

PARENT BRIEFS



Kingsway Learning Center
June 2018

Golf News

Prom Photos

Art with Sprinkles

Adult Program Update

by Jason Bintliff, Adult Program Manager

Tom Petty once beautifully wrote, “The waiting is the hardest part.” For myself, I have to continue to remind myself of this as gaining the necessary approvals to operate a program unfortunately takes time. I have always considered myself a “program person,” meaning I derive my energy and motivation from the hustle and bustle of an active and vibrant program. For a program person, there is no greater professional fulfillment than that which comes from seeing joy on the faces of the people we serve. On the other hand, being in a place where we are waiting for the necessary approvals to open a program is an exercise in personal and professional patience. I think I speak for all of us when I say, the wait has been excruciating.

To provide a quick glance behind the curtain, here is where we currently sit with those approvals. In March, Kingsway submitted an application for a Provisional Day Habilitation Certification, a three step process. Leading up to the submission of the application, Kingsway staff were hard at work putting together the necessary information for the application, including developing a Policy and Procedure Manual for the adult program. Step two in the process requires Kingsway to participate in an agency interview with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). This meeting took place in early May and went very well. Then, finally we get to step three, the facility review. We just completed this step and received our “thumbs up!”

Next we move on to the necessary evil of securing our funding stream by becoming a Medicaid approved provider of services. As I write this article, the Medicaid application is almost complete and will be ready by the time we receive our provisional certification.

Natural Exploration

by: Tuula Malik, Teacher

In the Preschool morning circle, we watch a music video of the Greg & Steve song, It’s a Beautiful Day. One child claps his hands. One hums the tune. One jumps up and down on his seat.

*See the sun shining in the window,
Time to start a new day,
Can't you hear the song birds singin',
I gotta' sing loud and say,
That it's a beautiful day...*

The song gets children excited about sunshine, birds and nature, and when it’s actually time to go outside, their faces really light up.

*And there's a wonder 'round every corner,
A waitin' there for you and me...*

In Preschool, we try to go outdoors every day. We take short walks in the neighborhood, weather permitting – explore the Kingsway garden and play on the playground. The fresh air provides an oxygen boost for our brains. Outdoors, we use all our senses to experience the natural world around us: see the colors, lights and shapes; listen to the wind, the birds; smell the air, the plants; taste the mint leaves from our garden; and feel different textures with our hands.

We clearly have fun outdoors, but we also acquire gross motor and fine motor skills, math concepts, science, communication and early literacy, social-emotional skills and character building. The possibilities for learning experiences are endless. It’s much

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Adult Program Update (continued)

While waiting for the approvals to roll in, other projects have been taken on, to ensure that Kingsway is ready to provide premier services from the moment we open the doors. These projects include developing DDD approved staff trainings, identifying staff and program leadership, and program planning. We have also begun interviewing interested candidates both inside and outside of the Kingsway community to serve in various program roles.

There is still work to be done to prepare us for the opening of the program, but the strides made in the past couple of months have been huge. The most difficult aspect of opening is, for the most part, behind us. As we enter the final stages of the approval process, we will continue to work to ensure that, from a program standpoint, we are ready to provide the high quality of service you all have come to know and expect from a Kingsway program.

FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP ON EYEGAZE TECHNOLOGY

Thursday, June 14
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Haddonfield Campus

Breakfast and lunch will be provided!

Register at:
tinyurl.com/AT4NJEyGaze
or call 856-234-4442 ext. 335

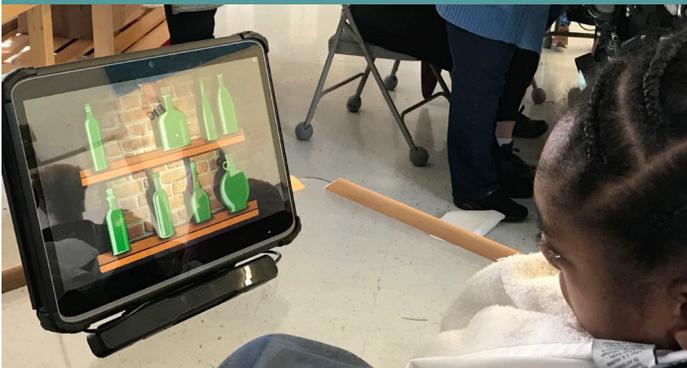


Photo of Kingsway student Symira using eyegaze technology through the use of an iPad

Home and School Association: Get Involved!

Haddonfield Campus
Contact: Jaime Snyder, 609-705-3200
Lilangeljj@yahoo.com

Moorestown Campus
Contact: Jennifer Cicalese, 609-654-1727
cicalese@verizon.net

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Natural Exploration (continued)

easier to practice gross motor skills outdoors, in a big space, than in a small classroom. When we walk, run, climb, crawl, and swing, we are strengthening our muscles. When we hang from monkey bars we are stretching our bodies. When we push and pull wagons, and use rakes and shovels, we are encountering positions that improve whole-body control.

The outdoors challenges us to take risks, to try something new. Can we climb the ladder? Do we dare dangle from the monkey bars? What about going down the big slide? Then there are moments that build our character, self-control, and social-emotional skills. Can we overcome our dislike of putting our hands in a pile of wood chips? How about sharing a wagon ride with a friend? Or waiting for our turn on a swing? As the seasons change, the environment beyond the window changes, too, in enticing ways. When we feel hot outdoors, we learn that sunshine makes us warm. When we feel cool, and need to put on jackets, we learn that the weather cools, too. When we observe the clouds, sky, sun, wind and rain, we learn basic concepts of science. When we observe plants, flowers blooming, then dropping their petals (and find seeds, dig in the soil, hide them there), we learn about living things – particularly what they need to grow, and to stay healthy.

Outdoors, we not only see, but name, the colors of leaves we find on the ground and the colors of flowers in a flower bed. We collect acorns, then count them – feeling the round smoothness in our hands. We find small and big rocks (some too heavy for us to lift), and twigs of various lengths. We identify various shapes on the playground equipment. As we name what we encounter outdoors, we are expanding our vocabularies – reciting the words in song and rhyme, to help us remember not only the words, but the rhythm and pace of speech. We say the words, and repeat them – tasting the sounds before learning the letters with the words that are spelled and written. We also learn to sign the new concepts and use picture communication and devices to communicate what we are learning.

I remember last fall, we went for a walk near the school; the air was crisp, and the sun peeked through the colorful leaves on the trees. As we walked a gentle wind jostled the leaves, and some began to fall. Suddenly there was a moment of pause: the children stopped moving, looked up, as leaves landed directly upon them. The children stared and stared at the leaves, then turned to us, teachers and assistants, with excitement in their eyes. "We know

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Natural Exploration (continued)

what this is,” their eyes were saying. “This is what we’ve been singing about! Look, there’s a red leaf falling from a tree.” The children pointed at the leaves. Some shrieked with elation.

The next day, while we were singing *It’s A Beautiful Day*, there were the familiar moments of remembrance – humming, jumping, the clapping of hands. But there also was a new shared experience to remember, and talk about – a magical moment of natural exploration that would serve as a base for future learning. The weather is constantly changing and so is the nature around us. Every day provides us with new things to explore, and wonder.

*Look around there’s a world of beauty,
From the mountains to the sea,
And there’s a wonder ‘round every corner,
A waitin’ there for you and me...
A waitin’ there for you and me...*



Kingsway student Genni playing in the Haddonfield Campus garden

Art with Sprinkles



Golf News

Mother nature sure was on our side for the 22nd Annual Golf Tournament! Somehow, we avoided rain as the sun decided to show up during a wet and wild week.

Thanks to all of our great golfers, sponsors, dinner guests and volunteers we were able to raise more than \$33,000 for current and future programs. We would also like to give a special shout-out to CBS 3’s Pat Gallen for meeting folks during registration and Flyers legend Brian Propp for golfing in the tournament!

More photos can be found on our Facebook page.



CBS 3 newscaster Pat Gallen (far right) poses with Kingsway students and staff

SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Annual Kingsway Kickoff 5K Walk. Run. Roll.

Sunday, September 23, 2018
Challenge Grove Park
Borton Mills Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

More information to Come!



Prom Photos!



Important Dates

June

- 06 Riverwinds Trip - Haddonfield
- 08 Moorestown Spring Concert
- 11 Riverwinds Trip - Secondary
- 14 Assistive Technology Workshop: Eyegaze
9 am - 3 pm, Haddonfield Campus
- 15 Secondary Graduation
- 20 Early Dismissal for Students
- 21 Early Dismissal for Students -
Last Day of Class

July

- 04 Offices Closed - Independence Day
- 05 Offices Closed - Independence Day

