



PSI **d**elines

September 2011

Transitions

By Steve Rosenberg

Both Carol Weber (PSI Educational Specialists) and Janet Yue (PSI Health Services) have been with PSI for many years. Carol has managed several departments at PSI for nearly 25 years. Janet has worked in the PSI Health Services Department for over 17 years. These wonderful and dedicated professionals will be modifying their positions at PSI during the 2011-2012 school year. Each has expertly managed their departments, handling challenging situations with the utmost care and finesse. Throughout their tenure with PSI, their first priority has been to nurture, mentor, defend and promote the interests of the staff in their departments. We all owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for a job exceptionally well done!!

Janet Yue will be supervising on-site staff in the schools we serve, mentoring new staff and serving as a resource to both new and veteran health staff. Carol will be serving as an educational consultant, helping guide developing programs and assisting schools with programs and services. Additionally, Carol will act as a liaison with state agencies for PSI. We continue to look forward to working with them as their roles evolve.

As many of you know, Meredith Bookwalter has joined Lynn Chrostowski, Laura Sheeks, Debbie Osysko and Laura Yost in the coordination of services and management of the PSI Health Services Department. Meredith brings a wonderful blend of clinical and administrative skills with a strong health education background to PSI. She has hit the ground running and has already proven to be a great asset to PSI and the schools we serve.



Meredith Bookwalter
CHES, RN



Layla Nelson, PhD

Layla Nelson has extensive experience in the direct delivery and in the coordination of special education programs. Her work in special education in traditional public schools and in public charter schools will be an invaluable resource to staff in the Educational Specialists Department. Layla has moved enthusiastically to manage the intervention specialists, gifted and remedial teachers working for PSI.

We whole-heartedly welcome both Meredith and Layla to PSI and we look forward to working with them in the years ahead!

Facebook and Twitter Arrive at PSI!

This school year, PSI is working toward building a community internally with the employees of PSI on Facebook and Twitter. This will be a valuable way to send staff emergency updates and information concerning your services. If possible, we were wondering if you could:

- Go to the PSI Facebook page (click the logo below) and “Like” the page.
- On Twitter, click the logo below and choose to follow PSI on Twitter.
- Additionally, these links will be added to the PSI home page shortly, if you, your friends or anyone else who uses Facebook or Twitter, “Like” PSI on Facebook or follow PSI on Twitter it will help us out. You can simply reference them to the home page of PSI (www.psi-solutions.org) once you notice these icons are available there.
- We will be doing the same for LinkedIn as well. That information will come shortly.



{In This Issue} News From...

A Note of Thanks.....	2	Health Services.....	5
Prevention/Intervention.....	3	Educational Support Services.....	6
Educational Specialists.....	4	Art that Helps Heal.....	7

A Periodic Newsletter for PSI's Professional Staff



PSIdelines | September 2011
Vol. 22, No. 3

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

Layla Nelson, Ph.D., 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

Meredith Bookwalter, B.Ed., CHES, RN, Manager
Lynn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN, Manager
Debbie Osysko, 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...

The PSI Staff

Thank you From ALL of Us!

Time sheets, databases, allocations, contracts, fingerprinting, phone calls, billing, typing, printing, organizing, running interference and simply providing support are just some of the many details coordinated by PSI's amazing team of administrative professionals—WHEW!! Administrative Director, Nancy Musci, manages this team. It is never more apparent how much work they all do than at the beginning of the school year. Having worked the entire summer, this group of professionals makes it all happen for hundreds of PSI employees.

To Brenda Anderson, Nancy Berlan, Pat Doolan, Lori Greitzer, Tammy Lyman, Marilyn Quercioli, Laura Seeley, Jackie Weideman, and Patty Wey, **THANK YOU**, for all you do so well!





From the Desk of:

Karen McKelvey
 Prevention/Intervention Services &
 Special Projects Coordinator

Prevention/Intervention News

Despite the fact that it is early September, PSI has exciting Professional Development Workshops planned through much of the school year. We are proud of the variety of topics and the expertise of our many speakers. All events will be described in full on the PSI web site and in employee mailings. Upcoming later this month at the PSI non-health Fall Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2011:

Keynote: Stephen R. Sroka, PhD

- International speaker, author, teacher, professor & consultant
- “The Power of One – Making a Difference”
- “It Takes a Child to Raze a Village: Proficiency or Reality Testing?”

Afternoon break-out sessions

Teaching to a “T”—Strategies for Staff and Students

- Stephen R. Sroka, PhD
- Methods for engaging reluctant learners
- Information on building relationships, partnerships and leadership skills

ESL & Special Education: Strategies for Success

- Layla Nelson, PhD
- Build strategies for English Language Learners who also need special education services
- Methods for supporting ELLs in both inclusion and small group settings

Helping Schools Integrate Technology into their Curriculum

- Stephanie DeMichele-PSI Educational Specialist
- Meeting the Needs of 21st Century Learners
- What is a digital native?
- Applying real-life learning applications

The *PSI in the a.m.* breakfast series will continue throughout the school year with such topics as *Helping Teachers who Have Special Education Students, I’ve Got my Test Data...Now What!, Sexting/Texting and Cyber Bullies-How to Deal?, and Student Wellness Can Drive Your School’s Report Card*. Please mention these events to your building administrators as a value-added feature offered by PSI.

House Bill 276-House Bill 1

This is a reminder that all PSI professionals must complete the HB 276-HB 1 Safety and Violence Prevention Training (which now extends the training requirement to middle and high school personnel) within two years of their employment with PSI and must send documentation of the same to Patty Wey at the PSI office. If you were employed by PSI prior to the

2008-2009 school year, you should have completed the training by March 30, 2009. Health Aides are encouraged but not required to complete this training. There was one PSI sponsored training on August 19, 2011. If you were not able to attend, visit the link www.nwoesc.k12.oh.us or contact your Service Director/Coordinator for information on how to receive the training elsewhere.

PSI’s **LanguageCultureConnection** services continue to expand. With ChinaLink in its fifth year, Mandarin language teachers are now working in additional elementary schools as well as teaching Mandarin Levels I-IV in high schools.

PSI is also placing additional 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. PSI is now also partnering with **Viva Spanish!** to supplement our Spanish Language Services. **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.

TESOL/ESL Services

Now in its third year, ESL services are being offered in schools in Cleveland and Columbus. *Coordinated by Kay Almy*, these services include:

- Direct services for identified students
- ESL Teacher/Classroom Teacher Collaboration
- ESL Customized Professional Development workshops
- English language assessments

It is often assumed that if a student speaks English, he or she can also read and write English. This is often not the case. Another concern is that students who have limited English miss much of the meaning of everyday conversations. If you have concerns that a student in your school is in need of TESOL/ESL services, please contact kayalmy@psi-solutions.org for information.

From the Desk of: *Educational Specialists*

Introducing Layla Nelson, PhD, Coordinator of Educational Specialists

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Layla Nelson to the Educational Specialists team as our new full-time coordinator. She is working alongside Carol Weber during Carol's transition into the role of Educational Consultant for PSI. Dr. Nelson will be managing intervention specialists, remedial teachers, gifted teachers, and special education clerks for both non-public and charter schools. She will serve under the broader Educational Support Services Department headed by Dr. Colleen Lorber and will also be managing Language Arts Instructors among her many supervisory roles. In addition, Dr. Nelson will be providing professional development on topics related to special education.

Since 1997, Dr. Nelson has worked as a special education teacher and administrator. For the past 10 years, she has also worked as an adjunct professor of education. Dr. Nelson holds her Ph.D. in Special Education Leadership and her M.A. in Special Education. She is also licensed to teach gifted and ESL students.

Dr. Nelson is originally from the Dayton area, and she moved to Cleveland recently for her husband's new job at University Hospitals. She looks forward to supporting the staff and schools that work with PSI.

From the Desk of Layla Nelson, PhD

"Help! Help! Mrs. Nelson!" came the desperate call from the back of my student line. I rushed over to find three students gently lowering Riley onto the floor. As Riley began to convulse, I panicked. It had been years since my first aid training—was I supposed to roll her onto her side? Hold onto her? Clear the area? Before I had time to unfreeze from my fear, the regular classroom teacher stepped into the hallway and took over.

That afternoon, I met with the school nurse to discuss Riley's situation. She pointed out to me that many of the students I work with have medical issues, and I should educate myself before something serious happens again. As an intervention specialist, I had been overlooked as someone who would need to know about student medical needs. We spent the next hour copying the medical forms that were given to the general education teachers at the beginning of the school year and each time a new student enrolled. Since I served students from 9 different homerooms, my knowledge of their medical needs was spotty at best. When looking over the medical forms, I learned that four of my students had food allergies, one was allergic to bees, and two had asthma (with asthma plans in their files).



Dr. Layla Nelson

I learned that one student had diabetes, and another had sickle-cell anemia. I also learned what I should have known from the beginning of the year—that Riley has epilepsy, and she has a written plan that has been shared with her homeroom teacher.

When I learned this new information, I felt terrible about the risks that I had taken with my students already that year. For example, the nurse pointed out that I shouldn't take my students on walks outside without taking along a staff member who could administer their emergency medications. I also learned to look for warning signs of problems with diabetes, anaphylactic shock, and seizures. My lesson learned in this situation was to communicate with other staff members at the beginning of the school year about the health concerns of my students.

Following are some recommendations to help educational specialists start off your school year safely:

- Talk to your principal and school nurse about getting permission to have copies of student health forms.
- Obtain copies of student health forms from the nurse or general education teacher.
- Review forms for potential health problems.
- Determine a plan for preventing health problems.
- Become aware of signs and symptoms of a health crisis, and familiarize yourself with crisis action plans.
- Communicate with the school nurse, the classroom teacher,



From the Desks of: *Laura Sheeks & Meredith Bookwalter* Health Services

Once again we have to say goodbye to summer... Hopefully, yours was long and relaxing! As the 2011-2012 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.

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 it is important to adhere to 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 an exposure could 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:

The latest information regarding BMI Screenings is that districts can continue with the option to waive.

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

Linda Wilson will be continuing her role as substitute coordinator. Marybeth McCormick will be assisting in this role. Please remember to call before 10PM or after 6:30AM. Also, try to let them know as soon as you know that you will be absent to assure adequate coverage.

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.



PSI Special Announcement

PSI employee, Vicki Goodrich, is the recipient of the 2011 Susan J. Kramer Award for Excellence in School Nursing.

Congratulations, Vicki!



From the Desk of:

Colleen Lorber

Educational Support Services Director

Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!

The Educational Support Services Team would like to welcome you back to a new school year with PSI. We encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities PSI offers including professional development workshops, supervision support, online caseload managers, resource binders, etc. We look forward to an exciting and successful school year!

Tips for beginning the school year...

1. Meet with your principal within the first few days. Make sure you are on the same page in terms of the goals for the upcoming year. Confirm the most effective way to communicate with your principal.
2. Meet with the special education team within the first few days. Assure that each member knows his/her role in the IAT and evaluation/intervention plan processes. Review the list of students that must be addressed at the beginning of the year.
3. Review the number of protocols you have for the year. If you are in a charter school, let Pat Doolan (psychs) or Lori Greitzer (SLPs, OTs/PTs) know in ADVANCE when you will need more protocols. If you are in a non-public school, give your clerk enough time to place the order before you will run out.
4. Be careful when using templates for reports. Make sure that you review each report for content, correct names, gender, etc. Be sure your narrative matches the scores listed. If you use the scoring reports, you must add an individual profile, and explain what the child could or could not do. Do not just describe the task demands and the range the score falls within. We have had many discussions with special education teams and principals in reference to these issues. Mistakes happen but they should be RARE!
5. Have fun! Enjoy the unique positions you each have in the school buildings. Cherish the moment you realize you may have just inspired a young scholar. Laugh at the funny things that kids say. Remember that each of us work with children for one ultimate purpose: to make the lives of at least one child brighter each year. Thank you for being that child's light!

As always the members of the Educational Support Services Team are dedicated to providing support, consultation, and guidance to each of you. Do not hesitate to contact Colleen Lorber, Linda Grimm, Bob Murray, Karen Heichel, Julie Goldyn, Robin Caston, Christine Worthington, Layla Nelson, and Nancy Brewer as they are available and looking forward to working with you this year.

See you all at Fall Meeting on September 26th, 2011!





Art That Helps *Heal*

At St. Columbkille School in Parma, Ohio, both the art and art therapy programs are taught by Sharon Nahra, PSI's registered art therapist, now in her fourth year. Principal Rita Klement is extremely pleased. "Sharon has advanced the art program, and art therapy has done wonders for students who have experienced personal troubles."

The Expressive Art Therapy Program is pre-K through 8. Each class meets once a week for 45 minutes. Basic art techniques with such media as watercolor, oil pastel and collage are taught with the emphasis on creative expression and effort. "I don't criticize," Sharon says, "I'm not grading on that. Kids in these classes have a lot of freedom." Classes begin with a five-minute explanation of what the class will do. "Sometimes I struggle at the beginning with kids who are insecure about their art. Once they get rid of that, they go!"

With the Art Therapy Program, students are accepted through referrals from parents and teachers. These sessions meet once a week for 25-30 minutes. What is stressed is identifying feelings such as anger, grief, disappointment, separation, and bullying, among others. Students are given suggestions about coping with these concerns, as well as relaxation techniques to aid the process. Recently, a project involved a feelings book where students compiled ten 9 x 12 pages of how their weekend went. Each session focused on a different emotion such as: emotion-sad, emotion-happy, emotion-silly, and so forth. The students would write and draw about the emotion in their Feelings Book.



Sharon Nahra, left, and Principal Rita Klement

Transferring feelings into art

Classes begin with a five-minute explanation of what the class will do. Recently, a project involved a feelings book where students compiled ten 9 x 12 pages of how their weekend went. Each page had pictures and writings such as: emotion-sad, emotion-happy, emotion-silly, and so forth. Another project dealt with grief under the theme: Sad isn't Bad. One girl, hurt by the loss of her grandfather, made a large collage of everything that defined their relationship: cats, shared jokes, photographs and remembered miscellany. Still another was about a boy who lost his father. He did one set of individual heart-shaped prints with words on each print to give to loved ones and then another set of the same prints assembled into a large poster.

It's through the art therapy classes that methods to counter bullying are introduced. "Hard as it is," Sharon adds, "we can't let others validate who we are." Eventually, empowerment builds up self-esteem and self-confidence. Similarly, when dealing with anger, students take deep breaths and then draw pictures on how to handle it. They also practice: Stop, Think and then React.

It is apparent that the ways to transform student anxiety, stress and emotional pain into constructive activity are boundless.

What initially started as a new combination at St. Columbkille—both art and art therapy programs—is now gaining momentum in its fourth year. Student work has been shown on local television and exhibited at the Cleveland Institute of Art. "There's so much going on!" says Principal Rita Klement. "Students interact better and express themselves creatively, becoming more self-reliant at the same time. Art therapy is a great way to foster healing. When they think better about themselves, students learn better."

