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Posted March 28, 2009

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PBN Editorial

Building cooperation serves children better

OK, so we're suckers for a success story. And the Providence After School Alliance is nothing if not a success story.

The idea is a simple one, as any parent of a middle schooler can attest. Keep them busy.

But because parents spend much of their time trying to earn a living to keep them fed and clothed, schools and community groups have stepped in to try to fill the after-school gaps.

What makes PASA such a success, where others have failed, is a coherent strategy and program. PASA has brought together disparate community groups to work in concert with one another. The result is a mosaic of after-school opportunities with something for just about everyone.

Whether it's guitar lessons, gymnastics, or trips to the zoo to learn animal care, the alliance offers activities that are age-appropriate, engaging, entertaining and mind-expanding. And success breeds success. Word of PASA's efforts has spread around the nation, bringing interested observers – and money.

This year, the organization offers programs at three sites, and involves more



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than 2,000 of the city's 5,200 middle school students. Kudos! •

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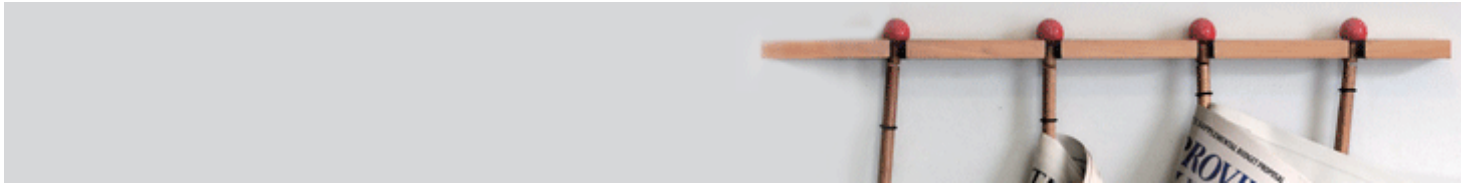
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