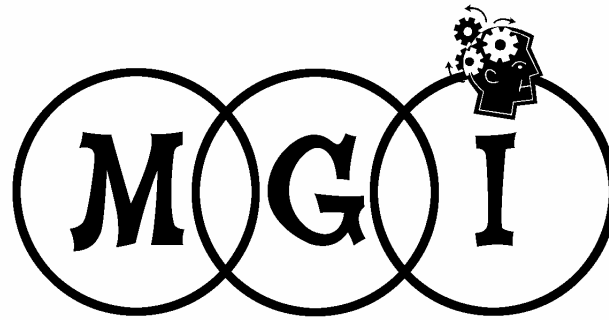




NYC  
Department  
of Education



## Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Monthly News

December 2006

**MGI/GEAR UP Program**  
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**Kelly McCracken, Advisor**  
College Office  
Tues, Wed, & Fri

**Paul Campbell, Math Tutor**  
Ms. Arenas' Class  
Mon, Tues, & Thurs

**Barbara Castillo, ELA Tutor**  
Ms. Cherry's Class  
Mon, Tues, & Thurs

**Deb Schaeffer, ELA Tutor**  
Ms. Knopfel's Class  
Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs

**Juleika Solano, Math Tutor**  
Ms. Lee's Class  
Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri

## 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 all the way to the left of this page.) 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 this year.

We also have advisors who will work with students on the transition to middle school, setting ap-

propriate academic goals, and early college and 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, parents events, and more.

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

## 6th Graders see Impact Rep Theater

On Monday, December 4, 2006, South Bronx Preparatory 6th graders attended the *Impact Reparatory Theater*. This show, "full of high energy song, dance and spoken word with a hip-hop sensibility," featured talented young artists from Harlem tackling issues and situations important to today's urban youth. Students took the subway into Manhattan to see this show in its Lincoln

Center location. Despite the cold, students also enjoyed a walk through Central Park on their way back to school!

South Bronx 6th & 7th graders will attend two arts performances each this school year.

These performances are offered through Community Works NYC and the MGI/GEAR UP Program. Community Works was founded in 1990 with the

mission to forge links between diverse cultures and communities, to improve educational attainment, and to extend the benefits of the arts to all people.

The Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Program at Lehman College is excited to be able to partner with Community Works to offer students the chance to attend these great performances!

**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/](http://www.lehman.edu/ce/)

Adult Degree Program: 718.960.8666

[www.lehman.edu/deanadult/adultdegree/](http://www.lehman.edu/deanadult/adultdegree/)

Graduate Programs: 718.960.8000

[www.lehman.edu/lehman/programs/graduate.html](http://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/](http://nypl.org/classes/)

**Events:** [nypl.org/events/](http://nypl.org/events/)

**E-resources:**

[ebooks.nypl.org/](http://ebooks.nypl.org/)

Or call 212.930.0800 for more information.