

Just Kids Announcements:

NPASS Science Comes to Just Kids



Just Kids is pleased to announce our participation in a national project called The National Partnership for After School Science 2 (NPASS-2). New Jersey is one of eight states participating in this three year professional development program led by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), in Newton, MA, and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The goal of NPASS2 is to improve the quality and quantity of afterschool science through intensive professional development for afterschool staff. Two of Just Kids staff, Edie Benjamin and Brenda Saunders, were selected as part of the total fifteen professionals being trained as science trainers in the state of NJ! We are so excited to be participating. These 15 educators were trained as NPASS Science Trainers and were introduced to three hands-on science and engineering projects from the well-respected *Design-It* afterschool engineering series. This prepared the Science trainers to lead workshops on each of these projects for front line afterschool staff and administrators around the state.

As a result, currently ten of the Just Kids sites are receiving this specialized training to implement the science curriculum in their programs. This is just the start. Over the summer the remaining Just Kids program staff will receive this training as well. The NPASS-2 program is a three year commitment, so you will see this develop in your program in the years to come. The ultimate goal is to encourage the students to question, experiment, explore, and investigate the physical world around them in hopes of envisioning themselves as engineers and scientists.

Just Kids Receives Artists- Education Consortium Grant



Just Kids is excited to announce it has received a grant to provide a dance experience at the **Ethel Burke Just Kids Program** in Bellmawr, NJ. The program involves twenty creative movement classes in the spring of 2010 which culminate in a performance for parents and school officials. All the students attending the afternoon afterschool program are participating. The Artists-in-Education Consortium (AIE) Program is carried out through a partnership between the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and a consortium made up of Arts Horizons and Young Audiences New Jersey. This program provides New Jersey schools with long-term artist residencies. The program is made possible through state appropriations to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts as well as funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.