

Holiday Greetings!

I hope that each of you will find some time to rest and reconnect with those you love. This has been a challenging school year so far and we expect even more challenges in the months to come. As I talk to nurses from around the state, I hear recurring concerns. The acuity of the students we serve is increasing and the economic crisis in our country is placing added stress on the families in our schools. Yet the resources we need to help our students are diminishing. More and more families are asking the school nurse to decide if their child needs to go to the doctor. Our need for information and assessment skills that are accurate and effective is more important than ever.

The theme of our state conference this year is "School Nursing: Putting the Pieces Together." The education committee has looked at the school nurse's need for effective assessment skills and accurate information in a wide variety of areas. The result is a conference with 12 different sessions covering a wide variety of topics from asthma to ethics to mental health and much more in between.

The information to be presented is so important that the conference has been expanded to two full days and all participants will get to hear each of the speakers. New this year, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a "Blessing of the Hands" - recognizing the importance of our hands and our touch in the healing process.

Click on the conference link to register and pay for the conference and to make your hotel reservation. Application forms for a scholarship for FASN members or to do a Poster Presentation can be found on the same link. As we get closer to the conference, those attending will be able to download the speakers' information and power points.

As important as our professional development is, participation in our professional organization is equally important. Each FASN member is encouraged to go to the "Members-Only link and vote for the next recording secretary and membership secretary. Voting goes from December 8th until January 8, 2009.

FASN supports school nurses statewide. On the Announcements page/link, you will find other information and events that school nurses may be interested in. Through our state conference, regional events and voting, we hope you will support FASN. Often school nurses feel isolated in their practice, FASN provides support and a network to help you succeed in your practice. As the new year begins, let's work together to make a difference in school nursing and in the students we serve!

Moving forward, together!

Kathy

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