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Austin Lights On A Very Batty Event



Over 750 afterschool students swarmed to the opening game of the Austin Ice Bats, who sponsored the city's 21st CCLC Lights On Afterschool celebration. The hockey game at Travis County Expo Center was the culminating event of several days of activities. [More](#)

Great Grant and Funding Opportunities



Funding is an enormously important aspect of keeping our afterschool programs alive. Funding opportunities are out there, now it's our duty to find them and apply. To review some recommended funding and grant opportunities click [More](#).

Crunch Time: Cycle 4 Grants Right around the Corner



That's right . The Deadline is right around the corner. We wish the best of luck to all those who are applying. Click here for deadline dates and to learn [More](#)

News You Can Use

Service Learning

Games, Games, and More Games

Reading Tools

Math Tools



Texas 21st CCLC leads the nation!

First state to complete Annual Performance Reporting

The Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was the first to successfully complete its annual performance report, according to comments from Learning Point's Cristine English to Texas 21st CCLC State Geraldine Kidwell. "I believe the Texas data is now the most complete in the nation....all sections of every grantee's data are now showing as 100% complete – congratulations!" wrote Ms. English. Geraldine Kidwell expressed her gratitude to those who worked on this report development: "Thanks to each of you as a person and as a team. You have worked and are continuing to work with the system and its development. You ALL made this possible! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. Congratulations!"

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Austin Lights On a Very Batty Event!

Over 750 afterschool students swarmed to the opening game of the Austin Ice Bats, who sponsored the city's 21st CCLC Lights On Afterschool celebration. The hockey game at Travis County Expo Center was the culminating event of several days of activities.

Individual school programs brought students and families to campuses. At Blackshear Elementary, the program showcased the Pecan Springs Elementary Cheer Squad and the Blackshear Elementary Choir. Guests met Austin Ice Bats team members and learned more about the afterschool program. Fang, the Ice Bats mascot was also on hand.

The Ice Bats opening game on Friday was dedicated to afterschool issues. Local VIPS and students "dropped the puck", and other students played on the ice or rode the zamboni.



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Grant and Funding Opportunities

Coming Up Taller Awards

<http://www.cominguptaller.org/>

Deadline: January 30, 2006

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, provide them learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities. These awards focus national attention on exemplary programs currently fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's children and youth through education and practical experience in the arts and the humanities. Accompanied by a cash award, the Coming Up Taller Awards not only provide recognition but also contribute significant support to their continued work.

This Awards program is a project of the [President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities](#) in partnership with [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#).

Each year, 15 awards of \$10,000 each are presented to Coming Up Taller Award Finalists. In addition, a Certificate of Excellence is given to all Semifinalists. For more information and the RFP link, visit the website above.

Champions for Healthy Kids Program Offers Grants to Improve Kids' Fitness and Nutrition Habits

<http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx>

Deadline: February 1, 2006

Champions for Healthy Kids, a national grant program created to encourage healthy eating choices and active lifestyles in young people, is now accepting grant applications for 2006. The program is a partnership of the General Mills Foundation, the American Dietetic Association Foundation, and the President's Challenge (<http://presidentschallenge.org/>). For more information, visit the website above.

Service-Learning Project Grants

The Corporation for National and Community Service announced its 2006 Learn and Serve America grant competition to support high quality service-learning projects that engage students in community service projects linked to academic studies. Approximately \$40 million in grant funds will be available, subject to congressional appropriation, to support service-learning projects in a variety of settings. The grant funds will be divided between school-based, community-based, higher education, and tribal and U.S. territory programs. The funding is for the 2006-2007 school year, with possible continued funding for two more years.

This competition is particularly focused on ensuring that more youth in disadvantaged circumstances are able to engage in service-learning and on expanding the use of service-learning to more schools, colleges, and community

organizations. Funds are available to intermediary organizations and may be used to create curriculum materials; support training and technical assistance activities; and make subgrants to local partnerships to carry out service-learning.

Application deadlines:

Feb. 2, 2006 - School-based formula.

Feb. 28, 2006 - Higher education, both for individual and consortia programs.

March 7, 2006 - School-based competitive, community-based, tribal and territory.

Information and application instructions can be found [here](#)

CiviConnections Grants for Service-Learning Projects

CiviConnections is a three-year teacher grant program funded by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service and National Council for the Social Studies. From 2003-2006, CiviConnections will involve teachers and 3rd-12th grade students nationwide in linking local history inquiry with community service-learning activities. Teachers will develop and adapt these activities based on their students' interests and abilities, the needs or problems in the local community, and their local social studies curriculum requirements. Teams of three teachers can apply for \$7,500 grants to cover their costs for attending summer workshops, implementing the program during the fall of 2006, and attending the 2006 NCSS Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The application deadline is February 24, 2006. For application guidelines and forms visit the website listed above.

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REMINDER: Cycle 4 Grantee Application

Important Dates and Information:

Thank you to all applying for the Texas 21st CCLC Cycle 4 Grant.

The RFA is now available [here](#).

Tuesday, January 10, 2006 is the Cycle 4 Applicant's Conference from 1 pm to 4 pm. This Applicant's Conference will offer assistance to eligible entities desiring to submit an application for the Texas 21st Century community Learning Centers Cycle 4 grant program. The conference will be open to all potential applicants and will provide an opportunity to receive general and clarifying information about the competitive grant program and the Request for Application (RFA).

Thursday, January 12, 2006 is the TETN Presentation in Austin

Thursday, February 9, 2006 is the Cycle 4 application deadline. This application must be submitted to TEA no later than 5:00 pm. Specific questions relevant to the Cycle 4 RFA may be sent to Vicki Logan: Email vicki.logan@tea.state.tx.us or Fax 512-936-6375 prior to Monday, January 9, 2006.

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Service Learning:

[Texas Center for Service-Learning](#)

This Texas focused Service-Learning website fills you in on service-learning in Texas. It includes video clips of individuals speaking of service learning benefits to students and community, power point presentations for promoting the program to your community, grant program information, funding opportunities, and many other useful resources. Highly recommended.

Reading:

[Project Gutenberg](#)

Recommended by SEDL, Project Gutenberg is the oldest producer of free ebooks on the Internet. Their collection was produced by hundreds of volunteers, and includes over 17,000 free books. Site also offers free copies of some of the classic novels.

Mathematics:

[After School Mathematics](#)

This site was highly recommended at the 21st CCLC 2005 Summer Institute. It is a great place to get math activity ideas as well as math games and instructions. Savvy authors include tips for activities using inexpensive materials, video clip demonstrating the activity, topic areas addressed, what student support skills are gained, and other considerations to help plan successful math enrichment activities.

[SEDL Interim Mathematics Toolkit](#)

Games, Games and More Games:

[Educational Learning Games](#)

Phonics to fractions, geography to spelling! This site presents enriching and educational board games for people of all ages. Prices are reasonable and the variety of game topics seems to address every single subject out there. Great ideas to keep your afterschool program enriching, fun, and engaging.

The National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning is pleased to announce that the [Interim Mathematics Toolkit](#) is now available for your use online at <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool>. This is the second of six content area afterschool training toolkits to be developed by the Partnership and it joins the Literacy toolkit that went online earlier this year. The content material for the math toolkit was developed by the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) in Aurora, CO and the toolkit web site was produced by the WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston, MA.

Both toolkits include the following:

- * Basic principles of effective instruction in afterschool programs
- * Sample lessons
- * Links to content standards
- * Video segments highlighting practices from a range of afterschool programs
- * Links to other resources
- * Assessment resources to evaluate academic programming

* Strategies for technology and homework help

We encourage you to visit the toolkit website!

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