

THE PATHWAYS POST

Volume 2, Issue 1

November 2, 2009

pathWAYS
TO **college**

Pathways kicks off another year!

Upcoming events:

**November 14, 2009 &
December 12, 2009:**

All 6-8th grade students and 6th grade parents at Wisconsin Lutheran College, 9am - 1pm. Lunch is provided.

Reminders:

Please notify us if your contact information has changed within the past year!

kelly.ramirez@wlc.edu

414-443-8543

October reigned in a new year with a fresh round of 6th grade students at Pathways to College. On the October 10 kickoff, new and returning students and families convened at Wisconsin Lutheran College to participate in character-building workshops and orientations.

As in previous years, Pathways was blessed to continue its partnership with the Milwaukee Urban League and Know Thyself. Milwaukee Urban League focuses on a curriculum of life skills including time and money management as well as goal setting and coping with peer pressure. Know Thyself teaches the students manners and etiquette while helping them

maintain a positive self image. A new collaborating partner for the Saturday workshops is Still Waters Collective. Dasha Kelly, the director of Still Waters, is facilitating creative writing workshops with the 8th grade class.

The parents of 6th grade students worked with Debra Crawford, a Christian Life Coach, for part of the

morning. They also heard a message from Dr. John Kolander, Provost of Wisconsin Lutheran College, and they took a walking tour of WLC hosted by members of the WLC Ambassador Club!

The beginning of a new year brings a variety of emotions among new and returning Pathways students and staff. Milton Cockroft, Director of Pathways, states, "Our 7th and 8th graders are excited to see what new opportunities lie ahead. The 6th graders, being the new kids on the block, are anxiously awaiting to see what Pathways brings to the table, and our tremendous staff is thrilled to be bringing our 138 students and their parents to the Wisconsin Lutheran College campus this year."



Mr. Milton Cockroft, Director of Pathways to College, welcomes the returning 8th grade students.

Pathways Prospects

Pathways to College kicked off a new year with the addition of another component: Pathways Prospects. This program works with students from kindergarten through 5th grade. October 26 marked the official beginning with an orientation for over thirty families!

Coordinated by Mrs. Azure'De Williams, Pathways Prospects aims to initiate the dialogue about college between young children

and their parents. "By bringing families to campus, we plant seeds



New students at orientation

for children at an early age that college is part of their reality...and by having parents closely involved...they can proudly take responsibility for cultivating those seeds," she states.

Like the precollege component, Pathways Prospects provides activities to develop a child's academic and social preparedness for college as well as activities to foster family and spiritual growth. Pathways

than the precollege piece which students join as 6th graders.

Pathways Prospects entails the following:

***Four Workshops** – Students and families will convene at WLC for group activities, speakers and workshops on four Saturday mornings throughout the year.

continued on back

Special Feature: Choosing a High School

Parents: Have you started thinking about which high school your child would like to attend?

Students: Do you know what characteristics to look for in a potential high school?

Choosing the correct high school is an important decision, and it is necessary that families understand the options that are available before they decide.

This past September, representatives from

GreatSchools spoke with the parents of Pathways students to help them begin the search. GreatSchools is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve education by encouraging parental involvement. The presenters shared ideas with the parents regarding how to decide on specific criteria, staying organized while visiting various schools and maintaining an open dialogue with their child.

Selecting the right school is

essential for a child's success. Eighth graders and their parents must assess their academic needs along with a school's special programs and services, the student-to-teacher ratio and location as well as performance scores and tuition.

High schools can vary widely in their teaching style and curriculum. Some high schools offer alternative programs, such as a career-oriented emphasis or a performing arts focus.

One important thought to keep in mind is to visit all prospective schools before a decision is made. It is important that both parent and child feel that the school provides the best environment for the student.

Most schools have specific enrollment periods and requirements, so it is important to think ahead and be prepared. For more information about choosing a high school for your child, visit: www.greatschools.net

Study Skill of the Month: Creating the ideal study environment

A new school year always presents the challenge of getting back into the “swing of things” and adjusting to a more demanding grade level. This time of year is critical for creating effective study habits that will bring success the rest of the year.

Creating an ideal environment to do homework and study is one of the most important study habits to develop. Although the ideal study environment is different for each person, here are some general tips for creating an ideal study space:

• **Eliminate as many distractions as possible.** Distractions interrupt concentration and cause frustration.

- **Turn off the TV, iPod, cell phone and radio.** Studies show that a quiet place is best for concentration.
- **Find a calm space.** Parents, siblings and pets passing by an area can distract a student.
- **Remove clutter.** Whether it's a desk, table, or the floor, organize extra items to create necessary space for writing or laying out notebooks and books.

- **Find the right seat.** Sit in a chair that is not too hard to cause discomfort, yet not too comfortable to cause sleepiness.
- **Be consistent in the time and place.** Blocking off a set time and a set area everyday just for homework and studying will help develop a routine.

By trying to implement as many of these ideas as possible, students will be set up for academic success at home and lots of A+ homework!

Parents and families play a huge role in creating a good study environment. Help keep distractions to a low by *turning off the television or taking a phone call in a different room* if your student is trying to study in silence.



Pathways Prospects cont.

***Campus Pen Pals** – WLC students are matched with Pathways

Pathways Prospects is beginning the first phase of implementation with 5th grade students. Each year, Azure'De will add another grade to the program. There is no cost to enroll your child in Pathways Prospects! If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Azure'De Williams at (414)443-8784.



Pathways Prospects parents & students

Prospects students as mentors, writing monthly letters and having the opportunity for shadowing.

***College Day** – Pathways Prospects students participate in workshops and in labs for one day during the Pathways to College Summer Program.

Pathways Welcomes AmeriCorps Volunteers

For the first time, Pathways has received two AmeriCorps volunteers to work in the program for one year. Adam and Mindy, both recent graduates of UW-Madison, will be deeply involved in many aspects of the program, particularly the College Prep Center.

What is AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps is a government-funded network of organizations that offers service programs to address critical needs of communities across the country. 75,000 positions are available each year in a variety of areas such as education, housing, health care, the environment and much more!

Positions are full or part time and last between 10 and 12 months. In exchange for their service, members can receive various financial compensation, including money to help pay for college.

To participate, one must be at least 17 years of age, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and have an interest to serve the community.

Pathways is excited to have these two talented, kind individuals helping out this year!

Value of the Month: Self-Control

Every month, the Pathways staff will be focusing on a specific value to help instill in our students. We encourage you and your child to work on developing the skill at home as well. The value for November is self-control.

we restrain ourselves from these temptations through self-control, we develop willpower and learn patience. How can we develop self-control?

One of the best ways to prevent giving in is to avoid the situations, places or people that cause the temptation, including certain friends. This may be tough at first, but this positive trait will give you strength to overcome negative situations later on in your life.

Think for yourself. No one else is qualified.

Frank Vizarre

We're on the Web!
www.pathwaystocollege.info

Questions about Pathways? Contact our staff:

Milton Cockroft, Director 414-443-8729
Kelly Ramirez, Assistant Director 414-443-8543
Azure'De Williams, Coordinator K-5th grade 414-443-8784

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief/Admin. Staff: Kelly Ramirez
Head Layout Editor/Writer: Mindy Kreuser