



Maine Parent Federation
Empowering families and increasing
parent involvement for 25 years.

GEAR UP

PARENT NEWS

February 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

Upcoming Events

A **FREE** workshop for
Parents of 10th and
11th graders

**"Get 'Em Ready
for Higher
Education"**

will be offered in
March and April.

Watch for more
information in the next
edition of the GEAR
UP Parent News.

Dates to Remember

May 1st: Deadline for
the Free Application for
Federal Student Aid
(FAFSA)

We Asked & You Answered!

Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of the GEAR UP *Parent News* brought to you by Maine Parent Federation. Maine Parent Federation is one of several organizations working with your child's school to increase the number of students who are graduating from high school and going on to further education. As one of the GEAR UP partners, MPF focuses on making sure that parents are involved and informed about their child's education.

This is the first of five monthly newsletters you will be receiving between February and June 2009.

You are receiving this newsletter because your son or daughter participates in GEAR UP at their high school. We are hoping that this newsletter will provide

you with useful information about parent involvement and offer you tips on ways to be involved and stay involved in your child's education.

Many of you recently completed the GEAR UP Parent Survey. Each month we will be writing about one of the survey questions. This month's newsletter includes information about college entrance requirements.

In future issues of the *Parent News* we will continue to provide information about your survey responses and offer ideas and strategies that you can use to help you prepare your teen for higher education.

Check out the *Dates to Remember* and *Upcoming Events* section. You won't want to miss it!



How would you like to help us reach parents and earn \$50?

If you are interested in parent involvement and are the parent of a GEAR UP student, you could qualify! Call Ray Cook at 1-800-870-7746 to find out more!

We asked, "Has anyone from your school or GEAR UP ever spoken with you about college entrance requirements?"

- Over 45% of the parents said **Yes!**
- But, that also means over half of you said no.

What are college entrance requirements?

College entrance requirements, sometimes called admissions requirements, include the following:

- The classes that your child should complete in high school to be accepted at most colleges.
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores are required by many schools as part of their application.
- A list of the admissions requirements for the schools your child will be applying to can be obtained by contacting each school's Admissions Office.

And the Survey Says.....

During the months of December 2008 and January 2009 we asked parents to take a few moments and complete the GEAR UP Parent Survey.

Over 58% of the parents responded. That means that nearly 750 parents completed the survey!

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who took the time to complete the survey and provided us with valuable information.

We enjoyed talking with each of you and hearing about some of the great work your children are doing in high school.

About MPF's GEAR UP Staff

Our GEAR UP staff is ready to help you help your teen move on to higher education. We have great resources for you, offer engaging workshops free of charge, are available to answer your questions by phone, email or in person and would love to hear from you.

Ray Cook, Ann Long and Sherrie Metcalf are the GEAR UP Coordinators for Parent Involvement events and activities with parents of students in GEAR UP high schools.

As the GEAR UP Activities Coordinator, Ray works out

of the Central Office of MPF(Augusta). You can also find Ray at Riverton Housing Project in Portland most Wednesday afternoons.

Ray's schools include:

- Casco Bay High School
- Deering High School
- East Grand High School
- Hodgdon High School
- Lawrence High School
- Portland High School
- So. Aroostook Consolidated School

Ann's schools include:

- Carrabec High School
- Lee Academy

- Madison High School
- Mt. Abram High School
- Old Town High School
- Piscataquis High School

Sherrie's schools include:

- Calais High School
- Jonesport-Beals High School
- Lubec Consolidated School
- Machias High School
- Narraguagus High School
- Shead High School
- Sumner High School
- Woodland High School

How do I contact MPF's GEAR UP Staff?

Ray can be reached at 1-800-870-7746 or rcook@mpf.org

Ann can be reached at 207-779-4886 or along@mpf.org

Sherrie can be reached at 207-853-4424 or smetcalf@mpf.org

