



Key Center Spotlight

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Principal: Tom Flick
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Principal's News

Dear Parents and Staff,

We are now entering into the fall season in October. It is hard to believe that September is already behind us. Our special programs are really running nicely. The speech department with the help of Colleen O'Hara, our Assistive Technology Resource Teacher, has done an excellent job getting the interactive speech program for our students going throughout the school. Debbie Cully, our community specialist, has all of the trips planned and ready to go for the school year. Be sure to get ready for our Pumpkin Patch trips which will be great fun. If any parent would like to go on one of these trips, call Debbie Cully at 703-313-4000. Rebecca Barry, our music therapist, is doing great things in her classroom and is already busy planning for our Winter Fest. Loan Cronin, our art teacher, is doing fabulous art projects with the students. She is planning to do an art show for later in the school year. Marybeth Miller, our language teacher, is doing innovative technology lessons for our students to widen their language base. Our Adaptive Physical Education team of Elizabeth Jeruzal, Mike Vogan, and Kit Matteo are doing excellent PE lessons. This year they are focusing on individual classes instead of team teaching. Our Occupational Therapy Department has developed a special program to assist our students in developing proper eating techniques. They are off to a great start with this special program. Our Physical Therapy Department continues to be a shining light in getting our students to become as independent as possible. Our specialists at Key Center School are truly gifted professionals who enable our students to achieve at their highest level everyday. What a great team we have at Key Center School.

Tom Flick

Tom Flick
Principal

Spotlight on Community

As we SOAR into a new school year--I first want to say how WONDERFUL it is to be back, seeing so many familiar faces and MANY new ones!!! As we all know Key Center is a "Great Place to hang our Hat". September was a busy time for scheduling field trips, community shuttles and in house functions for the school year. Community shuttles were up and running on September 15th. We had our FIRST field trip on September 12th. Fifth grade students and ten to eleven olds in special education centers travelled to the Filene Center at Wolf Trap Park where they experienced the International Children's Festival. Some students in three of our classes were able to participate--Stephanie Merriam, Megan Barbour and Julia Osei. The Festival brings together people from many nations to share their rich heritages through the international language of the performing arts.

Our Annual Fall Festival trips to Burke Nursery-Pumpkin Patch will get underway starting October 3rd. Each class will enjoy acres of fun and education including a Cherokee Storyteller in a Native American teepee, a traditional hayride, farm animals, mechanical rides and much more throughout the month of October. FALL FESTIVAL will be held October 31st--PARENTS are ALWAYS WELCOME to ALL events!!!

We are looking forward to this school year knowing our "Community Outreach Program" will be a HUGE success! We have a total of 18 different places that our students will visit this school year. All these different activities in the community give our students the opportunity to generalize the skills that they have learned in the classroom, while providing the community with the opportunity to learn about children with disabilities and programs for students with special needs. Moreover, our students have gained a positive experience by interacting with their peers from the community. For a full description of our Community programs for the school year 2008/09 please visit our website - www.fcps.edu/KeyCenter and click on Community.

Debbie Cully, Community and Resource Coordinator

Upcoming Events

- **October 13 - Columbus Day No School**
- **October 15 - Parent Coffee 9-10 am**
- **October 15 - Open Swim 5:30-7:00 pm**
- **October 28 2 hour early dismissal @ 11:30 am - for Teacher Inservice**
- **November 3 & 4 - Teacher Workdays Student Holidays**
- **November 20 - International Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm**



Spotlight on our Vocational Program

The vocational program consists of two in-school workshops and five community job sites. All secondary aged students participate in the in-school program at least twice a week. Students engage in activities designed to develop work skills such as sorting, assembling, packaging, collating, folding, stapling, shredding, and recycling. Students also work on developing appropriate work behaviors such as staying on task and following directions. The community job site component is designed to provide students an opportunity to practice their work skills and appropriate work behaviors in another setting. The businesses currently participating in our community job site program include; Journey Church, Heatherwood Retirement Community, Comfort Inn, Pohick Regional Library, and the FCPS Instructional Program Support Center Warehouse.

Vocational is also working together with Art to manage our card sales. If you haven't seen all the great cards created by Key Center students, check them out on our website. You can also fill out an order form and send it in. The students will package and prepare your order!

Jeanie Glasser, Career and Transition Teacher



Focus on the Classroom

Welcome to Room 327! Our classroom consists of five secondary aged students which include four boys and one girl. While in school we spend a lot of time working with the vocational program on various jobs (collating, folding, shredding, can crushing, etc.). This year our class is also responsible for some in-school jobs that include delivering gloves, picking up paper for recycling, picking up cans for recycling, and delivering mail. We also do some vocational work in the community at Journey Church and the Instructional Materials Warehouse. When we are not working on our vocational skills we are busy with variety of other activities that include reading, math, science, and history. We are learning to use a variety of technology when working on these activities. One main area of focus in our classroom is increasing communication skills and independence in all aspects of the school day. When you come in our room you will see all different forms of communication used every day by our students!

For fun this year we will be working with Shel Silverstein poems. Along with reading the poems we will do an assortment of activities that relate to the topic of each poem. Fridays are the best day of the week in our room. We have swimming in the morning, then a cooking activity, and a weekly community trip. In room 327 we work hard and play hard too!

Falyynn Jovanelly, Special Education Teacher