Building Brighter Futures Afterschool Rocks!
Buffalo, NY

The national Lights On event was developed by the Afterschool Alliance, which was designed to advocate, and raise awareness of the accomplishments that are happening in afterschool programming to ensure access to quality, and affordable programming for all children. In an effort to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the event, Building Brighter Futures (BBF) wanted to hold an event that was not only engaging for the students but would also hold true to the mission of the Afterschool Alliance and BBF.

The BBF mission is to, “...Provide high quality out of school opportunities that keep children safe, help them achieve, and that meaningfully engage, and support adult family members…”

It is no secret that social media is a key component in the lives of our students. When developing the activity for lights on, they decided to incorporate social media in the activity.

BBF decided to hold an Afterschool Rocks event. The symbol of the Lights On event is the Light Bulb. Traditionally students would color light bulbs and engage in conversations about the things they like best about after school. Our students took the light bulbs that they colored, and recreated their designs on rocks. On the back of each rock #LightsOnAfterschool, and #SweetBuffaloRocks (FB) was written. Students were then asked to hide the rocks in their community with their family. BBF staff posted the students work on the Sweet Buffalo Rocks Facebook page as well as information about the Lights On event. The idea...
was to “light up” Facebook. There are more than 75 rocks that are out there to be found in the Buffalo area. If you are in the area and find one of these rocks, help BFF advocate and post it on the Sweet Buffalo Rocks Facebook page!

**STEM Robotics Webinar**

The early grades are a wonderful time to spark young people’s interest in coding, robotics and engineering, but it requires age-appropriate tools and hands-on concrete activities. What better place to introduce easy, engaging and fun robotics than in your afterschool setting?

**Tuesday, November 12, at 1:00pm**

NAA members are invited to participate in this free webinar where you will:

- Learn about the research and benefits of using robotics for your youngest learners
- Provide real examples of how robotics can be successfully implemented in afterschool programs
- Introduce KIBO, a screen-free, hands-on programmable robot kit that offers young children, ages 4 – 7, a fun way to learn to code and have fun!

**Register**

**Sponsor:**

KinderLab Robotics is the creator of KIBO, a screen-free robot kit based on 20 years of child development research that lets 4 – 7 year-olds build, code, decorate, and run their own robot.

**Resources from American Institutes for Research got the Statewide Afterschool Network**

**American Institutes for Research (AIR):** *The Science of Learning and Development in Afterschool Systems and Settings*

AIR recently released a new brief on *The Science of Learning and Development (SoLD) in Afterschool Systems and Settings*. The brief includes select findings from the SoLD Alliance; relevant, and actionable key takeaways on relational settings, cultural competence, as well as, trauma and adversity; suggestions for practical ways to support high-quality afterschool systems and settings; and an outline of the elements of developmentally rich contexts that foster learning and healthy development. We will present on it at multiple venues this fall and winter.

**American Youth Policy Forum:** *Five suggestions to leverage afterschool programs to promote college and career readiness*

Students need a mix of skills including academic, employability, as well as, social and emotional skills to be ready for postsecondary education and careers. They also need exposure to college and career options and opportunities to learn about and experience different types of careers. Afterschool programs can be important settings to help youth develop these skills, and we should use them more frequently to do so.

**Health and Safety Training - January**
Health and Safety for SAC Directors
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. The dates are as followed:

January 2020
January 14, 2020 – 8:00-2:00
January 16, 2020 – 8:00-2:00
January 17, 2020-9:30-1:30

This is a three-day course. Participants must attend all days. Click below to register.

OCFS Regulations Resources
- FAQs on Background Clearances
- ICYMI: Comprehensive Background Clearance Requirements Video
- SAC Regulations & Definitions
- 6000 Packet
- OCFS website
- Letter to Families, Funders, and School Personnel
- Leave a comment or question about the new regulations here.

Network for Youth Success Events
11/13/19 - 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.

1/14-17/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, 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. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! click here.

1/21/20-4/21/20: Distance Learning
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Spring 2020.

3/6: Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY
The Network plans to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. Stay tuned for more information.

Our 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. If you are interested in providing a training at our conference, you must submit a proposal by 10/24/19. The proposal must include a short bio, description and goals of the training, as well as additional details about the proposed training. For more information, or to submit a proposal, visit our website here. To become a vendor, click here.

8/20 & 8/24/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, 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. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! click here.

Other Events

11/7: Kindergarten Transition Planning Summit, Newark, NY
Join keynote speakers Lenny Grozier and Tracy Lyman for a training on creating strong early care education and community school linkages, innovative and promising programs/services, trauma informed practices, and SEL. For more information, or to register, click here.

11/5 & 15: Become a Mentor for the Youth, Rochester, NY
The Urban League of Rochester’s Afterschool Academy is currently looking for mentors who are at least 21 years old and would love to make a difference in youth lives who are 6-8 grade students in schools in Monroe County (mostly RCSD). Staff member, Shawnitea Ragans, will be hosting a Mentor Social in order for anyone interested to attend to receive information on what it means to be a mentor and answer any questions attendees may have. Here are the dates and times for the social: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:30pm to 5:30pm & Saturday, November 16, 2019 11:00am to 1:00pm If you or someone you know would be interested, please RSVP to Shawnitea Ragans (sragans@ulr.org), or Detuana (Yana) Henry (dhenry@ulr.org), or just stop by one of the sessions.

11/6: College Essay Help, Hudson, NY
Coaches Mindy Gardner and Eileen Ordu will be available to help students with applications and essays for college. If you are interested, visit the Hudson Area Library from 6:30-8:00pm. For more information, call or text: 518-965-2447.

11/8: 4-H National Youth Science Day, Buffalo, NY
Your afterschool program is invited to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s annual 4-H National Youth Science Day. It will take place Friday, November 8th from 4:30 to 6pm at UB Computer Science Atrium on North Campus in Davis Hall. The theme for this year’s event is computer science, and the activity we are featuring is called Game Changers. In addition to this activity, there will be many other organizations running fun, hands-on STEM-related activities. This event is most appropriate for youth in grades 3 through 12. See attached flyer for more info. Hope to see you there!

11/12: Urban League Annual Luncheon, Rochester, NY
The Urban League of Rochester will be having its annual luncheon on Tuesday, November 12th from 12pm-1:30pm at the Riverside Convention Center. This year’s luncheon is called Equity & U with Dr. Debra Warner as the guest speaker. For more information, or to register, click here.

11/14-15: Positive Youth Development Training, Odessa, NY
This highly interactive 2-day training will explore key principles of youth development such as building youth positive outcomes, supportive relationships and environments for youth, youth voice and engagement opportunities, as well as, effective programming strategies. It will also examine the role of the youth worker by discussing core competencies and dilemmas of youth work. To register, click here.

11/15: Workshop: No Empty Seats, Binghamton, NY
Join Ronald Cope, II, from the National Center for Community Schools for a workshop that will focus on: continuous improvement, capacity building with an emphasis on human capital, data-driven attendance work, strong attendance teams, aligning the attendance work with student activities, and parent engagement. To register, click here.

11/23: Maker Faire and Student STEAM Fest, Rochester, NY
Maker Faire Rochester will be returning for our 6th annual event on November 23rd, 2019 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Additionally there will be a Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest for the second year! What is the Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest? It’s a special sneak peek at Maker Faire Rochester held on Friday, November 22nd, from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. This day is open to school and homeschool groups for 3rd through 8th-grade students. At last year’s event, there was over 1,000 students in attendance, and for this year, they are aiming to raise that number to over 1,500. For
more information about the Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest and for registration please visit http://www.nyscate.org/studentsteamfest.

12/14: Middle School Girls Data Bootcamp, NY, NY
Girls+data invites middle-school girls, grades 5-9, to learn about high demand tech careers in data analytics. This three-hour hands-on STEMinar will teach participants to build, customize, and present their own data story using analytics software Looker. Swag and snacks included! For more information, click here.

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. Click here for more information and how to apply.

3/15-18/2020: NAA National Conference,
Join over 2,000 members of our community at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. Special events, 200+ educational sessions, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals, and emerging current leaders of afterschool. Come to NAA Convention 2020, and leave saying, "I've found my people!" For more information, click here.

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