

Levy Special Education
Center
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The Levy Link

Principal: Kimberly Cotton
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January 2017

www.usd259.org/levy



From The Principal's Desk...

As we bid farewell to 2016, we reflect upon the many memories created and enjoyed this past year and look forward with anticipation to the opportunities and challenges that will be presented to us in 2017.

I would like to thank our students, Mrs. Rebecca Gobel (Adaptive Music Teacher) and all other staff who helped with the holiday concert. The students did an outstanding job of getting us in the holiday spirit. I am always in awe of the tremendous talent of our students and I am so proud of everyone.

I would also like to remind everyone that basketball season is upon us. Please join us on Friday, January 13 at 10:00 in the Levy gym as we host a pep rally to show our support for our student athletes. Following the pep rally, the Levy Legends first basketball game will be played at 12:30 at the South YMCA in the Garvey Sports Center. If you are free, please come and support our basketball team and cheerleaders.

Kimberly Cotton, Levy Principal



Dates to Remember:

January:

- ♦ Friday, January 13, Pep Rally, Levy Gym (10:00 a.m.)
- ♦ Friday, January 13, Basketball Game @ South YMCA (12:30 p.m.)
- ♦ Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, No School
- ♦ Friday, January 20, Basketball Game @ South YMCA (12:30 p.m.)
- ♦ Monday, January 23, Graduation Planning Meeting, Levy (6:00 p.m.)
- ♦ Friday, January 27, Basketball Game @ South YMCA (12:30 p.m.)

Mission Statement:

The mission of Levy Special Education Center is to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment which promotes dignity and respect for the students, and where the individual needs of each student are met by a team of skilled caring professionals in ways that are purposeful and meaningful.

Basketball Season Is Here!



It's game time!! This year's Levy Legends basketball team is once again coached by Bill Billingsley. This is his 8th year of coaching the basketball team at Levy and he is very proud of the players and the commitments they have made toward the team. The Legends practice on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and they are anxious to showcase their skills.

The basketball team would not be complete without the cheer squad. This year's cheer squad is coached by Debra Burgardt. This is her 5th year as Levy's cheer squad head coach. Debra is also excited for the upcoming season and for the opportunity to defend their title. Last year the cheer squad won 1st place at the cheering competition that was held at the end of the season.

The cheerleaders would like to thank Scott Martin, owner of Play It Again Sports.

Play It Again Sports donated new cheerleading uniforms to the Levy cheerleaders this year. The cheer squad is excited about cheering in their new uniforms. When you are at a game this year, don't forget to check out the uniforms and please take a minute and let Scott know how grateful we are for all that he does for our student athletes!

Games Dates:

January 13 @ South Y (12:30)
January 20 @ South Y (12:30)
January 27 @ South Y (12:30)
February 3 @ South Y (12:30)
February 10 @ South Y (12:30)
February 17 @ West High School (12:30)
February 24 @ South Y (12:30)
March 3 - Tournament (9:30-2:30)

2017 Levy Legends Basketball Team:

Alberto Gonzalez
Ashley Dinell
Christopher Ludlow
Heather Chance
Juan Gonzalez-Araiza
Kaylee Oneth
Kenneth Snell-McDonald
Maximus Greenup
Nick Randle
Chad Moses

Coaches:

Bill Billingsley-Head Coach
Michele Fanning-Sheets-Asst. Coach
Jason Catchings-Asst. Coach

2017 Levy Legends Cheer Squad:

Amy Kaufman
Brianna Elting
Carl Davis
Carlie Parker
Dakota Patterson
Ellis Dunville
Erika Schuh
Evan Amegbey
Alejandra Gomez-Fernandez

Coaches:

Debra Burgardt-Head Coach
Calley Kinchion-Asst. Coach
Jean Darby-Asst. Coach
Tiffany Killman-Asst. Coach

SPEECH THERAPY

Speech Therapy: Social Communication and the Use of Visual Supports

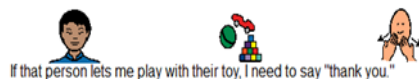
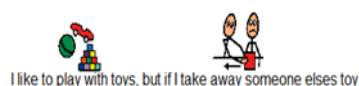
The most complicated part of any person's day can be dealing with social situations. Different environments or relationships encompass a variety of rules and actions. In speech therapy, we target a variety of different social skills. *Social skills* are defined as "socially acceptable learned behaviors that enable a person to interact with others in ways that elicit positive responses and assist in avoiding negative responses" (Elliott, Racine, & Busse, 1995, p. 1009).

Here are some social communication skills that could be targeted:

- ♦ Answering questions
- ♦ Asking questions (preferred and non preferred topics)
- ♦ Starting, joining, and ending a conversation
- ♦ Greetings/Closings
- ♦ Staying on topic
- ♦ Saying "I don't know"
- ♦ Introducing yourself
- ♦ Cooperative play skills (e.g. sharing)
- ♦ Friendship management (e.g. informal versus formal behavior)

Some of our students here at Levy work on social skills every day. These students use a variety of visual supports to help them know what is expected. Some of these visual supports include:

Social stories: short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why.



Video modeling: A staff member, peer, or the student is videotaped while engaging in the skill that is being targeted (e.g. introducing yourself to someone new). This intervention can also be used to model steps of self-care skills such as, brushing teeth, washing hands, and other hygiene activities.

Comic strip conversations

Example of a Comic Strip Conversation



SPEECH THERAPY CONTINUED...

Social scripting: Social scripting is when we present a structured “script” to the child that provides a description of what they will say or do during a social interaction.

Ask questions to get to know the person:	
OK Topics:	OK Questions:
School:	What classroom are you in? Who's your teacher?
Age (For kids only):	How old are you? (Do not ask adults!)
Home:	What home are you in? What's it like there?
Interests:	What do you like to do for fun? What games do you like? What TV shows do you watch? What kind of music do you like?
Family:	Do you have a big family? Do you have brothers and sisters - How many? Do you have any pets?

Greetings: Meeting someone new

Greetings		
Hi, whats up?! 	Hi! 	Hey, how's it going?
Hey! 	Hey whats up? 	Hey you!
Whats up? 	What have you been up to? 	

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When the targeted skill is new for the student, we start working on it in a structured setting. Once they show consistency in a familiar environment with familiar people, we want to quickly start introducing the skill in other environments and new people. This supports generalization of the target skill.

Thank you for taking the time to read a little about how speech therapy can support social communication skills.

Abby Anthony, Speech Pathologist



Greetings From B4

This school year has brought lots of changes and fun activities. October preparations were made for the school wide parade. Our wheelchairs were transformed into Batmobiles, with handmade t-shirts to represent Bat Boys! We tied with another classroom for first place!

November had us thinking of science activities. On November 4th we had the school wide Science Fair. We showed off our science experiment – Seed Growth. We grew birdseed and grass seed in mini pumpkins to find out which seeds grew the fastest. Grass seeds was the winner!

December has us focusing on the holidays. Our class issued a challenge for all Levy students to make Christmas cards for the veterans of Wichita. The end of the year had our class winning first place for its Christmas poster!

We have had a great first semester and we are looking forward to the New Year – 2017.

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to Kyle Wallace. He passed away on Monday, November 21, 2016. He was a student in B4 and will be greatly missed.

Happy New Year!

Janet, Stephanie, Marcy, Nathaniel, Carl, Essie



Stephanie helping Essie make a Christmas card for a veteran.



Carl working on his Christmas card for a veteran.

FUN IN E7

This year has been an exciting year as well as a learning experience. When we started the year we had many new students and new staff. We spent the first part of the year getting to know one another.

Our students have enjoyed a variety of activities which have included games and group activities that promote social experiences. For the science fair our students learned about the scientific method. We performed a variety of experiments which included changing chemical compounds and then noting the differences.

At Christmas time we made Santa pancakes and we learned about the importance of eating a well balanced meal.

It has been a great first half of the school year and we look forward to learning even more as we continue our educational quest.

Jean, Calley, Cherri, Jake, Matt, Nick, Ellis, Zeke, Brianna, Evan and Dyondre



Brianna with her Santa pancake.
It sure does look delicious!



Zeke and Cherri working on the
science fair project.



Nick, Evan and Ellis working on
their social skills while playing a
game.

HELLO FROM E1!

E1 is an equal opportunity learning environment where we broaden and explore the many fields of education. We work on life skills, science, history, as well as using the UNIQUE curriculum to address math, reading and language arts. The students have access to our small computer center in the classroom where they can explore outside the walls of our school.

In our life skills studies, we have been working on preparing meals. This ranges from deciding what to prepare, to comparing prices of items needed, to preparing the actual meal. We also budget how much money we need to purchase our items for the meal. E1 and E3 have a cash register where the students are learning how to make sales and to document those sales utilizing the cash register. We are selling bottled water at this time, but we are hoping to expand on what we sell in the future.

Our science class, along with our history class, is a combination of E1 and E3. We have been on an adventure looking at how Kansas became what it is today. In science, we studied the rock formations in Kansas. As we were studying the rock formations, we found that there are a great deal of seashell fossils found in Kansas. We decided to research to find out why Kansas has so many seashell fossils since we are so far from any major source of water. The students found that Kansas was once under an inland sea and half of Kansas was under water while the rest was above water. Wow! Kansas once had beach front property!

So, if you are ever in our neighborhood, be sure to come and visit us here at Levy in room E1 and we will be glad to sell you a bottle of water and tell you more about our adventures!



Upper Left Corner: Classroom E1 making chocolate covered pretzels.

Upper Right Corner: Chris learning about the different rock formations.

Lower Left Corner: Shawn and Kenneth chiseling open a rock.

Getting Into The Holiday Spirit!

On Friday, December 9, Butler County Community College Headliners performed at Levy. Their performance consisted of singing and dancing to holiday songs. They did an amazing job, and the students really enjoyed singing along with them. After they were done performing, they socialized with the students.

Levy's Music Program

On Thursday, December 15, Levy held their annual seasonal sing-a-long. It was an enjoyable tradition of community singing through various December holiday songs that were rehearsed during music classes since Fall break. There was even a special presentation of "Drum Fit" from select students that have been participating in this fun activity during Adapted P.E. class. Students and staff seem to continue to enjoy this annual event, sending everyone off on break with a festive note.



Picture Above: Classroom A-2 is ready for the music program.

Upper and Lower Right: Students and staff performing "Drum Fit" during the program.



Additional Pictures From The Music Program



Everyone getting into the holiday spirit!



Rebecca Gobel, Adaptive Music Teacher, singing and dancing during the program.



Max and Kevin are enjoying the music program.



Kaylee and Heather participating during the music program.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Box Tops for Education



Please help us earn "extra money" at Levy. For every Box Tops for Education coupon, we earn extra money. This money is used for our students.

HOW BOX TOPS WORKS:

- Find Box Tops on hundreds of products.
- Clip Box Tops from each package.
- Send the Box Tops to Levy Special Education Center.
- Levy submits the Box Tops and get 10¢ for each one submitted.

REMINDER

Winter is upon us! Please make sure your child dresses for colder weather and brings a coat to school every day. Don't forget the hat and gloves!

News from the Office:

The office hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Jennifer or Staci @ 973-3400. If your child is going to be absent or if their contact information changes, please let the school know.



Dillons Plus Card Rewards

Levy families, staff, and anyone else, we are a part of the Dillons Plus Card Reward System. Levy will get credit for every purchase that you make when you use your plus card and shop at Dillons. It's completely free, so please sign up and help Levy earn money as you shop. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Johnson or John Penka.

TO ENROLL IN THE COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

1. Visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards
2. Sign in OR Create an account
3. Click on "Enroll Now"
4. Enter 74546 and search
5. Select Levy and click on "Enroll"

I have discovered the secret to a clean house: never let your children or husband enter it.





In Loving Memory



Kyle Blake Wallace
February 9, 1996-November 21, 2016



This edition of the Levy Link is dedicated to Kyle Wallace.