



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.

August 2008

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

Back-to-School for Children and Youth – Preparing children and youth to go back to school can be a challenge. Beyond buying books, clothes and supplies, there is also a mixture of emotions that children and youth can experience before the start of a new school year. To help parents deal with the battle of the butterflies and better prepare for the school year, KidsHealth, an organization sponsored by the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media, has created a Back-to-School checklist that provides parents with a "To Do" list before the start of school. The checklist covers issues from transportation and safety to how to choose the right afterschool activity/program. For more information, visit http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/learning/back_school.html.

PSAYDN UPDATE

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

- **The Importance of Afterschool Programs** – On Tuesday, August 5, 2008, the Pennsylvania House Children and Youth Committee held a public hearing on the *Importance of Afterschool*. The hearing provided the General Assembly with valuable information on why every child in Pennsylvania deserves access to a high-quality afterschool program. Several PSAYDN partners and members gave informative and excellent testimonies; for more information about the hearing or to view testimonies, please visit www.psaydn.org.
- **How to Plan a *Lights On!* Event** – On Wednesday, August 20, PSAYDN held its final online session for 2008. The session attracted nearly 100 registrants from diverse counties throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, including New Jersey, New York, and District of Columbia. The session was offered to assist communities in celebrating the 9th Annual *Lights On Afterschool!* on October 16, 2008. It provided participants with tips and tools to develop events that attract media attention, policymaker support and ultimately highlight the importance of afterschool programs in the community. Over 96% of the surveyed participants indicated that the information provided was helpful and will be used in their future work. For more information about the session or to listen to the recording, please visit www.psaydn.org. For more information about *Lights on Afterschool!* and to register your event, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center (PA PIRC) is an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. It builds linkages among schools, families, and community organizations and provides training and consultation to urban, rural and suburban communities throughout Pennsylvania. PA PIRC emphasizes effective communication among family, school and community; improves district and school parent involvement policies, programs, and activities to engage parents for student achievement; and helps increase parents' knowledge of early childhood development to improve parental practices. In 2007-2008, PA PIRC worked directly with 53 family-school-community partnerships to improve student achievement through enhanced parent involvement. Staff from over 100 early childhood parenting education programs received training and consultation services through PA PIRC. Over 40,000 parents of school aged children and nearly 14,000 parents of preschool aged children received services including conferences presentations, workshops, focus groups, one on one consultations, books, newsletters, brochures, White House Initiative for Hispanic Families Toolkits, electronic materials, web page views and mass media. For more information about how PA PIRC can help to improve parent engagement in your community, visit <http://www.center-school.org/pa-pirc>.

Around the Country

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is one of the largest child advocacy volunteer associations in the nation. The National PTA works with many educational and advocacy groups and federal agencies to cultivate strong children and youth advocates and be a resource for families and communities. The National PTA recently published a 2008 Back-to-School Toolkit to help PTA leaders across the country engage parents from the beginning of the school year. This toolkit not only provides leaders with engagement tools but also resources to help plan programs throughout the year that will meet the needs of the community. For more information about the toolkit or how to connect with the PTA in your community, please visit www.pta.org.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

- **A Back to School Special Report on the Baby Boom Echo: Growing Pains** – A recent report by the National Center for Education Statistics discusses a new pattern of steady birth rate and its impact on rising school enrollment. For more information about this report please visit <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/bbecho00/index.html>.
- **A Collective Responsibility, A Collective Work: Supporting the Path to Positive Life Outcomes for Youth in Economically Distressed Communities** – This new publication by the Center for Law and Social Policy addresses the challenges faced by youth growing up in “distressed” cities and recommends 7 action plans for communities to follow. To read this paper, please click here <http://www.clasp.org/publications/collectiveresponsibility.pdf>.
- **Afterschool: Supporting Family Involvement in Schools** – This brief is one in a series of Issue briefs sponsored by the MetLife Foundation that addresses the benefits afterschool programs provide to children, families and communities. The brief explores the various ways afterschool programs create linkages between schools and home for students and parents. To read this brief, please click here http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_32_parent_involvement.cfm.
- **Engaging Parents in Education: Lessons From Five Parental Information and Resource Centers** – This resource guide explains the strategies that the Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRC) use to improve or expand their parental involvement programs in public schools. To read this guide, please click here <http://www.ed.gov/admins/comm/parents/parentinvolve/index.html>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **9/8/08 Beyond the Bake Sale: A Conversation About Effective Parent Involvement in Schools**– This Webinar is organized by the PA State Parent Advisory Council and will be held on Monday, September 8, 2008

from 3PM to 5 PM EST. For more information or to register, please contact Daniella Care at dacare@state.pa.us.

- **9/16/08 Step Up for Kids Action Day** – This event is hosted by the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and will be held at the Pennsylvania Capitol Building – Main Rotunda located in Harrisburg, PA. For more information, please visit http://www.papartnerships.org/news_step_up08.asp.
- **9/17/08 – 9/19/08 National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School time** – This event is hosted by the Coalition for Science Afterschool and Project Exploration. It will be held at the Navy Pier located in Chicago, IL. For more information, visit www.scienceafterschoolconference.org
- **9/24/08 Engaging Stakeholders: The Role of Business in Ready by 21** – This webinar is organized by Corporate Voices for Working Families and the Forum for Youth Investment. The session will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 from 11 AM to 12 PM EST. For more information or to register, please contact Ian Faigley at ian@forumfyi.org.
- **10/16/08 9th Annual Lights On Afterschool!** – This event is organized by the Afterschool Alliance and will be celebrated nationwide. For more information about the event or to host an event, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm.

ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain afterschool funding by getting involved – Here's a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

Step Up for Kids – On September 16, 2008 join hundreds of organizations and individuals across the country to advocate on behalf of children and youth. Supporters in every state capital will join forces to call upon presidential, congressional, and statewide candidates to address and draw media attention to child welfare and youth development issues. *Step Up For Kids Action Day* in Pennsylvania will be held at 11:00 AM in the Main Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building. For more information about the *Step Up for Kids* event in Pennsylvania, please visit the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) website at http://www.papartnerships.org/news_step_up08.asp.

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:

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