



Counselor News

February 2003

Guidance Services



News and Notes

Counselor Resource Center

For downloadable classroom guidance units with lessons on topics like study skills, ADHD, anger bullying, etc., go to www.mis.spps.org/counselors. You'll find a wealth of information for all grade levels.

Update on NBPTS Certification

The Standards Committee of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has initiated the process of developing assessment procedures for school counselor national certification and appointing an assessment committee. The Standards Committee is made up primarily of ASCA members, including Mark Kuranz, Jim Lukach, Claudia Roels, Gloria Montalvo and Daryl Yagi.

Scholarships and Prizes Available

The President's Student Service Awards help encourage young people to get involved in community service. In addition to certificates and pins available to K-12 students, any high school can present a \$1,000 scholarship to two students (junior or senior) who have volunteered at least 100 hours of service in a 12-month period. Each scholarship recipient receives \$500 from the Corporation for National Service and is matched by \$500 from the school or community organization. For more information and applications, visit <http://www.student-service-awards.org>.

WJ III Order Information

The WJ III Tests of Achievement test booklets are available in the storeroom, material #5874, \$61.35 for a package of 25.

Woodcock-Johnson III Update

Please let us know if there is anyone at your school who still needs to be trained to administer the new Woodcock-Johnson III Test of Achievement.

School _____

Name and title of person(s) needing training:

Please submit this information to Joni Shook, District Guidance Office, #3001, by February 14, 2003.

Do You Like to Write? Are You Involved in Career Development?

Then you should consider writing a brief article for the National Career Development Association Web's Magazine. This is a new web magazine that focuses on practical career counseling practices, with the K-12 section focusing specifically on career counseling in the schools. The guidelines for submitting an article are available at www.ncda.org, or you can e-mail the editor, Debbie Osborn, at Osborn@tempest.coedu.usf.edu.

News and Notes (continued on page 2)

Reminder For Your Principal

As evaluation time approaches, we thought this information might be helpful for your principal as a reminder that the following evaluation and observation forms are available in the store-room:

Material #: 6684
Form: Evaluation of Professional Growth of School Counselors

Material #: 6685
Form: School Counselor Observation Instrument (SCOI)

Material #: 6686
Form: School Counselor Professional Practices Assessment Instrument (SCPPAI)

These forms were piloted in 1999 and approved for use starting in 2000.

Spotlight on Best Practices

In the October 9, 2002 issue of Education Week, an article appeared entitled "Bits and Bytes of Guidance" by Andrew Trotter. We are very proud to publish an excerpt of this article since it features our very own Bob Turbo! Read on:

A lanky teenager with braided hair and baggy jeans leans forward in a chair in Bob Turba's office. Quinton Smith, 17, on a rare visit to his guidance counselor, needs a quick study on getting into college. Gazing back at him with blue eyes set in a sun-weathered face, Turba, 55, the head counselor at the public Stanton College Preparatory Academy here, is doing his own quick study: What colleges would fit this young man? Which could he realistically get into? And will he have the financial resources to pay for college?

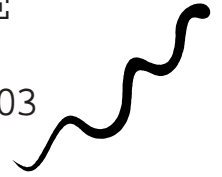
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"Survival Skills for Leaders"

Florida Counseling Association
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE



June 6-8, 2003



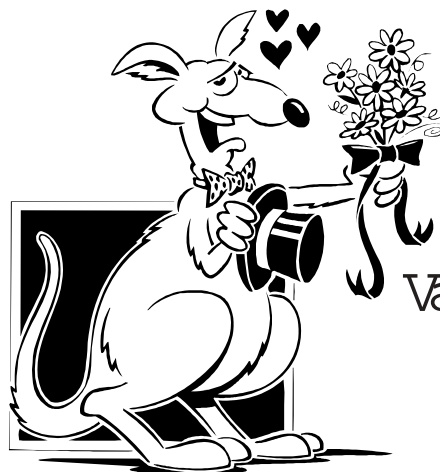
AT THE
SAFETY HARBOR RESORT
SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA
All state and local counseling board
members are highly encouraged to attend.

We welcome counselors who are interested in getting involved with leadership in our profession or associations. Those who are willing to enhance their skills as a leader will find this a most unique & enjoyable experience. Hope to see you in June!



Contact: Janet Riley, LDC Chair
941-779-2709

See the next Guidelines for a registration form.



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Cares and Concerns

Our condolences to Steve Respass, Andrew Jackson High School, and Marva Payne, Longbranch Elementary, who both lost their fathers recently.



Get well wishes to Sharon Pogachnik, Gregory Drive Elementary, who had surgery over the winter break.

Gina Walters, Arlington Middle, has recently been called to active duty from the reserves. This is the second time this has happened to Gina in the last two years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.



Lastest News on Laurel

We had a special guest at the Jan. 17th senior high guidance chairpersons' meeting – Laurel Anderson. She looks fabulous, can walk some on her own, and has greatly improved her vocabulary. Her therapy must be going great guns because she can now put two words together even to the point of ordering her own drink when we took her out for lunch. She told the waiter "sweet tea" when he asked what he could bring her to drink. Her wonderful friend Amelia is teaching her to read and write. Just last week she wrote down "K-5," "6-8," and "9 – 12." Then she wrote a number under each. She had written down the number of counselors at each level when she was supervisor. We are encouraging her to visit with all of you at the March 14th inservice. We'll keep you posted.

Share Share Share

What are you doing in your guidance program to support STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT? Want to share your ideas with others? If so, fill out the form below and return it to Joni Shook, Guidance Services, 4th Floor, #3001, or fax 390-2439. You will be contacted about the possibility of presenting at our March 14 "Best Practices" in-service. Don't be shy! Remember, we all need to tell others about the great things we are doing!

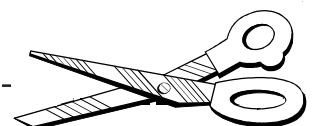
Your Name _____

School _____

Please describe the specific strategy/activity/program that you have in your school (or that you plan to implement this year) that supports and/or enhances student achievement:

What data do you collect (or plan to collect) to measure the impact of this strategy/activity/program?

Please return to Guidance Services (#3001) by Friday, February 14, 2003.



Spotlight (continued from page 2)

To shine a light on those questions, Turba clicks in to a computer database that has boiled down Smith's school record to its essence for both to see. At a glance, it shows the teenager's test scores, weighted and unweighted grade point averages, and class rank. It also shows his schedule, sports and activities the teenager has participated in, and what major he has indicated he wants to pursue in college and where.

"You've got good numbers, good stuff," Turba assures him.

Then Turba opens a special Web site on college scholarships and points at the computer screen, which shows that Smith would be eligible for some significant aid, possibly \$12,000 a year, if he attends the University of South Carolina.

Turba, whom Stanton students regard as hip because he wears silver earrings and sports

hand tattoos, must be prepared to dish out good advice to 450 students—a load greater than the American School Counselors Association's recommended maximum ratio of one counselor per 250 students.

It's impossible to know many of those young people well, Turba admits. To bridge the gap, he falls back on three decades of counseling experience. But he also depends, to a great degree, on technology—a tool that is becoming increasingly important to Turba's profession, but one that experts say most counselors tend not to be adept at using. Robert T. Turba is an old hand at computer databases. He has set up a "cyberguidance" Web site, offering online forms for students to use to request transcripts to be sent to colleges and search tools for finding scholarships and financial aid. He started an Internet "e-group," an online discussion forum for Stanton's 12th graders, who use it to discuss college admission and other school matters.