



# Parent Briefs

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

JOB SITE OF THE MONTH

VOORHEES INFORMATION

Kingsway Learning Center and Services

February 2019

## Job Site of the Month

### Norman's Hallmark, Centerton Square, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Walking into a Hallmark store is like walking into an amusement park of gift ideas. Greeting cards? Yes, indeed. But the wide array of clever gifts and cards for seemingly every occasion is cause for marathon browsing. Mugs, picture frames and scarves make lovely gifts, but food--food is a sure winner.

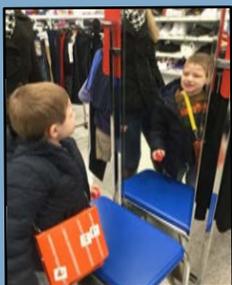
On this day, beautifully packaged iced tea mixes and sweet and savory spreads are carefully dusted and placed gently back in place by Kingsway student, Griffin. He focuses intently on his task. A request for a photo was painstakingly agreed to. A smile was a tougher sell, and when a small, bright smile did pop up, the camera wasn't quick enough to capture it! Work, after all, is the priority and Griffin is intent on finishing his. His co-worker, Heather, was equally focused on her work--stocking bags of some yummy looking cookies.

Betty Trout, a Kingsway job coach for more than 10 years, says the students' tasks range from simple sprucing up--dusting shelves and merchandise, making the glass doors sparkle--to placing greeting cards into the displays. The latter sounds simple enough, but must be done according to Hallmark's system and standards and can become a bit tricky. Betty says the students follow instructions, ask questions when needed and do a great job. And you know when there's a card with no matching envelope? Our students have that covered too. They match those lonely cards with a just the right-size mate from a stockpile of extra envelopes.



*Betty Trout, job coach, gives Griffin his instructions for the day: dusting shelves and jars of gourmet jams, spreads and tea.*

From the moment the students arrive at the NJ Transit bus stop in the morning, their learning experience begins: they greet the bus driver, put the correct fare in the machine, and off they go. Once at Hallmark, a Kingsway job site partner since 2010, they make their way to the back stock room, navigate the obstacles of supplies and merchandise, hang up their coats and get to work. At a job site like Hallmark, every task really is a gift. ♦



## GONE SHOPPING!

*Last month, Amanda Klein's class learned about shopping for clothes. A short walk to a nearby Ross and they tried on, hung up and learned about prices--and a bit about their own style!*

## CLASS ROOM SPOT LIGHT

# Kingsway's pint-size powerhouses

It's a lot fun watching our smallest students. Our preschoolers charm us in so many ways--their smiles and laughter, their evolving personalities, their energy. But don't let those sweet faces fool you: they work hard each day with their teachers, Olivia Shreeves and Shauna Hannings, therapists and aides.

Each moment is a learning moment. The day starts with greetings: saying "hello" by using a switch or button or just by waving. Then it's time to unpack their things, hang up their coats and

choose a structured play center by using a picture, word or pushing a button on a communication device. They get moving by playing alongside their peers.

Sensory play, says teacher Olivia Shreeves, is an important part of the day, and her favorite. "We learn so much about our students by the way they respond to different textures, weight, temperature, sounds and the way things look.

"This activity fits into our program intuitively throughout the day," explains Olivia. All of our experiences are sensory based: light, sound, smells, touch and even taste are senses we all use throughout the day. Understanding how the students respond to these

sensory experiences benefits them because staff can then help them be more successful in their natural environments. For example, perhaps a student is not able to sit and is full of energy. By knowing how their body and mind react to different stimuli, staff can recognize what they need so they are available for learning throughout their school day.

And what part of the school day do the students like best? "That would have to be snack and circle time," says Olivia. "At snack, they are able to work on communication skills by choosing their favorite snack or drink. They enjoy sitting with their peers. Although not all of them are communicating verbally

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Photos, from left: Olivia Shreeves' class during circle time; Audrey with occupational therapist, Karen Acerbo and physical therapist, Brian Rutherford; Shauna Hannings' pre-school class learns about weather and the seasons.

## Scenes from Our Open House

*Kingsway's January 11 Open House was a great success! Turnout was impressive, the food was tasty and our staff enjoyed showing off our new home.*



*Above left: Dominic (left) works on refreshment preparation with job coaches Bryan Monaco and Candi Smargisso. The food got raves from our visitors. Above right: Allie Kane, Structured Learning Experience Coordinator, is ready to greet visitors. Below, left to right:*



*Students and staff did a wonderful job serving our guests coffee, sandwiches and other refreshments; Stephanie Hicks, Program Specialist, leads a tour; Beth Adams' class made great use of the Open House balloons a few days later on Penguin Day! ♦*



## Kingsway's first month in Voorhees: music, exploring and back to business

*Clockwise from right: The Chorus performed at the Voorhees Campus for the first time to an enthusiastic audience of friends and family. Festive seasonal songs extended the holidays for a bit longer, and Philly sports teams were celebrated with a wonderful rendition of "We are the Champions"--complete with pennant waving; movement is what we need in the chilly winter months and Caden proves he has quick reflexes by hitting those disks as soon as they light up; it's back to the job sites and using public transportation for Danielle, Austin and Joey; PJ visits a nearby laundry mat; and Arthur turns on the charm on a trip to explore a local restaurant. Looks like everyone is back to their routine!*



### From Our Home & School Association

- The Gertrude Hawk fundraiser will begin March 4, with delivery scheduled for the beginning of April.
- The St. Patrick's Day Dance will be held on Friday, March 15.  
Elementary students and parents from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Secondary/Alumni students from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Wawa shortie coupons are available for purchase all year long. Please contact Stefanie Mis for an order form at [smis@kingswaylearningcenter.org](mailto:smis@kingswaylearningcenter.org).
- Kingsway magnets are available for \$5 each. Send payment to school along with your name, student's name and classroom. Please mark the envelope "Home & School Magnets." Make checks payable to Kingsway Learning Center HSA.
- Send in your Box Tops for Education and help earn money for KLC. For participating products, please go to: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>
- Move-a-Thon is scheduled for May. A date will be announced soon.

### Classroom Spotlight: Preschool

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with each other, they are almost always watching one another, which is a natural way to learn new skills."

The students also love circle time, which happens in the morning and afternoon. During morning circle time, they begin by moving their picture from "home" to "school". They are then encouraged to select a favorite song using pictures--another fun way to engage in basic communication. They love to listen to music, participate in simple movements, and exchange social greetings with their friends.

The day winds down with the "good-bye" circle. This helps the students understand that school is over and they will soon be riding the bus home. During good-bye circle, the students move their pictures from "school" to "home", choose one last song to sing and say good-bye to their friends--until tomorrow. ♦



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**BUS ISSUES:** Please remember that Kingsway Learning Center does not control or manage District bus issues. If you are not having any luck working through those offices, by all means give us a call and we'll do our best to help you with the problem.

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## Directions to Kingsway's Voorhees Campus

1000 Voorhees Drive  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
856-545-0800

- A. The easiest route to the new building is via Interstate 295. Access I-295 at your closest point and proceed to Exit 32, Haddonfield-Berlin Road toward Voorhees-Gibbsboro.
- B. Proceed on Haddonfield-Berlin Road approximately 2.6 miles to Voorhees Drive. Turn right on Voorhees Drive. Voorhees Drive is on the right only, there is a traffic light there and Eagle Plaza strip Mall with an ACME Market on the right-hand side.
- C. Proceed approximately 0.3 miles and turn left into the entrance to Kingsway Learning Center. Keep to the right driving in front of the building until you see the main entry near the Japanese Garden under the Kingsway Learning Center sign.
- D. Park anywhere and proceed to the front door. There is a column on the right of the walkway and you will need to press the communication button above the metal push plate to ask Marsha Rodan for entrance into the building. You will be able to see Marsha clearly through the large windows to the right. Once you enter the building, you will also have to pick up the phone and be beeped in a second time. This double entry process is identical to what we had in place in Haddonfield but will be somewhat new to those of you from our Moorestown Campus who only had to be "beeped" in once.