



# Connections

Back to School 2007



## Happiness is a new box of crayons

Nothing represents the start of a new school year better than a new box of crayons. You open the flap on an array of perfectly aligned colors with pristine pointed ends—oh the possibilities!

As the doors open onto freshly waxed floors and brightly colored bulletin boards, the hopes and dreams for the new school year are full of possibilities.

As you begin the new school year, look for the possibilities, not the limitations. Look into each child's eyes and see the uniqueness of the individual and how he or she might color the world. When at the end of the school year you have a jumbled basket of crayon stubs, look back on the masterpieces you were able to create, all the lives you touched and enriched.

## Inspiring Creative Minds Wisconsin AfterSchool Association Conference April 11-12, 2008

What skills will the children of today need to succeed tomorrow? A quote attributed to Einstein states: "imagination is more important than knowledge." As we look at our programs, how do we foster creativity? How to we encourage their ability to think outside the box? How do we support their questions and give them the time to think about and explore their world?

The 2008 Wisconsin AfterSchool Association Conference will address these and many more questions as we explore the need to encourage creative thinking and the unique role after school programs can play in the lives of our children.

If you would like to share your ideas, program successes and experiences, workshop proposals are being accepted through November 15, 2007. To receive a copy of the proposal guidelines go to the Wisconsin AfterSchool Association website at: [www.waaweb.org](http://www.waaweb.org) or contact Jen Kovach at (920) 567-9622 or [jkovach@oconymca.org](mailto:jkovach@oconymca.org).



## Oct 18— Your Day to Shine

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lights on Afterschool will be held October 18. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights on Afterschool* provides programs across the nation an opportunity and a forum to focus public attention on what's happening with our kids after school.



This is your opportunity to organize an event in your community to let people know more about your program and how they can support you. It's a good time to invite your school board members, local elected officials, state and federal legislators to visit your program and learn first hand from children what they need.

For a whole array of ways to celebrate *Lights on Afterschool* visit the Afterschool Alliance website: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

### New Endorser

Trina Tiffany, Wausau Child Care, completed the two-day training in July to become an endorser for the National AfterSchool Association Accreditation Program.

This is an intensive training program to prepare individuals to observe and assess program competency in the 36 Keys and 144 standards identified in the Accreditation process.

If you would like to learn more about the NAA accreditation process and standards you may log on to the NAA website at [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org). For copies of the Standards book, Wisconsin AfterSchool Association members may get a copy of the standards book at a reduced price by contacting Linda Eisele at [lindaeisele@tds.net](mailto:lindaeisele@tds.net).

### Credential Recipient

### Congratulations Courtney

Courtney Palomino from the YWCA of Rock County received the Wisconsin School Age Credential.

Through the completion of training hours, a portfolio, resource collection and observations, Courtney demonstrated her competency and understanding of high quality after school care.

While providing Courtney with an opportunity to combine all her knowledge and experience to improve her practice, Courtney gains a level on the Registry and the recognition of others for her skill.

If you would like more information about the Wisconsin School Age Credential, contact Linda Eisele at [lindaeisele@tds.net](mailto:lindaeisele@tds.net).

### NAA Insurance

NAA has partnered with Forrest T. Jones and Company, Inc. to begin offering a variety of insurance coverage benefits to members.

Access to insurance coverage will include life, disability, health, auto and professional liability at dramatically reduced rates.

Forrest T. Jones sent enrollment materials and "membership only rates" during the summer.

Members may also visit [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com) to learn more.

### The Florida Sun

Plan now to attend the National AfterSchool Association Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 12-14.

Proposals for workshop presentations are being accepted through November 1, 2007.

For proposal guidelines log on to: [www.naaconference.org](http://www.naaconference.org).

### Regional Meetings



The Wisconsin Afterschool Network is co-hosting a series of Regional meetings to bring the Network to more people and open a dialogue throughout the state about the need for high quality after school programs. The Network, now in its third year, has focused on the need for additional federal and state support to increase the availability of after school programs, enhance program quality and provide sustainable funding.

Two Regional meetings are scheduled for October:  
**Southeast Wisconsin Afterschool Network (WAN) Gathering  
Friday, October 12, 2007**

This event hosted with the Recreation and Community Services, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District at 2930 South Root River Parkway, West Allis begins with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Activities include program sharing, Regional WAN Goal Team Development, and your choice of the following workshops: Acres of Adventures, Racine County's 4-H Afterschool Program by Tracy Strother, or *Lights on Afterschool Resources & Sharing* by Steve Fernan.

Lunch is included at this free event and continuing education hours.

### **Western Wisconsin Afterschool Network (WAN) Gathering Friday, October 26, 2007**

Hosted with the Chippewa Valley Council Boy Scouts at 710 S. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, the day begins with an 8:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast. Activities include a gallery walk program sharing by MetLife grantees, introduction of regional WAN Goal Team concept and one hour training on Public Adventures. Wendie Libert and Jackson County 4-H Teens will share how Black River Falls 21st CCLC program used the 4-H Public Adventures project to help younger kids contribute to the public good and develop a commitment to active citizenship. If you pre-register for the afternoon program you will receive a FREE set of this nationally juried 4-H Public Adventures curriculum, a \$10 value!

RSVP to Tom Carpenter at [tom.carpenter@uwex.edu](mailto:tom.carpenter@uwex.edu) and indicate if you need a vegetarian box lunch and/or have any other food restrictions or special needs. For directions go to [Mapquest.com](http://Mapquest.com).

### Extended Learning Administration

The University of Wisconsin announces a fall online graduate course in Afterschool planning and management. The course begins October 8th and can be completed entirely on-line. The course follows the "Beyond the Bell Curriculum" developed by Learning Points Associates, written by Carol McElvain and Judy Kaplan. In addition, Steve Parson's (NCEA's recent Executive Director) two books are required reading.

The course uses an online e-portfolio along with regular online discussion learning formats. You will take short quizzes, but they are 'open-book' and you can take them twice.

This course will provide the student with an overall understanding of extended learning programs primarily in public schools. The student will learn about a framework that will provide the building blocks to create an effective program to meet the needs of students in before, after, -weekend and summer programs. Prerequisite: TED 730.

If you have questions regarding course content please contact Stan Potts at: stanley.j.potts@uwrf.edu.

### 3-Credit School Age Child Care Course

Through the UW-Platteville, a 3-credit school age child care course is being offered in Madison. The course, a collaborative partnership between the City of Madison, YMCA of Dane County, Madison School and Community Recreation, and Red Caboose School Age Program. For information contact Linda Eisele at leisele@cityofmadison.com

### Building Inclusive School Age Communities Using Art as the Vehicle

WECA is offering a six hour training: "Building Inclusive School Age Communities Using Art as the Vehicle" to be taught by Elizabeth Long and Abby Shotwell at three locations:

Oct. 13—Brookfield

Nov. 10—LaCrosse

Jan. 12—Madison

The cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members. For more information or to register go to: [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org) or call (800) 783-9322, ext. 7241.

#### Save the Date

### Options and Alternatives in Education

On Saturday, January 26, 2008 the Wisconsin Youth Company is hosting a one day seminar at the

Monona Terrace in Madison. Workshop topics include alternative education, working with diverse populations, community-building, communication skills, health and wellness, the arts and more. For information go to: [www.celebratingyouth.org](http://www.celebratingyouth.org).

### Mini Society Teacher Workshop

UW-Extension Milwaukee County 4-H is hosting a free Mini-Society Teacher Workshop Thursday through Saturday, October 25-27.

The Mini-Society Teacher Workshop is a "train-the-trainer" experience based instruction system targeted primarily for teaching entrepreneurship, economics, and citizenship concepts to children eight to twelve.

For complete workshop information contact Demetrius Brown at (414) 290-2435 or by e-mail at: [Demetrius.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Demetrius.brown@ces.uwex.edu).

**Lakeshore Technical College**  
is offering

**SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE**  
Course #10-307-139, 64344

**3 credits, totally on-line, \$325.33**

**Oct 1 – Dec 14, 2007**

Instructor: Leigh Ann Kramer, Ph.D.

**Call toll-free 1-888-468-6582, ext 1366  
to register!**

*Course Description: Identify developmental stages from 5-12 years; Examine licensing requirements and accreditation standards, child abuse and neglect laws plus safety and nutrition standards; Model and support friendship building; Research brain development; Record observations; Utilize positive guidance and conflict resolution; Design physical environments, care schedules and learning activities that promote creative expression, large motor skills and cognitive stimulation; Communicate with families, co-workers, and community.*

### Changing the way we think about discipline

Talk to anyone caring for children and it isn't long before the topic of discipline comes up. More and more staff are faced with challenging behaviors that test and seem beyond our capacity to handle. How can we get children to behave? Recently, I revisited Mary Steiner Whelan's book, "*But They Spit, Scratch and Swear*" in which she encourages us to change the way we think about discipline.

Traditional behavior management that focuses on consequences and punishment and operates from a control base doesn't work. It's time for a real paradigm shift.

Managing disruptive behavior is not an interruption to your program, it is the program.

As we move from thinking about misbehavior as something that wastes time and steals valuable hours from the learning activities that we have planned we can begin to focus on helping children learn how to behave so they and others feel secure and respected. As Steiner says, "instead of being frustrated because you had to take time to deal with behavior guidance, you will feel proud that you helped kids develop the skills they will use most frequently throughout their lives. You will plan on building relationships with the kids and allowing kids to make choices. You will include in your schedule activities, games, books, dramatic play and discussions that address guidance issues. And you will slowdown the program's pace so that you have time to be the guide you want to be when kids need to learn discipline."

With a shift from controlling to guiding, you will be helping

children learn how to respond and handle life. Begin to think about behavior guidance as helping children learn how to interact with people in cooperative, respectful ways, how to resolve conflicts in a healthy manner, to honor who they are, who others are in ways that allow people to feel safe and to help build a community and to be vital members in it.

Linda Eisele

### The goal for our children

In her editorial, "Globalization has a downside; We'd better be ready," in the Sunday, September 2 *Wisconsin State Journal*, Cynthia Tucker identified the impact of free trade and global markets. Princeton economist, Alan Blinder, predicts that between 30 and 40 million American jobs are likely to be shipped overseas in the next 10 to 20 years. These are skilled jobs in medicine, finance, journalism, and economics. Many of the jobs that will stay behind are service jobs that offer low pay and zero medical and retirement benefits. At present Blinder notes "the United States has one of the thinnest social safety nets in the industrialized world and there seems to be little if any political force seeking to improve it."

What does this mean for the future of our children? And what does it mean for those of us caring for and educating children today? First, it means that we can not continue to educate and prepare children as we have done in the past for a future that will not exist.

We each must give voice to our opposition to the current partisan posturing by our political leaders that prevent any meaningful social and educational reform. It is not acceptable for

nearly half of our children to live in poverty without adequate nutrition, health care and educational opportunities.

Secondly, we must continue to focus on the children in our programs and help them develop critical thinking skills and compassionate caring to meet the challenges of the future. You may not be able to change the world; but the children you guide will change the world.



### Book Review

#### *Best Practices Guidelines for School-Age Programs*

by Michael S. Ashcraft

"Snacks, laps, raps, or naps"—what do kids need after school? Given options at the end of a school day, some children go for snacks, some run laps/burn off energy, some rap with friends, and some go relax and nap. *Best Practices: Guidelines for School-Age Programs* allows us to examine how our programs are focused on the needs of the children—not the adults. It brings together brain research, child development and theories of after school programming to provide a foundation for us to look at how our programs are providing a quality experience for children.

This is an excellent support resource for programs considering National Accreditation. The book and workbook provide a framework for a program to begin a reflective analysis of their program. Available from School Age Notes, you may purchase the book and supporting workbook at: [www.schoolagenotes.com](http://www.schoolagenotes.com)

### 5 million in service-learning grants now available

Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 are being offered by the State Farm Youth Advisory Board for student-led service-learning projects in the United States and in the Alberta, New Brunswick and Ontario provinces of Canada. Service-learning is a teaching method which supplements classroom studies with hands-on projects that address pressing community issues and problems.

Request for Proposals (RFP) must be submitted online by Oct. 12. Complete details and contact information is available at [www.statefarmyab.com](http://www.statefarmyab.com). Grant requests must focus on one of the following issues:

- Disaster preparedness
- Driver safety
- Accessing higher education & closing the achievement gap
- Financial education

Grant amounts will vary according to the nature of the proposal and availability of funds. At least one service-learning project will be funded in each of the 13 State Farm zones. In February, 2007 the Board will award over \$3 million in grants to organizations in the U.S. and Canada.

To be eligible to receive a grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, applicants should be either an educator who currently teaches in a public K-12, charter, or higher education institution, or a school-based service-learning coordinator whose primary role is to coordinate service-learning projects in a public, charter, or higher education institution. Non-profit

organizations are also eligible if they are able to demonstrate how they plan to actively engage students in public K-12 schools in meaningful service-learning programs.

### Pay It Forward Foundation -- Youth Service Mini-Grants

(Deadline: 10/15/07)

The Pay It Forward Foundation is accepting applications for its mini-grants that support one-time only service-oriented projects identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community. Projects must be based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others - with the results growing exponentially. <http://www.healthinschools.org/grants/ops1081.asp>

### Prudential Financial, Inc. Spirit of Community Awards

(Deadline: 10/31/07)

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognizes middle and high school students for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. <http://www.healthinschools.org/grants/ops1082.asp>

### Thinkfinity

Verizon is hosting Thinkfinity, a comprehensive Web site containing a widespread collection of educational and literacy resources for teachers and after-school youth workers.

On-line:

<http://www.thinkfinity.org>

### Ripple Kids

Ripple Kids is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering kids to take action in their communities. The focus is on children making a contribution in a positive way. Check it out at: [www.ripplekids.com](http://www.ripplekids.com)

### Updated Website

NAA has a new look and enhanced capabilities for its website. Check it out at [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org).

### Math Exploration

Children are natural math learners when it arises from real-world experiences. The September 2007 issue of *Young Children* has two excellent articles on solving problems in mathematics. One of the advantages of math in after school programs is the freedom to encourage children to use their own strategies to solve problems.

### Returning 17-year-olds to Juvenile Justice

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families has launched a new webpage where individual and organizations can support returning 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system. For information contact Wendy Henderson at [whenderson@wccf.org](mailto:whenderson@wccf.org).

### K-12 Resources

The UW-Madison has launched a website with more than 250 university resources for educators, parents and students. To access the website go to: [www.education.wisc.edu/resources/PK12](http://www.education.wisc.edu/resources/PK12)

# Nasco

## Association Member Discount

Nasco has extended a 10% discount on orders of \$50 or more and free shipping on in-stock items to Wisconsin AfterSchool Association members. Truck shipping is excluded.

Order from the catalog or online at [www.enasco.com](http://www.enasco.com)

When ordering use the Wisconsin AfterSchool Association Quote #06-85581.

Nasco, of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, provides a full range of materials and equipment for after school programs—everything from arts and crafts supplies to science materials. In addition, a variety of activity and lesson plans are available online.

If you have any questions, you may contact Nasco representative, Scott Beyer, at: [sbeyer@enasco.com](mailto:sbeyer@enasco.com)

*Nasco is a Wisconsin AfterSchool Association  
Conference Sponsor*

**Connections** is the newsletter of the Wisconsin AfterSchool Association. It is published four times a year as a service to members. Submissions by members are welcome and encouraged. If you have information to be included in an upcoming issue please send your submission to Linda Eisele, editor, at: 129 South Segoe Road; Madison, WI 53705 or e-mail to:  
[lindaeisele@tds.net](mailto:lindaeisele@tds.net)



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