



# Key Spotlight



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Principal: Tom Flick  
Assistant Principal: Ann Smith

## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Staff,

March certainly hit us with a big surprise, a winter snow we have not had in years. The school system is still studying our budget issues for next year. I will keep you posted on any developments with our proposed budget.

Over the past several months I have been working on making Key Center School a Special Purpose School through the state. This will give us more flexibility in having Key Center accredited. Accreditation is based on our ASOL scores that we get from our Virginia Alternate Assessment Portfolios. Our proposal was presented two weeks ago in Richmond and was accepted.

A number of our students will be at the School Board meeting this Thursday, playing instruments to the rhythm of the National Anthem. Rebecca Barry, our music therapist, has been preparing our students for this event. I would like to give Rebecca a special thank you for all of her hard work and for her suggestion in having our students perform at this School Board meeting.

Our Pasta Dinner will be on March 12 from 6-7:30pm. The committee has been very busy planning this event. They are calling it a "Spring Fling" with arts and crafts, a cake walk, and games. It will be a fun-filled evening where we can come together and enjoy our friendships.

Summer School will be held at Key Center School this year. It will run from July 7 to July 31, from 8-11am. Teachers will be contacting you in regards to Extended School Year (ESY) services for your child.

Spring always brings renewed excitement to the school year. The staff at Key Center School is certainly providing your child with the best educational program possible. They are a truly dedicated group of professionals that strive for only the best.

Sincerely,

Tom Flick

Tom Flick  
Principal

## News from Room 314

Room 314

Mary Harrison

Tahmina Osman

Eric Ericson

Our class of seven junior high and secondary age students has been very busy standing for an hour most mornings. Students use specific weight bearing equipment for their individual needs. These include: Easy Stand, Mobile Prone Stander, Supine Stander, Gait Trainers, and Podium Stander. We usually send two students swimming on Wednesday mornings at 8:45.

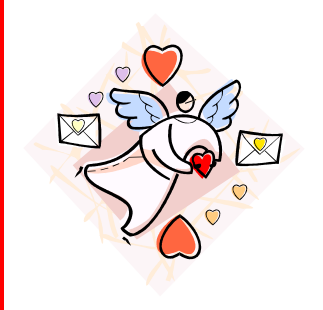
We use our eye gaze, body language, vocalizations, and voice output communication devices during attendance, reading names, grouping classmates, identifying personal belongings, and identifying items used at home and at school.

After standing, we sit in the Rifton chairs with trays or go back into our wheelchairs for Adaptive PE and Music or LINK (Learning is New Knowledge).

We focus on our Unit work between 11 and 11:30 and prepare for lunch. After lunch we go to Workshop for 45 minutes once a week. We really enjoy using the switch operated device to pour laundry detergent, shred CDs, shred paper, staple, crush cans, and tri-fold brochures. We take pride in our work and like to spend our earned vocational money on community trips. Our other afternoons focus on a variety of activities with Speech and Language, Art, and MOVE (Movement Opportunities Via Education) with the physical therapists.

Our community trips this year have included bowling, getting glasses adjusted at the Mall, getting Senior pictures taken at JC Penney's, and getting haircuts and manicures at Edison Academy.

We look forward to the second half of this school year. The students are growing up and maturing into wonderful young ladies and gentlemen. We are proud of all the accomplishments Adam, Candace, Stephen, Maria, Megan, Paul, and Marleen have made so far. Thank you parents for all your input and support for another successful school year!



Mark  
Your  
Calendar

March 12

Spring Fling/  
Pasta Dinner

More details  
will follow



# Key Spotlight

## Focus on the Classroom Room 315

Jill Hunt  
Susan Stanton  
Maria Lee

WOW, where did the time go? I cannot believe it is already February.

In our classroom, we have seven students who are non-ambulatory and one student who is ambulatory, for a total of eight students. The students are non-verbal but have little difficulty communicating their feelings to us. During this school year, we will be reading novels, like Charlotte's Web and Stuart Little, and then completing activities around those novels. The activities touch on all of our curricular areas such as literacy and math skills, independence skills, fine and gross motor skills, and communication skills. We use positioning equipment, sensory materials, and assistive technology devices to enhance our learning experiences and to focus on the student's individual educational plans and needs.

Everyday we laugh and learn. The students have so much fun throughout the school day; they do not even realize how much they are learning. Everyday brings new sets of challenges and new reasons to celebrate. The students in our classroom accomplish amazing things. They are incredible!

None of this would be possible without the trust, support, and hard work from the classroom assistants, Susan Stanton and Maria Lee. We have a great team.

# School is FUN!

## Speech and Language

Lekkiah Pompey, Aimee Rand, and Amy Quinlan are the speech-language pathologists assigned to Key Center School for the 2008-09 school year. The speech services provided at Key Center are provided through a collaborative/consultative model in which the speech-language pathologist and classroom staff work together to develop and utilize a functional communication system for the student.

"Mouthing Off" is a new initiative started this school year to promote use of language inside and outside of the classroom.

Teachers and staff are encouraged to allow the students to communicate with peers and adults during: transition to and from class, in specials, and in the community using verbalizations, vocalizations, picture symbols, voice output devices, communication boards, etc.

Some of the lessons that we've done so far include: People and Places In the Community, Recycling, Plants, Winter I See, and Feelings. The students also participate in story readings that include repeated words and phrases such as "Listen, Listen" by Phillis Gershator and "We're Going on a Lion Hunt" by Margery Cuyler.

