

AFTER



SCHOOL

A program of
Wisconsin Youth Company.

AFTER ALL

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December 2011

Dress Your Kids For The Cold

AFTER SCHOOL programs go outside every day. We believe kids need fresh air and room to run and play after being in a classroom all day. State licensing rules require that children have "daily outdoor activities except during inclement weather or when not advisable for health reasons." Inclement weather means severe or stormy weather including heavy rain or an outdoor temperature or wind chill of zero degrees or colder. We require all children to wear coats or jackets if the temperature is below 60 degrees. Check out www.healthychildren.org for tips

from the American Academy of Pediatrics on how to keep your child healthy and safe in the winter cold.



This Merton Kindergartener is all bundled up to play outside.

Save The Date For Spring Fairs

The annual AFTER SCHOOL Spring Fair will be March 15 in Waukesha and April 26 in Madison. The Waukesha fair will be at the Waukesha Expo Center and

the Dane fair will be at the Alliant Energy Center. A light meal is served and parents can see examples of kid's art work and enjoy music and drama performances. The Waukesha fair features a family fun zone with hands-on activities for kids. The Dane fair will have an international flavor this year as the World Language students show off what they have learned in Spanish, Chinese and French classes.



Three kids show off their dance skills at the 2011 Waukesha Spring Fair.

How Do You Decide About Holiday Donations?

Everyone's asking for donations this time of year. I got my first request October 31 from an animal shelter in my home town. This month I got one from my university and two from a birding organization that I support.

I give to my home town animal shelter in memory of my mother and Kate. Kate was her fat, spoiled, much-beloved calico that lived with her for twelve years and then took over my house for two more after my mom passed away. I miss them both especially at this time of the year.

I've got four feeders and bird bath outside my office window. I love watching the House Sparrows, Juncos, Cardinals, Mourning Doves and Blue Jays that come every day. I think the birding organization will be getting a check from me too. My university, on the other hand, seems pretty flush. I think they will get a pass this year.

But I am adding another donation to my list and I'm hoping you will too: the Wisconsin Youth Company Scholarship Fund. Even though they don't live in Wisconsin I'm making the donation for the young kids in my family--Liam, 5, Finn, 3, and the twins, Jack and Alyssa, 6.

Families use our scholarship fund to help them pay tuition for our AFTER SCHOOL programs or for our summer camp. They may be experiencing a one-time financial emergency. They may be in school. They may not qualify for child care tuition assistance from the city or the county. Like us they are working families trying to make ends meet.

Our programs can offer so much to children: they are places where a shy child can grow to be a leader; where the spirit of teamwork can flourish whether in a soccer game or during clean-up time, where kids learn to solve problems by talking instead of shoving, where children learn to trust because an adult is there for support and guidance. This is what I want for the young ones in my family. It's what I want for all kids.

If you can help, please send a check to the Wisconsin Youth Company Scholarship Fund, 1201 McKenna Blvd., Madison, WI 53719. We're a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible.

I've made my choices for this year: kids, cats and birds. That sounds about right.

Jean Colvin
Communications Director

Winter Break Programs Start December 27

There's still time to sign up for winter break! Programs are offered December 27, 28, 29 and 30 at the Waukesha

AFTER SCHOOL office and December 27, 28, 29, 30 and January 3, 4 5 and 6 at the Madison office. Visit www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org

to print registration materials. Sorry, programs not available in Stoughton and Waunakee.

