Family meetings can provide a forum where children have a voice as a family member, and provide avenues for avoiding power struggles that otherwise can occur. It is important for gifted children to feel emotionally supported by the family—even when there are disagreements.

Parent Advocacy
Gifted children need strong, responsible advocates, and parent groups can make a difference. It takes persistence of large groups of parents to assure that provisions for gifted children are kept firmly in place. Parents of children who are gifted need opportunities to share parenting experiences with each other, and parent groups can provide a place where that can happen. It is important for parents of any children with special needs to meet with the teachers early in the school year. When parents and teachers work together, appropriate programs can be developed and problems can be caught early. It is helpful for parents to offer to assist their child’s teacher by making or locating supplemental materials, helping in the classroom or library, offering expertise to small groups of students, or finding others who can provide other enrichment experiences. Effective parents stay involved in their children’s education and informed about gifted education in general. When a teacher makes a special effort to understand or assist a gifted child, a note to the teacher or to the principal is generally appreciated.

Conclusion
The key to raising gifted children is respect: respect for their uniqueness, respect for their opinions and ideas, respect for their dreams. Gifted children need parents who are responsive and flexible, who will go to bat for them when they are too young to do so for themselves. It is painful for parents to watch their children feeling out of sync with others, but it is undesirable to emphasize too greatly the importance of fitting in. Children get enough of that message in the outside world. At home, children need to know that their uniqueness is cherished and that they are appreciated as persons just for being themselves.

Join CAG’s mailing list (www.cagifted.org) to receive information and updates related to GATE.

GATE Program Options

Programs are offered to students who require an environment which encourages extremely high levels of abstract thinking, motivation, interest, achievement, peer interaction, and a radically accelerated pace of learning. Acceptance is based on eligibility criteria, availability of space, and any specific conditions unique to the school. The following lists the program opportunities in LAUSD for GATE students:

*Regular community schools include a cluster program for gifted students

*Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS)

*Magnets for gifted and highly gifted students

*Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts

*Honors and Advanced Placement classes (middle and senior high schools)

Check with your local school about GATE program offered.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **September 2**: Application deadline for new and returning students for the Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts

- **October 6**: Registration for returning students for Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts, Cal State LA

- **October 8**: Applications will be available for Magnet, PWT and NCLB-PSC Programs for the 2013-2014 school year. Apply online at echoices.lausd.net. Applications will also be available at school sites and at public libraries

- **October 13**: Registration for new students accepted into the Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts, Cal State LA

- **November 16**: Application deadline for Magnet, PWT and NCLB-PSC Programs for the 2013-2014 school year

- **December 15**: City/County GATE Conference at the Pasadena Convention Center “Differentiation in the 21st Century: Shifting the Agenda.” Registration will be available soon at www.centralcities.org (fee required)

- **GATE/SAS Parent Workshops**
  - 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
- **January 28**: Grant HS (EBC North)
- **February 4**: Westchester HS (EBC West)
- **February 11**: Lincoln HS (EBC East)
- **February 21**: Banning HS (EBC South)

Spring GATE/SAS Parent Conference (date and location TBD)

2012 OLSAT Results

1,272 second grade students were identified as gifted in the High Achievement category (350 more than the year before)

Good News