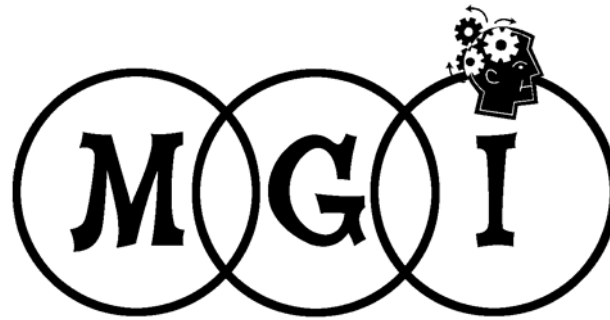




NYC
Department
of Education



Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Monthly News

March/April 2007

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Ms. Cherry's Class
Mon, Tues, & Thurs

Deb Schaeffer,
ELA Tutor
Ms. Knopfel's Class
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Students Complete Homework; Get Pizza — Part 2!

The MGI/GEAR UP program at South Bronx Prep held its 2nd Homework Countdown Challenge this spring! For this Homework Countdown, we asked our 6th & 7th grade MGI/GEAR UP students to complete their math and ELA homework every night for three weeks, instead of the two weeks, like last time. Also, this time students needed to complete their homework in *both* ELA and math, instead of one or the other.

With the higher requirements to be invited to the pizza party, we were curious as to how many students would win the right to attend the pizza party. We were very happy to see that we had

33 students earn the pizza party we held before spring break on Thursday, March 29, 2007. Also, the MGI/GEAR UP tutors selected a few students who have made the most effort since the last marking period to be honored at the party as well.

The following students were honored at our party for either most improved effort or for winning the Homework Challenge Contest:

601: Genesis Carino, Jonathan Crichlow, Jainabu Drammeh, Daisy Gonzalez, Zanai Lewis, Brian Oliver, Isaac Smith, Sonia Solache, Eribertu Sosa, Lyneisha Winston.
602: Jessel Agron, Shauntia Aikens, Jeremy

Bhikhi, Kimberly Febres, Jazmine Figueroa, Abigail Mercedes.
603: Stephanie Diaz, Precious McBride, Destiny Medina, Gabriella Neri, Christopher Santiago, Christina Vega, Cory Villegas.

701: Cynthia Adeoye, Giovanni Beniquez, Zuri Castro, Valerie Gutierrez, Kevin Mercado, Akijah Peterson, Quanaisha Smith.

702: Michael Reyes.

703: Charese Magwood, Destiny Rivera.

Congratulations to all our honorees! This Homework Countdown has been so successful that we will continue it into the next school year, so if you haven't been able to join us yet, you can work toward it next year!

Online College Resource for Students: CollegeAnswer.com

There are lots of websites out there designed to help students plan for college, and it can be overwhelming to visit them all! However, check out

www.collegeanswer.com

This site is a one-stop shop for information about discovering your strengths, researching careers, saving for college, and more!

PARENTS: Save the Date!

Join other parents of MGI/GEAR UP students across New York City for our 2nd Parent Conference for 2006-2007!

**Saturday,
May 19**

Time & Location TBA

Watch your mailbox for more info, or contact:

Rosa Cruz-Cordero
MGI/GEAR UP
Parent Services
Coordinator
(646) 344-7332
Rosa.Cruz-Cordero@mail.cuny.edu

College Myths — Debunked!

**College Myth #3:
College isn't possible because you are not doing well in school.**

The good news is that you're still in middle school, so there is plenty of time to get your grades up! Your MGI/GU tutors and your teachers are here to help you. By working on your academics now, you're setting the stage for great things in high school and college. Also, keep in mind that there is a place for *any* student who wants to attend college!

RESOURCES

Volunteer This Summer!

What are you going to do this summer? While summer is a time for students and families to relax after a hard school year, it's also a great time to volunteer! For students, volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and gain experience, like office work, computers, and working with people. It's also a great way to meet new people and get involved!

Where can students volunteer? There are lots of places! You can volunteer with senior citizens, younger children, or families. You can volunteer in offices to help with office tasks and mailings, or you can volunteer at a community center. You can volunteer a few times a week, once a week, once a month ... The possibilities are endless!

So where do you find

volunteer opportunities? A great resource is the Mayor's Volunteer Center. This online resource is at www.volunteernyc.org You can search by organization, location, hours, etc. You can also call the Center at

(212) 251-4047

There are also opportunities for parents and families.

Happy Volunteering!

Great Parent Resource: ParentJobNet.org

Visit www.parentjobnet.org – a great, free website for parents! On this site you can find:

- Job listings
- Volunteer opportunities
- Job training
- Childcare information
- Service locators (ex: financial advising, tutoring, computing, etc.)
- Event listings
- Networking with other parents and professionals in the City

Check it out today!

High-Quality After School Programming: Beacon Programs

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) offers high-quality after school programs in the form of their Beacon Centers. These Centers offer: academic enhancement, career awareness, life skills, community building, Recreation. They also offer such adult programming as: general education diploma (GED), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), parenting skills, family Relations, tenant education and advocacy.

Beacon Centers exist all over the city, and families have to enroll their students. To find a program near you, visit the DYCD website at:

<http://dycd-app.webscope.com/directory/>

or call

212-788-6754