

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

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

Spaghetti Fundraiser - Update



By Lynn Cragg

On November 2nd, 2022 OSB held its annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at the Bedouin Shrine.

We partnered with Masonic Trinity Lodge 502 who pledged **\$5,000** in matching funds.

This fundraiser provides the funds for student activities such as SCASB Wrestling and Track.

The jazz band held their first performance and sounded amazing!

The kitchen did an outstanding job with the spaghetti, salad and desserts.

Everyone that contributed to the Dessert Auction and Silent Basket Auction helped

make the fundraiser successful.

Shout out to everyone that contributed to this event because **we raised \$7,171.**



Rita Echelle, Charles Walker, Gage Hull, and Adam Frlekin.

OSB Superintendent Rita Echelle accepting a **\$3,000 check** from Boom-a-rang Diner Franchise

Owner Charles "Bubba" Walker, Manager Gage Hull, and Manager Adam Frlekin.

Imagine our surprise when we were informed that **Trinity Lodge 502 merged** with **Muskogee Lodge 28** and



Lodge 502 & Lodge 28 members unwrapping the check

did not just match the pledged \$5,000 but instead **matched it \$ for \$** and even rounded it up to a **total of \$15,000!**



A "Thank You" is just not enough!

A special Note from Mrs. Rita Echelle:

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who helped with the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. The OSB cafeteria staff provided a delicious meal, the Jazz Band sounded great, and the baskets and desserts raised a lot of money.

It was a collaborative effort.

George Givens is pictured with his Dessert Auction purchase from Boom-a-rang Diner.



THANK YOU Boom-a-rang Diner for the generous donation!

And to Masonic Lodge 502 & Muskogee Lodge 28 for your unexpected generosity and ongoing support!



Oklahoma School for the Blind

2022 - 2023, Issue 2
December 15, 2022

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Next Edition: March 9, 2023

Special points of interest:

- World Stack Up Day
- Character Ed Class visits St. Francis Children's Hospital
- Cutter Elliott, Country singer-songwriter at OSB
- Christmas Play
- NSU Optometry Field Trip
- FCCLA Updates

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Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



"Caught Being Good"

- ◆ Rudy Hunter - He always helps students when they get turned around.
- ◆ Xane Allen - He always comes in the door with a cheery "Good Morning, how are you today?"
- ◆ Emileigh Jackson & Piper Conner - Going above and giving it their best with a positive attitude during every cheer practice.
- ◆ Neal Summerlin - Neal is always a gentleman. He has the best manners and a kind word for others.
- ◆ William Winston - He is always willing to help anyone. He helped the elementary wrestlers practice before their tournament.
- ◆ Haidyn James - He opens doors and holds them open for classmates.
- ◆ LaShae McGuire - She has wonderful manners and is very helpful.
- ◆ Angel Cozort - She always helps Tessa to class and anyone else that needs help. She even helps Mrs. Hargrove in class sometimes.
- ◆ Kolten Pennington - He helped Ian W. to get back to the dorm from the clinic.
- ◆ Macey Millar - She was very courteous and kind to people in Walmart on our Christmas shopping trip.
- ◆ Adan Duran - He has helped translating for another student.
- ◆ Lea Sailors - Leah has been teaching a younger student how to be kind to others. She also steps up to help in the dorm when the regular dorm parent is out.

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

Social Services Department
Rebecca Mills

World Stack Up Day



By Tera Webb

On Nov 15, 16, and 17th people from around the world participated in **World Stack Up Day**. The goal was to break the **previous record of 638,503**.

People who spent at least 30 minutes "cup stacking" could be counted toward the goal. This year we had **53 participants** from OSB:

Treysen, Jaylee, Evy, Ian H., Miracle,



Jaylee

Kolten, Jaden, Mykel, Ian W., William, Adan, Jerry,



Treysen



Ian H.

Aislinn, Ryan W., Delilah, Josie, Rudy, Anicka, Dayton,



From Left: Ryan, Jerry, Aislinn

Piper, Hunter P., Justin, Blaze, Hunter F., Branson, Braylen, Diesel, Kelton, Haidyn, LaShae, Kennedy S., Gabby, Austin, Elijah, Noah D., Stephanie, Leah, Lillian, Xane, Deegan, Liam, Dawson, Ryan H., Avery, Macey, Genevieve, Nikki, Jesse, Neal, Khup, Kairi, Eric and Ellie.

With the help of our "stackers", a new WSSA World Record was set.

The new record.... 737,863!!

A big **THANK YOU** to the teachers who allowed their students to participate.

And **Congratulations** to the 53 students who helped be a part of the new record!!



OSB Greenhouse

By Maggie Mattox & Dwayne Estep (pictures)

OSB had a bunch of new projects going on lately. First we got our awesome new gym and the new playgrounds and the latest project has just been finished as well ... our own **GREENHOUSE**.



The greenhouse is part of our

“Healthy School” program and is meant to allow our students to help plant vegetables, salad, flowers, etc. and to learn about the process from planting to harvesting, the need to care for the plants and vegetables, and the responsibility it takes to see a project through.



It also will allow us to use our own produce (as available) to have

healthy vegetables and fruit available for our students and staff.

We are certain that we will have a few very excited gardeners once the greenhouse is ready to be planted.



Bike Lessons at OSB - courtesy of OSU High Obesity Program & Muskogee County Health Dept.

By Faye Miller

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to Doug, Angel, and Tiffany from the **Muskogee County Health Department** for coming out to the school to help our



Angel, Liam and Mrs. Miller

kids learn how to ride bikes.

Students from Mrs. Thomas’s,



Tiffany, Deegan, Kylie (para) and Mrs. Miller

Ms. Stanfield’s, and Mrs. Eckerson’s class gained confidence as they learned how to balance and coast on bikes loaned to



Angel, Ms. Q (para), Dawson and Ms. Chris



READY SET GO...

Khup, Neal, LaShae, Haidyn and Nina



Xane and Doug

us from the **Oklahoma State University High Obesity Program** and **Ms. Lacey**.



Character Education

By Mrs. Gamble

As a special project, my 7th grade Character Education class decided to collect books and toys to take to the Saint Francis Children’s Hospital.



Stephanie showing off a toy

On Dec. 13th we loaded up the vans



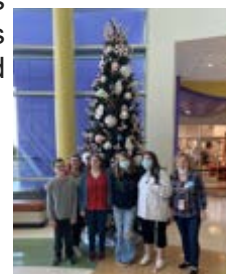
Payton & Noah placing toys in a box

with lots of donated books and toys to deliver to the children in the hospital, hoping to make their holiday a little brighter.

We received lots of wonderful things and couldn’t wait to make some kids smile! Thank you for

your generosity... it’s more blessed to give than receive and the students could witness this first hand that day.

Merry Christmas to all of you!



Cane Quest - Update

By Faye Miller



10th Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest

Thirty-six cane users from across the state competed at the Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest on November 4, 2022.



Competitors and Volunteers

Explorers and Trailblazers, contestants in 6th through 12th grades, were judged on their use of appropriate cane skills and travel techniques on downtown routes, while Scouts, contestants in 3rd through 12th grades, competed in a variety of travel tasks on the OSB campus.

This year contestants were able to compete during a single day event thanks to the assistance of many OSB staff. Contestants traveled routes and were judged at a variety of stations that were scored by Certified Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists from across the state, teachers of the visually impaired, and OSB Independent Living Skills (ILS) instructors.

Explorer and Trailblazer contestants, who were in downtown Muskogee, demonstrated independent street crossing skills at traffic lights, stop signs, and

across alleys and driveways. They also demonstrated their ability to use advanced cane techniques.

Scout contestants, who were on the OSB campus, demonstrated independent campus travel skills, including being able to safely enter a vehicle and negotiate stairs. They worked with a teammate at several stations and demonstrated their ability to use human guide effectively in different situations.

Cane Quest contestants received t-shirts, goodie bags, certificates, and prizes. The top scoring contestants also received medals for top performance in each category.

Volunteers received t-shirts, goodie bags, and certificates.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to score and work as a teammate or shadow for each of the contestants. Thank you also to Maggie Mattox who helped make certificates, printed materials, checked and double-checked lists, and helped keep everything in order.

Thank you to all of our event sponsors whose generous donations made the event possible. Their donations purchased t-shirts, medals, and prizes.

Sponsors include: Oklahoma School for the Blind, Braille Institute of America, Donations in Memory of Bud Holder, Frank Dirksen, Lawton Council of the Blind, Liberty Braille, NanoPac, Oklahoma Chapter of AERBVI,

Oklahoma Council of the Blind, Sapulpa Lions Club, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Tulsa Downtown Lions Club.



2022 Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest

Medal Winners

Scouts Top 3 All-Stars

- ◆ Quanté Sellers, Oklahoma City
- ◆ Gabby Henderson, Muskogee
- ◆ Eric Enzenauer, Enid

Explorers B1 Medalists

- ◆ **Gold:** Stephanie Story, Tulsa
- ◆ **Silver:** Macey Millar, Muldrow
- ◆ **Bronze:** Chris Sumner, Chickasha

Explorers B2 Medalists

- ◆ **Gold:** Dayton Baccus, Sapulpa
- ◆ **Silver:** Leah Sailors, Tulsa
- ◆ **Bronze:** Angel Cozort, Vinita

Trailblazers B1 Medalists

- ◆ **Gold:** Julio Valdez, Oklahoma City
- ◆ **Silver:** Elbin Carrillo, Oklahoma City
- ◆ **Bronze:** Kolten Pennington, Ada

Trailblazers B2 Medalists

- ◆ **Gold:** Tyanna Culley, Coweta
- ◆ **Silver:** Samantha Six, Disney

2022 Panther Pride 5K

By Susan Young Mock

Saturday, November 12, dawned crisp as Oklahoma fall gave us a preamble of the winter to come. Not to be deterred, **35 runners and walkers** toed the start line and started the first annual Panther Pride 5k race.



The OSB cheerleaders lined the sidewalk in front of the playground and cheered the runners on for a solid 30 minutes! They were AWESOME and the participants appreciated them. Ms. Marcella was with them and helped watch for runners coming and going.

Those cheering were Piper Conner, Anicka Weller, Emileigh Jackson, Skylar Hopkins, Stephanie Story, Leah Sailors, Aislinn Popejoy, Evy Kizzia, Payton Crum, and Julia Cisneros, with the help of Ms. Marcella and Ms. Beth. I am so proud of them.

OK School for the Blind DECA Chapter and Student Council hosted the event to help raise money to benefit their peers. These students went off campus to seek sponsorships from area businesses. Their efforts raised enough money to off-set the expense of the race! Better still, students forged relationships with area business owners and community leaders. Win: Win!

Several runners with OSB connections medaled Saturday!

1. **Beth Stanfield**, Pre-K teacher, 30:09, **1st place** in her age division
2. **Chris Parisotto**, OT/PT, 41:45, **3rd place** in her age division

3. **Lynn Cragg**, Secondary Principal, 48:29, **1st place** in her age division
4. **Dawn Bryant**, Secretary V, 54:40, **2nd place** in her age division
5. **Whitney Baccus**, mother from Sapulpa, 55:59, **1st place** in her age division
6. **Dayton Baccus**, student from Sapulpa, 55:59, **1st place** in his age division



Dayton (left) and Whitney (right)

We appreciate our sponsors! They made this fundraising effort a success! We extend an extra loud **"THANK YOU"** to Pre-ETS (Pre-Educational Transition Services) at OU in Norman who overnighted swag items to us! We also appreciate the OSB Jr/Sr class and Mrs. Leatherman for their swag donations.

Friends of the Pride Sponsors

- ◆ Masonic Bodies: Muskogee Hope Chapter No. 401, Order of the Eastern Star; Blue Lodges – Muskogee No. 28, Oriental No. 430, Alpha No. 12 in Fort Gibson
- ◆ Paradigm Shift of Muskogee
- ◆ TSET Healthy Living Program

Blue & White Panther Sponsors

- ◆ Ellis Property Management, LLC
- ◆ I:40 Race Service

Panther Paw Sponsors

- ◆ 7Slots Custom Designs & Powder Coating
- ◆ Glenndale Grace Firearms & Training
- ◆ Kiwanis Club of Muskogee

- ◆ Mabrey Bank
- ◆ Three Rivers Collision Repair

Panther Growl Sponsors

- ◆ Andy's Convenience Store
- ◆ Back In Time Diner
- ◆ CH Wholesale Fireworks
- ◆ The Hair Shop

Many volunteers made this sprawling race come together. The 3.2-mile course started and finished on the OSB campus and ran to Civitan Park.

We appreciate all the volunteers helping every step of the process.



Refresher Station w. volunteers

Laci Goins, Allison Garner, Faye Miller, Robert Miller, Deputy Link Mock, Gina Huggins, Jason Jenkins, Brent Webster, Mike Bynum, Muskogee Youth Volunteer Corps, TSET, and Bank of Oklahoma employees were invaluable assets to this event. Thank you !!!



The race committee will meet soon to de-brief and start planning for the next race. Stay tuned!

Susan Young Mock,
Race Director,
DECA and Student
Council Advisor

Grants received

By Rita Echelle

Congratulations to **Jeremy Jackman**, **Cheryl Daniels-James**, and **Robert Miller** for receiving



Jeremy Jackman



Cheryl Daniels-James



Robert Miller

the **Oklahoma Foundation for the Education of Blind Children & Youth Teacher Grant!**

These educators received a combined total of **\$2,585.19**.

Also, **Whitney Gamble** was awarded a **Donors Choose Grant** for her classroom in the amount of **\$572.00**.



Whitney Gamble

Thank you, educators for applying for these grants!

Our students will reap the benefits from them.



Tech Fest



On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, the 10th grade students will attend **Tech Fest** at Indian Capital Technology

Center in Muskogee.

The students will have the opportunity to visit the ICTC campus and explore all of the different programs that ICTC has to offer.

If a student is interested in attending ICTC, they will fill out

an application and begin the interview process.



It is important that you have good attendance and a good academic record if you want to attend ICTC.

ICTC is open to juniors and seniors. More information about ICTC will be given out after Tech Fest.

Thanks,
Mrs. Mills

GENERAL FACTS

Each year, ICTC invites sophomores from surrounding schools to visit the Muskogee campus to see what classes they could take there as juniors or seniors.

Tech Fest is considered one of ICTC's main recruiting activities.

Last year, about 1,200 area sophomores attended the two-day open house. They toured several classrooms, including health care, machine tool technology, computer graphics, construction, auto work and cosmetology.

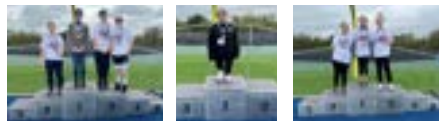
Sports Extravaganza in Texas - Oct. 28-30, 2022

By Lynn Cragg & Shelby Gamble

On October 28th and 29th OSB middle school and high school students participated in the **Sports Extravaganza** for students with visual impairments in Irving, Texas.

The goalball teams competed on Friday evening and did an amazing job. On Saturday, students participated in races, long jump, and shotput and archery events. All students won

medals and had a great time.



Lynn Cragg

The students hustled, worked hard, and it all paid off.



OSB **girls** took **1st** and **3rd** place in Goalball.

OSB **boys** took **2nd** in the high intermediate league, **2nd**, and **3rd** in the low intermediate league.



Multiple students placed in track and field events.

Overall, it was a great weekend for the Panthers.



Shelby Gamble

Sports Extravaganza in Texas - Oct. 28-30, 2022 (continued)



OSB staff member makes a difference

William "Billy" O'Neal, OSB construction/maintenance tech, recently accompanied a group of students to Texas for the **2022 Sports Extravaganza** to compete in goalball and track & field.

O'Neal found himself coaching a group of students since the actual coach was coaching in another gymnasium. Ryan, an OSB student, commented to him that he really didn't want to play goalball.

O'Neal attempted to coax him to give it a try by saying, "It's like green beans and broccoli. You don't know you like it until you try it."

Ryan decided to give it a try and compete with the other players. At the end of the evening, he said, "I am glad you talked me into playing the game."



O'Neal remarked to me, "Kids will actually listen if you aren't critical and give them options. They're like all kids, just regular everyday kids who need to be inspired. They are like sponges. They

remember that you helped them."

When I expressed my appreciation to him for making a difference with the student, he remarked, "I don't do it for recognition; I just enjoy helping the kids. I had a blast with them."



Thank you for your service, Mr. O'Neal, to your country and to Oklahoma School for the Blind.

Rita J. Echelle,
OSB Superintendent

Wrestling Updates

By Shelby Gamble

OSB vs. Mississippi School for the Deaf & Blind (MSDB)

On November 10-13, OSB hosted the MSDB wrestling and cheer-leading teams for a friendly competition.



The OSB Panthers did great against the MSDB Tigers!



The students gave it all they had and the energy in the gym was unmatched.



It was a fun weekend full of competition and teamwork.

Both, the wrestlers and cheerleaders, participated in a clinic to help continue learning and growing as an athlete.



OSB Wrestling at Warner PS

On November 28th, Warner Wrestling hosted the OSB Wrestling team for a scrimmage and clinic.



Warner coaches and students helped the OSB Panthers learn new techniques and tips on how to become a

better wrestler.



The students had fun, did great, and represented OSB with pride!

Cutter Elliott supports OSB

By Maggie Mattox

On December 1, Cutter Elliott, Country singer-songwriter from Norman, OK, visited OSB to share his story and a few songs with our students and staff.

Born eight weeks premature in 1995, country singer Cutter Elliott was diagnosed with **cerebral palsy, autism**, and is both **partly blind** and **deaf**. Yet, he continues to defy the odds. Doctors said he would never walk, talk, or play guitar and he's done all of these things and more. Now, with the release of his latest single, "**Heart Ache Waiting To Happen**", Elliott continues to not only defy the odds but beat them as well.

Born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, Elliott got his songwriting start in Nashville. "My dear friend, Nashville songwriter/producer Paul Reeves, has been mentoring me over the past few years."



Paul Reeves (left) & Cutter Elliott (right)

But Cutter Elliott did not just visit OSB to share his story and to play a few songs for

us...

On Nov. 11, 2022 he played on KUSH Radio in Cushing and **donated a new Yamaha guitar** to Oklahoma School for the Blind's Jazz Band.

OK Department of Rehabilitation Services Communications Director Jody Harlan accepted the guitar for OSB.



Picture from Left:

KUSH General Manager & On-Air Personality Molly Payne, Cutter Elliott, Jody Harlan

To learn more about Cutter Elliott and to hear his story from his perspective you can visit his YouTube site at <https://youtu.be/cqY3RVM7qIQ> or read up on the website listed below:

<https://americansongwriter.com/daily-discovery-cutter-elliott-defies-all-odds/>



Pinewood Derby Class

By Laura Leatherman

This semester we had some special "**after school activities**" for students to participate in. One of the activities was a "**Pinewood Derby Class**".

On Monday nights, Middle and High School students got together and participated in building cars.



The students built and painted their cars throughout the month. The last night of class, we raced them on the track in the old gym.

We would like to send out a **special thank you** to Mike and Marcella Bynum, Becky LaRue and Heath Weston for helping with this activity.



Mike Bynum and Heath Weston

The winners were:

1st place - Quanté Sellers



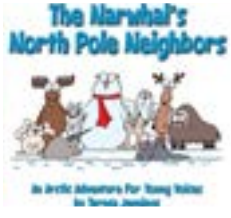
2nd place - Jimmy Anderson



3rd place - Chris Sumner



The Narwhal's North Pole Neighbors (Christmas Play)



The Narwhal's North Pole Neighbors

An Arctic Adventure For Young Voices

by Teresa Jennings

By Maggie Mattox

This year's Christmas story brings us again to the North Pole but this time we are not visiting Santa Clause.

We arrive at a time when the tempers around the Narwhal's neighborhood are producing quite a few cold shoulders lately. That is, until one day, when a mother lynx cries out for help because her kitten is lost.

Nory, a narwhal, rallies the neighbors, calling upon them to set aside their petty differences and silly arguments. All eyes, ears, and noses are needed if they are to find (wait for it...): The Missing Lynx!

Happily, their search proves fruitful and mother and kitten are soon reunited.

Not only has Nory convinced everyone to work together as a team, she helps them remember what is important - compassion, understanding, patience, and most of all, kindness.

The kids had a lot of fun practicing and singing and



hopefully learned a few lessons from this story too.

CAST



From Left: Gabby, Kairi and Branson

Nory the Narwhal

- Kairi Husmann

Sun Dog the Narwhal

- Branson Leonard

Snorg the Musk Ox

- Eric Enzenauer

Aurora the mother Lynx

- Gabby Henderson

Kitty a young Lynx

- LaShae McGuire

Artic Wolf - Kennedy Sullivan

Polar Bears

Madilyn Gray and Audree "Elli" Montgomery



Back: Madilyn & Elli
Front: Nina, Khup &



Blaze

Reindeer

Blaze Calger, Elijah Cervantes-Phipps, and Haidyn James

Snow Owl - Austin Heffley



Back: Madilyn & Elli
Front: Nina, Khup, Neal & Kennedy

Penguins

Xane Allen, Nina Cutler, Deegan Dobson, Hunter Farmer, Liam Ritchie, Dawson

Silva, Neal Summerlin, and Khup Tuan

Scene 1 - The North Pole is Cool

Scene 2 - Bicker Bicker

Scene 3 - The Missing Lynx

Scene 4 - We Can Be Better

Scene 5 - Party at the North Pole



Back: Madilyn & Elli
Front: Khup, Neal & Kennedy



Kennedy & Deegan



Back: Eric & Elijah
Front: Austin, Haidyn, LaShae & Gabby

Special Thanks to:

Our play director Chris Ferrell, as well as all our Elementary teachers, Paras, DCS and others that helped with the Christmas program.

It wouldn't be possible without you.



Christmas in the Clinic

By Maggie Mattox



Santa and his elves are very delighted about the **Christmas Cheer** that is going around in our clinic.



They love how our own Mrs. Annette has transformed our clinic in this magical wonderland to spread cheer to everyone that enters the clinic.

As in previous year's, Santa's elf dropped off a **special mailbox** in the OSB Clinic so our students could send their



wish lists / letters directly to Santa!

The children were so excited.

Every afternoon an elf of Santa's stops by the clinic and collects the letters.

All elementary students wrote a letter and dropped it in the mailbox in hopes



that Santa would get each thing that they have requested.

Last year, Santa replied to each one of the letters with a printed letter along with a braille letter. He personally mailed them to each student's home address.

Santa's elf said that he plans to do that again this year but Santa

was wondering if the kids even got the letters. Maybe this year some of the kids could let Mrs. Annette, honorary elf, know if they got the letter and what they thought about it, so she can report it back to the North Pole? I am sure Santa would love to hear that his letters made it to the kids and that they liked them.



Thank you
Santa, Elves,
and Mrs. Annette



Halloween, Red Ribbon Week & Bedlam pictures

Here are just some random pictures from our costume day at Halloween, Red Ribbon week and our BEDLAM day.



Let's save the world!



It's all about the BACON!



Beware of the Witches



Where did the Pink Flamingo come from?



101 Dalmatians at OSB!



The four seasons!



We love PJ day!



Anybody scared yet?



Scooby DOOOO



PJ day is fun!



Bedlam Day!

Annual Trip to NSU's College of Optometry

By Faye Miller

OSB Middle School (grades 6-8) students traveled to Tahlequah to **Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (OCO)** to meet with 3rd year Optometry students. This has been **an annual event since 2008.**



This annual trip provides an opportunity for positive interactions between the optometry students and OSB students.

The OSB students get to practice public speaking skills, learn more about their visual impairments and the accommodations they need for success, and they can ask questions about college life and tour the NSU campus.



We practiced braille using body braille, where you use your hands, hips and feet to represent the dots of braille.

In **Body Braille**, the letter "a" is shown by raising your left hand (dot 1) and the letter "b" is shown by raising your left hand (dot 1) and moving your left hip (dot 2) to the left.



Letter "c" = hands are on dot 1 + 4



Students spelling in Body Braille

The finale was a game of **Braille Jeopardy** where OSB and OCO students competed to earn the most points for a prize of first in line for the pizza lunch.



Macey & teammate

The top scoring team was **optometry student, RD, and OSB student Macey Millar** with **325 points.**

Following closely behind with 300 points were Ian Holm's team, Piper Connor's team and Hunter Pugh's team.

There was plenty of pizza for everyone, so not to worry; all the students were fed well. Lunch was provided through a generous donation from **Patsi Nix Smith.** The **Nix Foundation** provides a generous grant to NSU OCO to purchase low vision devices and glasses for individuals in need. The Nix Foundation has also donated funds to OSB for the construction of the awning that protects students from the elements as they travel from the East Lobby to the new gymnasium.

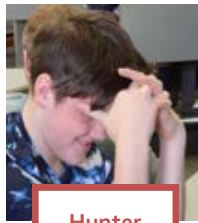
Here are some student comments about the experience:

Piper Connor had a super time with her partner and really enjoyed walking through campus. She said that the campus was really pretty.



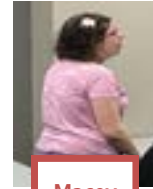
Piper

Hunter Pugh said he had an amazing time, especially getting to know his partners, Drew and Marissa. They were really fun to talk to and he enjoyed get-



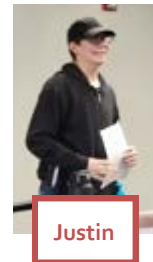
Hunter

ting to know them. Drew became curious about optometrists because he had always worn glasses and wanted to know how they helped people's vision. He also enjoyed the walk through campus, especially feeling the Sequoyah statute and learning some history about the Cherokee alphabet.



Macey

Macey Millar had a wonderful time and loved working with her partner. She really enjoyed playing Body Braille and Jeopardy. Macey and her partner, RD, were very competitive and she liked being the first in line for lunch. Macey can't wait to go again next year.



Justin


Justin Millar really liked learning about the pros of going to college from his partner. He found out about how he can make his own class schedule and some of the job opportunities he will get with a college degree. Justin would like to get a doctorate degree, so we can all call him **Dr. Millar.**

MS teacher Rachel Gilliam's take away was:

The OSB students prepared and delivered speeches about their educational goals and specific eye conditions. All students participated in a fun day of Braille games, a tour of the campus, and a pizza lunch. NSU and OSB students learned from each other and created long lasting memories. I really enjoyed this trip a lot and it was fun to see the students of both schools interact with each other.

FCCLA STAR EVENTS

By Allison Garner

 **Children's Literature** is an individual FCCLA competitive event where members create and present an original piece of children's literature appropriate for three to five-year old children.

Judges act as the three to five-year old audience, but also follow up with a series of questions relating to the elements of the story such as, plot, character, setting, point of view, and conflict. The judges also evaluate members on grammar, illustrations, their presentation skills, and ask participants follow up questions. This year's **theme** was, **under the sea**.

Two OSB FCCLA members recently presented their stories to a panel of judges during competition in Tahlequah.

Stephanie Story wrote a book titled **The Musical Adventure of Scales**. Misty and her friends try to navigate the waters using the sounds from the coral reefs to find their way through the ocean.

Angel Cozort wrote a book about a road trip to the ocean with friends, one of which is Willy the whale, who longs to return to the sea to be with family, and is surprised how things have changed since leaving the open waters. Angel's book is titled, **Willy's Small Surprise**.

Both girls received **first place** in their division and will advance

to regional competition in February!



Congratulations and **Good Luck** Angel and Stephanie!

A big **THANK YOU** to Mrs. Jackman for her support and guidance in writing and illustrating their children's books!



FCCLA Leadership Members Attend 'GET SET' Conference

By FCCLA Leadership Team

 Members of OSB's FCCLA leadership team had the opportunity to attend the **Get SET conference** in Owasso in early December.



SET stands for **S**peaking **E**xcellence **I**rraining and offers

the opportunity for FCCLA members to learn from professional speakers. They received useful advice on how to become better presenters at STAR events.

STAR stands for **S**tudents **I**taking **A**ction for **R**ecognition and are opportunities for FCCLA members to compete with one another. Although the workshop was geared towards STAR events, the skills learned can come in handy in other situations, including public speaking, class presentations and even English essays.

Here are some useful things to keep in mind when you have a presentation coming up:

- ◆ Don't reject your nerves. It's okay to be nervous, the key is to control them and use them to your advantage.
- ◆ 80% of a presentation's judgment has nothing to do with your choice of words, but with your body language and your tone of voice.
- ◆ Keep your focus on your audience: make eye contact and engage them as much as possible.
- ◆ Tell your audience a story. People tend to remember stories, so making your information interesting or tying it to a story will give

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FCCLA Leadership Members Attend 'GET SET' Conference (continued)

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you a better shot at getting the point across.

- ◆ Audiences prefer expressive tones of voice rather than monotone ones, so be enthusiastic about your topic.
- Keep your hands to your side as much as possible, don't cross your arms and try to stay put in one place. If you must move, only take 2 steps to the right or to the left. Do not walk forwards or

backwards, you don't want to trip on something or appear like you are invading your audience's space.

- ◆ Start early preparing for your presentation, this will give you time to edit, memorize and practice.
- ◆ Study first thing in the morning; research shows that it is the best time to memorize information that needs to be recalled under pressure.
- Live practice your presentation; find some

friends who are willing to help and practice presenting in an environment similar to the one in which you will do the actual presentation. This way it will be more familiar to you and you will see what you might need to work on before presenting.



Recreation Activities (Oct.-Dec.)

By Nancy Brice

When I stopped my last report we were getting ready to have the



Fall Festival. There are so many people that I have to have to make

this work.



This year the **Drama Class** and **Ms. Kayla** and **her team** volunteered to put together the

Haunted House and run it. I was so grateful for these hard working young people. They put on a great performance.

To all the staff and their family, the volunteers from Oktaha School and the girls and their friends from the University of Arkansas in Ft. Smith let me just say "**Thank You All**".

But there is no way to have a carnival like this without all the staff and administrative support. This is a great and wonderful group of people to work with **thank you** again.



The next event was the **Costume Contest.** We had a large number of entries this year. We had our traditional Parade down the dorm hallways and then back to the Rec. for the judges' results.

This year's winners were **Mykel Eagle** and **Hunter Pugh** who



both tied for **first place.** Hunter Farmer was second place. Jaylee Burnside was the third place winner.

On Halloween Night we had a

Scavenger

Hunt.

This year we did it with a little twist. The students had to solve riddles. I will have to work a little harder next year to make the riddles a little more difficult. But the kids had a lot of fun.



For our **Craft Night** in November we made Veteran's Day cards. We broke our old record, this year we made **75 cards.** Thank you to the students for taking the time to help give a little cheer to the men and women who have served our country.

Dorm night for A-3 and B-3 was a delicious treat! We made fried twinkies, oreos, and fudge rounds. Yes all of it was fried! The kids had a lot of fun and no

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Recreation Activities (continued)

(Continued from page 13)

one was counting calories that night.

The Tailgate Party was a rainout! But the ladies in the kitchen were nice enough to step in and grill the hot dogs and hamburgers inside. Thank you Ladies it was all great especially the cookies.



Bedlam Day!

Also a Big **thank you** to Dawn, Melissa and Tonya in the front office for decorating a table in the

hallway and trying to give the students a little experience of Bedlam. Maybe next year the weather will be better.



Our **November birthday party** went really well. The sorority girls from Ft Smith were able to join our party. They stayed after the party for a while to hang out with some of the students and play some games in the Rec Center.

I'm ending my report with our **trip to Woodland Hills Mall** in Tulsa. I plan this trip every year for the

High School students so they can use their ILS skills/ Mobility skills and just have a good time shopping This event is one of my favorite events of the year. I really enjoy watching the kids shop and showing me the neat things that they buy. I hope everyone has a great holiday break!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Miss Nancy



GOING THE EXTRA MILE - Oct.-Dec. 2022



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

Melissa Graves for making sure all the food was ready to go for lunch when Director Fruendt and DRS E-team were here. Also making sure everything was cleaned and put up afterwards.

Dawn and Tonya **Kitchen Staff** - Thank you ladies for the delicious meals you provide for our students & staff daily.

Tonya **OSB Staff** - Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or helped with the spaghetti dinner.

Tonya **Coach Gamble, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Eckerson, Mrs. Leatherman, Mrs. Shelton** - Thank you for allowing students to cup-stack during Stack-Up days.

Mrs. Webb

Ms. Helen, Ms. Tammy, Ms. Marcella, Ms. Jayla, and Ms. Rosie for coming in outside their regular shifts to help out with an Outreach weekend program for parents with possible future students. The parents really appreciated the great childcare and we appreciated all the help provided as well.

Maggie **Jeannie Hatcher & Maggie Mattox** - Thank you for helping with the front office while the ladies went to a training

Front Office Ladies **Annette Underwood** for always decorating the clinic, as well as the board outside, to make our students feel good and comfortable at school. Also thank you for using your contacts to the North Pole to have elves drop off the Santa mailbox and for helping to answer each letter of our students.

Maggie **Susana Jackman** for making the library look like a mystical wonderland that students can escape to. The library looks amazing and I am sure the students love to hang out there.

Maggie **Becky LaRue** went and got me crackers from the cafeteria when

I was sick to my stomach. She always helps in my class and is wonderful with the kids.

Christy Hargrove **Ms. Sandy** helped me translate more than one letter for parents.

Mrs. Webb **Susana Jackman** for helping students prepare for FCCLA STAR Events and taking them to the contest.

Allison Garner **Jamie Garrett** for taking students to FCCLA competition and serving as a judge.

Allison Garner **Marcella Bynum** for helping me locate items when I was subbing in a class.

Tammy Saccomano

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



Panther Pride

Birthdays

Students

DECEMBER

Cervantes-Phipps, Elijah	12	1
Crum, Payton	12	3
Millar, Justin	12	4
Sutterfield, Lane	12	4
Wolf, Jesse	12	13
Travis, Kesslee	12	15
Tuan, Khup	12	15
Anderson, Jimmy	12	22

JANUARY

Fuller, Braylen	1	2
Jones, Miracle	1	14
Cox, Josie	1	17
Brown, Jaden	1	20
Hopkins, Skylar	1	23
Dobson, Deegan	1	28

FEBRUARY

Leonard, Branson	2	1
Holm, Ian	2	5
Fitzgerald, Genevieve	2	6
Peoples, Diesel	2	6
Howell, Delilah	2	8
Husmann, Kairi	2	8
Calger, Blaze	2	13
Farmer, Hunter	2	23
Duran, Adan	2	25

MARCH

Story, Stephanie	3	1
Vreeland, Trinity	3	2
Pedersen, Lilith	3	6
McGuire, LaShae	3	7
Baccus, Dayton	3	9
Popejoy, Aislinn	3	13
Cozort, Angel	3	18
McDonald, Lillian	3	26



Staff

DECEMBER

Coomer, Chris	12	3
Ledezma, Ana Maria	12	3
Thornton, Machel	12	5
Kowles, Tracy	12	8
Saccomano, Tammy	12	9
Barrett, Kathy	12	13
Cooper, Lynette	12	17
Brice, Cammeron	12	19
Garner, Allison	12	23
Webster, Brent	12	29
Garrett, Jamie	12	29

JANUARY

Sweeney, Melissa	1	5
Isom, Amanda	1	15
Roudebush, Cheri	1	15
Cowan, Betty Jo	1	17
Jones, Jeana	1	17
Miller, Faye	1	26

FEBRUARY

Jenkins, Jason	2	2
Mills, Rebecca	2	6
Huggins, Regina	2	7
Bryant, Dawn	2	13
Fritz, Sheila	2	15
Miller-Dause, Mindy	2	15
Culver, Brian	2	18
Young Mock, Susan	2	18
Holder, Sherry	2	21
Goins, Laci	2	24
Graves, Melissa	2	29

MARCH

Kaulay, Kelly	3	3
LaRue, Becky	2	4
Nail, Charles	2	10
Wilson, Helen	3	16
Culver, Marqueta	3	20
Thomas, Kimberly	3	28

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:

Carmen Hicks, DCS - effective 12/04/22

Welcome on board. Glad to have you !



Retirement:

Lisa Yochum, Janitor - effective
12/31/22



UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



12/19 - 12/31 CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

- Mon., 01/02 Professional Development Day - Contract Staff only -
- NO SCHOOL - DORMS OPEN / BUS ROUTES RUN
- Tue., 01/10 Parent/Teacher Conference (4:10-7:10 pm)
Wrestling HOMECOMING in new gym (6:00-8:00 pm)
- Wed., 01/11 Tech Fest @ ICTC (10th Gr. only)
- Mon., 01/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL - DORMS OPEN / BUS ROUTES RUN**
- Tue., 01/17 OSB Blood Drive (10:30am - 3:30pm) - OSB campus
- Thurs., 01/26 Lyric Theater @ OSB (1:00 pm)
- Jan. 26 - 29 SCASB, Alabama (Wrestling, Cheerleading, Performing Arts competition)

FEBRUARY

- Thurs., 02/09 FCCLA Regional STAR Events
- Wed., 02/22 OSB Career Expo Day (8:00am - 5:00pm) - OSB campus

MARCH

- Wed., 03/01 Braille Challenge - OSB campus
- Tue., 03/07 Parent/Teacher Conference (4:10-7:10 pm)
- 03/13 - 03/17 SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL**
- 03/21-03/23 FCCLA State STAR Events
- Tue., 03/28 Cap & Gown Pictures
- Wed., 03/29 PROM**



Recreation Activities

JANUARY 2023



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 - Holiday No bus routes!	2 Welcome back Dorms Open Open Rec 6:30 pm	3 Open Rec 5:30-9:30 pm	4 Bingo! 6:30-8:00 pm Open Rec to follow	5 HOME GOING	6	7
8 Dorms Open	9 Open Rec 5:30-9:30 pm	10 Homecoming 6:00 pm (new gym) Reception to follow in Rec. Ctr.	11 Open Rec 5:30-8:30 pm	12 HOME GOING	13	14
15 - Holiday MLK Jr. Day No bus routes!	16 Welcome back Dorms Open Open Rec 6:30 pm	17 4 th annual OSB Family Feud 6:30 pm Score: Boys 1 - Girls 2 Open Rec to follow	18 Open Rec 5:30-8:30 pm	19 HOME GOING	20	21
22 Dorms Open	23 LH, B4 & B1 Dance in the Rec. 6:30-8:00 pm All others DORM NIGHT	24 Open Rec 5:30-8:30 pm	25 Dining Out For Everyone McDonald, KFC, China King Leave @ 5pm Must have money!	26 HOME GOING	27	28
29 Dorms Open	30 Open Rec 5:30-8:30 pm	31 Dec./Jan. Birthday Party 6:30 pm Open Rec to follow				

Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278

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