



What's Up with **GEAR UP**

Oakville Middle and High School

July through Oct Edition 2007

SENIORS AND JUNIORS ATTEND COLLEGE FAIR AT CENTRALIA COLLEGE



Larry Crowley
Educational Specialist
College Coach



David checking on admission requirements for St. Martins University



Manista and Brittany asking about designing their own degree at the Evergreen State College



Patrick is inquiring about types of majors at Centralia College

Nineteen Seniors and Juniors had their questions answered about college admission and financial aid at the Centralia College Fair on Oct 16th. “Can you apply on line?” “What sports programs do you have?” “Do you need a college admission essay when applying to your college?” “Can I design my own program of study? These are just some of the questions asked as students are gearing up to go to college.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE ADMISSION ENROLLMENT MEETS WITH SENIORS AND JUNIORS IN MS. CARLSON’S CLASSROOM



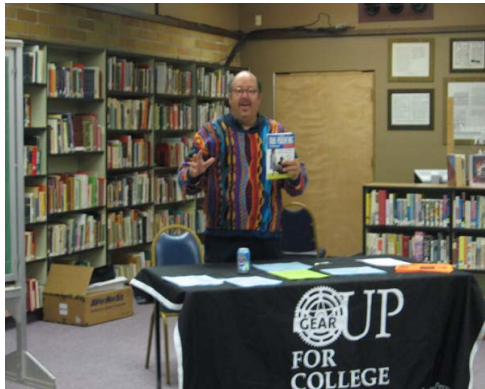
Ms. Primly talks to seniors and juniors about the admission process at WASU and the programs they have to help students be successful at the university. Writing a college essay, taking the ACT or SAT, and applying for financial aid and scholarships were also covered.



WHAT ARE YOUR TRUE COLORS?



GEAR UP Educational Specialist, Mr. Crowley, talks to parents about True Colors as a tool for parents to use to strengthen their relationship with their children. Parents who attended the workshop received a true colors parenting book, free compliments from Gear Up.



True Colors is a simple and fun tool to allow you to communicate more easily with anyone you encounter. Parents were able to identify their brightest to least brightest colors in order to give them insight on how to develop a deeper relationship and understanding with their children.

Penny Reinitz, (GEAR UP Family Support Specialist and 21st Century after school coordinator) shared with parents the benefits of becoming a parent resource group member and her true colors.

The parent resource group involves parents who want to support parents and students planning early for college. They also work with school staff to promote a college going culture.

Blue parents (below) compete against a green and gold group of parents to see who can make the tallest tower out of paper



FOSTERING THE SPIRIT OF MULTI-CULTURALISM

Thirty-two Oakville school staff members participated in a government-to-government training coordinated by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs for the purpose of fostering a spirit of cooperation between governments. One of GEAR UP's objectives is to support positive relationships between the Chehalis Tribe and Oakville Schools. School staff learned about tribal historical perspectives, tribal sovereignty and tribal government relationship with Washington State's twenty-nine tribes. Staff had the opportunity to have a much better understanding of Tribes, their people and unique culture, and an enhanced awareness of the importance of multi-culturalism.



Oakville staff listen intently as Gordon James shares his culture and traditions. Mr. James provides the state wide training to school staff and state government employees.



Pam and James Gordon share their tribal customs' similarities and differences with staff. Pam is from the Colville Tribe and James is from the Skokomish Tribe. Both are married and have children.

Below is feedback from staff participants:

“I found it all interesting”

“Wonderful presentation, the best I've ever heard on Native issues”

“I learned how to alter my communication style to more effectively honor native communication styles”

“Great presenters! Very entertaining”

GEAR UP wants to thank Rebecca George, (Communications Research Analyst) from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs for making the training possible for the staff at Oakville schools. Her patience, collaborative skills, and professionalism were greatly appreciated.

SUMMER SCHOOL CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS



Elaine McCloud, (Cultural Art Teacher on the far left) along with Mr. Crowley taught students how to make hand drums, button blankets, cedar baskets, dream catchers, beading, medicine bags, and necklaces. Below in the middle of the page, Kyle gives his drum to Mrs. Reinitz.



Dr. Kimberly Lees is the new director for GEAR UP at the Evergreen State College. When asked, what made her decide to come out west, she informed us: "I had an interest in coming back to the northwest from Colorado because I loved Washington State and had actually begun my undergraduate degree in Spokane, Washington. I therefore decided it was time for me to come home. I felt that The Evergreen State College was the right "fit" for me due to their core ethics, how people treated one another, and their highly valued student-centered philosophy, which are all very important to me."

Dr. Lees says her mission and vision for the GEAR UP Program are, "... to build stronger community partnerships, work towards obtaining another six year GEAR UP grant, and to strengthen collaborative relationships among school and community partners. My vision is to create an empowering sustainable program that will leave foot prints for others to follow."

