

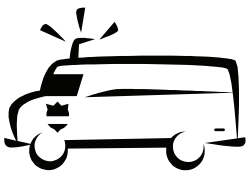
ANW Special Education Newsletter

November 2010



Royster Middle School Behavioral Program

Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.-
Roger Lewin



A quick reminder:

Alex will not be running the van route, the week of

Thanksgiving.

Time cards may be turned in the following week.

If you have anything that needs to be turned in, please get it on the van route this week.

Please pass this on to your paras.

Special education students at Royster Middle School are typically well behaved in the resource room and their regular education classes, but there are a few students that have difficulty controlling their behavior. At times, they are calm and collected, and then suddenly they become explosive. Sharon Vallier, Doug Jackett, and Royster's principal, Brad Miner, recognized last year that addressing inappropriate behaviors requires a systematic approach. After acknowledging what needed to be done the had a slew of meetings to develop a new behavioral program. If there is a student in the regular education classroom or resource room that has become disruptive to the extent that they are interfering with their own or other student's education, they will

be sent to the "turn around room." For this program, Mr. Miner has devoted two small and one larger room; they all have very little furnishings and are designed to allow the student to regain their composure and demonstrate that they've composed themselves by showing five minutes of calm and collected behavior. The five minutes will be set on a timer and the student will be monitored. During this time, the time clock will be stopped if the student is off task, needs a restroom break or lunch time nears. Should the student continue to maintain the escalated behavior, the timer will be restarted. Once the student has achieved a level of appropriate behavior, they will then be moved to the "alternative room." Utilizing these rooms is an attempt to de-

velop more suitable ways of solving differences and learning better coping skills. While in the "alternative room", the student will be required to work on an informational packet that consists of similar incidences dealing with the reason why the student was unable to stay in the classroom. The emphasis at this stage is to try to get the student to pick up on replacement behaviors and adaptive skills in order for the student to make positive choices the next time a situation arises. Upon successfully completing the social skills packet, he or she will be allowed to return to their designated class.

Sharon and Doug have already seen an improvement in student behavior.

News around the Coop...

Marcia Longberg's class at Iola High School sponsored a electronics recycling day on November 13. The community service project collected computers, monitors, cell phones, etc. The project was funded through a grant to help pay for transporting the

items to the recycling center in Pittsburg.

The elementary schools in Iola are working on specific reading skills with all students through the MTSS process. They divide the students based upon their abilities and work with them for

thirty minutes four times a week. Every two weeks they reevaluate where the students are at with their skills and regroup them as needed. All staff are involved in the process.



Director's Corner

1. Congress had passed a law that may no longer require us to tax personal use of Coop cell phones. We are waiting on further information that will provide guidance as to how the new law will be enacted.
2. Our office is currently working with M.A.C.S. to implement our new employee personnel data system for classified employees. We hope to have the system piloted in a few schools within a few weeks and all schools after the first of the year. Later in the semester we may add licensed staff at our Coop buildings to allow them to access “green sheets”, personal day requests and record absences. By next year we will look at adding all licensed staff and eliminating the sign in notebooks in all schools as well as providing online access to absence reports and records.
3. Ron Childress, Harry Heppler and Bob Coleman attended the KSDE Law conference on Nov. 4th and 5th. The conference highlighted changes and court interpretations of Special Education Law that have occurred during the last year as well as predictions as to what might happen in the coming year.
4. Our VI-B grant was successfully submitted for the 2010-11 school year. \$1,345,694 for part B and \$68,908 for part C or about \$11,000 less that last year.
5. A principals meeting was held at Erie H.S. on Tuesday Nov. 9. Kent Wire (principal CHS), Jack Stanley (principal IMS), and Lori Maxwell (principal McKinley) were presenters sharing what they are currently doing in their buildings to assure that students and in particular, special education students are doing to meet AYP.

Great American Smokeout on November 18th!

By Jamie Klenken, MCH Admin Consultant

The American Cancer Society is marking the 35th Great American Smokeout on **November 18th** by encouraging smokers to use the date to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By doing so, smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life—



one that can lead to reducing cancer risk. Quitting smoking is not easy, but it can be done.

To have the best chance of quitting successfully, you need to know what you are up against, what your options are and where to go for help.

The Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act went into effect on July 1! Please be advised that the local city or county smoking laws remain in effect and may be stricter than the state law. www.kssmokefree.org/

The Kansas Tobacco Quitline provides free, private one-on-one phone counseling to any Kansan ready to quit tobacco use. Smokers, spit-tobacco users, family and friends of tobacco users and health professionals can call the Quitline for help and information. Quitting tobacco use is the best thing you can do for your health.

What to Expect When You Call

No pressure, no hassles, no judgment— just support and encouragement.

When you first call the Quitline, a referral specialist will get some basic information on you and your health. At the end of this first call you will set-up a time to talk to a counselor and you will be mailed materials to help you quit.

The counselor will call you at the scheduled time and start working with you to create your plan to quit.

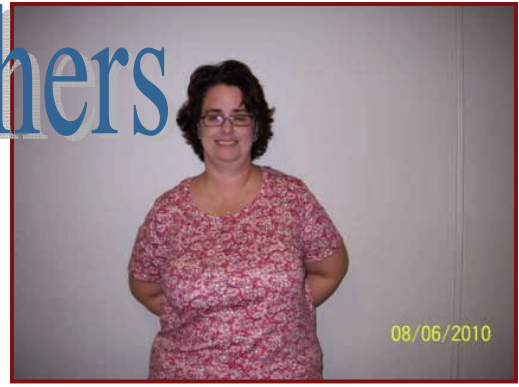
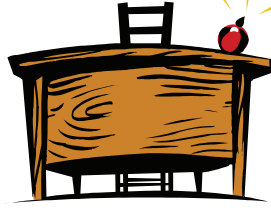
Most callers start with four (4) counseling sessions. You will schedule regular phone calls with your Quitline counselor. During your first session you'll talk about your reasons for quitting and set a date to quit. During the next sessions you'll work with your counselor to find ways to avoid triggers, help fight cravings and stay tobacco free.

Does phone counseling really work?

The KS Tobacco Quitline has a high success rate. Four months after completing counseling with the Quitline, 41% of former tobacco users are still not using tobacco. Keep in mind that most tobacco users “practice” quitting a few times before they are successful. So if you slip up try again. Take the first step to being tobacco free by calling the Quitline today, 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669).



New Teachers



Jeff Fehr is teaching at Lola High School this year. He is not a stranger to the staff in Lola as his wife teaches at Lola Middle School. Jeff has his BA in history from the University of Kansas and a MA degree in teaching from Pittsburg State University. Welcome to ANW Jeff!!

Jennifer Weaver is new to Royster Middle School. She is certified to teach from Kindergarten to Ninth grade in Elementary Education and Learning Disabilities. Her schooling includes William Jewell College, Missouri State University, Pittsburg State University and Emporia State University. Her experience includes teaching Special Education at Emporia. Welcome to ANW Jennifer!!

Kansas Association of School Boards



Avoiding Slips and Falls

Why is prevention of slips, trips, and falls important?

Slips and falls accounted for 32% of all claims files with the KASB workers compensation fund last year. Not even considering the great economic loss, it amounts to a lot of pain and suffering. Most, if not all, of these accidents need not happen.

How do falls happen?

Statistics show that the majority (60 percent) of falls happen on the same level resulting from slips and trips. The remaining 40% are falls from a height. This document will summarize information on "falls on the same level" (slips and trips).

Slips:

Slips happen where there is too little friction or traction between the footwear and the walking surface. Common causes of slips are: wet or oily surfaces; occasional spills; weather hazards; loose, unanchored rugs or mats; and, flooring or other walking surfaces that do not have some degree of traction in all areas.

Trips:

Trips happen when your foot collides (strikes, hits) an object causing you to lose balance and, eventually fall. Common causes of tripping are: obstructed view; poor lighting; clutter in your way; wrinkled carpeting; uncovered cables; bottom drawers not being closed; and uneven (steps, thresholds) walking surfaces.

How to prevent falls due to slips and trips?

Both slips and trips result from some kind of unintended or unexpected change in the contact between the feet and the ground or walking surface. This shows that good housekeeping is the first and the most important level of preventing falls due to slips and trips. It includes:

- Clean all spills immediately
- Mark spills and wet areas
- Mop or sweep debris from floors
- Remove obstacles from the walkways and always keep them free of clutter
- Secure (tack, tape, etc.) mats, rugs and carpets that do not lay flat
- Always close file cabinets or storage drawers
- Cover cables that cross walkways.
- Keep work areas and walkways well lit
- Replace used light bulbs and faulty switches

Without good housekeeping practices, any other preventative measure such as installation of sophisticated flooring, specialty footwear or training on techniques of walking and safe falling will never be fully effective.