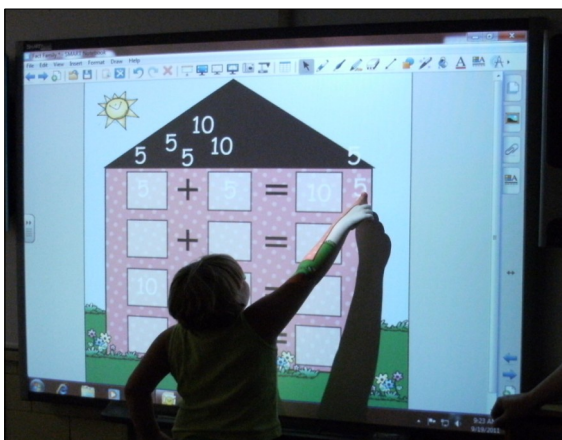


# CONNECTION

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

## Vision-Specific Technology Enhances Student Learning



Students with low vision look forward to SMART Board lessons that are interactive and provide a variety of stimuli.



Elementary teacher Chris Klevorn uses the SMART Board for vocabulary, sight words, math concepts and communication arts and can adjust the size, color and contrast to meet students' visual needs.

During the summer of 2011, Missouri School for the Blind renovated its computer lab and upgraded its “vision specific” technology. In addition to a complete renovation of the computer lab, MSB upgraded all computers in the lab and moved older computers to classrooms. MSB also purchased “state-of-the-art” software and equipment for use by students individually and in the lab and classrooms.

OAITSD (Office of Administration Information Technology Service Division, State of Missouri) also enabled MSB to establish a separate student network and domain. All improvements were made to increase visually impaired students’ ability to read, write and access data and to give teachers more options to differentiate instruction based on individual students’ needs.

This project was made possible by support from Missouri Lions clubs and benevolent contributions to the Blind Trust Fund.

Continued on page 3

### Inside this issue:

*From the Superintendent*  
 . . . . . P. 2

*Outreach Services*. . . . . P. 2

*WalMart Makeover* . . . . . P. 4

*How You Can Help* . . . . . P. 4

*Track Stars* . . . . . P. 5

*Our Donors* . . . . . P. 5



Home of the Mules!

### MSB Contacts:

- Superintendent  
[Patricia.Yocum@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Patricia.Yocum@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Assistant Superintendent  
[Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Business Operations  
[Joshua.Beeks@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Joshua.Beeks@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Clinical, Ancillary & Residential Services  
[Marsha.Bryant@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Marsha.Bryant@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Community Relations  
[Barbara.Beal@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.Beal@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Human Resources  
[Cynthia.Kerr@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Kerr@msb.dese.mo.gov)
- Outreach Services  
[Jennie.Mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Jennie.Mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov)

## From the Superintendent



Supt. Yocum

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first edition of CONNECTION, our Missouri School for the Blind quarterly newsletter. CONNECTION (as defined by Webster) means that something is linked, associated, or there is a relationship. As we strive to meet the educational needs of blind/visually impaired students, I value our “connections” with school districts across the state of Missouri, other agencies/stakeholder groups, and our parents. It is our mission to provide quality services for blind/visually impaired students. We cannot do it without you! Thank you for your support and interest in MSB!

Sincerely,

## Outreach Programs Serve Families and Educators

The MSB Outreach Services Division is based in St. Louis and provides programs and resources to families and educators throughout the state. Outreach also offers numerous professional development opportunities throughout the year. The division is coordinated by Jennie Mascheck, a certified teacher of the visually impaired, who holds a masters degree in blind rehabilitation and orientation and mobility, and has more than 30 years’ experience in the education of blind and visually-impaired students.

Another of Outreach’s services is the Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project, which provides technical assistance and support services to state and local educational agencies, private programs, adult service providers and families of individuals who are deafblind, ages birth through 21. Project coordinator is Susan Bonner, who has a masters degree in special education and 35 years’ experience as an educator.

Outreach also operates The Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MoSPIN), which offers direct in-home services to families of children, age birth to five years, who are visually impaired and who may also have



Jennie Mascheck,  
Coordinator of  
Outreach  
Services



Susan Bonner,  
Deafblind  
Project  
Coordinator

other disabilities. Services include parent training and regularly-scheduled home visits. Ginny Williams, the Lead Parent Advisor who coordinates the program, holds numerous teaching certifications and has been an educator since 1969.

Also housed at MSB is the Missouri Instructional Resource Center (MIRC), which coordinates the registration of students who are legally blind and manages Federal Quota funds providing textbooks in Braille, large type and specialized educational materials for all Missouri legally blind students. The MIRC is supervised by Yvonne Ali, who has more than 30 years’ experience in library and data services.

The Missouri School for the Blind Library Media Center loans books and other materials to professionals who work with students who are visually impaired, as well as braille books for students throughout Missouri. Teachers can access the Professional Development Lending Library, get Advice on Selecting Books and Share Unused Braille Books. Librarian Mary Dingu has been a certified teacher and librarian since 1980.



Ginny Williams,  
MoSPIN



Yvonne Ali,  
MIRC  
Supervisor

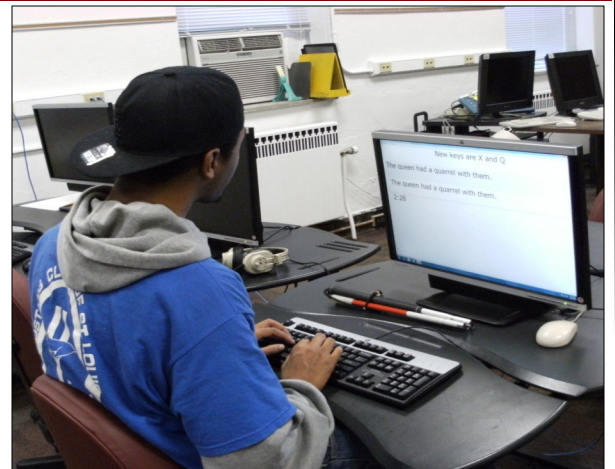


Mary Dingu,  
Librarian

# Technology Upgrades *(cont. from page 1)*

Here is a summary of MSB’s technology project:

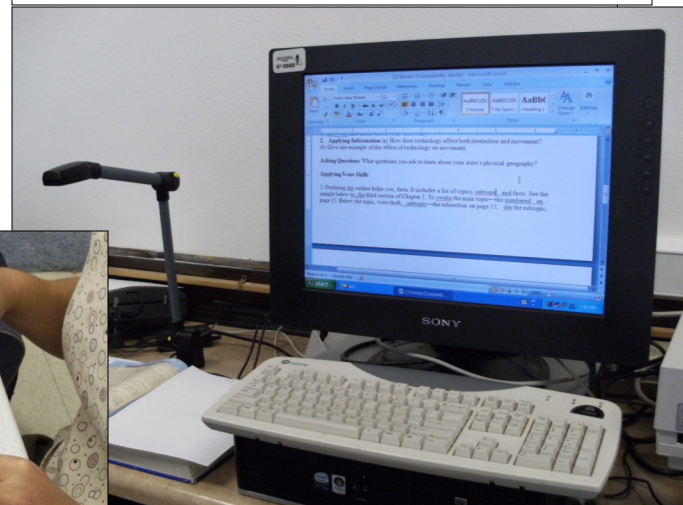
- **2 SMART Board** interactive whiteboard systems, one installed in an elementary classroom and the other in the new technology classroom. The SMART board engages students with multiple learning styles and incorporates visual, tactile and auditory learning. It also incorporates educational software and SMART Response interactive wireless remotes.
- **10 64-bit HP computers** equipped with Windows 7 and 22” flat-screen monitors.
- **8 portable refreshable Braille displays** that enable users to read in Braille what is on the computer screen.
- **8 PEARLs** that convert text to speech or Word documents; maker Freedom Scientific calls them “portable reading solutions.”
- **8 BrailleNotes** with speech and refreshable Braille display plus numerous applications - recorder, book reader, word processor, internet access and navigation.
- **10 multi-positional desks** that can be raised or lowered or swung right or left to accommodate students of different sizes or those using wheelchairs or braces.



MSB student DeV Vaughn Smith practices his keyboard skills at one of the school’s 10 new lab computers.



Refreshable Braille display



PEARL “portable reading solution”



Computer teacher Wayne Seitz demonstrates how the “desk fits the kid,” by re-positioning the top and keyboard.



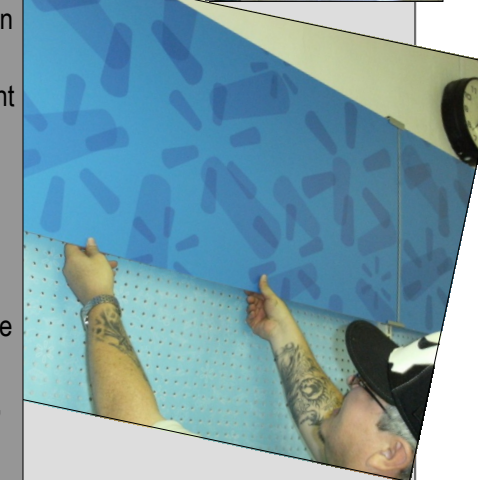
Student Kathryn Hurd tries out one of the new BrailleNotes. Teacher Patti Schonlau says the device is a “fantastic tool” for both pupils and instructors as it gives them instant feedback.

# WalMart Makeover!



On one of the hottest days of one of the hottest summers on record Cliff Eckhoff (father of MSB senior Leticia) and his team of helpers from WalMart remodeled MsB's, our student-operated on-campus store. First they took out all the old fixtures and mopped and painted the store. Then they installed new shelving, decorative backing, coolers, counters and lunch booths. It looks fabulous! Plus, they donated all the equipment and for-sale items! A huge THANKS to the WalMart makeover team (most of whom are posed above): George, Scott, Terry, Shelly, Samantha, Chrissy, Todd, Joe, Andre, Michael, Doug, Rhonda, Chris, Frank, Richard, James and Cliff.

***Thanks, Guys - You're the Best!***



## Two Ways You Can Help MSB

Here are two ways you can help fund some of MSB's special programs:



The MSB Student Council coordinates the Box tops for Education program and will collect, trim, bundle and submit the Box Tops for reimbursement; they already have earned \$348 this school year. Send the box tops to Desiree Morris or James Baker at MSB. For a complete list of the 300+ eligible products go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx>.

Another way to support MSB is through Schnucks' eScrip Community Card program. Every time you make a purchase and swipe your eScrip card, Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your total grocery purchases to MSB. Schnucks eScrip Community Cards are available free at the courtesy counter at any Schnucks market. Register your card by calling 800-931-6258 or visit [www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp](http://www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp) or simply call or email Carole Sohn at MSB, 314-776-4320, ext. 1132; [Carole.Sohn@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Carole.Sohn@msb.dese.mo.gov).



# MSB Track Stars Take Second at Conference

MSB's track team took second place against nine other schools at the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) conference track and field meet at Tennessee the weekend of Sept. 30. MSB scored a total of 249 points, coming in behind Tennessee's 323, and ahead of Arkansas (224) and Indiana (198).

MSB's girls scored 142 points, just four less than conference-winner Arkansas. Individual gold medalists were: Tabitha Jenkins, 1600 yard run; and Amanda Drake, long jump; silver medalists: Meghan Chirchirillo, shotput; Amanda Drake, 1600

yard run; Kathryn Hurd, 600 yard run and 1200 yard tandem; Emily Pope and Carolyn McGhee, 4x200 relay; bronze winners: Jill McBroom, 800 yard run; Amanda Drake, shotput; Tabitha Jenkins, Alex Richardson, 1600 yard run; Carolyn McGhee, long jump, and Emily Pope, shotput.

Missouri's boys team scored 107 points, coming in third behind Tennessee and Indiana. Gold medalists: Trevon Graves, shotput and high jump, and DeVaughn Smith, long jump and 60 yard dash. Silver medals were won by Trevon Graves, Michael Babusa, 1600 yard run; Brynn Haines, 600 yard run and 1200 yard tandem, and DeVaughn Smith, triple jump. Michael Babusa took bronze in the 600 yard run.



**MSB Track Stars**, left-right, front row: Alex Richardson, Jill McBroom, Kathryn Hurd; middle row: Michael Babusa, Trevon Graves, Tabitha Jenkins, Amanda Drake, Emily Pope; back row, coach Paul Ehresman, DeVaughn Smith, Brynn Haines, Josh Starner, Meghan Chirchirillo. Not pictured: Carolyn McGhee.

## In Gratitude to Our Donors

Missouri School for the Blind thanks the following donors who have provided financial support to the school between January 1 and September 30, 2011. If your donation is not shown below, please accept our apologies and contact our Community Relations office so we can correct the omission. Unfortunately, we are unable to list donations of goods and services at this time.

### In Memoriam

#### Bertes Clayton:

Gunelda Clayton \* Albert Crump \* Ralph Haslag \* Judy Honse \* Terry Schwartz \* Thomas, Birdsong, Mills & McBride

Janet Kinney: Cozean Memorial Chapel

Mary Powers: Tomey Swan \* R. Dolores Muehling

Mary Karen Towers: Kenneth Smith

\*\*\*

### Donations

Belton Lions Club \* Chesterfield Lions Club \* Jerry Clemons \* Concord Village Lions Club \* Delta Gamma Foundation  
 Fenton Lions Club \* Margaret M. Fletcher Foundation \* Becky Henderson \* House Springs Lions Club  
 Kansas City World Outreach Lions Club \* Lake St. Louis Lions Club \* Lemay-J.B. Lions Club \* Lions Club of Woodson Terrace Lions  
 District 26M1 \* Lions District 26M2 \* Lions District 26M5 \* Maplewood Lions Club \* Moscow Mills Lions Club  
 New Melle Lions Club \* O'Fallon Lions Club \* Overland Lions Club \* James Riley \* Daryl Sohn  
 St. Charles First Capitol Lions Club \* St. Charles Lions Club \* St. Ferdinand Township Lions Club \* St. Louis Midtown Lions Club  
 Shirley Wasserman

# MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

3815 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
Phone: 314-776-4320  
Fax: 314-776-1875  
www.msb.dese.mo.gov



Missouri School for the Blind is operated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, State of Missouri.

CONNECTION is available on MSB's website, via email and in print or alternative formats upon request. To request an alternative format or delivery mode, correct a name or address or add or remove a name from the mailing list, please contact Karen Burkhead, 314-776-4320, ext. 1133, or email Karen.Burkhead@msb.dese.mo.gov.

## Calendar

November		January	
Professional Development, No Class	11/21-23	New Year's Day	1/1
Thanksgiving Holidays, No Class	11/24-25	New Year's Day Holiday, No Class	1/2
Junior Beta Club Convention	11/30-12/2	Last Day of Winter Break	1/3
December		Professional Development Days	1/4-6
Wrestling/Cheerleading Meet at Indiana	12/2-4	Classes Resume	1/9
Wrestling/Cheerleading Meet at MSB	12/9-11	Dr. M.L. King Holiday, No Class	1/16
Christmas Extravaganza	12/22	NCASB Wrestling/Cheerleading Meet at Arkansas	1/20-22
Christmas Day	12/25	Awards Assembly	1/26
Christmas Holiday, No Class	12/26	Hand-In-Hand Session II	1/25-26
Winter Break, No Class	12/27-30		