

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

April 2009 E-News - to access this and previous e-news please visit www.mtafterschool.org/afterschool_archives.htm

"I went to the park and saw this kid flying a kite. The kid was really excited. I don't know why, that's what they're supposed to do. Now, if he had had a chair on the end of that string, I would have been impressed." - Mitch Hedberg

April is National Kite Month. Set aside a few days to make kites with the children in your program. For a simple kite-making activity, go to www.nationalkitemonth.org/plans

Afterschool Coalition

Reminder: The next conference call will be an in-person meeting at the Afterschool Training Conference, Thursday, April 30th, 2009 from 10a.m.-12p.m. We will be phoning in members who cannot attend the conference. Dial 1-866-740-1260 and enter the access code: 4434551. Email any agenda topics to rgillespie@montanachildcare.org. If you are interested in receiving information and/or becoming part of the coalition, please contact Riann via email at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org.

9th Annual Afterschool Training Conference

Registration Due: April 3rd, 2009 (after this date, there will be a \$25 late fee)

The 9th Annual Afterschool Training Conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th – Friday, May 1st, 2009 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena, Montana. The theme for this year's conference is "Investing in the Success of Our Children." Registration forms and a list of workshops being offered at the conference are available on the afterschool website: www.mtafterschool.org. For more information, contact Riann at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org.

FUNDING

Sparkplug Foundation Grant

Deadline: May 8th

If there is a project you'd like to undertake in the areas of music or education and teaching, a Sparkplug Foundation Grant may be a way to help fund it. The Sparkplug Foundation helps provide funding to projects and innovations in music and education. Grants are available to 501C-3 organizations, projects with 501C-3 sponsoring organizations and individuals working on new, nonprofit projects. The next deadline is May 8, but all applicants must contact Sparkplug to explain the proposal beforehand; applicants must speak with a Sparkplug representative by 6 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) April 24. Go to www.sparkplugfoundation.org for more information.

Charitable Grants from the Murdock Trust

The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust seeks to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants and enrichment programs to non-profit organizations that seek to strengthen the region's educational, spiritual, and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. To apply and find more information, go to <http://www.murdock-trust.org/>.

RESEARCH

A study by the Outdoor Foundation - the 2008 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report - found that while overall participation in outdoor recreation among Americans is increasing, the number of children playing outside has decreased. The online survey garnered responses from more than 60,000 Americans ages 6 and older, requesting information on participation in 114 outdoor activities. More than 50 percent of Americans participated in outdoor recreation in 2007, getting outside 11.36 billion times - either close to home, in a nearby park or on an overnight trip, the Outdoor Foundation reported. However, the survey found an 11 percent drop in outdoor activity participation by children and youth

ages 6 to 17. Try and make it a daily routine to get the children in your program outside for different activities. This could include going on a hike, playing a game, or an outdoor learning session.

TRAINING

Free NAMI Basic Training

April 30 – June 11, Kalispell, MT

Free for Parents and Direct Caregivers of Children and Adolescents with ADD/ADHD, Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Schizophrenia, and more.

A series of 6 weekly classes structured to help parents and direct caregivers understand and support children and adolescents with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well being.

To register: Call Stephanie Luehr 406-270-1086

SWIS Training and 2009 MBI Summer Institute

June 22-26, Bozeman, MT

The MBI Summer Institute emphasizes positive behavior supports and interventions. It is designed to motivate and provide the skills for individuals, schools, and communities to unite in nurturing competent, caring and responsible youth. Topics for this years training: RTI, Family/Community, Safe Schools, Nutrition, Drop-Out Prevention. To register, go to: <https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/mbi/registration>

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: For the next scheduled meeting for The Youth Development Network, contact Nina Cramer at 406-721-3000 ext 1023. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved!

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

Fun, Free and Academically Enriching Activities/Resources

ReaderGirlz

Want a way to get girls in your program excited about reading? This online organization connects young adult writers with young women in a virtual book club, encouraging empowerment through literature and community service. To find out more information and how it can be used in your program, go to

www.readergirlz.com.

Make Your Own Sidewalk Chalk

On the Family Education Website, <http://fun.familyeducation.com/childrens-art-activities/crafts/29578.html?detoured=1>, is directions and ingredients to make your own sidewalk chalk. All you need is plaster of paris, water, powdered temper paint and molds for the chalk (cups, icecube trays, tissue rolls, etc).

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