



LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL AFTER-SCHOOL EVENT – A national event titled Lights on Afterschool was held on Oct. 22 and Garrett County's Partners After School (PAS) programs took part in the celebration. Pictured above during the PAS @ Accident event are Connor Clary, Trenton Darr, and Mason Keller as they participate in an energy experiment with the Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council. Below, Carman Smith and Gracie Friend take a break from their geometric shapes activity, which was part of the PAS @ Oakland Lights on Afterschool event. See story.

After-School Nat'l Event Celebrated By Area Programs

Garrett County's Partners After School (PAS) programs joined community and business leaders, policy makers, students, parents, and educators across the nation as a part of the 16th annual "Lights On Afterschool Rally" on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance to highlight the many ways quality after-school programs support children, families, schools, and communities, a spokesperson said.

"From Maine to Hawaii, a million Americans rallied at thousands of events to shine a light on the after-school programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families every day," the spokesperson said. "Communities made their message clear: 'Keep the Lights On After School.'"

At the PAS @ Accident event, participants and family members were able to sample components of PAS, including healthful snack, physical education, literacy, STEM, arts, and homework help. Partners included the

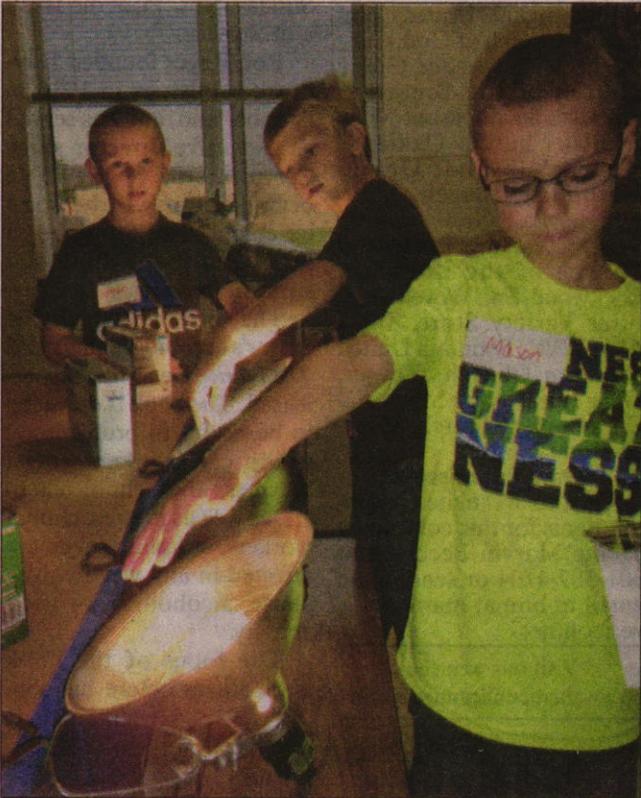
Accident branch of Ruth Enlow Library and the Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council.

"This year we were able to have a live feed of the Empire State Building as it was lit up in yellow for the ninth year in a row in honor of Lights on Afterschool," said Venessa Stacy, PAS @ Accident director. "We also presented information on the new 21st Century Community Learning Center grant."

At the PAS @ Oakland event, guests were asked to assist with homework and recreation, and participate in activities conducted by the University of Maryland Extension Office. The evening concluded with a presentation on Internet safety, and light refreshments.

"Our program focuses on parent involvement with youth," said Sadie Liller, PAS @ Oakland director. "We were very pleased with the number of parents and community members who showed support for the program by attending."

"Lights On Afterschool events give students a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their after-school programs, and to send the message that millions more



children and youth need quality after-school and summer learning programs," said Afterschool Alliance executive director Jodi Grant. "These events spotlight the fun, educational, hands-on activities that quality after-school programs offer and the ways these programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families."

Partners After School

programs are provided by the Garrett County Local Management Board (LMB), Governor's Office for Children, and the United Way of Garrett County. Programs are administered by Garrett County Health Department and Garrett County Community Action Committee. For more information, persons may call the LMB at 301-334-7445 or 301-895-3111.