



# Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

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## Having a Ball at Prom

On Thursday, May 12, students and staff enjoyed a fun filled evening at the MSB Prom, hosted at the Genesis Banquet Center in south St. Louis County. The evening was filled with music, dancing and a lot of laughter! Congratulations to prom queen Heather and prom king Josh.



## MSB HOSTS REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE



On February 11, MSB hosted the annual Missouri Regional Braille Challenge. This competition is a preliminary round to the National Braille Challenge, organized by the National Braille Institute in Los Angeles, CA.

Twenty-three students from across the region participated in this regional competition. Although the competition is intense, the day is more than that. Students take the opportunity to get to know each other and make new friends as well.

MSB senior Josh Starner said, "I think it is interesting to talk to the other contestants and find out the different causes of their blindness and the different techniques for learning braille."

We are very proud to announce that Sophomore participant Richard Tienter, of Ballwin, MO, qualified as a national finalist and will be attending the National Braille Challenge this summer. Richard qualified last year as well and took first place in the freshman division on the national level.

### MSB Regional Braille Challenge 2016 Winners

#### APPRENTICE

1st: Brody Thornhill

#### APPRENTICE (alternate)

1st: Lee Smith

2nd: Hannah Tracy

3rd: Linda Campbell

#### FRESHMAN

1st: Tigerlilly Patten

2nd: Anna Koepke

3rd: Joshua Fields

#### FRESHMAN (alternate)

1st: Ali Lyon

2nd: Seyoon Choi

3rd: Jessica Johnson

#### SOPHOMORE

1st: Richard Tienter

2nd: Chance Cole

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

1st: Lydia Olmstead

2nd: Alexis Kaibel

3rd: Sam Doman

#### VARSITY

1st: Brandon Hahs

2nd: Josh Starner

In addition, the following three students were unable to attend the event, but completed their tests at a later date. They, too, placed in their divisions.

- Austin Schwan placed 1st in Regional at the Freshman Level.
- Holly Connors placed 2nd in Regional at the Sophomore Level.
- Nikki Cox placed 2nd in Regional at the Jr. Varsity Level.

Congratulations to all participants!

### MSB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY	
5/30	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
JUNE	
1	Awards Banquet @ 11:00am Commencement @ 7:00pm
2	Last Day of School 4th Quarter Ends
JULY	
6-15	STEMS Session I
18-29	STEMS Session II

## MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND WELCOMES LIONS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES TO OPEN HOUSE EVENT

On Sunday, April 24, Missouri School for the Blind opened its doors for a Community Open House event. Formally known as Lions' Night, where only Lions were invited, this event brought together Lions, friends, families and neighbors for a spectacular evening. Guests dined on a delicious dinner prepared by the MSB kitchen staff;

enjoyed tours filled with information and demonstrations about services; competed fiercely to win hotel stays, entertainment tickets and more in a silent auction fund raiser; and watched in delight as the students put on a lively musical performance. We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success and to everyone who

came out to show their support. If you missed it this year, be sure to check it out next spring! A special thank you to all of the Lions who attended and continue to demonstrate kindness and dedication to the success of MSB students. Your support means the world to us!



## MSB CELEBRATES EARTH DAY



On Monday, April 25, students enjoyed an Earth Day field trip to Onondaga Cave State Park. Then, on Thursday, May 5, students from Ms. Havlik's and Ms. Griffin's class enjoyed a field trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens.



For the first time in its history, the Missouri School for the Blind has achieved the 2016 National Beta School of Merit status. This honor, designated by the National Beta Club, is an indication of the school's

dedication to academic excellence and commitment to celebrating our students' achievements. We are honored that the National Beta Club has recognized our program in such a tremendous way.

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In addition, this year, the MSB Beta Club celebrates its 15th year as a student organization at the school. Thank you to all of the students,



sponsors and individuals who have supported Beta Club over the years and helped advance its mission to "Lead by serving others."

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