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#### **(Neb.)-Chadron After School Program Celebrates Success**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/12/2012 01:19 PM

(Chadron)-Each October, 1 million Americans and thousands of communities celebrate Lights On After school to shine a light on the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, help working families and inspire academic success. C.I.A., Chadron Intermediate After school, celebrated October 11 with all the third and fourth grade students and families participating in family engineering activities.

Popular engineering activities included building a cantilever structure at Domino Diving Board, designing shoes for specific activities and conditions at Happy Feet. The most popular challenge may have been Mining for Chocolate, where students were asked to design a process for mining chocolate chips out of a cookie to get the most chocolate chips while causing the least amount of damage to the cookie.

The benefits of quality afterschool programs are clear. They support working families by ensuring that children are safe and productive when the school day ends while parents are still at work. Afterschool programs make our communities stronger by involving students, parents, business leaders and volunteers.

Quality afterschool programs give children the opportunity to discover hidden talents as they grow academically and socially and are proven to produce academic, social and behavior benefits that help youth succeed in school and in life and help strengthen our communities.

Chadron Middle School After School and Just for Kids after school program at Chadron Primary school will be celebrating Lights On Afterschool October 18th. As much as afterschool programs need money to stay alive, they also need people. And you don't have to be an teacher or education expert to help. Parents, students, and anyone with time and a commitment to helping children succeed can lend a hand.

(Story courtesy of Lorna Eliason)