



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

**A MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFIT!
October 2015**

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 72nd 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 OPPORTUNITIES



This year the **NJAGC 24th Annual Conference*** will be held a little later in the school year. April 15 & 16, 2016 are the **dates to save** for this 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 often for new and updated information, applications for contests, award nomination forms, scholarship opportunities, presentation proposals and exhibitor registration.

* Note new time of year to hopefully better accommodate the weather and PARCC testing!

The **New Jersey Association for Gifted Children** (NJAGC) invites you to join us at the NJEA Convention scheduled for **Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6, 2015**, in Atlantic City. **NJAGC** is sponsoring several workshops, all of which focus on gifted education. Make sure to stop by our booth on the “Convention Floor” to find out what’s new in Gifted Education.

This year the **NAGC 62nd Annual Convention & Exhibition** is from **November 11th – 15th 2015** in Phoenix, Arizona from Classroom teachers, gifted/talented coordinators, school administrators, researchers, parents, college and university faculty come together to hear and see the most up-to-date information on gifted education. Throughout pre-convention events, concurrent sessions, poster sessions, exhibit hall, general sessions, Parent Day (Saturday), and networking events (both formal and informal!), attendees will explore everything gifted under the sun! www.nagc.org

Rutgers 2015 Gifted Education Conference November 19, 2015

Join us for a professional conference packed with research- based and practical ideas that will enhance gifted programming and services in your district. Enjoy lunch and a keynote address presented by Dr. Joyce VanTassel-Baska, an internationally renowned gifted education expert and developer of the Rutgers Gifted Education Certificate Program. Attend breakout sessions presented by the faculty members of the Rutgers Gifted Education Certificate Program.

Date and Time:

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Followed by Wine & Cheese Reception, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cost:

\$175/person for Conference \$25/person for Reception

Location TBA.

[Sign up today!](#)

RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT



[Pixar in a Box on Khan Academy](#)

How does math relate to Pixar animation? Khan Academy and Pixar recently released a fun, interactive lesson series called [Pixar in a Box](#). Each lesson “demonstrates how a concept introduced in school is used for creative benefit at Pixar,” and there are lessons for all different grade levels. Teachers looking for more information should check out the [Educator’s Guide](#), which provides examples and ideas for implementation.

[Possible Worlds Free Science Learning Games](#)

Developed by **EDC’s Center for Children and Technology**, **Possible Worlds** is a suite of free games designed to help students learn about science. Currently there are four games available that focus on scientific misconceptions, covering photosynthesis, electricity, heredity, and heat transfer. Each game includes classroom activities for teachers that have been developed to “leverage students’ experiences within the games.”

[Smithsonian Online Education Conference Series](#)

Students and teachers: Interact with experts from the **Smithsonian** once a month during their hour-long online conferences, held on topics ranging from civil rights to astrophotography. The conference series includes special “virtual teachers’ lounge” sessions for teachers to engage with each other and discuss other Smithsonian learning resources.

[STEM-Works](#)

STEM-Works is a resource for teachers, parents, mentors, and anyone else wanting to get kids excited about science, technology, engineering, and math. The site offers links to virtual field trips, interactive lesson plans, and fun activities for all grade levels.

[The Ultimate Guide to Games in School](#)

EdSurge has culled a list of articles, resources, and videos to help educators incorporate gaming into the classroom. The guide covers the latest research, as well as strategies and tips from practitioners, and there are plenty of useful reviews of ideal classroom games that support learning. This is a great primer for educators looking to incorporate gaming in the classroom, as well as for teachers who have already embraced the trend.

Socratic, Integrated, Hands-On Problem Solving: **ENGINEERS TEACHING ALGEBRA** brings an engineer into the classroom in support of **STEM**. In 20 years **ETA** has visited 1,700 schools in 38 states. Check out:

Website <http://engineersteachingalgebra.com/>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTru9drjQ7Y>

Math is not a subject, it's a necessary language

EVENTS



The public is invited to the **New Jersey State Bar Foundation's** wrap-up celebration of Magna Carta's 800th anniversary. This year saw the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the seminal legal document signed by King John at Runnymede in 1215 that gave birth to such revered concepts as equality under the law, trial by jury, due process and *habeas corpus*.

The **New Jersey State Bar Foundation's** year-long celebration of what became the cornerstone of American law as embodied in the Constitution wraps up with a presentation by legal experts and discussion of the continued legacy of that "Great Charter" on **Tuesday, October 13, 7-9 p.m., at the New Jersey Law Center** off Ryders Lane in New Brunswick. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served. The program is **free** but registration is required. **Questions, answers and commentary by the public are encouraged at the program.** For more information, please contact Florence Nathan at 732-937-7518.

To register, go to <http://www.njsbf.org/for-the-public/events/947.html> or call 1-800-FREE LAW.

Four Centuries in a Weekend

Multiple location event providing the opportunity to explore and experience the rich history that has been preserved throughout the County of Union, through tours, demonstrations, displays and reenactments sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rain or shine.

Saturday, October 17th 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 18th Noon – 5:00 pm

For a brochure of sites and events link to:

<http://ucnj.org/parks-recreation/cultural-heritage-affairs/historic-sites-map/>

STUDENT PROGRAMS



The Gifted and Talented Youth Program at Montclair State University provides accelerated, inquiry based courses designed to meet the unique intellectual and social needs of high ability students in grades K-8. Courses are taught for 9 weekends in the fall and winter/spring. The program provides students with opportunities to explore topics in the humanities, mathematics, arts, sciences and technology. Courses stimulate creativity, higher order thinking skills, and problem solving and include a diverse array of topics.

Link to: <http://www.montclair.edu/gifted/grades-k-8/fall-and-spring-programs/>

THE ARTS



The Franklin Institute presents *Vatican Splendors*
September 19, 2015 – February 15, 2016

Visitors will experience 2,000 years of Vatican history through 200 works of art and historically significant objects that together form a great mosaic of the history of the Church and its impact on art, history, and culture. *Vatican Splendors* includes many artifacts which have never left Vatican City. The 11 galleries walk you through the history of Christianity focusing on the Catholic Church and the amazing religious art that came out of Rome. For ticket information, hours, and dates link to: <https://www.fi.edu/exhibit/vatican-splendors>

Morris Museum: MUSICALLY, MADE IN NEW JERSEY
Now Through October 18, 2015

During the heyday of mechanical musical instruments, New Jersey manufacturers were located in diverse communities such as Jersey City, Garwood, Rahway, Bradley Beach, Hoboken and West Orange. Explore the nation's desire for music on demand, and how New Jersey manufacturers met that need. Link to: <http://www.morrismuseum.org/current-exhibitions/>

FAMILY/SCHOOL OUTINGS



WELCOME TO CAMDEN CHILDREN'S GARDEN! Field trips and families welcome!

The Camden Children's Garden is designed for children and families. It is a special place to explore and discover the natural world. The four-acre garden provides horticultural experiences for creative and imaginative play for children, school groups and families. The Garden includes three indoor attractions, the popular Philadelphia Eagles Four Seasons Butterfly House, the tropical exhibit, Plaza de Aibonito and Ben Franklin's Secret Workshop. Other exhibits include a Dinosaur Garden, Maze, Tree House, Picnic Garden, CityScapes Garden, Storybook Gardens and the Fitness Garden. Visitors can round out their visit by riding the Carousel, Train and the Spring Butterfly Ride.

Link to <http://www.camdenchildrensgarden.org> or call 856-365-9741

Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium offers a variety of educational and leisure shows over the next few months for school groups and families. **Below is a sample.** For more information on shows link to: <http://www.raritanval.edu/comm/planet/index.html>

AstronoMyths - Saturdays, October 3, 10, 17 3:00 pm

The Autumn skies are full of myth and science. Learn some of the Greek mythology associated with the constellations, and then look beyond the stories to discover the deep space objects hidden within: binary star systems, star clusters, and giant galaxies. (Recommended ages 8 and older)

Fright Light laser concert (PG-13) - Saturdays, October 24 & 31 8:00 pm

Friday, October 30 9:00 pm

Listen to a variety of songs appropriate for Halloween, including "Alive" by Meatloaf, "Thriller" by Michael Jackson and Weird Al's "The Night Santa Went Crazy." The show is not recommended for young viewers who are easily scared. (Recommended ages 13 and older)

Admission for programs is \$8 for one show and \$14 for two shows on the same day. Pricing applies to all planetarium programs offered.

Liberty Science Center Exhibition - Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

October 31, 2015 – May 30, 2016

This exhibition is designed with a focus on the legendary *RMS Titanic's* compelling human stories. It features more than 100 authentic artifacts set within replicas of cabins and other areas within the famous ill-fated ship.

Upon entering the exhibition, visitors will receive a replica boarding pass, assume the role a passenger, and follow a chronological journey through life on *Titanic*—from the ship's construction to life on board, to the moments of impact and sinking, and the modern day efforts to recover and conserve the wreckage for future generations.

***Special note:** *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition* is a premium exhibition for which there will be an additional admission fee. For more information: <http://lsc.org/>

The **9/11 Memorial Museum** is pleased to invite third through fifth grade educators to participate in a **FREE** two-hour professional development opportunity on **Tuesday, October 6, 2015 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** The goal of the workshop is to provide age-appropriate strategies and activities to teach about 9/11 in the classroom, while making thematic connections to other points across the curriculum. The workshop will feature hands-on activities, group discussion, and time in select exhibitions.

All participants will receive free curricular materials at the completion of the program. The workshop is limited to 30 participants. Click [here](#) to register. If you have any questions, please contact them at schoolprograms@911memorial.org.

FALL FEST AT A. CASOLA FARMS 178 Highway 34 Holmdel, NJ

The Fall Fest and Halloween activities guarantee fun for all! **Special Fall Fest** activities and hours run from **Sept. 19 through November 1st.** Haunted Hayrides to a Haunted Greenhouse, Corn Mazes, House of Horror, Pumpkin Picking, Cowboy Shows and a Petting Zoo.

Open 7 Days a week from Sept. 19 through Nov. 1st

Weekdays: 9 AM to 6 PM - Pumpkin Picking, Hayrides, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Halloween Shop, Bakery and light food.

Weekends - All of the above PLUS Corn Maze, Face Painting, Wild West Show and extensive food items including Amish baked goods. (Corn maze and Wild West show start Sept. 28)

Night Time Haunted Hayrides

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7PM to 10PM

October 2nd through October 25th

For more information: <http://acasolafarms.com/Fall-Fest/index.html> or 732-332-1533

Argos Farm is located in Ocean County, Forked River, NJ. Easily accessible One Mile off of the Garden State Parkway Exit #74.

Our goal at **ARGOS FARM** is to provide a complete family experience, where all can enjoy pumpkin picking, corn maze, hay ride, new jumbo jumper air pillow, pig racing, pony rides, cow train ride, and much more. We are dedicated to providing a wholesome environment that incorporates the simplicity of nature and the value of agriculture in an educational and fun way. Come and harvest your memories year after year @ ARGOS FARM!

9/19/15 - 10/31/15

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 10:00am - 6:00pm

OPEN for the MONTH of OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY: 2:00pm - 6:00pm

SPECIAL OPENING:

Monday, October 12, 2015 COLUMBUS DAY!

10:00am - 6:00pm

CONTESTS/COMPETITIONS



Attention educators! The **2016 Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest** is now open. This contest is a great way to engage and excite fifth graders into learning about New Jersey's over 80 endangered and threatened wildlife species. The 2016 materials are now available at: <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/edge/>

Teachers, do you have students who demonstrate exceptional ability in art, writing, and/or computer skills? If so, encourage them to enter the NJAGC Student **Art and Writing Contest**. Go to www.njagc.org for an application and more information.

Go to www.perennialmath.com for information on this competitive, on line math competition program.

Get Students in Gear Like Your Favorite Team with the Healthy Habits Contest from Major League Soccer!

What? Have students create a fun, short video or essay about how they and their friends stay active and healthy!

Who? Kids 7-14 in the U.S. and Canada and kids 13 and 14 in the province of Quebec

When? Starting September 28! **The contest runs through November 13, 2015.**

Why? For a fun way to meet Common Core State Standards - such as [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4](#) and [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5](#) - and a chance to win great prizes!

The grand prize winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and MLS jersey

The teacher/mentor nominated by the grand prize winner will earn a \$250 gift card for school supplies

Two runners-up will each receive a \$500 scholarship and MLS jersey

Seven semifinalists will each receive an MLS jersey

Teachers/mentors nominated by the runners-up and semifinalists will each receive a \$50 gift card for school supplies. For more information link to: <http://getactivewithmls.com/mlscontest>.

AWARDS/GRANTS



As the new school year begins, think of ways you might supplement your G/T program with a boost from **NJAGC** through the **Instructional Mini-Grant Program**. These Mini-Grants of up to \$500 are available to all members of NJAGC. Grant proposal forms may be obtained at www.njagc.org. Applications must be submitted via electronic AND regular mail. Please direct all questions to the Instructional Mini-Grants Coordinator at minigrantchair@njagc.org.

NJAGC, the state affiliate of NAGC, is pleased to announce the **NAGC Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award program**. The Green Family established the award to honor the memory of their young son, Nicholas, who died at age seven, as a way to recognize gifts and talents in young children. The award includes a \$500 United States Savings Bond and a certificate. It is available to a student in each state in grades 3 through 6, who has distinguished himself or herself in academics, leadership, or the visual/performing arts. For more information, and an application, go to www.njagc.org and click on the side bar for Awards and Scholarships.

Each year, **NJAGC** presents four awards to those who have made **outstanding contributions to the field of gifted education**: Hall of Fame Award, Administrator of the Year Award, Educator of the Year Award, and Parent of the Year Award. Visit www.njagc.org to start the process of recognizing someone who has made a difference in your life!

Looking for an opportunity for an international professional-development trip? This **Fulbright Distinguished Award** is a grant for you. Fulbright awardees participate in three- to six-month programs abroad at university-level schools of education. International winners participate in four-month programs. During the cultural exchange, participants "take courses, teach master classes and seminars, visit local schools, collaborate with each other online and in person, and complete an inquiry project of their own design." **Prize:** The cost of travel, living expenses, and university courses and fees are included. **Deadline: November 4, 2015**
Click this link for more information: [Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching](#)

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is offering dozens of grants for math educators. Through the organization's Mathematics Education Trust, educators can apply for grants, scholarships, and awards, and there are programs for all different types of work, from in-class projects, to math-related research and professional development. Grant programs are available for in-service and pre-service math educators. **Prize:** Funding ranges from \$1,200 to \$24,000. **Deadline: November 6, 2015**

Link to [Math Grants from NCTM](#) for more grants that have spring deadlines

The Allen Distinguished Educator Awards were created to honor innovative teachers who have created pioneering computer science, engineering, and/or entrepreneurship learning programs. To apply, teachers must have designed and implemented an innovative program that incorporates real-world learning, 21st-century skills, and encourages student-directed learning. The awards are available to U.S.-based educators, including teams of up to three teachers. Applicants must submit a detailed abstract about their program and a brief video of how the program exemplifies ADE principles, as well as additional application materials. **Deadline: November 1, 2015 Prize:** Each Allen Distinguished Educator honoree is awarded a \$25,000 prize. For more information: [2015 Allen Distinguished Educators Awards](#)

Honeywell Hometown Solutions (HHS) is now accepting applications for the 2016 [Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy \(HESA\)](#)

Each scholarship covers the following: tuition for the 5-day program at U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama; round trip airfare; meals and double occupancy accommodations; program materials; and flight suit.

Do you know a youngster who's working on a service project in their community? They might be working on a community garden, or checking on senior citizens during summer heat waves. If they're leading the charge in their communities, the Karma for Cara Foundation wants to help by offering small grants to students 18 years old or younger. **Prize:** Many grants between \$250 and \$1000 are available. **Deadline:** Rolling

Link to [Karma for Cara Youth Service Learning Grants](#) for more information

72nd edition of NewsNet formatted by Sharon Handley

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