



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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Electronic Newsletter June 2008

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Massey University and the school social workers of New Zealand are pleased to announce the call for papers for the 4th International School Social Work Conference to be held on Auckland's North Shore in April 2009.

For full details about the conference, please go to: <http://4iswc.massey.ac.nz/>.

Establishing School Social Work in Iceland

Gudrun Sederholm, School Social Work Department of Iceland's Social Workers' Union

The Union founded a division for school social work in 2004. The main goal has been to fight for the right of students to have the services of school social workers in their schools. At the moment the positions are all designated as student counselors. However many headmasters hire social workers instead, because they find that the work requires a broader therapeutic basis than is typically provided by school counsellors. The school social workers stress child welfare, preventive work and working closely with parents and teachers. They can handle complex personal problems without needing to refer difficult cases to school psychologists as the student counsellors often must do. I have, together with other social workers, been fighting for the inclusion of social workers in the schools by meeting with the Minister of Education and commenting on new school legislation currently before parliament. We are hoping that our effort will bear fruit in a way that we can work in the schools under our own professional title rather than the title school counsellor.

India School Bus Brings Education to Poor Children

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hrrxLnt8rsH3NfkxDAv0qjydFcdg>

As the bright yellow bus navigates a maze of potholed alleys to a trash pickers' slum, New Delhi's latest scheme for educating the poor draws curious stares. For two hours, the team of social workers and teachers aboard use food and games to bring learning to some of the city's tens of thousands of children who have never been to school. "We're developing a patience for school among kids who would never see the inside of a classroom -- they live in the shadows," said R.M. Mohla, coordinator of the slum education programme. "In the beginning parents feared the kids would be taken away. They didn't know what was happening on the bus," said social worker Durgesh Kumar Gupta, whose job is to knock on doors and convince families to send their children to the bus school. The pilot programme has enrolled half its 450 students in full-time government schools. The mobile teachers consult with the schools of enrolled children to monitor their progress. The programme was inaugurated in January by the New Delhi government, which is paying non-profit groups 3,000 rupees (75 dollars) per year per child to operate four buses.

Evidence Based Practice in School Mental Health

James C Raines, Illinois State University

<http://www.us.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/SocialWork/?view=usa&ci=9780195366266>

The first book of its kind, tailored specifically to this audience, guides school professionals in infusing research throughout their daily practice. It shows school service providers a pragmatic approach to informing every major practice decision with the appropriate research so that students receive the best possible services. This includes how to use research to make reliable and valid assessments, how to use research to choose the best intervention, and how to do research to evaluate progress. Detailed examples along the way, including sample spreadsheets practitioners can easily adapt to evaluate their students' progress, bring accountability within reach for school professionals who struggle to find the time, resources, and support sufficient to apply the best evidence to their schools.

A Report about Japanese School Social Work Services

Kyouichiro Ito, A Member of School Social Work Association of Japan

A general meeting in 2008 of SSWAJ was held on June 14th at Japan College of Social Work. Yasuhiro Okamoto from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MECUSST) and Eizaburo Yamashita, President of SSWAJ, spoke about the school social work project.

I became a certified social worker last spring and hope to become a school social worker. A school classmate of mine from 25 years ago committed suicide in 1998, in which year there were 30,000 deaths by suicide in Japan. This is a major problem in Japanese society. After hearing of my classmate's suicide, I joined a self-help group in Nagasaki City. This group includes parents whose children have rejected school. They report that bullying in school is a big part of the problem. My concerns about the suicide rate and the bullying problem are some of the reasons I hope to work as a school social worker in Nagasaki prefecture. Legislation and the education budget have recently provided for school social work services in Japanese schools in several areas of the country. Tackling child abuse and behavioral problems will be a focus for the new service. School social workers will also be able to respond to the problems of school refusal, bullying and youth suicide.