

Student Services

Winter 2008
Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of the Student Services' newsletter. Our goal is to be a support service to you. The areas under our umbrella include: special education, preschool, federal grants, ESL, nursing, counseling program, FABSS, psychological services, related services, testing, parent mentor, attendance officer and drug-free program.

The Student Services Department would like to express our appreciation for your patience as we regrouped after the flood. We wish to extend special thanks to Findlay High School as they welcomed our staff into the writing lab. We were able to continue to work efficiently thanks to the warm, supportive environment.

The Student Services Department sent out a survey to critique the quality of our services and help us continue to improve. This survey was sent to all special education teachers, principals, and counselors. Based on the results of the survey, our team is creating action plans to better serve you.

The following are updates in a few of the above areas:

Special Education

IEP Compliance Trainings for all special education staff will be completed by February 20, 2008. Lynn Mielnik from the State Support Team Region One (formerly SERRC) is doing a great job of conducting these trainings at the Family Center. Preparations are underway for a Content Standards Training to take place in 2008.

All special education teachers received a notebook with the new forms and the changes highlighted. Projected completion of the notebooks for principals is January, 2008. Special education consult meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month. These optional meetings are a help session for all special education teachers. They are held in the Student Services offices at the Marcyn Building.

The Student Services staff is working with the State Support Team in the area of school improvement and the Ohio Integrated Systems Model (OISM). A major component of this is the Response to Intervention model. Books on this topic have been purchased and distributed to principals.

We are very excited that Glenwood Middle School received a grant and is implementing Positive Behavior Supports with the help of the State Support Team. Way to go, Glenwood!

Findlay City Schools has a wonderful collaborative preschool up and running at Millstream East. KinderVillage now includes students with special needs as well as our typical peers.



*"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."
Ronald E. Osborn*

Parent Mentor



The Parent Mentor, Jayne Young, serves as a resource for school staff and parents. There is a wealth of written information that is available to interested parties. We offer a Parent Handbook, "Understanding Special Education" that is incredibly helpful to parents and makes the educator's job of explaining the details of special education a bit easier.

The parent mentor can also offer a booklet by Karen Meyer of OSU – Lima, "Preparing for a Successful Transition from High School to College". This booklet is a very useful tool for students receiving special education services to help them prepare for college.

*"There is a brilliant child locked inside every student."
Marva Collins*

There are several recently purchased books that can be checked out of the Parent Mentor library ~

1. Practical Ideas That Really Work~ ADHD (preschool to 4th grade)
2. Practical Ideas That Really Work ~ ADHD (5th grade to 12th grade)
3. Practical Ideas That Really Work~ Dyslexia and other reading disorders
4. Practical Ideas That Really Work ~ Autism
5. High Functioning Adolescents/ Young Adults ~ Autism
6. More Than Words (Helping Parents Promote Communication and Social Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder) (2 copies)

Please feel free to contact the Parent Mentor with any questions and/or to refer parents.

FABSS

The Findlay After and Before School Session (FABSS) is a before and after school childcare program. The Director, Tiffany Murray-Hogrefe, had a tough start to this school year. Her entire office was ruined in the flood. She worked out of her house for at least eight weeks. Thanks to Dick Dillon, she now has a new home at Lincoln and just loves it. It's great to have her at one of the FABSS sites.

FABSS currently serves 46 children at Liberty Benton, 38 at Wilson Vance, 35 at Lincoln, and 24 at Washington.

Tiffany is lucky to have a good staff that is proud to be a part of Findlay City Schools. They truly want to provide the best possible care for our children. This program was once again found to be in full compliance of all Ohio Department

of Education standards and has been recognized by the National After School Alliance as a model program for after school care.

One of the positive components of FABSS compared to other local services is the academic support our children receive. Parents love this piece. FABSS has received a Community Foundation Grant and a grant from Lowe's. The gardening grant enables them to continue the roof garden at Lincoln. This is a wonderful project. Tiffani and the staff have many activities and projects planned for the remainder of the year. They have already completed table decorations for the FFE Banquet, a Japanese story telling, and a craft workshop with the UF International Students.



Nurses

Have you ever wondered exactly what the school nurses do? The Findlay City School Nurses provide an array of services to the students, their families and staff. In the beginning of the year they are busy conducting vision and hearing screenings and checking that students are up-to-date on their immunizations. The nurses attempt to maintain a healthy school environment by assessing students for contagious diseases. They work closely with staff and families by providing health education and evaluating the needs of students in the school setting. The nurses develop Individual Health Plans (IHP) for students with health issues and they also serve as a liaison between students, their families and staff. On a daily basis, the clinic can be very busy with students not feeling well, needing treatment for injuries and receiving medication. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to visit your building nurse.



Healthy

We are currently in the beginning of the cold and flu season and it is important to practice good hand washing. Proper hand washing can help keep you and your family healthy.

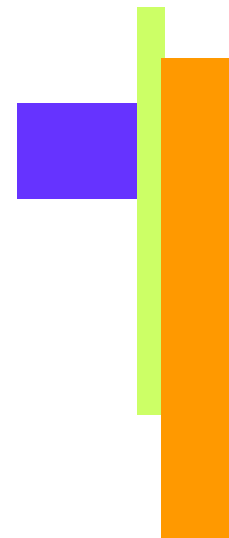
*Steps for good hand washing:

1. Wet hands under warm running water.
2. Use liquid soap and rub hands together away from the running water for 20 seconds or sing a short song like the "ABC's" twice. Make sure to rub the backs of hands, between fingers, backs of fingers, under fingernails and wrists.
3. Rinse hands thoroughly under warm running water.
4. Dry hands thoroughly using a clean paper towel or air dryer. Do not touch paper towel lever or air dryer button with clean hands. Dispense paper towel before washing hands and use elbow to push air dryer button.
5. Turn water off using the paper towel as a barrier. If bathroom has a door with a handle to open, do not use hands. Use a paper towel or shirtsleeve as a barrier.
6. A 70-80% alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used as disinfectant when hands are not visibly soiled but should not be used in place of hand washing.

*When should we wash our hands?

1. Before touching of face (eyes, nose and mouth)
2. Before eating or handling of food
3. After using the bathroom
4. After coughing, sneezing or blowing nose
5. After touching of handrails, elevator and door knobs
6. After changing diapers or handling soiled items when caring for children
7. Before and after helping someone who is sick
8. Before and after treating a cut

"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards."
Anatole France



Alcohol and Drug

*"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own."
Ben Sweetland*



Safe and Drug Free Program

Pat Sudlow, the coordinator of this program balances her time among the elementary, middle schools and the high school. Some of the many activities are listed below.

1. Red Ribbon Celebration. This is an awareness campaign that takes place all over the nation to encourage young people to embrace the concept of ending alcohol or other drug use or abuse.
2. Middle School Enrichment classes. All three middle schools attended programs concerning making healthy choices.
3. Middle School students attended a motivational media presentation "Freedom Calls" which stressed the importance of securing your own freedom to make positive and healthy choices.
4. Insight Classes for those students who are referred as the result of a policy violation, including violation of our extra-curricular code of conduct.
5. Tobacco Education Classes (TEG) is an anti smoking program. This is a program that is partnered with Blanchard Valley Health Center and the Hancock County Juvenile Court System.
6. Challenge Day, FHS students, adult community and faculty volunteers gathered with the goal of increasing personal power and self esteem.
7. HAPPY Weekend. For thirty hours (from Friday AM to Saturday PM) 130 seventh and eighth graders plus their advisors gathered at the Gateway Church for a weekend. This weekend was packed with workshops, speakers and fun.

Student Services is now located at:

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If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Kathleen Crates at kcrates@findlaycityschools.org.