



# PSI delines

February 2014



**Kudos to Emily Sowers, a Registered Nurse working for PSI in Cincinnati, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the life of one of her students.**

At the end of January 2014 at Resurrection School, Emily, along with the school psychologist, planned a very special day for a 4th grader who has Alopecia, a condition that causes hair loss. The student had been having a difficult time being teased and bullied because of her lack of hair. Shortly before Christmas break, Emily contacted a company, Children with Hair Loss, who donated a custom-made wig for her. This sparked the idea to give her the opportunity to be "Princess for a Day."

Through donations, they arranged for her and the psychologist, her chaperone, to go to an upscale salon via a limousine where she received her wig, had it styled, and learned how to care for it. Afterwards, she went to lunch at a local restaurant on the river, followed by a party back at her school with her classmates. There was a professional photographer that accompanied them to the events so that they could be compiled in a memory book for her. This was such a great opportunity to teach about Alopecia, a health issue that can affect children, and about bullying that is a concern in

many schools. One of the companies that donated their services contacted the local newspaper to do an article, so an article was also published. Emily states she is very honored to have been able to help. We are very proud to have dedicated, caring individuals like Emily Sowers as part of the PSI Health Team!

## Snow Plow Parents?

Written by Julie Ryan Evans

[http://thestir.cafemom.com/big\\_kid/151554/7\\_signs\\_you\\_might\\_be](http://thestir.cafemom.com/big_kid/151554/7_signs_you_might_be)

Yes, it has been an extraordinarily difficult winter and we have all come to appreciate and desperately need the dedicated snowplow drivers who clear our expressways. But Snow Plow Parents are a different story! As educators, no matter what PSI service area, we can be dealing with parents who are not involved enough to the opposite extreme. Written for parents, this description helps define this type of parent:



Move over tiger moms; hover elsewhere helicopter parents. There's a new type of parent in town -- **the "snowplow" parent**. They come with the same motives as the others -- to produce superior children -- but they take a slightly different approach. According to an ABC story that highlighted the growing trend, snowplow parents are those who attempt to [push life's obstacles out of their children's way](#). It can be with anything -- from friends to school and sports -- and they'll do anything to ensure their children don't fail. It's understandable to some degree, as we all want what's best for our kids, but there's a definite line as to what's over-the-top, and some ... plow right over it.

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*A Periodic Newsletter for PSI's Professional Staff*





## PSIdelines December 2013

Vol. 23, No. 8

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 SUPPORT SERVICES

Colleen Lorber, Ph.D., Director

Linda Grimm, Ed.S., Regional Support Supervisor

Robert Muray, Ed.S., Psychology Coordinator

Karen Heichel, M.A., Psychology Supervisor

Julie Wood, 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/Jon

Peterson/Autism Scholarship Manager

Kristen Brennan, M.A., Educational Specialists Supervisor

### HEALTH SERVICES

Meredith Sitko, B.Ed., CHES, RN Manager

Lyn Chrostowski, NCSN, RN, MSN, Manager

Debbie Osysko, RN, Manager

Laura Sheeks, RN, Manager

### PREVENTION / INTERVENTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Karen McKelvey, Ed.S., Coordinator

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE / ESL

Karen McKelvey, Ed.S., Coordinator

Kay Almy, M.A.T. Supervisor

### ADMINISTRATION

Steven L. Rosenberg, Ph.D., President

Nancy Musci, Administrative Director/New Client Services



## Snow Plow Parents? (cont.)

Here are *seven signs you might have snow plow parent tendencies*:

1. If you've ever approached your child's school and **tried to get your kid switched to another class** just because her friends aren't in the one to which she was assigned. (Lord forbid she has to make new ones.)
2. If you've ever offered incentives/bribes to a coach to help your kid make a team or get more playing time.
3. If you've ever screamed at a referee or charged the field to argue with an umpire for making a "wrong" call against your kid or her team.
4. If you **"help" your child with every homework assignment and project** (i.e., pretty much do it for them).
5. If you've ever helped your child try to get a grade changed ... especially when she's in college.
6. If you've ever hacked into your child's school system to change your child's grade yourself, you're very likely a snowplow parent. ([Yes, it happens.](#))
7. Finally, remember that mom, [Wanda Holloway](#), who plotted to have the mother of her daughter's cheerleading rival killed? Yeah, if you can kind of see where she was coming from, you're most definitely a snowplow parent.

Do you think you might be dealing with a snowplow parent? As a PSI employee, have you found effective techniques to deal with such a parent? We would love to hear from you and will publish your ideas in future issues of PSIdelines.

Please send your ideas to: [karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org](mailto:karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org) and share your expertise with us all!

## PSI Announcements

Your *PSI Supervisor* is there to help you! They are interested in ALL that you have to say, both positive and negative. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have any feedback, need any assistance, or would like to share your ideas!

**Authors and Editors WANTED!** As we have noted in the past, we are continually looking for authors of individual articles (along with any photos) for either PSIdelines, the employee newsletter or for Paradigm, our client and marketing newsletter. In addition, we are looking for people interested in being guest editors of entire issues of Paradigm in which we highlight one discipline at a time (health, psychology, speech, educational specialist, prevention, special education, ESL, etc.). At times, we also develop special topic focus issues such as recently when we focused on School Safety. Compensation is provided for both individual articles or for serving as a guest editor. Are you interested? You will receive lots of assistance and support as an editor! Please contact Karen McKelvey at [karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org](mailto:karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org) and mention "newsletter" in your subject line. THANK YOU!

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From the Desk of:

**Karen McKelvey**  
Prevention/Intervention Services  
+ Professional Development Coordinator



### Professional Development News:

If you are planning on renewing your ODE license via an application to the PSI LPDC, the deadline for initial applications is **March 31, 2014**. For an application packet and instructions, please contact me at [karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org](mailto:karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org).

PSI will be hosting Kathy McNamara, PhD, at an **Ethics workshop** on March 21, 2014. This workshop has limited seating and is for PSI employees only. This training is a license renewal requirement for clinical and school psychologists:

**Speaker:** Kathy McNamara, Ph.D.

**Friday, March 21, 2014; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County  
Please note that the ESC now has a new location:  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, OH 44131

R.S.V.P./ Questions

Call or e-mail

Brenda Anderson at 330.425.8474 Ext. 237 or

[brendaanderson@psi-solutions.org](mailto:brendaanderson@psi-solutions.org)

**Webinar World:** PSI's next webinar will take place on **Wednesday, April 2, 2014** and will feature Tim Rasinski, PhD. Dr. Rasinski is a world-renowned expert on literacy. Additional details and registration instructions will be sent to you soon.

**PSI CERTIFY**  
Certification, Training & Professional Development Classes  
A Division of PSI

PSI is proud to announce the opening of our newest division to train school staff in critical areas requiring certification and specialized programming. These programs are available in traditional face-to-face settings and webinar formats. Topics include:

- First Aid Training  
*Don't Stop for Emergencies*
- CPR Training/REI Training  
*Can You Save a Life?*
- Anti-Bullying Programs  
*Learn to Effectively Deal with the All Behavior Issue in Schools*
- Crisis Intervention Team Training  
*Are You Prepared if a Crisis Hits?*
- Staff Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training  
*More 10 040 040000*
- Communicable Disease Awareness and Recognition  
*This Department of All and Family Services*

Contact Hours are provided for all PSI Certify Training Programs.

For information on pricing, program descriptions and other available topics please visit us at: [www.PSICertify.com](http://www.PSICertify.com) or contact [karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org](mailto:karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org) 4330-425-8474, ext 238

PSI Solutions PSI, Inc. 1400 Townsend, OH 44087-0000  
Tel 440.841.4774 Fax 440.425.2888

PSI **Certify** is PSI's newest Professional Development initiative. By aligning more closely all departments within PSI, we are able to offer required trainings to our partner schools. This project is in its infancy, but the flyer to the left includes a description and class listings that have been developed thus far.

Please mention this to your school administrators!

### PSI Announcements (cont.)

You will soon receive **Tentative Plans** forms for the 2014-2015 school year. Please indicate any changes you desire as well as what you would like to remain the same.

The final **Time Remaining Notices** will be mailed out in March. Please check this notice and ensure that you are on track to complete your allocation. We are aware that there have been frequent "snow days" that may have put you behind. Where appropriate and approved by your principal, please attempt to schedule make-up days for those lost.

**Check your License:** It's time to renew your professional license if it expires 6/30/2014.

As always, please take a few minutes to review your work environment. Slips and falls are painful! All of us need to be aware and vigilant of any workplace safety issues, especially during these winter months. If you have any concerns about the safety of your work environment, contact your supervisor immediately as your safety is our highest priority.

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## Foreign Language News:

### Using School Buddies to Expand Foreign Language

Written by Anne Marie Anelli

PSI's St. Angela Merici Elementary School Spanish Teacher

During December, students in the 7th grade at **St. Angela Merici School** had the opportunity to read to their 1st grade buddies in Spanish. They read "La oruga muy hambrienta" ("The Very Hungry Caterpillar") by Eric Carle. Students had been practicing for several weeks on pronunciation, fluency, and using emotion while reading.

After reading the story to their buddies, students worked in predetermined groups of four to six, with both 1st and 7th graders, and created a poster in Spanish to depict food that was good for your health and food that was bad for your health. They had to create two sections of the poster "La comida buena para la salud" and "La comida mala para la salud". They glued pictures of the foods in the correct area and labeled them in Spanish.

As a special surprise, room parents from the 1st grade supplied fresh fruit from the story. Students were able to enjoy a healthy snack of strawberries, oranges, apples, and watermelon. Once students had finished their poster and eating, they were able to work together on a word search with the food from the story.



Above: 7th graders and 1st graders at St. Angela Merici School explore language and literature with a team approach



This was the first graders introduction to Spanish in school. Students in K-3 currently take Chinese once a week. Students in 4th-6th grade take Spanish once a week and students in 7th and 8th grade have Spanish twice a week with 40-minute periods. This was a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all students involved.

Left: One of the posters completed for this project



From the Desk of:

**Kristen Combs**  
Human Resources

### Thank you for referring friends and family!

I cannot tell you how much we appreciate the number of employees that refer friends and family for positions with PSI. That simple gesture demonstrates your confidence in our company and is the best compliment you can offer our team. Soon we will start interviewing for 2014-2015 positions. If you know qualified candidates that are interested in school-based positions, please ask them to visit our website at [www.psi-solutions.org](http://www.psi-solutions.org) to apply for specific positions or forward a current resume to my attention at [kristencombs@psi-solutions.org](mailto:kristencombs@psi-solutions.org). The jobs change regularly so please check back often.

To aide our staff in the hiring process, we have launched a new applicant tracking software that will improve the application and hiring process at PSI. We are confident the system will have a positive impact on our ability to communicate clearly with interested applicants during the initial resume submission phase through new hire orientation. Prospective employees will find the application process much easier as a result of this new system. Our goal is to ensure that all candidates have a positive experience and will in turn refer their friends and family to PSI. To that end, if you have feedback about your own experience with PSI that might be helpful in making continuous improvements to our hiring process, I would like to hear your feedback. Feel free to forward your feedback to my email address at [kristencombs@psi-solutions.org](mailto:kristencombs@psi-solutions.org). Again, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to the PSI Team!



Happy Winter! Hope you are all surviving the Arctic chill! We have received quite a few phone calls regarding snow days. You may use it as a personal day if you are entitled to one. Or you can speak with your building administrator about making up the time. Using a personal day for a weather-related closure will not disqualify an employee from the Attendance Reward Program.

*Many of you are aware of the pending legislature regarding Epi Pens and may have received some questions regarding this from families or staff members. Here is the latest information we have received from the Ohio Nurse Consultant at the Ohio Department of Health.*

We have received many questions about the current status of stock epinephrine autoinjectors in Ohio schools. Currently, Ohio law allows schools to have stock epinephrine autoinjectors if they (1) have a prescriber's order, (2) replace the autoinjectors annually (since they expire) and (3) annually renew a Terminal Distributor's License from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy for each school building stocking this medication.

You may be aware that on November 13, 2013, President Obama signed into law the federal School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act. The law, passed by the Senate on Oct. 31 and by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 30, encourages states to require schools to keep epinephrine autoinjectors on hand and ensure school personnel are trained to use them. It does not change state requirements or mandate that states do so.

You may also be aware that there is a bill before the Ohio legislature regarding stock epinephrine autoinjectors—it has not been passed. Known as House Bill (HB) 296, as currently written it would allow non-patient specific epinephrine autoinjectors to be stocked in schools and would eliminate the need for schools to hold a Terminal Distributors License. It would allow any trained school employee to administer the epinephrine autoinjector to any student suspected of anaphylaxis. The bill is permissive, meaning that schools would be able to stock epinephrine autoinjectors, but would not be mandated to do so. The link to the bill is: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_296](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_296).

*To clarify, to date nothing has changed in the state of Ohio regarding this issue. If there is a change affecting the practice in Ohio, we will update you.*

As a reminder, the Ohio Department of Health School Nursing Program's train-the-trainer program "Medication Administration: Training for School Personnel" is on OhioTRAIN. This free training that provides CNEs can be used by nurses to train school staff to administer prescription medications, including emergency medications such as epinephrine autoinjectors. Login to OhioTRAIN at <http://oh.train.org> and search for course # 1027324 to access this course.

The immunization requirements for Fall 2014 School Entry have been sent to all Health Staff via the PSI Health email system.



A friendly reminder that **ALL** Health Staff are required to complete the online Diabetes Competency by March 1, 2014. Access to the Competency and corresponding quizzes is via the psi-health intranet.

Below are instructions for accessing the intranet and email:

### ***Instructions for Accessing PSI-Health Intranet and E-Mail***

1. Go to the [psi-solutions.org](http://psi-solutions.org) website.
2. Click on the "CORPORATE INTRANETS" Tab at the top of the page and select "Health Intranet".
3. You will see a box "Authentication Required" and you will need to login by entering your PSI Health Username and Password (the password is case-sensitive and cannot be changed). The username is generally your first initial and last name. ***YOU DO NOT NEED TO ENTER "@psi-health.org"***.
4. The PSI-Health Home page will appear.
5. From the homepage you can access your PSI-Health email by clicking on the "Email Center" box in the right-hand corner of the page.
6. You will use the same Username and Password to log in to your email (as above).



### ***To take a test (HA/MA Exam or Diabetes Competency)***

1. Select Health Staff Trainings and click on the desired test.
2. Materials/Resources necessary to complete the test/quiz will be found on the selected training page.
3. When you click on the "Exam" or "Quiz" you will be directed to the PSI web portal.
4. ***To take a test you must re-authenticate, use your First name, Last name, and your password is the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number.***
5. Select the desired test from the "Test" box in the left-hand column.

### ***Instructions for Forwarding psi-health email (if you would prefer to have your PSI email forwarded to another email address, i.e. Personal email)***

1. On the psi-health email homepage select "Configuration" (blue notched wheel symbol) in the toolbar top left side of the page (under network solutions).
2. Select "E-mailbox Settings".
3. Select "Forward my mail".
4. Enter the email address where you want the mail forwarded.
5. Check enable forwarding (you can also check to keep a copy of the forwarded message).
6. Click on "Save" .

If you are having trouble accessing the intranet or email after following these instructions or you have misplaced your username and password, please contact PSI Health Services at 330-425-8474 ext. 226 or 800-841-4774 ext. 226.

### ***HELP WANTED:***

There are several opportunities available for Registered Nurses (in the northeast Ohio region) during the month of May to accompany students on overnight Field Trips to various locations. If you are interested and would like more information, please send an email to [marilynquercioli@psi-solutions.org](mailto:marilynquercioli@psi-solutions.org). Please put "Field Trips" in the subject line. There will also be a limited number of Summer Camp opportunities for RNs, and LPNs. If you are interested in Summer Work please indicate this on your "Tentative Plans" which will be forthcoming.

### ***Is your CPR and/or First Aid certification expiring soon?***

Please contact the PSI Health Services Department. You will now be able to take American Heart Association BLS, Heartsaver CPR AED and First Aid "Part One" online and make an appointment to take "Part Two" the Skills test at the PSI Office. Testing dates will be the third Thursday of the month and there will be classes scheduled over the summer as well.

Please make it a regular practice to check the expiration date of the medications in your clinics. It can be as simple as checking your medication inventory sheet where all of your medications should be listed along with their expiration date. By doing this at the beginning of each month, you can send home a note and/or call the parent/guardian and notify them that the medication is expiring and give them ample time to provide you with a replacement.



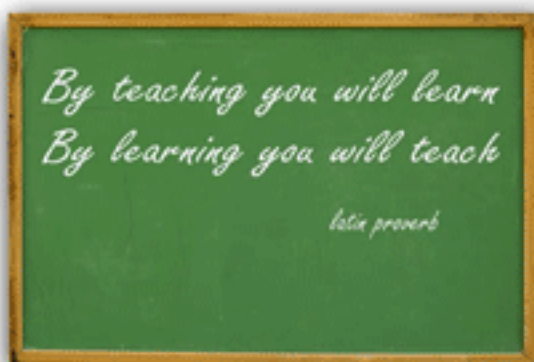
Reference the "Suggested Calendar of Events" (page 7 and 8 in your Health Resource Guide) to make sure that you are keeping your clinics up to date and completing the required activities detailed in the calendar. The first half of the school year is already gone and it won't be long before the end of the school year is staring us in the face.

***Looking forward to Spring!***

***The PSI Health Services Team***

From the Desk of:  
**Colleen Lorber**  
Educational Support  
Services Director

Brrrrrrrr!!!!!! I hope you all are starting to thaw out from all this cold weather!  
I have never been more ready for spring!



Below you will find some recent updates from the Ohio Department of Education that you may find useful.

Please feel free to call any of your supervisors for clarification or if you have any questions.



**Mark your Calendar:  
Upcoming PSI Spring Events**

**Ethics Workshop**

**March 21st, 1-4pm  
ESC of Cuyahoga County  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd.  
Independence**

**Presenter: Dr. Kathy McNamara**

**Webinar:**

**Why Reading Fluency Matters**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014  
Look for details to sign-up in  
your email**

**Presenter: Tim Rasinski**

***Prior Written Notice Guidance: 1/22/2014 (taken directly from ODE)***

[Memorandum 2013-1](#) notified districts that an agreed upon IEP can no longer serve as prior written notice (PWN) to families. The Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children has updated the following prior written notice guidance documents: [PWN, Informed Consent and Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#) and [PWN Question and Answer Document](#). These documents have been amended to provide clarification around the prior written notice requirements.

***Amendment to Whose IDEA Is This?: 1/22/2014 (taken directly from ODE)***

As a result of the change to prior written notice (PWN) requirements outlined in [Memorandum 2013-1](#) issued on Dec. 20, 2013, an amendment was needed to *Whose IDEA Is This?* The [Memorandum to Amend Whose IDEA Is This?](#) must now be distributed anytime *Whose IDEA Is This?* is provided to parents until notice of a revised parent procedural safeguards notice is made available for dissemination.

***Calamity Days and Timelines: 2/6/2014 (taken directly from ODE)***

Calamity days do not excuse districts from their obligations to meet federally defined timelines.

The federal government requires 100 percent compliance with procedural timelines, and expects that districts will schedule so that there is a bit of leeway for the unexpected. As the US Department of Education does not permit exceptions based on weather, there isn't an EMIS code for noncompliance due to weather. The Ohio Department of Education recommends that you use compliance reason "01" – no identified reason – for cases that a calamity (windstorm, flooding, HVAC failure or snow day) makes it impossible to meet the timelines.



## *PSI Technology Improvements*

1. Please let us know if you have any questions about direct deposit. Overall, the transition has been quite smooth.
2. We have rolled out another 5 school districts with the electronic timesheets. Unfortunately, this month our server is having some technical difficulties so we apologize for anyone affected by this. It is getting taken care of and all will be back to normal soon. We will continue to add districts in chunks. You will be notified and given instructions when your district is added.
3. You will notice that your ESS supervisors are now carrying a tablet around with them. We have always kept supervisor reports from all of their visits; however, we are now revamping the process to make it more timely and easy for our record keeping. Your supervisors will be using the tablets to complete surveys with you and your principals. The information they will be collecting will be very similar to the information they have always discussed with you on your visits.

## *2014-2015 School Year*

The planning for next school year is already upon us! Many of your schools are beginning to return their requests for the 2014-2015 school year. If there are any changes to your schools, we will let you know as soon as possible. Encourage your administrators to call PSI with any questions or if they would like to learn more about any additional PSI services.

We will be sending out the tentative plans form in the month of March. Remember to indicate your tentative intentions for next school year as well as update any of your contact information.

As always, we appreciate all that you do!