Spark 2017 Parents' Program Information

The Spark 2017 Parents' Program will be held on the 3rd floor of the student center (building W20). We also have a list of other activities for parents to do around campus and Cambridge - look for our **What's a Parent to do at Spark?** handout.

We will have a small lounge area with light refreshments for parents on the 3rd floor of W20 right next to where classes will be held.

The parents' program is for parents of registered Spark 2017 students only.

Saturday (3/11)

Time	*Class and Presenter*
10:05-10:55	Campus Tours *MIT Tour Guides - Stephen Face*
11:05-11:55	Study Abroad Opportunities for Students *Mikayla Murphy*
12:05-12:55	What does it mean to be gifted? *Josh Shaine*
1:05-1:55	ESP: Who we are, What we do, and Why *Aofei Liu & Jerry Wu*
2:05-2:55	Sample Spark Class: The World of Insects *David Rolnick*
3:05-3:55	Sample Spark Class: Writing Up Math *Justina Yang*

Sunday (3/12)

Time	*Class and Presenter*
9:05 - 9:55	The Road Ahead to College *Amy Estersohn*
10:05 - 10:55	Campus *Tours* *MIT Tour Guides - Joanna Sands*
11:05 - 11:55	You Be the Admissions Officer: Whom do you admit and why? *Amy Estersohn*
12:05-12:55	Growing and Challenging Independent Readers *Amy Estersohn*
1:05-1:55	Closing the Racial Achievement Gap *Evan Tey*
2:05-2:55	Campus Tours *MIT Tour Guides - Ahaan Rungta*
3:05-3:55	Non-linear Thinking in a Linear World *Josh Shaine*

<u>Saturday</u>

Study Abroad Opportunities for Students
Mikayla Murphy
Saturday 11:05 - 11: 55

Ride camels in Morocco. Celebrate Chinese New Year in China. Sing K-pop in Korea. Become fluent in Bosnian. Attend 11th grade in Ghana. Eat turkey- in Turkey!

Guess what? Students can do all of these during high school- for free!

Come learn about US government-sponsored study abroad programs designed especially for high schoolers! We'll talk about programs such as CBYX, NSLI-Y, and YES Abroad, as well as discuss the benefits and challenges of studying abroad in high school.

Mikayla is a junior at MIT majoring in Environmental Engineering. Originally from North Carolina, she spent most of high school abroad in various capacities and is now fluent in Chinese. On campus, she's involved in ESP, ice hockey, and marine microbiology research.

What Does It Mean to be Gifted?
Josh Shaine
Saturday 12:05 - 12:55

"All children are gifted." "I can't be gifted, I'm no good at math." "Gifted kids don't need any help." "If I'm so smart, why are my grades so bad?" "You're done? Why don't you help the others, then?" What do we mean by gifted? What difference does it make? Does it change who you are - or should it? Why bother with the label, anyway?

Josh Shaine is a teacher, researcher, adviser, and consultant in the field of gifted education, specializing in working with gifted underachievers and divergent learners. In addition to his work with gifted kids, their families, and the professionals who work with them, he also coordinates the Beyond IQ conferences for highly and profoundly gifted children and teaches on-line courses for 7th - 12th grade kids and for parents. He can be reached at <josh@giftedconferenceplanners.org>.

ESP: Who We Are, What We Do, And Why
Aofei Liu & Jerry Wu
Saturday 1:05 - 1:55

Ever wondered about the organization behind programs like Spark and Splash? Come find out more about the Educational Studies Program, the programs we run, and why we run them the way we do.

Aofei is a senior in Chemistry and Computer Science who has been with ESP throughout her entire time at MIT. When she's not in lab or writing code, she's probably replying to ESP's emails or fangirling over one of her many fandoms. She was one of the directors for Splash 2015.

Jerry is a junior in Math and Computer Science who has also been with ESP throughout his entire time at MIT (and is predicted to continue to be in ESP for his remaining time here). He likes spreadsheets, orange

juice with lots of pulp, and spreadsheets about how orange juice with lots of pulp is superior. He was one of the chairs for ESP in 2016.

The World of Insects
Davie Rolnick
Saturday 2:05 - 2:55

In this class, we will learn about crickets with megaphones, wasps with metal-tipped drills, and beetles with suction cups. We'll see ants that use catapults, ants that explode, and decoy ants built by other insects. From the rainforest to the sidewalk, we'll see how there is a fascinating (and often beautiful) world of insects all around us.

Davie Rolnick is an MIT Ph.D. student studying the math of the brain. He finished his B.S., also at MIT, in 2012, and studied in Berlin as a Fulbright scholar. In his spare time, Davie sings opera and climbs mountains in search of birds and insects.

Writing Up Math
Justina Yang
Saturday 3:05 - 3:55

Have you ever written down an equation? If so, come practice your mathematic handwriting! We'll cover tips for making your work legible (especially relevant for math and science competitions), symbols like Greek letters and how to write them, and notational conventions.

Justina is a sophomore in Physics at MIT. In her free time she enjoys martial arts and asian dance.

Sunday

The Road Ahead to College
Amy Estersohn
Sunday 9:05 - 9: 55

I've heard lots of parents of young teens ask for college admissions information only to be told that it's too early or not appropriate yet. This session is focused on "big picture" plans towards high school.

You Be the Admissions Officer: Whom do you admit and why?
Amy Estersohn
Sunday 11:05 - 11:55

This class is a highly interactive, discussion-based simulation of how admissions officers make decisions. You'll be presented with several fictional characters and asked to choose which one should be admitted to a fictional college and why.

Growing and Challenging Independent Readers
Amy Estersohn
Sunday 12:05 - 12: 55

I'll tell you what I've learned from my years of observing teen readers about supporting teens to become passionate about books. I'll also give plenty of book recommendations for all kinds of readers and all kinds of reasons!

Amy Estersohn has been teaching with the support of MIT ESP since Bush II and now teaches English Language Arts full-time, where she spends much time and energy connecting students to new books. Amy reads about 170 teen and young adult books each year and writes book reviews for several online publications. She was recognized for her contributions to teaching and Young Adult literature advocacy by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Before she became a teacher, she worked in undergraduate admissions for a highly selective college.

Closing the Racial Achievement Gap
Evan Tey
Sunday 1:05 - 1: 55

There are many unfair gaps in the world -- wage gaps, opportunity gaps, income gaps, and more. These gaps are often rooted in deep past inequality, result in (sometimes subtle) current inequality, and are propagated by education. If we want to close any of these gaps, education is the place to start. So let's talk about why these gaps exist and how we can try to close them. We'll discuss how some schools have found success, disciplinary disproportionality, student psychology, and more.

Evan is a sophomore at MIT, studying Physics and Electrical Engineering/Computer Science. He loves learning something new and teaching these things to others. When not working on a project or reading a book, he likes to eat food (almost any kind), play/watch sports, and go stargazing.

Non-linear Thinking in a Linear World
Josh Shaine
Sunday 3:05 - 3: 55

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.'

Josh Shaine is a teacher, researcher, adviser, and consultant in the field of gifted education, specializing in working with gifted underachievers and divergent learners. In addition to his work with gifted kids, their families, and the professionals who work with them, he also coordinates the Beyond IQ conferences for highly and profoundly gifted children and teaches on-line courses for 7th - 12th grade kids and for parents. He can be reached at <josh@giftedconferenceplanners.org>.