

Happy New Year!

In This Issue:

Page One

- Local News
- BEST in nation

Page Two

- Project Reach Goes National!
- JMG Student Success Story

JMG Works!

JMG was recognized as a “Champion of Economic Development” by the Maine Development Foundation in September 2006.

Local News

Gardiner Area High School

JMG Specialist Susan Emmet

207.582.3150 X3405

DECEMBER SNAPSHOTS

We've focused on:

- Defining and understanding character, respect, responsibility
- Stereotyping/bullying - identification and prevention
- Workplace ethics/termination/resignation
- Memorization
- Types of literacy/application to the workplace and school
- Finalizing college essays and applications

We celebrated together by:

- Attempting to break the Hi-Hat Restaurant record for largest breakfast ordered and consumed. A Mexican omelet plus pancakes and sausage in gravy won the morning. We also did a lesson on etiquette and healthy eating (although not by example!)
- Creating a Halo Challenge – yes, we video gamed after deciding to test whether or not such gaming improves skills like observation, coordination, memorization, multitasking and problem solving. Six teams competed! The idea for the challenge arose from a debate about the value (in terms of real or transferable skills) of gaming and its inclusion on a resume.

JMG named BEST in nation

Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) has been recognized as the best program of its kind in the nation for helping students achieve success in school and beyond. This is the twelfth consecutive year JMG has won the award from the national organization Jobs for America's Graduates. The award was presented to JMG Thursday, October 12th at Portland High School. Gov. John Baldacci was on hand to accept the award on behalf of JMG and the more than 20,000 Maine students who have been served by JMG since 1993.

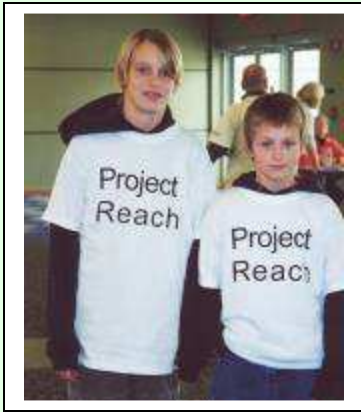
Governor Baldacci says of JMG's impact on the future of Maine, "I am impressed with the results and positive outcomes achieved by JMG. A success story in Maine, JMG promotes educational and economic excellence. This program prepares our youth for the jobs of the 21st century right here in Maine."

More JMG students (96%) graduate from high school than other Maine students (86%). Five years ago, 33% of JMG students pursued postsecondary education. For the Class of 2006, 45% of JMG students enrolled in postsecondary education. Six years after high school graduation, the Class of 1998 JMG graduates are earning an average of \$115 more per month than the rest of the 22-24 year olds in Maine.

Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) was established in 1993 by the Maine State Legislature. JMG is currently serving approximately 2,500 students in more than 50 school-based sites statewide. The vision of JMG is to be a champion for all students who are facing challenges to education and to guide each one on to a successful path to a brighter future. JMG measures its success one student at a time. JMG's core programs include a high-school and a middle-school program.



Jobs for America's Graduates' Jim Koeninger presents JMG's "Best in the Nation" award to Governor John Baldacci



Project Reach Goes National!

Project Reach, the middle school program of Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG), is gaining recognition nationwide. This year the Project Reach model is being adopted by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) to be rolled out in JAG affiliates throughout the country. Project Reach staff from Maine will act as consultants to the new programs.

Project Reach was created by JMG in 1995 to inspire middle school students to reach their personal potential. Project Reach is unique because it is the only program targeted to this age group that addresses issues as students transition to high school. Project Reach is a project-oriented and adventure-based program.

Project Reach partners with individual schools to increase the success of students. Middle school students participating in Project Reach improve their GPAs (average increase of 63%) and school attendance (average increase of 38%).

There are currently sixteen Project Reach program sites in Maine including a new site in Dover-Foxcroft, SeDoMoCha Middle School. SeDoMoCha Middle School principal Jay Robinson says, "I am very excited at the opportunity to provide selected students with an effective, proven program. Project Reach offers a wonderful means of reconnecting students and their families to the schools, and in doing so students will benefit greatly."

Haven's Happy Hour

A Candy Tasting Extravaganza!

Hosted by JMG, Haven's Candies, Bangor Savings Bank and Shipyard Brewing Company

All proceeds benefit the programs of JMG

Friday, February 2, 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Bangor Savings Bank, 280 Fore Street, Portland

For more information, call 582-0924

Visit us online at
www.jmg.org

JMG Student Success Story



Dora Mancia, 2002 JMG Graduate

My name is Dora Mancia. I am originally from El Salvador and the first born on my mother's side and the first to go to college. I moved to Maine to reunite with my mom after four years of separation. I lived with my grandmother for those four years.

When I moved to Maine I attended Reiche Elementary, King Middle, then Portland High School. While at Portland High I had my first two sons and met JMG Specialist Becky Bodwell. I joined JMG my sophomore year and stayed in the program until after graduation.

How did JMG impact my life? Through JMG, I learned to be outspoken, set goals, communicate ideas, conduct a job search, apply for a job and go through an interview, write a resume and cover letter, appropriately resign from a job, dress appropriately for a job and how to better communicate in writing. JMG also helped me to become better acquainted with my community, and how to make a presentation in front of a group.

After graduation from high school I got two jobs to pay for my first semester at SMCC. After three years of hard work—in school, at work and at home—I received an Associates Degree in Early Childhood.

Thanks to JMG I was able to manage my time and take care of three boys, go to school and work. Currently I am an Assistant Teacher at Catherine Morrill Day Nursery and going to school for a business degree. My future goal is to own my own daycare facility.

The person I have grown into and the choices I have made to become successful would not have been possible without Jobs for Maine's Graduates. I feel I have the skills to be successful with family, my career, and myself.