

THE PATHWAYS POST

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pathWAYS
TO college

Pathways Students Begin College Research

By: Adam De Ruyter

One of the primary goals of Pathways to College is to prepare the students in the program to pursue a post-high school education. However, as 7th and 8th graders, most students do not know much about college. A new session at the College Prep Center, called College/Career Skills, is now approaching that issue head on.

During the first week of this new curriculum, each student in 7th and

8th grade was asked to choose a career they wish to pursue later in life. Next, they chose one or two colleges that can provide them with the education necessary to achieve that occupation.

Once they pinpointed these areas, they began to research what tools and knowledge they will need to make their college and career goals a reality.

Each week, AmeriCorps member Adam De Ruyter, provides them with a new focus. These topics range from high school class choice, to addressing financial aid options and even facts about the ACT versus the SAT. Once the students finish discussing their lesson, they begin their weekly personal research.

Based on their choice of college or career, they will look online to see how each of these topics relates to their college selections. For example, if a student wants to attend

Harvard, they will have to look up what score on the ACT/SAT is necessary for admittance.

Our goal with these lessons is to not only prepare the students for college, but to have them see what it really takes to be admitted and be successful at college. Most of the students are going to be the first members of their families to enter college. It is our job to ensure that we have prepared them well so that they can accomplish their dreams!

Pathways now has an emergency number you can call that will provide information on CPC and Saturday event cancellations! Just call **414-443-8837.**



Pathways Schools Involved in Haiti Earthquake Relief

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on January 12, 2010, has caused extreme devastation and an estimated 170,000 deaths as of early February. In a country that was already impoverished and ill-equipped to handle disaster, the citizens themselves were forced to help the wounded and affected.

Millions of dollars in aid and supplies have been pouring into the country to help. Nearly all of the **Pathways schools** have also been participating in raising donations. **Hope Christian** recently ended a "penny drive," where the K4-4 grades

and 5-8 grades compete against each other to see who can bring in the most pennies. According to Ah'nia Henderson, a 6th grader at Hope Christian, the students raised at least \$1,500 at the end of the competition to be donated to the Red Cross.



Savannah Brown and Letitia Russell

St. Marcus Lutheran School has also been busy raising money for Haiti. Letitia Russell, a 6th grader at St. Marcus, writes:

"We have been helping and supporting Haiti before and after the earthquakes. We had a bake sale and raised a lot of money. Prior to that, we have sent all our offerings in chapel to Haiti and still are. Sixth grade put together a bake sale. St. Marcus was going to send a caring group down there. Now we will wait until it gets better to go down."

We are proud of your efforts!

Study Skill of the Month: Vocabulary

Students: Have you ever felt confused when reading something that is packed with “big” words that you do not understand? Do you get discouraged when you read words like: *imperative*, *camaraderie* or *ubiquitous*?

A limited knowledge of vocabulary can cause frustration and lack of motivation to read. This issue is not exclusive to children; it can happen with adults as well.

This month, Pathways wants to encourage both students and families to



learn new vocabulary and understand the importance of having a wide vocabulary range.

A person’s vocabulary range directly impacts his or her academic success. Knowledge of vocabulary is essential for the *understanding* of reading materials and conversations with people. Complex words appear in textbooks, novels, newspapers and magazines alike. Reading in school will present more and more difficult words, and teachers will expect students to know the words or at least look them up when they don’t.

Having a wide vocabulary base helps a person to express oneself more clearly and accurately to others. There are dozens of synonyms for common adjectives such as “good” or “bad” that can describe the idea in a more accurate and interesting way. The clearer the ideas come across, the more intelligent the person seems.



Both the ACT and SAT, standardized tests have sections that test a student’s knowledge of vocabulary and reasoning. Students must take one of these tests in high school in order to achieve college admittance, and colleges look very closely at how students score.

How can you grow your vocabulary base? Well, *the more you READ, the more words you will discover.* It is easier to learn new words when reading the words in their context instead of just

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Value of the Month: Taking Initiative

What is the community like that you live in? Are you content with the schools, the crime rate, the recreation areas and the neighborliness?

Most likely, there are several aspects of the community that you wish could be better. Perhaps you’d like to see cleaner streets. Maybe you would like more police patrols and less crime.

The negative aspects of our communities are likely to remain as long as we are *apathetic* about changing them. *Apathy*, or lack of interest and concern, is something that

holds families and communities back from discovering their full and incredible potential.

It is easy to become apathetic toward a situation if it seems too big or extremely challenging to overcome. However, turning one’s head from the problem simply allows the issue to grow bigger.

We encourage you, students and families, to take initiative to become engaged rather than being apathetic. You can make positive changes in your communities and lives.

Progress and improvement only come from someone having *initiative*, or the will to energetically complete a task. *Apathy*, on the other hand, only results in inaction and the problem remains.

Only until someone takes responsibility and action to fight the problem will change be made.

“Apathy is the glove into which evil slips its hand.”

Will that person be you?

Students: Take initiative to get into college by improving your grades and behavior at school NOW. It takes years of dedication and hard work to get into college; apathy has NO part!

Parents: Take initiative to become more involved in your child’s education by reaching out to his/her teacher more frequently via phone calls or e-mails. In your personal life, think of something you want to improve and take the first step toward making it happen!

“Responsibility finds a way. Irresponsibility”

trying to memorize their meanings from a vocabulary list.

When you come across a new word, take note of it. Underline the word and record it in a vocabulary log or notebook. That way your list can grow and you can look back at the list to refresh your mind. Find the definition of the word in a reliable dictionary and record it along with the word in your notebook.

Another great way to keep track of new words is to create flashcards. Write the word on one side of a 3x5 index card and its definition on the back. Every few weeks, go through your words and see if you can remember what they mean without having to look at the definitions. You can also make free flashcards online at www.proprofs.com.

Sign up for a word of the day at www.dictionary.com. Having a new word and definition e-mailed to you daily will guarantee that you acquire an eclectic vocabulary!

Pathways Students Speak on Radio Show

On Saturday, February 6, 2010, three Pathways students had the unique opportunity to go on air and talk about Pathways to College to Milwaukee listeners. Those three students were Caleb Clayton 8th grade (pictured left);



Diana Essoka 7th grade (pictured right), and Onesimo Murillo (pictured lower right), 6th grade.



The opportunity was brought about by Keith Paris, an instructor at the Pathways College Prep Center. His connection to the radio station not only allowed him the opportunity to invite the Pathways speakers, but he was able to host the show that they spoke on!

The discussion ranged from the goals and development of Pathways to the students' experiences and motivation for being in Pathways. Each of the students had plenty of enthusiastic comments to contribute.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share the incredible things that happen in Pathways with the Milwaukee community!



The show aired on WGLB 1560 AM. WGLB broadcasts traditional and contemporary Gospel music with news, weather, sports and community calendar updates. Milton Cockroft, Director of Pathways, and Kelly Ramirez, Assistant Director of Pathways, were also on the show that afternoon speaking about Pathways.

Black History Month & Famous Faces Challenge

February is Black History month. It is a month designated to celebrate the heritage and role of black people throughout history.

The idea of celebrating black heritage originally began with Carter Woodson, the second black person to obtain a degree from Harvard University. In 1920, he organized a week of black history and literature recognition with his fraternity.

Only in 1976 was the week of observation extended to an entire month by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Throughout February, Pathways students will participate in activities at the CPC and at their schools to honor and observe Black History Month.



Activity:

Can you successfully match the following prominent African Americans with the colleges they attended for their undergraduate education?

- 1) **Martin Luther King, Jr.** (1929-1968), *civil rights activist*
- 2) **Barack Obama** (1961), *U.S President*
- 3) **Angela Davis** (1944-), *activist, writer*
- 4) **John Legend** (1978-), *singer, songwriter*
- 5) **Ludacris** (1977-), *rapper, producer*
- 6) **Sean "Puffy" Combs** (1971-), *rapper, producer, entrepreneur*
- 7) **Angela Bassett** (1958-), *actress*
- 8) **George Washington Carver** (1860-1943), *agricultural scientist*

Colleges:

- A) **Howard University**
- B) **Georgia State**
- C) **Brandeis University**
- D) **Yale University**
- E) **Columbia University**
- F) **Morehouse College**
- G) **University of Pennsylvania**
- H) **Iowa State University**

**Promoting
Achievement
Through
Higher-Learning
While
Advancing
Young
Scholars**

[address]

“We may encounter
defeats, but we must
not be defeated.”
-Maya Angelou

Special Parent Event

Agent Eric Szatkowski from the
WI Dept of Justice
will speak on “The Dark Side of the Internet”
Saturday, April 17, 2010
from 9-11 a.m. at
Wisconsin Lutheran College
Due to the content: NO CHILDREN PLEASE

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

Upcoming Events:

February 13, 2010:

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

March 6, 2010

- All 7th & 8th grade students head to St. John's Military Academy, 9am - 1pm. Lunch is provided.

March 13 2010

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

Reminders:

**Please call the new hotline number for
Pathways event updates or cancellations.
(414) 443-8837**

Questions about Pathways?

Contact our staff:

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