



## GIFTED RESOURCES NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012 NO 1

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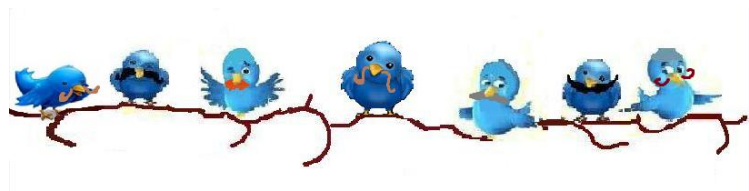


**89 THIRD AVE.  
ROSEBUD  
VIC 3939  
PHONE (03) 5981 2439**

## *Gifted Resources News*

### AND THEY'RE RACING!

They are racing in that crazy month of November with so many events that it takes a race caller of the calibre of Psycho Motor Dabrowski to keep up with all of them. The male Twitter Birds are growing moustaches to participate in Movember <http://au.movember.com/>



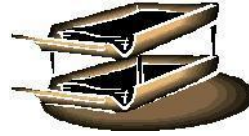
The female Twitter Birds are getting new hats and fascinators or dusting off last year's hat for the running of the Melbourne Cup on the first Tuesday of November.



NaNoWriMo gets under way at <http://www.nanowrimo.org/> where people can write a whole novel during November and Global Education Conference will be held online from 12 -17 November 2012. For details see [http://www.globaleducationconference.com/?xg\\_source=msg\\_mes\\_network](http://www.globaleducationconference.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network)

On the home front I have written the Gifted Resources Activity Report for 2012 which is included in this newsletter and the work of updating the catalogue of the Gifted Resources library and updating the Gifted Resources website is in progress.

## WHAT'S IN THE IN TRAY?



These items have been received recently and can be found in the In Tray which is located on the Home page of Gifted Resources Website [www.giftedresources.org](http://www.giftedresources.org) If you are not able to access the links here please go to the In Tray to access them.  
If you would like information included in the newsletter and/or the In Tray please send to [contributions@giftedresources.org](mailto:contributions@giftedresources.org)

KIDS LIKE US & TRUGS Having fun and teaching struggling readers to read! 7-8 November 2012  
[PDF FLYER WEBSITE](#)

STEPPING STONES SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM 10-11 November [2012 PDF FLYER](#)

GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK Games Afternoon 11 November 2012 [WEBSITE](#)

GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK Term 4 Parent Seminar 14 November 2012 [WEBSITE](#)

MENSA AMC CAMP 16-18 November 2012 [WEBSITE](#)

DERRIN CRAMER Author talk and introduction to giftedness at the Victoria Park Library  
20 November 2012 6.15-7.30pm [WEBSITE](#)

DERRIN CRAMER A series of 3 workshops at the Inspiration Factory's Academy of Inspiration.  
November 21, 28, Dec 5th 6.30 - 8.30pm [WEBSITE](#)

TAGT CONFERENCE Building connections 28-30 November 2012 [WEBSITE](#)

GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK Family Pizza Night 2 December 2012 [WEBSITE](#)

VAGTC CONFERENCE EmpowerEd for Giftedness 23-24 April 2013 [WEBSITE](#)

WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN 20th Biennial World Conference  
"Celebrating Giftedness and Creativity" 10-14 August 2013 [WEBSITE](#)

ICTDE Turkey 25-28 September 2013 [WEBSITE](#)





## GIFTED RESOURCES ACTIVITY REPORT 2012

During 2012 Jo Freitag /Gifted Resources has:

Relocated the Gifted Resources office materials, library and resources  
Updated the Gifted Resources library catalogue  
Provided information and resources for teachers and parents during personal consultations, by phone and by email  
Provided information and resources for homeschooling families and those contemplating commencement of home schooling  
Undertaken project work with Borderlands <http://www.borderlands.org.au/>

Presented two Edublogs SerendipEd Fine Focus webinars 'Which de Bono Action Shoes are best for a 2E student on Gagne's DMGT Road?'  
An overview and the recording of the presentation can be seen on Jo Hart's E-everything blog at <http://johart1.edublogs.org/2012/10/23/webinar-overviews-edublogs-serendipity-de-bono-action-shoes-for-2e-students/>

Will present a Film Discussion on The Incredibles via Skype to a group of parents of gifted students in Houston, Texas  
Participated in online conferences, Edublogs Fine Focus and SerendipEd webinars, and weekly global #gtchat sessions  
Updated the Gifted Resources blog and continued to maintain Sprite's Site blog which was nominated for the Sydney Writers' Centre Best Australian Blogs competition.  
Developed and maintained the website for Gifted Resources <http://www.giftedresources.org> Jo Freitag's website and Sprite's Site Blog <http://www.giftedresources.org/jo/>  
Written and distributed by email Gifted Resources Newsletter and Gifted Resources Newsletter Extension and Holiday programs

Jo Freitag  
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89 Third Ave  
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Newsletter: [contributions@giftedresources.org](mailto:contributions@giftedresources.org)

# GIFTED SUPPORT GROUPS

## GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK

(Formerly Bayside Young Active Minds - BYAMS)

Active network in Melbourne's south eastern region offering the following services to families with gifted children:

- \* "Mini Minds" - activities for preschoolers
- \* "Primary Minds" - activities for primary school aged children and their parents
- \* "Teens & Tweens" - activities for teenagers and their parents each term
- \* Information evenings with expert speakers covering issues relating to the gifted
- \* Daytime and evening social events for parents to share their experience of parenting the gifted child
- \* Comprehensive members' library
- \* Quarterly newsletter containing professional articles

For further information visit [www.giftedsupport.org](http://www.giftedsupport.org)

P.O. Box 2808 Cheltenham, 3192

Email address is [admin@giftedsupport.org](mailto:admin@giftedsupport.org)

**For the full program of Gifted Support Network activities see the excellent calendar of events at <http://www.giftedsupport.org>**

### Term 4 Seminar

Parents

Southern Community Church of Christ, Cheltenham

Wednesday 14 November 2012

7.45-9.30pm

WED  
14  
NOV

#### Identifying and supporting development in young gifted children.

This seminar will focus on identifying, understanding and supporting early giftedness, from infancy to beginning school. It will consider a number of issues around giftedness in early childhood, including discussion of the following:

- Vygotsky's zone of proximal development as a useful concept for parents and educators of young gifted children.
- The value of play for developing thinking and creativity.
- Consideration of issues and challenges for early childhood education and care programmes in providing for young gifted children.
- Transition to school

Anne-Marie Morrissey is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at Deakin University. She has a long-standing interest in early gifted development and education, and has researched and published internationally in this area. She has recently published an introductory text on young gifted children for parents and early childhood educators. Anne-Marie has also had extensive experience as a teacher and director in kindergartens childcare centres and primary schools, and 11 years a moderator for the National Childcare Accreditation Council. She is also a member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's Early Years Learning and Advisory Group.

Cost: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Receipt provided. (You may join Gifted Support Network on the night and receive the discounted price).

Venue: Southern Community Church of Christ, Corner Chesterville Rd & Pine St, Cheltenham (Mel ref 86 J1).

RSVP: Please phone Louise on 0414 578 806 or email [admin@giftedsupport.org](mailto:admin@giftedsupport.org) by Monday 12th November.

## 'THE BIG BANG COFFEE CLUB'

The Big Bang Coffee Club meets on the first Monday of the month at 9.30am (School and Public Holidays excepted) at:

The Coffee Club

Shop 49-50

Moonee Ponds Central

14-16 Hall Street

### Moonee Ponds

3 hours of free undercover parking is available in the Moonee Ponds Central car park

Contacts:

Sally-Ann Free

[sallyann.free@live.vu.edu.au](mailto:sallyann.free@live.vu.edu.au)

Mobile 0425 779 829

Tina McCarthy

[tina@tinamccarthydesign.com](mailto:tina@tinamccarthydesign.com)

**MAROONDAH GIFTED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOC.**

Morning Coffee at MacDonald's, Maroondah Hwy. Croydon Vic. at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of the month

Postal address:

c/- 13 Heathwood St

Ringwood East Vic 3135

Contact Jennifer Grant

Phone 9779 4218

[ijgrant@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ijgrant@optusnet.com.au)

Louise Howe Phone 9801 2912

[louise\\_h@tpg.com.au](mailto:louise_h@tpg.com.au)

**BELGRAVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meetings generally monthly on Mondays

Contact Heike Reich

Phone (03) 9752 5420

Email [heikemagnus@yahoo.com.au](mailto:heikemagnus@yahoo.com.au)

Monday 12 November 7.30pm

As a follow on to the excellent talk on Seal programs by our two young guest speakers we are continuing with the SEAL theme with Andrew Barker, currently the Sub-School Leader for Junior School at Gleneagles Secondary College in charge of year 7,8,9 student management, programs and welfare who has been teaching SEAL programs for 7 years

Contact Heike Reich on 9752-5420 for details

**CHIP GEELONG**

CHIP Family Support Group Geelong

Contact

Maura Donohue email [mauradonohue@aapt.net.au](mailto:mauradonohue@aapt.net.au)

**CASTERTON AND DISTRICT AREA**

Catriona Hill would like to connect with other parents of gifted children in Casterton and District area

Contact : Catriona Hill

Phone (03)55812529

Mobile 0419008734

Email: [antrim@netspace.net.au](mailto:antrim@netspace.net.au)

Web: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/tallpoppysyndrome/>

**GIFTED RESOURCE AND INFORMATION GROUP - CASEY/CARDINIA**

For families with gifted children in Casey/Cardinia

Contact

Victoria Poulos

Phone 0420 286 307

Email [victoriapoulos@gmail.com](mailto:victoriapoulos@gmail.com)

**BADGER – BAIRNSDALE AND DISTRICT GIFTED EDUCATION REFORM**

Contact

Email [badger.org@aapt.net.au](mailto:badger.org@aapt.net.au).

Phone 0423 708 061

## VICTORIA / NEW SOUTH WALES

### NSW ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN ALBURY/WODONGA SUPPORT GROUP

*Meets bi-monthly in Wodonga, Victoria, and welcomes parents & teachers of gifted children  
For information contact*

*Secretary, Cathy Baillie (02) 6021 5913*

*Phone: 02 60215913*

*Assistant Secretary, Jeannie Bowen (02) 6021 2073*

*website link <http://www.nswagtc.org.au/albury-wodonga>*

## NEWS FROM THE VAGTC



**EmpowerED ...for giftedness**

The VAGTC will be hosting our biennial conference on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th April 2013.

**EmpowerED for Giftedness**  
A Conference focusing on Differentiation  
with Keynote Speaker

**Susan Winebrinner**

Susan Winebrinner is a full-time consultant in staff development. She presents workshops and seminars nationally and internationally, helping educators translate educational research into classroom practice.

Susan is the author or co-author of *The Cluster Grouping Handbook* (with Dina Brulles, PhD.) *Teaching Gifted Kids in the Classroom*, *Teaching Kids with Learning Difficulties in the Regular Classroom*, and *Differentiating Content for Gifted Learners Grades 6-12*.

**Expression of Interest**  
To register your expression of interest please complete the following form and send to VAGTC, PO Box 132, Caulfield South 3163.

**Buy your tickets online**

Early Bird Registration (pay before 31st December 2012 and save!)

- \* VAGTC/AAEGT Members (\$495)
- \* Non Members (\$545)
- \* Parent Session - Members (\$20)
- \* Parent Session - Non Members (\$25)

Normal Registration

- \* VAGTC/AAEGT Members (\$545)
- \* Non Members (\$595)
- \* Parents (\$150)

## ACT Gifted and Talented Local Support Group

### Feature Event: Guest Speaker Diana Whitton

**This event is designed for parents, teachers and interested persons**

**Topic:** Making the differentiated curriculum meaningful for gifted students

**When:** Thursday 15th November. 7 - 9 pm. (please arrive from 6.45pm onwards for a prompt start at 7pm)

**Where:** Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT 2611

**Parking:** free parking is available onsite

**Cost:** free

**Reservation of Place:** to reserve a place please email [actgifted@gmail.com](mailto:actgifted@gmail.com) with a name, email and contact phone number. A ticket receipt will be sent in reply.

### **Making the differentiated curriculum meaningful for gifted students**

Too often we worry about the identification of a gifted student and not about the curriculum differentiation that should be developed to meet the needs of the gifted students. Through the examination of one school's policy to ensure gifted students' needs are met the curriculum differentiation will be analysed to see how the content, process, products and environment has been altered to challenge the students in their regular classroom.

**Dr Diana Whitton** is an associate professor in education with responsibilities for teaching pre-service and in-service teachers in gifted and talented education, service learning and primary education. Following teaching in both England and New South Wales primary schools she took up an appointment at the University of Western Sydney.

Throughout her teaching career she has studied various facets of education including:

- teacher librarianship and children's literature;
- curriculum development;
- creative arts;
- service learning; and,
- the education of gifted and talented children.

Following the completion of two honours Master of Education degrees through Wollongong and Charles Sturt universities, Diana completed the doctoral program at the University of Connecticut.

## ACT Gifted and Talented Local Support Group

### Term 4 Coffee and Chat

**Where:** Coffee Shop, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT

**When:** 9.30am – 11.00am Friday 2nd November and Friday 30th November 2012

Coffee and chat is open for anyone to attend. Parents can attend with young children and babies. Bring your questions or articles to discuss.

### Facebook Page Trial

Do you feel the need to communicate about gifted more regularly? The ACT group has set up a Facebook page for interested parents. This is a trial to see if it is of use to people. If you wish to join the page please send an email to [actgifted@gmail.com](mailto:actgifted@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Singer

Convenor

October 2012

[actgifted@gmail.com](mailto:actgifted@gmail.com)

## Gifted Families Support Group

PO Box 51 Miranda NSW 1490

<http://www.gfsg.org.au>

Gifted Families Support Group Incorporated is a not for profit group formed in 2012 by local Mums looking for more activities for their children. The group is designed to support families of gifted children.

It is our goal to use our experience with our own children, coupled with invaluable advice from others on the gifted journey, to provide families with the support they need.

### Calendar of Events

#### OCTOBER

6th - ANSTO Excursion- session 1  
14th - Mum's Dinner (Revesby Workers Club)  
12th - Little GEMs (Centenary Park Miranda)  
12th - GEM - Paper plane problems  
19th - Little GEMs (Engadine Park)  
20th - ANSTO Excursion - session 2  
26th - Little GEMs (Hazelhurst Art Gallery)

#### DECEMBER

7th - Little GEMs (Sutherland Pool)  
7th - GEM - Christmas Carol Capers  
14th - Little GEMs (Shelley Beach)  
eNewsletter: Thought Space - Issue 2

#### NOVEMBER

2nd - Little GEMs (Camellia Gardens Carinbah)  
3rd - ANSTO Excursion - session 3  
5th - Parent/Teacher Seminar presented by Gifted Minds  
9th - Little GEMs (Woronora Park and Boatshed)  
9th - GEM - Magnificent Marshmallow and spaghetti skyscrapers  
16th - Little GEMs (Riverwood Community Centre Park)  
23rd - Little GEMs (Excursion to Darling Harbour)  
25th - Mums Christmas Dinner  
30th - Little GEMs (Lambeth Reserve, Picnic Point)



## Gifted Families Support Group

PO Box 51 Miranda NSW 1490

<http://www.gfsg.org.au>



Fiona Smith and Dr. Minh Nguyen-Hoan  
of Gifted Minds  
*Presenting...*



### **Intelligence testing:** implications of assessment for students, parents and teachers

- Has your child/student received a psychometric report indicating they are intellectually gifted?
- Would you like clarification on what the report means and how you can help your child's/students intellectual and emotional development?

In this seminar, Fiona and Minh from Gifted Minds will address the reasons for testing and interpretation of results, as well as discuss the intensities and sensitivities that so often accompany high cognitive ability.

*The Gifted Minds team is different - we are not clinical psychologists and do not attempt to diagnose disorders. We feel our strength is in identifying areas of intellectual strength and weakness and to help parents and teachers understand the needs of high ability children. We look beyond IQ scores and try to help you determine how personal intensities and sensitivities have an impact at home and in the classroom.*

**Monday November 5th at 7:00pm**

St Luke's Catholic School Hall, 1 Beaconsfield St Revesby

Cost: GFSG members and teachers: \$20, Non members: \$30

For all seminar bookings and membership enquiries, please email [info@gfsg.org.au](mailto:info@gfsg.org.au)

Payment options:

- Electronic transfer to GIFTED FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP INC. BSB 012-081, Account No 4544-95079 with your FAMILY NAME and "Seminar" in the transaction description.
- Cheque made out to GIFTED FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP INC. Please mail cheques to PO Box 51, Miranda NSW 1490.

## Gifted Families Support Group Christmas Party

You are invited to our end of year celebration!

**Why?:** To Celebrate GFSG Inc.'s first Christmas

**When?:** Sunday 16th December

**What time?:** 11:00am - 4:00pm

**Where?:** Panania Diggers RSL Club, 28 Childs Street Panania

**Wallet:** Purchase your own meals from the bistro. \$5 table booking fee per family for non GFSG members, GFSG Members FREE.

**What to Bring?:** Hats, sunscreen and plenty of good cheer!

**When to let us know by:** Please RSVP by Monday December 10th by email to [info@gfsg.org.au](mailto:info@gfsg.org.au) as we need to pay our deposit and let the club know numbers.





# Ladies Night



Ladies ... Picture yourself with a glass of champagne in one hand, nibbling on canapés and browsing shop shelves with no interruptions from anyone ...

Sound like your idea of heaven? Then we have the night for you!

You are invited to an evening of shopping, dining and scintillating conversation.



Sunday 25th November 2012

Our evening will commence at Educational Toys  
1/64 Beaconsfield Street Roiesby.

Educational Toys are generously providing the champagne and canapés, as well as giving a 5% discount for all products purchased on the night. Educational Toys offers a huge range of products catering for gifted children and children with special needs, including many tools required for Occupational Therapy. Browse the store in peace as it opens exclusively for us from 4:00pm ~ 5:30pm.

Following our shopping, we will head over to Bankstown District Sports Club, Platform One for our last dinner for the year. Secure parking is available under club (off Mona Street). Melinda will be available to sign you into club between 6:00pm and 6:15pm in the main foyer (off Mona Street). These nights are a great chance to catch up and chat to other mums of gifted kids.

RSVP by 20th November to  
[info@gfsg.org.au](mailto:info@gfsg.org.au) for either part of the night.



# FROM DERRIN CRAMER

**November 20th 6.15 - 7.30pm  
at the Victoria Park Library**

## **The Beginner's Guide to Life on the Bright Side**

Do you have a bright child who is bored at school? A young child reaching milestones early?

Come along to this talk by local author Derrin Cramer where you will learn a little about giftedness, the joys and challenges that are part of the ride and you begin your journey with children on The Bright Side. There will be time for questions and copies of Derrin's book *The Beginner's Guide to Life on the Bright Side* will be available on the night.

Contact the library for more information (or check the *Thinking Ahead* website closer to the event for more details)

**November 21, 28, December 5th 6.30 - 8.30pm  
A 3 Workshop series at the Academy of Inspiration, Subiaco**

## **Riding the Rollercoaster of Giftedness**

This series of 3 workshops will go into more depth on a number of topics covered in the initial Information Night with the Academy of Inspiration.

Topics covered include Myth-conceptions, friendship and social issues, intensity and giftedness in families. We will also look at IQ testing, gifted children with learning difficulties and ways to turn giftedness into success.

If you are unable to attend the first session you are still welcome to attend the workshop series.

For more information and bookings go to

<http://www.theinspirationfactory.com.au/event/209-riding-the-roller-coaster-of-giftedness-3-wk-workshop.html>

## ***Thinking Ahead***

PO Box 171  
Como, West Australia, 6952

E: [info@thinkingahead.com.au](mailto:info@thinkingahead.com.au)

W: [www.thinkingahead.com.au](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au)

## A Note from Susan Wade

I am writing to thank you for your assistance in recruiting participants for my PhD research "Abilities, Achievement & the Autism Spectrum". The response has been overwhelming and I am very grateful for the assistance of so many organisations and individuals in publicising the study.

The online questionnaire is now closed. Please direct anyone who is interested in future research participation to email the researcher at [susan.wade@monash.edu](mailto:susan.wade@monash.edu).

Many thanks & kind regards

Susan

*(This study has approval from the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee – Project Number: CF11/3664 - 2011001929)*

## Learning Enrichment Studio

The Learning Enrichment Studio was established in 2012. Its principal, Noeleen Vincent has a Bachelor of Education, a Post Graduate Certificate of Gifted Education and a Masters degree in Education specialising in gifted education. She has over 25 years experience in education working as a primary school teacher and moving into the area of gifted education in the last fifteen years. She has recently worked as the Coordinator of a Gifted Education Program from Year 2 to Year 9 at a large multi campus independent school in Melbourne.

The Studio is offering boutique programs nurturing the potential of highly able gifted students.

This exciting new studio offers your child the opportunity to excel in an area of interest and passion or assist with the intricacies of learning difficulties whether they be organisational skills in coping with school study or other diagnosed learning difficulties associated with the twice exceptional child.

Noeleen Vincent  
Education Consultant  
Suite 214  
19 Milton Parade  
Malvern VIC 3144  
Ph: 03 98248135  
Mob: 0448 064 738  
Email: [nv@learningenrichmentstudio.com.au](mailto:nv@learningenrichmentstudio.com.au)  
Website: [www.learningenrichmentstudio.com.au](http://www.learningenrichmentstudio.com.au)

## Palette Paintbrush School of Art

Mrs Neloo Kreltzheim

The Palette Paintbrush School of Art teaches art to children from eight years of age to adults in all media. The school is run by Neloo Kreltzheim who has a Diploma of Graphic Finished Art.

Email: [neloof@hotmail.com](mailto:neloof@hotmail.com)

Studio  
Hallam 3803  
Postal Address  
PO Box 258  
Hallam 3803

Phone (03) 9703 1820

### 20th Biennial World Conference “Celebrating Giftedness and Creativity”

The Executive Committee of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) is pleased to announce that the 20th Biennial World Conference “Celebrating Giftedness and Creativity” has been relocated to Louisville, Kentucky USA. The new dates for the conference will be August 10-14. The first day of the conference will be the optional Workshop Day. All previous registrations will be honored for Louisville. Information and Registration details will be posted soon on the World Council website [www.world-gifted.org](http://www.world-gifted.org), and on the new conference website at [www.worldgifted2013.org](http://www.worldgifted2013.org) We look forward to seeing you in the Bluegrass state.



Daylight Savings Time ends in the United States this weekend Use the World Clock Meeting Planner at <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> to check



## Having fun and teaching struggling readers to read!

Kids Like Us and Anne Jackson invite you to experience an amazingly simple, highly addictive, phonics based approach to aid the teaching of reading. Joanna Jeffery MBE, MA(Ed), AMBDA is visiting Melbourne as part of an Australian tour to give a series of professional phonics presentations which will include fun activities leaving everyone inspired and coming away with new ideas for the classroom and at home. During the presentation she will be demonstrating the benefits of using the trugs decodable card games that enable students to practise, reinforce and consolidate their reading skills.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| When:     | <b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov</b><br>7.30pm – 9.30pm (presentation)                          |
| Who:      | Parents, guardians & educators   |
| Where:    | Eley Park Community Centre, 87 Eley Road, Blackburn South                                      |
| Cost:     | \$5 on the door, refreshments provided   |
| When:     | <b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov</b><br>8.00am–8.30am (drop in)<br>8.30am–10.00am (presentation) |
| Who:      | Students, parents, guardians & educators   |
| Where:    | The Warrawong Annex, 32 Richmond Street, Blackburn South                                       |
| Cost:     | \$5 on the door, refreshments provided   |
| Bookings: | enquiries@kidslikeus.org.au  |
| Tel:      | 0430 817659  |

For more information:

Trugs' web site: <http://www.readsuccessfully.com/>  
The cards in action: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt5HqQn3qE>



Web: [www.kidslikeus.org.au](http://www.kidslikeus.org.au)  
Email: [enquiries@kidslikeus.org.au](mailto:enquiries@kidslikeus.org.au)  
ABN: 25583616774

## NEWS FROM GERRIC



**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
SYDNEY · CANBERRA · AUSTRALIA

**GERRIC**  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences



### The Certificate of Gifted Education

<http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/for-educators/coge/>

Face to face in Sydney or Online 2013

Applications Now Open! (PDF) (3 Mb)

[http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/File/COGE\\_2013\\_Brochure\\_.pdf](http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/File/COGE_2013_Brochure_.pdf)

Master classes

<http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/for-educators/master-class/>

Student Programs 2013

<http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/for-gifted-students/>

## FROM BILL ZIMMERMAN

MakeBeliefsComix.com Launches Free E-Book for Family Literacy;

Laptop Letters Helps Parents Write Important Letters to Their Children

MakeBeliefsComix.com has launched its first free digital book to encourage family literacy and writing by English Language Learners through writing important letters to children. You can read the book online at: <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/How-to-Play/Educators/Family-Literacy/Laptop-Letters-eBook/>

Laptop Letters: Sending Wise & Loving Messages to Young People in Your Life, is written by Bill Zimmerman, creator of MakeBeliefsComix, the free online comic strip generator used in literacy programs worldwide to improve writing and reading.

Teachers can use the Laptop Letters e-book for classroom exercises to encourage older students to write loving notes and messages to the children in their lives and to pass on important life lessons they want to share. With help from the book's dozens of writing prompts, students can use computers, mobile phones or note pads to write messages of love and wisdom to their youngsters. The book also features sample letters and notes to inspire writers.

Students can even practice writing the first draft of their letters in the form of comic strips created at MakeBeliefsComix.com.

The process of writing letters fosters family literacy in two ways: it allows adult learners to express their important thoughts and knowledge to their children, and it motivates youngsters who receive these personal letters to read and improve their own literacy skills. Writing such loving, encouraging laptop letters also enables parents to forge closer emotional bonds with children and to hand down their family legacy.

Laptop Letters is the first in a series of free interactive e-books for family literacy programs planned by MakeBeliefsComix.com. The comic-making site was selected by Google and UNESCO as among the world's most innovative web sites to encourage literacy and reading. The American Library Association named MakeBeliefsComix a Great Web Site for Kids.

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Bill Zimmerman

Creator of MakeBeliefsComix.com

<http://www.facebook.com/MakeBeliefs>

Twitter: @MakeBeliefs4U

<http://www.billztreasurechest.com>

## SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

Kids Like Us

<http://www.kidslikeus.org.au/>

Global Education Conference

<http://www.globaleducationconference.com/>

Brian Housand Slideshare

<http://www.slideshare.net/brianhousand/gifted-education-in-the-21st-century>

Present.me

<http://present.me/>

Lisa Van Gemert

<http://lisavangemert.com/index.html>

Lego quest Blogspot

<http://legoquestkids.blogspot.com.au/>

IEA – Parents please take a seat at our table

<http://educationaladvancement.wordpress.com/2012/10/23/parents-please-take-a-seat-at-our-table/>

Ministry of Inspiration

<http://www.ministryofinspiration.org/>



Centra Dyslexia blog

<http://centradyslexia.wordpress.com/2012/07/23/5-new-app-supports-visual-processing-difficulties/>

Vicsuper Fight Extinction Art Competition

<http://fightextinction.vicsuper.com.au/artcomp/>

Learning Enrichment Studio

<http://www.learningenrichmentstudio.com.au/>

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Kind regards, Jo Freitag

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