



BREAKING ALL BARRIERS

Key Center Spotlight

Principal's News

Dear Parents & Staff,

Our Multicultural Dinner was held on January 14 and what a great event. We had a good turn out with great food from around the world. Our parent group met on January 14 from 12:30 – 1:30. This was the second in a series of parent meetings which will be held this school year. Information was shared about local resources. Debbie Cully, our Community Resource Teacher, shared with the group (14 parents) her experience raising a daughter with special needs. Debbie's remarks, as well as information which was passed out to these parents about local resources, is available on our web site www.fcps.edu/KeyCenter. Please go to parent resources and look for the link. The next parent group meeting will be on February 18, 2010 at 12:30. It will be on post-graduation programs. I would encourage any parent to attend this informational meeting but it should be of particular interest to parents whose children are between 14 – 21 years of age. Please look for additional information on this meeting in the next two weeks.

Nicole Bracken, our school-based technology specialist, will be setting up the 10 interactive

white boards in the classrooms that 10 of our teachers have requested. These boards will enable our students to interact with various images and concepts that our teachers present during a lesson. This technology will provide our students with another way of having information presented to them.

Mr. Lee Jost is a volunteer at our school who recently had an article written in The Washington Post December 13, 2009 and The Washington Post Dispatch December 26, 2009, about the work he is doing at Key Center School. We are very fortunate to have Lee at Key Center. He has touched many students' lives by making and modifying equipment for our students. Recently he has made a number of adaptive pieces of equipment that will enable many of our students in PE to more fully participate in a number of activities (baseball, soccer, and bowling). He has taken PVC plastic piping and an old gate trainer designing adaptations that allow our students to more fully participate independently in these activities. I want to thank Lee for all of the great work he does.

KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) will be

coming to Key Center soon. KEEN provides free recreational and sports programs for students ages 5-15 who are intellectually disabled. It will take place for an hour and half every other Sunday starting in March. Registration information will be on our web site www.fcps.edu/KeyCenter. Look for the link. If you need more information on this program please give me a call.

Today (January 21, 2010) our students will be packaging health care products for the people of Haiti, it is a way our students can give back and help these people who are suffering so greatly.

Finally, I'd like to thank the staff for the great work they are doing at Key Center School. It is a privilege to work with staff that are so dedicated and committed to our students. I want to thank our parents for the support that they give to Key Center. Together we will "BREAK ALL BARRIERS".

Sincerely,

Tom

Tom Flick
Principal



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Principal
Tom Flick

Assistant Principal
Ann Smith

News from Classroom 325 :

Teacher: Catherine Culyba
Assistant: Belqes Nazari
Attendant: Patricia Jewell

Hello from room 325! We are a class consisting of five males in the Behavior Transition Program. It is our goal to access both functional and academic curriculum while behaving appropriately throughout the day in a highly structured environment. We have all made huge improvements since the beginning of the year and we are able to participate in a wide variety of lessons. During the day the students address their IEP goals regularly, participate in cooperative group

lessons, and access math and literacy activities. The students are able to access the curriculum equally by using augmentative communication devices, picture symbols, and adapted worksheets.

This month, we are taking advantage of the chilly weather and discussing our "winter senses". We are bringing the blustery weather into our classroom and experiencing what we see, smell, touch, hear and taste during the months of December and January. This is especially fun during our cooking lessons on Friday!



IMPORTANT

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18
MARTIN LUTHER KING
HOLIDAY**

Calendar events:

JANUARY:

**JAN 29 & FEB 1
TEACHER WORKDAYS—
-NO SCHOOL**

FEBRUARY:

10-FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

15-HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL

Spotlight on Classroom 341:

Teacher: Megan Barbour
Assistant: Lisa Vogan
Attendant: Bhinder Kaur

Happy New Year to all! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2010. So far, during the month of January, we have learned about the color white and did a number of activities focusing on the color during our morning circle special activity. We have also been learning about snowmen, snow, and winter clothing that is needed to stay warm. We will be spending two weeks reading "The Hat" by Jan Brett and doing activities based on the characters in the book. One activity that we are particularly excited about is that we will be putting

on our first play. We will be acting out the story for our friends in Room 342. We will also be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. during the week of January 11th. During this week, we have designated Friday, January 15th as our day of service. We will be making bookmarks and donating them to the library at Heatherwood which is a Transition class jobsite.

We are looking forward to a fantastic second half of the year!



A parent shared this poem on behalf of one of our students:

I believe in my abilities not disabilities
I may not talk like others but
I have much to say
I may not walk far but each step
leaves a path for others
It take me longer to learn but
I teach everyone I meet
Those who judge me by my
challenges & weaknesses
have not seen my strength
& determination No matter what ideas
people had about disabilities
my hope is I have changed them



Spotlight on Physical Therapy:

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

Physical Therapy continues to work with students in all areas of the school. You will find us in:

Adapted PE: working with students during exercises, on treadmills, playing ball, and sharing ideas with APE teachers. This is also a great venue for trying new walking and sitting equipment!

Aquatics: in the pool with students and instructing aquatics staff on exercises for individual students.

Art and Music: helping students stand at tables to access instruments and art materials.

CBI (Field Trips): meeting classes at CBI sites with gait trainers so students can move about the sites.

Classrooms: making changes to adapted equipment to facilitate use of switches or augmentative communication devices. This is another great place to try new equipment or positions so students can participate in classroom activities.

School-wide Celebrations: working with stu-

dents during holiday celebration activities, like the Turkey Trot or the Snowed-In Day, to allow them to attend and participate in gait trainers or other pieces of adapted equipment.

We continue to be amazed at the progress students make—so many of 'our' kids have moved into equipment that gives them less support as they gain strength and body control! Look for the "Galaxy of PT Stars" poster in the hallway to see some of our students as they shine!

One of the goals of PT this school year has been to increase our collaboration with brace, wheelchair, and adapted equipment vendors. We have spearheaded a county-wide campaign to reintroduce the FCPS PT department to local vendors and remind them that we are looking for parent-vendor-therapist-teacher teams to help make plans for adapted equipment. We were thrilled to have a local brace maker come to Key Center to see a student in his gait trainer before deciding on a style of leg braces. In addition, we have been able to collaborate with vendors and doctors, either in person or through reports, to ensure that they understand how active our students are during the school day.

Remember to let your child's PT know if you

make an appointment with a doctor or equipment vendor. We can help you request equipment or bracing for your child and write the Letters of Medical Necessity that are often required by insurance companies. Ideally, we need about one week's notice to gather the information and pictures necessary to write a comprehensive report.

As always, the PT staff is most easily reached by email:

Carolyn Rapoza at cprapoza@fcps.edu

Katie Hesselton at knesselton@fcps.edu

Becky Lyons at ralyons@fcps.edu

Mary Walker at mwalker2@fcps.edu

