

August 2007



OUR CITY'S CHILDREN

After School Grants Awarded!

The Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS), the City of Grand Rapids, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network and the Heart of West Michigan United Way are working to secure funds to ensure there is an after school program in every Grand Rapids Public School. The good news is that the Michigan Department of Education renewed and newly awarded a \$3.75 million 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to the GRPS that will fund 24 LOOP sites within the public schools. In addition, through legislative advocacy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families dollars were restored in the State budget to fund four LOOP sites. In the fall, four new sites will be added totalling 28 LOOP after school sites.

CampFire USA, the City of Grand Rapids Recreation Reaps Rewards, YMCA, and the United Methodist Community House provide programming at the LOOP sites.

The LOOP programs within alternative calendar schools will begin on August 20, 2007 and for the traditional calendar schools, programs will begin on September 17, 2007. Parents may register their child to participate in the LOOP after school programs by calling Marcus Harris, Program Coordinator, in the Office of Extended Learning at 616.819.3795 or by contacting the school in which their child attends to receive a registration packet.

2007- 08 LOOP Sites:

Alexander	Campus	GR Montessori	Palmer
Alger Middle	Coit	Hall	Riverside Middle
Brookside	Congress	Harrison Park Elem.	Shawnee
Buchanan	Dickinson	Harrison Park Middle	Sherwood
Burton Elem.	East Leonard	Jefferson	Sibley
Burton Middle	Eastern	Kent Hills	Stocking
Campau Park	Ford Middle	MLK Leadership	Westwood Middle

MYC Accepting Applications

The Office of Children, Youth & Families is looking for 15, 9th-12th-grade students to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council. Applications are due Friday, September 21, 2007.

The MYC participate in real-life



conversations with city officials on issues of concern to youth.



They meet monthly



with the Mayor, facilitate youth forums, plan a city-wide youth fundraiser and perform community service projects. A rigorous curriculum gives them hands-on



experience into the inner workings of how city government impacts their lives. Participants leave the program

having gained skills in networking, facilitation and public speaking. In addition, they enhance their self-confidence.

For more information or to receive an application, call Shannon L. Harris, Program Coordinator, at 456-3558 or log onto www.grcity.us/ocyf.

Introducing Gerald R. Ford Middle!

(Formerly Madison Middle)

Open House

Thursday, August 23, 2007
4 - 6 p.m.

Call the GRPS Communications Department at 616.819.2149 for more information.



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Pedestrian Safety

With year-round schools in session and the majority of schools opening September 4, drivers need to be particularly careful in the city around schools and look out for children walking to school or to catch a bus, especially those who must cross busy intersections.



Parents and children need to adhere to the following safety tips:

- Make sure your children do not walk to and from the bus stop or to school alone.
- Plan a walking route to the bus stop or school that is the most direct with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards.
- Teach children not to enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes.
- Look left-right-left for moving cars before crossing the street. Cross only when clear and keep looking left and right. Never run or dart into the street and walk observantly.
- Remove loose draw strings or ties on jackets and sweatshirts, and replace with Velcro, snaps or buttons. Loose drawstrings or book bags can snag on bus handrails.
- Make sure that if your children ride their bikes to school that they wear a properly fitted helmet and obey all rules of the road that apply to vehicles.

For a Back-to-School Safety Checklist, onto www.grcity.us/ocyf.

Molding Leaders During 3 to 6

Children and youth who regularly attend high-quality after school programs have better grades and conduct in school, better peer relations, have more academic and enrichment opportunities and are better emotionally adjusted. Do you know where your child is between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.?

The 3TO6 Campaign created by the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network and the Ad2 group aim to create more awareness among parents and community leaders about the importance of after school programs. This campaign will also raise funds to ensure that every child has access to quality after school programs.



3to6 Campaign Banner

Go to www.3to6.org for information including a list of after school programs and youth centers.

Mission:

The Office of Children, Youth & Families evaluates public policy and promotes caring partnerships to ensure our children, youth and families thrive within the Grand Rapids community and hold promising futures.

The Office of Children, Youth & Families is a partnership program of the Grand Rapids Public Schools and the City of Grand Rapids.

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