



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

January 2008 E-news

Wishing all of you a Happy New Year! For fun activities and projects to celebrate the New Year and limit winter boredom check out the Family Fun website under winter fun at <http://familyfun.go.com>!

With the New Year come a few changes. Amber Henwood, the Montana Afterschool Network Specialist will now be creating the monthly E-news. Feel free to contact [Amber](#) at any time!

The 2008 National Mentoring Month campaign is taking place in January! The campaign is brought to you by the Harvard Mentoring Project, MENTORS, and the Corporation for National and Community Services. For more information about the campaign and what is planned visit <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2008/index.html>.

This newsletter is created as a resource for you! If you have suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please email [Amber](#)!

RESOURCES

Community Afterschool Forums

Billings region: Contact Kristin Lundgren at 406.252.3839 x13 for information on BOOST and their meetings and events.

Have region: Contact [Tim Brurud](#) at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line for information about the next afterschool meeting.

Helena region: Helena Out of School Time meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact [Sandi Smith](#) at OPI for more information.

Missoula region: The Youth Development Network is meeting the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved! For more information contact [Ellie Greenwood](#) by email or call 406.258.4965.

Other meeting or training dates to share? Email [Amber](#) with the details!

Fall 2007 Speaker Series Webinars Now Available

Promising Practices in Afterschool brings you these interactive webinars, making it possible for anyone to participate right from your computer. The recent Speaker Series webinars are now available on their website. The three speakers include Dr. Max Klau, Ed.D. with his presentation on *Youth Leadership*, Dr. Karen VanderVen, Ph.D. with her presentation on *Innovative Activities for Afterschool Programs and Professional Development*, and Dr. Joseph Howell, Ed.D. with his presentation on *Connecting With the Community*. These helpful and informative webinars are available at <http://cydpr.aed.org/ppas/site.htm>!

Becoming An Innovator

You Innovate 21 is giving afterschool providers the opportunity to excite children about things like science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and more! Inspire Innovators in your very own program by visiting their website for more ideas. The program shows kids how important the four parts to STEM are the role it can play throughout their lives. Activities range from stimulating games

to simulating careers. For more information on You Innovate 21 visit <http://www.youinnovate21.net/main.html>.

Checking Physical Activity and Nutrition

Afterschool-Investments have now created a new checklist for afterschool providers to measure how nutrition and physical activity can best be improved along with resources and tactics. This new resource is a part of the Afterschool-Investments' "Promoting Physical Activity and Healthy Nutrition in After-School Settings: Strategies for Program Leaders and Policy Makers," publication created specifically for afterschool. For more information please visit <http://www.nccic.org/afterschool/presources.html>!

Planning Your Summer Program...Start Now!

If you have a program that last through the summer months start planning now! School-Age NOTES offers a month by month calendar to prepare for a fun and successful summer program. This month, decide on the program, the hours of the program, and the number and ages of children who will be participating. To see the full calendar for months to come please visit the Summer Program Tips, Strategies, and Activities website at <http://www.schoolagenotes.com/store/Product.asp?pid=195>!

FUNDING

The Coming Up Taller Awards

Deadline: January 31, 2008

If your organization has created outstanding afterschool arts and humanities programs for youth you may be eligible! The maximum award is \$10,000. Your program must have been started by certain organizations, libraries, government groups, art centers, etc. To find out if you qualify visit <http://www.cominguptaller.org/>!

The Christopher Columbus Awards Program

Deadline: March 17, 2008

Get involved with science, technology, and solving problems in your community and get a chance to go to Walt Disney World! Children work together, with an adult coach, to create innovative solutions to issues relevant to where they live. The maximum award is \$25,000, a trip to Walt Disney World to compete in the National Championship, and a \$2,000 Savings Bond for each child. Children must be middle-school aged. To learn more visit <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>!

RESEARCH

Spotting Potential Dropouts

According to a series of articles in Education Weekly, approximately 1.2 million teenagers will drop out of school this year, placing them at greater risk for failure. Schools and programs have begun using "indicators" to identify potential dropouts before it is too late. Among these "indicators" are poor behavior, failing classes or activities, attending less school, and becoming less involved in their out of school time activity. By creating afterschool mentoring programs, weekend programs, and offering children the help they need we can reduce dropout rates.

Montana's Afterschool Program Quality

The After-School Investments have created a State Profile Series highlighting the importance of high quality afterschool programs and the negative effects a poorly run program can have. Through the study many states have begun quality assessment measurements for programs and finding ways to make afterschool programs more accessible. The Montana Afterschool Network is planning a similar assessment to be completed this year. With the study states are also able to “tie higher rates of subsidy reimbursements to high levels of program quality.” To access the profile visit the State Profile Series at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/PDFDocs/nationalprofile.pdf>.

TRAINING

Montana Afterschool Network Conference

Save the Date! The Eighth Annual Montana Afterschool Network Conference will take place April 10-11, 2008 at the Colonial Inn in Helena, MT. There will be eighteen approved training workshops and many opportunities for networking. Registration forms will be available online soon at www.mtafterschool.org or contact [Amber Henwood](#) at 406.443.4552 or by email for more information on attending or presenting.

Rural Community Conference

In hopes of helping Montana’s rural communities take action in their own communities, The Rural Community Conference will take place in Billings, MT January 15-16, 2008. The workshops provide community service providers and educators opportunities to network and improve community programs and issues. For an addenda and registration forms please visit <http://extn.msu.montana.edu/rcc>.

Community Systems Grant Writing Workshop

The thirtieth Grant Writing workshop will take place in Bozeman, MT April 21-24, 2008. The topic for the seminar is “Get That Grant: Grant Writing from Conception to Completion.” For more information on the workshop contact the Women’s Center at MSU at 406.994.3836 15 Hamilton Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717 or email [Betsy Danforth](#). Deadline for registration is March 28, 2008.

The Montana Afterschool Network is coordinated by the Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network with support from the C.S. Mott Foundation, First Interstate Bank Foundation, Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, the Steele-Reese Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Check out afterschool resources at www.mtafterschool.org!