



Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

Conservation and Communication

Some of you may have noticed a sudden increase in the number of “Connection” newsletters in your mailboxes this Fall when, at the start of the academic year, MSB was experimenting with different ways to reach out to our community. We produced more newsletters, started posting to our Facebook page almost daily, created Twitter and Pinterest accounts, and began reaching out to staff and our students’ families through a text messaging system. We like being more engaged with our stakeholders and found many of these methods are working, but also realized that some were not and also weren’t in line with other long-term goals. One major example of this was our monthly newsletters; while we enjoyed sending out newsletters more frequently, we realized that it used a great deal of paper and that just isn’t conducive to our goal to become a more healthy and environmentally-friendly “Green” MSB.

After much discussion, the leadership team at MSB has decided to create fewer but better newsletters to share with you, our stakeholders. We also plan to have more written content in each edition, hopefully from a variety of guest writers. Finally, we are sending out the newsletter just five times a year instead of monthly, so look for a new issue at the end of every academic quarter and a special summer edition from now on. As always, the newsletter will be available online if you want to go totally paperless; just e-mail Carlie.Lee@msb.dese.mo.gov to be placed on our automatic mailing list.

If you would like to MSB content more frequently, we encourage you to Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/MSBMules](https://www.facebook.com/MSBMules), Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/MSBMules](https://twitter.com/MSBMules), Follow us on Pinterest at [Pinterest.com/MSBMules](https://www.pinterest.com/MSBMules), and regularly visit our Web site <http://msb.dese.mo.gov>. These are the places where you will find our day-to-day news, and you can even send private messages to the page admins with suggestions for content you want to see. We are going to keep working to improve our connection to our community in a variety of ways, so keep an eye out for new developments that will be announced first on social media. And as always, remember that #MulesRule!

Now on social media!



[Facebook.com/MSBMules](https://www.facebook.com/MSBMules)



[Twitter.com/MSBMules](https://twitter.com/MSBMules)



[Pinterest.com/MSBMules](https://www.pinterest.com/MSBMules)



[LinkedIn.com/company/MissouriSchoolForTheBlind](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MissouriSchoolForTheBlind)

MSB SUPPORTS



Missouri Learning Standards

3rd Quarter Awards Recipients

Honor Roll

Allie Wolk	Khylie Longmire	James Rodgers
Savanna Smith	Alison Miller	Nicole Cox
Robert Mull	Alexis Kaibel	Shelby Burchett
Anastasia Gray	Chloe Deremiah	Lee Smith
Noelle Dobbs	Sirria Brooks	Ali Lyon
Jalan Leach	Zyshaun Cross-Williams	Jessica Johnson
Charles Grady	Kiwan Sanders	Damon Tyson
Nicole Motley	Dionna Towns	Heather Thaller
	Tiondra Pollard	

M.U.L.E.S.

(Moving Up – Learning Experience and Skills)

Vivian Helmig	Daegan Archie	Michael Johnson
Kadence Scott	Wayne Watson	Kenia Cazares
Lucius Meyer	Nautica Wheeler	Mark Tasset
Nishaad Dean		Tyrone White

Scholar Athletes

Chloe Deremiah	Ali Lyon
Heather Thaller	Jessica Johnson
Nicole Motley	Nicole Cox
Alexis Kaibel	Dionna Towns

Lyon is Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award Nominee

MSB is proud to announce that Alexandra “Ali” Lyon is our nominee for this year’s Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award for Excellence. The award goes to an outstanding senior who excels both academically and in extracurricular activities. Dr. Thompson promoted academics and believed that residential schools offer unique opportunities to students and have the responsibility to develop students into well-rounded individuals. In order for this development to occur, Dr. Thompson realized that students should also be involved in extracurricular activities as well as study hard. The criteria for this award are based upon his philosophy and consider the following criteria: academic achievement; athletics; scouting; student government; music; community involvement; citizenship; ACT and/or SAT scores; any other outstanding accomplishments.

Ali is an excellent student who routinely makes the Honor Roll and won 3rd place in her division in the 2017 Missouri Regional Braille Challenge. She is a member of the swim, cheer and intramural sports teams, and is active in many student clubs and activities. We will find out if she is the Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award for Excellence winner when the traveling trophy, individual plaque, and \$100 cash scholarship are presented at the NCASB Conference Swim Championship April 28th-30th. Good luck, Ali!



Photos of Ali partaking in activities and receiving awards



MSB Hosts MO Regional Braille Challenge

On Feb. 15th, children from all over the state of Missouri visited MSB to compete in the annual Missouri Regional Braille Challenge. Top winners from regional competitions such as this will go on to compete at the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles this June. Seven MSB students placed in their respective divisions; a total of twenty-seven students competed at this year's Missouri Regional Braille Challenge. Great job, Mules!



Allie Wolk



Lee Smith



Nicole Motley



Allison Miller



Jessica Johnson



Ali Lyon



Chloe Deremiah



Nicole Cox



Lexi Kaibel

Missouri Regional Braille Challenge winners:

Apprentice -- Group 1

1st: Allie Wolk (MSB)

2nd: Carter Clay

3rd: Shianne Ramsey

Honorable Mention:

Brodie Thornhill

Junior Varsity

1st: Lydia Olmstead

2nd: Sam Doman

3rd: Seyoon Choi

Honorable Mention:

Claire Wright

Apprentice -- Group 2

1st: Lee Smith (MSB)

2nd: Nicole Motley (MSB)

3rd: Mary Hefty

Honorable Mention:

Allison Miller (MSB)

Linda Campbell

Varsity

1st: Kaity Hall

2nd: Nikki Cox (MSB)

3rd: Chloe Deremiah (MSB)

Best in Charts & Graphs:

Lexi Kaibel (MSB)

Freshman -- Group 1

1st: Anna Koepke

Freshman -- Group 2

1st: Hannah Tracy

2nd: Jessica Johnson (MSB)

3rd: Ali Lyon (MSB)

Library Cat Cub Lasagna Lunch Party

Twenty-one students met their first semester reading goals for the Library Cat Club and attended the annual Lasagna Lunch Party on Wednesday, January 25, as a reward. The party was held in the Student Center and featured Garfield's favorite, lasagna, as well as garlic bread, salad, drinks and dessert. The students rewarded were: Allison Miller, Shelby Burchett, Robert Mull, Allie Wolk, Savanna Smith, Anastasia Gray, Wayne Watson, Daegan Archie, Vivan Helmig, Sirria Brooks, Ali Lyon, Charles Grady, Kiwan Sanders, Heather Thaller, Nikki Cox, Damon Tyson, Dionna Townes, Jessica Johnson, Collin Clausner, and Tyrone White.



MSB teacher to attend renowned Thoreau seminar

Tonia Scherer, English Language Arts teacher at Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) in St. Louis, has been accepted along with 25 other high school educators and graduate students to attend The Walden Woods Project's seminar Approaching Walden 2017 from July 23rd through July 28th.

Approaching Walden is a six-day professional development seminar for high school educators and graduate students. The seminar provides teachers with the skills they need to lead their students in a study of their home community. This place-based interdisciplinary workshop uses Henry David Thoreau's writings and philosophy as a model. Through Thoreau's example of living deliberately, we can learn how to do so in our own communities and pass it along to the next generation.

Admission to Approaching Walden is highly selective; Scherer submitted an application including a personal statement on experiences and goals regarding place-based education and Transcendentalism in the classroom. To this, Scherer credits growing up on 60 acres of wooded land and experiencing nature first-hand; in her personal statement Scherer states "There was no desk, no text book, no Smart Board. These were God-given organic learning moments that came to fruition through a natural sense of wonder (and trusting parents who allowed me to roam)." Her goal in attending Approaching Walden 2017 is to enrich her students' sense of place so that they may enjoy holistic learning experiences and gain a deeper regard for their cultures and communities.

In addition to teaching English Language Arts to students with visual impairments at MSB, Scherer earned her Missouri Master Naturalist Certification through University of Missouri-Columbia Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Her long-term goal is to one day start an organization that builds a sense of place for youth, particularly those in underserved urban areas, while promoting educational equity through environmental outdoor education.

Illinois Swim & Forensics Meet Results -- March 16, 2017

Swim

200 Medley Relay	Time	Place	100 Fly Combined	Time	Place
MO Girls	6:02:87	2nd	Jessica Johnson	1:47:10	1st
MO Boys	4:17:00	1st	Collin Clausner	2:38:49	3rd
200 Free Relay	Time	Place	400 Free Relay	Time	Place
MO Boys	1:28:75	1st	MO EX	10:41:80	3rd
MO Girls	4:51:39	3rd	MO Boys	7:00:71	1st
Boys 200 Free	Time	Place	Girls 200 Free	Time	Place
Lee Smith	3:05:27	1st	Lexi Kaibel	4:15:00	2nd
			Chloe Deremiah	9:12:20	7th
			Ali Lyon	10:45:63	8th
Boys 200 IM	Time	Place	Girls 200 IM	Time	Place
Collin Clausner	3:13:30	1st	Jessica Johnson	3:56:09	1st
Damon Tyson	3:56:03	3rd	Nikki Cox	5:22:08	3rd
Boys 50 Free	Time	Place	Girls 50 Free	Time	Place
Lee Smith	32:97	2nd	Chloe Deremiah	2:03:93	10th
Michael Johnson	36:70	5th	Ali Lyon	2:10:73	11th
Boys 100 Free	Time	Place	Girls 100 Free	Time	Place
Lee Smith	1:17:18	1st	Chloe Deremiah	4:21:40	11th
Michael Johnson	1:22:00	2nd	Ali Lyon	5:22:97	12th
Boys 500 Free	Time	Place	Girls 500 Free	Time	Place
James Rodgers	10:20:79	2nd	Jessica Johnson	9:42:19	1st
			Lexi Kaibel	11:31:79	2nd
			Nikki Cox	12:05:00	3rd
Boys 100 Back	Time	Place	Girls 100 Back	Time	Place
Collin Clausner	1:37:42	1st	Lexi Kaibel	3:11:81	11th
Damon Tyson	1:50:00	2nd			
Boys 100 Breast Stroke	Time	Place	Girls 100 Breast Stroke	Time	Place
James Rodgers	1:40:99	2nd	Nikki Cox	2:42:42	3rd
Damon Tyson	1:548:64	3rd			

Forensics

Impromptu	Poetry	Duo	Readers Theater
James Rodgers	Dionna Towns	Jessica Johnson	Noelle Dobbs
Damon Tyson	Nautica Wheeler	Zyshaun Cross-Williams	Nicole Motley
Serious Prose	Great Speeches	Humorous Prose	
Chloe Deremiah	Khylie Longmire	Jessica Johnson	

MSB Alumni & Teacher takes Gold at International Jiu-Jitsu Competition

Adnan Gutic, a teacher and graduate of MSB, took first place at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) Pan-American Championship on March 17th, 2017, at the Bren Events Center of University of California, Irvine. Gutic competed in the Blue Belt Master 1 Male Middle weight category; this win makes him the champion of that division for North and South America.

Gutic, valedictorian of the 2005 graduating class of MSB, now teaches braille at the school as shown in the photo, right where he is helping a student. He coaches wrestling and goalball. While a student, he was active in student council and Boy Scouts, class president, Beta Club president, and a member of the wrestling, goalball, track, swimming, and forensics teams.

He won conference medals for each sport at least once, and as a junior helped MSB win the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) conference championships in swimming, wrestling and track. His senior year Gutic was awarded "Outstanding Athlete" at the NCASB conference track meet after winning three gold and two silver medals and in wrestling was undefeated for the season, won his weight class at the NCASB championship, and set a record that still stands for fastest pin in the NCASB finals.

After graduating MSB, Gutic attended Lindenwood University where he majored in physical education and was an Academic All-American. He was a member of the wrestling team that won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Wrestling Championships in 2005, 2007 and 2008.

Currently, Gutic trains at North Broadway Jiu Jitsu and White Dragon Judo Club. He's competed internationally in judo competitions since 2009 and was a member of the Parapan American Games teams in both 2011 and 2015. His future goals in martial arts include winning a gold medal in judo at the Paralympics and becoming the IBJJF world champion.



Photo left: Gutic and student Jessica Johnson in a braille lesson

Photo below: Gutic on the winners' stand at the IBJJF Pan-American Championship



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MSB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April	
17-21	Spring Break
24	Classes resume
4/25-5/3	ACT testing window
28-30	Swim/Forensics NCASB conference meet @ Ohio
30	4-8 p.m. Open House
May	
11	6 p.m. Prom @ Genesis Banquet Center
15	Truman Holiday - No School
19-21	Alumni Weekend
19-25	Capstone Program trip
29	Memorial Day - No School
June	
1	11 a.m. Awards Lunch, 7 p.m. Commencement
2	Last Day of School, Dismissal at 1 p.m.

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