



NYC
Department
of Education

January/February 2007

MGI/GEAR UP Program
Lehman College, CUNY
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**Angel Nunes, 6th & 7th
Grade Advisor**
MGI Office
Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Fri

Urline Jean-Baptiste,
English Tutor
Mr. Buchanan's, Ms.
George's, Mr. Hayes', and
Ms. Yosifides's Classes
Mon, Wed, & Fri

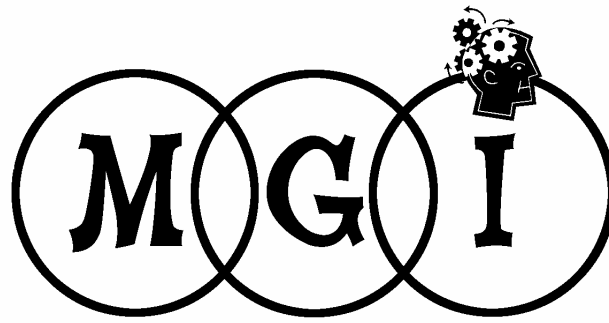
Rosa Montalvo, Math Tutor
Ms. Rivera's &
Ms. Sheppard's Classes
Mon, Wed, & Thurs

Bertha Rodriguez, Math Tutor
Ms. Rivera's Class
Mon, Wed, & Thurs

Alex Sebastian, ELA Tutor
Mr. Edmond's & Mr. Hayes'
Classes
Mon, Wed, & Fri

Jacob Simonds, ELA Tutor
Ms. Michelak's, Ms. Marra's,
and Ms. Acevedo's Classes
Mon, Tues, & Wed

Angelie Solano, Math Tutor
Ms. Yosifides' and
Ms. Sheppard's Classes
Tues, Thurs, & Fri



Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Monthly News

Book Club: Wednesdays 3:30 — 4:30 pm

The Lehman College MGI/GEAR UP program at IN-Tech is starting a Book Club! All 6th & 7th grade students are welcome to join. We will meet Wednesdays, immediately after school from 3:30-4:30 in the MGI/GEAR UP office (next to the guidance offices). To participate, just get a permission slip from Mrs. Hershman in the Middle School Guidance Office or from Ms. Nunes, the MGI/GEAR UP Advisor, in the MGI office; bring it back, signed, and join us on Wednesdays! We will provide the books for you to read and keep, and you can help choose which books we read!

Our first book will be *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan.



More about the book: "Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for this, but when their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her circumstances--Mama's life and her own depend on it."

We'll read the book on our own during the week and get together on Wednesdays to talk about it. Everyone is welcome!

Who: 6th & 7th Graders at IN-Tech
What: MGI/GEAR UP Book Club
When: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Where: MGI Office (next to Middle School Guidance)
Why: To have fun reading together!
How: Ask Mrs. Hershman or Ms. Nunes in the MGI Office for a permission slip; bring it back, signed, and join us on Wednesdays!

Saving for College: Upromise & NY State 529 Plans

On Tuesday, February 6, a representative from Upromise and the NY State 529 Plan came to speak to IN-Tech 7th graders about saving for college. Through a special program called 529 plans, parents and families can save money for college tax free, while saving money on their income taxes. It's free to sign up for these savings

accounts, and you can do so over the phone or online.

7th graders also learned about the Upromise program. This program lets students and families earn money for the things they buy anyway at stores like CVS and Stop & Shop, just by signing up their store cards with the program.

For more information about these great programs, contact:

NY State 529 Plan
1-877-NYSAVES
www.nysaves.org

Upromise
1-888-434-9111
www.upromise.com

PARENTS: Become a part of the CUNY MGI/GEAR UP Parents Committee

Join other parents of MGI/GEAR UP students across New York City to plan parent events and make decisions about CUNY MGI/GEAR UP!

Dinner Meeting: Friday, March 9

For more info, contact:

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

College Myths — Debunked!

**College Myth #2:
College isn't really
necessary because
you can get a job
right after high
school and start
earning a living.**

Yes, that's true; you *can* get a job right after high school. However, it's a proven fact that college graduates earn more money than high school graduates over the course of a lifetime — if you have a college degree, you will earn almost \$1,000,000 MORE in your lifetime than someone with a high school education only!

RESOURCES

Know How 2 Go: An Online Resource

Have you seen this television commercial? Paper airplanes fly high in the air all over the city while adults watch them fly by. Who sent these airplanes? Kids on the school bus, kids standing on a bridge, and kids sitting in class. When adults get a hold of these airplanes, the simple message written by the kids on the planes is clear: **"Can you help me go to college?"**

This television ad, along with accompanying radio ads, billboards, and bus shelter ads, send viewers and listeners to the website

knowhow2go.org. A project of American Council on Education, Lumina Foundation for Education, and the Ad Council, this site offers tips for anyone who wants to go to college. The site offers specific sections for Middle Schoolers, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Adults, as well as Resources for people who help others get into college.

This is not your typical college awareness website. This site offers off-beat but practical commands for everyone who wants to go to college:

1. **Be a pain.**
2. **Push yourself.**
3. **Find the Right Fit.**
4. **Put your hands on some cash.**

Check out this site to find out more about going to college. You can also view the television commercial online and listen to the radio ads. As the site tells us:

"You know *why* to go to college; we're here to tell you *how*."

Take the first step by visiting the site today:

knowhow2go.org

Community Resources in the Bronx

Looking for other services for your student or your family, like college counseling, after school programs, or parent involvement programs? Following is a list of community organizations here in the Bronx. Please contact each organization individually to see what types of programs and services they offer:

East Side House Settlement

718 665-6499
337 Alexander Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10454
718 665-5250

www.eastsidehouse.org

Services: English Language Learners, GED, translation, literacy, computer center, immigrant services, parent involvement, counseling, drop out prevention, community service

New Settlement Apartments

1512 Townsend Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10452
718 716-8000

College Access Center: 718 294-3870

Services: drop-out prevention, literacy, parent involvement.

Educational Counseling Center of the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center

3150 Rochambeau Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10467
718 652-0282

www.mmcc.org

Services: early childhood, after school, parent involvement

Pathways for Youth

625 Castle Hill Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10473
718 828-4518

www.pathwaysforyouth.org

Services: after school, community service, computer center, counseling, English as a Second Language, GED