

Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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WIN A TRIP TO THE NHL ALL-STAR GAME

Do you know an “Afterschool All-Star” who deserves recognition for his or her efforts to build and improve afterschool programs and help students learn and grow? The Afterschool Alliance will be sending the winner and a guest on an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Hockey League All-Star Game in Sunrise, Florida on February 2nd.

Nominate an “Afterschool All-Star” simply by submitting an essay of 250 words or less that tells why a particular individual should be recognized as an “Afterschool All-Star” and sent to the hockey All-Star game as a reward for his or her efforts. A nominee can be an afterschool program staff member, administrator, teacher, volunteer, parent or other person who is active in the program. People under age 18 need permission from a parent or guardian to submit an essay.

The Afterschool Alliance will hold a random drawing to choose the winner, who will receive two free tickets to the NHL All-Star game. The Alliance will publicize the winner, and share the nominating essay with media.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010.

THE DEADLINE TO NOMINATE AN “AFTERSCHOOL ALL-STAR” IS JANUARY 15, SO ACT NOW!

Submissions should be sent to:

Afterschool Alliance, Afterschool All-Stars
1616 H Street, NW, Suite #820
Washington, D.C. 20006

Essays also can be faxed to 202/347-2092, or submitted online. More information and the contest rules are available on the Afterschool Alliance web site, at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/all_star.cfm.

Submit a nominee for America’s “Afterschool All-Star” today!



IN THE NEWS...

National – The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) passed an emergency resolution in support of afterschool programs, which requests \$1.54 billion for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the country. The resolution says, in part, “Whereas the NIEA knows after school hours between 3 and 6 PM are critical as these are the hours that juvenile crimes peak for and against students, and the time that students are more likely to participate in negative behaviors; and Whereas the NIEA recognizes

the benefits of afterschool programs, knowing afterschool programs provide our children a safe place to be after school, promote academic achievement and help working families; and Whereas afterschool programs are vital to linking the traditional school day with afterschool programming, ensuring extended academic and enrichment activities; and Whereas, for Native American children, the academic and enrichment activities may be the only opportunity Native Children have to partake in cultural activities, life skills issues, and receive homework assistance that they otherwise might not be exposed to; Therefore be it resolved that the NIEA fully endorses and supports afterschool programs and ... calls upon Congress to fully fund the authorizing funding of \$1.54 billion for afterschool programs.” The resolution was written and spearheaded by Afterschool Ambassador Carolyn Harry, from Nixon, Nevada. More information is available at www.niea.org.

National – Nine in ten teenagers who have sex do so at their own home or a friend’s home, according to a study published in the December issue of *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center surveyed more than 2,000 teenagers in an unnamed urban school district in the South. Almost three-quarters of respondents said they were sexually active. Researchers recommended more afterschool programs for high school students as one solution.

California – The California Attorney General’s Office attributed the 13 percent increase in crime in Riverside County to a sluggish economy and lack of afterschool programs, reports the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*. The county’s rate of violent crimes and property crimes during the first six months of last year was higher than the state’s average of 7.5 percent. Riverside County

Sheriff-elect Bob Doyle plans to introduce a proposal this year to increase the number of afterschool programs.

California – In mid-December, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution committing the county to supporting the expansion of afterschool programs. The Board will assist all interested elementary and middle schools in accessing and utilizing Proposition 49 resources. Passed last November, Proposition 49 – the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002 – will provide grants to elementary and middle schools in California for afterschool programs. Actor and children’s activist Arnold Schwarzenegger championed Proposition 49.

Florida – The birth rate for teenage mothers in Polk County dropped in 2001, making it the 14th highest-ranked county in the state for births to people younger than 18, reports the *Tampa Tribune*. In 2000, Polk County was ranked 11th in the state. The County’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance credits the decrease to afterschool programs, faith-based activities and other community projects.

Louisiana – At the start of the school year, students in the Fontainebleau High School National Honor Society decided to volunteer their time at a local 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, reports the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. Each month, the honor students arrange seasonal activities for the students participating in Chahta Ima Elementary School’s afterschool program. Jean Stewart, director of the program, hopes to develop a long-term relationship with the high school students.

Maine – A Company of Girls in Greater Portland received a 2002 Coming Up Taller Award from First Lady Laura Bush and choreographer Debbie Allen at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in December. The program serves 54 low-

income, pre-adolescent girls, teaching them theater skills and journal writing and providing counseling, reports the *Portland Press Herald*. The program received a \$10,000 grant as part of the honor.

New Hampshire – The Daisy Bronson Middle School in Littleton and the Haverhill Cooperative Middle School will each receive a \$79,000 award from the Nellie Mae Foundation for afterschool programs for seventh and eighth graders. Students will get help with homework and science and computer training, and will do community service. The Nellie Mae Foundation is the largest philanthropic group in New England devoted exclusively to education, *Associated Press* reports.

North Carolina – “Youth Document Durham” also received a 2002 Coming Up Taller Award in December, reports the *Durham Herald-Sun*. The afterschool and summer program teaches documentary techniques to young people, who then make documentaries about their community. Youth Document Durham is affiliated with Duke University and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the President’s Committee on Arts and the Humanities.

South Carolina – Some of the state’s foster children will have greater access to afterschool programs thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Duce Staley, a Philadelphia Eagles running back who contributed \$25,000 to the First Steps Afterschool Program earlier. The new donation was made in the name of Staley’s mother, Tena, and will be used to make afterschool programs, including dance and baseball, available to foster children who are in treatment for mental or physical problems. Duce Staley traveled to Columbia to make the donation, reports *Associated Press*.

Texas – The highly popular musical group Destiny’s Child dedicated a new youth center in downtown Houston in December, reports the *Houston Chronicle*. Beyonce Knowles, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams helped open the center at St. John’s United Methodist Church. The Knowles family and Rowland donated \$500,000 to the adjoining Knowles-Rowland Center for Youth, which will host the St. John’s Academy afterschool program. Activities will include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, abstinence and sexuality education classes, mentoring and tutoring programs, and career development activities.



TALKING ABOUT AFTERSCHOOL...

“I am writing to commend the City Council for Making After School Count. The recent vote to designate a five-cent entertainment tax to help fund afterschool programs was the right decision. I have read many letters written by citizens who have threatened to boycott certain Salem businesses to avoid the tax. I, however, will continue to support not only Salem businesses, but support Salem kids by doing so. The money this tax will generate goes to fund much-needed afterschool activities. As a school principal, I see first-hand the great need for programs for our students. I believe our kids are priceless. I will be happy to make such a difference in their lives by giving a nickel for every dollar I spend dining out or recreating.”

- Dave Bertholf, Letter to the Editor,
Salem (Oregon) Statesman Journal,
December 29, 2002

“Cutting track and other afterschool programs will have long-reaching negative effects. While academics help us to survive in this world, art, music and sports help give us reason to live by enriching our lives with a

creative outlet, not always found in one’s work. Most kids who turn to drugs lack that creative side, a way to express themselves, often through means other than academic. To cut these programs will hurt youth and our economy in the long run. Please give our students the chance they deserve to not only get the tools for the job, but the tools for life and its joys.”

- Bob Crispin, Letter to the Editor, Oregonian, December 17, 2002



SURFING THE WEB

www.GiveKidsGoodSchools.com

The goal of GiveKidsGoodSchools.com is to generate broad public support for public education, and to translate that support into a citizens’ movement that will influence the priorities and actions of decision-makers. The web site provides a sample letter to be sent to governors that urges them to do everything in their power to hire and keep good teachers in the local schools. The site also includes a page for students to share their thoughts about their teachers and school and a fact sheet on public education. GiveKidsGoodSchools.com is a project of Public Education Network, which seeks to build public demand and

mobilize resources to provide quality public education for all children.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 15 - 18

The National Crime Prevention Council will host its National Youth Summit on Preventing Violence in Anaheim, California from February 15 through 18. The four-day event combines hands-on learning with action. Participants will attend training sessions and an off-site educational field trip and voice their ideas for reducing crime and violence through roundtable discussions. For more information, visit www.ncpc.org or call 202/261-4165.

February 27 - March 1

The National School-Age Care Alliance will host its 15th annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah from February 27 through March 1. The conference is for afterschool professionals and will include a vast variety of sessions on programming, youth development, evaluations, community collaboration, public policy and professional development. For more information, visit www.nsacaconference.com or call 800-606-0061.



The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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