

The Power of Summer Learning

By Earl Martin Phalen, CEO, Summer Advantage USA, and Danielle Baer, Communications & Grants Coordinator, SOWA

Summertime is fast approaching and while young people may look forward to a break from school, access to enriching, fun opportunities that keep kids learning is more important than ever. Summer learning is one of the most effective tools to improve student achievement and work towards closing the widening achievement gap which disproportionately impacts children living in low-income and children of

color.

However, this highly effective strategy is also one of the most underutilized. All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.



Research shows that young people from low-income backgrounds with no access to summer learning opportunities are hit harder by the impacts of summer learning loss. Two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.

As a result, children living in low-income communities are less likely to graduate

from high school or enter college.

Effective summer programs look different than traditional remedial summer school programs and engage young people through a variety of methods that provide a range of benefits

including:

- greater outcomes for scholars who gain skills during the summer and enter school in the fall ready to learn;
- low cost child care for working families who

know their child has access to meals, academic enrichment and physical fitness activities;

- summer jobs and professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals as well as college students;
- family engagement activities and community outreach that connects young people with their surrounding environment in a positive way.

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Federal Economic Recovery Package Provides Hope for Afterschool

By Danielle Baer, Communications & Grants Coordinator, SOWA

Now that the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has been signed into law by President Obama, we are connecting with our national partners to learn more about what this means for afterschool programs in Washington State.

This is an unprecedented time in history as schools and community organizations make budget cuts while awaiting funds to fill those holes.

To find out more information on the ARRA funding stream, visit the Afterschool Alliance website, afterschoolalliance.org. They provide a list of funding items with amounts that could support afterschool including Title 1, Child Care Development Block Grant and Youth Training & Employment Services.

The Department of

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Summer programs have also been shown to positively affect children’s self-esteem, motivation and confidence. These benefits and more make a real difference in the learning achievement of young people.

When we talk about summer learning, we need to stress not only access, but also quality. Some key elements of quality summer learning programs include:

Skill-based curricula – Intensive focus on math and reading, aligned with state standards, multicultural literature, hands-on activities, and continuous monitoring of performance.

More time on task – Programs operates 6.5-8 hours per day, 5 days per week, for at least 5 weeks per summer, providing students 160-200 hours of additional learning time each year.

Mentoring – Small group instruction (1:10 adult to scholar ratio); development of positive, supportive relationships with peers and tutors; and mentoring is woven into the fabric of the program.

Outstanding staff – Staff selection

For More Information on Summer Learning

Check out the following resources:

Johns Hopkins University National Center for Summer Learning - www.summerlearning.org

Summer Advantage USA - www.themindtrust.org/Fellows/EMPhalen/

BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life): bellnational.org/education/bell_impact.php

Dr. Beth Miller - www.nmefdn.org/uploads/Learning_Season_ES.pdf

To partner with Summer Advantage USA, contact Earl Martin Phalen at emphalen@themindtrust.org. ♦

based on experience and commitment to education; staff drawn from diverse backgrounds; certified teachers and college students; and professional development.

Rigorous evaluation – Standardized diagnostic pre- and post-tests, and interim skill-based assessments.

Parental involvement – Encouragement of parents to take an active role; regular parent/teacher meetings; workshops to strengthen parenting skills; involvement in field trips, service projects and other events.

Confidence building – Use of language that builds esteem (i.e. “scholars”); enhancement of learning through cultural activities, field trips and community service projects; and high expectations.

How young people spend their summer months is an issue gaining more visibility on the national policy front. President Obama has been a champion for summer learning, sponsoring legislation (STEP UP Act) as a Senator which will ultimately provide \$500M annually in scholarships for children to attend high quality, evidence-based summer programs. He has cited summer

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MODEL SUMMER PROGRAM SCHEDULE:



MENTOR DAYS:

Include special cultural activities, guest speakers, community service projects and/or field trips.

- COMMUNITY TIME
- LITERACY ACTIVITIES
- MATH
- LUNCH AND RECREATION
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

(“Power” continued from page 2)
 learning as a key strategy to increasing US student competitiveness globally and closing the achievement gap.

With resources from the economic stimulus package and the omnibus budget bill come opportunities for communities to think of innovative ways to use funding streams such as Title I, Youth Training and Employment Activities, and Child Care Development Block Grant funds for summer programs.

Raising awareness around the benefits of summer learning and building partnerships with local community leaders will help garner resources needed to sustain a strong and lasting movement in support of high quality summer learning opportunities for all young people.

Earl Martin Phalen will be presenting the Day One Keynote Address at the 2009 Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference on October 19-20 in Vancouver, Washington. See page 4 for more information ! ♦

Supply and Demand Study Update

The Supply and Demand study is now complete. The full report, “Afterschool Programs in Washington: Aligning Capacity with Family Needs”, is available on our website along with a shorter version, “Snapshot of Afterschool and Youth Development Programs in Washington State”.

If you would like copies of the Snapshot or if you have questions about the study, please contact us.

Summer Field Trip Adventures

by Janet Edwards, 4-H Afterschool Specialist, Washington State University

Planning for summer programs should definitely include field trips for fun and learning. In these tough economic times, schools are doing fewer field trips and families may have even less opportunity to explore their world through field trips. Afterschool programs can fill the void with thoughtful planning and an eye for adventurous outings.



A field trip out of your center should provide an experience that cannot be had within the walls of your program. A few simple guidelines can help make the most of the field trip. Careful planning, adequate staffing and a spirit of adventure can insure a safe trip and a great learning experience.

When planning a field trip, **research the destination** well in advance of the trip. Is the location appropriate for the age of your group? Check out the facilities in advance for accessible bathrooms, drinking water, parking, safe ways to move the group through the facility and any hazards in the area to be aware of before you arrive. Acquaint yourself with the educational opportunities available as well. Make the most of the trip by having a plan for the fun things available to explore and experience.

Remember that children enjoy **hands-on and interactive activities** rather than watching or listening to someone talk. Too many children and too long a wait time to have a turn can entice children to explore other ways to explore and ultimately lead to problems. Be certain that the experience matches

with the age, abilities, and interests of your group.

It is vital to maintain **adequate staffing and chaperones** for children on field trips. Parents enjoy adventures, too! Know your children and anticipate their needs as you take them into new environments. Be certain to have access to permission slips, emergency phone numbers, allergy information and any other information that will support the adventure.

Pay particular attention to basic **hygiene and safety** during the outing. Hand washing is absolutely vital to insure against children picking up viruses. Visiting a petting zoo and touching animals and then eating lunch without hand washing is a sure bet for illness in the future.

Field trip learning does not have to be expensive, elaborate or far from home. There is a world of adventure waiting for you **just outside your door**. Imagine the possibilities, explore the options and go with a spirit of adventure. Plan well, organize the details, and then enjoy! ♦



The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back 2009 Conference

“Being a Catalyst for Innovative Change”

October 19 and 20, 2009
Hilton Hotel & Conference Center - Vancouver, WA.

This two day conference will be both visionary and responsive to audience needs. In this historic year, we will provide many resources to help participants address challenges related to the struggling economy and position themselves to seize opportunities that may be arise from the new national administration. We foresee that both will demand that we be catalysts for innovative change.

We must continue to focus our attention on all that can be gained through effective partnerships between schools, afterschool programs and other community-focused agencies which provide services to children and youth. There is a rich diversity of perspectives related to how we provide these services. This conference provides a platform for participants to explore different points of view, cutting-edge research and the latest applications which benefit young people across the country. Effective partnerships should be the vehicle for leading national efforts to support change!

We recruit presenters and speakers from academic research institutions, state and local governments, and other nationally recognized organizations to address emerging issues in the afterschool field. This conference is intended for any professional with a desire to learn more about the best practices and knowledge that will support quality afterschool programming and partnerships with the formal school system.



*The Bridge from School
to Afterschool and Back*

Day One Keynote Address by Earl Martin Phalen!

We are thrilled to announce that our Day One Keynote Address will be delivered by Earl Martin Phalen. Earl Martin Phalen is the co-founder and former CEO of BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life), an organization dedicated to dramatically increasing the educational achievements, self-esteem and life opportunities of children living in urban communities. BELL operates high quality summer and after school educational programs in Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, New York City and Springfield, MA.

As a result of its focus on summer learning opportunities and rigorous program evaluation, BELL was cited by President Barack Obama as a model educational provider in legislation (STEP UP Act) that was recently voted into law. Earl currently sits on the

advisory board for the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University and served on the education advisory committee of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Earl recently left BELL to start a new venture, Summer Advantage USA, that will bring high quality summer learning programs to 100,000 children throughout the country. He serves as the CEO for Summer Advantage USA.



In his address, Earl will share stories of success, both in academic achievement and in life, from participants of Bell. He'll also share key ingredients for successful afterschool and summer programming and explore the importance of mentors for today's youth. And he'll look at the role of out-of-school time programs in informing educational policy. This is a don't-miss opportunity!

Registration is now open at www.schoolsoutwashington.org!

Welcome to the Newest School's Out Washington Staff!

Delphi Locey

Delphi comes to School's Out Washington with a strong background in planning and relationship building. Prior to joining School's Out, Delphi spent a year with Communiqué Public Relations (CPR) and seven years with the Seattle Aquarium Society; first as membership coordinator and then development associate.

Her tenure there included responsibilities for donor relations, fundraising and event planning. She headed up the Corporate Campaign Committee, which played a key role in the successful \$41 million Capital Campaign for 2006-2007. Other accomplishments include leading the

Society's Corporate Sponsorships Committee for Splash! 2007, the Society's annual gala auction.

At School's Out, Delphi has taken on the key role of Office Manager. She keeps the office organized, handles the conference room schedule, and manages accounts payable and receivable, among many things. She also provides support to the Trainer Pool and the City of Seattle contract.

Delphi, originally from the island of Maui, received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i – Manoa, where she also won a prestigious internship with Representative Hermina Morita of the Hawai'i State Legislature. After

relocating to Washington State she earned a Certificate of Study in Public Relations from the University of Washington. In her free time she enjoys playing soccer with several area recreational teams. ♦



OSPI 21st Century CLC Grant Application Process to Open by April 25

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has announced that it will post the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant RFP for 2009-10 on the I-Grant system by April 25, 2009. Bidder's conferences will be scheduled via a K-20 link up. There will also be two in-person bidder's conferences scheduled, one on the west side and one on the east side of the state. Bidder's conference information will be posted on the information page of the RFP.

These 5 year grants will be awarded before the start of the 2009-10 school year and will allow communities the opportunity to plan activities that support student learning, engage families, and offer a broad array of services.

This is a competitive grant process that is designed to exemplify strong community/school partnerships. The lead agency can be the school, city or county government, faith based organizations, institutions of higher education, and community based organizations but all must have a demonstrated school partnership. There will be a priority given to those programs designed for middle/high school youth, but those who serve other focus populations are also strongly encouraged to apply.

All proposals must be submitted through the I-Grant process. Those not from school districts will first need to register within the I-Grant system to get a log in code. That can be done at www.k12.wa.us by going to the I-Grant tab. This will also be where application and bidder conference information will be posted. ♦

Give Us Your Email Address and You Could Win a \$25 Gift Card!

In April, May, and June we will be holding drawings for \$25 gift cards to Amazon.com. It's easy to enter - just go to our website and click on the "Sign Up for Email Updates" link on the front page.

Please note that you will need to complete all the fields in order to be entered in the drawings. One entry per person. Drawings will happen on the last day of each month.



Announcing the Youth Program Quality Enhancement Initiative!

By Krista Galloway, Training & Resource Specialist, SOWA

School's Out Washington is very excited to be part of the Youth Program Quality Enhancement Initiative, a project led and funded by the Raikes Foundation, whose mission is to provide opportunities and support during adolescence to help young people become healthy, contributing adults.

As literature from the Raikes Foundation states, "the Youth Program Quality Enhancement Initiative will support good programs by providing funding and the opportunity to engage staff in an intensive professional development process that reflects best practices in the field of youth development.

"The Initiative will focus on organizations providing out-of-school time programs in King County. While it is important that youth have access to positive developmental opportunities in all settings, research shows that youth engaged in high quality programs during out-of-school hours gain social, emotional, and intellectual benefits".

Congratulations to the following programs, which have



been selected to participate in the project:

- Atlantic Street Center
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue
- Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, Ballard Branch
- Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, Rotary Branch
- Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- Passages Northwest
- Powerful Voices
- Refugee Women's Alliance
- YMCA of Greater Seattle

These sites will undergo a program improvement process, with internal and external assessments, on-site coaching, training, and funds to support them throughout. School's Out Washington will be supporting the project with the on-site coaching and external assessments, using the Youth Program Quality Assessment developed by the Weikart

Center for Youth Program Quality. The Center is also a partner in this project, providing materials, training, and technical assistance.

For more information on the Raikes Foundation, go to www.raikesfoundation.org.

For more about School's Out's role in this project, contact Krista Galloway at 206.336.6923 or kgallowa@schoolsoutwashington.org. For more information on the Weikart Center, which is a joint venture between the Forum for Youth Investment and High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, visit www.forumforyouthinvestment.org. ♦

School's Out Washington would like to thank the young artists at the following afterschool programs who contributed art for our office gallery:



- Pratt Fine Arts Center
- Chinese Information and Service Center at Pratt
- Garfield Afterschool at Pratt
- Kid Art Works at Pratt
- ARTSpark @ Pratt with Washington Middle School
- Washington Middle School
- TeensWAY at Wing Luke Asian Museum



If your program is interested in having your kids' art on display at the School's Out Washington offices, please contact Adrienne at 206.336.6935 or aschmidt@schoolsoutwashington.org. ♦

Important Announcement for Afterschool and Youth Programs: Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Application Opens

The Washington State application for providers is now open and the deadline for submitting an application to be an SES provider for the 2009-2010 year is April 30, 2009, no later than 4:30 pm. You can find information in regards to the requirements at www.k12.wa.us and do a search for SES.

Teacher Groups and organizations; School districts; Faith Based Organizations; For profit organizations; Native American Tribal Groups; ESD's; Colleges and Universities; Distance Learning Providers; and Not for Profit Organizations can all apply to be SES providers. Those currently designated as SES providers must apply again each year.

"supplemental educational services" refers to extra help provided to students in reading, language arts, and/or math. This extra help can be provided before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer.

If a child qualifies for free or

opening the ESEA icon then "Guidance" on the OSPI web site www.k12.wa.us.

Interested providers must submit applications to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. In order to be selected,

providers must have demonstrated a record of effectiveness in improving student achievement. They must use instructional strategies that are of high-quality, based upon research, and designed to increase student achievement. Their services must also be consistent with the instructional programs of the school district and aligned with State academic content standards. Providers must apply to the state office annually.



As part of the No Child Left Behind law, when a disadvantaged child is attending a low performing school, federal funds can be used to provide supplemental educational services for that child.

Under No Child Left Behind, every state must set the goals that each school must meet. If a school does not make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years that school becomes identified for school improvement. The term

reduced price lunch and attends a Title I school that is designated as needing improvement for the third consecutive year, then that child is eligible. Supplemental educational services providers may be public or private school entities, public or private institutions of higher education, for profit or nonprofit organizations, or faith-based organizations. Organizations that provide distance learning technology are also eligible. A list of providers can be obtained by

The types of services include, but are not limited to, tutoring, (qualified individuals providing additional support), remediation (qualified individuals providing assistance with basic skills that your child may need additional help in), and other interventions that would assist students in improving their academic skills.

For more information, contact Reginald Reid at 360-725-6168 or reginald.reid@k12.wa.us. ♦

Keep an eye out for the debut of the new School's Out Washington website later this spring! We'll be bigger and better than ever at www.schoolsoutwashington.org



("Legislative Update" continued from page 1)

Education is also updating their website (www.ed.gov) regularly with information on ARRA funding to support our students. The most immediate funding that will be disseminated to local school districts is Title 1 which may be used to support afterschool and summer programming.

Since summer is fast approaching, we encourage folks to start conversations with school administrators to explore options for using Title 1 funds to support summer programs.

Not only do summer programs provide a range of benefits that keep kids safe and learning, but through the Summer Feeding Service Program, young people have access to free, nutritious meals.

In these tough economic times, issues such as childhood hunger



become more prevalent and summer programs fill a gap in providing critical services. For more information about the summer feeding program, visit the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/SFSP.aspx>.

President Obama and his administration continue to stress the importance of innovation, accountability and preparing our students to be competitive in a 21st century world. He has acknowledged afterschool and extended learning opportunities as a key piece of providing support to our young people in achieving skills to thrive in school and life. He recently signed the 2009 omnibus budget year which includes a \$50 million increase in funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center programs. ♦

Innovation Grant Recipients for 2009 Announced

For the third year, School's Out Washington has awarded Innovation Project Mini-Grants of up to \$2,000 for coalitions, organizations, groups or other collaborative entities to implement a project focusing specifically on building public will for afterschool among a target audience. For the past two years, funded projects have focused on raising awareness among school principals with a goal of building strong partnerships between schools and afterschool programs.

This year, we asked for proposals that target not only school principals but also community leaders including local law enforcement, municipal leaders such as mayors, city or county council members, and/or other local government officials. We looked for proposals that convey the importance of ensuring all young people have access to high-quality afterschool programs and the need for training, funding and resources to work towards this goal.

Congratulations to the 2009 grantees:

- City of Shoreline, Shoreline, \$1,520
- Martha & Mary Children's Learning Center, Poulsbo, \$1,050
- Northwest Learning & Achievement Group, Zillah, \$2,000
- YMCA of Snohomish County - Everett Office, \$2,000
- YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County, Tacoma, \$2,000

Your Help Needed in Determining Use of Childcare Dollars!

The Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) is asking for public input on how they spend their federal Childcare Development Fund Dollars (CCDF) which is used to help low-income families find and pay for child care and fund activities to improve the quality of child care, among other things.

The CCDF supports the Washington Regional Afterschool Project that provides professional development opportunities and quality efforts in each of the six regions of the state. It also funds some of School's Out's activities such as the newsletter, statewide professional development events, and the lending library.

Please take a few moments to fill out the brief survey available at www.del.wa.gov/government/CCDF/plan.aspx. Please add comments where appropriate. **The survey will only be available until April 7.** Your input is valuable in voicing the importance of providing childcare to school-age kids.

WRAP Training Opportunities *The Washington Regional Afterschool Project*

CENTRAL REGION

Contact Sherrie Belt at WRAP@schoolsoutwashington.org or at 206/323-2396. For the latest on workshops and events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- April 17** ~ Culturally Relevant Anti Bias Mini-Conference - Seattle
- April 23** ~ Skills for a Lifetime - Bellevue
- May 15** ~ Powerful Summer Programming Training Day - Seattle
- May 6** ~ The Ins and Outs of Reporting Child Abuse - Seattle
- May 19** ~ Networking Meeting - Seattle
- May 20** ~ Networking Meeting - Tukwila
- May 21** ~ Lessons from Nature (Environmental Design) - Seattle
- May 28** ~ Playing Doctor - What's Healthy & Natural, What's Cause for Concern - Bellevue

SOUTHEAST REGION

For information, contact the WRAP office at 509/545-3511. For the latest on workshops and events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- March 10** ~ Center Directors' Networking Meeting - Richland
- April 14** ~ Center Directors' Networking Meeting - Richland
- May 12** ~ Center Directors' Networking Meeting - Richland
- June 9** ~ Center Directors' Networking Meeting - Richland

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

For information, contact Jeannie Kiehn at 509/754-2011 or jmkiehn@wsu.edu. Be sure to ask for the extension office when you call. For the latest on workshops and

events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- April 18** ~ Mini Conference on Challenging Behaviors - Moses Lake
- June 24** ~ Trash to Treasure: Outdoor Crafts for Children - Ephrata

NORTHWEST REGION

For information, contact Jenny Goss at 360/416.8299 or jgoss@voaww.org. For the latest on workshops and events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- May 16** ~ Get Creative with Reading for the School Age Child - Mount Vernon
- June 3** ~ Summer Enrichment - Mount Vernon
- June 13** ~ Summer Enrichment - Oak Harbor

NORTHEAST REGION

For information, contact Joe Garza at 509/354-5942 or joega@spokaneschools.org. For the latest on workshops and events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- April 18** ~ Understanding Children Exposed to Trauma - Spokane
- May 21** ~ Effective Communication Strategies - Spokane

SOUTHWEST REGION

For information, contact Mary Francom at 360/459-1781 or francom@wsu.edu. For the latest on workshops and events in this region, please visit the School's Out Washington website.

- April 6** ~ 20 Hours STARS Basic - Bremerton
- April 18** ~ School-Age Conference - Lakewood
- May 4** ~ 20 Hours STARS Basic - Bremerton ♦

WHAT'S YOUR REGION?

- Central Region Counties: King
- NW Region Counties: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom
- North Central Region Counties: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan
- NE Region Counties: Asotin, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman
- SE Region Counties: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Yakima
- SW Region Counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston, Skamania, Wahkiakum





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