Policy Corner, Mars, Bubbles, and More!
September 11, 2019

Spotlight
Kelly Strugis, Executive Director, NYS Network for Youth Success

Every now and then we like to spotlight our own staff and ask them what their "why" is, meaning, what is the reason you do what you do everyday, what is your motivation, and what keeps you coming back. This time we asked our Executive Director and Commander in Chief, Kelly Strugis.

As the Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success, Kelly says she is fortunate to be able to follow her passion every day through her work.

Throughout her life, Kelly said she always had a drive to serve young people. She worked as a Teacher’s Assistant for children with special needs at a local BOCES, and spent ten years working for the Capital District YMCA to support youth and the community.

She said that she, "believes real change in this world starts with supporting and caring for our most vulnerable population, our children." In her time working in this field, she has seen the difference afterschool and summer programs can make in the lives of youth, and says she is grateful to work for an organization that strives to make this a reality for all of our young people.

As a mom of two school-age children, Lilian (11), and Nicholas (8), she places a high value on the work she does. She puts stock in the fact that her children have the opportunity to participate in high-quality afterschool and summer programs, to which she stated, "I will continue to work so that all families have the same opportunities as mine."

NYS Provides Essential Funding to Maintain Afterschool Programs
Advantage Afterschool Sustains Programs for 16,000 Students
Albany, NY – New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, the State Legislature and the Office of Children and Families Services (OCFS) have provided essential funding to increase the per student allotment for the Advantage After School Program. Advantage After School provides supervised academic and developmental support through afterschool programs in low-income communities throughout the state. The 2019-20 NYS Budget included funding that maintains the number of students served by Advantage After School, while enabling afterschool providers to cover increased minimum wage costs.

With the support of the State Legislature, Governor Cuomo’s final budget allocated $33 million for Advantage After School, including $10.7 million to help cover increased labor costs for one year. The program had been funded at $22.3 million in the past three state budgets. A new RFP released by OCFS further increases funds for the Advantage After School Program to support a rate of $2,000 per student, a significant increase from the $1,375 per student rate in the last RFP. The per student rate had not been increased since 2009, despite several increases to the minimum wage.

Even with the increased rate, additional investment in the program is crucial to cover the costs of running a high quality program...

Read the full press release here.

NAA's Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders

Let’s discover and recognize the Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders! Next Gen Leaders are individuals, age 30 or under, who are strong believers in the power of afterschool - who are thinking about things like program design and professional development. These emerging leaders are making contributions that influence programs and organizations and have the potential for long-term and broad impact on the afterschool field. If you (or members of your network – please share) know of a candidate worthy of NAA’s Next Generation of Afterschool Leader Award 2020, click here to learn more and nominate today!

Bubbles!
3 Recipes for the Best Bubbles!

Looking for an activity to do with your kids? Who doesn’t love bubbles! Here are some easy and straightforward ways to make the best bubbles.

Basic Homemade Bubbles
- 1 cup water, 1 tbs dish soap
- *Simple as that!

Deluxe Bubbles
- 4 cups warm water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup dishwashing liquid
- *Dissolve sugar in the warm water and add dishwashing liquid when sugar is dissolved.

Crazy Delixe Bubbles
- 1 cup warm water
• 2 tbs liquid dish/laundry detergent
• 1 tbs glycerin
• 1 tbs white sugar
• *Gently stir all ingredients together and store in an airtight container.

Interested in more recipies? Click here to check them out.

**Student Could Name the Mars Rover!**

**Students, you could name the next Mars rover!**
In December 2008, a young student named Clara Ma submitted a name for a project NASA then called the "Mars Science Laboratory." With a 250 word essay, Clara suggested the name "Curiosity."

The Curiosity rover has covered over 13 miles of terrain on the Martian surface. Seven years later, the car-sized robotic explorer is the face of science on the red planet.

This July, NASA’s next rover will launch. Today, NASA opened the contest for K-12 students to name the Mars 2020 rover, in partnership with Battelle and Future Engineers.

**How the contest works**

Students will submit a name and a brief essay advocating for their choice. You can read the complete rules here and submit your entry on the Future Engineers student portal here: [https://www.futureengineers.org/nametherover](https://www.futureengineers.org/nametherover)

The contest runs until November 1, 2019.

Any questions? Click here for answers.

**Register for the Rochester Regional Training Institute**

**Early Bird Rate Ends October 1st**

Register today for the Rochester Regional Training Institute on Saturday, November 9, 2019!

Check out the brochure draft available on our website now!

This event will be held at a new location: the Holiday Inn - Downtown Rochester and will still provide all of the high-quality professional development opportunities.

The event includes:

• Six OCFS training hours
• Variety of topics
• Appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children
• Networking opportunities
• Buffet lunch

Don’t miss out! The early bird rate will only be available until October 1st!
Visit our website here for more information and registration.

Network for Youth Success Events

9/18/19 - 5/7/20: CRELO Trainings, Across the Capital Region
The Network for Youth Success will be providing various Front Line and Director Trainings across the capital region at no cost. For more information click here.

9/17: Distance Learning SAC Credential Course, Statewide
Looking to advance in the school-age child care field? Register for the Distance Learning SAC Credential Course this September and you could be qualified to be a Site Director by the end of the school year! Click here for more information and how to register.

9/18: Capital Region SAC Credential Course, Albany, NY
The New York State School-Age Care Credential promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of school-age staff members and providers. It is an opportunity for adults working with school-age children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills. The first semester of the course begins September 18 and goes until December 18. The second semester will begin January 8, 2020 and go to April 8, 2020. These classes will be held from 8:30pm-9:30pm and the cost of attendance is $1,250 per semester. Click here for more information and how to register.

10/5: North Country Training Institute, Plattsburgh, NY
Join Erin Broderick and Timothy Fowler for a day of school-age training! The North Country Training Institute will cover topics relevant to school-age providers in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. This day-long event features four 90-minute sessions (a total of 6 hours of training): guiding positive behaviors, managing transitions, engineering design, and bookmaking. For more information and how to register, click here.

10/14: Columbus Day Training Event, Troy, NY
Join Timothy Fowler and Jay Roscup for 6 hours of training! The trainings will consist of 3 hours on group games and STEM activities and 3 hours on trauma-informed care (OCFS areas 1, 2, 3, 4). The training will be held at our offices in Troy, NY. For more information and registration, click here!

11/8: Regional Network Symposium, Rochester, NY
Our Regional Network Symposium for Network Leads will be November 8 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rochester! Look out for more information here and on our website.

11/9: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester, NY
Our Training Institute will be Saturday, November 9, at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Rochester! Participants of this event will receive six OCFS training hours, a variety of training topics appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! Click here for more information and how to register or to access the RFP to present.

1/14-17/2020: Health and Safety Trainings, Troy, NY
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. To register for one of these trainings, click here.

Our 2020 Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020! Our annual conference will contain two full days of frontline and directors level trainings as well as an abundance of vendors. To submit an RFP by 10/24/19, visit our website here. To become a vendor, click here.

8/20 & 8/24/2020: Health and Safety Training, Troy, NY
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Statewide Events

9/21: Museum Day, Nationwide
Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. The Museum Day ticket provides free admission for two people. For more information, click here.

9/25: School Breakfast Day, Statewide
New York State will declare September 25th, 2019 as the second annual School Breakfast Day. On this day, schools across the state will be celebrating and raising awareness about their school breakfast programs. Help spread the word about School Breakfast Day! For more information, click here.

Teachers, community educators, youth group volunteers, and any other adults who work with kids will want to come to this two-day training. It takes place on Thursday, September 26 (10 AM to 5 PM) and Friday, September 27 (8:30 AM to 3 PM). The location is the Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405. All participants must pre-register by September 18 as there is limited space. For more information, click here.

9/27: Building Developmental Relationships, Webinar
About the webinar: "In the youth development field we know how important our relationships with young people are. Research tells us that having a stable and supportive relationship with an adult program leader over an extended period of time may be the most important factor of effective youth programs. But what does this relationship look like? Are we friends, teachers or allies? What are key features? And what skills do we need to develop?" To register, click here.

10/5: NYS Community Schools Summit, Buffalo, NY
On October 5 from 9am - 2pm, NYS Community Schools is having its Central/Western Summit with Keynote Speaker José Muñoz, Director of Coalition for Community Schools. For more information or to register, click here.

10/16-10/18: Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, New York, NY
The National Center for Community Schools at Children's Aid presents the Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, a seminar designed specifically for those new or relatively new to community schools. At the Fundamentals Conference, they will share their lessons learned from over 25 years of implementation in New York City and nationwide capacity building. In addition to the option of attending a study visit to a Children's Aid community school, participants will learn about the foundations and the “nuts and bolts” of the strategy. For more information, click here.

10/21-10/23: NSLA National Conference, Atlanta, GA
National Summer Learning Association's (NSLA) national conference, Summer Changes Everything is the only conference exclusively focused on summer learning. The conference will provide attendees insights and solutions into the evolution of the field from closing academic achievement gaps to now addressing opportunity gaps and fostering social-emotional learning. Please visit https://www.summerlearning.org/national-conference/ to learn more about the conference, and use the code SAN50 for a $50 discount off the 2-day registration rate.

10/24: Lights On Afterschool, Nationwide
Since 2000, Lights On Afterschool has been celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities. Click here for more information.

4/28 - 5/1: 2020 BOOST Conference, Palm Springs, CA
The 2020 BOOST Conference will convene over 2,500 global educators April 28 - May 1 in sunny Palm Springs, CA. They are now in the Early-Bird registration phase with a rate of $465. Register
your team today to celebrate the best of afterschool and expanded learning fields. Early-Bird ends October 31, 2019. Click here for more information and how to apply.

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Remove my name from all future mass email communications.

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