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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Good afternoon. Can you believe how fast it has gotten hot? Yep, the heat is already here and the humidity along with it. Some of us are definitely allergic to moisture in the air. If you don't believe me, just look at our hair. Frizzy, out of control, and windblown too. But here it is, May 7<sup>th</sup> and it is already hot. I did get my garden planted before it got too hot. This year I hope I get at least one tomato. Last year I think I got it in the ground too late, but I had the prettiest, biggest Big Boy tomato bushes you would ever see. Only not so many tomatoes. Not one. I am keeping my hopes up for this year. At some point, I would like for our three facilities to have some garden projects. There is something fun about growing your own vegetables. I think it might be something positive for dorms to do. Just food for thought. In addition, there are community gardens springing up in urban areas as well. Wouldn't it be good to have some of our probationers participate on some of these community projects? If this is already happening, please let us know so we can highlight it in the "Inside Scoop."

This week has flown by as usual. We continue to move forward in great ways. I think you saw where we put our policies on the web site. I have to say, I was a little uncomfortable with it at first. Nevertheless, I worked through that and realized that this will be helpful to all of us who have access to computers because our policies will be so much more accessible. And since they will be more accessible, more eyes will be on them, the better they will get. So, policy gets better as we get better, and so it goes. I was walking down the IT hallway this morning and I heard what sounded like a U Tube site blasting from a cubicle. But what I found was Brian Bailey putting some of our OJJ recorded training on a computer application. This means we could have a training library with video presentations available at our fingertips. Fabulous! I was so pleased to see this project. I didn't even know it was happening, which is cool because it tells me staff is empowered to be creative and resourceful. Good stuff! They are cooking with gas!

Mother's Day is Sunday. I am so happy that I get to spend time with my Mom. She is an inspiration. I like to think I got my strength from her. She is a strong southern woman. I know ya'll know what I'm talking about. Strong in many things, but most of all, strong in her love of her children. She would throw herself in front of a bus to protect my brother and me. I have always known my mother would be there for me no matter what. Mom, I know you will read this, so thanks for everything you have done for me. (My Mom waits for "What's Up Doc" to come every week so she knows what has been going on at my work.)

I hope all of you have experienced loving and unselfish Mothers. For that, we can consider ourselves fortunate. But we also know, not everyone is fortunate enough to have Moms without addiction issues, or mental health issues. All kids want their Mom's to be the "perfect" Mom. But sometimes that does not exist. There are too many barriers. Let's all try to reach out to those whose Mom's are absent, or lacking the capacity to be the perfect Moms. Happy Mother's Day to **ALL THE PERFECT MOTHERS OF OJJ.**

Hoping you all have a wonderful weekend, and as ever, my thanks to each of you in every OJJ location, for the work you do daily to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

"Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*

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