

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

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

2. Qtr. / 1. Sem. Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

2. Qtr.

Elementary

Katie Hoyl
Haidyn James
LaShae McGuire
Khup Tuang

Middle School

Noah Dougan
Braylen Fuller
Stephanie Glynn
Douglas Lee
Macey Millar

1. Sem.

High School

Piper Conner
Kennedy Fowler
Ian Willhight
Ace Williams

"B" Honor Roll

2. Qtr.

Elementary

Elijah Cervantes-
Phipps
Austin Heffley
Gabriella Henderson
Kennedy Sullivan

Middle School

Payton Crum
Isaiah Friend
Garrett Hillshafer
Austyn Lawler
Genevieve Owens
Braydon Roberts
Kesslee Travis

1. Sem.

High School

Alexandra Antolin
Jaden Brown
Jaylee Burnside
Julia Cisneros
Josephina Cox
Angel Cozort
Adan Duran-Gonzalez
Mykel Eagle
Ian Holm
Delilah Howell
Nikki James
Evy Kizzia
Justin Millar
Leah Sailors
Quanté Sellers
Lane Sutterfield
Anicka Weller
Ryan Williams
Tessa Williams

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2023 - 2024, Issue 3

March 14

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Next Edition: May 16, 2024 (tentative)

Special points of interest:

- Disability Awareness Day / Awards (p3)
- Braille Challenge (p4)
- OSB Spelling Bee (p5)
- ESSER Grant Update (p6)
- SCASB (p8)
- Homecoming (p9)
- Longevity Award (p9)
- Read Across America (p11)

Inside this issue:

Caught being Good	2
Disability Awareness Day	3
Braille Challenge	4
OSB Spelling Bee	5
Habitudes (Jan-Mar)	6
ESSER Grant Update	6
Elementary Spirit/Cheer Club	7
O&M Bingo	7
Wrestling - Girls' Regionals	7
SCASB	8
Homecoming	9
Donors Choose Grant	9
Longevity Award	9
FCCLA Regional STAR Events	10
Greenhouse Update	10
Classroom Randomness	11
Read Across America	11
Recreation Activities	12-13
Blood Drive Update	13
Going the Extra Mile	14
Muskogee Azalea Clean-Up	14
Birthdays (Mar-May)	15
Staff Changes	16
Upcoming Events	16

way To Go!

Students of the Quarter
will be announced in our
next edition.



Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



EVERYONE !

It's never too late to be caught being good....
So keep up the good work students!!
We are proud of you all!

"Caught Being Good"

- ◆ **Austin Heffley & Shae McGuire** escorted a Pre-K student to the cafeteria and helped him with lunch.
- ◆ **Leah Sailors** always helps in the clinic when there is only one nurse on duty to get everyone done in a timely manner.
- ◆ **Scott Moore, Elijah Cantu, Jacob Cantu, Ryan Williams, and Ocie Webster** helped Ms. Goins clean up after the Cook Out.
- ◆ **Treysen Radick** went above and beyond to help at the cookout! Extremely hard worker! - Great work ethic and kept an amazing attitude the entire cookout.
- ◆ **Nikki James** was a great help with cleaning up at the cookout, putting away tables, and picking up.
- ◆ **Katie Hoyl** did a terrific job selling plants in the greenhouse during the cook-out.
- ◆ **Josie Cox** worked all evening (during the cookout) in the greenhouse selling plants.
- ◆ **Kyler Harrington** goes to fetch my mail without being asked (because he knows I'd appreciate him doing so!).
- ◆ **Josie Cox** broke down cardboard boxes and took them to the recycling bin without being asked.
- ◆ **Julia Cisneros** is a class leader and handles problems independently.
- ◆ **Emileigh Jackson, Ryan Williams, Julia Cisneros, Piper Conner, Macey Millar, Braylen Fuller, and Kairi Husmann** represented OSB and their families professionally and brilliantly at the State Capitol and at People With Disabilities Awareness Day on March 5. They visited with legislators and spoke with respect while articulating the benefits of OSB.
- ◆ **Braydon Roberts** helped a classmate to find the swings on the playground.
- ◆ **Emileigh Jackson** is a huge help with running the junior senior class meetings and showing impeccable leadership skills.
- ◆ **Ryan Williams** designed the tickets and invitations for prom.
- ◆ **Neal Summerlin** holds the door open for others at the end of recess.
- ◆ **Emileigh Jackson** volunteers with the elementary cheer girls.



People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD)

By Susan Young Mock, STUCO Advisor

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, the OK School for the Blind Student Council (STUCO) left Muskogee at 6:59 am for Oklahoma City and the State Capitol to participate in this year's People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD).

The seven STUCO members, composed of President Ryan Williams, a junior from Midwest City, Vice President Emileigh Jackson, a senior from the Claremore area, Julia Cisneros, a sophomore from Fort Gibson, Piper Conner, a freshman from Perkins, Macey Millar, an 8th grader from Muldrow, Braylen Fuller, a 7th grader from Muskogee, and Kairi Husmann, a 6th grader from Wetumka, were joined by Mrs. Barrett, Nurse Karla, DHS liaison Ms. Mickie, and STUCO Advisor Mrs. Young Mock.

Each STUCO member visited with their local representative and senator, sharing a short biography and information about OSB.

Representative David Smith's, R-Arpelar (just 12 miles west of McAlester)

Legislative Assistant, **Carla Ray with Kairi** in his office.



Carla Ray & Kairi



Braylen

Braylen (left) and Emileigh (right) sitting



Emileigh

in Representative Smith's chair.



STUCO members and Ms. Mickie with Rep. Neil Hays, R-Muskogee

We had our pictures taken with several legislators and were introduced on the floor of the State Senate by Senator Dewayne Pemberton.



STUCO members and Ms. Mickie with Macey's Rep., Jim Olsen, R-Sallisaw, and Kairi's Rep. David Smith, R-Arpelar

Senator Shane Jett, R-Shawnee, spoke to us about shadowing legislators and serving a week as a page. There is a lot of interest in the page program; please get with your local legislator for more information.

Follow this link to find your legislator: <http://www.oklegislature.gov/FindMyLegislature2.aspx>

After a delicious lunch from **Bee Healthy Café**, the group headed to the Oklahoma History Center for the DRS People With Disabilities Awareness Day program.

The group networked with over 70 disability-centric exhibitors and celebrated with the DRS Awareness Day Award Winners.



Congratulations to DRS **OSB Student of the year**, senior and valedictorian **Emileigh Jackson!**



L-R: Comm. Flannery, Comm. Barresi, Emileigh J., Rep. Stan May

Emileigh is the Student Council Vice President, cheer captain, on the track team, and is active in FCCLA, Jazz Band, DECA, Leadership Club, the Healthy School Committee, and in Work Study. Her plans after graduation are to attend the University of Michigan and major in early childhood education. She hopes to be an elementary educator.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Lynn Cragg, OSB secondary principal**, for being awarded DRS Lifetime Achievement Award.



Comm. Barresi, Lynn C., Comm. Flannery

Mrs. Cragg is retiring this year after **34 years** of service.

STUCO would like to thank Ms. Machel and the Food Service Ladies for serving us a delicious breakfast extra early.

Thank you to Nurse Karla, Ms. Mickie, and Mrs. Barrett for sharing this wonderful day with us!



22nd Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge – March 6, 2024

By Faye Miller

Another successful **Braille Challenge Regional** event is behind us.

I would first like to **thank everyone** who was involved in making sure this event was successful. All the volunteers who woke up early and drove to Muskogee to proctor and score, all the OSB staff who made sure the rooms were clean and set up, all the sponsors who were so generous and made sure each contestant and volunteer received a t-shirt (**thank you, Liberty Braille**) and very full goodie bags! The sponsors also made sure we had plenty of prizes and the beautiful medals for the contestants who placed. Thank you also to Stephanie Glynn who tested each braille writer with Susana Jackman and Coach Coomer who repaired all the braille writers that didn't pass Stephanie's tests; Emileigh Jackson who spent an afternoon shopping for the prizes; and Allison Garner's FACS classes who made the lunches for all the volunteers.

Thank you everyone for making this Braille Challenge a success!



This was the largest group of contestants (38 registered and **33 competed**) we have ever had and the 10 testing rooms we used this year beat our previous record of 7 rooms. The score room was also full of new people. OSB graduates and former contestants worked on the other side of Braille Challenge scoring spelling, speed and accuracy, reading comprehension, proofreading, and charts and graphs tests.

Susana Jackman joined the local **news teams** of **PBS, ABC, and CBS** taking video and interviewing contestants and people in the score room. It was a beautiful sunny day, so contestants relaxed in the sunshine while the score room rounded up papers and tallied scores. Congratulations to

everyone who competed!



Congratulations Contestants!

Apprentice Transition MS/HS

Gold: Kesslee Travis, Muskogee
Silver: Genevieve Owens, Claremore
Bronze: Jaden Brown, Broken Arrow



L-R: Kesslee, Genevieve, Jaden

Apprentice



L-R: Nina, Neil, Khup
 Back: Mrs. Eckerson

Gold: Neal Summerlin, Wagoner
Silver: Khup Tuang, Tulsa
Bronze: Nina Cutler, Cushing

Freshman Transition MS

Gold: Austyn Lawler, Walters
Silver: Avery Dollar, Muskogee
Bronze: Audree (Elli) Montgomery, Shady Point



L-R: Elli, Austyn, Avree

Freshman Transition Gr. 9



L-R: Jaylee, Piper, Nathaniel

Gold: Piper Conner, Perkins
Silver: Nathaniel Hiatt, Park Hill
Bronze: Jaylee Burnside, Muskogee

Freshman Transition Gr. 10-11

Gold: Erikson Lopez, Owasso
Silver: Maria Komers, Noble
Bronze: Angel Cozort, Ketchum



L-R: Angel, Maria, Erikson

Freshman



L-R: Justus, Kaos, Jayda

Gold: Jayda Magers, Ponca City
Silver: Kaos Davis, Alva
Bronze: Justus Hoover, Alva

Sophomore Transition MS/HS

Gold: Kolten Pennington, Roff
Silver: Lilith Pedersen, Anadarko
Bronze: Delilah Howell, Westville



L-R: Lilith, Kolten, Delilah



L-R: Gabriella, Kennedy, Kye

Sophomore
Gold: Kye Shrum, Perry
Silver: Kennedy Sullivan, Morris
Bronze:

Gabriella Henderson, Muskogee

Junior Varsity

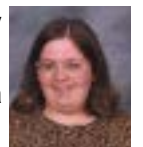
Gold: Stephanie Glynn, Tulsa



Anna

Varsity

Gold: Anna Suarez, Sand Springs



Stephanie

2024 Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge VOLUNTEERS:

Ruby Barker - Kimberly Berry - Shelly Brickner - Rachel Buchanan - Elbin Carrillo - Hannah Cianfrone - Vince Cianfrone - Chris Coomer - Jeri Cooper - Debbie Darrough - Lacey Downs - Debbie Eagle - Jennifer Eckerson - Sandy Evans - Kimberly Ford - Shelby Gamble - Christy Hargrove - Jody Harlan - Sherry Holder - Regina Huggins - Susana Jackman - Kelli Killman - Laura Lamkin - Trey Lewis - Kristy Maddux - Maggie Mattox - Toni McGrew - Jeanne Meyer - Robert Miller - Orpha Paciorek - Amy Pebley - Amanda Pugh - Jennifer Ratliff - Brightpath Reynolds - Vicki Schlarb - Christina Stevens - Belinda Thomas - Heather Winn - Gina Woods - Julio Valdez - Katelynn Zampella

2024 Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge SPONSORS:

Oklahoma School for the Blind - Braille Institute of America - Donations in Memory of Bud Holder and George Isbell - Frank Dirksen - Jeri's House - Liberty Braille - NanoPac - NewView Oklahoma - Oklahoma Chapter of AERBVI - Oklahoma State University-HOP - Oklahoma University Pre-ETS - Ruth Kelly Studios - Transcribing Mariners - Tulsa Downtown Lions Club

OSB Spelling Bee

By Piper Conner, Justin Millar and Leah Sailors

On Tuesday, February 6, 2024 the students at OSB got to compete in the OSB annual Spelling Bee, a competition where children try to spell words correctly and, if they make mistakes, they're out until one person is left. This has been at least the 33rd event for OSB.

History states that the earliest known print evidence of the phrase "spelling bee" dates back to 1850, however around 1808 it was referred to as a "spelling match".

This year there were **15 contestants** from **3rd - 8th grade**.

Each student was given a graded list of words with difficulty ranging from 1st - 8th grade to study in preparation for the Spelling Bee.



Spelling Bee contestants with their certificates

On the day of the competition the students went up on stage and took their seats, as practiced the previous day. Then, one by one, came up to the microphone and introduced themselves by name, age, and grade. After that, the bee began. The host would say the word, then the contestants would follow a procedure when spelling: say the word, spell the word, then say the word again.

Before spelling they could ask a few questions: "can you repeat the

word, can you put the word in a sentence, or can I get the definition?"

After the spelling bee ended each contestant received a certificate of participation. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners received a medal.

The 1st place winner was Kesslee Travis, who won, spelling the word "enchantment". The 2nd place went to Blake Priddy who got out on the word "collision" and 3rd place went to Kennedy Sullivan who got out on the word "calculus".



The Winners (L-R):
Blake, Kesslee, Kennedy

The 1st and 2nd place winners will advance to the **Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee** held at the Muskogee Civic Center on Friday, **April 26th at 6:30 p.m.**

After the spelling bee I (Piper C.) interviewed the top 3 contestants.

Kennedy Sullivan said that this was her 3rd year competing and that she enjoyed the spelling bee. I asked what her favorite part was and how she felt afterwards, in response she said, "My favorite part was the spelling. I felt confused that I won because I spelt the word wrong and thought I lost, but I was happy that I won."

Blake Priddy has been competing in the spelling bee for the past 5 years. He competes in the spelling bee for the thrill of com-

petition. Blake was disappointed that he got 2nd but is excited that he gets to go to Regionals.

Blake would like to thank Coach Gamble for helping him learn his spelling words.

This was the 5th year that Kesslee Travis has participated in the spelling bee. She said that her favorite part was "when I spell and win, and also the Regionals." She said she felt nervous about going to Regionals. I asked her how she felt after she won and she said, "tears of joy and excitement." She said that she was also surprised and didn't even expect it. Then I asked her if she had anything else she would like to add and she said, "I like that the Regionals have a reception where we get to go and eat cake."

We'd like to congratulate all of the participants who competed in OSB's spelling bee; and wish Kesslee Travis and Blake Priddy good luck at Regionals in April.



To our judges & other helpers with the event.

Come out and support our students on
April 26th @ 6:30 pm
Muskogee Civic Ctr.
425 Boston St., Muskogee

Habitude - January through March

By Laci Goins



The month of **January** we concentrated on **all of the good things** a new

year can bring to us. A new year often symbolizes a fresh start, offering an opportunity to reflect on the past year and set new goals. This reflection can inspire people to make positive changes in their lives, whether it's pursuing new opportunities, breaking bad habits, or improving overall well-being. The idea of a **new beginning** can be motivating, encouraging individuals to take steps towards self-improvement and personal growth.

So, what will 2024 bring to you?



The habitude for **February** was

"Ways to be Courageous".

Courage is an important concept to learn because it helps us navigate challenges, build resilience, and pursue our goals despite fear or uncertainty. Learning about courage empowers us to face difficult situations, take risks, and stand up for what we believe. It also fosters a sense of confidence and self-reliance, helping us to develop into resilient, adaptable individuals who are better equipped to handle life's ups and downs.

What are some ways you have had to be courageous?



March's habitude is

"Mindfulness".

Mindfulness is the practice of being present and fully engaged in the moment, without judgment. It involves paying attention to thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and the surrounding environment. Mindfulness can help manage stress, improve focus and concentration, and enhance overall well-being. By learning to be more mindful we can develop greater self-awareness, emotional regulation, and empathy for others.

We suggest taking a "mindful moment" every day during the month of March.

ESSER Grant - Jan-March Update

By Laci Goins

The **ESSER After School program** kicked off the new year by adding more activities for the students to participate in after school.

This semester, the students continued working on their knitting skills in **Knifty Knitters**, learning new games on **Game Night**, expressing their creativity in **Art**, and developing their designing skills for **3D printing**.

The students also participated in **extended library hours** where they were able to come up to the library and explore their favorite books and expand their imaginations.



Outside the library



Our "Library's Magic World" welcomes you.



Story time

New activities that were added this semester include **Story Time, Elementary Spirit Club** (see page 7), **Choral Club**, and **Yoga**.



Our community partners from **OSU Extension HOP Program** and **TSET** came and made **guacamole** with the students and helped them plant **avocado** seeds as part of Heart Healthy Month. The students enjoyed making their personal guacamole and sharing their versions with each other.



We learned about heart healthy snacks and the importance of making good nutritional choices.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

include trips to the Tulsa PAC, Muskogee Little Theater, Lola's Living, and Creative Soul.

We are also looking forward to having an author come and read her book to us and talk to us about her writing process and what it took to get her book published.

Plus many other creative activities.

The Leadership Club is planning a community event for the end of April and we would love for everyone to attend.

OSB will hold its first ever **Community Bingo Night!** More information will be coming soon but the ESSER Team and the Leadership Club look forward to hosting a fun night of bingo while showing off all of the things we have done this year, including an **art show** and **recital**.

Elementary Spirit/Cheer Club

By Beth Stanfield

The elementary spirit club (Cheer) meets after school on Mondays. There have been 3-7 girls in attendance each week so far.

The girls are practicing how to stretch to prevent injury and

become more limber.

They are learning the names of cheer positions and doing a great job with the movements!

The girls are working on cheers, a chant, and dance routine to share with their parents and OSB

during the school assembly in May.

Look for good things from these peppy OSB girls!

GO Panthers!

O&M Bingo is Back !!!



By Faye Miller

Are you ready for another **O&M BINGO Challenge**? Thanks to some very generous donations we are able to offer some nice prizes again this year. The guidelines for the challenge are below and you must let your O&M instructor know you would like to participate.

The O&M BINGO Challenge will run from **Monday, March 25th to Thursday, May 9th**, 2024.

The challenges include:

- ◆ Demonstrating different cane techniques.
- ◆ Demonstrating different protective techniques.
- ◆ Demonstrating travel skills to cross a variety of streets.

- ◆ Locating features in different environments.

O&M BINGO Challenge Guidelines

This Challenge is only open to students who currently receive O&M services.

To enter, let your O&M instructor know that you want to participate. You can then choose your BINGO card and work on completing 5 squares of O&M challenges in a row.

Each BINGO card consists of 25 O&M related challenges appropriate to your age group. You must complete the challenges during O&M lessons and your instructor will mark your card as each challenge is completed.

Each square must be its own activity. You cannot use 1 activity

for multiple squares. For example, if you are completing the challenge to walk a U-route, you cannot also use street crossings within that route to mark additional squares.

Each completed square works towards completing a BINGO, which is a line of 5 challenges horizontally or vertically or diagonally. Prizes are awarded for each BINGO you earn, up to 5 prizes for each BINGO card.

Prizes you earn for completing a BINGO can be collected from Mrs. Miller at any time during the Challenge.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!



Wrestling – Girls’ Regionals

By Coach Gamble

This year we had the honor of taking Katelynn Zampella to compete in the **5A East Girls’ Regionals**.

Katelynn embodied courage, strength and resilience to exemplify what it means to be an OSB Panther.

She is the first female from OSB to represent the panthers in wrestling regionals.

She is also a great leader on our team who is leaving an incredible legacy behind.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Katelynn! It’s always great to be a Panther.



L-R: Coach Gamble, Katelynn, Coach Coomer

SCASB - Jackson, Mississippi

By Jannai Stanfield

On January 25-27 some of us got to travel to Jackson, Mississippi for SCASB and everyone had a great time.

We left Thursday morning in style on a charter bus.



On the way we stopped at the **Civil Rights Museum** in Jackson, MS where the kids learned about each persons' rights and how they have evolved through time in America and around the world.

We also stopped for some **authentic southern bar-b-que** before arriving at our destination that evening. By the time we got there, we were ready to be at our "home away from home" for the next two days.

Friday was check-ins and practice before the **Fine Arts event** Friday afternoon. We experienced skits, music, and drama in a very nice auditorium with Oklahoma putting on a spectacular show as always!

The band gave a great performance. Katelynn Z. performed two songs, "Viva la Vida" and "Crazy", with the band that had us all amazed at their talent.



Katelynn



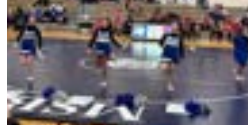
Wrestlers weighed in and cheerleaders/mascot had supper with cheerleaders and mascots from the other schools before an all school cheer clinic Friday evening.

Saturday started out well with the **wrestling** prelims.



Team cheer performances were mid-morning. Emileigh, Julia, Evy, and Piper represented OSB for the **team cheer competition**.

The girls did a great job on their routine, earning **third place** overall.



Macey, **mascot**, had the crowd cheering her on as she brought the panther to life with a cute routine that earned her **third place**.



L-R: Piper, Macey, Evy, Emileigh, and Julia

Toward the end of prelims, the lights went out. With electricity out and not scheduled to be back on soon, the coaches made the call to continue in the dark.

After a lunch break, the **individual cheer competition** started with our own Emileigh up first. Her performance brought the lights back on! Emileigh kept her composure and finished a well-executed routine despite the craziness of the situation.

Later that evening, we would sit in stunned silence as places were announced before we found out that first place was a tie.

OSB became rowdy then. Emileigh and Alabama's girl held the **first place tie** for their individual routines.



L-R: Coach Stanfield, Emileigh, Mrs. Cragg, and Host Rep.

After a break to get spiffed up, we enjoyed a banquet with Mississippi providing a chicken meal complete with mashed potatoes, salad, and dessert.

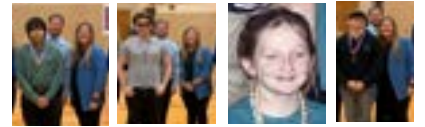
Afterwards, we went to the gym for awards. Fine Arts received trophies although places were not given.

The wrestlers placed well, receiving **second place**



as a team and various individual trophies:

- ◆ 1st Place: Ocie Webster
- ◆ 1st Place: Ryan Williams
- ◆ 2nd Place: Jaylee Burnside
- ◆ 2nd Place: Justin Millar
- ◆ 2nd Place: Hunter Pugh
- ◆ 2nd Place: Katelynn Zampella
- ◆ 3rd Place: Ian Holm
- ◆ 3rd Place: Diesel Peoples



Ocie Ryan Jaylee Justin



Hunter Katelynn Ian Diesel



CONGRATULATIONS!



Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Jackson, MS

<https://2mm.mdah.ms.gov/>

The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum's eight galleries chronicle the events of the national Civil Rights Movement that took place in Mississippi.

In the first and second galleries, a timeline illustrates the history of Africans in Mississippi, slavery, and the origins of the Jim Crow era. Monuments memorialize people who were victims of lynching in the state. The heart of the museum is the third gallery - a central space lit by a dramatic light sculpture that plays the museum's theme song, "This Little Light of Mine" - highlighting people who laid down their lives for the Movement. The next four galleries focus on the years 1945-1975. Visitors will see the mug shots of every Freedom Rider arrested in Mississippi and hear the stories of civil rights veterans such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Vernon Dahmer, and Medgar Evers. The eighth and final gallery - Where Do We Go From Here? - challenges visitors to consider their own communities as they reflect on their experience at the museum and observe how the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi has served as an example for movements all over the world.

<https://2mm.mdah.ms.gov/story/about-the-museum>

Karla C. (OSB nurse):

"I really enjoyed the Civil Rights Museum, it was very educational and knowledgeable, and the students seemed to enjoy the museum as well. A sight to remember. If you are ever in the Memphis, Tennessee area check it out!"

Homecoming

By Maggie Mattox

On February 6th, OSB held its annual Homecoming. The evening started out with our homecoming court and the kids looked amazing. The girls stunned in their fancy looking evening gowns, while the guys wore their wrestling outfits, so they could go right into action after the picture sessions. Our crown bearer, Khup, was looking really sharp in his dark grey suit and white shirt, while the flower girl, Nina, dazzled in her blue dress with a sparkly top. The kids really seemed to enjoy getting all spiffed up.

Homecoming court attendees

were:

- ◆ **Freshman Attendant:**
Evy Kizzia escorted by Ian Holm
- ◆ **Sophomore Attendant:**
Angel Cozort escorted by Hunter Pugh

By Coach Coomer

This year's homecoming was a first, both the high school **and** elementary got to wrestle. The elementary got to wrestle against the Takedown Club from Wagoner, while the High School took on Hulbert.

Donors Choose Grant

By Rita Echelle

Reading instructor Cassie Shelton and first year students Maria Komers and Alexandra Antolin

Longevity Award

Mrs. Marqueta Culver recently received her longevity award for **30 years of service** with the Oklahoma State Department.

Congratulations Marqueta!

- ◆ **Junior Attendant:**
Sara Cantu escorted by Treysen Radick
- ◆ **Senior Attendants:**
Emileigh Jackson escorted by Ryan Williams and Katelynn Zampella escorted by Ocie Webster
- ◆ **Crown bearer:** Khup Tuang
- ◆ **Flower Girl:** Nina Cutler

This year's **Homecoming Queen** was Katelynn Zampella.

Congratulations Katelynn !!!



2024 Homecoming Court

The wrestling was difficult and we did lose the dual but our guys poured their hearts out and left everything on the mat.

Great Job Everyone !

After the ceremony and following photo session/s our cheerleaders took the floor and showed off their routines (team and individual).



OSB Cheer Squad

The girls did really great and got the crowd fired up.

Then the wrestling matches began (see below), followed by a reception in our decorated Rec. Ctr.



A huge shout out to Mrs. Daniels for working the Concession stand. With the help of some of our high school students they provided not just candy and drinks but also nachos, which were pretty good.



L-R: Maria K., Alexandra A. and Mrs. Shelton

enjoy working with the new magnetic whiteboard obtained from a Donors Choose grant.

What a great tool for learning!

Thank you, Donors Choose!



From Left to Right:

- Theresa Flannery, Commission Member
- Dr. Janet Barresi, Commission Vice Chair
- Marqueta Culver, HR Mgt. Specialist II
- Wes Hilliard, Commission Chair

FCCLA - Regional STAR Events

By Allison Garner

Stephanie Glynn recently showcased her talents at the **FCCLA Regional STAR Events** in Owasso, held in late January.



She excelled in the competition, securing **first place**.

Now, she is set to compete at the state level.

Stephanie's entry was a delightful children's eBook celebrating the four seasons.

Her presentation falls under the **Children's Literature** category, where participants craft and share an original piece of children's literature designed for an audience of **three to five-year-old kids**.

Judges evaluate these presentations as if they were part of the young audience themselves.

Stephanie's dedication and hard work have been truly inspiring. She has devoted time both on and off campus to prepare for this event by sharing her story with various age groups.

Let's all send our best wishes to Stephanie as she gears up to participate in the upcoming **FCCLA State STAR Events** in Stillwater later in March.

Good luck, Stephanie!

Greenhouse - Update

By Ann Page

The greenhouse is doing well. The students have planted many new seeds.

We have also had some cuttings donated by different people. The students have prepared the cuttings for propagation. Hopefully, they will all grow into healthy new plants.

We are planning on having plenty of plants by spring to have a sale.

Here are a few images of some of the beautiful plants the students are growing:



Christmas Cactus
(succulent)



Firestorm Sedum
(succulent)



Periwinkle
(Evergreen groundcover)



Produce
Sample Bowl

Here are some random pictures showing Mrs. Page teaching Elementary students how to plant potatoes and what "Greenhouse class" looks like:



A glance into the OSB greenhouse.



Elementary students are ready for planting...



Students in front of their planter buckets.



How does a potato feel?



Watering is important

Classroom Randomness

Mr. Ferrell making **music** fun for Elementary students:



Future OSB drum line?

Mrs. Daniels-James' science classes are always filled with fun activities...



Compasses & Magnetism

Making compasses and exploring with magnetism in **Physical Science**.

Studying Thermal Energy in **Physical Science**.



Thermal Energy

Showing off our bird feeders in **Biology** class.

Students are studying food and shelter needs for familiar wildlife.



Homemade bird feeders

Science is fun!

Students learning helpful "every day" tasks during their **Independent Living Skills (ILS)** classes:



How to bake some cookies ...



How to use a can opener...



How to fill a glass without overflowing it...



How to fold a blanket ...



How to do laundry ...

2024 Redbud Read Aloud Challenge for Read Across America

By **Susana Jackman**

From March 4-7, students of Eckerson's, Leatherman's, Moore's, and Gamble's classes at OSB came together to celebrate **Read Across America**, focusing on the 2024 **Redbud Read Aloud Challenge**.

This Oklahoma-based contest aims to discover the best picture book published in the last year. For our elementary students, it was all about the joy of reading and the thrill of making choices.

Armed with a set of criteria, students donned judge ribbons and carefully explored characters, plots, settings, themes, and illustrations. The goal wasn't just to pick a favorite; they engaged in a meaningful evaluation process

that sharpened their comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Here's a brief overview of the rounds...

Round One (Monday):

Each class read four books and selected a winner.

Round Two (Tuesday):

Winning books from different classes faced off against each other.

Round Three (Thursday):



Book Bracket

After students voted, the "**Puppy Bus**" by Drew Brockington emerged as **OSB's grand champion**. Now, the school eagerly awaits the statewide results this Spring.

While the "Puppy Bus" represents OSB in the statewide contest, we want to acknowledge the outstanding titles featured in the Redbud Read Aloud Challenge. All of the books are available for checkout in the OSB Library.

Elementary students and teachers are delighted to share their favorites with those seeking recommendations. Feel free to ask and explore the captivating world of stories that engaged OSB Elementary students during Read Across America.

Recreation Activities

By Jill Gill

Everyone, including myself, seemed to enjoy their long Christmas break, so the second week of January we jumped right back into school.

Jan. 7-10: On Sunday we got to enjoy snow cones as we socialized and caught up with each other. The next night we headed for the new gym for some fun and exercise. Then on Tuesday we got to enjoy an exciting night watching our panthers wrestle at home followed by a celebration with punch, cake and cookies in the Rec.

And on Wednesday we had a big **Back to School Dance** where everyone showed off their cool dance moves.

Jan. 14-17: The next week we got a blast of arctic air and school was shut down all week due to extreme freezing temperatures. BRRRRRR.

Jan. 21-24: The following week we came back to ice cream treats. Then on Monday the kids had a blast playing rather chaotic **musical chairs**. On Tuesday we had open rec. Then on Wednesday we had a **comedy night**. We told jokes and even had a couple of skits performed to make us laugh.

Jan. 28-Feb. 1: This week we came back to enjoy hot coco. Then we had a **Bingo** Night with cash prizes! Ten \$5 cash prizes were awarded!



This gave many spending money to get tasty snacks at the snack bar, as we went **roller skating** on Wednesday in Muskogee.



The kids enjoyed skating, playing video games and eating.

Feb. 4-7: February we came back to school on Sunday to enjoy ice cream treats and socialize. Then on Monday night we all headed to the auditorium to enjoy a movie feature "**A Wrinkle in Time**". Popcorn was served and enjoyed along with movie.



Tuesday was **Homecoming** so that was a big event in the new gym. Afterwards a nice reception was held in the rec area complete with a special cake and yummy homemade sherbet punch.



On Wednesday we had an exciting **pool tournament**. Contestants shot their hearts out to win CASH prizes, and at the end we had 3 money winners: Jimmy Anderson scored 1st Place for \$15, Ace Williams (*an up and coming new comer to the game*) landed 2nd Place for \$10 and Leah Sailors took 3rd place for \$5.

Feb. 11-14: We started off the 2nd week of February with a big **super bowl party** with plenty of pizza and soda as we watched the Chiefs take on the 49ers for the ultimate championship.



The next night everyone, especially our social butterflies - enjoyed a night of open recreation.



On Tuesday, we had a **craft night** where we created valentine cards for vets. Our special cards were dropped off at the VA Hospital in Muskogee for our local vets.



Then on Wednesday we celebrated with a great **Valentine's Day Dance**. The rec was beautifully decorated in a hot pink and black décor. We danced the night away, as we enjoyed a generous buffet of hot & cold snacks complete with cookies and special chocolates.

Feb. 18-21: The next Sunday we came back and socialized with root **beer floats** in the rec.



Then on Monday we had a special kid's **trivia** where we went in a circle and had to guess what something or someone was as we received more and more hints. On Tuesday we had an open gym night followed by open rec. Kids had fun stacking the cups up as high as they could go.



Then on Wednesday, for the first time, we let some high schoolers try their feet at some local **line dancing**.



(continued on page ?)

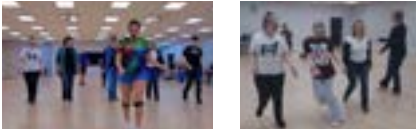
Recreation Activities (continued)

(continued from page ?)



Stephanie Tippie, owner/instructor of Muddy Boots

Muddy Boots is a local business that teaches line dancing, so we took a ride over to the facility at Hatbox, Muskogee and took some lessons. By the end of two hours some of those kids were really shaking a leg.



Feb. 25-28: The last Sunday of February we came back to enjoy some fudge & caramel sundaes with all the toppings.



The next night we counted off the **February birthdays**, sang happy birthday and enjoyed some donuts and punch.

Tuesday we had open rec.



Then on Wednesday we enjoyed belting out some tunes with a night of **Karaoke**.



Mar. 3-5: On Sunday we enjoyed some snow cones and open rec.

Then on Monday we started another



exciting **pool tournament** with awesome bank shots & horrific scratches. Blake Priddy, Diesel Peoples, Ian Holm and Leah Sailors all made it to the finals!

Tuesday was **Craft Night** again.



This time it was all about painting Shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day.



The kids really got creative and made some stunning art.



Finally we wrapped the week up with

several fun rounds of Bingo with M&M's & Cash Prizes.



On Monday night the suspense was high...



Who would be the winner/s of our pool tournament, as we entered the **finals**?

And the lucky winners were:

- ◆ 1st Place: Leah Sailors
- ◆ 2nd Place: Blake Priddy
- ◆ 3rd Place: Ian Holm

On Tuesday we had a special **Cookout**, paired with Parent-Teacher Day.



Parents were invited and students and staff enjoyed a great time together.

Wednesday we headed back to the Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center for the all-time favorite "**swimming**".



Until next time, take care and remember... there's always something fun going on in the rec.

**Have a wonderful
SPRING BREAK !!!**

Blood Drive Update

By Allison Garner



Our Blood drive on January 23rd was another great success.

Thank you to all who donated

blood or begged someone else to do so!

We reached our donation goal and helped **save 48 lives!!**

Mark your calendar for **April 16th**, the Bloodmobile will be back from **10am-2pm!**



GOING THE EXTRA MILE



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

Laci Goins - Ms. Goins works incredibly hard facilitating the tutoring program and is dedicated to all of our students. Because of her, the cookout was a huge success. Also, even though Ms. Goins is a busy, busy person, she always willingly offers her assistance to anyone in need. Thank you!

Tammy Saccomano

Machel Thornton - Machel is incredibly flexible and is always willing to provide items I may need for various activities whether they are for the junior senior classes or a lab activity.

Cheryl Daniels-James

Susana Jackman - For helping the forensic science students make their podcasts.

Cheryl Daniels-James

Susana Jackman - For making the recycling video with the 5th hour physical science class.

Cheryl Daniels-James

Mr. Mike - For donating a cool crystal to the science classes.

Cheryl Daniels-James

Mike Wiedel - Mike has such a positive attitude and is always kind and willing to help with what ever is asked of him. He is a pleasure to work with each day.

Linda Milton

Mike Wiedel - I absolutely second Linda and give Mike Wiedel a standing O! He is a wonderful asset to OSB!

Susan Young Mock

Laci Goins - For all the organization and hard work she puts in every day to give our students learning experiences and other good things.

Susan Young Mock

Mickie Johnson, Karla Cunningham and Kathy Barrett - For being great examples to the Student Council members at the State Capitol and People With Disabilities Awareness Day, and helping navigating around the various buildings.

Susan Young Mock

Laci Goins - Mrs. Goins did a phenomenal job at organizing the Parent/Teacher Conference Cookout. The families, students and staff really enjoyed the event. It was great to see all of the smiling faces!

Rob Culie

Laci Goins - Laci's great organizational skills and leadership in setting up the PT conference cookout. Awesome job and a great success!

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



Azalea Cleanup - March 13, 2024

By Faye Miller

Mrs. Daniels' and Mrs. Garner's 6th and 7th hour classes participated in the Muskogee Parks and Rec spring clean-up community event called the **Azalea Cleanup**.

Organizations and individuals around Muskogee work together to pick up trash in public parks and along trails.

Cleanups help maintain the beauty of our community that supports tourism, protects wildlife, and reminds us we can all make a change.

This cleanup focuses on taking litter and trash, that is not been discarded

properly, and putting it in proper garbage cans.

6th hour classes collected 7 bags of litter and 7th hour classes collected 4 bags and a large box of litter.

You can help keep our community beautiful. Remember to put your food wrappings, drink containers, and other things you want to dispose of in a garbage can or recycling bin. And, **don't throw trash out your car window.**



Birthdays

Students

GLYNN, STEPHANIE	3	1
PEDERSEN, LILITH	3	6
MCGUIRE, SHAE	3	7
WALLACE, AVREE	3	9
COZORT, ANGEL	3	18
MCDONALD, LILLIAN	3	26
WILLIAMS, ACE	3	31
SILVA, DAWSON	4	9
EAGLE, MYKEL	5	9
HILLSHAFFER, GARRETT	5	10
KOMERS, MARIA	5	12
HUNTER, RUDY	5	16
WILLHIGHT, IAN	5	17
RITCHIE, LIAM	5	19
VALDEZ, JULIO	5	28



Staff

KAULAY, KELLY	3	3
NAIL, ANDREW	3	10
WILSON, HELEN	3	16
CULVER, MARQUETA	3	20
THOMAS, KIM	3	28
FERRELL, CHRIS	4	4
RAMSEY, JOANN	4	7
RILEY, JAYLA	4	10
PARISOTTO, CHRIS	4	12
CRAGG, LYNN	4	13
GILLIAM, RACHAEL	4	14
GAMBLE, WHITNEY	4	16
MATTOX, MAGGIE	4	18
BASS, GENA	4	26
JOHNSON, SHAWNDRA	4	27
OGLE, JENNIFER	4	30
MOORE, ELISHA	5	1
STEWART, DONNA	5	3
SANDERS, KAREN	5	6
BROOKS, TONYA	5	9
BRICE, NANCY	5	12
JACKSON, LINDA	5	15
JOHNSON, MICKIE	5	15
WEBB, TERA	5	15
WOODS, GINA	5	17
BYNUM, MIKE	5	18
NAIL, KEELIE	5	20
GAMBLE, SHELBY	5	24
FORD, KIM	5	29
CHARLES, SAMANTHA	5	30

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:

Reassignment:

Mike Bynum, effective 2/1/24 (Housekeeping/Custodial)

New hires:

Linda Milton, effective 1/22/24 (Nursing Service Supervisor)

Samantha Larkin, effective 3/4/24 (DCS 2nd shift)

Lynzi Smith, effective 3/11/24 (DCS 3rd shift)

Resignations:

Chris Carden, effective 2/29/24

Shelby Gamble, effective 7/31/24

Retirements:

Becky LaRue, effective 2/29/24

JoAnn Ramsey, effective 5/29/24

Teresa Young, effective 5/29/24

Lynn Cragg, effective 7/31/24

Kathy Barrett, effective 7/31/24

Susan Young Mock, effective 7/31/24



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS !!! - Save the Date/s !!!

March

- 27 Special Olympics @ Poteau Public Schools (8am-2:30pm)
PROM (time tbd)
- 28 FCCLA State STAR Events (all day)
Elementary Easter Egg Hunt at Civitan Park (12:30-2:00pm)

April

- 1 Easter Monday / NO SCHOOL / ROUTES RUN**
- 8 MS/HS Solar Eclipse Watch Party
- 9-11 ACT Testing
- 11-13 SCASB Track
- 16 Blood Drive @ OSB (10am-2pm)
- 23 State Jazz Contest

May

- 1 Jr./Sr. Trip (all day)
- 2 Elementary at Civitan Park (8-11am)
- 6 MS trip to Tulsa Zoo and Incredible Pizza (all day)
- 7 Spring Concert / Awards Banquet (time tbd)
- 8 Elementary Trip to Incredible Pizza (all day)
- 13 Professional Development Day / NO SCHOOL / ROUTES RUN**
- 16 Awards Ceremonies (times tbd)
Graduation & Reception