



Spring 2017 GT Newsletter

Time to Think about Summer

Spring is here! This year is going by so fast. Things to think about are summer learning opportunities for your students. Here are just few...we don't always have personal experience with some of these camps so you'll need to send your questions to them!

*Imagination Iowa no longer has their summer camps but have provided links to some others:

<http://newbo.co/imagination-iowa/summer-challenge/>

*If you are a parent of a third, fourth, or fifth grade student, and they have scored above 85%ile on ITBS, they are eligible to take the summer school classes in Cedar Rapids (located at Roosevelt Middle School) through Discover Summer School: <http://crdiscoversummerncamp.weebly.com/>

*The Jacobson Entrepreneur Camp is a week-long day camp for Iowa students entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall and are interested in entrepreneurship and owning a business. There are sessions in Iowa City, Marion, and Des Moines! Registration opens February 1st! <http://jacobsoninstitute.org/ecamp.html>

*Summit Schools Summer offers a wide variety of enriching, challenging and fun day camps for Pre-K through 6th graders. http://media.wix.com/ugd/6e4ac0_e1f26824c0c14a5ba2015cdc84da3d37.pdf

*If your child loves to play chess, there is always the Prairie Chess Camp located at Prairie Point Middle School. This is for students in grades K-12. For more information:

<http://www.chessiniowa.org/chesscamp>

*Mount Mercy University is pleased to offer a summer program for young girls who are interested in having FUN while learning about computer science and math. There are separate programs being offered for girls completing 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Registration is open now!

<http://cslab.mtmercy.edu/summerschool/registration/reg.php>

*At Creek Camp, your child will be guided by naturalists and experienced interns as they explore the outdoors, learn about wildlife, enjoy unstructured play, practice outdoor skills, observe the wonder of

nature and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

<http://indiancreeknaturecenter.org/public-programs/summer-camps/>

*Kirkwood also has summer programming. You can register at <http://www.kirkwood.edu/kick>. These are not specifically for gifted learners, but have some topics that they will be very interested in. It looks like the ages range from 9-15 years.

*The goal of the OPPTAG program is to match students with appropriate learning experiences and emphasize an approach to teaching that underscores strengths and encourages high achievement. Additionally, all programs offer extracurricular enrichment experiences that broaden students' knowledge of the world. <http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/>

*Belin Blank <https://www2.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/> The BBC is a resource for student programs, assessment, parent support, and educator training.

*US Army Educational Outreach organization has internship and apprenticeship programs. Students do not need to be considering a military career to participate. <http://www.usaeop.com/programs/>

*College for Kids <https://www.gwaea.org/parents/college-kids>

Opportunities (nation)

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/Search-Database/entry/A10370>

<http://highlygiftedmagnet.org/summer-programs/>

<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/summer.htm>

Also, gifted kids need to play too! Sometimes a pool pass or time with family and friends is just as great as the camps!

Prairie Crest and Prairie Ridge

Two teams of fourth grade students, one from Prairie Crest and one from Prairie Ridge went to Ames on April 21 and 22 to compete in the State Future Problem Solving Competition. This is a great honor, as they competed against other 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and made it to the top 20 teams from across the State! Both teams did well and the Crest team received 2nd place in the Skit section of the competition!!

Fourth grade math students in both buildings are working on project based learning activity where students are designing their own geometric city. They are creating the city in 2D and 3D, practicing and applying skills while problem solving and making decisions based on their own knowledge, creativity, and imagination.

Third grade students have been working on studying about Ancient Egypt. They read the book, The Egypt Game, and are doing a webquest learning more about Ancient Egypt and moving up the Egyptian social pyramid. In math, Ridge students have been working on an elapsed time vacation project and Crest students have been working on different concepts with perimeter and area.

Second graders at Crest have been learning about Harry Houdini in reading groups and second graders at Ridge have been studying about historical change in reading groups. In math, both groups have been studying problem solving in relation to making change and subtracting money.

First graders at Ridge just finished writing and recording their work based from a wordless picture book, Journey, by Aaron Becker. First graders at Crest have been working on place value and function tables in math groups.

We have some new technology in our classrooms at Crest and Ridge! I have several Little Bits kits and a Kano computer that the students have been using to do some coding.



Erin Hoffman

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PRAIRIE HILL

The fourth graders at Hill are doing Mock Trial. We read the original version of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit. Students have divided into prosecution and defense groups, taking the parts of attorneys and witnesses. Was Peter guilty of criminal trespass and robbery, eating Mr. MacGregor's vegetables and destroying plant

pots? Or was he a victim, son of a poor widow whose father had been put in a pie by Mrs. Macgregor, and who was threatened with bodily harm by Mr. MacGregor?

Fourth grade math students are doing a project-based math activity, applying their knowledge of geometrical shapes, angles and scale measurement to design a 3D playground.

Third grade PACE students have written a newspaper about their school year, and created a poetry booklet. Each student wrote original poems using pictures as a central theme and incorporating literary elements. They are working on evaluating ideas/products using criteria. They will choose the perfect potato chip, based student-selected criteria.

Second grade PACE students have also been doing evaluative thinking. They brainstormed ideas to spend a gift of money to our school, and did group-based problem solving. They did a visual thinking unit on nursery rhymes, using symbols to represent them. They will be performing a take-off on Mother Goose rhymes.

First grade PACE students have just completed a unit on cause and effect. They are making their own booklets of Good News, Bad News.

Prairie View and Prairie Heights News

Earlier this spring, selected students from all buildings visited the high school to interact with technology students of Mrs. Dankers and to learn about various types of technology.



Fourth graders at Prairie View and Prairie Heights, and their GT Specialist Mrs. Zastrow, worked with high school students as they learned about 3D modeling software called Blender. Some of the students tried their hand at using that software on the large screen donated by Rockwell Collins.

Other students tried the 3D pen, learned about raspberry pi's, which can be used as computers, and robotics.

The students enjoyed their visit and so did the high school students! The elementary students are invited back next year!

Thanks to all of you for being so understanding while I've been on medical leave. I'm so eager to get back and to finish the year with my amazing students.

As always, if you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me!

Julie Zastrow, GT Specialist at Prairie Heights and Prairie View
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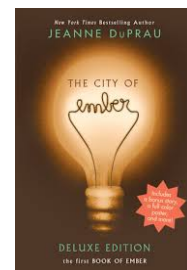
Prairie Creek Intermediate



The Battle of the Books team battled it out at the Battle of the Books competition in Cedar Falls in March. The team placed in the top five after the written round and then earned their gold medals when they placed first after the oral round. The team also had the opportunity to listen to author Dean Jacobs (pictured in photo) tell about his amazing experiences with people and animals in his travels. He also talked about dreams and how “they are for everyone.” Our first place finish also awarded us the opportunity to have lunch with the author and to hear more about his travels. [Dean Jacob's Website](#)

Are you smarter than a 5th Grader? A team of fifth grade students from Creek competed against some members of the staff at the Wilson Avenue Hy-Vee. They answered several questions related to math, science, literacy, and history. The team had a great time and earned medals for their first place finish.

One of the fifth grade reading groups is reading *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. To extend their learning, students have been drawing their own futuristic city complete with elements, such as city layout, government, and laws. One city exists in space while another exists underground. Some have very strict rules while others have a lot of freedom to make choices. Lots of creativity! [Jeanne DuPrau Website](#)



We have had some great discussions in our reading groups. At the fifth grade level, we read *Kaddo's Wall* as told by Harold Courlander and George Herzog and students reflected on why Kaddo built the wall and the consequences that resulted when he didn't share what he had with others. Some of the sixth grade students have been reading *The Last Great Snake* by Mary Q. Steele and have learned how important honor is to some societies. Our literacy groups have also focused on reading, vocabulary, and analogies. Our math groups have been working on various topics, such as mean, median, and mode, and ratios, rates, and percentages.

A group of sixth grade students are learning about 3D printing and are being mentored by our librarian, Mr. Cox. These students are designing their own game boards and will be using the Tinkercad program to design their game pieces. The students have come up with some great ideas for their game boards based on book themes!

This has been a great year and I have enjoyed working with all the students!

Ms. Tendick - ttendick@crprairie.org

7TH GRADE

Gifted and talented 7th grade students have:

- Written a speech on the topic of "***What the World Gains from Optimism***" after they analyzed strong speeches and discovered what makes a well written and organized speech (Some used the speech to compete in the Optimist Oratorical Competition)
- Learned non-verbal communication skills and the strengths of a good speaker while they practiced getting in front of their peers using those non-verbal communication skills
- Reflected on their Personal Education Plan SMART goals for their 7th grade year
- Read **stories** from The Junior Great Books series and analyzed effective figurative language and the impact it has on literature

8TH GRADE

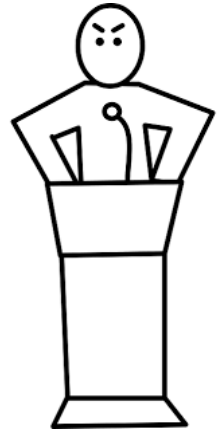
Gifted and Talented 8th Grade Students have:

- Read and analyzed **Day of Tears**, by Lester Julius, while comparing/contrasting elements of historical fiction they studied in literacy classes
- Practiced creative and original brainstorming methods to prepare for debate and literacy writing products

- Wrote a speech in literacy with the option of writing on the topic of “***What the World Gains from Optimism***” and competing in the Optimist Oratorical Competition
- Wrote personified poetry using strong examples of qualities and discovering a variety of methods to go deeper with their social and emotional communication skills
- Discovered what it means to have a Growth Mindset in preparation for analyzing a Flexible Mindset and how it can help prepare for high school
- Five girls from Point, with 100 from the state, visited Rockwell during Girls in Engineering

OPTIMIST ORATORICAL COMPETITION

Forty 7th/8th/9th grade students competed in the Optimist Oratorical Competition (6 Gold Medalist, 5 Silver Medalist, 29 Bronze Medalist) Three students competed at the April 8th Zone Level Optimist Oratorical Competition. All Optimist Competitors grew significantly in their writing, speaking, and listening skills. In addition, they gained great confidence for their future speaking engagements!



7TH, 8TH AND 9TH GRADE STUDENTS:

- Focused on gifted and talented standards set by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in their Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Participated in extra curricular opportunities at Point such as: Optimist Oratorical Competition, Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, Chess Club, Future City Competition, MathCounts, STEM and Art Club
- Attended Tuesday Lunch groups for a “meet and greet” with other G/T peers
- 9th grade students participated in mentor opportunities with 7th/8th grade students helping with Future City, Optimist Oratorical Competition and PEP work
- 9th grade GT girls interested in Coding participated in High Tech Girls’ Day at Kirkwood
- Some 9th graders designed and implemented original research for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and attended the event at The University of Iowa
- Completed the Extended Learning Challenge offered to 9th grade students, personalizing their learning through semester-long independent projects

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[Mrs. Ling's Website](#)

Lori Danker

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PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 10-12



High School News

Mithilesh Sivaprakash (11) competes at a forensics competition at Harvard University.

Madison Zastrow (12) competes in the national Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in San Diego. Best wishes, Maddie!

Nathan Giddings (12) mentors for two years to an elementary student. Way to go, Nathan!

18 students compete in the IT Olympics at Hilton Coliseum: 2 robotics teams and 2 in cyber defense. One robotics team placed third in the state in their division; one cyber defense team placed fifth out of 28 teams. Our community service project placed 2nd out of 47 teams. Our team name “Robo-Sapiens” placed first in that contest. Great job!

Many HS students took advantage of the Scholastic Art and Writing Award competition.

Reminder: Check
Compu Messenger and
email!! Students: ALL
PEP UPDATES ARE
HERE!

Lori Danker works with
students in grades 10-12
identified for gifted and
talented services.

Services are based
on need. Many GT
students are very
successful in the
traditional classroom
with grade level work.
Some need more intense
services. They either
need much more
challenge, or many even
require remediation to
be successful.

If you have
questions, they may be
answered by visiting our
GT Program website at
<https://sites.google.com/a/crprairie.org/home>

The best way to
reach Mrs. Danker is via
email at:
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Reminder: Students check
the Enrichment tab on the
Prairie High School
Library website for
enrichment opportunities
on Enrichment
Thursdays!

