



# Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

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## MSB SUPPORTS



## West Courtyard Reinvented

Just before the cold temperatures moved in last fall, MSB students enjoyed a ribbon cutting ceremony in the West Courtyard signifying the completion of the new playground. Built to be inclusive and accessible to persons with a range of disabilities, the new playground focuses on fitness and an active lifestyle. While it will certainly

be a popular attraction come spring, the playground has already proven successful in getting students outdoors and active during the unseasonably warm winter days that St. Louis seems to be seeing more of.



## Community Comes Together, Makes Holidays Extra Special for Students

On December 17, MSB students, staff, families and friends celebrated the season at the annual Holiday Extravaganza. This event is the culmination of weeks of hard work by organizations that participate in the MSB Giving Tree program. This year, the First Capitol Lions Club, West St. Louis County Lions Club, MSB Alumni Association,

United Workers for the Blind and the Maplewood Lions Club all worked hard to fulfill students' wish lists. Hundreds of clothing items, books, movies, toys and more were purchased for students who enjoyed a gift opening at the Holiday Extravaganza. Students also worked hard in the weeks prior to the event preparing a special music program for our guests.

new comforters for all of the dorm rooms to make things feel a little more like home for the residential students. The First Capitol Lions donated more than \$4,000 to the MSB library for the purchase of e-readers and books, braille books, and a portable magnifier. And finally, the Frank Hackney Foundation donated \$5,000 to the MSB music department.

In addition to all of the gifts purchased for students, groups made additional contributions to the school. The West St. Louis County Lions purchased

Once again, we found ourselves humbled by the generosity and love shown to our community this holiday season.

Thank you to all who made  
this such a special  
time for  
MSB!



## Three MSB Students Winners in the Alma Murphy Braille Essay Contest

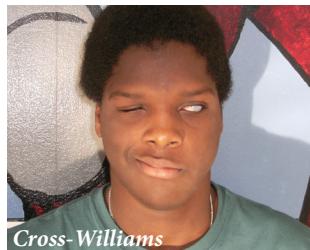
In order to promote the use of Braille, the Missouri Council of the Blind sponsored an essay contest in conjunction with the Braille Revival League of Missouri, a special interest affiliate of

the Missouri Council of the Blind.

Participants were to write about how Braille has affected their lives. The essay was to be 400-500 words, written in Braille, using a slate and stylus or a Per-

kins Brailler. Submissions were judged based on content, originality, formatting, grammar and punctuation.

MSB student, Zyshaun Cross-Williams, won first place and was awarded \$500, in addition to an all expenses paid trip to the MCB Convention in Kansas City. In addition, two other MSB students, Damon Tyson and James Rodgers, each won a \$50 prize in the runner up category.



Cross-Williams

Tyson

Rodgers

## Book Club Readers Meet Goals, Earn End of Semester Celebration



Students were told to give themselves a pat on the back for all of their hard work!

This semester, 24 members of the Library Cat Club qualified to attend the end of semester party by meeting their goals to read and report on books. Altogether they reported on 94 books. On January 21st, these students came together and enjoyed a delicious lasagna lunch – the favorite food of the club's mascot, Garfield! Congratulations to those students on all of their hard work!

We are excited to announce that this year, MSB will be expanding it's annual Lions' Night into an Open House event for the community! This event is open to everyone. Please join us on Sunday, April 24 from 4-8 pm at the Missouri School for the Blind! There will be tours, demonstrations, dinner, silent auction and a musical program by the students. Dinner will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 and under.

# OPEN 24 HOUSE APRIL

**LIONS EAT FREE!** Reservations are required. For more information, please visit [www.msb.dese.mo.gov](http://www.msb.dese.mo.gov).

Students and staff gathered for a Veteran's Day assembly in November to honor those who have served our country.



Students in Ms. Havlik's class have been enjoying fun and learning both inside and outside the classroom this winter!



FEBRUARY	
2/11	Braille Challenge
2/12	Lincoln's Birthday (Observed) – Classes are in session
2/15	President's Day – NO SCHOOL (Residential Students Travel In)
MARCH	
3-4	Sr. Beta Convention in Branson, MO
3/16	Swim/Forensics Meet – Indiana
3/23	3rd Quarter Ends – Grades & Progress Reports Due @ 10:00am
3/23	Swim/Forensics Meet – Illinois
3/24	4th Quarter Begins – 3rd Quarter Achievement Assembly/Quiz Bowl Finals @ 10:00am
28-4/1	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
APRIL	
4/1	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
4/4	Classes Resume
15-16	Swim/Forensics Meet – Ohio
4/20	Swim/Forensics Meet – Wisconsin
4/22	Earth Day
4/29-5/1	Swim/Forensics Meet – Tennessee

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