

CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



The 50+ program participants.



Our intergenerational trip to see Drumline.

Fiesta

by Leah Olson

On Saturday, October 2, BLW Neighborhood Center had the pleasure of hosting a Fiesta Dinner to celebrate our center and to raise funds for after school programs, the Latino Family Resource Center, and 50+ events. Originally planned to take place at Esther Beach, staff moved the event indoors due to weather. Lively Latin



music filled the center as over 85 attendees filled the main room with conversation and good cheer. The delicious meal, prepared by numerous volunteers, consisted of carne asada (grilled meat), cochinita pibil (traditional meal from Yucatan, Mexico), tamales, and salad. In addition, there was orchata, a traditional rice drink, served alongside coffee and a variety of desserts. The center held a raffle for Overture Center arts vouchers as well as a silent auction to win prizes and gift certificates.

We would like to thank our volunteers whose support continues to boost center events and programs. In addition, many thanks go out to our generous business sponsors for the Fiesta Dinner: Milio's Sandwiches, PDQ Food Stores, Happy Wok South Towne, and Starbucks Coffee.

See you next year!



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GNP

Check out the website

www.blwcenter.org

- See this Newsletter in Color
- Updated event schedule
- Full program descriptions and schedules



ELEMENTARY

After School Winter Newsletter

Winter 2010

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Volume 6 – Issue 1

It's hard to believe winter is around the corner! We've been very fortunate to have had such a nice fall, and the kids at After School have definitely enjoyed it. They have been able to be outside everyday since the school year started, and have been busy on the playground, playing football and soccer, four square, collecting leaves, and much more. We are hopeful to have a few more weeks of this nice weather, but will be ready with sleds when the snow arrives.

The After School schedule still consists of a longer Monday where kids engage in age and gender-based clubs, snack, homework and reading time, a group meeting, and free choice time. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays consist of snack, small group time, free choice, homework and reading, and themed activity choices. The Friday Interest Groups have been a hit, as kids are creating cooking masterpieces, science projects, art activities, and showing off their dance moves in our music club. The teachers have really had fun planning these activities. The children have the opportunity to join a new club each month, so



they will be able to try out each area of interest at some point this school year.

BLW's After School group was invited to an event on UW's campus put on by the fraternities and sororities, called "Trick or Treat with the Greeks."

Our kids dressed up in costumes, painted their faces, and enjoyed a



windy outing to three different sorority and fraternity houses. They played "freeze dance",

each faces painted, sheets, ate some candy musical chairs, and had a great time meeting some college students. We are very excited to host a family dinner in November, where the families will work on an activity making picture frames, eat lasagna, salad, and bread, and be able to meet other families and staff. We also have a turkey basket to hand out to each family that same day! Finally, we are excited to have a group of women come visit around the middle of December to make fleece hats for each of the kids. Gifts for the holidays will also be distributed to each of our kids, who gave the staff their "wish lists." We look forward to a great end of our fall and start of our winter and will keep you posted with dates and possible outings for the kids during their holiday break.



If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access any of these services, activities or programs, please call Tom Solyst at (608) 441-6991.

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The Fall Teen Program

by Mara McGlynn

It was a busy fall for the teens. We put a lot of hard work and many hours but I'm happy to report that we have finally created a teen hang out zone in the basement of the after school program building located at 1910 Lake Point Drive. The teens not only did most of the work, they designed and organized the layout of the basement. The walls are all painted unique colors; we were able to test our spray paint abilities, and one wall we even turned into one giant blackboard! After much fixing we also now have a ping-pong table, two air hockey tables, two foosball tables, and one corner with a couch and television for movies and videogames. I am very proud of the work and dedication the teens put into turning the basement into a hang out zone of their own, created by them, for them.

Other news from teen. We meet Mondays from 5-8pm for service projects. Other than a lot of work on the basement the teens have also put a lot of time and effort into collecting food donations to fill our Turkey Baskets that the BLW center will hand out to 100 families this Thanksgiving holiday. The teens stood in front of Copps multiple times soliciting incoming customers for food donations and received very positive feedback (which means lots of food donations!) The teens also meet on Wednesday from 3:30-6 to do fun activities, group bonding exercise, and educational opportunities. Every other Friday we have been going on a positive behavior and participation field trip. This fall we went to Fast Forward, the MSCR middle school social, bowling, and an in house party/diner to celebrate the opening of our teen hang out basement.

Finally I happy to announce that we have started a teen boy night, dedicated to teaching more gendered orientated education, on Thursday nights. This was created as an addition to GNP, only dedicated to the boys to keep the programming fair and balanced.

Thanks for all the support we have received in the neighborhood and if you have a unique talent or knowledge to educate to our teens, please feel free to contact me at calebklima@yahoo.com, were always looking for new and exciting things to do.

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TEEN & GNP

Girl Neighborhood Power

by Rachel Barrington

The Teen GNP program has had an exciting October and November. The October field trips focused on building team unity and spirit. We had a lot of fun! During program we discussed our future and made goals. In November GNP went on a mall scavenger hunt and raised money for the center selling Boston Store booklets. The programming topic for the month of November is bullying. As the first school quarter ends the GNP teen girls will be evaluating their school progress thus far and making goals for the rest of the year. There are open spaces in GNP and interested girls are welcome to attend.



The GNP elementary girls have gone through a lot of changes this fall. During the month of October they had some great times volunteering at the Belmont Nursing Home and at the Humane Society as well as visiting the Children's Museum. However, the end of October was a very emotional month as well since they had

to say goodbye to their teacher Ms. Rachel who enjoyed so many wonderful times with the GNP girls. In November the group went on a hay ride and cooked smores over an open campfire. It was a great time! They also had a trip to the Monona Library where they explored the world of books and knowledge. As the fall season ends the girls are looking forward to helping out with the turkey dinner for local families on Thursday, November 19th. Even though adjusting to a new teacher and missing their old teacher has been a challenge for the GNP elementary girls, they are still as strong and excited as always, looking forward to all the wonderful times they will enjoy during the winter season.

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SEASON'S *Greetings*



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*From friends and staff at
your Neighborhood Center*

Hapenings at the Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center. Published quarterly.

Center Director: Tom Solyst
Newsletter Editor: Jim Stickels
Graphic Designer: Mary Brandes

Address: 1917 Lake Point Dr, Madison, WI 53713
Phone: (608) 441-6991
Fax: (608) 441-6993
E-mail: blwcenter@yahoo.com
Web: www.blwcenter.org

Bridge Lake Point Waunona
Neighborhood Center
1917 Lake Point Drive
Madison, WI 53715



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