


In the Face of Adversity ... We Step Up To The Plate!

A Note from PSI President, Steven Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Our client schools continually tell us how pleased they are with the performance of PSI staff and the commitment we all demonstrate to doing the best we can for the schools and students we serve. Staff cut backs in schools continue to worry everyone working in public, non public and charter schools. However, we are very pleased that so many PSI staff have been offering additional programs and broadening their roles in their schools that we have had few occasions where PSI staff positions have been reduced in time.

We all need to be cognizant that budgetary concerns are becoming part of the everyday landscape throughout the American education system. We are very pleased however, that throughout this past year we have had very few layoffs in any of our departments. This is due to the creativity, commitment and dedication of all our staff and managers plus the commitment by school administrators to continue PSI's valuable services. We are doing everything in our power to maximize this situation to protect the students and schools we work with and of course, the jobs of PSI's most valuable asset: YOU!

Because of the high quality services provided by PSI staff in every department, we remain confident that we will proceed into the future stronger and more vibrant than we are today. There are many, many excellent examples of this commitment that make PSI strong. Just recently, for example, Aureola Scheurle was profiled in several local newspapers including *The Times Leader*. Ari has worked for PSI for many years as a member of our School Psychology staff in Southern Ohio. She created, designed and delivered an exciting new program at her school, 'Playing Fair' -- an anti-bullying prevention program! It is excellent programs and interventions like these that help our students and underscore the importance of our services to the schools we serve. This has never been more important than it is today. Congratulations to Ms. Scheurle and to all PSI staff for a job well done in a very difficult time!! 



Ari Scheurle

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Partners for Success and Innovation

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

MISSION STATEMENT

PSI is dedicated to providing high quality services in a cost effective manner to help students improve their grades, attitudes, behavior, and health. Our professional staff provides innovative resources within the fields of education, school psychology, school health, speech/language, prevention 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.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS

Carol Weber, BS, Coordinator
Nancy Brewer, MEd, Educational Consultant

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Colleen Lorber, PhD, Director
Linda Grimm, EdS, Regional Support Supervisor
Robert Murray, EdS, Psychology Coordinator
Karen Heichel, MA, Psychology Supervisor
Christine Worthington, MS, CCC,
Speech Pathology Supervisor
Robin Caston, MS, CCC,
Speech Pathology Supervisor

HEALTH SERVICE TEAM

Lynn Chrostowski, RN, BSN, MSN, NCSN,
Manager
Janet Yue, RN, Manager
Laura Sheeks, RN, Manager

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Ruth Harvey, MEd, Coordinator

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION INITIATIVES & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Karen McKelvey, MEd, EdS, Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

Steven L. Rosenberg, PhD, President
Nancy Musci, Administration/New Client Services

From the Desk of Colleen Lorber

Director of Educational Support Services

Greetings from the Educational Support Services Department! We have rounded the corner into the second half of the school year. Time flies when you are having fun! As professionals, we all must continue to educate ourselves on new research, new programs, and new initiatives in our fields and the fields of the colleagues we work with. In the crazy hustle and bustle of work and life, it is often difficult to take the time to update ourselves on these new topics. Below I have listed a few areas that may spark your interest. If any of the topics seem especially interesting to you, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are always looking for new workshop ideas and/or fall meeting ideas.

- The American Speech Language Hearing Association's Literacy Gateway is an excellent resource for documents such as "Roles and Responsibilities of Speech-Language Pathologists with Respect to Reading and Writing in Children and Adolescents". The Literacy Gateway also offers journal articles, continuing education opportunities, and links to resources that focus on literacy and schools. Find this and related topics at <http://www.asha.org>.
- The National Autism Center is offering a FREE manual on their website. The manual, *Evidence-Based Practice and Autism in the Schools* can be downloaded from the National Autism Center's website. (<http://www.nationalautismcenter.org>). You can also purchase a printed copy of the manual for \$24.95 via the website. A NEW National Standards Report, published 2009, reviews a number of studies concerning treating/working with students with autism. A summary of this report can be found in the latest edition of the National Association of School Psychologists' Communiqué or by going to the National Autism Center's website listed above.
- The National Center for Learning Disabilities offers many resources to assist both parents and educators in working with students with learning disabilities. The website offers information on "Effective Teaching Practices", "Monitoring Progress", and "Universal Design for Learning". Within each of these topics, you will find a number of interesting publications with usable strategies and ideas for the classroom. Access this information on the National Center for Learning Disabilities' website (www.nclld.org/at-school/especially-for-teachers).

Check out our own *Julie Goldyn's* cover article in the winter 2010 issue of *The Ohio School Psychologist*: The article is entitled, *Students in Foster Care: An Overview of the Challenges for Students, School Psychologists, and Educational Personnel*.

Mark Your Calendars

Spring 2010 Conferences and PSI Events

- PSI is sponsoring a workshop on the NEW Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS) on February 25th.
- National Association of School Psychology Convention; March 2-6 in Chicago
- Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention; March 11-13 in Columbus
- The Educational Support Services department will be offering a workshop in April for the SLPs and all others interested. Andrea Brewer, professor at the University of Akron, will be presenting on topics such as stuttering, cluttering, and therapy ideas for remediation. Look for details soon.



PSI MINIGRANT AWARD

We invite school psychologists and others to apply for Minigrant support for intervention activities at any of the Tier One, Tier Two or Tier Three levels. At least one grant to support each of the three levels will be awarded in 2010 based on an application-and-review process (i.e., a minimum of three awards in the current cycle).

Interventions may be conducted anywhere that children meet for the purpose of receiving an education. The purpose of each \$250 *Minigrant Award* is to support the purchase of incentives for children, posters, consumable materials and similar resources to aid the implementation of an intervention. Not covered are cash payments or compensation for those who make application (excepting that awards *may* be used to support the dissemination of the results of the intervention ~ such as travel to OSPA to present on the activity, for example). A requirement for each primary awardee is that a brief data-based description of the intervention and the outcome will be provided to the Editor of *The Ohio School Psychologist* for publication consideration in *TOSP*, following the completion of the intervention activity.

Each applicant for a 2010 PSI Minigrant Award should submit the following information:

A cover-page giving the project name and the name, affiliation and contact information for the primary applicant; the name, affiliation and contact e-mail for any co-awardees; and the Tier-level.

On separate pages that do not include any indication of the applicant's identity, there should be a 500-word (maximum) description of the project ("what will you do?"); a tentative budget ("what will the funds be used for?"); and an indication of the metric planned for use to determine the effectiveness of the intervention ("what were the results?").

Applications should be addressed to **Dr. Colleen Lorber**, Director of Education Support Services, PSI; they may be e-mailed (colleenlorber@psi-solutions.org) or sent to **PO Box 468, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087-0468**. The two

sections of the application will be separated and each application will be 'blind-reviewed.'

Awards will be made within 30-days of the closing date; funds will be remitted to the primary awardee upon the submission of an Invoice and receipts. **Applications for the 2010 PSI Minigrant Program should be received by Dr. Lorber at the PSI office by March 1st, 2010.** ✕✕



From the Desk of Carol Weber

Educational Specialist Coordinator

Even though it is February, I would like to extend to all of you wishes for a Happy New Year! Thank you once again for the professional and caring way you work with students, staff and parents. It is your dedication and expertise that makes PSI a quality educational service provider.

The schools we serve are in or starting the process of planning services for the 2010-2111 school year (SY). The economy, decreases in school funding and lower enrollment in many non public schools continues to have a negative impact on many school budgets. In times such as these, students still require the special services provided by PSI staff. Please take time to discuss and review with your principal the services you provide to students; your case load for this year and your anticipated case load for the next school year; and the principal's plans for your position for the 2010-2011 SY.

It Happens Every Year

Tentative Plans 2010-2011 School Year – The tentative plans sheet will be mailed out in March, 2010.

Time Remaining Notices – Nancy Berlan, in our Bookkeeping Department, mailed out time remaining notices at the end of January, 2010. This notice covered all your time worked through December 31, 2009. Nancy's next notice will be sent out in March, 2010 and will note all the days you have worked through February, 2010. It will also tell you how many days you have left to work. Please check your calendar to make sure you can schedule in all the days you have left, as days not worked have a big impact on your pay.

Timesheets – Please call Brenda at extension 237 if you need timesheets sent out to you.

Ohio Changes Its Mind... Again

Background check revisions take effect January 1, 2010 - House Bill 1 has changed certain background check requirements for licensed educators in Ohio beginning **Jan. 1, 2010**: Educators who are *renewing* a license or permit and have lived continuously in the state of Ohio for the previous five years, and have a BCI background check on file with ODE, will need to complete only an FBI criminal background check once every five years. (Currently, they must complete both BCI and FBI checks whenever they renew.)

Educators who *have not lived continuously in the state* for the past five years will need to complete both a BCI and FBI background check. Educators with *multiple licenses* only need to submit the required background checks when they are applying for the renewal of the license or permit that is of the *longest duration*.

Educators who hold a *permanent certificate* are still required to submit the required background checks once every five years. Permanent certificate holders who have lived continuously in Ohio for those five years, however, will only need to submit FBI background checks. *Initial applicants* for a license must complete both BCI and FBI criminal background checks. These checks need to be less than 365 days old to be considered valid for licensing purposes. (Information Source: Tools for Teachers – December, 2009)



From the Desk of Carol Weber...continued

Educational Specialist Coordinator

Are You Wired, Connected, Linked? Your Students Are...

A very informative *eSN Special Report on Convergent Education* can be found on the **eSchoolNews.com** website. (You may need to register to access this premium content. Registration is free and easy and only needs to be done once.) "Technology has changed the way the world works, and inevitably, it's changing the nature of learning as well." This article reviews: the gulf between how students learn and the way many of us continue to teach – linear vs. nonlinear, multimedia education; how students are wired to different types of technology 24/7; free online learning tools that engage students and link them to other students, ideas and information; how do schools adapt to convergent education; textbooks vs. online content.

We Are On Board

PSI has formed an advisory board that includes members from all the educational support services divisions (Health Services continues with its own advisory board.) The first joint meeting was held in November, 2009. The representatives for the Educational Specialists are: Dawn Carter, Kathleen Grau and Suzanne Vitanza. One of these members has or will be contacting you, via e-mail or letter, to invite your suggestions and/or concerns to be shared at the next advisory meeting on April 14, 2010.

And Away We Go...

Conferences and institutes for Ohio's educators:

(Science Education Council of Ohio) February 25-27, 2010, Columbus Convention Center, Columbus.

OCTELA (Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts) March 26-27, 2010, Doubletree Hotel, Worthington. **OFLA (Ohio Foreign Language Association)** April 8-10, 2010, Hyatt Hotel on Capitol Square, Columbus. **OCSS (Ohio Council for the Social Studies)** April 15-16, 2010, Holiday Inn – Worthington, Ohio. For more information about these events, go to: <http://www.ohiorc.org>.

And Last but Not Least

A great big thank you and good bye to Frank Lupica, one of our PSI Educational Specialist Supervisors. Frank and his wife Diane moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where they will be able to enjoy the weather, golf and retirement. Frank has done a wonderful job supervising our teachers and we will all miss him. Nancy Brewer will be picking up some of Frank's duties for this second semester. We at PSI wish Frank and Diane only the best! ✂



From the Desk of Lynn Chrostowski

Health Services Manager

The PSI Health Services Team extends a Happy New Year to all!


Briefly, the CDC reported the week of Nov. 22-28 2009 a decline in flu activity. Flu related hospitalizations and deaths also continue to decline, but remain high compared to what is expected for this time of year. Many of the schools served by PSI health staff participated in H1N1 vaccine clinics. Thanks to all PSI staff who assisted local health departments in the effort.

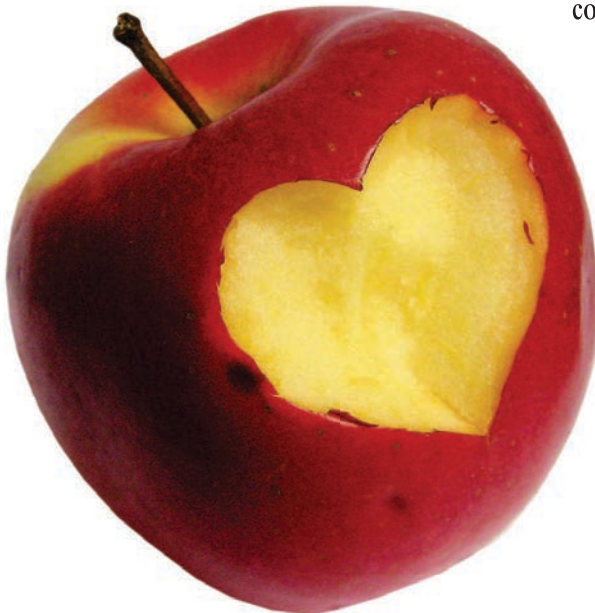
This time of year, vision and hearing screenings should be finishing up. Planning for scoliosis screenings should be underway for students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grade. For anyone needing a review, refer to the screening section (pages 42-52) in the Health Resource Guide. Health aides who have been trained may do the initial screening, but a nurse will perform any secondary screenings and make the referrals.

There is an online powerpoint presentation on Scoliosis done by Connie Poe-Kochert, CNP at the Spine & Pediatric Orthopedics dept. at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. This presentation is a great review with pictures included. To access the presentation go to www.rainbowbabies.org, click on health professionals, click on nursing programs, then click on nursing resources and this will take you to the scoliosis screening guide.

Scoliosis schedules for screenings by the Nurse Practitioner and participating physicians will be emailed/mailed once completed. There are changes in the immunization requirements effective for the 2010-2011 school year. A new Directors Journal Entry along with updated pages for the Health Service Guide that reflect the new changes will be forthcoming.

The basic changes include; the addition of a Tdap or Td booster requirement for 7th grade (effective with the 2010-2011 school year and progressively thereafter), the addition of a 2nd dose of varicella (a progressive requirement starting with kindergarten 2010), and a requirement that the final dose of polio be administered on or after the 4th birthday regardless of the number of doses (effective with the 2010-2011 school year and progressively thereafter). Once you receive the updated information feel free to call the Health Services office with questions.

Just a reminder, if your school has a snow day and you wish to use a leave day, circle the date on your time sheet and send in the yellow half sheet leave day form completed. If you are not using a leave day, just write "snow day" in the box for that date. Tentative plans will be sent out sometime in early spring. As always, if you have any questions please contact PSI Health Services at 1-800-841-4774 ext. 226. 



From the Desk of Karen McKelvey

Prevention/Intervention & Special Projects

Prevention/Intervention News

Prevention/Intervention programs for the second semester began February 1, 2010. Staff is facilitating their SDFSCA programs as well as their Prevention grant programs. These grants consist of three additional sessions on Trashing Talking, Bullies to Buddies or REACT Booster for those schools that have previously had REACT and want a refresher of the concepts. Other Prevention grants include professional development, wellness programs, a presentation on Sexual Harassment or a marketing consultation. PSI Prevention schools have been appreciative of these grants which have maximized their choice of PSI as their SDFSCA program provider.

Special Projects News

LanguageCultureConnection staff is currently going through their supervision process with class observations and principal feedback on Mandarin and Spanish instruction. The programs and teachers are receiving positive comments on this exciting initiative. If you are part of the LCC staff and have not been observed, this will take place in the next month.

There are two **PSI in the a.m.** workshops scheduled for February. Jerry Jindra will be presenting in the Columbus/Dayton/Cincinnati areas February 9-10, 2010 on "Effective Marketing Strategies for Schools: The Practical Survival Solution." In the NE Ohio area, Marsha Michaels and Karen McKelvey will be presenting February 24, 2010 on "Parents Who Know *Better* Than Educators...How to Deal with Them *and* Their Kids." If your school administrator wants more information on these presentations, have them contact Brenda Anderson at the PSI office, ext. 237. ✂✂

Prevention/Intervention staff reminders:

Please submit your schedule and information sheets as soon as you have confirmed with all schools; please submit your monthly timesheets to Brenda Anderson. *Thanks!*



PSI Obituaries

Sad News

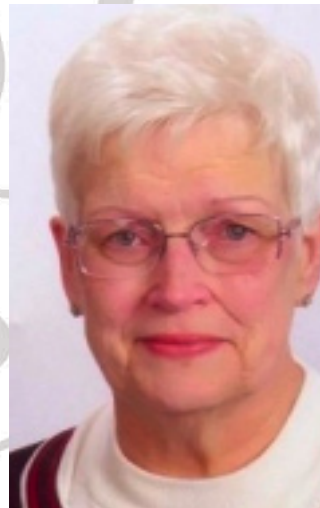
PSI lost two members of its extended family in February. Diane Urban, a member of our psychology staff for many years, died suddenly early this month. Diane is survived by her teen aged daughter. Diane worked in a number of capacities for PSI for many years; most recently as the full time psychology member at St. Edwards High School In Lakewood, Ohio. Diane was a critical part of St. Eds as she was at PSI. Diane received PSI's BEST Practice Award on several different occasions for the excellent services she performed and for her dedication to the schools and students she served. She will be missed by all of us at PSI and by the various schools she served over the years.

Maureen Abraham passed away February 2, 2010. Although Maureen has only worked for PSI for several years, she quickly became an important part of the schools she served and in PSI's Language Arts Department. Maureen worked in the Hope Academies in Greater Cleveland, helping students with their academics. She received PSI's BEST Practice Award for her exceptional service to the schools and students. Maureen is survived by her husband, children and grandchildren. Maureen will be missed by all the students, teachers and colleagues at PSI. ❄️

❄️ **Our collective condolences to Diane's and Maureen's families.** ❄️



Diane Urban



Maureen Abraham