Welcome Parents!

We would like to pique your interest in a wide range of topics, from informative and helpful, to whimsical and stimulating. And if you end up attending all that we offer, we think you’ll come away with a better understanding, and feeling, of education, of educators, and of what could be in store for your children.

The age-old concerns of the admissions (to anywhere) process and of accommodating a gifted child are wonderfully tackled by old hands who are fluent in the practicalities and theories of these arcane sciences. I believe that they have heard all of the questions, too.

On a more academic note, Dr. Robert Sternberg, formerly of Yale, now Dean of Arts and Sciences at Tufts, and the globally recognized expert on intelligence, has looked into the ability to perform in “rigorous” academic environments. You will be presented with the ins and outs of Dr. Sternberg’s latest work by a person from one of those very “rigorous” places.

And, of course, whether you loved or hated mathematics as a student, you will come away being uplifted at how the subject could be taught by a master educator, and excited to see that the mind can be stimulated at any age.

There also will be panel discussions about life and learning at independent boarding schools. If your familiarity of this world extends only as far as “Hogwarts”, then you owe it to yourself to attend just to put “Hogwarts” into proper perspective – you will certainly enhance your appreciation of the movies. If you are considering this type of school as an option, here’s a chance to ask all those questions that would embarrass your children.

I almost forgot to mention the exhibits. But I leave you to discover those yourselves.

Hope to see you at MIT Splash – Parent Program, that is!

Patsy Kumekawa

Scholar Search Associates

p.s. Students are welcome, too.

**Preliminary Schedule for Parent Program at MIT Splash**

12:00 Noon – 6:00 pm, November 21st, 2009

Twenty Chimneys, 3rd Floor, Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave.

**12:15 PM - Demystifying and Navigating Effectively through Independent School and College Admission** - How do admission officers at selective schools and colleges really make decisions about applicants? How do
prospective students and their families navigate through the school search and application process? What qualifies a student for admission, what doesn’t? And how can families afford these opportunities? These and other questions raised by those attending will be addressed to uncover the mysterious world of admission at prestigious institutions.

**Presenter:** Josh Smith, Associate Director of Admission, The Loomis Chaffee School and formerly Assistant Dean of Admission at Colgate University

**1:15 PM - How to Act Creatively and Brilliantly in Mathematics: A Parent’s Guide** – Math is beautiful, rich, joyful, playful, surprising, frustrating, humbling and creative and speaks to something transcendental. Why play the violin? Because it is beautiful! Why engage in math, because it too is beautiful! If you have a daughter or son who revels in such intellectual joy and beauty, how can we help? In this talk we shall experience - through example - strategies to engage and delight and help students to thrive even within the typical high school experience.

**Presenter:** James Tanton, Mathematics teacher at St. Mark’s School and research mathematician (PhD Mathematics, Princeton University) whose quest is to bring joy to the learning and teaching of mathematics.

**2:15 PM - Growing the Gifted - Primary and Middle School Gifted Education** - Your young child is bright. You know this from an observation, a conversation with a teacher, perhaps a test. How do you keep that spark alive during the fast-paced changes of a young child’s development? What are the essential factors that go into nurturing intelligent little children now so that they become confident students who know themselves, relate well to others, and develop the habits of mind necessary for engaging in meaningful learning? In this discussion we will share approaches, practices, and experiences in a PreK-8 school for the gifted.

**Presenters:** Manisha Jain, Kindergarten Teacher, Kathy Trogolo, Manager of Enrollment Services, The Sage School

**3:15 PM - What it Takes to be Successful in a Rigorous Academic Environment** - A presentation on Dr. Robert Sternberg’s most recent research as noted in the November ’09 issue of the Journal of Educational Psychology.

**Presenter:** Ray Diffley, Director of Admission, Choate Rosemary Hall who worked closely with Dr. Sternberg on his research to both understand and assess students for suitability for a “rigorous” academic environment.

**4:15 PM - LEARNING WITH KINDRED SPIRITS: Gifted Students and Independent Boarding Schools: A Panel Discussion** - Independent boarding schools conjure up all sorts of images. Regardless of one’s perceptions of boarding schools, the reality is that given the variety of these institutions, it would be wrong to paint them with a single brush. This is especially the case when considering any of these
schools for gifted students. While specific independent boarding schools may not necessarily be appropriate educational options for the intellectually gifted, some have focused on academically talented students and have instituted ways to engage their minds and their imaginations. What qualifies these particular schools to educate highly capable students? What specific approaches and mechanisms are in place that challenge keen intellects, instill the thrill of discovery, and provide encouragement along the way? These are some of the questions that will be addressed by the panelists representing several leading boarding schools.

PANELISTS: Ray Diffley, Choate Rosemary Hall; Josh Smith, The Loomis Chaffee School; Sara duPont, Miss Porter’s School; James Tanton, St. Mark’s School

5:30 PM – Meet the Presenters and Panelists – Visit with the speakers and pick up written materials about programs and opportunities for the gifted.

INFORMATIONAL LITERATURE PROVIDED BY:

- Choate Rosemary Hall – CT
- Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science - FL
- The Loomis Chaffee School – CT
- Miss Hall’s School - MA
- Miss Porter’s School - CT
- The Sage School - MA
- St. Mark’s School – MA
- The Webb School – TN