

PSI Ends a School Year but Begins Exciting Initiatives

TESOL Services at Several PSI Schools

Some reasons to be grateful if you grew up speaking English:

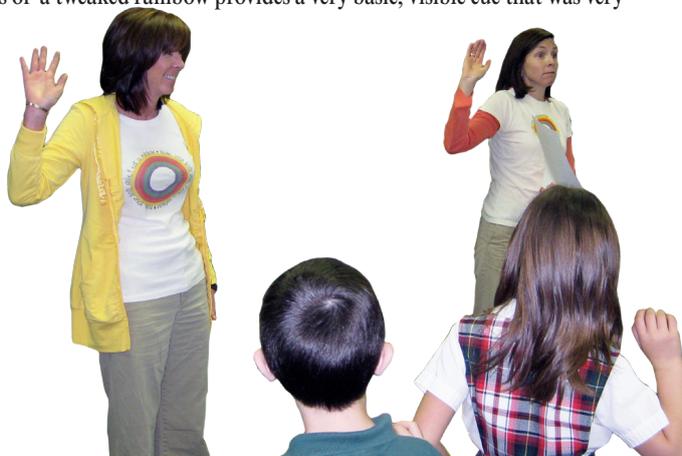
- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- Or pronunciations in the English language can be a challenge!
- For example, if you have a rough cough, climbing can be tough when going through the bough on a tree!

But help is on the way...

This year marks the beginning of PSITESOL services. TESOL or Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages, is to help English Language Learner (ELL) students overcome linguistic, cultural, and language difficulties to assure they receive an equal educational opportunity. Research suggests that it takes one to two years for a student to develop conversational English skills in speaking and listening, but about five to seven years to develop proficient reading and writing skills in English. The age of the child and literacy in the native language also play an important role in English language acquisition. For those students who qualify for the TESOL program, sessions focus on the Ohio English Language Proficiency Standards in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Students will continue to receive services until they reach English proficiency. A required annual state test called the Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) is administered to all students who are Limited English Proficient in the spring of each year. This test must be given to all students who are not proficient in English, regardless of whether parents accept or decline TESOL services for their child. While public school districts are responsible for the identification and other services for LEP (Limited English Speakers) services, private schools must check with their public school district for direction. PSI has hired several teachers this school year and are looking toward expanding these services next school year. If you feel your school could benefit from TESOL services, please contact Karen McKelvey at: karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org.

Eat a Rainbow!

PSI's own Kelly Hickey and her sister Kris Rosenfeld have developed the *Eat a Rainbow Make Your Body Smile* program. This program integrates nutrition and health education while teaching children to take care of their bodies and the planet. In partnership with PSI, a pilot program was recently completed at St. Mary of the Falls School in their Kindergarten through 3rd grades. "Just knowing the five colors of a tweaked rainbow provides a very basic, visible cue that was very easily associated with fruits and vegetables," Rosenfeld says. "The model that we came up with is designed to be a self-monitored approach to good nutrition." As PSI already has staff in numerous schools in the areas of health and prevention, it is a natural extension to include an awareness of healthy eating habits. This, coupled with Michelle Obama's Childhood Obesity Task Force, makes this new PSI initiative one that will certainly be helpful to our partner schools. ❄️❄️



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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, MA, CCC, Speech Pathology Supervisor
Robin Caston, MA, 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

It is hard to believe the end of the year is upon us. I am sure many of you are looking forward to some summer relaxation. I want to thank all of you for making my first year as Director so pleasant. I appreciate the many encouraging phone calls, emails, and letters. I could not do this job without your support and great work. I especially thank the members of the Educational Support Services Team for their support and for all that they do. As we close out the year, please take a look below to find end of the year reminders as well as information to keep in mind for the fall.

A few reminders as we wrap up this year:

- If you have borrowed any PSI test kits, please return them to the office no later than June 21, 2010.
- Lock up all the materials that you will be leaving at the school for the summer. It is a good idea to keep an inventory on the inside door of your cabinet as a reminder of what you have left at the school.
- Make a “to do list” for the fall. This will be helpful for you or a new person as the school year begins.
- Please hand in all reports to the PSI office. For example, psychologists need to turn in case reports/intervention summaries/ETRs and SLPs need to turn in the final report.

A look ahead:

- Fall meeting for the 2010-2011 school year is tentatively scheduled for Sept 24, 2010. Per suggestions from the staff advisory board, we are scheduling the meeting a little later in the school year.
- Once again, PSI will be participating in the Cleveland Walk Now for Autism Speaks. It is scheduled for September 26, 2010. Details will follow.
- We will again be offering training for the Ohio House Bill 276 requirement addressing the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse. Look for details coming soon but reserve the date of August 20, 2010 if you have not yet received 4 hours of training. ✨

*Thank you for all your hard work this year. Your dedication is truly appreciated!
Have a relaxing summer break!*



From the Desk of Carol Weber

Educational Specialist Coordinator

You're the Best

The 2009-2010 school year is almost over and I would like to thank all the PSI Educational Specialists for another year of outstanding service to your students! I appreciate all your hard work and your commitment to quality education. Thank you again!

Year After Year...

- Mark 'final' at the top of the last timesheet you send in to bookkeeping.
- Please return any PSI materials to the office in Twinsburg if you are leaving PSI.
- PSI will be offering the HB 276 Child Abuse Training on August 20, 2010. More information will be forthcoming once the time and location are finalized. All PSI educational specialists are mandated to have this training within two years of their hire date.
- If you are renewing your license this year, please send in a copy of your new license to the PSI Personnel Office, Attention: Patty Wey.
- PSI continues to do BCII and FBI fingerprinting checks at cost. Make an appointment with Jackie Weideman, ext. 221 if you need fingerprinting done.
- The PSI Fall Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 24, 2010.

Enter the 2010 Grant Program and Take Active Learning to the Next Level

Many educators agree that students who actively engage with the material and with other students are far more likely to recall the information shared. Active Learning that involves role playing, debate and group participation all result in greater student engagement. The 2010 "Active Learning" Grant Program is simple. Samsung is offering 50 SAMCAM 860 document cameras to worthy applicants based on need. An independent evaluation team will review the applicants and notify the winners. Winners will be notified no later than September 1, 2010.

Requirements:

1. Applicant must be currently teaching in a school in the U.S.
2. Will use the Samsung Document Camera in the classroom
3. Samsung Document Camera will become property of the school district
4. Deadline to submit application is June 1, 2010

Source: <http://samsunggrants.com>

EdResourcesOhio.org

Intervention Specialists, please continue to check edresourcesohio.org for the latest news and updates in special education. Some of the latest from the website:

- **Going Places with a Standards-Based IEP or GPS-IEP**
- **IDEA Analytic Tool**
- **The Autism Internet Modules LearningPort** – "At the suggestion of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the IRIS Center is pleased to announce the posting of LearningPort, a free, online professional development library of education resources developed by the IDEA Partnership."

"**LearningPort** makes available a variety of materials from national associations, state education departments, and technical assistance centers like IRIS in a variety of formats, including full video training modules, Webinars, and conference materials. Many of these free resources can be incorporated into larger training packages being developed in states and school districts. OSEP expects that the catalogue of LearningPort resources will grow rapidly."

What Works

This month we are lucky to have two PSI staff members contribute educational strategies that have proven successful with their students. Thank you to Lee Knox and Suzanne Vitanza for sharing!

Research-Based Reading Interventions by Lee Knox, M.A., CCC-SLP

The PTO of St. Paschal Baylon School, where I provide Speech and Language services, graciously allocated some funds this school year to be used for intervention materials. In the process of doing hours of research to find materials, I came across this outstanding resource from the Florida Center for Reading Research.

It fit all of the criteria I was looking for: that it be research-based; that it targeted our areas of need; be easy to use; and beneficial to as many of us as possible (Intervention Specialists and SLPs); as well as cost efficient.

Our PTO was agreeable to using some of the allocated funds for printing the material. I was able to download all of the files from the website, copy them to Bridgette Reed's (Intervention Specialist) flash drive, and take them to be printed. We then assembled the pages into binders for each of the Five Big Ideas of Reading for grades K-5.



From the Desk of Carol Weber...continued
Educational Specialist Coordinator

We now have a great library of research-based, supplemental intervention materials for phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary, each in their own binder, for each grade level. And the best part, it was all free material (minus the printing cost).

I found a reasonable cost at a local printer, at a fraction of the cost that workbooks of that many pages would amount to! (It paid to get estimates, as prices varied widely among the 7 printers I called!) Since we use DIBELS at our school, these materials follow along with the 5 big ideas! So be sure to check out <http://fcrr.org>!

Positive Performing People by Suzanne Vitanza, Intervention Specialist

Positive Performing People is an excellent behavior strategy that I use in my classroom for my learning disabled students. I implemented it at beginning of the school year with my third and fourth grade classes. This approach focuses on the positive behavior of the student, not the negative and has proved to be a success!

First, above a pocket chart, display **POSITIVE PERFORMING PEOPLE** in bold, bright colors. Next, each student is given a 'punch card'. This card can be bought or self-made. The message, 'Good Job' is labeled on the top of the card with a line underneath for the student's name. Fifteen happy face stickers outline the card.

How the Card Works: The student is given a 'punch' on the card when he or she displays a positive behavior. The 'punch' is made with either the teacher's initials or a decorative hole puncher.

For example, the student has his or her materials out and ready without being told; participates in class more than usual; raises hand before speaking, etc. The student is rewarded when they have earned fifteen punches on their card. The student is given the choice of a prize from either the 'treasure box' or a homework pass. The prizes can be a candy bar, book, children's magazine, puzzle book, etc.

The *Homework Pass* is a coupon for no homework that day; however, the student does need approval from the teacher before using.

If you have an idea to share with your colleagues, please send it to Carol Weber at edu.services@psi-solutions.org. ✨



From the Desk of Janet Yue

Health Services Manager

May 12th was National School Nurses Day! On behalf of the entire staff at PSI, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all PSI nurses for their service. Whether you supervise a district, work at your assigned school, or help us by substituting, we appreciate all you do to keep children healthy and ready to learn.

As the school year comes to a close, there are several matters of importance that need to be shared with our Health Service Staff:

The opportunity to be recertified for CPR and First Aid will be offered over the summer. The classes will be offered by PSI and are free. Once again, Mary Flanagan will be teaching our classes. Any employee whose certifications are due to expire this summer or early fall should plan on attending. You will receive a schedule of classes in the mail. Registration may be limited due to space. You are always welcome to take a class at a more convenient location but we will need copies of your cards and your receipt to be reimbursed if you take it from a different provider.

PSI plans to offer a House Bill 276 training- a four hour inservice training program in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development. This is a requirement of the State of Ohio. All licensed nurses who have yet to complete this four hour in-service must do so within 2 years of their employment with PSI. Health Aides are not required to attend but are strongly encouraged to complete this training. For those who have not yet met this requirement, you will receive details on the **August 20, 2010 training**. If you have attended this class, given by another provider, please send your documentation to PSI.

PSI will be mailing to all Health Service Staff a packet of information regarding daily documentation of student health visits. In the past we have used a daily log listing each student. The Ohio Department of Health, for confidentiality reasons, now requires us to create an individual daily log. **The new Individual Clinic Visit Record** and instructions will be mailed to your home.

We will no longer use the Daily Log and we are asking that you remove the Daily Log and replace it with the new Individual Clinic Visit Record.

The Individual Clinic Visit Record provides a uniform, continuous record of a student's visits to the health clinic and it documents the nursing process. This health clinic visit information becomes part of the student's individual health record. Please call with any questions.

Over the summer, the Health Resource Guide will be updated with pertinent information that is either added or revised. This mailing will be sent to all staff prior to the start of the school year. Please review and add the material to the Guide. If you have borrowed equipment or videos please contact the office so we may assist you in their return.

Anyone who has not completed Tentative Plans, please complete and return them. If you have misplaced this form or didn't get one please call us and we will forward a copy to you. Prior to the end of school, please check with your principal or check your school calendar for the date of opening day for your school for the 2010-2011 school year. Our work assignments do not tell you what day school begins.

Work Assignments will tell you the school's name and the hours allocated for work per year. These usually are mailed from the PSI Office to your home in late August.

We will be mailing contracts to employees in early summer. Please mail your signed copy back to us promptly. This is very important to us as we make assignments for the opening school year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish two long-term nurses and one health aide a Happy Retirement. Judy Armstrong has been with PSI since 1989 and Chris Hippely has been with us since 1995. Lynn Milia has been a PSI Aide since 1997. Thank you for your years of service. We wish you a wonderful retirement.

To each and every one of you... Thank you for your kind and compassionate care to the students and faculty we serve. Happy Nurses Week! Have a restful summer and we look forward to seeing you in August. ✨



From the Desk of Karen McKelvey

Prevention/Intervention & Special Projects

Prevention/Intervention News

- After 22 years, Congress has eliminated the states' grants portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds. This grant source had funded the Diocese of Cleveland consortium that allowed each school to choose a Prevention/Intervention program yearly. As a service provider, PSI collected data and was able to exhibit the effectiveness of its Prevention/Intervention programs, but Congress felt that many recipients of the grant had not done the same, and therefore chose to re-allocate this funding.

We at PSI continue to feel a commitment to the children in the Diocese of Cleveland and their need for anti-drug and anti-violence programs and it is with sadness that we face this program elimination. While funding is an issue during these challenging economic times, we will strive to find creative means to continue our programs.

Some options are:

- Utilizing alternative funds such as PTO/PTA for the original or shortened versions of these programs.
- Providing classroom teachers or other school staff with training in implementing our programs.
- Possibly supplementing other PSI services with Prevention Services.

If your principal has questions about either the elimination of this grant or ways that they can continue offering our Prevention programs, please have them call Karen McKelvey at PSI, ext. 230.

- Prevention/Intervention staff end of year meeting: May 19, 2010 from 3:30-5:30 PM at the PSI office.

Please bring the following:

- All PSI binders, program materials, kits, books, videos, DVD's, etc.
- All Communication Memos
- Time Sheets for each program
- Incident Sheets for research

- There is no way to adequately thank Prevention/Intervention staff for the years of dedicated work they provided to PSI schools or for their never-ending support of Brenda Anderson and myself. It has been a pleasure to have had each of you on the team and I wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Special Projects News

- LanguageCultureConnection services continue to expand! As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we are now offering TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) staff/programs to schools. In addition, several schools are adding Mandarin and Spanish language staff to their schools or increasing time for the 2010-2011 school year.

All teachers in the **LanguageCultureConnection** department should keep the following in mind while preparing for the end of the school year:

Please indicate your final time sheet by marking it "Final" when submitting it to the PSI office. Please return any PSI materials to the office in Twinsburg if you are leaving PSI. Ensure that you have completed the HB 276 training or reserve August 20, 2010 (more details coming) for PSI's training. You must complete this four-hour training within two years of your hire date. Do not leave any PSI materials in your school over the summer even if you intend to return in the fall. Know that your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated and have a wonderful summer!

- The school year's final **PSI in the A.M.** presentation was held on April 20 in partnership with John Bednar and St. Paschal Baylon School with the topic of "National Blue Ribbon Application Seminar." Providing a panel presentation were principals from the following schools: Harry Selner, Seton Catholic School; Bob Kochanski, St. Joseph School; Sharon McGraw, Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School; Peter Corrigan, St. Ignatius High School; and John Bednar. All of these schools are the current winners of the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. Over 50 schools were in attendance at the seminar to learn about the application process. Good luck to all new applicants! ✨



PSI Obituaries

Sad News

Dear Colleagues:

It is with a heavy heart that I must yet again inform you that we have lost another member of the PSI Family. Jo Ann Hines passed away last month from a combination of causes. Joanne had been a dear friend and valuable asset to PSI for many, many years. She served as our Speech Coordinator in our early years, a speech pathologist in many schools, but most memorably in her own parish school, St. Mary's in Berea. Joanne was also the PSI District Representative in Berea for many years.

Joanne had an indomitable spirit! She endured many complicated health issues, always with a smile and a positive attitude. JoJo, as some of us called her, was always willing to go above and beyond what was expected, to do what it took to help the schools, the students and PSI. Few who worked with Joanne in the schools would have known the breadth of her other talents. She was a gifted thespian, an accomplished pianist and, perhaps mostly notably, she possessed a truly operatic voice that was full, colorful and incredibly strong, reaching all ends of the musical scale.

One day toward the end, she sang for us in her hospice room. It was a spine-tingling performance that brought doctors, nurses and patients scrambling to her room to witness her performance.

Her dear husband Jack, her two children Jeff and Joel, her daughter-in-law Jennifer and her grandson Jared survive Joanne Hines.

Joanne was a treasured friend of many at PSI and will be sorely missed.

Steve Rosenberg

🦋 Our collective condolences to Joanne's family. 🦋

