



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

## February 2008 E-news

February is Children's Dental Health Month. Have the children in your program learn about positive dental hygiene and even engage them in activities demonstrating its importance. For more information visit [http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay\\_healthy/body/teeth.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/body/teeth.html) or visit the Healthy Teeth website for activities at <http://www.healthyteeth.org/>.

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

**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](#) by email or call 406.258.4965.

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

### Soil-Free Gardening

February weather in Montana often does not allow outdoor activities. Solve the weather boredom by bringing those outdoor activities inside! Children in your program can create soil-free gardens. Using vegetables, glass jars, pebbles, and water a wide variety can be grown. For more information and directions visit <http://www.education-world.com/>.

### Eco-Friendly Teens

Teens can create service-learning projects that benefit their local environments. Some examples include Idaho's Southern Idaho Squirrel Squad or Washington's Amphibian Awareness groups. Projects can even be submitted for Service Awards, with a \$1,000 Gold Award to use on the project. For more information and to get involved please visit the Teens for the Planet Earth website at <http://teens4planetearth.com/teenshome>.

### What Can Music Do for Your Program?

Though not every after school program involves music, finding ways to do so can be very beneficial to children. Music can do everything from bridging diverse groups to allowing children to be more creative. Roberta L. Newman offers a variety of resources, activities, and ideas for bringing music into your program in "Connect with Music" available at <http://www.schoolagenotes.com/store/Product.asp?pid=311>.

## Planning Your Summer Program...Keep Going!

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 set your goals, contact attractions you would like your group to attend, plan a civic activity or theme, send notices to parents of activities and any fees or materials children will need, arrange transportation and food needed, and schedule your staff. 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**

### Summer Food Service Program

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

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."

### Innovation Generation Grant

**Deadline: March 1, 2008**

Presented by the Motorola Foundation, \$4 million in grant money will be given to programs that involve innovation, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in their programs. Some focus qualifications include but are not limited to programs that promote and engage students in STEM, are less than two years old, and can show measured outcome. For more information please visit <http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153>.

### The Christopher Columbus Awards Program

**Deadline: March 17, 2008 (reminder)**

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/!](http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/)

### Americorps Vista Volunteer

**Deadline: March 13, 2008**

PRC Vista site applications are now available for July placements. Vista's are placed twice a year. Their service lasts for one full year and begins in either January or July. To apply visit <http://www.prevention.mt.gov/VISTA/siterecruit>. If you need assistance please contact the Prevention Resource Center at 406.444.3484 or visit their website at <http://prevention.mt.gov/default.asp>.

### Student Drug Testing Grant

**Deadline: March 21, 2008**

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is offering \$5.8 million divided among 38 grants to schools and programs for random and voluntary student drug testing for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Random tests will be targeted to students involved in extra curricular activities. For more information visit the Department of Education's website at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

## **RESEARCH**

### **Solving Problems Step by Step**

By teaching children to solve their problems one step at a time, Roberta L. Newman, author of Training New After-school Staff: Welcome to the World of School Age Care, children will develop ownership and develop a sense of responsibility when faced with various issues. The five steps offered are 1. Stop and calm down, 2. Find the cause of the problem, 3. Brainstorm ways to solve it, 4. Evaluate the ideas for solving the problem, and 5. Put plan into action and figure out ways to evaluate all solutions' progress. For Newman's publication please visit <http://www.schoolagenotes.com/store/Product.asp?pid=197>.

### **Rural Afterschool**

There are 2.5 million children living in "Rural America." By creating after school programs in these areas, children better their academic standings, experience more opportunity, and break out of a common cycle of poverty. The negative effects of "Rural America" have been published in Afterschool Programs: Helping Kids Succeed in Rural America by the Afterschool Alliance. Some of these effects include, higher at-risk behavior, limited access to quality programs and physical activity, and inaccessible transportation. To view this publication please visit [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue\\_briefs/issue\\_rural\\_4.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issue_rural_4.pdf).

### **Create Better Attitudes!**

A recent report shows that afterschool programs can encourage better attitudes and social skills among children. It is also stated that academic performance improves, as well as self-confidence and self esteem. This report called *The Impact of After-School Programs That Promote Personal and Social Skills* from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is available at <http://www.casel.org/home/index.php>.

## **TRAINING**

### **Montana Afterschool Network Conference**

**Send us your stories and photos!** Please send your stories and photos demonstrating how your program has successfully affected youth. All submissions will be presented at the Recognition Dinner on April 10. 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. If you are interested in setting up a vendor table, room is still available. Registration forms are available online at [www.mtafterschool.org](http://www.mtafterschool.org) or contact **Amber Henwood** at 406.443.4552 or by email for more information on attending, to submit stories, or to set up a vendor booth.

### **Space Education Workshop**

The Montana Sector of the Federation of Galaxy Explorers will host a Space Education Workshop in Billings for teachers and youth program leaders on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 18-20, from 9:00am to 5:00pm each day. This workshop is free of charge and is limited to twenty participants. Interested persons should contact **Steven Heffel** at 406.652.7268.

### **KIT's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Inclusion**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Inclusion will take place April 2-4, 2008 at the Mission Valley Marriot in San Diego, CA. There will be over 25 workshops presented by experts on inclusion with Keynote Dan Habib, maker of *Including Samuel*. Some topics include ADHD, inclusive policies and

procedures, and universal program design. For more information please visit [www.kitconference.org](http://www.kitconference.org) or call 858.225.5680.

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