

Working Together to Increase the Availability and Quality of Afterschool Opportunities Statewide

November 2008 E-News - to access this and previous e-news please visit www.mtafterschool.org/afterschool_archives.htm

It is a very important election year. Get your kids involved with lessons dealing with different aspects of the election. Go to <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/Elections.htm> for multiple activities for all ages.

Afterschool Coalition

Reminder: First conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. Dial 1-866-740-1260 and enter the access code: 4434551.

If you would like to network with other directors and/or direct care providers of afterschool programs, this is the perfect opportunity. The coalition will have quarterly conference calls/meetings to discuss important topics, national and state trends, training assistance and program updates. If you are interested in receiving information and/or becoming part of the coalition, please contact me via email at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org.

Quality Self Assessment Tool

MTCCR&R Network has developed a Quality Self Assessment Tool for Afterschool Programs. Programs can use the QSA as a planning tool to improve their afterschool program, as a Request For Proposals (RFP) for funders, and as an element of review and evaluation. The Program Quality Self Assessment Tool will be available on the Montana Afterschool Website at: www.mtafterschool.org

FUNDING

The American Honda Foundation

Accept Grant Applications: November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1

The American Honda Foundation's mission statement states: Through a program of responsible investment in organizations meeting the needs of American society in the areas of youth and scientific education, the American Honda Foundation strives to assist in creating lasting benefits for society. For more information about grants go to: <http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Increase Your Green Competition

Competition Runs: October 13 – December 8, 2008

Sponsored by www.dosomething.org, the 2008 Increase Your Green Competition requires that participants make efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the after-school site during the eight-week competition. The effort must be designed and led by middle- and high-school-aged youth. Prizes include a \$1,500 grant for first place and three second place prizes of \$500.

The Educational Foundation of America

Grants for At-Risk Youth

The Educational Foundation of America is offering grants for afterschool programs that work with at-risk youth on literacy, computer skills, human rights, science and the environment. Grants also are available for professional and community education, the development of innovative new curriculum, and assisting individuals with learning disabilities. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, go to: <http://www.efaw.org/>

RESEARCH

Thirty years of research shows the difference family involvement makes in children's learning. Family involvement in afterschool programs is just as important. The success of an afterschool program depends on both family and community involvement. Involve families in program planning,

accommodate family schedules, attend to the needs of working parents and the outcomes of learning for the children participating in your program will be significant. For more information on involving parents, go to: http://www.ed.gov/pubs/After_School_Programs/Parent_Programs.html

TRAINING

National League of Cities': Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

The YEF Institute's free, hour-long audio conferences allow participants to listen by phone to lively talk-show style discussions between Institute staff, national policy experts, and city officials on best practices and key opportunities for municipal leadership on behalf of children, youth, and families. To sign up for one of the three audio conferences offered, go to:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=h7MsdEIMCbDGM2sZyp6_2fMQ_3d_3d

Afterschool For All Challenge

The *Afterschool For All Challenge* will be held April 27th and 28th in Washington D.C. The afterschool community's only advocacy focused conference will feature a day of training and networking followed by a day of visits with Congressional offices. Make plans to join hundreds of afterschool advocates in April 2009 to convince our federal policy makers that afterschool is key to kids' success. For more information please visit: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>

Afterschool Conference – New Jersey

November 14 - 15, 2008 The New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition will sponsor the annual state afterschool conference, "Outdoors in the Garden State," in Princeton, New Jersey. The focus of the conference will be creating linkages between children and youth in afterschool programs and nature and the outdoors. There will be 70 workshops, one-third of which will focus on nature and the outdoors.

RESOURCES

Community Afterschool Forums

Helena Region: Helena Empowering Youth Network (HEY!NET) meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Front Street Learning Center Conference Room. Contact Sandi Smith with OPI or Drenda Carlson with Youth Connections for more information.

Billings Region: Contact Kristin Lundgren at 406-252-3839 ext 13 or Kristin.lundgren@unitedway.org for information on BOOST and their meetings and events.

Havre Region: Contact Tim Brurud at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line for information about the next afterschool meeting.

Kalispell Region: Mission Valley Regional AfterSchool Program Network has had monthly meetings in Polson. For more information contact Jenaya Webster.

Missoula Region: The Media Literacy Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the public library from 1:30-3p.m. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved! For more information contact Ellie Greenwood by email or call 406-258-4965.

Other meetings or training dates to share? Email Riann at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org with details.

Fun and Academically Enriching Activities

The Afterschool Training Toolkit is a free source designed to give afterschool program directors and instructors the resources they need to build fun, innovative, and academically enriching activities that not only engage students, but also extend their knowledge in new ways and increase academic achievement. To learn more go to: <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/10ways.html>

This newsletter is created as a resource for programs. If you have suggestions, ideas, or know anyone that would like to be added to the list-serve please email me at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org