

# CONNECTION

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



## — THEN and NOW — A HISTORY OF MSB ATHLETICS

The Missouri School for the Blind has a long and rich history that extends beyond academics. The seeds of what is now a very successful athletic program were planted more than 120 years ago and have been growing ever since.

The first course in physical education began in 1890. During this time, students participated mostly in indoor gymnasium activities. In 1910, a full-time PE teacher was employed and an outdoor playground was added to the campus that encouraged additional outdoor activities.

By the 1930s a variety of physical activities were available for MSB students. Roller skating in the gymnasiums and the long basement corridor was hugely popular at this time, as was hiking

in the neighboring Tower Grove Park. Other activities included rhythmic dancing, marching calisthenics, broad jumping, shot putting, basketball throwing, rope climbing, racing, ring, and trapeze and horizontal bar exercises. Under the guidance of MSB's legendary PE teacher, Al Eberhardt, MSB became the first school in the nation to offer a wres-



Al Eberhardt, 1907-1994

tlng program for the blind.

In 1948, \$200,000 was appropriated out of the Post War Reserve Fund for the purpose of an addition to MSB. The following year construction began on the wing that now houses the bowling lanes as well as the swimming pool.

In 1951, the Midwest Athletic Association of Schools for the Blind (MAASB) was formed. MSB joined the association with schools from Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Illinois and Kentucky. Sanctioned events included track, wrestling and swimming. The first wrestling tournament was held at MSB February 24-25, 1951. Later that year, MSB also first became a member of the Missouri State High School Athletics Association (MSHSAA) and re-



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## MSB'S FIRST WRESTLING TEAM, 1951



mains a member to date.

The MAASB grew to include a large number of schools and in 1956 it split into two smaller conferences – the Southwest Association of Schools for the Blind (SWASB) and the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB). It was in this year that track became an organized sport at MSB and the same year that the NCASB held its first annual track meet and wrestling tournaments.

From 1961-1985 Mr. Donald Johnson was Superintendent. During his administration, Girls' Play Day was replaced by track competition among the girls. In addition, track season for both boys and girls was moved to the fall so that swimming competition for both sexes could become the third major sport, filling up the spring season.

In 1969, MSB joined 15 other national schools for the blind to form a bowling league. In 1977, a new multipurpose track was built on the east side of the school and in 1979, goalball began as a

competitive sport at MSB.

Today, MSB offers a variety of intramural sports, including walking, bowling, snow skiing and track and field. The current competitive athletic program at MSB includes track and field, goalball, wrestling, cheerleading, swimming and forensics. Just as it was more than 50 years ago, MSB continues to be a force to be reckoned with on the court and on the field.

Many MSB alumni have gone on to become world class athletes. Deke Edwards, '57, won two Missouri State Championships in wrestling while attending MSB. He went on to win three conference championships while attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He returned to MSB in 1962 as a mathematics teacher and assistant coach. In 1982 he was the sixth wrestler inducted into the Missouri Hall of Fame. In 1994 he was elected to the Greater St. Louis Area Athletic Association Hall of Fame and in 2005 he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

## MSB WRESTLING, 2012



LEFT: Deke Edwards. RIGHT: David Brown with guide Roland Slade (Source: Gareth Copley/Getty Images Europe).

David Brown, '11, holds a NCASB record for the standing long jump and he participated in the track and field events in the 2012 Paralympics in London.

Other MSB graduates

that have gone on to become paralympians include George Morris '82, Darrell Holden '86, Tonia McHugh '85 and Norma Brown '84 in goal ball, and June Smith Lenk '77 in track.



Next time you visit the MSB campus, be sure to check out the newly installed display case that highlights some of the extracurricular and athletic history of MSB.

# MSB STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS FOR WHITE CANE SAFETY

October was Disability Awareness Month and MSB students and staff participated in a variety of ways! On October 10, 2012, MSB students and staff gathered for an assembly and listened as the Proclamation of Disability History Awareness Month in Missouri was read. They learned about the history of Disability Awareness Month, Blind Americans Equality Day and the White Cane Law. Following the assembly, students were divided into advocacy groups and dispersed into the community to raise awareness about Blind Americans Equality Day as well as Missouri's white cane laws. MSB students walked to local businesses and handed out brochures, window clings and bookmarks while asking fellow citizens to help spread our message: Stop for white canes, it's the Law!



## RESOURCES FOR MISSOURI TEACHERS

The Library Media Center at Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) maintains a large collection of professional materials on topics related to the education of students with visual impairment. A large number of these materials are available for loan not only to staff members at Missouri School for the Blind but also to professionals in the state of Missouri who work with students who are visually impaired. This has been a very popular service with educators at local schools who may wish to preview a particular book before spending school or personal

funds to purchase it, or who only need to borrow a book for a short time. Educators may look at a list of materials that are available for loan on the school's online catalog that is accessible through the Internet and then call or e-mail the MSB librarian to request a particular title. The book or video is sent to the educator through the mail and returned within eight weeks, with the possibility of one renewal as long as no one else has requested the item. This service has made it possible for professionals throughout the state who work with students with visual impairment to

have access to books about cortical visual impairment, autism spectrum disorders in students with visual impairment, orientation and mobility, and much more.

For more information, contact Mary Dingus, Librarian, at 314-776-4320, ext. 3257 or [Mary.Dingus@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Mary.Dingus@msb.dese.mo.gov).





## STUDENTS GET BIG SURPRISE

The St. Louis Chapter of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) was instrumental in the renovation of the MSB bowling lanes this past year. On November 14, they extended their generosity even further by presenting MSB students with USBC bowling shirts. In addition, Gary Voss, president of the Bowling Proprietors of America Association (BPAA), extended his kindness with the donation of additional bowling shoes and score sheets for the students. Mr. Voss and his crew contributed countless hours and hard work to the renovation. Following the presentation, everyone enjoyed a game of bowling on the beautiful new lanes!



## MAPLEWOOD LIONS DONATE BRAILLE BOOKS

Last month, MSB received an exciting call from the Maplewood Lions Club because they wanted to make a donation to the library. After consulting with the librarian, they purchased two braille books - *The Hunger Games* and *Maze of Bones* - both popular young adult fiction novels that our library did not have until now. Thank you Lions!



## MSB SENIORS HELP ST. LOUIS NEEDY

As part of their senior service project, MSB seniors collected canned goods this fall to donate to the St. Louis Area Foodbank. The seniors successfully collected 101 pounds of canned goods which will provide 82 meals for the area's needy.



## MSB TEACHER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MCB



On October 5-7, 2012, the Missouri Council of the Blind hosted its 56th annual convention in Jefferson City. We are very proud to announce that during this convention, Patti Schonlau, Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Braille teacher at MSB, was elected president of the Missouri Council of the Blind. Congratulations Mrs. Schonlau!

## YVONNE ALI RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



Yvonne Ali, supervisor of the Missouri Instructional Resources Center (MIRC) at MSB received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). Ms. Ali received this award on November 2, 2012 in Jefferson City in recognition of her exceptional leadership and devoted service to persons who are visually impaired. Congratulations Ms. Ali!

## NATIONAL DEAF BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN MISSOURI



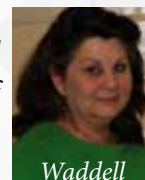
A person who is recognized as "Deaf-Blind" by an approved professional, meets Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) Act definition of Deaf-Blind, and meets income guidelines, is eligible to apply for participation in the The National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). This two-year pilot project funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is to ensure Deaf-Blind people have access to different kinds of communication. Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) was certified by the FCC in July to administer the NDBEDP project in the state of Missouri.

Equipment will be decided on an individual basis depending on communication goals, needs and abilities. An example would be the iPad with braille display.

Visit [www.at.mo.gov](http://www.at.mo.gov) or call 816-655-6700 or 800-647-8557 (voice) or 800-647-8558 (TTY) for more information.

## MSB STAFF PRESENTS AT NATIONAL C.A.S.E. CONFERENCE

On November 1-3, 2012, the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) held its 23rd annual fall conference in Scottsdale, AZ. MSB Assistant Superintendent Joy Waddell and School Supervisor Ann Newman presented at this conference. *Increasing Student Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness Through Data Analysis, Guided Self-Assessment and Goal Setting* highlighted the success of MSB students. Congratulations Mrs. Waddell and Dr. Newman!



## MSB TAKES FIRST PLACE!

On September 20, 2012, MSB hosted the annual Eberhardt Track Triangular. This meet is named in honor of MSB's long time coach and each year is hosted by one of the three participating schools. The girls' and boys' teams made MSB proud and took first place! Mr. Eberhardt's daughter, Ellen Burkemper, attended and presented the first place trophy to MSB coach Tim Cobb (left). In addition, the girls team took first place in the NCASB conference for the first time since 1979! Team captain Tabiltha Jenkins presented the trophy to Supt. Yocum (right) at the school awards assembly on October 30. Way to go Mules!!



## NFB PARTNERS WITH SANTA TO SEND BRAILLE LETTERS TO CHILDREN

Once again, Santa has enlisted the help of the elves at the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jernigan Institute to get Braille letters out to hundreds of blind boys and girls this Christmas season.

Between November 19 and December 17, parents can go online at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) and fill out a Santa Braille Letter request form. The form can also be printed and faxed to (410) 685-2340. Braille letters sent to the children will also be accompanied by a print copy (for mom and dad to read).

## MSB HONORS VETERANS

On Veteran's Day, Monday, November 12, MSB students and staff gathered together to recognize and honor all of the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Poetry was read, patriotic anthems were sung, and a reading of veterans' names were all part of this special assembly. Freedom is not free! Thank you veterans!



### DECEMBER

14	NCASB Wrestling/ Cheerleading Meet @ MSB
20	Christmas Extravaganza
12/24-1/4/13	WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

### JANUARY

1	New Year's Day - NO SCHOOL
2-4	Staff Development (8:00-4:00) - NO SCHOOL
7	Classes Resume
11-12	NCASB Wrestling/ Cheerleading Meet @ Wisconsin
15	End of 2nd Quarter/ End of 1st Semester
15-16	Hand In Hand Session II, Columbia

### JANUARY

17	2nd Quarter/ 1st Semester Progress Notes and Grade Cards Due
18	2nd Quarter Achievement Assembly - 10:00
21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
25-27	NCASB Wrestling/ Cheerleading Conference @ Indiana

### FEBRUARY

11	Staff Development (8:00-4:00) - NO SCHOOL
18	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
21	Braille Challenge (tentative)
27	MSB's 162nd Birthday



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