



# AFTER ALL

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a WISCONSIN YOUTH COMPANY program

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## Homework Time to Get More Emphasis

AFTER SCHOOL sites will be placing more emphasis on homework this year according to Dane and Waukesha Region Division Directors Nora Bergeon-Capps and CindySue Nielsen.

Nielsen said that helping children get their homework done or at least started while at AFTER SCHOOL means that they can have more free time at home to spend with their family and friends.

Children who don't have homework or who choose not to work on it must choose a quiet activity like reading, drawing or playing a board game.

"When staff are excited about helping children with homework or are interested in what and how they are learning in the school systems then the students want to share their school work with us," said Nielsen.

"Parents have told us that they would like to see more emphasis on academics," said Bergeon-Capps.

"Having a consistent time set aside for homework and stressing the importance of it is key," said Nielsen.

Each site designates a homework area and staff encourages children to make use of it as soon as they arrive.

All homework areas are stocked with the supplies children need to do their homework. These include lined, graph and tracing paper, pencils and markers, English and Spanish dictionaries, Thesaurus, atlas, and for math homework, a compass, protractor and rulers.

"Having a diverse and well-supplied homework station is essential," said Nielsen.



Above: Randall AFTER SCHOOL kids read and do homework in a quiet corner of the gym outfitted with a rug, pillows and books. Right: Cecilia, a fourth grader, works at a table.



## New Dane Program Manager Hired

A new program manager for the Dane Region of AFTER SCHOOL has been hired. Ashley VanderPas will oversee seven programs in Middleton, Waunakee, Mt. Horeb and Dodgeville. She replaces Eric Koppa who left in June. VanderPas graduated from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in December 2008 with a BS in Social Work. She

was a program manager for the Milwaukee YMCA's after school program overseeing nine school year programs and two summer camps.

VanderPas, a Green Bay native, always knew she wanted to work with children.

"I want to be in a position to empower them, to help them grow," she said.

She joins two other Dane Program Managers Kari Eggers and Mike Peltola who provide oversight for the remaining 16 programs in Madison, McFarland and Stoughton.



Ashley VanderPas

Wisconsin Youth Company exists so that the children of Wisconsin benefit from communities that nurture them at a sustainable cost.  
 www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org

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## Circus Immersion Camp Is Largest Ever

This year's Circus Immersion Camp was the largest ever with 25 campers taking part.

Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) has been sponsoring the camp for four years. Marcia Miquelon and Jacob Mills, founders of the Wild Rumpus Circus in Mazomanie, WI, are the instructors for the camp.

"I think when people saw the circus tent go up last year that created a lot of interest and then we have satisfied customers coming back too," said Miquelon.

WYC purchased a circus tent with trapeze rigging and a wooden ring two years ago. The tent is put up each

summer next to the WYC administration building for the final performance.

Miquelon said about half of the campers were new and about half were returning campers. Some have attended all four years.

"It's active, experiential learning that's physical but non-competitive," said Miquelon. "There's a lot of learning going on that is non-traditional."

During the two week camp kids get to sample all the circus skills: clowning, tumbling, juggling, trapeze, stilt walking and low tightwire walking.

A large group of families, cameras in hand, turned out for the Circus Finale on August 6. Campers demonstrated aerial skills in the administrative building gym on August 5.

"To take a group of kids from zero to a show in two weeks is a pretty big deal," said Miquelon. "I think parents were blown away."

Campers took turns performing their tumbling routines (top). Instructor Jacob Mills spots a camper on the low tightwire (bottom).

## Former AFTER SCHOOL Student Works for Middle School U

Former Leopold AFTER SCHOOL student Will O'Connell, 19, spent his summer as a youth worker and course instructor for another Wisconsin Youth Company program, Middle School U.

"I started at Leopold AFTER SCHOOL day one," said O'Connell. "I made my first friends there."

O'Connell's family had just moved to Madison and he didn't know anyone.

"I mainly did sports (at AFTER SCHOOL). I played basketball and football with my friends everyday," he said.

This past summer he taught active team games, ball games and sports, net sports and table

tennis at Middle School U.

"Middle-school is a great age," he said. "Because they're older you can have real conversation with them."

O'Connell is also an alumnus of AFTER SCHOOL Summer Day Camp, Middle School U and Wander Wisconsin.

"Those were some of the most fun weeks of my life," said O'Connell. "I used to arrange to go to camp the same time as my friends."

Two of those friends are now his college roommates. O'Connell is a junior at UW-Madison, majoring in engineering.

## Celebrating Youth! Has A New Coordinator

Rebecca Kautz is the new coordinator for the 2011 *Celebrating Youth!* event. She replaces Ilana Caplan who



Rebecca Kautz

coordinated the 2009 and 2010 events.

Kautz has a BA in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Masters of Arts in Education degree from Argosy University.

She has worked in the arts in community based settings, in theater and in higher education.

"*Celebrating Youth!* gives me an opportunity to work with many creative individuals and organizations," said Kautz, "and it's a great platform to promote

Wisconsin Youth Company programs as well as others for youth."

Kautz came up with the theme for this year's Celebration of Art that is associated with the event: "Growing to Greatness."

"I came up with the idea because *Celebrating Youth!* makes me think of the potential and the possibilities for young people taking steps to enrich their lives," she said.

**SAVE the DATE**

**CELEBRATING Youth!**

showcasing positive youth development

**January 30, 2011**

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monona Terrace

[www.celebratingyouth.org](http://www.celebratingyouth.org)

## New AFTER SCHOOL Site Opens in Dodgeville

A new AFTER SCHOOL site has opened at Dodgeville Elementary School in Iowa County.

Licensed for 34, the site is currently serving about 10 children.

"We expect it to grow in the next month," said Dane Regional Division Director Nora Bergeon-Capps. "I think we'll probably need to add a second staff person soon."

The site is also serving children from Ridgeway Elementary School in nearby Ridgeway. They are bused to the Dodgeville site by the school district. Bergeon-Capps said she anticipates having enough children to open a site at Ridgeway by the start of second semester.

AFTER SCHOOL, the largest division of Wisconsin Youth Company, operates 22 sites in Dane County and 14 in Waukesha County.

## New Office Assistants



Two new office assistants have been hired. Jamie Holifield, left, is the new Waukesha Region office assistant. She has been a project assistant for a health center and an administrative assistant for a senior living management company. She has a BA in political science from DePaul University. She is originally from Milwaukee.



Natasha Quinn, right, is the new office assistant float for the Dane Region. She will work mainly in the Madison office and fill in as needed in the Waukesha office. She has six years experience in human resources, accounting and payroll. A Madison native, she graduated from Memorial High School and Madison Area Technical College.

## Mckenna Parking Lot Being Expanded

The parking lot for the Wisconsin Youth Company administration building on McKenna Blvd. on Madison's southwest side is being expanded. Increased lighting, pedestrian walkways and a second exit will make the lot safer by creating a better traffic flow and allowing more convenient access to the building.

The new lot expands the old lot into the undeveloped grassy area next to the administration building creating 58 parking stalls. There will also be 22 stalls in the lower level lot at the former Griff's Restaurant. A second exit will be built on Gammon Lane. This will allow people entering or leaving the lot to avoid pulling into or making a left hand turn across heavy traffic on McKenna Blvd. during rush

hours. Additional parking will also allow for increased use of the building for community meetings and family nights and will help with parent pickup and drop off of children.

The new lot will have a retaining wall along the south side. It will be landscaped with trees, shrubs and a retention pond for rainwater runoff. Construction is to be completed by Oct. 31. Parents needing to stop by the administrative office may wish to call first as parts of the lot will be temporarily closed.



The lot is funded in part by a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Madison.



A bulldozer from Homburg Contractors Inc. works on the expansion of the parking lot at the administration building.

## Getting Homework Done Can Be A Challenge

Getting kids to do their homework is never easy. At AFTER SCHOOL we try to provide the time, space, materials and support to help kids work on it before they go home. Here are some tips that might help make homework time easier for kids and parents alike.



Quinn, a Randall AFTER SCHOOL fifth grader, takes advantage of quiet time to finish his homework.

1. Establish a routine. Choose a time that works for you and the kids and stick to it. It may help to call it "study time" or "quiet time." Even if they don't have homework they can spend the time reading or going over school materials.
2. Make a homework toolbox. Stock a box with the materials your child will need to do their homework—paper, pencils, sharpener, ruler, protractor, compass, dictionary. Make sure the box stays in the designated study area.
3. Set a good example. When your kids are studying do something quiet like reading or paying bills. Keep the TV turned off.
4. Only help your kids if they ask for it. If they say they don't understand how to do something, ask them what parts they do understand. Ask them how they might try to solve the problem. Provide support and guidance but don't do it for them.
5. Don't bribe them. Instead praise them for the specific behaviors that you want to see. "You sat down right at 7
6. Stay in touch with your child's teachers. Communicate any concerns you have to them and get clarification from them on expectations for homework.
7. Talk to your child's AFTER SCHOOL staff. Let us know how we can help. We can encourage your child to take advantage of our academic time and study with their friends. We can provide supplies and some one on one help.