



HUGE ADVANCE FOR AFTERSCHOOL

On Thursday, September 21, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 638, which will put some \$550 million in state dollars into afterschool programs. The legislation resulted from Proposition 49, a 2002 ballot measure passed by voters by a wide margin. California's budget has now improved enough to allow for implementation, and schools throughout the state will shortly begin applying for afterschool funds.

Governor Schwarzenegger championed the measure, even before he ran for office. "I've always been a big believer in afterschool programs. They help our children succeed in school and stay out of trouble," the Governor said, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. "Luckily, our economy is on the upswing and we have enough revenues for the first time this year to fund Prop. 49."

"Our nation took a huge step toward providing badly-needed afterschool opportunities for all children when California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 638 into law," Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. "We commend California legislators, especially State Senators Tom Torlakson and Roy Ashburn, Governor Schwarzenegger, and leaders at the California Department of Education. We thank all the advocates in the state who worked tirelessly to give millions of children safe, enriching places to go after the school day ends. After years of playing a hero in the movies, today Governor Schwarzenegger is a hero to the millions of children and families who will benefit from this measure."

Grant urged lawmakers around the country to follow California's lead, and Members of Congress to provide the full funding authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act* for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative. "California is leading the way, but *all* of our children and families deserve the opportunities that afterschool programs provide."

Many school districts and county offices of education throughout California are expected to quickly apply for grants for their elementary and middle schools, or for all schools that serve impoverished students. *Information for Californians on the measure, and on how to apply for the new grants, will be available at www.cde.ca.gov/lb/ba/as/*



LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

More afterschool programs are registering their *Lights On Afterschool* events every day. Will you be part of the national rally for afterschool on Thursday, October 12? If so, be sure to register your event at www.afterschoolalliance.org and receive ten free *Lights On Afterschool* posters. Help organize the million Americans who will come out that day to send the message that we need to keep the lights on and the doors open for our kids. *Go to www.afterschoolalliance.org and register your event now!*

NEW EVALUATION FINDS BELL EFFECTIVE IN COMBATING SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

A new evaluation of the BELL Summer program concludes that the program is an effective tool in the effort to improve the reading skills of low-performing elementary students, and that it produces “evidence of positive impacts on the degree to which parents encouraged their children to read.”

BELL (“Building Educated Leaders for Life”) provides supplemental learning for low-income youth in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. It aims to “dramatically increase the academic achievements, self-esteem and life opportunities of elementary school children living in underserved communities.” The BELL Summer program, like its afterschool counterpart, relies on small-group tutoring, as well as “mentoring from adult role models; experiential learning through field trips, guest speakers and community service; [and] support for parents to more deeply engage in their children's education.”

In 2005, BELL operated summer programs at five sites, for five to six weeks, eight hours per day, five days a week. Teachers taught two hours of reading and one of math each morning, using a BELL-selected curriculum. That same summer, the Urban Institute and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the program, using a control group of students who had sought admission to the program but lost in a random lottery for seats, and a comparison group of economically and demographically similar lottery winners.

According to the researchers, “The study found that children in the BELL treatment group gained about a month’s worth of reading skills more than their counterparts in the comparison group during the summer. This is a modest, yet notable increase in reading skills for a six-week program.”

The findings point the way toward efforts to combat “summer learning loss,” a dynamic

that takes a more damaging toll on less academically accomplished students.

According to BELL, data “demonstrate that while all children learn at the same rate during the school year, children from low-income families lose the equivalent of two months’ literacy skills and two months’ math skills during the summer. At the same time, children from more affluent families actually gain skills from the opportunities that are available and encouraged for them. In sum, summer learning loss adds three and a half months to the academic achievement gap each year.”

A news release highlighting key findings is available on BELL’s website at http://www.bellnational.org/UI_Study_Summer_Program82306.htm.



EXPERTS TELL CONGRESS AFTERSCHOOL IS KEY FOR MATH, SCIENCE

At a special Capitol Hill briefing on September 13, experts discussed how afterschool programs teach science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills through fun, engaging activities such as computer programming, robotics, and 3-D digital animation. The briefing was held to address the nation’s need to keep pace with other industrialized countries in STEM fields, and the role that afterschool programs can play in preparing youth for careers in these fields.

Science Museum of Minnesota President Dr. Eric Jolly said that math and science achievement have been declining in the U.S. for 20 years, and noted that science education helps prepare students to participate in debates on pressing issues like stem cells, genetic mutation, and avian flu. “Afterschool programs are the best way to engage students in science,” he said. “They serve as bridges *Math, science continued on page four...*”

FUNDING NEWS

Afterschool programs serve communities as diverse as the country, providing urgently needed services to children and youth. Most have at least one thing in common: they need more funds and sustainable funding sources.

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its web site to help afterschool providers successfully navigate the funding universe, including tips on initiating new relationships with funders and businesses, and on initiating funding opportunities. A regularly updated “Funding Forum” offers online chats with experts.

The web site hosts a sizeable database of funding sources that is searchable by funding agency, uses of funds, eligible applicants, and more, located at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_data.cfm. Providers will also find other links, publications, success stories and tips. *For more information, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Awards for Youth Volunteers

Prudential Financial, the Prudential Foundation, and the national Association of Secondary School Principals are sponsoring the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which honor youth in grades five to 12 who have been engaged in volunteer activities in their communities since September 1, 2005. Honorees will receive \$1,000 and a trip to Washington DC. Ten national honorees will receive an additional \$5,000 for themselves, and another \$5,000 for the organization of their choice. The deadline is October 31. *For additional information, and to apply, visit www.prudential.com/spirit.*

Grants for Rural Youth Literacy Programs

Rural libraries that run youth afterschool literacy programs may be eligible for grants from the Libri Foundation to fund the purchase of hardcover children’s books under the “Books for Children” grant. The foundation will match grants of \$50 to \$350 from a "friends of the library" member organization or other local group, on a 2:1 ratio, up to a total of \$1,050 for each library. The application deadline is December 15. *For further information, go to <http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>.*

Grants for Problem Solving in Communities

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation invites teams of up to four middle school youth and a coach to identify a community issue and use the scientific process to solve it. Teams of finalists earn a trip to Walt Disney World and the opportunity to compete for a \$25,000 U.S. savings bond to be used to implement the idea in their community. Youth finalists will learn about the science and technology behind Walt Disney World. The deadline is February 12, 2007. *For further information, visit www.christophercolumbusaward.com.*

Math, science continued from page two... between formal and informal education.”

Dr. Lucy Friedman, President of The After-School Corporation (TASC), said afterschool programs provide a space that gives children greater freedom to explore STEM disciplines without pressure to “make the grade.” Friedman noted that the STEM disciplines are a key part of afterschool programming, and that “more than 90 percent of afterschool programs receiving 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds hav[e] STEM programs.”

Six budding scientists from the Girls Inc. afterschool program of Washington County, Maryland, led a hands-on demonstration of science. They had first done these experiments in their Operation SMART (Science, Math and Relevant Technology) classes at Girls Inc. The girls not only shared their scientific expertise, but also explained why greater exposure to STEM disciplines in their afterschool programs would help prepare them for the future. They said they would like to build buildings, develop cars that don’t need gasoline, and send people to Mars.

“Every day, afterschool programs around the country are teaching children why volcanoes erupt, how snakes digest their food, the skills to program tomorrow’s computers, and what the Hubble Telescope is enabling us to discover about our universe,” Grant said. “Quality afterschool programs help students explore their world, from nature to technology. We need more afterschool programs, so every student will have these opportunities.”

The congressional briefing was sponsored by the Coalition for Science After School, the Afterschool Alliance, the National Science Teachers Association and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in conjunction with the Senate and House Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Caucuses and the Senate and House Afterschool Caucuses.

For more information on STEM and afterschool, view the Afterschool Alliance’s

Issue Brief: “Afterschool programs: At the STEM of learning” at

www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_br.cfm.

For more information on Girls Inc’s

Operation SMART, visit

www.girlsinc.org/ic/page.php?id=1.2.1.



GRANT JOINS SPELLINGS IN PRAISING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS’ IMPACT ON LITERACY

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant joined U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and members of an international delegation on a tour of a Queens afterschool program on September 19. As part of the White House Conference on Global Literacy, Spellings led a tour of the Sunnyside Community Services’ afterschool program for government ministers from Tunisia, Bahrain, Morocco and Jordan.

Grant praised afterschool programs in the United States. “Afterschool programs provide a vital service to our communities and families,” she said, “by giving children experiences and opportunities, often not available during the school day, that build their social and academic skills and help them succeed in life.”

The Sunnyside program receives a federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (via the New York State Department of Education) to serve 750 children in its five afterschool sites (four elementary schools and Sunnyside’s community center). The grant supplements major funding from New York City’s Department of Youth and Community Development and The After School Corporation (TASC). The delegation visited Sunnyside’s program at P.S. 150, which serves 200 K-6 children each weekday.

Sitting with the ministers and afterschool leaders in P.S. 150’s library, Secretary Spellings said, “I am a strong believer that, in

education, we will not be successful at leaving no child behind unless we get extra help and extra attention to the students who need it most.”

“These programs exist because of the support and vision of our government,” Grant added. “Federal dollars help leverage public and private support, creating partnerships that sustain afterschool programs. We need to continue building these partnerships so that afterschool programs are available to the more than 14 million kids who today are unsupervised after the school day ends. I look forward to working with Secretary Spellings and others to give all our children access to quality afterschool programs like this one.” The *No Child Left Behind Act* calls for \$2.25 billion for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative in this fiscal year, but the appropriation is less than \$1 billion.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“I want all students to have access to a quality after-school program. I am continuing to work to expand after-school programs in Los Angeles, and urge others to do the same in their communities. Strong community partnerships make strong after-school programs and ASES [After School Education and Safety Program] is a great opportunity for city leaders to help schools and community organizations work together to provide quality after-school programs for the youth they serve.”

-- Los Angeles City Council Member Alex Padilla, *Act 4 After School News E-lert*, September 13, 2006

“Let’s continue to challenge ourselves to find those neighborhoods where kids really don’t have enough options – where they cannot play baseball because the sandlot is patrolled by gangs. In areas both urban and rural, there are too many kids who leave a bad school in the

afternoon to return to an empty or even dangerous home. That’s where we need the Boys & Girls Club the most and I want to support you in seeking those neighborhoods out.”

--U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, speaking at the Boys & Girls Club of America Annual Congressional Breakfast, September 20, 2006



AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

A call from a motivated student – and dedicated afterschool advocate – resulted in the creation of a brand new tool for people to show their support for afterschool. The Afterschool Petition of Support allows you to collect the names of guests at your event or gathering, and show that support to your elected officials by sending them a copy.

Signers are automatically added to *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*, and join the ranks of Fortune 500 companies, major league sports leagues, hundreds of mayors and thousands of concerned afterschool supporters. Think about using it at your *Lights On Afterschool* event, and be sure to send us a copy! For more information, contact Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org. *Download the petition at* http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/project_2010.cfm.



IN THE NEWS...

Arkansas – Congressman John Boozman stopped by the Eureka Kids! afterschool program in Eureka Springs to personally

deliver a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol. Congressman Boozman requested the flag be flown in honor of the youth of Eureka Springs. Representative Boozman recently joined the House Afterschool Caucus.

Pennsylvania – The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reports that the After School Activities Partnership and the Free Library of Philadelphia have partnered to enhance literacy and support afterschool programs by launching “Philly Plays Scrabble.” The project will involve all 55 of the library’s branches throughout the month of October. The libraries will host afterschool Scrabble matches with a final Scrabble championship tournament to be held in November.



SUPERMAN SUPPORTS AFTERSCHOOL

Brandon Routh, the new Superman and star of the film *Superman Returns*, recently joined up with T-Mobile and City Year to help renovate the area used for afterschool programs at Union Avenue School in Los Angeles. Routh lent his star power to the daylong project, helping some 150 volunteers paint a mural, garden, and generally refurbish the afterschool room.

Routh said he was pleased to support the activity. He told *Good Day LA* that “one way to promote education is afterschool activities... keeping kids busy. I’m from Iowa and even kids in Iowa get bored and need something to do. I know that they certainly need things to do in Los Angeles as well.”

To view *Superman at work on the project*, visit <http://www.myfoxla.com/myfox/pages/InsideFox/Detail?contentId=731328&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=5.2.1>.



RESOURCES

High School Youth Engaging in Current Events

Global Kids, an out-of-school-time program affiliated with the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS, welcomes high school youth to become a part of the “Newz Crew.” The project is run by the youth of Global Kids, who design and maintain the site, and includes online discussion groups about current events. Students can also get background information on current issues through the “Newz Flashes.” For more information, visit www.newzcrew.org.

“Everyone’s Hero” Youth Development Activity Guide

F.I.L.M. (Finding Inspiration in Literature and Movies) has a free compendium guide for the computer animated feature film “Everyone’s Hero,” directed by the late Christopher Reeve. It is about a boy who is on a mission to return Babe Ruth’s stolen baseball bat to its owner and overcomes challenges on his journey. The guide is for children age six to ten, and discusses key themes such as “setting things right,” positive self talk,” and “becoming an everyday hero.” The activity guide, as well as a community service project guide, are available free at www.youthfilmproject.org/film/everyoneshero.htm.

Youth “Building Bridges”

The National Building Museum is offering the “Bridge Basics Program Kit,” an interdisciplinary program for fifth to ninth graders designed to make design more relevant to the science and math disciplines by encouraging youth to “engineer ideas.” The kit includes a CD-ROM, foundation lessons, posters, worksheets, bridge construction materials, and other resources. For more information, visit

<http://www.nbm.org/Education/bridgeBasics/bridgeBasics.html>.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

September 28 - 29, 2006

The America's Promise Alliance will host regional forums to share best practices and encourage greater collaboration within communities to see that all young people have the fundamental resources they need to succeed. The regional forums will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 28 – 29 and another forum will be held in Denver, Colorado in October. *For information and to register, visit www.americaspromise.org/100Best/regionalforums.cfm.*

October 23 – 24, 2006

The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back: Responsive Rich Relevant conference will be held in Vancouver, Washington. The conference, the only one of its kind for administrators, educators and policy makers in the afterschool field, will include sessions on childhood obesity, family literacy and English language learners. *For more information and to register, visit <http://schoolsoutwashington.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page§ionid=60>.*

October 23 – 25, 2006

The Southwest Educational Development Laboratory's National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host a regional training "Mid-South Region Fall Afterschool Training Roundup: Building High-Quality Afterschool Programs in Oklahoma City." The event will offer opportunities for afterschool leaders to network and learn through professional development opportunities. *For further information and to register, visit www.sedl.org/afterschool/registration/2006_roundup.html.*

October 26 – 28, 2006

The Search Institute will host the 10th annual "2006 Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Conference" in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In keeping with this year's theme, "Asset Building Comes of Age: Transforming Society with Youth," the conference will honor young people who have taken action and made a difference in their communities. *For more information, visit <http://www.search-institute.org/hchy/>.*

November 19 – 25, 2006

The Alliance for Children and Families and the Annie E. Casey Foundation will sponsor the National Family Week celebration. Afterschool programs are invited to participate along with hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals across the country to promote the premise that children live better lives when families are strong, and families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks and services. *For more information, visit www.nationalfamilyweek.org.*

November 29 – December 2, 2006

The National Community Education Association will hold its Annual Conference at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. *Please visit www.ncea.com/meetingsandconferences.aspx for information and to register.*

December 4 – 7, 2006

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, the Great Lakes Employment Training Association and the National Youth Employment Coalition will sponsor the 7th Annual National Youth Development Symposium in Chicago, Illinois. Last year's symposium drew more than 600 workforce development, youth development, and education professionals from across the country. *For further information, visit www.nawdp.org/youthsymposium.htm.*

More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm.

USE A4A FOR DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives friends of afterschool a ten-percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at www.discountchoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org. The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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