



# Key Spotlight



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Principal: Tom Flick  
Assistant Principal: Ann Smith

## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Staff,



Spring Break (April 6-10, 2009) will start next week. It always marks the beginning of the end of the school year. We are busy making plans for summer school (ESY) as well as for next school year. You will be contacted by your child's teacher in regards to ESY services. If you have questions, please contact me. Summer School will be held at Key Center School this year. It will run from July 7 to July 31 from 8-11 am.

School Age Child Care (SACC) will run this year from June 29 to August 21 from 7:15 am to 6:15 pm. Registration will be on a weekly basis. If you are interested in this program, call 703-449-8989.

Therapeutic Recreation has not yet announced it's upcoming summer schedule because of the budget issues which Fairfax County is currently addressing. We will know more about the availability of this program after April, when the County budget has been approved.

Camp Easter Seals Virginia offers several summer sessions for people with disabilities. There are a variety of 6-day sessions offered for children as well as Therapy Camps.

The Pasta Dinner, on March 12, was a huge success. We had 165 people in attendance. We enjoyed great spaghetti and games that were manned by staff and parent volunteers. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

On April 15, we will be having our Open House from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. We will be showcasing Key Center School since our renovation has finally been completed. I encourage you stop by and get a tour of the school on April 15, if you have not done so yet.

To the staff of Key Center School, your dedication and commitment to the students impresses me everyday in what you do and how you do it. To the parent, your love for your child inspires all of us to reach for the highest competencies possible.

In closing have a safe Spring Break and enjoy family and friends.

Sincerely,

Tom Flick

Principal

## Vision Services

Colleen Kelley  
Jenn Bensaid

As Itinerant Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments, we visit our students in the classroom to help optimize their potential vision. We may work directly with our students by playing games that involve vision, reading stories, and exploring tactual materials. We also consult with the classroom teachers on how small environmental changes to the classroom may help our students.

There are a few general ideas that may help our students to use their vision more effectively at school and at home.

- 1) present objects & materials on solid, high contrast backgrounds (i.e. a yellow duck on a black piece of paper)
- 2) keep background noise to a minimum and allow the student to look at the object first before talking about it
- 3) have the student sit with his/her back to the window in order to avoid glare
- 4) if the student has a clear tray, cover it with white or black paper

March is Eye Health Awareness Month. For tips on how to improve your eye health, visit the following websites. Diet and nutrition can often play an important role in maintaining good eye health.

<http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/default.htm>

<http://www.aoa.org/>



### Mark Your Calendar

April 3 -  
Teacher Workday

April 6-10  
Spring Break

April 15  
Open House



# Key Spotlight

## Focus on the Classroom Room 326

Melissa Bindocci  
Nora Brosnan  
Nashakee Fields

Welcome to the home of the Fabulous 4, Room 326!

We are the elementary-based classroom in the Transition Program. Our goal for the students is to maximize readiness skills by providing a learning-rich environment in a highly-structured setting. The students are provided with numerous devices to augment communication and facilitate participation.

The students begin their day in morning circle where the students have the consistent opportunity to experience success through routine activities that involve singing and moving. The students also benefit from individual work time addressing specific IEP goals and mid-morning group projects that involve a theme-based story and activity.

In addition to our classroom activities, the students have the wonderful opportunity to participate in *specials*; LINK (Learning is New Knowledge), Art, Music, PE, and Community Based Instruction (CBI). The CBI trips are used to provide the students with the opportunity to experience new surroundings, practice socially appropriate behaviors and communicate with others using augmented communication.



## News from Room 323

Stephanie Merriam  
Ana Soto  
Mun Yi

We're busy in 323!

So far this year we've traveled through time to study dinosaurs and learned about rocks and minerals from slate and stone to crystals and gems. Now, our class of upper elementary, middle school, and secondary aged students is studying the Solar System. With activities involving making our own planets, baking sunshine cookies, and practicing giant astronaut steps, everyone has been having a blast with this latest unit.

## Room 323 – Continued

The majority of the students in 323 utilize augmentative communication devices throughout the school day to access instruction, share thoughts, wants and needs, and have conversations with peers. Some of the devices we use on a daily basis include the TechTalk 8, SuperTalker 8, TechTalk 4, Step-by-Step, TechSpeak 32, and Rocker Switch just to name a few. These devices keep the students involved in their learning and allow them to be active participants as well as demonstrate understanding of the subject matter.

Every morning starts with individual work on IEP goals as the students come in and get ready for their day. This individual time allows one on one instruction on student specific goals and lets the staff touch base with each student to gauge daily needs. This face time is also important to establish solid relationships of trust and respect between students and staff. From there, we move to Morning Meeting, a group activity that takes the students through daily information including their schedule, the weather, attendance, daily activities as well as a review of the days of the week and months of the year. After meeting, students are off to Specials, which include Adapted PE, Music Therapy, Art and LINK. The students are all able to make their way to each special without any assistance and know their way around the school. While we're in specials, our friends from Key Middle School join us. Two young ladies come 4 days a week to work and play. All students really enjoy this time learning from each other.

The day continues with lunch and other activities including Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Workshop time and rotation with our friends in room 305. During rotation, we focus on activities that center around our quarterly theme. The students discuss a different letter of the alphabet every week and complete hands on activities, worksheets and computer based activities for each letter. Last week, we talked about O and had an olive tasting party. Many of the students discovered they liked some kinds of olives, but not others. After voting and creating a tally sheet, we learned that the most popular olive in our room is the black olive. Green olives were a close second!

We will continue to have exciting and engaging activities that will spark curiosity and expose students to new and different ideas, thoughts, words and worlds. We will continue to enjoy our last few weeks of the Solar System unit. From there we will look forward to the last quarter of the year, when we will focus on insects!

Come by anytime and watch us gain skills, learn vocabulary and grow, grow, grow!

