



Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

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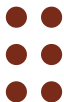
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MSB Rolls Out New Web Site

Though the address remains the same, the MSB's Web site is all new. Working from the ground up, previous information has been reorganized, new information is now available, and the site is now more user-friendly.

Visually, the new Web site incorporates the school mascot and colors, updated photos of students, braille cells, and banner ads. Information is now easier to access as well. Families of students, both current and prospective, can go to the "Students & Families" tab to find everything from what is being served in the cafeteria to curriculum guidelines and pertinent resources. Service providers can click

on the "Educators" tab to find resources, professional development opportunities and more. Dedicated tabs have also been created for MSB staff and for those looking to get involved.

Though many changes have been made to the site, it is the enhanced accessibility our site now offers that we



are most excited about. In addition to being completely compliant with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, custom view options – not available on our previous site – are now available.

“Customized Viewing Options” is the first link available on the new site. For visitors using a screen reader, this is the first option they will hear. From this link, the user can choose a viewing option that best suits his needs and it will remain in this format

for the duration of the user’s visit to the site. Options include text-only (removes all images and formatting), high-contrast (white on black) and large print (500% zoom).

Other new features to the new site include:

- Web forms were created specifically for our site, streamlining processes such as employment applications and facility requests,
- Google calendar that allows users

to choose only the calendars they wish to view (i.e. athletic calendar, holidays and school breaks, outreach, residential, events, etc.),

- Archives of e-Notices, and
- Newsletter subscription

We encourage you to take a few moments to visit www.MSB.dese.mo.gov and explore all that our new site has to offer.

For questions, please contact Patti Curran@msb.dese.mo.gov.

Holiday Cheer Fills the Hearts of Students and Staff at Annual Holiday Extravaganza

This past December, we were once again humbled by the generosity of our community. The First Capitol Lions Club, West St. Louis Lions Club, MSB Alumni Association and United Workers for the Blind all came together to ensure each and every one of our students had a wonderful holiday. Through the Giving Tree Program, these organizations took the wish lists of every student and purchased toys, games, books, music, clothes and other necessities. On Thursday, December 18, everyone

came together for the Holiday Extravaganza and enjoyed a musical program performed by students. Following the program, staff, family and friends came together to watch the students joyously open their gifts. Students look forward to this event all year and we thank everyone who contributes to making this event such a success! If you or your organization would like to participate in the Giving Tree program in the future, please contact Patti Curran at Patti.Curran@msb.dese.mo.gov or 314-776-4320.



MSB Students Show Commitment to Literacy

This past semester, 24 students met their reading goals for the Library Cat Club. Altogether, the students who completed their reading goals read or listened to and reported on 161 books; they exceeded their goals by 75 books. These students were invited to attend the annual Lasagna Lunch Party as a reward. Student's enjoyed mascot Garfield's favorite, lasagna, as well as garlic bread,



salad and dessert. Congratulations to Garrett, Daegan, Tyler, Sirria, Alecia, Nikki, Zyshaun, LeShay, Chloe, Jesse, Savannah, Jessica, Ali L., Robert, Zach, Tiondra, Alex, Mark, Heather, Alisia, Damon, Wayne, Tyrone and Allie! We would also like to note that 83% of MSB students joined the Library Cat Club the first semester, and 76% of those students met their reading goals!



● **Bowlers Strike Gold – AND Silver!**

On January 15, 2015, The MSB Intramural Bowling Team participated in the St. Louis area tournament with great results. The MSB team brought home 4 gold medals and 4 silver medals. Gold medalists were: LaShay Culton, Tyler Baty, Kiwan Sanders and Zach Phelps. Silver Medal winners were: Sirria Brooks, Alex Richardson, Ali Lyon, and Jesse Finnell. The Intramural Bowling team worked hard this year and it showed with their medal roundup. Congratulations to all!



● **MSB Named School of Distinction by National Beta Club**

Congratulations to the students and sponsors of MSB's Beta Clubs for being named a National Beta School of Distinction. This national award speaks highly of their commitment to academic rigor and illustrates the dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness.

The National Beta Club is the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. The club is committed to recognizing and promoting high academic achievement, rewarding and nurturing worthy character, improving student leadership skills, and encouraging service to others.

● **MSB Senior Earns ASE Certification**

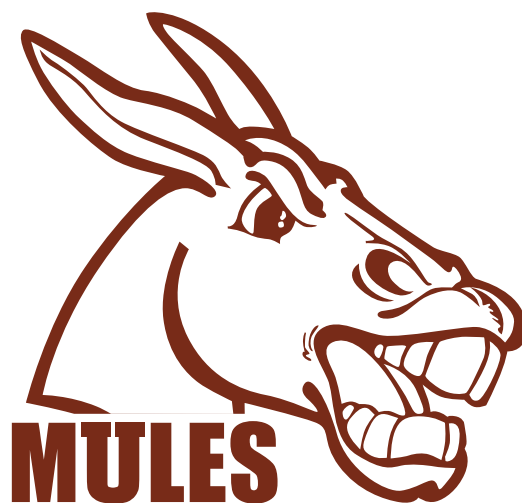
DeVaughn Smith, who is dually enrolled at MSB and North Tech High School in St. Louis, has successfully completed all four assessments in auto mechanics. He is now ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified in all four areas of auto mechanics through North Tech's Automotive Technology program. Congratulations to DeVaughn for all of his hard work and success!

● **Brown Named to U.S. Paralympics Track and Field Team**

U.S. Paralympics recently announced its National Teams for track & field and swimming for the upcoming 2015 season. We send our congratulations to David Brown, MSB alumni, for once again making the team. We wish you the best of luck in all of your training and competitions!

● **MSB Wrestlers Go to Conference**

Three MSB wrestlers competed in the NCASB Wrestling and Cheerleading Conference. Lee Smith, new to the team this year, fought hard in two matches. Michael McCurdy and Michael Johnson both walked away with third place medals. Overall, MSB missed the fourth place trophy by only three points. Eight teams participated in the Conference. We are proud of our Mules for putting up a good fight! Congratulations wrestlers!



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 19 - Braille Challenge

On Thursday, February 19, MSB is hosting the Missouri Regional Braille Challenge in St. Louis, MO. This event will include six levels of competition for braille readers in areas of speed and accuracy, reading comprehension, spelling, proofreading, and interpreting tactile graphics/chart and graph reading. This regional event serves as the preliminary round for the National Braille Competition in Los Angeles, CA. The top 60 competitors from across the United States will be invited to the final rounds of the competition in L.A. this summer. Last year, three students from the Missouri Regional competition qualified for the final rounds.



For practice exercises, the history of the Braille Challenge and much more, please visit: www.brailleinstitute.org/braille-challenge-homepage.html

For more information about the Missouri Regional Braille Challenge at MSB, please contact:

Linda Havlik, Braille Challenge Coordinator at (314) 776-4320 or linda.havlik@msb.dese.mo.gov or

Joy Waddell, Assistant Superintendent at (314) 776-4320 ext. 1140 or joyce.waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov

MARCH 5 - Talent Show

On Saturday, March 7, from 2-5 p.m., the Maplewood Lions Club is hosting its first annual VIP Talent Show at the Missouri School for the Blind in the Multipurpose Room (3867 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110). This talent competition is open to anyone who is blind or visually impaired. ALL TALENTS ARE WELCOME!! The first place winner will receive \$150, second place \$100 and third place \$50. Admission for audience members is \$5. There will be food and beverages available for purchase, a door prize, as well as silent auction and raffle items. For more information, please contact Verneal Barlow at vernealbarlow@sbcglobal.net or 314-647-0347. Applications are due by February 18, 2015.



MARCH 26 - Workshop

On Thursday, March 26, Outreach Services at MSB is hosting “Physical Education and Sports for Children and Youth with Visual Impairments and Deafblindness” in St. Louis, MO. Join presenter Dr. Lauren Lieberman for this day-long workshop that will cover:

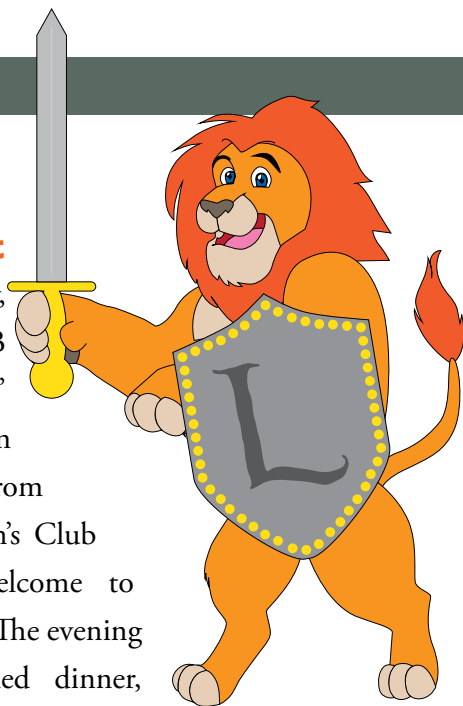
- What is Adapted Physical Education?
- Assessments for children with visual impairments
- Appropriate programming for physical education and physical activity including training support staff
- Instructional strategies for motor skills, fitness, sports, and recreation
- Resources such as videos, products, equipment, web sites and summer camps
- Advocacy strategies

For more information, please contact:

Yvonne Ali, Missouri Instructional Resource Center f/t Visually Impaired, at 314-776-4320, ext. 3256 or Yvonne.Ali@msb.dese.mo.gov.

APRIL 12 - Lions' Night

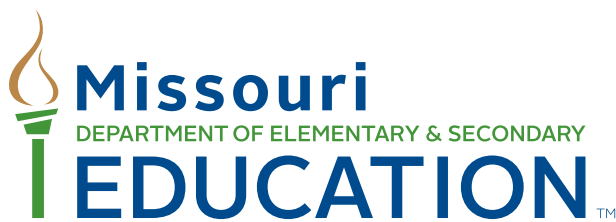
On Sunday, April 12, MSB is hosting Lions' Night – Knights in Shining Armor from 4-8 p.m. All Lion's Club members are welcome to attend this event! The evening includes a themed dinner, school tours, demonstrations, a silent auction and a musical program performed by the students. The cost is \$4 for children and \$9 for adults. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Patti Curran at 314-776-4320, or Patti.Curran@msb.dese.mo.gov.



APRIL 28 - Workshop

On Tuesday, April 28, MSB Outreach Services is hosting "The Importance of Touch and Hands for Children and Youth with Deafblindness and/or Multiple Disabilities" in Columbia, MO. Join presenter Barbara Miles – Perkins School for the Blind and author of Remarkable Conversations -- for this day-long workshop focusing on the importance of touch as a foundational sense for children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss, as well as other disabilities. This workshop will provide instruction in techniques for respectful, educational and conversational use of touch.

For more information, contact Susan Bonner, Missouri



Deafblind Technical Assistance Project at 314-776-4320, ext. 3255 or susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov

MAY 18 - Vision Summit

On Monday, May 18, Missouri School for the Blind, Blind Task Force of Missouri, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Missouri Council of the Blind, Missouri Guide Dog Users, St. Louis Society for the Blind, and Lighthouse for the Blind St. Louis will partner to host the annual Vision Summit for Parents and Educators of Children with Visual Impairment/Blindness: Resources for Success.

Planned Topics include:

Importance of the Expanded Core Curriculum ● Low Vision ● Unified English Braille Code ● Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Transition Services and IEP ● Missouri School for the Blind ● Education Services ● Advancement of Technology ● iPad Accessibility ● IEP Process ● Adaptive Sports and Physical Education ● Effective Advocacy

For more information, contact Diana L. Lawson, (573) 722-3584 ext. 110 or 117 or e-mail dlcat44@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY	
13	Lincoln's Birthday - NO SCHOOL
16	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
19	Missouri Regional Braille Challenge
27	MSB's 164th Birthday
MARCH	
7-9	NCASB Swim/Forensics Meet @ Illinois
18-20	VIISA Course II, Session II: Serving Pre-schoolers (ages 3-5) with Visual Impairment in Center-Based Settings
26	Workshop: Physical Education and Sports for Children and Youth with Visual Impairment and Deafblindness with Lauren Lieberman
27	3rd Quarter Ends

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