

KEY CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Embrace the Challenge!

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2012

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

2012 is off to a great start! Staff and students quickly re-established their routines after returning from our Winter Break. It's hard to believe we are closing out the second quarter and hitting our midway point of this school year. Be sure to check out the inclement weather information already sent home via backpacks. While there hasn't been mention of inclement weather just yet, we are likely to soon see a little snow and/or icy conditions as winter is upon us.

I saw a quote recently by Mahatma Gandhi which reads, "The future depends on what we do in the present". I've been enjoying getting into classrooms more and providing feedback to staff on their instruction. I've asked our teachers to challenge themselves this year with a goal or two to extend their expertise in working with our students. Our SIP team is finish-

ing up the final touches on the written plan submitted to our Cluster Office and soon we will present our yearly plan to three other schools in Cluster V for feedback and a chance to extend their knowledge of our program.

I'm also encouraging our Collaborative Teams to continue to facilitate discussions with all teachers concerning the principles of this year's SIP goals. Our teachers and paraprofessionals engage in monthly meetings designed to extend their knowledge base. There have been many successful events this school year like our service learning projects and our SIP-related goals. Classrooms have included their families and the community to contribute via our service learning projects. Our classroom staff are extending their academic focus in classrooms and including more enhanced instruction throughout their school day. Our students are expanding their

skills through navigational goals to maneuver our school environment, and are participating more fully in classroom discussions and in meetings with others.

Part by part, step by step, the future does depend on what we do in the present!

Sincerely,

Ann

Ann Smith
Principal

*Embrace the Challenge:
Set High Expectations
Create Opportunities
Expect Success*

SPOTLIGHT CLASSROOM 323

Teacher: Von Sutton
Assistants: Tracie Curtis &
Adrienne Rooney-Boldaji

Happy New Year!!! This has been an exciting and fun-filled school year thus far. Our class consists of four students whose ages range from 12-17 years old. Everyday classroom staff assist students with acquiring the necessary skills that increase their independence while at home, in school, and out in the community.

The specific areas that students routinely work on are life skills (personal care), social skills (using appropriate greetings, initiating and continuing conversations, using their

manners, and self-advocacy), work skills (choosing their classroom jobs,; making lunch deliveries to other classes), and navigating the school as independently as possible.

Our classroom uses interactive technology (a SmoothBoard) daily for morning meeting and various group activities where students work on their IEP goals. The students really enjoy using the SmoothBoard and have been able to help run certain activities.

The students also participate in Vocational Workshop, Adapted Aquatics, and they end their day with specials: Express & Explore (Music/Sensory), Adapted P.E and

Quest (Key Center's reading program). Each week they have the opportunity to go out in the community to practice their classroom skills in a different setting.

This has been a wonderful start to a NEW YEAR!!! Feel free to stop by and see what our students are doing!!!



Calendar of Events:

January

30-31 Teacher
Workdays—no
school

Inclement
Weather

Closings/delays

Check on

www.fcps.edu

KEY CENTER SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT ON CLASSROOM 315

Teacher : Shelley Hirshberg
Assistant: Akberet Endrias
Attendant: Theresa Erroa

Happy 2012! Classroom 315 has 7 students - 4 boys and 3 girls between the ages of 6 and 11. We have been very busy this year learning the routine, developing our communication skills, and becoming more independent within our school and the community. In our classroom we are working on developing our life skills, appropriate behaviors, and academic readiness. We are fortunate to utilize two new academic programs this year: Early Literacy Skills Builder (ELSB) and Unique Learning System (ULS). Our students have really enjoyed both programs and using our

new SmartBoard as well. We participate in integration with typical peers by attending 3rd grade science at Forestdale Elementary. This year is flying by and has been wonderful so far. We look forward to what the rest of the year will bring!



Parents please
remember...

For student absences
and/or tardies, please
call the Main Office by 8
am in the morning.

Main Office:

703-313-4000



SPOTLIGHT ON CLASSROOM 340

Teacher: Mary Pfister
Assistant: Clive Smith
Attendant: Jennifer Cassady

It is hard to believe that it's already 2012 and almost the end of the 2nd quarter! To start the new year off, I would like to welcome back Clive Smith who is our permanent assistant! This is Clive's 8th year at Key Center School. Clive has worked with a variety of age groups, spending the last several years with the elementary program.

Before our Winter Break we were busy learning about various celebrations around the world. In November, we spent time getting to know all about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We also did a unit on The Gingerbread Man story and even

wrote our own, choosing the main character, setting, problem and solution.



We continue to fill our days practicing basic life skills as well as continually incorporating reading, math, history, and even science into our lessons! We have started to learn about historical figures and the holidays that celebrate them since we've been back. We will begin reading Winter Tales from the Tree house which is part of the Magic Tree House series.

We are looking forward to an exciting third quarter!

Did you know...

...that Key Center produces and sells its own line of greeting cards???

Check out the kiosk in the front office or online at www.fcps.edu/KeyCenter.



The cards are beautiful, well crafted, and inexpensive—perfect for your card needs.

Just another way to support your school...Key Center!

SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS ~ CREATE OPPORTUNITIES ~ EXPECT SUCCESS!