

# GATE Parent Association

*The GATE Parent Association recognizes that commitment to serving the needs of the gifted learner is critical and is thankful that the Calgary Board of Education remains committed to dedicated congregated settings for gifted learners.*

Research shows that placing gifted students in congregated settings enables an educational approach that targets their learning needs and as well provides opportunities for like-minded peer grouping. This results in better outcomes for these learners in academic, social emotional, vocational and career realms. Teachers that understand the complex learning needs of these students are critical and highly effective in reaching this at risk group. The GATE Parent Association would like to thank the CBE for giving gifted learners the opportunity to attend GATE programming to meet their needs amid the challenges in funding for public education. While locations for the programs are under review the commitment to programming for these special needs students is not under review! There is commitment to serve this group of learners.

As parents weave through the many offerings to determine how to best meet the needs of their child's learning, GATE programming remains the best answer for many gifted children.

## **GATE Program Review**

The GATE program review is not yet completed. **No decisions have been made.** Please review all of the scenarios presented, and provide your feedback via the survey link. The executive of the GATE Parent Association feels strongly that the geography and traffic patterns of Calgary make one High School site an unfeasible solution. . The executive of the GATE Parent Association opposes the CBE's elementary scenario 1 as it does not provide this congregated setting. Please take the time to make your opinions known. The GATE Parent Association encourages all parents with children in the program to complete the program review survey by **December 30, 2010**. Details can be found here: <http://www.gatecalgary.ca/news.aspx>

## **Information Session for Parents new to the GATE Program**

The GATE Parent Association encourages parents considering a new GATE placement for their child to attend the CBE GATE Information Session:

January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM - Parkdale Centre – 728 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NW .

Please note that this session will address the GATE Program in its entirety and will not address site related issues or the outcome of the GATE Program review.

Watch [www.gatecalgary.ca](http://www.gatecalgary.ca) for announcements of upcoming education sessions and meetings of the GATE Parent Association.

**We encourage any parent with questions to email [info@gatecalgary.ca](mailto:info@gatecalgary.ca) .**

Happy New Year

Heather Downes and Kathy Stone  
Co-Presidents, GATE Parent Association