

The welcoming world of student artwork

Student artwork holds a special place in everyone's heart at Kingsway. The whimsy, the brief suspension of reality, transports us to a time of innocence and simplicity. It makes us smile.

As for the artists, it's all about expression. "Any person can find a way to express themselves through art," says Karen Spieker, Kingsway's Art Specialist. Art, she says, fosters creativity ("what shall I paint?"), decision making ("what colors should I use?") and problem solving ("how do I make this look like water or sky?"). Art builds confidence and a sense of accomplishment. "Everyone has the ability to create and express, and there are so few absolutes--there are thousands of ways to express oneself," says Ms. Spieker. Of course, that well beyond paint. tissue paper, balls, sticks, sand, goes on and on--can create mind's eye. In materials, Ms. artists draw from

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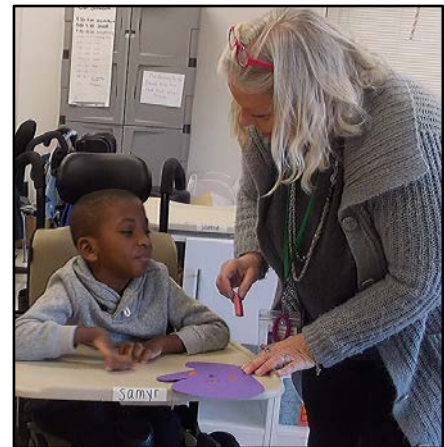
expression goes Using textures like pebbles, cotton feathers--the list the student artist according to her addition to Spieker helps older the classics.

"I often use famous art for inspiration so ideas and history are shared," says Ms. Spieker, who divides her time between the School and Adult Day Programs. "Looking at great art encourages collaboration and discussions of ideas and techniques. The hows and whys are discussed, as well as the emotions that a piece elicits. Art lets students share experiences, likes and dislikes, ideas and thoughts about the world around them."

"I mostly enjoy the pride and satisfaction students take in creating their pieces. Making art with students is a fun and rewarding journey for me and I think my students feel the same way.

"Finally, I am a big believer that the benefits of art are the same for all people: young, old, male or female, any nationality, or the differently abled. All people express themselves in some form and the arts offer opportunities for that expression. The possibilities are endless for everyone." ♦

Photos, from top: Ms. Spieker works with Michael on decorating a mitten; Ms. Dougherty and Brynn choose a pink mitten to decorate; Alex, Liesl, and Morgan show off some autumn artwork with Ms. Spieker.



The Photos of November: *Adult Program...*



Photos, from left: Adult Program clients salute to Veterans Day; Sydney is ready to spin the Wheel of Fortune during a trip to Tilt Studio at Voorhees Towne Center; and Liesl checks out a video game at Tilt Studio.

...School Program



Friday Morning Dance Party! Students were greeted with music and dancing to start the day on a positive note and celebrate the end of another great week!



Above: Mr. Pensiero's class about to enjoy a "friendsgiving" meal together. Right: Julia shows off her leaf for the "thankful tree," with a little help from her aide, Ms. Pitman.



The winners of the Snack Shack's contest. Photo, left: Ms. Neal with student Anna and Ms. Carr (photo, right). One random winner from each program was chosen and won a reusable coffee cup and a tote bag filled with delicious snacks. Staff entered the contest by writing why they loved the Snack Shack.

In November, all things lead to turkey! Danielle shows off her turkey-decorated cookie.



CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Klein's Elementary Class

It's 10 a.m., and Amanda Klein's elementary students are being scurried into various locations in the classroom. Three students work with her on iPads at one table, while Jaxon works with Occupational Therapist Maggie Myers on an activity related to the week's theme of space. At another table, Speech/Language Pathologist Christy Gilliss works with students on a lesson from "Tell Me," a new curriculum, which supports students who are nonverbal or minimally verbal.

A bit earlier in the morning, students started their day with the basics: upon entering the classroom each morning, students are responsible for unpacking their belongings. "Our staff really promotes independence from the very beginning of the day," says Ms. Klein. Students are responsible for putting their lunchboxes and folders in the appropriate locations and hanging up their backpacks and jackets. "There is always room for sharpening those skills," says Ms. Klein.

Of course, planning is key to making each day a success for the students. "Our related services team is really great about collaborating, so we work together to plan themes for each week, for two or three months ahead," Ms. Klein explains. This week's theme is space, while other themes often parallel with the season. "Coming up, we have a lot of winter-

themed weeks like winter animals, snowmen, igloos."

Ms. Klein says her students are an active bunch, so any opportunity to have interactive instruction is important for them. "They enjoy sensory activities where they are able to manipulate things on their own. They also love science experiments, such as the pumpkin volcanoes we recently made, or seeing



which objects will sink or float in a tub of water."

"My favorite part of any day is anytime that I see a student work to accomplish something that they haven't done before," says Ms. Klein. "Whether it's writing a new letter in the sequence of their name, or answering a question about the function of an item on their AAC device (Augmentative Alternative Communication), it all makes me very happy."

"I also love when a student surprises the class with a skill that our staff may not have been expecting. The other day, we were reading a story about space and one of the students in our class read an entire page out loud. You could sense her pride after she finished and everyone, including other students, were clapping for her." ♦

Photos, from top: Ms. Klein works with Kendrick on his iPad; Ms. Myers and Jaxon work a project for the week's theme of space; Ms. Gilliss (left) works with Parker, Tamilore with her aide Ms. Smith, and Angelina with her aide Ms. Randiek.

In the spirit of this season of giving and gratitude, the Fall issue of the Kingsway Courier includes our Annual Appeal as well as an important question: What are you thankful for? We at Kingsway are thankful for our students, clients, staff, families, and donors. Here are some responses received via social media.

What are you thankful for?

Erin H.: "I'm thankful that I am able to play sports for Special Olympics and trying new things and making new friends along the way and for having wonderful family and friends."

Shawna G.: "Definitely thankful for KLC! Ms. Amanda and team are amazing to Alex. Can we keep them forever and ever? Thank you all SO much everything you do. Alex is reaping the rewards of your tireless dedication and hard work."

Ellen W.: "I am thankful for Kingsway...my first educational job where I taught from 1974-1978. I'm thankful for all of my students that I taught...and that my Dad was on the Board. I'm thankful that my Mom worked there as an aide for several years, and my sister-in-law worked there as a Speech/Language Therapist for several years. Kingsway began my special educational journey of 45 years! I truly have been blessed!"

What's the buzz on Facebook?



Salute to Veterans!

"Thank you, guys!"
--John S., Navy Veteran



Kingsway Cougars Flag Football team wins Silver!

"Great news.
Way to go!"
--Janet B.

"Way to go
Cougars!!!"
--Heather M.

"Congratulations! This
is awesome!"
--Joelle C.



Jimmy with nurse, Sharon, at Challenge Grove Park, where the Recreation & Leisure domain goes every Friday. One of the activities is using the Boundless Field where students play T-ball.



"Looks like fun!"
--Friends at DoubleTree Suites

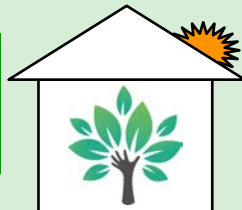
"Very cute!"
--Grace C.



Guy at work at Tree House Cafe.

"Look at the joy
on his face!"
--Robert M.

Home & School Update



Events

Holiday Shop will be open on December 12 for all to purchase holiday gifts for family and friends at school. Watch for a flyer to come home with details.

Wawa Coupon Sale-Ongoing

Looking for a small thank you during the holiday season? Check out our Wawa Shortie Hoagie Fundraiser. For \$4, you will get a coupon for a free WaWa Shortie Hoagie (Retail Value \$4.59) and HSA will earn \$1 for each coupon purchased. Wawa Coupons are always available!

SAVE THE DATE

Applebee's Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 8 at the Applebee's in Voorhees.

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone that donated items to the Leisure Carts. At this time, our carts are full and we will reach out in the future when we are looking for additional items.

Thank you to all who took part in the KidStuff/Save Around Coupon Book Fundraiser. HSA earned over \$1,100!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at kichsa.nj@gmail.com!

Thank you for your support!



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