



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

## April 2008 E-news

April gives us some great reasons to get involved in our communities. Don't forget to participate in Earth Day on April 22! You can find some great activities for the kids in your program at <http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/Holidays/EarthDay.html>.

The Afterschool for All Challenge is taking place in May in Washington D.C. For more information on the Accept the Challenge! 2008 campaign, visit <http://www.serve.dc.gov/cncs/site/default.asp> or please visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org> for the Afterschool for All Challenge information.

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

## RESOURCES

### Community Afterschool Forums

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

**Havre region:** Contact [Tim Brurud](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Helena Middle School Youth Connections Conference Room 202. Contact [Sandi Smith](mailto:Sandi.Smith) at OPI for more information.

**Kalispell region:** Mission Valley Regional After School Program Network has had monthly meetings in Polson. For more information contact [Jenaya Webster](mailto:Jenaya.Webster).

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

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

### Control TV and Screen Time

We've all heard the bad effects of watching too much television. Now do something about it by getting involved! Too much television results in less activity, more overeating, and a larger risk for being obese. The TV Free Network website at [www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org) and various communities are trying to raise awareness. For information on what is going on in Bozeman, MT call the Early Childhood Project at 800.213.6310.

### Curriculum Developed for Programs Like Yours!

PEAR, the Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency at Harvard University and SEDL has created curriculum guides for programs in math, science, and literacy. The guides can be used to make informed choices about the curriculum used in programs and include prices, information, staff training needs, and so on. Please visit one of the three following links for information on the science, math, or literacy: <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/guide/science/>, <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/guide/math/>, or <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/guide/literacy/>.

## Funding Tips

The Finance Project has created a series of monthly installments that provide various funding tips. For the month of March, the tip was "Use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to support youth programs and services." For more information on these funds and to view previous funding tips please visit <http://www.financeproject.org/special/irc/monthlyFundingTips.cfm>.

## Recycling Made Fun!

Rather than throwing out left over and broken crayons, recycle them! This fun activity can save money and teach the children in your program about recycling and just in time for Earth Day! Have the children peel all the paper off of the crayons and sort them into color groups. Preheat an oven for 200° and then line muffin tins with foil. Put the color groups into each muffin cup and put in the oven for 10 minutes. Allow 30 minutes to cool and you now have big, recycled crayons! For more ideas like this one, purchase Linda Hetzer's **Rainy Days & Saturdays** at <http://www.schoolagenotes.com/store/Product.asp?pid=251>.

## Adolescent Literary Toolkit

A literary toolkit has been developed by the Secondary School Redesign Project at the Council for Chief State School Officers. The toolkit includes resources for developing state-level "professional development activities and integrating literacy strategies and best practices in core content areas." To view the toolkit please visit <http://www.ccsso.org/projects/Secondary%5FSchool%5FRedesign/Adolescent%5FLiteracy%5FToolkit/>.

## FUNDING

### Summer Food Service Program

**Deadline: April 28, 2008 for previous sponsors and May 19, 2008 for new sponsors (reminder)**

The SFSP is designed to provide nutritious meals to children in their summer programs, when the National School Lunch and Breakfast meals are not available. If you believe your program is eligible please visit the OPI School Nutrition Program website at [www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html) and click on "Summer Food Service Program."

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Grants

**Released: March 3, 2008 (reminder)**

The Office of Public Instruction has announced the release of the applications for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Grants as of March 3. The grants are available to programs and schools. Eligibility requirements ask that a program has 40% of its participants receiving free or reduced price meals. For more information please visit <http://www.opi.mt.gov/21Cent/index.html>.

### Montana Board of Crime Control: Afterschool Programs

**RFP: October 1, 2007-June 30, 2008**

The Montana Board of Crime Control is offering \$125,000 in funds to programs to promote keeping kids safe and reducing risk factors. Existing programs with 501-3C status may apply. For more information please contact Julie Fischer at 406.444.2056 or Glenda Grover at 406.444.2085.

### Google Offers Free Programs to Non-Profits

**Released: March 31, 2008**

Google will now be offering a variety of programs such as mapping software, email, blogs, free search engines, etc to non-profit programs. The program also offers instructions and information for programs. To partake in this portal please visit <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/>.

## **Food Program Reimbursement**

**Deadline: May 30, 2008**

Share Our Strength is accepting applications from sponsors of summer and afterschool meal programs for children that use the USDA-reimbursement. They are hoping to increase involvement in groups like SFSP, NSLP, and CACFP. For more information or to apply please visit [http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS\\_grants](http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS_grants).

## **Are You Improving the Health of Children?**

**Deadline: April 28, 2008**

Ronald McDonald House Charities are giving grants to non-profit programs working to increase the health and well-being of children. You must submit a letter of inquiry by the deadline. For more information please visit <http://www.rmhc.org/grants/#inquiry>.

## **Reading Program Grants**

**Deadline: May 31, 2008**

Target Corporation is giving out grants to programs that promote reading in children nine and under. For more information on these and grants or to apply please visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-003408>.

## **RESEARCH**

### **Funding Rural Afterschool**

The Finance Project introduces this publication which is a great source of funding ideas, programs, and sustainability recommendations. It gives federal, state, and local programs that can fund rural afterschool on many elements. To view the publication please visit <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/OSTRuralYouth.pdf>.

### **Are Bully-Prevention Programs Working?**

Lyn Mikel Brown writes in "10 Ways to Move Beyond Bully Prevention," published in Education Week, that by labeling children as bullies, victims, and bystanders in we focus on children as the problem, rather than promoting better parenting, teaching, and role models and it also increases the opportunities for name calling. She claims, "Labeling kids bullies, for that matter, contributes to the negative climate and name-calling we're trying to address." For more on the article please visit [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org) and check out the March 5, 2008 edition.

### **Brain Rules**

John Medina addresses 12 principles for teaching and learning in his book, Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School. A few examples include exercise, sleep, and attention. For more information on the principles please visit [www.brainrules.net](http://www.brainrules.net).

## **TRAINING**

### **Montana Afterschool Network Conference**

**Thank you all that contributed to a successful conference!**

### **Helping Children Realize Their Full Potential**

Intermountain is holding training in Helena, MT on May 10 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm in O'Connell Hall at Carroll College. The training will teach brain development and how its understanding helps develop empathy for children. For more information email Maggie Long at [maggiel@intermountain.org](mailto:maggiel@intermountain.org). The training is free to all that attend, but seating is limited.

## **BOOST Conference**

The Deadline to register for the Best Out of School Time Conference is April 18, 2008. You can register in person as well. The conference is taking place April 30-May 3, 2008 in Palm Springs, California. For more information on the conference please visit <http://www.boostconference.org/registration.php>.

## **NIOST Summer Seminars**

NIOST Summer Seminars are for afterschool professionals looking to increase knowledge and networking. The summer seminars are July 14-15 and 16-17, 2008 at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston, MA. To receive early bird rates, please register by May 11. For more information please visit [www.NIOST.org](http://www.NIOST.org).

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.mtatterschool.org](http://www.mtatterschool.org)!**