



AFTER ALL

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Waukesha Region 4-H Fair Draws Big Crowd



About 600 people attended this year's Waukesha Region AFTER SCHOOL 4-H Fair. The fair was March 15, 6-8 p.m. at the Waukesha County Fair Grounds.

Fair highlights included supper provided by AFTER SCHOOL, project exhibits from all 14 AFTER SCHOOL sites, a music and drama festival with performances from 10 of the sites, a silent auction with 24 baskets of donated items and a family fun zone with 17 exhibitors.

"It was fantastic that so many families came to see all that their children have done this year at AFTER SCHOOL," said CindySue Nielsen, regional director.

Project exhibits included all kinds of arts and crafts such as sewing, woodworking, painting, tie dying, and more. Club age children, grades 3-5, had their projects judged for 4-H competition.

The music and drama festival featured magic shows, dance and cheerleading performances, a puppet show, violin and piano solos as well as other talent displays.

The silent auction raised

\$1917. Visitors bid on baskets containing gift certificates and other items built around themes such as family fun, pets, chocolate or sports. All proceeds go to the AFTER SCHOOL Scholarship Fund which provides tuition assistance to families in need.



All kinds of arts and crafts and science projects were displayed at the fair. Each site had its own booth.

SAVE the DATE
 Dane Region Spring 4-H Fair
 Tuesday, April 26, 2011
 Alliant Energy Center

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

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Half Day Options at Two Dane Summer Day Camps

Fir the first time ever two Dane Region AFTER SCHOOL Summer Day Camps will offer a half day option to campers. Camp of the Trails, located at Fireman's Park in Middleton and Camp Pleasant Valley at the

Village Center in Waunakee will both offer half day options.

In Waunakee, campers can attend summer school in the morning then take the bus to day camp. In Middleton campers can take advantage of swimming, tennis and other classes offered by the Middleton Recreation Department in the morning then come to day camp in the afternoon.

"We saw that there was an increased need for us to be more flexible in meeting the needs of families," said Camps and Enrichment Program Director Jason Anderson.

Another change for summer is the new location for the Middleton camp at Fireman's Park.



Parachute games are part of the fun at summer day camp.

"I'm a big fan of outdoor settings for day camp," said Anderson.

He also noted that the camp was more centrally located for Middleton families and easy walking distance to the Middleton Pool. The camp will also have access to space in the Middleton High School in case of inclement weather.

Another change for Dane camps is that after surveying families last year Anderson decided to offer the most popular theme weeks like "Make a Splash" and "A Fine Mess" more than once.

"We have a lot of kids who come for just part of the summer and those kids would miss out on their favorite themes if we didn't offer them twice."

REGISTER NOW
 for Summer Day Camp
 in Waukesha and
 Dane Counties!
 wisconsinyouthcompany.org

In addition to Middleton and Waunakee, there will be camps in Madison at Stephens School, in Verona at Sugar Creek School, in Mt. Horeb at the Early Learning Center and in Stoughton at River Bluff Middle School.

Sisters Share the Stage at Waukesha 4-H Fair

They say they don't especially like cheerleading or dance but you wouldn't know it by looking at the Waukesha 4-H Fair program. Myah and Taylor Fraundorf, who attend Magee AFTER SCHOOL, took part in three of the 14 performances at this year's fair.

"Last year I was in two things and I thought it would be cool to do more this year," said Myah, 10.

Younger sister Taylor, 8, decided to join in too.

"Love Song" is my favorite

because of all the dance moves," said Taylor.

The girls performed a cheerleading routine, "Fire Flies," that they also choreographed. Friends Hailey

Grocholski and Grace Kostreva also participated. The same four did the dance routine, "Love Song."

Myah and Taylor were also part of a Peter Pan performance, "I Won't Grow Up."

"It was challenging because of all

the kindergartners in it," said Myah. "One was even 4K!"

Practice for all of the performances began at AFTER SCHOOL four months ago. Taylor and Myah helped the younger children learn their parts.

The girls' parents are Jill and Mike Fraundorf, North Prairie.



Myah, right, and Taylor Fraundorf

AFTER SCHOOL to Pilot National Standards

AFTER SCHOOL has been chosen by the National Institute on Out of School Time (NIOST) to pilot national competency standards for after school staff.

“These competencies represent the actual skill levels that we need our staff to have in order to deliver high quality programming,” said Nora Bergeon-Capps, Division Director.

Bergeon-Capps is the Wisconsin affiliate leader for the National After School Association. Meetings with Ellen Gannett, NIOST director and researcher, led to AFTER SCHOOL being

asked to pilot the standards. “We will be re-vamping our training system to make sure we incorporate all the competencies,” said Bergeon-Capps.

The competencies cover ten areas and include everything from child and youth growth and development to cultural competency and responsiveness to professional development and leadership. Staff are then rated at where they are in achieving each competency: entry level, developing level or proficient level.

“This will help us as we plan our

training,” said Bergeon-Capps. “It will give us an end point so we know what each person needs to achieve in order to become proficient.”

Bergeon-Capps said it would also help in hiring as the interview questions would be rewritten to incorporate the competencies.

“We’ll be able to see immediately what skills people will need to move to the next level of proficiency,” said Bergeon-Capps.

Bergeon-Capps said the new standards would begin with hiring staff this fall and then be

“These competencies represent the actual skill levels that we need our staff to have in order to deliver high quality programming.”

applied in training staff during orientation.

“We can’t expect that staff will meet these standards if they don’t know how,” said Bergeon-Capps.

Inclusion is going to be a focus of staff training this year Bergeon-Capps said. (See article below.)

“We expect our staff to have a full understanding of inclusion and what that means for children and families,” she said.

Staff Attend State Conference

About 20 AFTER SCHOOL site supervisors and program staff attended the Wisconsin Afterschool Association state conference in Madison April 2.

The conference included 28 sessions covering topics such as celebrating diversity, everyday art, the root causes of violence and social issues and science puzzles and mysteries.

The theme of the conference was “After School Today” and it featured tracks for program staff, directors and supervisors and people who work with middle school youth.

Dane Region AFTER SCHOOL Program Manager Ashley Vanderpas served on the conference organizing committee.

Enrolling A New Sibling in AFTER SCHOOL?

Families with children currently enrolled in AFTER SCHOOL will be receiving fall 2011 enrollment information in June. Parents who will also be enrolling a new sibling

may contact the administrative office and give their name, the new child’s name, birth date, grade in the fall and the AFTER SCHOOL site they will be attending. This will

allow the administrative office to send enrollment forms for the new child. Parents may also download the necessary forms from the website, www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org.

Forms will be posted in June. If you have any questions call the Wisconsin Youth Company Administrative Office, 608-276-9782.

There was a lot to see and do at the Waukesha 4-H Fair—project displays, singing and dancing. There was even a booth where families could learn about CPR.



Kids Learn Chinese at Poplar Creek

The kids at Poplar Creek AFTER SCHOOL wanted to learn Chinese. It’s a good thing Branden Johnson is one of their AFTER SCHOOL teachers.

“I just happen to be a very good auditory learner myself,” said Johnson. “I have a knack for languages.”

Johnson didn’t know Chinese but he is fluent in Spanish and also knows Japanese, French, German and Korean.

“It’s been as much a learning experience for myself as well as for the children,” said Johnson

who learned Chinese writing and pronunciation from the Internet. He made worksheets of Chinese characters to for the kids to trace to help them learn the writing.

“One of the kids told me they were interested in learning Chinese because the symbols are so pretty,” said Johnson.

Johnson is a native of Eugene, OR and a graduate of the University of Oregon where he studied Journalism and Communications.

“Teaching is something that I’ve always thought about,” he said. “My grandparents and uncles are

teachers so I grew up around it.” Johnson said he enjoys teaching in AFTER SCHOOL

because he gets to work on creative projects with the children.



Branden Johnson

Staff to Receive Online Training in Inclusion

Training modules and webinars from the national organization Kids Included Together (KIT) will provide online training to AFTER SCHOOL staff in the 2011-12 school year.

Founded in 1997, KIT provides

best practices training for community-based organizations committed to including children with and without disabilities into their recreational, child development and youth development programs. It is run by the National Center on

Inclusion.

Staff will be able to log into the KIT site and study independently. If they complete the four modules successfully they will receive a certificate. They can also take part in 30

minute, monthly webinars

“Inclusion is so important for a quality program,” said AFTER SCHOOL Division Director Nora Bergeon-Capps. “We want every child to have a sense of belonging.”

Archery, Auction, Hands-On Activities at Dane Fair

An archery range, more than 20 silent auction baskets and lots of hands-on activities will highlight the Dane Region 4-H Fair this year.

The fair will be Tuesday, April 26, 6-8 p.m. at the Alliant Energy Center. All AFTER SCHOOL families are invited to attend.

The National Archery in the Schools Program which is coordinated through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will have a practice range set up at the fair. Visitors can get instruction on how to use a bow and arrow and can shoot at targets.

Each AFTER SCHOOL site is sponsoring a silent auction basket. The baskets are built around themes such as Fun

in the Sun, Packer Party, Coffee, Tea and Hot Cocoa, Outdoors and Nature, Cooking and Baking and Rainy Day Activities. Wisconsin Youth Company administrative staff are donating a basket with the theme of “A Night Out in Madison.” Each basket contains donated items pertaining to the theme. Visitors bid anonymously on the baskets. Proceeds from the sale of the baskets goes to the Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) Scholarship Fund to help low income families pay for their children to attend WYC programs.

Some of the donations to the auction include two tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game worth \$104, two tickets to a Milwaukee Brewers game worth

\$80 and a set of luggage worth \$400 donated by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Each of the 23 AFTER SCHOOL sites will have a booth with hands-on activities for children such as Lincoln Logs, Legos or a marble run. There will be a large booth with arts and crafts activities and face painting. Students from a UW Biology class who are currently teaching science activities in AFTER SCHOOL programs will have a booth at the fair too. They are part of Adult Role Models in Science, sponsored by the UW Center for

Biology Education.

The fair will also have a music and drama festival with children from more than 10 AFTER SCHOOL sites performing. There will be dance routines, singing and a string trio performing.

A light supper of pizza, salad, breadsticks and a drink will be served.



Each booth at the Dane 4-H Fair will have a hands-on activity for kids to enjoy like this marble run at last year’s fair.