



LEOPARD LOWDOWN

GT STUDENT NEWSLETTER

November 2018

In the Classroom...



Our 5th graders have been very busy in Science/Math! Playdoh pizzas, brownies, skittles, catapults, balloon race cars, carnival games and more!



Get to Know...



Alice Ford:
MLIS GT
Specialist and
5th Grade
ELA/SS

[Favorite Things & Wishlist](#)

Where are you originally from?

I am an "Air Force Brat" that was born in Ohio, but moved to Texas as fast as I could. My dad was transferred to Carswell AFB the summer before 1st grade and the Ft. Worth area has been my stomping grounds ever since!

How long have you been teaching?

I attended UTA and did my student teaching at Cross Timbers Intermediate where I got my first job in 2000 teaching 5th ELA. I found my niche fairly quickly and have been in Intermediate ever since. I came to Lillard in 2008 and feel very blessed to work with amazing families and students. I love teaching siblings...I have quite a few brothers and sisters of former students this year.

Favorite thing to do on summer break?

I LOVE Road Trips with my family...Grand Canyon, Mt Rushmore, Carlsbad Caverns, Colorado National Monument...any adventure that involves geology...that's what happens when your husband is a geologist...if there are rocks, we are there!

Fictional character you'd like to meet?

I have always loved Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables. She is such a quirky character with an extensive vocabulary and imagination...plus Prince Edward Island would be a magical place to live.

Coming Up:

Final [STEM Academy](#) Information Session:

Thursday 11/29/18 6:00pm

Pump Up: The Heart Dissection

On December 19th, students will be participating in the dissection of a sheep's heart! The Perot Museum will be bringing their experts to MLIS campus to conduct the lab. What an amazing opportunity for our 5th/6th grade GT students!

Your child may be interested in...



Duke University Talent Identification Program is a non-profit organization that supports the success of academically gifted students. Through above-grade-level testing, enrichment resources, year round learning options, residential summer programs, online courses, need-based financial aid, and original research into the needs of gifted students, we help support and nurture our students' talents. www.tip.duke.edu

Keep an eye out! Mrs. Ford will be sending info out soon about a Duke TIP Testing Study Group.



2018 TAGT Conference

Mrs. Ford will be attending this event in Fort Worth at the end of November. She will be bringing back new strategies and information for our GT Teachers.

Stay Connected

Mary Lillard GT Parent Advisory Council Representatives:

Sara Valline: csvalline@gmail.com
Kristen Stone: Kristen.k.stone@gmail.com

Mansfield ISD GT PAC

Website:
<https://mansfieldgtpac.ch2v.com/>
Join the Remind List: [GTPAC](#)



LEOPARD LOWDOWN

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GT CLASSROOMS

November 2018

Recommended Resource: National Association for Gifted Children

www.nagc.org

DEVELOPING SELF-EFFICACY



Help your children become life-long problem solvers and self-advocates by including them in solution finding when conflicts arise at home or at school. With your guidance, gifted children can learn to use their extraordinary abilities to successfully resolve the challenges they will inevitably face in school (and later in the workplace) when individual differences related to giftedness are not well understood or appreciated.

See It

Four characteristics we often see in gifted children are an unusual ability to communicate, remarkable problem-solving skills, surprisingly mature insight, and an ability to reason logically that is well beyond that of age peers. These traits associated with giftedness can be honored and cultivated when we help our children "know, understand, take pride in, practice, develop, exploit, and enjoy" (Torrance, 1981) their greatest strengths.

Do It

When our children come home from school complaining they are bored, it is tempting to commiserate. Unless the situation is untenable for even one more day, a better approach is to listen attentively to your child's description of the problem and then calmly say something to this effect: "I can see you are really frustrated. What are some of the things you can do to make the situation better?" By resisting our natural tendency as parents to jump in immediately to remedy an injustice (in this example, curriculum that is failing to provide an appropriate level of challenge), you can help your child grow in ways that will have more long-lasting benefits than another few days of less-than-stellar curriculum will have negative effects. Acknowledge your child's feelings. Affirm his or her sense of being treated unfairly. And, communicate your belief that your child is a capable problem solver.

More

- Advocating for Exceptionally Gifted Young People: A Guidebook. Davidson Institute for Talent Development.
http://print.ditd.org/young_scholars/Guidebooks/Davidson_Guidebook_Advocating.pdf (2011)
- Helping Your Gifted Child Succeed, NAGC.

PRACTICES.

AT HOME

