



Afterschool Alliance

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Schoolhouse Rocks Afterschool

Country Blues Rocker Steve Azar Jams with Students at Irving's Project S.A.F.E

Although currently on tour with Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band, country blues musician Steve Azar headed back to school on Thursday, February 8, to hold a special performance for students at the Project S.A.F.E afterschool program at John Haley Elementary in Irving. In addition to jamming with the star musician, the youngsters highlighted their favorite afterschool activities and shared them with the musician. The event was organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

“What an amazing opportunity to be here at Project S.A.F.E and spend time with these bright young kids,” said Azar of the experience. “Afterschool programs provide such a great space for kids to expand on their schoolwork and explore their talents. I wouldn’t be surprised to find some of these talented kids in a band like mine in a few years!”

Before performing some of his current hits for the students, Azar toured various learning stations at the program. Students regularly engage in homework assistance, tutorials and academic enrichment, and recreational activities such as robotics, cooking, origami and Mad Science. Project S.A.F.E is supported by a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, which funds 10 afterschool programs in the Irving Independent School District. The program serves approximately 75 children.

“The Afterschool Alliance is delighted to have the support of such a talented artist,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The fact that Steve Azar could take a break from his hectic tour schedule and spend an afternoon with the kids of Project S.A.F.E. means a great deal to all of us who work to make afterschool programs available to all children.”

Azar performed songs from his new album, *INDIANOLA*. His music has soared to the top of the Billboard charts, including “I Don’t Have to Be Me (Til Monday)” and “Waitin’ on Joe.” Advance copies of his new album are exclusively available at his Seger concert dates through March, with a full national retail and online release expected later in the spring of 2007.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.