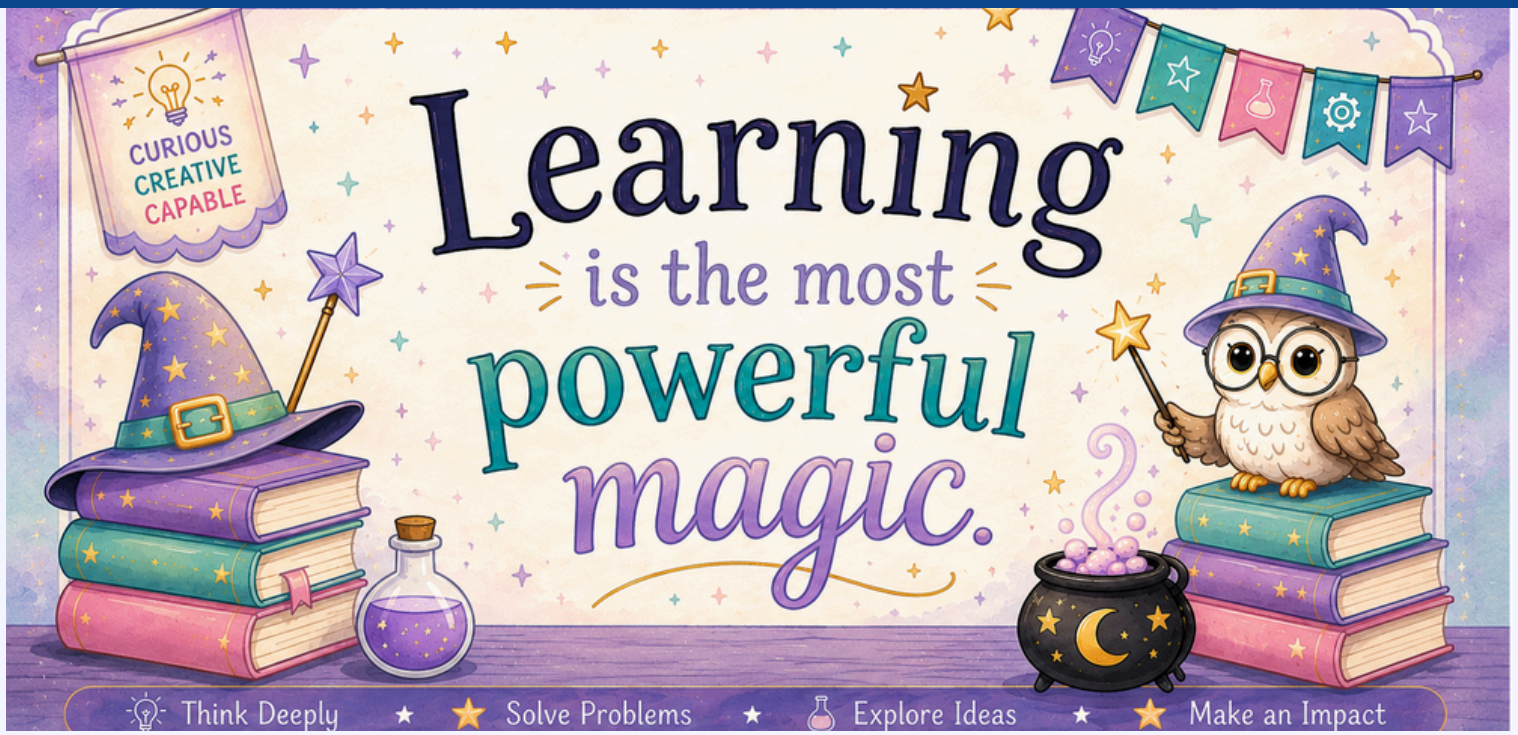
*Back-to-School Issue*

# GATE Newsletter

*Your window into our gifted education program*




**INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:**

**Upcoming Events:**

CogAT® Testing

Summer School Highlights

AASA High Achievement Honorees

## Welcome Back, Gifted Families!

Jennie M. Galay
*District GATE Coordinator*

Welcome to another exciting school year in the Toltec School District Gifted & Talented Education Program! We are thrilled to welcome back our returning students and families while extending a warm welcome to those joining our program for the first time.

Gifted learners thrive when they are challenged, encouraged to think creatively, and given opportunities to explore their passions. This year, students can look forward to engaging enrichment activities, project-based learning experiences, hands-on STEM projects, problem-solving challenges, creative thinking opportunities, and collaborative learning experiences designed to inspire curiosity and a love of learning.

Parents play an important role in supporting gifted learners. Encourage your child to ask questions, embrace challenges, and view mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow. A growth mindset helps gifted students build resilience, confidence, and perseverance—skills that are just as important as academic success. Research shows that helping gifted children focus on effort, curiosity, and healthy risk-taking supports both their academic and social-emotional development.

We look forward to partnering with you to make this an inspiring and rewarding year. Here's to a fantastic school year filled with discovery, creativity, and success!

*Back to school isn't just about moving up a grade—it's about opening doors to deeper questions, bigger ideas, and limitless curiosity.*

## Coming Up this Quarter

**AUG 03-06** Acadience Testing

**SEPT 14** GATE Referral Forms Due

**SEPT 21-22** Toltec Elementary School GATE Fall Testing

**SEPT 23-24** Arizona City Elementary School GATE Fall Testing

# Summer School Highlights

**Young Author Spotlight!**

Naomi Aybar proudly presents her original story, Play Button, created during this summer's Gifted Program. Naomi wrote the story herself and used AI as a creative tool to generate the illustrations.

*Story Link:*
*https://canva.link/hlxxwgj4kcg54z5*

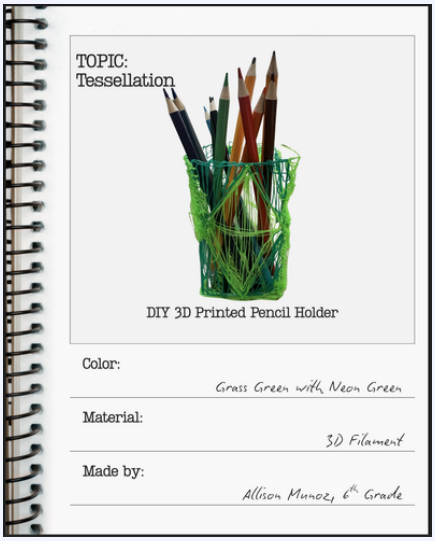
**Young Author Spotlight!**

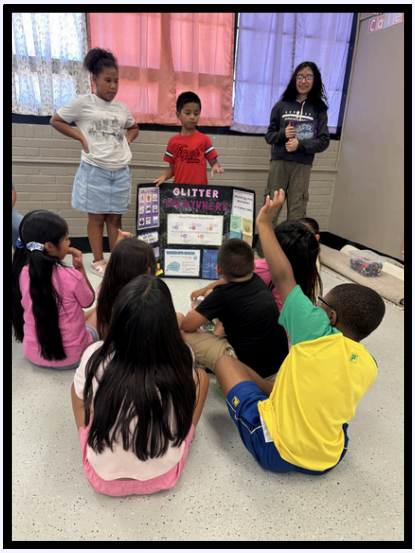
Isaiah Andrie Alpay, a current 4th-grade student, proudly shares his original story, The Magical Egg, created during this summer's Gifted Program. Through his imagination and creativity, Isaiah crafted an enchanting tale and used AI as a creative tool to illustrate his story.

*Story Link:*
*https://canva.link/x6mqjakqi5fxx4m*

**Gifted Summer Class Spotlight!**

Allison Munoz, a current 7th -grade student, showcased her creativity and problem-solving skills by designing a tessellation-inspired 3D pencil holder using a 3D printing pen and filament for her math project. In ELA, she explored the beauty of language by writing an original haiku, demonstrating both her artistic expression and advanced thinking.



Our Gifted Summer Class students became STEM leaders for the day as they shared *Glitter Everywhere: Where It Came From, Where It's Found & Where It's Going* by Chris Barton with our K–1 learners!

They presented their interactive display board, led a discussion, and invited students to vote at the "Team Glitter" vs. "Team Less Glitter" station. This hands-on experience sparked curiosity, encouraged critical thinking, and inspired our youngest learners to explore STEM and environmental responsibility!

# Celebrating Our High Achievers: AASA High Achievement Honorees

*Congratulations to our students who earned the Certificate of High Achievement by scoring in the top 10% of students statewide on the AASA assessment. Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence inspire us all!*

## TOLTEC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Isaiah Andrie Alpay
*4th Grade*

Jacqueline Maddux
*8th Grade*

## ARIZONA CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Naomi Aybar
*5th Grade*

Isaiah Peterson
*6th Grade*

Emmanuel Guerrero Ruiz
*6th Grade*

Allison Munoz
*7th Grade*

## Parents Corner

**Recorded Webinar:**
*Gifted 101: A Parent's Guide to Gifted Education*
*https://aagt.mclms.net/en/package/18262/course/33282/view*

**Gifted Education Resources:**

**Arizona Association for the Gifted and Talented (AAGT)**
https://arizonagifted.org/families/

**Internation Gifted Consortium**
https://giftedconsortium.com/