



Greetings!

The Wausau School District's afterschool programs for the 2011-2012 school year are up and running! On October 20th the Wausau School District and the Boys and Girls Club of the Wausau Area hosted a Lights on Afterschool Rally at Wausau Center Mall. This event was one of more than 7,000 such events being hosted throughout the nation. Lights on Afterschool is a project of the Afterschool Alliance and this marked the 12th anniversary of this nationwide celebration. Lights on Afterschool highlights the importance and need for after-school programs and the funding needed to support these vital programs. We are in the midst of challenging economic times which has a great impact on our families. Currently 50% of students in the WSD qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The Wausau School District strives to reach as many students and families as possible in after-school, summer school and family programs. These programs are made possible by a variety of community partnerships, 21st Century CLC grants, Title I funds and the WSD Community Service Fund. We are grateful to have a school board and community that recognize the value of out of school programs. Afterschool, summer and family programs are open to all who reside in the WSD attendance area, including those who are home-schooled or attend private schools.

A fee letter is mailed to families in the fall seeking nominal membership fees to help defray the cost of supplies and materials for these programs. The cost for membership is \$5 per child per year or \$10 maximum per family. This is not intended to be a barrier to participation. Families are asked to pay as they are able. At the elementary level this membership will cover full participation in "Kids on the Grow Programs" and at the middle school level will cover enrichment activities. Whether your child attends one class or several, this is a one-time annual fee. Please note that this membership fee is separate from and should not be confused with any athletic fees for sports in which your child may be participating. We will continue to offer tutorial or teacher recommended academic programs free of charge.

This past summer we offered a new program called Community Connection at multiple sites. This 8-week afternoon program linked with the morning District Summer program, creating full day enrichment opportunities for students. This was offered in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, 4-H (UW Extension), the Boys and Girls Club of the Wausau Area and the AmeriCorps program. Demand for this program exceeded capacity so we hope that if offering again in 2012 we can expand the number of students served. Last year 240 students were enrolled in the program.

Research shows the importance of out of school learning to support the social development and academic success of all our students. We invite your involvement in our after-school programs, whether as a participant, community partner, volunteer or financial supporter. Please help keep the lights on afterschool!

Sincerely,

Nancy Cedar

21st Century Project Coordinator