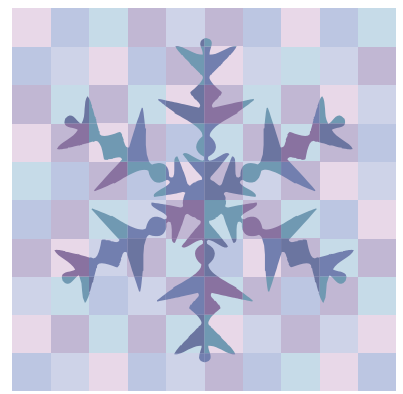


North Central Regional News

February-April 2012



Calendar

- **Jan. – April** Three Thinking Maps classes will be offered in the St. Vrain School district
- **Tues. Feb. 14 Forum Webex** Please let Dr. Carol Swalley, Thompson, know if you have any questions/comments for her to take to this group on your behalf.
- **Tues. Feb. 14** Author, Carron Barrella, "More Than 36 Days", and 3 WWII veterans will be speaking to Fort Morgan Middle School students about following your passions, preserving history and writing biographies.
- **Wed. Feb. 15** Todd Mitchell, Teen Author and Director of the Beginning Creative Writing Teaching Program at CSU, will be teaching 5th - 8th GT and high achieving students, how to write poetry and other poetry games in the Fort Morgan School District.
- **Thur. Feb. 16** Grades 5-12 Final Equations Tournament to qualify teams in St. Vrain for Nationals in Wheeling, WV April 29-May 1
- **Fri. Feb. 17** Elementary Equations Game Day for grades 4-5 (about 400 kids) with 4 levels of play in St. Vrain
- **Thur. Feb. 23 State Advisory Council**
- **Sat. Feb. 25: Parent Presentation by Dr. George Betts** on *Creating an Autonomous Lifestyle*; 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Fort Morgan and Brush Schools are sponsoring this event and it will be housed at the Ft. Morgan Middle School. Parents from the surrounding areas are invited to participate.
- **Tues. Feb. 28 CBOCES GT AU Meeting** 8-10 a.m. Greeley BOCES office
- **Thur. March 1 Little Author's Showcase** Students in grades K-2 in St. Vrain school district will have an interactive workshop including sharing their writing, writing new works, acting, and storytelling.

- **Fri. March 2 TOT for Technical component of Javits on-line courses** This course is for the technical component to become a trainer for the Javits On-line modules. It is required before any content courses may be taken. The training will be from 8-11:40 a.m. and participants must register at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TOTregistrationfortechnicaltraining>
- **Sat. March 17 OM Regional Tournament** SVVSD will host the regional OM tournament at Erie High School.
- **April 10-19 TOT for Content components of Javits on-line courses** There are 7 modules available for professional development needs in your district around gifted education. Trainers must have taken the technical component before signing up for any of the content courses. To register go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TOTContentregistration>
- **Thur. April 19 Regional Network Meeting** We will meet from 9-noon in room 128 at the Thompson Admin. Bldg. Topics for the day include a speaker on setting up mentorship programs and input/decisions around regional professional development opportunities for the 2012-2013 school year.
- **Thur. and Friday April 26-27 State Director's Meeting** This will be held at the Double Tree North in Westminster. Michael Clay Thompson will be the presenter on the second day. Registrations required.
- **Mon. and Tues June 11-12 Primary Sources Workshop** This regional event will assist educators in the use of primary sources for enhancing their instruction. Participants will learn how to navigate the Library of Congress website to access, save and incorporate primary sources into their instructional practices. Participants may register through their GT Director. The workshop is free and includes up to \$60 in materials. College credit is available for a fee.

***** Yet to be announced is the date for our final NC Regional Professional Development activity.**
Please look for flyer to come out soon!

Highlights

- **Linda Sheffield**, Regents Professor Emerita of Mathematics Education at Northern Kentucky University, shared a regional *workshop "Revving Up Math"*, geared specifically for secondary (7th-9th grade) math teachers. Participants focused on ideas for differentiation, and instruction that purposefully planned for rigor and high level thinking. One educator left the Dec. 7th workshop saying, "I've been teaching for 27 years and have gone to a ton of professional development workshops. This was by far the best I've ever been too."
- **What Makes An Advanced Placement Course "Advanced"?** Clay Abla, Littleton Director of Secondary Education spent the morning of December 14, 2012, leading small regional teams through a root cause analysis protocol. Groups used Advance Placement data to identify needs and initiate action plans. A follow-up session is still in the planning stage.
- **Stephanie Tolan** presented workshops for teachers and parents on Oct. 7, 2011 focusing on advanced writing skills at Brush High School. Surrounding districts were invited to participate. She facilitated writer's workshops for Brush middle and high school gifted students.
- **Brush High School** will be working with the Fort Morgan Workforce Center to provide career counseling for students to compliment the ICAP's and the affective component of the ALP's. The program will run 8 weeks having weekly focus sessions with a variety of career options
- **Kudos for Estes Park:** The school district is being recognized by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) for their Estes Valley Environmental Studies Science and Research program. Gifted students have been doing various projects including Mountain Lion tracking research, creating podcasts that are available on the Rocky Mountain Parks Service website and more! CAEE is "a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting quality environmental education." An award ceremony is scheduled for March 2, 2012.
- **Invitation to participate in Elite Group:** Noah Purdy, 11th Grade Talented and Gifted (TAG) student, was accepted to the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University in Washington, D.C. June 24-29. Recommended by his TAG

and Environmental Science Research Methods Teacher, Melinda Merrill, he will represent Colorado and Estes Park High School during the week-long residential experience where National Youth Delegates will also receive college credit. The select group of promising young leaders in the environmental and conservation community from across the United States will meet with environmental leaders, CEOs and national figures in conservation, environmental science and policy. Only 250 students from the entire country make up this elite group of students.

- **Building blocks:** *The two recognitions above are currently being supported with younger GT students in Estes working with the STEM program in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Once a week TAG students explore and investigate related STEM topics. They have dissected pig hearts, collected bugs, observed clouds, made terrariums, experimented with several gravity projects and right now they are building weather stations. The 5th graders are working in a mentoring program with the 6th grade TAG group who has had some coaching training on how to be a good mentor. They are currently developing science fair projects. While the hands-on activities create high-interest for students, the STEM content has provided a solid basis for application of math and literacy skills.*
- **New Program in St. Vrain!** Universal Middle School Program at Sunset Middle School
The Universal Middle School Program (UMS) is designed to meet the needs of high ability and gifted students who have not found a good match in the traditional middle school setting. The program will be taking applications for the 2012-2013 school year February 2012-May 2012.
- **Ratcheting Up Middle Schools in Loveland/Berthoud:** The Thompson school district GT department has been providing training from expert school practitioners to work with several middle school staffs around differentiating instruction for gifted learners using 21st century skills and technology. They will also be offering an after school training option to provide continued support for these teachers.