



Parent Briefs

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

JOB SITE OF THE MONTH

VALENTINE'S DAY AT KLC

Kingsway Learning Center and Services

March 2019

What's the best way to practice work skills...?

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

We think of "going West" as a journey toward adventure and growth. Kingsway's W.E.S.T. Program--Workplace Employability Skills Training--provides adventures and growth on a different level, but the concept is the same: moving toward new skills and abilities for a better, more productive future for our students.

Teacher/SLE Coordinator Robin Thompson keeps her W.E.S.T. students busy to achieve specific goals geared toward each student's abilities and strengths.

...go W.E.S.T.!

Work Centers and Daily Jobs

The W.E.S.T. work centers focus on

half-hour job stations as students move through specific tasks such as sorting, stuffing envelopes, preparing mailings and folding circulars--all in an office

occupations center. In addition, numerous fine motor activities are addressed through simple cleaning tasks. The move to Voorhees has taken a role as well through the addition of plant walls, which parallel job responsibilities at local businesses, such as Laurel Oaks, that partner with our CBI program.



Job Coach Kevin Sullivan works with RJ watering plants.

Students in the W.E.S.T. program are expected to dress as though they are going to a typical community work setting. They are evaluated based on a typical work performance guideline by a team that includes teachers, occupational, speech and physical therapists. All activities are designed to increase expectations and opportunities for students to master specific skill sets and prepare them for community based placements.

"I want students to make progress in the goals unique to his or her specific needs," says Robin. "Some students may work on one step of a process, while other students might be expected to complete an entire process." Students may also work on communication or teamwork goals as they complete various vocational tasks.

Special Projects

A long-held special project brings an old friend back to Kingsway each year. Francine Grubb, former Secondary Program principal, now retired, is a member of the Waterford Township Women's Club. The Club has entrusted a rather sizable task to our students for the last few years. Students complete 625 information bags for a Club event. Each bag includes tickets, a seven-page program and other small items.

"This project gives students the opportunity to work together, problem solve and, most importantly, learn from mistakes," says Robin. Students work in teams in assemblyline fashion to copy, collate and staple packets. They are also required to check their work by counting, recounting and counting once more to ensure work is completed properly and accurately.

The experiences that W.E.S.T. provides bring Kingsway students closer each day to meeting goals, gaining confidence and reaching their individual potential to participate in their community. ♦



Left: Limuel works on office skills by completing a special project from the Waterford Women's Club. Right: Olivia, second year student in the CBI Program, participates in W.E.S.T. during the third marking period.



Job Site of the Month

Students shed some light on HomeGoods, Deptford, NJ

Visiting a Kingsway job site is an enlightening experience. The students are focused and engaged. Even the presence of a camera did not distract them from their work.

At HomeGoods in Deptford, NJ, our students are in charge of the lamp area. Robin Redwood, job coach, is obviously very proud of her crew as she shows off the lamp department and describes the tasks for which the students are responsible. Students PJ, Danielle and Gabby are busy, working quickly and methodically.

"They know what boxes they are supposed to open. They are marked with a number and the students only open those boxes," explains Robin,

who started with Kingsway as a one-to-one aide three years ago and has been a job coach for about a year.

"Then they carefully unwrap each piece, discard the packaging and put each lamp together. They also maintain the display area--dusting shelves and replacing small parts when needed."

There are a number of HomeGoods employees working in the stock room, doing their jobs and engaging with the Kingsway crew. "The employees here are wonderful," says Robin, "and so is management. They treat the students like co-workers." ♦



The HomeGoods crew hard at work and oblivious to the picture taking!

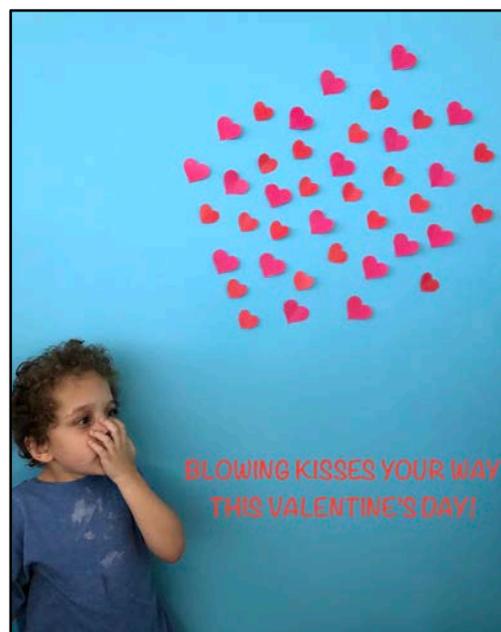
What would you like to see more of in Parent Briefs?
Contact Stefanie at smis@kingswaylearningcenter.org.
We'd would love to hear from you!

Photos from top down: Students PJ, Danielle and Gabby carefully unpack and unwrap each lamp; once all pieces are unwrapped, lamps are put together; Job Coach Robin Redwood shows off the section of HomeGoods for which Kingsway students are responsible.

For the love of kindness: Valentine's Day at Kingsway



Delivering Valentines, making and sharing cookies and mixing up some "Cupid's Crunch"--these are the loving tasks at hand for Kingsway students on Valentine's day!



*Be sure to check out **Ms. Maggio's class** on Facebook! They let us know what gives them the "warm & fuzzies" in a video--"Put a Little Love in Your Heart." You do not need to join Facebook to view Kingsway's page. Go to: www.facebook.com/KingswayLearningCenter/ and click on "videos".*

Save the Date!



Play golf, sponsor, donate a prize, come to dinner...whichever way you can participate--please do!

All proceeds benefit Kingsway's programs.

Registration information will be available soon.

Questions: Contact Stefanie Mis at

856-428-8108

or smis@kingswaylearningcenter.org

You don't have to play golf--or even like it!--to help make this fundraiser a big success for Kingsway!

All proceeds benefit our amazing students, so donate, play, sponsor or volunteer...and please spread the word!

Registration information coming soon.

From Our Home & School Association

- The Gertrude Hawk fundraiser is underway, 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.
- 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.



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