

Prescott Valley Tribune

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Dream Big

Balloons carry aspirations of Bradshaw's freshmen aloft

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Reporter

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Freshmen in the GEAR UP program at Bradshaw Mountain High School worked on identifying their future dreams, then inscribed those aspirations on balloons and sent them flying Sept. 23 during National GEAR UP Week.

Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey Skoog started the activities off with a reading of the National GEAR UP Week Proclamation. Michael DeRois, a Gear Up coordinator, said the program was designed to raise awareness about the importance of college and pursuing a post-secondary education.

The Humboldt Unified School District received a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program grant in June 2012 that paid for two coordinators and one assistant to work with a group of seventh-graders beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Those same students remain in the program through grade 12, and receive career exploration, academic advisement, skill building workshops, and mentoring.

Some goals set by students include:

- I dream of being a New York Times best-selling author.
- Travel the world helping people.
- Join the Army, defend our country with respect and loyalty.
- Become a doctor and make medical advancements.

During GEAR UP Week, students also heard from motivational speaker, Kyle Scheele.

"The goal of GEAR UP is to influence systematic changes across the whole school while working directly with the Class of 2018," said Sandra Clark, a GEAR UP coordinator.

Bradshaw Principal Kort Miner said he wished he had had the same opportunities as a freshman.



Bradshaw Mountain freshmen release balloons Sept. 23 during National GEAR UP Week on the high school football field. They inscribed their dreams and aspirations before letting go of the balloons.

Courtesy photo

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 "This is an incredible program and the GEAR UP coordinators are putting together some great ideas. I hope our freshman take advantage of it," Miner said.

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