

NAMS Gifted News

Nazareth Area Middle School

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Inside this issue:

Battery Electric Cars	1
GIEP's	1
Iditarod Trail	2
Challenge Night	2
PA Computer Fair	2
Facts and Factoids	2

Special Points of Interest

- Please check the Middle School Gifted Ed. Website for updated information. This can be accessed by going to the NAMS site, click on More Staff, then Gifted Education. Or click: <http://teachweb.com/PA/NASD/bsmith/h0.stm>
- This edition's recommended web-sites: <http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/technology/transportation/electric-cars/>
- http://www.pde.state.pa.us/gifted_ed/site/default.asp
- <http://www.middleschoolcomputerfair.org/>

Charge It! Battery Electric Cars



Zenn Motors Vehicle

Have you even heard of Fisker Automotive? How about Venture Vehicles, Zenn Motorworks, Persu Mobility or the Aptera? Our 8th grade gifted exploratory class recently tried to find out more information about some of the many, believe it or not, battery electric car startup companies. Each student



Persu Mobility Vehicle

researched a startup company and then prepared a tri-fold brochure on one of the their cars as if they were employed by the company's marketing department. After completing the brochures, the students mailed them to their parent company in order to give them, perhaps, some new ideas.



The Aptera

Check out some of these brochures by going to Mr. Smith's teacher web site and clicking on the documents tab.

GIEP Time

It's that time of the year again for

many parents. Time to assist in updating your child's GIEP (Gifted Individualized Education Program).

After your child is determined to be eligible for gifted services, an initial GIEP is drafted and reviewed by members of the GIEP team. Parents are automatically members of this team. This document then must be updated annually.

Parents will receive notification that your child's GIEP needs this annual revision via an Invitation to Participate to a GIEP meeting. This document lists the location, date and time of the meeting. At this point, parents have the option of attending the

meeting at the stated date/time, not attending the meeting, or requesting a different date and time to attend. Parents should then return this form to the school so that the other members of the GIEP team may plan accordingly.

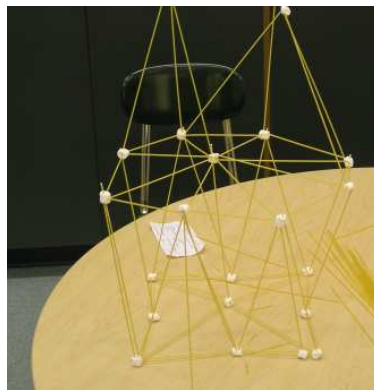
Parents are encouraged to return the Invitation to participate form promptly so that the student's records are kept within compliance of the law.

You may return the form to school with your child or phone or email your intentions to your child's gifted teacher. Thanks for in advance for your cooperation.



On Wednesday, January 11, the second annual Ultimate Challenge Night took

A Challenging Night



Spaghetti Tower

place at Shafer Elementary School. Over 90 people attended this event which permitted gifted students and their parents to work together to solve challenging activities. From 6:30 p.m. to 8:00, families kept busy trying to, for example, build the tallest tower from spaghetti and marshmallows, construct stalactites from a bag of odds and ends, build and drop paper helicopters in order to obtain the longest air time, and safely land an airplane at Heathrow Airport in London using Microsoft Flight Simulator. Thanks to gifted ed. teachers Susan Bostian, Dennis Hahn, and Mark Atwood, who is scheduled to be our new Inter-

mediate gifted ed. Teacher for the 09-10 school year for working to make this year's event successful.

Mush On!

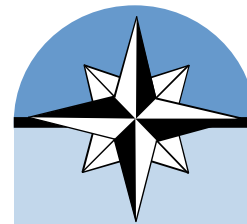
After a year's hiatus, the Iditarod Trail Simulation Challenge is back! In this year's 3rd marking period grade 6 Gifted Exploratory Class, four teams started out from Anchorage, Alaska, in an attempt to be the first team to cover the over one thousand miles of difficult terrain and safely reach the city of Nome. And after eleven days of travel, the teams are closing in on the finish.



The simulation requires teams to use a budget of \$ 10,000 with which to buy all the needed supplies, including the purchase of dogs and hiring a musher, in order to finish the race. Along the way, students are required to respond to difficult events and challenges and to make tough decisions. Each class period, students must also track the actual weather via the NOAA weather website, keep a log of their activities, and answer various questions related to the real Iditarod Trail sled race. They are also given periodic questions that require more in depth research. And to complete the race, each student must write a summary of the race from his/her perspective. Check out the next edition to see who wins.

PA Middle School Computer Fair

Several of our gifted students have been preparing for the 2009 PA Middle School Computer Fair. So far we have three entries to submit: one for the digital movie category, one for desktop publishing and one for multimedia. This year, the Regionals will take place at Intermediate Unit 20 on April 6 with the finals being held at Dickenson College on May 20. Competition in the Computer Fair is intense, but the kids have been working very hard and have prepared some amazing projects.



Microsoft Flight Simulator permits users to fly from /to over 24,000 airports.

The lowest recorded temperature in Alaska was -78 degrees Fahrenheit recorded at Tanana, Alaska.

The 2008 Pennsylvania Middle School Computer Fair hosted nearly 200 finalists from public, private and home-school environments.