Dear School Nurse Colleagues-

Lately every time spring flowers peak their heads up, it seems winter sneaks back in. Soon spring will take hold and we will head into the last few months of this school year. There are a few excellent events coming up after our April break. Our last Education meeting for this year will be on April 25th on Anxiety. We see more mental health issues in our offices every day and I hope you will be able to attend to update your knowledge.

The New England Conference starts on April 30th in Mystic, Ct. and looks to provide some interesting speakers and topics. National School Nurse Day is on May 11th and our annual banquet will be held on the same day. We hope you can join us for an evening of good food, music, collaboration and celebration of the RICSNTA School Nurse Teacher of the Year—Kathleen Carrigan. Kathleen is currently the District Nursing Coordinator for the City of East Providence as well as school nurse teacher at the Kent Heights School. Congratulations to her and to the others nominated this year for their contributions to school nursing practice!

As this is my last newsletter as President, I wish to thank you for all your support and assistance during the past 2 years. I feel we have made progress with some of our organization’s goals, particularly increased communication, increased collaboration with Dept. of Health and with steps we are taking to move towards a State School Nurse Consultant. I have been continually impressed by the perseverance, energy, and professionalism of the school nurse teachers I have met throughout the state. Thanks for all you do for children and families every day!

The strength of our profession and our association depends on all of you. We have challenges unique to our practice. As an organization, we must continue to address those challenges and advocate for the health of our students and community. Let us continue to work together to care for Rhode Island’s children and to keep them safe, healthy, and ready to learn.

Healthy Regards,

Donna Lennon, M. Ed, BSN, RN, CSNT
President, RICSNTA     chum25@aol.com

*Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution.*  -- Khalil Gibran
NASN News

Be NASN Strong and Encourage Your Colleagues to Join

I had the opportunity to attend the NASN Board of Director’s meeting February 6-8, 2016 in Washington, DC. As part of the meeting I met with our legislators—Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Sen. Jack Reed and with a staff member for Rep. Langevin. I had the opportunity to discuss the legislative priorities for NASN as well as issues affecting the health and safety of RI schoolchildren. It was a great experience and so good to know I was heard! In fact, Sen. Reed signed on to the School Nurse Grant Bill (would allow funding of school nurses based on Title 1 Designation). Other issues discussed included working towards a statewide Electronic Health Record and a State School Nurse Consultant for RI, both of which would help School Nurses care for Rhode Island’s students!

NASN 2016 48th Annual Conference - Learning, Linking,

will be held June 30th – July 3rd in Indianapolis, Indiana! All the information you need about the conference, including Registration can be found at:  http://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/nasn2016/home. There are so many great sessions scheduled,(see below) as well as some fun events, including a Dance Party featuring 16 Candles, the 1st Annual 5K Walk/Run, and of course the “famous” Purses for Nurses Fundraiser! And from what I hear, Indianapolis is a great place to visit! I hope you consider joining us! Please feel free to email me at madams7811@verizon.net if you have any questions!

Here is is a small sample of sessions being offered you can earn up to 20 contact hours

* Legal Issues 2016: How to Avoid Hot Water in the School Health Office
* Infection Control in the Classroom
* Why, When, Where, What and How to Write IEP Goals and Objectives: Skills for School Nurses
* Psychosocial Issues in Diabetes Management in the School Setting: Their Impact on Schools, School Nurses and Children
* Concussion and Other Chronic Conditions That Impact on Gym and Recess
* School Nurses Query Rashes in the School Setting: Should they Stay or Should they Go?
* Development of a Spreadsheet-based Model for States and Districts to Assess the Cost- Benefit of School Nursing Services
* Nursing 101: Legal, Leadership and Documentation Fundamentals for School Nurses
* School Nurse Strategies to Support the Development of Resilience in Children
* Care Coordination: Incremental Change in Practice Produces Positive Outcomes for Students in Special Education

For more information click on the link below!

http://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/nasn2016/home

Hope you can join us in Indy!

Marianne Manzi Adams
RI Director to NASN
In October, NASN began a campaign to increase its membership with the Membership Monday Program. During October, I sent out emails via the listserv to demonstrate the value of NASN membership. Please consider joining NASN if you are not already a member! The resources and educational programs available to you as member are awesome, but also consider the bigger picture: NASN does an amazing job promoting the role and importance of school nurses on a national level and even in Rhode Island we benefit from that publicity!

*Marianne Manzi Adams*
*RI Director for NASN*

**KUDOS KORNER**

Thank you to South Kingstown School Nurses for their raffle donation for the upcoming April Ed. meeting

AAA has a free program that may be useful in conjunction with your school’s health curriculum. “Buster the Teaching Bus” is a talking robot that leads a lesson with students about the importance of safety seats, seatbelts, riding on a school bus, pedestrian safety, and safe places to play. Materials are included as well. For more information please visit: [www.AAA.com/BustertheTeachingBus](http://www.AAA.com/BustertheTeachingBus)
Aquidneck Elementary School in Middletown participated in “Eat Healthy RI” as we celebrated Wear Green Eat Green Day.

I asked our students and staff to wear something green and to pack a healthy green food for school that day. What a great green turnout we had! All our classes, pre-K through 3rd grade, got in the spirit.

Our families got quite creative with the snacks - green smoothies, lime yogurt, cream cheese turned green with lots of minced parsley spread on celery sticks, and lots of green grapes, peppers, kiwi, kale chips, etc. I visited many classrooms during morning snack time.

I read to the children during their lunches in the Café. Many students also wrote a story or drew a picture about the importance of eating a healthy diet...my office walls were covered with their work for the whole week!

Our Wear Green Eat Green Day ended with a panoramic picture of our students dressed in green for the yearbook!

Cheryl L. Rosa RN

Aquidneck School Nurse Teacher
REMINDER – Step Up and Be Counted Continues in the 2015-2016 School Year

Please go to https://www.nasn.org/Research/StepUpBeCounted for more information on the project; including data point definitions. On that page, there is a formula-filled spreadsheet with which you can keep tallies, especially helpful if you do not have computer software programs to capture the information. The link below will take you to a webinar with more information and can be found on the website: https://schoolnurses.nasn.org/viewdocument/?DocumentKey=e468cdb-0573-4708-a2c6-0ebbef5b7d8

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR DATA:

1) **One** school nurse from each district or private /parochial school is to submit the data on behalf of the district.

2) **All other** school nurses should submit their data to that designated school nurse in their district by a date determined by your district.

3) The designated school nurse will then submit all the aggregated data to the link below any time from **May 15, 2016 – September 15, 2016**.

https://nasn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5zLUYb0r6RVOeUZ

Thank you,

Linda Mendonca

Designated State Data Champion
Advocacy/Legislative Committee

RI Senators and Representatives have been extremely busy in this 2016 Legislative Session. Numerous bills have been introduced and many have been heard in their assigned committees. The Legislative/Advocacy Committee has been working tirelessly to review all newly introduced bills and to monitor and track all bills that may potentially impact the health and safety of RI students and our school nurse-teacher practice. We are currently ‘watching’ 14 bills in the House and 21 bills in the Senate. The following outlines any action that this committee has taken on any bills on behalf of RICSNTA members.

1. **Epi-Pen Auto Injectors**  Bill S 2170
   - This bill would provide for the storage of epinephrine by school departments for emergency administration.
   - RICSNTA testified on 2-10-16 before the Senate Education Committee and provided the following comments:
     - Such language already exists in current rules and regulations
     - ONLY SNTs to administer ‘stock’ epi-pen
     - ONLY SNTs to administer stock epi-pen to non-identified (allergy) students
     - Storage and administration is addressed in each district’s policies and protocols
     - Stock epi-pen could give parents false sense of security….parents must provide meds for their children
   - The bill was heard on 2-10-16 and has been held for further study

2. RI Healthy School Coalition asked for support on the following bills. At the RICSNTA board meeting on 3-14-16, board members voted to support these bills.
   - **Competitive Foods bills**  H 7657 and S 2757
     - Schools must provide healthier foods and beverages for sale
     - **Food Marketing bills**  H 7487 and S 2673
     - Schools prohibited from advertising ‘unhealthy’ foods
     - **Free play at recess**  H 7644 and S 2669
     - Provides for 20 minutes of free play at recess every day for students in Kindergarten through grade 5
   - RICSNTA Legislative/Advocacy committee sent letters of support for all House and Senate bills to the respective committees. All bills have been heard and are being held for further study.

The committee will continue to work hard throughout the remainder of this legislative session and we will keep you informed of any legislation affecting our nursing practice and student health and safety. If you have any concerns or questions relating to any legislative issue, please contact any committee member or Executive Board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Svitil
Marilyn Mattera
Penny Bailey
Debra Weaver
RICSNTA Advocacy /Legislative Committee
Scholarship 2016

Thank you to all for your support of our annual Elizabeth Robinette Scholarship. We have collected $694.69 from our raffles at the Educational meetings thus far. The award will be given at the May Banquet. The deadline for applications for the scholarship is Friday, April 8.

Renee DiCenso

Nominating Committee News

RICSNTA Slate of Officers for 2016-2018

President : Diane Kowal
President-Elect : Rachael Cruz
Treasurer: Christine Vuolo-Fecteau

There are also openings on several committees. Come join us at the next meeting on May 4 and see how your Board works.
Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning on retiring this year. Contact me if you know a member who could use some cheer due to an illness, surgery, or loss.

My email is chrisvf@hotmail.com

Christine Vuolo-Fecteau

**Constitution and By-Laws**

The Constitution and By-Laws have been updated and are ready for review. They have been posted on the RICSNTA Website and we invite the membership to review and comment on them before they are adopted at the spring RICSNTA Meeting. Please send all comments to Donna Lennon at chum25@aol.com

Thank you.
Donna Rainone dmrainone@msn.com
Peg Fair fairpeg@yahoo.com

“Caring is the Essence of Nursing” - Jean Watson
The information in your membership profile should be checked and updated by YOU whenever you have a change in your email, name, address, phone, etc., and at least once a year. If we don’t have your current information then you will not hear from us when we send out emails or phone calls. Some email servers block group emails. Please be sure to allow emails from Info@ricsnt.org to ensure that you receive group emails from us.

Historian

Scrapbook  2015 – 2016

I am looking to include newspaper articles, photos, documented programs you are running in your schools, or anything else you feel would fit well in our scrapbook. Please send to:

The Henry Barnard School
Sara Blessing R.N., CSNT
600 Mount Pleasant Ave
Providence, RI 02816
Or email sblessing@ric.edu

Thank you!
The Health Education Committee

The Health Education Committee provides valuable information and new trends to improve the practice of all Rhode Island school nurses. We seek expert speakers and important topics to enhance professional development. There are 2 CEUs offered with the educational portion of the Health Education Meetings. The other part of the evening is a one hour RICSNTA board meeting. Officers and other board/committee members will report out, which helps keep you informed about the work of the association, current legislation and issues. The event is accompanied by a meal, vendors, raffles and hopefully some networking. Committee members: Rachel Cruz, Sue Breen and Cheryl Rosa.

Please join us for the next Health Education Meeting!

The 2016 School Nurse Teacher of the Year

We are pleased to announce our SNT of the Year 2016:

Kathleen Carrigan

East Providence School Deptartment

Congratulations Kathy!!!!
Diabetes Tip

What is continuous glucose monitoring or CGM?

1. Glucose monitoring helps people with diabetes manage the disease and avoid its associated problems. A person can use the results of glucose monitoring to make decisions about food, physical activity, and medications.
2. It works through the use of a tiny sensor that is inserted under the skin to check glucose levels in tissue fluid. A transmitter sends information about glucose levels via radio waves from the sensor to the pager similar to a wireless monitor.
3. It is not as accurate and reliable as standard blood glucose meters, which is why users should confirm glucose levels with meter before giving a child a bolus for BG correction or carbohydrate coverage.
4. No need to request MD orders as we do not base treatment on the CGM numbers.
5. Check with the child’s parent as you can download data from CGM device to your office computer, which is just another way to keep these children safe in school.
6. School Nurses are going to see more of these devices used in children with DMT1 to monitor BG levels.

Please use this link for more information:

Any questions regarding Diabetes Management with School Children, please feel free to send me an email at kathy.tipirneni@warwickschools.org

Kathy Tipirneni, RN, MEd, CSNT, CDOE
Upcoming Events

New England School Nurse Conference

We are looking forward to the upcoming, annual New England School Nurse Conference on April 29-May 1. This year the conference will take place in lovely Mystic CT, at the Mystic Hotel and Conference Center. We are hoping to see as many RI Nurses as possible at the conference for some networking and fun! If you are planning on attending please send us an email at rlsrn7@verizon.net or amydark@cox.net and include your cell phone number and the days you plan on attending. That will enable us to create a group text of our plans for the weekend. Also, if you are looking for a carpool or room share, please include that in your email and we will try to help facilitate that connection.
On Friday, April 29, the registration desk will be open on arrival and “welcome” refreshments will be offered. On Saturday evening there will be a free play by the keynote speaker. We are hoping that beautiful spring weather will surround us at the seaside!

See you there,
Rhonda Sexton and Amy Dark
NE Conference Co-Chairs

Come to Our May Banquet and Celebrate Us!

The Annual May Banquet will take place at Quidnessett Country Club on May 11th this year. Please join us for a celebration of School Nurses Day, The 2016 RICSNTA School Nurse of the Year, and our retirees. This is our only annual social event that allows us to network and socialize while celebrating our profession. Registration will open in early April on the website: www.ricsnt.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Vice President
Diane Kowal
ANA-RI invites Rhode Island nurses to our Annual Legislative Reception

Thursday, May 12, 2016
4:30- 8:00 p.m.
Providence Marriott
One Orms Street, Providence

Networking
Legislative Awards
Panel Discussion

“Regulation 101” – What Every Nurse Needs to Know

Panelists will include representation from the Board of Nursing, a plaintiff’s attorney and former legal counsel to the Board of Nursing. Questions will be solicited from the audience with ample time for discussion.

A buffet style dinner, cash bar and 1.0 nursing CE’s will be provided for this event.

* Northeast Multi-State Division is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

* Northeast Multi-State Division encompasses CT, NH, NY, ME, RI and VT*

NO ON SITE REGISTRATIONS

RSVP BY: May 7, 2016

*Registration and Sponsorship Fees Non Refundable*

Only online registration available
ASSESSMENT FOR EMERGING ISSUES IN THE SCHOOL NURSE TEACHER’S OFFICE

May 16, 18 & 23, 2016
4PM – 7PM

Rhode Island College School of Nursing
Fogarty Life Science Building, Room 124

The purpose of this series of sessions is to provide the School Nurse Teachers with skills to investigate complaints and assess students within the realm of their nursing role in a school setting. The series will focus specifically on the head and neck regions integrating the neurological component of examination included in the assessment of students with head injuries and complaints. Skills for the assessment of the respiratory, cardiac and abdominal regions will focus on assessing students who present with common abnormalities involving the stated systems. This program will include the use of didactic lectures, case studies and a skill performance component in each of the sessions.

Program Agenda and Outcomes
Day #1 -
1. Describe the assessment of the head, its related structures and the neck in the evaluation of students presenting with complaints in the school setting.
2. Perform the assessment of the head and neck including components of the neurological exam relevant to children and adolescents with head injuries and complaints.
*Day #2 –
1. Describe the respiratory and cardiac assessment that is appropriate to assess students presenting with complaints within the school setting.
2. Perform a respiratory and cardiac assessment that can be conducted in a school setting.
*Day #3 –
1. Describe the abdominal assessment that is appropriate to assess students presenting with common problems within the school setting.
2. Perform an abdominal assessment that is appropriate to evaluate children and adolescents within a school setting.
3. Review and perform skills from the entire session.

*Participants are to bring a stethoscope with a diaphragm and bell to these sessions.

This Continuing Nursing Education activity will be submitted to ANA-RI, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation, for 9.0 contact hours. There is no commercial support or sponsor for this program.

Fee: $225 per participant

For more information contact Yolande Lockett, PhD,RNP,PPCNP-BC at ylockett@ric.edu or (401)456-9715
Registration information will be available in early 2016, please contact Marlyn Mattera @ mamatterta@verizon.net to be put on a list for the course
Rhode Island Certified School Nurse-Teacher

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Donna Lennon:  
dlennon@skschools.net
chum25@aol.com

Vice President – Diane Kowal:  
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Recording Secretary - Claudia DeBernardo:  
claudi5923@aol.com

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dengels@woonsocketschools.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating- Christine Vuolo-Fecteau

Membership-Susan Rose Trudeau

Constitution and By-Laws- Donna Rainone/Peg Fair

Newsletter- Jayne Brassil/Deborah Vannoy

Legislative/Advocacy-Marilyn Mattera, Deborah Svitil, Penny Baily, 
  Deb Weaver

Health Education- Sue Breen/Rachael Cruz/ Cheryl Rosa

Publicity/PR- Linda Twardowski /Marilyn Kelly

Historian- Sarah Blessing

Scholarship- Renee DiCenso

Sunshine- Christine Vuolo-Fecteau

RICSNT of the Year-Lillian Martin/Tracey Dorry

Web Page- Diane Kowal :Facebook- Diane Kowal/Donna Lennon/Jayne Brassil

New England Conference- Amy Dark/ Rhonda Sexton

ANA-RI – Sandi Delack

NBCSN Liason :Rita Kinniburgh