



# After School Announcements

*Bringing together those who serve Maine youth*

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Hello from the Director's Desk,  
I would like to introduce our new staff member, Cyndy Stancioff, the Administrative Assistant, Editor for the Announcements, and our Communication and Outreach person for the Network. Her contact information is listed both on the website and in the blue margin of this document. She has come to the Network at a time of great activity, as we have just completed our work on the Resolve ( as mentioned below), and are planning future advocacy events, supporting new program start-ups, and working with existing programs to improve quality. Summer learning is on the minds of program directors, so we will continue to search for grant support, and good program ideas.

*DEB*

Hello, everyone. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

We are happy to announce the publication of **Reaching Potential Through Quality Afterschool**, the report by the Legislative Work Group. This group was established in September of 2007 on the basis of L.D. 1369, which became Resolve 41, an act to Promote High-Quality Before-School and After-School Programs, and was composed of 15 members who run or fund afterschool programs, provide technical assistance/support, or administer State child care programs.

The resulting report reflects the Work Group's recommendations as to how Maine can strengthen its Afterschool programs through focusing on current best practices in programming, staffing, evaluation, safety practices, and developing partnerships among family, school and community stake-holders. Appendices include Best Practices in Afterschool Programming, the new Maine AfterSchool Network Health and Safety Checklist and 6 case studies outlining successful Maine programs. If you are interested in a copy, please contact the office and we'll send you one!

*Cyndy*



**What's Cooking After School? Serving Up Ideas for Good Health!**  
*The AfterSchool Review*, Fall 2007

This edition of the Journal of the National AfterSchool Association is devoted to nutrition and physical health and how after-school programs can address the development of skills, knowledge and habits which are no longer being passed on to many children in our current society. Many ideas for the potential role of afterschool programs, links to resources and review of successful programs. Contact our office for copies of articles.

**Why Teach Nutrition to Kids? By Connie Evers, MS, RD**

*From School-Age Notes*, October, 2007

"Nutrition concepts need to be reinforced all year, for many years, to make appreciable changes. That is why afterschool programs can provide an important and necessary adjunct to nutrition lessons learned during the school day." **How to Teach Nutrition to Kids**, is a book containing fun, hands-on nutrition education activities for ages 6-12, available to order online at [www.SchoolAgeNotes.com](http://www.SchoolAgeNotes.com) or by calling 1-800-410-8780.

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• *Events:*  
→ *Catalyst Institute Media Literacy Training*  
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*Grants:*  
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→ *Target Grants*  
→ *Great American Bake Sale Grants*  
→ *GoGirlGo! National Grants*

**Summer: The Perfect Time for Service-Learning Projects**, by Tracey Ballas

From School-Age Notes, March, 2008

This article quotes research findings that “Students who are involved in meaningful Service-Learning do better on tests, show a sense of self-esteem and purpose, connect with the community....are less likely to be involved in negative behavior and more likely to graduate from high school and college.” Summer is a great opportunity for service activities “that can have long-term positive impact on the children and the community.” Ten service-learning program design steps are outlined from a book entitled **The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects**, by Barbara A. Lewis. Call our office for a copy of this article.

**STEM: The Push to Improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

Education Week, March 27, 2008.

This issue of Education Week focuses on responses to pressure U.S. schools are facing to improve performance in science, technology, engineering and math. Expect to see the role of afterschool programs increase in the STEM movement! Web resources include the National Science Foundation’s ITEST Program at <http://www2.edc.org/itestlrc>, National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning Toolkits at <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits>, the Coalition for Science Afterschool at <http://www.youthlearn.org>, and Verizon Foundation’s Thinkfinity Educators’ Portal at <http://www.thinkfinity.org> (tons of curriculum ideas and materials).

**Events**

**July 15-17: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute**, InterContinental Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX. Conference for afterschool professionals who work with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers. July 15 will be pre-conference events, including state coordinators meetings, a networking session, and an evening reception. Regular conference sessions will take place on July 16 and 17. Contact Sean Grobe, e-mail [21stcentury@sei2003.com](mailto:21stcentury@sei2003.com), or visit web site <https://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury>.

**July 22-25 New Mexico Media Literacy Project 2008 Catalyst Institute** – Media literacy is extremely important to successfully functioning in today’s society. Youth are faced with increasing volume and complexity of media messages and need skills to critically evaluate this barrage of information. The Catalyst Institute offers an intensive four-day training experience in media literacy concepts and skills, with workshops, exercises, video screenings and discussions. For teachers, health professionals, community activists and others. Contact [catalyst@nmmlp.org](mailto:catalyst@nmmlp.org) or tel. 505-828-3129 (9-5 Mountain Time).

**Grants**

**The Staples Foundation For Learning** will be accepting applications for grant funding between June 2 and June 16, 2008 for September 2008 start-up. Their mission is to provide funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Recipients must be 501(c)3 organizations that will “align with the Staples Foundation mission and give focus on job skills and education.” Another funding round will occur in October for January 09 start-up. Visit [www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html](http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html) for an application.

**Share Our Strength** is sponsoring Great American Bake Sale grants to increase participation among low-income school-age children in afterschool and summer meal programs. Grants will be awarded to organizations that directly sponsor USDA-reimbursed afterschool and/or summer meal programs for children, or who advocate for increased participation in such programs. Grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Deadline May 30. Visit <http://gabs.strength.org/site>.

*Purpose:*

*To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.*

*Vision:*

*Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.*

*Network Goals:*

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*

**Gatorade** and the **Women's Sports Foundation** are sponsoring GoGirlGo! National Grants to provide financial assistance to sports/physical activity programs of minimum 8-week duration, to add new or expand program participation opportunities for an underserved population of girls, particularly economically disadvantaged girls and/or girls from populations with high incidences of health-risk behaviors. Applications due May 9. Visit [www.womenssportsfoundatioin.org/cgi-bin](http://www.womenssportsfoundatioin.org/cgi-bin).

**Target Local Store** grants are available to “organizations located in communities where we do business.” Recipients must be non-profits, including schools, libraries and public agencies offering programs in Arts and/or in Early Childhood Reading. “Target funds programs that make arts and cultural experiences accessible to children and families. We fund local art activities such as cultural festivals, free outdoor concerts and artist residencies in schools. Target funds programs that foster a love of reading and encourage young children, ages birth through nine, to read together with their families. Reading grants support programs such as library storytimes and family reading nights.” Maximum award \$3,000, deadline May 31. Please e-mail your questions to [Community.Relations@target.com](mailto:Community.Relations@target.com), or call Target Community Relations at 1-800-388-6740.