
A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SPLASH

— P A R E N T S ' P R O G R A M 2 0 1 8 —



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• **SPLASH 2018**
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• NOV • 17-18 • 2018
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• CAMBRIDGE, MA

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• **MIT ESP**
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• SPLASH@MIT.EDU
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

WELCOME TO SPLASH

For one awesome weekend each November, thousands of high schoolers flood MIT's campus to take classes, taught by MIT students, on anything and everything. From music theory to Hungarian history to aircraft analysis, Splash offerings number over 400 every year and span a wide variety of areas.

LILY ZHANG
PARENTS' PROGRAM
ORGANIZER

EMILY CARAGAY
PARENTS' PROGRAM
ORGANIZER

SARAH WEIDMAN
SPLASH DIRECTOR

LUKE SHIMANUKI
SPLASH DIRECTOR

PARENTS' PROGRAM

Overview
Speakers
Schedule
Talks

ON CAMPUS

Official MIT Tour
MIT Attractions
Dining

BOSTON AREA

Freedom Trail
Other Recommendations

PARENTS' PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

WHAT IS PARENTS' PROGRAM?

During Splash, we welcome parents to participate in a program that includes campus tours, talks, and sample Splash classes. Other than official tours, no pre-registration is necessary to attend any of the Parents' Program activities.

WHERE IS PARENTS' PROGRAM?

Parents' Program will be taking place in W20, the Student Center.

Classes will be held in Twenty Chimneys, PDR 1/2, and the Mezzanine Lounge on the Third Floor of the Student Center. Go to the Balcony for information, and the Coffeehouse lounge will serve as an open space for parents to sit.

SPEAKERS

JOSH SHAINÉ
ALEC LAI
JAMES KOPPEL
AMY ESTERSOHN
LMHC RANDY MARLES
AIMEE YERMISH, PSYD
CLIO MACRAKIS
MELISSA BILASH
MICHELLE CHALMERS
LAVETTE CONEY

SCHEDULE

DAY 1: SATURDAY
DAY 2: SUNDAY

TALKS

SORTED A - Z





SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

Saturday, November 17, 11 am–5 pm

	TWENTY CHIMNEYS	MEZZANINE LOUNGE	TOURS
11 AM	Emotional Regulation and Parenting Gifted Children	Wired 2.0: What We need to know about Technology and the Adolescent Brain	
12 PM	Ask MIT Students Anything!		
01 PM	Non-linear Thinking in a Linear World	What to Actually Learn in High School	
02 PM	Eight Common Flawed Assumptions about College Admissions	How to Make Video Games Good for Learning	
03 PM		The Importance of Understanding Racism: A Necessary 21st Century Skill	
04 PM	You Be the Admissions Officer: Mock Highly Selective Admissions Committee		



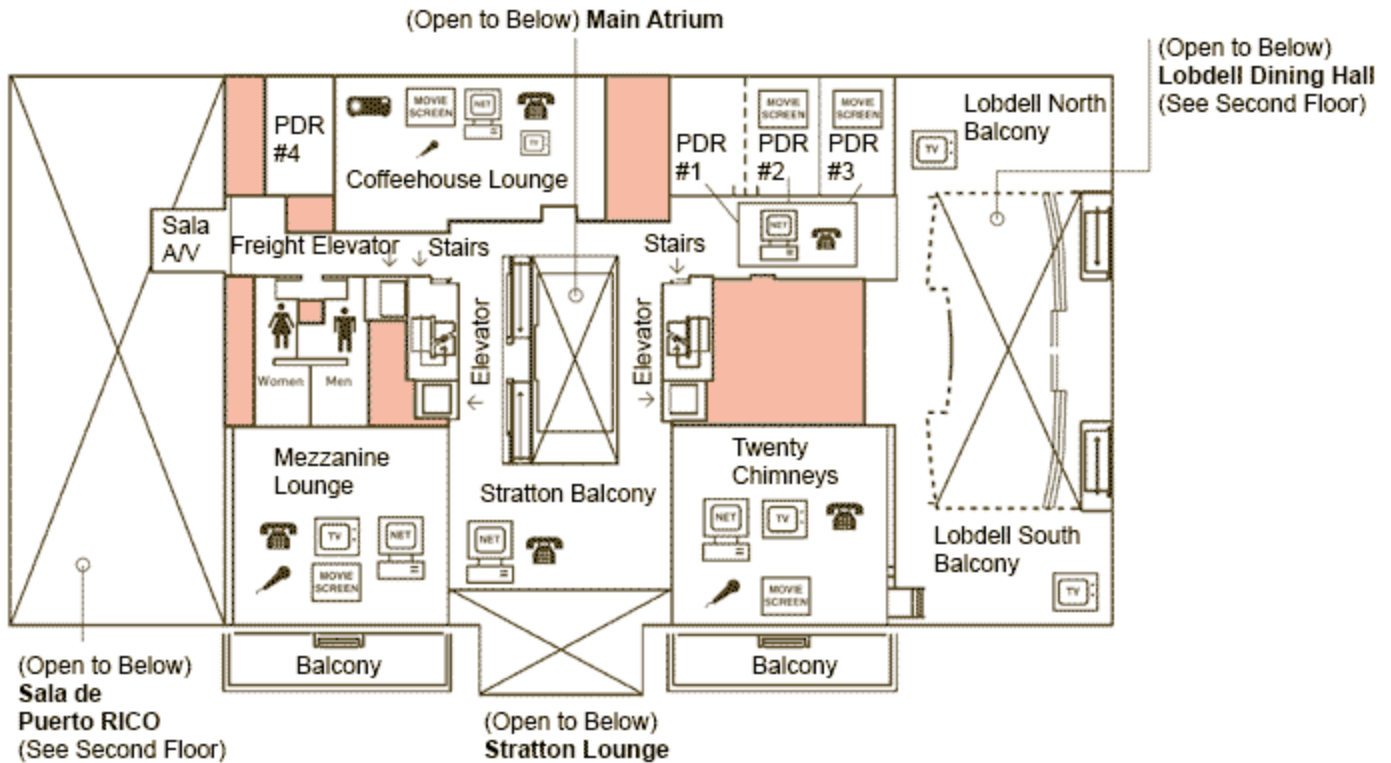
SCHEDULE

DAY TWO

Sunday, November 18, 10 am-4 pm

	PDR 1 + 2	MEZZANINE LOUNGE	TOURS
10 AM	Influence, Motivation, and Power	Please, Please, Just Write It Already!	
11 AM	A Nerd who Figured Out the World		
12 PM	The School that I Want	Writing the College Essay	
01 PM	The Impact of Giftedness in High School, College, and Beyond		
02 PM	How to Make Video Games Good for Learning	Non-Violent Communication	
03 PM	Ask MIT Students Anything!	[Sample Splash Class] American History Through Comics	

Useful Map



Network Drop



Cable TV Drop



Telephone Jack



Projector



Microphone Jack
(limited capability, except in
Coffeehouse Lounge)



Movie Screen



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

A NERD WHO FIGURED OUT THE WORLD

Alec Lai / Sunday 11 am

Just a little over 10 years ago, I was a super nerd. From science olympiads, straight A's, and stage fright to bowl haircuts and antisocial skills with a side of obesity, I was that ostracized nerd. Now, I'm a successful serial entrepreneur and motivational speaker who leads teams of employees to unforgettable experiences and close-knit families. Learn how I understood the world and figured out my life with the scientific method, and how your children can learn from my experiences, too.

[SAMPLE SPLASH CLASS] AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH COMICS

Clio Macrakis / Sunday 3 pm

Superheroes were popularized during and after World War II when Americans needed hope against crime in cities and international violence. Comic strips in general represent much of the culture of their time, from politics to technology to social life. We'll go through American history (about 1920–present) through the lens of comics to see how we can learn about the past through publications made for children and young adults.

ASK MIT STUDENTS ANYTHING!

Current MIT Students / Saturday 12 pm, Sunday 3 pm

Ask current students about their MIT experience!



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

EIGHT COMMON FLAWED ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Amy Estersohn / Sunday 2 pm

This session will be an overview of how highly selective college admissions does and does not work. Audience members will be able to articulate the reasons and rationale for the sometimes arbitrary-seeming decisions a selective college must make when it admits students.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION AND PARENTING GIFTED CHILDREN

LMHC Randy Marles / Saturday 11 am

This workshop will address the concept of self-regulation as an essential factor when parenting gifted children.

HOW TO MAKE VIDEO GAMES GOOD FOR LEARNING

Alec Lai / Saturday 2 pm, Sunday 2 pm

Are your kids some of the 70%+ members of the high school population who regularly play some form of a video game? Does it frustrate you when you wish they would spend their time socializing, learning, staying healthy, or doing homework? We will learn how to leverage video games to actually help supplement their learning and personal growth in a productive way, and we'll also discuss how to regulate their gaming to create a balanced lifestyle.



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

INFLUENCE, MOTIVATION, AND POWER

Alec Lai / Sunday 10 am

Take some time during this fantastic weekend to learn something fun and intriguing for yourself! Learn my fundamental frameworks for understanding influence, motivation, and power and how you can apply that to your life (or your kids'). A part of my flagship seminar series, INSIGHT, from key ideas to easy-to-implement tactics, see the world in a different way, take another big step forward toward your dreams, and bring value to the community around you.

NON-LINEAR THINKING IN A LINEAR WORLD

Josh Shaine / Saturday 1 pm

Does doing one thing at a time drive you batty? Do people frequently tell you to pay attention or to 'stay on topic'? Do you think in pictures instead of words? Does the whole "You have to do it in the right order" concept bother you? Join us for an exploration of the How's and Why's of non-linear thinking. We'll talk about how to recognize and develop strengths, not just how to 'fit in.'



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

James Koppel / Sunday 2 pm

"Billy, do your homework."

"Why can't I have fun for once?"

"You spent the last 2 hours playing soccer. Homework time. Now."

"I just want to sit by myself for a while. Why are you trying to control me?"

"I'm not trying to control you; I just want you to pass your classes."

Ever had a conversation like this? Would you rather it went like this:

"Billy, I see you sitting there, and I feel anxious because you're not doing your homework and I'm worried that you're going to have trouble passing your classes. "

"I only have a couple hours tonight. I just want to have fun right now."

"I'm confused, because I thought you already had a lot of fun today by playing soccer. Is that in some way not meeting your needs?"

"Yeah, but coach had us doing these really intense drills the whole time; I need to peace out."

"Okay. I'd like to talk with you for a moment to make sure you have a plan to get everything done, because it will help me feel less worried."

Non-Violent Communication is method of turning enemies into friends through empathy and ownership of one's own emotions. Come and learn the 4 parts of NVC and practice having receptive conversations



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

PLEASE, PLEASE, JUST WRITE IT ALREADY!

Aimee Yermish / Sunday 10 am

Writing is perhaps the most difficult thing we ask kids to do in school. So many different cognitive skills need to operate at the same time, often running at cross purposes with each other.

Somehow, “just get it done!” doesn’t work for many gifted and twice-exceptional kids. They might struggle to get words onto paper. They might write endless creative stories for fun, but spend hours or weeks getting nowhere when they have to write something structured. With zillions of ideas, they might get stuck in choosing and organizing... or they might have no ideas at all. Research papers are often overwhelming, and the required steps along the way may be confusing or unhelpful. And when they have to write about themselves, many kids become paralyzed. In this talk, I will identify the various aspects of writing, describe typical ways bright kids struggle with common school writing tasks, and offer specific concrete strategies for getting through these challenges. Bring your questions!

THE IMPACT OF GIFTEDNESS IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND BEYOND

Josh Shaine / Sunday 1 pm

There are those who would tell you that giftedness is “just a social construct” or perhaps a product of privilege. Others might tell you that once you leave pre-collegiate education or academics that it is no longer important. In this session, we will quickly blow past those ideas to look at the lasting impact high potential has on the lives of gifted individual, with or without the label.

It matters.



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING RACISM: A NECESSARY 21ST CENTURY SKILL

Michelle Chalmers and Lavette Coney / Saturday 3 pm

Understanding racism, especially in our current environment, requires our attention as parents. This class will provide you with support and tools to self-reflect and engage with your child or children about racism because being culturally competent in the 21st century and beyond demands us to go deeper.

THE SCHOOL THAT I WANT

Josh Shaine / Sunday 2 pm

Some kids consider what school **could** be or **should** be.

Some kids never do.

This is a class for those of you who have given this some thought and would like others with whom you can bounce ideas back and forth. We'll also look at some of the historical books on this topic.

Couldn't we do better than what we have?!

WHAT TO ACTUALLY LEARN IN HIGH SCHOOL

Alec Lai / Saturday 1 pm

Schools today put a lot of focus on tangible skills and foundational knowledge, but there are a lot of key lessons lost in the day-to-day muddle of the required core curriculum. From the true impact of technology on political power to the vital importance of number theory in daily life, find out what key ideas your kids should actually learn in school. Use what we discuss to enhance dinner-table conversations and make sure your children are learning the real insights behind the facts.



PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

WIRED 2.0 WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN

Melissa Bilash / Saturday 11 am

WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Amy Estersohn / Sunday 12 pm

Who's going to be practicing a college essay today? No, not your children- you! By experiencing college essay writing and college essay style for yourself, you will be better able to empathize with your children who "don't know what to write about" and to steer them away from common essay pitfalls (because you experienced them yourself) and towards writing an essay that reflects who they are and how they think. Even if your children are years away from attending college, this session will help you understand the point, purpose, and rules of a college essay.

YOU BE THE ADMISSIONS OFFICER: MOCK HIGHLY SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Amy Estersohn / Saturday 4 pm

In this discussion-heavy session, you will be able to apply some of the concepts you learned in lecture through an admissions committee simulation. Through doing this simulation, you will have a better sense of what a "holistic review" feels like and you will learn the kinds of questions that an admissions committee asks when it reviews files. Recommended prerequisite: Eight Common Flawed Assumptions



PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKERS

Josh Shaine, Alec Lai

JOSH SHAINE

The School that I Want, 50 min

The Impact of Giftedness in High School, College, and Beyond, 50 min

Non-linear Thinking in a Linear World, 50 min

Josh Shaine is a former HSSP director and founder of SATP. He has been affiliated with the Educational Studies Program for roughly 40 years. He also coordinates a series of conferences on nurturance of highly and profoundly gifted children called Beyond IQ (www.giftedconferenceplanners.org). You can email him at [<josh@giftedconferenceplanners.org>](mailto:josh@giftedconferenceplanners.org).

He's also co-editor for the forthcoming book, 2E beyond LD: Gifted Persons with Physical Disabilities.

ALEC LAI

What to Actually Learn in High School, 1 hr

How to Make Video Games Good for Learning 1 hr

A Nerd who Figured Out the World 1 hr

Influence, Motivation, and Power 1 hr

Alec Lai is an entrepreneur, educator, MIT alumnus, and motivational speaker who speaks on innovative ways to understand the world around you. An "applied social analyst," Alec comes up with new ways to view and change the world around you, including discussions on topics such as power, influence, motivation, and growth. He has helped hundreds write new chapters to their stories. Alec also loves to cook, and his secret dream is to be on Masterchef one day. More information and contact information available at www.aleclai.com and cheers@aleclai.com.



PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKERS

James Koppel, Amy Estersohn

JAMES KOPPEL

Non-Violent Communication

Jimmy Koppel is a 4th year Ph. D. candidate in computer science at MIT, specializing in making program analysis and synthesis tools easier to build and more general ("programs that write programs"). He is also the founder of James Koppel Coaching, LLC, where he teaches professional software engineers to write better code. He completed MIT's conflict-management training program in 2015 and became a certified life coach with the International Coaching Federation in 2017.

AMY ESTERSOHN

Eight Common Flawed Assumptions about College Admissions, You Be the Admissions Officer: Mock Highly Selective Admissions Committee Writing the College Essay

Amy Estersohn is a former admissions officer and a current English teacher. She brings an understanding of how teens present themselves on their best days and how they present themselves in everyday life to the college selection process. Amy is an active reader and reviewer of teen and children's literature, and her work in helping teens find a "good book" has been recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English.



PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKERS

Aimee Yermish, PsyD; Clio Macrakis

AIMEE YERMISH, PSYD

Please, Please, Just Write It Already!

Aimee Yermish, Psy.D. (<http://www.davincilearning.org>) is a clinical psychologist and educational therapist. She provides consultation, therapy, and assessment for clients who manifest giftedness or multiple exceptionality. Drawing on her analytical background as a scientist and practical background as a teacher, she focuses on building self-understanding, self-regulation, and range of choice in life. Her book on executive functioning coaching for smart people, "If You're So Smart," is in progress with Great Potential Press.

CLIO MACRAKIS

[Sample Splash Class] American History Through Comics

Clio Macrakis is a native Cantabrigian who wandered into an engineering degree at MIT this past June. While at MIT she became interested in climate resiliency and sustainability in urban planning, as well as a few other areas, including education and geology. This class was inspired by many years of reading comics of all types and an interest in unconventional ways of studying the history of American culture.



SPEAKERS

Melissa Bilash

MELISSA BILASH

Wired 2.0: What we need to know about Technology and the Adolescent Brain

Ms. Bilash is a state-wide and nationally-recognized expert on education. As one of only 78 individuals in the nation to have completed the intensive Special Education Advocates Training (SEAT) program from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), she is seasoned in educational practice and policy. For over a decade, she worked at Advocacy & Consulting for Education (ACFE) helping families across the nation. Her advocacy work has received special Congressional recognition, and most recently as a "thought leader in the field," she was invited by the White House Office of Early Learning and the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education to participate in a strategy roundtable for planning the way forward in supporting educators and families of young children and the use of technology to support early learning.

Ms. Bilash regularly works with prestigious national organizations and institutions serving gifted children. Most recently, she and Ms. Nance co-authored a chapter in the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)'s Guide to State Policies in Gifted Education, a document presenting detailed and research-based recommendations of best practices in gifted education across the country (published March 2016). She meets regularly with senior staff at the U.S. Department of Education to discuss priority initiatives, and she is continuously a voice for gifted learners at these meetings.

Additionally, she serves on the Legislative Committees of both the NAGC and Pennsylvania's NAGC chapter, the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE), which named her Parent of the Year for her work with gifted children. A much sought-after speaker, she has presented to a wide array of audiences, including the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) annual conference, the Special Educational Advocacy annual conference, events at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Villanova University, as well as at a variety of local parent support groups, education-related expos, and local schools, libraries, and gifted education association meetings. Most recently she completed her work on reestablishing the definition of Gifted for NAGC.

PRESENTATIONS



SPEAKERS

Randy Marles

RANDY MARLES

Emotional Regulation and Parenting Gifted Children

Randy Marles Orabone, LMHC, BHC. For the first decade of her career, she acted as delegate for Colombia, South America, of the Gifted and Talented World Federation. She worked as a psychotherapist and researcher at a center for the education for gifted and talented children in Colombia (Alberto Merani Institute). Her focus of work was oriented to provide counseling to gifted and talented children, adolescents as well as parents. Also, she worked on developing instruments that measure creativity and parenting style, and their incidence on children development. This experienced continues to be enriched becoming a board member of MAGE, Massachusetts Association for Gifted education. For the last ten years her focus of work in Massachusetts has been on clinical psychology in a primary health care setting. Randy Marles does long term psychotherapy as well as brief therapy based on the integrated model of primary care and behavioral health. Randy is highly interested and focused on behavioral health consultations provided to patients and families from multiple cultural backgrounds and languages, referred directly from primary care providers. Her level of expertise is engaging patients on body/mind based interventions, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy, EMDR, EFT(effective freedom technique), and mindfulness stress reduction.

Randy Marles, is a mother of a gifted child and married to a gifted husband, enjoys outdoors, crafts, loves classical music, used to be a opera singer and loves cooking gluten free and vegan food.



PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKERS

Michelle Chalmers, Lavette Coney

MICHELLE CHALMERS

The Importance of Understanding Racism: A Necessary 21st Century Skill

Michelle Chalmers, MSW lives in Wellesley, MA with her husband and two sons. Michelle received a BSW from Wheelock College in Boston and an MSW from San Diego State University. Michelle is the author of the children's books, "The Skin on My Chin" and "The Story of METCO." Please visit her website www.theskinonmychin.com.

LAVETTE CONEY

The Importance of Understanding Racism: A Necessary 21st Century Skill

Lavette Coney is a courageous educator. Lavette's cultural competency journey began as a high school student in a diverse school on Newbury Street in Copley Square while she also took anthropology courses at the University of Massachusetts. Her eight years in Japan as a teacher and writer for various Japanese publications initiated her research on "race" and social justice long before she first took the WPCR course in 2012 (and again in 2016). Since then, she has developed many workshops and presentations for various conferences at NAIS' PoCC (National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference), MATSOL (Massachusetts Educators of English Language Learners) and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) on the topic of teacher self-reflection and implicit bias. Some of Ms. Coney's research is featured in an anthology on social justice entitled Social Justice in English Language Teaching.

ON CAMPUS

ATTRACTIONS



OFFICIAL MIT TOUR

We will be offering official campus tours.
Reserve a spot on the preliminary survey.

ATTRACTIONS

MIT MUSEUM

An exciting look into engineering and research at MIT.

KILLIAN COURT

A picturesque lawn that faces the iconic big dome.

LOBBY 7

The main entrance to MIT.

INFINITE CORRIDOR

A famous hallway that connects MIT classrooms and main campus buildings.

GREEN BUILDING

The tallest building on campus, the Green Building was designed by world-famous architect IM Pei.

MIT CHAPEL

A picturesque non-denominational chapel designed by renowned architect Eero Saarinen.





STUDENT CENTER DINING

Inside the Student Center (where Parents' Program is located) there is a variety of food options!

Anna's Taqueria: burritos, tacos, quesadillas, chips, guacamole, and salsa

Cambridge Grill: pizza, burgers, hot sandwiches, and other casual entrees

Dunkin' Donuts: Coffee, donuts, etc

La Verde's Market: Campus convenience market with a salad bar, sandwich bar, and a wide variety of prepared food options.

Lobdell Food Court: Options include Cafe Spice (Indian Cuisine), Shawarma Shack, Shinkansen (Japanese Cuisine), and Subway



BOSTON AREA

ATTRACTIONS



THE FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail is "a 2.5-mile, red-lined route that leads to 16 historically significant sites — each one an authentic treasure. Explore museums and meetinghouses, churches, burying grounds and more. Learn about the brave people who shaped our nation."

<https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/visit>

RECOMMENDATIONS

BOSTON COMMON

The starting point of the freedom trail and oldest park in the country.

QUINCY MARKET

A bustling shopping/dining area in the center of Boston

BOSTON PUBLIC GARDENS

A beautiful public park with trees, flowers, lawns, ponds and art.

FENWAY PARK

The home of the Boston red sox and oldest operating U.S. ball park.

MUSEUMS

- Museum of Fine Arts
- New England Aquarium

