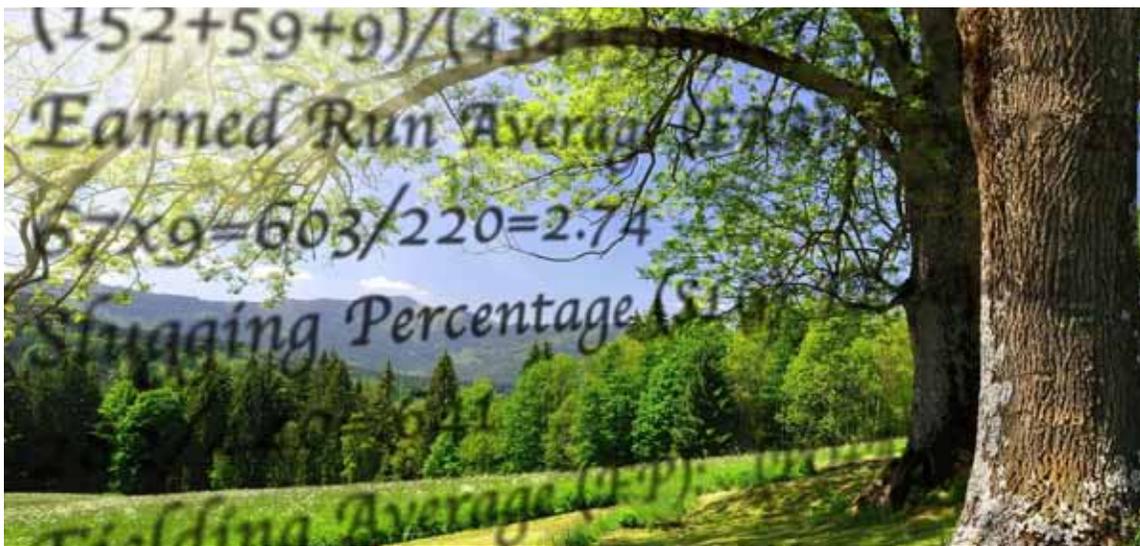


# CONNECTION



Missouri School for the Blind  
3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis



## MSB OFFERS EXCITING SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR 2014

Missouri School for the Blind is pleased to offer two summer courses in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Missouri students who are blind or visually impaired may attend. STEM courses, transportation and residential facilities are offered at no charge to participants or districts.

### Session I: Fantasy Baseball and Real-Life Mathematics

- July 8 - 18, 2014
- Grades 8-12

Fantasy Baseball and Real-Life Mathematics is an exciting, interactive opportunity for students to work alongside our experienced STEM staff to develop mathematical reasoning and concepts. During this nine day Exploration in STEM, students will use state-of-the-art technology specifically designed for students who are blind or visually impaired to create and manage a Fantasy

Baseball team. Students will track their players' stats on a daily basis, check injury reports, and make trades based on the results of their mathematical computations. Students will use speech- and/or text-accessible assistive technology as well as tactile models to facilitate independent exploration for all students regardless of their visual impairment. Mathematical skills learned during the STEM experience are designed to increase independence in middle and high school level mathematics classes and are aligned with the Missouri Learning State Standards in Mathematics.

During Fantasy Baseball and Real-Life Mathematics students will also learn the fundamental rules of baseball, while participating on a beep-ball team. Students' teams will keep their own stats and participate in the MSB Beep-Ball All-Star Tournament under the direction of an experienced beep-ball staff and a 2013 World Series Beep-Ball semi-finalist.



### MSB SUPPORTS



### MSB CONTACTS:

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During Fantasy Baseball and Real-Life Mathematics, students will explore the social impact of baseball, as well as STEM careers in mathematics. Students will visit community-based STEM venues, and meet professionals who apply their knowledge of mathematics in the field of professional athletics.

### Session II: Earth Journey

- July 21- 31, 2014
- Grades 5-9

Explorations in STEM: Earth Journey is an exciting, interactive opportunity for students to work alongside our experienced STEM staff to develop skills in teamwork and scientific inquiry which will allow them to increase

their independence when participating in laboratory-based classes. Students will explore various aspects of our planet during Earth Journey, which features nine days of exploring, hiking, researching and studying our ecosystem, plants indigenous to Missouri and exploring environmental issues. Earth Journey will take place in Missouri's natural habitats and MSB's state of the art Science and Technology Laboratories which are designed specifically for students who are Blind and Visually Impaired. During MSB's Earth Journey students will be introduced to the concept of an ecosystem and explore how to analyze various aspects of healthy and unhealthy ecosystems using a sys-

tems-thinking approach just like environmental scientists do. Participants will collect samples from various environments, conduct experiments, analyze their results and make inferences related to a healthy or unhealthy ecosystem for a given population based on their accumulated data. During MSB's Earth Journey students will have the opportunity to visit local natural areas and meet professionals who work in STEM fields related to our ecosystem, develop their Orientation and Mobility skills in unfamiliar environments and meet peers from around the state.

For more information, please contact Joy Waddell at 314-776-4320, ext. 1140 or [Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov).

## MSB HOSTS REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE

On Thursday, February 28, Missouri School for the Blind hosted a Braille Challenge regional competition where 25 students from across the state participated for the chance to attend the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles this summer. The events included reading comprehension, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs. More than a thousand students participated nationwide and once all contests have been scored and ranked, the top 60 students from across the country will be invited to compete in Los Angeles.

A special thanks to Lighthouse for the Blind for providing Braille Challenge shirts for all of the participants and volunteers, as well as prizes for all of the winners. We also thank the Braille Revival League and the National Braille Institute for providing prizes as well.

The winners of the Missouri Regional Braille Challenge are:

#### Varsity:

- 1ST: Annie Donnell
- 2ND: **Kathryn Hurd\***
- 3RD: **Jade Scallion\***

#### Junior Varsity:

- 1ST: Alexis Kaibel
- 2ND: **Nikki Cox\***
- 3RD: **Heather Thaller\***

#### Sophomore:

- 1ST: Lydia Olmsted
- 2ND: **Zyshaun Cross-Williams\***
- 3RD: Sam Doman

#### Freshman:

- 1ST: Richard Tienter
- 2ND: **Ali Lyons**
- 3RD: Chance Cole

#### Apprentice (Contracted):

- 1ST: Austin Schwan
- 2ND: Kailey Couch
- 3RD: Joshua Fields

#### Apprentice (Uncontracted):

- 1ST: **Jessica Johnson\***
- 2ND: **James Rodgers\***
- 3RD: **Michael McCurdy\***

\*MSB Student



## Technology Day Showcases the Latest in Assistive Devices at MSB

On Thursday, November 14, 2013 Missouri School for the Blind hosted its second “Tech It Up a Notch” technology day geared for students who are blind or visually impaired in grades 6-12. This day long event showcased assistive technology designed for those who are blind or visually impaired and gave students the chance for hands on experience with various devices and software.

The day was organized into three sessions with the first being an introduction to the various technology; the second offered opportunities for students to explore in a non-competitive environment OR demonstrate their skills in competitive rounds; and the third session was an interactive game show-style competition that utilized the Zeecraft buzzer system.

The technology highlighted in this year’s event included Refreshable braille displays; adaptive cooking equipment; LiveScribe pens and paper; iPad; iPad Compass; Talking Typer; embossers to create braille and tactile materials; talking watches, calendars, prescription bottles, currency identifiers and calendars; various text enlarging and screen reading equipment and software; Braille Note Takers; Match Maker and Color Mate clothing identification devices.

Prizes were awarded to overall competition winners in the middle school and high school divisions.



## ANOTHER HAPPY HOLIDAY FOR MSB STUDENTS

This past holiday season, we once again found ourselves humbled by the generosity of the community. On December 3, MSB seniors kicked off the holiday season by attending the Maplewood Lions Christmas party. Then on December 16, residential students enjoyed a holiday party hosted on campus by the Elks. On December 19, students performed a fantastic music program for family and friends of MSB that showcased a wide range of holiday traditions from various cultures. Diana Guth, MSB’s new music instructor, planned this program that highlighted both instrumental and vocal talents of our students.

Following the program, students, staff and guests attended the Christmas Extravaganza where they enjoyed cookies, punch and holiday cheer! Because of the tremendous efforts of all involved, our students were given clothing and other necessities, as well as books, games, toys, movies and more! The First Capitol Lions Club, West St. Louis County Lions Club, MSB Alumni Association, United Workers for the Blind, Maplewood Lions Club and Elks ensured that every one of our students had a bright and joyful Christmas. Thank you to all who helped make this past holiday a special one for MSB students!



## MSB PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL FITNESS CHALLENGE

Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) is pleased to announce its partnership with the USABA/Well-Point Foundation to participate in the National Fitness Challenge. The goal of the program is to raise the physical activity levels of each participant to recommended levels.

Throughout the ten-month program, all Fitness Challenge participants have the opportunity to

use Nike FuelBands to track their fitness goals, compare their progress to other program participants from across the country and compete for monthly USABA prizes. Students will also use computers to sync their Fuelbands on a daily basis as well as iPad technology throughout the challenge.

In April, students will have the chance to compete as a team against

the teachers. MSB students will work together to motivate and hold each other accountable for earning and tracking activity points to ensure they beat their rivals! This exciting opportunity will show students how being fit can be FUN!



## BETAS SHINE IN BRANSON

The MSB Senior Betas competed at the Missouri Beta State Convention in Branson March 7-9. MSB Betas competed well and conducted their duties at the convention to rousing applause. MSB's Breck Campbell was chosen as the John W. Harris Leadership Award Winner. Only 25 students nationwide received this honor this year. We are very proud of Breck and her accomplishments in Beta and at MSB!



**K.E.Y.S. to Success at MSB**  
**Knowledge to Empower Your Success**

We would love to tell you about our short-term solutions for students who are blind or visually impaired. KEYS programs offer intense instruction in braille, O&M, career training, social skills, athletics and more. Contact Joy Waddell at 314-776-4320, ext. 1140 or [Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov)

## MSB OFFERS FUN WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO EXERCISE

MSB recently installed a traverse climbing wall offering students yet another activity to encourage healthy and fit habits. The Traverse Wall challenges students to climb from one side to another, as opposed to bottom to top, and does not require a harness or any other special equipment. Benefits of traverse climbing can include improved coordination, agility, balance, core body strength, alertness and concentration. It is also a lot of fun!

In addition, MSB received three pieces of commercial grade fitness equipment from 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment thanks to the generosity of the West St. Louis County Lions Club. The two elliptical machines and recumbent bike replace worn out equipment and offer students additional opportunities for cardio activity. **Thank you West St. Louis County Lions!**



### STUDENTS ACHIEVE GOALS AND GET TO PARTY

On Monday, January 27, members of the Library Cat Club were rewarded for meeting or exceeding goals set at the beginning of the first semester. Students set a goal for the number of books they plan to read and report on during the semester. Those who met their goals were treated to a special lunch party that featured club mascot Garfield's favorite food – lasagna! There were 25 students in grades 2-12 who earned this party. Way to go!



### MSB INTRAMURAL TEAM BRINGS HOME THE GOLD



The MSB intramural athletes participated in the Intramural Bowling Tournament held at the Show Me Lanes on January 28, 2014. The athletes performed very well with the following results: Zach Phelps – Gold Medal; Silver Medals to Alex Richardson, Jesse Finnell, Tyler Baty, and LaShay Culton; and Bronze Medals for Elijah Shick and Sirria Brooks. Zach captured his first place medal by bowling 2 strikes on the first two balls of the final game! All athletes bowled their best and we are proud of their accomplishments.

Zach Phelps – Gold Medal; Silver Medals to Alex Richardson, Jesse Finnell, Tyler Baty, and LaShay Culton; and Bronze Medals for Elijah Shick and Sirria Brooks. Zach captured his first place medal by bowling 2 strikes on the first two balls of the final game! All athletes bowled their best and we are proud of their accomplishments.

### MSB CELEBRATES 163 YEARS!

On February 27, we proudly celebrated 163 years of providing quality education to those who are blind or visually impaired. Students, staff and guests celebrated MSB's birthday during the Braille Challenge and enjoyed delicious and beautiful fruit "cupcakes" prepared by MSB's kitchen staff. Happy birthday MSB!



## Residential Staff Brings the Great OUTdoors IN!

With the harsh winter keeping students from the outdoors, residential activities director, Laura Snow, arranged for a bit of nature to be brought indoors. On Wednesday January 29, staff from the Saint Louis Zoo's education outreach division brought in a python, screech owl and possum. In addition, the zoo staff brought in pelts from a rabbit, bear and koala. With the exception of the possum who was particularly cranky that night, students had the opportunity to touch all of the animals and pelts and to ask questions.

The following night, a representative from the World Aquarium at the City Museum brought in more animals, including hissing cockroaches, snakes, lizards, a starfish and a sea urchin. Students were given the opportunity to touch, hold and even walk around with the animals. Every student was brave enough to hold a snake, and some even held three snakes at once!



### MARCH

13	NCASB Swim/ Forensics meet @ Illinois
28-31	SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

### APRIL

1	Classes Resume, 3rd Quarter Ends
1-2	Session III: Hand In Hand: Understanding Deafblindness
4	NCASB Swim/Forensics Meet @ Tennessee
6	Lions Night - A Night of Superheroes, 4:00p
7-25	MAP Testing
9	3rd Quarter/2nd Semester Progress Notes and Grade Cards Due/4th Quarter Begins
10	3rd Quarter Achievement Assembly - 10:00
11	NCASB Swim/Forensics Meet @ Ohio
21	Staff Development (8:00-4:00)
28-5/7	EOC Testing

### MAY

2-3	NCASB Swim Conference
2-4	Alumni Weekend
8	Fitness Challenge 2014-Spring Into Fitness
9	Make up day for students/staff
12	Truman Holiday-NO SCHOOL
15	MSB Prom - 6:00p
26	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
27-30	Senior Week

### JUNE

11	Awards Assembly - 11:00a Commencement -7:00p
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## A NIGHT OF SUPERHEROES

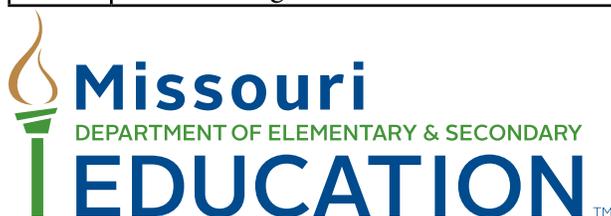
Lions Night 2014 at MSB

Dinner • Tours • Demonstrations  
Silent Auction • Musical Program • and More!



For more information or to RSVP, contact Patti Curran  
at [Patti.Curran@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Patti.Curran@msb.dese.mo.gov) or 314-776-4320.

[www.MSB.dese.mo.gov](http://www.MSB.dese.mo.gov) - Click on "Lions Night 2014"



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