THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA | DECEMBER | 2024

IT'S SWEET TO BE BACK!



Hello! It's nice to meet you!

Palm Beach Area Mensa is proud to announce the revitalization of our Gifted Youth Program! We've brought together an exceptional team of passionate, educated volunteers dedicated to nurturing young minds in our community. As we unveil this enhanced program, we're excited to introduce you to our new Gifted Youth Team – a growing group of individuals committed to making a difference in gifted education throughout the Palm Beach area.

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Our Gifted Youth Program is dedicated to engaging, supporting, and enriching the lives of young Mensa members from early childhood through adolescence. This program provides a range of intellectually stimulating activities, fun social gatherings, and learning opportunities designed to foster intellectual growth, personal development, and a sense of community among gifted youth. By aligning with Mensa's mission, we aim to create a welcoming and inspiring environment where young members can connect, explore their interests, and develop alongside peers.

GOALS!

Intellectual Enrichment:
Educational workshops, outings, and events that challenge and expand young members' knowledge and curiosity.

Social and Emotional Support:
A safe space for gifted youth to interact, share experiences, and build lasting friendships with others who understand their unique needs.

Family Engagement:
Resources, updates, and communication channels to help families support their children's intellectual and social development.

Community Building:
A close-knit community of young Mensans, their families, and volunteers, promoting a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

IN THIS ISSUE...

It's Sweet to be Back!
What to Expect...
Meet the Team!
Mensa Honor Society
Education Essentials: SAT Success Starts Here: Prep Like a Pro
Member Contribution: "Hands-On with Wildlife"
Share Your Creativity!
Local Lowdown: Area Events

THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA | DECEMBER | 2024

MEET THE TEAM!



Julie Warriner
Gifted Youth Coordinator

Boynton Beach

Meet Julie, a data strategist with a creative soul who lives in Boynton Beach with her husband, daughter, and cat. As the mother of a Mensa Honor Society student at Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, she understands firsthand the journey of nurturing exceptional talent. Passionate about supporting other families facing the pressures of college admissions, Julie is on a mission to ease the anxieties that come with competition. With her unique blend of knowledge and empathy, she's dedicated to empowering young minds to chase their dreams without the stress! In addition to serving as Palm Beach Area Mensa's Gifted Youth Coordinator, Julie is also a Member-at-Large on the group's ExComm and the Mensa Regional Scholarship Chair for the state of Florida.



Vaibhavi Babji Rao
Lead Asst. Gifted Youth Coordinator

Palm Beach Gardens

Vaibhavi is a proud mom of two young Mensans, both members of the Mensa Honor Society and students at Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Passionate about supporting gifted youth, she is eager to help revitalize the group's programs with initiatives like college prep workshops, mentorship opportunities, service projects, and fun, team-building activities. Vaibhavi's goal is to create meaningful connections and opportunities that inspire and support the next generation of bright minds. With an MBA and extensive experience in project management and Agile practices, Vaibhavi brings strong organizational skills and a commitment to driving impactful programs.



Linda Porter
Assistant Gifted Youth Coordinator, Educational Resource Specialist

Lake Worth

Linda, a Chicago-area native, is a passionate educator dedicated to lifelong learning. Influenced by the philosophies of John Dewey and Abraham Maslow, her pedagogical approach emphasizes student-centered and holistic development. Currently pursuing an advanced degree in instructional design at Harvard and Northwestern Universities, Linda is also a certified trainer through Meta Platforms, Inc. She enjoys teaching globally online and guiding candidates toward new paths. Mom to a Mensan and proud grandmother to a young Mensa Honor Society member who recently attended Harvard's summer program, Linda looks forward to collaborating with the Mensa Youth Coordinator Team to support and empower gifted youth.



Dr. Paige McMahon
Resource Consultant

Stuart

Paige holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy and is a passionate advocate for empowering young minds through education. As the Math Coordinator for the Martin County School District, Paige combines her expertise with a dedication to fostering curiosity and growth in children. She will bring valuable contributions to the Gifted Youth Program by developing and providing educational resources, including Academic Enrichment, Self-Study Resources, and opportunities for STEM and Humanities Exploration. In addition to her professional achievements, Paige serves on the Palm Beach Area Mensa ExComm as a Member-at-Large and Assistant Scholarship Chair, further showcasing her commitment to intellectual development and community engagement.

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS!

Now that our Gifted Youth Program is back, we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the fun! If you'd love to help plan one or two exciting youth activities like mini golf outings, wildlife sanctuary visits, and more, join our team! It's just one or two events a year, but it makes a world of difference. Contact Julie and the team at giftedyouth@palmbeach.us.mensa.org.



THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA | DECEMBER | 2024

MENSA HONOR SOCIETY

In recognition of the achievements and service of Young Mensans, the Mensa and Junior Mensa Honor Societies are open to students in 5th through 12th grades who meet membership qualifications for both American Mensa and the honor society.

The ideals of the Honor Society are integrity, intellectual curiosity, academic commitment, and service. Youth who belong to the society are eligible to earn honor cords, as well as receive a certificate of membership.

Learn more by visiting the Mensa Honor Society online!

WINTER BREAK FUN

Winter Break is around the corner, and if you're searching for ways to keep your little ones engaged, we recommend the Center for Creative Education's Virtual Creativity program. This online platform offers a range of arts-based activities designed to inspire creativity and hands-on learning for children of all ages.



EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

SAT Success Starts Here: Prep Like a Pro

By: Linda, Educational Resource Specialist

Preparing for the SAT can feel overwhelming, but the right resources can make all the difference. To help you study smarter and boost your confidence, we've compiled a list of top SAT prep tools and links. Whether you're looking for practice tests, study guides, or expert tips, these resources will set you on the path to success.

Khan Academy
An official partner of the College Board, Khan Academy offers comprehensive, free SAT prep tailored to your needs. Using your PSAT scores or diagnostic quizzes, the platform creates a personalized study plan, complete with video lessons, interactive practice problems, and full-length practice tests. It's an excellent all-in-one resource for students of all skill levels.
Explore Khan Academy's SAT Prep

College Board SAT Practice
As the creator of the SAT, the College Board provides direct access to official practice tests, sample questions, and detailed answer explanations. Their tools help you familiarize yourself with the test format, question types, and scoring system, ensuring you're prepared on test day. For the most authentic practice experience, this should be your first stop.
Visit College Board SAT Practice

PrepScholar's Free SAT Resources
PrepScholar delivers a variety of free SAT prep materials, including detailed study guides, sample questions, and strategy articles designed to help you study effectively. While the website offers premium prep courses, the free resources are packed with actionable advice and tips to help boost your score without breaking the bank.
Access PrepScholar's Free SAT Resources

Join our private Facebook group to connect with other Gifted Youth Families in our area!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/palmbeachmensagiftedyouth

THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA | DECEMBER | 2024



Palm Beach Area Mensan, Isla with Nubs, a White Tailed Deer

Hands-On with Wildlife

By: Isla, 17

As a seventeen-year-old volunteer at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, I've had some extraordinary experiences. For the past two years, I've been fortunate to gain hands-on experience with Florida's native wildlife, learning something new and fascinating each day.

My daily responsibilities include the essential tasks of maintaining animal habitats - cleaning bird cages and the deer yard, preparing food, and handling sanctuary laundry. But what really makes this experience special are opportunities I've been given, like handling birds of prey, including owls and hawks, who serve as our Animal Ambassadors. These magnificent creatures help educate sanctuary visitors, and it's crucial to handle them properly to ensure everyone's safety, including the birds themselves.

But the most exciting aspect of my work involves helping train the sanctuary's brown bears - we train them to be comfortable during routine medical exams and medication administration. It's an incredible experience that has taught me so much about animal behavior and care.

This experience has solidified my dream of pursuing zoology. I've taken additional science courses, including biology and environmental science, to prepare for college. The hands-on work at Busch has been invaluable, inspiring me to found a school club focused on educating and empowering students to become stewards of our unique ecosystem through learning experiences, advocacy, and community engagement. Every day at the sanctuary brings challenges and lessons that no textbook could provide.



Time to get creative!

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY!

Do you love to draw, write stories, compose poems, or share your thoughts on a favorite topic? We want to showcase your talents! Gifted youth members are invited to submit their work to be featured in our monthly newsletter. This is your opportunity to share your creativity and inspire others in our community. Submissions can be sent to Julie at giftedyouth@palmbeach.us.mensa.org. We can't wait to see your amazing contributions!

JUDGES NEEDED!

Palm Beach Area Mensa is looking for scholarship judges! The Mensa Scholarship Program is an amazing opportunity open to all US students pursuing a degree from an accredited university, whether the student is in Mensa or not. If you'd like to sign up or would like to learn more, contact Cindy at cindygroover@gmail.com.

THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA | DECEMBER | 2024

LOCAL LOWDOWN
WHAT'S HAPPENING NEAR YOU

Looking for something fun to do in the area? Check out these upcoming events! Please note, Palm Beach Area Mensa is not affiliated with or endorsing these events—we're simply sharing information to keep you in the loop. Enjoy exploring!



Winter Wonderland at The Ben
Open Daily Nov. 2 - Mar. 1



Zoo Lights at Palm Beach Zoo
Select Nights, Nov. 23 - Jan. 5



Holiday Cultural Celebration in Wellington
Dec. 5 @ 6pm-9pm



Winter Wonderland Laser Lights & Bites at Cox Science Center
Dec 6, 13, 20, 27



34th Annual Holiday Craft Fair at the South Florida Fairgrounds
Dec. 7 @ 10am-4pm



38th Annual Hobe Sound Christmas Parade
Dec. 7 @ 1pm



Florida Wildlife Nature Walk
Dec. 12 @ 9-11am, Halpatiokee Regional Park (Stuart)



Delray Beach Holiday Parade
Dec. 14 @ 6pm



Holidays At The Ranch
Dec. 14 @4pm-8pm
Dec. 15 @2pm-6pm



Martin County Christmas Boat Parade
Dec. 14 @ 6pm



Holiday Evening Tours at Whitehall
Dec. 19 – Dec. 23

What types of events are you interested in? Let us know!