

PSI delines

September 2010



Welcome back! We all hope you had a restful and relaxing summer. It's always a challenge to move from restful days of summer to the challenges of school. Late summer and early fall is always a time of great anticipation and even a bit of anxiety as we move into the new school year.

We would like to take a moment to share with you our vision for this coming school year. It is a good time for all of us to reflect on PSI's mission: "PSI is dedicated to providing high-quality school support services cost effectively, to help students improve their grades, attitudes, behavior, and health." The administrative team at PSI will be focusing on these aspirations and how we can better serve our districts and students. We will also be focusing on our school based staff, our most valued asset and how we can better support you in carrying out our mission. As always, your suggestions are welcome.

As with all companies and institutions these days, change is in the air. Only the organizations that continually raise the bar, change their service models, and do more than they did yesterday, will maintain their competitive edge. PSI has done this very well with the help of our school-based and management staff. In this time of budget crisis and economic fears, everyone in education needs to reexamine what they do and consider ways of doing it better. This year we hope to expand our services, broaden our role, expand our programs and remain the one trusted source of staff and programs for our many schools. Please talk with your supervisor and then your principals about your contribution to this critical goal.

As we face yet another year of complex challenges, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your dedication to the students we serve. We applaud each of you for your commitment to PSI and the schools we serve.

Steve Rosenberg, Ph.D.
PSI President

The Case Against Summer Vacation By David Von Drehle



Excerpted from <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2005654,00.html>

"School is regimen; summer is creativity. School is work; summer is play. But when American students are competing with children around the world, who are in many cases spending four weeks longer in school each year, larking through summer is a luxury we can't afford. What's more, for many children especially children of low-income families summer is a season of boredom, inactivity and isolation. Kids can't go exploring if their neighborhoods aren't safe. It's hard to play without toys or playgrounds or open spaces.

Dull summers take a steep toll, as researchers have been documenting for more than a century. Deprived of healthy stimulation, millions of low-income kids lose a significant amount of what they learn during the school year. Call it "summer learning loss," as the academics do, or "the summer slide," but by any name summer vacation is among the most pernicious, if least acknowledged causes of achievement gaps in America's schools. Children with access to high-quality experiences keep exercising their minds and bodies at sleep-away camp, on family vacations, in museums and libraries and enrichment classes. Meanwhile, children without resources languish on street corners or in front of glowing screens. By the time the bell rings on a new school year, the poorer kids have fallen weeks, if not months, behind. And even well-off American students may be falling behind their peers around the world."

For an interesting discussion of this challenge as well as some solutions, read the article from the link above.

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A Periodic Newsletter for PSI's Professional Staff



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Vol. 21, No. 2

A newsletter for the professional staff of PSI published periodically throughout the year.

Mission Statement

PSI is dedicated to providing high-quality services in a cost efficient manner to help students improve their grades, attitudes, behavior, and health. Our professional staff provides innovative resources within the fields of school health, speech/language, prevention, educational specialists and tutoring. We are committed to developing and implementing a customized service and support system to fit the educational and health service needs of students. Services are provided by PSI or a local representative.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS

Carol Weber, B.S., Coordinator

Nancy Brewer, M.Ed., Educational Consultant

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Colleen Lorber, Ph.D., Director

Linda Grimm, Ed.S., Regional Support Supervisor

Robert Murray, Ed.S., Psychology Coordinator

Karen Heichel, M.A., Psychology Supervisor

Julie Goldyn, M.Ed., Psychology Supervisor

Christine Worthington, M.S., C.C.C., Speech Pathology Supervisor

Robin Caston, M.S., C.C.C., Speech Pathology/Therapy Supervisor

HEALTH SERVICES

Lynn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN, Manager

Janet Yue, RN, Manager

Laura Sheeks, RN, Manager

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Ruth Harvey, M.Ed., Coordinator

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION INITIATIVES, SPECIAL PROJECTS

Karen McKelvey, M.Ed., Ed.S., Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

Steven L. Rosenberg, Ph.D., President

Nancy Musci, Administrative Director/New Client Services

From the Desk of:

Colleen Lorber
Educational Support Services
Director

Back To School!

The Educational Support Services Department wants to thank you in advance for the work that you will do this year. We recognize and appreciate the dedication each of you has for your students and schools. The Educational Support Services Team knows how many of you go above and beyond the typical job descriptions and we thank you for all your efforts. We encourage you to 'toot your own horn' by letting your supervisors know about the wonderful activities you are doing at your schools. We would love to publish your accomplishments in PSI newsletters and/or offer presentations to share your ideas with your colleagues. So don't be shy, share what you have achieved!

Do you use know your PSI support team?

As you work through this school year, it is likely you will have a variety of questions concerning such topics as PSI paperwork, state special education forms, navigating relationships and school environments, the students you work with, etc. There is no need to worry because your PSI supervisors are there for you! At PSI we are extremely proud of the system of support teams developed to answer your questions and provide you with colleagues available for consultation. In the Educational Support Services Department we have supervisors dedicated to assuring your experience at your schools is rewarding. Colleen Lorber, Linda Grimm, Bob Murray, Karen Heichel, Julie Goldyn, Robin Caston, and Christine Worthington are available and eager to answer questions and address any concerns you may have this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Do you visit the PSI website?

The PSI website contains both important and interesting information in the world of education and PSI. Keep up to date on PSI

events by visiting the website (www.psi-solutions.org). Under the heading "About PSI", you will find the PSI calendar of events. Here are a few events to keep in mind.

- PSI Fall Meeting: September 24th
- Walk for Autism: September 26th (See the last page of PSIdelines for more information)
- From Phonics to Fluency to Proficient Reading by Dr. Tim Rasinski: October 28th

For Your Professional Development

The Ohio Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) has introduced a new web site at www.autism.ohio.gov. Facilitated by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, IWGA's website will allow you to track the group's progress as well as learn about autism, the latest state initiatives, trainings, and much more.



From the Desk of:

Carol Weber
Educational Specialist Coordinator

The summer has flown by and another school year has begun. PSI has been blessed by staff who are professional and dedicated to the schools and students they serve. We truly appreciate all your hard work and are asking you, in these times of declining educational funding, lower enrollments, school closings and reconfigurations, to make a concerted effort to raise the bar even higher this school year. To remain the leader in educational support services and retain jobs requires all PSI staff, both in the office and in schools, to maximize their efforts and effectiveness. We need to be proactive, creative and innovative. Shake up what you do and how you do it. We all get in ruts. For example, implement new evidenced-based strategies or activities that you have gained from a class or professional development workshop or offer to help with researching the newly revised Ohio Academic Standards and reporting on them to the teaching staff. We cannot assume what we have done in the past will take us into the future. Confirm with your principal that you are meeting the expectations for your position. Also, ask if she/he has any input to something new he/she would like you to implement or be part of this school year. The principal needs to know that we are team players who are open to new ideas, collaboration and are willing and happy to raise the bar!

Cyber Summit Begins on Sept. 20

Fusing the three Rs and the “four Cs” (creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration) is an urgent challenge for educators in the United States. From **Sept. 20** through **Oct. 5**, thousands will gather online for the Cyber Summit on 21st Century Readiness to learn about, discuss and advance this challenge. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) is encouraging Ohio teachers to join national online conversations and benefit from presentations, learning resources, videos and more. Links to register for this **free online event** will be available soon. Follow P21 at www.twitter.com/P21CentSkills for up-to-the-minute information. *Source: Tools for Teachers*

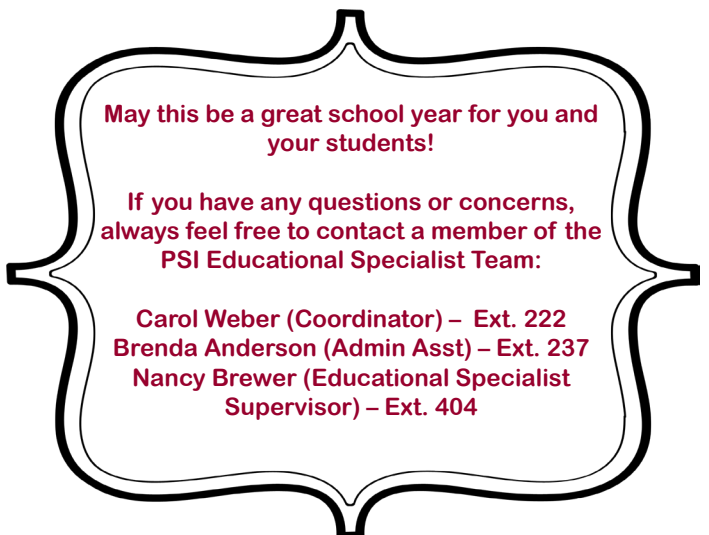
Ohio’s Interagency Work Group on Autism Announces New Website

A new website is launching at www.autism.ohio.gov! Ohio’s Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), facilitated by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, is pleased to announce its new site that will introduce you to the IWGA partnership of state agencies, allow you to follow the group’s progress and give you an opportunity to provide input toward its work. The site offers many features, so you can:

- Learn about autism spectrum disorders
- Keep up-to-date on emerging state initiatives
- Find public resources that can assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families across the lifespan
- Keep informed of autism-related legislation and national new highlights
- Stay current on autism-related training and professional development opportunities.

A guiding principle of Ohio’s Interagency Work Group on Autism is that “Information sharing and open communication build collective wisdom” We hope you enjoy navigating www.autism.ohio.gov and find it helpful – please share the link with others, and feel free to provide your input. *Source: EdResourcesOhio.org*

Don’t forget the **Walk Now for Autism Speaks**, Sunday, September 26, 2010 at Voinovich Park. See the flyer in this issue of PSIdelines for further information.



May this be a great school year for you and your students!

If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact a member of the PSI Educational Specialist Team:

Carol Weber (Coordinator) – Ext. 222
Brenda Anderson (Admin Asst) – Ext. 237
Nancy Brewer (Educational Specialist Supervisor) – Ext. 404



From the Desk of:

Karen McKelvey

Prevention/Intervention & Special Projects

Professional Development News:

Despite the fact that it is early September, PSI has exciting Professional Development Workshops planned through much of the school year. We are particularly excited about the variety of topics and the expertise of our many speakers. All events are described in full on the PSI website but a summary of three upcoming events follows:

Five Reasons Why Students Fail – Effective Interventions for Academic Success

- Fall Meeting for PSI Non-Health Employees, September 24th
- Presented by Melody Tankersley, Ph.D. of Kent State University
- For further information on this topic, contact Karen McKelvey at PSI, ext. 230
- Contact Pat Doolan at PSI, ext. 232 to RSVP
- CEU's/Contact Hours: 3 Hours

From Phonics to Fluency to Proficient Reading

- October 28th from 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
- Cuyahoga County ESC – West Canal Road, Valley View
- Presented by Tim Rasinski, Ph.D. of Kent State University
- \$20 for PSI employees; \$50 for staff of PSI Partner Schools; \$75 all others
- Contact Brenda Anderson at PSI, ext. 237 to register

Social Media and Professionalism for School Teaching Professionals and Administrators – What Guidelines Should Your School Have in Place?

- December 7, 2010 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- Cuyahoga County ESC – West Canal Road, Valley View
- Presented by Hennes-Paynter Communications in partnership with PSI
- \$20 for PSI employees; \$50 for staff of PSI Partner Schools; \$75 all others
- Contact Brenda Anderson at PSI, ext. 237 to register

The *PSI in the a.m. breakfast series* is scheduled to begin on October 5, 2010 with a presentation on *The Next Step in Your Blue Ribbon Application* coordinated by John Bednar, Principal of St. Paschal-Baylon School. This is a follow-up seminar to the one presented April 20, 2010. Perhaps the school in which you are working is applying this year or next for the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. If so, mention this seminar to your administrators and good luck!

On November 16, 2010, the *PSI in the a.m.* breakfast series continues with *Restructuring Your Open House*. The speakers will be SDG consultants Stacey Picard and Sr. Ritamary Welsh, OSU who will share their expertise on such topics as when an Open House is most effective; how to get prospective families in the door of your school; and what to do with the families once you get them there. All of our jobs rely ultimately on the financial health and robust enrollment of our schools. Please mention this seminar to your administrators.

PSI's LanguageCultureConnection services continue to expand. With ChinaLink in its fourth year, Mandarin language teachers are now working in additional elementary schools as well as teaching Mandarin Levels I-III in high schools. PSI now has a unique Mandarin language curriculum for a program that truly sets schools and students apart. In addition, we are partnering with several of the high schools to plan a trip to China for their students during the summer of 2011.

PSI is also placing Spanish Language teachers at the request of some of our partner schools. Principals are utilizing this service in creative ways by offering Spanish instruction to several grade levels, or if funding is an issue, they are offering 9-week units to selected grade levels to maximize the school's financial resources.

Please check to see if your school has a new or returning Mandarin or Spanish language teacher and introduce yourself as a fellow PSI employee! Also, look for the new *LanguageCultureConnection* Newsletter that will be published periodically this school year.

From the Desk of:

Laura Sheeks

Health Services Manager

Once again we have to say good-bye to summer... Hopefully, yours was long and relaxing! As the 2010-2011 school year begins, we would like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new employees. To our returning employees... Welcome back! We look forward to a satisfying and successful year for all.

After many years of service with us, we are saddened have to say good-bye to four long time employees: Judy Cherosky, Ruth Donofrio, Pat Pike and Shirley Wozniak. Their years of dedication to the schools and students they have served will be forever appreciated. We wish them much deserved rest and relaxation in the years to come. Also, it is with great sorrow that we relay the news of the sudden death of Rae Malik. Rae has worked as a Health Aide for us for several years, most recently in Maple Heights. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

As these busy first weeks of school begin, try to keep in mind that it will get better. With EMA's to be gathered and filed, immunization records to be updated, Medical Concerns Lists, medication orders, care plans etc., it may seem there aren't enough hours in the day. Please remember that is important to stick with your assigned schedule or allocation.

To our Health Aides: Please let your nurse know if you have students with orders for Glucagon or Diastat. A specialized training by a Registered Nurse will be necessary. To our Registered Nurses: Please let us know if you are unavailable to do this training so that we can make other arrangements.

Please also keep in mind that the annual Blood Borne Pathogen renewal is an OSHA requirement in order to assure safety and protection for all working in an environment where there is the likelihood an exposure can occur. When you receive the training record and quiz, please complete and return the forms to our office promptly so they can be placed in your file.

Just a few reminders regarding new information:

In April you should have received information in the mail regarding Individual Clinic Visit Records. Again, it is to replace the Daily Clinic Log that was used in prior years. Please review the instructions for using the new record as well as the forms themselves. We have already had a number of phone calls this past spring regarding this change. Please feel free to call with any additional questions as well.

Also remember to watch for the added Tdap or Td vaccine for those of you with 7th graders. Kindergartners will need two doses of varicella as opposed to one. These are new requirements for the 2010-2011 school year.

Lastly, you may have heard of new legislation that has passed regarding Childhood Obesity. SB 210, otherwise known as Healthy Choices for Healthy Children, has a component in which a body mass index (BMI) may be a requirement. We are currently waiting for more information from the ODH, which would include guidelines, parent handouts etc. We will give you more information when we receive it.

We have not yet set a date for our Annual Fall Meeting for Health Services. We will get the date to you as soon as we have it. Feel free to call us in the Health Services Office with any questions or concerns. We are available by phone M-F 8:30-4:30.



WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS

*Join Team PSI and
help find the missing piece!*

What: Our 2nd annual Walk Now for Autism Speaks, a fun-filled, family-friendly 5km walk/run to fund autism research

When: Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 10 a.m.
Rain or Shine!

Where: Voinovich Park, Cleveland, OH
(Team PSI meeting time and place to follow)

Register at
www.WalkNowForAutismSpeaks.org/cleveland

RSVP

Lori Greitzer (lorigreitzer@psi-solutions.org or ext. 239)

