
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Happy New Year to one and all! One of my New Year's resolutions is already down the drain – I have got chocolate in front of me and gingersnaps to boot. They sure are delicious! Dust off those resolutions from last year and start over – this year is a new year! Recycle!

Looking back, we did not do a WUD last week - did you miss me? Don't answer that! I had some big plans for last week with just three short days, but it was not to be. I'm sure you have all heard by now, with the extensive news coverage, that three youth escaped from Jetson last week. We are very fortunate that no members of the public were hurt, and that we apprehended the youth with no problem just six hours after we realized they were gone. We will do an after-action exercise shortly and will use the event as a learning experience. We will modify some procedures as we see fit to prevent another such incident. This problem was the first in four years at Jetson, and we will be focused on making sure it does not happen again.

Well, I love the holidays, but coming back is the tough part. Most of the executive team have worked at least 12-hour days this week, working on the budget, as well as architectural projects. The Acadiana Center for Youth (ACY) project in Bunkie is on track. We have had several meetings recently to go over the program plan for architecture – we are almost ready to re-bid several projects at Columbia so we can get within the dollar amount allocated. We have also gotten approval for an upgrade to the perimeter fence to enhance security at Bridge City.

I want to welcome **Gearry Williams**, our new Deputy Undersecretary. Look for more information about him soon in a bulletin. We are all delighted that he has joined us, none more than **Undersecretary Connie Percell**. She says maybe now she won't have to bring a cot and install a shower in her office.

Geaux Teams! That's right, plural. L-S-U – beat 'Bama! Saints – don't let the Lions eat you up – Detroit ain't nobody! We have a couple of big days of sports events ahead – I hope you will have time to watch and cheer for your favorite team(s) with your friends and families.

I would like to share with you a New Year's message that I recently received:

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you...

May you be content knowing you are a child of God...

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of you...

With that, my heartfelt thanks for another wonderful year in which each and every one of you in every OJJ location gave your all to meet the mission. I am looking forward to another successful year - I feel in my bones that 2012 is going to be our best year yet.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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