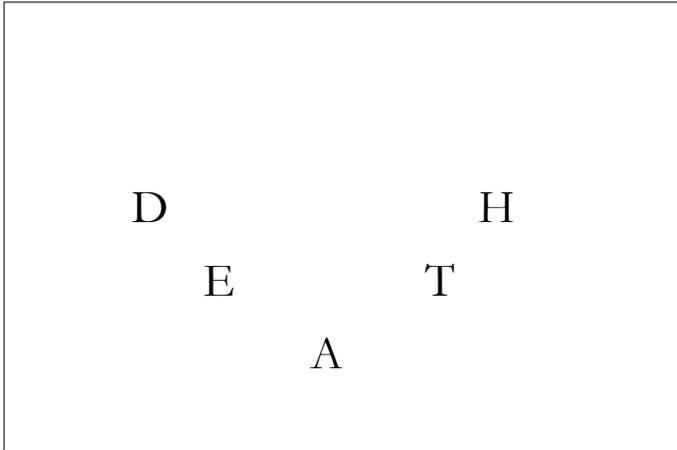
High school is coming to an end and it's time to answer those big questions. What does your future hold? What are you doing now that will make your résumé stronger? How do you make your college application stand out and where do you find scholarship funding? Join the Indiana Academy and experts from Ball State University for a day focused on your future. Sessions will include opportunities for one-on-one feedback on your résumé and mock interviews, tips on writing stand-out essay question responses, advice on the college application process, useful information about your social networking footprint, and more. Students should bring an updated résumé for review. Breakfast will be provided and parents are welcome to come along.

**SATURDAY  
ADVENTURE!**  
2013

Watch the Ball State/Indiana Academy website for spring Saturday Adventure Courses.  
<http://www.bsu.edu/academy/youth/>

**PLEXERS! (Creative Thinking Activity)**

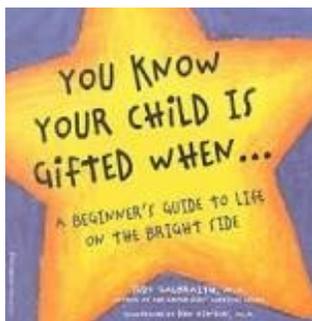
Plexers are a type of rebus or “picture-words”. You are to determine what word or phrase the Plexer brings to mind. The direction, size, and/or position of the letters are often important to understanding the puzzle. How many can you solve? (see page 6 for the answers)



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# You Know Your Child Is Gifted When...

<http://www.frespirit.com/files/other/youknowyourchildisgiftedwhen.pdf>



A popular book that is now available as a free download from Free Spirit Publishers, *You Know Your Child Is Gifted When...* is a hilarious look at life with gifted kids with lots of insightful suggestions for parents. Just click on the web address above and have fun reading!

## Purposefully Placed

Did you receive a notice that your child was “Purposefully Placed” into the High Ability Cluster or Honors Classroom for this school year? Do you wonder what it means to be “Purposefully Placed”?

As a part of the district identification plan for selection of students to participate in the High Ability Program, a category called “Purposefully Placed” has been designed.

Every year a committee thoroughly examines each student’s academic data to make a determination of either “High Ability” or “General Education” needs. For some students, the data indicates that the student is working far above his/her peers and has ability scores within the “very high” range. These students are readily identified as “High Ability” students and are placed into cluster classrooms (elementary) or specified high ability classes (middle/high).

For some students, the data shows that the student’s academic needs are being met within the general education classroom using general education curriculum. These students continue with the identification of “General Education” students.

A third group of students emerge from the selection committee whose educational needs are “undetermined”. The evidence and data are just not consistent or clear enough to make the identification with confidence. These students are identified “Purposefully Placed” and are assigned to classrooms/groups with the students who are identified as High Ability for one year in order to gather additional data that will assist the committee in making the final determination.

During this one year, teachers will use the idea of talent spotting to gather more data for the selection committee. The Purposefully Placed students participate in challenging work, and they are monitored for growth. At the end of the year, the committee will again consider all of the student’s data, including new data from the classroom teacher, to make the determination of either High Ability Services or General Education Services.



60th Annual Convention and Exhibition > Indianapolis > November 7-30, 2013



# The 60th Annual Meeting of The National Association for Gifted Children



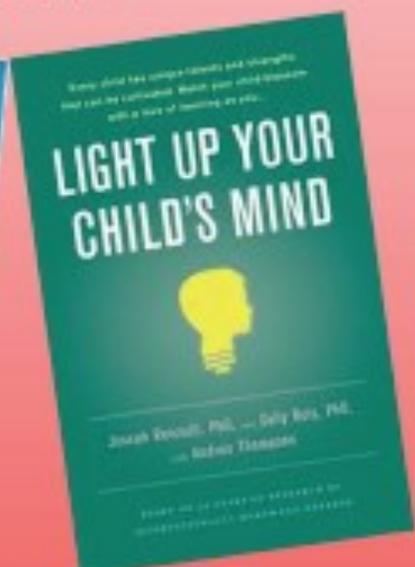
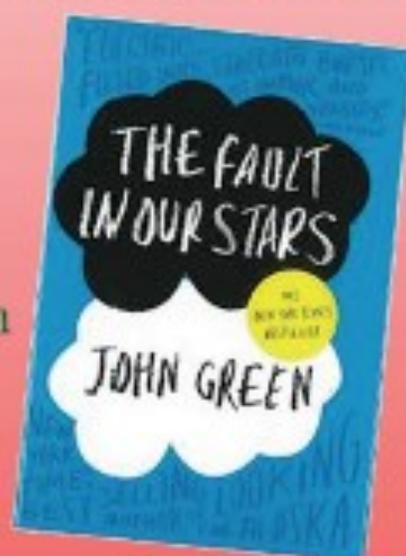
# Parent Day

Saturday, November 9, 2013

8am-8pm

## Features:

- Keynote Speakers: Sally Reis, John Green, and others
- Expert-Facilitated Roundtable Discussions
- Luncheon
- Conference Sessions
- Exhibit Hall
- Door Prizes
- Conference Reception



\*Cost=\$110 per person or \$175 per couple  
(includes full day, lunch, reception, and materials)

[www.iag-online.org](http://www.iag-online.org)

Sponsored by the **Indiana Association for the Gifted**



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## High Ability Services Mission Statement

The Lebanon Community School Corporation  
will create and nurture an  
environment that challenges high ability  
students to meet their full potential as  
lifelong learners.

We're on the Web!  
[http://www.leb.k12.in.us/  
highability.asp](http://www.leb.k12.in.us/highability.asp)

Mrs. Kari Ottinger is the new LCSC Director of High Ability Education.

I am very excited for my new position as the LCSC Director of High Ability Education and Assessment! Prior to joining the team at the Administration Center, I spent 6 fantastic years at Lebanon High School as Assistant Principal. My teaching experiences were in Business Education at Carmel High School and Pike High School.

My family and I live here in Lebanon and couldn't be more proud of our community and schools. My husband is a graduate of Lebanon High School, works for the Lebanon Utilities and is a Lebanon High School Boys Basketball Coach. We have two children; Kobe a 4th grader and Kylie a 3rd grader. We are committed to our community and school corporation!

~Kari

Answers to Plexars: 1) Death Valley; 2) The Pen is Mightier than the Sword; 3) All in all; 4) Up for Grabs; 5) Going Down in History; 6) The Calm Before the Storm