



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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Franklin Square DREAM Update January 2007

This new year has brought with it new DREAM adventures and the return of a handful of mentors from study abroad. Franklin Square DREAM currently consists of 24 children, and 26 mentors (3 of them just returned from study abroad). DREAM children come from 14 different Franklin Square families. DREAM mentors range from freshmen to seniors at St. Michael's College.

DREAM Fridays during the month of January have focused mainly on one-on-one time and activities at St. Michael's College. Returning mentors were excited to meet new DREAMers, reunite with old partners, and share stories from their travels. Small group activities, visits to the gym, games in the snow, and time visiting the library and computer rooms have filled this month's Friday afternoons.

A small recruiting push has yielded another 3 interested mentor applicants who have shadowed existing DREAM pairs for the last two Fridays of January. Their interview/application process will wrap up in February with the mentor group hopefully growing to 29. This will allow children whose mentors are graduating this spring to have a gradual transition of partners over the next few months.

The second weekend back from Winter Break the mentors of St. Michael's College drove out to Warren, VT for an overnight mentor retreat. Planned and facilitated by program co-chairs, Brittany Walker (second term, junior) and Joayn Fleury (newly elected, sophomore) this retreat was a blend of mentor bonding, goal setting for the immediate future, and visioning for the upcoming year. The retreat was an incredible success – yielding plans for two end of the year trips: a trip to coastal Maine (for the entire group), and a multi-day biking trip across Vermont (for the oldest members of the group).

Franklin Square DREAM is also preparing for their upcoming Winter Adventure Camp session scheduled for early February. Their weekend will be shared with the Franklin Street DREAM Program (from Winooski, VT) and will bring together children and mentors from both programs for an overnight of adventure – snowshoeing, hiking, broomball, etc... Stay tuned for information about the program's first EVER Winter Adventure Camping experience at Camp DREAM next month!

DREAM Inc. has been holding interviews for this summer's DREAM Interns for the Franklin Square community. Hiring decisions will be made by the second week of February and we will be excited to announce this summer's intern team and begin plans for the upcoming summertime of DREAMing.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or ideas. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep DREAMing!

Jen Lazar
Director of Resource Development
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