



The following information is also available on [www.psaydn.org](http://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.

**June – July 2008**

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## THE SPOTLIGHT!

**Speak Up for Summer Learning** – The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) and the Center for Summer Learning invite you to be a part of a national campaign to support summer learning by celebrating National Summer Day on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Leaders across the nation are invited to host an event or attend a nearby event. Numerous studies show that almost all young people experience the “summer slide” or learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the off school season. High-quality summer programs keep students engaged in learning, teach them new skills and allow them to develop previously unseen talents. Early and sustained involvement in such programs can lead to higher graduation rates, better preparation for college, and positive effects on self-esteem, confidence and motivation. Summer Learning Day is a time for communities across the nation to celebrate the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people and their families. Last year more than 145 programs in 34 different states participated in the event and this year, the Center for Summer Learning is hoping for 300 events nationwide. For more information about the National Summer Learning Day visit [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org).

## PSAYDN UPDATE

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

- **Greene County Afterschool Summit** – PSAYDN's Greene County Afterschool Summit, *A Continuum of Learning: PA Supports the Power of Afterschool* was held on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at Waynesburg University. Afterschool leaders, educators, funders, law enforcement officials and county and state officials gathered to discuss the state of youth in the county. The discussions were rich, constructive, and full of synergy. Participants identified the needs of the community and possible youth development strategies that will be further developed at future meetings. For more

information about current Greene County community collaboration, visit the Making a Greater Impact Collectively (MAGIC) website at [www.greenecountymagic.org](http://www.greenecountymagic.org).

- **Afterschool Champions** – PSAYDN is pleased to announce the first annual Pennsylvania Afterschool Champions Award for afterschool supporters and leaders. The award will be given in the Fall in conjunction with the *Lights on Afterschool!* celebration. This new award is intended to recognize individuals who've shown exceptional commitment to increasing afterschool and youth development opportunities and awareness for children and youth in the Commonwealth. For more information about the Award or to nominate your Afterschool Champion, please visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

### Pennsylvania

Summerbridge Pittsburgh is a non-profit academic enrichment program located at Sewickley Academy in Sewickley, PA. This tuition-free program serves at-risk middle school students from Allegheny and Beaver County and offers a 2 year, 6 week summer program that prepares students for academic success. The program integrates fun games with rigorous academic courses such as math and writing; all taught by high school and college students. Nearly 92 percent of Summerbridge students graduate from high school and 80 percent go on to college. Summerbridge engages more than 250 students each year and has served over 1000 students since its inception in 1994. For more information about the Summerbridge Program, [www.sewickley.org/academicssub.asp?pageid=26](http://www.sewickley.org/academicssub.asp?pageid=26).

### Around the Country

Fun in the Sun: Camp AYS is a summer camp program sponsored by At-Your-School Child Services (AYS), a not-for-profit organization located in Indiana. The program serves youth of all socioeconomic level in Indianapolis, Noblesville and Hendrick counties and gives the term “summer learning” another meaning. This hands-on day camp provides children with creative projects and recreational activities that focuses on the “four R’s of camp” which stands for respect, responsibility, recycle and resolving conflict. Students learn leadership skills while focusing on hands-on topics such as nature and science. For more information about Fun in the Sun: Camp AYS, visit [www.ayskids.org/Camp/index.htm](http://www.ayskids.org/Camp/index.htm)

## RECOMMENDED READING

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

- **Summer: A Season When Learning is Essential** – This brief is a joint work of the Afterschool Alliance and the Center for Summer Learning. It highlights ways that out-of-school-time programs keep kids safe and inspires learning throughout the summer months and identifies several programs that work well. To read this report, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue\\_briefs/issue\\_summer\\_33.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issue_summer_33.pdf)
- **Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap** – This article from the American Sociological Review examines the long-term academic effect of summer programs on students of different family socioeconomic level. To read this report, visit [www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/April07ASRfeature.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/April07ASRfeature.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **7/10/08 National Summer Learning Day** – This event is supported by the Center for Summer Learning and made possible by the support of the Atlantic Philanthropies, Staples Foundation for

Learning and Verizon Foundation. For more information on how to host an event or find a local event, visit [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org).

- **7/28/08 – 8/1/08 *Afterschool Stepping Up to the Plate: Afterschool Program Professional Development Seminar*** – This event is sponsored by CSU Chico, the Butte County of Education and Region 2 Learning Support. It will be held at California State University at Chico located in Chico, California. For more information about the event, visit [www.region2online.org/pages.cfm?page=6&more=asppd&sub=Overview](http://www.region2online.org/pages.cfm?page=6&more=asppd&sub=Overview).
- **8/11/08 – 8/13/08 *Multiple Cultures, Multiple Voices: Preparing Diverse Learners in the Era of Globalization*** – This event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Penn State Harrisburg and coordinated by the Center for Schools and Communities. It will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg located in Harrisburg, PA. For more information about the event or to register, please visit [www.eslportalpa.info](http://www.eslportalpa.info).
- **8/20/08 *Planning a Lights On! Event: How to Engage Policymakers and the Media*** – This event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN), in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and will be held online from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the event, please visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain Afterschool Funding by Getting Involved – Here's a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

**House unanimously approves proposal on afterschool programs** - Last week, State Representative Jake Wheatley (D-Allegheny) introduced *H.R. 824*: a resolution that calls for a study on the afterschool needs of children and youth in the Commonwealth. The study will be a great aid in making a collective case for the need for increased investments in afterschool programs. Please take a moment to contact your House of Representative member and thank him or her for their support of the Resolution. To find your House member, visit [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).

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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