



GET READY! gazette

FALL 2006

“Futures Team” Established at Washington Magnet

by Gina Runck and Hannah Chan

How can Get Ready reach more middle school students with early college awareness information? That was our dilemma last spring when we were planning for the future of Get Ready. We met with Dr. Mike McCollor, the dynamic principal from Washington Technology Magnet in St. Paul, expecting to convince him of the value of middle school students preparing for college.

We were pleased to learn that Dr. McCollor was already a strong and informed advocate for college preparation in middle school. He was already thinking of having a “College Day” for the students. After several meetings, we came up with the concept of a “Futures Team.” This team would be the group of “visionaries” who would help students not only visualize their futures but also navigate the steps to get there.

The Futures Team Collaboration

The “Futures Team” is comprised of three different organizations—Get Ready, Project Success and the Dropout Prevention Program—all working toward a common goal at Washington Technology Magnet. The Futures Team offers students one-on-one academic advising sessions every six to eight weeks, after school social studies homework help, college campus field trips and classroom presentations that

focus on goal setting, team building, and college, career and self-awareness.

Project Success offers Washington students classroom presentations and access to several theater experiences throughout the school year. This year, students have been invited to plays at the Penumbra Theater and the new Guthrie Theater. Get Ready works with Project Success to offer dynamic and fun classroom presentations to the seventh grade students in their social studies classes.

The Dropout Prevention Program is a two-year program that works with eighth graders who will be attending Arlington High School next year. Students receive classroom presentations throughout the year as well as access to programming at Arlington High School.

The Futures Team program is off to a strong start by focusing on college awareness, planning for a successful future and striving for academic excellence in the junior high setting. During the first Get Ready/Project Success presentation, students learned more about themselves, their classmates and the Get Ready/Project Success programs in an interactive and entertaining 80-minute session. Students had fun expressing their opinions on topics such as sports, hobbies, careers, education and ice cream! They also completed an activity entitled “9 Lives” which focused on their past,

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Middle School Students Attend Career Seminar

by Susan Long

In October, 50 Get Ready middle school students attended a seminar on careers in the health care field. The day began at the Science Museum of Minnesota where the students viewed the Body Worlds exhibit and explored the general exhibits. Many students participated in a cryogenics demonstration and were fascinated by the other displays and hands-on activities offered at the museum.

Next, the students toured classroom facilities on Metropolitan State

University’s Midway campus. After lunch, they learned about different career paths available in the healthcare field and about the education needed to pursue those jobs. Students ended the day by playing a “millionaire” game about careers in the healthcare industry. Students in the program know that people with college degrees can make a million dollars more in their lifetime than those with only high school diplomas. Students left with a

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To subscribe to the Get Ready! Gazette or to change your mailing address, please write to: Get Ready! Gazette, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55108.

COMMENTS

Please e-mail the editor with any comments or suggestions concerning this newsletter. Your feedback is important.

Engaging Students in Learning

by Kimberlee Adams, teacher,
Northeast Middle School, Minneapolis

Beginning this fall, the Get Ready Outreach Minnesota initiative has been the main focus for our middle school advisory program. Instead of a traditional homeroom, this program engages sixth through eighth grade students in small groups for 20 minutes each day while connecting them to their school environment.

Students enjoy the activities in the Get Ready workbook. Attendance rates have improved and students are also talking more about attending college and looking forward to visiting local colleges. Since we are an International Baccalaureate school, the Get Ready program is helping to raise the

academic expectations for students and is pushing them to succeed in rigorous courses of study.

If we want students to go to college, then they need to believe they are capable of going. The Get Ready program does this by familiarizing students with college concepts and providing a common college vocabulary. The Get Ready program also complements the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program which stresses attending a four-year university after high school.

The teachers at Northeast Middle School love teaching the Get Ready curriculum and hope we participate in the program again next year. **GR!**

The Great College Mystery Redesigned

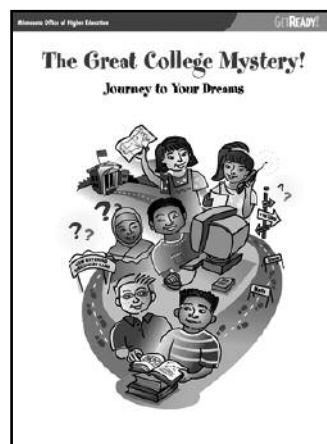
by Kourtney Zvanovec

The Get Ready curriculum consists of a series of three workbooks that are used consecutively with grades four through six in the direct service schools: *What Will I Be?* for fourth graders, *The Great College Mystery* for fifth and *Financing Your Future* for sixth.

Over the last year, many of the Get Ready staff collaborated to rewrite and redesign *The Great College Mystery* workbook in an effort to keep the curriculum current and relevant. The staff shared their ideas

about what objectives the new workbook should cover and, through almost fifteen rounds of edits and revisions, the new and improved workbook took form. The new *Great College Mystery* will be an effective tool in helping our students see that college can be in their future and understand how to make college a reality for themselves. It is never too early for students to begin planning their academic future!

To learn more about the Get Ready curriculum, please contact Kourtney Zvanovec at kourtney.zvanovec@state.mn.us or (651) 642-0567 ext. 3806. **GR!**



The Great College Mystery now covers:

- Why college is important
- How education increases earnings
- Possible careers
- Experiences you'll have at college
- Giving back to your community
- Classes to take in high school
- College vocabulary
- Types of colleges
- Choosing a college
- Applying to college
- Cost of college and how to pay
- Applying for financial aid
- What college is like



Get Ready Welcomes New Staff



Stephanie Lee is an Education Liaison at Lincoln Community School. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in theater from Bethel College. Stephanie taught sixth grade for three years and then earned a master's degree in educational counseling from Concordia University in Wisconsin. Stephanie is excited to be back in the schools working to promote the importance of education. She loves to travel and spend time with friends and family.



Lauren Riccelli is an Education Liaison at Lincoln Community School. Lauren grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in English. She comes to the Get Ready program from Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School on St. Paul's East Side. Lauren enjoys yoga, running and reading.



Gina Runck is an Academic Advisor at Washington Technology Magnet. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in special education at the University of St. Thomas. Gina is passionate about helping youth realize and achieve their goals and potential by helping them overcome the personal, academic and/or social challenges they may face. She is excited to be working with Get Ready students and families.



Zong Vue Vang is an Education Liaison at Cleveland Junior High School. She has a bachelor's degree in 5-12 social studies education and a minor in special education from Concordia University. Zong enjoys spending time with her little new edition Wes Vang, jogging and spending time with family and friends.



Anne Willis is an Education Liaison at Homcroft Elementary. She grew up in Mayer, Minnesota, and received her bachelor's degree in secondary education (social studies) from Concordia University. She substitute taught for a year, moved to Scottsdale, Arizona to work at Sylvan Learning Center, and then returned to Minnesota in 2004. She joined Get Ready to have more direct student interaction and the opportunity to teach students Get Ready's practical, life-altering curriculum.



Michelle Zins is the Education Liaison at Andersen Open. She graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and worked at Sylvan Learning Center in North Mankato as the Center Director for four years. Michelle's favorite part of teaching is when students experience the "light bulb" moment. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, friends and her dogs.

GET READY STAFF IN THE SCHOOLS

David Evaska	Gina Runck
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Jesse Jahnke	Vong Vue Vang
Stephanie Lee	Anne Willis
Susan Long	Maloree Yang
Sheila Nelsen	Michelle Zins
Lauren Riccelli	

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEMINARS

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first aid kit to remind them of all they learned about the healthcare field.

Middle School Seminars Coming In January

This January, Get Ready will offer two additional career seminars for its middle school students. The first will focus on educational opportunities and careers in the music recording and production field. The other seminar will focus on sports careers where students will learn what it takes to be a college and professional athlete as well as what alternative opportunities are available in the sports industry. Be sure to talk with the Get Ready staff in your school for more information. [GR!](#)



Middle School Curriculum Expanded & Redesigned

Check out the new **Future Choices** at www.getreadyforcollege.org by clicking on **Publications**.

The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread

by Jan Langemo, sixth grade teacher, Mahnomen Elementary, Mahnomen

There's a common cliché: "It's the best thing since sliced bread." However trite a cliché can be, sometimes the statement truly fits.

So it is with Get Ready's Outreach Minnesota initiative and the Mahnomen School District. Last fall, a CLIMB Theater presentation energetically set the stage for our fourth through sixth graders to study the Get Ready curriculum. Students enjoyed working through the well-written and engaging higher education and financing curriculum during the winter. In the spring, Get Ready staff visited our elementary classrooms and students visited college campuses.

The students had learned and, more importantly, taken to heart the ways in which their higher education could be paid. Students who had never dreamed of attending school beyond high school graduation now began to make plans for more education. This year, a seventh grade curriculum has been added as well.

The quest for planning one's future needs to begin in the elementary grades. By junior high school, many children have already decided higher education is not possible and dreams disappear. But the Get Ready curriculum gives feet to children's dreams. Thank you Get Ready! [GRI](#)

Student and Parent College Planning Presenter Hired

by Mary Lou Dresbach

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is pleased to announce the addition of Maria Fabiola Toledo to our staff as a Student/Parent Planning Associate. Maria will be working closely with the Get Ready program staff to continuously improve Get Ready services and opportunities for Get Ready students and their families.

A large part of Maria's job includes giving presentations to Minnesota students on topics such as:

- how to prepare yourself now for education after high school,
- which classes students should take to be academically prepared to enter a post-secondary educational institution,
- the various ways to pay for a post-secondary education,
- the financial benefits to pursuing a post-secondary education, and
- the various types of post-secondary institutions and the career options available at these institutions.

Maria will also provide parent workshops for Get Ready families and others to help them identify ways to assist their children on their educational journeys. She is excited about participating in Get Ready school events during the year, and hopes to meet

and get to know many Get Ready students and their families.

Originally from Venezuela, South America, Maria did not speak English or have any friends when she came to Minnesota. It was a difficult adjustment, but over time and through her persistence and resilience, she learned English, made new friends and focused on achieving a college degree because she understood that a post-secondary education was the key to a better life. Maria overcame many

challenges along the way and graduated from Metropolitan State University's Urban Teacher Program with a bachelor's degree in social science.

Prior to joining the Office of Higher Education, Maria mentored English language learners and migrant students through Anoka-Hennepin's ESL summer school program and the migrant program at Andover Elementary in Coon Rapids, provided computer center support and tutoring services at the Library and Learning Center at Metropolitan State University, and served as an interpreter for the Hennepin County Health Department.

We are very pleased that Maria has joined the Office of Higher Education staff. Please introduce yourself when you see her at your Get Ready school in the near future. [GRI](#)



Maria Fabiola Toledo

Outreach Minnesota Forms Available Online!

Schools and organizations participating in the Get Ready Outreach Minnesota initiative can now complete a variety of forms online, including curriculum evaluation, field trip evaluation, professional development requests, post-training evaluation and outreach program evaluation. To access any of these forms, go to www.getreadyforcollege.org/outreachMN.

Get Ready Class Launched at Andersen Open

by Susan Long

This fall, Get Ready launched a new phase in the delivery of the program. All seventh and eighth grade students at Andersen Open in Minneapolis participate in a Get Ready class that meets every other day each quarter. Students have the opportunity to learn about themselves, their college options and how to set college and career goals.

The first quarter has just ended which means the first group of eighth graders have completed their Get Ready class. One highlight of the quarter was the student's completion of the Minnesota Careers' *Career Interest Survey*. Students then researched careers that fit their main interests. Many were intrigued by their results and interested in the possible careers. One student was overheard saying "Wow! If I choose to get more education, then I can be a loan officer instead of a cashier and make \$20 more an hour!" It is exciting to watch the students discover the opportunities available to them and to see them plan how they can achieve their goals.

Another fun activity in the Get Ready class was when the students learned about the different career paths and educational backgrounds of famous TV characters and the actors that portray them. The students learned more about the real life version of careers depicted on television and the education needed to pursue that career. Students also discovered the college majors of many famous people and how the educational decisions they made at a young age has affected their lives. It was very interesting to discover that Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tiger Woods had studied economics and Regis Philbin and Jesse Jackson had both studied sociology. There was a motivating discussion about how people with similar educational backgrounds can have very different career paths.

Overall, the Get Ready class has been an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about the choices they have for their future. **GR!**

FUTURES TEAM continued from page 1

present and future lives. During the second classroom presentation, students learned the importance of support and structure by completing a personal timeline and constructing LEGO towers.

A Get Ready advisor follows up after each presentation with one-on-one meetings where students share their dreams and goals for their futures. Together with the student, a road map to success is developed.

To Learn More

If you have questions regarding the Get Ready program or how the Futures Team is working for our Washington Magnet students, families and staff, please contact Gina Runck at (651) 293-8830 or gina.runck@state.mn.us. **GR!**

New Whiz Kids' Contest Announced!

See page 7 for details.

Student Spotlight: Jamielee Pooley

My name is Jamielee Pooley and I am in sixth grade at Eastern Heights Elementary. I like drawing, hanging out with friends and talking on the phone. My hobbies are skating and soccer. I have been in Get Ready since fourth grade. Get Ready has taught me a lot about college, how to pay for college and what kind of colleges there are. Because of Get Ready, I have money in the bank waiting for me to go to college.

In Get Ready, we get to go on fun field trips. One of the field trips was to Augsburg College. We had a tour around the campus and saw

how a private college looked. We also had the chance to go inside a dorm to see where some of the college students live. The best part was lunch; we had all you can eat buffet. Another field trip was to Metropolitan State University. We took clay classes and made mugs, cups, plates and bowls.



This summer, I went to University YMCA Youth University at the University of Minnesota. It was fun and I had a great time there. For the first half of the day, some of the students took reading class, math class and either detective class or hip hop poetry class while some went with the YMCA staff to explore

the University of Minnesota. I took hip hop class. The best part was when we recorded our hip hop song. In reading class, we read a book called *The Friendship*. We did a project on the book and took everything that we did home. Summer camp was kind of like school but more fun. Get Ready is the best!

When I grow up, I want to be a fashion designer because I love to draw and I have many ideas. I already have two books filled with my designs. I plan to go to the University of Minnesota for college because when I went to camp there it was fun and big. They also taught me a lot about the college. **GR!**

Get Ready Students Thrive at Summer Camp

by Eleanor Purdy

This past summer, nearly 300 Get Ready students participated in 18 different summer camps across the state of Minnesota. At summer camp, students continued their learning through the summer, made new friends, grew as individuals and leaders, and had a ton of fun!

Get Ready students were able to choose a camp from a variety of options to find one that matched best with their interests. Some students tried rock climbing and high ropes courses. Others chose art classes to create a unique camp experience. Many more experimented with computers and all kinds of science at camp. And another group learned all about what it's like to be a college student by spending two weeks on a college campus!

Camps fall into two general categories: day camps and overnight camps. At day camps, students go to camp during the day and return home in the afternoon. At overnight camps, students are away at camp for one week, and spend the night in either cabins or college dorm rooms. It is up to the student and parents to choose the option that they are the most comfortable with.

No matter which camp you choose, summer camp is guaranteed to keep your child active, learning and having fun during the summer months.

All Get Ready students are eligible to attend one Get Ready-sponsored summer camp per summer. Don't miss out on this exciting, free opportunity for next summer! Watch for 2007 summer camp information in your mailbox this spring. **GR!**



"I learned to work together and that learning can be fun," said one camper.

Another camper said, "At camp, I learned that college is important."



Most Popular Camps in 2006

Day Camps

Artward Bound
National Youth Sports Program
University YMCA Youth University
Youniversity

Location

St. Paul, MN
St. Paul, MN
Minneapolis, MN
St. Paul, MN

Overnight Camps

Camp Sunrise
Math-Science-Computer Camp
Wolf Ridge

Location

Rush City, MN
St. Cloud, MN
Finland, MN

Exploring the Possibilities: Kids, Colleges and Careers

by Hannah Chan

In November, students from St. Paul and Minneapolis participated in a day-long college and career-focused event sponsored jointly by Get Ready and the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA).

The November 7 event held at Saint Paul College was attended by 150 St. Paul students while 90 Minneapolis students attended the November 8 event at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Both events opened with Tou Ger Xiong, a Hmong comedian/rapper/motivational speaker who graduated from Humboldt High School in St. Paul and who speaks nationally at various events. Students then toured the college and attended college-

focused interactive breakout sessions. Students ate lunch in the college cafeteria, and then asked questions of a college student panel. Each event ended with an awards ceremony.

Middle school students also were invited to submit an essay or visual arts entry about the impact of college on their futures. First place winners in each category received a \$500 savings bond and \$40 gift certificate; runners up received a \$20 gift certificate.

Participating St. Paul middle schools were Cleveland, Washington, Ramsey, Open, Humboldt, Battle Creek, Capitol Hill, Hazel Park, Highland Park and Monroe. In Minneapolis, Folwell, Lucy Laney, Anwatin, Olson and Northeast participated.

Both teachers and students gave positive feedback. This was the eighth year the event was held in St. Paul and the second in Minneapolis. We look forward to next year's event. **GR!**

St. Paul Winners

Essay: John Nguyen Cao, Hazel Park Middle School

Visual Arts: Victoria Guggisberg, Open School

Minneapolis Winners

Essay: Karuna Kim Sengsoulichanh, Lucy Laney

Visual Arts: Mai See Khang, Northeast Middle School

KIDS' CORNER

Where I Excel...!

Write the letters of your first name on the lines below, one letter per line. Then write a word that begins with each letter that describes a skill or talent you have.

Letter	My Skill or Talent
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Word Play: Palindromes

A "palindrome" is a word, phrase or sentence that reads the same forward or backward. See how many you can come up with on your own.

Three-letter palindrome:

Examples: dad, did, wow

Four-letter palindrome:

Examples: noon, deed, sees

Five-letter palindrome:

Examples: radar, level, rotor

Can you think of a sentence or phrase that reads the same forward and backward?

Brain Teaser Roundup

1. Which fruit has its seeds on the outside?

2. What do you break every time you name it?

3. What is put on a table and cut, but never eaten?

4. Which type of coat can be put on only when wet?

5. Which type of room can never be entered?

6. What can be seen and fills a room but doesn't take up any space?

7. Why can't a man living in the United States be buried in Canada?

True or False?

Read the following statement and carefully think about what it says:

THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE.

Is the statement actually false? Or is it true? Why is this statement so confusing?

WHIZ KIDS' BOARD GAME CONTEST

For the 2006-2007 Whiz Kids' contest, students must create a board game on the topic of preparing for or going to college. The game board must be no larger than 30 inches by 30 inches, and all instructions and game pieces must be included with the game board when submitted. Be creative! Use items from around the house. Get Ready students may submit an entry individually or as a team (up to three members per team).

Prizes will be awarded to first (\$30 gift certificate), second (\$20 gift certificate) and third (\$10 gift certificate) place winners. Winners will be

announced in the spring issue of the Get Ready! Gazette.

All entries should be submitted to the Get Ready staff in your school or sent to:

Attn: Hannah Chan
Get Ready Whiz Kids' Contest
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55108

DEADLINE: February 1, 2007



GET READY!

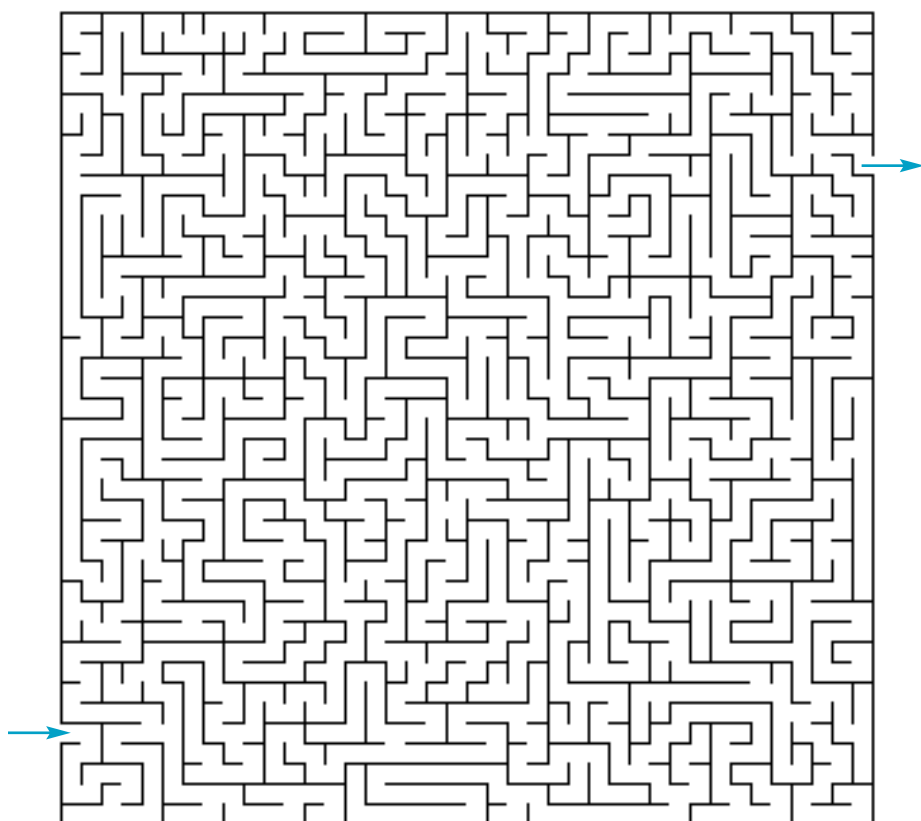
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55108-5227

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AMAZING!

Can you find your way through the maze?



Answers

If the statement is false, then it must be true. But if it is true, then it must be false. In this case, the statement contradicts itself. That means it is neither true nor false.

True or False?

1. A strawberry
2. Silence
3. A deck of cards
4. A coat of paint
5. A mushroom
6. Light
7. Because he isn't dead

Brain Teaser Roundup