THE RISING TIDE

PALM BEACH AREA MENSA JANUARY 2025

NEW YEAR, NEW HEIGHTS



As we step into 2025, it's the perfect time to reflect on past achievements and set exciting goals for the year ahead. For gifted youth, this is an opportunity to challenge yourself, explore new interests, and refine your strengths. Whether it's diving into a complex project, mastering a new skill, or making a positive impact in your community, the possibilities are endless. Remember, growth isn't just about reaching milestones - it's about embracing the journey and learning along the way. Let this year be one of discovery, determination, and bold ambitions!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Palm Beach Mensa is looking for adult volunteers to give just a few hours of their time in the new year to help our Gifted Youth Volunteer Team. We work around YOUR schedule and availability! We just need a few extra set of hands!

Contact Julie at giftedyouth@palmbeach.us.mensa.org - She's happy to chat! 😄

MEET THE MARVELOUS MOLLY



Molly Bundschuh

Mensa's Youth Programs Manager

By: Julie, Gifted Youth Coordinator

I've had the privilege of knowing Molly for several years. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of my daughter's journey through the Mensa Honor Society and a trusted advisor and mentor in my own involvement with our local group's gifted youth. Calling Molly sweet, caring, thoughtful, and energetic barely scratches the surface. She's truly one of Mensa's superstars. What better way to kick off the new year than by putting Molly in the spotlight? She graciously agreed to an interview, so read on to learn more about our very own "Marvelous Molly!"

What are some of the most rewarding aspects of being Mensa's Youth Programs Manager?

The most rewarding thing is connecting with parents of children, usually new or prospective members, who are just beginning their gifted journey. Often they're looking for the assurance that there are people out there dealing with the same ups and downs they're experiencing with their child, and it's cool to be able to provide a little piece of that. Plus, I get to hear about all the weird, cool things these kids are interested in, like nuclear pasta, vexillology, and Sanskrit.

MORE ABOUT MOLLY ON THE NEXT PAGE!

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MEET THE MARVELOUS MOLLY

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What recent or upcoming initiatives are you most excited about?

The "Spark!" program at the upcoming Annual Gathering (AG), for sure! This is a special youth track of programming for kids aged 4-12. It takes months of research and planning, so it's really fun and exciting to finally pull it off (with minimal chaos). The AG is also usually the only chance I get to see members in person, and I look forward to it ever year!

How do you see Mensa's Gifted Youth Programs making a difference in the lives of children and their families?

There are so many little ways, from opportunities for enrichment to recognition for their accomplishments, but probably the biggest way is through connections with other gifted kids, parents of gifted kids, and gifted adults who've experienced what these kids are going through. Through those connections we're fostering a culture that celebrates intelligence, growth, and holistic development. My hope is that Mensa is a place where a gifted kid can share their passions and it's always met with enthusiasm and support.

What advice would you give to parents of gifted children who may feel overwhelmed or unsure of how to support their child?

1) Like Mr. Rogers says, "look for the helpers." This might be someone at your child's school, a psychologist, other parents, or folks you meet through Mensa. There are people who have been exactly where you are, and they can listen and help. 2) Don't feel like you need to be an expert in all things gifted to do what's best for your child. 3) Embrace any opportunity for your child to be their uninhibited, authentic self.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work to recharge or find inspiration?

I love puzzles and drawing – I try to make time to do both every day. I also have two twice exceptional (2E) kids, ages 10 and 7, that are an endless source of inspiration (and occasional frustration).

If you could share one piece of advice with Gifted Youth, what would it be?

Be curious about everything, always ask questions, and approach everything with a willingness to learn something new. If you do that, nothing will be a waste of your time.

We Appreciate You
MOLLY!

MORE ABOUT MOLLY

As Youth Programs Manager, Molly coordinates the Gifted Youth (GY) programs and services for American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation - she provides support for Young Mensans, educators and parents of gifted kids through the "Excellence in Reading" program, GY grants for Local Groups, the Mensa Honor Society and Book Parade programs, Young Mensan Magazine and the TeenSIG and "Spark!" programs at the Annual Gathering.

Molly also works with Mensa's network of Youth Coordinators and parent volunteers to ensure that Young Mensans can make the most of their membership. Molly has a master's degree in history from the University of North Texas in Denton. She previously served as the Youth Enrichment Organizer for a domestic violence shelter in her Central Texas hometown. She and her husband have two children, two dogs, and a steady stream of foster puppies.

GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org
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Mensa Staff Contacts



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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.

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

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



Way to go, Palm Beach Area's Mensa Honor Society Members!

INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENT ALERT!

Palm Beach Area Mensa's Honor Society members have logged an astounding 2,498 service hours this year! They've topped the national charts and truly embody the spirit of community service and intellectual excellence.

Talk about making a big impact with a small team! Palm Beach Area Mensa is proving that when passionate, intelligent people come together, there's no limit to the good they can do. Congratulations on your outstanding community contribution!

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

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EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

Unlock Your Potential: The Benefits of Attending a Summer College Program

Are you a middle or high school student looking to take your learning to the next level? A summer college program might be the perfect opportunity to challenge yourself, explore new interests, and get a taste of college life! Here are just a few of the exciting benefits of attending one:

Academic Growth
Summer college programs offer advanced courses that challenge you beyond the typical classroom experience. Whether you're interested in science, technology, writing, or the arts, these programs allow you to dive deep into subjects you're passionate about. It's a chance to accelerate your learning and explore new academic fields that might not be available at your school.

College Experience
Attending a summer program gives you a sneak peek into what college is like - living in dorms, managing your time independently, and interacting with professors and fellow students. This experience can help you feel more prepared and confident when it's time to apply to college.

Personal Growth
Summer college programs aren't just about academics. You'll develop important life skills such as critical thinking, time management, and teamwork. The independence you gain will help you feel more confident in your abilities, both inside and outside the classroom.

College Applications & Course Credit
Attending a summer college program can also strengthen your college applications. It demonstrates that you're motivated, curious, and ready for advanced learning. Many programs even offer college credit, which can appear on your transcript, giving you a head start on your college education. This experience provides unique stories for your application essays and interviews, and the credit you earn could be applied toward your degree in the future.

So, why wait? We've compiled a few helpful resources to get you started!

summer discovery **Summer Discovery**

Offers an extensive list of summer programs hosted by top universities around the country and even internationally. The site allows you to search by subject area, location, or type of program (academic, arts, STEM, etc.), making it easy to find programs that align with your interests.

NAGC National Association for Gifted Children **National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)**

A great resource for summer programs specifically designed for gifted students

TeenLife **TeenLife**

Provides a curated list of summer programs, internships, and enrichment opportunities for high school students, with filters to narrow down choices based on interests and location

College and University Websites
Many colleges feature information about their summer programs directly on their admissions or academic departments' web pages.

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BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG MINDS

Complex Fantasy & Science Fiction

"Project Hail Mary" by Andy Weir (14+)
A gripping story of problem-solving and interstellar science

"House of the Scorpion" by Nancy Farmer (12+)
Thought-provoking exploration of identity and ethics

"Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card (12+)
Strategic thinking and leadership through a gifted protagonist

"The Giver Quartet" by Lois Lowry (11+)
Classic series exploring utopia, memory, and individual choice

Literary Fiction with Gifted Characters

"Born Confused" by Tanuja Desai Hidier (13+)
Cultural identity and artistic expression

"An Absolutely Remarkable Thing" by Hank Green (14+)
Fame, social media, and mysterious global phenomena

"Millicent Min, Girl Genius" by Lisa Yee (10-13)
Relatable story about a gifted girl navigating social life

"The View from Saturday" by E.L. Konigsburg (10-12)
Four gifted students form an unlikely quiz bowl team

Classic Literature with Modern Appeal

"A Wrinkle in Time" series by Madeleine L'Engle (10+)
Science and spirituality in an epic adventure

"The Once and Future King" by T.H. White (13+)
Sophisticated retelling of Arthurian legend

"Good Omens" by Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett (14+)
Witty apocalyptic humor with literary references

Historical Fiction with Depth

"The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak (13+)
Unique narrative perspective and rich historical context

"Code Name Verity" by Elizabeth Wein (14+)
Complex WWII spy narrative with unexpected twists

"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd (14+)
Historical fiction exploring slavery and women's rights

"One Crazy Summer" by Rita Williams-Garcia (10-13)
Civil Rights era story with sophisticated themes

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

"Counting by 7s" by Holly Goldberg Sloan (10-14)
A gifted protagonist dealing with loss and finding community

"Finding Perfect" by Elly Swartz (11-13)
Thoughtful exploration of OCD and perfectionism

"Highly Illogical Behavior" by John Corey Whaley (13+)
Mental health and friendship

"Far From the Tree" by Robin Benway (14+)
Complex family dynamics and identity



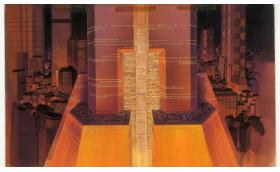
Reading Level Note: Many gifted readers are capable of reading above their age level, however, we recommend parents review books for suitability for their individual child.

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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!



Exhibition: Akira: Architecture of Neo-Tokyo
Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens
Dec. 23 - Apr. 6 @ 10am-5pm



Winter Equestrian Festival
Wellington International
Jan. 1 - Mar. 26 @ 8am-5pm



Supercar Week
West Palm Beach Waterfront
Jan. 4 - 12



Sunday Snake Brunch
Hobe Sound Nature Center
Jan. 5 @ 12:30-1:30pm



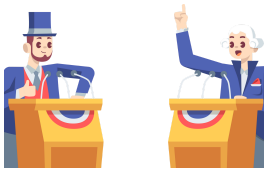
Beach Comber Class – Think Like a Scientist
Blowing Rocks Preserve, Jupiter
Jan. 7 @ 9:30-11am



Tortoise Trot 5K Trail Run
SW Newfield Parkway, Palm City
Jan. 11 @ 7:30am



Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at the Lantana Road Library
Jan. 18 @ 2:30-4pm



Presidents and Their First Ladies, Dramatically Speaking
Royal Palm Beach Library
Jan. 19 @ 1-2pm



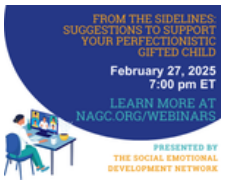
Lunar New Year Celebration at the Jupiter Library
Jan. 29 @ 3-4pm

THE PALM BEACHES FLORIDA

MORE PALM BEACH EVENTS HERE!

MARTIN COUNTY Florida

MORE MARTIN EVENTS HERE!



From the Sidelines:
Suggestions to Support Your Perfectionistic Gifted Child
February 27, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. ET
Free & Open to All
Maria Selke, Jessica Lafollette, & Kali Fedor

Join SEL and PFC Networks as they share strategies for parents and caregivers to better understand perfectionism and the many ways they can offer support to their gifted child.