

August 28, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Social Worker at Elwood School I provide support to students who are struggling academically due to difficult adjustments or emotional difficulties. When a family crisis or life change occurs, children like adults, can become distracted, sad or angry. It is harder for our children to focus on academics when they are emotionally preoccupied with events that are out of their control. Our teachers are sensitive to the needs of their students and are proactive when they have concerns. Despite *our* best efforts, no one knows your child like you do.

Please let me know if your child or children are making a difficult adjustment and you think it is negatively impacting their functioning at school. Talking to a trusted adult can help children to more effectively manage what they are experiencing, and in groups they recognize that they are not alone in their experiences.

Some areas I can address with your children are: divorce adjustment, grief over the loss of a loved one, moving to a new school, parent job loss and the changes that result, having one or both parents in active duty as well as support for children diagnosed with depression, anxiety, Tourettes and other childhood disorders. **Family information and what is discussed during your child's time with me are confidential.** I stress every child's need for privacy during our group sessions. Of course I am mandated to report abuse or if a child is a threat to himself or others. Whenever possible, groups meet during lunch or at a time that minimizes loss of classroom instruction.

If you are noticing ongoing emotional difficulties in your child you may want to consider speaking to your child's pediatrician or a counselor. If you would like a list of counselors and pediatric specialists please contact me by email or phone. If you are concerned that your child has problems with attention or hyperactivity I can provide you and your child's teacher with a rating form. I will score it and you can take it to your pediatrician if you choose. I can also do 'time-on-task' observations. Please contact me to request either of these services.

If you think your child needs additional support at school please provide the information on the attached page or contact me by phone or email.

Very truly yours,

Anita Drendel LCSW
School Social Worker
Special Education Coordinator
Adrend203@aol.com
815/423-5588

Child's name _____ Grade __ Teacher _____

Please describe the concerns you have and how you think it is affecting your child at school.

Does your child's teacher know about this concern? _____

Best number to reach you between 8:00am and 4:00pm

Phone number _____

Optional Email address _____

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Please return to Anita Drendel at Elwood School