President’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

Now that we have all settled into our schools and have tracked down the needed health records, medication orders and written many health care plans, the new challenges begin.

As School Nurse Teachers, we were at the forefront of identifying, treating, preventing and immunizing students and families during the H1N1 flu pandemic in 2009. We were commended by the Department of Health for our efforts, professionalism and dedication to the health of our students.

Now, with the emergence of Enterovirus 68 and the Ebola outbreak, we will again be asked to help keep students healthy and safe. School nurses need to be prepared to take action during times like these as we have in the past. I'm confident we will.

This is a good opportunity to remind students, staff and parents about hand washing, infection control, cough etiquette and universal precautions. We can help allay fears and the anxiety of staff and families by providing up to date information as well as clear communication about medical situations as we become apprised of them.

We can and will continue to collaborate with the Department of Health, RIDE, and other statewide agencies as we follow guidance from the CDC. Communication is key.

School Nurse Teachers continue to evolve and adapt to the ever changing health climate and needs of the students and families we serve. Let us communicate and share information and ideas. We are each other's best resources for getting new ideas and for learning to deal with the challenges we face on a daily basis.

Thank you for all you do to keep Rhode Island's Students healthy and ready to Learn!

Healthy Regards,

Donna Lennon, RN, CSNT, M.Ed
President, RICSNTA

"Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision"

"The only thing constant in life is change."
Standardized Data Set for School Health Services:

Submitted by Linda Mendonca

A Joint Project of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC)

"Anything that is measured and watched, improves” ~ Bob Parsons, American Entrepreneur

School nurses collect rich and important data. NASN and NASSNC are working together to develop a national uniform, standardized data set for all school nurses to collect specific data points the same way. For this initial year, School Year 2014-2015, school nurses are encouraged to collect specific data on the number of nurses in schools, the number of children with diagnosed chronic health conditions, and the disposition of children seen in the school nurse office. A brief presentation detailing how this will be rolled out in RI will be presented at the November 6th RICSNTA educational meeting. This will be followed up by communication via the RICSNTA website and school nurse-teacher list serv. You can access further information at the following web link - [https://www.nasn.org/Research/StepUpBeCounted](https://www.nasn.org/Research/StepUpBeCounted) Also, NASN members check out the articles in the July and September, 2014 issues of School Nurse. Looking forward to sharing this exciting initiative with you all!
We have had some questions on covering private and parochial schools. We are responsible as CSNTs for covering screenings, communicable diseases and health records. Please see the Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs- Responsibilities for Health Services -Section 7.1, page 15 for more clarification.

One of the questions was: Are first aid orders and/or standing orders signed by doctors (employed by towns) for the public district schools meant to cover private and parochial? The answer is: Yes. Thanks to Midge Sabitini from RIDE for the clarification.

Another question dealt with public districts and whether they are obligated to pay for epi-pens for unidentified students, or pay for staff for private and parochial schools. The answer is that public school districts do not have to pay for either.

Thank you.

Donna Lennon

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**KUDOS KORNER**

**Hasbro Asthma Program**

Donna Rainone

I have hosted the Asthma Program for the past 7 years. This year is an exciting one because every school in Warwick is participating. The evening event will be hosted at my school, the Warren A. Sherman School. Children with asthma and their families are invited. The children attend a session with a teacher/instructor from Hasbro’s Asthma Draw a Breath Program. The parents/guardians attend a separate program where they also learn about asthma management. Hasbro provides pizza for the guests, a raffle and babysitting. Interpreters are available on site.
"Sun Smarts" at East Matunuck State Beach this summer
Martha Diane Kathy and Rose

CoughSpot®

CoughSpot® is a campaign that helps teach kids to cover-their-cough. They recently received an Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) to do a Community Outreach Program. The program has gone really well so far, and it's being used at Hasbro Children's Hospital Primary Care Clinic, Thundermist Clinic in Woonsocket, Blackstone Valley Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, the summer preschool class at the YWCA of Northern Rhode Island, and the Woonsocket Harris Children's Library. Over 25 Rhode Island kindergarten classes are participating in this program.

For more information, go to:
HYPERLINK "http://www.coughspot.com"www.coughspot.com
NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Diane Kowal on her achievement of National Board Certification!

National Board Certification of School Nurses

2015 Testing Dates:

Winter spring February 22-March 7th
Summer: July 12-Aug 1st
Fall October 18-31st

For more information please contact:
Rita Kinniburg (401)333-2194, kinniburghr@lincolnpa.org

SUNSHINE NEWS

If you are planning on retiring, or know of a RICSNT member that is retiring, please let me know as soon as possible. We acknowledge retirees at the May banquet.

Also, if you know of a member who may need a little sunshine, please contact Rhonda Sexton at rlsrn@cox.net.
Historian

Documenting what our School Nurses’ achieve and what our practice looks like in the school year is done through collecting; articles, achievements, descriptions of programs we participate in, photos of our highlights throughout the year, etc. They all come together in one place to tell a story about us. In order to show an accurate picture, I am asking for all of your help. If you have a photo, article, or anything you would like to submit for our scrapbook, please send all information to Sara Blessing. Thank you!

Contact Info:  
sblessing@ric.edu  
The Henry Barnard School  
600 Mount Pleasant Ave  
Providence, RI 02908.

Upcoming Events

Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Teachers Association Fall Educational/Membership Meeting

TOPIC: PANDAS/PANS in Schools

Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections/Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

Date: Thursday, November, 6 2014       Time: 4:00pm-7:30pm Place: The Crowne Plaza   801 Greenwich Ave. Warwick, R.I. 02886

YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT: please visit www.ricsnt.org and click on PANDAS/PANS Education Meeting. You must register online and print your invoice to remit with payment when paying by check. Payments must be received by 10/31/14.

Cost: Members $45, Nonmembers $60

Please no walk-ins and no reimbursements.PLEASE BRING PERSONAL CARE DONATIONS FOR McAULEY HOUSE: Full and trial sizes appreciated of shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, razors, lotion, and feminine care products
The Matty Fund Family and Children Events

Supporting Epilepsy Awareness and Education

Matty Hatty Epilepsy Awareness Program is an epilepsy awareness program in honor of Matthew Siravo, a five year old boy who died due to a prolonged seizure in 2003. Schools participating in Matty Hatty will find that this easy to follow curriculum will not only build epilepsy awareness, but it will also be a fun, exciting way to educate children on the significance of giving, acceptance and the value of celebrating diversity.

Discovering My Epilepsy Family Support Group meetings give parents/caregivers of children with epilepsy or a seizure disorder the opportunity to meet one another in a fun and informal environment. Crafts and activities are planned for the kids (siblings are always welcome) and snacks are provided. Some meetings feature special activities. Group meetings are currently held in Wakefield, Warwick, Lincoln and Newport County. The meeting schedules and locations can be found on our website from the Discovering my epilepsy support group page, http://mattyfund.org/resources/discovering-my-epilepsy-support-group

Want to talk to someone right away? Discovering My Epilepsy also has a group page on Facebook. Parents can ask one another questions, share news and help support each other or call The Matty Fund at 401-789-7330.

The Matty Fund proudly offers additional children’s programs such as Camp Matty, a therapeutic horseback riding camp for children with epilepsy, The Matthew Siravo Memorial College Scholarship for RI High School seniors diagnosed with epilepsy as well as family workshops, medical lectures, awareness programs and much more.

***More information on events can be found on our website www.mattyfund.org
R.I. School Nurse of the Year 2015

It is time once again to think about nominating a School Nurse Teacher of the Year. Think about a nurse you work with or know who goes above and beyond in his/her practice and consider nominating that person for School Nurse Teacher of the Year 2015.

Eligibility includes:

1. Registered Professional Nurse and a member in good standing of R.I.C.S.N.T.A. for the current and consecutive last three years.
2. Currently practicing as a full time Certified School Nurse Teacher.
3. Provides evidence of excellence in their practice.
4. Provides direct services to students.

You must ask permission of the nominee, prior to submitting a nomination letter. A nomination letter should include reasons why you feel this nominee deserves to be the RI School Nurse Teacher of the Year. Deadline for nomination letters is January 31. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either myself @ susan.mroczka@gmail.com, (W) 767-4691, (H) 647-2338 or (C) 339-1148 or Tracey @ tsdorry@yahoo.com or (H) 762-2289.

Thank you, Sue and Tracey
Name: _________________________ Home Phone: _________ Cell Phone: __________

Home Address: _____________________________________________________________
    Street   Town   State   Zip

School District: _____________________________
School Name: ____________________________ School Phone: ______________________
School Address: _____________________________________________________________
    Street   Town   State   Zip

NASN Member? Yes: ___ No:___ RN License# ______________ Certification #: __________

Initial application for first time membership will NOT be accepted without photocopies of your Nurse-Teacher Certificate and RN License.

Student status members must include a copy of your RN license.

Home e-mail address: ________________________________

Please complete the following:

1. Will there be school nurse teacher positions available in your district for the 2012-2013 school year (sub, part/full time positions)?
   If so, may we publish the name of the district and position, in the newsletter?
   District: ________________________________
   Position(s) available: ______________________________________________________

2. Are you available to sub for the 2012-2013 school year? If yes, in which districts?
   ______________________________________________________

May we publish your name, telephone number and the district(s) where you are willing to sub in our RICSNT newsletter? _________

Membership Dues: please indicate with a check mark:

ACTIVE: $45.00 _____ STUDENT:$15.00 _____ RETIRED: $20.00_____

Please make check payable to: R. I .C. S .N.T.

Mail application and payment to:
Rose Trudeau, Membership Chairperson
1144 Mendon Rd
Woonsocket, RI  02895 Office Use Only

Check # __________
Amt: ____________
Rhode Island Certified School Nurse-Teacher

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President – Donna Lennon:  
dlennon@skschools.net  
chum25@aol.com
Vice President – Diane Kowal  
kowal95@gmail.com  
kowaldiane@coventryschools.net
Treasurer – Lorraine Martell:  
Lorraine_martell@yahoo.com
NASN Director - Bernadette McDowell:  
mcdowellb@warwickschools.org
Recording Secretary - Claudia DeBernardo:  
claudi5923@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary – Diane Engels  
dengels@woonsocketschools.com

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

Nominating - Amy Dark/Christine Vuolo-Fecteau
Membership - Susan Mroczka/Rose Trudeau
Constitution and By-Laws - Donna Rainone/Peg Fair
Newsletter - Jayne Brassil/Deborah Vannoy
Legislative - Marilyn Mattera, Deborah Svitil
Health Education - Sue Breen/Rachael Cruz/ Cheryl Rosa
Publicity/PR - Linda Twardowski /Marilyn Kelly
Historian - Sarah Blessing
Scholarship - Kathleen Marchetti/ Renee DiCenso
Sunshine - Rhonda Sexton
RICSNT of the Year - Susan Mroczka/ Tracey Dorry
Web Page - Diane Kowal
New England Conference - Marilyn Kelley and Marianne Adams