

# Afterschool UPDATE



Jan. /Feb. '10

## **ONE HAPPY FAMILY: AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORK HAND-IN-HAND**

*I recently spoke to someone who attended the National Community Education Association conference in Phoenix who told me she was amazed at how much afterschool was represented both by attendees and at breakout sessions. I thought to myself, "Our grantees missed a great opportunity here." I think this is due to the name of the organization and people not associating afterschool with community education. A statewide comparison to this would be the MOSAC2 and MAACCE conferences. MOSAC2 is specifically afterschool driven, while MAACCE has some components of afterschool but includes adult and higher education as well.*

*One thing to keep in mind is that our section here at DESE is called Community Education, which houses both the afterschool and service-learning programs. I recently attended a statewide community education meeting in St. Charles made up of representatives from community colleges from across the state. They shared with one another their recent experiences, successes and challenges. Their focus was to share ideas on overcoming barriers and on improving their respective programs. While these people represent colleges from different areas of Missouri, they are all working toward strengthening their communities by helping the residents who populate them.*

*Afterschool is only one small piece of the community education family, but I encourage all grantees to make use of the resources available within your communities. Remember that even though a conference might not be labeled as afterschool, there could still be valuable information about afterschool programs at that event.*

*Best wishes during this winter season,*

*Jimmy Reed, Supervisor, Community Education*

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# Keeping the 'Lights On' in Springfield

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PROGRAM

*By Jimmy Reed, Supervisor, Community Education*

The Greene County Youth Academy in Springfield recently held a "Lights On for Afterschool" activity at its residential facility. This "Lights On" was different from others because the event was held in the early afternoon, and the children that the academy works with are in the juvenile justice system.

Various members of the community attended to show their support for the program including representatives from the Springfield R-XII School District, the local alternative school and the NAACP. The academy's site coordinator explained the curriculum he has designed, which includes a MAP pretest, résumé building, career counseling, tutoring and homework assistance.

Situated on each table at the event were decorative leaves, which displayed the stories of students (and parents of students) who have successfully completed the program. In their own words, they described what they enjoyed most about the program. The messages were touching and truly a reminder of why no child should be left behind.

The following is a brief description of the program from Coordinator Tom Gist: *G.I.F.T.S. is the educational component of the Greene County Juvenile Court's Evening Reporting Center (ERC). For 20 days while awaiting formal sentencing, students report to the ERC on weekdays from 3-8 p.m. During this time, students*



This "Lights On" event allowed the Springfield community to show its support for the Greene County Youth Academy, which works with children who are part of the juvenile justice system.

*participate in a variety of group counseling sessions in addition to the G.I.F.T.S. program. The first priority of G.I.F.T.S. is to help the students be successful in school. Individualized instruction takes place as students work on homework, prepare for tests and use computers to address specific learning goals. Group lessons are taught three days a week on basic literature, math and writing topics. The program is flexible, and the curriculum is adjusted to meet the students' needs. Progress toward educational goals is measured through the monitoring of grades and the use of assessments.*

# Preventing H1N1 at Afterschool Programs

## TIPS TO KEEP YOUR KIDS HEALTHY

Most of us are aware of the effect the H1N1 virus has had on school closings. However, our office needs to know if H1N1 has specifically affected your program, as this could have an obvious impact on your attendance. The state of Rhode Island recently shared some preventative tips with its afterschool programs; these ideas are beneficial to our programs as well.

- Remind all students and staff of the main disease-prevention messages: stay home if ill, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or arm, wash your hands often, and don't share anything that might have touched someone else's mouth.

- Explain influenza symptoms (including fever, cough, sore throat, headache, nausea, etc.)
- Explain how the flu spreads (coughing, sneezing, hand contact, etc.)
- Strongly instruct students and staff to stay home if they are feeling ill or have a fever.
- Eliminate all penalties for missing activities due to illness, flulike symptoms or fever.
- Strongly instruct students and staff to stay home until 24 hours after a fever subsides without the use of medicine.
- Do not share water bottles or other drink containers.
- Do not share mouth guards.

*(Continued on the next page)*

## Preventing H1N1 *(continued)*

- Do not shake hands in greeting; suggest fist or elbow bumps.
- Do not share food or eating utensils.
- Do not share towels or other fabric items that have come into contact with the hands or face.
- If a student becomes ill, try to separate that student away from others (6 feet or more if possible).
- Provide strong messages of hygiene for any students or staff with conditions that put them at a high risk for complications (pregnancy, diabetes, asthma, etc.)
- Have alcohol-based hand gels readily available.
- If surfaces are not used or equipment is stored for more than three hours, it is virus-free without any further cleaning or disinfectant.
- Remind parents of these prevention and control measures so that the messages are reinforced at home.
- Plan for more staff absences. Employees might be sick or need to stay home to care for someone who is sick. Have an alternative plan for activities and for student supervision.

### Additional resources

- <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/for/schools/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>
- <http://www.hhs.gov>
- [http://www.dhss.mo.gov/missouriflu/\\_H1N1Flu.html](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/missouriflu/_H1N1Flu.html)
- <http://www.ed.gov>

## ITEMS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR



**January 15:** Invoice due

**January 30:** Mid-year report due

**February 15:** Invoice due

**March 15:** Invoice due

**April 15:** Invoice due

**May 15:** Invoice due

**June 15:** Final invoice due

**June 22-24:** MAACCE conference

**June 30:** Expenditures must all be spent

**July 15:** Final expenditure report due

**July 15:** Final program report due (SAC only)

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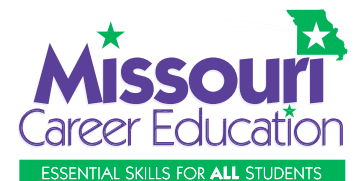
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