



Newsletter

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Did You Know?

- 26 Madison AFTER SCHOOL staff attended the "Above the Line" training September 19.
- The theme for the January 28, 2007 Celebrating Youth! event is "Hoopla Circus".
- AFTER SCHOOL is serving just over 1300 families in the Dane and Waukesha Regions this school year.

Enrollments Up in Waukesha, Steady in Dane

Total enrollment for AFTER SCHOOL programs in the Waukesha Region rose from 571 to 647 for the start of the 2006 school year while Dane Region enrollments remained about the same at 955.

AFTER SCHOOL, the largest division of Wisconsin Youth Company, now serves just over 1600 children. In the Dane Region the largest program is at Chavez Elementary School which has 22 before school and 67 after school children. The next largest programs are Randall with 61 after school children and Shorewood with 58. Neither site offers before school care. Eagle School, a private school on Madison's west side, is the smallest program with 16 enrolled in after school. The second smallest Dane program is Lindbergh with five enrolled in before school and 12 in after school for a total of 17. Not surprisingly, Monday is the largest enrollment day in Dane due to the early dismissal of Madison Public Schools.

Of the Dane County suburban school sites located in Middleton, Waunakee, McFarland, Mt. Horeb and Stoughton, the largest

program is at Fox Prairie in Stoughton with six in before school and 56 in after school care. The smallest suburban program is at Kegonsa Elementary School in Stoughton. It serves 17 children.

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Randall AFTER SCHOOL kids work on their construction skills. Randall serves 67 children.

Madison Staff Take "Above the Line" Training

Madison AFTER SCHOOL program staff are being trained in "Above the Line", a new way to support and guide children's behavior. AFTER SCHOOL staff are being trained so that they can provide consistency for children who are attending Madison Public Schools. Madison teachers have been trained and schools are now beginning to implement "Above the Line" practices.

"Above the Line" was developed by nationally recognized behavior expert Corwin Kronenberg and is being used in Sheboygan, Wausau, North Dakota and Minnesota. It consists of identifying three types of behavior: above the line, below the line and bottom of the line. Students who are above the line are expected to show good behavior by being respectful, polite, cooperative, safe and a good worker.

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WYC Community Relations Director Honored



Mariah Miller

Mariah Miller, WYC Community Relations Director, has been selected as a 2006 Water Bearer Award Honoree by Club TNT. Club TNT (Today Not Tomorrow) is a group of individuals that “befriends” people and organizations that make outstanding contributions to their community. Club TNT is also a cable network television show on UPN Channel 57 on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

“It’s a great honor and I’m especially pleased that the award is based on working with youth,” said Miller.

Miller was recognized for her work in coordinating WYC’s Celebrating Youth! event. The annual event draws more than 10,000 people and Miller has coordinated it since its third year. In 2005 she and WYC Events Coordinator Spyder Carneol co-coordinated the event. Based on a circus theme the event drew about 12,000 people to

Monona Terrace to see youth performances in dance, music, drill team, circus arts and many other talents. Carneol is now the sole coordinator of the event.

Miller is also being recognized for her nurturing of promising youth talent. Singer Myszelle Kober was one of the entertainers at the dinner honoring Miller and five others. A Stoughton Middle School and former AFTER SCHOOL student, she is one of the many youth talents helped by Miller. The dinner was October 24 at St. Martin’s House, Madison.

Also honored were: Godwin Amegashie, Director, Division of Minority Business; Fabiola Hamdan, Dane County Social Worker; Dr. Richard Harris, Executive Director, Genesis Enterprise Center; Gwen Jones, community leader; and Edward Murray, community activist and leader.

Parker Palmer Speaks with WYC Staff

Nationally known author, teacher and activist Parker Palmer met with Wisconsin Youth Company staff for an informal talk at WYC’s First Friday event in November.

First Friday began last year as a way for staff to get together and discuss articles or books of interest. It is also seen as a way for staff to get to know one another and for Executive Director Nancy Goodell to have more informal contact with staff.

Last spring one of the topics for First Friday was Palmer’s new book, *A Hidden Wholeness: the Journey Towards an Undivided Life*. The book was so enthusiastically received, Palmer, who lives in Madison, was contacted and he agreed to come. The discussion was Friday November 3, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

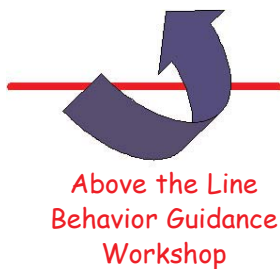
Madison Staff Learn New Ways to Support Kids

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Below the line behavior is swearing, teasing, being uncooperative, hitting or wasting time. A student found to be below the line is given the choice of fixing the behavior or taking a consequence from an adult. Children are encouraged to work out a way to “fix it” or to decide on their consequence with an adult. Bottom line behaviors are completely unacceptable. They include vandalism, sexual harassment, weapons, assault, use of drugs or

racial harassment. In a school setting these kinds of behavior will automatically involve the principal and may involve law enforcement depending on if state laws are violated. In an AFTER SCHOOL setting they would likely involve expulsion from the program and/or contact with authorities.

The workshop was co-sponsored by Wisconsin Youth Company, the YMCA of Dane County and Madison School & Community Recreation.



Required for all staff and supervisors based at Madison School District locations.

4-H, DPI Grant Funds Training for Waukesha Staff

The Waukesha Region AFTER SCHOOL staff received training from the Waukesha County 4-H Youth Development Educator thanks to a \$450 grant from Wisconsin 4-H and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The training was on “ages and stages” of development and growth of school age children. Waukesha Region Program Director CindySue Nielsen worked closely with Denise Retzlaff, interim Youth Development Educator for Waukesha County 4-H, to secure the grant.

“It was a phenomenal training,” said Nielsen. “We learned ways to acknowledge and understand where children are in their development and to adjust our programs to meet their needs.”

Waukesha is one of ten counties receiving grants for similar training.



Programs Take Part in “Lights On Afterschool”

All 40 AFTER SCHOOL program sites took part in the annual “Lights On Afterschool” event on October 12. The event is sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and is celebrated to call attention to the importance of after school programs. According to the Alliance about one in four youth or more than 14 million children are alone and unsupervised after school.

Research on after school programs by Deborah Lowe Vandell from the University of Wisconsin-Madison has shown that curriculum based programs such as the kind AFTER SCHOOL offers are associated with children having fewer behavioral problems in school, better grades and better work habits.

AFTER SCHOOL sites were a large part of Vandell’s research. The goal of the Afterschool Alliance is to see that all children have access to quality, affordable after school programs by 2010.

Parents were offered animal crackers and apples as a snack when they picked up their children and posters promoting the event were displayed at all sites. Posters were designed and printed by Wisconsin Youth Company’s print shop.

“Lights on Afterschool” began in 2001 with 1200 events nationally. In 2005 a million people rallied at 7,500 events to show their support for after school.



The kids at Hawthorne AFTER SCHOOL made caramel apples for the “Lights On” celebration.

AFTER SCHOOL Enrollment News

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The Waukesha Region’s largest program is at Summit View Elementary School in Waukesha. It serves 60 children. The program at Merton Elementary School, which includes a four year old kindergarten group is second largest with 40 kids. The program at McGee in Wales is the smallest.

AFTER SCHOOL enrolls children from 511 families in the Waukesha Region and 791 in Dane.

AFTER SCHOOL was pleased to welcome back 12 of its site supervisors in the Waukesha Region. The region has 15 sites so three new supervisors were hired. In Dane 15 site supervisors returned this year. Promotions from program specialists and summer camp staff filled the site supervisor positions at eight sites and only two new supervisors joined the staff at Randall and at Wingra. Most site supervisor positions are full time but some are 35 or 30 hours a week. Program specialist positions are part time, usually about 15-20 hours a week.

Two New Community Directors Hired in Dane



Lisa Cavern, left, and Kristin Erickson are the new community directors for the Dane Region.

Two new community directors have been hired for the Dane Region of AFTER SCHOOL. They are Kristin Erickson and Lisa Cavern. Community directors oversee clusters of AFTER SCHOOL program sites and provide support and resources to the staff at their assigned sites.

Erickson worked as a site supervisor for an after school program run by the park district in Sugar Grove, IL before moving to Madison in July. She was also a teacher's aide in a special education class at the same school where her after school program was located.

"This is a phenomenal program," said Erickson referring to AFTER SCHOOL. "It's much more in depth and there is more planning and more access to materials than at my last job."

Erickson's largest program at her previous employer only served 18 children while many AFTER SCHOOL programs serve upwards of 40 children.

Erickson is married to Dennis Erickson, district director for the Boy Scouts. She has a son, 9, and two step sons.

Cavern was a camp director for AFTER SCHOOL's summer day camp located at Crestwood School this past summer.

"I enjoyed working with the kids and staff in the summer," said Cavern. "I'm really excited about the opportunity to be a community director."

Cavern has a master's degree in environmental education and is looking forward to using those skills with staff and children. She also enjoys coaching staff.

"I like helping people recognize that with some (issues with kids), you need to deal with them right away but in other situations it may be a good idea to take a breath," she said.

New Berlin Program Moving to New Building

The new Ronald Reagan Elementary School which is currently under construction will house the AFTER SCHOOL program from New Berlin Center. The new 135,000 square foot building is going up right next to Ronald Reagan East which serves children from Kindergarten to third grade. Ronald Reagan West serves grades four to six. All grades will combine in the new building. The new school is located on Sunnyslope Road in New Berlin.

The New Berlin AFTER SCHOOL program cares for nine children in its before school program and about 20 in its after school program. Kelly Taczala is the site supervisor. She will continue in that role at the new school. Enrollment increases are expected once the New Berlin AFTER SCHOOL settles into its new home at the new building. The school is expected to open the week following Thanksgiving.

Fruit and Fudge Sale Underway for Scholarships



Proceeds go toward tuition assistance for families in the AFTER SCHOOL program.

Wisconsin Youth Company is once again selling Florida Indian River citrus fruit to raise money for the AFTER SCHOOL Scholarship Fund. WYC has also added the sale of homestyle fudge. Parents can order the fruit and fudge through their AFTER SCHOOL program site or can call the office at 608-276-9782. The sale ends November 10 and the fruit and fudge are available for pick-up on December 2 at WYC offices on McKenna Boulevard.

Different sizes and combinations of red grapefruit, navel oranges and tangelos can be purchased. Prices range from 40 pounds of tangelos for \$27 to a 19-pound mixed box for \$17. An assortment of fudge flavors is available in one pound decorator tins for \$13 and in 1/2 pound tubs for \$6.50.

The fruit and fudge both come from the Riversweet Company in Florida.

Education Conference Planned for January

“Options and Alternatives in Education” is the title of a new conference being offered by Wisconsin Youth Company. The conference will be January 27, 2007, one day before the annual Celebrating Youth! event. Both events will be at Monona Terrace.

“The conference will tie in with Celebrating Youth! in terms of recognizing the gifts and talents of youth,” said Mariah Miller, conference organizer. Miller has been the coordinator for Celebrating Youth! since its third year. Last year she co-organized it with Events Coordinator Spyder Carneol. This year Carneol will be the sole coordinator for Celebrating Youth! while Miller devotes her energy to the conference. Miller said about 40 workshops would be offered for parents, educators, child and youth caregivers and youth themselves. Some workshops will be youth-led.

Miller said her inspiration for the conference came from an interest in education and the realization that not all children do well with a traditional educational approach.

“I want this conference to help people see the gifts that all children have, and the ways that different children can flourish in many different types of educational settings,” said Miller. “I also want to put people in touch with all kinds of resources.”

One of the keynote speakers will be Barbara Gilles from Seattle, WA. She was named 1999 World Teacher of the Year by President Bill Clinton. Her topic is “Turn the World Around”.

Information about the cost, how to register and the workshop titles will be available in the winter edition of the AFTER SCHOOL newsletter.

“ I want this conference to help people see the gifts that children have ... ”

Hoola hoop Workshop Planned

A workshop for kids ages eight and up on hoola hooping is planned for Sunday, Nov. 12, Noon to 4 p.m. The workshop will be taught by Adam Grieve of Marley Hoops and WYC

Events Coordinator Spyder Carneol. Cost is \$25 and includes a hoola hoop and decorative tape. Call 608-276-9782, ext. 23 to register.

Youth Center Expanding, Getting Facelift

The Wisconsin Youth & Family Center (WYFC) is expanding to offer services to all ages and getting spruced up. The center is located in both wings of Wisconsin Youth Company’s (WYC) corporate offices and uses some additional building space after hours. WYC, parent company of AFTER SCHOOL, is the fiscal manager for the center.

Improvements include painting and soundproofing the gym, painting the center hallway, installing new window treatments, painting the center bathrooms and installing new soap and paper towel dispensers.

Windows have been installed in three of the classrooms that are used by both the center and WYC to allow for better supervision of those rooms. Last spring a new kitchen was put in the center’s commons room so that cooking classes can be taught and seniors can use the facility for meal gatherings.



Harold Hardy, far right, of Hardy Property Services, LLC and his crew are installing windows in the art room, science room and supervisor’s work room to let in more light and allow for better supervision.

www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org

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a WISCONSIN YOUTH COMPANY program



Join us for a benefit for
Clowns Without Borders
& our own **Greater Elver Park**
Community Center Youth Arts
Programs

Friday, November 17 7-9pm
at Wisconsin Youth Company
1201 McKenna Blvd. Madison

Meet Jamie Lachman of the international relief organization Clowns without Borders and learn about their work with AIDS orphans in South Africa. Jamie will perform and show slides.
www.clownswithoutborders.org

Your donation will support both Clowns Without Borders and a NEW YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM at the Greater Elver Park Community Center. Info: 276-9782, ext. 23

Performances! Food! Fun! Prizes!