

Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

TO: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

FROM: Jill Herold 
Assistant City Manager for Human Services

DATE: October 23, 2001

RE: Response to Awaiting Report item 01-242

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

Ellen Semonoff
Deputy Director

Childcare & Family
Support Services

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Community Schools

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation

Youth

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In response to Awaiting Report item 01-242 regarding a report on developing an inclusive middle school after-school program at the Fitzgerald School the following is offered:

The Department of Human Services offers programs for middle school youth after school hours at the Fitzgerald School through the Gately Youth Center, the Community Schools and the Special Needs Recreation programs. (see attached program descriptions). The Gately Youth Center and Community School programs provide opportunities for youth with a range of special needs to participate in their programs and the Recreation program is attended exclusively by children and youth with moderate to severe special needs.

With expressed interest from some parents in the Haggerty/Fitzgerald middle school for enhanced inclusive after school programs, Human Services staff have been in communication with these parents to describe current offerings as well as to offer opportunities for enrollment. Some families are taking advantage of these offerings. Working together with Principal Chris Augusta-Scott, Eileen Keegan, Division Head for Community Schools and Selvin Chambers, Division Head for Youth Programs have had a preliminary meeting with interested and concerned parents to explore a range of interests regarding after school program opportunities. As a result of that meeting, a working group has been formed that includes parents, Principal Chris Augusta-Scott, staff from the School Department Office of Special Needs, Eileen Keegan, Pat Daley, Fitzgerald Community School Director, Selvin Chambers and Gately Youth Center Director Patricia Desmond. The working group will be holding their first meeting this month and will continue to work together to meet the needs of children and parents in the Fitzgerald middle grades .



Additionally, as funding opportunities for inclusive out of school time programs become available, the Department of Human Services together with School Department staff will pursue them. At this time, the two departments are working together to submit a proposal to the Disability Law Center to fund technical assistance in doing an organizational assessment to evaluate how the Fitzgerald/Gately after school programs can become more inclusive and for funding technical assistance to implement the plan devised during the assessment.

Fitzgerald Community School Program
Fall Program Outline

The Fitzgerald Community School Program began its' fall session with the offering of 27 after-school enrichment classes. Of the 27 classes offered, thirteen classes are currently enrolled with 111 children in attendance. Children are currently participating in music lessons, soccer, gymnastics, model building, hockey, art, karate, and arts and crafts classes. Five additional classes including tennis, cooking, woodworking, girls group and newspaper club are scheduled to begin in November and December, with an additional 43 children registered. Eight classes were cancelled due to low enrollments.

Of the 111 individual children currently participating in programs 36 are in the middle school grades.

The Fitzgerald Community School Director participated in the recent Fitzgerald School Open House evening for parents and distributed a survey soliciting parents' ideas for programs. Of the fifty five parents completing surveys, thirty had children enrolled in the Fitzgerald Community School program and expressed overall satisfaction with the quality of programs offered and an interest to have many of the offerings continue into the winter and spring sessions. Of the twenty five remaining surveys, parents cited the following reasons for their children not participating; children are enrolled in other afterschool activities (6); no transportation home (4); did not have time to look into registering for fall program (3); have afterschool home care (2); cost was prohibitive (2) and new to the school and was not aware of programs (1). Nineteen of the fifty-five parents reported they had children in the middle school, twenty seven had children in grades 3-5, twenty three had children in grades K-2, and three were parents of pre schoolers.

The Fitzgerald Community School Director works closely with the Fitzgerald School Parent Liaison to publicize programs and events and solicit parents' feedback on program offerings.

The Cambridge Recreation Division Special Needs After School Program

The Recreation Division After School Program, serving 20 children with special needs, is held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:00pm-5:00pm at the Gately Youth Center. Children range in age from six to thirteen. Program goals include the development of social and recreational skills for children with moderate to severe special needs. All students are transported to the site by the Cambridge School Department and returned home by the DIISP bus.

Gately Youth Center Session 1 Program Summaries

Youth Leadership Program Ages 9 - 13

Community Meeting- Youth Center members are given the opportunity to share stories, ask Youth Center questions, provide entertainment, etc. During this time staff can discuss with the members upcoming events, Youth Center issues, and also the Gately Youth Center Member of the Month Award is given out in the meeting.

Athletic Activities- This program helps to expose youth to a variety of different sports. Members participate in flag football, kick ball, basketball, floor hockey, physical fitness,

Boys Group- In the Boys Group, young men start to analyze issues relevant to their lives. This session the Boys Group is focusing on messages sent through music and television.

Girls Group- In the Girls Group, young women start to analyze the issues that affect the lives of youth today. This session the Girls Group is focusing on teen violence, homosexuality, and poetry.

Computer Class- The focus of this session's computer class is graphic design. Members will work together to create CD covers, magazines, etc.

CASPAR- CASPAR uses games, movies, discussions, etc. to teach children about the harmful side effects to using drugs and alcohol.

Cultural Cuisine- Members will learn about many different cultures through the cuisine of these areas. In addition, members will be given an opportunity to bring in recipes that represent their own culture and help to facilitate the class on that day.

Young Authors- This program is designed to help youth to develop their creative writing skills. Members will cover various types of literature and they will participate in engaging activities that will help them to become Young Authors.

Community Service-Learning- Members will learn to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the communities in which they live. Members will serve their communities and participate in fun experiential education activities to help them to reflect on their service work.

W.A.V.E.- (Written and Verbal Expression) This program is run by City-Year volunteers. Members will participate in a current events journaling project to increase literacy.

Arts and Crafts- Arts and Crafts is an opportunity for members to creatively express themselves through art. Some of this sessions projects include: fuse beads, fantastic fans, painting, beading, diversity projects, etc.

Fall Preteen Enrichment Program Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
2:00-2:30	Check-In (members meet with Team Leaders)	Check-In (members meet with Team Leaders)	Check-In (members meet with Team Leaders)	Check-In (members meet with Team Leaders)	Check-In (members meet with Team Leaders)
2:30-3:45	Homework Help and Educational Activities	Homework Help and Educational Activities	Homework Help and Educational Activities	Homework Help and Educational Activities	Educational Activities
3:45-4:00	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
4:00-4:45	Community Meeting	Boys Group/ Girls Group	CASPAR/ Cultural Cuisine/ Flag Football Game	Community Service Learning/ W.A.V.E. (Written and Verbal Expression)*	Arts and Crafts/ Athletic Activities
4:45-5:30	Flag Football Practice/ Athletic Activities	Computer Class/ Graphic Design	Young Authors/ Cultural Cuisine/ Flag Football Game	Computer Class/ W.A.V.E. (Written and Verbal Expression)*	Arts and Crafts/ Athletic Activities
5:30-6:00	Team Debrief/ Team Activity	Team Debrief/ Team Activity	Team Debrief/ Team Activity	Team Debrief/ Team Activity	Team Debrief/ Team Activity
6:00	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

* As of February, 2002, Stone Soup Press will replace W.A.V.E.

** Enrollment capacity of 60



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

October 29, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-242, regarding a report on developing a middle school after-school program, that is inclusive of all children at the Fitzgerald School, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



3795

Consent Agenda #9

**Awaiting Report Item
Number 01-242**, regarding
developing a middle school
after-school program,
inclusive of all children at
the Fitzgerald School.

In City Council October 29, 2001

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