
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, the election is over – the big one, anyway- and there are no more ads to watch, except for the races in the runoff. I guess we ought to watch those ads, because they are local races and they are much more entertaining than some of those national ads. I hope everybody cast their vote and enjoyed their day off on Tuesday.

Bridge City held their Celebration of Change Wednesday, and I was very disappointed that I could not make it. At the last minute I was called to a meeting – and when duty calls.....I know that's never happened to any of you! I so enjoy these events, and I really like seeing the youth shine in their roles. It's great to see the pride the staff takes in all the hard work that goes into these events. Staff members teach the kids what they need to do, and decorate the gyms beautifully. So it was really a disappointment for me to miss it. But here's what I heard about the program. It was superb! **Director Namon Reid** and his staff did an outstanding job in creating a great program, terrific decorations and an excellent lunch. The Color Guard posted the Colors in a well done, solemn ceremony, and the Praise Team choir's selections brought tears to many eyes, especially with their rendition of Michael Jackson's song "Man in the Mirror" – the lyrics "I'm gonna make a change, for once in my life, it's gonna feel real good, gonna make a difference, gonna make it right...." I heard that staff were wiping their eyes listening to it. **Chef Sonnier** and his Culinary Arts students outdid themselves, with able assistance from **Food Service Director Zelma Jones**, to present a memorable lunch – I'm sorry I missed it. So, even though I have to rely on hearsay, my congratulations to the Bridge City staff and youth for presenting an event we can all be proud of.

Work on our PREA grant has started, and our consultants from The Moss Group have begun their assessments of facilities and residential group homes. So far they have visited Jetson, AMI-Branch, Christian Acres, Ware Youth Center, Renaissance Home and the Johnny Robinson Boys Home. We look forward to receiving their suggestions and their perspective on these facilities. They are also scheduled to visit Bridge City, Swanson and Rutherford House very soon.

November is moving along really fast. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it, and it seems like the turkey will be bringing Santa in on its back! Yep, Santa and the turkey seem to be riding in the sleigh together. Christmas decorations are already in all the stores and I even heard a request on the radio for listeners to email the station their preferences – do we want to start hearing Christmas music right now? Or wait til after Thanksgiving? Or wait until December? Call me Scrooge but I'll wait for cheesy, non-stop Christmas music until December. Let's get through Turkey Day before we dive into Jingle Bells and red and green. I'm still enjoying fall decorations, which last for only a couple of weeks between Halloween and Christmas time. Let's keep the airwaves free of crooning about chestnuts roasting in the fire for a while. As soon as I figure out why chestnuts should be roasted, I'll let you know.

Well, I'll close for now with my wish for you to enjoy the weekend, and with my thanks to you all, wherever you serve, for all you do to meet the mission. I would ask you to keep our fellow Americans in the northeast in your thoughts and prayers this weekend, as they try to recover from Hurricane Sandy, with yet another brutal storm moving in. Down here we complain about the heat when hurricanes knock out our power during the summer, but up north it's gotten very cold and thousands are still without power – and heat. I'm happy to know that Louisiana citizens are up there lending a hand.

Sincerely,

"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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