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| The EAC GEAR UP Times |
|  | Safford High School GEAR UP |
| Fall 2016 |
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| National GEAR UP Week! |
| During the month of September 2016, our SHS students took part in celebrating National GEAR UP Week. One of the activities the students participated in was called “Who Am I”. SHS students followed clues to discover who the “mystery people” were. SHS staff members provided clues about themselves to create the mystery profiles. The activity was a competition where prizes were given to the top 12 students who identified the most “Who Am I” mystery people. Congratulations to all the winners. Another activity was in conjunction with the new SHS Media class. The media students conducted a series of interviews for the student body to gain knowledge about a few different careers such: sheriff, surgeon, superintendent, and college president. Thank you PJ Allred, Dr. Hargis, Ken VanWinkle, and President Bryce for your willingness to help our SHS students learn about your careers.OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: **“ACT Aspire Assessment”** – all 9th graders will have the opportunity to take the test prep assessment which will help prepare them for the college entrance exams. Thank you to the SHS administration, Terry Williams and SHS staff members who will help administer the assessments. |
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| Statistics:1. 68% of all jobs in Arizona will require postsecondary education or training by 2020
2. 37% of Arizona’s adults (ages 25-64) have an associate’s degree or greater
3. 25% of Arizona students do not graduate from high school with their class
4. 72% of 4th & 8th graders are not proficient in reading
5. 49th – Arizona’s ranking in the percentage of children going to preschool
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| Inside this issue: |
| Stay Engaged in your Child’s Education & Questions to ask your child’s teacher or counselor. |  |
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| REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSESGEAR UP FIELD TRIP  |  |
| FROM YOUR GEAR UP COORDINATOR |  |
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| Your high school student’s success begins with you. **Along with your child’s teachers, you play the most important role in her/his education. Find out what your child is learning this year and how you can make education a top priority at home.**Staying Engaged in your Child’s Education.As your children get older, it is critical to continue to stay engaged in their education. You can stay engaged by asking questions and ensuring your student is completing his work on time. Here are some examples of questions to ask your child: 1. Tell me about your assignment. 2. When is it due? 3. How did you feel about this assignment? What are you finding most challenging? 4. Do you have the tools and resources you need to complete it? 5. What skills are you learning through this assignment that will help you be successful in the future? 6. Can I see your completed project?Questions to ask your child’s teachers or counselor1. Is my child attending class regularly and on time? 2. Can I see examples of her work? 3. Is my student on track to complete this class successfully? 4. Does my student have an ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan)? 5. Is my student making sufficient progress toward her academic goals? 6. Is my student on track to graduate prepared for college and career? | Scholarship Information**Raise.me:**Raise.me allows high school students to earn micro-scholarships from colleges for their achievements in and out of the classroom.Starting in 9th grade, students can be eligible to start earning scholarships for their achievements such as good grades, perfect attendance, leadership roles, participation in sports & clubs, community service, test scores, and more.* Automatic earnings of grant aid before you even apply to college
* Bite-sized goals to help your teen achieve at their highest level
* Privacy controls that give students complete control over their information
* Timely reminders to keep your teen on track
* Early connections to colleges to get the inside scoop and receive invitations to events

5 easy steps the student takes: 1. Create an account as early as 9th grade (or as late as 1st semester Senior year)
2. Add courses, grades, and activities each semester to accumulate Micro-Scholarships
3. Research & follow colleges on Raise.me to find the best fit
4. Submit Micro-Scholarships Senior year to Raise.me colleges where they plan to apply
5. Cash-in Micro-Scholarships at the Raise.me college where your teen has been accepted and will attend.

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| ***7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid – by The College Board******What is financial aid?****Financial aid is money that can help you pay for college. Some aid needs to be paid back or earned, and some aid is a gift. This money is available to all kinds of people. Here are seven important things you should know about financial aid.*1. *Financial aid can help you go to college*
	* *Getting financial aid can make it possible for you to go to college. Or it might enable you attend a college you thought you couldn’t afford.*
2. *A total of $183.8 billion in aid was available in 2014-15 undergraduate aid.*
	* *There are four main sources:*
		+ *Federal government (the largest source)*
		+ *State governments*
		+ *Colleges and universities*
		+ *Private organizations*
3. *You have to apply to qualify for aid*
	* *One thing is for sure: If you don’t fill out financial aid forms, you won’t get any aid. Even if you think you may not qualify, you should still submit the forms.*
4. *The FAFSA is the place to start – and it’s free*
	* *To qualify for many types of aid, you’ll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application gives you access to these types of aid:*
		+ *Grants and scholarships: money you don’t have to pay back*
		+ *Work-study jobs: paid, part-time work that’s generally on campus*
		+ *Loans: money you need to pay back, usually after you graduate*
5. *The FAFSA isn’t only for federal aid*
	* *The FAFSA qualifies you for federal aid, but many state governments and colleges also use this application to award their own aid.*
6. *Completing the FAFSA is Convenient*
	* *Complete the form online at* [*www.fafsa.gov*](http://www.fafsa.gov) *or download the paper forms there. You can even import your family’s tax information directly from the IRS website.*
7. *More aid is out there*
	* *Once you have completed the FAFSA, you should apply for these types of aid:*
		+ *Financial aid at the colleges you are applying to*
		+ *Private scholarships you are eligible for*
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| Required High School Courses |
| **Credit Requirements:**The table below summarizes the minimum credit requirements for high school graduation in Arizona for the graduating **class of 2013 and beyond**. Please note that school districts and charter schools may, at their discretion, establish additional graduation credit requirements for their students.* English 4 credits
* Math 4 credits
* Science 3 credits
* Social Studies 3 credits
* Physical Education/Health 1 credit
* CTE/Vocational Ed. or Fine Art 1 credit
* Electives 8 credits

**Total 24 credits****EAC GEAR UP - FIELD TRIP** In September, students had the opportunity to attend a field trip to Easter Arizona College for the Graham County Substance Awareness and Leadership Conference. Below are some pictures from the various events. Additional photos can be found in the photo album on SHS GEAR UP webpage.  |



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|  |  Safford High School GEAR UP |
|  Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs |

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| Safford High School1400 W Bulldog Blvd Safford, AZ 85546 |
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|  | **Dear Parents/Guardians:**The first semester of your student’s freshman year has started off well. Safford’s new modified 5 day schedule has been a motivating change for students. Also, the start of the Safford High School peer mentoring program “Link Crew” has helped our 9th graders smoothly transition into high school and will continue to support them during the year. GEAR UP plus these two new programs has seen SHS discipline change already from the previous years. Over the past few years, SHS has averaged 20 discipline issues in the first seven days of school, this year; the assistant principal reported SHS had only one minor discipline issue in the first seven days. GREAT JOB GEAR UP STUDENTS! Continue to ‘Make Good Choices”.GEAR UP TUTORING We have peer tutors available to help, as well as several EAC college tutors assisting students this year **Monday–Thursday from 3:10-4:10pm and Friday Mornings from 7:40-11:45am.**Please feel free to contact me with any questions.Sincerely,Mary J Wack -- EAC GEAR UP Site Coordinator928-348-7050 Ext.5107 mwack@saffordusd.com |
| EAC GEAR UP is a federally-funded program on high school campuses through the direction of Eastern Arizona College, Thatcher Arizona Campus. |