

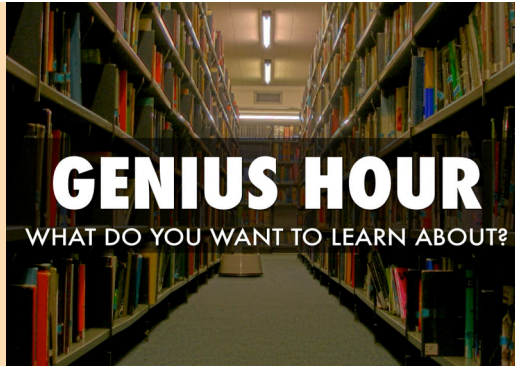
Welcome, High Ability Educators & Families!!

Though the 2016-17 academic year is young, we have much to celebrate already in SBCSC High Ability! In this newsletter you'll find **celebrations** of ...

- ✦ **Professional LEARNING** for our staff (your children's teachers)
- ✦ **Current TEACHING practice** designed to
 - Bring daily **challenge**
 - Provide meaningful independent work in areas of **student passion, &**
 - **Differentiate** our instruction
- ✦ Exciting plans for our **HIGH SCHOOL** high ability program!!!

You'll also find resources to help you help your HIGH ABILITY child **THRIVE**, and important dates to know.

In the words of a high ability teacher: *I just started Genius Hour today! I am quite excited about this experience!! Some of (the students') ideas are just amazing---mind blown!*



GENIUS HOUR

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?



HA Teacher Survey...

In a recent survey of our most experienced HIGH ABILITY TEACHERS, we learned that their **GOALS** for this year include implementation of:

- **Genius Hour** – to allow for innovation & the pursuit of student passions
- **Anchor Activities** – to ensure that our brightest students do not experience boredom
- **Project-based Learning & On-going Research** – to ensure engagement & real world application

Professional Learning 2016-17



High Ability BOOTCAMP – September 27 & 28, Goshen IN [coordinator & 3 teachers, PC & IC]

National Association for Gifted Children National Convention – November 3-6, Orlando, FL [3 principals, coordinator, 1 IC counselor, 2 teachers]

IN Association for Gifted Children Conference – early December, Indianapolis, IN

Monthly after-school Professional Learning Sessions [all teachers invited to attend]

Google Classroom Community [all teachers invited to participate & share resources and IDEAS!!!!]

High Ability CHALLENGES – Each month, our High Ability classroom teachers are invited to engage in varying CHALLENGES that stretch students' thinking in the areas of...

- **RESEARCH** - questioning, researching, and communicating findings
- **CREATIVITY** – brainstorming, creating, combining, and elaborating in interesting ways
- **PROBLEM SOLVING** – applying their thinking to solve interesting conundrums
- **DEBATE** – weighing sides, researching, taking a stance & defending it

The ACORN CHALLENGE...

The BACKGROUND: Over a month ago it began: night after night of hearing acorns fall from our oak trees, hit the roof, and roll down! Every night, it seemed to absolutely **RAIN ACORNS!!** Last week, I was walking through the backyard. I stepped on a **carpet** of **acorns** and slid on one foot like I was walking on ice!! It got me **thinking** and **WONDERING!!!!**



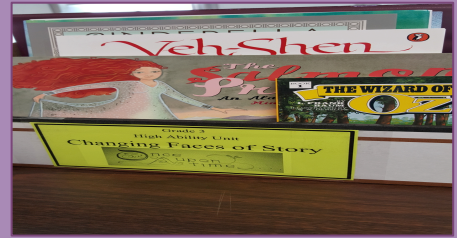
The CHALLENGE: Let's learn more about what's going on in the area with our **ACORN** crop and more about acorns (&/or fall) in general. **Then, let's TEACH one another!!**



A message to gifted students from the **National Association for Gifted Children's Bill of Rights.**

You have a right to...

- Know about your giftedness...
- Learn something new every day...
- Be passionate about your talent area without apology...
- Not be gifted in everything.



This year, high ability teachers will be studying and utilizing engaging High Ability Mini-Unit curriculum materials from the Indiana Department of Education.

SBCSC High Ability Program is partnering with Notre Dame's **AP-TIP IN** - Offering support for our high ability high school students & teachers...

Planning is underway for South Bend's High Ability program to partner with Notre Dame's AP-TIP IN in offering 2 experiences designed to elevate teacher & student awareness of important Advanced Placement topics and standards.

- ❑ **Mock Exam Administration & Reading** – Scheduled for early spring 2017, SBCSC AP teachers will work with College Board Readers. Students will receive feedback to determine their own strengths & weaknesses in advance of the actual AP exam dates.
- ❑ **AP Student Conference** – Slated for spring 2017, AP students from each SBCSC high school will be offered a Saturday experience of interaction with AP students from other schools & with outstanding AP teachers from outside our district. AP teachers will receive strategies & materials to bring back to their classrooms.



High Ability Family Resources

- **Local - Riverbend Community Math Center**
 - **Math Circles** (with in-depth discussion of math concepts)
 - **Tech Studio** (project-based engagement with computer programming, robotics, etc.)
 - **Physics Club** (with discussion & hands-on engagements)
 - Call **222-1515** for more information
- **National – National Association for Gifted Children**
 - Find information about giftedness & links to resources that help you help your student thrive
 - Go to <http://www.nagc.org>
- **National – Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)**
 - An organization helping to ensure that gifted children are understood, accepted & nurtured
 - <http://www.sengifted.org>
- **National – Mensa for Kids**
 - A website offering up monthly themes to get kids reading & learning at an advanced level

For questions, please call Sally Carlin at 283-8180 or email at scarlin@sbcsc.k12.in.us. I'd love to hear from you!