



Email any comments or additional information for the BUZZ to buzz@bostnet.org



BOSTnet Information

August 28, 2007 "Back to School!"

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Special Announcements

Welcome to the August 2007 edition of the BUZZ! Please send your feedback and ideas on the BUZZ to info@bostnet.org.


- **BOSTnet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2007!** Please watch the [BOSTnet website](#) and the next BUZZ for updates on our 20th Anniversary special events. See BOSTnet's work through the "[BOSTnet Milestones](#)" timeline, which highlights year-by-year activities since 1987.
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Leadership Roundtable, Forums & Conference Calendar**
For ten years, BOSTnet has been providing free, monthly Leadership Roundtables for directors, managers and supervisors of out-of-school time programs. [View the schedule](#). If you would like to contribute to one of our Roundtables, please contact us at info@bostnet.org.

- **State of the Field** - BOSTnet is pleased to announce the publication of the first State of the Field report for 2007. Beginning with this issue, the State of the Field will be published quarterly and will cover topics relevant to the out-of-school time field. This issue explores the connections between promoting positive behavior and access in out-of-school time and looks at BOSTnet's Afterschool Access project to build the capacity of OST staff to address behavior problems. We hope you find this document useful and we encourage you to let us know what you think. To read this State of the Field report, [click here](#).
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Special 20th Anniversary Edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After-School Programs*** is now available at libraries, community centers, just in time for the new school year! To request a copy, please contact info@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232. To search for programs online in your neighborhood, please visit webguide.bostnet.org.

Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **BOSTnet All Means All Statewide Conference Registration Now Available** - This all day conference scheduled for Friday September 21, 2007 will focus on inclusion of youth of all abilities in after school programming, including a focus on promoting positive behavior in after school programs. For more information and to download a registration packet, please visit www.bostnet.org.
- **Leadership Roundtable: Engaging Families in OST Programming for Elementary & Middle School Age Students**
Thursday, September 6, 2007
10am - 12noon
United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Room 120, 51 Sleeper Street, Boston, 02210

Kick off the new school year with strategies to Engage Families in your programs! This Leadership Roundtable will focus on strategies for engaging families in Out-of-School Time programs, particularly strategies for the beginning of the school year. This is a critical time for developing relationships with the families served by your programs. Learn tried and true strategies, hear from Family Engagement "veterans," connect to Boston Cultural Institutions such as the Boston Children's Museum, and Network with peers. [Click Here](#) for Directions. Contact BOSTnet for more information or to RSVP at info@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232.



Strengthening Programs...

Across Massachusetts and America

Afterschool program directors, educators, parents, kids, and community and business leaders gear up each October to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool!* —the only nationwide campaign to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for our children and communities. For 20 years BOSTnet has been working hard to enhance the quality and improve the accessibility of afterschool programs for all kids in the city of Boston. We are pleased that this year's *Lights On Afterschool!* celebration will coincide with our own celebration of two decades of promoting positive youth programs.

Organized nationally by The Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool!* includes events and activities across America and at American military bases around the world. At these events, community and statewide leaders are urged to support afterschool programs that keep children safe and healthy, inspire them to learn, and help working families relieve stress and concern about where their children are and what they are doing. BOSTnet salutes the many *Lights On Afterschool!* partners and programs working to make these events and activities successful, year after year. Please visit our web site www.bostnet.org to find more information.

BOSTnet's Inclusion Network has recent updates!

BOSTnet's website hosts the Inclusion in OST Network where you will find:

- * Resources to improve inclusive practices in your programs such as the Toolkits from our Inclusion Leadership Roundtable Series with topics on Inclusion and the Arts, Inclusion and Sports, and Inclusion and Literacy;
- * A way to connect to others interested in Inclusive practices by joining the Inclusion Network listserv; and
- * An Inclusion Referral and Resource Network.

There are new maps now available on the Inclusion Referral and Resource Network. Out-of-School Time program staff and others serving children and youth may use the Inclusion Referral and Resource Network to find appropriate resources for families with children with disabilities. The Inclusion Referral and Resource Network will help you locate Inclusion Resources in your neighborhood with the following:

*Boston Out-of-School Time Programs with a Priority of serving Disabilities (Map and Directory)
Find a program that offers specialized services to children with disabilities

*Boston Disability Resource Organizations (Map and Directory)
Find disability resources in your neighborhood through a map

*** New Interactive Map!***

- Boston Disability Resource Organizations: By Disability (Interactive Map and Directory)
Find a disability resource based on the specific disability a child has

* Wheelchair Accessible Out--of-School Time Programs
View wheelchair accessibility information in neighborhoods

* Boston's Out-of-School Time Programs
View all Boston OST Programs in neighborhoods

Visit the site by [clicking here](#) . Please provide us feedback as we work toward keeping this information up to date.

Notice to Programs - As many of you know from our email messages over the past few weeks, we want information about your program in BOSTONavigator, the upcoming unified database of out-of-school

time opportunities for children and youth. If you need assistance or have not been sent a user name and password, please contact us at Help@BOSTONnavigator.org or call (617) 720-1290 x 210.



Out-of-School Time Landscape...

It's school-time for many 4-year olds!

On September 10, 2007, the Boston Public Schools will open with new classrooms to accommodate current and additional K1 students. This is part of a long-term initiative to expand the number of K1 slots in the city by 3500 over the next 5 years. This is an exciting time for Boston's children and families, but the BPS commitment to provide 4 year olds with a full day of learning and care will require a significant expansion in afterschool programming. Many of these children will transition from full-day preschools that meet the needs of working families by keeping children engaged until 6pm. With schools ending at 2PM or 3PM, parents will need to find high-quality care options for their children to fill the gap between the end of the school day and the end of the work day. As of the spring of 2007, there were only 309 slots available in schools and, according to a recent survey, almost no slots in the community for 4-year olds. Boston Public Schools is currently developing a strategy to expand the number of school-run afterschool programs and work with community partners to provide programming in schools. The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, moreover, is working to amend its licensing regulations to allow more licensed community-based programs to accept 4-year olds. All of these efforts will require significant thought and funding to provide developmentally appropriate educational, social, physical and emotional care for the city's youngest new students.

Governor Patrick launches his "Readiness Project"

On August 6, 2007 Governor Patrick launched his education "Readiness Project" by naming the leadership council that will develop a strategic 10-year plan to implement the Governor's vision for education reform in Massachusetts. Unveiled in June, Patrick's plan for education reform includes a "vision for a comprehensive, child-centered public education system in the Commonwealth that begins before kindergarten, continues through grade 12 and higher education, and extends to work force development and lifelong learning. Implementing this vision will ensure that each individual has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential and be a productive, engaged and contributing citizen." Chaired by Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Tom Payzant, and Joe Tucci, the 18-member leadership council is comprised of education, business and community leaders in the state. Beyond these members, over 100 practitioners and experts will take part in various subcommittees that are part of the Project. This is an exciting and important step in the efforts to improve the education system for Massachusetts' children and youth. For this effort to be truly successful, however, practitioners in the out-of-school time field will also need to have a place at the table as strategies for reforming the state's education system are discussed.

3rd Annual BOSTnet All Means All Conference

On Friday, September 21st, 2007 from 8 am-4pm, BOSTnet will hold its third annual **All Means All Conference: Welcoming and Supporting Children and Youth of ALL Abilities within Out-of-School Time Programs** at Northeastern University in Boston. This highly anticipated and only statewide conference on inclusion in out-of-school time programs will feature speakers Ann Reale, Commissioner of Department of Early Education and Care and Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of The Arc of Massachusetts. This conference will also unveil the Promoting Positive Behavior and Resiliency Self-Assessment Tool developed by BOSTnet and the Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency (PEAR).

This one of a kind afterschool Self-Assessment tool was created as part of the Afterschool Access project, funded by the Department of Early Education and Care, that helped 16 after school programs implement positive behavior strategies within their programs through the help of one-on-one coaching and modeling from behavior specialists. OST providers from the North Shore to the South Shore created program wide strategies that supported over 1500 children and youth through specific approaches to promote positive behavior. Their work, as well as research on national positive behavior support, resiliency, mental health, and emotional health strategies, were incorporated into the self-assessment tool to create a comprehensive tool for programs evaluate the effectiveness of their positive behavior strategies and to create action plans to achieve a more positive and emotionally healthy afterschool program.

In addition to learning about the Promoting Positive Behavior and Resiliency Self-Assessment Tool, All Means All Conference participants will be able to attend workshops that cover a full spectrum of inclusion strategies for out-of-school time programs. The conference is only \$30 and includes materials, breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is September 12, 2007 and there are limited scholarships available for individuals who cannot afford the full registration cost. Below is a listing of presenters and workshop titles. For a full description of workshops and to download registration material please visit www.bostnet.org. The **All Means All Conference** is sponsored in part by The Dammann Boston Fund and The Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

Access to Theatre Program - Partners for Youth With Disabilities:

- *Making Creativity (Theatre & Dance) Universally Accessible to All*

Asperger's Association of New England (AANE)

- *Understanding and Supporting Children with Asperger Syndrome*
- *Asperger Syndrome, A View from Within*

Erica Lindamood

- *Learning from a Lion (Beliefs about Youth's Capabilities)*

The May Institute

- *Creating a Pro-social Environment via Positive Behavior Support (PBS)*
- *"Show Me": Data-based Decision Making to guide Behavior Intervention*

Outdoor Explorations

· *Breaking Down Barriers to Adventure*

Partners for Youth with Disabilities

· *Strategies for Including Youth with Disabilities in Mentoring Programs*

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc. (TILL, Inc.)

· *A Practical Behavior Management Workshop for Out-of-School Time Providers (for children with & w/out Autism)*

University of Massachusetts-Boston, Department of Exercise and Health Sciences

· *Modifying Physical Activities to Include Youth with Disabilities*
· *Promoting Physical Activity Programs to Youth with Disabilities*

Please contact us at buzz@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232 to register for this conference. For more information about the Afterschool Access Project please visit www.bostnet.org.

policy update...



SAVE THE DATE!!!

We want all programs to mark September 25, 2007 on their calendars! The Special Commission on After School and Out-of-School Time (ASOST) will be holding their 9th and final public hearing in Boston. The Commission is a legislative commission charged with developing recommendations on how to better coordinate, expand, finance and improve after school programming in Massachusetts. We strongly encourage everyone to participate. YOU can make a difference by telling the commission about your program, the youth it serves and the difference it makes in their lives. Encourage the YOUTH who participate in your programs and their PARENTS to stand up and speak to their experiences.

Individuals are given 3 minutes to testify, and the time will fly. Remember to use your own words, share persuasive stories, and talk based on your own experiences. We understand that not everyone will be able to attend a hearing, and we encourage people to submit written testimony that can be compiled and submitted to the Commission.

For those who can not attend, written testimony can be submitted in multiple ways:

1. Post your testimony on the Commission Blob:
· massafterschoolcomm.blogspot.com

2. Send your written testimony by US Mail to:

The Honorable Thomas McGee
The State House, Room 112
Boston, MA 02133
ATTN: ASOST Commission

The Honorable Marie St. Fleur
The State House, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133
ATTN: ASOST Commission

To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, www.bostnet.org, to view our Resources Page.

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