



Monthly happenings!

GEAR UP receives valuable contributions from the Rotary Club of Pohnpei

Rotarians support the National Spelling Bee Competition:

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei and GEAR UP enrolled GEAR UP schools into the National Spelling Bee competition. The National Spelling Bee competition requires preparation and learning of a specific set of English words. It is an exciting way of learning English, as it culminates with a competition that will, most likely, have some student incentive awards. The students, now, intensively prepare for the first round of competition, which will be conducted at GEAR UP schools in January, 2012. The winners of the school level competition, then, will compete at the municipal level and the winners of the municipal level competition will have a chance to win



The President of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei Mr. Melner Isaac presents the Rotarian contribution for the Spelling Bee

the state level competition. It is much hoped by GEAR UP that it will be able to secure funds that will allow the winners of the state level competition to go to Guam on March 3, 2012, and compete against the regional competitors. This would be the first time for Pohnpei to participate in the regional Spelling Bee competition.

Rotarians donate bags with school supplies to GEAR UP students:

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei donated 320 bags with variety of school supplies for GEAR UP students and their activities. The students who had 100% GEAR UP after-school program attendance, best high school entrance pre-test results and students who were most in need of school supplies received a bag. Overall, 230 students received incentives to keep up their academic achievements. The incentive awards set an example for the ones who need to improve their academic standing. GEAR UP is looking forward to see such improvements from other students at the end of the second quarter.

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GEAR UP students receive the bags donated by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei

International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports GEAR UP

IOM supports GEAR UP students in exploring career options:

GEAR UP students had a great opportunity to participate in the IOM-organized event "International Day for Disaster Reduction" on October 13th, 2011. The students could learn more about the disaster-related matters and, most importantly, had a unique opportunity to explore career options. The event gathered a number of participants whom GEAR UP students had a chance to interview regarding career options. The students

tried to clarify profession-related aspects, such as what higher education opportunities exist; what degree options are available for specific job profiles; what did the participants study in order to get their current jobs; and what the students need to study now to prepare for higher education. It's proven that the earlier students start thinking about higher education, the better they can prepare for it. GEAR UP hopes that its 8th graders now understand the importance of preparation for higher education.



H.E. US Ambassador Peter Prahar takes a picture with GEAR UP students who interview IOM event participants

IOM provides valuable instruction and training:

IOM continues its support to GEAR UP by providing training on science instruction to GEAR UP teachers and by providing instruction materials to enhance the science component of the GEAR UP after-school program. Read **more on page 2**.

Special points of interest:

- Learning English in an exciting way— GEAR UP preparation for the National Spelling Bee competition and the Rotarian support
- Over 160 students have 100% GEAR UP after-school program attendance and receive the Rotarian donated bags
- Exploring career options—the earlier, the better: IOM support
- GEAR UP teacher training— importance of "science as inquiry" and IOM support
- HIV/AIDS and Teenage pregnancy—education crosscutting issues
- Important to know better GEAR UP student population— meetings with parents

Workshop on HIV/AIDS, STDs, and Teenage Pregnancy

HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy can be some of the biggest crosscutting issues for education. These issues can jeopardize students' education plans. To protect GEAR UP students, the program mobilized community members and activists.



FSM Sports Education delivers HIV message through sports

Throughout October 31 - November 2, Micronesia Human Resources Community Development -Pohnpei Youth Action Theater, FSM Sports Education,

and Micronesia Red Cross Society came together to work with GEAR UP students to prevent students from facing any of these challenges. 10 Pohnpeian youth activists performed drama to deliver an important messages. 5 members from the FSM Sports Education sent a message to the students via sports. Micronesia Red Cross Society shared a video about people who have tested positive for HIV.

The hard work of GEAR UP partners was very much appreciated by students and staff of the 6 GEAR UP target schools. GEAR UP is very happy with success of these workshops and would like to thank GEAR UP partners by baking them a



The Performance of Pohnpei Youth Action Theater for GEAR UP students



The Micronesia Red Cross Society shows a video on HIV positive people

GEAR UP Teacher Training on "Science as Inquiry"

This quarter, GU teachers and tutors engaged in a teacher training that focused on making science relevant and interesting to students while stressing



GEAR UP teachers are interested in "science as inquiry"

the importance of science in their futures. With the assistance from I O M , teachers

learned a new approach to science utilizing the 5E Model, an internationally recognized model for instructing science. The teachers viewed several case study videos and discussed in think-pair-share and whole group discussions how they can use the information from the videos in their daily and after-school programs. More importantly, IOM partnered with GEAR UP and provided the teachers with future IOM lessons. As a group, the teachers contributed to the development of the lessons and acted as ex-

perts in designing instruction for students in science. The success of the training is evident in the current IOM/GEAR UP partnership. IOM now provides programming in science and writing for the after-school program.



GEAR UP Education Specialist trains the teachers on the 5E model

GEAR UP meets parents individually

Throughout the months of September and October, GEAR UP met GEAR UP parents to discuss their children academic standing and academic aspirations. The meetings allowed GEAR UP to know better the student population it serves. They will help GEAR UP program to design its program activities in a way that they will address students needs, and goals as well as their strengths and weaknesses. GEAR UP encouraged par-

ents to attend meetings, school activities and/or program events to learn valuable information about their child's educational program. More importantly, these meetings encouraged parents to exhibit an interest in their child's academic progress.

GEAR UP staff and parents will continue its collaborative efforts in addressing the GEAR UP student academic progress



GEAR UP meeting with parents at Saladak

matters through workshops, meetings, and other activities.