



# Breaking All Barriers

## Key Center Spotlight



### Principal's News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September left us very quickly and our school year is now in full swing. The school plan for the year has been written and will be available for you to read on our website by the end of October. We are excited about the plan because it clearly articulates where we are going as a school for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

In September we had our Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) assembly, presenting this new program to our students. The program is divided into three areas – Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Kind. When staff observe students exhibiting one or more of these behaviors, they pass out a special ticket to the student, thereby reinforcing positive behaviors. This is a county-wide program and we are very proud that our students are able to participate along with the other students in our school system. During our school-wide assembly students went through a number of activity sta-

tions our staff designed reinforcing the principles of this program. It was a great day with students and staff having much fun.

Key Center will be having an Oktoberfest (October 30 @ 12:30-1:30) where students and staff will celebrate the Fall season and what it brings. I encourage you to take some time out of your busy schedule and join in on this festive occasion.

Mark your calendars for our annual Veterans Day celebration (November 11 @ 9:30-10:30). This has become an annual celebration at Key Center School. Students and staff put on a wonderful program celebrating the outstanding contributions that our veterans have made for this great country.

The following students: Rodney, Hifsa, Afnan, and Destiny, have been in the hospital recently receiving medical support for a variety of different reasons. I am happy to report all are doing better.

Last weekend, I ran in the Army 10 miler. I was really inspired by the wheelchair athletes and the athletes who were amputees who ran in the race. What courage and determination they showed. Each athlete had a strong support team encouraging and helping them when needed. During the run, I reflected back to Key Center, thinking we, too, have an outstanding support team for our students. The teachers, our support staff, and parents provide our students with a team that is unbeatable. Together we are relentless in our commitment and determination to provide our students with an educational program that will provide them with the best quality of life. As a team we will BREAK ALL BARRIERS for our students.

Sincerely,

**Tom**

Volume I, Issue 2  
October 2009

Principal  
Tom Flick  
Assistant Principal  
Ann Smith

### News from Vocational :

The Vocational Program is off to a great start! Students ages 14 (or in 8<sup>th</sup> grade) to 22 participate in this program and they are involved in on- and -off site training. The on-site training occurs in the Vocational workshop and throughout the school building. When the students come to the workshop they are busy completing a variety of jobs including laminating, shredding paper, crushing soda cans, pressing out letters and shapes using the Ellison press machines, and packaging laundry detergent for the classrooms. Students also operate a printing business where newsletters from the community and schools are printed, collated, folded, and stapled.

Students complete various in-school jobs such as delivering attendance, folding towels for the pool, collecting paper and cans for recycling, stocking the soda and vending machines, and baking and selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookies.



Students also receive training in the community to reinforce work readiness skills such as following directions, staying on task, asking for help when necessary, and completing assigned tasks. Our community work sites include the Comfort Inn, the FCPS Instructional Program Support Center Warehouse, Heatherwood Retirement Community, The Journey Church, Key Middle School clinic, Edison High School Cosmetology program, and the Pohick Regional Library.

Every Friday the students help operate the Key Café and the mobile Key Café cart where staff and students can pur-

chase breakfast items. Students purchase items from Costco during their Community Based Instruction (CBI) trips to help re-stock the Key Café. Everyone enjoys this weekly activity.

This year we continue to collaborate with the Art program and we have started making Halloween craft items. Please check out the KC Kiosk on the Key Center web site for pictures of our Halloween craft items that will be available to purchase. All of the proceeds from items we sell benefit the Art and Vocational programs. If you have any questions about the Vocational Program, please feel free to give me a call at (703) 313-4040. I am looking forward to a very productive school year!

Jeanie Glasser-Vocational Specialist

Calendar events:  
October:  
12—Columbus  
Holiday -  
- No school  
15—Parent Coffee  
8:30 am  
21—Family Swim  
Night 5-7 pm  
28—Half Day -  
Early closing  
November:  
14—Moving on to life  
In the community

## Spotlight on Classroom 313:

WOW...it's hard to believe that it's October already. Our class will discuss colors associated with Fall, Fall weather, and what we wear during the Fall season; they will make wax leaves and carve a Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween. This year our class will participate in a lot of October activities such as the Pumpkin Patch and Oktoberfest. During the Pumpkin Patch trip students will listen to native stories, take a hay ride, color pumpkins, and purchase fall souvenirs from the Pumpkin Store. Our class will also participate in the October school-wide party. Our students will have the opportunity to wear costumes, go door-to-door for prize exchanges, watch a movie, and dance. During this

festival our students will work on sensory and gross motor skills. Each class will participate in a Fall tree decorating contest and students will put their creative ideas on our classroom tree. This month is full of surprises and Room 313 will be waiting.

Teacher: Hope Cook  
Assistant: Clive Smith  
Attendant: Mun Yi



**Parent Coffee**  
**October 15, 2009**  
**8:30-10:00 am**



***Moving On to Life  
in the Community***  
**Saturday, November 14**  
**Chantilly High School**

## Spotlight on Classroom 343:



Our class is "Falling into Learning" this month! We celebrated Laura's Birthday with cupcakes and balloons! She turned 14 on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Katie and Taylor our "Key to Key" students stopped by to sing Happy Birthday to her!

We have many activities planned for October. We will be reading the story It's Pumpkin Time, and learning "What is inside a pumpkin?" Ms. Anna grew her own pumpkins in her garden and will be bringing one in for the classroom. Students will be observing the "changes of the season." We will incorporate math, science and reading into our lessons. Students will also have an opportunity to go on a "nature walk" and observe the seasonal changes. They will collect a variety of Fall items to observe (colored leaves, acorns, pine cones, etc.) We are making a

"Fall mural" in the hallway using a variety of tactile materials to display their work. Students continue to use a variety of augmentative communication to be active participants in all activities. They continue to work hard on their individual goals daily.

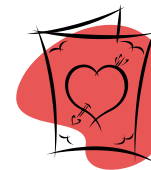
Our Vocational/Sensory program is off to a great start. We are enjoying a variety of different activities on Fridays with Ms. Mary's class (vocational and recreational /leisure skills). This month our CBI trip will be at Huntley Meadows. Students will have an opportunity to explore the Fall season and its changes. We are looking forward to a fun-filled "ghoul-y" October!

Teacher: Sandi Mulvey  
Assistant: Kaneez  
Choudhary  
Attendant: Anna Song



Did you know...

... that Key Center produces and sells its very own line of greeting cards???



Check out the kiosk in the front office or online at [www.fcps.edu/Key Center](http://www.fcps.edu/Key Center).

The cards are beautiful, well-made, inexpensive—perfect for any occasion. Cards can be purchased individually or in pre-wrapped packages.