



GEAR UP NEWSLETTER



Saili Le Atamai

GEAR UP for College

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICAN SAMOA RECRUITS THE PARTNERSHIP OF GEAR UP AMERICAN SAMOA

First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono joined Governor Togiola Tulafono and students of Matatula Elementary School to launch the Boys & Girls Clubs of American Samoa after school mentoring program at the Tula school on November 12, 2010.

The slogan for Boys & Girls Clubs of America is 'Great Futures Start Here' and it is our hope that the mentoring initiative we are launching today will help ensure that each of you, individually and collectively as a class or student body, maintain good health and receive a quality education," said First Lady Mary Ann. "We believe the trust and bonding that will develop through these mentoring relationships will help each of you build good character, develop good work ethics, value education and become a strong leader for tomorrow."

ASCC's Gear Up Project is a major partner in the development of the Boys and Girls Clubs of American Samoa initiative with its Project Director serving as a founding Board Member representing schools and education. The after-school program's design replicates the GUAS wrap-around services and tutoring that has proven effective for the past 4 years of GUAS implementation. GUAS supports the BGCAS by serving as a trainer; delivering Mentor/Volunteer training in Human Growth and Development and Effective Mentoring Practices. GUAS will provide a training of the trainer (TOT) for selected teachers or mentors that will be helping BGCAS members use Autodesk, Math Trek and other educational technology during the after-school program. GUAS will also introduce Robotics to elementary aged students to stimulate their imagination and spark their creativity. These partnerships continue to create pathways leading to success in school and increased college readiness.



First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono center front row and the BGCAS Board Members

GEAR UP PARTNERS WITH TAFUNA HIGH SCHOOL PTA PARENT CENTER

This Fall semester GUAS partnered with Tafuna High School PTA president Mr. Robert Tuala and THS Principal Lentoy Matagi. As GUAS seeks to provide available instructional resources and training services for our cohort schools we focus on the academic needs of our students. "I am encouraged in establishing a sustainable community partnership with students and parents" states Director Tupua Roy Fua of GEAR UP. The partnership has led to the donation of reading books, teacher and student resources such as Math & English kits, educational board games, a white board and Math Trek software programs that GUAS installed for student and parent use. The resources donated to the center will help all students both GUAS cohort and non-cohort students. "We are very proud of the hard work PTA President Mr. Tuala has given to the Tafuna Parent Center" states Mrs. Lentoy Matagi THS Principal.



Parents of Tafuna High School joined the activities by the GUAS staff during a Wrap Around Service.

Inside this issue:

Tafuna Parent Center	1
GUAS Partners BGCAS	1
Teacher PD Sessions	2
GUAS College Night	2
Technology: Math Trek	2
RTI Math Intervention	3
Pre SAT Training Sessions	4
Faasao Career Day	4

"Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing it well."
Lord Chesterfield

GUAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This teacher professional development was carried out during the beginning of the school year. GUAS instructors visited cohort schools and presented on site workshops to the GUAS Site Coordinator and Math and English teachers. The principal goal of the training was to provide teachers with strategies to align school curriculum with American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) content standards. An orientation to standards started with a review of the NCLB Legislation at the national to the local school system, and school report cards. It was noted how the move is to merge standardized test findings with school based curriculum, however at this time testing results are

not reflected in student report cards.

Next, there was an overview of reading, writing and math standards from the 9th to 12th grades. With the emphasis on SAT college entrance can be aligned to ASDOE Standard 2, Benchmark 2.1. Teachers enjoyed the sharing of engaging reading, writing and math strategies to teach lessons more aligned to testing.

The overall feedback from teachers was positive. Teachers commented that an alignment of curriculum to standards was an effective strategy to help students do better on standardized tests such as the SAT, and even locally designed tests such as the SBA tests.



Faasao teachers work on an activity during a session with DHSS.



Kanana Fou Teachers in a PD session with GEAR UP Director Tupua Roy Fua.

GUAS HOLDS ASCC COLLEGE NIGHT

December 7, GUAS held the Fall Semester College Night event at the ASCC Lecture Hall. The College Night hosted 170 students, parents and teachers from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Guest speakers included Dr. Lina Galeai Scanlan Director of the Teacher Education Department, Mr. Michael Leau Department Chairman to the Trades and Technology Division and GUAS Language Arts Instructor Mrs. Ruta' Tauiliili Mahuka.

Lupe Tapuai welcomed the energetic room filled with the GEAR UP faithful by introducing the Director of GUAS Tupua Roy Fua "Our goal is to better prepare you students to a successful transition from High School to College". This was the theme explored by each of the college directors; exploring pathways into college and to many successful careers.

In attendance was Rev. John Pereira Director to the Catholic Education Organization who also attended with 25 parents from Faasao Marist High School. As a bitter sweet end to the College Night Event Lupe Tapuai gave a short quiz to the group awarding parents a token of GUAS's



More than 180 GUAS parents, students and teachers participated in the GUAS College Night.



Director of Education for the Catholic Schools of American Samoa, Rev. John Pereira, next to GUAS Director Tupua Roy Fua.

appreciation by giving a school bag, a GUAS sun visor and a family vocabulary game "Boggle" a gifts to the four parents who answered Lupe's questions correctly. It was a very fun College Night Event!

GUAS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

Math Trek is a creative teacher-designed math software series in which students advance at their own pace as they explore math concepts, skills, and applications and develop competence in the areas outlined in the NCTM standards.

Autodesk® 3ds Max® offers differentiated experiences and specialized toolsets. Autodesk 3ds Max 3D modeling, animation, rendering, and compositing software is designed for games developers, visual effects artists, and graphic designers working on games, film, and television content, while Autodesk 3ds Max Design is formulated for architects, designers, civil engineers, and 3D visualization.

Technology Assistive Language

Learner. The theory states that for instruction to be effective, information must be presented at a level just above the learners' current level of understanding. They must be pushed beyond what they already know to what they can know with some extra help.

RTI AFTER-SCHOOL MATH INTERVENTION

The RTI Math Intervention is made up of 4 components that show distinction in their teaching approaches; **(1) Math-Trek Session**, which is a technology-based course that utilizes a software called Math-Trek to enforce the concepts in both basic and advanced algebra, **(2) Lecture Session**, which is a standard conventional seminar-type course which emphasizes Algebraic concepts, **(3) Collaborative Learning Session (CLS)**, which puts emphasis in the term “peer learning,” where students are divided into groups and share insights on real-life applications to the math concepts and lastly, **(4) SAT Prep**, which prepares the students for the math section of the SAT. The RTI Math Intervention consists of 75 students randomly selected from the GUAS cohort high schools. The students are divided into the 4 components and rotate among the courses from Monday through Thursday, allowing the students the opportunity to take on a different learning experience from week to week. The program started on October 12, 2010 and ended on November 23, 2010.

Whether it's Math Trek, CLS, Lecture, or SAT Prep, students are motivated by the experienced instructors that we have teaching each course. GUAS extends our appreciation to the following instructors for their efforts in making this program a reality.

Math Trek Session is the key component of the RTI Program and was taught by **Mrs. Beenakumary Unnithan**. Mrs. Unnithan is the Math Department Head of Leone High School and has been teaching for 21 years, 8 of which has been dedicated to the Home of the Mighty Lions. Beena has a Bachelor's in Mathematics with a minor in Physics and Statistics, along with a teacher's certification from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Beena believes that the students that participated in this program “have greatly increased their learning experiences they receive from each of the 4 components.”



A Group of RTI students who enjoyed different sessions provided by the GEAR UP RTI Math Intervention Program.



A Group of RTI students who enjoyed different sessions provided by the GEAR UP RTI Math Intervention Program.

For the Lecture sessions, we have **Mr. Leuatea Temese**. Graduating in 1989 from Tafuna High School, Mr. Temese moved on to receive his Bachelors in Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is currently working on his Masters in Mathematics. He has been teaching at Tafuna High School since 2007 and hopes the students will one day be able to see the joy in mathematics. As one of the RTI students have stated, “My experiences in lecture sessions have certainly made a difference in my performance in math!” Evidently, Mr. Temese’s participation in the RTI Program has been very rewarding.

Mr. Fa’afeu Naseri, is a man driven by a passion to “Rock the SAT!” Mr. Naseri is very keen on the subject of SAT Math and is effective in getting through to the students.

RTI students look forward to attending his SAT Prep sessions because of the “actual SAT simulations”. Mr. Naseri is a valued SAT Tutor and we are very fortunate to have had him on board.

Lastly, we have **Ms. Leitu Tofiga Lesa**, our CLS instructor. Ms. Lesa interacts very well with the students, well enough that there is no student-teacher barrier in this class. Peer learning is considered to be an effective method of learning in the educational domain, and is encouraged in Lesa’s class. Ms. Lesa is the Math Department Head of Samoan High School and has been teaching for more than 8 years. With a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and a Masters in Public Administration and Management, Ms. Lesa feels that Math is her field and is looking forward to getting a master’s in mathematics.

With all these degree-holding, experienced teachers it is without question that RTI Math Intervention is one of GUAS’s most prestigious undertaking. With quantifiable evidence and notable improvements in the student’s progress in math, GUAS is grateful to be the main provider of such a constructive service. As students have put it, “GEAR UP RTI is perhaps the greatest thing that has ever happened in terms of academic preparation!”



GUAS RTI Instructors (from l-r) Temese Temese (THS), Leitu Lesa (SHS), Beenah Unnithan (LHS), Anthony Felise (GUAS), Fa’afeu Naseri (IAA).



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FALL 2010 GUAS TRAINING SESSIONS



FAASAO MARIST HS
August Teacher Orientations



KANANA FOU HS
August Teacher Orientation



TAFUNA HS
October Homework Session



NUUULI VOC TECH HS
September Teacher Orientations



LEONE HS
September PD Sessions



IAKINA ADVENTIST ACADEMY
October PD Session

PRE SAT TRAINING SESSIONS

GEAR UP started their six week after school SAT Preparation Course October. The course was held at ASCC from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday. There are 30 students enrolled in the course. A steady increase from attendance in GUAS SAT courses last year. The focus of the course was to teach strategies to improve reading comprehension, writing, and math skills. The challenge this semester was to work at their individual academic needs.

However, due to the large enrollment this fall, the instructor has had to implement creative group activities to engage students in building critical thinking skills to beat the SAT. Group activities that are being put into practice this fall, include using high frequency SAT terms to create crosswords, word mazes and word searches. Students also create review quizzes to test each on new things they have learned.

An individualized activity that students enjoyed the most was reflective journaling. With a focus on writing students are expected to edit and rewrite at least two essays or entries from their journals. Students have expressed how they appreciate the quick return in getting back worksheets and short tests from the instructor so they can determine the progress they are making in the class. Students have also explained how they enjoy meeting and making new friends with students from other schools.

GUAS PARTNERS PRESENT AT FMHS CAREER DAY

At the request of FMHS Principal Langkilde GUAS and it's partners was asked to provide the 2010 Career Activity Day for the entire FMHS Student Body October , 2010.

GUAS Director Tupua Fua recruited the services of the ASDIT, ASDOH, ASDHSS, ASCC Land Grant, Nursing, TTD, HRO, ROTC, Samoa News, Radio KHJ, as well as having GUAS present Technology programs, Teacher Education and Psychology.



Dr. Anaise Uso from DOH giving a presentation during career day.



FMHS Students.

The GUAS Partners were graciously welcomed by the Principal and student body and presented three periods of Career Opportunities and Teen awareness sessions to an eager student body.