

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

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

Incorporate arts and crafts into your program this month by making Valentines gifts. For a list of free arts and crafts, go to: http://fun.familyeducation.com/activities-center/toddlers-preschoolers-K12children/?theme=arts-and-crafts&grade_range=--Select%20an%20age%20group--&detoured=1

Afterschool Coalition

Reminder: The next conference call will be an in-person meeting at the Afterschool Training Conference, Thursday, April 30th, 2009. 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

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

Bank of America

Go to <http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/index.cfm?template=overview&statecheck=MT> to apply and review qualification for a local grant. Applications have no deadline and are reviewed regularly throughout the year.

Academic Enrichment Grants

Grants applications due: May 1st, 2009

The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation offers Academic Enrichment Grants designed to develop in-class and extra-curricular programs that improve student learning. The Foundation considers proposals that foster understanding, deepen students' knowledge, and provide opportunities to expand awareness of the world around them. The Academic Enrichment Grants provide funding for programs that nurture the intellectual, artistic and creative abilities of children from low-income households. For more information, visit <http://www.mccartheydressman.org/academic.html>

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

There is a vital connection between a time for learning and a time for play. According to a study published in this month's issue of "Pediatrics," researchers found that children who had at least 15 minutes of free time during the school day exhibited better classroom behavior than children who didn't

get a break. To read the available research, go to:
http://health.yahoo.com/news/reuters/us_children_recess.html

TRAINING

National Afterschool Association 2009 Convention

Jazzing It Up Afterschool Style – April 2 – 4, 2009 In New Orleans

As one of the largest conventions in the afterschool profession, this is the best way for you to enhance your career and the programs you represent as well as meet with fellow afterschool professionals from across the country who face similar opportunities and challenges. Over 3,000 afterschool professionals and stakeholders are expected in New Orleans. <http://www.naaconvention.org/>

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, Free and Academically Enriching Activities/Resources

www.moneytalks.ucr.edu is a website that middle school youth and older teens can go to play interactive games, read newsletters, and watch videos to improve their financial literacy. Program staff can also benefit, as the site provides resources for program staff.

Design Squad with PBS - Looking for enriching activities for the middle-school children in your program that present engaging, hands-on challenges that emphasize teamwork and creative problem solving? A plethora of creative, challenging engineering activities designed for 9- to 12-year-olds can be downloaded free as part of the Educator's Guide on the Design Squad Web site at http://pbskids.org/designsquad/parentseducators/educators_guide.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