



The Monthly Staffer

April 2005
Dane County

Spring Recognition Dinner

Hope you all enjoyed the Spring Recognition Dinner on April 26th. If you were unable to join us, you really missed some wonderful food and we missed seeing you. In the spirit of the event, thank you to each and every site supervisor and staff member for all that you do for the children who attend AFTER SCHOOL. We recognize that it takes special skills to work so closely with children. On a program note, we hope everyone also enjoyed the introduction to our Celebration of Art focus for the 2005-2006 school year. What a great year we can have with Circus Arts.

End of Year Staff Schedule

All staff members should have received a memo from Andrew about their end of the year schedule. A completed form was expected by April 22nd. If you have turned in your response, thank you. If you have not received a form or have misplaced the one you received, please give the year-end schedule information to your site supervisor in writing. If you are interested in adding extra days to your schedule, please also give your supervisor that information. Thanks for all of your help.

Summer Camp Jobs

AFTER SCHOOL is now accepting applications for summer day camp. Positions include camp directors, assistant directors, camp specialists and camp counselors. There are nine day camp locations throughout Madison and Dane County. We are also hiring Wander Wisconsin trip leaders. If you have questions, you can contact Jason Anderson at 276-9782, extension 21 or email him at janderson@wisconsinyouthcompany.org.



There are 4 easy ways to get an application packet:

- Go to www.afterschoolwi.org.
- Call 276-9782 and request that one be mailed to you.
- Ask your site supervisor to bring one to program.
- Stop by the office at 1201 McKenna Blvd. and pick one up.

Middle School U is a program of separate half-day and full day week long courses for students entering 6th through 9th grade. There are locations in Madison, Stoughton and Waukesha. Madison has some limited half-day course openings for instructors in cooking and basic craft courses. If you are interested in working with middle school age students, and have a week or two available between June 13th and August 19th, please contact Georgene at 276-9782, extension 13, or email gpitzner@wisconsinyouthcompany.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Last Day of Programs in Dane County:

- Tuesday, June 7 Eagle School, Elm Lawn and West Middleton.
- Wednesday, June 8 Madison Country Day.
- Thursday, June 9 All Madison, McFarland, Mt. Horeb, Stoughton and Waunakee programs.
- Friday, June 10: Wingra.

Schedule of Pay Dates

Pay days are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month:
Wednesday, April 27th
Wednesday, May 11th
Wednesday, May 25th

Right on Target

The staff member who is "right on target" in doing her job this month is Kim Miller. Kim regularly works at Thoreau before school as well as Crestwood and Franklin after school programs. In addition she is always willing to change her location and sub when a need arises, even at the last minute. She has probably subbed at almost every Madison site since the beginning of the year. Whether she is working at her regular assigned site or is subbing, Kim always provides consistent guidance for all children. She is dedicated to making the lives of children safer, happier and better. We are glad she has chosen AFTER SCHOOL as a place to spend her time with children.

Focus on BOOST Great Outdoors - Wetlands/Marshes

There is a very good BOOST unit on wetlands and marshes available to use this spring. Wetlands are a natural draw to children because they are home to a variety of interesting animals, some of which are too small to be seen. If you have a chance to visit a marsh or wetland, this is a wonderful time of year to do it. If you have an area near your site, plan a walk to it.

Here are some activities that are included in the BOOST unit: Cattail Fried Rice, Raw Cattail Soup, Pasta with Cat's Tail, Marsh Munchers Activities, Jumping Frog Origami, Edible Aquifer, Model Wetland and the Aquatic Animals Activity Booklet. Some of the books that you might helpful are *The Creek Book* by Kip Anastasian, *OBIS Pond Guide* by Outdoor Biology Instructional Strategies, *Explore a Spooky Swamp* by Wendy Cortesi and *The Pond Book* by Michael Hoebel. The Pond Kit is also available for checkout. It contains magnifying lenses and dippers to obtain pond specimens for study.

Club Connection Gardening

Gardening is often a matter of recreation for an individual and the type of garden is determined by individual preferences. Many people prefer pot gardening because of limited space and time. Some schools have allowed the program to do some plantings for the school or to help maintain a planter that the school has already created. Never plant without first asking permission from the school to do so. The 4-H series on gardening is an excellent source of ideas for sharing gardening with young people.

If you want to do some gardening projects with your club-age children, please remember that for this topic, as with all long term projects, the intent is to learn about a topic over a period of time and to follow the interests of the children. Here are some activity suggestions from the club unit folder: plan a garden, plant seeds, germinate seeds, learn the parts of a plant, explore the characteristics of a plant, or learn the basic garden tools and how to use them safely. Books available in the AFTER SCHOOL library include: *Down to Earth: Enriching Learning through Gardening*, by Bob Williamson, *Green Thumbs* by Laurie Carlson, *Gardening Projects for Kids* by Clare Bradley, *New Junior Garden Book* by Felder Rushing, *Gardening Series* by 4-H and Purdue extension and *Starting Gardening* by Sue Johnson. There is also a Gardening Kit that contains hand tools and gardening gloves available for checkout.

Web Wisdom

Wetland/Marsh web sites:

www.eduscapes.com/42explore/wetland.htm

www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/exper.html

www.nwi.fws.gov/educator.htm

www.idptv.state.id.us/dialogue4kids/wetlands/classroom.htm

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eek

www.twingroves.district96.k/2.il.us/wetlands/marsh/marsh.htm

Risk Management Tips by Bonnie Carlson



As the weather warms up, we go outside. In the next month, the insects will begin to appear, and we know that bee stings and allergies from pollens are not far behind. This means it is time to review the Epi Pen procedures. If you have a child with a prescribed Epi Pen at your site, all staff should know how to use it, and under what circumstances. We have a practice pen available for use in your staff meetings; you may want to give it a try so you feel comfortable using it. As a reminder, all Epi Pens and inhalers should be carried in the first aid kit, and the medication goes wherever the child may go. This will enable you to have it readily available if there is an allergic reaction, or if a child who needs an inhaler has breathing difficulties. We also recommend a review of the Poisoning Emergency Instructions this month. Do you know the new recommendations for treating poison exposure? Review the plan, and be prepared. This month you will be reviewing the Epi Pen Procedure and the Poisoning Emergency Plan in your staff meetings.

Cooking Corner

Five Minute White Chocolate Pie

From *Miscellaneous Recipes*, an AFTER SCHOOL collection.

Ingredients: 1¼ cups cold milk, 2 packages (4 serving size) Jell-O White Chocolate Instant Pudding, 2 table-spoons International Coffees (Hazelnut or other flavors), 1 tub (8 oz.) whipped topping, divided, 1 prepared chocolate flavored crumb crust

Directions: Pour milk into medium bowl. Add pudding mixes, coffee and half of the whipped topping. Beat with wire whisk 1 minute. (Mixture will be thick.) Spread into crust. Spread remaining topping over pudding layer in crust. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 8 servings.

Gamesmanship Playground Games

Four-Square

Skills: To serve a ball accurately; To strike a ball accurately

Area: One kickball court

Equipment: A playground ball

Directions:

1. One player is put in each square.
2. Square D is given the ball for the serve. To serve the ball, the player drops the ball and then hits it after a rebound from the ground.
3. The ball may be served into any square.
4. The player or players to whom the ball was served returns the ball to any other square after it bounces once.
5. The objective of the game is to get to square A where one is safe.
6. The player in square A stays in the game if he misses because he goes down to become the new server in square D. All other players go out if they commit one of the following violations:
 - A. Hits the ball so that it lands on a playing line.
 - B. Hits the ball with the fist instead of open palms.
 - C. Momentarily holds the ball.
 - D. Hits the ball out of bounds.
 - E. Hits the ball into his/her own square.
7. Variations of play:
 - A. Play all squares go out.
 - B. Play "poison" by drawing a chalk box 3 feet by 3 feet in the center of the court overlapping all squares. A ball hit in the center is out.
 - C. Play team four square by having 2-3 players in each square.

Other Playground Games:

- Kickball
- Tetherball
- Tin Can Alley
- Hit Pin Kickball
- Hopscotch

Calendar Notes

Do you think you can include all of these into your programming for May? May is National Strawberry Month, Allergy/Asthma Awareness Month, American Bike Month, Better Hearing Month, Egg Month, Electric Safety Month, Hamburger Month, Older American Month, Physical Fitness & Sports Month, National Photo Month, National Salad Month, National Salsa Month, Project Safe Baby Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, National Barbecue Month, and Correct Posture Month.

"Be Kind to Animals Week" is the first full week of May. The purpose of this week is to promote kindness and humane care toward animals. You could do a service project for the Humane Society or make a photo/drawing collage of pets or favorite animals. Additional information is available from www.americanhumane.org

Calendar Programming Ideas

May 1	Cheerios introduced in 1941.
May 2	Cincinnati Reds and the Chicago Cubs played the first double no-hit game in baseball history in 1917.
May 3	Sears Tower finished in 1973.
May 4	Birthday of Horace Mann, educator, born in 1796. Known as "The Father of the Public School System".
May 5	Cinco de Mayo, Mexican celebration of General Zaragoza's victory over invading French forces in 1862. Celebrated with parades and festivals.
May 6	Halfway Point of Spring.
May 7	First photos of Neptune were taken by Voyager I in 1989.
May 8	V-E Day (1945).
May 9	Birthday of James Barrie, born in 1860, author of "Peter Pan".
May 10	First Mother's Day in 1908.
May 11	Eat What You Want Day.
May 12	The Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be given only female names in 1978.
May 13	Jamestown founded in 1607.
May 14	Dance Like a Chicken Day.
May 15	US air mail service began between Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York in 1918.
May 16	The first Academy Awards were given in 1929.
May 17	The Kentucky Derby was run for the first time in 1875.
May 18	Visit Your Relatives Day.
May 19	The Ringling Brothers Circus gave its first performance in Wisconsin in 1884.
May 20	Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic in 1932.
May 21	The Sign of the Zodiac, Gemini, the twins, begins.
May 22	Toothpaste was invented in 1892.
May 23	Ben Franklin invented bifocals in 1785.
May 24	Brooklyn Bridge was opened in 1883, connecting the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. It was designed by John A. Roebling. The bridge is considered a work of art as well as a remarkable feat of engineering.
May 25	National Missing Children's Day.
May 26	The impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal in 1868.
May 27	Golden Gate Bridge was opened to the public in 1937.
May 28	The first color talking movie opened in 1929.
May 29	Wisconsin became the 30th state in 1848.
May 30	The first CD was introduced in 1981.
May 31	The Trans-Alaska pipeline was completed in 1977, after three years of construction.