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Dr. Kilkenny is available to parents, school districts and educators to assist with hearing related concerns.

Please notify the Health Center with any changes in contact phone numbers or email addresses. Thank you!

The Health Center is always available to assist students with illness, injuries, medications and other health related issues.

Katzenbach School News

prepared under the direction of

MARIE H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

West Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0535 Joan Krasnisky, *Acting Superintendent*



HISTORY OF OUR NAME

In the mid nineteen sixties, The New Jersey School for the Deaf had its name officially changed to The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf. Articles in this publication use varying names, such as MKSD, NJSD, Katzenbach School, or New Jersey's Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf. These names are used interchangeably.

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A Message from Mrs. Krasnisky

For over a hundred years the Katzenbach School has been the educational home for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students across the state of New Jersey. As Acting Superintendent for the 15-16 school year it is a great honor and privilege to serve in this capacity in this excellent institution where traditions are held in high regard and where keeping current with best teaching practices and learning is valued.

This year I begin my 36th school year working in the Field of Deaf Education. Thirty-three of those years have been spent at MKSD. During my tenure here I have served in the role of instructor, lead teacher, principal K-12 and Director of Instruction and Curriculum. My goals for the 15-16 school year are the following:

- To build a positive school climate
- To implement a Public Relations Campaign to promote our school
- To continue to support and further develop our ASL/ English Bilingual Education program.
- To improve communication school wide.
- To develop cochlear implant and multiply disabled classes in the Early Childhood Ed Program
- To continue to improve our educational programs and the use of technology in instruction
- To implement a consistent approach to the writing process through the use of writer's workshop
- To develop a more cohesive relationship between the educational and residential programs
- · To increase itinerant services
- To foster a positive relationship with the Department of Education
- To implement Professional Learning Communities using data, assessments and instructional strategies to drive the conversations
- To reduce the budget
- · To continue the Transformational Change Process

Inside this Issue:	
Mrs. Krasnisky's Message	Pg. 1-2
Art in the Dorm	Pg. 2
School Store News	Pg. 3
Extended School Year	Pg. 4-7
Alumni/Staff/Museum News	Pg. 8-9
In Memoriam - Marion Mnych	Pg. 9
Our Beloved Melissa	Pg.10
Anti-Bullying Program	Pg. 11
Class of 2015	Pg. 12
Auditorium Renovation	Pa. 12

The Transformational Change Process was initiated four years ago and through a collaborative effort of the MKSD staff our Transformational Change philosophy was developed that we will continue to follow. It states the following:

Katzenbach/NJSD is a leader in providing a quality, comprehensive educational and residential program for our students from birth to age 21. We are committed to creating a positive student-centered learning environment that focuses on collaboration, respect, outreach, and accessible communication using an ASL/English Bilingual approach.

We are proud to have a beautiful, Deaf-friendly campus with a history rich in tradition. We support the learning community with exceptional staff who are dedicated, respectful, caring, and value diversity and individual differences. Our programs excel at meeting students' individual needs, utilizing the latest technology and best educational practices.

Through ongoing, meaningful, professional development for our qualified staff, we maximize students' academic and career achievement. By developing 21st century skills, our students can achieve their highest potential.

We inspire our students and families to become involved in the educational process and offer support services where needed. We value the partnerships between the Katzenbach/NJSD family and the community, acknowledging the teamwork required for student success. Together, with a strong school spirit, we leave our footprints on the hearts and minds of our students.

At Katzenbach our staff work hard to guarantee that our students have the knowledge and skills that they will need for future success. We have a dedicated team of professionals who are here to ensure that our students have exceptional educational experiences in our student-centered school year. It with great passion, dedication and love for the students and staff of MKSD that I serve as the leader of our school.

continued on page 2

The following are initiatives or projects that we have become involved with since the start of school.

- Principal Evaluations using Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric
- Social Media implemented and maintained on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, by Heather Osowski
- Early Childhood Education teacher Patricia Pierro involved in pilot program, "Improving the Preschool Classroom Environment for Young Children with Disabilities", which will provide both training and coaching on utilizing the Early Childhood Environmental Rating System (ECERS 3). The ECERS 3 is a research validated observational instrument used to measure the quality of early childhood classroom environments, evaluate program effectiveness, and target professional development. The outcome of this training is to improve the quality of the preschool classroom environments serving young children with disabilities, as measured by ECERS 3, which will be conducted pre- and post-training.
- School Climate Transformation Project-Initiative to assist schools in building a positive climate and culture that is inclusive of all students through the utilization of the New Jersey School Climate Survey over a two year period. Krista Bruehl, Lauren Dubin, Nichole McClish, Ellen Cohen and Patrick Gillespie are the members of Katzenbach's team.
- Shared Reading Program-Each week, a tutor who is Deaf or hard of hearing brings the family a "SRP bag" consisting of a book, video for practice and activity sheet. The

tutor demonstrates how to sign the stories, and provides instant feedback to family members. The family uses the DVD of the signed story to reinforce the new signs after the tutor has left. SRP visits are tailored to the individual family's specific needs and learning styles. The SRP bag is loaned to the family to practice until the next session. This project is designed for children three through eight years of age. Suzan Colon, Kim Arrigo, Morgan Brooks, Delora Hill, Jody Caseiro and Jessica Merz are the committee members involved with this initiative.

- NJ School Boards Convention-Language Lab Presentation on Best Instructional Practices in Deaf Education centering around ASL/English Bilingual Education. Strategies will include Fairview Learning, Visual Phonak and Manipulative Visual Language. Presenters-Suzan Colon, Deborah Bilik, Jessica Merz and Maureen Goldblum.
- NWEA- Northwest Evaluation Association. A web based program that allows teachers to see what students(K-12)are performing at a given RIT scale level on Measures of Academic Progress will be implemented to track data and discuss and drive instruction.
- Re-Think-Expanding the use of this program to elementary and MS/HS MD Classes to track and analyze student outcomes for IEP goals and monitoring data for students with behavioral intervention plans.

Joan Krasnisky Acting Superintendent

Summer Art in the Dorm

During the Extended Summer Residential program, Liz McGlone, staff member in the St. Joseph's Special Services program, volunteered to teach art classes to the students. She introduced the artist, Gustav Klimt. Gustav painted his passion. He added designs and shapes into his picture to further demonstrate the passion he felt for the subject. Liz showed the students examples of his work.

Students then were instructed to pick a passion that they had and then draw the picture. Next, they were to add designs and shapes inside their picture creating it in the style of Klimt.

The three primary colors were given to the students to use in their painting. Liz explained how the purists (artists) only used primary colors to paint with. Students were allowed to use black for shade and white for light. They needed to create their own colors.

Amon's painting is shown here. He totally understood the concept of Klimt's style. All the colors seen in his painting were created from using the primary colors. Amon's passion was nature. He did an amazing job!



School Store News

Greetings from the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf School Store and welcome to the school year 2015-2016! A variety of new items are available in stock this year such as gold and silver bangle bracelets with various ILY designs, mom and friend designs too. The store also offers a large selection of baby items such as bibs, stuffed animals with ILY shirts and onsies. ILY you themed ornaments, jewelry, picture frames and beautiful stained glass gifts. There area many items in support of the fight against breast cancer, autism awareness and pet adoption/stopping animal mistreatment. More new items include ASL books for adults and children, ASL basic sign cards, enrichment/entertainment DVD's and much more!

Shopping at the store benefits the students directly though the support of academic extracurricular activities and clubs as well as funding some of the "extras" for our Anti-Bullying Committee's work throughout campus. So please, come see our large section of gifts and clothing; many new designs and items for children and adults and support the school.

The store will be open most Wednesdays from 3-4 pm starting September 16th. Everyone is welcome to shop! Appointments can be made by contacting Lauren Dubin at 609-530-3299 or Lauren.Dubin@mksd.org.













ELMS ESY

Elementary and ECP

uring the four weeks of ESY the students were busy working on maintaining their reading, writing, math and ASL skills, as well as having fun on the themes of the week. They enjoyed participating in weekly themed snacks that they made on their own. The students went on field trips to Cooks College Farm, Storybook Land, Dinosaurs Field Station and the US Mint. During those trips, the students learned about farm animals, fantasy stories, dinosaurs and how coins are made. The Early Childhood Program and Multiple Disabled students went on field trips to the Franklin Institute, Elmwood Park Zoo, Jenkins Aquarium and the Insectarium. The students enjoyed touching the fish, animals, bugs and the Lego building. The children also enjoyed the water slide/pool at the school. More photos on pages six and seven.











Students having fun during storytelling activities



Fun at Atsion Lake!

Middle School

The Middle School students concentrated on maintaining their reading, writing, and math skills, as well as enjoying the four themes for each week. Students enjoyed participating in overnight camping and a trip to Lake Atsion during Native American Week, visiting Archeology themed week at the Natural History Museum in New York, experiencing the Oceanography week at the Camden Aquarium, and attending the Insectarium during Entomology week. Look for more photos on pages six and seven.



High School ESY

This past summer the High School provided a four-week educational program for 24 students. The overall theme was "Life After Graduation". The students attended morning classes for Reading, Writing, and Math. The afternoon sessions consisted of keyboarding, ASL, Video Editing, Team Building, Educational Games, Gardening, and Math Enrichment.

Students had the opportunity to visit a car dealership to learn about buying a car and also about employment opportunities within a car dealership. The group traveled to Seaside Heights and visited two motels and observed employees cleaning rooms. This was a wonderful opportunity to experience the hard work that must be done while working in the hospitality business. A third trip took them to a day care center where the students interacted with the small children and learned about jobs available there. In the afternoon, part of the group visited a graphic arts business to learn about jobs running the machines and the computerdesign portion of the business. The other half of the group visited the NJSD Museum and learned about the history of MKSD and conversed with alumni. They shared their life experiences with the students and were very informative! The final trip to The College of New Jersey allowed the students to tour the dining facilities and kitchen area. The students were even met with a former NJSD student who has been working in the kitchen for the past 14 years.

The Extended School Year is a integral part of the educational program at Katzenbach. It provides the academic support that students need to be prepared for the upcoming school year. Even more than that, ESY allows students to have fun while learning!















SUMMER LEARNING & FUN!















Alumni/Staff News

A lumni Day was on May 16^{th,} along with the annual general meeting. A special event, planned by Janet Ramsey, was the Basketball Hall of Fame for players from 1990-1995. The event was held at the Jochem Center.

Most of the basketball players attended while some others could not be at the event. Coach Phil Merlino came with assistant coach J.D. Kelliher. The players and coaches reminisced about the many games they played and the good times they had. Most of the players called Phil Merlino "my dad" because he genuinely cared about them.

After they got Hall of Fame certificates, Janet Ramsey shared a story about finding DeAngelo Brown's jacket while cleaning out her closet! It had been there for many years! She had it professionally cleaned and gave it to a very surprised DeAngelo. He thought he had lost it!

After the Hall of Fame event, the alumni visited the museum and enjoyed some appetizers. Everyone had a good time that day. Good job, Janet Ramsey!!!!

The next Alumni Day will be on Saturday, May 7, 2016 with the Soccer Hall of Fame event for players from 1981 to 1985, and the boys' Basketball team from 1983, and Track and Field teams from 1980 to 1984. The Alumni will also hold their elections to select new or renew officers.

Kevin Fennessy is the Hall of Fame chairperson for soccer, along with co-chair Joey Crosta. The basketball co-chairs are Ron Popowski and Walter Scott, and Track and Field chairperson is Ron Chisolm. They will be busy planning for big events.





DECEASED ALUMNI

Lewis Wilson, Jr., Class of 1968, passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 66.

Jean Perkins DiMaio, Class of 1959, passed away on April 11, 2015 at the age of 74.

Mevin Bell, Class of 1939, passed away on May 30, 2015 at the age of 95.

Gloria TeramotoSpock, Class of 1952, passed away on June 15, 2015.

Kevin Stevens, Class of 1999, passed away on July 18, 2015 at the age of 35.

Joseph B. Furgione, Class of 1943, passed away on September 2, 2015 at the age of 93.

DECEASED STAFF

Harriet Kominski, passed away on June 11, 2015 at the age of 82.

Donna Johnson, passed away on July 9, 2015 at the age of 70.

Hanna Erbe, passed away on August 4, 2015 at the age of 95.

Marion Mnych, passed away on August 9, 2015 at the age of 59.



Alumni/Museum News

This past summer, alumni volunteers moved the last items from building #30 to the Clock Tower. The Everett piano was the final, extremely heavy, piece to be moved. After using dollies to move it up the ramp and into the side door, the piano was placed in the meeting room next to the fireplace. This piano was used by the Nursery school in the late 1950's. Pictured below is a newspaper article about the Nursery school, showing the teacher at the piano. Also pictured are the museum volunteers.

The Museum opened in August, 2006, so next year, the alumni will celebrate the 10th anniversary. Stay tuned for information about this big event!









Fred Elbrecht, Walter Peel, and Tom Sparks

IN MEMORIAM - MARION MNYCH



Marion was a consummate professional who cared about the health and nutritional wellbeing of our students. The job of a food service director presents many challenges, both with individual dietary restrictions of the students, and governmental guidelines. However, Marion met all those challenges with a smile and made those who loved her laugh with her gifted wit. Always friendly, always caring, and always

willing to educate anyone on the subject of nutrition, should they ask. She will be missed and was loved by those who took the time to get to know her.

I was one of those lucky people to be able to know her on a more personal level. She always had a quick response to everything. She made every day special. Marion leaves behind her husband, Peter and a daughter, Rebecca whom she loved very, very much.

These kind words were submitted by Mary Stout, a coworker and friend of Marion's for many years. The Katzenbach family offers condolences to the Mynch family.

1 Miss You

if I had known then, what I know now I would have spent more time with you. Time goes by so fast And I wish I could go back and change the past.

Even with the days that have gone by I think of you still and often cry. People say time makes the hurt go away, But I think of you each and every day. Sure I miss all the things we used to do. My best friend for life you will always be. Every night and day about you I pray. To see you smile at me again someday

The place you're going I may not get to go But I'll keep trying, and I wanted you to know Now there's one more thing. I wish I could do I wish I could tell you how much I miss you.

In Memory of Melissa Kavounas



"She found a place where she wasn't different from everyone else." Nick and Cathy Kavounas, Melissa's grandparents

This past summer, the Katzenbach family lost our beloved Melissa Kavounas. Melissa was about to begin her freshmen year in the high school. The students and staff loved her very much. Here's what some had to say about Melissa:

> "She was your typical teenager - she loved shopping, new shoes, eating out, going to plays, and just enjoying life!!!"

> > "She spread sunshine over the whole campus and dorm."

"Melissa was a great student, cheering up everyone. She never showed that she had pain. She loved to eat oysters - one time she ate 20! She enjoyed spending time with her family."

"She was very friendly and had a great heart."

"She enjoyed being in the dorm with her friends - it was like her second home."

"She loved ties and the color purple." "NJSD was her favorite place!"



Anti-Bullying Activities











n the next seven minutes, a child in the U.S. will be bullied. It may be the son or daughter of someone you know. Or worse, it may be your own. Meanwhile, only four out of 100 adults will step in to stop it. And only 11 percent of the child's peers might do the same. The rest — 85 percent — will do nothing.

Every day in America, more than 160,000 children miss school out of fear of being bullied, according to National Education Association estimates. Bullying takes many forms, ranging from the seemingly innocuous name-calling to the more harmful cyber bullying to severe physical violence. It happens everywhere, at all times to the most vulnerable of kids, especially those who are obese, gay or have a disability.

wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-at-controlling-bullying/9920/

On January 5, 2011, Gov. Christie signed into law the "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights". The new law went into effect September 2011 and amends the 2002 anti-bullying law and provides several major changes including new definition for harassment, intimidation and bullying, district staff functions, policy and procedures, training requirements and reporting.

At the Marie H. Katzenbach/New Jersey School for the Deaf, we believe that all students require a positive, engaging and safe environment in order to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both the students' ability to learn and the school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Our school will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) are defined as:

- Any gesture, written, verbal, or physical act or electronic communication that takes place on school property, at a school sponsored function or school bus.
- Incidents of HIB including cyber-bullying that occur away from school grounds may also be included if they endanger the safety of students or staff
- Motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or mental, physical or sensory disability or any other distinguishing characteristic.
- When a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances that the act will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming the pupil or damaging his/her property, placing the pupil in reasonable fears of harm to his/her person or personal property
- Insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils in such as way as to cause substantial disruption in or substantial interference with the orderly operation of the school.
- Also, a pupil exercising power and control over another pupil, either in isolated incidents or patterns of HIB behavior. (N.J.S.A. 18A: 37-14 (2011)

The Anti-Bullying Committee of MKSD is responsible for implementing various activities that teach students about being "Up Standers" and not bystanders to the targets of HIB behavior(s). Since the implementation of the State of New Jersey's strict HIB Law in 2011 and the introduction of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at our school, we have seen a drastic reduction in the incidences of bullying. Last year our students participated in

weekly classroom meetings with topics ranging from being an Up stander, protecting against cyber bullying, several peer pressure issues (drugs, alcohol, dating), along with various awareness topics such as Human Rights Day and International Day of Persons with a Disability.

The students also participated in a few creative artistic projects such as a "Gratitude Tree" where the students wrote people or things they are thankful for on pre cut leaves to decorate a large tree which was proudly displayed near our main office. A "Diversity Chain" was also constructed with sentence strips where the student's proudly stated ways that they are unique individuals were joined together to show that our school joins together to celebrate diversity.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the weekly classroom lessons will be focusing on the 6 Pillars of Character. The Six Pillars of Character is a framework for teaching good character and is composed of six ethical values (characteristics) everyone can agree upon: Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; and Citizenship.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements RESPONSIBILITY

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

FAIRNESS

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly CARING

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer





Gratitude Tree

6lass of 2015



Auditorium Renovation Complete!





The MKSD auditorium renovation is now complete! The new space is beautiful and freshly painted. It holds 260 seats and five wheelchair seats. Completion of this project is something Katzenbach has been planning for a long time. Thanks to everyone for supporting and working so hard to make this happen!



ALUMNI DAY and HALL OF FAME SOCCER, BASKETBALL, AND TRACK AND FIELD

MAY 7, 2016 FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM

at

NEW JERSEY/MARIE H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF West Trenton, NJ 08625

NJ/MKSD MUSEUM at Clock Tower opens 9 am to 5 pm **ALUMNI GENERAL MEETING and ELECT OFFICERS at 11 am at JOCHEM Center** HALL OF FAME for Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field 1 pm to 5 pm at Jochem Center

Hall of Fame Chairperson: Kevin Fennessy

Soccer (1981 – 1985) Hall of Fame Co-chair: Joey Crosta

Basketball Boys' Team 1983 Hall of Fame Co-chair: Ron Popowski and Walter Scott

Track and Field (1980 – 1984) Hall of Fame Co-chair: Ron Chisolm

FOOD will be sold by NJ/MKSD staff **Culinary/Food Preparation instructor Joe Chell Benefits Senior Trip**

For more information: nisd.mksdalumni@gmail.com Hall of Fame Kevin Fennessy vp 732 707 0378 See Alumni News at Njsd Mksd Alumni Facebook

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Katzenbach in the Fall

KATZENBACH SCHOOL NEWS

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