GATE Newsletter 2018

Sunnybrae Normal School, Term 4

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Who Are Our Gifted Children and Adults?

They are our artists,
Our musicians,
Our scientists,
Our entrepreneurs,
Our economists,
Our philosophers,
Our poets,
Our writers,
Our visionaries,
Our entrepreneurs,
Our uber-athletes,
Our physicians,
Our tinkerers,
Our caregivers,
Our dancers,
Our crafters,
Our farmers,
Our humanitarians,
Our actors,
Our astronauts,
Our designers,
Our dreamers,
Our engineers,
Our Math wizards,
Our comedians,
And our techno-savants
Some are scholars: studiers of knowledge.
Some are our hands-on-the-wheel,
manipulate-it-to know-it geniuses.
They are a curious, diverse and (potentially)
very powerful tribe.
And, they share a super-charged motivation to learn,
to deeply understand phenomena = of all kinds
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To create, to connect, and to contribute.

The Daimon Institute Highly Gifted

How we cater for our GATE students at Sunnybrae

Giftedness: *high intelligence or aptitude.*

Talent: *high level of performance.*

Gifted and talented students at Sunnybrae Normal School have an aptitude or advanced ability in academic, emotional, cultural, physical, creative and/or artistic pursuits.

Within the regular classroom we aim to: run an inclusive programme where gifted children are not made to feel isolated. Where possible the teacher will adjust content, process and product in response to student readiness, interests and learning profile.

Outside of the regular classroom programme we offer

- ❏ Future Problem Solving - Y5/6
- ❏ Maths Problem Solving - Y4-6
- ❏ Philosophy Y3-6
- ❏ Speech Y5/6
- ❏ Choir Y3-6
- ❏ Orchestral Group Y4-6
- ❏ Uke Group Y6
- ❏ Recorder Groups Y3-6
- ❏ Kapa Haka Y3-6
- ❏ Sporting Representation Y1-6
- ❏ Solo Parts in Productions Y1-6
- ❏ Assembly Presentations Y1-6
- ❏ Peer Mediator Programme Y5/6
- ❏ Student Council Y5/6
- ❏ Kiwi Competitions - English, Science and Maths Y5/6

Future Problem Solving (FPS) - Year 5/6

This year in FPS we have been researching infectious diseases, toxic materials and philanthrocapitalism. In Term 1, when we were studying infectious diseases, a special guest, Doctor Lawrey, came to talk to us about different illnesses and how they affect us and how they are treated.

FPS (future problem solving) is a great extension class especially if you like learning new facts about the world and the environment. Some skills we have learned are researching, bullet pointing, problem identification, teamwork, creative solution ideas and time management.

Firstly, we get into groups of 4 then we are given a future scene. We have to identify problems and create solutions. We rate our solutions to find the best one. We then have to write an action plan and draw diagrams to explain it. We have learned a lot from FPS which helps us at home and in class.

By Amy, Sienna and Grace.

Philosophy Groups - Years 3-6

Aims:

- To develop higher order reasoning skills through discussion.
- To explain opinions and give evidence to support them.
- To discuss real philosophical ideas, e.g. "what does it mean to be free?"
- To discuss societal issues, e.g. the rights of children.
- To develop social skills, e.g. respect for different values and opinions.
- To reflect on the idea that there may not be a 'right' answer

Comments from Middles Philosophy students…

I like Philosophy because….

"We get to look at pictures and listen to stories and I get to say my own opinion."
"We talk and think about what we think."
"There are no right answers, just ideas."
"I like to think hard and because we learn new things."
"We learn how to listen and ask questions."

Comments from Senior Philosophy students……

We like philosophy because…

"We get to listen to stories and poems and then reflect on their meanings, for example, Who owns the Moon?"

"We can say what we think without being right or wrong."

"You are right if you can explain why you think that way."

"We have to really think hard and expand our thinking because Mrs Thumath and other people in the group keep asking questions!"

Core GATE Y3/4

The Middles Core Groups' programmes are centred around experimenting, following a set scientific method, and researching using such skills as key ideas and bullet pointing. This year they have been experimenting with 'Air'. They have discovered what causes wind and the surprising strength of compressed air. The students have researched the problems of air pollution and have made suggestions as to how we could help to reduce pollution. In the photo on the left below, they are trialling the best material for parachutes.

GATE Maths - Y4-6

GATE Maths Year 4

Students focus on using the following skills and strategies for practical problem-solving:

- Working Backwards
- Drawing a diagram
- Drawing a table or chart
- Using concrete materials
- Guessing and checking
- Creating an organised list

GATE Maths Year 5

Students focus on using the following skills and strategies for practical problem-solving:

- Working backwards
- Drawing a diagram
- Drawing a table or chart
- Using concrete materials
- Guessing and checking

GATE Maths Year 6

We work on problem-solving strategies, cooperative problem solving and communication of strategies used.

We then go onto preparation for the Otago Problem Solving Competition, designed for students Year 6 and up. The test is taken each month

• Looking for/following a pattern. Once these strategies have been taught, students are given a variety of problems to solve. They work both independently and in small groups to select a strategy and solve each problem.	• Creating an organised list • Looking for/following a pattern. Once these strategies have been reviewed (from last year), students are given a variety of problems and must select a strategy. They then evaluate their learning by explaining why a strategy was chosen and deciding if it was the best way. Communication of mathematical ideas and processes is an important component of this process.	for 5 months beginning in April. To prepare, we work through old papers, discussing each of the problems and the strategies to solve them. Good communication of logical reasoning is a key element.