Parental involvement means attending meetings and workshops, volunteering time at your child’s school, in your community and with programs aimed at improving your child’s future education.

The Discovery Institute GEAR UP staff is extremely grateful to Mrs. Greaker for her commitment to supporting our endeavors at Dreyfus IS 49.

Each of these four award winning students received a $100 United States Savings Bond.

The former Deputy Chancellor for Community Engagement for the New York City Department of Education, a proud product of its public schools and CUNY, spoke to the graduates stressing the importance of setting priorities and why education must be at the top.

The Principal of Dreyfus IS 49 closed her address to the 2011 graduates with the following words of inspiration:

“May you find strength, courage and joy in doing what you know is right and just.”

The Discovery Institute GEAR UP extends congratulations to the 2011 graduates and award recipients. May they continue on the road to academic success!
The students received a behind-the-scenes tour of The College of Staten Island's Williamson Theatre as a special feature of their visit.

John Jankowski, Director of The Center for The Arts, spoke about the many career options within the theatre arts.

Robert Kee, Coordinator for Student Leadership Development, the Office of Student Life, shared the difficulties he has faced and his strategies for overcoming them.

This activity is used to illustrate the importance of group cooperation, trust, being considerate, and working together.

On May 3, the Discovery Institute GEAR UP program hosted a visit by a group of 40 Curtis High School students. The students participated in a discussion and activities session on leadership, trust and teamwork held at CSI's Williamson Theatre. The students also took part in a science lab held at CSI's Biological and Chemical Science Laboratory and conducted by Discovery Institute science teachers.

Students helped use chemistry to turn water into gel and make a foam sculpture — in less than a minute!

Franklin Institute scientist explored everything from everyday chemistry to the chemical "detective" work performed by laboratory scientist.

Ultimately, the aim of these workshops is to inspire a new generation of dedicated environmental science professionals.

The Lab Workshop taught the basic scientific research techniques of observation, recording observations, and arriving at conclusions based on these observations.

Discovery Institute science teachers, Bob Shimony and Peter Lytell prepare to distribute specimens the students will study as part of the lesson.

This project aims to inform students and educators about simple practices they can adopt to continue to protect and improve water quality in the New York Harbor Estuary.

Professors Caitlyn Nichols and Evelyn Powers, of the Center for Environmental Science/College of Staten Island Interstate Environmental Commission demonstrate techniques used in obtaining water samples for laboratory analysis.

The Discovery Institute GEAR UP facilitated two trips to the CESCSI/IEC for this project. 28 Curtis HS students participated on May 4 and 23 students from IS 49 took part on May 17. Stormy weather was encountered by both groups during their field trips to Staten Island's Great Kills Park Estuary.

At the Interstate Environmental Commission Laboratory, located on the CSI Campus, students performed the necessary preparations for water sample analysis.

Professors Nichols and Benimoff demonstrated the Geographic Information System and its use in the drafting of summary reports and mapping the outlining of geographic and environmental events and their locations.

Weather conditions made for very interesting water samples. At the Interstate Environmental Commission Laboratory, located on the CSI Campus, students performed the necessary preparations for water sample analysis.

Curtis High School

Dreyfus IS 49
The GEAR UP Summer Program is a Discovery Institute, hands-on, three-week program held at The College of Staten Island. This program consists of English, computer technology, mathematics, science, and lab experiments designed to complement the curriculum experienced during the academic school year.

Invited to participate in this summer program are all Dreyfus IS 49 incoming 6th grade students and those in grades 7 and 8; Curtis HS incoming 9th graders, as well as students in grades 10 and 11. Students are provided with all the materials necessary (ex: bag, books, pens & pencils) to participate in the program. Public transportation is facilitated for the high school students and Dreyfus IS 49 students receive bus service from IS 49 to the CSI campus and back to IS 49. Lunch is provided for each student at the end of the day.

The Discovery Institute GEAR UP Summer Boot Camp had a very special feature this year for a lucky group of 8th graders — an intensive Aerodynamics Program instructed by Dr. Neo Antoniades, Associate Professor, of the Department of Engineering Science and Physics of The College of Staten Island.

The program is aimed at exposing these students to exciting fields in engineering and to inspire them to stay in school, find a rewarding career and contribute to the community.

Topics included the fields of engineering, the role of math and how math can be fun, how and why research is done, constructing and flying a model plane, flight simulation, understanding the concepts of conservation of energy and momentum.

The students had lots of fun performing computerized flight simulations, constructing and flying the model plane!

Each student performed an individual test run. Each one met with complete success!
GEAR UP

is a U.S. Department of Education program whose goal is to motivate and prepare students to successfully graduate from high school and prepare for college.

For the next year your child and family will have the opportunity to receive the services provided by GEAR UP. All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Dreyfus, IS 49 and 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 graduates of Dreyfus, IS 49 attending either Curtis High School or New Dorp High School have the opportunity to participate in various activities provided by GEAR UP such as:

♦ Academic Enrichment
♦ Academic Achievement Awards
♦ 21st Century Scholarships
♦ Extra-Curricular Programs
♦ College Visits
♦ After School Programs
♦ Community-Based After School Programs
♦ Summer College Programs

Special Events are held at the College of Staten Island, Dreyfus, IS 49 and in the community.

GEAR UP PARENT & STUDENT SURVEYS ARE IMPORTANT!

The Discovery Institute/GEAR UP Program, as required by Federal Law, must submit annual statistics verifying the number of students and families receiving our services. The Discovery Institute/GEAR UP Parent & Student Survey results are the source of our statistics. The federal government uses these numbers in allocating funds.

Every completed survey improves our numbers.

Please complete the GEAR UP Parent and Student survey and return it by U.S. Postal Service using the postage-free envelope provided. If your child attends IS 49 you may drop the completed surveys in the GEAR UP mailbox located in the main office of Dreyfus, IS 49. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for completing the GEAR UP Parent & Student surveys and returning them in a timely manner.

GEAR UP representatives have surveys available at the PTA Meetings and are there to assist you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Let us work together to help our children expand their opportunities to prepare for college!

Involved parents make all the difference!

To learn more
VISIT US ON THE WEB
http://discovery.csi.cuny.edu

This publication is part of a federal grant project that provides the majority of the project’s total budget.
GEAR UP funding is provided by the US Department of Education.