Hi, I'm Erica Harris. I work for the Oklahoma Department of Career & Technology Education. I have served as a counselor for PK-Post Secondary. This past year, I have been with Career & Academic Connections division at ODCTE, as an adviser to counselors. This newsletter is designed to share great ideas, specific for College & Career Readiness & Elementary School Counseling. My hope is to spark creativity and growth in your comprehensive school counseling program. Please let me know if you have any special requests or needs. ~ Erica

Welcome Back!

Many of you have already begun to help students with attendance and this Attendance Matters post from The Savvy School Counselor, would be a timely and fun resource for you. Don’t forget to collect, track and announce results from your attendance groups. Attendance group data is great for your TLE, program improvement and stakeholder buy in.

Speaking of data…I also enjoyed this short video about sharing data to create stronger parent/school relationships. It was clear the visual data really helped teachers explain the reports with ease to parents and the acronym cheat sheet is a nice touch.

Here’s another resource to help plan your year, National Educational and Health Awareness Dates. Since I know you are already planning and working on Red Ribbon Week, I thought I’d share one of my favorite Red Ribbon Pins. I always like to throw a bit of career development into that week as well! 😊

Have you heard of the We Do Listen Foundation? It’s a wonderful resource for Elementary School Counselors, especially those who may not have a curriculum. The main character Howard B. Wigglebottom will bring life to teaching and reinforcing social skills.

Funding Prospects for School Counselors
- Local PTA
- Local Public School Foundation
- Donors Choose
  - Donors Choose Tips for Counselors
- Sonic’s Limeades for Learning

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DID YOU KNOW?...

The Personal/Social domain is now called Social/Emotional domain. This change was made at this year’s American School Counselor Association Leadership Delegation. We are seeing a media focus on Social Emotional Learning right now. Check this article out.

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education has a new online career development system. The 6th-12th grade and adult systems are now active. Next fall the K-5th grade product will be available. If you work in an elementary school serving 6th grade students, you might be interested in attending OK Career Guide training near you!

Many school districts are beginning to dig deeper into the suspension practices and data. The US DOE has some great information. If you are concerned about this issue or work in a district focusing on suspension rates, I encourage you to check out the US DOE School Climate and Discipline page. A school counselor’s work can enhance these efforts.

Takeaway Today

I just ordered I'm Not Scared... I'm Prepared! I have been waiting for this book since I attended ALICE Training. I thought this would be an excellent resource if your school is ALICE Trained.

“I'm Not Scared: I'm Prepared enhances the concepts taught by the ALICE Training Institute, and make them applicable to children of all ages in a non-fearful way. By using this book, children can develop a better understanding of what needs to be done if they ever encounter a “dangerous someone.” - http://www.juliacookonline.com/book/im-not-scared-im-prepared/

If you know a school counselor who would be interested in receiving the newsletter, or wish to unsubscribe please send me an email @ Erica.Harris@Careertech.ok.gov

School Counselors Make a Difference!

- School counselors can play an important role in the success of school-wide positive behavioral support programs and improving the behavior of students. (Curtis, Horne, Robertson & Karvonen, 2010) & (Goodman, 2013)

- Expanding school counseling services in elementary schools is associated with improvements in student learning, behavior, and mental health. (Reback, 2010)