



Key Spotlight

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Principal: Tom Flick
Assistant Principal: Ann Smith

Principal's News



Dear Parents and Staff,

Our Multicultural Dinner on January 15, 2009 was a big success. We had over one hundred families and staff in attendance. The food was great – representing the many countries of origin of our families and staff. Our theme for this year Multicultural Dinner was “Feeding the Children” and we asked each family to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food shelter. The response was great we collected over 50 food items. Thank you parents and staff who participated in this event, through your efforts we extended our Key Center hand to people who are in need.

I would like to thank our PTA who arranged Life Touch Studios to be at the Multicultural Dinner. As a result our families were able to receive a free family portrait. Thank you PTA for your support of Key Center School and our families. I would encourage all of our families to join our PTA to support the outstanding work they do for Key Center.

Yesterday, 1/26/2009, we had two inservices. One was on feeding and the other was on communication. Both inservices were excellent. Our feeding inservice stressed to staff to use this time as part of their classroom instructional process. We as a school are committed to giving our students the skills that will enable them to become as independent as possible. Communication is an ongoing process, in that we are providing every student the opportunity to express themselves using a variety of communication strategies, techniques, and devices. Our students are making great progress in this area.

In closing, I would like to thank parents, staff, and students for all of their hard work. Key Center is a great school. I see this everyday in your goodness. All of you make a difference in someone's life everyday.

Sincerely,
Tom Flick
Principal

News from Room 341

Megan Barbour
Lisa Vogan
Kathy Zajac-Owusu

Happy New Year! The students in room 341 started the New Year with a community trip to Springfield Mall, a trip to Border's Bookstore, and another trip to Springfield Mall for Moms and Muppets. In addition to our community trips, we have been very busy in our classroom. Our mornings are spent in specials (alternating between music, P.E., art and LINK). After our specials, we participate in morning circle and use our communication devices to discuss the weather and calendar, say the Pledge of Allegiance via an augmentative communication device, and use a switch activated computer program for our attendance. We are extremely lucky to have our two Key to Key volunteers with us during this time and they are a tremendous help.

In the afternoon, we always read a story of the week and use picture symbols, objects and communication devices to help tell the story. After our story, we participate in a lesson based on the theme. This month, we have been discussing winter. We began the month of January reading “The Snowman Storybook” by Raymond Briggs. We practiced predicting the content of the story by answering yes and no questions through picture symbols and communication devices. We also had fun playing snowman bowling and filling in a graph after each turn to track how many pins were knocked down. We made delicious snow cones and made adorable sock snowmen with rice! We also got very messy making our snow scenes with shaving cream.

We wish everyone all the best in 2009!

IMPORTANT DATES

February 11
Family Swim Night

February 16
**Presidents Day
Holiday – No
School**



Key Spotlight

Focus on the Classroom

Welcome to room 325!

Jessica Livera Tennakoon
Belqes Nazari
Joel Mizzell

We are a class in the Behavior Transition Program that consists of five upper-elementary and middle-age school students. The focus of our class is to encourage appropriate school behaviors while providing a supportive and highly structured learning environment. Our daily schedule includes reading, language arts, math and pre-vocational activities. In January we will be reading Welcome to the Ice House by Jane Yolen and conducting class discussions surrounding the characters, settings, and events of the story through the use of augmentative communication devices, picture symbols, and worksheets. In language arts we will continue to learn about winter weather, holidays, and appropriate clothing to wear during the winter. We'll even have some extra fun by cooking Rice Krispie Treat "Snowballs!" In math the students are working on understanding 1:1 correspondence by counting 10-20 objects and identifying money coins. In spite of the cold winter weather we're staying warm and hoping for snow!



Physical Therapy

Physical Therapists: Carolyn Rapoza, Mary Walker, Becky Lyons and Katie Hesselton

Are you getting tired of winter weather? Are you looking for things to do in the evening with your child? If you have not taken advantage of the Key Center Family Swim night, you might want to give it a try.

Water therapy is a wonderful way to stretch tight muscles and joints. The water in Key Center's pool is warm and this relaxes the muscles, making it easier for them to loosen up. Also, because of the buoyancy of water, children who have difficulty walking are often able to stand and take weight on their feet with less physical assistance. Children who are able to walk enjoy the experience of jumping and playing in water.

Under the supervision of the physical therapy department, the swimming pool is open two evenings a month for students to come with a family member and enjoy a nice warm swim activity. A physical therapist is available to give the parent suggestions on range of motion or strengthening activities that they can do with their child. Once a parent becomes comfortable with adapted water activities, the hope is that these activities will be continued at one of the Fairfax County Recreation Centers.

It is not too late to participate in the next Family Swim Night, February 11. For more information contact your child's school physical therapist or email Carolyn.Rapoza@fcps.edu

There are two four day weekends coming up for students. This is a good time to do a complete cleaning of wheelchairs. You can remove most of the chest harness and seat belts and throw them into the washing machine with light detergent and use cool water. Also any light detergent is good for cleaning the seat and backs of the wheelchairs. Many wheelchairs get hair caught in the spokes and wheels and this can be removed using pliers, or tweezers. Also, go over the chair, tightening all screws and bolts. Regular maintenance of the wheelchair will keep it in better condition.