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Special Announcements

Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **Leadership Roundtable- *Inclusion is an Art: Out-of-School Time and Arts Inclusion***
Thursday, April 3, 2008 10am-12noon

Research has shown that inclusion of students with disabilities is something out-of-school environments are situated to do well. Out-of-school time has flexibility in schedule and structure as well as the potential to bring in artists and community members to foster creative minds and develop skills. Arts are important pathways to inclusion and healthy youth development. To create an inclusive environment, programs need to be equipped with the necessary strategies to make inclusion part of what their program is, not something their program does. [Click here](#) for Directions. Contact BOSTnet for more information or to RSVP at info@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232. View the [2007-2008 calendar](#).

- **Coming Soon! May 2008 Middle School Half-day forum: *Ways to Increase Middle School Youth Participation***. Date & location TBD. RSVP to info@bostnet.org to reserve a spot!
- **Save the Date! June 6, 2008 Families Matter Conference-** BOSTnet and the United Way are holding a conference on family engagement with the latest tools and strategies developed for the Out of School Time field. What new tools are available that will help you

developed for the Out-of-School Time field. What new tools are available that will help you survey family interests or engage parents in program planning? How do you make parents/guardians advocates for your program?

At the Families Matter Conference, you will have a chance to:

- Learn from programs that have been implementing family engagement plans;
 - Adapt tools and strategies for your own programs;
 - Discuss the latest issues in family engagement;
 - Network with other programs in the field!
-
- **Promoting Positive Behavior in Afterschool Environments** - We've had an overwhelming response to our call for participants for the PPBAE model! There are still a few spots left if you would like your program to participate. Your program will benefit from this individualized action plan as you identify ways to lower behavioral issues at your site, reduce expulsion from problem behaviors, and create a training strategy that will unlock the potential of staff to promote positive behaviors. Support and tools designed for school age and middle school. If you are interested in more information about PPBAE and would like to complete the Emotional Support Assessment Tool developed by PEAR and BOSTnet, please contact Peter Griffin at 617-720-1290 x230 or Patricia Stahl at 617-720-1290 x241.

 - **Revised BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable and Half-day forum schedule:** Please note that there are a few changes to our calendar as we finish up the 2007-2008 academic year. To view the updated calendar, please click [here](#). To RSVP for one of the Roundtables or Half-day forums, please call 617-720-1290 x232 or info@bostnet.org.

 - Please visit BOSTnet's [Community Resources & Events](#) and [Community Job Postings](#) webpages to view the latest in events and career opportunities in the OST field!

Out-of-School Time Field Announcements:

- **Notice to Programs** - BOSTnet encourages you to review and update your program information on BOSTNavigator (www.bostonnavigator.org). If you already have your username and password, please login to www.bostonnavigator.org/admin/. If you need a username and password please contact us at help@bostonnavigator.org. Your help will make this new tool the place for parents and families to find youth opportunities in the City of Boston.

- **Free Training is still available for the Sunflower Science Curriculum** - An innovative, hands-on science curriculum developed especially for afterschool programs by the Intercultural Center for Research in Education (INCRE). Designed specifically for children in grades 2-4, the Sunflower Science Discovery Curriculum is fully bilingual and highlights the accomplishments of Latino scientists. To take part in this wonderful opportunity, contact John Zuman at INCRE (jzuman@incre.org; 781-643-2142) or Michael Bennett at BOSTnet (bennett@bostnet.org, 617-720-1290 x 240).

- **Frameworks Institute- *Changing the Public Conversation about Children and Youth: Framing Effective Messages about Social Change*** - FREE half-day seminar with staff from the FrameWorks Institute of Washington, DC. Want to change and deepen the public conversation about young people? Learn about the common pitfalls of some of our current communications strategies - and master the messages that will lead the way to a better future for kids in Massachusetts. Tuesday, April 29, 10a-2p, The Boston Foundation. RSVP to bfisher@frameworksinstitute.org by Friday, April 18th.

- Please visit BOSTnet's [Community Resources & Events](#) and [Community Job Postings](#) webpages to view the latest in events and career opportunities in the OST field!

Out-of-School Time Landscape

Policy Update

Join Us at the State House for the Youth Violence Prevention Rally, Press Conference and Legislative Lobby Day!

The Safe Teens/Safe Communities Coalition that has worked on passage of the funding for the DPH Youth Violence Prevention Program, the Shannon Anti-Gang Violence Grant Program, the Youth Works Jobs for Teens Program will be holding a statewide rally/press conference/lobby day on **Monday March 31 at 1:30 PM at Nurses Hall on the Second Floor of the State House**. It will focus on getting increases in funding for these key programs.

As part of their policy and advocacy efforts, the Safe Teens/Safe Communities Coalition and the Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence are supporting the \$14 million DOE request for After School and Out-of-School Time Quality Grants, School to Career Connecting Activities and Mentoring Programs. Lets all join together at the State House on March 31st to demand that our legislators take direct action to improve opportunities for children and youth in Massachusetts!

For more information, contact Lew Finfer at (617) 822-1499:
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Safe Teens/Safe Communities Coalition

Explorations; George Kent, Director of Organizational Development, SOMA; Joe Siegel Southeast Sectional Director, SOMA; Chenine Johnson, Director of Recreation & Laura Morabito, Assistant Director of Recreation, East Middlesex Arc; and Gary N. Siperstein PhD. Founder and Director, The Center for Social Development & Education gave their views and showcased their work. Eli Wolff felt that this was a social justice issue and that programs cannot just take a "bystander approach" to creating inclusive sports. Inclusive sports needs to be seen as a type of sports, not a segregated set of games. Bob Johnson sees inclusion as the progress of generations and in his own long career has seen the end of institutionalization, the raising life expectancy of those with disabilities as well as quality of life improvements. He sees SOMA as part of that progress and while sports are important, the social change comes through SOMA using sports as "an educational system" to raise awareness and overall social inclusion. George Kent and Joe Siegel talked about SOMA's Unified Sports, where SOMA Athletic teams are comprised of those with and without disabilities, as well as advances made in making SOMA a world-wide organization. Susan Tufts discussed her work with Outdoor Explorations and moving the focus on to what people can do together while Chenine Johnson discussed how the Arc has transformed over the years - even in considering how the name of the organization shapes the discussion of inclusion.

A stunning voice for out-of-school time, however, came from Dr. Siperstein who feels that inclusion is not working in school but is working in out-of-school programs and perhaps is working in ways that can inform the school system. His research is comprehensive and his conclusions are that schools "cannot and will not address adequately the need of children of varying levels of abilities in a wide range of activities" in the same way that Out-of-School time has for a number of years. Dr. Siperstein's advocacy for Out-of-School programs leading the discussion on inclusion caused a great deal of discussion and many are looking forward to the publication of the Center for Social Development and Education's article Social Inclusion of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Out of School Recreational Setting when it becomes available later this year.

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Massachusetts's New Secretary of Education

On March 11, 2008, Governor Deval Patrick announced his selection of Paul Reville as the state's new Secretary of Education with the responsibility of overseeing the newly created Executive Office of Education. As a cabinet-level leader, Reville is charged with implementing the Governor's education roadmap-the "Readiness Project." Under the reorganization, the Department of Education has been renamed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Reville

has been renamed the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**. Reville, who is president of the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and co-chair of the National Center on Time and Learning, is currently the chairman of the Board of Education. He will begin his new position on July 1st.

According to a press release from the Governor's office, "The Executive Office of Education will improve policy coordination across all sectors of education: early education and care, K-12 and higher education; guiding students seamlessly from one step to the next through every level of their education and into the workforce. The Executive Office of Education will help to coordinate the work of the existing education boards to create a comprehensive education system."

"The Governor today also appointed three members to the expanded and redefined Board of Elementary and Secondary Education including Dr. Mohler-Faria, Gerald Chertavian and Jeffrey Howard. He also appointed Carol Craig O'Brien and Chi-Cheng Huang to the Board of Early Education and Care."

"Each of these individuals brings a deep personal commitment to improving educational opportunities for children all across the Commonwealth," said Governor Patrick. "They will each serve the public well on these boards."

Quick Links

- [Our website](#)
- [Newsletter Archive](#)
- [Our Publications](#)
- [Connecting You to Resources](#)
- [Donate](#)

BOSTnet just finished celebrating twenty years of helping families obtain a rich network of out-of-school time opportunities that challenge, reward, and inspire children and youth. We need your support to continue working toward our mission to enhance the quality and increase the capacity of out-of-school time programming for Boston's youth! **Please consider a [donation](#) today.**

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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