



Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

2016-2017: Year in Review

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MSB SUPPORTS



The 2017-2018 year is off to a great start! Residential students arrived on campus on Sunday, August 20th, and classes began on the 21st. Several new faces joined us as both staff and students and were promptly welcomed into the MSB family. The first quarter is moving by quickly and the events we've experienced so far are commemorated on the following pages.

With all that's already happened this year, it's easy to forget how busy we were last year! MSB sports teams and Beta Clubs performed exceptionally. Our girls track team placed 1st in the NCASB conference, while both swimming teams placed 2nd and boys track and girls goalball placed 4th. Our Jr. Beta Club went to the Missouri State Convention and placed first in t-shirt design division II, 3rd in group talent division II, and club member Anastasia Gray placed 3rd in Language Arts Division I. Both the Jr. and Sr. Beta Clubs represented MSB at their National Conventions at Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida, in June. Additionally, 4th grader Allie Wolk won Honorable Mention for her artwork "Corn on the Cob" in the APH InSights Art Competition.

In May, MSB students and staff culminated their year-long Capstone Program "Destination Geology: Exploring Our Environment" in Arkansas. Students explored the diverse natural landscapes of the Ozark Mountains and learned about structural geology (caves and caverns), orogeny (the formation of mountains), petrology (rocks and minerals), geohydrology (Earth's core and its interaction with water), and geomorphology (landforms and the processes that create them). For more details on the Capstone Program trip, visit msb.dese.mo.gov/curriculum/capstone2017.html

The MSB campus was busy throughout the summer with several programs open to students who are blind and visually impaired including Camp Abilities, Independent Living, Culinary Arts, Accessible Travel, STEM and Performing Arts: Summer Drummin'. The students participated in many activities including creating a cookbook called "Mule Chow" and an accessible travel guide of St. Louis, both available on the MSB website, and seeing the band Judah and the Lion perform live at a small venue followed by a meet and greet with the band members.

Already this year, we're working hard on several programs including the 2018 Capstone Program. The theme is "Explorations in Culture and Conflict: Native American Studies" and in May 2018 students and staff will travel to New Mexico for a fun and educational adventure.

1st Quarter Awards

MSB celebrated students' academic and athletic achievements in the First Quarter Awards Ceremony, followed by Quizbowl Finals. The following students earned their respective awards:

M.U.L.E.S.

Daegan Archie
Kenia Cazares
Nishaad Dean
Hunter Hall
Vivian Helmig
Jessica Johnson
Michael Johnson
Ali Lyon
Lucius Meyer
Kelton Ramsey
Kadence Scott
Lee Smith
Heather Thaller
Damon Tyson
Wayne Watson
Nautica Wheeler
Tyrone White

Honor Roll

Malikye Baston
Shelby Burchett
Nicole Cox
Charles Grady
Anastasia Gray
Alexis Kaibel
Thomas Limbach
Khylie Longmire
Alison Miller
Nicole Motley
Robert Mull
Kiwon Sanders
Savanna Smith
Dionna Towns
Allie Wolk

Scholar Athlete

Malikye Baston
Nicole Cox
Thomas Limbach
Khylie Longmire
Nicole Motley
Kiwon Sanders
Dionna Towns



Above: Students in the QuizBowl Finals



Above: James Rodgers presents boys track trophy to Supt. Geoff Barney



Above: Nikki Cox presents girls track trophy to Supt. Geoff Barney



Above: Kiwan Sanders receives his Honor Roll award



Above: Heather Thaller receives her M.U.L.E.S. award



Above: Thomas Limbach receives his athletics letter



Above: Malikye Baston receives his scholar athlete award

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Andrea Barnes, School Counselor

This month's focus in Elementary School Counseling lessons was things that make us different and alike. There are many things that make us all unique and special people! Our students have a good understanding that their visual impairment is something they have in common in our school. We learn about the importance of spreading awareness about visual impairments and blindness during Blind Americans Equality Day on October 15th every year. However, most of our students were unaware that the entire month of October is Disability Awareness Month. The students in Mrs. Griffin's class enjoyed learning about different disabilities this month. During each lesson we watched videos, read books, and did some activities to help them understand the challenges each disability could bring to school. There were some ups and downs throughout the lessons, but ultimately the students enjoyed the lesson that everyone is special and deserves to be treated with kindness!

MSB holds White Cane Day Activities

White Cane Day, also known as Blind Americans Equality Day, is a national observance in the U.S. celebrated on October 15 of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the white cane, an important symbol of blindness and tool of independence.

On Wednesday Oct. 12, students and staff of MSB celebrated White Cane Day with The MSB Amazing Cane Race, a scavenger hunt that led students and teachers around campus and the community to complete fun and challenging activities!

The Race started in Round 1 with our students being divided into teams and creating a team flag or banner to carry with them throughout the day. Then in Round 2, each team randomly selected a physical challenge to complete around campus, with options such as the whole team running twice through MSB's new inflatable obstacle course and riding the seven-passenger bike around the MSB track for a distance of one mile (without being told how many laps around the track equal a mile). Round 3 took the teams out and about in the community, with the task of purchasing a drink or snack at a local business and returning to campus with correct change and a receipt. In Round 4, teams found themselves facing yet another physical challenge on campus, followed by a rescue mission for Mo the Mule completed by geocaching in Tower Grove Park in Round 5. In Round 6, teams were challenged to sing for their supper by performing the MSB Alma Mater correctly without assistance. Finally in Round 7, teams settled by the MSB firepit for s'mores and a story about White Cane Day.

The event was rounded out with a cook-out lunch, prepared by MSB kitchen staff and a few volunteers from the First Capitol Lions Club. Thank you to everyone who participates in our White Cane Day event The MSB Amazing Cane Race!

Below: Mr. Albers' team rescues Mo the Mule in the park



Below: Mrs. Popp and Mrs. Arnold's 1st Place team!



Below: Mr. Mueller's teams sings the MSB Alma Mater for their supper



Above: Mr. Gutic's team & their banner



Above: School Supervisor Mrs. Dixon with Lions Club volunteers



Above: Mr. McKeown & Ms. Oestrick's team & their banner

Eberhardt Track Meet at Illinois School for the Visually Impaired

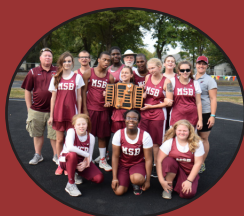
On Thursday, September 21, MSB attended the 42nd annual Eberhardt Track Meet in Jacksonville, Illinois. Named for longtime MSB coach and teacher Al Eberhardt, the meet brings together student-athletes from Midwest schools for the blind to compete in track and field events. MSB won for the 8th year in row. Scores: MO 166; IL 145; WI 58.



Above: Kylie Longmire competes in high jump



Above: Jessica Johnson competes in shot put



Above: The combined MSB track teams and the Eberhardt trophy



Above: Kiwan Sanders competes in a race



Above: Nicole Cox competes in long jump



Above: Noelle Dobbs competes in a race



Above: Maliky Baston competes in shot put



Above: Nicole Motley competes in long jump



Above: Hunter Hall (left) and Damon Tyson (right) compete in a race



Above: Thomas Limbach (left) and Dionna Towns (right) compete in a race

Conference Track Meet at Tennessee School for the Blind

The MSB Mules traveled to Nashville, Tennessee on September 29-30 to compete against eight other schools in the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) conference. The MSB girls team won 1st place and the boys team won 3rd.

Girls scores: MO 162; KY 123; IL 106; OH 85; IO 79; IN 66; TN 48; WI 24; AR 9.

Boys scores: AR 219; TN 160; MO 98; KY 76; IN 67.5; IL 62; OH 47; WI 14.5; KS 7.



Above: The MSB Boys Track Team and their 3rd Place trophy

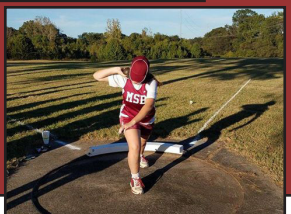
#GoMules!



Above: The MSB Girls Track Team and their 1st Place trophy



Above: Maliky Baston (center) prepares for a race



Above: Nicole Motley competes in shot put



Above: James Rodgers (center) prepares for a race



Above: Hunter Hall runs a race



Above: Dionna Towns (center) and Jan Leach (right) run a race

Special Olympics Bocce Tournament

The MSB Mules traveled to Lutheran South High School in St. Louis to compete in the Special Olympics Bocce Tournament on Tuesday, November 24th. Both the boys and girls teams won 4th place!



Left: Ali Lyon (center) throws a bocce ball
Right: Allison Miller (center) throws a bocce ball



Left: The combined MSB Intramural Sports Team
Below: Kiwan Sanders and his Bocce Buddy
Right: Charles Grady (center) prepares to throw a bocce ball



Residence Life



Above and below: MSB residential students and staff enjoy an exciting evening of dinner, dancing, a hay-ride and other fun outdoors adventures with the local Elks Club.



Outreach

2017 Midwest Transition Institute: Race for Your Dreams

The 2017 Midwest Transition Institute: Race For Your Dreams was held July 13-16 in Terre Haute, Indiana, on the campus of Indiana State University (ISU). The Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project hosted this exciting weekend for teenagers who are deaf-blind and their families. Participants from six states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin) came to listen to inspiring deaf-blind presenters, meet with mentors, find out about transition resources and enjoy a variety of fun-filled and well-planned activities.

Some highlights for families included Illinois deafblind advocate Bryen Yunashko, IN*SOURCE (Indiana parent information training center) parent representative Mimi Huybers, a panel discussion of family members of people who are deaf-blind and have gone through the educational transition process, Jill Gaus, an adult who is deaf-blind adult with the Deaf-Blind Project in Michigan, and Jason Corning from the Washington DC area and his presentation, "On the Move." A Resource Fair was held on Saturday with eight vendors available to share information about their organizations.

The young adults who are deafblind enjoyed outdoor challenges at the ISU Sycamore Outdoor Center. Activities included zip-lining, rope climbing, and outdoor games. Later, these young adults put on a talent show for their families. At the end of the day on Saturday, each of the youth were able to meet with the project staff from their state to develop her/his own action plan designed to help the young adults, based partially on what they had learned at the Institute, come up with next steps as they move along their own transition path.

Superintendent
 Geoffrey.Barney@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Assistant Superintendent
 Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Clinical, Ancillary & Residential Services
 Marsha.Bryant@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Outreach Services
 Susan.Bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Business Operations
 William.Runzo@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Human Resources
 Karen.Burkhead@msb.dese.mo.gov
 Community Relations
 Carlie.Lee@msb.dese.mo.gov



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Calendar of Events

| November | |
|----------|---|
| 3-5 | Goalball Conference Meet @ MSB |
| 9 | 10:00 a.m. Veteran's Day Assembly |
| 10 | No School |
| 13-17 | MSB Career Awareness Week |
| 15 | MSB Speaker Series: Career Planning |
| 17 | 10:00 a.m. MSB Career Awareness Week |
| 20-24 | Thanksgiving Break - No School |
| December | |
| 1-2 | Missouri State Senior Beta Convention @ Springfield, MO |
| 7 | Wrestling & Cheer meet @ Illinois |
| 8 | 10:30 a.m. StL symphony - The Four Seasons |
| 21 | Christmas Extravaganza |
| 22 | Early Dismissal @ 1:00 p.m. |
| 25-29 | Winter Break - No School |
| January | |
| 1-5 | Winter Break - No School |
| 11 | Wrestling & Cheer meet @ Indiana |
| 12 | 10:30 a.m. StL symphony - Shostakovich I |
| 15 | MLK Jr. Day - No School |
| 16 | 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester Ends |
| 18 | 10:00 Q2/SI Awards; 10:30 Quizbowl Finals; 11:30 Library Cat Club Lunch |
| 19-20 | Wrestling & Cheer meet @ Wisconsin |
| 24 | MSB Speaker Series: Planning for College |

Missouri School for the Blind
 3815 Magnolia Avenue
 Saint Louis, MO 63110