



COURIER



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Music: a universal teaching tool

There are many effective educational tools that can easily masquerade as fun. Music is certainly at the top of the list. Students with special needs--in fact, all students--reap the benefits of music over time through the use of tempo, melody, intensity, and sound quality or timbre. According to Kingsway's Music Teacher, Jennifer Dovi, music also helps with concentration, coordination, and balance issues. In younger children, music lessons can increase attention span, fine motor skills, and memorization.

"I work on these skills as well as language and pre-language skills, gross motor skills, direction following, social skills, and many other goals," says Ms. Dovi.

In addition to all of the above cognitive benefits, Ms. Dovi says the use of music can also affect brain waves, slow down heart rate and breathing, and decrease anxiety. But the benefits go even further and deeper. Music, she says, teaches us to



Left: Jacob keeps rhythm during music class. Above: Ms. Dovi, music teacher, with Joshua.

work together. It is universal and can be felt or understood no matter what language is spoken.

"Every class follows a posted picture schedule and begins with an upbeat musical greeting song," explains Ms. Dovi.

continued on page 7

Adult Program celebrates teamwork, special moments

Staff members in Kingsway's Adult Day Program have worked together for a short time, but it's clear that there is already a strong bond, mutual respect, and a sincere love of their work. When National Direct Support Professional's (DSP's) Week rolled around in September, the positive energy was flowing. The week was marked with thank you cards, orchids, lunch, and a show of appreciation for the mutual support among the staff.

"We have a great group of dedicated people who genuinely love their work and care about our clients," says Adult Program Director, Pat Horgan. "We're still a bit new to each other, but that has worked in our favor. We're building our relationships as well as with our clients."

That sense of goodwill benefits the clients as well. Bonding between DSPs and clients is important and already strong. One client writes notes of appreciation to DSP Erin Horgan on a regular basis. "It's very sweet and gratifying," says Ms. Horgan.

Ashley Shepherd, receptionist, recalls a day when she

decided to stretch her legs and walk along with the clients. "It was a fun time for me getting to know them. Katie was my buddy the whole time," says Ashley. "We were in the gym, walking and getting our blood flowing. I was getting a little out of breath, so I took a break. I took a seat and Katie came over to me and asked, 'Do you want me to sit with you? Are you okay?' She completely melted my heart." ♦



Above, from left: Connie Hornsby, DSP; Pat Horgan, Program Director; Gisela Lorde, DSP; Michael Milloy, DSP; Annette Morales, Nurse; Janie Calhoun, Lead DSP; and Erin Horgan, Lead DSP. Right: Ashley Shepherd, left, with her pal Katie.

Reasons to be thankful

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, one thing we are trying to do more of in my family is pause and cultivate a practice of gratitude. I recently reflected on what the Kingsway community can be grateful for. The list is long and much of it has already been captured in this issue of the *Courier*, but here are a few items from the top of the list:

New horizons: The successful launch this summer of our adult day program, and the safe, engaging environment for our adult clients.

A new home: A bright, spacious, and cheerful new space in Voorhees for our school program to call home.

Our team: Our dedicated, gracious staff across the organization who consistently go above and beyond for our students, clients, and families.

Our family: You--our supporters, partners, donors, and



by Rachel Chan, CEO

friends who come alongside us and share a bit of what you have to help us be more successful.

I hope you and your family take some time to reflect this season about what you're grateful for, and if Kingsway is on your list, please consider a gift to support our ongoing mission to serve children and adults with disabilities with creativity, perseverance, and dignity.

Want to tell us more about what you're thankful for as a member of the Kingsway community, or how you're cultivating gratitude? Jot it down on your donor card and/or send us an email at

info@kingswaylearningcenter.org. We'll be

featuring your responses on our social media over the next several weeks. Looking forward to hearing from you, and thanks in advance for your continued support. ♦

www.kingswaylearningcenter.org/donate

Kingsway Commitment to Service Awards

Each year, Kingsway recognizes the longstanding commitment of its excellent staff. Kingsway thanks them--and all of our staff--for their hard work and dedication.



5 Years at Kingsway: From left: Michael Smith, Teacher; Christian Cossaboon, Aide; Jennifer Hartman, Teacher; Chelsea Jennings, Job Coach; Fred Mullin, Aide; Theresa Sereno, Occupational Therapist; Charles Schafer, Aide; and Brandon Hamilton, Board Member



10 Years at Kingsway: Michelle "Candi" Smargisso, Job Coach



15 Years at Kingsway: From left: Molly Concannon, Teacher; Michelle Jablonski, Human Resources Director; and Marsha Rodan, Secretary/Receptionist



20 Years at Kingsway: Maureen Carozzino, Physical Therapist



25 Years at Kingsway: Gayle Connor, School Nurse



35 Years at Kingsway: Madeleine "Madge" Bradley, Adaptive Technology Specialist and Eileen Sullivan, Teacher (not pictured)

Kingsway's pint-size powerhouses

It's a lot of fun watching our youngest students! Our preschoolers charm us in so many ways--their smiles and laughter, their evolving personalities, their energy. They work hard each day with their teachers, Olivia Shreeves and Shauna Hannings, along with their aides, assistant teachers, and related service therapists who are integrated throughout the day.

Each moment is a learning opportunity. The day begins with unpacking their backpacks, hanging up their coats and heading to circle time for the "Good Morning Meeting." The students have the opportunity to say,

"Sensory play is one of the most important parts of the day."

"Hello" to their friends using different forms of communication. Some students will use a picture or a switch, and some will wave. During morning circle, they begin by moving their picture from "home" to "school." They are then encouraged to select a favorite song using pictures or answer the "Question of the Day" using a switch—a fun way to practice communication skills.

After morning meeting, the students head to structured play centers where they work on skills such as imitation, language, social interactions with their peers, and sensory exploration. According to Ms. Shreeves, sensory play is one of the most important parts of the day, and her favorite. "It fits seamlessly into our program throughout the day. We learn so much about our students by the way they respond to different textures, weight, temperature, sounds, and the way things look." All of our experiences are sensory-based and understanding how each student responds to different sensory experiences helps staff determine how to support students to be



available for learning throughout their school day.

What part of the school day do the students like the best? "That would have to be snack and circle time," says Ms. Shreeves. "During snack, the students are able to work on communication skills by choosing their favorite food or drink. They enjoy sitting with their peers, and although not all of them are communicating verbally to each other, they are almost always watching one another, which is a natural way to learn new skills."

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



Photos, from top: CJ is ready for circle time!; Gianna works with Physical Therapist Brian Rutherford on the Sensory Path; Justin reacts to different shapes and colors during a recent visit to a local farm.



Keep tabs on what's going on at Kingsway!



www.kingswaylearningcenter.org

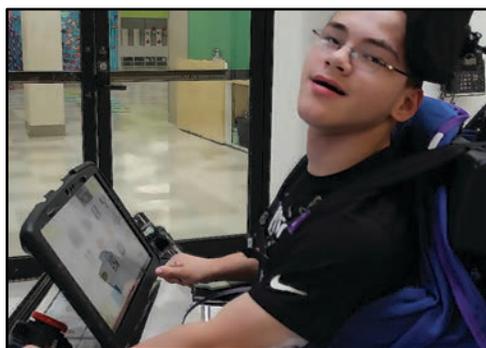
From the first day of school till Halloween... busy autumn days!



Smiles on the first day of school: from left, Amaal, Abby, and Genny, greeted by Ms. Ahern.



Hay! It's Phil taking in the autumn sights, sounds, and smells at Duffield's Farm & Market.



Dominic cruising around school, conversing with staff and students using his Tobii Dyna Vox!



There may have been no post-season for the Phillies, but Jimmy never gave up!



Some students went to Duffield's or Johnson's farm, but Mr. Murtha's Elementary class discovered a curious-looking apple tree on Kingsway's grounds (left)--the kind everyone can reach. Right, Lorenzo demonstrates!



The Snack Shack, a new in-school shop, officially opened this fall. The ribbon-cutting opened the doors to coffee, baked goods, chips and Kingsway gear. Students greet customers, ring up sales, re-stock, take inventory, and keep the shop clean and orderly.



Above, Joshua channels his inner cowboy at the Fall Dance. Below, both students and alumni enjoy the festivities.



Top: Halloween wouldn't be complete without the traditional Parade! Adding to the fun--games, pumpkin decorating, mummy making and, of course, treats!



Bottom: A few days earlier, students enjoyed a rainy but fun-filled Trunk or Treat hosted by our Home & School Association.

Keeping up with the Adult Day Program



Top row: Danielle enjoys sculpture in downtown Haddonfield; Liesl works on sorting skills; the group makes caramel apples. Second row: Victoria and Danielle take a hayride at Johnson's Corner Farm; Emily, Gisela Lorde (DSP), Devin, and Sydney (seated) work on kitchen skills and make applesauce. Happy Halloweening with Caitlyn, Alex and Katie. Left: the crew in Haddonfield. Right: using public transportation.





staff spotlight

Annette is the Program Nurse for Kingsway Services' Adult Day Program. She has been in the

healthcare field for more than 20 years. While a MLTSS (Managed Long-Term Services and Support) program nurse for a major healthcare company, she was part of that company's marketing campaign. So if her face looks familiar, it's because you may have seen her on the side of NJ Transit bus, billboard, or TV commercial. Annette was also nominated as Nurse of The Year for The March of Dimes--a foundation dear to her heart.



**Annette
Morales, LPN**
Adult Day Program
Nurse

What do you like most about your job? This is a hard one because I absolutely love what I do but, I would say that what I like most is being able to interact daily with the clients, not only providing clinical care but also getting to know them, their likes and dislikes, and building relationships that will hopefully last a lifetime! It's just in my nature to be nurturing. I guess that's why nursing was my career choice since I was 3!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? In the little spare time that I do have I enjoy family time. Be it family movie night, game night, or craft time I have an almost teen and a set of 4-year-old twins, so something is always going on in our house to keep them busy.

What are three things you can't live without? I'm laughing as I read this question! 1. Coffee. And when I say coffee, I mean I can have an IV bag in my arm all day. 2. Throw blankets. I own way too many and still see the need to buy more every season. They just feel so cozy! 3. The Hallmark Channel. My husband makes fun of me because not even two minutes into a movie he will say "Oh, I can tell you who's going to fall in love and live happily ever after. Now you don't have to watch it. I saved you two hours."



**Robin
Redwood**
School Program
Job Coach

Robin is a Job Coach in the Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program. She accompanies 2-3 students to job sites, guiding them through their tasks, offering advice, and ensuring safety. Robin joined Kingsway in 2016 as a one-to-one aide and rose to the position of job coach in 2018.

What do you like most about your job?

What I enjoy most about being a Job Coach is building relationships with students. The dynamic is always different. I truly enjoy my job--creating strategies and teachable moments in the community.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? With two full-time jobs, spare time is a luxury, but when I can...catching up on my rest and writing music.

What are three things you can't live without?

Apart from my basic physical needs: Love, compassion and hope.

Kingsway Keepsakes: crafters learn by creating



Matthew sands a shelf sitter.



Above: Ms. Reichert, left, and Ms. Maggio (both in green) assist their craft customers. Below: their first customer, staff member Sara Lewis!



Students in Christine Maggio's Tools for Life Career Center learn to work with their hands and their creativity. Using paint brushes, glue guns, drills, hammers, and sandpaper they create beautiful seasonal crafts.

With an offer of a free display area, Ms. Maggio and teacher assistant Debbie Reichert took the students' wares on the road this fall to the Rancocas Woods Craft Show. "I'm so proud of them," says Ms. Maggio. "They worked hard and did an amazing job."

A number of Kingsway staff members came to support the students great work! ♦



Emily is ready to paint.

Adult Day Program adds first community partnership

by Pat Horgan
Program Director

Kingsway Services' Adult Day Program recently announced the addition of the first community partner to our Activity Schedule! We are now working with the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) in Voorhees, NJ to provide enrichment items for sheltered animals, as well as welcoming some animals to our center for pet therapy visits.

Clients recently began making enrichment toys through the Trash to Treasure program. We are reusing and recycling plastic water bottles, medication bottles, and empty tissue boxes and filling them with treats for each animal as well as using socks/yarn for the outside of the bottle. We will be making the treats in the program once a week with a drop off outing once a month

Participants are very excited to begin volunteering and having a service project that benefits animals. We are hoping to add more volunteer opportunities and community partners in the future.

Become a Community Partner

Is your organization interested in teaming up with Kingsway Services' Adult Day Program? Contact Pat Horgan, at 856-545-0800.

Music from page 1

"Movement activities are incorporated into each class because all of our students need to be active. I interact with each student to ensure engagement. At the end of each class, I make sure there is time for a fun activity or a cool-down transition activity. Music is therapeutic on many levels."

Electronic musical devices, such as the Beamz, are used to encourage independent participation as well as understanding of cause and effect. "I also use a variety of instruments to encourage the students to explore sounds and textures. During music class, I use communication devices to have the students make choices about which instruments they want to use."

"I teach the child as a whole. I find out what motivates the child, what they like, what their strengths are and how I can help them most, says Ms. Dovi. "Children learn best through play and interaction." ♦



Photos, from top: Amaal, Josh and Danielle having fun with percussion instruments during music class.



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ONE
MORE
THING

**Everyone
should
get a
playground
break!**



Besides movement and exercise, time on Kingsway's state-of-the-art playground equipment, partially funded by our Home & School Association, provides many therapeutic benefits: input to the sensory system through tactile, visual, auditory, and balance activities, not to mention social interactions between students and, of course, fun!