



Newsletter

1201 MCKENNA BOULEVARD • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53719 • 608-276-9782 • 800-238-1174
 N9 W24198 BLUEMOUND ROAD • WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53188 • 262-547-8770 • 800-552-8878

Inside *this issue:*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Holiday Card Winner | 2 |
| Fruit and Fudge Sale | 2 |
| Committee Evaluating New Programs | 2 |
| Intern Learns About WYC | 3 |
| Immersion Camps Planned | 3 |
| New Community Director | 4 |
| Board Seeks Members | 5 |
| Spring Fair Dates | 5 |

Conference Explores Ways All Students Are Gifted

A conference to explore and celebrate different learning and teaching styles will be a part of Wisconsin Youth Company's annual Celebrating Youth! event. The conference, "Options and Alternatives in Education", will be January 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison. Celebrating Youth! will be January 28. (See story below.)

Mariah Miller, WYC Community Relations Director and conference organizer, came up with the idea of a conference that would address the needs of children and youth who learn differently from others and parents and teachers who want to support those children and youth.

"I've talked to teachers and they sometimes feel at the mercy of the system," said Miller. "They feel like they can't do what is best for the child."

She said there are children and youth in school who don't feel supported.

"Kids may say 'I can't do this so I'm dumb,'" said Miller. The conference is about how to address these issues and say to youth, 'We're all gifted.'"

With those goals in mind Miller has arranged for nationally known author and speaker Jonathan Mooney to be the keynote for the conference. He will speak at 9 a.m. Mooney, who is learning disabled and didn't learn to read until age 12, is the author of *Learning Outside the Lines*. More than 30 break out workshops are being offered.

Continued on page 5



Keynote speaker Jonathan Mooney



Ho Chunk Dancers at the 2006 Celebrating Youth!

"Hoopla Circus" Is Theme for Celebrating Youth

Wisconsin Youth Company is sponsoring its 8th annual Celebrating Youth! event with the theme "Hoopla Circus".

The event will be January 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison. There will be 30 local and regional youth performance groups on four stages doing everything from dance to music to juggling and more.

Spyder Carneol, WYC Events Coordinator, came up with the name for the event.

"Last year we had packed everything up from the 2006 Celebrating Youth! and I looked at all of it and said, "This was such a hoopla!" said Carneol. "It brings in the images of circles and hoops and how we are all interconnected."

Continued on page 4



2006 Holiday Card Design by
Lauren Tostrud

Holiday Card Design Winner

The design of Lauren Tostrud was chosen for this year's Wisconsin Youth Company holiday cards. The cards are sold as a fundraiser for the AFTER SCHOOL Scholarship Fund. Lauren is nine years old and attended the Glen Park AFTER SCHOOL program. She lives in New Berlin.

In the past designs have been collected from children attending AFTER SCHOOL programs in November and the cards printed

for sale in December. The short timeline has made it difficult to get cards printed in time for use for the holiday season. Also, November and December are busy times in the WYC print shop. This year designs were collected and will be printed in 2007 when the print shop isn't as busy. That way they can be sold well in advance of the holiday season.

The winning design is chosen by a committee of WYC staff.

Evaluation Committee Looking at Programs

Children and youth who participate in Wisconsin Youth Company programs are having fun but are they really learning and growing? An evaluation committee is looking into that very question.

WYC lists a series of "ends" statements that it expects children to achieve through its programs. But these social outcomes can be hard to measure. For example, one says "Children have a sense of achievement and enhanced individual worth." Those of us who work with children expect to see this end because we observe children "wanting to show others their towers, their drawings, their school work." We see them "smiling and beaming with pride, hurrying to tell their parents about their day, excited about inviting parents to family gatherings and 4-H fair, and discussing the program with others." All of these types of behaviors can be observed but they can be hard to quantify.

The committee, which consists of AFTER SCHOOL Division Director Joanne Bonesho, Camp Programs Director Jason Anderson and writer/consultant Jean Colvin, is gathering data from all the ways that WYC programs are evaluated. Parent evaluations, child evaluations, risk manager site visits, state licensing site visits are all being studied. This will allow the committee to see if WYC strategies to reach the stated ends for children are working or if there is a need to revise any of our processes. A report will be given to the WYC Board of Directors by August.

To see the complete list of social outcomes log onto www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org. Click on the AFTER SCHOOL button and visit parent pages. There you will find "Program Policies and Practices". The ends are listed under "Guiding Principles".

Fruit and Fudge Sale Nets \$2,237

Nearly \$6,000 worth of fruit and more than \$600 worth of fudge were sold in the WYC annual fall fundraiser netting \$2,237 for the AFTER SCHOOL scholarship fund.

This is the second year WYC has sold RiverSweet fruit. Last year's sale brought in \$1,535.

Small cases were the most popular. 193 small cases were sold - 37 grapefruit, 45 oranges, 44 tangelos and 67 cases of mixed fruit. 55 large cases of fruit were sold - 17 grapefruit, 26 oranges and 12 tangelos.

One pound tins and half pound boxes of fudge were sold this year for the first time. 65 tins and 62 boxes were sold.

Scholarship funds go to qualifying families to help pay for AFTER SCHOOL tuition. Families apply on a first come-first served basis and must also qualify for free or reduced lunch at their child's school. The aid is short term only. Qualifying families may receive up to half of their child's AFTER SCHOOL tuition for one semester.



Intern Learns About Wisconsin Youth Company

Kevin Vesper, a senior at Eastern Illinois University, is doing his internship in recreational administration at Wisconsin Youth Company this semester. Vesper will spend his 12 week internship learning about budgeting, finance, policies and staffing.

He is working with AFTER SCHOOL Division Director Joanne Bonesho. He also serving as a staff person at Hawthorne AFTER SCHOOL. Kevin is a native of DeForest and worked at WYC's summer day camp last summer.



Kevin Vesper.

Immersion Camps Planned for Summer

Kids will be able to enjoy hands-on learning about the circus, science, video production and Spanish culture and language this summer if they choose to participate in one of Wisconsin Youth Company's two-week long "immersion" camps.

"The idea of immersion camps grew out of requests by parents to have summer experiences that were more in depth," said Jason Anderson, Camp Programs Director.

Anderson said that some topics that were offered in one-week sessions in summer lend themselves better to a longer time frame.

"After our weeklong video production session we heard from staff and kids both that they felt they were just getting into the topic and then it was over."

The kids still managed to produce a video that was shown at the Wisconsin Film Festival in Madison two years ago.

Video production along with circus arts, interdisciplinary science and Spanish language and culture are the topics selected for two week immersion camps this summer.

"Circus arts will cover juggling, stilt-walking, and low trapeze," said Anderson. "Kids will have a sampling the first week then focus on one or two skills the second week."

The session will culminate with a circus performance by participants.

The interdisciplinary science session will give campers a chance to learn about physics, chemistry, biotechnology and engineering from University of Wisconsin graduate

students. WYC is partnering with the UW's Science Alliance to offer the program. The Science Alliance does community outreach to educate people about science.

Spanish Language and Culture immersion camp will give kids a chance to not only learn the language but learn something about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken. The camp will be coordinated by Rebecca Katzenmeyer. She is an AFTER SCHOOL Spanish instructor and also coordinates Generation Tours. WYC's intergenerational travel experience program.

"This will be open to kids who are beginning Spanish speakers as well as kids with more language experience," said Anderson.

The fourth summer immersion camp will be video production. As in past summers, WYC is partnering with local cable station WYOU to help kids learn about putting together a video.

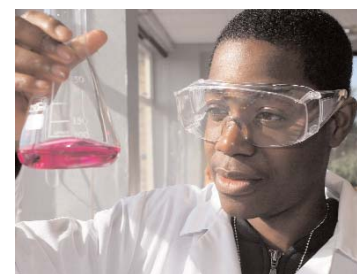
"We thought we'd divide the kids by task," Anderson said, "some to be editors, some to be writers, some to be actors and some to construct sets."

Anderson said he hopes to attract kids who are really interested in the topics. Group size will be limited to 24 kids, ages 8-14, and parents will pay one set fee for the session that includes everything.

"We're offering broad, multi-faceted topics," said Anderson. "Children will be able to immerse themselves in a whole 'world' and then within that 'world' make choices for what really interests them."



Circus Arts Camp



UW Science Camp

Hoopla Circus Set for January 28th

Continued from page 1



Madtown Twisters at the 2006 Celebrating Youth!

Like last year’s “Circus of Dreams”, this year will feature a full youth-led circus performance beginning at 3:45 p.m. Marcia Miquelon is the producer. The Hoop-Na-Ticks Clowning group will perform along with aerial dance and trapeze performances from the Mazomanie Movement Arts group. Circesteem, a Chicago Youth Circus group, will also perform acrobatics using a German wheel (the kind you fit inside and roll around) and giant balls that acrobats will walk on.

New acts this year include Sparkledog Productions doing Storyscapes, Children of the Sun, a Milwaukee hearing impaired drumming group, a rock and roll band of

middle school students called “Zenn”, and Tibetan Youth Dancers.

There will be a hoolahooping area open all day where visitors can build their own hoops and play with them. Happy’s Clown Club will do an “extreme clown makeover” for those willing to be made up like a clown.

The event is free but the suggested donation is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Sponsors for the event include: Dean/St. Mary’s, Circus World Museum, WKOW, La Movida, Wisconsin Arts Board, Q106FM, CUNA Mutual Group, WORT, Anchor Bank, Magic 98, Club TNT, Dane County Cultural Affairs and Club TNT. Last year’s event drew more than 10,000 people.

“ We would love to have consumers who have used WYC services...”

WYC Board Seeking Three New Members

The Wisconsin Youth Company board is looking for three new members.

“We’re especially looking for people from the Waukesha area or from outside of Madison,” said Board President Laurie Frank. “Currently all the members are from Madison.”

Frank also said they would like to see some parents on the board.

“We would love to have consumers who have used WYC services to join the board,” said Frank.

Terms are three years. Anyone interested can contact Laurie Frank at 608-251-2234.

New Community Director Joins AFTER SCHOOL



AFTER SCHOOL Dane Division Community Director Joe Naughton

Joe Naughton has been hired as a community director for the Dane Division of AFTER SCHOOL. He supervises a cluster of program sites located on the south side of Dane County: They are Randall, Franklin and the sites in McFarland and Stoughton.,

Joe’s background includes teaching at an alternative high school in Houston, Texas for a year and at another high school in one of the most populated districts in Texas for two

years. He was also an instructing associate at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and won the school district’s “You Make A Difference Award” for a student lesson on AIDS.

Joe is a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He plans to begin work on his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction at UW in the fall.

Spring Fair Dates Set for Dane and Waukesha



The annual AFTER SCHOOL spring 4-H Fairs will be March 27 in the Waukesha Region and April 10 in the Dane Region.

The Waukesha fair will be at the Waukesha County Expo Center from 5-8 p.m. and the Dane fair will be at the Alliant Energy Center from 5-8 p.m.

The fairs are family events with a light supper and entertainment. Everyone attending receives a ticket good for items from the snack bar such as hot dogs, soda, or chips.

Each AFTER SCHOOL site decorates a booth and displays 4-H projects and other art, craft or science activities done by the children during the past school year. 4-H projects will be judged and children receive ribbons.

If they choose, they may enter their projects in their local county 4-H fair this summer. Children may also have their art work considered for the AFTER SCHOOL Celebration of Art portion of the fair. This year's theme is costume and clothing design. In addition to 4-H and art projects, some programs perform skits or music or dance routines.

Both fairs feature a raffle which serves as a fundraiser for the AFTER SCHOOL Scholarship Fund. Raffle prizes include things like gift certificates to local restaurants and activities like bowling or movies.



a WISCONSIN YOUTH COMPANY program



Kids dancing at last year's spring fair in Waukesha.

Options and Alternatives in Education Conference

Continued from page 1

Workshops cover a wide range of educational topics including learning through movement, Tai Chi, education for talented and gifted, Reggio Emilia approach, collaborative art making, Waldorf, Montessori, charter schools and more.

"We want people to see that there are lots of options and ways to learn," said Miller. "We hope people will connect and see that others are doing similar work and their programs may complement each other."

Miller said there were many groups and individuals involved in making education work for children and youth but that parents may not know about them.

"If people get a tool to use from this conference that will be great," said Miller. This conference is all about planting seeds."

Cost of the conference is \$75 for adults and \$45 for youth. A box lunch will be available for \$10. To register, contact Mariah Miller, WYC Baldwin St. office, 608-251-0329. For more information visit www.celebratingyouth.org.





a WISCONSIN YOUTH COMPANY program

1201 McKenna Blvd.
Madison, WI 53719
608-276-9782
800-238-1174

N9 W24198 Bluemound Road
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-547-8770
800-552-8878
www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org