

G.A.T.E.WAYS

developing and extending children's special abilities

G.A.T.E.WAYS was established in 1994 to provide opportunities for highly able and gifted children with special educational needs. Like-minded students can participate in programs that will challenge them intellectually and help develop their individual talents. Both short and longer term programs in all areas of the curriculum are offered in Melbourne schools, 'On Location' and interstate.

School Time Programs

During school term students **are selected by their teachers** to attend *Eureka*, *Journeys*, *On Location* programs or *Grade 6 Seminars*.

When attending a day-long *Eureka* program, children participate in three linked workshops on a particular theme which changes each term. Themes for 2008 are: Term 1 – What's the Big Idea?; Term 2 – Mathematical Paradoxes; Term 3 – Incredible Journeys

Journeys are extended programs. Children attend for four half days and explore an area of the curriculum in greater depth. Subject matter is wide-ranging and is often in areas not taught in the primary school curriculum. Students as young as six can become detectives solving hypothetical mysteries, work as archaeologists on a 'dig', explore the wonders of the universe or the world of the brothers Grimm. The possibilities are unlimited!! Journeys are hosted by schools throughout the metropolitan area.

In 2008 G.A.T.E.WAYS will introduce a *Grade 6 Seminar Series*. A number of day-long seminars will be offered across a range of curriculum areas. Content covered and skills developed will help students in their preparation for secondary school.

Our *On Location* programs take children out of the classroom and into different learning environments. Budding pilots can participate in programs at Essendon or Moorabbin Airports; filmmakers can produce a short film or animation at the Australian Centre For The Moving Image; young composers or publishers can work with the latest computer software at the Alfred Brash SoundHouse. Artistically talented students might work with a professional artist in a studio, whilst those with a passion for history might join an urban historian out in the field to learn about historical research at first hand. In 2008 G.A.T.E.WAYS will hold programs at the Werribee Zoo.

In Term 4 students can participate in the *G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge*. School teams are made up of students who exhibit advanced abilities across the curriculum. Over the course of a day children rotate through a number of *Challenge* activities. The stress is on teamwork over individual performance, with the ability of team members to work together in an efficient and cohesive manner being very important. Each child has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in one of the challenges. Strong emphasis is placed on creativity, lateral thinking and problem-solving skills - the ability to recognise and negotiate obstacles and, as a team, to arrive at a solution. Information about the Challenge is sent out at the end of Term 2 or early in Term 3, so that once teams are selected, there is ample time to schedule practice sessions. Activities booklets will be sent to schools once they have registered. Sometimes teachers request parental assistance with lunch time practices.

The Brainwaves Clubs

The *Brainwaves Clubs* hold regular meetings out of school hours in both Melbourne and Canberra. The clubs were formed to give highly able children a chance to mix with like-minded peers and to form friendships that further foster their interests, social skills and self-esteem. G.A.T.E.WAYS aims to encourage this positive social interaction in a relaxed club atmosphere whilst at the same time providing enjoyable activities to extend our members' knowledge and skills. In Melbourne, those with a passion for science, maths and technology can join the DinoMites, SciSpies or Einsteins groups. Those who love creative pursuits including drama, art and writing can join either the Munchkins or the Apprentices. Two new clubs will be introduced in 2008 – The Leonardos for kids who like building things, and Checkmates for experienced chess players. Enrolments for 2008 Brainwaves Clubs are now open. To get a feel for what is offered in the Brainwaves Clubs refer to the Clubs' link on our website www.gateways.edu.au

At each club meeting in Canberra children can engage in a range of challenging activities and also be entertained and informed by a fascinating guest speaker.

Festivals

Our *Festivals* are special programs offering a large range of exciting workshops running concurrently over two days with the emphasis on challenge with fun! Students studying chemistry might make bath bombs or the easily broken glass from a Hollywood movie set; those with a passion for language might solve cryptic crosswords or participate in a feisty Slam poetry competition; others might experience the passion of Latin American dance or uncover the mystery of magic tricks. This year G.A.T.E.WAYS will hold a Festival for Years 1 to 6 at Canberra Grammar School on 30th June and 1st July and will run festivals at at Korowa Anglican Girls School on December 15th and 16th. Preps won't be forgotten either. A special Festival just for them will be held on December 11th & 14th. Staggered enrolments open mid October and **parents may register directly with G.A.T.E.WAYS rather than through their schools. All festival details and enrolment procedures can be viewed on our website by the Term 3 holidays. Last year's Festival details can be viewed on our website.**

'Out on the Town'

This program for gifted Year 7, 8 and 9 students is offered in the Term 1 holidays and is based in the city. A range of interesting day-long workshops which utilise city resources is offered. **Parents may enroll in this program directly and may request to go on the mailing list to receive details.**

Presenters

G.A.T.E.WAYS is proud to work with a team of fine presenters who are expert and passionate in one or more areas of knowledge and keen to pass on this expertise to children. The presenters enjoy working hard to devise interesting programs with stimulating content and activities. Their enthusiasm cannot fail to be communicated to their young charges.

Parent Information Evenings

At *Information Evenings* parents can meet and discuss a range of issues pertinent to parenting a highly able or gifted child. Such issues may include typical milestones and developmental expectations; asynchrony in intellectual, physical and emotional development; issues regarding school placement and extra curricular activities; and social and emotional characteristics and their implications for highly able children. Our facilitator is a child psychologists with many years experience in parenting and teaching gifted children.

To find out more about G.A.T.E.WAYS please go to our website www.gateways.edu.au