
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 6, No. 7. October 11, 2013

Hello, Everyone:

As you all know, we dodged a bullet last week when TS Karen fizzled out before she could have any real effect. It's been a strangely quiet hurricane season, for which we are all grateful, but it's not over yet.

We can't let these delightful, cool fall mornings fool us – it's still warm in the tropics where storms rise. Thanks to everyone throughout the agency who was on alert and standing ready to take care of youth whenever and wherever needed.

We had our final Celebration of Change at Swanson this week. We were able to visit with staff and youth, and some guests who joined us. It's always good to see staff from the regional offices who are able to attend and spend time with facility staff and youth. As ever, our celebration events are uplifting and interesting. Many thanks to Director Shoecraft and her staff for a great event, with a delicious luncheon, lovely fall decorations and an interesting program.

We are in the midst of cold and flu season - I think it struck a little early this year. It seems like there are a lot of cases of allergy, colds, perhaps the flu, that are turning into serious bronchitis, strep throat and even pneumonia right now. We have several people at central office who have been out sick over the last week and it's not just with minor sniffles. If you get sick I hope you will stay home and take care of yourself so you can fully recover. We are hearing that a nasty bacterial infection is almost epidemic around Baton Rouge and if you don't take good care it gets really serious. So please, for your own sake and that of your co-workers, if you get sick, rest, drink fluids, take your meds and STAY HOME. Starve a fever, stuff a cold? Stuff a fever, starve a cold? Just take care of yourselves.

Well, time really flies and this year has taken wings. Seems like it was just spring, summer is gone and now all the stores are going haywire with fall holidays. I don't remember seeing stores decorated for three holidays at the same time, but there are spider webs and ghosts for Halloween, harvest and fall decorations for Thanksgiving and Christmas trees and all the trimmings – all at once. It's sort of a headscratcher, I'm not sure where to look, or which wreath to hang on the door. I hope the retailers get over their holiday schizophrenia, a walk through some stores is a sensory overload. I have no doubt that when one holiday is past, the decorations will be replaced with the next season – we will be seeing Mardi Gras colors and Valentine hearts along with Christmas cheer. At least it's not boring.

We are never bored here at OJJ, there is always something to celebrate. I'll close now, with my thanks to each and every member of the OJJ family, in every office and facility, for all you do every day and in every season, to meet the mission. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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