

ABC PEEL NEWSLETTER



ABC PEEL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

On the morning of September 5, 2006 ABC Peel launched our new website. Come and visit at www.abcpeel.org/ Our new banner is displayed above.

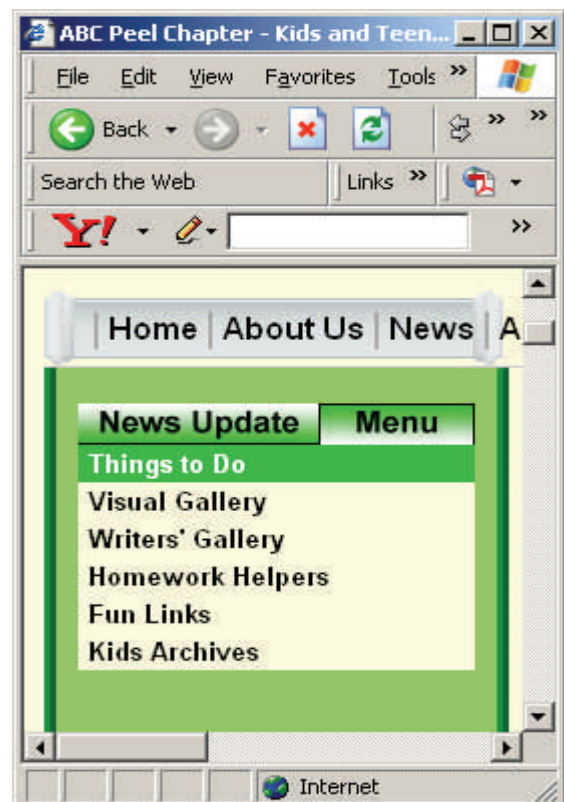
A huge thank you goes out to the website development team who worked very hard on this huge project. We're proud to share with you that this team included students from Peel Schools. We are *thrilled* with the results.

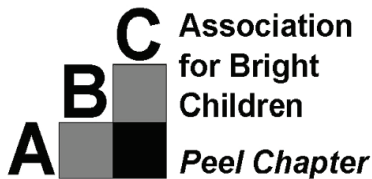
While information was moved from our old site to our new site, we'd like to mention that revisions and in several cases information has been revised and additional information added. A site map has been added as well as a print page button.

Of special interest to kids and teens is the launch of the **Kids & Teens Gallery and Showcase**. Located under the Kids and Teens button.

Topics covered include **Things to Do, Visual Gallery, Writer's Gallery, Homework Helpers, Fun Links and Kids Archives**. This will be an exhibit to display writing artwork projects, photography and other items of interest by the young people associated with ABC Peel.

Submissions for the Gallery can be made through the website. webadmin@abcpeel.org
For privacy and security reasons, only a students' first name and last initial, and age will be displayed.





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WHAT'S NEW:

Hello parents, educators, and all those who are interested in the education of bright and gifted children in Peel. This is our first newsletter in quite a while and we will be trying out some new things in the next few months. We hope to publish an informative, yet fun and friendly newsletter for all members of ABC. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Communications Team at abcpeelnews@hotmail.com if you have any ideas, articles, websites of interest or anything else that could be published in the newsletter. We would like to make this newsletter a resource for our members and we could always use your ideas and suggestions.

NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

ABC Peel has a new executive that was elected by acclamation on April 27, 2006. They are as follows:

President	Gina Heisz
Past President	David Croome
Membership	Jennifer Campbell
Treasurer	Naina Gupta
Children's Programs	Karen Lee Woods
Special Projects	Carolynne Ball
Parent's Nights	Currently Vacant
Communications Team	Lori Pearce, Lori D'Aquila and Frank D'Aquila
Website	Team of Volunteers

The executive is a group of parent volunteers who will be meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the future plans of ABC, and to help promote and advocate for gifted education throughout Peel.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you will join us for some fun and exciting Children's Programs this year and some interesting Parents' Night topics. This year ABC Peel will be involved in the Peel District School Board's review of the gifted program. This is the type of effort that your support for ABC Peel makes possible. Check our website for updates on the review as well as other important news. Join us this fall, to renew or begin your family mem-

bership, and volunteer your time however you can. Most importantly though - Have a great school year!

Gina Heisz
President, ABC Peel

Gina Heisz is the mother of three boys. She has been active in ABC Peel for the last four years, becoming President last spring.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

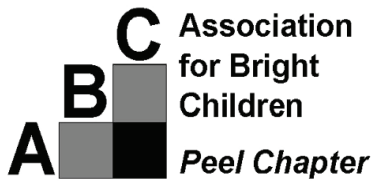
This September 23rd, 2006 from 2pm until 4pm., ABC Peel will be presenting a family games day, to be held at Holy Spirit Church, 1170 Tynegrove Road in Mississauga. Bring a few games of your own, a snack to share with others, or a toonie.

Our new Children's Program coordinator Karen Lee Woods will be organizing these events and we believe they will become the core of our ABC membership activities. We hope to have a large turnout on this day to introduce new members and their children to ABC and foster a community feeling within the group. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, please RSVP at activities@abcpeel.org.

BOARD UPDATES:

At the May 9th, 2006 Board of Trustees meeting, Carolynne Ball, on behalf of ABC Peel, presented a delegation to the Board about the proposed closing of 5 enhanced learning classes in Peel. There was a large turnout of supporters for this delegation and we believe that it made a difference in how the Board views gifted education.

At the SEAC meeting of May 16, 2006 the members held two separate votes before coming to a decision. There was a lively discussion about many of the aspects of the Special Education Plan and the proposed closures. The approval of the plan went through with a final vote of 8 to 5 in favour, with 2 abstentions. It was then Board of Trustees for discussion and approval. Prior to the vote, it was suggested by Gina Heisz that an amendment be made to the plan regarding current projections of the numbers



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of students in the contained classes. These numbers needed to be reviewed, and any historical date trends confirmed. However, this amendment was denied by staff.

On May 23rd, 2006 another delegation to the Board of Trustees was presented by Gina Heisz to further clarify ABC Peel's position on the proposed class closures. She provided many statistics and it was agreed by the Trustees to discuss in more depth, the proposed closures. However, at the June 13th, 2006 Board of Trustees meeting, the vote to approve the Special Education Plan 2006-2007 was passed with only 1 vote against by David Green. It was therefore decided to officially close these five enhanced learning classes for September 2006:

1. Somerset - 1 Junior class
2. Briarwood - 1 Junior class
3. Caledon East - 1 Junior class
4. Britannia - 1 Junior class
5. Lyndwood - 1 Intermediate class

There was also one primary class at Briarwood that was moved to Lyndwood.

THIS MONTH'S PARENT NIGHT:

For our first Parent's Night of the year, to be held on Thursday September 28, 2006 we will have a casual get-together with coffee. There will be no scheduled speaker. In the past, many school information nights are held on the last Thursday of the month in September, so it was decided to hold an informal night for all to meet and greet each other. If you have any questions for the Executive, or just want to meet other parents with bright/gifted children, please come out to this meeting. It will be held at 7:15pm in the Peel District School Board building at 5650 Hurontario St. in Mississauga.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/cfe/elearning/gifted/frameset.html>

This website is hosted by the "London District Catholic School Board" and the "Ontario Knowledge Network for Learning" It has great information for gifted students, their parents and teachers.

<http://members5.boardhost.com/ontariogifted/>

This is a message/chat board with parents in Ontario who discuss all aspects of gifted education and parenting of gifted children.

<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>

This is one of the largest gifted information websites on the web. Although it is American-based, it is well worth the visit.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Telephone support: 905-782-0055

E-mail support: support@abcpeel.org

Membership Information: membership@abcpeel.org

Parent's Night Information: activities@abcpeel.org

Children's Programs: activities@abcpeel.org

Webmaster: webadmin@abcpeel.org

Communication Team (Newsletter):
abcpeelnews@hotmail.com