

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

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

Since 1985, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education as Music in our Schools Month. The month-long celebration began in 1973 as a statewide observance and has since grown. The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of music education. For ideas on how you can take part in celebrating music, go to <http://www.menc.org/events/view/miosm-activity-ideas>

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

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 the conference will be “Investing in the Success of Our Children.” Registration forms are now available on the afterschool website: www.mtafterschool.org. Training session topics include hands-on science, multiple intelligences, nutrition, support services, fundraising, quickstart tennis, recruiting and retaining qualified staff, field investigation, learning in and out of school time and many more. For more information, contact Riann at rgillespie@montanachildcare.org.

FUNDING

Kohl's Scholarship Program

Deadline: March 15

Has your message of community service and volunteering resonated with a young boy or girl in your program? If so, consider nominating him or her for Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program. Nominees will be divided into two age groups: 6-12 and 13-18. One nominee from each age group will be named a store-level winner and receive a \$50 Kohl's gift card. In addition, 97 regional winners from each group will be selected and they will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Five national winners from each age group will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. In addition, Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a non-profit organization on behalf of each national winner. Scholarships must be used for educational expenses. Nominations must be made online by going to <http://www.kohlskids.com>.

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

The Senate is still debating the fiscal year 2009 budget, and your action is needed today to make an increase possible in 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding for FY2009. The Senate is now set to vote Tuesday on a funding bill that includes \$50 million for 21st CCLC and your Senator has

threatened, for concerns unrelated to afterschool, to vote against the bill. Call your Senator to urge him/her to vote yes on the FY2009 Omnibus Spending Bill.

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/>

BOOST - Best of Out-of-School Time Conference

Make plans now to attend the Best of Out-of-School Time Conference scheduled for April 22-25, 2009 in Palm Springs, CA. This all-inclusive conference supports After School Education & Safety Programs, 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs and High School Assets programs. This conference will include workshops lead by the nation's top leaders in out-of-school time programming, over 100 exhibitors featuring the latest products and services, and the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming elementary, middle and high school.

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.

School-Age NOTES

School-Age NOTES is a publisher and retailer of books, CDs, DVDs, music and other resources for afterschool programs and professionals. With their 30th birthday approaching, School-Age NOTES is offering all books discounted 30 percent. Go to www.schoolagenotes.com to see all the books available. Then, if ordering online, just check the newsletter subscriber box and enter "30bday" in the promotion code space.

Fun, Free and Academically Enriching Activities/Resources

Journey North

This free Internet-based science project allows visitors to watch spring as it unfolds. Children and youth can monitor migration patterns of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes and other animals; the blooming of plants; and changing sunlight, temperatures and other signs of spring. Have the children in your program take part in the Journey North by visiting <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>.

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