



Newsletter

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AFTER SCHOOL Adds Programs in Both Regions; Many Returning Staff, Some New Ones

A wrap around four year old kindergarten program at Merton Primary School in Waukesha County and a new after school program at Lindbergh Elementary School in Madison were added to AFTER SCHOOL this fall, Wisconsin Youth Company's largest division.

The wrap around kindergarten was started to accommodate the four year old children who attend kindergarten either mornings or afternoons.

"The school district really worked in partnership with us to make this happen," said Joanne Bonesho, AFTER SCHOOL Division Director. "They offered to subsidize the program until our enrollment numbers were met."

Enrollment numbers were met quickly and there are now about seven afternoon kindergartners in morning care and about seven morning kindergartners in afternoon care. The two groups overlap for an hour at

lunchtime. Brenda Trautman is in charge of the four year old program. AFTER SCHOOL also offers before school and after school at Merton and some of the four year old kindergarten children participate in those as well. Lena Carlstedt is the Site Supervisor at Merton.

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Diane Haas, Site Supervisor at Van Hise, jokes around with Brendan and Tanner.

Did You Know?

- *The Waukesha Region is serving 529 children in its 15 AFTER SCHOOL sites this fall.*
- *The Dane Region is serving 952 children in its 24 AFTER SCHOOL sites this fall.*
- *All AFTER SCHOOL staff in licensed programs must complete 25 hours of inservice training each year.*

Enrichment Classes to Expand Offerings

Korean and Hmong languages will be taught in AFTER SCHOOL enrichment classes this fall for the first time ever. Spring will also see classes expand to offer things like music, art, chess, archery and other topics that are of interest to children and parents.

"We would love to have parent input about what kind of classes they would like to see us offer," said Jason Coleman, coordinator of enrichment programs. Coleman also is Program Director for Wisconsin Youth Company's travel adventure program, Wander Wisconsin.

Coleman said he talked with the public schools to find out where to offer classes that would appeal to groups of children.

"They said 'We have a large population of Hmong children so offer it here,'" said Coleman. "There's kids who have Hmong friends who would like to talk to them in their language."

Coleman, who took over coordinating enrichment classes this fall, is keen to offer chess and archery.

"Chess is an all around cognitive builder and has always been really popular," said Coleman. "Archery is more about practice, patience and discipline than strength and is good at helping kids to slow down and focus."

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Children's Safety Is Highest Priority



Bonnie Carlson, WYC Risk Manager, checks on safety procedures at Shorewood.

From frostbite to sunburn, from stranger danger to playground swings, AFTER SCHOOL makes the safety of children in its programs its highest priority.

“There is a deliberate attempt to maintain a safe environment for the children in the programs and for the staff,” said Joanne Bonesho, AFTER SCHOOL Division Director. “Our preparedness goes beyond the playground and this is a focus throughout the organization.”

CPR training is required of all staff and offered three times a year. It is required that there be at least one person with CPR training at all times at each of the sites.

Health and Safety is emphasized at each monthly staff training session and at weekly site supervisor meetings. For the month of September, site supervisors were asked to pay particular attention to playground safety and emergency plans and evacuation.

Wisconsin Youth Company, parent company of AFTER SCHOOL, employs a risk management consultant, Bonnie Carlson, who makes regular visits to all program sites and assesses them for risk of injury and other dangers. All supervisors complete a “Risk Management 101” hour and a half workshop with Carlson during their first semester with AFTER SCHOOL.

Parents wishing to know more about AFTER SCHOOL’s safety policies can consult their parent handbook. In the handbook policies on things such as field trips involving swimming, child abuse and response to accidents or injuries are spelled out. Parents may also consult the Risk Management Handbook. A copy is available at each program site.

“We belong to the National Safety Council (www.nsc.org) and I often refer supervisors to the website,” said Carlson.

50 Volunteers to Work in Dane Region Programs



Brian Squire, Hawthorne Site Supervisor, fixes pizza for snack with the kids. He is also the AFTER SCHOOL volunteer coordinator.

Fifty University of Wisconsin students have signed up to serve as volunteers in Dane County Region AFTER SCHOOL programs this fall. All but one of them are students in a “Rehab Psych and Special Education 300” class, according to Brian Squire, Volunteer Coordinator.

“They are to observe and work with children with disabilities and see how their lives are affected socially and academically,” said Squire. “They are to look at what these children need to succeed.”

These students are all matched with individual children and are required to work with them for 25 hours. Some children will have different volunteers working with them two or three days a week. Others will just see their volunteer once a week.

Squire, who is also Site Supervisor at Hawthorne AFTER SCHOOL, says that the organization usually gets about 60-70 volunteers annually.

“We get a lot of them from the Volunteer Fair on campus and some of them see our information on volunteeryourtime.org and sign up through that,” said Squire.

The website is run by the United Way and the UW Morgridge Center, which handles service learning and volunteer opportunities for UW students.

All volunteers attend an orientation prior to working with the children.

Parents who may be interested in volunteering at their child’s AFTER SCHOOL can contact Squire by email, bsquire@wisconsinyouthcompany.org.

AFTER SCHOOL “Grads” Doing Well



Elizabeth and Matt

It’s not often that AFTER SCHOOL staff get a chance to hear how their charges turned out. But in this case, we learned that two of them are in college and doing well.

Bobbie, Former Board President of Kettle Moraine Child Care (when Kettle Moraine was an independent organization managed by AFTER SCHOOL), wrote to share

information about her two children, Elizabeth and Matt, who attended the Kettle Moraine after school program in the Waukesha Region.

“I just wanted to stop by to give you the update and to thank you for being a part of their lives and for helping us to keep them safe when they were young!” wrote their mom.

Hayrides, Biking, Submarines in Fall Wander Trips



The AFTER SCHOOL Annual Fall Trip for all Club-age youth (third, fourth and fifth grades) in Dane and Waukesha Regions will be October 26-28. This annual trip coincides with teacher's convention break. It will feature a hayride, pumpkin carving and other typical fall activities. The trip will be two nights at Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI. The cost is \$150 per person.

On November 5 there will be a Fall Biking Day Trip led by Patrick Garvey who directed the summer biking unit. This trip is for 11-14 year olds. The cost is \$50 per person. The trip will be on state recreational trails.

The popular "A Night on the High Seas" trip is set for November 18-19. Children will visit the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and spend the night on a real submarine, the U.S.S. Cobia. This trip is for children eight to 12 years old and costs \$80 per person. You do not need to be enrolled in AFTER SCHOOL programs to attend this trip.



An aerial view of Wisconsin Lions Camp

For more information about fall Wander Wisconsin trips or to register call 608-276-9782 ext. 24 and talk to Wander Wisconsin Program Director Jason Coleman or visit the website www.wanderwisconsin.org

Enrichment Classes Offer New Languages and More

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Coleman noted that he hoped to offer art and music enrichment classes in the spring since many schools have had to cut funding for those kinds of classes.

"We're also looking to expand into other schools," said Coleman. Currently language classes are offered at 10 schools. Nine of those ten have AFTER SCHOOL programs. The tenth is a new language site, Sugar Creek in Verona.

Language classes begin the week of October 10 and meet weekly for 25 weeks. The cost is \$125 for students enrolled in AFTER

SCHOOL programs or \$135 for those not enrolled. In addition to Hmong and Korean, Spanish, French, German and American Sign Language are also offered. Not all languages are offered at all sites. Talk to your child's site supervisor for more information or call Jason Coleman, 608-276-9782, ext. 24.

Special Note

Language classes at the Stoughton AFTER SCHOOL sites will not start until October 17. Those children will have 10 weeks for \$50 for the fall semester and 12 weeks for \$60 for the spring semester.

“We're also looking to expand into other schools.”

Celebrating Youth! Awarded Three Grants

Celebrating Youth!, the annual free event showcasing youth talent and positive youth development opportunities, has been awarded three grants. Grants were received from Dane County Cultural Affairs for \$3500; from the Madison Arts Commission for \$2500 and from the Wisconsin Arts Board for \$4200.

The 2006 event, sponsored by Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC), will be January 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Monona Terrace.

Support for the event also comes from title sponsor Dean/St. Mary's. Media sponsors who donate in-kind advertising include radio stations WKOW, Magic 98, La Movida, Q106FM and WORT 89.9 FM. Dane County Kids is also a sponsor.

The Madison Children's Museum and Monona Terrace are supporting Partners. Wisconsin Youth Company employs the organizers of the event, Sandy Miller and Spyder Carneol, who work all year recruiting sponsors and funding for youth groups to demonstrate their talents. There will be at least two stages of youth talent featuring things such as dancing, juggling, music and drama.

In addition, the event will showcase opportunities for youth community involvement and positive activities available for area youth. Many organizations will have booths at the event offering young people and their families a wealth of possibilities.

The popular event has been staged since 2003 and regularly attracts close to 12,000 people.



This year's theme is "Circus of Dreams".



Fall Circus Arts Workshops

Come Join the Circus!

Run Away . . . with the Circus! -

Mondays, October 3 - December 19, 3:45-5:00pm

**Presented by Nina Cheney & Jacob Mills
Intermediate Center Cafeteria, Mt. Horeb**

**\$85 - 12 weeks. min: 15 max: 25 participants
ages 10+, or consent of the instructor**

**To register call the Mt. Horeb Recreation Dept. at 608-437-3400 or email
cheneyandmills@mailbag.com**

Have you ever wanted to run away with the Circus? Here is your chance! Area professional performers, Nina Cheney & Jacob Mills will introduce students to elements of juggling, balancing, slapstick, clowning, and ensemble work. We'll capture the comic vitality of the circus with fun games and the study of physical expression, masks and a variety of circus skills. The 12-week workshop will culminate in a performance at Celebrating Youth! Circus of Dreams at Monona Terrace on January 22nd. Additional January rehearsal times to be announced. Visit Nina & Jacob's website for more information on their performances: www.cheneyandmills.com.



Bucket Drumming - Fridays, October -December, 4:30-5:30pm

Instructors: John Doings & Stacey Krueger, UW Madison Percussion Dept.

Presented by Aries Rising Productions

Lussier Teen Center, 827 E. Washington Ave., Madison

\$30 - 6 weeks. (scholarships available). Ages 10+ No experience or drum necessary.

To register contact Sandy Miller at smiller@wisconsinyouthcompany.org or call 608-276-9782, ext. 23



Be a part of the newest drumming sensation - bucket drumming! You don't need an expensive drum, just a 5 gallon plastic pail and a pair of drumsticks (all provided)! Students will learn basic rhythms and have the opportunity to perform at the Celebrating Youth! event on January 22nd. Many cities around the country have bucket drumming groups - it's time for Madison to get on board! Visit www.bucket-brigade.org for more information on this exciting, engaging, and empowering activity.



Kite Flying - Indoors! -

Thursdays, October 27-December 8, 5:00 6:30pm

Presented by Spyder Carneol

Wisconsin Youth Company, 1201 McKenna Blvd., Madison

\$75 - 6 weeks. Registration deadline: October 24

To register email scarneol@wisconsinyouthcompany.org or call 608-276-9782, ext. 23

Experience the magic of flying kites with no wind. The movement of the flyer keeps the kite aloft, creating "Dance of the Air". We will teach flying technique for a variety of kites including single, 2-line and 3-line kites. The playshop will culminate with the creation of a performance piece to be showcased at the Celebrating Youth! Circus of Dreams on January 22, 2006. Learn more about indoor kite flying at www.guildworks.com

Walking Tall! -

Wednesdays, November 2 - December 14, 4:00-5:30pm

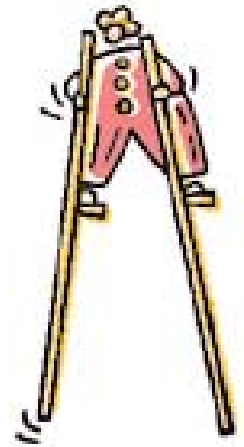
Presented by Rob Summerbell & Rockameem

Wisconsin Youth Company, 1201 McKenna Blvd., Madison

\$80 - 8 weeks. Registration deadline: October 24 max: 12 participants

To register contact Rob at (608) 255-2442 or whimsy@jollygiants.com

Come learn the great art of walking tall! Become a giant amongst your peers - celebrate life from on high! Learning to stiltwalk is invigorating and confidence-boosting, not to mention - very fun! In this class we will cover all aspects of walking on stilts including equipment safety, stilt building, falling safely, walking with spotters and independently, dancing and choreography on stilts. The 8-week workshop culminates in a performance at Celebrating Youth! on January 22nd. Please join Rob & Rockameem for an uplifting time!



**To register for workshops please contact the presenters
at the phone or email address
provided under their individual workshop description.**



Celebrating Youth! and "Circus of Dreams" are programs of Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc. Visit our website at www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org to learn more about our programs, including AFTER SCHOOL, Wander Wisconsin, Generation Tours, Middle School U, Celebrating Youth! and our summer day camps. Our offices are located at 1201 McKenna Blvd. in Madison. Call us at (608) 276-9782 for more information.

Generation Tours Offers Fall Colors Trip and Trip to Chicago Lights Festival

A trip to see the fall colors in October and a visit to Chicago's Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in November are highlights of Generation Tours fall trips. Generation Tours is a program of Wisconsin Youth Company and operates family field trips throughout Wisconsin as well as weekend and vacation trips throughout the U.S.

The fall colors tour will be along the Mississippi River and will feature a picnic and a sightseeing cruise on the La Crosse Queen, an old fashioned paddlewheel boat. The trip will be Saturday, October 22 and the cost is \$35 per person. The van departs from the Waukesha office at 9 a.m. and returns at 6:30 p.m. The van leaves from the Madison office at 10 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m.

The Chicago field trip is scheduled for November 19 and will cost \$35 per person. It features a stage show with Mickey Mouse and friends, carolers, gingerbread decorating, petting zoo, shopping and a visit to Santa. The van leaves Madison at 8 a.m. and returns at 10:30 p.m. The van leaves Waukesha at 9 a.m. and returns at 9:30 p.m.

Both trips include transportation, educational materials, youth coordinator and driver services.

For more information about the above trips or other Generation Tours opportunities, call 1-866-GEN-TURS (1-866-436-8877).



Chicago's Magnificent Mile Lights Festival, November 19

GENERATION TOURS
a Wisconsin Youth Company program

Many Staff Return to AFTER SCHOOL

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In the Madison School District a new AFTER SCHOOL program was started at Lindbergh Elementary School this fall. This program is currently serving about a dozen children.

Other changes in AFTER SCHOOL sites include combining children from Midvale/Covenant with the Van Hise program. Midvale children were bused to Covenant Presbyterian Church last year for after school. This year they are being bused to Van Hise Elementary School where longtime Site Supervisor Diane Haas is in charge and they have the use of the cafeteria, stage and a large playground. Michael Graveen, a long time summer staff employee, is the new Site Supervisor at Leopold. Lua Yaganagi took over as Site Supervisor at Chavez after serving as a Program Specialist and Wander Wisconsin staffer. When the Midvale/Covenant program combined with Van Hise, Site Supervisor Emily Geline took over at Wingra AFTER SCHOOL. Lisa Melkert who was Site Supervisor at Fox Prairie in Stoughton was promoted to Community Director and now has oversight of all Stoughton and McFarland programs, along with Eagle and Franklin.

A total of 16 site supervisors returned in the Dane County Region including veterans Barb Townsend, Shorewood, Brian Squire, Hawthorne, Diane Haas, Van Hise, Pam Lawless, Yahara and Kegonsa, and Deanne

Lensert, West Middleton. These staffers have between five and 16 years experience with AFTER SCHOOL. In all, 40 program specialists returned to the Dane County Region AFTER SCHOOL sites and 16 new staff have been added.

In the Waukesha Region, three other staff were promoted to site supervisor positions: Dave Carlson, Elmwood, Stacy Ball, Orchard Lane, and Vinay Sampson, Cushing. The remaining supervisors returned to their programs including longtime staffers Cherill Flitz at Wales, and Charlene Sieracki, Magee, who have both worked for AFTER SCHOOL for more than 10 years.

Part of the appeal of working for AFTER SCHOOL that helps retain employees is the flexibility that staff are offered. Flexibility is appealing to college students who may not be available to work five days a week but can work two or three. It is also appealing to parents of young children who want to work but not be away from their kids in a full time job. AFTER SCHOOL also offers benefits - health insurance, dental insurance and a pre-tax medical fund to employees working at least 20 hours per week. Additionally, staff who trained to be classroom teachers but who haven't found jobs in their field yet appreciate the chance to work with kids and improve their behavior management and group management skills while waiting for a teaching opening.



Task Force Urges Communications; School Board Okays Plan

“We worked diligently to include understanding between schools, families and providers.”

Banking on communication resolving most problems, the Madison Metropolitan School Board (MMSD) accepted the recommendations of the After School Task Force unanimously at a meeting August 22 with only minor changes.

“We worked diligently to include understanding between schools, families and providers,” said Liz Fritz, Crestwood principal and task force member. “Communication was the focus of the task force.”

AFTER SCHOOL has programs in 12 Madison public schools and has been concerned about losing space in those schools to Safe Haven programs which use city funds to allow low income children to attend for free. The school board asked AFTER SCHOOL to leave Midvale in the summer of 2004 and Safe Haven took over the program there. Space was found for AFTER SCHOOL children at a nearby church. This year Midvale students are being accommodated at AFTER SCHOOL’s Van Hise program.

The task force was charged with developing recommendations to encourage private providers to accommodate more low income students and suggesting ways to improve communication between the school district and the private providers. The task force recommended creating an advisory board to support the partnership between the school district and private providers and mandated that private providers and school personnel meet at least four times a year.

The task force also created an appeals process for when a school principal decides to change to a different private provider of after school care in their school. Besides AFTER SCHOOL and Safe Haven, the YMCA and Red Caboose also provide after school programming in Madison Public Schools.

“One (private provider) can’t do it all so we need to look at how we can all do it (provide care) together,” said Sarah Jenny, task force member and YMCA employee.

Wisconsin Youth Company Board President Laurie Frank also served on the task force.

Social Emotional Conference Theme to Be Play

Wisconsin Youth Company’s annual Social Emotional Conference will have the title of play and will look at the impact of play on the emotional and cognitive development of children. The conference will be February 25, 2006.

Each year WYC sponsors a conference jointly with the University of Wisconsin on some aspect of children’s social and emotional development. Last year the conference theme was “Growing the Mind: New Developments in Brain Research and Enriched Environments.”

This year’s conference will feature Professor Laura E. Berk; Berk is a distinguished professor of psychology at Illinois State University. She has published widely on the effects of school environments on children’s development, the development of private speech, and most recently, the role of make-believe play in the development of self-regulation. Also speaking will be Susan

Oliver, Executive Director of Playing for Keeps. She devotes her time to promoting and protecting the role of play in our culture. Playing for Keeps is a national not-for-profit organization that exists to help bridge the gap between what researchers have learned about play and what parents and professionals who impact kids’ lives on a day-to-day, hour-by-hour basis need to know to help nurture children to their full potential.

Laurie Frank, Goal Consulting, will also speak. Frank is President of the WYC Board of Directors, and has her own consulting business. She consults with schools on experiential education.

The conference will be on the UW campus at the Pyle Center. The UW Educational Psychology Department is co-sponsoring the conference with WYC. Details about the cost and additional speakers will be in the winter newsletter.



Professor Laura E. Berk



Susan Oliver

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Celebrate Florida's Finest Citrus

Coming Soon

Watch for information on the
upcoming Fruit Sale

Benefiting AFTER SCHOOL's Scholarship Fund



Holiday Hours

The Administrative Offices will be closed:

- November 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving
- December 26 - Christmas
- January 2 - New Years