

SEAL

PARENT GROUP

Supporting Engagement for Advanced Learners

2e Corner

By Valerie Hoit

I'm excited to report that SEAL's first public event was very well attended. There was standing room only for **Smart But Struggling** on Tuesday, February 23. It was a 2e Panel Discussion co-sponsored with BISD. The panel consisted of:

- * Dr. Jeff McCormick, BISD Director, Assessment, Title I & Highly Capable
- * Diane Leonetti, BISD Director, Instructional Support Services

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Introducing SEAL Website, Newsletter, and Facebook

By Cheryl Cain and Judy Levine, Co-Chairs

The SEAL website is live! We are excited to have a permanent home for our SEAL parent group. We are especially excited to begin creating a Facebook community for the parents of our advanced learners. Why would you want to sign up for yet another Facebook group? Here's why:

- 1) **Announcements:** For activities going on within our SEAL group, postings on summer classes, math challenges, science contests, book clubs, and more. Local, regional, and national.
- 2) **Questions and Networking:** Should my child take physics or biology? Why is my child refusing to sleep after they heard the fire engines go past? How do I help my child make friends? Where do I find an engaging online math program? Anyone else doing the Pacific Science Center camp and want to carpool?
- 3) **Resources:** For example, the Northwest Gifted Child Association's extensive summer opportunities document is now posted under the "file" tab on the SEAL Facebook page. Check it out.

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Grades 3-5 Math Enrichment: Beast Academy from Art of Problem Solving

By Judy Levine

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) holds that although the new Common Core content standards are considered to be more rigorous than most current state standards, they fall short in meeting the specific needs of gifted learners. If Common Core standards are strictly followed, they can actually limit learning. To overcome this pitfall, it is imperative that educators create a full range of supports for high-ability learners through differentiated curriculum, instruction, and

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Introducing SEAL, continued

4) **Community:** A safe place to ask questions, share your concerns, find like-minded playmates for your children, and feel connected in community as we parent these often amazing and sometimes confounding kids.

And HOW do you sign up? It's a simple process:

- 1) Go to <http://www.sealparents Bainbridge.com>
- 2) For just the newsletter, select the "Mailing List Sign Up" tab on the left
- 3) Fill out the form and hit Subscribe
- 4) To also join our Facebook community, follow the directions on the right side of the Home page

We are just beginning to build the SEAL organization this year. The BISD differentiation specialists have helped us get started by sending out the SEAL newsletter to families on their Highly Capable lists. To be in the loop for future SEAL newsletters, please sign up for the newsletter on our website. We hope you do! And while you are there, also sign up for the Facebook group. We look forward to creating a strong, vibrant community to promote engagement for children and for their parents as well.

Looking forward to keeping in touch.

Cheryl & Judy

2e, continued

- * Lydia Harrison, M.Ed, Owner, Island Educational Services
- * Dr. Steve Curtis, Child psychologist, Lifespan Psychological Services

Two videos were shown during the panel discussion:

"What is 2e?" linked at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPqQJihP5dY and "Outside of the Box Gifted Learners" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSVV7SuMvWY.

Questions were collected from the audience that Dr. McCormick used to moderate the discussion. Two hours later it felt like we'd covered just the tip of the iceberg, with great interest inspired for deeper discussions in the future.

Some takeaways from the panelists were:

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2e, continued

1. Being identified as HC (highly capable or "gifted") does not prevent a child from having an IEP or 504 plan, just as having an IEP or 504 does not prevent a child from being HC. A child can be identified by BISD as both special needs and HC or sometimes the special needs can mask the giftedness or vice versa causing difficulties in both areas.
2. With limited budgets, schools will do their best to service and support a student's needs. As a parent, you must take a look at what your child needs, at what the school can offer, and then supplement the gap. Especially, supplement your child's strengths to keep them engaged in learning.
3. Teachers can make accommodations and differentiate without an IEP or 504. Expectations of output are at the teacher's discretion, and an honest discussion must take place between the teacher, the 2e student, and the parent. Approach educators as team players who are well-intentioned.
4. Find the adaptive technology that works best for your child. Technology is getting cheaper, and many apps are free.

We are planning to place the audio file of the panel discussion on our website. Stay tuned for more information about SEAL and 2e's and also more information on a Parent Support Group gathering. Keep an eye out for an upcoming date!

Beast Academy, continued

assessments. Parents can help by providing gifted children with appropriately challenging enrichment resources as well.

One great resource for mathematically gifted students is the Beast Academy series from Art of Problem Solving. The fully illustrated guidebooks provide math lessons in an engaging, comic-book style. Companion practice books include challenging problems, puzzles, and games to reinforce the lessons. The Beast Academy books are aligned to the third, fourth, and fifth grade Common Core, and the content is highly differentiated to provide a challenging learning experience for even the most math-talented students. Ready to get started? The resource section of the Beast Academy website includes pre-assessments to help determine your child's starting place in the series. Beast Academy prepares students to be great math problem solvers. What could be better than that?

<https://www.beastacademy.com>

If you are looking for academic or enrichment resources for gifted learners feel free to contact me via email (jjudylevine@gmail.com). You can preview the full set of Beast Academy books and many other wonderful gifted education resources in the library at Bainbridge Independent.

Getting To Know—Nicole Bakker

BHS School Counselor
Testing Coordinator (AP, SAT, ACT, PSAT, CogAT)
Highly Capable Student Liaison

Nicole came to Bainbridge High School with a newly-minted masters degree in the fall of 2014. Prior to BHS, she was a K-8th grade counselor in Seattle. She is the primary counselor assigned to students with last names E-K, and the testing coordinator for the high school. Now in her second year, she has added .4 FTE (full-time equivalent hours) as the Highly Capable Student Liaison. She is enjoying her time getting to know the high-school-age population; she commutes daily from Seattle.

The role of working with highly capable students is still being developed. At the moment, if Nicole were to hear from the parent of a highly capable student and there were questions on that specific student, she would refer them to their own alphabetically assigned counselor. We discussed a few new possible pathways to start nurturing Highly Capable students, and Nicole would love to hear from parents as well with any other ideas they might have.

And there are also a few new, cool, challenging, engaging classes starting next year at BHS. Once we have a list we'll run it on our Facebook page.



Parent Support Group

If you would like to help organize a gathering of parents to get together and share, please contact:

Valerie Hoit
vahoit@me.com

Please check out the new SEAL website for more information and our SEAL Contact List & BISD Specialists List

SEALparents Bainbridge.com

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