

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

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

3. Qtr. Honor Roll (Elementary only)

“A” Honor Roll

Elijah Cervantes-Phipps
 Madilyn Gray
 Kairi Husmann
 LaShae McGuire



“B” Honor Roll

Austin Heffley
 Gabriella Henderson
 Audree Montgomery
 Kennedy Sullivan

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2022 - 2023, Issue 4

May 18, 2023

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Special points of interest:

- Greenhouse Update
- SCASB Track & Goalball
- Jazz Band
- Jr./Sr. Trip
- O&M Bingo
- Drama Club

Reminder: 6-12th Grade only receive semester grades, therefore they are only considered for Honor Roll at the end of each semester. Unfortunately the 4. Qtr. / 2. Sem. Honor Roll was not available yet at the time this newsletter was finalized and published.

Students of the 4. Qtr.

Elementary: Neal Summerlin
Middle School: Leah Sailors
High School: Lorie Cox

Students of the YEAR

Elementary: Madilyn Gray
Middle School: Leah Sailors
High School: Julio Valdez

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OSB Outstanding Student of the Year

Congratulations to senior **ABIGAIL NORTON** for receiving the DRS “OSB Outstanding Student of the Year” award.

See also article on page 3.



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!

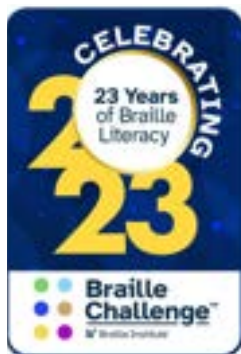
"Caught Being Good"

- ◆ **Justin Millar** and **Treysen Radick**
These boys helped special Olympians practice for their track meet and bocce tournaments!
- ◆ **Xane Allen**
He is always a good friend on the playground.
- ◆ **Leah Sailors**
Helped students in and out of the clinic at evening med times.
- ◆ **Adan Duran**
Appreciate all his help translating this semester when Google Translate failed us!
- ◆ **Garrett Hillshafer**
He put up all of the chairs at his table after the rest of the students left the class.
- ◆ **Lane Sutterfield**
Helped a new student while he was here for an evaluation.
- ◆ **Austin Heffley**
He held the door open while we were going out to recess .
- ◆ **Elijah Cervantes-Phipps**
He held the door open while we were going out to recess. Also he helped different students in the classroom.
- ◆ **Angel Cozort**
Angel was helping Mrs. Garner prepare for the banquet after school hours.
- ◆ **Kyler Harrington**
He is a great friend and walks with Miracle and Ian every day during PE.

Braille Challenge Update

By Faye Miller

**CONGRATULATIONS
HUNTER PUGH!!!**



You are going to
2023 Braille Challenge Finals
in Los Angeles, California from June 23-25!!!

Hunter is no stranger to Braille Challenge Finals, he has traveled to Finals in 2017, 2019, and 2021.



From Left: Mayor Coleman, Hunter, and Mrs. Miller

Good luck, Hunter!
We are all rooting for you!



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY

By Susan Young Mock



The OSB Student Council (STUCO) represented OSB to our elected officials on March 7, 2023, during the 29th Annual **“People with Disabilities Awareness Day”** at the OK State Capital.

Students attending were seniors Elbin Carrillo of OKC and Abigail Norton of Elmore City, junior Emileigh Jackson of Broken Arrow, sophomore Ryan Williams of OKC, 8th grader Piper Conner of Perkins, and 7th graders Macey Millar of Muldrow and Stephanie Story of Tulsa.



Elbin, Ryan, Abigail, Emileigh, Macey, Piper and Stephanie

Mrs. Young Mock, STUCO Advisor, Mrs. Cragg, secondary principal, Mrs. Echelle, Superintendent, and Mrs. Barrett, transition coordinator, also accompanied the students.

This year, eight Oklahomans were honored during the OK Department of Rehabilitation Services event.

Abigail Norton was awarded the **“OSB Outstanding Student of the Year”** Award.



Abigail (left) and Mrs. Melinda Fruendt, DRS director (right)



Abigail... WAY TO GO !!!

People with Disabilities Awareness Day is an opportunity for Oklahomans with disabilities to meet with lawmakers and share their personal stories about what services are helping them live independent lives and pursue careers.

Students shared a written narrative with their local elected representative and senator stating how OSB has positively impacted their lives.

The highlight of the day, besides watching their friend and peer receive her award, was being introduced from the Senate floor and listening to the senators work.

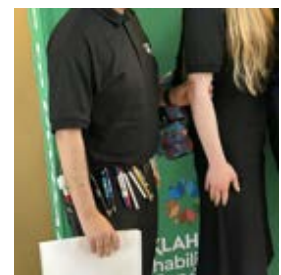
From a grateful Ryan, “I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity yesterday. I really enjoyed being able meet some of the legislators and getting to watch them vote on bills.”

“I loved going to the capitol. One of my favorite things to do was listen to the senate debate about different laws. It showed how things actually worked and was

very interesting. Getting the chance to even just see the capitol was an amazing experience. Seeing other people with disabilities was very eye opening.” noted Emileigh.

For Macey, this was her first trip to the State Capitol. “The building is very neat and polished. The offices were also nice. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip. I’d like to thank Mrs. Mock for giving us the opportunity to come to the capitol building.”

Stephanie also enjoyed visiting the State Capital for her first time. “Going to the capitol was a great experience. I got to watch part of a debate on a bill. It was very intense but it was very educational on both sides. From the debate, I learned that you have to know the facts before making a decisions. I got to meet some amazing people/vendors and got some pins. I love going to the capitol and I hope I will be allowed to go back.”



Someone sure likes pens !

100th Day of School

By Mrs. Thomas & Mrs. Marcella



March 8th was an exciting day for the Early Elementary classroom as we have been counting each day leading up

to this event during calendar time each morning.

The 100th day of school was celebrated by Neal and Khup by first putting up signs



around the school, then we got busy in the classroom counting 100 dinosaurs, making towers out of 100 cups,



adding 100 candles into our cakes made from play-doh, while also doing 100 exercises throughout the day.

It was a busy, fun day doing everything 100x while celebrating

how far we have come this year!



** Thank you to Mrs. Nancy for the big bag of balloons she donated for our celebration.



Bike lessons

By Faye Miller

Thank you to Doug Walton and Tiffany Tolbert from the **Muskogee County Health Department** and Lacey Wallace and Leo Perez from **OSU Extension High Obesity Program** for coming back to OSB for more bicycle lessons!

Students from Mrs. Thomas's, Ms. Stanfield's, and Mrs.

Eckerson's classes continued to develop balance, coordination, and core strength as they raced bikes around the gym!



Nina Cutler smiles widely as she starts to coast on her own.



Lacey Wallace walks alongside Xane Allen as he rides across the gym.

Shae McGuire pedals her bike with confidence around the gym.



Blood Drive Update

By Allison Garner



On April 18, 2023 OSB hosted its last blood drive for this school year and it was another huge success.

We exceeded our goals and I wanted to share a few numbers:

- 12 - OSB staff donors
- 1 - OSB student donation
- 5 - Off-campus donors
- 19 - Whole blood units collected
- 6 - Doubles collected

Short of the story, **66 lives saved!**

Thank you to everyone who donated.



Greenhouse Update

By Ann Page

What is happening in the greenhouse?

I thought it would be a good time to give everyone an update on the greenhouse.

The students have been a great help planting, repotting, and harvesting our various plants.

We've been able to provide a variety of produce to the cafeteria to be enjoyed in their salads.



Here is a list of what has been

available to the students / staff in the cafeteria:

- ◆ Romaine lettuce
- ◆ Bibb lettuce
- ◆ Gourmet lettuce
- ◆ Arugula
- ◆ Spinach
- ◆ Swiss Chard
- ◆ Cilantro
- ◆ Basil
- ◆ Cherry tomatoes

We have the following **produce** growing: Potatoes, onions, peas, cucumbers, squash, carrots, radishes, beets, tomatoes (different varieties), purple broccoli, asprabroc, hot peppers, strawberries, mint, dill, thyme, and sage.

We have a few **house plants**: Spider plants, arrowheads, and a variety of succulents.

We have a few flowers started. It's still too soon to say how they are going to do.



Butterfly Papilion Trip

By Rebecca Mills



On Monday, April 17, 2023 we made a trip to the **Butterfly Papilion at Honor**

Heights Park in Muskogee, OK.



Our students have been learning about the 4 stages of a butterfly and what kinds of things butterflies like to eat.



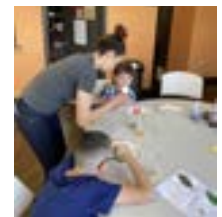
We used some of our **ESSER funds** to purchase butterfly kits for each student.

So far the students have been able to watch their caterpillars attach to the top of the container and turn into a cocoon. They are anxiously awaiting their butterflies to emerge.

While at the Butterfly Papilion the students were able to plant some seeds of some of the favorite flowers of butterflies, along with several other activities



to reinforce their STEM project. It was such a beautiful evening that we even managed to get in a little bit of physical activity.



About this Monarch Project:

The Papilion is a seasonal open-air butterfly house located in Honor Heights Park in Muskogee, OK. **The only butterfly house in Oklahoma.**

The Papilion is home to ~300
(Continued on page 6)

Butterfly Papilion Trip (continued)

(Continued from page 5)



native butterflies from mid-May through the end of September.

Pollinator and display gardens, some of which change annually, surround the house and attract many species of native butterflies and other pollinators.

A small admission fee helps offset butterfly and maintenance costs.

Open daily beginning the Saturday before Mother's Day through September 30.

Hours: Monday–Saturday 9am-4pm and Sunday 1-4pm.

Limited hours on holidays: 9am-2pm.

The Papilion also hosts a tulip

garden display in early spring.

Learn more at:

http://www.muskogeeonline.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/butterfly_papilion.php

and at

<https://www.okiesformonarchs.org/the-papilion-in-honor-heights-park-butterfly-house-and-gardens/>

Let's Choose Love Grant

By Faye Miller



Thank you Natalie Armstrong for writing a **Let's Choose Love grant for \$1000** to buy cool prizes for Cane Quest contestants in Fall 2023!

Natalie was awarded this grant and has already started compiling a list of prizes and items for goodie bags. She came to OSB on Sunday 16 April to present the grant to the students.



Natalie speaks with Elbin and Stephanie after the presentation about the application process and how thoughtful she is to think of Cane Quest contestants in her grant.

Natalie volunteered as a teammate for the Cane Quest Scouts contestants, the kids who competed on the OSB campus, for four (4) years from 2016 to 2019. Her twin brother, Nathan, and younger sister Leah, also volunteered. During that time, Natalie not only learned about orientation and mobility skills but also worked with different students at different levels who inspired her.

You contestants must have made an impact on her because she spent both time and energy writing this grant to bring extra Love to all the contestants in Cane Quest!

Let's Choose Love is an organization that provides mini grants, up to \$1000, mostly to people ages 16 to 30, to do something good in their community. The movement is dedicated to bringing forth a world where Love Rules! (<https://www.letschooselove.org/>)

Natalie's application may have

stood out in particular because the director of the organization said her sister was blind, so this project meant a lot to her. Natalie didn't know about that when she applied.

Natalie is currently a student at Northeastern State University. She is studying to become a bilingual (Spanish/English) speech and language pathologist. She said that she has been inspired by volunteering at OSB and feels like working with children is her career path.



Muskogee Street Improvement Advisory Committee Meeting

By Faye Miller

Jaylee Burnside, Stephanie Story, and Rosie Coomer presented their experiences as travelers with visual impairments at the monthly **Muskogee Street Improvement Advisory Committee** meeting.

Their presentation was part of the **Action In Muskogee (AIM) committee** report that works to improve sidewalks, transit, trails, and bikeways in Muskogee to promote a healthy lifestyle and access to community resources.

Faye Miller has been an AIM committee member for many years and worked closely with Doug Walton, committee chair, to help Jaylee, Stephanie and Rosie prepare their presentation.

Jaylee and Stephanie talked about how they use their white canes to find drop-offs and obstacles and why it is important, especially at street crossings, to use their canes so they are identified as visually impaired and White Cane laws will protect them.

They also talked about how they use traffic cues to know when it is safe to cross the street and how the audible countdown found at certain crossings makes it hard to pay attention to the traffic.

Ms. Rosie discussed her experiences when she was younger and rode bikes with her dad around Muskogee. She wants to have those same experiences with her twins and talked about the types of improvements that would help them bike around town safely and freely. She also talked about how her vision affects how she sees in different lighting situations. This helped the Advisory committee understand the importance of having accessible crossings and how it helps everyone who uses the crossing, not just those with visual impairments.

After the presentation, the committee members asked specific questions about the sidewalk on Gibson St. and the

traffic lights at the corner of York St. and Gibson St. They are interested in making improvements that will make travel easier, especially for our high school students who have earned independent travel privileges and want to walk down the street to the local shops after school.

Jaylee, Stephanie and Ms. Rosie advocated for improvements in accessibility for pedestrians in Muskogee. This not only helps you, the students at OSB, but EVERYONE who lives and works in Muskogee. Thank you for sharing your experiences and advocating for improvements!



Speed Radar – Update / Follow Up Data

By Faye Miller

Elbin Carrillo, Julio Valdez, Erikson Lopez, Chris Sumner, Adan Duran, and Jerry Rodriguez worked with the **Action in Muskogee/Connect Muskogee** team again in March to collect additional 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 but sunny. Surprisingly, the speed data compared to the collection in February showed some different trends.

Average speeds for vehicles coming from West of OSB were down from 23 mph in February to about 21 mph in March. To the East of OSB, the average speed also went down from an

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Speed Radar – Update / Follow Up Data (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

average of 28 mph to 26 mph.

Who would have thought that vehicles would travel slower on a sunny day than in wet and rainy conditions?

There were still many vehicles

traveling above the speed limit, between 35-39 mph through the flashing School Zone area. The highest speed recorded was 39 mph, with several vehicles traveling 36 mph. This is also down from the highest speed recorded in February of 56 mph!



Special Olympics

By Tera Webb

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023 our Special Olympics team travelled to Poteau Public Schools to measure their talents with athletes from other schools.



Deegan, Genevieve, Jesse, Kolten, Kesslee, Nikki, Delilah, Mrs. Webb, Anicka (front)

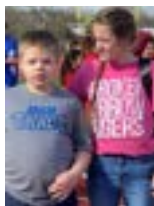
It was a very windy day, but at least it was dry and warm (unlike the day before) and everyone had a great time.

The athletes started in different categories (age, etc.) and they all fought hard, which the below listed results show.

CONGRATULATIONS—GREAT JOB !!!

Here are the results:

◆ **Deegan Dobson** (3rd Gr.)
1st in Softball Throw and 1st in 25m Walk



Deegan & Kylie (para)

◆ **Kesslee Travis** (6th Gr.)
1st in Softball Throw and 1st in 100m Walk

◆ **Jesse Wolf** (6th Gr.)
1st in Standing Long Jump and 1st in 100m Run

◆ **Genevieve Fitzgerald** (7th Gr.)
3rd in Softball Throw and 1st in 50m Run



Genevieve & Mrs. Stanfield

◆ **Nikki James** (8th Gr.)
2nd in Softball Throw and 1st in 100m Run

Big thanks also to: Howard for driving us safely to the competition, Glinda for keeping us sun screened up and healthy, Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Stanfield for being on the field coaches, and Kylie for driving and helping Deegan.



◆ **Delilah Howell** (9th Gr.)
1st in Softball Throw and 2nd in 100m Walk



Delilah & Genevieve

◆ **Anicka Weller** (9th Gr.)
3rd in Softball Throw and 1st in 100m Walk



Mrs. Webb, Delilah, Kesslee, Genevieve, and Mrs. Wood

◆ **Kolten Pennington** (10th Gr.)
1st in Standing Long Jump and 4th in 100m Run



Nikki, Jesse, Kolten



Genevieve, Mrs. Webb, Kesslee, and Jesse



Kolten, Delilah, and Nikki

Track & Goalball SCASB - Austin, TX

By Tera Webb & Shelby Gamble



On April 19th, 2023 the **OSB Track & Goalball teams** headed to Austin, Texas for their participation in the South Central Schools for the Blind (SCASB) competition.



After a stop at Buc-ee's we arrived at our hotel and got a good night's rest to prepare for the next day.

Thursday the track team competition started off with the



Mrs. Webb & Emileigh

the **1600m** race and **Emileigh** represented OSB well!



Emileigh

The rest of the day was a mix of Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump and



Piper

throwing the Shot Put. The



Leah

rain would come around and cool us off then disappear leaving a bright sun and hot temperatures.

The last competition of the day was the shuttle, then we headed to the hotel to swim, shower and eat dinner.

Friday started bright and early with the running events. Our track athletes competed in short distances like the 100m and long distances like the 800m.



Awards Banquet

At the end of the day, we headed to shower and to get cleaned up for the **awards banquet** for the Track events.

Our track athletes received the following awards...

The boys placed as follows:



The boys' team

- ◆ **Ryan Williams**
5th place Shot Put
- ◆ **William Winston**
6th place 100m Dash
- ◆ **Ocie Webster**
6th place 400m Run
- ◆ **Ian Holm**
6th place High Jump
- ◆ The boys' **Shuttle team** Hunter Pugh, Elbin Carrillo, Treysen Radick and Justin Millar placed 5th.



Boys' Shuttle team

◆ The boys' **Relay team**



Boys Relay team

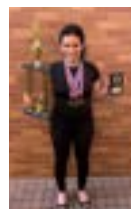
Ryan Williams, Ian Willhight, William Winston, and Justin Millar placed 4th in the 4x100m Relay.

The girls placed as follows:



The girls' team

- ◆ **Katelynn Zampella**
1st place in the 60m Dash
1st place in the 200m Dash
1st place in the Triple Jump
1st place in Long Jump **AND** 2023 class (A) girl **MVP award**
- ◆ **Tyanna Culley**
2nd place in Shot Put
- ◆ **Lillian McDonald**
4th place in the 100m Dash
5th place in Triple Jump
4th place in High Jump
5th place in Long Jump



Katelynn

- ◆ **Emileigh Jackson**
3rd place in the 800m Run
5th place in the 400m Dash
- ◆ **Piper Conner**
3rd place in Shot Put
- ◆ **Evy Kizzia**
3rd place in High Jump
- ◆ The girls **Shuttle team** Stephanie Story, Tyanna Culley, Angel Cozort, and Piper Conner got 5th place.
- ◆ The girls' **Relay team** Lillian McDonald, Evy Kizzia, Piper Conner, and Leah Sailors got 3rd in the 4x100m Relay.
- ◆ Finally the OSB girls' team won the 2nd place **Team Award. Way to Go Girls!**



Girls' Shuttle team



Girls' Relay team



EVERYONE!



Ian W.



Piper C.



Emileigh J.



Lillian M.



Evy K.

(Continued on page 10)

Track & Goalball SCASB - Austin, TX (continued)

(Continued from page 9)



Saturday After two days of working hard on the track, the hard work was not yet done.

Both, girls and boys, showed tremendous growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year in **Goalball**.

We are proud of the effort that was shown while playing and how

well the students represented OSB.

We are excited for the upcoming years in the sport of Goalball, and we will continue to be proud to be an OSB Panther.

Also a **HUGE THANK YOU** to our support team, we couldn't do it without you.

Support Team front row left to right:

Kathy Barrett, JoAnn Ramsey, Shelby Gamble, and Billy O'Neal

Support Team back row left to right:

Logan Billy, Becky LaRue, Marcella Bynum, and Tera Webb



Our SUPPORT TEAM !!!

Jazz Band at OSSAA Contest

By Chris Ferrell

On Tuesday April 25th, the OSB jazz band competed in the **OSSAA state jazz band competition** at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

There were **16 bands** in classes 2A and 3A that participated in the event. 2 bands received a rating of 3 or Good. 7 bands received a rating of 2 or Excellent and 6 bands received a rating of 1 or Superior.

OSB was the only band in Class 2A to receive a Superior rating.

The final results in the competition were:

- ◆ 3rd place Cordell High School
- ◆ 2nd place Regent Preparatory High School
- ◆ **1st place, and the 2023 State Champion Jazz Band** in Class 2A, the **Oklahoma School for the Blind**



2A 2023 State Champions

Members of the Jazz band are:

Saxophones

- ◆ Jimmy Anderson
- ◆ Elbin Carrillo
- ◆ Abby Norton
- ◆ Gerry Rodriguez

Trombones

- ◆ Julio Valdez
- ◆ William Winston

Trumpets

- ◆ Dayton Baccus
- ◆ Tyanna Cullley
- ◆ Kaylie Minter
- ◆ Katelynn Zampella

Drums

- ◆ Chris Sumner

Guitar

- ◆ Rayce Phillips

Piano

- ◆ Emileigh Jackson
- ◆ Trinity Vreeland

Bass

- ◆ Lorie Cox

Set-up Crew

- ◆ Adan Duran
- ◆ Ocie Webster
- ◆ Ryan Williams

Our Soloists this year were:

- ◆ Abby Norton
- ◆ Rayce Phillips
- ◆ William Winston

Congratulations Band!



The band ended their season with an awesome Spring concert for family and friends on May 9th.



Middle School Field Trip to Honor Heights Park

by Ann Page

On Wednesday, May 10th the entire middle school spent the day at Honor Heights Park.

We started the day with a little community service.



We spent time cleaning and weeding the **children's garden**.

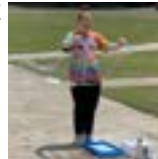
Armed with sponges, gloves and cleaner some of the students gave all the benches and tables a good washing.



Others grabbed some gardening tools and went to work on the weeds.

After some hard work. We all enjoyed some pizza from Pizza Inn.

After lunch there was plenty of free time to run around the playground area, get wet at the splash pad, create huge bubbles with our home made bubble mixture,

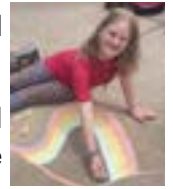


and make beautiful sidewalk artwork.

Before we headed back to school, we took a stroll through the arboretum.

Lots of fun, food, and friends.

All the students and adults were exhausted! A great way to end the year.



Prom

By Abby Norton



On March 29th the Junior and Senior classes had a blast at the Prom! This year's theme was **"Spring is in the Air"**

and many of the students were very dressed up to suit the bright and vibrant colors of Spring.



enjoyed a delicious meal from Charlie's Chicken and after that they got their "groove on"



on the dance floor to music from the awesome DJ Chris.



A **special thank you** to all sponsors for coming to help make our night even more fun!!



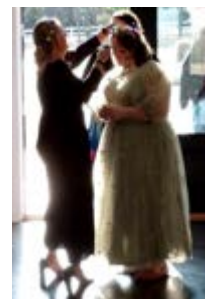
After a long night of dancing and fun it was time to crown this year's Prom King and Queen.

Prom King was Mr. **Elbin Carrillo** and **Prom Queen** was Ms. **Tyanna Culley**.



At the beginning of the night the students and sponsors

We would like to **thank everyone** who helped make this wonderful night happen and all the local places in Muskogee that provided things for the event.



Jr. / Sr. Trip to Ft. Worth, TX

By Abby Norton

This May the juniors and seniors went to Fort Worth, TX for the annual end of the year trip.

Late on Monday we departed from OSB to head to Oklahoma City.

Once we got there and all settled we went for dinner at **Toby Keith's Bar & Grill** where we had some good food in a very nice atmosphere. After that we headed back to the hotel and enjoyed a bit of free time before getting a good night's sleep for the adventures planned in the morning.

That morning we got up early to go to the train station and got on the **Amtrak** from OKC to Gainesville, TX.

Riding the train was one of the most important parts of the trip because it was something new to most of us. It was a very exhilarating experience



Once we got there and all settled we went for dinner at **Toby Keith's Bar & Grill** where we had some good food in a very nice atmosphere. After that we headed back to the hotel and enjoyed a bit of free time before getting a good night's sleep for the adventures planned in the morning.



and all of us agree that the man working the food car was very enjoyable and funny.



Once we were off the train we continued our way to Fort Worth where we had lunch at **Jimmy's Burgers**.



After some good food and time to chill we headed to "**Ripley's Believe It Or Not**" Museum where we got to enjoy many different activities such as visiting the **wax museum**, getting spooked by the



haunted max display, going through the **mirror maze**, getting to participate in **4D game simulations**, and seeing all the items they had on display. It sure was a lot of fun.

We also went to "**Billy Bob's**" and later saw some **real Longhorns** walking through the street.



Elbin even got to sit on one. How cool is that?

THANK YOU Ms. Goins for putting together such a fun trip and **thank you** to all the sponsors for coming along and being such good sports. We really had a great time .



Teens 4 Christ (T4C)



This year's "**Teens 4 Christ**" moved in many new different ways for the teens of our school.

Miss Annette and Mr. Dwayne brought the Word of God in a way that has really gotten the attention of many teens. Mr. Dwayne presented a lot of insightful messages that taught the teens how to live righteously and holy.

T-shirts designed by Miss Annette have been a real hit! Thank you to everyone that has donated to help with payment so the kids did not

have to pay for their shirts.

First thing done was that "Teens 4 Christ" now meet in the evenings along with some times attending a church service at New Community Church. The teens have really enjoyed this and have made many new friends there. Each service brings new insight for the teens into what Jesus is all about and what He wants them to know.



Some of our students needed a **Bible with a Giant Font**, which is **16 pt font**, but those Bibles are around **\$50 a piece**. So there was no way for us to purchase one for each student needing large print, but

God made a way where there seemed to be no way!

New Community Church stepped up and **purchased 15 of them** for us along with **2 audio Bibles!** There were pink and teal bibles for girls and black and brown bibles for boys.

Teens 4 Christ has also been blessed by someone donating monthly for the teens to be able to have a pizza dinner once a month! What better way to not only feed their souls but also to feed their belly's. The first pizza dinner was right before Easter and we had the pizza dinner as the last supper!

(Continued on page 13)

Teens 4 Christ (T4C)

(Continued from page 12)

Miss Annette spoke about what happened at that time when Jesus and the disciples had what is now called the Last Supper.

The teens enjoyed their **End of the Year T4C party** on May 10th.



It was a time of pizza, games, and presents for the graduates

that attended, and of course much more from Jesus.



Teens 4 Christ will be even more amazing next year with more insight into God's Word!

See you next year!

Miss Annette & Mr. Dwayne



Seniors reflecting on their time at OSB



Abby Norton

Don't Be Afraid of the Unknown!

Sometimes it can be very scary to not know something, but just because you don't know something it doesn't make you "dumb" or "stupid". Learning is a process that everyone will go through in life, some of us at different speeds. It is perfectly fine to need more help in certain areas or have to ask more questions than other people. Asking questions is how we gain information and anytime you don't ask a question you wanted to ask, that's a missed opportunity to learn something new. Same goes with taking things at your own pace, if you try to rush yourself along on something you're struggling and you may not learn much because you can't absorb the information and actually learn something.

Abby Norton



Aislinn Popejoy

During my time at OSB I learned how to advocate for myself.

If I had to do something differently I would have paid more attention in financial literacy.

My advice to younger students would be **don't give up on your education, and take care of your mental health.**

After graduation I am looking forward to going to college.

Aislinn Popejoy



Julio Valdez

Attending OSB was a transformational experience. One of the key lessons I have learned over the years is the importance of advocating for oneself, especially when it comes to accessibility and accommodations, and not just in school, but all throughout your life. Learning to speak up and ask for what you need will help you be successful and get you a step closer towards your goals.

I also learned how important it is to master your assistive technology and orientation and mobility skills. Having those skills can open doors to a greater independence, access to information and the sighted world as a whole.

While success is not always easy, it is essential to **never give up** and to persevere in the face of challenges. **"With hard work and dedication we can achieve great things."**

Julio Valdez



Elbin Carrillo

I enjoyed going to OSB. I learned to be more independent.

I also liked playing in the jazz band, and participating in the wrestling team, track & field, and the goalball team.

After graduating I would like to go through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and open my own snack bar.

I have learned that you should **always try something new at least once** because you never know if you will like it at the end.

Elbin Carrillo



Class of 2023

Elementary Trip to Incredible Pizza

By Whitney Gamble



On April 5th, 2023, OSB Elementary took a wonderful field trip to Incredible Pizza in Tulsa!

We had so much fun riding the bumper cars, the roller coaster, the go carts, and playing tons of video games also.



Ready, set, go!



We ate pizza, salad, and desserts until we were stuffed!

We were really lucky because there weren't many people there so we could get off a ride and on to the next without much wait time.

It was a fantastic day!



So much fun!



Racing go karts



Roller Coaster Fun!



Vintage cars are cool!

Elementary Easter Egg Hunt

By Shawna Coplen

OSB partnered with the Civitan Park staff for this year's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 6th.



Students walked across to the park to the sounds of beeping eggs in the field.

They were lined up at the starting line and waited for the signal to GO!



Students scampered across the field turning over leaves and grass to find the hidden eggs.

The beeper eggs were in a specific area reserved for certain students who listened carefully so they could



fill their baskets. Even the Easter Bunny showed up for some really cute pics. We all had a wonderful time!



After every egg was found, the students were treated to cookies and punch from the Civitan Park staff.

The students returned to campus with buckets full of candy and smiles on their faces!

THANK YOU Civitan Park staff !

Elementary "Day in the Park"

By Maggie Mattox

Our Elementary students were really looking forward to their "Day in the Park" on May 4th but unfortunately Oklahoma weather decided differently and it rained most of the day. The Civitan park staff, who had planned a lunch for the students, were all "ready to host" so the students and teachers went across the street for lunch at least (while the



weather played nice for a short time) but came back after they enjoyed a nice lunch break with their hosts.

THANK YOU Civitan Park staff ! However, life is all about second chances and so is our great school ...

On May 9th the weather forecast was nice and the students finally got to spend some fun hours in the sun and on



the playground at Civitan Park.



Azalea Clean-Up

By Faye Miller

Each March volunteers from businesses, schools, churches and civic groups clean neighborhoods and streets throughout Muskogee as part of the annual clean up.

Mrs. Daniels and her biology students, Tessa Williams and Ocie Webster, were part of this year's Azalea Clean-Up.



Ocie & Tessa at King Park

They cleaned up King Park, down the street from the school at Gibson St. and East Side Blvd.

Blvd.

Together they picked up 2 trash bags of plastic bottles, plastic grocery bags, aluminum

cans, food wrappers, and other miscellaneous items.



Ocie at King Park



O&M Bingo

By Faye Miller

Over 45 students have been playing **O&M BINGO** this quarter.

The BINGO cards opened after spring break and students have been completing tasks on those cards during their O&M classes.

Students have been describing how vehicles behave differently at stop signs and traffic lights, crossing those streets, running errands for staff, and all sorts of other O&M related tasks.



Samantha Six completes a task to ride a stationary bike on her BINGO card.

For each BINGO students had to complete 5 tasks in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal direction, after which they got to choose a prize from a pile of prizes that were purchased with a generous donation from Uncle Frank.

The following students completed 1 BINGO:

- ◆ Anicka Weller
- ◆ Blake Priddy
- ◆ Blaze Calger
- ◆ Gabby Henderson



Kennedy Sullivan and Gabby Henderson worked hard in their O&M classes to earn prizes. Kennedy chose a puppy dog blanket and Gabby chose a braille puzzle.

- ◆ Genevieve Fitzgerald
- ◆ Haidyn James
- ◆ Julia Cisneros
- ◆ Julio Valdez
- ◆ Katelynn Zampella
- ◆ Kesslee Travis
- ◆ Kolten Pennington
- ◆ Kyler Harrington
- ◆ Lilith Pedersen
- ◆ Lori Cox
- ◆ Macey Millar
- ◆ Nikki James
- ◆ Payton Crum
- ◆ Quante Sellers
- ◆ Samantha Six
- ◆ Skylar Hopkins
- ◆ Stephanie Story
- ◆ Treysen Radick

The following students completed 2 BINGOs:

- ◆ Avery Dollar
- ◆ Dayton Baccus
- ◆ Elijah Cervantes
- ◆ Eric Enzenauer
- ◆ Josie Cox
- ◆ Leah Sailors
- ◆ Lillian McDonald

◆ Piper Conner



Piper Conner was fascinated by a puzzle box and Avery Dollar decided her BINGO would earn her some goop.

The following students completed 3 BINGOs:

◆ Kennedy Sullivan

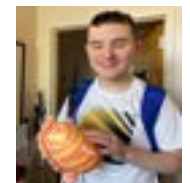
Kennedy Sullivan grins while holding 2 squish mallows that she collected as prizes for completing 10 tasks



◆ Delilah Howell

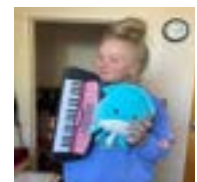
◆ Jaden Brown

Jaden Brown took home his fish squish mallow as his 2nd BINGO.



◆ Leah Sailors

Leah Sailors earned 2 BINGOs and chose an electric keyboard and an octopus squish mallow.



The following student completed 4 Bingos:

◆ Jaylee Burnside



Recreation Activities

By Nancy Brice

Well we have made it thru another school year.

In **March** we started off by making **slime** for **craft night**. I think by the end of the night most of us were wearing more of it than we made.



Snow cones were a real treat for us coming back from Spring break.

I know the kids were very excited to go to the **bowling alley**. One of the students said the burgers at the bowling alley are the best in town.



It was really great in **April** to go back to the **Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center** to swim after these cold winter months.



Our **April Birthday party** was a little different this year. It turned out that there were **no April birthdays**



so we sang "**Happy Birthday**" to **nobody**. We still celebrated by having **Root Beer Floats** though. They were a big hit.



The month of **May** was started by having a **cookout**. A big thanks to Mr. Brice for cooking, and his staff for serving the food. Also a special thanks to the kitchen staff for getting it all together for us.



Next was **skating**, we did have several students and staff that enjoyed the skating part and the rest



I always stop like that. LOL

of us enjoyed the games and snack bar.

Since this is the last newsletter of the school year, I would like to thank the administration, teachers, and all the staff and students that have helped me with all the events throughout the school year.

Thank you all !

Nancy Brice,
Recreation Director



Randomness at the Rec = Goofiness (at least most of the time)

Drama Club "Back to the Summer"

By Kelly Kaulay



After weeks of hard work it was finally "**show time**"...

On Thursday, May 11, the drama students performed "**Back to the Summer**" by Wade Bradford.

The almost all female cast (plus Elbin) brought laughter and enjoyment to all.

The students did a fantastic job and I can't wait to see what next year brings!



Let's take a "silly" picture !!!

Synopsis:

It's been a great summer, and Scott and Liam aren't ready to go back to school just yet. When they find out their friend, Shelley, has invented a time machine, they all decide to go back to start their summer over. However, they go back in time a little too far! Along the way characters of other time periods get "misplaced" in time as well and it causes quite a mess. Finally, at the end, they are able to return everyone back to their correct time period, including themselves.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE



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

Nancy & Cammeron Brice, as well as the **Maintenance Staff**, they had the forethought to load the home going vans ahead of potential bad weather.

Susan Young Mock

Mike Bynum, he worked on bocce courts and a sand pit for the long jump.

Tera Webb

Chris Coomer and **Shelby Gamble**, they allowed us to invade their PE classes, helped train the track team and never once complained.

Tera Webb

Chris Carden and **Beth Stanfield**, they helped cover classes when we had to pull extra track practices at various times.

Tera Webb

Dawn Bryant, for volunteering to make nice certificates for our athletes.

Beth Stanfield

Kitty Mendoza, for cleaning out our laundry room and bathroom in the A2 Hallway.

DCS

Maggie Mattox & Machel Thornton, for jumping in to help with an emergency in the Clinic. Teamwork at it's finest!

Glinda Huitt

Susana Jackman, for helping with the Forensic science class's podcast project. ...

Laci Goins, for planning the Jr / Sr Trip. ...

Carla Cotney, for bringing in the Luna moth so the science classes could witness the egg laying. ...

Maggie Mattox, for always working to help print things when the copier is on the fritz. ... **AND**

Melissa Smith, for helping the middle school space camp students write essays for scholarships.

Cheryl Daniels-James

Ms. Cheri, for helping pack the FCS lab up in preparation for renovations! Not to mention all she does to make our labs and classes run smoothly! We appreciate you! ...

Maggie Mattox, Thanks for all the time and effort she puts into the OSB newsletter! ...

Mr. Howard, for putting together the blood drive sign and displaying it to promote our drive. ... **AND**

Susana Jackman, for helping the Health class put together a fabulous video promoting and educating others about donating blood!

Allison Garner

Maggie Mattox & Machel Thornton, for helping me when I had a medical emergency. You guys Rock!

Annette Underwood

Kitty Mendoza, for Cleaning the vents and EVERYTHING else! You're like Mr. Clean with Hair!

Annette Underwood & Clinic

DCS, I'd like to thank all the DCS for being there on weekends and week out to make sure our students are taken home safely. They have endured an incredible amount of rain and storms that they have had to travel in. Often times doing a long route and being soaked for

several hours. Trust me it's not fun. Thanks staff you're great! ... **AND**

Mr. Jason Jenkins and **Mr. Dwayne Estep**, for filling in and driving for us on short notices thank you to both very much.

Cammeron Brice

After school program staff, for coming up with fun activities for our students to participate in. ...

Prom committee and helpers, for all the planning and decorating of the event space so the kids could have a fun night together. ... **AND**

Laci Goins, for all the planning and practice leading up to graduation so the "big day" will be a little less stress and a lot of fun.

Maggie Mattox

Ms. Gina, she keeps the FCS Classrooms and hallway sparkling!

Allison Garner

Mrs. Eckerson, Thank you for taking on the Elementary Field trips this year. You did an amazing job. ... **AND**

Mrs. Moore, Thank you for always being a team player.

Laura Leatherman

Dawn Bryant, Melissa Graves, Tonya Givens, Gena Bass, and Machel Thornton - These ladies did all the hard work of our Spring Awards ceremony dinner. They cooked, cleaned, served, etc. so we could just enjoy the night with our amazing kids. ...

Donna Stewart - She is always quick to help when I reach out and she did an amazing job on the programs for the end of the year stuff! ...

Shelby Gamble, Nurse JoAnn, Billy O'Neal, Becky LaRue, Marcella Bynum, Rita Echelle,

(Continued on page 18)

GOING THE EXTRA MILE (continued)

(Continued from page 17)

Shawna Coplen, and Kathy Barrett - Being the track coach is a tough job, but the SCASB trip went off without a hitch due to these helpers. They all pitched in to be "coaches" when several events occurred at the same time. They braved the rain and heat and allowed

the kids to have a cheerleader at every event!

Tera Webb

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



Birthdays

Students

MAY

WINSTON, WILLIAM	5	8
EAGLE, MYKEL	5	9
HILLSHAFFER, GARRETT	5	10
HUNTER, RUDY	5	16
WILLHIGHT, IAN	5	17
NORTON, ABBY	5	19
RITCHIE, LIAM	5	19
CARRILLO, ELBIN	5	23
VALDEZ, JULIO	5	28

JUNE

ZAMPELLA, KATELYNN	6	5
MILLAR, MACEY	6	12
HEFFLEY, AUSTIN	6	18
JORDAN, KELTON	6	30

JULY

PRIDY, BLAKE	7	21
CULLEY, TYANNA	7	27

AUGUST

ALLEN, XANE	8	2
FOWLER, KENNEDY	8	2
SUMMERLIN, NEAL	8	2
RADICK, TREYSEN	8	8
JACKSON, EMILEIGH	8	10
SAILORS, LEAH	8	12
WEBSTER, OCIE	8	12
HENDERSON, GABRIELLA	8	18
BURNSIDE, JAYLEE	8	22
WILLIAMS, RYAN	8	22
DAVIDSON, NOAH	8	31



Staff

MAY

MOORE, ELISHA	5	1
STEWART, DONNA	5	3
SANDERS, KAREN	5	6
BROOKS, TONYA	5	9
BRICE, NANCY	5	12
JACKSON, LINDA	5	15
WEBB, TERA	5	15
JONES, MICKIE	5	15
WOODS, GINA	5	17
BYNUM, MICHAEL	5	18
GAMBLE, SHELBY	5	24
MENDOZA, KITTY	5	25

JUNE

REEVE, AUTUMN	6	5
HUITT, GLINDA	6	6
BYNUM, MARCELLA	6	7
ANDERSON, TRESSY	6	10
POFAHL, VICKY	6	14
HARGROVE, CHRISTY	6	16
COOMER, ROSIE	6	18
DAVENPORT, TRACI	6	27
LEATHERMAN, LAURA	6	29

JULY

DANIELS, CHERYL	7	7
PAGE, ANN	7	18
HARRISON, SANDY	7	20
MATHEWS, JODI	7	22
GIVENS, TONYA	7	27

AUGUST

MILLER, ROBERT	8	10
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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:

New Hires:

NO new hires at this time.

Welcome on board. Glad to have you



Position Changes:

Traci Davenport, Independent Living Skills (ILS) Instructor,
effective 5/1/2023

Retirement:

NO retirements at this time



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

June 4	Summer Camp & Transition Program Move In Day
June 5-8	Summer Camp & Transition Program - Week 1
June 12-15	Summer Camp & Transition Program - Week 2
June 19-23	Adult VIBE
June 26-30	Transition VIBE (Grades 9-12)
July 10-14	Adult VIBE
August 7-10	Professional Development Week
	ALL Staff report back to school
August 13	Enrollment Sunday (time tbd)
August 14	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL