



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

December 2006 Vol. 1 Number 10

The Maine After School Network is housed at the University of Maine at Farmington. Funding is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care and Head Start and the C.S. Mott Foundation. Supported by the Governor's Children's Cabinet.

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The Canopy of Quality Training was a success. Thank you to all who attended. Also thank you to the Maine 21st CCLC leadership and the Maine School Age Care Alliance. This was our first collaborative effort to offer training for school-age care providers. If you have additional comments or suggestions about the training, please feel free to contact the office.

The next meeting for the Maine Afterschool Network will be Tuesday, January 23 from 10-2 at the Maine School Management Assoc. building. Look for a notice in the mail with directions. Please RSVP by January 16, 2007 for the meal count (lunch is provided).

Amanda

Quality

Strengthening Parent-Teacher Relations

From November 16, 2006 Exchange Everyday

In her Exchange article, "Making Families Welcome," Deadru Hilliard shares these ideas on how her program attempts to support relationships between parents and teachers:

"As we thought about rearranging our classroom, we came up with an idea of putting adult size chairs around the different play areas. They are used to invite parents in to sit and talk with teachers or to observe children in their play. Parents are encouraged to give us feedback about their observations or any suggestions about the room. Interaction with parents and other children also happens during this time, allowing for families to form new relationships and community.

"When enrolled in the center, new parents are re introduced to all staff from the director to the kitchen manager. Each staff member plays a key role in how well the center is maintained. Parents become familiar with all of those who come in contact with their child as well as those who spend a major portion of their day with that child. Parents can utilize any staff person to gain resources and information — even when their child's teacher is not present. This establishes a commitment to work together and with their child so that all transitions to the next level go well.

"Parents are taken in to talk with the lead teacher of the class where they get to see just how parents are represented. They begin their conversations once again around the child and talk about what their values and goals are. There is a specific requirement we have of parents on the first day their child begins and that is to spend one hour of class time with us. We want parents to feel comfortable in their choice and utilize this time to ask questions and start a connection with teachers and other staff."

In this Issue...

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Advocacy

The final report for **National Youth Leadership Council's** "National Survey on Service-Learning and Transitioning to Adulthood" is now available for download. This nationally representative survey — conducted on behalf of the National Youth Leadership Council™ by Harris Interactive®, a global market research and consulting firm — reveals **service-learning's significant impact** on the youth-adult transition. http://www.nylc.org/happening_newsarticle.cfm?oid=5453

“The survey shows that, compared to their peers, young adults who participated in K-12 service learning ...

- are more satisfied with their current status in life.
- are more likely to discuss politics or community issues and vote in an election year.
- are more politically and socially connected to their communities, both as leaders and as role models.
- understand the importance of lifelong learning and, as a whole, are more educated and have higher aspirations.
- are more active members of society.”

Resources/ Funding

Resource Lists: **Disability Awareness.** The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has developed a **resource list that includes curriculum, texts, children’s books, videos and posters** from different organizations promoting disability awareness. Browse the list at: <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/bibliog/bib13txt.htm>.

New Release: **Maine’s Best Practices in Bullying and Harassment Prevention: A Guide for Schools and Communities** (Maine’s Governor’s Children’s Cabinet 2006). This guide has been developed by Maine experts Stan Davis, Lyn Mikel Brown, Chuck Saufler, Thomas Harnett, Lauren Sterling and Deb Landry. It was created in response to LD564, “An Act to Amend the Student Code of Conduct.” Please go online and explore this amazing resource: <http://www.maine.gov/education/bullyingprevention/>.

The Maine Watch Your Mouth Campaign is offering up to nine grants of \$300- \$700 to community coalitions to further public understanding of the **importance of children’s oral health** and the need for community based approaches to address the issue. Grant awards will be made on the strength of community impact, and considering geographic distribution across the state. Applications are **due January 10, 2007**. FMI: Sarah Shed, sshed@mcd.org, 207-622-7566 ext 248.

No Name-Calling Week (January 22 - 26, 2007) is a week of educational activities aimed at stopping name-calling and verbal bullying in schools. To learn more, visit <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/about/index.html>.

The Maine Children’s Alliance is seeking **photographs of Maine children of all ages and backgrounds for the 2007 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book**. Photographs selected will be those which best capture the essence of what it means to be a child in the state of Maine. Professional and amateur photographers are invited to submit. Names of the photographers whose works are selected for publication will be credited in the published book. FMI: Bonnie Colfer at 623-1868 ext 201. **Deadline for submission is Friday, December 15, 2006.**

Beyond School Hours 10. February 7-10, 2007 “Celebrating A Decade of Sharing” is the theme of Foundations’ 10th Anniversary event. The event will explore the latest professional development, funding, and programming strategies for afterschool. Location: Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons; Greensboro, NC. For more details, visit: www.foundationsinc.org/events .

After School Leadership Conference May 17-19, 2007 Presented by San Diego County Department of Education Palm Springs, CA. \$200 plus hotel and travel. www.sdcoe.net/rtac

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.*