

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- H.C. Schaumburg's Clothing Drive
- PBS decreases behavior referrals!
- Students visit area colleges
- Many students are attending the Explorers' Club Summit
- On-Site Coordinators preparing for the summer PD

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# New Orleans LA GEAR UP

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## Good Things are Going On in New Orleans...

The 2008-2009 LA GEAR UP initiative in New Orleans is underway. Currently, 17 public elementary schools in the Recovery School District in New Orleans are engaged in a collaborative agreement with LA GEAR UP: Agnes L. Bauduit, Albert Wicker Literacy Academy, Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, Charles Drew, Gentilly Terrace, Edward Livingston, H.C. Schaumburg, Murray Henderson, James W. Johnson, John Dibert, Laurel School of Technology, Live Oak Creative Arts, Joseph A. Craig, Julian Leadership Academy, Mary D. Coghil, and Paul B. Habans.

All schools are working hard to fulfill commitments and utilize contract dollars. Site visits have been conducted and LA GEAR UP has a positive presence at all 17 schools.

Thirteen schools submitted Rewards for Success applications. 94% of the schools participated in the Essay and Poetry contests. All schools are establishing an Explorers' Club. The Explorers' Club meets weekly to build leadership skills, enhance study skills, and plan community events. Kudos to H.C. Schaumburg's Explorers' Club for conducting a clothing drive! All clothes collected were donated to local



**Students at H.C. Schaumburg Elementary get excited about the Essay Contest!**

charities.

Way to go Schaumburg!

While Site Coordinators and Principals of New Orleans LA GEAR UP schools are working hard (some are working 'round the clock!) to institutionalize the LA GEAR UP initiatives, dilemmas exist. The payment of monetary awards to the students placing first and second in the Essay Contests and Poetry Contests remains an unresolved issue. Because students did not receive the awards promised to them for their participation in the Essay Contests, participation in the Poetry Contests was lower than expected. LA GEAR

UP Coordinators are attempting to find a solution to this issue before schools convene their end-of-year award ceremonies. We hope to present the monetary awards to students, and to encourage participation in the 2009-2010 contests.

Planning for next year is the top priority for May. LA GEAR UP staff is working closely with principals and on-site school coordinators to examine School Improvement Plans and identify areas of need in order to propose initiatives for 2009-2010. Proposals are due to the LA GEAR UP office by May 31st. LA GEAR UP expects 2009-2010 to be a stellar year in New Orleans' Recovery School District!

# Elementary Schools Make Career Connections

It's never too early to start thinking about a career. Many of the schools in the RSD-NO have emphasized the importance of educating students on career choices and the educational requirements necessary for each career through career day events. Laurel Elementary School of Technology hosted a Career Expo on Friday, April 24th. The students visited with local attorneys, doctors, couriers, consultants, NOPD, NOFD, local newscaster Michael Hill, college representatives, and FAFSA, among oth-

ers. Each professional had a display table; the students circulated, asking questions and learning about life after school. It was a great success.

Other schools that have hosted



career days are Gentilly Terrace Elementary, H.C. Schaumburg Elementary, Mary D. Coghill Elementary, and Paul B. Habans Elementary. Benjamin Banneker Elementary and Murray Henderson Elementary have upcoming career days planned for May.

LA GEAR UP commends these schools for making students aware of careers and encouraging professionalism!

**“College is important because it will help me reach my goals.”**  
 —Andre Martin,  
 Explorers’ Club  
 President, Laurel  
 Elementary

## Schools Support Positive Behavior!

Positive behavior is a key component to student success, and it allows a school to reward correct behavior while discouraging unacceptable behaviors. All LA GEAR UP schools in the RSD-NO have implemented a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) plan, and they are beginning to utilize LA GEAR UP funds to enhance their PBS plans.

According to the LA GEAR UP on-site school coordinators and principals, it's working! Referrals

have decreased at several of the 17 schools.

Laurel Elementary, hosts a weekly event each Friday for its students who have met the PBS requirements. The past weekly rewards have included sock-hops, snowballs, touch football games, extra recess time, and visits to the PBS store where students can purchase small items with the Eagle bucks that they have earned throughout the week. In addition, two schools, Johnson

and Wicker, are rewarding their students' positive behavior by taking them to Washington D.C. Although the trips are independent of one another, each school will have the opportunity to learn of our nation's political history, to meet senators and members of the House of Representatives, and to visit the local universities, Howard and Georgetown. Laurel is taking GEAR UP students to Atlanta. We can't wait to hear about these exciting academic adventures!



## The Explorers’ Club Annual Summit

Each LA GEAR UP school is to initiate and sustain an Explorers’ Club. Students who are interested in making a difference in their school, community, and self are encouraged to join the Explorers’ Club. The Explorers’ Club officers, their sponsors, and several parents travel to Louisiana Tech University in Ruston each spring to showcase the good work done throughout

the year and to learn best practices from other Explorers’ Clubs. This year the Explorers’ Summit is Thursday April 30th through Saturday, May 2nd. The following N.O. schools will be in attendance: Carver Elementary, James Johnson Elementary, Laurel Elementary School of Technology, Paul B. Habans Elementary, Live Oak Creative Arts, and H.C. Schaumburg Elemen-

tary. We commend the on-site coordinators for taking their Explorers’ Club to this wonderful learning experience!



# Knowledge of College

The mission of LA GEAR UP is to increase the number of Louisiana students who graduate from high school and who enroll and succeed in postsecondary education.

Many of the RSD-NO LA GEAR UP schools are helping achieve this mission through College Knowledge Days. College Knowledge Days allow students to become aware of college entrance requirements and costs. Either



the school hosts the event, inviting Louisiana colleges and universities to come and speak to the students, or the students travel to a college campus for an Admissions presentation and a walking tour. The following schools have either hosted a College Knowledge Day or have taken fieldtrips to institutions of higher education in Louisiana: Carver Elementary, Benjamin Baneker Elementary, Albert Wicker Literacy Academy, James Johnson Elementary, and H.C. Schaumburg Elementary.



Students from Carver Elementary had a blast visiting Dillard University.

## Getting Parents Involved Helps Students

Parental Involvement is a key factor of student success. LA GEAR UP funds can be utilized to pay for activities that lure parents to the school campuses. Many schools are offering activities at night in order to accommodate working parents. H.C. Schaumburg hosted a LEAP/iLEAP night to inform parents about the importance of preparing their children for this significant test. Laurel Elementary invited all

parents to attend their Career Expo on April 24th. On May 14th Laurel will host a Health Fair; all parents are invited. LA GEAR UP staff is working closely with on-site coordinators to plan events that incorporate parent participation in order to get parents involved with the education of their children.

## Summer Camps for LA GEAR UP Students



Each summer Louisiana Tech University organizes Summer Learning Camps for LA GEAR UP 6th and 7th graders. For one week students have the opportunity to

experience life on a college campus, including going to classes, taking tests (Explore), and staying in a dorm! There are several camps offered at different times and different universities around the State. Each camp has a specific theme, so students can choose a camp location based on his/her interests. The camps are provided at no cost to the students; travel, lodging, and meals are all funded by LA GEAR UP. In order to take

advantage of this fun learning opportunity, students must submit an application. Campers are chosen through a peer review process conducted by out-of-state consultants. Students from all RSD-NO schools are encouraged to apply for this opportunity to "go to college!"

The deadline for applying for the LA GEAR UP 2009 Summer Learning Camps is May 22, 2009.

**LaSIP/LA GEAR UP**  
**Louisiana Board of Regents**

Tara.West@la.gov (225) 219-0690 ext 204  
Marcia.Carter@la.gov (225) 219-0690 ext 202  
Savitri.Scott@la.gov (225) 219-0690 ext 205  
Facsimile (225) 219-0688

P.O. Box 3677  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70821-3677



## LA GEAR UP Professional Development Week

Every summer LA GEAR UP provides professional development for those persons responsible for implementing the LA GEAR UP initiatives at their schools.

The week-long event, hosted by Louisiana Tech University, provides an opportunity to understand the full extent of what LA GEAR UP can do for a school and offers a venue for sharing LA GEAR UP best practices around the State.

LA GEAR UP on-site school coordinators and guidance counselors are encouraged to attend. Travel, meals, and lodging are all paid for, courtesy of LA GEAR UP. To accommodate all LA GEAR UP participants from around the State, the professional development will convene June 22-26 in New Orleans and again July 6-10 in Ruston.

The final date to register for this professional development is May 22.

