



A special e-publication for the personal use of NJAGC members

**A MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFIT!**  
**February 2016**

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 75th edition of NewsNet, the electronic newsletter provided for our valued NJAGC members! We've come upon so many interesting events that we're sending out another NewsNet so you won't miss out on these outstanding opportunities!

Be a part of NewsNet. Send happenings of interest throughout NJ for families of gifted students as well as educators, to Lenore Argen at [argenhouse@msn.com](mailto:argenhouse@msn.com).  
Your input will be appreciated by all who enjoy this publication!

***PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY***

**NJAGC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference\***  
**April 15 & 16, 2016**  
[Hotel Somerset- Bridgewater](#)

This is a unique opportunity of networking and professional development with the gifted community statewide and beyond.

- Are you ready to Power Up! your students?
- Are you looking for strategies to deepen thinking, to empower metacognition, and spark self-expression?
- Do you want to enhance challenge and depth throughout your teaching?
- Are you looking to network and learn with like-minded parents, educators, and advocates for gifted education?
- Are you a gifted student, ready for a fun-filled day of engaging activities?

Join **NJAGC** as we **Power Up!** at our **2016 conference April 15th and 16th** in Somerset, NJ! Visit [www.njagc.org](http://www.njagc.org) often for registration information and workshop descriptions. You will also find new and updated information, applications for contests, award nomination forms, scholarship opportunities, presentation proposals and exhibitor registration.

Visit [www.visitgreatcourses.com](http://www.visitgreatcourses.com) to view a catalog of unique audio and video courses on almost any hobby, interest or subject you can imagine in both your personal and professional life! Some sample titles: *Understanding the Universe*; *An Introduction to Astronomy*, *The Everyday Guide to Wine*, *The Mathematics of Games and Puzzles*, *An Introduction to Meditation*, *Optimizing Brain Fitness*, *How to Grow Anything*, *Daily Life in the Ancient World...*and the list goes on....

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**The Science of Imagination:  
Cultivating Curiosity and Creativity in Our Schools  
April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**DoubleTree Hotel** at the Entrance to Universal Orlando, Orlando, FL

Discover the importance of curiosity, creativity, fantasy fiction, pretend play and the passion for learning, ways to develop these skills in students, and how to transform and re-imagine our schools and colleges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. [Download Conference Brochure \(pdf\)](#) using this link.

## ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

### [Presidents Day is State Theatre Family Day!](#)

**Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 10am - 3pm**

The **State Theatre's** popular **Family Day** festival returns on **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. The annual event is a great place for kids and their families to spend the Presidents Day holiday, with performances, games, hands-on workshops, exhibits, and more, stretching across four venues in and around the **State Theatre**. It's a jam-packed day of fun for the entire family! Headlining this year's Family Day is Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia and their delightful trio of stories by Eric Carle, including everyone's favorite, [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#). The stories leap from the page and onto the stage with beautiful black-light puppetry. Click on the link above for information about all of the free offers and activities planned.

## ***AWARDS AND GRANTS***

*Do you have a big idea to make a difference?  
Are you doing an awesome service project?*

**LEAD360** is the platform that powers **youth service ideas** to realize their vision, act as the megaphone for their voice, and empower them and the country to act with maximum impact. Idea submissions are open to ages 5 - 25. Start on your idea now in order to be ready for the 2017 competition by using this link for full information: [www.Lead360.jeffersonawards.org](http://www.Lead360.jeffersonawards.org)

The **Grammy Awards** will once again include **educators** being recognized for their inspirational and contributions to the world of music.

Link here: <http://www.grammyintheschools.com/programs/grammy-music-educator-award> for information on how to nominate a deserving teacher! This year's **deadline is March 15, 2016**.

## RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

The **New Jersey State Bar Foundation** offers a publication titled *Turning 18 in NJ: Legal Rights and Responsibilities of New Adults*. Download this insightful book at [www.jhsbf.org](http://www.jhsbf.org) for information everyone should know about being a good citizen, managing your money, your rights as a consumer, the NJ Court System, and more!

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Did you know that you own millions of acres of national parks, historic structures, cultural artifacts, ancient forests, snow-capped mountains, and clear blue lakes? Our public lands and waters belong to all Americans and are waiting for you to explore them through the **Every Kid in a Park** initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for each and every **4th grade student** across the country to experience their public lands and waters in person. This pass will grant free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and more! The **Every Kid in a Park** pass will be available for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Use this link to find out more: <http://www.nationalparks.gov/look/every-kid-in-a-park>.

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The **Davidson Institute** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting profoundly gifted students 18 and under.

Click on <http://www.davidsongifted.org/> to discover their diverse offerings.

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Learn about **Thomas Edison** by clicking on [www.thomasedison.org](http://www.thomasedison.org). Edison's four great inventions, phonograph (music business), motion pictures, power industry/electric light bulb, and the invention factory [R&D labs] - forever changed the world. His work with electric vehicles and batteries over 100 years ago was inspirational in the re-emergence of electric/hybrid/alternative vehicles today. Read all about Thomas Edison and learn what the **Edison Innovation Foundation** is doing with his images, quotes, artifacts, trademarks, and intellectual property. Follow their links for unique programs and competitions and information on visiting his labs virtually and in person!

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**Grammy in the Schools** offers opportunities for high school musicians that range from summer camps to professional mentors to funding for community and school programs. Visit <http://www.grammyintheschools.com> for more information.

## COMPETITIONS AND CONTESTS

Since 2003, over 10,000 children across New Jersey have entered the **Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest**. It is a great way to engage and excite **fifth graders** into learning about New Jersey's 80+ endangered and threatened wildlife species. Through this contest, children gain a better understanding of the wildlife and habitats of New Jersey and what we need to do to keep them in our future. **Species on the Edge** is open to all **New Jersey fifth graders** in public, private, or home schools.

**Deadline extended to February 29, 2016!** [DOWNLOAD THE 2016 CONTEST KIT](#)

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Visit this link [www.horseshoecrab.org](http://www.horseshoecrab.org) for many exciting **ecological resources and programs**. You will be able to view the winners of their 2016 Art contest and get information about next year's competition.

## ***FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS***

Spanish and Mandarin Programs are offered at several New Jersey locations. Link to: [www.jumpimmersion.com](http://www.jumpimmersion.com)

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**Let's Play Italian** offers a Preschool, Kindergarten, and Daycare full immersion Italian Program. They also run **Mommy and Me** classes, adult classes, private lessons, and tutoring. Link to: [www.letsplayinitalian.com](http://www.letsplayinitalian.com) for more information.

## ***FAMILY AND SCHOOL OUTINGS***

The **Newark Museum** is now running Saturday afternoon **Family Gallery Programs** free of charge. Weekly themes highlight different areas of the art and science collections. Visit [www.newrkmuseum.org](http://www.newrkmuseum.org) for more information.

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You may have gone swimming with dolphins on your last vacation, but have you ever been given a chance to **Swim with the Sharks**? Visit [www.adventureaquarium.com](http://www.adventureaquarium.com) to make plans for an up close and personal visit around the shark pool and a dip into the Stingray Lagoon at the **Adventure Aquarium in Camden**.

### **Learn About Foraging With Naturalist "Wildman" Steve Brill**

The purpose of this hands-on program is to learn about the environment and get back in touch with nature. By studying foraging and nature, we enjoy our renewable resources and reaffirm our commitment to preserving and rebuilding our ecological riches.

For more information link to: [www.wildmanstevebrill.com](http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com)

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**Northlandz** is a 16 acre attraction which includes a doll museum, the La Peep 94 room Doll House, a 2,000 pipe theater pipe organ (which the owner plays), and art galleries throughout. The main feature is the world's largest model railway, boasting over 100 trains, 8 miles of tracks, thousands of buildings, and 40 foot bridges spanning canyons. Lunch and snacks are available at the Club Car Café. Visit [www.northlandz.com](http://www.northlandz.com) for details.

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For a more "grass roots" experience, visit **The Model Railroad Club**, one of the oldest model railroad clubs in the USA, located on the Lenape Park grounds of the Union County Department of Parks. They are open to the public on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. Visit the [Directions Page](#) to view directions and a map to, or an aerial [picture](#) of, the Club.

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Prefer **REAL trains**? Then make sure to go to [www.Whippanyrailwaymuseum.net](http://www.Whippanyrailwaymuseum.net) for information on this Morris County museum, which features both exhibits and rides on historic train cars.

## ***THE ARTS***

The Gazillion Bubble Show mixes the science of bubbles with entertainment. Visit [www.gazillionbubbleshow.com](http://www.gazillionbubbleshow.com) for more information.

## EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

**HEROES Academy** in New Brunswick offers weekend enrichment classes for students who demonstrate that they are academically accelerated based on NWEA MAP test scores. **HEROES Academy** offers programs in engineering, computer science, laboratory science, language arts, and math. A conference is planned for Saturday, February 13, 2016. Go to [www.njgifted.org](http://www.njgifted.org) for more information on all programs.

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The schedule is out for unique art and craft classes being sponsored by the famous **Luna Parc** at several venues throughout the state. Classes include weaving, tile making, edible pizza art, large sculptures, woodworking, cement, brush and ink, rocket stove use, and construction. Participants must be at least 16 years of age unless noted otherwise. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who is also attending the course. *Do you have a special interest group?* They can also create a workshop for you on a specific day. There is a minimum class of 8 people. Materials range from clay, tile and cement, and group Art Therapy. For more information and to register for a class, please email [ricky@lunaparc](mailto:ricky@lunaparc) or call 973-948-2160. Please visit [www.lunaparc.com](http://www.lunaparc.com) or [www.lunaparcfoundation.org](http://www.lunaparcfoundation.org) for information.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

**Stanford University** selects top high school students from around the world to participate in engaging summer academic programs. These programs are ideal for gifted students currently in grades 8-12. Their programs offer highly motivated, intellectually curious students the opportunity to investigate topics not typically taught in secondary schools. Students engage in small classes taught by instructors who are experts in their fields and passionate about teaching. In this setting, students hone their academic skills and form new friendships with intellectual peers. Students in their residential programs get a taste of college life on the beautiful Stanford campus. Past students have described their [Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies](#) experience as life-changing.

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*Enamored with Pirates? Fantasize about sailing around the world?* Then these programs may be for you. Click on [Meerwald Summer Camps – Registration Now Open](#) for a unique selection of maritime experiences offered around the state.

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[www.Grammyintheschools.com](http://www.Grammyintheschools.com) is your ticket to train with music professionals at GrammyCamp, a unique offering of summer programs for gifted musicians.

75<sup>TH</sup> edition of *NewsNet* formatted by Sharon Handley

\*\*\*Make sure to also check out the summer and weekend programs offered for Elementary and High School students **by our Newsnet sponsors, CTY, SIG and MSU...their contact and website information is listed below at the end of this publication.**

## "NJAGC Gold Sponsors"

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

[www.cty.jhu.edu](http://www.cty.jhu.edu)

Gold Sponsor



Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG)

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

Gold Sponsor



Montclair State University

[www.montclair.edu/gifted](http://www.montclair.edu/gifted)

Gold Sponsor

