
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well folks, it looks like Hurricane Sandy got in right before hurricane season ended. It was like BAM on the northeast coast. The long lines at the stores, transportation, no electricity, I think we can say we know how they feel. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they get the help they need soon. In the meantime, some of our citizens in Louisiana are still trying to recover from Hurricane Isaac. These storms are no joke! Hopefully we won't have any more weather challenges for a while.

This has been a busy week, with our having two Celebrations of Change, first at Swanson on Tuesday. It was outstanding. We had a good turnout, beautiful weather, and we had much to celebrate. A good time was had by all. The youth honor guard was the best I have seen and the choir did an excellent performance. Our guest speaker was NFL Hall of Famer **Reverend Fred Dean**. His remarks were well received by our youth. Thanks to **Director Vickie Shoecraft** and all of Swanson's staff and youth for a wonderful day.

In the middle of everything came Halloween. It seems it was mostly a safe event, I haven't heard any horror stories. It appears the Halloween traffic is getting lighter and lighter every year, at least in my neighborhood. I received several trick or treaters. My favorite costume was my neighbor dressed like a zombie. He really scared the little kids and the cars that were passing by. Hopefully you enjoyed the ghost and goblins that made their way to your door.

Then on Thursday, we had an excellent program at Jetson. We presented **Dr. Debra DePrato** with the third annual Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award. Dr. DePrato was given the award for her more than 20 years of juvenile justice work in Louisiana. This award is given to someone who has dedicated their time and effort to improving our juvenile justice system. The decorations were spectacular. Jetson's honor guard was very good. The real highlight was the skit performed by some of the youth. I am sure that day will be remembered by a lot of people for a long time. We can all be very proud of our staff and our youth at both of our facilities. Thanks to **Director Angela Sutton** and the staff and youth at Jetson. We look forward to our final Celebration of Change next week at Bridge City.

Here we are TGIF! Another beautiful weekend ahead of us and the long awaited LSU vs Alabama game. I've been trying for months to get two tickets and I came up empty handed. I will be watching the game television like others who failed to get tickets. We have high hopes that we will win, and Les Miles is a very lucky guy. If nothing else Baton Rouge will win whether LSU does or not. A lot of money will be spent this weekend in Baton Rouge.

Don't forget to vote next Tuesday. For those of who still have to work on Tuesday, we appreciate you and we hope you will find time to vote as well. Also, don't forget to snatch up an extra hour of sleep on Sunday. I always like it when we get that one hour back when daylight savings time rolls back.

Well, I'll close now with my hope that you can get outside this weekend to enjoy the spectacular fall weather, with my thanks to each of you, in every office and facility, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

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