

KATZENBACH SCHOOL NEWS

MSD



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100th
Day of
School!

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Alumni News

Sports Wrap-Up

Auditorium Makeover

National Honor Society

New Driver Education Car

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 3 - SPRING 2015



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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!

Katzenbach School News

prepared under the direction of

MARIE H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

West Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0535

Dr. Angel M. Ramos, *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 Dr. Angel

One of the questions parents have frequently asked me throughout my career is "Why send my child to a Deaf school? Why not our public school?" The answer lies right in the pages of this magazine. Just look at all the activities that our students enjoy at NJSD and their happy faces. Our students are happy because they are not only getting a quality education but have many friends they can socialize with independently, without the need of an interpreter. Our students are happy because there are so many things they can do at the school. Let's start with behind the wheel driver education classes. We are the only public school in NJ that offers behind the wheel driver education classes for Deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) students. Our driver education teacher, Martha Fowler is not only certified to teach behind the wheel but is also able to communicate directly with the students without the need of an interpreter. Thanks to Haldeman Ford and KPSEF, we now have a brand new driver education car for the students to learn to drive.

Of course Deaf schools are known for their athletic programs and our school is no different. Our students love to play against other schools for D/HH students. And, as Maria Morrongiello, one of

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our graduates and current P.E. teacher so clearly shows, the skills, competitiveness and sportsmanship our students develop can lead to greater things – such as playing in the Deaf Olympics and winning a gold medal!

Growing up in New York City, I never had the wonderful opportunities that our students have because I went to a public school for hearing students. I graduated second in my graduating class in mathematics but never got the opportunity to join the National Honor Society. I was an excellent basketball and softball player but never got the opportunity to compete at the high school level as our students do. I never got the opportunity to participate in an Academic Bowl like our students do. I never got the opportunity to learn how to drive a car like our students do. I never got the opportunity to improve my skills and reach my full potential which is what we offer our students. So, next time someone asks you "Why send our D/HH child to NJSD?" just show the person our *Katzenbach School News*. The answer is right there.

Angel M. Ramos, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Auditorium Renovations

The renovation of the NJSD auditorium was a \$400K project that has taken nearly six months to complete. Funding for the project came from school funds and allocations from the State of New Jersey. The new space features new walls, flooring and carpeting, and windows. The seats have also been upgraded to be more spacious, including the provision of new handicapped seating areas for wheelchair patrons and their companions. The main stage curtain has also been replaced thanks to a generous donation from the Elks Club. Lastly, the lighting system in the ceiling has been upgraded with LED lights and multi-location controls. Careful attention was given to maintain the historically relevant portions of the auditorium (such as the rear wood panel and the NJSD logo above the stage) while giving the space a more contemporary look that functions with more energy efficiency. Ryebread Architects designed the new auditorium and the general contractor was Levy Construction.

Pictured to the right are some photographs taken during the renovation. There will be a special dedication ceremony once the space is officially opened.



Bear Cake

The Early Childhood Program (ECP) students made a special cake for bears and other animals searching for food before they went into hibernation. The Speech and Language Therapist, Joan Werner, led the lesson focusing on each student's individual needs. The students took turns making the cake with snow, seeds, fruits and vegetables. The cake was placed outside the classroom window so they could observe the animals eating. This activity was part of their study on Hibernation and Properties of Water.



100TH DAY OF SCHOOL!

On February 19th the Kindergarten and First Grade classes celebrated the 100th day of school. From the first day of school the students have been counting the days in anticipation for the 100th day.

The students celebrated by making a hat with 100 stars, making 100 day trail mix with 10 sets of 10 snacks, brainstormed 100 words they knew, completed 10 sets of 10 different exercises to total 100, and participated in a story about the "100th Day of School." The students filled in their own 100 chart making bundles of 10 as they went along. All had a blast and the count down to 80 days left began!

The 100 day celebration addresses core curriculum standards in an enjoyable way! Students are excited to have completed more than half the school year, yet they are learning to count to 100, practice vocabulary words and spelling, work cooperatively in groups, and be creative all within the same on-going activity. Students are finding out that learning can be fun, even while exercising patience in waiting for that 100th day!



Professional Development

"Taste of Technology" at The College of New Jersey

On March 19th, a few NJSD staff members and one of our students attended a workshop at The College of New Jersey to learn more about technology to assist people who are Deaf/blind or have low vision. During this all day workshop, attendees learned various services and technology that can provide assistance to those with vision problems. For example, NJ Relay showed a device that, using Braille, types into your phone or tablet. This device uses Bluetooth that connects to your phone or tablet and changes what is typed in Braille to words in the phone. This is great for doing searches on the phone or searching contacts on the phone. Another great idea for those with low vision is to employ bar code apps. A person who may have difficulty seeing labels on things such as food can use this app to scan the bar code on an item. The item will then pop up on the phone or tablet with additional information.



*Various new technology is presented at the
"Taste of Technology" workshop*

*There were many other apps and technology
discussed during this workshop. For more
information on this topic, please visit
the following websites:*

NEW JERSEY CONSORTIUM ON DEAF BLINDNESS

<http://njcsd.tcnj.edu/new-jersey-constortium-on-deaf-blindness/>

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/cbvi/home/>

Corrections Corner

Two names were omitted from the *Family Fun Day* article in the winter issue.

Delora Hill and Catherine Gregory also assisted to make the day a success. Our apologies.

Dorm Life

Bowling

The Residential program provided the opportunity for students to join a bowling league this year. The students were so excited to be bowling every week. The bowling league was 10 weeks long and was a perfect activity for the long, cold winter months!

Each week, students would get on the bus and head over to Slocum's Bowling Alley in Ewing, NJ. Students had the opportunity to bowl two games, and enjoy light snacks.

Everyone had a great time learning new skills, (how to keep the ball out of the gutter!) and enjoyed the social time. Students are already looking forward to participating again next year!

Circus Club Comes to MKSD!

To celebrate the end of the semester, The College of New Jersey's Circus Club provided two strong and awesome acrobats to work with the MKSD students during their residential time.

Dana D'ulisse and Alex McCraw are both practicing circus performers and students, with two years experience together. First, the children watched in awe as they showed some of their amazing moves. After that, with assistance and spotting from the adults, the young ones were successful at making a handful of fun and new acrobatic poses.



Kallie and Justin enjoy bowling!



Acrobats demonstrate



The Circus Club Volunteers



ELMS students work together during acrobatics

Newest Addition to the Driver Education

Katzenbach students were treated to an exciting field trip on a rainy day in March. Students arrived at Haldeman Ford in Hightstown, NJ to accept delivery of their brand new Driver's Education car! This was a long-anticipated day for the high school students, as well as their teacher, Martha Fowler.

The students will now be able to resume behind the wheel lessons as part of the Driver's Education curriculum. While many public schools are no longer providing behind the wheel instruction, NJ/MKSD has kept this important component. The former driver education car had been out of commission and the students have not been able to practice for awhile.

Through the generous donation from KPSEF (Katzenbach Parent Staff Educational Foundation), and a discount from Haldeman Ford, the school now has a brand new Ford Fiesta. KPSEF also had the car equipped with the dual brake system necessary for teaching students to drive.

Katzenbach students are offered Driver's Education classes in their freshman and sophomore years. Once the students pass the written exam, Martha takes them to the motor vehicle agency for their driver's permit. After the permit is obtained, students are given the opportunity for behind-the-wheel driving lessons, usually in their junior and/or senior year. Students begin their lessons on campus and once Martha determines they are ready, she will take them off campus to nearby roads and highways.

Students and staff are so grateful to KPSEF for their generous donation! KPSEF's president, Mrs. Sharon DeVito, has been a long-time supporter of Katzenbach and a strong advocate for Deaf and hard of hearing students throughout New Jersey. Katzenbach's own Mrs. Kim Arrigo is the Vice-president of KPSEF.

Thank you KPSEF for donating this awesome new car!



Martha Fowler, Sharon DeVito, and Haldeman Ford employee Marek Sosinski pose in front of the new car.

Thank you to KPSEF and Haldeman Ford!



Contribution to the Driver Education Program



Martha Fowler, Sharon DeVito, and Haldeman Ford employee Marek Sosinski pose in front of the new car

Thank you to KPSEF and Haldeman Ford!



KPSEF members and Haldeman Ford employees hand over the keys

About KPSEF

The Katzenbach Parent Staff Education Foundation (KPSEF) is an organization that supports the students and staff at MKSD in so many ways. The entire Katzenbach family is very appreciative of all that KPSEF does for the school.

Alumni Spotlight - Maria Morrongiello



Maria Morrongiello is a 1982 graduate of MK/NJSD. When Maria was only eight years old, her parents brought her to NJSD. She didn't know ASL when she arrived but after she started to communicate with her new friends and teachers and "house parents", a whole new world of communication opened up for Maria! She says that her life really started at the age of eight when she came to NJSD for her education. Maria has very few memories of her education before that time. She attended many different schools, but the only thing that stands out in her mind was recess, where she actually fit in with her hearing classmates. She thinks that is why she was such a good athlete.

One day a woman at her church told Maria's mother about the deaf school in Trenton. Her parents had no knowledge of this school. They visited the campus and Maria and her parents loved it and she enrolled immediately as a full-time dorm student. At that time, the classes were still oral with just a little bit of signing. The dorm was wonderful

because she learned sign language and finally was able to communicate. One of her memories in school was piano class. They stood around the piano with their hands on top of it while the teacher sang and they "sang" too. Maria jokingly says she has no idea if she had a good voice or not! In her second year she received an award for Most Improved ASL and Reading student. That was the very first award she had ever received and she was thrilled.

Upon graduating from NJSD, Maria went to Gallaudet and graduated with a BS in Recreation and Leisure Studies. She then went on to Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey, or TCNJ) where she earned her degree in Health and Physical Education. She was working at NJSD as an overnight dorm supervisor while completing her degree at Trenton State during the day. She graduated from Trenton State in 1993. Maria is now a highly respected Health and Physical Education teacher and coach at NJSD. She taught Health and PE in ELMS for 12 years and for the past six years Maria has been in the high school. She has coached varsity girls basketball for 14 years - five as an assistant and the last nine as the head coach. She also coached one year of track and seven years of varsity softball. She has been the head volleyball coach for the last 10 years.

She was the first female to score 1,000 points in NJSD history. She was so talented that she was picked for the 1981 Deaf Olympic Basketball Team as a high school student. The USA won the gold medal and Maria was part of that awesome team. The Olympics were in Cologne, Germany and she had an unbelievable experience. She was a bit overwhelmed by it all, but felt she was very lucky to have experienced such a once in a lifetime event.

Maria has been an asset to our school for 38 years--first, as a student, then as an alumni, and now as a staff member! She is a positive role model for the students at Katzenbach and the staff and students are proud to have such a wonderful teacher, coach, co-worker, and friend.



Maria at the Deaf Olympics

Deaf Olympics Gold Medal

Maria with Coach Barnabei

Alumni/Museum News

NJ/MKSD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

proudly hosts

General Meeting

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Jochem Center

and

Hall of Fame Ceremony

Early 1990's
Boys' Basketball Champions

May 16th

Jochem Center

2 pm - 6 pm

Refreshments will be provided
(Free admission)

NJ/MKSD Campus

310 Sullivan Way

West Trenton, NJ 08628

For more information contact:
Janet Ramsey at mjblige550@aol.com



DECEASED ALUMNI

Gracemarie Grasso Newman, Class of 1970, passed away on February 8, 2015.

Vernetta Davenport Bryant, Class of 1966, passed away on March 4, 2015.

Reese Gardiner, Class of 1958, passed away on March 11, 2015.

Alex Pedro, Class of 1964, passed away on September 26, 2014 at the age of 68.

John Lyons, Class of 1959, passed away on October 22, 2014 at the age of 74.

Mike King, Class of 1970, passed away on November 29, 2014 at the age of 66.

Janet (Pierce) Wright, Class of 1973, passed away on December 26, 2014 at the age of 59.

Debra Grafe-Figaro, Class of 1973, passed away on December 27, 2014 at the age of 60.

Ray Davison, Class of 1945, passed away on December 30, 2014 at the age of 87.

Louis Alfano, Class of 1940, passed away on January 9, 2015 at the age of 93.

Marguerite Mescall, Class of 1964, passed away on January 6, 2015 at the age of 69.

Judith Caraballo, Class of 1979, passed away on January 30, 2015 at the age of 55.

Carl Savarese, Class of 1981, passed away on February 6, 2015 at the age of 54.

Jenna Beyer, Class of 1996, passed away on February 1, 2015 at the age of 33.



technology is presented at the
of Technology" workshop

Connections Corner

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n Day article in the winter

l and Catherine Gregory also
o make the day a success.
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National Honor Society

The MKSD/NJSD Chapter of the National Honor Society was established in 2013. To become a member, students must have earned a minimum GPA of 3.2, write an essay about their accomplishments, and must be voted in by five staff members.

The High School National Honor Society currently has four members: Elvira Kabanova (Senior), Josh Keller, Mahwish Riaz and John Dickson (Juniors).

This winter the High School National Honor Society and the Middle School Student Body Government organized a very successful Coat and Clothing Drive. All donations will be delivered to the "Deaf Community Action Network". Deaf CAN is a human service program. The students voted on this organization to be the recipient of our community service project for this year. The Deaf CAN Mission is to help build fully accessible service across all social service arenas for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families.



The Academic Bowl Team started practicing in October for the Gallaudet University Academic Bowl Competition. From December 11th to December 14th, the Team -- Elvira Kabanova, Rebecca Adeyinka, Ashanti Rutledge and Joshua Keller, as well



2014-15 ACADEMIC BOWL TEAM

*Elvira Kabanova, Ashanti Rutledge, Joshua Keller, Rebecca Adeyinka
Coaches Ms. Doolan and Mr. Avrin
(shown left to right)*



2014-15 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

*John Dickson, Elvira Kabanova,
Mrs. Goldblum, Joshua Keller, Mahwish Riaz
(shown left to right)*



as coaches Stephanny Doolan and Jeff Avrin, attended the 2015 Academic Bowl Competition at the New York State School for the Deaf. All team members worked hard during practice and also at the competition. They competed in seven competitions against the following schools; New York State School for the Deaf, OCM BOCES-D/HH Program (Solvay, NY), Monroe #1 BOCES (Fairport, NY), Rochester School for the Deaf, St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, and Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. Some of the competitions were very close, right up until the end, and no one gave up. MK/NJSD did not win, but each student gained knowledge, experience, sportsmanship and life long friendships! Both coaches were extremely proud of the commitment and determination of the entire team, as well as their teamwork and positive attitudes throughout the entire competition!

Student Writing Samples - Picture Prompts

Amon Baldwin - Picture prompt story

Snow Cinderella

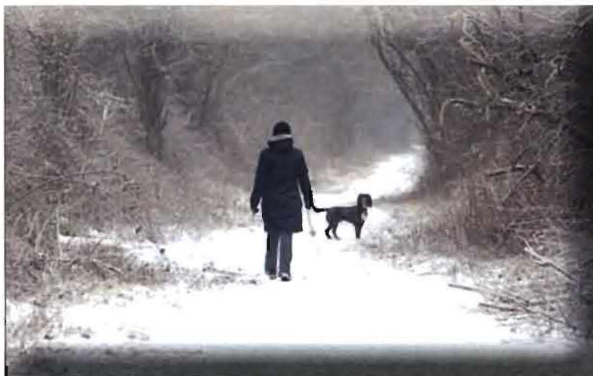


Emily was walking through the forest. She saw a dog running through the forest. The small, black dog spoke to her and asked, 'Are you a slave?' She didn't understand, but she was a slave. The dog magically turned Emily into snow Cinderella. The dog told her she can go to a ball, but she must leave by 12:00 midnight.

A man saw Cinderella. The man didn't know her name. Emily hears the bell ring at 12:00 pm and Snow Cinderella ran away. The man saw Cinderella's phone. Emily's stepmother forced her to be a slave and do everything. The stepmother's daughters saw her email. One daughter told her cheerleader friend. The cheerleaders acted men as all of the students watched them Emily saw them and she cried.

Later that night, Emily entered the boy's locker room because she wanted to speak to tom. She introduced herself as Snow Cinderella. The prince, named Tom, thought Cinderella should not like a slave. Tom did not respect her. She ran away to see her best friend and they hugged. Then, they went to a football game.

Emily thought she wanted to leave the game. Tom ran though the audience. Tom found Emily and kissed her. Emily's stepmother was in trouble and her two daughters had to work jobs. Tom and Emily drove to prince to enjoy and have fun. They left together and they lived happily ever after.



Emily Cruz - Picture Prompt Story

The Strange Monster



Once upon a time it was winter and the forest was all covered in snow. A group of people lived in a small village and they were very poor. They were suffering from cold. It was in the very northern part of Greenland.

One night, the people in the village were sleeping. So in the morning, one of the hunters in the forest saw big footprints in the snow. The man ran back to the village and told everyone what he saw in the forest. The village was so scared and didn't know what to do.

The man in charge of the village was also poor but not as poor as the rest of the people. The man's name was Mark. He was getting old now. Mark told the people not to worry and everything was going to be fine.

The next day one teenage girl was walking in the forest and just relaxing. All the sudden she saw something unusual. It was a weird, huge beast walking down through the forest. The girl was so shocked and started to freak out. She ran back to the village and told Mark about what happened as she described what the monster looked like. Mark was shocked and believed the girl. He picked one man to go to the center of Greenland to gather a strong army. The man went there and came back after five days. Finally the army came to the village and spoke to Mark.

The next day the army went to the forest and looked for that weird, odd-looking monster all night. Finally, in the early morning, they started to kill the monster by using arrows and a sharp spear. The monster was unbeatable. The army never gave up and kept going. The monster died by the arrow in his eye and his heart. The village was so happy and thankful to the army for saving them. They lived happily after ever.



Sports News

Basketball and All Americans

The boys and girls 2014 - 2015 basketball seasons are over. Both teams competed in their respective ESDAA tournaments and both finished in 6th place.

The boys team was very young and inexperienced. Corey Jenkins was named to the **All-Tournament Team** and the Colts team won the **Sportsmanship Award**.

There were no returning players on the team this year. Team members were: Eighth graders Chris Brown and Yeudy Rodriquez, freshmen Corey Jenkins, Stanley Uka, Amon Baldwin and Ricky Maldonado, first year players Jose Maisonet, Juan Ventura-Colaj, Jason Cruz and Azeem Ahmad round off the team. Tamar Taylor was the manager and Mike Krieger and Julian Magana were the coaches of the team. They ended the season with no wins and 16 losses. The coaches, however, are very optimistic about the future. This year's outstanding individual accomplishments for the boys: Juan Ventura-Colaj lead the team with 87 rebounds, Corey Jenkins led the team in three categories - 107 points/38 steals/40 assists, and Chris Brown and Ricky Maldonado led the team with 11 blocks each. A bright future is ahead for the young Colts. They will miss Juan and Jason next year as they will be over age.

The girls' ended their season at their ESDAA tournament in Framingham, MA - The Learning Center School for the Deaf. Rebecca Adeyinka was named to the **All-Tournament team**. The girls ended the season with four wins and 12 losses.

This year's outstanding individual accomplishments for the girls: Rebecca Adeyinka led the team with 132 rebounds and 52 steals, Aaliyah Dawkins led the team with 88 points and 49 steals (she led the team, in these two categories, even though she did not play in the three tournament games because of a sprained ankle!), Elvira Kabanova lead the team with 32 assists and 8th grader De'Avian Watson led the team with 19 blocked shots. Freshman Emily Cruz had a sensational ESDAA tournament. She scored 22 points (six three-point shots), five steals, four assists, three rebounds and one block. Rebecca Adeyinka had 35 of her team leading 132 rebounds in the tournament and 20 of her 52 steals in the tournament. De'Avian Watson had 21 of her season 46 rebounds in the tournament and 15 of her season 24 steals at the tournament. The other players on the team were 8th grader Emily Caseiro and freshman Giezi Teutle.

2015 Basketball All-Americans



Rebecca Adeyinka



Corey Jenkins



Corey and Rebecca were named to the All-Tournament Team at the ESDAA Tournament

Annual Alumni and Tip Off Games

The annual Alumni basketball games took place the first week of March. These games are always so much fun when our graduates come back to NJSD and socialize. Many alumni did not play in the game but supported their peers with cheers for the "old timers."

The returning alumni players this year were: Maria Morrongello (82), Debra Schmidt (88), Stacey Jones (02), Marvin Shuler (09), Jesus Javier (12), Jimbo McGrail (92), Billy Nowrey (93), Chris Webb (09), Kevin Fennessy (81), Dr. Angel, and assistant coach Julian Magana also played.



Referee Dave Sipe, retired teacher, always makes the game fun. Elvira and Rebecca joke with Mr. Sipe.



The Lady Colts placed 2nd in the Tournament



The All-Tournament Team

Tip-Off Tournament Results Girls

The Lady Colts played against New York at 2:00 pm on a Friday and the entire school got to watch the team pull out to a big lead, 22 to 4, before they all had to leave to go home. The girls coasted to a comfortable win 30—10 to get into the championship game vs. American School on Saturday. Aaliyah Dawkins led the team in points with 12 and also led the team with seven rebounds. Elvira Kabanova chipped in nine points, six rebounds, three assists and nine steals.

The girls started off very slow in the championship game going down six to zero in the first quarter. They came back and outscored the ASD tigers eight—one in the second quarter and took a one point lead into halftime. The third quarter was even and the Lady Colts went cold shooting. The ASD tigers outscored NJSD ten—two in the fourth to win the championship. Our girls placed 2nd and we should be very proud of them. Rebecca Adeyinka led the team with 15 rebounds with Aaliyah Dawkins pulling down 11. The Lady Colts controlled the boards but could not make a shot when it counted.

Boys

The boys did not play until 6:45 Friday night and they ran into a very tall and experienced American team. American was up 39—31 at the end of the third quarter and it looked like the young Colts were getting in a rhythm. They scored their most points in the third quarter, 13. But then the ASD tigers put on a full court press and this completely overwhelmed the boys.

The boys ran into a very mad Lexington team which lost to NYSD the day before in a very hot physical game. Lexington was winning at half time 37—10. The Colts came out in the third and outscored the Bluebirds but then Lexington put on an aggressive press and outscored our team 23—0. They, unfortunately, kept the press on the rest of the game when it was not necessary and won 72—20. Amon Baldwin led the team with 10 points and Ricky Maldonado chipped in another eight. The boys took home 4th place but this young team will be getting better!

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KATZENBACH SCHOOL NEWS

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