



# *National Association of School Nurses*

---

---

## **For Immediate Release**

April 2007

Contact: Devin Dinkel, Communications Specialist

National Association of School Nurses

8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 420

Silver Spring, MD 20910

## **NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007 “Healthy Children Learn Better”**

(Silver Spring, MD) Over 100 years ago, the very first school nurse, Lina Rogers Struthers, was sent to a New York City school to address infectious disease control. Upon the success that she had on reducing absenteeism in schools, the number of school nurses increased. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, diseases are different, but the message remains the same: **Healthy Children Learn Better**. Today, approximately 50,000 school nurses across the United States provide essential infectious disease monitoring and prevention to ensure a healthy school population. In addition, school nurses provide necessary case management and care for children who have chronic health problems such as asthma, diabetes, and food allergies. To honor these professionals, the National Association of School Nurses, Inc. (NASN) has chosen **May 9, 2007** as **National School Nurse Day**.

National School Nurse Day was established in 1972 to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. As in the past, National School Nurse Day falls on the Wednesday during National Nurses Week, May 6-12, ending on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of nursing.

Schools and communities are encouraged to join with their school nurses in celebrating what they do on a daily basis to keep kids healthy and ready to learn. Most states have identified a “School Nurse of the Year” award winner who has made a significant impact on students, staff, and the community. The 2007 **National School Nurse of the Year is Norma Nikkola of Ohio**. The 2007 **National School Nurse Administrator of the Year is Melinda Baker Landau of California**. For more information on National School Nurse Day, visit the NASN website at [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org).

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, incorporated in 1977, which represents school nurses exclusively. NASN has over 14,000 members and 51 Affiliates. To learn more about NASN, please visit us on the web at [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org) or call 1-866-627-6767.

###

---

---