



Community Education

Engaging People; Enriching Lives!

Celebrate 40 years of service!

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School Age Care Positive Happenings – April 2014

The National Afterschool Association posts useful Tip of the Week articles on its website. Recently, at a School Age Care staff meeting we discussed the article, 10 Trends in Afterschool 2014. FLAS School Age Care continues to be a leader in out-of-school-time in meeting family needs.

Social and emotional learning and development

The School Age Care program is primarily socially and recreationally based. We have time to teach in the areas of character, anti-bullying, and empathy education. All of our sites have implemented *What Do You Stand For?* If you want to see fantastic examples of these things in action, visit the Linwood site for Soap Box Fridays, Scandia for Buddy-Builder days, and Wyoming for service learning projects.

Instructional training for STEM activities

Beginning fall of 2009, SAC participated in the National Partnerships for After School Science. This 3-year program focused on staff training in 16 units from *Explore It/Design It* to deliver quality afterschool science curriculum that continue at the SAC sites, with an emphasis at Lino Lakes.

Addressing the digital opportunity gap

The School Age Care programs schedule computer time each week. Some sites have the opportunity to use mobile labs. Community Education has purchased iPods to help students gain access and make accommodations. Student at Forest Lake Sonic have completed projects with the iPods.

Partners with the maker movement

The School Age Care programs provide students with learning endeavors that build decision making and creativity. Students take part in planned and spontaneous activities designing, creating, and learning in the out-of-school time.

Seamless learning between preschool and early elementary with increased collaborations

School Age Care is expanding to include 3-year-old learners in the Steps Ahead program at three sites beginning fall 2014. These early learners will become comfortable with the school setting prior to entering elementary school, taking part in a variety of enrichment, social, and learning activities. They also have the opportunity to attend preschool.

Common core and expanded learning opportunity

School Age Care provides expanded learning opportunities. Students often work on homework during their time at SAC, sign up for focus clubs, or help classroom teachers afterschool. These partnerships between out-of-school time and the school day continue to grow.

Focus on professionalizing afterschool

Core Knowledge and Competencies by the NAA are defining staff qualifications in the field. The Steps Ahead program is in the process of becoming accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children quality standards and attaining the Parent Aware rating.

