

# what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

Another week, another celebration. I went to the Bridge City Celebration of Change on Tuesday, and just like the week before enjoyed the hospitality of our staff and young people. RD Thomas, Director Richards, and their staff pulled off another successful event. We were joined by Orleans Parish Judge Desiree Cook-Calvin who delivered a very inspirational message. As usual, we had a great lunch prepared by Chef Sonnier and the Culinary Arts Students – grilled chicken topped with crawfish etouffee and their signature New York Style Cheesecake. Yum!

Have you bought your turkey yet? Thanksgiving is less than a week away. And, Black Friday will be right behind it. The newspapers are filled with Black Friday offers already. I don't know about you all, but I plan to stay as far away from the mall as possible. Thanksgiving feasts are also in full swing. Yesterday at Central Office, the employee morale committee organized a little box lunch get-together, and I am hearing chatter of staff heading out to school and church celebrations with their friends and families. I have started making my list of things to be thankful for.

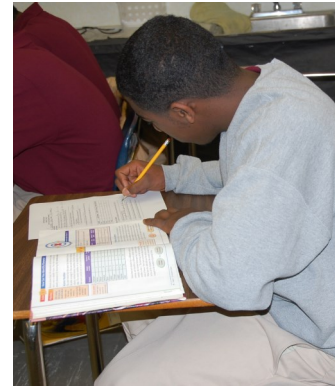
Coming together as a group to celebrate is especially good for the soul after the horrific events last Friday in France. As often after many tragedies, I get the sense that the world really is not such a big place. That despite the distance that separates people, and the differences in our languages, cultures and belief systems, we are all human. And part of being human is hurting when other people are hurting and supporting them when they need it. It is difficult right now to escape the messages and icons of support for the people of France. Just like after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, people put aside their personal and political differences to come together, heal and rebuild. Returning to a sense of normalcy and peace is vital to moving on after such a traumatic event. Please continue to keep the families and friends of the victims in your thoughts and prayers.

Next week is a short, holiday week so I will not be sending a WUD to you. I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving. And, a special thanks to the staff that will be working the holiday serving the young people in our care. The holidays are often a hard time for them to be away from their families; the care and support that you offer is especially meaningful during the holidays.

And I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc"

*Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?  
Send them to  
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