

# The G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge 2008

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CO-ORDINATORS

### CHOOSING YOUR TEAMS

It is important that careful consideration is given to selection as the Challenge has been specifically developed for highly able children.

1. Identify 1 or 2 teams of **4 children in the Year 3/4 level** for the Wednesday program.
2. Identify 1 or 2 teams of **4 children in the Year 5/6 level** for the Thursday program.
3. Identify 1 or 2 teams of **3 children in the Year 1/2 level** for the Friday program.
4. In selecting team members consider:
  - gender balance
  - compatibility of team members
  - skill balance – team members should have advanced skills in the challenge they are to lead
  - reading and comprehension skills of all members should be of a high standard.
5. Send home the Challenge program incorporating the *Parent Expression Of Interest* form to parents of selected children, **together with a photocopy of *Important Information for Parents and Team Members*** which is in your package.

### REGISTERING YOUR TEAMS

1. Schools may reserve a place for teams without children's names. Please phone 9894 2116. This reservation will be held for 5 days to allow teachers time to receive Expressions of Interest forms back from parents.
2. Once parents have confirmed their interest in enrolling their children as part of a school team by returning the slip, please fax your *School Registration Fax Sheet* to G.A.T.E.WAYS on 9894 2117. **This should include team names and appointed leaders for each challenge.** We need these details to include on the children's name tags and the rolls.
3. Await confirmation of teams' places from G.A.T.E.WAYS before doing the following.
4. Give parents of children **with a confirmed place** a *Confirmation Advice Slip* (please write in the date payment is due) and a copy of the Application/Consent Form with the day for which you have registered each child highlighted.
5. If the child has a place on the **waiting list only** please send home the *Waiting List Only Advice Slip* without the application form.
6. Parents should **forward completed application forms and payments to G.A.T.E.WAYS, PO Box 207, Blackburn, 3130, within 7 days of registration.**

### PREPARING YOUR TEAMS

1. Decide on a team name. This should include the name of the school – eg. Lysterfield Lights, Wantirna Wizards, Glendal Gurus
2. Appoint a different leader for each one of the challenges according to strengths in a subject area.
3. The challenges are in subject areas across the curriculum; all require good reading comprehension and problem solving.
4. Some schools enlist the support of an interested parent to be responsible for organising team meetings and practices.
5. The Challengers have given general advice on how to prepare for their challenges:
  - team members should take note of this and be prepared to do some research.
  - where there are lists, divide the topics up between team members
  - team members could be allocated a preparation time each week when they meet in the school library

**Challenge Activities Books, with three mini-lessons for each Challenge, will be emailed to schools once G.A.T.E.WAYS has received applications and payments from all team members. Teachers / Parents will find these useful in preparing teams for the Challenge. To ensure prompt delivery, please encourage team members to send forms/payment within 7 days.**

### ON THE DAY – YEARS 3, 4, 5 AND 6 CHALLENGES

1. Please emphasise to the children and parents the importance of arriving on time (9.00 am) as the timing of the day (practice and challenge sessions) is very tight. We recommend that team members be transported together, if possible.
2. They should wear their school uniform. All team members will receive a Challenge badge.
3. Each of the four challenges will have a practice session on the day. During this time teams will be introduced to the structure of each challenge and given advice as to the most effective way of tackling the problems to be presented in the challenge sessions.
4. Teams will participate in all four challenges.
5. Challenges will have to be solved in 30 minutes.
6. Teams will need to listen, to contribute and to cooperate.
7. Teams must work quietly and effectively.
8. Each member will be team leader of a specific challenge.
9. There will be a Presentation Session from 3.10 pm - 3.30 pm and parents are welcome to attend this.
10. The two top teams at each venue will receive trophies and an invitation to participate in the finals on 10<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no fee for the finals.

### ON THE DAY – YEARS 1 AND 2 CHALLENGE

1. There will be three sessions in the day. Each session of 90 minutes will be divided into a 40 minute teaching, learning and practice, a 10 minute break, followed by a 40 minute challenge.
2. All subject matter incorporated in the Challenges will be introduced, demonstrated and discussed in the Practice.
3. The emphasis will not be on winning a competition but on successfully using the information learned in the Practice Session.
4. All team members will receive a Challenge badge and certificate for participation, but there will be no trophies or finals.

**PLEASE PHONE G.A.T.E.WAYS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES**