*“TSUNAMIS IN THE SANDBOX”*

*Social, Emotional and Cognitive Complexities of Gifted Children*

An Information Seminar for Parents & Teachers

***DATE:*** *Thursday, January 8th, 2015 (Snow date, Thursday, January 15th)****TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.***  *- Presentation followed by question time / discussion****LOCATION:*** *Mansfield Township Elementary School*

Gifted children display thought processes, social interactions and emotional responses well beyond their years, and often in far greater proportion than would be expected. A simple playdate in the sandbox can escalate to tsunami levels within minutes – literally or figuratively! Advanced cognitive skills and an intense knowledge base could lead to a 4 year old creating their own version of a “sandbox tsunami,” complete with excess water and major destruction! More figuratively, however, a tsunami in the sandbox is also possible on an emotional level. Advanced cognitive skills, reasoning ability and heightened emotional intensity set gifted children apart. Regular social situations and interactions with other children often result in misunderstandings, frustrations or angry outbursts. Understanding the way in which gifted children differ socially, emotionally and cognitively can better equip parents to meet their needs, and to ‘calm the storms’ when things become difficult.

This parent information seminar addresses the following issues:

* What sets gifted children apart from their peers?
* Heightened intensities
* Social and emotional needs of gifted children
* Tips for making and keeping friends
* Problem solving / decision making / negotiating
* Expectations and perfectionism
* Recognizing and challenging their intellectual curiosity
* Practical suggestions and activities for parents and teachers

This event is sponsored by the ***Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment****,* as a service for the parents and teachers of our community.

***Alison Brown*** *is a registered Australian psychologist, an experienced teacher and a parent. She was a committee member and Vice President of the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children over six years, has presented at a number of state, national and international conferences in the areas of technology, gifted education, and psychology, and has provided extensive consultation and training programs to schools in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Switzerland and Germany. Her particular expertise in recognizing and serving the social, emotional, and academic needs of gifted children led to her current position as Vice President of Advocacy, New Jersey Association for Gifted Children.*