From the Desk of Karen McKelvey

From the Desk of Health Services From the Desk of Julie Wood

From the Desk of Mike Tornow

PSIdelines



We've reached halfway!

I think I say this every December...

I can't believe we have reached the halfway point in the school year.

I hope you have had an enjoyable first half. I wish you all the best holiday season filled with good times of sharing and caring with family and friends.

From the Desk of... Colleen Lorber, Ph.D. Executive Director of Client Services

The 2016 Presidential Election

The following article has been lifted from the National Association of School Psychologists' website. The article offers suggestions of support during this time of change.

NASP Guidance for Reinforcing Safe, Supportive and Positive School Environments for All Students

The 2016 election has been long and fraught with strong emotions. As a nation, we have much to do to heal the divisiveness that has resulted. As parents, caregivers, and educators, we have a critical responsibility to help children and youth feel safe and secure and learn how to engage with others of differing viewpoints in a peaceful, tolerant, and respectful manner. As always, schools play a critical... (continued on Pg. 2)



Educational Specialists • Prevention/Intervention • School Health • School Psychology • Special Education Speech/Language • Title I • English Learners • PSICertify • Professional Development

PSIdelines, December 2016

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

Mission Statement

PSI is the market leader in high-quality educational and health services to schools. We strive in everything we do to gain the trust of our clients and to meet or exceed their expectations for quality, value, and responsiveness.

Vision Statement

PSI is The Trusted Provider of High-Quality Educational and Health Services to Schools. Together, we create the foundation that supports all students to learn, thrive, and grow.

Educational Support Services

Julie Wood, Ph.D. Manager of Educational Support Services

Linda Grimm, Ed.S. Regional Support Supervisor

Bob Murray, Ed.S. Coordinator of School Psychology

Karen Heichel, M.A. Supervisor of Psychology

Christine Worthington, M.A., CCC-SLP Supervisor of Speech/Language Pathology

Anita Michael, M.A., CCC-SLP Supervisor of Speech /Language Pathology

Robin Caston, M.A. Manager: Jon Peterson/Autism Scholarships

Kay Almy, M.A.T. Manager of ESL & Foreign Language Services

Kelly Wetula, BS.Ed. Supervisor of Education Specialists

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Health Services

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Lynn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN Director of Staff and Clinic Services

Debbie Osysko, RN Manager of Client Services

Barb Taylor Ross, RN Manager of Staff and Clinic Services

Laura Sheeks, RN Manager of Staff and Clinic Services

Paula Harris, RN, CNN, CHPN Manager of Special Needs Services

Dave Lince, B.A. Regional Coordinator-ESS and Health

Mike Tornow, MA, P.C.C. PSI Coordinator of School Partnerships

Prevention/Intervention & Professional Development

Karen McKelvey, Ed.S. Director

Administration

Steven L. Rosenberg, Ph.D. President and CEO

Colleen Lorber, Ph.D. Executive Director of Client Services

Nancy Musci Executive Director of Operations & Admin.

The 2016 Presidential Election Continued from the Cover

role in this process by creating a positive learning environment for all students. It is imperative that educators facilitate respectful discussions among students and safeguard the well-being of those who may feel at risk. Below are recommendations for how adults can support children and youth in the days and months ahead.

Reinforce a sense of positive community.

Establishing positive relationships between adults and students is foundational to safe, successful learning environments. Such relationships are built on a sense of mutual trust and respect. Maintain culturally and linguistically responsive practices and ensure that students and their families feel connected and engaged. We function as a nation only when we have that shared sense of relationship; helping children identify and develop those relationships is vital.

Model and teach desired behaviors.

We know that adult actions and attitudes influence children. Adults can help children and youth manage their reactions to events in the news and their communities by understanding their feelings, modeling healthy coping strategies, and closely monitoring their own emotional states and that of those in their care. Identifying and redirecting negative thoughts and feelings can help to teach children social–emotional skills and problem solving.

Reassure children that they are and will be okay.

Many children and youth are aware of the intensity of this election, and some may feel at risk. It is important to reinforce strategies to ensure both physical and psychological safety. Remind adults and students of the importance of supporting each other during difficult times and acknowledge people will have a variety of emotions. If students feel physically or psychologically unsafe, they need to know how to report incidences, and trust that adults will be there to validate and respond to their concerns.

Help children manage strong emotions

The intense discussions, media images, and messages that they were exposed to during the election can trigger a range of strong emotions. Some children may experience anger or stress. Others may feel a sense of excitement and hope. Children's emotions often spill over into schools. Help children understand the range of emotions that they are feeling and to learn to express them in appropriate and respectful ways. For children experiencing stress, we can help by spending time with them, encouraging them to talk about their feelings, maintaining a sense of normalcy in their schedules and activities, and providing coping strategies.

For more, please visit NASP <u>www.nasponline.org</u> Or visit <u>http://ow.ly/U3Uc306JxvP</u>

Refer A Friend

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We want to hire additional talented, caring and passionate people like you! To thank you for your referrals, we are offering a cash bonus! Click here to find out more: <u>http://psi-solutions.org/refer-a-friend/</u>

December 2016

Professional Development and Prevention/Intervention News

Attended by over 200 staff, PSI's **Educational Support Services** annual fall meeting was held on September 16, 2016. This was an opportunity to recognize those employees whose outstanding service to their schools was honored by their principals as well as to present longevity awards to many of our employees. In particular, recognized for **20 years of service** in both ESS and Health were: Nancy Berlan, Jane Gardner, Mary Kate Kocsan, Rosemary Kozak, Karen McKelvey, Martha Schilling, Laura Seeley and Nancy LoPresti. Honored for 25 and 35 years respectively were Irene Miller, Betty Whitaker and Debra Lavely-Planisek! **PSI is a great place to work** as evidenced by these longevity milestones along with an additional 18 employees who received their 10-year award and 9 who received their 15-year award. We ALL celebrated the fact that *PSI was chosen as The Cleveland Plain Dealer Top Workplaces 2016*.

The keynote address was *Dealing with Stress: Not Quite Burnt but Crispy Around the Edges* presented by Bill DeMeo, PhD. His presentation received overwhelmingly positive reviews and much enthusiasm for his delivery style that involved active participation and role-playing (see separate article on page 4). The afternoon sessions included a choice for attendees from the topics of *Suicide Prevention & Education for Students* presented by Karen McKelvey, EdS or an additional workshop by Dr. DeMeo entitled, *Differentiated Instruction—One Size Doesn't Fit All* (see page 8).



Maureen Pisanick makes points about advocacy for students with Celiac Disease and food allergies.

PSI's Health Services also held their annual fall meeting on October 22, 2016. Again, staff was honored for outstanding service and longevity awards (see names above). Several topics were presented including *Celiac Disease and Its Implications in the School Setting* by Maureen Pisanick, RD, LD and *Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution* by Bill DeMeo, PhD. The morning was completed by health services updates, raffle prizes and fellowship.

WINTER WOES!

Consider signing up for WKYC's FREE text alerts on your mobile device for iAlert closings & delays and severe weather alerts at <u>http://bit.ly/WKYCTexts</u>. You'll get advice about weather problems & school closings. You can make the alerts you receive specific to particular counties or to individual schools to save being bombarded with irrelevant text alerts. <u>http://www.wkyc.com/news/mobile/text/</u>



December 2016



Not Quite Burnt, But Crispy Around the Edges

PSI staff was recently educated on a *special needs area* that affects us all: dealing with stress in our daily and work lives...

Without doubt, it seems the five-letter word everyone dreads most every day is stress. How it affects us and what we can do about it was the topic given by Dr. William DeMeo ("Dr. Bill") at PSI's Fall 2016 Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Independence, Ohio. Using slides, video, numerous skits and literally working the room, Dr. Bill made the three-hour presentation consistently interesting, fun and a sharing group experience that united the large audience. Learning is easy when you laugh along the way!

Dr. DeMeo, a neuropsychologist, said that about a fourth of all employees view their jobs as the number one stressor. It heads the list that includes fear of sickness, paying bills and keeping the car running. With the current national focus on obesity he added, "there's a strong connection between weight gain and stress." Each day we face 50-70 stressors with little or no idea how to handle them effectively. A chemical in the brain called cortisol gets released which increases blood pressure and can adversely affect the immune system.

Throughout the presentation, Dr. Bill had the audience form groups of two and three to interact with each another. In one, they would exchange how they handle stress. In another, a partner would tell two truths and one lie and ask the others which was which. With a third, each would show three things done over the weekend without speaking. There were seven skits in all, furnishing great fun, relaxation and acuity. This presentation had no dull moments!

Motivation is a key to avoiding stress. To wit, if you can wake up to go to work most mornings without the alarm clock, things may well look good. Involvement can translate into commitment. On the flipside, Dr. DeMeo's view is that "we in education are burning ourselves out." Anxiety can lead to procrastination, which in turn can lead to a sense of hopelessness and depression. Stress morphs into distress. As a neuropsychologist, Dr. DeMeo discussed the impact of stress on the brain and cardiovascular system. Neurons can cease to fire, with the heart rate speeding up. Smoking gets seen as a stress reducer. Research is showing many aging-related diseases are linked, even the yellow bands of DNA (telomeres). "We can create our own stress just by thinking!"

What to do? Start with getting enough sleep at night, eight to ten hours. Exercise at least three times a week, each thirty minutes minimum. Maintain solid social support with those you trust. Avoid negative people who typically have glib solutions to everything. Finally, a positive mindset can be your driving force, for human resilience is a bellwether.

Celebrate what you do right rather than be critical of what might be wrong. Everyone has a unique combination of strengths that can be built upon as a foundation to protect against the storms.

A growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset is what's needed. List five strengths as your building blocks, along with the strengths you most admire in others. Pose the question: "Is what I'm about to do a reflection of who I am and who I want to be?" The answer can be the ultimate game changer.

Dr. Bill said that talking about yourself is a great way to reduce stress. In parallel, thinking positively about yourself can be just as good, perhaps even better.



Above: Dr. Bill DeMeo has his audience entranced as he processes a role-play

Dr. Bill DeMeo

December 2016

Out and About...

PSI will be represented at the Ohio Association of Public Charter Schools (OAPCS) annual conference in December 2016. Along with a booth that will highlight PSI services, Karen Heichel has been chosen to present on her newly written topic:

Mindfulness: Dealing with Emotional Regulation and Stress During Adolescence

This presentation will outline the neuroscience of adolescent brain development, patterns of emotional regulation and stress reactions during adolescence. There will be a discussion that briefly defines Mindfulness and an update on current research. It will demonstrate why Mindfulness Practices directly respond to adolescent developmental issues and equip adolescents for dealing with strong emotions and provide tools for decision-making. In closing there will be a review of some current curriculums and examples of Mindfulness practices that can be used in the classroom.

If you have a topic that you think would be useful for future conferences and enjoy presenting, please send your ideas to Karen McKelvey. We would love to have you represent PSI!

The World of Webinars!

PSI is committed to an on-going series of webinars, utilizing its connections with state and national experts on a variety of topics. As a PSI employee, you can take these webinars at any time and can receive one contact hour for each after completing the survey at the end. To view the menu of webinars, visit: <u>http://psi-solutions.org/webinar-library/</u>



Find this and other great webinars by clicking: <u>http://psi-solutions.org/webinar-library/</u>

401k Plans

Check out PSI's new 401k plan! Contact <u>nancymusci@psi-solutions.org</u> for information.

December 2016

Just a Reminder...

Safety and Violence Prevention Training (under ODE mandates) requires the training of PSI employees. We have reached the 5-year point from when many PSI employees first took the training. This training MUST be repeated every 5 years. We are excited to announce that PSI has developed its own online version of the mandated *Safety and Violence Prevention Training*. Launched in July, over 150 employees are utilizing this course at no cost to them. To review, this ODE-mandated training is a 4-hour training that is required of PSI employees. The training must be completed within two years of employment with PSI and repeated every five years. You will be notified via email when you need to take the training and will be provided information for accessing the PSI online version. As time progresses, we plan to add courses to this platform to assist our employees and our partner schools with their professional development needs.

For further information, contact <u>karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org</u>.

Prevention/Intervention News

Sadly, there is not much good news in the area of Prevention/Intervention...

Suicide Kills More Middle School Students Than Car Crashes

The suicide rate among U.S. middle school students doubled from 2007 to 2014, surpassing for the first time the incidence of youngsters aged 10 to 14 who died in car crashes, federal researchers found. The steady seven-year rise in middle school suicides, from an annual rate of 0.9 to 2.1 per 100,000, came as traffic deaths among the same age group declined to 1.9 per 100,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The motor vehicle mortality rate reported for 2014, the latest year for which such data was available, showed a 60 percent decline from 1999, when the government began tracking such figures. In aggregate numbers, 425 young people 10 to 14 years of age took their own lives in 2014, compared with 384 who perished in automobile accidents that year, according to the CDC.

Those figures contrasted sharply with figures from 1999, when the rate of middle school students killed in car crashes was four times higher than the rate among those who died from suicide that year. "Any rise (in youth suicides) should be of concern, there's no doubt," Mark Kaplan, a professor of social welfare at the University of California, Los Angeles, said in a phone interview, commenting on the findings. "In time we might uncover some reasons, but a cautionary note [is] not to rush to any conclusions from this," Kaplan said.

The underlying causes of suicide are highly complex, making it difficult to explain the trends documented by the CDC, he added. The leading overall cause of death for Americans 10 to 14 years of age remains accidents of all kinds, including car crashes, accounting for 750 fatalities in that age group in 2014, according to the CDC. Mortality rates from traffic collisions among all age groups have decreased over several decades in the United States, which observers attribute in part to improved safety features in cars, such as airbags.

Related:

More Kids Sick, Dying from Opioid Overdose <u>http://ow.ly/1F1g306LyyD</u> Suicide Rates Soar in US <u>http://ow.ly/9r5j306LyGs</u>



see page 7

December 2016

PSI has been chosen to be the Educational Partner of LifeAct[®] whose mission is to prevent suicide by teaching young people to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to seek professional help for themselves and others. You can register for this program that is NO COST to your school(s). Already this school year, the newly created PSI LifeAct staff has completed the program for over 1000 middle school students and has made several referrals after the fact, possibly saving several lives. Either share this link with your principal or ask permission to complete it on the part of your school: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=aS9aqkT6cw7sHiw1DvkV6w_3D_3D



recognizing depression • preventing suicide



Feeling Social?

We at the PSI management level are SO proud of the work you are doing in your schools and communities. We also feel there are many unsung HEROES out there and would like to feature them via the various PSI social media connections. If you're interested and want to highlight what you or a co-worker is doing, please sign on to Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn and liking, following, or re-tweeting our posts. Comments and replies to our posts are just as important. After a presentation or event, posting a few words or review will go a long way. If we feature an interesting article, "this is a very interesting read!" will do the trick. If you feel a friend of yours would like one of our posts, you can share the article through Facebook.

As always, remember to adhere to the social media agreement that you have signed as a PSI employee! THANKS!



PSI's LPDC

If you are renewing your license through the PSI LPDC, you must join and have an approved IPDP (Individual Professional Development Plan) in place by January 31, 2017. Contact <u>karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org</u> for information.

December 2016



Implementing Direct Instruction In Today's Classroom By Jessica Nave

PSI employees were energized again in an afternoon session led by PSI Fall Meeting keynote speaker William J. DeMeo. This time, DeMeo presented on differentiating instruction in the classroom.

Leading off with an engaging introduction video, participants were left with some important messages, including the need to look beyond classroom walls to see what awaits our students and that teachers need to be the innovator, motivator, and facilitator of learning.

Attendees then participated in activities lead by DeMeo, including active learning activities like think-pair-share discussion and silent partner writing. With think-pair-share, learners were able to think for themselves, share their ideas with a partner, and ultimately discuss with the entire group. Silent partner writing involves writing down thoughts and questions about a picture, quotation, or discussion question. Partners pass the paper they write on back and forth and engage in a conversation without using spoken words.

DeMeo also stressed the importance of flexible grouping in the classroom. Flexible grouping allows teachers to group their students by three group types: flexible, which includes readiness and learning style; ability/aptitude groups; and cooperative groups. Flexible groupings can be done with the whole class or just half of the class, in teams, in student-led small groups, and with partners.

As with many activities in the classroom, some students will finish their work ahead of their peers. The same can

hold true with flexible groupings, and DeMeo says that teachers can provide anchor activities and learning stations for students to complete when the assigned task is complete. Anchor activities provide meaningful work for students when they are finished with an assigned task or when they are stumped and waiting for teacher assistance. Anchor activities also provide ongoing tasks that tie to content and instruction. Some examples of anchor activities include investigations, vocabulary work, magazine articles with generic questions, journals and learning logs, silent reading, activity boxes, and learning packets.

While DeMeo left participants with a variety of classroom activities to try out with their students, he also asked them why differentiate? He discussed with participants that the student population is not the same as it was 50 years ago, and that families have also changed over time. Passive learning, like lectures, reading, and even audiovisual are not as effective with today's students. The current student population learns best by teaching others and using their learning immediately, practicing by doing, and having group discussions.

Individualizing student instruction will allow students to reach their full potential. DeMeo left participants with a question to ponder: Will one size fits all curriculum be effective (if it ever was)?

Dr. Demeo Ó http://ow.ly/VLdM306LH52

For more on

from the desk of... Health Services

December 2016

It is hard to believe that the school year is well into swing and the holidays are quickly approaching.

We were delighted to see so many of our staff in attendance at this year's Health Services Fall Meeting. The meeting was a great success! This year's presenters were Dr. William DeMeo and Ms. Maureen Pisanick, LD, RD. Dr. DeMeo shared techniques on stress management and critical thinking that proved to be very beneficial in our areas of work. Ms. Pisanick, a registered dietitian and professional consultant for school food service operations, spoke to us about celiac disease and food allergy management from the perspective of the school cafeteria director, utilizing a collaborative approach with all stakeholders.

All nurses in attendance were awarded 2.5 contact hours. The certificate was emailed to your psi-health.org email address. A Fall Meeting Follow Up email was sent to all health staff. Those who were not able to attend the meeting this year should read the email for important information. The email contained intranet updates, an announcement regarding the upcoming changes to ImpactSIIS (as of this date the rollout of the new system scheduled for November 30, 2016 has been postponed), and a handout regarding the safe disposal of medications.

With the winter weather approaching, please make sure that you are aware of your school's "School Closing" policy. PSI does not notify staff when schools are closed due to inclement weather. If you are eligible for PTO time, you may use this time for "snow days" without being disqualified from the Attendance Bonus Program. Also make sure that you have a copy of your school's calendar; not all schools share the same breaks and days off.

Reminders

ALL student Head Injuries require a phone call to a parent/guardian and a Head Injury letter to be sent home.

Always follow the Six Rights of Medication Administration EVERY TIME you administer a medication. There is a column on the Checklist for the Administration of Medication form for a medication count. This daily count should be maintained for all prescription medications.

All RNs & LPNs must have Safety and Violence Prevention Training that is current. This training is required and must occur within two years of hire and every five years thereafter. PSI has developed a new online webinar training that meets this requirement. Staff will be notified via email when the training will be available for them to take.

Everyone must complete the annual Bloodborne Pathogen education.

Please return all PSI equipment as soon as you are finished using it (call for mailing label if needed).

Please check your PSI Health Email regularly along with the PSI Website. Please keep the HRG manuals updated.

Never hesitate to contact your PSI Health Supervisor or the PSI office with any questions/concerns.

from the desk of... Health Services

December 2016

Looking Ahead to the New Year...

All RNs are responsible for completing a Health Staff Evaluation for all LPNs, Medical Assistants and Health Aides under their supervision. The evaluations should be submitted to the PSI Health Services Office for review and will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

The Hearing Screening Annual Report should be submitted by June 1, 2017. The Instructions for submitting the online report can be found on page 19 in the Screenings Section of the Health Resource Guide.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Health Services Spring Meeting 2017, date TBD!

Carol Meszaros, RN, BSN, CDE is working every Monday and Tuesday as the Certified Diabetes Educator for PSI. She has been traveling to schools to assist staff with Diabetes management for their students and is sharing her expertise with all new staff at PSI Health Staff Orientations. Carol can be reached at 330-425-8474 Ext. 254 or via email at <u>carolmeszaros@psi-solutions.org</u>. Carol continues to be available every second Saturday of the month at the PSI office from 9 am-12 pm. This access will provide PSI Team Members with the opportunity to continue to learn about ongoing changes of diabetes management as well as ask any questions they have about their own clinic practice related student diabetes management at school. PSI Health Staff will need to register with Joan Cuthbert at 800-841-4774 ext. 226. Class size will be limited to ensure each participant has focused time with Carol.

We would like to thank our health staff for all the hard work and effort put forth in making this school year a healthy and safe one for all of the students we serve! We look forward to seeing everyone at our soon to be scheduled Spring Meeting, more information to follow.

Have a Joyous Holiday Season!! The PSI Health Services Team

from the desk of... Julie Wood

December 2016

It is hard to believe that we are about halfway through the school year. Thanks to each and every one of you for taking small steps to improve the lives of our students. This has been a wonderful year so far!

ESS Spotlight

The dedication and quality of our ESS staff is amazing. The ESS Team wants to particularly recognize the Intervention Specialists who participated in the 3rd grade ELA testing for their Jon Peterson students. Not only did they do a fabulous job administering this, they completed this within a week! We appreciate this and we cannot say thank you enough!

Share What You Are Doing and Be REWARDED!

Are you implementing an interesting project or a great intervention in your school(s)? If so, send a detailed explanation of your work and how you are impacting your students and school to:

colleenlorber@psi-solutions.org.

We will put your name in a drawing to win a gift card. All entries must be submitted by January 31st, 2017.

Alternative Assessment Training

If you have a student that needs to take the Alternate Assessment this year, please check in with your ESS Supervisor regarding the requirements and your role in this. Check your local ESC to see if there is a training for Assessment Administrators and Second Raters near you. If you have not been trained already, the SST 3 is offering training on January 30th or February 2nd in Independence. Registration for this event is done through your STARS account.

PBIS Resources

If you are interested in interventions, supports, resources, and data-tracking tools related to PBIS, check out <u>www.pbisworld.com</u>.

ALERT!! For Speech Language Pathologists

Don't forget that the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology license renewals and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) certification renewals are due by December 31st, 2016. Please be aware that you now need 2 hours of ethics training for renewal.

Needs Assessment for Next School Year

It is hard to believe but some of our schools are *already* starting to plan their services for the 2017-2018 school year. This is a great time to share any exciting projects/interventions that you are working on with your principals or PSI Field Supervisors. If you have any concerns about your role or allocation in your school(s), please contact your PSI Field Supervisor as we can address this during our needs assessment visits. If you are new and have questions about this process, please contact your PSI Field Supervisor who can explain more.

FREE Autism Certification Program

Do you have a student who has Autism or would you like to learn more about how to educate or support children with this disorder? If so, PSI encourages you to check out a **FREE** online video training program that provides practical information and skills. This program is only **FREE** to those that live in Ohio. For more info:

https://autismcertificationcenter.org/

from the desk of... Julie Wood

December 2016

Highlights from the OSPA Fall Conference

John Begeny, Ph.D., presented a framework for maximizing the efficiency of Tier 2 in the RTI process. The model he discussed is called Systems Oriented Plan for Academic Achievement (SOPAA) and it is designed to supplement and enhance a school's existing approach to struggling learners in reading, writing, and math. This model incorporates six components to help maximize the efficiency of Tier 2, not replace it:

- O Component 1: Target Assistance Program for Students (TAPS) TAPS is a process for identifying academic deficits and developing intervention programs.
- O Component 2: Assessment for Instruction Incorporates a school-wide benchmark assessment in reading and math. This allows the identification of struggling students.
- Component 3: Maximized Intervention Personnel and Resources This component focuses on identifying personnel who are available to implement intervention and provide training.
- Component 4: Target Professional Development Continuous Professional Development on implementing SOPAA and TAPS and progress monitoring.
- O Component 5: Methods of Communication and Generating Support A clear process for communicating with all those involved: administrators, teachers, resource staff, parent and students.
- Component 6: Adaptable and Incremental Implementation Establishing the process in which interventions can be modified and implemented in a way that is beneficial, not necessarily the beginning of an end.

If you are interested in learning more about John's model, check out http://www.sopaaforschools.org/.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Special Education Leadership Conference hosted by the Office for Exceptional Children will be split into Regional Summits this year, with the hope that this conference will be more accessible to everyone. Save the date for the Summit nearest you:

- Southwest 1/19/17 at The Hope Hotel & Richard C. Holbrook Conference Center in Dayton
- Northeast 1/26/17 at La Pizzaria in Canton
- Southeast 2/1/17 at Ohio University Baker Center in Athens
- Northwest 2/7/17 at Bowling Green State University Grand Ballroom at the Bowen Thompson Student Union

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!!

from the desk of... Mike Tornow

December 2016

Educational Support Services Website Update

Yes....Health was the first to have theirs, but with great anticipation - it is here for ESS!

Like a new baby being born, here is your own personal website that you can nurture and love! This is a website that sleeps when needed and a website that doesn't need to be burped....but do remember it does need to be fed! How you use it and what you put into it will be what you get out of it!

There are forms, websites and many resources at your fingertips! Educators love to give input, and this website will be most functional and most useful with your feedback and your suggestions! So log in and start using it today!

The Details...

Many of you have already received your email notification with links for both your personal PSI-ESS email address and the new ESS website! Remember your PSI email will be your primary means of communication from other PSI staff and from PSI's central office. We will NOT be communicating with your previous email address(es). Please email Kelly Patsolic with any questions: <u>kellypatsolic@psi-solutions.org</u>.

ESS staff....take care of your new website, give it some attention, play with it, and mark it in your calendars with a "born on date" of Monday November 21, 2016!

