



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

The Power of the Arts – Research has proven over the years that education in the arts is key to children's academic and life-long success. Art is a unique language that children use as active learners to construct and express their imaginations and knowledge. When implemented in schools, it can help close the achievement gap, improve reading and language development and advance students' motivation to learn. When integrated into afterschool programs, it can promote social skills and provide opportunity for “stealth learning;” drawings can be an exercise of geometry, music as counting, and drama as a better way to improve reading comprehension. Recent 2006 data presented by the Americans for the Arts organization now continues to support this argument with SAT statistics. Students with at least 4 years of classes in art or music performed significantly better than students with less than 1.5 years of art or music classes. For more research on benefits of the arts, please visit www.artsusa.org.

PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **PSAYDN Annual Meeting and Reception: Mark Your Calendars!** – It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and PSAYDN is bursting with success stories from the 2006-2007 year to share. We are in the process of finalizing details for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Reception, but the date is set. On March 4, 2008, join PSAYDN at the Hilton Harrisburg in Harrisburg, PA for a great opportunity to meet fellow members and partners of the Network while celebrating the success of afterschool programs. Check the PSAYDN website next month for registration information at www.psaydn.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

ArtsQuest is a non-profit organization located in the Greater Lehigh Valley, PA. The organization is dedicated to promoting arts and culture through organizing events such as the Musikfest, an annual celebration of grass-roots music in Bethlehem. The organization also owns and operates the Banana Factory arts center and offers various

afterschool enrichment programs for children and youth. One of the programs offered includes B-Smart, which targets middle school students who are at-risk of failing and re-connects them through visual art and computer technology. For more information about ArtsQuest or to locate an upcoming art event, visit www.artsquest.org.

Around the Country

After School Matters (ASM) is a non-profit organization that expands out-of-school opportunities for Chicago teens in the state of Illinois. The organization offers programs ranging from art and sports to science and technology. These programs provide teens with the opportunity to safely take part in educational activities, develop positive relationships with mentors and become exposed to careers of their interest via an apprenticeship. Young artist and former recipient of ASM's apprenticeship program, Karolina Kowalczyk, states that ASM not only helped her avoid flipping burgers for a summer but it helped her to create a clear plan for career success. For more information about ASM, visit www.afterschoolmatters.org. To view Karolina's portfolio, visit www.karolinaart.com.

RECOMMENDED READING

Check-out these recent articles, research, and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

- **Arts and Afterschool: A Powerful Combination** – This Afterschool Alliance brief discusses the four benefits of the Arts: it allows for creative achievement, unites communities, defines our culture, and acts as an outlet for today's children and youth. To read the publication, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issue_arts_21.pdf.
- **Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs: Longitudinal Findings from Study of Promising Afterschool Programs** – Recent study finds that regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to significant improvements in test scores and work habits. To read this study, visit <http://www.policystudies.com/studies/youth/Promising%20Programs%20FINAL.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

- **1/21/08 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service** – Celebrate this holiday by strengthening your community, empowering individuals, and bridging barriers through volunteerism. To search for a service project, register your event, or get more information about the day of service, visit <http://www.mlkday.gov>.
- **2/6/08 – 2/7/08 4-H Afterschool: Creating Partnerships Conference** – This event will be held at the Celebration Hall in State College, PA. For more information, please visit <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=f66467d1-e1ee-4373-b698-042ba94bd8f6>
- **2/14/08 – 2/17/08 Beyond School Hours XI: National Conference** – Join Foundations, Inc. and keynote speaker, James Earl Jones, for a national conference on afterschool. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, FL. For more information, please visit <http://www.foundationinc.org/events/conference/beyond11/default.asp>.
- **3/3/08 – 3/5/08 Promising Practices – Proven Strategies: Working Together for Pennsylvania's Youth** – Plan now to attend this statewide afterschool conference in Harrisburg, PA at the Hilton Harrisburg. For more information about the event, visit www.21stcccl.org.

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

To learn more about PSAYDN, please contact:

Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network

Phone: 717.763.1661

E-mail: psaydn@csc.csiu.org