

## **GEAR UP Counselor Newsletter**

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### **Highlight on Best Practices.....**

**Jackson County Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Graders** are out of this world. On March 6 & 7, 2007, JCMS had approximately 100 7<sup>th</sup> grade students visit The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky in Hazard, KY. This trip was sponsored by Jackson County GEAR UP. The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky provides positive interactive learning experiences that excite and inspire long-term interest in mathematics, science and technology through space exploration. The center promotes student success and lifelong learning while supporting Kentucky Learning Goals and Academic expectations and the National Standards. The mission our students participated in was **Rendezvous With A Comet**. During this mission, team members (our students) work as scientists and engineers headed to **Rendezvous With A Comet** as part of this continued study of our Solar System. These rendezvous missions are critical in helping scientist verify and better understand data collected by earlier small body missions occurring at the start of the new Millennium, such as STARDUST and its capture of cometary material from comet Wild-3 in 2004 and the return of that material to Earth in 2006. The actual samples provided STARDUST established detailed baseline data on comets still used today. The onboard astronauts (our students), working with their counterparts in Mission Control are tasked with sending a probe to intercept and collect new data on a well-studied short-period comet before heading on for a continued study of asteroid Ceres, the largest known asteroid at 623 miles (1003km) in diameter. Our students also participated in a couple of hands-on activities. They had to design and build a probe and test it to see if it would launch and hit intended target. They also mapped out the surface of an undiscovered planet. JCMS hopes that this experience will spark an interest in our students to pursue a career in Space Exploration. This experience also reinforces KY Core Content and helps prepare our students for CATS Testing.

At **Berea Community Elementary School**, GEAR UP is currently sponsoring four after school clubs. The Art Club, taught by Tina Williams, has learned the techniques of dot and spatter painting like George Seurat and Jackson Pollock used in their masterpieces. They have also explored painting on the ceiling like Michelangelo. Currently, they are working on a calendar with the students imitating masterpiece artists according to their birth month. Brenda Stratman is teaching about 15 students how to play, care for, and tune the dulcimer. They have been learning folk tunes. In the Spanish Club, taught by Jennifer Green, 22 BCES students are learning to speak Spanish. We also are offering a Chess Club. These students are learning the ins and outs of the game and strategies to help them become expert chess players.

Imagine a night where parents and students come to school in their pj's, eat pizza and cookies and talk about books. This is just what happened recently at **Berea Community School**. Over 100 students from preschool to 8<sup>th</sup> grade and over

100 parents attended Family Literacy Night. Attendees were treated to a puppet show by first grade teacher, Laurie Eiselt and Madison County Public librarian, Pat Acevedo. They were even treated to stories read aloud by Dr. George Schloemer, Hasan Davis, President of Berea College, Larry Shinn, Superintendent Gary Conkin and BCES principal Mike Hogg. Families received books to take home courtesy of GEAR UP.



### **Remember.....**

- \*Spring Break Trip for students April 6 and 7 to Chattanooga TN
- \*Mom and Dad Go To College Trip for Berea Middle School, Clark-Moores and Madison Middle School is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> to Kentucky State University
- \*SBS Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup> at Foley Middle School
- \*Sara's Individual School Visits are the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Information for All .....**

- \*Teacher Externship Applications are due back to Kim Gardner by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Who is Gone at the GEAR UP Regional Office:**

- \*Everyone on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>! We will be in Lexington, KY participating in the Year 3 Planning Meeting Workshops. **See you there!**

## **Good Reads:**

### **WHAT GOOD IS THE CORE CURRICULUM IF KIDS CAN'T READ?**

Curriculum is the engine of our public education system. To a large degree it shapes the allocation of financial resources and time, the preparation and assignment of teachers, and the formulation of academic standards and standardized tests. Despite its importance, curriculum doesn't get much attention from parents, politicians, or the media, writes Ronald A. Wolk for Teacher Magazine.

What is the main purpose of the curriculum? The answer is hardly academic: If the main purpose is to designate specifically what every student should know, then the standards movement and core curriculum make sense. If the purpose is mainly to provide an essential component in learning to think and solve problems, then the specific knowledge is of secondary importance, and requiring all kids to learn the same things at the same time makes no sense. Being able to read proficiently is the crucial prerequisite to becoming educated. Schools fail to teach a great many of our children to read well enough to understand what they read. Yet they still require students to attend years of courses that they may lack the interest or skill to master. How reasonable is that?

<http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2007/03/01/05pers.h18.html>

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: BOLSTERING THE AMERICAN DREAM** How can American schools, where more than half the students are children of color, who speak little English, and come from poor families defy the odds and begin to thrive? One example is Stevenson-YMCA Community School in Long Beach, Calif. It's open early and late, evenings and weekends; it provides for all students and their families high-quality teaching, tutoring, before- and after-school programs, counseling, health services, parent engagement and leadership programs, arts and recreation, community and business partnerships, and additional opportunities at or near the school. It's a community school by design -- a hub of productivity for the neighborhood. Not only have all these partnerships and supportive relationships changed the culture of the school, but, according to community members, the school has changed the culture of the entire neighborhood. A drive through the neighborhood at 5 p.m. reveals modest, neatly kept houses and loads of families coming home from work and school to start their evening routines. Visitors feel none of the tension and highly guarded climate so prevalent in high-poverty neighborhoods. People seem to have purpose and feel safe, writes Lisa Villarreal for "Our Children" PTA's national magazine. What Stevenson does is not a new intervention or strategy; it's actually a return to the historical idea of schools as the center of community.

[http://www.pta.org/pr\\_magazine\\_article\\_details\\_1171481435031.html](http://www.pta.org/pr_magazine_article_details_1171481435031.html)

**"GETTING YOUTH INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM"** "The Power of One," the latest campaign by Country Music Television's (CMT) pro-social initiative, CMT One Country, urges CMT viewers to get involved in their community through civic participation and volunteerism. CMT One Country is reaching out to CMT fans to let them know about the opportunity to get involved with National & Global Youth Service Day (April 20-22, 2007) events all over the country. CMT One Country also rewards volunteers for making a difference in their communities by giving them the opportunity to win rewards from CMT. If you want to learn more about CMT One Country and how you can win rewards for the good work you already do, go to:

[http://www.cmt.com/one\\_country/rewards.jhtml](http://www.cmt.com/one_country/rewards.jhtml)

**NEW REPORT DISPELS MYTHS ABOUT DRUG ADDICTION** Despite scientific advances showing that drug addiction is a disease that can affect both a person's brain and his or her behavior, many people still take the outdated view that drug abuse is a moral shortcoming as opposed to a health problem that can be treated. But a new report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse is designed to help people understand the problem of drug addiction more clearly, including why people become addicted and how drug use can actually change the brain, promoting compulsive drug abuse. The report provides solid scientific information to combat myths about addiction, and discusses prevention and treatment approaches. Read the full article at: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/scienceofaddiction/>

### **You Gotta Read:**

#### **TAKE THE TEST: DO YOU KNOW WHAT A FIFTH GRADER KNOWS?**

Can you name the colors of a rainbow, the five Great Lakes, the location of Mount Rushmore? Any fifth-grader would know - but would you? This is the premise of the popular new Fox show, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" If you watch "Fifth Grader," you know the drill: Each week, grown-ups who ought to know a few things square off with fifth-graders, who smile sweetly and answer questions and, frequently, help the adults reveal themselves as less knowledgeable. It's made stars of fifth-graders, and the people who teach them, reports Jan Uebelherr in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "People call me when the show is on and say, 'Did you get that one?'" says Kaela Zielinski, who teaches fifth grade. And, yup, she usually knows the answers. The next day at school, her kids want to know the answers to the questions they didn't know, and they want to know if she got those right. "Some kids think it's great that they know more than some adults," she adds. Are you smarter than a fifth-grader? Take this online quiz and find out.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=576640>

### **The Last Thing: *Be on the LOOK-out!***

These young men were "Caught Being Good" by the Lee County 7th grade team members during their College Bound visit to Berea on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

