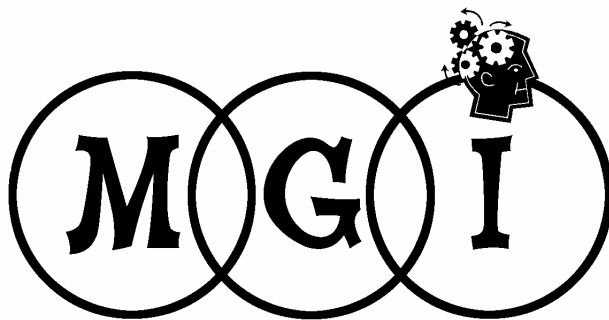




NYC
Department
of Education



Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Monthly News

December 2006

MGI/GEAR UP Program
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Aisha Barnes, Advisor
Guidance Suite
Mondays & Tuesdays

Angelina Diaz, Math Tutor
Ms. Clarke's Class
Tues, Wed, & Thurs

Eleni Katechis, ELA Tutor
Ms. Branch's Class
Mon, Wed, & Fri

Darlene Oliver, ELA Tutor
Mr. Kolessar's Class
Wed, Thurs, & Fri

Lorent Santos, Math Tutor
Ms. Tsirkus's Class
Tues, Wed, & Thurs

MGI/GEAR UP Year off to a Great Start!

The Lehman College MGI/GEAR UP Program is off to a great beginning for the 2006-2007 school year. We are working in three Bronx schools – East Bronx Academy for the Future, IN-Tech Academy, and South Bronx Preparatory – and in addition to working with this year's 7th graders (whom we worked with last year as 6th graders), we will also be working with this year's 6th graders.

The focus of our program is academic support and enrichment. To that

end, you will see our math and ELA tutors in your classrooms this year. (For their names, cooperating teachers, and days in the school, see the box to the left.) They are ready and willing to help students in during classes as well as during elective periods, lunch, and even after school. Please talk to them or to Becky Noack, MGI/GEAR UP Coordinator, about working with our tutors.

We also have advisors who will work with students on the transition to

middle school, setting academic goals, and early college/career planning.

In addition, we will also have a number of special events, such as trips to music and dance performances, theater programs in the classrooms, parent events, and more.

This newsletter will be published monthly to keep you informed of what's going on with MGI/GEAR UP at East Bronx. Please get in touch with us if we can provide more information for you. We look forward to a great year!

6th Grade Jazzes it Up at *Latin Jazz*

On Wednesday, November 8, 6th grade students at East Bronx Academy attended *Latin Jazz: Roots & Rhythm with Bobby Sanabria and Quarteto Ache'*. Called an "electrifying performance of Afro-Cuban, Latin Jazz and Salsa," the performance was held at Hostos Community College here in the Bronx.

Aisha Barnes, MGI/GEAR UP Advisor, accompanied the students on the trip. She writes: "The students really enjoyed this interactive performance

that allowed them to learn the roots of Jazz and how all types of music incorporate the same beats, just in a different manner. The performance took us on a journey from the blues during slavery, to reggae-ton and rap of today. Once we got to the salsa and meringue, the kids, the teachers, and I got the opportunity to show off our moves! The teachers and I actually learned a couple moves from the students.

"After working up a sweat we were eager to eat

lunch on the college campus but unfortunately the nasty weather did not permit that to happen. But as we walked through the campus the kids eyes widened at the beautiful architecture. They are all looking forward to visiting another campus and definitely seeing another performance!"

East Bronx Academy 7th grade students will take a trip this month, and both 6th & 7th grades will see another arts show in the spring.

**ATTENTION
PARENTS:
Save the Date!**

**GEAR UP
Parent
Conference**

**Saturday,
January 27
9:00 am-1:00 pm
Hostos Community
College**

Join other parents of
GEAR UP students
across New York
City for a day of
workshops,
presentations, and
networking.
Planning for college
begins now!

More details to
come.

**College Myths —
Debunked!**

**College Myth #1:
College is too
expensive.**

Don't let this myth keep you from going to college! Most college students receive some form of financial aid from the government, the colleges they applied to or private scholarship programs. Talk to your MGI/GEAR UP Advisor or guidance counselor for more information.

RESOURCES

Dial-a-Teacher Homework Help Line

Have a question about your child's homework? Need a quick answer? Want to encourage your student to take responsibility for finding the answer to his toughest school work questions?

Parents and students alike can call **212.777.3380** to contact a UFT teacher that can answer questions

Monday-Thursday 4:00-7:00 PM. The call center can handle questions on reading, mathematics, writing, and science.

Center staff speak Spanish, Italian, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Greek, Hebrew, Korean, and Russian in addition to English. Teachers can also answer questions about

how to help students study at home.

Try this free service today and see what a difference it makes in your child's school work!

**Dial-a-Teacher
Homework Help Line:
212.777.3380**

Parents: Further Your Own Education at Lehman College

Parents: If you are interested in furthering your own education, take a look at Lehman College! Lehman offers Continuing Education, adult degree programs, and graduate programs. Check them out online or stop by Lehman's campus for more information:

Continuing Education: 718.960.8512

www.lehman.edu/ce/

Adult Degree Program: 718.960.8666

www.lehman.edu/deanadult/adultdegree/

Graduate Programs: 718.960.8000

www.lehman.edu/lehman/programs/graduate.html

NYC Public Library Homework Help Site

The New York City Public Library has created a new website to help NYC students, K-12, with homework questions in all subjects. By logging on, students and parents are connected to live tutors that provide one-on-one assistance. The site also provides access to study guides on dozens of

subjects, web guides and research guidance.

Test drive this exciting new website at

<http://homeworknyc.org>

This is in addition to the Library's other resources, including free classes, workshops, and events, as well as the capability to

download music and audio books directly from the library's website:

Classes: nypl.org/classes/

Events: nypl.org/events/

E-resources:

ebooks.nypl.org/

Or call 212.930.0800 for more information.