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Join KPGT for 2013-2014

KPGT needs financial support each and every school year in order for our organization to continue to impact Katy's GT community. Join or renew your KPGT membership online today at www.kpgt.org and get membership benefits now through June 2014.

Welcome Back!

As the school year marches on into October, we hope that you and your family have settled in to your busy routines with ease... but save some room on your calendar - KPGT has been hard at work since last spring planning programs for this year, and we can't WAIT to share them with you! We have exciting events planned for both elementary and secondary students, in addition to our fantastic speaker series for parents, teachers and administrators. We can only do what we do with the support of the KPGT members; if you have not renewed your membership for the 2013-2014 school year, you can do so conveniently online here. (Hint: if you have not received an email with the password for our "Members Only" section, you need to renew! Still unsure? Email membership@kpgt.org.) Read on below for some other benefits that membership provides, as well as a sneak peek at some of our upcoming events!

KPGT Kite Festival and Family Picnic

TODAY, Friday, October 4, 4:00 PM until dark
George Bush Park, Pavilion #3
Take Westheimer Parkway to Barker Cypress; look for the pavilion with a playground.
Bring kites and a picnic dinner... and enjoy a great opportunity to hang out and network with other families of GT-identified kids. (Please wear a school shirt, if you have one - it will help you connect with others from your school!)

KPGT Speaker Series #2:
Lisa Van Gemert - "The Gift of Self"

Friday, October 18, 7 PM
Morton Ranch High School, Main Commons
21000 Franz Rd., Katy, TX 77449
Positive self-concept is a key to achieving our full potential, yet many of our gifted learners struggle with feelings of inadequacy that limit their success. How can we increase self-concept in genuine ways? What are the unique challenges to self-esteem faced by gifted learners? Come explore the many ways we can help children develop positive and authentic self-concept. Learn strategies that are simple, effective and powerful. Lisa Van Gemert is the Gifted Youth Specialist for Mensa, a professional development facilitator for teachers of the gifted, and a popular conference speaker. She maintains a website for parents and teachers at www.giftedguru.com. A former teacher and school administrator, she has been called the "Ambassador of the Gifted".

This presentation is FREE for KPGT members and KISD teachers and administrators with ID. Not a member? Join now to attend this event free and receive 2013-2014 membership. $5 for non-members.

A Visit from Meteorologist Travis Herzog

Saturday, October 26, 10 AM
GT-Identified Katy ISD students in 3rd through 5th grades are invited to attend a special presentation by meteorologist Travis Herzog of KTRK-TV. Watch for more info - including registration information for the event - coming soon!

Useful Links
Katy Parents of the Gifted and Talented
GT Screening Process - Important Dates

Submitting the Gifted and Talented Parent Checklist during the appropriate screening window is critical first step towards having your child screened for the GT program. Mark your calendars; the deadlines (by grade) are as follows:

- Kindergarten - October 9, 2013
- 1st-4th Grades - December 13, 2013
- 5th Grade - September 20, 2013 (CLOSED)
- 6th-11th Grades - January 10, 2014

For more information about the GT Parent Checklists, click here.

Campus Liaisons

KPGT is still looking for volunteers to serve as Campus Liaisons for the current school year. From elementary to high school, we need people who can communicate with teachers and parents in this vital role. Campuses still needing representation are:

- Elementary: Golbow, Katy, King, Rhoads, Stephens, Sundown, Williams, and Wolfe
- Junior High: Katy, McDonald, Morton Ranch, and West Memorial
- High School: Cinco Ranch, Mayde Creek, Seven Lakes, and Tompkins

Please contact Beth Morris for more information on the Campus Liaison role. If your campus is not listed above and you are interested in volunteering, please ask! We are always looking for active volunteers and advocates and we will connect you with your school's existing Campus Liaison.

Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination (DI) teams are forming now! What is DI? Per their website, "Destination Imagination is a non-profit, volunteer-led, cause-driven organization [whose] purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. Annually, [they] offer seven new standards-based Challenges in STEM, Improv, Visual Arts, Service Learning and Early Learning. Each Challenge is open-ended and enables student teams to learn and experience the creative process from imagination to innovation. Academic tournaments take place around the world where teams have the opportunity to present their solutions to trained appraisers. Students have fun and gain confidence in their ability to solve any challenge. In working to solve Challenges, teams learn 21st century skills (creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, citizenship and courage) to build on their unique strengths." Find out what all the fuss is about - contact your GT teacher today!

Math & Science Investigators

Did you know...?
If your 3rd, 4th or 5th grader has mastered the math or science curriculum their class is currently working on and is able to demonstrate it in a pre-assessment, they may be eligible to participate in KISD’s “Math & Science Investigators” program - however, this opportunity must often be requested by the parents. This curriculum compacting program is an instructional pacing strategy which supports differentiated instruction for advanced learners. It provides students who demonstrate a high level of mastery of unit content prior to instruction the opportunity to extend their learning through related replacement activities. Click here for more information.

KPGT Membership Benefits

Become part of a nonprofit support and advocacy group that has served the Katy Independent School District since 1987. Your membership in KPGT supports the following efforts:
- Early registration and discounted ticket prices to KPGT events
- Access to speaker videos through website
- Members-only family events
- Email news updates and Connections newsletter
- Informational website
Parent and teacher training opportunities  
Campus Liaisons and support group  
Social opportunities for gifted students and their families  
School Board Candidate Forum  
Scholarships for teachers of the gifted in KISD  
Representation on district and state committees  
Joining online is easy - visit [http://www.kpgt.org/](http://www.kpgt.org/) today!

**Follow us on Facebook!**

Did you know that KPGT is on Facebook? [Follow us](http://www.facebook.com/pages/KPGT) for the most up-to-date event information, interesting articles, and more!

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[Click to view this email in a browser](http://www.kpgt.org/)  

**IMPORTANT:** If you unsubscribe, you will no longer receive ANY KPGT emails, including event notices and confirmations. To unsubscribe, reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or click [Unsubscribe](http://www.kpgt.org/).