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Council of School Administrators and Supervisors
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MESSAGE From Lois Turetzky, Ed.D Unit Leader



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**Unit
Leader's
Message**
Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

**Addressing the Learning Gap through
Social and Emotional Learning**

Students, teachers, administrators, supervisors and staff heading back to school this year are dealing with a multitude of significant issues. The stress that the Coronavirus has put on the world, country, community, families and schools in particular is reflected in many ways. After more than a year of home and hybrid learning, where the inequities of the educational systems across the country have surfaced, many students are starting off the school year with a loss of academic and social and emotional learning. Closing the learning gap is major concern of teachers and administrators. The Horace Mann study conducted in March of 2021 found that:

When compared to the previous year, 97% of teachers reported loss of learning.

Fifty seven percent of teachers stated that their students were behind three months in their social and emotional learning.

Forty seven percent of teachers reported a wider performance gap between academically lower and higher achieving students.

During the course of the pandemic, students have had to deal with family issues at home: the loss of jobs and financial security, the loss of a loved one, lack of socialization with classmates and friends, not having the proper tools such as computers and other devices that connect to the Internet and poor Internet connectivity just to name a few. Administrators, teachers and school systems in general now have to address the stresses, the performance gap and the social and emotional needs of students as the school year begins.

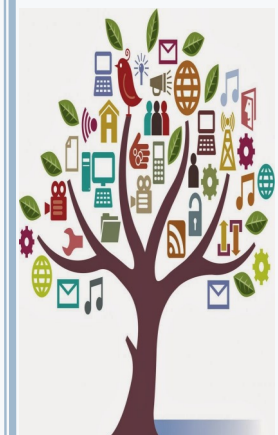
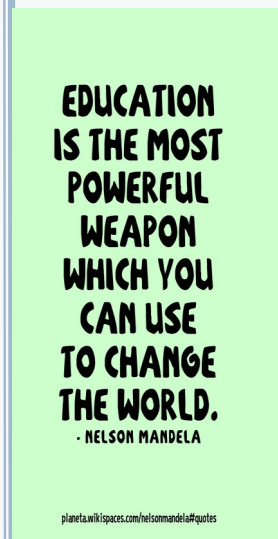
Neuroscience research confirms that when students are stressed they find it more difficult to concentrate and focus on the task at hand. Learning is negatively affected. The same could be said for adults and their performance in the workplace.

To address these concerns, many school systems have implemented Social and Emotional Learning programs (SEL).

What is Social and Emotional Learning? Bennett defines Social Emotional Learning as:

The process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skill necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive

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relationships, and make responsible decisions.

There are five basic competencies in developing Social Emotional Learning and under each of them are sub-competencies. The five basic areas are:

- Self-Awareness,
- Self-Management,
- Social Awareness,
- Responsible Decision-Making and
- Relationship skills

Educators that are trained in SEL can help students address their concerns, anxieties, relationships and feelings about self as they enter school feeling the stresses of the present day environment. There are a multitude of strategies that teachers integrate into their daily activities. For example on an elementary level, teachers can start off their day with a *Two Word Check* activity asking students to describe how they feel. Students can complete a feeling wheel. Teachers can implement the *Count Me Down* strategy: share three unique aspects of their family, identify two challenges they are facing or a goal or dream that they have. Educators that are trained in SEL have access to many activities dealing with all of the competencies at each level. Addressing students' social and emotional needs, being empathetic and understanding where they are coming from helps improve academic performance. In today's environment, we all should be knowledgeable and trained in the Social and Emotional Intelligence Competencies.

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Beisel, Kris.(2020). Social-Emotional Learning: Why It's Vital For Students. Retrieved September 28, 2021 from <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/social-emotional-learning-why-its-vital-for-students/>

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Horace Mann Educators Corporation. (2021). Educators Identify Learning Gaps due to COVID-19 in Horace Mann Study. Retrieved September 28 from <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210330005322/en/Educators-Identify-Learning-Gaps-due-to-COVID-19-in-Horace-Mann-Study>

Digging Deep, Aiming High

An Educator's Lifelong Quest to Put Kids First

Steve Askinazi, NYC retired high school principal, would like to share with our membership the news of his recently published memoir, *Digging Deep, Aiming High, An Educator's Lifelong Quest to Put Kids First*.

Steve's personal and professional journey to raise expectations for both students and staff might be unique but is truly a tribute to so many other administrators, particularly in NYC who have similarly struggled and worked tirelessly to achieve this goal under extraordinary circumstances.

The chapters outlined throughout the book speak for many educators who decided early on in their career that when it came to the well being and future of their kids, failure could never be an option. Steve describes in great detail how the dedicated staff of Manhattan Center High School, located in East Harlem (DISTRICT 4), created a culture that was conducive to working well with inner city marginalized and underserved children to help them become competitive and successful. As so many of our members have experienced in their schools, the lack of funding and resources forced our caretakers to perform the necessary miracles to make this mission a reality.

For our retirees, this story will be reminiscent of so many challenges that they encountered in their pursuit to defy the odds, raise the bar and reject mediocrity. Reading the anecdotes of this one very special school will have you throw up your arms in frustration, but at the same time have you smile at the heart warming great lengths our colleagues traveled for the sake of our students.

education

**CSA LIAISON &
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
TO FLORIDA RETIREES**

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Informational Updates

Hello everyone! Hope all is well...By now many of you are aware that these two introductory sentences are the opening greetings to yet another of my Informational Updates. What I try to accomplish in these updates is to clarify and inform you of the myriad medical benefits that you are entitled to. Sometimes, I will include tips on avoiding scams and protecting your identity,

To ensure that you receive or continue to receive the Informational Update, notify me ASAP if you have had a change in your e-mail address, or you have never submitted to me your email address (e.g., new members).

Prior Authorization Under the NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan: What is it About?

Under MAPP there are certain medical treatments that your network provider must get prior authorization from MAPP before you receive the care or service, e.g., intensive outpatient therapy.

MAPP will generally grant prior approval for a treatment if 1) it is deemed a "medical necessity," i.e. the services, supplies, or drugs are "needed for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of your medical condition and meet accepted *standards of medical necessity*," and 2) and it is covered by the plan.

If you are using an in-network doctor and prior authorization is needed for a treatment, you are not responsible for requesting it; that is the responsibility of your provider. If your provider doesn't ask for the prior authorization, he or she CANNOT bill you for the treatment.

While in-network providers are required to get prior authorization, out-of-network doctors are not. However, if the treatment requires prior authorization, you should encourage the provider to

ask for it before you receive the service. If he or she does not, then MAPP will review the claim after you have received the treatment, and:

If MAPP approves the claim, they will process it according to the rules of the plan.

If MAPP disapproves the claim, i.e., the treatment was deemed not medically necessary, it will be denied and you will be responsible for payment.

To summarize, if a procedure requires prior authorization and your provider is an in-network doctor, it is the provider's responsibility to ask for prior authorization, not yours. If the provider is out-of-network, then you should ask him or her to seek prior authorization.

Whether you see an in-network or out-of-network provider, if your provider asks for prior authorization and it is denied, MAPP will notify you. If you wish to continue with the treatment, you will be responsible for the cost. MAPP will also inform you that you have the right to appeal the decision.

(As of this writing, a temporary restraining order has been issued extending the Oct 31 deadline for opting out. Under the order, the City and the Alliance must present a revised plan for contacting providers, and for establishing a new opt-out date. The judge who is hearing the case will determine whether the revised plan resolves the deficiencies of MAPP that caused him to issue the restraining order.)

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Marilyn Funes, Ph.D.— Membership Coordinator

I know that all of you, as I am, are looking forward to returning to what might be considered the “new normal.” That is going out, traveling, getting together with friends, attending in person meetings. I am sure we are all eagerly anticipating our January 2022 meeting and our February 2022 Luncheon which will probably be the first time we’ve all seen each other face-to-face for the past two years.

However, during this time, our unit and CSA Chapter have continued to work for us retirees. Our Unit Leader, Lois Turetzky, and Florida Liaison, Norman Sherman, as well as the late Jimmy Mehlman and our FLARA representatives Donald Singer and Morton Kugal have attended many zoom meetings making sure our needs were heard. We now have a legal service to help us in that area and are in the process of approving a new Medicare Advantage Plan custom designed specifically for us. Additionally, Mark Jacoby, our Assistant Unit Leader has designed and set up a new web page for us to share important information with each other and keep us abreast of what is happening and how it affects us.

Therefore, I entreat you to continue your CSA Membership in our unit and Chapter. You must belong to the chapter in order to belong to the unit.



CSA Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida regrets to announce the loss of the following members/spouses/significant others since our last Newsletter.

Linda K. Bordoni

Isaac W. Feinberg

Herbert M. Gold

Albert Goldberg

Phyllis H. Gonon

Natalie R. Hamburg

Phyllis Kaye

Bernard Krasnow

Charles S. Langjahr

Rose Lindner

Howard Rosen

Natalie Rosen

Rhoda Stracher

Stanley Weber

Stanley Zimmerman

Our Heartfelt condolences are extended to their loved ones.

AFL-CIO, AFSA, CSA, ARA TRENDS... Continuing 20 years of cooperation

By Donald Singer
October 2021

There have been several new developments in national and local representation of retirees over the past few months, and the ARA and AFL-CIO and AFSA have been involved. I'd like to share with you some of these developments and how to keep up-to-date.

First, let me note that thanks to AFSA (AFL-CIO), all of its locals across the country became members of the ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS (ARA) when it was formed in May 2001.

The ARA is a non-partisan organization of retired trade union members affiliated with the AFL-CIO, as well as non-union, community based members, and has advocated for the health and economic security of retirees and senior citizens since 2001. It represents over 4 million members and has active chapters in 39 states today.

Ernie Logan, AFSA's President and a Vice-President of the AFL-CIO is actively involved with representing our interests at the highest levels of our nation, and is working closely with Liz Shuler, the President of the AFL-CIO and the national ARA to insure that result. (He and I have had conversations as well.)

In addition to this national representation, CSA members are represented at the state and local AFL-CIO levels as well. For example CSA retirees are active at the NYC Central Labor Council, as well as the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA). We are hoping to duplicate this relationship with CSA Retiree Chapters and other state ARA chapters, as we prepare for next year's elections across the country.

With that as a background, let's look at the current issues facing us as retired union members. I'll list some sources for updates and follow-ups at the end of this column.

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Shifting Seasons

As the reincarnation of Fall
Begins with the shedding of leaves
I no longer reverse my closet
For the wearing of my long sleeves

Recalling forests boldly strutting
Style in orange, red and yellow
My mood turns from lively
To reflective, pensive and mellow

As the amber autumn sun sets
On our tiny tranquil lake
My thoughts fill like the boxes
I used to pack and take

Wishing that dearest friends
I could also bundle and bring
For being together all the year
Would make my lonely heart sing

Perhaps this year you'll travel south
Visit our home in sunny Florida
We'll be eagerly awaiting you
At the sizzling end of the 95 corridor

By Lenore Kay



D. Singer continued from Page 5

VOTING IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS: Although this is considered an "off-year election year," there are local and state elections from Mayors, Governors, State Legislators, to School Boards etc. to be contested, and special elections for US Congress Representation and ballot questions. Remember, Public Education is primarily a local function;

VOTING RIGHTS...includes the Freedom to Vote Act which would make Election Day a federal holiday, establish same day voter registration nationwide, set federal standards on mail-in voting, establish limited voter ID requirements and ban partisan gerrymandering;

COVID VACCINATIONS...only 15% of people, age 65 and older have received the booster vaccine, as of October 20th;

SUPPORT FOR UNION MEMBERS ON STRIKE
...ON October 5th, 1,400 workers at four Kellogg Co. plants in Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Tennessee went on strike against the company; send a letter of support to the AFL-CIO:

PASS THE PRO ACT: Which would be the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression, in that it would empower workers to form unions and bargain over wages and work conditions, hold corporations accountable for union-busting, and would repeal "right to work" laws; send a letter of support to the AFL-CIO.

PRICE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS...the National and Florida ARA leadership have asked that we write to our Congress members to support Medicare negotiating directly with pharmaceutical corporations to lower prices;
These are but a few to the many issues on which the ARA, the AFL-CIO, and AFSA have joined.

SUPPORT THESE ORGANIZATIONS...THEY SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!!

Thank you, Donald Singer
(Delegate to NYCCCLC from New York City Chapter of the State Alliance for Retired Americans)

Sources:

In addition to our own CSA NEWS, AFSA LEADER, and the local CSARC Retiree Chapter Newslet

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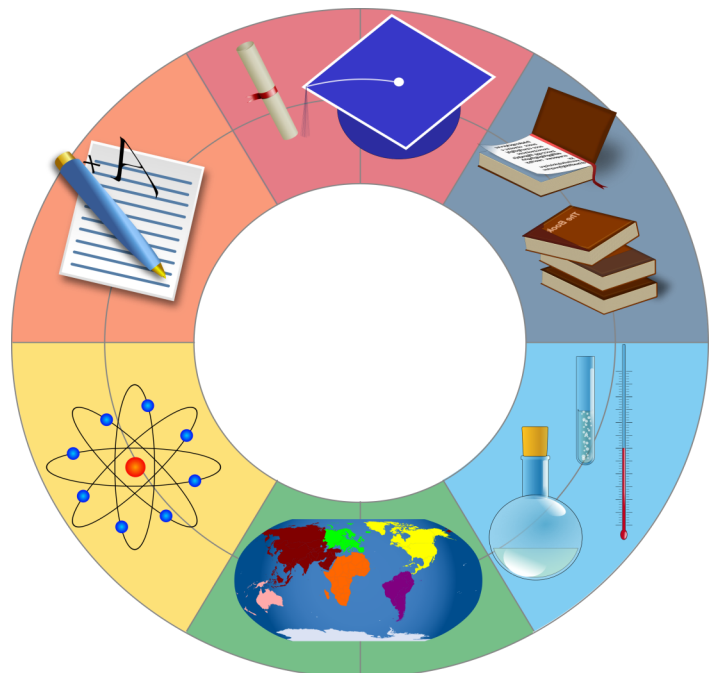
ters and/or Gazettes check out the following publications:

New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Friday Alert, Alliance for Retired Americans
Monday Alert, New York State Alliance for Retired Americans
Florida Alliance for Retired Americans(FLARA)
Action Network.org

**NO MATTER HOW
MANY MISTAKES YOU
MAKE OR HOW SLOW YOU
PROGRESS, YOU ARE STILL
WAY AHEAD OF EVERYONE
WHO ISN'T TRYING.**

Tony Robbins

THE ENGLISH STUDENT
WWW.THEENGLISHSTUDENT.COM



CSARC of Southeast Florida Dates to Remember 2021-2022

Dates to Remember

Presently the following events, except for the luncheon, are scheduled to take place at the South County Civic Center located at:

16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, Florida

Health and Welfare Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

Luncheon

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Indian Springs Country Club

11501 El Clair Ranch Road

Boynton Beach, Fl. 33437

Heath Fair

Friday March 4, 2022

While we have reserved rooms at the Civic Center for the January 10th, 2022 Health and Welfare meeting and March 4th, 2022 Health Fair, we are not sure that we will be able to conduct in person meetings at that time. The center is limiting the number of people that can be admitted so we may have to conduct the January meeting on Zoom as we did last year. The Heath Fair is on hold. Covid numbers are going down but some people are not comfortable attending indoor events. We have to wait and see what the admission policy for the Civic Center will be as the time approaches.



Please e-mail any letters, comments, or articles of information you would like to share with the Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida. Write to me at Lenore Kay, 8440 Lake Cypress Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. Email to lenore8nj@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Lenore Kay, Marilyn &
Carlo Funes Editors



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In Memoriam