

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

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

Get into the holiday spirit! Go to <http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonal/holidays/> to get free ideas on designing a holiday themed unit for the kids in your program.

Afterschool Coalition

Reminder: Conference call scheduled for January 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Dial 1-866-740-1260 and enter the access code: 4434551. Email any agenda topics to rgillespie@montanachildcare.org
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.

9th Annual Afterschool Training Conference

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 the conference will be “Investing in the Success of Our Children.” Registration forms are now available on the afterschool website: www.mtafterschool.org.

FUNDING

Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)’s Small, Rural School Grant Program

Offers supplemental funding to Title I, Safe and Drug Free schools, which can also be used to fund out-of-school programs. The funds are reserved for school districts located in rural communities. For more information, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/reap.html>

Tool Factory Podcasting Grants

Grants applications due: December 30th, 2008

Tool factory awards ten grants and each grant is worth \$3,000. This grant includes cameras, software, workbooks and cash. To apply for the grant, go to: http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/

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

Many changes will be coming to our education system in 2009, with the Obama Administration and a new Congress taking office, and new governors, mayors and school superintendents taking the reins across the country. To read more about changes in our education system, go to www.afterschoolalliance.org

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>

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 Youth Development Network's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd from 3-4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in room 14 of the Missoula School District Administration Building. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved! For more information, contact Nina Cramer at 406 -721-3000 ext.1023.

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>

Free Resources

WINGS helping kids soar is a website that offers free resources to develop an effective Afterschool program. Go to: http://wingsforkids.org/?gclid=CICqh5uS5pcCFRsRagodRAO_DQ

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