

Prime Time Afterschool Advocate

The Voice of Prime Time Palm Beach County

Summer 2009



About Prime Time

Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is a non-profit, intermediary organization dedicated to quality school-age afterschool programs. Since its inception, Prime Time has gathered support and momentum among key stakeholders in our county by reaching out into the community, convening meetings and forums among providers, parents, educators and donors, and determinedly broadcasting the need for accessible, affordable, quality afterschool programs.

Our Mission

Prime Time's mission is to be the leader in strengthening community capacity to provide a range of quality afterschool programs to all children and youth in Palm Beach County through an integrated system of standards and supports.

Our Funders

Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Picower Foundation and The Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund.

Message from the Director

It seems so long ago since I wrote a message for this column. As is often the case with summer's longer days and warmer weather, many afterschool programs assume seasonal roles as summer camp providers along with the buzz of activity that surrounds summer programming. We realize that finding time to stay connected during the summer months is a real challenge so we created a special summer edition of our e-newsletter to keep you abreast of what's happening on the afterschool scene. In response to numerous requests, we have also organized our first summer afterschool consortium networking event, which will take place as a *Summer Social* later this month. We hope to see you there! And, finally, the Prime Time team has been busy planning our annual Enhancement Fair (August) as well as working on developing exciting new afterschool supports and resources that we'll be announcing this fall. We promise that you won't be disappointed!

Wishing everyone a great summer!

Suzette L. Harvey
Executive Director

We're Now on Facebook!

Find out what's going on at Prime Time by following us on Facebook. We invite you to follow us as a friend or fan to keep up-to-date on all of our latest developments.

Afterschool News

The Afterschool Alliance recently featured an interesting newsletter story discussing the newly-released results of the "Uncertain Times 2009" survey. The results reflect the responses of 1,447 afterschool practitioners representing approximately 8,587 afterschool sites that serve more than 1.2 million children nationwide. In brief, the survey shows that the recession has meant cuts and harder times for afterschool programs and the children and families they serve.

Participation in surveys like this one is extremely important as it is a very effective way to obtain hard facts that can be used for afterschool advocacy purposes. But our work is not done. Consider First Lady Michelle Obama's words in her address to this year's graduates at the University of California:

"Now, let me tell you, careers focused on lifting up our communities - whether it's helping transform troubled schools or creating afterschool programs or training workers for green jobs - these careers are not always obvious, but today they are necessary. Solutions to our nation's most challenging social problems are not going to come from Washington alone. Real innovation often starts with individuals who apply themselves to solve a problem right in their own community. That's where the best ideas come from."

With our First Lady's words in mind, we invite you to share your best and innovative ideas and all that your program is doing to weather the current economic storm by posting them on Prime Time's Facebook page.

For more information on the survey and Florida's results, please visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/UncertainTimes2009.cfm>

Check out Michelle Obama's University of California speech and other inspiring words about afterschool at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/advocate.cfm?story_id=4001187

Afterschool QIS

All too often we pull off last minute successes after procrastinating on tasks in our personal and professional lives. For some people, this may lead to a heightened sense of accomplishment while for others procrastination can create an uncomfortable level of stress.

In afterschool programming, the failure to plan ahead actually undermines the quality of the activities offered to child and youth participants. Examples include children having to wait five minutes while staff gathers the necessary materials for an activity or by having to play the same game they played the previous day. To an outside observer, the lack of sufficient pre-planning can be obvious when watching program activities – when directions typically appear to be unclear; youth finish the activity too quickly or not at all; and, there are more emerging distractions and stressors as youth repeatedly wait for staff.

Advance pre-planning of your afterschool programming and activities goes a long way in helping to create and maintain healthy, high-quality experiences for the youth we serve in afterschool.

Program Opportunities

Family Reading Parties

Join the hundreds of parents and children who have participated in the After School Reads Family Reading Party nights. Enjoy an evening of reading fun and give parents the boost they need to have fun reading with their children at home.

Parents who have attended a Family Reading Party come away with more confidence in their ability to be a partner in the education of their children and they also gain insight into the importance of successful reading experiences for their children.

The parties are 90 minute programs beginning with introductions from the afterschool program director. Some programs have a snack ready for families as they arrive, others save the treat for the end.

When everyone is ready, parents gather for 30 minutes with the After School Reads Manager while the children go off with a staff member for story time. Parents and children listen to the same story being presented. Afterward, parents and children come together for an easy art activity related to the story. The families enjoy creating a beautiful souvenir to take home.

Responses to the Family Reading Parties have been overwhelming. Parents say they feel empowered and are willing to try the ideas shared during the party. In addition, families are having fun! Giveaways add to the festivities.

If you are interested in having a Family Reading Party, contact Gloria Allin, After School Reads Manager, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, at 561-279-9103 or gloria@pbcliteracy.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Prime Time Afterschool Consortium Networking Events



Summer Social – Networking Event

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2009
Time: 5 – 8 p.m.
Place: E.R. Bradley's Saloon*
104 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, Florida
Sponsor: ALC – Advanced Learning Center, Inc.

**Hors d'oeuvres will be served*

Reservations are required for attendance at Prime Time's Consortium Networking Events. Reserve online at www.primetimepbc.org or call Rhonda Rogers at 561-732-8066 x106.

Enhancement Programs

Center for Creative Education Instructional Unit Request Dates

The Center for Creative Education (CCE) will begin accepting IU request forms on and after August 17, 2009. The deadline for IU requests is August 21st. This quick turn-around has been designed to help ensure exact headcounts from all participating afterschool programs prior to CCE filling IU requests. CCE will award IUs on September 4, 2009.



Prior to receiving IUs, all afterschool program directors/coordinators will be required to attend a workshop/training on September

10, 2009 at Mounts Botanical Garden. At that time, artists will be available to meet with program directors/coordinators to sign-off on IU-related paperwork.

Important Dates:

- IU request Deadline - August 21, 2009
- IUs Awarded – September 4, 2009
- IU Workshop/Training – September 10, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Mounts Botanical Garden
559 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

For information: Call Shawn Berry, CCE Program Director, at 561-805-9927.