

# SEAL

PARENT GROUP

Supporting Engagement for Advanced Learners

## 2E Corner

By Valerie Holt

Twice exceptional, or 2E, is a term for someone who has two exceptionalities.

The first exceptionality is above average intellect or giftedness. The second is one or more learning disabilities (ADD/ADHD, autism, Asperger’s, depression, anxiety, dyslexia, sensory processing disorder) that interfere with the child’s ability to learn. Here is where it gets tricky; these exceptionalities can mask each other.

A very bright child can compensate for a learning disability. The child may appear average, gifted but not meeting expectations, or disabled but not gifted.

If you suspect that you have a 2E child, and if you want your child to have a comprehensive evaluation outside the school system, select an evaluator who is familiar with BOTH

## Letter from the Co-Chairs

By Cheryl Cain and Judy Levine

Welcome everyone to our first ever SEAL newsletter! SEAL is a parent group with the mission of Supporting Engagement for Advanced Learners. We are not classroom teachers, so how will we do this? Children learn and develop at home, at school, and in the context of community. By upholding the value that engagement is a high priority for all learners, we will support advanced learners in reaching their full potential.

Some advanced learners have been identified as Highly Capable (HC) by the Bainbridge Island School District (BISD), and others have yet to be recognized. The SEAL parent group welcomes all parents of advanced learners, whether or not their children have been designated HC by the district. We want parents to have easy access to relevant information, resources, and a community where they feel understood and supported.

The SEAL organizing committee includes parents raising children who are advanced learners, typical learners, and twice exceptional learners (2E). Many of the SEAL organizing committee members are also members of the BISD Highly Capable Education Advisory Committee (HCEAC). This allows the SEAL



**2E - Continued**

giftedness and learning disabilities. A good place to start is with the list of Testing & Psychological Services that can be found on the resources page (<http://www.nwgca.org/resources.html>) of Northwest Gifted Child Association.

As I research and learn, I'll be sharing more 2E tidbits right here.

**Is There A Graphic Artist in the House?**

Who would like to work on the design for a SEAL logo? We have ideas but need help! Please contact Cheryl Cain at [cherylcain@aol.com](mailto:cherylcain@aol.com)

**Please Share This Newsletter!**

To be on our mailing list, email [cherylcain@aol.com](mailto:cherylcain@aol.com) with **Opt In SEAL** in the subject line.

**Math Contest for 4th - 8th Graders:**



**Math League Problem-Solving Contest** for students in grades 4 & 5 and **AMC 8 Math Problem-Solving Contest** for students in grades 5-8. Fun and Challenging. Awards and Prizes. Saturday, November 21, 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM, Bainbridge Independent, 9723 Coppertop Loop, #203. For more info and to register go to: <http://www.judymlevine.com/amc-8.html>

**Co-Chair Letter - Continued**

group to bring parent ideas and concerns to the decision makers within BISD.

This year is our building year for SEAL. We are creating community around our advanced learners by organizing social events, sponsoring lectures, creating a newsletter, setting up a lending library, and launching a website. As we set the foundation for our SEAL parent group, please join in to participate in events, and to share your concerns, questions, and ideas.

**Challenging Math for Talented Elementary Students**

By Judy Levine

Does your HC student have a Redbird Mathematics account?

The online Redbird Mathematics program empowers students to accelerate through the Common Core curriculum with coherence, focus, and rigor. Redbird follows an innovative model: Understand, Apply, Create. Be proactive to help your child get off to a great start with Redbird.

Starting Redbird at grade level may not be ideal for your child. Many highly capable students have already mastered much of the curriculum for their current grade level, so be sure to ask your HC Specialist to set your child up for the Redbird Course Placement Activity. Based on your child's performance on this activity, the account will automatically re-set to an appropriate starting level.

Redbird 4<sup>th</sup> grade demo: <http://redbirdlearning.com/demo/mathematics/bin.packaged/index.wizard.html>

# Getting To Know - Dr. Jeff McCormick

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**Director, Assessment, Title I and Highly Capable  
Bainbridge Island School District**

**Jeff took a few minutes out of his very busy schedule to answer some of our questions about the Highly Capable Program this year.**

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**Tell us a little about yourself.**

This is my second year as Director of Assessment in BISD. Prior to that I served as a teacher for fourteen years and then as an elementary principal for twelve years. I earned my doctorate from the University of Washington in 2012, focusing on equitable resource allocation. In my professional career I have always been an advocate for all students, especially those who historically have been "on the margins."

**What is your vision for Highly Capable at the district level?**

In short, I want us to continue to strive to support and challenge all students in our district. More specifically, I hope that we will continue to build our understanding of what it means for students to be gifted so all staff can better support students who may have unique needs. There isn't a one-sized-fits-all program for highly capable, so continuing to develop a flexible continuum of services is a challenge, especially given the realities of inadequate resources allocated for basic education. I am hopeful that the McCleary Decision and firm timeline set by the Washington State Supreme Court will help to make this less of a challenge.

**What are you most excited about with the new HC program?**

The differentiation specialists at each building and the dedicated teachers who are working with clusters of highly capable students are very exciting developments. I think that having a case manager on site every day is a huge help. We have outstanding teachers in our district, and their willingness to actively participate in professional development for working effectively with highly capable learners has been really remarkable. We have close to twenty teachers who have attended some form of professional development already this year, and there are more to follow. I am also excited that my colleagues in other Kitsap County districts have formed a consortium to bring training to this side of the water. We had our first training in August and have our next session scheduled for November. The first session in August drew well over eighty teachers, and we expect similar participation at other sessions.

**Any new plans for the program for this year?**

That remains to be seen. The HC advisory committee is instrumental in bringing ideas to the table. We will be getting feedback from the committee members, parents, teachers, and students again this year to assess our program and possibly make recommendations for strengthening it.

# SEAL

## PARENT GROUP CONTACT LIST

### Supporting Engagement for Advanced Learners

#### District Differentiation Specialists:

School	Staff		Role(s)
Blakely	Jennifer Ledbetter	JLedbetter@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Ordway	Jill Phillips	JPhillips@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Wilkes	Abby Marshall	AMarshall@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Sakai	Lisa Deen	LDeen@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Woodward	Jason Schutt	JSchutt@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Commodore	Lisa Deen	LDeen@bisd303.org	Differentiation Specialist
Bainbridge HS	Nicole Bakker	NBakker@bisd303.org	Counselor
District Office	Jeff McCormick	JMcCormick@bisd303.org	Highly Capable Program Director

#### SEAL Parent Representatives/Organizing Committee:

School	Parent Representative	Email
Blakely	Cheryl Cain	cherylcain@aol.com
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