

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

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

2. Qtr. (Elem.) / 1. Sem. (MS/HS) Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

2. Qtr. Elementary

Madilyn Gray
LaShae McGuire

1. Sem. Middle School

Piper Conner
Braylen Fuller
Kelton Jordan
Evy Kizzia
Justin Millar
Stephanie Story

1. Sem. High School

Emileigh Jackson
Abigail Norton
Aislinn Popejoy
Julio Valdez
Trinity Vreeland
Tessa Williams
William Winston

"B" Honor Roll

2. Qtr. Elementary

Elijah Cervantes-Phipps
Eric Enzenauer
Austin Heffley
Gabby Henderson
Kairi Husmann
Audrey Montgomery
Kennedy Sullivan

1. Sem. Middle School

Jaylee Burnside
Noah Dougan
Ian Holm
Ryan Horton
Nikki James
Macey Millar
Diesel Peoples
Hunter Pugh
Treysen Radick
Quanté Sellers
Lane Sutterfield
Kesslee Travis

1. Sem. High School

Dayton Baccus
Jaden Brown
Tyanna Culley
Adan Duran
Kolten Pennington
Jerry Rodriguez
Anicka Weller



Oklahoma School for the Blind

2022 - 2023, Issue 3

March 10, 2023

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Next Edition: May 18, 2023

Special points of interest:

- Summer Camps
- O&M Bingo Challenge
- Greenhouse Update
- After School Programs

Inside this issue:

Caught Being Good	2
NO Soda Challenge	2-3
Math & Engineering Comp.	3
3-D Printing class	4
Robotics class	4
Beading Club	5
Braille Club	5
HOP Program	5
Mileage Club	6
O&M Bingo Challenge	6
Habitudes	7
OSB Greenhouse Update	7
Kiwanis/Lions Club Chili Day	8
OSB Spelling Bee	8
Speed Radar Data Collection	9
SCASB Update	9
Braille Challenge Update	10-11
Blood Drive	11
OSB Homecoming	12
Science Lab News	12
Art Projects	13
FCCLA Region STAR Events	13
Rec. Activities	14
Weekend w. the Experts	15
#WhatsNxt Career Expo	16
Going the Extra Mile	17
Birthdays	18
Staff Changes	19
Upcoming Events	19
Summer Camp Opportunities	20-22



Students of the 2. Qtr.

Elementary: Haidyn James

Middle School: Stephanie Story

High School: Abigail Norton

Students of the 3. Qtr.

Elementary: Madilyn Gray

Middle School: Macey Millar

High School: Julio Valdez

Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



"Caught Being Good"

- ◆ **Leah Sailors** - Was comforting another student when he/she was upset in an assembly. She is very sweet and always looks out for this student, making sure he/she is eating and she goes out of her way to sit with him/her when he/she is alone. She is a TRUE leader.
- ◆ **Diesel Peoples** - Helped another student get to class.
- ◆ **Kolten Pennington**- Helped another student read.
- ◆ **Lane Sutterfield** - Encouraged another student to behave in a positive manner and avoid getting into trouble.
- ◆ **Rudy Hunter** - Befriended a young student. He is always watching out for him and making sure that he is doing ok.
- ◆ **Elijah Phipps** - Elijah is willing to help at all times.
- ◆ **Austin Heffley** - Holds doors open for fellow students.
- ◆ **Noah Dougan** - Helped explain an accounting concept to another student.
- ◆ **Kaylie Minter, Elbin Carrillo, Katelynn Zampella, Ryan Williams, Chris Sumner, Piper Conner, and Macey Millar** - They do an excellent job with the morning announcements and take great pride in their work.
- ◆ **Hunter Pugh, Justin Millar, Stephanie Story, and Macey Millar** - They did excellent work at the Kiwanis / Lions Clubs Chili Day! They worked constantly the four hours they were there, keeping tables cleaned, putting out clean placemats, and serving diners. Great attitude!!
- ◆ **Lillian McDonald** - Lily was nominated by teachers as student of the quarter for her improvement this quarter. Although she did not win student of the quarter, her improved efforts and attitude should be recognized! Keep up the good work.
- ◆ **Adan Duran** - Adan was nominated by two different teachers for student of the quarter this quarter. Adan has been so helpful to guide and interpret for a new student. He has also kept up with his work and improved his attitude.
- ◆ **Aislinn Popejoy** - Watered my plants while I was out.
- ◆ **Rayce Phillips** - Helped another student get to the bus.

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

Muskogee Wellness Initiative - 2023 NO Soda Challenge



Some of our OSB staff and students participated in the below listed Wellness Initiative as part of our Wellness Fit School program.

The **2023 No Soda Challenge** had 77 participants sign up initially, with 36 actually completing the

challenge and being eligible for the prizes... what a great participation! The challenge required all participants to **not have any soda for 23 days**, starting February 1st and ending on February 23rd.

The winners were announced on-air during the Okie Country 101.7 - Wellness Wednesday

morning segment on March 1, 2023 at 8:30 am.

Here are the PRIZE PACKS that were up for grabs:

- ◆ **GRAND PLATINUM Prize:** Opportunity to go ON AIR on Wellness Wednesday with Okie Country 101.7, A 4 Pack

(Continued on page 3)

Muskogee Wellness Initiative - 2023 NO Soda Challenge (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

of Tulsa Oilers Tickets, \$25 Gift Card to Okie Nutrition, George Foreman Grill, Gift Basket sponsored by Armstrong Bank, 4 MWI Water Bottles, and a Case of Water.

◆ **GOLD Prize:** All Inclusive (Gym, Pool, Group Classes) 1 Month Membership to Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center, 4 Pack of Tulsa Oilers Tickets, George Foreman Grill, 4 MWI Water Bottles, and a Case of Water.

◆ **SILVER Prize:** 4 Single Day Passes to River Country Water Park in Muskogee, 2 Pack Tulsa Oilers Tickets, \$25 Gift Card to Okie Nutrition, 4 MWI Water Bottles, and a Case of Water.

◆ **BRONZE Prize:** 4 Single Day Passes to River Country Water Park in Muskogee, 4 MWI Water Bottles and a Case of Water.

We are happy to announce that one of our own, **Mrs. Maggie Mattox**, was amongst the

winners. She took home the **SILVER PRIZE.**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Muskogee Wellness Initiative had a great time hosting this community challenge through their partnerships with the TSET Healthy Living Program, Cherokee Nation Health Services, Muskogee County Health Department and Okie Country 101.7.

Math & Engineering Competition

By Ann Page

The middle school kept busy the weeks after Christmas break getting ready for the **Math & Engineering Competition.**

Some students were building ping pong launchers while others kept busy creating mousetrap powered cars. These were big projects and we worked hard in class to complete them. Some students even chose to do work on their projects at home.

The competition was held on February 9th, 2023 at the Muskogee Civic Center.

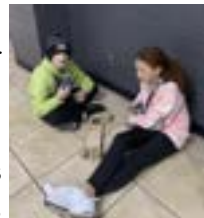
The day of the competition was a lot of fun.



From Left: Evy, Ian, Ryan, Braylen

The middle school represented themselves and their school well.

When they were not racing cars or launching ping pongs at targets, the students visited various vendors.



Ian & Evy with their car

Vendors came from Oklahoma colleges and a few manufacturing facilities.

The students were encouraged to speak to each vendor about their business or school.



Macey & Mrs. Page

After the competition was over we all enjoyed some pizza from Pizza Inn.

The Three Rivers Museum generously offered their conference room for the students to enjoy their lunch. After finishing their lunch, students were allowed to visit the museum while we

waited for everyone else to finish.

We decided to take advantage of the beautiful weather and walked around the Muskogee Depot Green, which is across from the Museum. The students came up with all kinds of creative ways to walk and run around the park.

After tiring themselves out with all that exercise we headed back to the school.

Overall, it was a very successful day for the middle school.



3-D Printing Afterschool Program

By Robert Miller

There are about a dozen students who have been attending the **3-D printing program** this quarter.

They went through a series of lessons in TinkerCad to learn how to create and manipulate 3-D objects to get ready to print them.

You can move the “table” in TinkerCad to see your object from every angle. There are many basic shapes you can work with, like cubes, pyramids, and cylinders as well as the ability to make your own shapes either by grouping these shapes or by designing shapes of your own.

The first project these students completed was a **personalized**

nametag.



Piper designing her nametag

They designed their own nametags then started the printing on the 3-D printers.

The filament that is used to print comes in many colors and the students chose their favorite



Julio showing off his printed nametag

color combinations to create their nametags.



William showing off his printed nametag



Ryan getting ready to take his printed nametag off the 3-D printer



Close Up of Ryan's nametag

Thingiverse, a universe of things, is a collection of millions of 3-D designs. The students learned how to download pre-created designs and then manipulate them to make their designs their own creation.

They are currently working on some of these projects to print in the upcoming weeks.

The final project they will work on is a **Gear-Bug Car**. It has geared wheels and the motor runs on battery power. The students will personalize their cars with different designs on the front and back of their cars.



Robotics Classes

By Robert Miller

This year there is a high school class and middle school class of robotics.

Both classes have worked with a variety of robots. Some of the robots came pre-made and just needed to be programmed, like the DASH robot, Sphero Spark robot, and APH Rover robot.

Working with these robots helped us learn how to **write code** and, more importantly, how to **troubleshoot our code** when the robot didn't do what we expected.

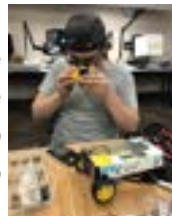


Julio & Ocie troubleshooting their Raspberry Pi Pico Robots

As we learned more about these robots, we also learned how

to build our own robot.

We built our own robots that are programmed with the Raspberry Pi Pico which is a micro controller.



Ryan is working on his robot

We install electronic components, such as motors, LEDs, and buzzers, on a breadboard and then write code in the Python language to make those components do things; such as drive a robot car, flash LEDs, buzz buzzers. The programs are a set of directions to get the robot to travel through a course or maze, over



Treyzen, Quante and Ian watching their robot go through a course.

bridges and around obstacles.

These robot kits were purchased from a **grant** received by **Oklahoma Foundation for the Education of Blind Children and Youth**.

The next project will be using Raspberry Pi 3 kits that were purchased from a **donation** from **Transcribing Mariners**.

The students will design their robot and print the parts on the 3-D printers before writing programs to have those complete tasks.



Beading Club

By Christy Hargrove

We have been doing some fun after school activities.

Every Tuesday, I rotate between having Beading Club or Braille Club.

During Beading Club, the kids created some pretty incredible things and have enjoyed the social aspect of just



Tessa is showing off her Hippie Wooden Light Catcher

getting to have down time and doing something fun!

I am continually amazed at all they think they cannot do, but continue to do.

We have made pumpkins in the fall, a Hippie Wooden Light Catcher to



Delilah showing her Hippie Wooden Light Catcher

hang in the window or on their wall, necklaces, and keychains.

The students LOVE beading!!



Angel working on her beading project

Braille Club

By Christy Hargrove

During Braille Club Elementary and Middle School students get together to enjoy reading and



From Left: Gabby H., Mrs. Eckerson, Lane S. and Kesslee T.

practicing their braille skills.

The kids love to play games and are very competitive.

Mostly, they enjoy socializing and getting to see who the winner of our games will be!!



It has been a great experience for those who do not always have something to do after school.

It also has been a real joy to get to work with some of the younger kids and to help them see that Braille can be fun!

HOP Program

By Rebecca Mills

HOP stands for High Obesity Program for Muskogee County OSU Extension Office.

On 2/22/2023 the elementary students were taught how to make a healthy snack out of waffles, fruit, and other healthy toppings.



What all can we do with waffles, blueberries, strawberries and yogurt?



This waffle needs some healthy toppings !!!

What a fun and yummy event. Thank you OSU!



Ready, Set, Go... Let's eat!

The HOP program came back on March 8th to present to the high school students. An update was not available yet at the time of our newsletter deadline.



After all that decorating it was time to enjoy the yummy treats.

Mileage Club

By Rebecca Mills

The mileage club is an afterschool program led by Ms. Leatherman and Mrs. Eckerson that allows students the opportunity to participate in physical activity.

The students log how many miles they walk each week and then

earn tokens for those miles earned.



Students picking out their prizes

The pictures show our students receiving their tokens for the previous week and stretching it out to

get ready to walk for this week.



O&M BINGO Challenge - March 20 through May 4

By Faye Miller

This is the second year we are able to offer an **O&M BINGO Challenge** thanks to a generous donation from Uncle Frank.

This year he has told me to purchase some extra prizes for those of you who enter the challenge. Some of you have already given me suggestions for prizes, so I'll start buying them as instructed. "Smile"



The guidelines for the challenge are below and you can let Ms. Woods or Mrs. Miller know

that you want to participate.

You can then choose your BINGO card and work on completing 5 squares in a row.

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 ES Bingo Challenge

1. Demonstrate a cane technique	2. Demonstrate a protective technique	3. Demonstrate a travel skill	4. Locate a feature in an environment	5. Demonstrate a cane technique
6. Demonstrate a protective technique	7. Demonstrate a travel skill	8. Locate a feature in an environment	9. Demonstrate a cane technique	10. Demonstrate a protective technique
11. Demonstrate a travel skill	12. Locate a feature in an environment	13. Demonstrate a cane technique	14. Demonstrate a protective technique	15. Demonstrate a travel skill
16. Locate a feature in an environment	17. Demonstrate a cane technique	18. Demonstrate a protective technique	19. Demonstrate a travel skill	20. Locate a feature in an environment
21. Demonstrate a cane technique	22. Demonstrate a protective technique	23. Demonstrate a travel skill	24. Locate a feature in an environment	25. Demonstrate a cane technique

O&M BINGO CHALLENGE				
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

If you complete all 25 challenges on your BINGO card, instead of taking 5 smaller prizes, you can choose 1 larger prize.

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

These prizes were purchased with a **donation** generously provided by **Uncle Frank**.

The O&M BINGO Challenge will run from Monday, **March 20th** to Thursday, **May 4th, 2023**.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

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, and you will get a BINGO card to choose from.

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.

Habitudes - "Emotional Fuel"

By Whitney Gamble

On Thursday, Feb. 9th, OSB had its first monthly Habitudes all school assembly.

What is a **Habitude**, you ask? It's an **ATTITUDE** that we would like to see become a **HABIT**.



The theme for the month of February was "**Emotional Fuel**", and Coach Gamble taught us



that healthy relationships are the emotional fuel we need to sustain our lives as leaders.



We must be intentional about our pursuit of friends, which include heroes, mentors, models, peers, inner circle and mentees, in order to establish good emotional support.

Remember ... *You become like the people you surround yourself with!*

After the very energetic and



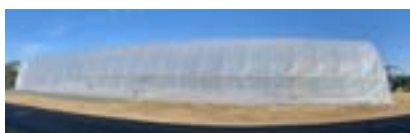
awesome performance of our coach Gamble, we recognized our SCASB participants, volunteers and winners and showed our appreciation for their efforts and great representation of OSB.

Each monthly Habitudes assembly will have its own topic and speaker and will be followed by recognizing special people from our school.

OSB Greenhouse Update

By Ann Page

Some of you have been wondering about the greenhouse on campus.



With much time and effort from the school's maintenance department, our greenhouse is up and running.

There is still a lot of work to do, but we have been able to set up some **hydroponic systems** and areas for potted plants.



Thanks to Mrs. Webb's class for planting some seeds before Christmas and allowing us to

continue growing them in our **vertical hydroponic garden**.

On January 24th, we were able to supply the cafeteria with fresh greens.



Lettuce, arugula, kale and basil were on the menu.

Elementary classes have had an opportunity to help out in the greenhouse.



They had a great time getting their hands dirty while planting a variety of seeds including some potatoes.

Students were also able to taste the different leafy greens that we have grown.

As the year continues, all students will have opportunities to help out in the greenhouse. There will be plenty to do.

We are hoping this will be a very enjoyable time for all the staff and students. There is a lot to learn to make this a success.

Students and staff will work together to produce fresh food for the cafeteria and hopefully have a few plants to take home.



EVERYONE !

KIWANIS / LIONS CLUBS CHILI DAY

By Susan Young Mock



For over 45 years, the Kiwanis Club of Muskogee has hosted the Chili Day as the major fundraiser in their efforts to help the children in the Muskogee area. Due to declining membership in both clubs, the Kiwanis Club and Muskogee County Lions Club teamed up and now share the workload and profit.

Both clubs benefit the children in Muskogee and, specifically, the students at the Oklahoma School for the Blind.

Each year, Kiwanian, OSB DECA and Student Council Advisor, Susan Young Mock, takes students to the event to meet the Muskogee leaders and to work – HARD.

The students keep the tables cleared and cleaned, serve

the patrons by re-filling chili bowls and drinks, and share experiences with their elders.

This year, four middle school students represented their peers on February 22, 2023.



From Left: Stephanie, Hunter, Justin and Macey

Eighth graders Justin Millar of Muldrow and Hunter Pugh of Claremore and seventh graders Macey Millar of Muldrow and Stephanie Story of Tulsa showed their appreciation for the support of their school by working diligently the entire four-hour shift.

Macey exclaimed, “The chili was delicious! I couldn’t have made it better myself!”

Macey and Stephanie paired up to keep their side of the huge room clean and ready for the next group of hungry folks.

“Working at the Chili Day helped me to get out of my comfort zone.” noted Stephanie. “Serving and talking to people I have never met was a great experience for me. I hope I get to go back and do it again.”

Both Hunter and Justin worked the entire room and kept the tables clean and fresh placemats all around. Justin had fun and liked working with his friends. Hunter, too, enjoyed himself and said, “The people were very nice and the chili was amazing! I really would like to go again if I could!”



From Left: Stephanie, Hunter, Justin and Macey

OSB Spelling Bee

By Cassie Shelton



The **2023 Spelling Bee** was held on January 24.

This year’s Bee consisted of 20 students from 1st - 8th grades.

They are all to be congratulated. I am proud of each student who accepted the challenge and gave it their best.

Several of our students mentioned how hard some of the words were; words like waddle, surplus, evaporation, improvise, and flabbergasted.

When it came down to the final round, the word presented was ‘chimpanzee’. It was down to two contestants, Leah Sailors and Hunter Pugh.

Leah ended up taking home the **1st place** win. **Hunter** received **2nd place** and **Treysen Radick** placed **3rd**.



From Left: Treysen, Hunter, and Leah

There were 23 rounds total, one of the longest Spelling Bees I’ve witnessed in a while.

We are so very proud of our top 3 winners. Each will receive a

medal of placement at the awards ceremony in May.



Leah and Hunter will proceed to the **Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee** in Muskogee on **Friday, April 21st at the Muskogee Civic Center** where they will have an opportunity to earn placement along with a trophy and a cash prize.

Let’s cheer on our contestants and wish them the best of luck!

Speed Radar Data Collection

by Faye Miller



Speed Radar Gun

Elbin Carrillo, Julio Valdez, Erikson Lopez, Rayce Philips, Chris Sumner, Adan Duran, and Jerry Rodriguez worked with the **Action in Muskogee / Connect Muskogee** team in February to collect speed data in front of OSB on Gibson St.

This data is being collected all over Muskogee County at different school locations as part of a **Safe Routes to School** program. We hope this data will better inform our local government and help make school zones safer places for students.

During the school day, there are flashing School Zone lights at each end of Gibson St. by our school that **limit the speed** of vehicles **to 25 mph**.

The day we recorded data was cold and rainy and the street in front of the school was flooded in a few areas, forcing the vehicles



them.

Gibson St. runs east to west. We split up into 2 areas, one group was at the east end of campus and one at the west end. A speed radar (*radar stands for: radio detection and ranging*) gun is hand-held and uses radio waves that bounce off moving objects and back to the radar gun to measure the speed of moving objects.

Ask your science teacher to teach you more about the Doppler Effect to learn more about how these radio waves bouncing around can measure the speed of vehicles.

The team at the west end of the school by the pedestrian



to decrease their speed as they drove slowly through the puddles or drove around

crossing recorded average speeds of 20.6 mph for westbound vehicles (these vehicles are probably slower because they are coming out of large puddles) and 26.6 mph for east bound vehicles.



The team at the east end of the

school by the van parking lot recorded average speeds of 28.2 mph for westbound vehicles (these vehicles hadn't reached any puddles, yet) and 26.2 mph for eastbound vehicles (coming out of large puddles).

The **3 highest speeds** that were recorded were **56 mph**, **47 mph**, and **46 mph**.

We would expect that on a dry, sunny day, vehicle speeds would be higher. So, we will schedule another day before school lets out this year to collect additional data.

SCASB Update

By Rita Echelle

I wanted to take this time to congratulate all of the students that participated at SCASB. **You all did an outstanding job!** I was very impressed with the effort you put in your events. You made us all very proud!

This was the first year since I have been superintendent that OSB has won 2nd place in wrestling!

A special congratulations to **William Winston** who was named **Outstanding Upper Weight Class Wrestler** and **First Place Champion** in his weight class

and to **Katelynn Zampella** for being named **First Place Champion** in her weight class.

All of you were determined to do your best, and it showed! You fought hard and pushed yourselves to succeed.

You **all** were winners in my book!

Also, a huge thank you to the coaches, administrators, and sponsors that accompanied the students to SCASB. You worked tirelessly to ensure the students had a successful trip. Coach Shelby Gamble, Coach Chris Coomer, Coach Beth Stanfield,

Band Director Chris Ferrell, Principal Lynn Cragg, Principal Shawna Coplen, Nurse Teresa Young, and Super Supporters: Becky LaRue, Melissa Smith, and Howard Ashwood, your dedication to the students was inspiring.

Tera Webb, thank you for your part in organizing the trip for our students. It took all of you to make it the success it was!

It is a great day to be a Panther!

Mrs. Echelle

2023 Braille Challenge

by Faye Miller



Thirty-one contestants competed in the **21st Annual Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge** held on the OSB campus this year. These contestants have been practicing spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading, reading comprehension, and charts and graphs to prepare for contests. This is a preliminary contest and the top 10 contestants in each category from 58 regionals across the US, Canada and Great Britain will be invited to Braille Challenge Finals in Los Angeles June 23-25, 2023.

It was wonderful to have everyone together in a 1-day event again. Of course, we had some **long-time volunteers** with us. **Jeanne Meyer** and **Sherry Holder** have been volunteering at the Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge for **21 years!**

Many thanks to all our long-time volunteers and our first-time volunteers for sharing their time, expertise, and love of braille!



Julio Valdez and Elbin Carrillo have traded Braille Challenge and Cane Quest silver and gold medals for many years. This year, in the Varsity division, Elbin came

out with the gold medal out-scoring Julio by just a few points! They are both **graduating seniors** this year, so it is the last exchange of medals for them in Braille Challenge.

Congratulations to them both for many years of dedication to braille and to their friendly competition.

All of the contestants worked hard practicing their braille and doing their best on the contests.

Apprentice-level contestants had to know both how to spell out the word “cannot” and the contraction “dots 4-5-6 c”. The **Freshman** contestants wrote out “character” and “dot 5 c-h sign” on their spelling test. While Apprentice and Freshman were busy with their spelling tests, **Sophomore, Junior Varsity and Varsity** contestants were transcribing from a recording in the Speed and Accuracy contest. Sophomores were “Planning a Visit to the Water Park”, Junior Varsity wrote about Mark Twain’s life, and Varsity contestants learned about the small French cakes called madeleines.

Coaches Gamble and Coomer planned several activities in the gym for all the contestants after they completed their tests. Thank you coaches for being in charge of these activities!

While the contestants were busy with activities in the gym, the score room was very busy trying

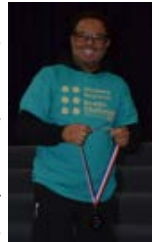


Score room

to get the contests scored and entered to get ready for awards.

It was a great treat to have OSB graduates and former OSB teachers come back and help in the score room.

As a special treat, **Muskogee Mayor Coleman** came for the awards ceremony to present the medals to our winners. His support of our students is greatly appreciated and it is an honor to have him award their medals.



Mayor Coleman

Congratulations to all our contestants!

Final Results

Transition 2 Apprentice

Gold - Kesslee Travis, Muskogee

Silver - Justus Hoover, Alva

Bronze - Miracle Jones, Tulsa

Transition 1 Apprentice

Gold - Macey Millar, Muldrow

Silver - Bryan Alender, Bethany

Bronze - Leah Sailors, Sand Springs

Freshman

Gold - Kennedy Sullivan, Morris

Silver - Jayda Magers, Ponca City

Bronze - Gabriella Henderson, Muskogee

Transition 3 Freshman

Gold - Jaylee Burnside, Muskogee

Silver - Piper Conner, Perkins

Bronze - Chris Sumner, Chickasha

(Continued on page 11)

2023 Braille Challenge (continued)

(Continued from page 10)

Sophomore

Gold - Lilith Pedersen, Anadarko

Silver - Quanté Sellers, Oklahoma City

Bronze - Kye Shrum, Perry

Junior Varsity

Gold - Hunter Pugh, Talala

Silver - Stephanie Story, Tulsa

Varsity

Gold - Elbin Carrillo, Oklahoma City

Silver - Julio Valdez, Oklahoma City

Overall High Scores



Mayor Coleman and Macey M.

Apprentice / Freshman

- Macey Millar, Muldrow

Sophomore / JV / Varsity

- Hunter Pugh, Talala

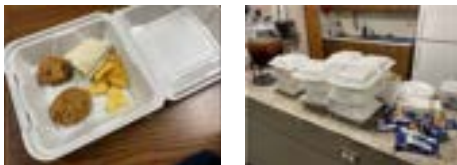


Mayor Coleman, Hunter Pugh and Faye Miller

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A special thank you goes to the Family and Consumer Sciences classes that assisted with lunches for the volunteers. Julio Valdez, Samantha Six, Kaylie Minter, Jaylee Burnside, Evy Kizzia, Noah

Davidson and, of course, their teacher, Allison Garner. We had delicious chicken Caesar wraps, chips and cookies that really hit the spot!



Thank you, also to OSB Library Media Specialist, **Susana Jackman**, and **Julio Valdez**, for **testing all 44 braille writers** that were used in this event. Having a working braille writer to use for the contest really helped everyone show off their best work. Thank you!

Thank you to the volunteers, without their help we couldn't have an event:

Ruby Barker - Mindy Bess
 Kimberly Berry - Rachel Buchanan - Vince Cianfrone
 Chris Coomer - Jeri Cooper
 Debra Darrough - Lacey Downs
 David Finch - Kimberly Ford
 Shelby Gamble - Andrea Hamen
 Barbara Hamen - Christy Hargrove - Jody Harlan - Sherry Holder - Kelli Killman - Becky

LaRue - Maggie Mattox - Toni McGrew - Jeanne Meyer
 Orpha Paciorek - Paula Rogers
 Christina Stevens - Jon Stoodley
 Martha Stoodley - Natalie Thomas - Katie Williams - Gina Woods

Thank you to our Generous Sponsors for their many years of support:

- ◆ Oklahoma School for the Blind
- ◆ Braille Institute of America
- ◆ Donations in Memory of Bud Holder
- ◆ Frank Dirksen
- ◆ Jeri's House, Inc.
- ◆ Lawton Council of the Blind
- ◆ Liberty Braille
- ◆ NanoPac
- ◆ NewView Oklahoma
- ◆ Oklahoma Chapter of AERB-VI
- ◆ Oklahoma Council of the Blind
- ◆ Ruth Kelly Studios
- ◆ Sapulpa Lions Club
- ◆ Transcribing Mariners
- ◆ Tulsa Downtown Lions Club



Blood Drive Update



By Allison Garner

We have had a total of **30 donors** to date, qualifying us for a **\$250 scholarship**

to a graduating senior attending college.

Recently the numbers of donors were down, so **please consider to donate if you can.**

Our next blood drive with the OBI Bloodmobile is scheduled for

**April 18th, 2023
 10:30-3:30.**

Below is a QR Code that can be used to schedule an appointment!



Spring Design



2023 OSB Homecoming

By Newspaper Staff

On January 10, 2023 the OSB Panthers celebrated Homecoming with a wrestling duel against Hulbert High School.

The night started off by crowning the 2022-23 Homecoming Queen.

This year all the members of the Senior Class were able to participate in the ceremony which made for a momentous night.

The Homecoming Court incl.:

- ◆ Tyanna Culley escorted by Jimmy Anderson.
- ◆ Kaylie Minter escorted by Elbin Carrillo.
- ◆ Abigail Norton escorted by Juilo Valdez.
- ◆ Aslinn Popejoy escorted by Rayce Phillips.
- ◆ Flower Girl LaShae McGuire escorted by Crown Bearer Austin Heffley.



All of the candidates looked amazing and sported their own styles. They made this Homecoming their own with a wide range of colors, accessories, and trends.



Kaylie Minter was crowned the **2022-23 Homecoming Queen** and was crowned by Cheer Captain Emileigh Jackson.

Homecoming ceremonies were followed by some of the most exciting wrestling matches in a long time. All of the wrestlers fought with all of their might and made the Panthers proud.



Our Wrestling Team



Our Cheer Squad

After the duel, the students were excited to have a reception in the REC which included cake and punch.

We would like to thank Mrs. Webb, and everyone else who made it great, for all of their hard work putting together the beautiful ceremony every year. It is always a memorable event.

Inclusion In The Science Lab

By Rita Echelle

Congratulation to Cheryl Daniels!

Her **Donors Choose** project **"Inclusion In The Science Lab"** was **fully funded** in the amount of **\$522**.



OSB students will benefit from the **digital microscope** she will be able to purchase.

Thank you for putting in for this grant, Mrs. Daniels!

Best regards,
Rita J. Echelle



Classical vs. Digital Microscope

A **classical optical microscope** uses lenses viewed via an eyepiece to magnify the investigated objects.

A **digital microscope** uses a digital camera and optics to show captured images of small objects to a computer monitor.

There are different variations of digital scopes. Some of them are more or less handheld and others are very advanced microscopes with several measurement functions and observation methods. Using modern technology, digital microscopes combined with the right software can take and adjust pictures, record and edit videos, analyze 3D samples, make precise measurements, and create adequate reports.

After school art enhancement projects

By Rebecca Mills



canvas painting lessons / events.

Students had a fun evening



On Monday, February 20th a group of high school and middle school students were invited to **The Creative Soul** in Muskogee, a place that offers



of painting banners and other creative activities.



On Monday, February 27th another group of students went to **Lola's Living**, right next door to Creative Soul, to enjoy an evening of working on **wood projects**.

it any way they wanted.



The students chose a design, most of them painted a wood house (bird houses?), and got their material based on the design they picked. Then they got to paint

The students had a great time.



These after school art enhancement projects were made possible through funds awarded by the **ESSER grant** from the Oklahoma State Department of Education.



FCCLA Update

By Allison Garner

On February 8-9, 2023 Angel Cozort and Stephanie Story travelled to Commerce, OK to represent OSB in the **2022/23 FCCLA Region STAR Events**.

qualified to participate at the next level in the Children's Literature category.

Congratulations to a JOB WELL DONE !!!

Angel and Stephanie presented e-books they wrote and illustrated for competitive events.



The girls did a great job and



Stephanie (Left) and Angel

Rec. Activities

By Nancy Brice

Time is flying by! We are already in March, I just can't believe it is going so fast. We were a week away from Christmas break on the last report. I will begin there.



Christmas Karaoke is a big event for the kids every year. Although they all don't sing Christmas songs, they do love to sing.

We had a special treat for the December

Craft Night. Debra



Darrough, one of our

outreach

coordinators, had

her mother, Sue

Hardage make

around **60**

ginger-

bread

houses

and she brought all the stuff to

decorate them. The funny thing is

some of the houses were eaten

before the candy could be put on

the house. Thank you to Ms. Sue

and her family for working so hard

and coming a couple of hours

away to give the students

a chance to experience this

wonderful gift. Also thank you

Sherry Holder for staying that

night to help some of the students

decorate their houses.

Coming back

from the break,

we started our

week out with **Bingo** which always

is a great time to win some candy

treats.

Continuing in January

we had our **Home-**

coming

Coronation



Continuing in January we had our **Home-coming Coronation**



and Wrestling Match.

After the event there was cake and punch in the Rec. Center.

In January we had our 4th Annual **OSB**



Family Feud. This year the boys came back with a victory tying up the score now to 2-2. **Way to go Boys.**

The last week in January we were all frozen in so we did virtual that week.

Starting off in February we began with a **Pool Tournament.**



It was a 3 day event ending with the **first place winner, Ryan Williams** and **Piper Conner taking second place.**

Piper (left) and Ryan (right)

Pool is becoming very popular here in the Rec. in the evenings and all the kids are getting pretty good at it.



Our **Harry Potter Night** was really magical. Ms. Jenifer from the Muskogee Public Library came and separated the students into 4 houses and then they began to do trivia, games and some crafts. I know nothing about Harry Potter but the kids do and always enjoy it.

On Valentine's Day we had our **Valentine Dance.**



From Left: Emileigh, Julia, Rudy and Tessa

I have to thank Betty, Tracy and Gina in the kitchen for saving me when I shorted my order on the pizza. The Ladies stepped right in and made some more to save the night. Thanks again to all the Kitchen staff for providing the awesome snacks.



We made **sand art** for February **Craft Night.**



We took salt and rice then colored them with different colors and filled them up in a mason jar. The kids asked me what they should do with it. I said it was just pretty to look at. One student said they would give it to their mom.

We ended the month with our **February birthday party.**



As always I can't do the events by myself. There is a great staff here that helps me. Thanks to all.

Bless you and be safe,
Nancy Brice
Rec. Director



Weekend with the Experts - Outreach Program

In December, OSB hosted a **“Weekend with the Experts”** with three families on campus, and it was a huge success!

The weekend training session was made possible under the **Parent Engagement Project** through the **ESSER Grant**.

Outreach Coordinators and Direct Care Staff dedicated many extra hours in planning and preparation to ensure the weekend ran smoothly and was successful.

Weekend with the Experts provided on-site lodging accommodations, all meals, and childcare for the families.

The hands-on training sessions began on Friday (4:00 – 9:00 pm) and extended through Saturday (9:00 am – 4:00 pm).

Weekend with the Experts was designed to provide parents of visually impaired / blind children with training, strategies, resources, tools, and support they may not have otherwise received.

The weekend kicked off with a Family Dynamics / Meet and Greet Session. This gave families an opportunity to connect, share stories, ask questions, and establish lifelong friendships with one another.

Session training throughout the weekend included:

- ◆ Independent Living Skills (ILS)
- ◆ Pre-Braille / Fine Motor Skills,
- ◆ Sensory Integration,
- ◆ Social-Leisure: Adapting Games
- ◆ And Orientation & Mobility (O&M) basics

O&M - Walking blindfolded with a guide:



ILS - Eating Under the Blindfold:



The Braille Basics Session was enlightening!



Parents learned some tips and strategies to prepare them to

better assist their children!

Feedback from the Families:

Very positive feedback was given by the families! When the participants were asked **“What did you find most beneficial about the weekend training sessions?”**, these were a few of their responses:

- ◆ “How difficult it is to do things without sight. Really put everything into a new perspective and I will use it more going forward to better teach my child”.
- ◆ The plating, eating and O&M because it was a new experience to put myself in my child’s shoes”.
- ◆ “All of the hands-on with the equipment and tools that we need to use to help our children, and showing multiple ways to use them also”.

In February OSB held a second “Weekend with the Experts”, this time in Oklahoma City. We had 5 participants show up and the overall reaction and feedback was very positive again.



EVERYONE!

The next “Weekend with the Experts” is scheduled for **April 21-22, 2023 at First Baptist Church in Lawton, OK.**

The program is **FREE** and open to families with children ages 3-5, but is limited to 5 families (10 adults).

If interested please email Mrs. Karen Reed at kreed@osb.k12.ok.us.

#WhatsNXT? Career Day

By Kaylie Minter & Julio Valdez

High school students from OSB and around the Muskogee area had the opportunity to participate in a program that provided them with skills and resources post-secondary.

The day kicked off with an uplifting speech from keynote speaker **Emeka Nnaka**, an inspiration and advocate for those with a disability.



Emeka & Coach Gamble

Students attended breakout sessions where they listened to individuals share their experiences about living successfully with a disability.

In addition, participants also learned about resources, tools, and programs available to those with disabilities.

Breakout session topics incl.:

- ◆ money management,
- ◆ work-life with a visual impairment,
- ◆ college life,
- ◆ guide dogs,
- ◆ parenting,
- ◆ and interviewing skills.

Students also learned about opportunities available from

NewView and INCOR.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind presented materials about the programs and services available to those with a visual impairment.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services shared about programs and services they offer to those with a disability.

Vendors were also present, allowing students to explore the latest technology, and learn about transition programs.

OSB students were able to visit with their SBVI (Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired) counselors and discuss post-secondary options.

The day concluded with a Q&A panel for OSB students to inquire about a few of our alumni's life experiences in the real world.

A **big THANK YOU** to the Department of Rehabilitation Services for helping sponsor and provide resources for **#WhatsNXT!**

Also a big shout out to the OU Pre-ETS Transition Program for their assistance in making the day a success and providing lunch to students, staff, and guests!



Alex Myers speaking about Work Life w. Visual Impairment



Misty Hicks, OU Pre-ETS talking about Interviewing Skills



Richelle Zampella, OSB Alumni, talking about college lessons



Trey Lewis, OSB alumni, with his guide dog Shatner (the all time favorite)

GOING THE EXTRA MILE -



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

Becky LaRue & Howard Ashwood, thanks for helping me at SCASB. Carrying my bags helped a lot.

Teresa Young

Becky LaRue, is always a great helper to the kids and my class when I am at doctor appointments.

Christy Hargrove

Faye Miller, thank you for stepping in and helping translate for a student during my presentation at #WhatsNxt?.

Tera Webb

Mrs. Eckerson, is always willing to help in many ways.

unknown

Allison Garner, Laci Goins, and Susana Jackman Thank you Mrs. Garner for organizing our #WhatsNxt? event together with DRS and for getting all the vendors involved. Thank you Ms. Goins and Mrs. Jackman for all the signs on the 5th floor and for the outside that helped our students and off campus guests find their way around. And Thank You to all other helpers for pitching in wherever needed to make this a

great event. It appeared to be well received by students, guests and vendors.

Maggie Mattox

Susana Jackman went the extra mile by producing an outstanding informative video about OSB. I showed it to the Eastern District ESA on Saturday, February 25. The ladies were extremely impressed and enjoyed learning all about OSB.

Rita Echelle

Howard, Billy and Brent So thankful these guys helped me get my car running again when my battery went dead.

Tera Webb

Jeana Jones and her daughter Carter - Jeana and Carter came to help with SCASB track practice on Tuesday.

Tera Webb

Shelby Gamble & Chris Coomer - The new gym provided a great space for our vendors during #WhatsNXT?, thanks Coach Gamble and Coach Coomer for letting us invade!

Allison Garner

Susana Jackman, Laci Goins, Cheryl Daniels, Maggie Mattox, Faye Miller Thank you for going above and beyond to help make #WhatsNxt? a success for our students!

Allison Garner

Mrs. Miller & Volunteers -

Thank you, Mrs. Miller, and all of the wonderful volunteers that helped out with Braille Challenge. It looks like it was another huge success! Thank you all for the effort put forth. It took a lot of coordination and planning to put together the event. Kudos to all! Our students benefited greatly from this experience.

Rita Echelle

Karen Reed, Kim Ford, Debbie Darrough, Sherry Holder, Tammy Saccomano, Helen Wilson, Amanda Isom, Marcella Bynum, Jayla Riley, and Rosie Coomer

Thank you for all your help with our "Weekend with the Experts" program. It would not have been possible without you. And your friendly and professional interaction with the parents represented our school in a great way.

Maggie Mattox

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



Birthdays

Students

MARCH

STORY, STEPHANIE	3	1
VREELAND, TRINITY	3	2
PEDERSEN, LILITH	3	6
MCGUIRE, LASHAE	3	7
BACCUS, DAYTON	3	9
POPEJOY, AISLINN	3	13
COZORT, ANGEL	3	18
MCDONALD, LILLIAN	3	26

APRIL

SILVA, DAWSON	4	9
PHILLIPS, RAYCE	4	20

MAY

WINSTON, WILLIAM	5	8
EAGLE, MYKEL	5	9
HUNTER, RUDY	5	16
WILLHIGHT, IAN	5	17
NORTON, ABBY	5	19
RITCHIE, LIAM	5	19
CARRILLO, ELBIN	5	23
VALDEZ, JULIO	5	28



Staff

MARCH

KAULAY, KELLY	3	3
LARUE, BECKY	3	4
NAIL, CHARLES	3	10
WILSON, HELEN	3	16
CULVER, MARQUETA	3	20
THOMAS, KIMBERLY	3	28

APRIL

TIMMRECK, CHRISTINE	4	1
FERRELL, CHRIS	4	4
RAMSEY, JOANNE	4	7
RILEY, JAYLA	4	10
CRAGG, LYNN	4	13
GILLIAM, RACHAEL	4	14
GAMBLE, WHITNEY	4	16
MATTOX, MAGGIE	4	18
BASS, GENA	4	26
JOHNSON, SHAWNDRRA	4	27
OGLE, JENNIFER	4	30

MAY

MOORE, ELISHA	5	1
STEWART, DONNA	5	3
MENDOZA, KITTY	5	5
SANDERS, KAREN	5	6
BROOKS, TONYA	5	9
BRICE, NANCY	5	12
JACKSON, LINDA	5	15
WEBB, TERA	5	15
WOODS, GINA	5	17
BYNUM, MIKE	5	18
GAMBLE, SHELBY	5	24

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:

Position Change/s:

Chris Coomer, Teacher, effective 2/1/23

New Hire/s:

Amy Messer, DCS 2nd Shift, effective 1/2/23

Kitty Mendoza, H/C Worker, effective 2/6/23

Logan Billy, Bus Driver, effective 2/13/23



Separations:

Lisa Yochum, H/C Worker,
effective 1/1/23 (retired)



Christine Timmreck, ILS, effective 2/28/23

Carmen Hicks, DCS 2nd Shift, effective 3/08/23

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

March 13-16 **SPRING BREAK !!!**

March 22 Special Olympics at Poteau PS (8am - 3pm)

March 28 Cap & Gown Pictures (3-4 pm)

March 29 PROM (6-10 pm)

April 3 STATE TESTING BEGINS !!!

April 6 FCCLA State Convention

Elementary Easter Egg Hunt (12:30-2:00 pm)

April 10 EASTER MONDAY - NO SCHOOL - BUS ROUTES RUN

April 14 DISTANCE LEARNING DAY

April 18 OSB Blood Drive (10:30am - 3:30pm)

April 25 State Jazz Contest

May 9 Spring Concert

May 18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Awards Ceremonies (times tbd - check website for updates)

Graduation (1pm)

May 19 Professional Development Day (AM only)

ENROLLMENT AND MOVE-IN DAY: JUNE 4TH
CAMP DATES: JUNE 5-8 / JUNE 12-15
GRADES 1-8



OSB SUMMER CAMP

"TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN CAMPER HAS GONE BEFORE!!"



"Come and join the intergalactic FUN!"

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OSB WEBSITE

OSB WEBSITE - <http://osb.k12.ok.us/>

Resume' Building

Budgeting

Interviewing Skills

Ropes Course

Public Transportation Practice



OSB Summer Transition Program

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE OSB WEBSITE

Golfing Fun!

Menu Planning

Grocery Shopping

9th-12th Grades



Enrollment Move-in Day: June 4th
Program Dates: June 5-8/June 12-15



GenCyber Cybersecurity Summer Camp

For High School Students with Visual Impairments



- No Cybersecurity Experience Needed
- Free for All VI Students
- All Meals & Lodging Provided
- Transportation Assistance



 June 4 –9, 2023
Huntsville, Alabama
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Apply:
tinyurl.com/gen cyber2023vi
Contact:
GenCyber@uah.edu



By Cheryl Daniels-James



Cybersecurity summer camp for high school students with visual impairments is a camp in **Huntsville, AL.**

It is open to visually impaired **students going into the 9th grade up to students that will graduate in May 2023.**

It is free for VI students, meals and lodging are provided, and they help with transportation.

Campers engage in a **6-day residential camp** to learn cybersecurity and STEM skills through hands-on experiences and group activities.

Students must at least be entering 9th grade in fall 2023 to be eligible.

No cybersecurity experience or knowledge required.

GenCyber is funded by

government grants and is free to all students. Travel assistance is available to the camp in Huntsville, AL.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rL2jM-FXUqA>

Students should have an interest in computers, have good mobility skills and independent living skills.

Interested students should apply as soon as possible.

<https://www.uah.edu/ccre/camps>

VIBE 2023

Visually Impaired and
Blindness Empowerment
(VIBE)

To be held:
June 25 - June 30



The Transition VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration. This week-long program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce and independent living to the best of their ability.

GAIN:

- ⌘ Independent living skills
- ⌘ Communication skills
- ⌘ Team building
- ⌘ Travel/transportation
- ⌘ Career and job exploration
- ⌘ Interviews
- ⌘ Technology
- ⌘ Resume skills
- ⌘ Exploration of college/career tech/workforce



Participants in Transition Vibe also can participate in the Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP). In STEP, students will experience a part-time, paid internship in their communities with job coaching assistance. **Important:** Eligibility for the STEP program requires successful completion of Transition Vibe and Referrals must be completed by March 31

Technology and internet provided as needed.
Please contact your SBVI Counselor or
Deitra Woody at 405-522-3410 or Magan Rowan at 405-522-3380
for more information and registration.

