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MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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Mules Explore Careers in Awareness Week

The annual MSB Career Awareness Fair was held on Friday, January 31. In the Fair, the Mules shared the environmental careers they've researched for several weeks with their peers, teachers and other MSB staff. Each student picked an individual career in the environmental field and was then paired or placed in a group of three with other students who chose similar careers. Individually, students had to re-search the education, salary, and other important aspects of their chosen careers. As a pair or group, the students worked together to find the similarities and differences between the individual careers they chose. The results were detailed on Venn diagrams printed on posters as well as in Power Point or video presentations the students created with support from their teachers.

This year, the Career Awareness Fair was connected to MSB Capstone 2020, *Our Plant, Our Responsibility: An Environmental Study*. Capstone 2020 focuses on ecological issues and has students exploring their personal abilities to make a difference. One of those ways students can make a difference is by choosing a future career that can affect the impact humans have on the environment.

Following the Career Fair, the Mules had a great conversation with Shawn Makepeace, PhD, Animal Interpreter and Educator at the Saint Louis Zoo. Dr. Makepeace earned her PhD in animal sciences from the University of Cincinnati, and spoke to our students about environmental issues as well as pursuing an education and career in science and technology as a person with visual impairment. The students and staff learned a lot, and had great questions!



Above: Allie, Dionna & Ravin show off their Career poster



Above: Matt shows Derek & Ms. Turner his Career poster



Above: Dr. Makepeace takes questions from MSB students in the Little Theatre

More photos are available at
www.facebook.com/MSBMules

Wrestlers Headed to State District Tournaments

After excellent performances at the NCASB conference wrestling and cheerleading meet on January 24-25 at Arkansas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, three MSB wrestlers have qualified for the Missouri District Wrestling Tournaments. Neil Grunig and Thomas Limbach are NCASB Champions in their respective weight classes, while Nicole Motley placed 3rd in her weight class. All three wrestlers are qualified to enter the district tournaments later this month. Stay tuned to the MSB Facebook page for those results!

In addition, the MSB cheerleading team won the Most Spirited award, as well as Best Mascot for Khylie Longmire as Mo the Mule. Way to go, Mules!

Right: 3 photos show Thomas & Neil's arms raised by referees to indicate match wins & Nicole shaking her opponent's hand at the start of a match



Left: The cheerleading team & mascot pose with their awards & coaches. Left to Right: Coach Lampe, Lexie, Mo the Mule (Khylie), Nicole, Ravin, Noelle, & Coach Maggie

MSB Hosts Annual Goalball Conference Meet

MSB was the site of two days of goalball action for the annual NCASB goalball conference meet November 1-2. Boys and girls teams from ten states including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin competed in a double elimination tournament.

Here are the tournament results:

1st Place: girls - Iowa; boys - Illinois

2nd Place: girls - Missouri; boys - Indiana

3rd Place: girls - Indiana; boys - Kentucky

4th Place: girls - Kentucky; boys - Wisconsin

This is the 10th year MSB has hosted this annual meet.

Photos available at www.facebook.com/MSBMules



Above: The MSB Mules girls goalball team poses with their trophies with Coach Ehresman & MSB Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Waddell



Lady Mules Earn Track Trophy

Left: The MSB Mules girls track team placed 4th at the NCASB Conference track meet at Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on September 27-28. Here, they pose with their team trophy and individual awards. Front row, left to right: Ravin, Leigah, Anastasia. Back row, left to right: Coach Ehresman, Rylea, Dionna, Khylie, Noelle, Coach Oestricker, & Coach Cobb.

MSB Beta Club win Awards at State Convention

The MSB Mules traveled to Springfield for the annual Missouri Beta Club State Conventions. The Jr. Beta Club Convention was December 4-5 and the Sr. Beta Club Convention was December 6-7. The Jr. Beta Club competed in a variety of academic contests as well as Living Literature, a competition to present interpretations of scenes from works of literature through costumes, scenery and props. Students must remain completely still during judging, essentially becoming “wax museum figures” of the characters from their chosen piece of literature. The Jr. Beta Club reenacted a scene from *Hansel and Gretel* with themed costumes and a large gingerbread house they built themselves. They did a great job!

The Sr. Beta Club competed in a variety of contests and won both 4th Place in Performing Arts Group and 5th Place in Club Trading Pin Design. Also, Nicole Motley entered the running for State Vice President and gave an amazing speech supported with an excellent campaign skit from the rest of the Sr. Beta Club. While she was not voted into the position, Nicole was invited to apply for the Harris Award, a leadership award named for the founder of National Beta Club.

With their excellent performance at the Missouri convention, the Sr. Beta Club qualifies to attend the National Beta Club Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in June 15-18, 2020! Check out photos from the convention and follow for updates at www.facebook.com/MSBMules



Above: The Sr. Beta Club poses in front of the 70th Anniversary Missouri Beta Convention banner with their awards. Front, left to right: Ravin, Dionna, & Chloe. Back, Left to Right: Maliky, Neil, Khyllie, Nicole, & Noelle

OUTREACH UPDATE by Jane Herder, Outreach/Deaf-Blind Project Director

MSB orientation and mobility (O&M) instructors Jane Herder, Shaojun Chen and Tim Cobb, recently received a global perspective on current O&M strategies and earned Continuing Education Units (CEUs) without even having to leave the comfort of the MSB campus!

The three O&M instructors spent January 29-31 in the newly-renovated 2nd floor conference room, using its new state-of-the-art audio and video equipment to access the International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium. The Symposium is a web-based professional development event focused on bringing the world's most outstanding cutting-edge and research-based O&M strategies together for the betterment of students with visual impairments.

Improvements to the 2nd floor conference room include a high-resolution laser projector, equipment to live-stream presentations online, and audio equipment that can sync to Bluetooth headphones and hearing aids. For more information, contact the MSB Outreach Department at 314-533-3961.



Above: Left to right: Mr. Chen, Ms. Herder & Mr. Cobb participate in an International O&M Symposium in MSB 2nd floor conference room

2nd Quarter Awards Recipients

Honor Roll

Malikye Baston	Ji'reh Elliot	Thomas Limbach	Matthew Potts
Garrett Belcher	Rylea Gammon	Khylie Longmire	Ravin Roper
Nathan Brown	Charles Grady	Daniel Matheny	Savanna Smith
Mia Bussell	Anastasia Gray	Alison Miller	Allen Whalen
Noelle Dobbs	Neil Grunig	Nicole Motley	Allie Wolk
Trinae Edwards	Jalan Leach	Robert Mull	

M.U.L.E.S.

(Moving Up, Learning Experience & Skills)

Sirria Brooks	Alexis Kaibel
Shelby Burchett	Kiwan Sanders
Chloe Deremiah	Derek Trischler
Leigah Friend	Dionna Towns
Alexiona Hamaker	Wayne Watson
Vivian Helmig	Logan Wilson
Madisyn Hinkebein	

Scholar Athlete

(Played a sport and made Honor Roll)

Malikye Baston	Thomas Limbach
Noelle Dobbs	Khylie Longmire
Rylea Gammon	Nicole Motley
Anastasia Gray	Ravin Roper
Neil Grunig	

Counselor's Corner

with Melissa Lampe, School Counselor

Happy New Year! The elementary students are participating in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in guidance. SEL is defined as how children and adults learn to understand and manage emotions, set goals, show empathy for others, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Many of the SEL lessons come from a character called Howard B. Wigglebottom, who is an elementary age child. Howard has a hard time making the right choices sometimes, and also has to help his friends with their choices too. We discuss Howard's choices and emotions and what other choice(s) he could have made in a situation. It is important to use real life examples and talk about the positive and negative consequences of decisions we make in life. You can practice SEL at home when reading to your child or watching a program by discussing a character's actions and choices, if their choices are positive or negative, and how their choices affect the other characters in the story.

Please remember as a school counselor I help your student with academic achievement, career guidance, and support for social and emotional challenges. Please contact me anytime by phone at 314-633-1559 or email at Melissa.Lampe@msb.dese.mo.gov

Mules Celebrate Holidays with Community Groups

On Thursday, December 19, MSB celebrated our annual Christmas Extravaganza with staff, students, family, and special guests from the community. Returning guests included the Eureka and Maplewood Lions Clubs and United Workers for the Blind. Joining MSB for the first time in celebrating the Extravaganza were the Eldon, Eugene, Linn, De Soto, Concord Village, and California Lions Clubs.

The festivities kicked off in the MSB auditorium with an excellent music production. The students and music department staff worked hard to put on a modern interpretation of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. After the show, the Mules and guests gathered in the multipurpose room for refreshments and a gift-giving party. The community groups sponsored students by purchasing gifts for them to ensure the Mules had everything they needed the holidays.

A video of the performance is available on the MSB YouTube channel for viewing at any time. Photos and video are also available at www.facebook.com/MSBMules



Right: The elementary choir performs a song in the Christmas Extravaganza musical program



Right: The middle and high school choir performs a song in the Christmas Extravaganza musical program



Left: Anastasia & Ravin are the Ghosts of Christmas Past & Jalan is Scrooge in the Christmas Extravaganza musical program



Left: Mules and guests gather in the decorated multipurpose room for gift giving and refreshments

Res Life

On Wednesday, December 18, MSB Residential students celebrated the holiday season with members of the Meramec-Arnold Elks Lodge. To begin the evening, the Mules and Elks were treated to Christmas carols sung by the Tower Grove Singers choir. After that, the Mules put on a holiday variety show consisting of singing, music played by members of the MSB Rock Band, and skits. After the show everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner of St. Louis-style barbecue and had a special visit with Santa Claus. Thank you to everyone who helped the Mules make the holidays the most wonderful time of the year!



Right: Mules pose with an Elk in front of the Christmas tree



Right: Vivian & her Elks sponsor with Santa

Superintendent:

Geoffrey Barney

Assistant Superintendent:

Joyce Waddell

Residential Life:

Marsha Bryant

Outreach Services:

Jane Herder

Business Operations:

William Runzo

Human Resources:

Karen Burkhead

Community Relations:

Carlie Lee

MSB Calendar of Events

		April	
		13-17	Spring Break - No School
		22	Earth Day Celebration
		30	6PM - Prom
		May	
		1-2	Forensics & Swim Conference @ Tennessee
		4-14	State & District Testing
		11	Truman Day (observed) - No School
		15-21	Capstone On-Site Trip to California
		25	Memorial Day - No School
		28	11AM - Achievement Banquet 7PM - Commencement @ MSB
		29	Last Day of School 1PM - Early Dismissal for Students
February			
12	Braille Challenge @ MSB		
14	Lincoln Day - No School		
17	President's Day - No School		
March			
5	Swim & Forensics @ Illinois		
8	Lions Night & Open House		
18	Swim & Forensics @ Illinois		
19	3rd Quarter Ends		
20	4th Quarter Begins		
23	10AM - 3rd Quarter Awards 10:30AM - Poetry Slam		



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