



## from the board...

We've received an outstanding response to our membership drive! If you are not yet a member, please take the time to complete the attached membership form. Many thanks to each and everyone of you for your interest & support of MCAGC!

MCAGC was pleased to host lunch for PA teachers during the recent Madison County Middle School Chess Tournament. Congratulations to all our Madison County Chess Club winners!

A special thank-you to Eubank & Betts, who generously donated umbrellas for the PA students at Madison Station to use when walking between their trailers and the school on rainy days.

## MCAGC first annual

### family festival

To kick off our 2009 membership drive, MCAGC will be hosting our First Annual Family Festival! The board is very excited about this event and has been hard at work planning many unique and engaging activities for gifted students and their families. Please join us for a morning of fun & entertainment among fellow gifted children & parents. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### MCAGC FAMILY FESTIVAL

January 17, 2009

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Madison Avenue Upper Elementary

2009 MCAGC Officer Elections will also be held during this event. If you are interested in serving or would like to submit a nomination, please contact Michelle Dawson at [MBarrettdaw@aol.com](mailto:MBarrettdaw@aol.com).

**Chess Club will not be held Nov. 22nd & 29th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.**  
**Chess club will meet again on Dec. 13th & 20th before breaking for Christmas.**  
**Regular schedule resumes Jan 10th.**

## winning websites

Many of you are familiar with Hoagies Gifted Page website— but have you visited lately? A newly added link, **The Gifted Parent Online: Totally Free Internet Tools for Parent Support & Advocacy** is a power point by the National Association for Gifted Children. Presented at the national convention this November in Tampa, this comprehensive guide provides you the latest, most up-to-date, totally free resources for parents on the web. Click on it!

[www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)



MCAGC News is one of the tangible benefits of your MCAGC membership. Our goal with every newsletter is to provide information of specific interest to gifted students, parents, and teachers, as well as reprints of material from national journals and organizations. We invite you to submit any articles, suggestions, or announcements you'd like to share with other MCAGC members through this newsletter.

## thanks & giving

*Take the spirit of Thanksgiving from a one-day event to a life long attitude.*

This year, give thanks by giving back. By giving to those in need we not only recognize our own blessings, we also cultivate an environment of consciousness and philanthropy for our children. Instilling a spirit of thankfulness and giving in children is a long term project. But the rewards are life long!

#### St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

[www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

No child is ever denied treatment because of a family's inability to pay. Donations cover medical costs & living expenses for parents.

#### Donors Choose

[www.donorchoose.org](http://www.donorchoose.org)

School teachers submit proposals to this site; you pick a project, and help fund it.

#### Shoes That Fit

[www.shoesthatfit.org](http://www.shoesthatfit.org)

Help kids start the year off right with a new pair of shoes. Schools nationwide identify kids in need, then make sure they get the right size.

#### Kaboom!

[www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org)

Donate funds to help build playgrounds in communities across the country.

#### CONTACT:

Becky Parsa at [rebeccaparsa@aol.com](mailto:rebeccaparsa@aol.com), please note "MCAGC news" in subject line.

# quotable

"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. Our requirements for world leadership, our hopes for economic growth, and the demands of citizenship itself in an era such as this all require the maximum development of every young American's capacity. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

- John F. Kennedy

Special Message to the Congress on Education

February 20, 1961

This February, MCAGC will be sending "Valentines" to Mississippi State Legislators in thanks for their continued support of Gifted Education. We are in search of fresh ideas to make this



years Valentines especially memorable. Many will be made, so cost of materials, and labor are factors in the overall design. If you

have ideas, or would like to help with this project, please let us know!

## CONTACT:

Becky Parsa at [rebeccaparsa@aol.com](mailto:rebeccaparsa@aol.com), please note "MCAGC news" in subject line.

## board members

Michelle Dawson  
**President**

Shaheen Patel  
**Vice President**

Li Zhou  
**Secretary**

Becky Parsa  
**Treasurer**

Donna Myers  
**Legislative Liaison**



# 2008 TOY LIST

*give the gift of games this holiday!*

Gifted children have an enormous capacity for curiosity, creativity, and abstract constructions. Perhaps, this is why gifted children enjoy playing games so much!

Games have the unique ability to allow gifted children to play to the fullest extent of their ability and are one of the few toys that allow them to play on equal footing with their mental peers—no matter their age. Not limited to just intellectual pursuit, games provide a fabulous vehicle for the social and emotional support children need. Games bring families together to support and encourage the gifted child in a relaxed, fun environment. The following *Tools of the Trade* 2008 Toy List suggests games that best match the needs and interests of gifted children.

**Abstract strategy games hold a special lure to gifted children, due to their reliance on higher order thinking, and spatial awareness. They are the classic head to head battles using logic and planning.**

**Ducks in a Row** is a great introductory strategy game for younger kids. Learn to think logically and strategically while moving ducks up, down, side to side, or diagonal to get 4 in a row. *Ages 4 and up. www.thinkfun.com. \$11.99*

**Chaos** is a fast-paced strategy game that bills itself as being virtually unpredictable. Although Chaos looks like a simple tic tac toe game, it is much more than that. Visually and tactilely appealing, kids are attracted to the geometry of this games. Rules are easy enough for younger children to learn while providing an appropriate level of challenge. *Ages 8+, 2 players. www.mindwareonline.com. \$24.95*

**Innovative puzzles gifted kids will love!**

**Pieceless Puzzle** is an imaginative new twist on a jigsaw puzzle, it literally has no pieces. It is one long continuous strip of foam material cut to resemble puzzle pieces. Finally, puzzles can be a car toy! *Ages 8+. www.gamewright.com \$14.99*

**Royal Rescue** is a beautiful, high quality wooden block puzzle. The knight and princess are locked in separate towers, a rescue route must be built for them to reunite. Younger players enjoy the theme of this puzzle, and the challenge of moving to the next level. *Ages 5+. www.educationalinsights.com. \$24.99*

**Family games for 4-6 players, hidden educational value!**

**10 Days in Asia** lets you tour Asia by train, plane, ship or on foot. Plot a course from start to finish to complete your journey before fellow travelers can. No prior knowledge is needed— the map is on the board. The exotic continent of Asia will be your playground as you plan, organize and sequence your imaginary 10 day journey. *Ages 10+. www.otb-games.com. \$24.99*

**Pixel** is one of the few abstract strategy games that the whole family can play together. With many possibilities presented for every move, chess players will be especially intrigued by this game. *Ages 6 to adult. www.educationalinsights.com. \$21.99*

**Shokoba** is a simple, but clever card game of collecting jeweled cards. Inspired by the Italian game of Scopa, players must play a card that matches the sum of the jeweled cards from the table. Requiring strategy and memory skills, points are kept by collecting little plastic "jewels". *Ages 8+. www.foxmind.com. \$9.99.*

**Go Fish for Art** is much more than Go Fish! Sure, the rules are the same, making it playable straight out of the box. But what makes this game so delightful is the artwork on every card. Choose from a series of decks including, Modern Art, Impressionist, Renaissance, and Van Gogh & Friends. Players must collect 4 works from each artist to make books and win the game. *Ages 7+. www.birdcagebooks.com.*

**Finally, an electronic game that will delight child and parent alike!**

**Digitz** does what educational games are supposed to do—make learning fun! Resembling the classic electronic game hit of the 80's—Simon—Digitz has 5 different games that reinforce important multiplication concepts. Rewarding bright lights, and amusing sounds keep this game popular. *Ages 8+. www.educationalinsights.com. \$49.99*

# Madison County Association for Gifted Children

## *Membership Form*

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child/children in Pathways: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's grade, school, and Pathways Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Annual Membership Fee \$15.00**

*Please make checks payable to MCAGC. Please submit membership form & payment to your PA teacher or mail to:*

**MCAGC  
965 Highway 51 N, Suite 4, Box 74  
Madison, Mississippi 39110**

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

*-Margaret Mead*