

# PARENT BRIEFS



Kingsway Learning Center  
February 2018

NAPSEC Award

Haddonfield Winter Shop

Concert

## Introducing Our New Adult Program Director



We are very pleased to announce the hiring of Jason Bintliff as the Program Manager for the Adult Program. Jason comes to us with over 10 years of experience in the field of adult services.

As the Adult Program Manager, Jason's primary responsibility will be to oversee our program, which is designed to bridge individuals from their school years to independent community involvement.

"I am honored to help lead an initiative, born out of a great need identified by both current families and the families of Kingsway Alumni, to open a Kingsway Learning Center affiliated Adult Day Program," Jason said. "It has been a wonderful experience getting to know the staff and students while also getting a sense of Kingsway's immediate and long term Day Program needs."

Welcome Jason!

## Encouraging Appropriate Social Skills

By: Colleen McGuigan, Speech Language Therapist

Often, when individuals hear the words "social skills," the first thing that comes to mind is having a conversation. While social skills are required to have successful and meaningful conversations, this is not the only area that social skills encompass. Social skills are the skills used to communicate and interact with others verbally and nonverbally using gestures, body language, and facial expressions. Social skills encompass a variety of abilities including: participation in group activities, problem solving, active listening, sharing, interacting (eye contact, smiling), resolving conflict, being respectful, and of course, conversing with others. Social skills are a primary factor in our graduates' success in their post-educational lives.

Social skills are a set of skills that come easily to many through exposure; however, many of our students have difficulty with these skills and need to be explicitly taught. Students that demonstrate difficulty with social skills should not be mistaken for having a lack of desire for social interactions. Below are a few ways to practice social skills with your children:

- Playing games is a great and fun way to target important social skills. While playing a game with others, skills such as interaction and cooperation are being worked on.
- Role playing is an interactive way for students to act-out common social situations to practice appropriate social phrases and body language. It is important to remember that students may first require a model before role playing themselves.

continued on page 2

## Pep Rally



## NAPSEC Award Winner

The National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) has named Michelle “Candi” Smargisso the 2017 Direct Care Worker of the Year! Candi has been an employee of Kingsway Learning Center since 2008, and during that time she has been an integral part in our students’ success as a 1:1 Aide, a Teacher Assistant and a Job Coach. Demonstrating an immediate understanding of the population we serve, Candi has continued to develop her expertise in the field through her participation in a wide variety of school activities.

Candi has stated that working with children with disabilities and helping them learn social skills, academics and enrichment is the path she wants to take in life. Candi was recognized at the NAPSEC Awards Luncheon in San Antonio, Texas on Wednesday, January 17. Congratulations Candi!

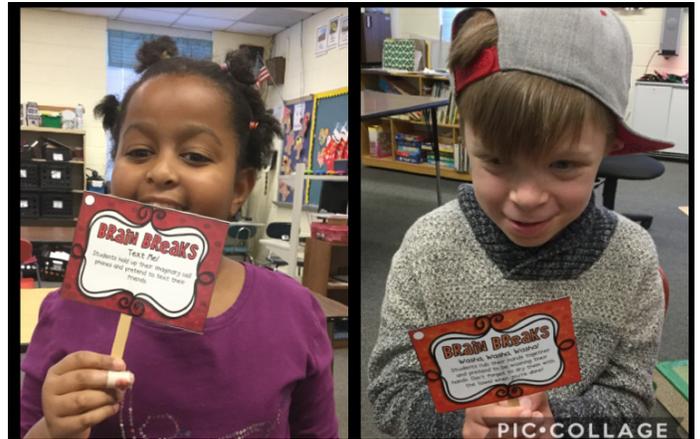
### Home and School Association: Get Involved!

Haddonfield Campus  
Contact: Jaime Snyder, 609-705-3200  
[Lilangeljj@yahoo.com](mailto:Lilangeljj@yahoo.com)

Moorestown Campus  
Contact: Jennifer Cicalese, 609-654-1727  
[cicalese@verizon.net](mailto:cicalese@verizon.net)

2

## Social Skills (continued)



- Social Scripts are great strategy to aid students in using appropriate language in common social situations such as greetings, (i.e. “Hi, how are you?”) farewells, (i.e. “Bye, have a good day.”), and even ordering food at a restaurant (i.e. “Hi, may I please have \_\_\_\_\_?”).
- Video Modeling is a strategy that can be used for students to watch videos of appropriate social skills being performed.

The above strategies are just a few ways in which social skills can be practiced. Our students essentially practice social skills every day, and parents and students may not even know it! Remember that practicing social skills with your children in a fun and interactive way will keep children engaged and motivated to use their skills!



Kingsway CEO Christine Robinson (left) and Michelle “Candi” Smargisso at the NAPSEC Awards luncheon, where Candi received her award.

## Follow Us!



#SupportKingsway

# Haddonfield Winter Shop

Here are some pre-winter break leftovers!

The Winter Shop, hosted by the HSA, was a huge success! Members purchased items for the shop where students could select presents for all members of their family!

Thank you HSA for hosting the shop!



**Applebee's Flapjack  
Fundraiser**

**Saturday, February 10 from  
8 a.m to 10 a.m.**

**Looking for a fun time for  
the families and staff of  
Kingsway Learning Center!**

**Contact Debbie Comeau at  
tscgrads@netzero.net or  
609-379-2850 for registration  
and more info!**

If you are searching for special needs activities taking place across Camden County, then you are in luck!

The Camden County Division of Programming for Individuals with disabilities and Special Needs is a great resource for parents and families.

The website listed below offers a variety of fun activities and programs including Art, Baseball, Dancing, Exercise and much more. And the best part about the activities are that they are YEAR ROUND, so you'll always be able to find something to do near your home town.

For more information, visit <http://www.camdencounty.com/service/disabilities-special-needs/>

Get Social! Share the activities you love with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our 22nd Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at Pennsauken Country Club.

Volunteers are needed to help solicit donations for silent and live auctions, and many volunteers are needed the day of the event. Please contact Matt Flowers, Community Relations Specialist at 856-428-8108 X309 or [mflowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org](mailto:mflowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org) to volunteer.

# Chorus Concert



## Important Dates

### February

- 10 Home and School Association Flapjack Fundraiser - Applebees (Voorhees) 8 am.
- 16 Early Dismissal for Students
- 19 All Programs Closed - Presidents' Day

### March

- 29 Early Dismissal for Students
- 30 All Programs Closed - Spring Recess

