

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

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

3. Qtr. Honor Roll (EL&MS)

“A” Honor Roll

Elementary (3-5 Gr.)

None

Middle School (6-8 Gr.)

Stephanie Story



Students of the
2. Qtr.

Students of the
3. Qtr.

“B” Honor Roll

Elementary

Payton Crum

Noah Dougan

Eric Enzenauer

Braylen Fuller

Ryan Horton

Kelton Jordan

Audree Montgomery

Blake Priddy

EL: Haidyn James

MS: Anicka Weller

HS: Julio Valdez

EL: Stephanie Story

MS: Evy Mitchell

HS: Johnnie Davidson

Middle School

Bryan Alender

Dayton Baccus

Jaylee Burnside

Julia Cisneros

Hunter Kelley

Evy Mitchell

Lilith Pedersen

Anicka Weller

Reminder

High School students receive only semester grades, therefore will only be considered for Semester Honor Roll.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2020 - 2021, Issue 3

March 30, 2021

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Special points of interest:

- 8th Gr. History Project
- Black History Month
- Women’s History Month
- Pre-ETS Introduction
- Citizen Science Project
- Homecoming
- Be the Teacher
- Microcredit Loans
- Testing Tips

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Congratulations!

2020-2021 TESTING DATES

College- & Career-Readiness Assessments

Grade 11 March 18 - April 30, 2021

ACT Test April 6-8, April 13-15, April 20-22, & April 27-29, 2021

SAT Test March 24-26, April 13-15, & April 27-29, 2021

State Testing

Grades 6-8 April 6-May 7 (paper) or May 24 (online), 2021

➔ See Pages 11-12 for “Testing Tips”



Counselors' Corner - News, Tips, etc.



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"

- ◆ Abigail Norton was DJ-ing the dance.
- ◆ Ben Middleton and Rayce Phillips helped set up tables for the dance.
- ◆ Adan Duran-Gonzalez helped another student to the cafeteria.
- ◆ Avery Dollar and Jimmy Anderson helped teachers in the classroom.
- ◆ Blake Priddy was being patient while waiting.
- ◆ Branson Leonard gave the last bag of his favorite potato chips to a friend who really wanted them.
- ◆ Ellie Montgomery was being polite and let another student go in line before her.
- ◆ Evy Mitchell helped a student in the classroom.
- ◆ Jacelyn Shields was compassionate and helpful to others. She also helped a student in the hallway.
- ◆ Jaylee Burnside helped another student in the dorm.
- ◆ Kennedy Sullivan offered her place as line leader to a friend.
- ◆ Kesslee Travis was being polite to another student.
- ◆ Lydia Bradley was being helpful in class.
- ◆ Miracle Jones helped another student in the van.
- ◆ Morgan Hudson helped a student down the stairs.
- ◆ Ryan Horton found and returned a lost item to its owner. He also shared something with a friend and was caught speaking kind words to his friends.
- ◆ Scott Moore delivered blood drive flyers to businesses in town.
- ◆ Skyler Moore was being polite to a new student.

Bailey Ross,
School Counselor

Word of the Month for April & May is



Perseverance is when you push yourself to work through challenges. It is that drive that helps you keep working even when you want to quit.

What is perseverance and why should kids want it?

Kids might be surprised to hear that perseverance (also called grit) is really important for living a life they enjoy and can be proud of. Why? Because life is full of challenges and struggles.

Perseverance is the drive that helps you get past the hard stuff to get to what you want. Without

perseverance, you won't get far in life.



Perseverance is a personality trait that pushes you to overcome difficulties.

Having perseverance means that when you are facing a challenge, you use your mind and your body to overcome it.

You use perseverance every day. If you figure out what you find hard to do, you'll see where you use perseverance.

Here are some examples:

- You're doing school work and it's your hardest subject. Maybe it's a difficult math problem, or a long essay, or maybe you have to stand up in front of the class and present. Whatever it is for you, it's tough. You're struggling. You're not sure you can do it. Maybe you even want to give up. You think about taking the easy way out and just doing the least you have to, even though you know it won't be right. But you know the work needs to get done and you know you

(Continued on page 3)

Word of the Month for April & May (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

have to do your best work. So you try harder.



You stick with it and after some frustration and focus, you do it! You got it done and did it to the best of your ability.

- ◇ *Without perseverance, your grade would have suffered. Without perseverance you wouldn't have learned what you needed to learn, and that might have made the next lesson even harder.*
 - ◇ *Despite feeling uncomfortable, you did the emotionally difficult thing and talked to your friend. Remember that perseverance is the strength*
- ◆ You said something hurtful by mistake, and now your friend is mad at you. She's giving you nasty looks and telling

everyone else what happened. You feel bad that you said it, but now she's being so mean. Your heart really hurts at the whole situation, but going and apologizing or trying to talk about how she's hurting you is just so awkward. You think it would be easier just to ignore her, or maybe even tell your friends how she's being so mean so they won't side with her. Then you realize that if you don't talk it out, you'll lose your friend forever. If you don't apologize, you'll keep feeling guilty. You figure out what needs to be done, and you walk over to your friend. Even though it's so uncomfortable, you do the right thing and apologize.

to do what you know is the right thing to do, even when it is hard for your mind, body, or emotions.

More and more experts are arguing that **perseverance**, along with other performance values, **is essential to kids' future success**.

Why is perseverance important for kids? Because teaching a child to persevere through challenges gives him/her the work ethic to be a responsible and resilient adult.



February Blood Drive Update

Hello Mrs. Garner,

Thank you again for rallying OSB employees, students and community members to help save lives with OBI. Year to date your drives have helped to collect a total of 34 donations.

The November 17th blood drive collected 19 donations and the **February 3rd** blood drive collected **15 blood donations**. Between both blood drives a total of 4 convalescent plasma with the COVID-19 antibodies was collected. Two were collected in November and two were collected last week.

Oklahoma School for the Blind has reached the level of **\$250 in scholarship money** for calendar year 20/21.

Please share Oklahoma Blood Institute's heartfelt thanks to all who

helped participate in the blood drive. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the blood supply for months, and we are grateful that you hosted this essential blood drive to ensure that patients across the region receive the lifesaving blood they need when they need it.

24 signed up to donate at OSB, and 15 were able to do so – each one of them saving up to three lives! Your organization's blood donors are heroes for local families who may be spending time in the hospital with their loved ones.

You may wish to let donors know that they could receive a personal message of appreciation from their blood recipient through the **Thank the Donor** program. Thank the Donor allows blood recipients to e-mail thank you messages, photos, and videos to their

individual donors, while maintaining privacy. Messages, such as the one below, are received by blood donors through Thank the Donor.

Thank you,
Lucy Laird
Senior Account Manager
Oklahoma Blood Institute



19th Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge - Update

By Faye Miller



Thirty-two contestants competed this year at the 2021 Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge. Eleven of these contestants were competing for the first time!

Congratulations to all the contestants who practiced their braille skills and demonstrated these skills in close competitions. The complete results are listed below.

Apprentice, Freshman, Transition 1 and Transition 2 contestants completed braille tests in spelling, reading comprehension and proof-reading. Sophomore, Junior Varsity and Varsity contestants had to answer questions on charts and graphs, reading comprehension and proofreading, as well as transcribe a passage into braille as they listened to it.

Competition this year was especially fierce in the Varsity Category. Elbin Carrillo and Julio Valdez have been neck-in-neck since 2018. Last year, Julio edged out Elbin for the gold medal. This year, however, Elbin won the gold medal in Varsity. Elbin also earned the highest overall score for Sophomore, Junior Varsity and Varsity. He chose a Victor Reader Stream donated by Humanware for his overall prize.

Testing was held throughout the month of February instead of having a 1-day event. This allowed for smaller testing groups, reduced number of volunteers, and accommodated for student absences due to illness and

weather. And, instead of having 10-15 people in a noisy and stressful score room, Mrs. Miller scored all the tests at home with a hot cup of tea to help her relax.

Contestant goodie bags were filled with items donated by the Braille Institute including a deck of braille UNO cards, a Braille Challenge face mask, water bottle, and hand sanitizer. All contestants also received a Braille Challenge t-shirt thanks to Frank Dirksen's generous donation. Medals and prizes were purchased with donations from our many generous sponsors.

A special acknowledgement goes to Joseph Rodriguez, the only senior competing this year, who has competed in Braille Challenge the past 3 years. He received a computer backpack donated by Pepper Watson at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped proctor tests. Faye Miller, Gina Woods and Christy Hargrove proctored tests on campus, while Sherry Holder and Cyndi Lumpkin proctored tests for several students off-campus.

Thanks also to maintenance for setting up the testing room and to food service for providing snacks and drinks.

Results:

Overall High Score

– Sophomore, JV, Varsity

Elbin Carrillo, Oklahoma City

Varsity

Gold – Elbin Carrillo, Oklahoma City

Silver – Julio Valdez, Oklahoma City

Junior Varsity

Gold – Jasmine Perez, Sand Springs

Sophomore

Gold – Hunter Kelley, Claremore

Silver – Stephanie Story, Tulsa

Bronze – Kolten Pennington, Roff

Transition 2

Gold – Kaylie Minter, Broken Bow

Silver – Ben Middleton, Oklahoma City

Bronze – Delilah Howell, Westville

Transition 1

Gold – Jaden Brown, Tulsa

Silver – Blazen Sitterly, Ponca City

Bronze – Genevieve Fitzgerald, Claremore

Freshman

Gold – Leah Stewart, Mannford

Silver – Avery Dollar, Muskogee

Bronze – Kye Shrum, Perry

Apprentice

Gold – Jayda Magers, Ponca City

Silver – Kennedy Sullivan, Glenpool

Bronze – Gabby Henderson, Muskogee

THANK YOU to the 2021 Braille Challenge Sponsors:

Oklahoma School for the Blind
Braille Institute of America
HumanWare
Liberty Braille
Frank Dirksen
NanoPac
NewView Oklahoma
Oklahoma AER
Oklahoma Council of the Blind
Ruth Kelly Studios
Reliant Rehabilitation
Sapulpa Lions Club
Seedlings
SERVPRO

We interviewed one of the Braille Challenge participants. Elbin said his favorite part was doing the charts and graphs but speed and accuracy was the hardest part of the Challenge. Elbin's advice for next year's Braille Challenge participants is to read braille more often in classes.

8th Grade Early US History Project

by Abby Norton

Mr. Jackman's 8th grade history class did a fun project while learning about Spanish conquistadors.

This cross curricular activity included history, physical science, and engineering. The project was to build boats using paper bowls, straws, and paper.

Due to being shut down for COVID-19 the classes work days were split by a two week gap.

After they finished their boats Mr. Jackman's class got to race their boats!

Skyler Moore won best design for her boat, and the tie for first place came down to Skyler and Ryan Williams.

The class thoroughly liked the multi-subject lesson and had a great time with hands on fun!

Jayden said "Next time I want to put a motor in my boat,"

Conquistador

Conquistadors were the knights, soldiers and explorers of the Spanish and the Portuguese Empires.

During the Age of Discovery, conquistadors sailed beyond Europe to the Americas, Oceania, Africa, and Asia, conquering territory and opening trade routes.

Black History Month (Feb.)

By News Staff



Do you know who Bessie Coleman is? How about Henrietta Lacks? These are just two of the amazing African American

women who were featured during February on the Service Learning Black History Month display.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Since 1976, the month of February has been designated

as Black History Month. Its roots trace back to 1915 when historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans created a group known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

Congress officially passed the law in 1986 that deemed February "**National Black History Month.**"

Black History Month reminds all Americans to appreciate the importance of the contributions by Martin Luther King Jr, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Madam C.J. Walker, Jackie Robinson and many others to our

society. The courage and strength of these leaders has had an immeasurable impact on the evolution of modern civil rights in the United States.



Martin Luther King Jr.

Women's History Month (March)

by Abby Norton



March is Women's History Month, or "herstory" month.

The month-long celebration derived from **International Women's Day**, which had been observed on **March 8.**

On International Women's Day everyone is supposed to wear purple to support all the accomplishments and triumphs made by women.

According to **womens-history.gov**, on August 4th, 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-28 which designated and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning

(Continued on page 6)

Women's History Month (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

on **March 7, 1982** as "Women's History Week."

People.com says "By 1987, Congress declared the entire month of March **Women's History Month**."

This year for Women's History Month, Mr. Jackman is having his high school classes write reports on notable women from history.

Including "sheroes" like Amelia Earheart, Anne Frank, Queen Elizabeth, Rosa Parks, and Maya Angelou.



There are many more heroic women from history that should be recognized and we appreciate all of their contributions to the world. So, in the month of March give some recognition to all the women that have paved our history and made it possible for young girls today to dream about one day being just like one of their "sheroes".

Ace Academy (Garner's 4th Hour)

by Audrey DeBrosky

Mrs. Garner's 4th hour class had the opportunity to participate in the **ACE Academy** by David DeNotaris and Eileen Ley, two very kind instructors who led us through the lessons.

The students learned ...

- ♦ to be good advocates,
- ♦ about job interviews, and
- ♦ how to use the **NFB Newline app**.

Students learned about the many different ways to incorporate advocacy into job seeking and daily situations.

When learning about job interviews we learned how to answer the tough questions visually impaired and blind people may face in the process of getting a job. We also learned about the best time to disclose one's disability during the job interview process.

Lastly the NFB Newline app is where visually impaired and blind people can access newspapers and magazines, both local as well as from other states.



Pre-ETS Introduction

by News staff

What is Pre-ETS? **Pre-ETS** is the **Pre-Employment Transition Services** training program provided by OU Outreach.



Pre-ETS counselors come to schools and work with students focusing on job exploration, work-based learning, workplace

readiness, self-advocacy, and post-secondary counseling.

Counselors help students identify their career interests and goals and help them identify skills necessary to achieve their goals.



Mrs. Harris, the Pre-ETS counselor, comes to OSB once a month to talk to the students about employment basics and self-advocacy.

To request more information about Pre-ETS contact: Judi Goldston at jgoldston@ou.edu.



Citizen Science Projects

by Abby Norton



Have you ever been curious about national science projects? If so then you may be interested

in **Citizen Science**.

Citizen Science has almost 490 current on-going projects. The projects fall under many different fields of science like: animals, archeology, astronomy, biology, birds, chemistry, climate, technology, and many more exciting subjects.

Projects for Citizen Science can be from all around the globe, and

can require you to do a number of different things like identifying stars or constellations and taking pictures of the geography around where you live.

If your curiosity gets the best of you this is the way to learn and have fun with science!

Our favorite science teacher, Mrs. Daniels, has taken part in two Citizen Science projects: the Citizen Science Soil Collection program and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

When asked, she said her favorite project was watching the birds because she likes to search the multiple species of birds.

Mrs. Daniels said “I think they promote the idea that anyone can be a scientist and that each person’s contribution is meaningful.”

Kaylie Minter said “I thought it was interesting that the world could come together for one science project.”



New Gym Update

by News staff

We are happy to announce that the new gymnasium is open and ready to use!

The students have been utilizing all of the new facilities and are loving it.

It has been a long journey to get the gymnasium open and we appreciate everyone who worked so hard to make this happen for OSB.

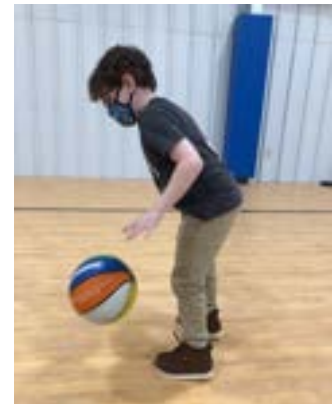
Our new gymnasium has a concession stand area, a classroom, a workout room, locker rooms with a shower and a wrestling practice room that doubles as a room of refuge.

The new bleachers are exactly what we need in order to be able to sit and enjoy the many events that will happen in the future.

The students and staff are all very excited and proud to have these facilities and can’t wait for everyone to see it.

The first big event to happen in the new gymnasium was Homecoming and it was a complete success!

We are looking forward to making many more memories in our new gym in the years to come.



Homecoming

by News staff

The evening of March 9, 2021 was filled with glitz and glamour as OSB celebrated **HOME**COMING as the first event held in our new gymnasium.

The new gym was beautifully decorated with blue and white balloons.



Morgan H. & Austin

Mrs. Webb constructed an archway for the Homecoming Court to promenade under.

This year the court consisted of **Freshman** Emileigh Jackson

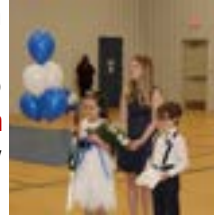
who was escorted by Adan Duran -Gonzalez; **Sophomore** Tyanna Culley, escorted by Jimmy Anderson; **Junior** Jacelyn Shields, escorted by Benjamin Middleton; and **Senior** Morgan Hudson, escorted by Austin Wade.



Homecoming court 2021

The **flower girl** was Kennedy Sullivan and Haidyn James was the **crown bearer**.

The 2020 Queen Kaylee Ragon returned to help crown **Morgan** as the new **homecoming queen**.



Kaylee R., Kennedy S., and Haidyn J.

Congratulations!

The night was finished with a banquet for all of the students in the Recreation



Haidyn J. & Kennedy S.

Center where they had cake and punch to celebrate the event.

Elementary "Cardboard Castle"

by Kathy Adams

The Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom turned into a box village with a castle this past month.



Castle Live, so much fun

The children enjoyed exploring it tremendously. There was a front

door, a living room with windows and shutters, a "**whack a mole**" circle pop up opening, a tall, tall tower, a tiny triangle to crawl through and the back door.



Haidyn James named it a village, which I thought was so appropriate because as we all

know it does take a village to care for children.

We could not have had such a lovely box town without the expert help of Ms. Coplen.

Thank you Mrs. Coplen!



What fun!

CaneQuest Winners

by News Staff



OSB hosted its **8th Annual Oklahoma CaneQuest** back in December with wonderful results.

This year the contestants competed in the event individually, both **here on campus and virtually**. Many of the winners were featured in their hometown newspapers.

We are very proud of all of the participants and excited for all of our winners.

We asked one of the participants to let us know about his favorite part of the contest, what he thought was the hardest part and any advice he has for future contestants.

Julio's favorite part of Cane Quest was having the opportunity

to walk around the whole building. He said the hardest part was staying in step the whole time but if he had any advice for next year's contestants it would be to practice your street crossings as much as possible and to not be nervous about not doing the right thing.



Be the Teacher

by Cheryl Daniels-James

Botany students had an interesting assignment this week! They got to step into the shoes of a teacher.

Students were asked to create a slide show presentation of a botany related topic of their choice. Each student was given a day to "teach" their peers. They had to answer questions from students and even give

an assignment or quiz that they then had to grade themselves.

It was so interesting! We learned about poison ivy, potatoes, farming, lilies, roses, and more.

These student teachers did a great job overall and I am so proud of them! I learned that their assignments are WAY harder than mine!

Good job, guys!



A special thanks to Robert Miller for helping students with assistive technology for this assignment!



Mr. Carrillo teaches about farming

Microcredit Loans

by Mr. Butler

In Western Geography we were studying about poverty stricken people in Central & South America and how a small loan called a "**Microcredit Loan**" changes their life and often gives them a livelihood or means of earning an income.



Central America



South America

Microcredit loans in Central & South America are used to purchase such things as a Sewing Machine then they are able to sell clothing, or they purchase a cow and then they are able to sell Milk, or Chickens and they are able sell Eggs, etc.

Most Microcredit loans in Central & South America are between \$80 - \$200 Dollars and are paid back in small increments.

I challenged the students to collect 5 ideas from family and friends from the question: "If you had only \$5 dollars to invest, what would you do

with that \$5 dollars in order to earn a profit?"

After collecting the ideas the student/s picked one idea in order to try.

I was their "**Microcredit Banker**" and on a volunteer basis they took my **\$5 dollars loan**.



Those participating in the Microcredit Experiment were:

- ◆ Bryan Alender
- ◆ Treysen Brown
- ◆ Jaylee Burnside
- ◆ Ian Holm
- ◆ Hunter Kelley
- ◆ Evy Mitchell

Students were given a week to complete the assignment and so they went to work as entrepreneurs.

- ◆ Hunter & Bryan sold **Individual Hot Cocoa mixes with Marshmallows in a cup**; just open, add water and microwave.



- ◆ Treysen sold **Individual S'mores in a ziplock bag**.



- ◆ Evy & Ian sold **Handmade Jewelry**.



- ◆ Lastly, Jaylee sold **Large Suckers**.



Every student made a profit, some made more than others.

All students repaid their **Microcredit Banker** the \$5 dollar loan (no interest was charged) and they got to keep the profit from their labor.

We learned such **terms** as **Entrepreneur, Capital, Profit/Loss, Responsibility, Invest, Loan, Interest, and Quality**.

We learned **phrases** like "**It Takes Money To Make Money**" and what "**In the Black and In The Red**" meant.

I was EXTREMELY Proud of the 6th Grade Western Geography Class and on top of the Microcredit Experiment, the students and I gave a "**Free Will Offering**" of **\$45 dollars** to Mrs. Shelton to send to a person or family in need in Guatemala, Central America.

I say Bravo & Kudos to the class.



Kettle Corn Fundraiser

by Mr. Butler

The 9th Grade class would like to thank everyone for supporting their **Kettle Corn Fundraiser**.



A special thank you to:

Scott Moore,
Jerry Rodriguez,
Duran Adan and

Mykel Eagle for their efforts in bagging and delivering the Kettle Corn here on campus.

Lastly, we would like to say **THANK YOU** to Mr. Jackman for lending a big hand.



We greatly appreciated it.

The 9th grade made **\$680** dollars towards their class fund.

Thanks again.
Mr. Butler



Ready, Set, ... Read

by News Staff

**Read Across America
March 2, 2021**

Read Across America was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association and is the **nation's largest celebration of reading**.

Read Across America occurs each year on the birthday of beloved author Theodore Geisel, also known as **Dr. Seuss**.



The purpose of Read Across America is to help children get excited about reading.

Ms. Goins, our high school English teacher, says that reading should not be celebrated just once a year, reading is something that should be enjoyed every day. She says that students who read 15 minutes or more a day will gain reading skills that will help them do better in all of their subjects. She also encourages students to check out books that are outside of what they usually read. You never know, you might find your

next favorite series or hero by trying something new.

5 FACTS ABOUT READING THAT WILL BLOW YOUR MIND

- ◆ **Reading is a great stress reliever**
Studies show that reading reduces stress by 68%.
- ◆ **Reading isn't everyone's strongpoint**
An estimated 40% of students are considered poor readers.
- ◆ **It all adds up**
Reading just 20 minutes a day adds up to reading 1,800,000 words per year.
- ◆ **The fastest way to build vocabulary**
Children learn 4,000–12,000 words every year by reading.
- ◆ **Classroom libraries create bookworms**
Kids in classrooms without mini-libraries read 50% less than kids with classroom libraries.

Track Team

by Tera Webb

During these crazy pandemic times, the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (**SCASB**) has not been able to meet for competition for over a year.

The coaches of SCASB met and decided to try something different. This year SCASB schools will be

participating in a **virtual track meet**.

Students will train to compete in running events, shot put, long jump and high jump.



OSB will be represented by the following students:

- ◆ Elbin Carrillo
- ◆ Tyanna Culley
- ◆ Benjamin Middleton
- ◆ Kaylie Minter
- ◆ Abigail Norton
- ◆ Rayce Phillips
- ◆ Joseph Rodriguez
- ◆ Jacelynn Shields
- ◆ William Winston

Recreation Activities

by Nancy Brice

After Christmas break we started "in person" school a little later than scheduled (**January 25th**).



We kicked off with our 2nd **Annual OSB Family Feud.**

Last year the girls took the win, this year the boys made a comeback. Who knows! Who will take the title next year?



The first week in **February** we watched the movie "The War with Grandpa".



The next week we were sent home again, this time it was the weather.



When we came back we started off with a good cup of **Hot Cocoa** that really warmed us up.



Since we were gone the **Valentine's dance** was combined with the **Birthday Night**. This way we got to dance the night away and eat cupcakes too!



PIZZA PARTY

In **March** it has been a tradition that the **ESA Ladies** give the residents a **pizza party**. Due to the many changes they were unable to come and visit with us but they were kind enough to send the pizza anyway. **THANK YOU** so much Ladies it was delicious!



Homecoming was so beautiful or should I say the girls were. After homecoming there was a reception in the Rec. Center with cake and punch for all the students and staff.



Just before spring break we had **Wacky Leprechaun Game Night**. We played games and laughed a lot.



The Monday after break was **Karaoke Night**. Let me just say we have a lot of good singers here at OSB.



I would like to thank each and every one of the staff and students that helped me with the planned events. It would not be such a success without your assistance.

Bless you all & stay safe.

Nancy Brice,
Recreation Director

It's TESTING TIME



by Maggie Mattox

It's that time of the year again... **Testing**. Dreaded by many but there are things you can do to make it a little less stressful.



Here are the top ten tips to success!

Top Ten Test-Taking Tips for Students

1. Have a Positive Attitude

Approach the big test as you'd approach a giant jigsaw puzzle. It might be tough, but **you can do it!** A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.



2. Make a Plan

The week before the test, ask your teacher what the



test is going to cover. Is it from the textbook only? Class notes? Can you use your calculator? If you've been absent, talk to friends about material you may have missed. Make a list of the most important topics to be covered and use that as a guide when you study. Circle items that you know will require extra time. Be sure to plan extra time to study the most challenging topics.

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It's TESTING TIME (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

3. The Night Before

Cramming doesn't work. If you've followed a study plan, the night before the test you should do a quick review and get to bed early. **Remember, your brain and body need sleep** to function well, so don't stay up late!



4. The Morning of the Test



Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach?

So **don't skip breakfast** the morning of the test. Get to school early and do a ten-minute power study right before the test, so your brain is turned on and tuned up.

5. Test Time

Before the test begins, make sure you **have everything you will need**

- scratch paper, extra pencils, your calculator (if you are allowed to use it). Understand how the test is scored: Do you lose points for incorrect answers? Or is it better to make guesses when you're not sure of the answer? **Read the instructions!** You want to make sure you are marking answers correctly.



6. Manage Your Time

Scan through the test quickly before starting. Answering the easy questions



first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.

7. I'm Stuck!

Those tricky problems can knock you off balance.



Don't get worried or frustrated. **Reread the question** to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, circle it and move on. You can come back to it later. What if you have no idea about the answer? Review your options and make the best guess you can, but only if you don't lose points for wrong answers.

8. Multiple-Choice Questions

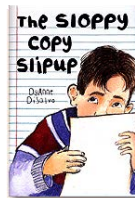
The **process of elimination** can help you choose the



correct answer in a multiple-choice question. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.

9. Neatness Counts

If your 4s look like 9s, it could be a problem. Be sure that your **writing is legible** and that you **erase your mistakes**.



For machine-scored tests, fill in the spaces carefully.

10. I'm Done!

Not so fast - when you complete the last item on the test, remember that **you're not done yet**.

First, **check the clock** and go back to **review your answers**, making sure that you didn't make any careless mistakes (such as putting the right answer in the wrong place or skipping a question). Spend the last remaining minutes going over the hardest problems before you turn in your test.



You are done!

Follow these test tips, and you'll know you did your best - congratulations!

Test-Taking Strategies

- R** Read the question carefully, then reread the passage or the problem.
- E** Examine every answer choice before you choose your answer.
- L** Label your answer (Math) Look for proof in the passage and underline it (ELA)
- A** Always check your work!
- X** ~~X~~out answers that you know are wrong

- You're in charge of your performance
- Focus on what you can influence
- Set a constructive, professional tone
- Recognize the benefits

GOING THE EXTRA MILE



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

A huge "Thank you" to Sandy Harrison for always helping us interpret or contact our Spanish speaking families when needed.

Dawn Bryant

I wanted to thank whoever is responsible for cleaning up the campus after the winter storm in February. The snow was removed from parking lots, sidewalks, and all the vehicles were defrosted and taken care of for us to resume routes on Sunday, Feb. 21st. It was a nice surprise when I went down to the parking where our vehicles were and they were already done. I was prepared to do it but didn't have to. So again I say Thank You!!!!!!

Cammeron Brice

I say thank you as well, because he wasn't going to clean by himself. Thanks

Nancy Brice

Thank you Miss Brenda Plunkett for setting up the hot cocoa station for me!

And thank you to Mr. Brice for helping me with the food for the dance.

Nancy Brice

I would like to give a big 'Thank You' to Melissa Graves and Tonya Givens. They are always willing to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done. We have an excellent team that works really well together and I am extremely grateful to work alongside them!

Dawn Bryant

Thank you Mrs. Shawna Coplen for your expert help in building the cardboard castle in our classroom. The kiddos love it.

Kathy Adams

I would like to give a huge "Thank You" to Munekia Moore. Lately she has been coming to B2 every night after her shift to read a bedtime story to one of the boys. It means so much to this young fellow and really helps me to get the rest of

the kids settled in for the evening. Thank you Munekia.

Tammy Saccomano

Thank you Dwayne Estep for always being "right there" when I need you. You never let me wait long to fix something (or get my temperature regulated) and you always do it with a big smile. Thank you.

Thank you Kitchen Crew for all you do. You are appreciated.

Thank you Karen Reed for your understanding and for helping me with my various battles I had going on lately. I really appreciate you.

Maggie Mattox

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



Birthdays

Students

January Birthdays were listed in our last Panther Pride edition.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|
| LEONARD, BRANSON | 2 | 1 |
| HOLM, IAN | 2 | 5 |
| FITZGERALD, GENEVIEVE | 2 | 6 |
| HOWELL, DELILAH | 2 | 8 |
| FARMER, HUNTER | 2 | 23 |
| BLACK, JERELYN | 2 | 24 |
| DURAN-GONZALEZ, ADAN | 2 | 25 |
| | | |
| STORY, STEPHANIE | 3 | 1 |
| VREELAND, TRINITY | 3 | 2 |
| DUONG, JOHN | 3 | 4 |
| DUONG, TYLER | 3 | 4 |
| PEDERSEN, LILITH | 3 | 6 |
| BACCUS, DAYTON | 3 | 8 |
| COZORT, ANGEL | 3 | 18 |
| | | |
| MOORE, SKYLER | 4 | 6 |
| SILVA, DAWSON | 4 | 9 |
| WADE, AUSTIN | 4 | 11 |
| PHILLIPS, RAYCE | 4 | 20 |
| | | |
| WINSTON, WILLIAM | 5 | 8 |
| EAGLE, MYKEL | 5 | 9 |
| HUNTER, RUDY | 5 | 16 |
| NORTON, ABBY | 5 | 19 |
| RITCHIE, LIAM | 5 | 19 |
| HUDSON, MORGAN | 5 | 21 |
| CARRILLO, ELBIN | 5 | 23 |
| VALDEZ, JULIO | 5 | 28 |



Staff

January Birthdays were listed in our last Panther Pride edition.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----|
| GRAYSON, WILLIAM | 2 | 9 |
| BRYANT, DAWN | 2 | 13 |
| FRITZ, SHEILA | 2 | 15 |
| SLATEN, KIM | 2 | 15 |
| CULVER, BRIAN | 2 | 18 |
| YOUNG MOCK, SUSAN | 2 | 18 |
| HOLDER, SHERRY | 2 | 21 |
| GOINS, LACI | 2 | 24 |
| GRAVES, MELISSA | 2 | 29 |
| | | |
| LARUE, BECKY | 3 | 4 |
| NAIL, CHARLES | 3 | 10 |
| BETHEL, MARCELLA | 3 | 15 |
| WILSON, HELEN | 3 | 16 |
| CULVER, MARQUETA | 3 | 20 |
| O'BRIEN, BRENDA | 3 | 24 |
| THOMAS, KIMBERLY | 3 | 28 |
| | | |
| TIMMRECK, CHRISTINE | 4 | 1 |
| FERRELL, CHRIS | 4 | 4 |
| RAMSEY, JOANNETTE | 4 | 7 |
| CRAGG, LYNN | 4 | 13 |
| GAMBLE, WHITNEY | 4 | 16 |
| MATTOX, MAGGIE | 4 | 18 |
| BASS, GENA | 4 | 26 |
| JOHNSON, SHAWNDRRA | 4 | 27 |
| OGLE, JENNIFER | 4 | 30 |
| | | |
| PLUNKETT, BRENDA | 5 | 4 |
| 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, MICHAEL | 5 | 18 |
| HUNTER, SYDNEY | 5 | 19 |
| REEVES, DARLUS | 5 | 25 |
| CHARLES, SAMANTHA | 5 | 30 |



Recreation Activities



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------|------|------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 HAPPY EASTER  | 5 DORMS OPEN OPEN REC (ALL) <i>No more schedule</i> | 6 MOVIE NIGHT Starting at 6:35-8:00 pm | 7 OPEN REC Night! (All) | 8 Home Going | 9 | 10 |
| 11 DORMS OPEN OPEN REC (ALL) | 12 OPEN REC Night! (All) | 13 CRAFT NIGHT! 5:45 A2 6:15 B2 7:00 A3 7:45 B3 8:30 B1 & LH | 14 SWIMMING <i>at Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center</i> 6:30-7:45 pm <i>Leaving @ 6:10 pm</i> | 15 Home Going | 16 | 17 |
| 18 DORMS OPEN OPEN REC | 19 OPEN REC Night! (All) | 20 BIRTHDAY Party 5:45-6:15 B2 & A2 6:25-7:05 B3 & A3 7:10-7:40 B1 & LH | 21 BOWLING (All) <i>at Green Country Lanes</i> 6:00-8:30 pm <i>Leaving @ 5:45 pm</i> | 22 Home Going | 23 | 24 |
| 25 DORMS OPEN OPEN REC | 26 PLAY IN THE PARK 6:30-8:00 pm <i>(or dark)</i> OPEN REC (All) | 27 PROM NIGHT! OPEN REC for all others | 28 BINGO NIGHT! 6:45-8:00 pm | 29 Home Going | 30 | |

Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278

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

Oklahoma School for the Blind

3300 Gibson Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

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

It takes more than sight to have vision!

Please check out
our website at:



OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

New Hires:

Marcella (Marcy) Bethel, Transportation Officer/Student Aide,
January 24, 2021

Welcome on board. Glad to have you !



Retirement:

None



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

April 4th Easter Sunday

April 5th NO School - Dorms Open - Bus Routes Run

April 27th PROM (5:00-9:30 pm)

April 28th Elem. Field Trip to Honor Heights Park (PreK-5th Gr.)

May 4th Inflatables @ OSB (Elem. PreK-5th Gr.)

May 5th OBI Blood Drive @ OSB (11:30-4:30)

May 12th JR/SR Trip

May 13th Crosswalk Service Learning Project (12:30-3:00 pm)

May 20th Last Day of School

9:30 am Elem. Awards Assembly

10:45 am MS/HS Awards Assembly

1:00 pm Sr. Awards / Graduation