

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

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

School has started and it is time to get students focused after a long summer break. A great way to get student's attention is to get the group moving to the same beat. Go to this website and try "Catch the Beat" and many more great activities that will get students moving while integrating mathematics. <http://mixinginmath.terc.edu>

Afterschool Coalition

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. The first conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Lights On! Campaign

Join 1 million Americans in celebrating *Lights On Afterschool* on October 16, 2008. The purpose of this day is to shed light on the importance of afterschool programs to American families, children and communities. Get details on hosting events and ordering planning kits at: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>.

Quality Self Assessment Tool

With more emphasis being focused nationally on measuring program quality, it is crucial for programs to assess different aspects of their programs. MTCCR&R Network has developed a Quality Self Assessment Tool just for this purpose. Programs can use the QSA as a planning tool to improve their afterschool program, as a Request For Proposals for funders, and as an element of review and evaluation. The Program Quality Self Assessment Tool will be available on the Montana Afterschool Website at: www.mtafterschool.org

FUNDING

The American Honda Foundation

Accept Grant Applications: November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1

The American Honda Foundation's mission statement states: Through a program of responsible investment in organizations meeting the needs of American society in the areas of youth and scientific education, the American Honda Foundation strives to assist in creating lasting benefits for society. For more information about grants go to: <http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Increase Your Green Competition

Competition Runs: October 13 – December 8, 2008

Sponsored by www.dosomething.org, the 2008 Increase Your Green Competition requires that participants make efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the after-school site during the eight-week competition. The effort must be designed and led by middle- and high-school-aged youth. Prizes include a \$1,500 grant for first place and three second place prizes of \$500.

Youth Garden Grant

Deadline: November 1, 2008 (reminder)

The National Gardening Association and Home Depot are offering 125 grants to develop a love for gardening and being able to relate it to education. Some of the elements that may be included are team

building, community support, health connections, or environment awareness. The program must include at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 on the project. For more information, please visit: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>

RESEARCH

Natural disasters are unpredictable and can be one of the most stressful events that can happen. They not only disrupt one's own life, but they also disrupt homes, child care centers, schools, and all stability of a "normal" day. It is important for afterschool programs to be prepared in dealing with children during and after natural disasters happen. The article "Helping Children Deal with Natural Disasters" is available at: http://www.ccie.com/resources/view_article.php?article_id=5099901

To read an article about the impact Hurricane Ike had on schools along or near the Texas Gulf coast go to: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/09/16/05hurricane.h28.html>

TRAINING

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>

Afterschool Conference Inc.

To find a current list of afterschool conferences scheduled around the U.S. go to: <http://www.afterschoolconference.org/>

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 Media Literacy Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the public library from 1:30-3p.m. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved! For more information contact Ellie Greenwood by email or call 406-258-4965.

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>

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