February 2014
Special Issue - Families Learning Summit

Families Learning Summit
...we'll let the Tweets tell the story

7 Educational Sites That Inspire Family Learning at Home
TechSavvyMama's Leticia Barr names both Wonderopolis and the Family Time Machine as "personal favorites." She writes, "They provide helpful suggestions on how I can make the most of even the smallest amounts of time I have to spend with my kids."
Are You on Twitter?
To celebrate March into Literacy Month, McGraw-Hill Education will donate $1 to NCFL for every new follower @MHEducation gains on Twitter during the month of March. Give them a follow and join the conversation at #MHEMarchLit

Wonderopolis is a Wonder NCFL Vice President Emily Kirkpatrick is featured on iTunes’ #1 Podcast in Children’s Publishing, Brain Burps About Books. This interview with Writerpreneur Katie Davis covers how to make Common Core learning fun with Wonders of the Day, this summer’s Camp What-a-Wonder, and tips on how to best use Wonderopolis as an educator.

On Monday, March 3 at 8 p.m. our Wonder Ambassadors will be #WonderChat-ing about everything Wonderopolis-related: Wonder Walls, Wonder Wednesdays, using Wonder to align with Common Core State Standards, implementing inquiry and imagination into science and social studies, etc. Both lurkers and chatters are

Christopher Lehman @ChrisLehman Feb 17
I’m loving the energy of nclfsummit. A real belief that parents/families are an asset, want to be involved, and need our focus, care.

UrbanLibCouncil @UrbanLibCouncil Feb 18
We’re honored to be a part of nclfsummit. And, we’re delighted to collaborate with @NCFL promoting & strengthening our vision together!

NCFL @NCFL Feb 18
Reaching parents early and often is critical to helping their children - V. Katz re: helping immigrant families learn. pic.twitter.com/VoQs2WUNuB

Yady Blessinger @YdBlessinger Feb 18
The two most important toys for a child are the voice and the face of parents. Session with Dr. Brice @NCFL. pic.twitter.com/PAcGz81W9N
Education Week reports on the Harris Poll-inspired Family Time Machine, born of the partnership between NCFL and Toyota. The Family Time Machine website gives parents and children creative and educational ideas for how to best utilize everyday moments as learning tools.

The Tennessean
Nashville Librarian wins national award
The Tennessean applauds its hometown literacy hero, Elizabeth Atack, for winning the Toyota Family Teacher of the Year.

Providence Journal
Dorcas Institute wins $175,000 Toyota Family Learning grant
The Providence Journal reports on its local community program winning a grant to allocate toward family mentor and service learning programs.

Daily Breeze
Toberman grant brings education to whole family in San Pedro
Financial help from the coveted Toyota Family Learning grant will add a family learning component to services already provided by Toberman Neighborhood
Check out our Families Learning Summit 2014 Facebook album to see more of what happened at this year's conference.

An Inside Look
Toyota's Family Teacher of the Year and Family Learning grantees

For 17 years, Toyota has sponsored the Family Teacher of the Year award to recognize an educator who reaches beyond the classroom to impact families' lives. This year, the crystal apple of achievement was handed to Elizabeth Atack of the Nashville Center, including literacy, a food pantry, parenting classes, counseling and legal services, gang intervention, and employment help.

Education: A Family Affair
Senior Researcher at the New America Foundation provides his thoughts on the Families Learning Summit and involving students' families and communities in conversations about education reform.

ULC e-News Weekly
Libraries shone brightly at the National Center for Families Learning Summit, reports the Urban Libraries Council.

Behind the Wheel: Science behind why bridges ice rapidly
Local columnist uses Wonderopolis to explain why his readers should be careful when driving over bridges.

Congratulations, again!
NCFL congratulates Springdale Public Schools for earning the impressive Race to the Top District grant! Springdale’s leadership in education, particularly for ESL families and family engagement, sets an example for school districts and NCFL will be watching their success. We would also like to clarify
Public Library, Atack, the first librarian to receive this popular award, was greeted by the Nashville mayor at her Welcome Home reception. We’ll have more to share about Atack’s involvement in NPL’s Bringing Books to Life program, but for now, enjoy her feature in The Tennessean.

Furthermore, we could not be more pleased to work with these five communities that were awarded Toyota Family Learning grants of $175,000: Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, East Side House, Houston Public Library, Lincoln Public Schools, and Toberman Neighborhood Center. You can learn more about the history of this grant and these programs in the Press Room at FamiliesLearning.org.

An Inside Look
...an excerpt from EdCentral.org

that a significant portion of the RTT-D grant will be spent on family engagement, though not necessarily exactly half, which was reported in our January newsletter.
Senior Researcher in the Early Education Initiative at the New America Foundation, Dr. Conor Williams, reported from the Families Learning Summit:

"...school improvement is difficult even with parental buy-in. Efforts to boost student learning that do not seek out that advantage are nigh on impossible. Difficult as it may be, meaningful education reform necessarily involves conscious, comprehensive, and consistent outreach to students' families and their communities. This message rang clear at this week's conference -- the challenge is to keep it in mind as attendees return to their silos."

Hear, hear, and click here to read more!

@Wonderopolis

C.C. Chapman @cc_chapman  Feb 18
Parents (and kids)! Watch our new video for 5 steps to Wonder together: bit.ly/1j3XYXE

Ways to Wonder - Wonderopolis.org
from Wonderopolis bit

Jon Fines @JonFines  Feb 18
Love the new @Wonderopolis video. vimeo.com/66917412 featuring the future celebrity & daughter of @WonderPhillips nctisummit

@FamTimeMachine
Have you visited our newest platform for families learning together? There's already been some chatter on social media touting the Family Time Machine for its fun and educational activities that can be worked into everyday moments like bath time or driving to school. Go see it for yourself, and share your own family's fun ways of learning together!

Leticia Tech Savvy Mama @techsavymama Feb 20
@FamTimeMachine - You are most welcome! Love your site and happy to include you with favorite learning sites like @Wonderopolis @teachmama

UrbanLibCouncil @UrbanLibCouncil Feb 19
@FamTimeMachine Love your site and app! Thanks for following us on Twitter!

Mrs. Wilson's Class @MrsWilson'sClass Feb 23
Looking for fun Family time ideas? familytimemachine.com @FamTimeMachine

East Side House @EastSideHouse23 2h
We're always on the hunt for great parent resources like this! @famtimemachine helps families share fun family learning activities! @NCFL