

At Your Service! Your Student Services Newsletter



Redefining Student Services:
Psychological Services, School Social
Work, Health Services, FACE IT, School
Counseling, Prevention, Section 504,
Triage & Training and Crisis Response

Edition
February, 2015



Student Services week is **February 2-6, 2015!**

School counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, school social workers, and prevention staff are dedicated to supporting the academic, behavioral, social, physical, mental and emotional development of all students. Students and families are safer, healthier, happier, more supported and ready to learn because of their expertise and persistence as individual professionals. Furthermore, they maximize their impact by working together to deliver coordinated and integrated services within a multi-tiered system of supports. Please take the time to express your gratitude and admiration for their work.

Student Services Employee of the Year **Sharon Fahey!**

Sharon Fahey is an LCSW currently working as a school social worker at Pinellas Secondary School in Pinellas Park, FL. After graduating from USF with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, she worked at a diversion program with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Never one to rest, Sharon was hired by the Veteran's Administration while enrolled in graduate school where she earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is currently attending Nova Southeastern, where she is working on an Education Specialist's Degree in Leadership. The principal, Mr. Darren Hammond, states, *"Definitely an asset to Pinellas Secondary School, Sharon Fahey clearly exhibits all of the qualities and characteristics of an outstanding Student Services employee. She genuinely stands out above others and her work has a positive and lasting impact on students, families and staff. It is Mrs. Fahey's willingness to pitch in on all projects - behind the scenes and out front - as well as to work both inside the office and outside on the basketball court regardless of weather that makes her a truly exceptional professional."*

CONGRATULATIONS, MRS. FAHEY!

FACE IT = 588-6130
Lisa Savo, Manager

Health Services = 588-6320
Sara O'Toole, Managing Officer
Anita Bacchi, Administrative Assistant

Prevention Office = 588-6130
Paula Mohl, Administrative Assistant

Psychological Services = 588-6054
Phoenicia Wright, Managing Officer
Shirley Kelley, Administrative Assistant

School Counseling = 588-6053
Andrew Weatherill, K-12 Guidance Spec.
Lawanda Gilman, Administrative Assistant

School Social Work = 588-6355
Tari Connell, Managing Officer
Carole Stucki, Administrative Assistant

Section 504 = 588-6054
Laura Bluett, Coordinator

COMING SOON!!



In Collaboration with... **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF**
EDUCATION

STUDENT
SERVICES WEEK

February 2-6, 2015



Photo Courtesy of Chad Baker/Ryan McQuinn/Thinkstock

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National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, communities and schools. Every year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 25, 2015, National Missing Children's Day, we will pause to focus our attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

As part of the annual commemoration, DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, are flown to Washington to attend this special ceremony. Everyone is invited to join us in our efforts to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving your fifth-grade students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest. Local schools participating in the event will have the opportunity to submit their winning poster for judging at the state level. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC), along with the Florida Department of Education and other organizations, will be working together to select a winner to represent the state of Florida. The statewide winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Tallahassee, Florida, for Missing Children's Day in September 2015. The winner will also receive a prize package, including a trip to Universal Studios, and his or her poster will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for national judging.

The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home." Submissions must be handcrafted and measure 8 ½ x 14 inches. We suggest that schools start as soon as possible on school-level poster contests and classroom discussions. Those schools interested in participating are asked to submit their poster(s) for state-level judging, postmarked by February 16, 2015, to the following:

Dinah Johnson
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, Florida
32308

A complete information packet can be found at <http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/>. If you have any questions or need additional information about this national contest, please send an email to mepic@fdle.state.fl.us or mc.day@fvtc.edu or visit www.fmcd.org/contests/ for more information and essay contest guidelines.



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Prevention Office Upcoming Training Opportunity

Creating a Safe School Environment for LGBTQ Students, Family, & Staff

Who: All PCSB Employees

When: February 25th, 2015

Time: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (trade hours are available)

Where: Admin Building, Room B213

Registration: MoodleLMS, Component # 6403133C - 15/005

Description: As a result of this training, participants will gain insight into the challenges facing LGBTQ youth, families and staff. Participants will have a better understanding of PCS policy and practices that support the legal, ethical and safety needs of LGBTQ youth, families, and staff. Participants will gain access to a wide variety of resources to enhance ongoing efforts to make each school community a safer place for all students with a particular emphasis on the often targeted community of LGBTQ students, family, and staff. Please contact Lisa Savo for more information at Savol@pcsb.org.



Looking for ways to decrease traffic to the clinic?

Oftentimes, many health complaints can be addressed in the classroom with minimal disruption to the learning process:

- Students with stomachaches can be sent to the restroom.
- A student with a headache can rest their head on their desk for 10 minutes.
- Many students visit the clinic requesting ice and have no visible signs of injury. If the classroom teacher did not witness an injury and there are no visible signs of injury the student should not be sent to the clinic, as many students use the opportunity to wander around. Also, if anyone witnesses an injury that warrants medical attention – the witness should initiate the injury report.
- Students needing a Band-Aid for an old injury or paper cut can be handed one in class.
- Per the head lice policy, head checks should be done only on students who are symptomatic.

Since many schools do not have a full-time health services person on campus every day, taking these small steps can help to decrease the amount of clinic traffic every day, and help to also lessen the strain on the front office staff that help to cover the clinics.

The clinic should be a temporary place for students to rest if they are not feeling well enough to be in class. The main reasons for sending a student home are: vomiting more than twice or vomiting with other symptoms of illness, diarrhea, fever greater than 101, and a generalized rash of unknown origin. It is also important for school staff to notify the parents of any student who is chronically complaining of illness and requesting a regular visit to the clinic. In these cases, over-the-counter medication can be brought in for headaches and stomachaches that are chronic, and the school nurse can assist with investigating other causes for the chronic complaints.

Our main goal in Health Services is to keep the students healthy and in class so they can learn. See your school nurse for other ways to keep your student population healthy and engaged in their schooling!

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Section 504 Training Opportunities!

The 6-hour Section 504 Coordinator training will be open for registration on 1/26/15. The training will be held on Friday, February 20th from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm in the Discovery Room. The training will be beneficial to new school-based Section 504 Coordinators as well as veteran coordinators. Participants will need to have their administrator's permission to attend this training. Register on MoodleLMS, Component # 8419001C - 15/006.

There will be a Section 504 Coordinator training for charter schools held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in the Discovery Room from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Registration will be open from January 15, 2015 through February 7, 2015. Register on MoodleLMS, Component # 1419001C - 15/001.

Please share this information with your staff!

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children to get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. During this month, it is particularly important to raise awareness of the plight of children from low income families, many of whom have difficulty eating, sleeping, paying attention in school and smiling due to rampant dental disease.

The American Dental Association website has many free resources that teachers can use as activities during this month. Visit <http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/national-childrens-dental-health-month/> to download any of these resources.



Bullying Prevention Training

NEW! Safe Teams One (1) Online Moodle training opportunity for Investigators and Prevention designees for reports of bullying, harassment, and teen dating violence and abuse.

This online course meets the requirements for all School Safe Teams Investigators and Prevention designees required annual training. Participants will earn 3 component points. Sign up today on MoodleLMS, Component # 6403135C - 15/001. Please note that this is a new 3-hour component. Therefore, Investigators and Prevention designees that already attended one of the face-to-face workshops earlier this year can **opt** to take this online course as well and still receive 3 component points, but it is not required.