

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principal: Lynn Cragg

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

HONOR ROLL - 3rd Quarter

Elem. & Middle School

"A" - Honor Roll

Katelynn Zampella

"B" - Honor Roll

Jimmy Anderson
 Khatungi Bryant
 Elbin Carrillo
 Avery Carrington
 Julia Cisneros
 Lorie Cox
 Priscilla Diaz
 Garrett Kennedy
 Benjamin Middleton
 Scott Moore
 Skyler Moore
 Tommy Phelps
 Kaylee Ragon
 Shannon Winter



High School

"A" - Honor Roll

Tesla Nakedhead
 Richelle Zampella

"B" - Honor Roll

Brianna Brennan
 Sara Graber
 Aaron Hopson
 Cameron Hughes
 Jacob King
 Logan McCoy
 Mathiew Noah
 Ariana Richardson
 Lorenzo Rodriguez
 Regan Spaulding
 Destiny Tanyan
 Tai' Yauri Thomas
 Andrew Wagon
 Seth Wedel
 Shaylin Wells

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2015 - 2016, Issue 7

March 31, 2016

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Special points of interest:

- Braille Challenge
- Summer Camp
- Oklahoma Close Up
- Free Smoke Alarms
- Special Olympics
- Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- Jazz Festival
- FACS Days

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Student of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter:

Elementary School: **Skyler Moore**

Middle School: **Gabrielle King**

High School: **Cameron Hughes**

[SPACE CAMP]

Space Camp Applications are due
by **April 4, 2016** to Ms. Daniels.

Remember, you must have a letter of recommendation, signed checklist of ILS skills, have good standing in behavior and grades, and write a thoughtful essay. The camp is September 2016 in Huntsville, AL.

Email cdaniels@osb.k12.ok.us for more information.



Braille Challenge



Twenty-four students score at School for the Blind Braille Challenge®

by Jody Harlan

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — If Braille literacy is the key to employment for blind people, then one group of braille competitors from Oklahoma has a bright future ahead.

Twenty-four students competed in the Braille Challenge® competition recently held at the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) in Muskogee.



Katelynn (left) & Richelle Zampella

Two sisters, Richelle and Katelynn Zampella, earned gold medals and were overall winners in the junior varsity and freshman categories. The Zampella sisters are OSB students.

Oklahoma School for the Blind is a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

More than 80 percent of employed individuals who are blind are braille users. This compares to a 24 percent, full-time employment rate for all working-age Americans with visual disabilities, according to Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute.

Braille Challenge® is a national program sponsored by the Braille Institute, a nonprofit organization that eliminates barriers caused by blindness and severe sight loss.



All competitors had a chance to test their skills in the academic contest, which measured students' proficiency in braille reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading and tactile graphics.



Sixty of the top scoring competitors in the U.S. will advance to the Braille Challenge Finals in Los Angeles in June.

In 2015, Richelle advanced from the regional Braille Challenge® in Muskogee to win first place in the United States and Canada in the junior varsity category. Katelynn also competed at the national level.

National prize sponsors for OSB's Braille Challenge are:

Braille Institute, Humanware, Seedlings and National Braille Press.

Regional sponsors are:

The Oklahoma School for the Blind, Frank Dirksen, Muskogee County Oklahoma Home Community Education, Nano Pac, Liberty Braille, NewView Oklahoma, Oklahoma Council of the Blind, Ruth Kelly Studios, Galt Foundation, Oklahoma Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired (OAER) and LS&S.

Approximately 18,000 Oklahomans are legally blind, while more than 116,000 have vision difficulties, according to 2010 U.S. Census data.

2016 Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge Winners

Apprentice Level

Gold - Kolten Pennington
Silver - Hunter Kelley
Bronze - Derek Hitchcock



Hunter Kelley

Freshman Level

Gold - Katelynn Zampella
Silver - Lorie Cox

Freshman Transition Level

Gold - Kaylee Ragon
Silver - Avery Carrington
Bronze - Morgan Hudson



Front Row from left (OSB students): Morgan H., Kaylee R., Avery C.

Junior Varsity Level

Gold - Richelle Zampella
Silver - Ariana Richardson
Bronze - Tai Yauri Thomas



From Left: Ariana R., Richelle Z., Tai Yauri T.

Varsity Level

Gold - Jennifer Ratliff
Silver - Makayla Fetner
Bronze TIE - Holly Felkins and Patelin Cogswell



From Left: Jennifer R., Holly F. (back), Patelin C., Jonathon P. (back), and Makayla F.

Most Improved - Younger Grades - Blazen Sitterly

Most Improved - Older Grades - Jonathon Phelps

Overall Winner - Younger Grades - Katelynn Zampella

Overall Winner - Older Grades - Richelle Zampella



The Zampella Family

(Continued on Page 3)

Braille Challenge

(Continued from Page 2)

THANK YOU to...

Laci Goins – for being DJ at the dance and for all the extras for our Thursday night party

Cameron and Nancy Brice – for filling in Thursday night at the party

ALL of Food Service – for providing INCREDIBLE lunches for the contestants and volunteers

Kim – for helping out Thursday at the party

Barbara Collins – for making sure we had working braille writers and organizing them for each testing room

Teachers (Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Leatherman, Mrs. Eckerson, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Barrett) – for letting us use your classrooms for testing rooms

Chris Ferrell – for recording Makayla Fetner and Jennifer Ratliff, so their Blank Cells could be played during the event

Maintenance – for helping us set up tables and chairs and kept the school running on Friday (Thanks, Brett!)

Jody Harlan – for all of her assistance publicizing the event and writing the many, many press releases so the students can be acknowledged in their home community newspapers

Of course, we couldn't have Braille Challenge without our Proctors and Scorers:

Jeri Cooper, Ruby Barker, Jay Doudna, David Finch, Lacey Downs, Vicky GoLightly, Katy Ng, Ani Severtson, Catherine Mitchell, Tonya Givens, Kimberly Berry, Chris Ferrell, Carolyn Patocka, Bundy Porterfield, Jeanne Meyer, Becky LaRue, Vince Cianfrone, Robert Miller, Andrea Hamen (*who, even though she was sick, brought her mother to take her place*), and Laci Goins.

Faye Miller



OSB Summer Camp 2016



Applications for Summer Camp 2016 are now available

on our new and awesome website.

Please fill them out and send them in no later than April 30.

Due to budget cuts, **this year all ages will be at camp at the same time.**

We are also taking donations from companies and organizations to help buy camp T-shirts. Donors will have their company name proudly displayed on the back of the campers T-shirts.

If you know of a company or organization wanting to make a donation, please have them send their tax deductible donation to OSB, Att.: Tonya Givens, 3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, OK 74403.

In the memo please put T-shirts.

Sherry Holder,
Outreach Dept.

OSB will be holding a garage sale on **April 29 and 30** in the OSB Gym to raise money for Summer Camp.

If you are 'Spring Cleaning' and have items you don't want or need, please **send your donations to the Outreach Dept.**

Summer Camp Fundraiser

GARAGE SALE !!!

either by your child or drop them off at the front office.

Please NO clothing items.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

Sherry Holder,
Outreach Dept.

Oklahoma Close Up

Three top OSB students represented our school at **Oklahoma Close Up in Oklahoma City February 16 – 19, 2016.**



From Left: Tai Thomas, Ariana Richardson, Jennifer Ratliff
Back: Susan Young Mock & Jeremy Jackman

Tai Thomas from Oklahoma City met the challenges head-on during the week-long event.

OSB Social studies teacher Jeremy Jackman and Marketing Management teacher Susan Young Mock, who led the group of students through the sessions of Oklahoma Close Up, are hopeful the young Oklahomans left the capitol with greater confidence that will allow them to engage lawmakers.

The goal for our students is that they have a better, deeper understanding of how the government works and their role in it. While a student may not run for public office, he or she watches the news and will hear or read something on Facebook; it's important they know there are other sides to a story. They then need to vote. The activities in which the students participated will help them get past their hesitations when trying to engage government.

This year's trip marked the first time in recent years that OSB students have taken part in the program. Oklahoma Close Up is an educational opportunity designed to provide students an experiential learning program about state government. The program is open to all Oklahoma high school students and provides opportunities to discuss issues with some of the

leading officials in state government. Program workshops give students a chance to explore their own ideas and share views with students from across the state.

One of the points pushed was the importance of engaging lawmakers. When lawmakers come to OSB or to their respective hometowns, students and parents should understand they need to go up and talk to them. They need to understand each lawmaker is in charge of a committee and that is where the action happens.

Oklahoma Close Up seemed to have opened doors for OSB students.

"I have been learning a lot," said Jennifer Ratliff. "This was my first Oklahoma Close Up. When I shadowed state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, I already knew there was a lot that went into education and the budget for education, but I did not realize exactly how much until yesterday. It was very enlightening."

Ratliff wants to go into counseling once she has completed her education.

For Ariana Richardson, the experience has expanded her social circle. "I got to meet a lot of new people and made a lot of new friends," she said. "I have learned a lot. I got to learn so much about what the government does."

Richardson, who wants to become a teacher and novelist, spend a portion of her Close Up experience shadowing state Rep. Ed Cannaday, who represents District 15, which includes Muskogee.

"I got to be in one of his meetings yesterday, and it was interesting to learn about how they conduct their business," Richardson said. "I found some of the speakers very inspirational. They talked to us

about jobs and what it takes to be successful in life."

Even though her interest in government is low, Tai Thomas said she enjoyed the learning experience and shadowing a lawmaker (Rep. Ed Cannaday). Thomas said she hopes to become a fitness trainer once she leaves school.

The Oklahoma Close Up program was a positive experience for our students. They not only learned about their government but also grew socially because they were around public school students. They got to share ideas with their sighted peers. One of the strong points of the program is the mock legislation where they got to debate and learn what it is like to make laws.

Oklahoma Close Up offers a unique learning experience which includes a number of presentations, small learning groups, as well as large group discussions.

Activities often include:

- ◆ Seminars with government officials
- ◆ Meetings with Legislators
- ◆ A tour of the Capitol building
- ◆ Discussions about current issues
- ◆ Spend a day with a Legislator
- ◆ Discussions with Legislators, judges, elected and appointed officials, media representatives, lobbyists and special interest groups.

Susan Young Mock, OSB
& Brett Jones, DRS

Free Smoke Alarms



Please help spread the word about a **statewide Free Smoke Alarm**

Eligibility is very broad and would include those who wear eye glasses for correction, or individuals who are considered blind/legally blind.

As indicated in the materials, individuals can also apply online at: https://www.ok.gov/abletech/Fire_Safety/index.html.

Program ABLE Tech is conducting in partnership with Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation, Fire Protection Publications and Fire Service Training.

As “proof of disability”, the family could state they receive services from the Oklahoma School for the Blind or a patron of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Once an individual completes the application we will contact them to schedule the home installation.

Thanks to special grants from FEMA we have offered this service to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in the past. But for the first time in years, **we are now able to include individuals who are low vision or blind.**

A recent press release, a flyer, and an application form are attached to this newsletter (*Please see Attachments # 1-3 at end of this newsletter*).

In addition, we have all of the materials reviewed by the installer in Braille or electronic format.

Milissa Gofourth
Program Manager
Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Braille Club



The Braille Club had their last meeting on March 8, 2016 and

went out with a **Root beer float party.**

The kids had a blast and received their certificates for participation during the 2015-2016 school year. We had lots of fun and games geared toward learning



and using Braille, and they look forward to next year’s Braille Club.

Thank you parents for allowing me to work with your son or daughter after school and you picking them up.

Ruby Barker,
Braille Club sponsor

Banana Split Party



Elementary Students Go Bananas over their Banana Split Party!

Elementary students in Mrs. Barker’s, Mrs. Eckerson’s, and Mrs. Leatherman’s classes have been working hard on learning their basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts since October to earn a Banana Split to their liking.

The party was held on the last Wednesday before spring break, **March 9, starting**



at 2:20 p.m. It was a blast, and they had fun going through the

line picking the toppings they wanted.

Thank you parents for sending the topping they wanted to build their banana split.

Parents, please continue to practice with them, so they won’t have to think about them at all.



When you ask them what is 9x8 your child will respond quickly 72.

Thank you parents.

Ruby Barker,
Jennifer Eckerson,
and Laura Leatherman



Updates from our Social Services Department

March Students "Caught Being Good"



- ◆ Joseph Rodriguez - for helping another student with their books.
- ◆ Connor Hilton, Nick Jackson & Ariana Richardson - for letting elementary students join a "FACS" class activity.
- ◆ Blazen Sitterly - for helping a student with work during class.
- ◆ Julie Cisneros - for volunteering to help on the playground.
- ◆ Johnnie Davidson - for helping someone go down the stairs.
- ◆ William Winston - for volunteering to be a sighted guide on the playground.
- ◆ Jacob King - for helping a student with their cane.
- ◆ Angel Cozort - for volunteering to be a sighted guide at the Easter Egg Hunt.



Social Services Department
Jane Thomas
Sylvia Sterling

Spring Tea Party

On March 10, several girls and two sponsors attended the Muskogee area 'Girl's Abstinence Tea'.

The Muskogee Civic Center floor was filled with tables, beautifully decorated in bright spring colors. It was easy to tell by the chatter that all of the young ladies from area schools were excited to be on this outing with classmates. The lovely girls who represented OSB were not only looking

wonderful, but their becoming behavior and manners were something to be proud of.

A nice snack of grapes, cheeses, crackers, and pretty Easter cookies were provided upon our arrival!

The speaker made the subject matter interesting and gave examples of how girls should respect themselves. She also had different girls come on stage to help her demonstrate how valuable they are.

Each girl was given a small goodie bag and a magazine "Just for Girls" to take home at the end.

There were door prizes given away, but unfortunately none of our girls had the winning ticket. Maybe next time!

*Cindy Allan, counselor
Sylvia Sterling, psychologist*

April Character Builders



April's character builder concept is that of **PERSEVERANCE.**

As our weather becomes more spring like outdoors, and the end of the school year draws nearer, it is hard to keep young and active minds focused on doing their school work completely, and without rushing through their classroom tasks. My plan is to choose some materials about how great men and women refused to give up on something they have

set out to accomplish, by yielding to other temptations.

One of my favorite books like this is a short story about Abraham Lincoln when he was a young lawyer. He stopped to help a neighbor with an unruly pig. Even though this took hours, and left Mr. Lincoln in a muddy suit coat and trousers, he still did not abandon the man who was counting on his defense in a trial a few miles away.

This book sounds very serious, but most students with whom I have shared this in the past have found it humorous and enlightening.

I have enjoyed trying to bring concepts of good character to our young students this year. It has pleased me that many students who see me in the hall way ask me when I am coming back to their classrooms.

This year's young group of students has been one of the very best. We sincerely thank you for sharing them with us.

*Mrs. Jane Thomas, social worker,
Mrs. Sylvia Sterling, psychologist,
and Mrs. Cindy Allan, counselor*

4H Bunny Show

Our recent Bunny Show, held on **March 8, 2016**, was another huge success. Here are the results:

Satin Meat

Destiny Tanyan - Doe 1st place, Breed champion & Reserved Breed Show Champion

Tai Yauri Thomas - Doe 2nd place

Holland Lop

Garrett Kennedy - 3rd place

Rylie Spaulding - Buck 2nd place

Havana

Rylie Spaulding - 1st place, Breed Champion & Sr. Showman Ship

Mini Satin

Ariana Richardson - 1st place, Breed Champion & Grand Breed Show Champion

Dutch

Tai Yauri Thomas - Buck 1st place & Breed Champion

Audrey DeBrosky - Doe 2nd place

Lion Head

Kaylee Ragon - Buck 2nd place & Jr. Showman Ship

Netherland Dwarf

Holly Felkins - Doe 1st place & Reserved Breed Champion

Mini Rex

Avery Carrington - Doe 2nd place

Jacob King - Buck 4th place & Sr. Reserved Showman Ship

Polish

Makayla Fetner - 2nd place

Prices won included:

Water hoses for our barn, gloves, and flashlights.

Marcella Bynum



Thank you to everyone who supported the concession stand at the bunny show.

The junior/senior class made a little over \$100.

Cheryl Daniels

Special Olympics

Well, the OSB Special Olympians had a great time in Poteau this past Wednesday the 23rd.



10 athletes, 7 staff and 2 family members braved the wind to participate in the Kiamichi area Athletics competition.

Here are the results from our competition:

Senior

Triston Gibson 2nd place 50 M run and 3rd place softball throw

Juniors

Morning Star Clark 1st 50 M run and 1st standing long jump

Jacob King 1st standing long jump and 5th softball throw

Andrew Wagon 1st standing long jump and 2nd 50 M run

Seth Wedel 1st standing long jump and 4th 50 M run

Justin Whitmire 1st 50 M run and 1st standing long jump

Sophomore

Lorenzo Rodriguez 1st standing long jump and 3rd softball throw

Elementary

Miracle Jones 1st softball throw and 1st 50 M run

Blazen Sitterly 1st standing long jump and 2nd 50 M run

Kolten Pennington 2nd 50 M run and 4th softball throw

Tera Webb



Boy Scout Troop 672

On **February 10th** one group of boy scouts went to Homeland and another group went to ALPS for a can food drive.



Together the troop turned in **200 items** to the food pantry here in Muskogee.



On **March 4th**, at the Boy Scout banquet, our troop received **2 bronze level 'Journey to Excellence' ribbons.**



On **March 9-29th** Troop 672 were selling camp cards and Blue and Gold sausage products.

The orders will be back for pick up on **April 4th**. The money raised will help with uniforms and camps.

We will provide you with an update on the sales, as soon as the numbers are available.



On **March 21st** our troop's scheduled fishing trip was canceled but the fun was not stopped and we had a hot dog cookout, here on campus instead.



Mrs Marcella cooked over 75 hot dogs. Mrs. Laura even went to the store because we ran out of hot dogs.

Charley worked with the boys trying knots and putting up tents. After that the fun moved to the east play ground.



Mr. Butler had brought his 2 person "Tandem bicycle" and Mr. Butler and Charley took the boys for a spin.



The evening was full of fun for the tiger cubs, webelos, boy scouts and the adults.

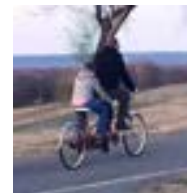
On **March 29th** we had a walk/run at Civitan Park for our boy scouts, webelos, cubs and anyone interested. As always, we had a great time.

On **April 1-3** we will have our webelos wood camp at Honey Springs Battlefield.

The cubs and webelos will be making a cub mobile to race on **April 23rd** at downtown Historic Fort Gibson. Come and help build and/or watch. Special guests will be the Fort Gibson Fire Department, the Police Department and EMS. Come out and have a good time with your family.

I would like to **thank everyone** for the help and support you give to our scouts. We couldn't do it without you.

Becky LaRue, sponsor



Green Country Jazz Festival

On Monday March 7th, 2016 our Jazz band competed at the **Green Country Jazz Festival** in Tahlequah, Ok on the campus of NSU.

The band received ones from all 3 judges and a **Superior rating.**

They finished first in Class 2A and had the second highest score among all the bands in attend-

ance. Only Tulsa Union, class 5A, scored higher.

Richelle Zampella was selected as one of the **outstanding soloists** at the festival and received a **\$1,000.00 scholarship.**



Chris Ferrell, Band Director



Richelle Zampella

FACS Days

Last month, Mrs. Garner accompanied Kaylee Ragon and I to FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) Day at the Capitol.



From Left: Richelle Z., Kaylee R., Rep. Jerry McPeak, Allison Garner

It was a tiring but nonetheless rewarding trip. We got to the Capitol shortly before 8:30 a.m., breezed through

security, and headed to our first appointment. Throughout the morning, we visited with many legislators. We answered questions about our personal and academic interest, as well as our perspective of OSB as students. We left an impact statement for several legislators to read detailing the importance of both the OK School for the Blind and the Family and Consumer Sciences program.

Visiting with our legislators was less nerve-wracking than expected; all of the legislators were really down-to-earth, easy to talk to, and enthusiastic about our school.

Between appointments, we had the opportunity to sit in the gallery and listen to the senators debate impending bills. This was really interesting.

Somehow, Mrs. Garner managed to let us see the floor and get a picture sitting at one of the desks the representatives use when they are in session.

Kaylee and I convinced Mrs. Garner to give us the self-guided tour of the Capitol, which wasn't easy, but in the end I'm glad we



From Left: Kaylee R., Rep. Ed Cannaday, Richelle Z.

did. Our state capitol is rich in Oklahoma history.

This was a great experience and I would definitely encourage other FCCLA members to participate. Representing our school and our FACS program are so important. Having the opportunity to talk directly to multiple legislators who support us - and some who didn't know much about OSB - was an eye-opener. Honestly, I never realized how dedicated some of these legislators are to OSB's well-being. They really appreciated us coming to talk to them and hoped



From Left: Richelle Z., Kaylee R., Rep. George Faught

to see us again - and I hope we can, too!

Richelle Zampella,
9th Grade student

FACS Students Meet with Lawmakers at the State Capitol

Kaylee Regan and Richelle Zampella visited their legislators at the State Capitol on February 25. The event was designed to stress the importance of being a leader within their families, careers, and communities. Four hundred thirty one Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) students, representing 72 FACS programs and 8 Technology centers attended the event along with representatives from Oklahoma State University.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with Oklahoma representatives and senators to share FACS classroom and FCCLA chapter activities with their legislative districts and to thank them for supporting the Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program. Coursework for students enrolled in FACS programs include financial literacy, nutrition and wellness, personal and family relationships, decision making and leadership.

"This day is a valuable opportunity for the students to share their accomplishments within the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom as well as through FCCLA involvement with their respective legislators," said Mary Jane Grayson, OATFACS adviser.

Students had the opportunity to tour the capitol and were introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Fifteen chapters also participated in Spotlight on Project exhibits which showcased outstanding FCCLA projects displayed by chapter members.

Oklahoma FCCLA serves more than 11,500 members in 413 local chapters located in junior and senior high schools and on technology center campuses. Known as the "ultimate leadership experience," participation in the FCCLA national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong, active leaders within their communities.

FCCLA is a dynamic national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through CareerTech's Family and Consumer Sciences Education. The organization is unique among youth organizations because it is the only CareerTech in-school student organization with the family as its central focus.

FCCLA is one of seven student organizations affiliated with CareerTech career areas; others

include FFA and Agricultural Education, BPA and Business and Information Technology Education, HOSA and Health Careers Education, DECA and Marketing Education, TSA and Technology Engineering, and SkillsUSA and Trade and Industrial Education.

Career Tech Press Release

Library News



**From the Heart
Jewelry
- April SALE !!!**

Stop by, check it out.

Prices vary (\$6 - \$8)

Thank you again for supporting the OSB Media Center Program.



The Media Center and Reading Department are gearing up for Summer Reading.

From OSB peewee players (Elementary) to the major league athletes (MS, HS), everyone should work out their minds.

We are inviting all students to **flex their reading muscles** during the summer of 2016!

So stop by the library to sign up and **Get in the Game and READ!**

Barbara D. Collins,
Media Specialist
Rachel Butler,
Reading Specialist

Girl Scouts Troup 11224



Troop 11224 will be participating in the

The fun will begin with a special opening ceremony, including a parade of athletes costumed to represent their teams!

We will also be camping out during the weekend and using all of our newly acquired outdoor skills.

**GSEOK Council
Girl Scout Olympics** the weekend of **April 7-10, 2016** in Bartlesville, OK.



The girls will participate in fun and challenging sporting events! They will also have an opportunity to explore a variety of different "Live Healthy, Lead Healthy" activity stations.



THIS CHICK LOVES TO CAMP

Troop 11224

Spring Campout

Girl Scout Troop Olympics 4/9/2016

*Camp Wah-Shah-She -
Bartlesville, OK*

Remaining Meeting Dates

April - 4/5, 4/19, 4/26

Troop Meetings held

Tuesdays 5:30-7:00pm at A2 Dorm

Barbara D. Collins,
Sponsor

GOING THE EXTRA MILE - MARCH 2015



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

and school:

Rachel Butler and **Sherry Holder** for presenting and working very hard at the VI meeting.

Sarah Young

Robert Miller for always assisting with tech problems, major or minor, without complaint and keeping expectations high for our students.

Cheryl Daniels

Tera Webb for helping with the Jazz Band at the Green Country Jazz Festival. She is always a great help!

Chris Ferrell

Mrs. **Patsy Perceful** for always greeting everyone with a smile and a happy "Good Morning".

Ms. Daniels' SET kids

Mrs. **Allison Garner** for always accommodating when it comes to making snacks for activities like Braille Challenge, Academic team, etc.

Ariana Richardson

Ms. Amy for teaching my class while I was gone a couple of days and **Mrs. Leatherman** for doing my lunch duty for me one day.

Jennifer Eckerson

Barbara Collins for being dedicated to whatever she is doing, especially for the students. She is very helpful when it comes to needing something from the library and even coming to the classroom

to help get the media equipment working properly. She is involved in many activities where she can work directly with the students and she comes up with neat educational projects for the students to work on. She set up the Braille Display downstairs in the front lobby, which is very nice. She works with the Girl Scouts and she is deserving of the nomination.

Ruby Barker

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



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:

Larry Hawkins; Interim Superintendent

Welcome on board. Glad to have you !



UPCOMING Birthdays

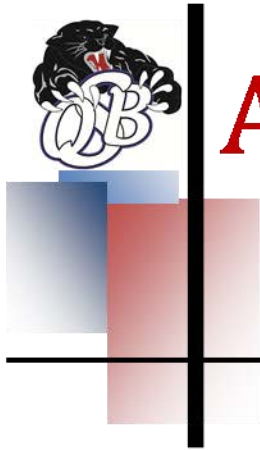
Students

Skyler Moore	Apr	6
Lorenzo Rodriguez	Apr	14
Jennifer Ratliff	Apr	19
Morning Star Clark	Apr	27

Staff

Chris Ferrell	Apr	4
Lynn Cragg	Apr	13
Maggie Mattox	Apr	18
Shawndra Johnson	Apr	27
Jennifer Ogle	Apr	30





April 2016

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

Dorms Open
 NO School
 School In Session

Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Event
Fri., Apr. 1st		SCHOOL IN SESSION !!!
Thur., Apr. 7th		Creek County Literacy
Wed., Apr. 13th		Jr./Sr. Banquet & Prom
Tue., Apr. 26 th		State Jazz Contest, OSU Stillwater
Wed., Apr. 27th		Elementary "Good Behavior" field trip
Fri., Apr. 29th - Sun., May 1st		Jr./Sr. Class Trip

Upcoming May Events:

Wed., May 4th	Elementary "Park & Picnic" field trip
Tue., May 10th	Middle School Greenleaf Field Trip Spring Concert & Activities Banquet
Thur., May 12th	Give Back Day
Tue., May 17th	Elementary Awards Assembly
Wed., May 18th	Middle & High School Awards Assembly Graduation - Last Day of School
Thur., May 19 th	Professional Development Day

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

Recreation Activities

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 HOME GOING	2
3 DORMS OPEN	4 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	5 Wizard's Chess 6:30-7:30 pm	6 10th Grade Fundraiser Taco Bueno 5:00-8:00 pm	7 HOME GOING	8	9
10 DORMS OPEN	11 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	12 Riddles & Trivia Night 6:30-7:30 pm	13 April Showers Dance 7:00-8:30 pm PROM NIGHT	14 HOME GOING	15	16
17 DORMS OPEN	18 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	19 Movie Night Elementary (12 & under) 6:30 pm	20 Movie Night (13 & up) 6:30 pm	21 HOME GOING	22	23
24 DORMS OPEN	25 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	26 Goal Ball in Tulsa w. Faye Miller	27 Bingo & Games Night 6:30-7:30 pm	28 Jr./Sr. Trip HOME	29 Jr./Sr. Trip	30 Jr./Sr. Trip

Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278

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FREE Smoke Alarms and Alert Equipment for Oklahomans with Disabilities

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA (March 16, 2016) – If you are an Oklahoman you take tornadoes seriously and take precautions to survive the storms that occur here every year. But did you know according to the OSDH, Center for Health Statistics, 10 times more people die, on average, every year in home fires than from tornadoes in Oklahoma? Yet, do we take the simple precautions that are readily available to us to be alerted to a fire in our home, so we can get out?

For the third consecutive year, the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to install smoke alarms and specialized alert equipment in the homes of Oklahomans with disabilities. This equipment alerts the consumer and gives them as much time as possible to escape a fire in their home. This year's grant provides this life saving equipment for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision, or use a mobility device. Trained professional installers from grant partners Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Fire Protection Publications, and Fire Service Training (all at Oklahoma State University), install the equipment for the consumer by appointment, and provides them valuable fire prevention education to help them be more fire safe in their homes.

Assistant Director Nancy Trench at Fire Protection Publications said, "We are fortunate that we are able to provide this equipment to alert individuals with disabilities and give them as much time as possible to escape a home fire. And the education we give these individuals teaches them how to prevent fires from happening."

These grant partners have a long history of saving lives by installing these smoke alarms and alert devices through their past grants. Direct feedback, from Oklahomans who have received this equipment, has documented 18 "saves" from these grant projects.

"We want every Oklahoman to know what to do in the event of a fire. This grant allows us to follow our mission of providing the resources for Oklahomans with disabilities to maintain the greatest independence in their environment," commented Linda Jaco, director of ABLE Tech.

Free Smoke Alarms and Alert Equipment for Oklahomans with a Disability

Will you be alerted in time to escape if you have a fire?

Who Is Eligible?

Oklahomans of all ages with a documented disability of: deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, or who use of a mobility device. To qualify, applicants must have a professional attest to their disability as part of their completed application.

The Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to install smoke alarms and alert equipment in the homes of individuals with a disability. OkAT partners with Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Fire Protection Publications, and Fire Service Training at Oklahoma State University to offer this free program to Oklahomans.

Program Features:

- ◆ Installation of smoke alarms and alert equipment in the home
- ◆ Equipment will include a bed shaker and very loud, low-frequency bedside alert signal; and, in some homes, a strobe light to alert individuals who are deaf in the event of a fire
- ◆ Help with planning a home fire drill
- ◆ Assistance with a home safety survey to prevent fires, burns, falls, and other common home injuries

How Do You Apply?

Submit your application online at: www.okabletech.okstate.edu

-or-

Complete the attached application and **send it to Oklahoma ABLE Tech** by mail, fax, or email.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

1514 W. Hall of Fame

Stillwater, OK 74078

Phone: 888.885.5588 (v/tty)

Fax: 405.744.2487

Email: abletech@okstate.edu

Program available while supplies last.

Date of Application: _____

“Fire Safety Solutions” Smoke Alarm Application

To participate in the program, you must:

- Answer all questions on this application;
- Have a professional attest to the disability (see “Proof of Disability”) signature line below
- Be a resident of Oklahoma;
- NOT live in an institutional facility (dorm, nursing home, etc.)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street/Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Is email a good way to contact you? Yes No Date of Birth: _____

CONTACT PERSON

Please provide a Contact Person if you need assistance with scheduling the smoke alarm installation.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street/Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Did the Contact Person assist you with this application? Yes No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please check the answer to the questions below. Your answers will tell us the type of equipment that best meets your needs.

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Type of Residence | 2. Primary Disability | 3. Primary Language | 4. Preferred Format of Support Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf | <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard of Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> ASL | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> Blind | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Braille |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Low vision | | <input type="checkbox"/> Large print |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility | | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |

PROOF OF DISABILITY

As proof of disability - a professional may attest that you have a qualifying disability with their signature below.

Signature (professional)

Title

Mail, fax, or email this completed application to:

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, c/o Smoke Alarm Application, 1514 W. Hall of Fame, Stillwater, OK 74078-2026

FAX: (405) 744-2487 ½ EMAIL: abletech@okstate.edu

Questions? Contact us at (405) 744-9748 (v/tty) or toll-free (888) 885-5588 (v/tty).