

# EXPLORATIONS

Issue 1, October 2019

## GATE is hard to pin down!

There is no concrete definition of what it means to be gifted and talented. The processes meant to identify GATE students vary from district to district. As a whole, identification systems and the tests they use have difficulty identifying minorities and students of low socio-economic status. Just the name, gifted and talented, lends itself to cries of elitism.

All the shortcomings, however, cannot mask the fact that there exists a sizeable portion of the population, identified or not, that engages with the world differently than do most of their peers.

There has been over half a century of academic research on GATE which demonstrates that gifted children and adults have unique characteristics and needs. It is our job as parents and educators to understand these characteristics and service the needs.

One purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate just that. We aim to highlight giftedness in all its complexities, and to explore strategies that will help parents and teachers better serve students' needs.

This newsletter is also a forum to spotlight "pockets of brilliance" in CVUSD that go above and beyond in serving all students regardless of GATE identification.

## Cool Links and Resources

### CVUSD GATE Resources & Articles page

[www.conejousd.org/Departments/Student-Services/Student-Support-Services/Gifted-and-Talented-Education-GATE/Resources-and-Articles](http://www.conejousd.org/Departments/Student-Services/Student-Support-Services/Gifted-and-Talented-Education-GATE/Resources-and-Articles)

**Hoagies' Gifted Education Page** (the "all things gifted" page):

[www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted\\_101.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted_101.htm)

## Community Exploration

What is this a picture of?

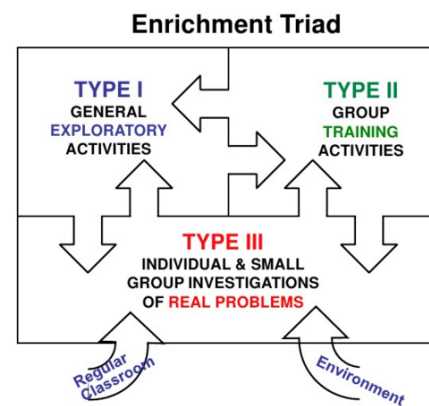
Hint: It was taken in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden



## School Spotlight

### Acacia Magnet School For Enriched Learning (K-5)

Acacia implements the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM), which is a model that uses gifted education pedagogy. It aims to provide enrichment for all students through enjoyable and challenging learning experiences constructed from students' interests, passions, learning styles and preferred modes of expression. The following enrichment triad shows how the model is put into action.



All of Acacia's teachers are trained in gifted education and the school's homework philosophy reflects its commitment to student learning via individual passion.

## Upcoming District Events

Oct 10

GATE Speaker (Needs of the Gifted), 6-7pm  
University Center MPR, 2801 Atlas Ave.,  
Thousand Oaks

Oct 11

Bookish Trivia (7th - 12th), NBP Library

Nov 08

GATE-DAC meeting, 9-11 am, University MPR

*Answer: Acorn woodpecker holes on the bark of an oak tree*