



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

A MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFIT!
May 2016

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 78th 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.
Your input will be appreciated by all who enjoy this publication!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The HSBC National Center for Economic and Financial Education serves as a visible and accessible launch site for new programs of the Council for Economic Education. The Center strengthens and expands CEE's program activities in the New York City region through professional development workshops and training. The Center showcases instructional materials, training programs and state-of-the-art approaches to K-12 economic, personal finance and entrepreneurship education.

Visit <http://www.councilforeconed.org/resources/media/national-center-workshops/> for more information

Building a Place for History - 2016 NJ History & Historic Preservation Conference June 8 & 9, 2016 at Seton Hall University

Register for the Conference today at: [Historic Preservation Conference](#)

VOLUNTEERS

Please join us for the next **NJAGC** meeting at Hickory Corner Library - 38 Hickory Corner Rd., East Windsor, from 6 – 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 22nd. Our meetings are both informative and inspirational networking opportunities for parents, educators, and all those who support Gifted Education. Please consider becoming an active member in our organization and help us help you. Visit [NJAGC Meeting Schedule](#) for more information about us!

TECH RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

Apps: ipad/iphone/ipod and Android

Khan Academy (ipad) A convenient way to watch Khan Academy videos.... not the full Khan Academy experience (free) **Minds of Modern Mathematics** (iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch) Takes you on an interactive journey that spans nearly 1,000 years. It tells the story of mathematics and how it has impacted almost every aspect of human progress, from science to music, art, architecture, and culture. (free)

BananaGrams (iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch) Award winning game that will drive you bananas! Just like the board game, Scrabble without a board, played against yourself in a race against your opponents or the clock. (\$0.99)

Simple Physics (iPad/iPhone and Android) Design complex structures for everything from tree houses to ferris wheels and then simulate your design with a sophisticated physics engine. (free)

GeoBee Challenge (iPad and Android) by National Geographic In the multiple-choice round, answers come from more than 1300 National Geographic Bee questions. In the map challenge round, zoom, and tap your way to find spots on an interactive map from a catalog of 1000+ locations. For an added challenge, bonus rounds include photographs and you have to locate what's in the photo on the interactive map...but you don't know where the photo was taken or what is in the picture! The faster you answer, the more points you get... For grades 4-8 (\$1.99)

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **National September 11 Memorial & Museum's Ambassador Program** is a year-long afterschool program for students in the greater New York City area. The Museum Ambassador Program, open to high school students in grades 10 through 12, allows students the unique opportunity to become actively involved in the Museum. Ambassadors examine the Museum's permanent collection and the ongoing themes and issues raised by 9/11. With this foundation, Ambassadors write artifact talks using best education practices and learn how to effectively present them to Museum visitors. In addition, Ambassadors gain professional experience by helping with hands-on activities for young visitors and their caregivers.

Students who successfully complete the program earn a \$1,000 stipend. Transportation costs are covered for all participants.

The application deadline is June 30, 2016. Applications can be completed online at <https://911memorialmuseum.wufoo.com/forms/museum-ambassador-program/>.

For additional information about the Museum Ambassador Program-

Visit: <http://www.911memorial.org/museum-ambassador-program>

Email: ambassadors@911memorial.org.

For the talented artists in your family:

The NJ State Bar Foundation sponsors **courtroom artistry** information and competitions for students. For more information about the Courtroom Artist Student Competition, please contact Cynthia Pellegrino at 732-937-7507 or cpellegrino@njsbf.org.

FAMILY AND SCHOOL OUTINGS

Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange offers special programs for children of varying ages during the spring and summer. Check out their webpage: <http://turtlebackzoo.com>

Hoboken Historical Museum and Cultural Center is located down the block from a scenic waterfront promenade, which affords beautiful views of the NYC skyline. Visit www.hobokenmuseum.org for updates.

Located on 2,740 acres in Hillsborough, the mission of **Duke Farms** is to be a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century and to inspire visitors to become informed stewards of the land. Inside the orientation center, visitors may learn about programs, tour a gallery of educational and interactive exhibits, view a nine-minute film about the history and mission of Duke Farms or obtain a map. Go to www.dukefarms.org for more information.

The Raptor Trust is one of the premier wild bird rehabilitation centers in the United States. Located in central New Jersey, the Trust includes a hospital with state-of-the-art medical facilities, quality exterior housing for several hundred birds, and an education building. **The Raptor Trust is open to the public seven days a week.** Visitors are afforded a unique opportunity to view at close range the many hawks, eagles, falcons and owls that are permanent residents at the facility. There is no charge to visit, but a modest donation of \$2.00 per person is encouraged. Go to <http://theraptortrust.org> for more information.

The **Garden State Community Kitchen** is a NJ non-profit organization offering farm-to-table educational programming for children and families in The Garden State. Visit: www.thegardenstatecommunitykitchen.org

Pets truly become part of the family, and now there is a free app to help people find their lost dogs. www.furalert.us. "Like amber alert for the family pet."

Dust off that telescope that is hidden in the back of a closet and plan a family stargazing night out! To learn more about viewing events seek out local nature centers, museum and university programs, and observatories. The editor's personal favorite is **Union County College's William Miller Sperry Observatory in Cranford, NJ.**

Visit <http://www.asterism.org/jsp/index.jsp#> to learn more about Amateur Astronomers, Inc., the group which sponsors events at the facility.

Visit the **Museum of Mathematics** in NYC for hands-on, interactive exhibits, a museum devoted to the wonders of mathematics and its many connections, from art to science to finance. They have even developed a summer camp program! Check out [Museum of Mathematics](http://www.museumofmathematics.org) for more information.

The Great Swamp in Morris and Somerset Counties - ranges from one hour to weekly summer camp programs in the natural sciences - programs are all hands on, including hikes <http://www.greatswamp.org/EdPrograms.htm>

June 20th – 21st are family friendly evenings at **Plays in the Park** for their first show of the season, The Little Mermaid. Go to www.playsinthepark.com for all of their summer offerings. This outdoor theatre, located in a park behind the Menlo Park Mall, produces professional level performances.

The Franklin Institute has this spring experience FUN down to a science. Experience science, history and art in our newest special exhibitions: ***Lost Egypt***, and ***The Science Behind Pixar***. The *Lost Egypt* interactive exhibit takes you on an immersive quest for knowledge revealing how archaeologists use modern science and technology to uncover and understand the ancient civilization of Egypt. Experience a unique, first-time look into the Pixar process, and explore the science and technology behind some of the most beloved animated films and their unforgettable characters with *The Science Behind Pixar*.

For more information visit: <https://www.fi.edu/exhibitions>

Governors Island is opening just in time for Memorial Day weekend. Ferries are back in service for NYC's most unique parkland. New this year - a giant playground, including slides that are steep enough and wide enough to accommodate the entire family at one time...including mom and dad! Check the website for special event dates, too!
<https://govisland.com/>

Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, New Jersey
<http://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center>

New Jersey Aquarium has a variety of exhibits:

Swim with the Sharks - So you think you've got guts? Well, come on down to test the waters in our Shark Realm exhibit. Our cast will brief you on what to expect, teach you about the animals you will encounter and give you a quick snorkeling lesson. Once you've gotten your nerves under control, you'll enter the Shark Realm where you'll come within inches of sandbar sharks, nurse sharks and more!

The Sea Turtles Up Close encounter is an interactive tour giving Adventure Aquarium guests the opportunity to meet the Aquarium's family of sea turtles, including Loggerheads and Greens. Meet and learn more about these fascinating species, which range from rescued sea turtle hatchlings to massive Green and Loggerhead Sea turtles weighing in at hundreds of pounds each!

Positively Penguins Adventure offers an up-close encounter with our Black-footed African Penguins that is unlike anything you've ever experienced! Experience this totally unique animal Adventure, which includes exclusive access to Penguin Island, home to over 15 African Penguins. Guests also participate in a LIVE penguin painting session (and yes, you get to keep the painting)! You can even take photographs with your new penguin buddy.

Visit: <http://www.adventureaquarium.com/> for information on times and prices.

RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

Science Near You is a site offered by Liberty Science Center, enabling you to locate science related programs and locations in your local area. Just enter your address at <http://snu.lsc.org> to begin your search.

Check out <http://www.genirevolution.org/> for a unique Online Personal Finance Game sponsored by the **Council for Economic Education**.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

HEROES Academy

Harry Potter Week is June 27-July 1 where children can think like a scientist, design like an engineer, enjoy a magical week at their full day summer camp for ages 6 - 11. Create magical drafts and potions, build your own Hogwarts Express, make a crystal ball, and explore Magical Creatures. Located at 317 George St New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (732) 690-7991

Verona Summer Music Camp

Classes held in HBW School from June 22 – July 22 - no VSM on July 1st and 4th. Registration is for students going into grade 2 in September through grade 12.

Serving children from beginning to advanced instruments. Offering band instruments, piano, bass guitar, music theory or choir. Students going into grade 4 or above can be part of our production of *Hairspray*. No auditions required.

For all information and registration forms visit: <http://www.veronasummertime.org/>

LeapAhead! Online Summer Math program offers students an opportunity to practice and solve math problems in the convenience of their home. The program offers 32 online assignments that meet NCTM standards and it offers specifically tailored versions for gifted students in grades 3 through 6.

Visit: <http://www.noetic-learning.com/summermath>

iD Tech Camps and iD Programming Academy

These programs offer aspiring coders a chance to develop apps and program websites, as well as design video games and engineer robots. The iD Tech Camps, geared toward ages 7 to 17, are offered in week-long, day and overnight sessions. The academy, focused on ages 13 to 18, is a two-week (optional overnight) program.

Location: The camps are at Fairleigh Dickinson University – Madison, Montclair State, Monmouth University, Kean University, Princeton University, Ramapo College, Rider University and Seton Hall universities; the academy is at Princeton University.

When/for how long: Various sessions in June/July/August.

Contact: 1 (888) 709-8324 and check out: <https://www.idtech.com/locations/> for locations.

Premiere Stages at Kean University Theatre in Union, NJ offers a **summer theatre camp**. For more information: [Kean University Premiere Stages](#)

Premiere Play Factory, the educational umbrella for Premiere Stages, has introduced theatre to thousands of children across New Jersey. Through our year-round **Play Factory Residencies** and **Camp Premiere** summer program, we introduce students to the craft of playwriting and acting with an eye towards increasing literacy, supporting English language learning, modeling the collaborative process, and encouraging self-expression. Our summer **Play Factory Performance Series** presents inspiring and engaging family-friendly plays on the campus of Kean University in the months of **July and August**.

Camp Premiere (Grades 5 -12) is our acclaimed summer theatre camp for middle and high school students. For more information, please [click here](#).

The **Play Factory Performance Series** presents professional theatre productions specifically geared for young audiences, typically ages 12 and under. For more information, please [click here](#).

Apple Camp happens at all Apple Store locations and each workshop is three hours <http://www.apple.com/retail/camp/>

Union County Dance Centre offers a Performing Arts Theater Workshop - enroll 1,2,3,4 or 5 weeks during the summer http://www.ucdconline.com/summer_camp.html

Science Explorers: This after-school science program runs summer camps for children ages 4 to 11. These camps are formatted to help get kids over their fears of science. There's a space camp that allows children to launch rockets. ("It's a blast," offers Jennifer Moorehead, Science Explorers founder and CEO.)

Location: New Hope, Doylestown, PA, Center Valley, PA and Ambler, PA

When/for how long: Camps vary in length -- either half-day or a day; Jr.

Discoverers are half-day camps.

Contact: 1 (877) 870-9517 and check out this link: [Science Explorers](#)

Westfield Summer Workshop: students get to create schedules of classes in performing, fine arts, and crafts. There is an extended day program available with the Westfield YMCA for sports/childcare, etc. <http://njworkshopforthearts.com/>

BOLD Arts offers week long, high energy, immersive workshops at Reeves-Reed in Summit during the week of June 27-July 1. Children dive into a thought-provoking theme and explore it through dance, music, and art. Visit www.bold-arts.com for more information about this dynamic visual and performing arts program.

***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.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

www.cty.jhu.edu

Summer Institute for the Gifted

www.giftedstudy.org

Montclair State University

www.montclair.edu/gifted

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