

# PANTHER PRIDE

School Principal: Lynn Cragg

<http://osb.k12.ok.us/>

## 1st Quarter Honor Roll & Students of the Quarter

### “A” Honor Roll

#### Elementary

Xerek Hitchcock  
Katelynn Zampella



### “B” Honor Roll

#### Elementary

Dayton Baccus  
Khatungi Bryant  
Julia Cisneros  
Josie Cox  
Lorie Cox  
Angel Cozort  
Gavin Day  
Mannon Moore  
Skyler Moore  
Ocie Webster

#### Middle School

Johnnie Davidson  
Garrett Kennedy  
Benjamin Middleton  
Shannon Winter

#### NOTE:

High School students are receiving **semester grades only**. They will be considered for 1. Semester & 2. Semester Honor Roll only.

## Oklahoma School for the Blind

2016 - 2017, Issue 3

December 14, 2016

Editor: Maggie Mattox

#### Special points of interest:

- Cane Quest
- Veteran’s Day Program
- Spaghetti Fundraiser
- FCCLA Update
- Goalball
- Recreation Activities
- Going the Extra Mile

Students of the Quarter for the first Quarter are:

**Elementary** - Julia Cisneros

**Middle School** - Johnnie Davidson

**High School** - Richelle Zampella

**HEY! YOU! YES YOU!!!**

**What’s your favorite recipe?**

OSB FCCLA is putting together a **“Friends & Families of OSB cookbook”** and needs your help. So, start collecting recipes & look for more information in January.



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# Cane Quest



A true knight has courage. A true knight shows excellence. A true knight must commit to excellence and seek the highest level of excellence in all aspects of his or her life. That is what Cane Quest is - being courageous enough to demonstrate excellent orientation and mobility skills on an unfamiliar route.

Our Cane Quest contestants were knighted in a ceremony organized by Belinda Thomas and conducted by Sir Donald of the Castle of Muskogee on the last day of November. They took an oath to exemplify the best qualities of knights and earned titles of Sir and Dame and received a proclamation and sword (yes, a real plastic one). After the excitement of the ceremony, the contestants were able to relax with Sir Donald and enjoy refreshments.



The Knights of the Order of the Thistle were now well prepared to compete in

the **4<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest** event on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cane Quest would not have been possible without the generosity of **over 60 volunteers**, who gave of their time and expertise to score contestant skills, be contestant

teammates, and shadow the contestants.

Eighteen Scouts (contestants in grades 2-8) competed at 16 stations on OSB campus.

The stations were scored by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS), Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Independent Living Skills Instructors. Each Scout teamed up with a volunteer from the community to demonstrate proper cane techniques, human guide techniques, and understanding of environmental concepts.

The **Top Girl** was **Katelynn Zampella** and the **Top Boy** was **Elbin Carrillo**.

All of the Scouts used the coins they earned along the route to choose from a variety of prizes.

The three Explorers (grades 8-9) and nine Trailblazers (grades 10-12) completed a route in downtown Muskogee.

They worked their way through 13



stations along a mile-long route with a Shadow, a volunteer from the community, who monitored their progress. The stations included a

street crossing at a traffic light, avoiding obstacles placed along the sidewalk, and



using specialized cane techniques to locate landmarks.



A volunteer COMS scored contestant skills at each station.

## **Explorers B2**

**Gold:** Kentrell Wallace, Oklahoma City

**AND** Kaylee Ragon, Tecumseh

**Bronze:** Kishan Patel, Clinton

## **Trailblazers B1**

**Gold:** Richelle Zampella, Muskogee

**Silver:** Jonathon Phelps, Valliant

**Bronze:** Nicholas Jackson-Morrison, Muskogee

## **Trailblazers B2**

**Gold:** Tai'Yauri Thomas, Oklahoma City

**Silver:** Brittany Bales, Muskogee

**Bronze:** Patelin Cogswell, Oklahoma City

## **Thank you to the Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest Sponsors:**

Braille Institute  
 Oklahoma School for the Blind  
 NewView Oklahoma  
 Sapulpa Lions Club  
 NanoPac  
 Frank Dirksen  
 Oklahoma AER  
 OK Council of the Blind  
 Liberty Braille

Faye Miller

# Updates from our Social Services Department



## Students & Staff "Caught Being Good (Nov. 21-Dec. 8)"

- ◆ William Winston – for helping an adult working at the carnival without being asked to help.
- ◆ Treysen Brown – for showing good manners with an adult.
- ◆ Lorie Cox – for helping an adult with getting little ones on the play ground
- ◆ Gavin Day – for returning a student's cane.
- ◆ Jaylee Burnside – for helping a student get on the bus by following directions from an adult.
- ◆ Elbin Carrillo, Lorie Cox, Logan Deaton, Kaylee Ragon, and Khatungi Bryant
- ◆ – for helping with the "Mock Election".
- ◆ Connor Hilton – for making tea for the "Haunted House".
- ◆ Xerek Hitchcock – for returning a student's cane.
- ◆ Isaiah Hayes – for asking forgiveness from an adult and for assisting another student to class.
- ◆ Chris Shepherd – for sharing his stereo equipment with OSB for the dance.
- ◆ Jonathon Phelps – for supplying a necessary cord to assist with the sound system at the dance and for complementing a staff member for a job well done.
- ◆ Shannon Winter – for tenderly comforting a younger student who was upset.
- ◆ Garrett Kennedy – for taking a new student around the school environment.
- ◆ John & Tyler Duong – for assisting a new student throughout his first days at OSB.
- ◆ Logan Deaton – for being so kind and helpful to the children in Mrs. Adams classroom when he was helping to fix and deliver their instruments.
- ◆ Robert Miller – for patience with an employee giving first-aid assistance.

Social Services Department  
Sylvia Sterling  
Jane Thomas

## Character Building & Word of the Month for January

As the school year passes by quickly, we are continuing to help students identify the many aspects of family life that can shape good character.

This semester (ending on January 12<sup>th</sup>), we tried to look at various kinds of changes and the ways in which children can learn to respond. We will finish up the semester by looking at our final topic of this subject, the loss of a beloved pet. We will spend some

time with the students and examine the different things that can take place when a family loses their beloved pet.

Meanwhile, the Christmas season gave students many opportunities to learn about the joy of giving. The Word of the month for December was the word "**Caring**", and students spent much of their extra time collecting items such as coats, socks, toiletries, etc. which they will

share with others less fortunate than themselves.

Each student also received a gift from a philanthropic group or individual, so that they got some extra love and excitement for Christmas.

After our return in January, we will try to get back into the swing of our "character building" learning activity by examining the

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Character Building & Word of the Month for January (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

book, "Our wonderful Elastic Brain. Stretch It and Shape It."

## Creativity

The word of the month for January will be "Creativity",

which is defined as "the use of the imagination or original ideas, especially in the production of an artistic work".

This will help to remind us all that after the low activity level, which comes about after Christmas, there also comes a time when we must again resume challenging

ourselves to grow mentally, to set goals, and to meet them head on!

Best wishes from all the OSB staff to you and yours.

May you all have a happy and plentiful holiday season.

Jane Thomas  
& Sylvia Sterling  
Social Services

## MINIMIZING STRESS FOR CHILDREN OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Here are a few points to help you all minimize stress over the holidays:

- **Think ahead.**

Figure out what you can do to structure the event for the least negative impact on the family's typical schedule, and prepare the kids for what to expect. Explain to them either before you go to a gathering or as the holiday nears how things will work.

- **Let kids know what your expectations are.**

Give them a timetable, such as "So when we get there, you'll have time to play with your cousins. And when it's dinner time, we will sit at the table. I expect you to do that for at least 30 minutes. Then you can go play with

everyone again." Preparing kids ahead of time and coaching them about what's appropriate goes a long way.

- **About that weird present.**

Again preparation is key. Kids have bad impulse control and may slip when they get a pair of fluorescent Santa socks for Hanukkah. But tell them before you go out that if someone gives them a present, it's because "they like you, and sometimes they might guess wrong. It's really important that they just thought about you, and they thought they were getting you something you would like". Then demonstrate what you would say, "It was so nice of you to think of me when you got this."

- **Be realistic.**

Set developmentally appropriate expectations, for example, how long your child can actually sit. Or how much conversing with adults will actually happen. Think your child can realistically sit nicely for 15 minutes? Let that be the thing you focus on. Want your son to speak kindly to an aunt he doesn't know? Practice that conversation in advance. It may help you too, so you don't get unreasonably annoyed when your 5-year old wants to leave the table before everyone is finished.

Jane Thomas  
& Sylvia Sterling  
Social Services

## P.E. News

Very proud moment in PE in November.

Lydia Bradley tried the treadmill for her aerobic exercise.



This was her very first time on a treadmill and we are so proud of her.

Tera Webb



# Service Learning Projects

## READING PROGRAM

The Service Learning reading program is going well. High school students read with and play games with elementary students once a week in an effort to create positive relationships and

encourage reading and learning.



**Pictured:**

Ariana Richardson reading to Mrs. Wassom's students.

Cheryl Daniels

## COAT DRIVE

The coat drive for Service Learning was a big success!

The OSB staff was generous and we ended up with lots of coats for men, women, and children. In an effort to keep the giving local, the coats and jackets were delivered

to the Gospel Rescue Mission where they said they were much needed and sent a big "Thank you!" to the staff and students here at OSB.

Cheryl Daniels



## VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

I am very proud of all the students that participated in the Veteran's Day Program.



The OSB Boy Scouts did a wonderful job presenting the colors and leading us in the flag salute.

We had sweet singing by the elementary students and readings by

the middle schoolers.



Some high school stu-

Some high school stu-

dents put on a skit to educate people about what it means to be a Veteran, some others introduced our veteran employees, and another read a poem.



Thank you to all of our veteran's here at OSB and to the visiting veteran's who attended, and a special thank you to veteran and State Representative Ed Canaday for speaking during our program.

Students involved in the program were:

- ◆ **ALL elementary students** (Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- ◆ **Boy Scout Troop 672**
- ◆ **Middle Schoolers:** Johnny Davidson, John Duong, Tyler Duong, Nathan England, and Ben Middleton
- ◆ **High Schoolers:** Patelin Cogswell, Nick Jackson-Morrison, Malerie Levens, Trinity Lewis, Kaylee Ragon, Ariana Richardson, Tai Thomas, Shannon Winter, and Richelle Zampella

Great Job Everyone!

Cheryl Daniels



## Boy Scouts - Updates

The Boy Scouts are having a busy year so far.



They are learning how to tie knots to get



ready for the Merit Badge fair in Tahlequah in February.

They have also been involved in several service projects:

- They picked up trash and cleaned fire pits at one of the state parks.
- They helped with the flag presentation at the Veterans Day assembly.
- And they collected donations and filled **17 boxes** for the Samaritan's "Operation Christmas Child".



Next month the scouts will be out scouting for food to go to the food bank in Muskogee, to fill the pantry back up after the holidays. Donations from staff and students will be accepted at the school.

Our popcorn sales was good. **Noah Dugan won 1<sup>st</sup> place** in the club scouts, **Garrett Kennedy won 1<sup>st</sup> place** in the scouts, and **Jacob King won 1<sup>st</sup> place** for the venturing scouts. **GREAT JOB** boys and to everyone who sold and everyone who supported the troop. Thank You.

Blue & Gold sales was also very good, but we have some left if anyone is still wanting some. **Jacob King was the top seller** and won a **\$100.00 gift card**. Congratulations!

The Boy Scouts **raised \$750** for the troop.

### Great Job Everyone!

The Boy Scouts joined together with our Girl Scouts for their

Christmas party, which was held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Corral. Everyone had a great time.

We would also like to welcome our **new den leader** in the cub scouts, Ms. Amy Morgan. Welcome aboard.

We thank everyone for their support in scouting and we would like to wish everyone a "Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Becky LaRue & Troop 672



## Academic Team - Update

**Congratulations to all the Academic Team members!**



We completed another successful season and celebrated our accomplishments after our final meet at Hilldale.



Congratulations to **Richelle Zampella** and **Garrett Kennedy** who scored in the top 15 students from Junior Varsity and received a medal.

Faye Miller

# Spaghetti Fundraiser



The Spaghetti Night Fundraiser on November 15<sup>th</sup> was a great success. We had an awesome turnout from parents, staff and the community.

The Jazz Band sounded wonderful and was the highlight of the evening. Congratulations to a

**Job well done!**



The various items donated for the silent auction and the dessert auction also found a great response and helped us raise those \$\$ we were aiming for.

We raised **\$2,975** at the dinner, surpassing our goal of \$2,500.

The Trinity Masonic Lodge #502 in Muskogee is matching up to \$2,500 to make it a **grand total of \$5,475.**

This money will go to help our wrestlers, cheerleaders and jazz band members participate at the South Central Schools for the Blind (SCASB) competition in January.

Everyone worked very hard to make this happen.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped to make this event successful.

Lynn Cragg



# Middle School - NSU Optometry Trip



Middle school students made their annual trip to the NSU College of Optometry in November.

Dr. Simpson's 3<sup>rd</sup> year optometry students were treated to middle school energy and humor. We taught them about braille with Body Braille and a Jeopardy game. Of



course, our point-hungry students eliminated

the high point questions first.

Do you know how many tactile reading systems there were in

1909? Ask a middle school student and if they say "4", that is the right answer. The highest scores came from Lydia's group, who were able to get their lunches first.

After a lunch of pizza, thanks to Patti Nix and the Nix Foundation, Dr. Simpson took us on a walking tour of the Northeastern State University campus. We saw the dormitories, Student Center, Seminary Hall, and library.

We were just passing the bell tower when it chimed, telling us that it was 1 o'clock.

We also stopped at the statue of Sequoyah and learned about how he developed the Cherokee syllabary.



Each of the 12 students who went on this trip had something they especially enjoyed. Blazen liked working with his partners, Emma and Carrie, especially visiting with them at lunch. Morgan, Nathan and Miracle liked doing Body Braille. John, Ben, and Tyler liked playing Jeopardy. William and Garrett really liked touring NSU. Lydia was excited that we heard the clock chime. Johnnie liked being able to meet new people. Shannon appreciated the generosity of Patti Nix.

Faye Miller & Ann Page





## FCCLA - Competitive Events Update

Three FCCLA members recently participated in district competitive events among students from 14 other schools in the NE 5 Region.

OSB students representing our FCCLA chapter included Garrett Kennedy, Kaylee Ragon, and Richelle Zampella.

Garrett entered Creed Speaking and Interpretation; he recited the FCCLA creed in front of a panel of judges. They followed up with interpretive questions to evaluate Garrett's understanding of the creed. This event gives first year members the opportunity to gain self-confidence in public speaking.



Kaylee Ragon wrote an eBook for the Children's Literature Presentation. This year's theme was, "a new baby." She

created a book about a new baby coming home, in which the sibling discovers her new sister has a visual impairment. Kaylee's story is titled Izzy's Eyes and was written for children three to five years of age.

Richelle Zampella competed in Recycle and Redesign.

Participants took a product and recycled it into something new.

Richelle chose to repurpose puzzle pieces; she created a framed wall hanging and made Christmas tree ornaments using puzzle pieces. It was important to Richelle to have something tactile that her friends with visual impairments could enjoy as well.



Richelle's Star Event project

Garrett, Kaylee, and Richelle represented OSB well.

Both **Kaylee** and **Richelle** received **first place** for their efforts and will be **advancing to the FCCLA Regional STAR Events** in February.

Congratulations to all three for their hard work and efforts.



Allison Garner,  
FCCLA sponsor



Our STARS goofing off...  
From Left: Richelle, Kaylee, Garrett

## Future Shock - Update



The OSB PTO offered our students another fantastic look into the future at Future Shock.

The students were energized by the speakers, most of whom are visually impaired.

Through their personal stories and experiences, the speakers shared advice and tips. Speakers

included Rhanda Hasley, who works in communications for the Hilton Hotel, Les Barr, an attorney at law, Julie Bailey, a vision rehabilitation therapist at DRS, and Jeri Cooper, a deaf-blind specialist at DRS.



The day ended with a panel of recent OSB graduates who talked about their lives since graduation.

It was great for our students to hear advice from their perspective.

OSB Staff





# Goalball

**Do you want to learn a new sport? Are you ready to be active?**

Team Cyclone wants us to come back and practice with them. They practice at the Center in Tulsa on Tuesday nights. Ms. Belinda Thomas and Mrs. Faye Miller are making arrangements to bring groups of students to the Center to practice with them a few times second semester.

**If you are interested**, please email or call Faye Miller (at [fmiller@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:fmiller@osb.k12.ok.us) or extension 8220) to get **your name on the list**.

Goalball is a sport that was developed after WWII and is a Paralympic sport. It is very fast paced, physically challenging and uses a lot of strategy.

There are 2 teams of three players each who face each other across a court about the size of a volleyball court (see chart below for additional information). The court is marked with string that is taped down. Everyone wears sleep shades and you can also wear elbow and knee pads.

The object of the game is to roll a ball, about the size of a basketball over the opponent's goal line.

The ball has bells inside that make noise as the ball is rolled. You listen for the oncoming ball and attempt to block it with your body, so it doesn't roll over your goal line. Once you stop the ball, you then attempt to score on your opponent.



Tai Thomas getting ready to roll the ball.



Nick Jackson catching a ball.

## The rules of goalball

Goalball is played by two teams of three. All players wear eyeshades that block vision. The object is to score points by rolling the ball into the defending team's net.

### THE COURT

The dimensions are the same as a standard volleyball court.

### SEEING BY SOUND AND TOUCH

The lines of the court are tactile and are made by placing thick tape over courts.

The ball has eight small holes and contains small bells.

Goalball weight 2.75 lbs. Size compared to basketball.

### GAME PLAY

**OFFENSE:** The ball cannot be thrown until the referee calls "play." The team has 10 seconds to throw the ball. If the player throws before the call or the ball doesn't contact the landing area and the neutral area, a penalty is incurred.

**DEFENSE:** The defending players listen for the ball and try to block it with their bodies. If unsuccessful, the opposing team wins a point. Once the players gain possession, it's their turn on offense.

SOURCE: International Blind Sports Federation.

Toy Oxford/Staff Artist



Our 2015-2016 Goalball team with their Cyclone friends.

# Braille Challenge - REMINDER !!!



Don't forget that **Braille Challenge** permission forms are

**due by January 12<sup>th</sup>**.

This is our 15<sup>th</sup> year to have an Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge, so bring back your permission forms and celebrate with us!

Our event will be **Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**.

Faye Miller

# Recreation Activities

## Fall Festival - Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

OSB had an excellent time at our **2016 Fall Festival!**

Students, staff, and family enjoyed games, dressing up in their Halloween



costumes, bouncy houses, a haunted hayride, cake walks, roping dummies, s'mores by a campfire, and the endless about of candy, soda, and food!

Thank you once again for everyone that volunteered, donated, and supported our Fall Festival!

## Haunted Dance - Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

To celebrate Halloween and all its creepy goodness, OSB had a Haunted Dance.



Students got to dress up in the costume of their choosing and dance the night away to vintage Halloween music intertwined with popular modern rock while eating little Smokies, spicy chicken wings, chips and dip, veggie plates, and punch as red as blood.



From all of us in the Rec Center, I would like to **give the Food Service team a round of applause!!!!**

## Hot Cocoa Night

The kids got to enjoy a nice hot cup of hot cocoa with marshmallows on a cool autumn night while enjoying great conversations with friends, singing, and being social.



## Turkey Magnet Making Craft Night

On November 9<sup>th</sup> OSB students got to craft their own turkey, snowman, or autumn picture frame out of colorful art supplies!



It was fun and interesting to see all the student's finished products and how their personalities were reflected in their art work. All of their work was amazingly done and beautiful!!



Take a look.

## Happy Birthday Party for November & December

On November 14<sup>th</sup> Students got to sing Happy Birthday to fellow students while enjoying homemade cherry vanilla, lemon, and chocolate cupcakes!

**Happy Birthday to the following students!** May your year be plentiful and amazing!

Parker Burt, Quanté Sellers, Brianna Brennan, Michael Thompson, Nicholas Jackson-Morrison, Jacob King, Julia Cisneros, Hunter Kelley, Holly Felkins, Payton Crum, Xerek Hitchcock, Trinity Lewis, Seth Wedel, Kesslee Travis, Garrett Kennedy, Jimmy Anderson, Khatungi Bryant, Blazen Sitterly, Thomas Raines, Shaylin Wells

## Spaghetti Fundraiser

On November 15<sup>th</sup> Students were able to go and enjoy great food, music, conversation, and community at the local Masonic Temple to help with the 2016 Spaghetti Fundraiser for our school. The food was plentiful and amazing, our band was fierce and mind blowing, and the desserts and other auction prizes were overflowing on the tables. Our students, staff, and supporters had an amazing time!

## Dining Out Night

On November 16<sup>th</sup> OSB students got the chance to leave campus and enjoy a night of dining out at some local restaurants: KFC, Long John Silver's, and McDonald's. The kids got to enjoy soft drinks, fast food, and desserts of their choosing.

## Autumn Leaves Dance

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, after several technical difficulties, the Autumn Leaves Dance was able to kick off the night of feasting, dancing, and merriment. The students had an excellent time! I would like to say that one of our students, Chris Shepherd, was the primary reason why we were able to have the dance after the initial technical difficulties. He



Jillian Matthews & Malerie Levens

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# Recreation Activities (continued)

*(Continued from page 10)*

volunteered his personal speaker system to the cause, and unfortunately the night's activities caused it to have a shorter life span. I whole-heartedly give Chris Shepherd the first HAZZAH!

The second HAZZAH goes to Jonathon Phelps for supplying us with a necessary cord to continue the dance after the sound system was no more. HAZZAH HAZZAH!!!!!!

I thank both students and will be personally recommending them for our program "Caught Being Good".

## Knighting Ceremony for Cane Questers

The night of November 30<sup>th</sup> consisted of students being knighted in preparation of the adventure that each and every one of them would be completing the next day at Cane Quest.

They wore cloaks as white as snow as they were each

individually knighted by Sir Donald of Castleton, a knight that works and volunteers at the Castle of Muskogee for multiple events



year round, and his wife, Lady Sue.

Sir Donald and Lady Sue knight-

ed each student participating at the Cane Quest.



The students were offered a real plastic sword and the proclamation of the King of Scotland, inducting them all into the Order of the Thistle.

It was amazing to be able to witness the pride, suspense, gratitude, and emotions that the students felt during the knighting ceremony. Afterwards, students, staff, and guests were able to relax, eat snacks and have refreshments while discussing future quests.

## Fall Festival

**Wow!** I was very impressed to see all the volunteers working to make sure our students had a great Fall Festival.

**I thought the festival was a huge success!**

All the students appeared to have a great time, and that is what it is all about.

Thank you so much for your efforts before, during, and after the festival to make it a success.

## Winter Ornament Craft Night

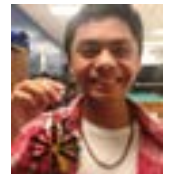
On Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, Students were able to hang out with friends while they scratched intricate



From Left:  
Malerie Levens, Trinity Lewis, Deporis Willis



designs on the ornament to reveal the underlying rainbow colors underneath.



Each ornament showed the student's personality and creativity.

## Woodland Hills Mall Trip

On December 6<sup>th</sup> our Jr./Sr. High school students got to enjoy a Christmas shopping trip to Woodland Hills Mall in Tulsa.



Belinda Thomas, you did a great job planning the event. I can't wait until next year!

Rita Echelle



# GOING THE EXTRA MILE - November-December 2016



**OK, this is what I am talking about. Let's hear it for our AWESOME STAFF !!!**

**Following employees were nominated for their devoted support of our students, staff and school...**

It would take me several pages in this newsletter to name everyone who helped pull Cane Quest together this year. From a wonderful party Wednesday night (thank you, Belinda Thomas for the knighting ceremony), making sure the kids looked great on Thursday, to ensuring our safety and comfort, putting tables together, making certificates, brainstorming with me, organizing prizes, getting the training rooms organized, entertaining the kids with music, passing out materials, scoring, working with students, building "blocks", putting chairs out at Arvest Bank Park, feeding us a wonderful lunch, to celebrating with us. As you can tell, I could go on and on and on, still missing something or someone who assisted in making this event successful.

Sincere **thanks to EVERYONE** on campus who contributed to a day where our students could

show-off their mobility skills and celebrate using a white cane.  
**THANK YOU!**

Faye Miller

**Mark Miller**, thank you for taking the time to work with an O&M student to reward him for a semester of excellent work.

Faye Miller

I would like to nominate Amy **Morgan**, **Becky LaRue**, and **Sylvia Sterling** for going the extra mile. These three ladies stayed over and helped us with our annual Woodland Hills Mall trip. We got back late and they all had to be at work early the next morning.

I would also like to thank **Jane Thomas**, who stayed over that night to work the switchboard, so everyone else could go on the trip. Without the help of those 4 ladies it would have been very difficult to organize the trip. Thank you very much.

Cammeron Brice

A **HUGE THANK YOU**, to **Faye Miller**, Cane Quest director, Braille Challenge organizer and Academic Team sponsor for all her hard work and the many "after school" hours she dedicates to those various projects.

Sherry Holder

Thank you to **Ms. Shawn** for her help and patience at breakfast each day. Specifically, elementary breakfast is very hectic with few helping hands,

and she often goes above and beyond to make sure the kids have been assisted. All help is greatly appreciated!!

Amy Morgan

Following are nominated by Ms. Belinda Thomas on behalf of the student body:

- **Faye Miller and Sherry Holder** for organizing and allowing students to do Cane Quest.
- **Food Services** for providing amazing treats for all our Rec dances and activities.
- **ILS and Mrs. Garner** for baking monthly shipments of delicious cupcakes for the student birthday parties.
- **Tonya Givens** for helping us get the funds the Rec needs to create fun and entertaining activities each month.
- **Mrs. LaRue** for being an active role model for the Boy Scout Troop 672.
- **Mrs. Jones** for organizing the Secret Pal gift exchange for OSB staff members.
- **Ana Ledezma, Jennifer Ogle, Jane Thomas, and Donald Baccus** for donating personal funds to buy Chris Shepard a new sound system (after his got damaged during the Autumn Leaves Dance).
- **Mrs. Echelle** for signing off for the Rec to order a brand new air hockey table for all of our students to enjoy.

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# GOING THE EXTRA MILE - November-December 2016

(Continued from page 12)

- And to **Miss Maggie** for being awesome!

Thank you Everone.

Belinda Thomas  
& students

**Mrs. Eckerson and her family** for going the extra mile by doing the back drops for the Christmas program.

Laura Leatherman

**Mr. Ken Miller** for taking time to fix the piano in our classroom for Kesslee.

Kathy Adams

**Faye Miller** for all her work on Cane Quest, as well as **Belinda Thomas** for bringing in a Knight and Lady for the Knighting event, the night before Cane Quest.

**Chris Ferrell** for all his time to prepare and lead the band in a number of events.

And **Jennifer Eckerson and her family** for putting hours into the Christmas play set.

Ann Page

**Rob Culie and his "assisting staff"** (e.g. DCS, driver, etc.) that travel to various "after school &/or weekend" events to allow our Wrestlers to participate in competitions. Thank you.

Maggie Mattox

**Chris Ferrell** for all his efforts in putting the Elementary Christmas Program together, as well as taking our Elementary

students caroling at local Nursing Homes and to a local church to participate in an event held there. THANK YOU.

Maggie Mattox

I wish to nominate **Belinda Thomas** for the "going the extra mile" recognition award. When a student stepped forward with his sound system so that a student dance could go on as planned, the activity was just too much for his tired old sound system. Ms. Thomas did what she needed to do to privately raise the money to replace his sound system which became non-functional before the school dance ended.

Jane Thomas

**Jennifer Eckerson** went the Extra Mile by working on the Christmas Play stage set.

**Lynn Cragg** went the Extra Mile by organizing the Spaghetti fundraiser.

**Karen Reed** went the Extra Mile by working tirelessly to provide staffing and IEP enrollment for new students while utilizing a new computerized software program.

**Jeanne Meyers** went the Extra Mile by volunteering to teach two new teachers braille.

**Linda Graber** went the Extra Mile by organizing Silver Spur Ranch trip, White Cane Day, and Future Shock.

**Maggie Mattox** went the Extra Mile by preparing an awesome newsletter and keeping

all supervisors up to date on their training requirements.

Rita Echelle

I would like to nominate **Clint Tibbs**. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty assisting with the update to the OSB Media Center. He has been a large part of making our Media Center independently accessible to our students for the Spring semester and the future years. **Thank you Clint.**

A Million Thanks to **Paul Butler** for keeping the Braille Writer Repair Shop up and running. Thank you for the hours you put into training and certification through Perkins Solutions and the quick and thorough work you do to keep our students brailing. I also appreciate your willingness to train apprentice repairmen as well. I hear good things from the students who assist you.

Barbara Collins

Thank you to **everyone who was involved in preparing the Veterans Day Assembly**. The assembly was both informative (who knew a veteran was anyone who served in the armed forces "smile") and moving. Thank you for recognizing our veterans. And, veterans, thank you for your service.

Thank you, **Laci Goins**, for stepping up at Future Shock. Your extra work putting together a schedule, getting student

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE - November-December 2016

preferences and making sure the sessions ran well (even through a cancellation that required last minute scrambling) helped Future Shock run smoothly.

And, **Laci**, thank you also for Operation Graduation! What a great program for our seniors and their families. Getting everyone together was a great idea and will make the transition for our seniors much easier.

Faye Miller

**Thank you guys  
for going the  
extra mile.  
It is highly  
appreciated.**



# Happy Birthday !!!

## December Birthdays

### Students

Payton Crum	Dec	3
Xerek Hitchcock	Dec	4
Trinity Lewis	Dec	7
Seth Wedel	Dec	14
Kesslee Travis	Dec	15
Garrett Kennedy	Dec	17
Jimmy Anderson	Dec	22
Khatungi Bryant	Dec	27
Blazen Sitterly	Dec	27
Thomas Raines	Dec	28
Shaylin Wells	Dec	30

### Staff

Amy Morgan	Dec	1
Ana Ledezma	Dec	3
Kathy Barrett	Dec	13
Cammeron Brice	Dec	19
Allison Garner	Dec	23
Brent Webster	Dec	29



## January Birthdays

### Students

Fuller Braylen	Jan	2
Scott Moore	Jan	4
Gavin Day	Jan	5
Jacob Nash	Jan	5
Sara Graber	Jan	12
Miracle Jones	Jan	14
Josephina "Josie" Cox	Jan	17
Kentrell Wallace	Jan	22
Ariana Richardson	Jan	26
Kaylee Ragon	Jan	30

### Staff

Melissa Sweeney	Jan	5
Amanda Isom	Jan	15
Betty Cowan	Jan	17
Jeana Jones	Jan	17
Nick Hampton	Jan	25
Faye Miller	Jan	26





# January 2017

■ Dorms Open    
 ■ NO School    
 ■ School In Session

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Schedule of Events

### Date      Time      Event

<b>Mon. Jan. 2</b>		<b>NO SCHOOL—DORMS OPEN</b>
Tue, Jan. 3		Classes Resume
<b>Fri, Jan. 6</b>		<b>SCHOOL IN SESSION !!!</b>
<b>Mon. Jan. 16</b>		Martin Luther King Day - <b>NO SCHOOL—DORMS OPEN</b>
Jan. 19 - 22		South Central Schools for the Blind (SCASB) competition in Jackson, Mississippi
<b>Fri, Jan. 20</b>		<b>SCHOOL IN SESSION !!!</b>
Wed., Jan. 25		SPIRIT DAY

### Upcoming February Events:

Date	Event
Thur, Feb. 2	Sapulpa Bean Dinner
Tue., Feb. 7	SPIRIT DAY
Thur., Feb. 9	MAEC Math & Engineering Design Competition
Thur., Feb. 16	OPEN HOUSE

# Recreation Activities

## JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Dorms Open Open Rec	3 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec	4 Christmas Gift Thank You Letter Craft Night	5 Trivia and Riddles Night @ 6:30-8 pm	6 Home Going	7
8 Dorms Open Open Rec	9 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec	10 Sun Catcher Graft Night @ 7 pm	11 Bingo Night @ 6:30 pm	12 Home Going	13	14
15	16 Dorms Open Open Rec	17 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec	18 Panther Pride Dance 6:30-8:30 pm	19 Movie & Popcorn Night @ 6:30 pm	20 Home Going	21
22 Dorms Open Open Rec	23 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec	24 Open Rec @ 6:30 pm	25 Skating Rink @ 6:30-8 pm	26 Home Going	27	28
29 Dorms Open Open Rec	30 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec	31 Jan. Happy Birthdays @ 7 pm Open Rec				

**Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278**

ALL Calendars are "subject to change". - Please visit our website <http://osb.k12.ok.us> for updates.

Oklahoma School for the Blind  
3300 Gibson Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Toll Free: (877) 229-7136  
Voice/TTY: (918) 781-8200  
Fax: (918) 781-8300

It takes more than sight  
to have vision!

Please check out  
our website at:



## OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

### Changes:

Ana Ledezma – DCS – moved from daytime to nights.

### New Hires:

Sandy Harrison	- Food Service
Amy King	- Evening DCS
Sara Parkes	- Evening DCS
Christine Timmreck	- Evening DCS
Munekia Moore	- Night DCS



# Christmas Break - NO School - Dec. 19 - Jan. 2

