**![C:\Users\HPG60\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UXKYVWV8\MC900250411[1].wmf]()February GATE Group-Stepping into Space**

**Our lesson for February was about “risk-taking” and not being afraid of making mistakes.**

The first part of this lesson was more “hands-on” as I asked volunteers to be blindfolded and then required them to walk through a simple obstacle course. The participants were told that they would receive verbal directions from the rest of the group, so that they could successfully complete the course.

This was great fun---and it was interesting to, not only, watch the meandering of the blindfolded person, but also to listen to the directions given by the others.

![C:\Users\HPG60\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\HRUMBC70\MC900383558[1].wmf]()When “volunteer” time was through, then I asked the group why I included the blindfold activity in our lesson. After hearing from the group, I shared that this activity was meant to show students taking a risk. I emphasized how our volunteers could have fallen, or made a mistake, or might have been laughed at (which indeed happened). I shared with the group that it isn’t easy to be brave and try something new or hard, when you know that something might go wrong. This was my key point in the lesson:

**Good students learn to be careful risk-takers and to try new things, even if they know something could go wrong.**

I took some time to talk with our group about things at school that they might need to be “risk-takers” for, and then I finished our time together by reading the book: “The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes” by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein.

*“Beatrice Bottomwell has NEVER (not once!) made a mistake...
Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. In fact, Beatrice holds the record of perfection in her hometown, where she is known as The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable–she makes her first mistake. And in a very public way!”*

This book offers a lesson about learning from mistakes, letting go of perfectionism, and just laughing and letting the light shine when dark clouds want to loom in!!

It was a perfect read for our young GATE students who may one day deal more with feeling a need to be perfect than we all care to think about now!! Please continue this “conversation” with your young GATE students, because even they might show signs of needing to be perfect. WE want them to understand that it is “excellence” that we need to be pursue, not perfection!!!!

I hope you enjoy hearing about our blindfold activity and also about “Beatrice!”

Thanks so much for all of your support!!

Lisa B.