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Upward Bound Parent Newsletter

UPWARD BOUND AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY - PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL 2006

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meeting Minutes from October 7th Parent Council
- Upcoming Events
- Parent Reminders

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First Parent Council Meeting Kick Off

The first Upward Bound Parent Council Meeting took place on Saturday, October 7, 2006. The meeting was facilitated by Ms. Roxanne Gregg, while the meeting minutes were compiled by parents Fonda Brown and Zwa Zwa. The following are topics that were addressed by Ms. Gregg at the meeting:

YELLOW SERVICE SHEETS

Ms. Gregg introduced the new yellow service sheets. The program understands that there are times that a student cannot attend a scheduled Upward Bound activity, but will take the opportunity to get help elsewhere. The yellow sheets are used to track student's activities in order to receive merit points for their initiative which are going to be used to track student's activities in order to receive merit points for their accomplishments. Merit points can be accumulated by attending various sessions, such as: ATS, tutoring, College Prep 101, college visits, etc. These sheets need to be signed by the individual who admin-

istered the service.

COLLEGE PREP 101

These sessions are highly recommended for both senior students and parents; as they are designed to assist both parent and student with the applicant's college admission and financial aid process. Please see Upcoming Events for the next College Prep 101 session. Periodic reminders are also mailed out.

ATS

Academic Theme Saturdays (ATS) will assist students with their critical thinking skills, math, writing, and vocabulary. Students will be split into groups according to their age bracket. Along with Mrs. Nicole Dettter-Smith who will be returning, we also have three new instructors joining our ATS team!

TUTORING

Students are strongly encouraged to attend tutoring sessions. These sessions are very beneficial in assisting f

the student to reach their highest academic potential. Tutoring sessions are used to help students further understand the materials covered in their high school classes, develop strong study skills, as well as to assist with projects. Prime Time is our newest location where students can receive tutoring services. Student who attend South Side High School or other area high schools are welcomed to attend tutoring sessions here.

GRADE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A Grade Improvement Plan is required of all students who are receiving a 'C' at midterm. Students will need to take this form to their teacher and ask for suggestions on ways to improve their academic performance. Students with a 'C' or lower average are required to complete this form, but any student receiving a lower grade then desired may also use this form.

Fundraising: Let's Support Our Students

Fundraising was another topic that was discussed during the first Upward Bound Parent Council meeting. Parent Fonda Brown, believes it would be a great opportunity to help our senior students purchase the necessary supplies and books needed for college. Having a fundraiser every three months would allow us to raise enough funds to support this cause.

Some suggestions for fundraising ideas include: Nelson's Chicken campaign, Youth Oriented Talent Show, and a Christmas Bizarre featuring possible vendors such as: Mary Kay, Gold Canyon Candles, Avon, and arts and crafts. These fundraising events would provide a great opportunity for parents to get involved with their student's success while in the Upward Bound program. If you

have any suggestions or ideas for fundraising events please feel free to contact Fonda Brown at (260) 745-5055 or bring your ideas to the next Parent Council Meeting to be held Saturday, November 4, 2006 at 12pm at IPFW's Kettler Hall, room G49.

Merit Trips 4-11

There are two planned merit trips for the 2006/2007 academic year. The first trip is a merit trip for all those students who achieve the required number of merit points. Students will be going on a two night, three day trip to St. Louis, Missouri from Monday, April 2nd to Wednesday, April 4th, 2007. During this trip, students will have the opportunity to explore the University of St. Louis along with other colleges and cultural events. There will be no fee required for this trip. The second merit trip is a Senior Merit Trip. This trip is for all graduating seniors who have

met the required number of merit points. The actual dates of this senior event will be determined by the senior students. This year's Senior Merit Trip is to Indianapolis, Indiana. The trip itinerary will include: dinner and a play, museum visit, college visit, and shopping excursion to the mall. Senior students will be required to pay a \$25.00 fee to help with the overall cost of this trip. In order for students to acquire enough merit points to attend merit trips, they need to be actively involved in the Upward Bound Program. This includes: attending Academic Theme Saturdays (ATS), Academic Year Orientation, college visits, community involvement projects,

cultural visits, and tutoring sessions. In addition, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA standard as outlined in the Academic Year Handbook and complete ICEPS through academic advising. More information pertaining to these trips will be provided to students at a later date.

*“Do ALL you can
with WHAT you
have in the TIME
you have in the
PLACE you are.”
- Nkosi Johnson*

BLUE Star Leadership Program

BLUE Star (**B**uilding **L**eadership and **U**nity through **E**xcellence) is a new leadership Initiative that has been developed by the Upward Bound staff. The BLUE Star program is a program that will enable qualified students the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills and share with other students, staff, and parents of the Upward Bound program. Duties of the BLUE Stars include:

- Being a positive role model to your peers
- Being eager to support all UB programs and events
- Being willing to speak at your local high schools about the Upward Bound program
- Proudly representing Upward Bound at various events covered by media
- Attending leadership development sessions
- Planning & presenting a UB Leadership Workshop

The BLUE Star application process required that students complete three questions, as well as a one-page essay response to one of the four quotes provided on the application. The application deadline was October 7, 2006. Students accepted into the BLUE Star will be required to attend four training sessions. Leaders were announced Saturday October 21. Those students included, Terrell Alexander, Jarvis Garrett, Jamaar Glenn, Ma Ma, and Adrienne Wright. Congratulations to our BLUE Stars!

Holiday Party Planning

The annual Upward Bound Holiday Party will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 12pm. There will be no ATS on this day. During the Parent Council Meeting, parents discussed possible decorating ideas/themes, a food menu (which consisted of meat, salad, dessert, and bev-

verages), games, costume contest (prizes will be awarded for best costume), and a possible gift exchange among the students. Further discussion and planning of the party will be addressed during the next Parent Council Meeting. As always, we welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have

that could assist us in throwing a wonderful holiday party for our students. Feel free to contact Fonda Brown at (260) 745-5055, or attend the next Parent Council Meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2006 to help plan this event.

Dates to Remember

October 21 - ATS
 October 25 - College Prep 101
 October 31 - Halloween
 November 1 - Senior SAT Workshop
 November 4 - ATS /
 Parent Council Meeting / "big" the musical at
 Performing Arts Center
 November 10 - Veteran's Day / College Visit
 to Indiana State
 November 16 - "Exonerated" at IPFW

November 18 - ATS
 November 20-24 - NO TUTORING
 November 23 - Thanksgiving
 November 29 - College Prep 101
 December 2 - ATS / "It's A Wonderful Life" at
 FPT
 December 16 - Holiday Party and Parent
 Council Meeting
 December 22 - Tutoring Ends
 December 23 - Beginning of Winter Break

December 24 - Christmas Eve
 December 25 - Christmas
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
October
 Shubitha (13th), Alicia (19th), Benecia (24th)
November
 Soshia (8th), Latricia (11th), Louis (15th), Vinh (21st), Terrell (29th)
December
 Brittany (3rd), Kassandra (10th), Melissa (27th), Andrea (30th)

*** LAP TOP COMPUTER SIGN OUT**

Lap top computers are now available for students to sign out for educational purposes only. Please see Shubitha Keever if you are interested in signing out a laptop. Thank you!

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Focus of the Month: The Academic Record

All parents should understand the terms for their student's Grade Point Average and Class Rank

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A student's grade point average, or GPA, is an indicator of how well that student is performing in school. A student's GPA is simply the average of the student's semester (or end of term) grades, starting with the freshmen year. Because colleges use GPAs to help them decide whether or not to accept a student, having a high GPA can be particularly important for college bound students.

Although there are variations, most high schools use a 4.0 scale in which an A=4, B=3, C=2, and D=1. Students with all A's have a 4.0 grade point average. Students who have B's in half their courses and C's in the other half have a 2.5 GPA.

Many schools have "weighted grades" for honors and/or AP (advanced placement) courses. If a school uses weighted grades, then a grade in a weighted course is worth more than it is in a non-weighted course. For example, an A in an honors course might be worth 5 points instead of the usual 4 points. *While a variety of methods are used to determine grade point averages, the higher the grades, the higher the GPA.*

In order to understand how your school figures GPAs, you need to know if your school uses quarter, semester, or end-of-year grades. If your school has weighted grades, you also need information on how these grades are used.

Class Rank

Many high schools use class rank to show where a student stands in relation to the other members of his/her graduating class. The student with the highest GPA is number one, the student with the second highest GPA is number two, etc.

Class rank is generally written as two numbers. The first number represents the student's place in the class, and the second number represents the total number of students in the class (e.g., 35/295).

Because GPAs are used to determine class rank, a student must have a high GPA in order to have an impressive class rank. Like GPA, class rank is one of the factors that colleges use in the college admission process.

(O'Brien, L. High School Parent Guidebook. (2006) Woodburn Press.)

