



Antlers introduces after school program

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By

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For the first time that anyone can remember, an after school program for kids grades K-5 was offered for the Antlers community February 23-27, 2009. Nancy Tucker, Pushmataha Extension Educator, saw the need to provide safe, fun, educational care for kids who have no one to watch them at home after school, and perhaps can't afford daycare. "A lot of these kids used to go home and no one was there. Many teachers have commented to me that students that weren't turning in homework have been turning it in now," says Tucker, as kids are pulling out books and worksheets.

For two hours the 14 volunteers who gave their time to provide a healthy snack, tutoring, and activities supervised 120 kids last week. The program was held every afternoon from 3-5 PM, and the fruits of it have been seen already.

To keep this program available to families, the Turning Point Coalition have met to write a grant appeal to cover the expenses a program like this would take. "What you've seen this week has been provided through the pocket of the volunteers and generous businesses in town," says Tucker. Turning Point will be meeting Thursday, March 5, 2009 to discuss plans about doing the Pilot Program again within a month and, who knows, on a permanent basis.