



# Newsletter

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## Homework Gets Done at AFTER SCHOOL

A table just for doing homework, supplies like lined paper and calculators and incentives like a video or pizza party practically guarantee that kids will get their homework done at AFTER SCHOOL programs. Although each site may do it a little differently, all set aside time to do homework and offer support, supplies and rewards.

Mary Jo and Club Specialist Kelly Scott keep a homework chart. Children attending five days a week are expected to do homework at least three of those days. For kids attending three to four times a week, they must do homework two times and those coming one or two days, need to do homework one time. All 18 children participate.

"You have to have the supplies they need," said Mary Jo, "a dictionary, calculators, lined paper, protractors, rulers."

The kids can only use the calculator to check the accuracy of their Math homework or if they have a specific assignment that requires using the calculator.

"If they ask for help, if they are stuck on something, we're there," said Kelly, noting that they ask for help with Math most often.

If they don't have homework, the kids can still record study time by reading for 15 minutes, writing 10 lines in their journals, writing a letter to a friend or relative or writing a poem at least 10 lines long.

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*A Fox Prairie 4th grader helps a younger student with homework.*

## Music, Drama, Arts Highlight 4-H Spring Fairs

Singing and dramatic skits dominated the stages and the tables were loaded with colorful arts projects at the Dane and Waukesha Region 4-H Spring Fairs. The Dane Region 4-H Spring Fair was at the Alliant Energy Center April 5 and the Waukesha Region 4-H Spring Fair was at the Waukesha County Fairgrounds April 21.

Both fairs are opportunities for families and friends to learn more about what children do at AFTER SCHOOL sites. For Club participants, all of whom are 4-H members, it was a chance to submit projects and have them judged.

The organization-wide Celebration of Art focus this year was architecture, so many of the projects were variations on buildings - everything from a five foot tall cardboard Leaning Tower of Pisa to popsicle stick constructions. At the Dane Region 4-H Fair Randall students used small stones and mortar to build a replica of a Scottish castle. At the Waukesha Region 4-H Fair kids from Magee AFTER SCHOOL built realistic, small scale "cottages" of sticks using moss for the roof.

Students from Orchard Lane AFTER SCHOOL drew architectural renderings of their bedrooms.

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*Site supervisors Ashley Markus, Katie Nowicki and Anne Jorgensen at the Dane Region 4-H Fair*

## New Events Coordinator Has Experiential Background



Events Coordinator *Spyder Carneol*

With a name like Spyder you might expect that she likes to rock climb, do aerial dance and teach ropes courses. But the name also reflects her philosophy.

“(Being called Spyder) helps keep me conscious that we’re all connected on the web,” said Spyder Carneol, Wisconsin Youth Company’s (WYC) newest employee and events coordinator.

An unusual range of interests and experiences all contributed to make Spyder Carneol what she is today: an experiential educator.

“I like working with kids and helping them discover a sense of their potential and a sense of what holds them back and how to break through boundaries,” said Carneol, “whether the boundaries are in communicating, self image or fears.”

Carneol, a Milwaukee native, wanted to be an architect in high school. Her father ran a drafting and electronics school “so I grew up seeing T-squares around the house.” But instead she opted for landscape architecture and got a degree from UW-Madison.

Along the way, the experiences and interests piled up: She lived on a farm and helped run a business for ten years making pesto and selling it at the Madison farmer’s market. She became interested in rock climbing and has been teaching others how to do it for five

years. She is also a ropes course instructor and has been doing that for nine years. She is a stilt-walker, professional kite flyer, aerial dancer and long time student of Shiatsu, a kind of Japanese acupressure.

“My performing professionally, doing educational outreach and experiential education all comes together in coordinating Celebrating Youth!,” said Carneol of her new job as events coordinator.

Celebrating Youth! is the annual WYC sponsored event that showcases area youth talent. If you attended the November 2004 event at Monona Terrace you probably saw one of Carneol’s projects, the Jolly Giants, a group of stilt walkers that includes her 16 year old daughter, Disa. Nearly 7,000 people attended the event last year.

“Kites on Ice” in February featured more of Carneol’s work. She was the creative director for the Kites on Ice indoor kite flying show. She works with Guildworks, the local kite building and flying organization.

Carneol’s background and interests are helping to bring all kinds of new experiences to the Wisconsin Youth Company and the families it serves. Look for circus-related workshops this summer and don’t be surprised if some ropes and trapezes appear in the WYC administration building’s gym. After all, there’s a Spyder in the office now.

“ I like working with kids and helping them discover a sense of their potential. ”

## CD Features 2004 Celebrating Youth! Participants

Peace, the media, violence, racial profiling, making a difference with your life and partying—all are covered on the CD “I Want You!” Performers are youth talent who were showcased at the Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC)- sponsored 2004 Celebrating Youth! event. The CD was produced by Arthur Richardson of Streets of Gold Productions. The performers learned about the music making process while recording their pieces. The CD leans heavily to urban and hip hop but also includes spoken word performances, a country song, and a ballad by Mychi Kober, 12 year old Stoughton AFTER SCHOOL alumni. The CD can be purchased for \$10 at the WYC administrative offices, 1201 McKenna Blvd., Madison.



### PRESENTING ARTISTS:

- Bridge da Gap
- The KOJO Drill Team
- Michael B. Wright & GBD
- MC Fury featuring Angel
- Teen Build Up
- Delirious Tactics
- Johnathan Safstrom
- Mychi Kober
- Tinysha Matthews
- Jumbo Maverick
- Salmmy Tracy
- Arthur Richardson III

## 2006 Celebrating Youth! to Feature Circus Show

The annual Wisconsin Youth Company sponsored Celebrating Youth! event scheduled for January 22, 2006 will feature a circus show.

"We will create a show within the event," said Spyder Carneol, WYC events coordinator.

In the past the event has showcased youth talent with many community or performance groups having their separate time on stage. This time the groups will be coordinated into a one to one and a half hour show.

"This will allow the youth performers to be a part of something that's bigger than their individual performances," said Carneol.

WYC is collaborating with Circus World Museum of Baraboo and a group of performance artists involved with trapeze work, stiltwalking, physical comedy, and kite flying. Collaborators include the Jolly Giants stilt walkers, the Mazomanie Movement Arts Center,

Cheney and Mills comedy and juggling and Streets of Gold Productions, the organization that produced the CD of youth performers from last year's Celebrating Youth!

"The circus theme lends itself to including kids and organizations that wouldn't necessarily be associated with arts performances," said Carneol.

She said they plan to create a "big top" within Monona Terrace where the event will be held. There will be workshops and demonstrations of circus-related talents and there will be a "midway" with booths from youth organizations featuring hands-on activities.

The circus theme will also be a part of AFTER SCHOOL programming throughout the school year with sites doing projects and creative activities relating to the circus. Circus arts will be the organization-wide Celebration of Art focus for the 2005-2006 program year.



*"Crackers" the clown.*



*"We will create a show within the event," Spyder Carneol, WYC events coordinator.*

## AFTER SCHOOL Staff Attend WAA Conference

Nine staff from the Dane Region attended the 2005 Annual Wisconsin Afterschool Association (WAA) Conference in Pewaukee April 15 and 16.

The theme of this year's conference was "Hours of Opportunities," and it featured 30 workshops on various aspects of working with school-age children. Participants could take part in a "poster session" by moving from station to station and learn about making wire jewelry, smoothies, puppets and paper making. Infant Child CPR classes were also available. In addition to workshops on crafts and activities, there were also workshops on child abuse and behavior management.

AFTER SCHOOL Program Director Tom Munro presented a workshop on "Cooking As

a Program Tool." AFTER SCHOOL Consultant Jean Colvin presented on "Heart to Heart: Building Relationships that Matter."

Joanna Richard from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development was the luncheon speaker. The Kinsella Academy of Irish Dance provided the post-lunch entertainment.

In addition to attending conferences, AFTER SCHOOL staff receive regular training throughout the year. Monthly inservices for site supervisors were held this year covering topics such as conflict resolution, Celebration of Art, homework help, bullying and risk management. CPR and First Aid training has also been offered, and all staff will be certified in those two areas by September 1.

## Wales AFTER SCHOOL Has Jungle Theme for 4-H Fair

Every year Wales Site Supervisor Cherrill Flitz chooses a theme for her kids to focus on for the annual spring fair. This year it was "jungle". The kids made "jungle hats" out of colorful butcher paper and netting and decorated them with bugs and lizards. They also fashioned snakes from flexible hangers covered with newspaper and crepe paper then painted and large jungle birds from molding paper mache over balloons then adding wings, beaks, tails and crests.

Flitz, a former art teacher, enjoys doing art with the AFTER SCHOOL children.

"If you gear it to their interests, then they'll get involved," said Flitz.

The group made a large mural of a tiger for their fair display which will be donated to a library branch where one of the Wales AFTER SCHOOL parents work.



*Cherrill Flitz and Evelyn Ackerman have worked together for three years at Wales AFTER SCHOOL*

## Homework Clubs Turn Chore into Fun

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Donated “Harry Potter” journals and fun stationery inspire all kinds of writing.

“No one can look in anyone else’s journal,” said Mary Jo. “That’s theirs.”

Fox Prairie Club staff divide the year into three segments and if all the kids do their required homework times, they get a party. So far they’ve had pizza and a movie and popcorn. A trip to McDonalds is being considered for the next reward.

At Heritage AFTER SCHOOL in Waunakee the homework club works a little differently. For every 30 minutes that kids do homework they earn a sticker. When they have five stickers they can choose a prize of a candy bar, a bag of chips or a soda. They record the date and times on a big chart.

“I help with math a lot,” said Marie Yarnell, Heritage AFTER SCHOOL Site Supervisor. “They know if they need help, I’ll come.”

Besides the rewards and the ever ready help from adults, children like the chance to do homework with their friends.

“A lot of the kids help each other,” said Marie.

Parents appreciate the opportunity for kids to finish homework after school too.

“Some times, the kids are picked up and go right to soccer or some other activity then home for dinner.” said Mary Jo. “By the time that’s all done it may be 8 p.m. and too late for homework.”



Heritage Site Supervisor Marie Yarnell helps some AFTER SCHOOL Club students with their homework.



Kids without homework can read instead or write in their journals at Fox Prairie AFTER SCHOOL.

## Sports Leagues Encourage Skills, Sportsmanship

Learning basic skills and sportsmanship are the main reasons for youth to participate in AFTER SCHOOL Sports Leagues according to Tom Munro, Program Director and Sports League Coordinator.

“We play down the competition,” said Munro, “and encourage team camaraderie.”

This is the tenth year AFTER SCHOOL has offered sports leagues for Club-age youth (eight and older) in the greater Madison area. This winter six sites participated in basketball. They were Stephens, Muir, West Middleton, Shorewood, Eagle and Heritage.

Throughout the school year there were four sports to choose from: Flag Football is offered in the fall; basketball in the winter and Capture the Flag and Kickball are played in the spring. Any program site with enough Club-age youth wanting to participate can form a team and sign up. Games are played during AFTER SCHOOL program time at those sites with gyms and fields big enough to accommodate the two teams. At some sites, children not participating in the games turn out to cheer on their site’s team. AFTER SCHOOL vans transport the children to their games.

Because of the wide range of skill levels and varying sizes of the children game rules are altered to make it easy for everyone to play and to reduce competition. For example, basketball games are four periods of eight minutes each, rather than the two halves of 20 minutes each as in college basketball. In Flag Football, there’s no such thing as a fumble to prevent kids from diving for the ball. Teams are coached by AFTER SCHOOL Program Specialists who also serve as referees for the games. Games are scheduled for about every two weeks.

“ We play down the competition and encourage team comraderie. ”



### PRIZES GIVEN FOR SELLING MOST TICKETS

Brothers Noah and Alex Gerencir won a \$50 gift certificate at the Waukesha Region 4-H Spring Fair for selling the most raffle tickets. The boys attend Wales AFTER SCHOOL. In the Dane Region Chavez AFTER SCHOOL won an ice cream party for selling the most tickets. The ice cream was donated by Coldstone Creamery. The raffles in both regions raised more than \$3,000 for the AFTER SCHOOL scholarship fund.

## Social Enterprise Conference Offers Business Help

Three Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) administrative staff attended the 6th Annual Social Enterprise Alliance Conference in Milwaukee April 17-20.

Events Coordinator Spyder Carneol, Camp Programs Director Jason Anderson and Writer/Consultant Jean Colvin all attended to learn more about how non-profits can earn income to support their missions. WYC is the parent company of AFTER SCHOOL and the company is looking for ways to bring in more money for its AFTER SCHOOL Scholarship Fund and to support the Wisconsin Youth and Family Center, a neighborhood center located in one wing of the WYC administrative building on McKenna Road.

“What was really exciting was the creativity and to see what other organizations are doing around the country,” said Carneol. “Social enterprise is not as new an idea as I originally thought.”

The conference offered more than 60 sessions for beginning, mid-stage, and advanced practitioners and for grantmakers over three days. Workshops covered things like legal issues, how to obtain copyrights, how to design the right social enterprise for your organization, how to transform organizational

culture to make it entrepreneurial and more. Social enterprise is a growing concept for organizations looking to replace lost funding as government and private money becomes more difficult to obtain.

“I like the idea that organizations are responding to a sign of the times and not just reacting,” said Carneol. “There’s a real sense of possibilities.”

One of Carneol’s favorite workshops was led by staff from the Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation (WBIC). They told how they started their social enterprise, a coffee shop that sells only shade grown, fair trade coffee and recycles everything, even their coffee grounds. Not surprisingly, their shop is called “Coffee With A Conscience.” They help women and minorities start businesses.

“I liked their mission of helping people manage aspects of their lives that can be so difficult,” said Carneol.

Carneol, Colvin and Anderson, along with WYC Executive Director Nancy Goodell and Business Manager Mary McCarthy will make up a work team to look into social enterprise opportunities for WYC.

“What was really exciting was the creativity.”

## Kids Show Off Many Talents at 4-H Spring Fairs

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Dane Region Girl Scout participants put on a dramatic skit about animals using large stuffed animals for props.

### Girl Has Big Voice

Although she credits singing in the shower, it could be that Ashley Habelka is just naturally talented when it comes to singing.

Ashley, a fifth grader from Magee AFTER SCHOOL, sang “Like A Prayer” unaccompanied at the Waukesha Region Fair. Her voice was strong and confident.

“I sang for the first time in front of people when I was in third grade and I loved it,” said Ashley. “I’ve always been a fan of Madonna.”

Ashley’s mother, Lynett Habelka, said that her daughter sings in a choir and once took voice lessons for a short period of time.

“We’ve always supported her in whatever she wanted to try,” said Lynett.

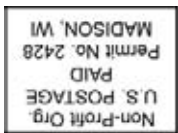
The family lives in Genesee.

At both fairs families received meal tickets good for hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda or nachos at the refreshment stand. Various Community groups had booths at both fairs also. In Waukesha the Coldstone Creamery gave out free samples of ice cream and “Crackers” the clown did balloon magic.

Both fairs had raffles with a variety of prizes including sports event tickets and gift certificates to restaurants. The Waukesha Fair also featured a silent auction with a signed Green Bay Packers football, tickets to the Milwaukee Admirals and many more donations. All proceeds from the raffles and the silent auction go to the AFTER SCHOOL scholarship fund. \$1364 was raised at the Dane Region 4-H Fair. The Waukesha 4-H Fair netted over \$1900.



Ashley and mom Lynett Habelka at the Waukesha Region Spring Fair.



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## Task Force Reports to Board on School Space

Cooperation and communication should be a big part of deciding who gets space and how space in Madison Public Schools is used for after school programs according to a report presented to the Madison School Board March 28.

The report is the result of six months of meetings by a task force appointed to study the issue. Wisconsin Youth Company's AFTER SCHOOL division has programs in 11 Madison Public Schools. In May 2004 Midvale AFTER SCHOOL was told to leave and the space given to a program operated by Madison School Community Recreation. Midvale AFTER SCHOOL relocated to Covenant Presbyterian Church. The YMCA has also lost space in Madison schools. The task force, consisting of various stakeholders including Wisconsin Youth Company Board President Laurie Frank, was charged with finding ways to determine space use and to develop a process to handle conflicts that may arise.

"We really recommend collaboration between the school district and private providers because resources are scarce and space is limited in the schools," said Wendy Rakower, Director of Red Caboose which operates after school programs in Lapham and Marquette Schools and is a member of the task force.

The task force also emphasized communication between school principals and after school providers, suggesting regular meetings and offering a problem-solving process.

The task force recommended appointing an advisory board to handle problems.

"The advisory board will really be an important process to deal with complaints," said Rakower. "We didn't really have a good communication system set up in the past."

The task force also laid out a process for a school changing from one after school provider to another and suggested that

the recommendations not be implemented for a year.

"But then we won't get the benefit of the changes for a whole year," objected board member Ruth Robarts.

School Superintendent Art Rainwater said the real decision for the board was "does the board want to invest taxpayer dollars in after school care."

The report was referred to committee.

In early May the school board returned the report to the task force for further study.

"We're really hoping that the task force and the (school) administration can come to agreement (on the report)," said Rakower on May 17.

Rakower noted that it was important to remember that arrangements between private providers and the school district will remain the same for the 2005-06 school year.