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KATZENBACH

School News

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Mission Statement

The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf is a learning community dedicated to ensuring the lifelong success of people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Working together with families, school districts, the Deaf community, and our other partners, we create an educational environment that is least restrictive for our students, which optimizes learning for students statewide, from three years old to high school graduation.



A Message From
Joan Krasnisky
Superintendent

Dear MKSD Community,

As we are wrapping up our first semester, this issue of Katzenbach School News looks back on our December Holiday happenings, Tip Off Basketball Tournament, ELMS Reads, and other notable accomplishments of our students, staff, and alumni.

Our educators at MKSD are dedicated to our students and strive daily to provide learning opportunities that are learner centered, performance based, and challenging. In the 2016-2017 school year, using the Danielson framework to evaluate teacher performance, 77% of our teachers attained a highly effective summative score (3.5-4) and 23% attained an effective summative score (2.65-3.49).

On behalf of the Katzenbach community, I would like to congratulate our recipients of the 2018 Governor's Educator of the Year Award: Elementary Special Education Instructor, Pam Wood, High School Culinary Arts Instructor, Joseph Chell, and Middle School teaching assistant, Thomas Giordano. Inside this issue you can read more about the merits of these educators.

Special thanks to Uriel Garcia, High School student, who performed an Environmental Safety Assessment of the MKSD campus for people with low vision or blindness. Due to his findings, steps have been made to correct and improve areas on our campus to make it a safer environment. Read more about Uriel's Environmental Safety Assessment inside this issue.

In New Jersey it has been a long cold winter. Looking forward to spring, the leaves returning to the trees, the flowers blossoming, and the myriad of activities that will permeate our campus.

Joan Krasnisky
Superintendent



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Katzenbach's Educators of the Year

Katzenbach is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Governor's Educator of the Year recipients. On behalf of the Katzenbach Administrative Council and staff, we honor and thank these staff for their hard work and dedication to the students and families of Katzenbach School for the Deaf. Please join us on congratulating this year's Educator of the Year recipients.



Joe Chell

*High School Teacher of the Year
Culinary Arts Teacher*

Joe Chell, or "Chef Joe" as he is known on campus, is a skilled and dedicated teacher in the Career and Technical Education Department. He has been teaching at MKSD for 4 years. Joe is a lifetime resident of New Jersey and grew up in an Italian family where he learned at an early age that food was an essential ingredient to a good life. As a child, he always watched his grandmother make pasta from scratch. Joe opened his first restaurant at the age of 22 in the Chambersburg section of Trenton. He is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University where he attained an associate degree in Culinary Arts. Joe is a certified Culinary Arts instructor and a member of the American Culinary Federation. Joe's favorite part of his job is to share his experiences and skills with the students.



Pamela Wood

*Elementary/Middle School Teacher of the Year
Elementary Multiply Disabled Teacher*

Pamela Wood was born in Virginia and grew up in northeastern North Carolina. She graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree. After graduation, Pamela began her career as a Special Education teacher in North Carolina for 10 years and then went to Delaware for 7 years. While living in Delaware, Pamela learned her daughter was deaf. She rededicated her efforts to learning American Sign Language (ASL) and her education continued at the Delaware Technical and Community College with a concentration in ASL. Pamela brings the knowledge and experience of Special Education, the skills acquired in college, as well as those learned by being a parent to a child who is deaf, to her classroom each day here at MKSD. Currently, Pamela teaches students with multiple disabilities from Kindergarten through 5th grade. She has worked at MKSD for 16 years. Her favorite part of her job is watching students grow, learn, and meeting their varied needs.



Thomas Giordano

*Elementary/Middle School Educator of the Year
Elementary/Middle School Paraprofessional*

Tom Giordano has been working at MKSD for the past 10 years. As a paraprofessional, Tom has worked as a teacher's aide in many programs, working with students of various ages and abilities, including the multiply disabled, elementary, and middle school. He is a member of the KERT committee (for school safety) and helps out in many different ways. He is currently going to college in addition to his full time job in hopes of becoming a Health/Physical Education teacher at MKSD in the future. His favorite part of his job is seeing the light bulb go off while teaching students - the expression and pride the students show is priceless.

Tom's favorite quote:
"If you plant ice, you're gonna harvest wind." - Robert Hunter

Melissa Kavounas Pavilion Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On December 11, 2017, the Kavounas family, along with Katzenbach students and staff gathered together to honor former student, Melissa Kavounas, during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed pavilion dedicated in Melissa's memory. The pavilion is located near the playground of the Elementary and Middle School (ELMS) where Melissa was a student for 6 years from 2009 to 2014. Sadly, Melissa passed away in 2015.

Melissa loved coming to school everyday at Katzenbach and being outdoors. For this reason, her family wanted to have something designated on campus to memorialize her. In lieu of flowers, Melissa's family asked for monetary donations to Katzenbach in order to have the pavilion built. The pavilion will be a place for ELMS students to enjoy the shade on sunny days, or for teachers to utilize as an outdoor classroom.

At the beginning of the ceremony, ELMS principal, Jody Caseiro, welcomed everyone to the dedication and gave remarks about Melissa and her school years at Katzenbach. Ms. Caseiro said that Melissa was well known by everyone on campus and referred to her as a "social butterfly." Ms. Caseiro also said that Melissa touched the hearts of everyone she knew with her contagious smile. Several other staff members shared their memories of Melissa, recalling her days as a residential student and how she took great pride in decorating her dormitory room. At the end of the ceremony, Melissa's mother, Janice Kavounas, addressed the crowd and spoke of how much Melissa loved Katzenbach. Ms. Kavounas stated that the staff and students were like her second family. The ceremony concluded with Melissa's mother and father cutting the ribbon to dedicate the pavilion in their daughter's honor. Light refreshments were enjoyed by everyone after the ceremony.

Special thank you to the Kavounas family and those who made this beautiful pavilion possible.



Newest Technology for Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants

Mary-Elizabeth Kilkenny, Au.D, CCC-A
MKSD Educational Audiologist, Mary-Elizabeth.Kilkenny@mkzd.org



Hearing aid manufacturers are always innovating to provide better technological ways to make their products on the cutting edge. Acoustical engineers address complaints such as listening in the presence of background noise and distance, which are annoyances to those who utilize technology for their listening needs. The technology is rapidly advancing and some of the new advances are very interesting.

When looking for newer equipment, ask about apps that can control the hearing aids. This control should be direct, not through an alternative device. Rexton, Siemens, Resound, Starkey, Bernafon, and Oticon all have apps for hearing aids that can control the volume, switch to different listening programs, test battery strength, and some with a "find my hearing aid" feature. A few of these manufacturers have hearing aids that are Apple iPhone compatible. They attach directly to the person's hearing aids through a dedicated Bluetooth in the hearing aids and in the phone. Apple compatible hearing aids can then stream phone calls, music, video dialog directly to the person's ears from any Apple product. Cochlear America's Nucleus 7 speech processor also has some direct streaming capabilities.

The life of a hearing aid is 5 years. After 5 years, most manufacturers will not repair them due to FDA rules saying the manufacturers only have to hold onto materials to repair devices for 5 years. Medicaid will replace a child's amplification every 3 years for hearing aids and every 5 years for cochlear implants. Under Grace's Law, health insurance that is underwritten in New Jersey will reimburse a family who must pay for hearing aids \$1,000 an ear for new hearing aids every 3 years. Is it time for newer technology? Do you go every year to your home audiologist for a check up of your equipment? Do you go every 6 months for new earmolds?

If you schedule an appointment with your home audiologist or cochlear implant center, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Kilkenny, Au.D, CCC-A can meet you and your child at their appointment. This ensures comprehensive audiological management across the audiological spectrum for your child. To tell Dr. Kilkenny about the scheduled appointment, please e-mail her at Mary-Elizabeth.Kilkenny@mkzd.org or call the department secretaries and let them know. If you have any questions regarding technology or your child's status, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kilkenny.

ELMS Students Learn About Automotive Technology



Students from the ELMS kindergarten, first, and second grade classes had the opportunity to visit the high school Automotive Technology Program as a part of their social studies unit about occupations. The high school students showed the younger students what they learn in Automotive class. They demonstrated how to change tires and explained the different tools that car mechanics use on a daily basis. This was a great hands-on experience for both ELMS and High School students.

Environmental Safety Assessment of the MKSD Campus for People with Low Vision or Blindness

By Uriel Garcia, with help from paraprofessionals Michelle Swenson and Stacey Jones

Uriel Garcia, a high school junior, together with two high school paraprofessionals, Michelle Swenson and Stacey Jones, completed an environmental safety assessment on the Katzenbach campus for students who are visually impaired or have low vision. Uriel has low vision due to Usher Syndrome. The goal of the assessment was to identify problem areas in the Elementary and Middle School (ELMS) and Early Childhood Program (ECP) buildings for students that have visual challenges.

There were several areas of concern Uriel identified, which included the stairways both inside and outside of the buildings. His suggestion is to have yellow stripes painted on them so that students can navigate the stairs safely.

Another area of concern Uriel identified was the fire alarms and fire extinguishers in the hallways. He said he bumped into them many times because he does not see them. His suggestion is to have them covered with safety boxes to avoid accidental pulls of the alarm and to prevent damage to the fire extinguishers.

Other concerns that Uriel and his team had were lighting in some areas. Thanks to the recent Energy Savings Incentive Program (ESIP), new LED lighting systems have been installed which have addressed the issues of hallways being too dark for students with low vision.

Uriel presented his findings to the Katzenbach Administrative Council team during one of their bi-weekly meetings. He created a powerpoint presentation and highlighted all the areas identified as concerns for students that are visually impaired. Steps have already been made to correct and improve areas on campus to make it a safe environment for everyone (see pictures.) Thank you to Uriel Garcia for taking the time to conduct an environmental safety assessment of the Katzenbach campus and for considering the needs of all students.



Steps outside of ECP now have yellow stripes



PICTURED: Uriel identifies a fire alarm that he suggests could benefit from a safety box

MCTS in Full Bloom!

Jill Adomat, High School Paraprofessional

On October 6th and 7th, 2017, juniors Luis Perez and Chris Brown won 2nd place for their floral arrangement design at the West Trenton Garden Club's "To Earth With Love" flower show. As students enrolled in the Horticulture Turf Management (HTM) program at Mercer County Technical School (MCTS) under the instructor Mr. Ed Birdsall, they are learning the skills to design and maintain landscapes from planting and arranging flowers to hardscaping patios.



Holiday Happenings

Celebration of Winter Holidays

Melissa Farkas, KPSO Secretary



On December 9, 2017, the Katzenbach Parent and Staff Organization (KPSO) and the New Jersey Association for the Deaf (NJAD) hosted a "Celebration of Winter Holidays" for the students of MKSD and the Deaf community. It snowed the day of the event, but that did not damper the mood of those in attendance. Over 100 people came to enjoy the day!

The highlight of the day was a visit from Santa who was able to communicate with the children in American Sign Language (ASL), an opportunity they are not able to experience with mall Santas. There were also holiday stories presented in ASL and crafts for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice directed by some wonderful volunteers. Families enjoyed a bake sale with hot chocolate and other sweets while they spent time socializing with each other. KPSO would like to extend many thanks to all the school staff and families as well as the volunteers from NJAD who made this event possible. KPSO looks forward to continuing to host events throughout the year. Please like our Facebook page to stay informed of upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/KatzenbachPSO/>



ELMS Door Decorating Contest



A few of this year's winners!

Superintendent's Holiday Social



Joan Krasnisky, Superintendent of MKSD, and the High School Culinary Arts program, led by Joe Chell, provided delicious food for a holiday social for all MKSD staff. The students helped prepare, serve, and clean up the food and did a phenomenal job. The delicious food was enjoyed by everyone! Special thanks to Joan, Joe, and the Culinary Arts students.

Around Katzenbach!

ELMS Holiday Show



The annual ELMS Holiday Show was very enjoyable this year. It featured the 8th grade bell choir, 7th grade signers, grades kindergarten through 4th grade doing various dances, skits, signing to songs, and the MKSD Staff 12 Days of Christmas. The event was attended by students, staff, families, and guests from NJ Department of Human Services. A great time was had by all!



Holiday Music Show >>



Book Donation



As part of their Season of Service, the New Jersey Department of Human Services graciously donated over 50 books to our library. We are very thankful they chose to remember our school and our students during the holiday season.

MKSD Dorm Holiday Party





MKSD COLTS ATHLETICS

2017 MKSD Basketball Tip Off Tournament and Homecoming Celebration

On December 8th and 9th, 2017, the MKSD basketball teams participated in the 21st annual basketball Tip Off Tournament hosted at MKSD. Rochester, Rhode Island, and Delaware's girls' and boys' teams were the participating teams along with MKSD.

Before the games on Friday, we had a campuswide Spirit Day and then our 6th Annual Homecoming Crowning. Some of the Spirit Day activities included a snowball throw game for Kindergarten and 1st grade students, a squeeze ball game for 2nd and 3rd graders, and a "roll the gigantic ball" game for 4th and 5th graders. We then had a four square beach volleyball game for all staff and students from grades 6 through 12. Everyone had a lot of fun and enjoyed the camaraderie between all the grade levels and staff.

Miguel Dominguez and Giezi Teutle were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. Their families arrived just in time to see the crowning. Elementary students Ramona Nowrey and Freddy Castro-Martinez presented the crowns with the assistance of K.C. - the Katzenbach Colt mascot.

On Friday night Katzenbach held the 6th Annual Homecoming Dance in the multipurpose room in the girls' dormitory. There was a DJ and food by the Culinary Arts class. The players and staff from the visiting schools for the Deaf were invited to the dance and a great time was had by all.

For Friday's basketball games, the Katzenbach girls won the first-round game against Rhode Island School for the Deaf, 21 to 5. De'Avian Watson lead the team with 11 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 blocks, and 5 steals. Alexis Holland added 6 points, 13 rebounds, 1 block, and 4 steals. Great game by both of them.

On Saturday's Championship game the Lady Colts played Delaware. Delaware was a much stronger team and MKSD had a hard time stopping them. De'Avian Watson lead the team again with 7 points, 1 rebound, 7 blocks, and 1 steal. Alexis Holland added 4 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block, and 3 steals. The Lady Colts lost to a much stronger team, 42 to 14, taking home the 2nd place trophy. De'Avian and Alexis were named to the All-Tournament team.

The boys' team started out by beating Rhode Island School for the Deaf, 26 to 19. The Colts controlled the boards, rebounds, led by Naim Webb leading with 13 points and 24 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks, and 4 steals. The 24 rebounds was a career high for Naim. Chris Brown added 6 points and 13 rebounds.

Saturday, the boys faced Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) in the Championship game. The first quarter was close, 14 to 12 with RSD winning. The second quarter the Colts held RSD to 6 points while putting in 15. Then coming out of half time, the Colts exploded! They scored 24 points and demoralized the other team. They went on to become the 22nd Champions of the NJSD Tip Off Tournament with a score of 61 to 42. Again, Naim Webb led the Colts with 20 points, 19 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block, and 4 steals. Chris Brown was awesome in the second half scoring 15 points, 12 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals. Stanley Uka was on the receiving end of many steals by Naim and Chris putting in layups and scored 10 points. Nasir Gurganus, who was in foul trouble the first game and did not play much, added 10 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals. Newcomer Evan Bell played fantastic defense adding to Stanley's fast breaks.

Congratulations to the players and coaches for a great tournament. Pictured below are the MKSD Girls' and Boys' basketball teams after the Tip Off Tournament.



TCNJ Women's Basketball Team "Shoots" Helpful Ideas



Carolynne Reed
MKSD Girls' Head Basketball Coach - carolynne.reed@mkسد.org

On January 16, 2018, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) Women's Basketball team came to Katzenbach High School in the evening to share their basketball skills with our high school girls' basketball team.

The TCNJ and Katzenbach teams stretched out together before starting practice. The TCNJ coach, Chessie Jackson, had her team pair up with MKSD Carolynne Reed's team to focus on proper techniques of free throw shooting, layups, and ball handling. TCNJ also used Katzenbach's offensive play to show how it could be used while playing a game.

Ms. Jackson helped our girls by giving pointers of improvement as each player tried the specific skill introduced. Both teams said they enjoyed practicing together and will try to work together at another time during the basketball season.



PICTURED: MKSD Girls' and TCNJ Women's Basketball teams practice together at MKSD High School

HOMECOMING



Giezi Teutle & Miguel Dominguez



Ramona Nowrey & Freddy Castro

Chris Brown & Naim Webb



MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Alexis Holland & De'Avian Watson

ALUMNI NEWS

COTTAGE MEMORIES



The New Jersey School for the Deaf (NJSD) cottages were built in 1922 and opened in October 1923 for students ages five and older to live in while attending school at NJSD (now Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf). Many alumni have wonderful childhood memories of living in the cottages. Unfortunately, most of the cottages have been vacant for several decades and due to the Energy Savings Incentive Project (ESIP), it was decided to demolish the buildings. The news of this prompted numerous alumni to visit the campus to see the cottages one last time and take pictures of their former home. Many of the alumni gathered together to reminisce about their experiences growing up in the cottages and shared fond memories of their time spent living in them.

The NJSD/MKSD Museum (located in the Clock Tower on campus) has pictures and memorabilia from the cottages that are on display. If you have pictures or memories that you would like to share, please send them to the museum at njksdmuseum@gmail.com or physparks@gmail.com. It is the hope that the land where the cottages were located will be transformed into a gathering place for picnics and/or other events for MKSD alumni, staff, and students to enjoy.

— Monica Ayrer, Katzenbach School News Editor
monica.ayrer@mkzd.org



Drawn by Alumni Siegrid "Gigi" Werner

An excerpt from a 1926 resource brochure describing the cottages:

The Primary Group of buildings was completed and occupied in the fall of 1923. This group consists of six cottages and a large central building containing the schoolrooms, dining room, and kitchen, also playrooms for use in stormy weather. The cottages, each housing twenty-four children, are planned to meet the needs of the little folk. They are a story and a half high, the children using only the main floor, the upper floor containing bedrooms and a living room for teachers. The housemother has a room between the two dormitories where the children sleep, so she can see and hear at all times and be within reach... Underground tunnels, well-lighted and heated, connect the cottages with the main building, so that the children are not exposed to the elements in inclement weather. These six little homes for the younger pupils are built around an inner court making an attractive place to roller skate, jump rope, play marbles, etc.

90th Anniversary Alumni Day
1928-2018



Saturday, May 19, 2018

At
New Jersey/ Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf

NJSD Museum at Clock Tower will be open at 9am to 7pm
(Lunch will be sold, fundraising for HS senior trip)
and

Alumni general meeting at 2pm in Middle School Auditorium
(Election for new officers)
and

Dinner Buffet in Jochem Center start at 5pm

Dinner menu

- Green Tassed w/dressing
- Chicken Francaise
- Beef Tips w/Marsala, Wine & Mushroom
- Stuffed Shells
- Roasted Vegetables
- Italian Roasted potatoes
- Dinner Rolls with butter
- Desserts
- Drinks

For the Dinner at 5pm cost admission: \$35.00 per person (no-refund)

Deadline: May 7th and no walk-in

Payable to **NJSD/MKSD Alumni Assoc. Inc**

Send to Ann Downs: 24 Prospect Avenue, Burlington, NJ 08016

VP 609 952 6051 or Email: AnnR.downs@gmail.com (Chairperson)

Please include information: your name & guest names and your email or VP numbers

www.facebook.com/NJSD_Museum

www.facebook.com/NJSD/MKSD_Memories

New Jersey School of the Deaf: 320 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, New Jersey 08628



Living Room of the Girls' Cottage # 1 other side 1926

IN MEMORIAM

Carlos Hernandez October 2017
Class of 2015

Eleanor Bennett Marshall November 2017
Class of 1958

Howard Graham November 2017
Class of 1954

Alyse Grady January 2018
Class of 1983

Students Learn Through Play Using Tools of the Mind Curriculum

The Early Childhood Program (ECP) has been implementing their new curriculum, Tools of the Mind. In January, they started a new theme, "Medical Field." This theme includes learning about the following places: the dentist's office, the eye doctor's office, the pharmacy, the baby nursery, and an ambulance. During the lessons and creative play, the children act out roles such as: doctors, nurses, EMTs, dentists, pharmacists, and patients. Tools of the Mind emphasizes increasing language and higher level creative play. The students are involved with making the props that are used in each center. For example, the students painted an IV pole and equipment that went into the Dramatic Play/Emergency Room center. They also cut and made money to be used in the Table Toys/Pharmacy center to purchase medications. The students enjoy role playing, being creative, and learning while also having fun!

Mrs. Patricia Pierro - patricia.pierro@mksd.org
 Mrs. Katy Arcchi - kathy.arcchi@mksd.org
 Mrs. Kimberly Bonavico - kimberly.bonavico@mksd.org



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2018 ELMS Reads

Rachael Knutson, Katzenbach School News Layout Design
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On February 2, 2018, the MKSD Elementary and Middle School (ELMS) and the Early Childhood Program (ECP) had its 18th annual ELMS Reads day. The purpose of ELMS Reads is for students to enjoy stories told by different staff members interpreted into American Sign Language (ASL). Students rotated between four different stories - each story was signed by a different staff member. The staff member story signers this year were Jeff Avrin, Andrea Avrin, Suzan Colon, Whitney Giberson, Chrissy Lam, Jessica Looney, Maria Morrongiello, and Lukasz Zuzanski.

Special thank you to the story signers and ELMS Reads committee for making ELMS Reads a wonderful event!



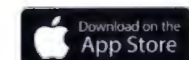
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Marie Katzenbach/New Jersey School
for the Deaf Channel



E-Newsletter

Katzenbach School News is now available electronically. If you would like to receive the news by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Monica Ayrer at monica.ayrer@mksd.org.

Thank you.

KATZENBACH SCHOOL NEWS

The Katzenbach School News is published quarterly: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer at 320 Sullivan Way, Trenton, New Jersey, 08628 by the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, New Jersey State Department of Education.

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