



NEBRASKA  
Community Learning  
Center Network

July 2008  
**E-Blast**

[www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org](http://www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org)

Growing successful students, engaged families, stronger communities

**Mark Your Calendars:**

## Lights On Afterschool Celebration

This year's Lights On Afterschool celebration will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Lights On Afterschool is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs, and is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities. This event provides a great opportunity for Nebraska afterschool program providers to publicly celebrate the importance of their afterschool programs and to reach out to community supporters needed to build and maintain sustainable programs. We encourage you to start planning your event now!

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. The event grew in 2001 to more than 3,600 events, and more than 7,500 in 2006. In 2007 more than 1 million Americans participated in Lights On Afterschool activities. Over the past seven years, Lights On has become the single largest event that focuses attention in communities across the country to the importance of afterschool programs. During the past seven years, many Nebraska communities have participated in these activities and Lights On Afterschool has become an important part of many programs outreach campaigns.



### **Funding Opportunity:**

## **Safe Routes Nebraska**

The Nebraska Department of Roads Safe Routes Program is announcing the availability of funds for projects that encourage and better enable children of Nebraska to walk and bike safely to school. Schools, state, local, and non-profit organizations may apply by completing an intent-to-apply form located at [www.SafeRoutesNE.com](http://www.SafeRoutesNE.com).

**Intent-to-apply Deadline: September 5, 2008.**

For more information, contact Kelly Morgan, Safe Routes Nebraska Program Coordinator at 402-476-7331 or email: [kmorgan@sinclairhille.com](mailto:kmorgan@sinclairhille.com).

## Lights On Resources

The Afterschool Alliance has provided a wealth of information about the Lights On Afterschool celebration on their website at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/glance.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/glance.cfm).

Here you will find a very helpful on-line planning kit that includes background materials, reproducible invitations, planning checklists, fundraising tips, activity ideas, outreach materials, graphics – everything that you need to plan and hold a successful celebration in your community.

This year the Nebraska CLC Network developed a series of easily downloadable materials that we encourage you to use to help promote afterschool programs in your communities. These include a series of one pagers that help explain why afterschool programs meet important needs for today's youth and their families and more extensive reports that you can use to help make both the economic and academic case for high quality programs. We have also included a list of questions, linked back to these

support materials, you can use to help start conversations with supporters in your community. These materials can be downloaded from our website at [www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org/resources/enhancement\\_tools.html](http://www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org/resources/enhancement_tools.html).

If you do hold a Lights On Afterschool celebration in your community, be sure to let us know about your event.

### *Join the Celebration!*

## Register Your Summer Learning Day Event

The second Tuesday in July (July 10) is National Summer Learning Day - a special day promoted by the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University.

To help celebrate and draw attention to the importance of high quality summer learning opportunities, the Center encourages program leaders to host an event on or around July 10 that will focus on how summer programs:

- Send young people back to school ready to learn
- Support working families
- Help to keep children safe and healthy

Get creative, showcase your program, and have fun while spreading the word about summer learning. Learn more at: [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org).

You can also download and copy their free Parent Tip Sheet, How to Make the Most of Summer: What Parents Can Do to Keep Kids Sharp Over the Summer, offering advice and tips for how to keep kids learning over the summer months. Access this and the Center's other free resources at [www.summerlearning.org/publications](http://www.summerlearning.org/publications).

## Let us hear from you...

If you haven't already done so, please visit our web site and take a couple of moments to fill out a **Partner Form**.

This is our way of getting to know you and your interests so that we can serve you better.

As always, feel free to contact us with your questions, comments or other feedback. Direct your emails to Jeff Cole at:

[jcole@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jcole@nebraskachildren.org)

[www.NebraskaChildren.org](http://www.NebraskaChildren.org)