

# PANTHER PRIDE

School Principal: Lynn Cragg

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

## Western Heritage Day - Silver Spur Ranch

### Western Heritage Day at the Silver Spur Western Lodge

Youth members from the Oklahoma Youth Quarter Horse Association, the rodeo team from Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association Trail Riders and area high school students were matched up with OSB students as buddies for the day.

Activities included pony rides, mechanical bull and stagecoach rides, dummy calf roping, fishing, rock climbing, bungee jumping on a trampoline and other hands-on activities.

The OQHA sponsored lunch for this hungry group of cowboys and cowgirls.

Students received hands-on experience riding horses, touching spurs and saddles and talking to cowboys who have lived on horse and cattle ranches. They also learned about the good times and the tough times working and making a living on a ranch.

When they loaded up on the bus to go back to school, the students were exhausted, but also excited. They talked about everything that happened and how they're ready to return

next year and do it all again.

Volunteers look forward to Western Heritage Day as much as the OSB students, some of them driving over 200 miles to spend the day with our students.

Once they've been to Western Heritage Day to help, they don't want to ever miss it.

Linda Graber



**A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors.**

Please also check out our "student article" in the Student Corner section (page 11)

## Oklahoma School for the Blind

2017 - 2018, Issue 2

October 25, 2017

Editor: Maggie Mattox

### Special points of interest:

- Space Camp
- White Cane Safety Day
- Special Olympics
- Secret Reporter
- Academic Team
- Elementary "Fire Prevention Program" Field Trip
- Blind Boys of Alabama Concert
- FCCLA District Meeting

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**FUTURE SHOCK REMINDER**

Don't Forget - Future Shock is **Thursday 30 November**.  
We'll have special guests on campus sharing information to help you after graduation.

**Dress is business casual (NO t-shirts or athletic wear).**

Faye Miller



# Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS)

By Cheryl Daniels

Often people who haven't been to Space Camp don't understand what goes on there. Space Camp is a little different than other camps in that it focuses on **STEM** activities where the participants are engaged in complex simulated space missions, engineering design, and astronaut training exercises. The campers also go through intense ropes courses, exciting team building activities, and advanced students have the opportunity to SCUBA and experience the weightlessness of space. The camp is open year round and hosts teams from not only the U.S. but many other countries, adults and kids alike. They have corporate groups, teachers weeks, and more.

Our students go during a week known as **SCIVIS - Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students.**

This was a dream of an educator from West Virginia many years ago and has grown into an amazing program that now brings hundreds of visually impaired students from around the world to get together for a very special week. During this week, the US Space and Rocket center transforms itself into basically a Space Camp for the Blind. Mission control centers, the space shuttles, science labs, and more are all outfitted with Braille labels.

Hundreds of hours of work through a collaboration of VI teachers, goes into brailing the

scripts and labels. The Space Camp administration is extremely supportive of the program and many counselors say this is their favorite week and a few even come back just for SCIVIS. **We feel pretty special!** They also bring in a panel of blind and visually impaired employees from NASA to talk to us about their jobs.



Waiting to head to the US Space Center at the Huntsville Airport.

This past September, I had the honor of chaperoning three students from OSB, Trinity Lewis, Thomas Raines, and Richelle Zampella. The students were each in different groups and had the opportunity to make friends from all over.

**Trinity** flew a fighter plane and went on military style missions in the dark and had to save her team mates who had been captured by the enemy. She also had to swim out of a helicopter simulator that had crashed into the lake!

**Richelle** learned to SCUBA dive in the Underwater Astronaut Trainer tank and participated in difficult space missions.

**Thomas** climbed up a 30ft pole, a 45ft tower, and assisted his team in space missions with various anomalies.



Being lowered from the pamper pole.

The experience included more than just space camp though since we traveled by plane to Alabama. The kids navigated airport security checkpoints, learned about gates, the differences in airplane and airport sizes (some are full of more stores than our mall!), and airline safety.

SCIVIS is a program I can't say enough about... the kids learn new skills, gain confidence, and make friends from across oceans. It is a very special program that I hope continues to grow.

Our trip has been supported financially through the generous gifts from The Zarrow Foundation and from The Oklahoma Foundation for the Education of Blind Children and Youth.

**We truly appreciate these groups.**



One staff member took it upon himself to build this actual working model to help the kids understand what

goes on at the Pamper Pole climbing area.

The staff spends hours covering "Area 51" with fluorescent duct tape to help our VI students.



Please also check out our "student article" in the Student Corner section (page 14)

# Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



## "Caught Being Good" Sept. 21-Oct. 23

- ◆ John Duong - for helping out another student with Independent Living Skills.
- ◆ Conner Hilton - for offering a student help in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Alyn Walker - for being honest about school work and for making good choices.
- ◆ Xerek Hitchcock - for helping out a classmate in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Ocie Webster - for helping clean and decorate the Recreational center.
- ◆ Jaylee Burnside - for telling the truth during an activity.
- ◆ Garrett Kennedy - for taking care of a fellow student's needs.

Social Services Department  
Sylvia Sterling

## Boys Bash

On October 17<sup>th</sup> I accompanied some of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade young men here from OSB to "Boys Bash 2017", which is held at Fort Gibson's Field House every year.

"Boys Bash" is where 7<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> grade young men from schools all over this area gather for educational lessons concerning sex and sexuality and there were

several hundred young men in attendance this year.

I felt the information that was shared was very informative and relevant for those young men that attended and hopefully will aid them in making wise choices in the future.

A BBQ Sandwich lunch was also supplied for those who attended.

Boys Bash is sponsored every year by the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Those attending this year were: Jimmy Anderson, Julio Vadez and Elbin Carrillo.

Paul Butler

## Word of the Month for November



The "Word of the Month" for November is "**Kindness**", which describes

the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.

*"Kindness is an inner desire that makes us want to do good things even if we do not get anything in return. It is the joy of our life to do them. When we do good things from this inner desire, there is kindness in everything we think,*

*say, want and do."* ~Emanuel Swedenborg

*"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."* ~Oscar Wilde

It's the small, everyday things that can make or break a day for us. Here are a few examples:

### **Offer your help.**

Even when people don't need it, they appreciate being offered help.

### **Say thank you.**

Say thank you like you mean it. ... E.g. "Thank you. I really appreciate your help."

### **Compliment someone.**

Put your focus on the positive by expressing it. Tell someone what you like, admire, and appreciate. Share the love.

These actions might seem small, but not only do they make others' lives better, they are also directly nourishing for you. Being kind is good for your health.

Sylvia Sterling

# Social Services Department - Tips for Encouragement

## Words that Encourage:

1. Wow!
2. Look at that!
3. Tell me about it.
4. Show me more.
5. How did you do that?
6. Let's see what you did.
7. How do you feel about it?
8. How did you figure that out?
9. I see that you \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Be specific)
10. That looks like it took a lot of effort.
11. How many ways did you try it before it turned out the way you wanted it?
12. What do you plan to do next?
13. That looks like it took so much work.
14. Are you pleased with what you did?

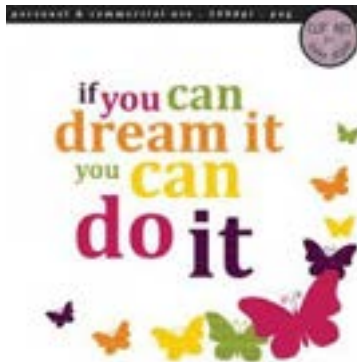
## Labels that Judge:

- Smart - Cute - Great -  
Super - Bright - Fast -  
Best - Pretty - Good -  
Quick - Clever - Beautiful -  
Talented - Gifted - Lovely -  
Intelligent - Right -  
Amazing - The Best -  
Awesome -  
Better than \_\_\_\_\_  
(another person)

## Grow your Mind-Set:

1. What did you struggle with today?
2. This is hard, this is fun, what should we do next?
3. You can grow your intelligence.
4. You can learn. You can stretch. You can keep mastering new things.
5. I don't think there is anything better in the world than a child hearing from a parent or teacher the words: "You'll get there."
6. Do you label your kids?  
This one is the artist and that one is the scientist. Next time, remember that you're not helping them - even though you may be praising them.

**Remember** ... praising kids' ability lowered their IQ scores.



## Teens For Christ

This school year some students formed "Teens for Christ", which has been meeting **every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am in the Auditorium** with 10 to 12 OSB students attending.

Teens for Christ activities includes some Singing and a Short Devotion.

All students are invited & welcome.

Paul Butler



## White Cane Safety Day

On Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) students and faculty – even the Jazz Band - traveled to Tulsa to celebrate **National White Cane Safety Day**.

OSB organizers displayed free educational materials and presented demonstrations throughout the day from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. at Woodland Hills Mall.

Demonstrations included travel techniques, use of dog guides and assistive technology.

OSB's White Cane Day activities aim to help the community understand the connection between effective cane use and independence, and to provide information about free services offered by OSB to students with visual disabilities across the state.

OSB students had the chance to demonstrate



Sherry Holder,  
OSB Outreach

their white cane travel skills, to meet and educate new people about blindness and to celebrate the many accomplishments of people with vision impairments.”

The **2 time, 2-A state champion** OSB Jazz Band performed for a very appreciative crowd. They had them dancing in the isle.



OSB Jazz Band

Students and other blind and visually individuals walked the mall to celebrate White Cane Safety Day.

Linda Graber



Ruby Barker, OSB teacher (right)

Please also check out our “student article” in the Student Corner section (page 11).



## WHITE CANE HISTORY

The first white cane laws were drafted around the time that National White Cane Safety Day was established by presidential proclamation in 1964.

Today, similar laws exist in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia.

Under Oklahoma law, only blind people may carry white canes with or without red tips, which are universally recognized as mobility aids for people with vision impairments.

**Oklahoma law requires drivers to completely stop their vehicles 15 feet away from pedestrians who are visually impaired and identified by their use of white canes or dog guides.**

People who violate this law are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to three months or \$100 fine or both.

## Goal Achievement Awards

In this edition we would like to recognize and congratulate following students for achieving their goal:

**Conner Hilton** for mastering conversion units in molecular equations. – Cheryl Daniels

**Cameron Hughes** for smashing his old record of 62 wpm and achieving 66 wpm! He really put a lot of effort in practicing to get better!! – Paul Butler

**Samantha Six** for achieving her goal of learning the Braille alphabet. – Kathy Barrett



# Hop on the Bus: City Bus Travel Experience 2017

In the month of October we had the opportunity to take several groups of our high school seniors to introduce them to the basics of city bus travel in Tulsa.

Our boarding point began at the metro midtown transfer station. Students were responsible for purchasing their own bus passes and getting bus route information to know location of bus stop and arrival time. They also had to inquire about the location of their return route, giving consideration for how much time they would need to walk to the return bus stop.

The route involved a street crossing at a traffic light, at which students used the initial surge of the parallel traffic as a cue to begin crossing the street, and a visit to



Lorenzo R. (grey t-shirt) with O&M instructor, Faye Miller (on right)

Woodland Hills Mall.

Once inside the mall, students had to look in strategic places to find signage of some of the stores they wanted to visit, as well as signage leading to sections of the mall such as restrooms and escalators.

They learned the value of using their senses of hearing, touch and smell for cues and landmarks as well as the importance of asking specific questions when seeking assistance from the public.



From Left: Brianna, Trinity, Cameron, and Holly (at the Mall)

The food court provided many options to choose from to satisfy hungry,

growing stomachs!

The bus transit personnel were friendly and helpful to our students, ensuring pleasant and successful trips.

Some of us even got soaked from the rain as cars and pickup trucks zoomed across the puddles of water near our bus stop!



Waiting on the bus ...

Whether our students have plans to get jobs or to continue their education at a technical school or college following graduation, being able to access public transportation gives them another option for cost-effective, independent travel to those places.

Gina Woods,  
O&M Instructor

## Cane Quest ... Nov. 16 !



**Cane skills will pay off!**

On Thursday, November 16th, **thirty-two**

**contestants** will vie for medals and prizes at **Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest**.

Contestants will meet the 59 volunteers at 10 am in the auditorium for a group photo. These volunteers include 1-on-1 teammates and shadows and trained experts who will score the contestants.

Scouts will stay on campus, completing a route through stations that will test their O&M skills, including the ability to maintain orientation, use different cane techniques, and work with their teammate to negotiate stairs. The coins they earn at each station can be used to "purchase" a variety of prizes.

Explorers and Trailblazers will complete a secret route by the Muskogee Civic Center. Some of the skills they will demonstrate include crossing a variety of streets,

negotiating obstacles, and advanced cane techniques. Top contestants in each category will be awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals with prizes.

**Special thanks** to our contest sponsors:

Braille Institute, Oklahoma School for the Blind, Humanware, Economy Pharmacy, Frank Dirksen, Liberty Braille, NanoPac, NewView Oklahoma, Oklahoma Council of the Blind, Oklahoma AER, Sapulpa Lions Club

Faye Miller

Panther Pride

# Special Olympics "Bowling"



Conner H.

Our **OSB Special Olympians** traveled to McAlester, Ok to participate in the bowling area games.



Blazen S.

After competition the athletes were treated to lunch picnic style at a park in McAlester. The kids reported that they had a blast and can't wait



Blazen Sitterly



Miracle Jones

Our athletes competed against athletes from Glenpool and did an excellent job.

- ◆ Conner Hilton, Junior, placed 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Mikel Gentry, Junior, placed 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Blazen Sitterly, 7th grader, placed 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Miracle Jones, 7th grader, placed 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Kolten Pennington, 5th grader, placed 1<sup>st</sup>.

until the next event!

A big **THANK YOU** to Mr. Chris Carden and Mrs. Gina Woods for being awesome helpers on the trip.

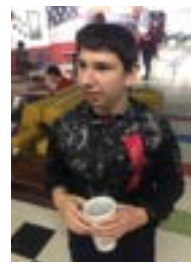
Tera Webb



Kolten Pennington



Conner Hilton



Mikel Gentry



## Jazz Band - Updates

The Jazz Band was busy and participated in two events this month.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Event:

To celebrate **National White Cane Safety Day**, we performed at Woodland Hills mall in Tulsa, OK. We played a variety of songs from jazz standards, to songs fresh off the radio. The crowd lined the balcony and covered most of the floor space in front of Dillard's and erupted with applause after each of the band's selections.



OSB Jazz Band

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Event:

The band traveled to Oklahoma City, OK to attend a concert performance from the **Blind Boys of Alabama**. We received a personal invitation to meet the band before the performance and to ask questions dealing with blindness as a professional musician.



Let's be goofy !!!



OSB Jazz Band meets the Blind Boys of Alabama

A big **THANK YOU** to our private donor who purchased all of the tickets for the concert!



Jazz Band group picture in front of the Tower Theatre, OKC

Our next performance will be our **Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on November 7** at the Masonic Lodge, 121 S 6<sup>th</sup> St. West, Muskogee, OK (located next to the Muskogee US Postal Service).

**We hope to see you there!**

Chris Ferrell

# Student Corner

## Class Clown or School Clown?

We all know Conner Hilton as the kid who just doesn't stop talking and making people laugh. He even does this in his classes and makes his teachers laugh too.

Mr. Jackman's 6th hour class. That's when just half of the 11th grade class has him for United States History, and that is when Tai, Nick, Ariana, Preston and Conner are all in his classroom.

First off let's just restate that Conner loves to make people laugh. That is exactly what he does in this class.

His ability to make people laugh while

reading history is astonishing. It doesn't matter whose turn it is to read, he reads every single quote in every single section, on top of reading his own parts.

No, I do understand that a person reading every quote isn't that funny, but Conner doesn't exactly read the quotes in his "normal" voice.

When Conner is reading a quote from a male he tends to read in a deep, raspy voice. Sometimes he even reads male voices with a "country" accent, which he learned from one of the best at school, Cameron Hughes.

But when the quotes made by girls come in... well, that should speak for itself.

Yup, you guessed it. Conner reads quotes made by girls in his best "girl" voice. This is when everyone in class starts laughing so hard, they almost have to pee. It even makes Preston laugh, and he always tells Conner to read normally so that they can get the section done and do the work.

That's why Conner Hilton has been pinned, in a loving way, as the class clown (although some say he's the school clown).

Keep it up Conner... laughing is the best medicine and we need a good laugh from time to time.

**Your  
Secret Reporter**  
(Who am I?)



## SECRET REPORTER

**Last edition's "Secret Reporter" was:**

Trinity Lewis

**The winner:**

**Richelle Zampella**

## GREAT JOB LADIES !!!

**Take a guess...**

**Who is THIS edition's secret reporter ?**



Turn in your guesses to  
Ms. Laci Goins at  
[lgoins@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:lgoins@osb.k12.ok.us)

The first one guessing correctly wins the challenge, his/her name will be published in our next edition and he/she will win a small price.

**Let the fun begin!**

## College Fair Tour

*by Jonathon Phelps*



On September 26 three seniors traveled to Connors State College

for the annual area-wide college fair.

The seniors who attended were: Halle Stout, Kinzie Peters, and Jonathon Phelps.

Their sponsor was Mrs. Cragg.

The students gathered information from local colleges that will help them make decisions about their future.



# Student Corner - continued

## Academic Team Update

by Halle Stout and Trinity Lewis



Hello everyone!  
This year OSB has a hard working Academic Team.

We have eight members. Participants on the Academic Team include: Brianna Brennan, Garrett Kennedy, Trinity Lewis, Jillian Matthews, Ariana Richardson, Kaylee Ragon, Halle Stout, and Richelle Zampella.

Every Monday the Academic Team meets after school until they get released to go to dinner. Laci Goins happens to be the leader of our Academic Team. She expects her group members

to answer as many question as they can during practice.

The team works on answering questions individually and in groups.

It is no mystery why this intelligent group of students meet together with their leader. One reason is to be able to practice answering questions that would be asked at competitions. Another is to study what they need to know to beat the other teams. To be on an Academic Team is not something to just mess around. It is meant for students to study topics in which they are interested in, and compete with students from other schools to do their best to win at competitions by showing their intelligence.

On Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> Kaylee Ragon, Trinity Lewis, Richelle Zampella, Jillian Matthews, and Garrett Kennedy traveled to Prue, Oklahoma for their annual District Seeding. They played Prue and Glencoe.

**They seeded first by winning both of their games.**

We are so very proud of them. They had so much fun.



The Academic team's next competition is the **OSSAA Regionals** on **November 11<sup>th</sup>** at Kremlin-Hillsdale.

## Wrestling Season Update

by Kinzie Peters



It's that time of the year again when our panthers start wrestling season.

They kicked off the season on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> with a meeting and started practice on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our panther **wrestlers** for **MS** include 7<sup>th</sup> grade Julio Valdez, Elbin Carrillo, and Jimmy Anderson, 8<sup>th</sup> grade John Duong and William Winston.



Our panther **wrestlers** in **HS** include 9<sup>th</sup> grade Nathan England and Johnnie Davidson, 10<sup>th</sup> grade "Dee" Willis, Kentrell Wallace, Christopher Shepherd, and Allen Alender, 11<sup>th</sup> grade Tai Thomas and Preston Fenton, 12<sup>th</sup> grade Jonathon Phelps, Kinzie Peters, and Cameron Hughes.

The team is coached by Rob Culie.

Our first wrestling duel is **Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** against the Arkansas School for the Blind located in Little Rock, AR.



# Student Corner - continued

## OSB Running Club

by Halle Stout

OSB is a place where students learn how to be healthy. One thing that we must do to be healthy is to get exercise and we can do that by participating in the OSB Running Club.



### Members of our Running Club include:

Allen Alender, John and Tyler Duong, Halle Stout, and Katelynn Zampella.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays members meet and

## Firefighter's Fire Prevention Program

By Preston Fenton

On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> the OSB Kindergarteners through second graders went to the Muskogee Civic Center for fire prevention week. I talked to a few of the students that went to that and got their opinions and views on their day at the Civic Center.

*"I learned that it is bad to leave the stove on because it will smoke and can start a fire"* said Noah. He then told me that they watched the fire show where they taught them not to leave stuff that can catch fire on the floor. Noah also said that he got to stop, drop and roll in front of everyone.

run outside along the rocky track which surrounds the playground just outside of the East Lobby. Our members must run as many days as they can to prepare themselves to run races.

The coach of the Running club is Mrs. Susan Young Mock. Before running she leads the runners in stretches in order to get them warmed up and prepared to run well.

On **November 15<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting the Panther Prowl 5-K Race. Our runners, who are considering to participate in the race, are practicing hard in order to become very fast, and even go for longer distances.

If you are interested in being part of the running club or want more

information about the Panther Prowl 5K race please see/contact Mrs. Young Mock.

**Go runners!**



Braylen told me that when the fire alarm went off everyone started running and hiding. When the firefighter asked if they did good everyone shouted with a unanimous **"NO!"** He then informed us that *"instead you should try to make it out a door or window."*



Demonstration how to get to a window - **STAY LOW!**

*To feel if the fire is behind a door you should place your hand backwards on the door to feel if there is any heat."* He liked taking pictures with the clowns (firefighters). He informed me that the clowns were used as a demonstration for proper fire

safety. If you catch on fire you should **STOP, DROP AND ROLL.**



Demonstration of **DROP & ROLL**

The clowns were played by the firefighters, and one was Skyler Moore's uncle!

Although it was fire prevention week we did not have a fire drill at school that week, because we had one at the beginning of the school year.

## Student Corner - continued

### White Cane Day

by Ariana Richardson

On Tuesday October 10, we had our yearly celebration of White Cane Day to honor and tell about why visually impaired individuals use canes.

It took place in Tulsa at the Woodland Hills Mall and lasted through most of the day.

The OSB jazz band performed that evening at 4:30 pm and again at 6:00 pm. They did a fantastic job and the entire event was a big success.

During free time, between the band performances, Mrs. Jane Thomas spoke about the importance of using a cane and how helpful it is to many people who are blind. Her speech was very inspiring and it gave some insight to how sighted people should address someone who may be using a cane to cross a street or intersection. It reminded others that people who are visually impaired can get around on their own just by using a simple red and white stick.

A few students including, Kaylee



Ragon, Trinity Lewis and Nicholas Jackson-Morrison got to take part in the day time events. They learned a lot about how to use a cane properly and about how to identify different landmarks for navigation skills.

The students had a blast and to top it all off, they got the opportunity to be interviewed by TV News stations Channel 2, 6 and 8. The students got to speak about what White Cane Day means to them and why they feel that it's such an honorable day.

**Trinity** said that she got to experience getting on an escalator blindfolded. *"It's not what you can see, it's about what you can be,"* she said.

**Kaylee** feels that White Cane Day was a great way to spread awareness and to inform more people about the white cane in general. *"It's a good way to show people how to treat someone when they see them using a cane to cross the street,"* she said. *"And it also shows people that we can do anything that they can do, even if we may do it a little differently."*

The students also got to learn a little bit about guide dogs and what is required to have one. They learned that it is a great responsibility and as their owner, it's very important to take good care of them.

They learned how beneficial it is to have proper Orientation and Mobility (O&M) skills, and how helpful it can be to their lives in the future.

The O&M instructors that we have here at OSB are fabulous and they've taught many students successful ways to navigate not only around familiar areas, but around non-familiar areas as well.

I think White Cane Day is also a day to honor and thank them for all they've done for the students here at this school. So if they've made a difference in your life, please thank them and let them know how much you appreciate them for everything they have taught you.

White Cane Day was definitely a huge success and we can all look forward to having another celebration next year!

### Silver Spur Ranch

by Jonathon Phelps and Lorenzo Rodriguez

On September 27 OSB was invited to attend their **annual Western Heritage Day** at the Silver Spur Ranch.

The elementary and middle school students left at 9:00 am and the high school followed at 11:00 am.

Once the High School arrived they were greeted with a nice lunch and Priscilla sang us a good song.

The students were able to ride horses, a wagon, and a stagecoach, go bungee jumping, rock climbing, fishing, and roping.

The students would like to thank the quarter horse association and

Mrs. Linda Graber for making this activity possible. It was so much fun!



## Student Corner - continued

### Five Blind Boys of Alabama Concert

by Ariana Richardson



OSB students meet the Blind Boys of Alabama

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 our OSB jazz band traveled to Oklahoma City to the Tower to see the famous Blind Boys of Alabama in concert! It was a long ride, but I have to say, it was definitely not a waste of time!



OSB students outside the Tower Theatre

When we first arrived and went in to take our seats, a few people spoke to us about the history of the Tower and about the different productions and performances that have taken place over the past years. It was very interesting and I was especially happy to hear that one of my favorite movies, *The Sound of Music*, happened there for about a year and a half.

After that, the Blind Boys spoke to us about their past and how they became so successful in their lives. They have won **five**

**Grammy Awards** and they've been working together since they were in high school. They are true inspirations and they are so talented. We got the opportunity to ask them some questions about their career and I was really impressed with how much they've accomplished together over the years. It made me realize how much music really has changed compared to the music that we have today and how certain music can really impact people's lives.

The concert itself was fabulous! One thing that they did before starting their show, which really touched my heart, was they gave our school recognition! I thought that was so sweet and considerate of them.

There were two other performers who were equally amazing and who really made the show even more worthwhile. One of them was Irma Thomas and she told us a little bit about her life and career. She has such a beautiful voice and it was nice to hear them all perform together. I think I could listen to them all day long if I had to.

It was so wonderful and I'm really glad we got to go. It was definitely more than I expected and not only was the singing fantastic, the music and instruments that they played were beautiful as well.

Everybody enjoyed it and I also think everyone could agree with me that even though we were tired from getting back at almost one o'clock in the morning, it was worth it.

I'm so glad we got to witness these awesome bands and I would like to **thank everyone who made it possible for us to go**. It was a great experience and we all had so much fun!

**THANK YOU**



Let's have some fun !



At the concert !

# Student Corner - continued

## Limitations

By Richelle Zampella



Does Earth orbit halfway around the sun, only to reverse its course?

The stars wink their bright, playful

eyes at you, but do they return your gaze?

Does the moon, when it flashes a crescent of a smile, expect you'll share in the humor?

If I were the sun, the moon, or the stars, would I shine as bright and sure?

Will you help me on my orbital course, return my gaze when I don't return yours, share with me

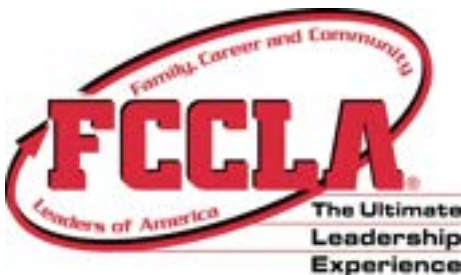
the joke written upon all the faces?

Will you help me surpass these limitations?



## FCCLA District Meeting

by Ariana Richardson



Tuesday October 17, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Harris, 6 members of FCCLA and I traveled to Tahlequah to attend the yearly FCCLA Northeast 5 District Meeting.

It was a great experience and we learned so much about what it means to care for one another and how we should take care of our community.

The ceremony began around 9:30 a.m. and the FCCLA chapter members were introduced and recognized for their hard work throughout the district.

Trinity Lewis did an amazing job,

she had the courage to get up on stage and introduce our chapter and its members. We did a very good job representing our school.

After the opening ceremony, a wonderful motivational speaker, Kent Butler, talked to us about situations that may come our way in life and how we should spread love and kindness to people that we meet along the way. He also said that we can't let opportunities slip away; we need to take advantage of these situations when they arise. He was very entertaining and kept us laughing. Kent made me think about my life more seriously and I realized how many opportunities I haven't truly taken advantage of.

*"We had great motivational speakers and it was a fun experience," Trinity says.*

I've enjoyed it every year so far and it always teaches me something new that could possibly impact my life in a positive way in the future. I'm

glad we got to be a part of this event and I hope we get to go again next year.

All FCCLA members had a wonderful time.

After the meeting we had lunch at Chili's.

It was a very inspiring day and it was so much fun.



OSB FCCLA Leadership Team



# Student Corner - continued

## SCIVS; Space Camp Aviation Challenge

by Thomas Raines

Three students from the school recently attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The three students were Trinity Lewis, Richelle Zampella and I. Ms. Daniels went with us to act as our sponsor/chaperone.

We had to take two flights, first we flew from the Tulsa Airport to Houston, Texas and finally we took a plane from there to Alabama.

We attended space camp from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. After we arrived we were allowed to get settled in and then we were assigned to specific teams, in which we stayed for the entire week.

The first day was honestly pretty uneventful, nothing really happened, the only noteworthy thing is that each of us was assigned to our teams.

Unfortunately, Richelle, Trinity and I were not on the same team, we were on separate teams, that is mainly because each of us was in different programs. Another factor was that each team was only allowed to have a certain number of members.

Trinity was in the Aviation program, while Richelle and I were both in the Space Academy program, but in different teams.

The camp offered several different activities, some however were program specific so for example an Aviation member



Trinity getting ready to zip line into water

would get to zip line into a lake while members of the Space Academy program couldn't.

Despite this I still had fun.

I got to zip line and thankfully I didn't get wet while doing it.

I also got to climb a rock wall.

The Space Academy members, including myself, were actually able to build and launch their own rockets.

The main difference between the Aviation program and Space Academy program is that one specialized in space exploration, while the other specialized in military training.



Thomas in his space suit

Another thing that I and the rest of the team members were able to do was space simulations. The space simulations were fun, I enjoyed myself and near the end of the week we were made to do a three hour long space mission. Each member of the team was assigned a specific job, for example I was in mission control and I was charged with keeping an eye on team members that were working in the International Space Station or rather a mock version of it.

On the last day all of us were able to launch rockets that we made and if we found them we were allowed to keep them, however, while I found mine I wasn't able to keep it.



Thomas and a teammate getting ready to zip line

Tragically all good things must come to an end so on Friday night there was a graduation ceremony held for all the teams.

After the graduation there was a dance held as a celebration. Once the dance was over we went to bed and the next morning we had to leave early to catch our flight home. However, just like the first time it was done, we had to take two different planes at two different airports.

I would like to thank everyone who made this trip happen for me. I had a great time and learned a lot.



THANK YOU!



Richelle getting ready for scuba diving



Trinity getting ready for a water mission



Ms. Daniels getting strapped into a simulator

# Recreation Activities by Belinda Thomas

## 26 Sep 2017 - Dining Out Night for MS/HS at China King

OSB staff and students had an amazing night out at China King here in Muskogee, Oklahoma. They all enjoyed gourmet Chow Mein and fried rice, assortments of chicken dishes, savory beef dishes, and a variety of seafood. Everyone had a great time eating till they burst!



## 27 Sep 2017 - Happy September Birthdays

OSB celebrated birthdays for the month of September by eating mouthwatering cupcakes made special by our lovely ILS ladies. They baked luscious chocolate cupcakes, succulent strawberry, and delightful vanilla with party sprinkles both in the mix and in the icing! **Happy Birthday to ALL!**

## 03 Oct 2017 - Movie & Popcorn Night for 13 and Older



AHHH it's a mummy! Just kidding, it's not real! As our teenagers gathered to watch the 2017 "The Mummy" they enjoyed yummy popcorn (or should I say mummy popcorn!) and water straight from the Nile River in Egypt! They may have been just a LITTLE scared, but there were definitely more laughs than screams. It was a perfect kick off to the "oh so spooky" October! - *Kaylee Ragon*

## 04 Oct 2017 - Happy October Birthdays



No tricks here! Just treats! The kids enjoyed creepy cupcakes to celebrate all of the birthdays in October! Flavors being chilling chocolate with sprinkles, spooooky Strawberry with sprinkles, and very scary Vanilla! - *Kaylee Ragon*

## 10 Oct 2017 - Movie Night for Elementary



While the Middle School/High School were away at Woodland Hills Mall for White Cane Day, OSB elementary got to snuggle down, laugh, sing, and enjoy the fantastic and creepalicious 1993 movie of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" by Tim Burton. We got to hang out with the majestic Jack, the Pumpkin King and all the loveable yet haunting characters of this cult film.

Afterwards, the elementary students got to kick off their shoes, run around the Rec, and play video games and eat snacks.

## 11 Oct 2017 - Karaoke Night



Students got to sing till their voices got hoarse at this Karaoke Night!!

Trinity giving it her all!

Mr. Ferrell brought the jazz band's sound system to the Rec and set it up for us. The audio was so crisp and clear! Garrett Kennedy and Tyler Duong were our magnificent MC's for the night. Students sang their individual chosen songs, or teamed up with friends. Students danced while singing, and before long this karaoke night became an open mic/dance off for students and staff members alike. I wasn't able to take as many pictures as I wanted to because I was running the music from my phone, but Miss Christine snapped some pics for me! Thank you Miss Christine.

## 17 Oct 2017 - Monster Skull Craft Night

OSB staff and students got to craft some nifty **Dia de los Muertos skulls**



for our Halloween craft night. These skulls could be colored brightly or painted more dark to celebrate any holiday in October. Students could put stickers or rhinestones on the skulls to make them bling.



(Continued on page 16)

# Recreation Activities - continued

(Continued from page 15)

## 23 Oct 2017 - Alpha Theta Pizza Party for MS/HS



The lovely ladies and gentlemen from Alpha Theta brought yummy pizza, tasty drinks, and bags of Halloween candy for our MS/HS students at OSB. The students had a great time eating, laughing, and getting to know this organization better with each pizza party.



**Thank you** again **Alpha Theta members** for all that you have done for our school!

## 24 Oct 2017 - 2017 Fall Festival



Our fearless Rec. Activities Leader!!! - Belinda Thomas

**FINALLY!**

It was time for the

**2017 Fall Festival!**

OSB threw a great one this year... We had eight arcade games with cool prizes, a cake walk, a hillbilly cannibal BBQ, s'mores from the microwave



(due to it being too windy for our awesome fire pit), a washable tattoo stand, a picture booth,



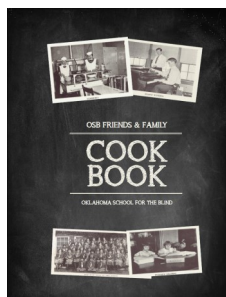
a trunk-or-treat with the Brushy Mountain Fire Department and private volunteers, a haunted hayride that had runaway clowns and witches, which was very

popular with the kids, and an awesome maze.

**THANK YOU** to all the helpers, volunteers and visitors. We couldn't do it without you.



## OSB's Family & Friends Cookbook - REMINDER !!!



**OSB's  
FAMILY &  
FRIENDS  
COOKBOOKS  
ARE HERE !!!**

The print cookbooks have arrived and are available for purchase!

Please use the attached order form if you would like to purchase a copy in print or another format.

*Still need a Christmas Gift?*

*How about a cookbook?*

**Cookbooks are :**

**1-4 copies \$12.00/ea**

**5+ copies \$10.00/ea**

You may contact Mrs. Tonya Givens, who has print copies available in her office, or myself to order and receive your copies.

If you are unable to catch either one of us, please email me

at [agarner@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:agarner@osb.k12.ok.us), and I will gladly make arrangements to get the cookbook to you!

**Please include payment with all orders.**

Much thanks for your support and to everyone that contributed recipes and their time and talents to this project!

Allison Garner



## GOING THE EXTRA MILE - October 2017



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

Linda Graber, THANK YOU for putting together another successful White Cane Safety Day celebration. Woodland Hills Mall was an excellent choice of location and the support you received from other organizations is evidence of the impact you have made for the promotion of OSB. Thank you again for all you do!

Karen Bryan, thank you for taking my students while I was busy with bus travel. I knew they would be accounted for and encouraged to complete their work.

Future Shock Committee - Carla Cotney, Cheryl Daniels, Allison Garner, Laci Goins, and Gina Woods - thanks for putting together a plan for a wonderful experience for our grade 7-12 students. The extra time you have committed to this project will help our students be more prepared for that Real World!

Faye Miller

I would like to thank Chris Ferrell for going the extra mile and designing our new OSB

brochures. He did an awesome job!

Linda Graber is again noted for going the extra mile for organizing Western Heritage Day and White Cane Day. Both events were extremely successful due to the in depth planning and organizing she did. She is an incredible volunteer!

A big thank you goes to the maintenance staff for getting the conference room ready by October 17. They are all nominated for going the extra mile for meeting the completion deadline through excellent teamwork.

Mike Bynum and Brian Culver are noted for going the extra mile for driving the buses on our activity trips and home going routes. They have worked all day and part of the night transporting our students safely. Thank you!

Tonya Givens is recognized for going the extra mile by assisting our new business manager on proper procedures and the multitude of rules applicable to his job. She completes her job efficiently and lends a helpful hand to him and others when asked. Great job, Tonya!

### **On a personal note:**

I would like to thank the incredible staff of OSB for the nice goodie basket for Boss's

Day. It was such a nice treat, and I appreciate you all so much. You are an incredible group of people with a common purpose of making sure our students get the best education possible. I feel so blessed to be here and look forward to working with you in the future. YOU are the reason OSB is successful. YOU are the ones that make a huge difference in our students' lives. Many thanks to all of you.

Rita Echelle,  
Superintendent

Thank you Rob Culie, Tera Webb, Tonya Givens, and Barbara Collins for bringing their individual copy of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" to school to insure that our elementary students get to watch the movie they choose.

Thank you Sarah McClendon for trying to help me reserve the Muskogee Library's copy of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" for elementary movie night.

Thank you to Mrs. Admire and Ms. Isom for making those fantastic cupcakes for our monthly birthday party for the month of October. They were nicely decorated and tasted GRREEAAATT!

Thank you Chris Ferrell for letting us use your sound system for karaoke in the Rec. Your sound system sounds so much crisper and clearer than the amp I have. Thank you so much.

Belinda Thomas

*(Continued on page 18)*

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE -

(Continued from page 17)



Thank you to Mike and Marcella Bynum for making and decorating the maze for the fall festival.

Thank you Laci Goins and Jeremy Jackman for painting separate versions of Frankenstein (*two Do-It-Yourself Frankenstein Heads*) for this year's Halloween Silent Auction to help raise money for Cane Quest,

Thank you Barbara Collins for the "Day of the Dead" table cloth for the Fall Festival.

Thank you Amy King for switching a few routes with me.

Thank you to all the Maintenance Team for moving and reinstalling the Panther Den sign for me, and all the activities they did to help with the Fall Festival.

Thank you to Mrs. Kathy Barrett for the marshmallows, hot cocoa, and candy bars for the Fall Festival.

Thank you to Christine Timmreck for taking pictures of the karaoke night while my phone was preoccupied with playing the music.

Thank you Lisa Yochum for cleaning my floor. It looks amazing!!!!

Thank you too UNKNOWN for putting my tables and chairs back down after Lisa charioted the floor while I was gone sick.

Thank you Mrs. Jeana Jones for organizing her kid's basketball team to become our haunted hayride actors along with helping me get soda donations from Coca Cola.

Thank you to Mr. Miles for donating fire wood for the s'mores fire pit for the Fall Festival. Unfortunately it was too windy, so we couldn't actually use it that night, but we will do our best to use it some other time.

Belinda Thomas

A big THANK YOU to Tonya Givens and Ronna Johnston for helping with food basket duty.

Also, THANK YOU Paul Butler for taking the boys to the annual Boys Bash again.

Sylvia Sterling

A HUGE THANK YOU to all OSB staff members and volunteers that helped put together another great FALL FESTIVAL. **You guys did great.**

Maggie Mattox

**Thank you guys  
for going the  
extra mile.**

**It is highly  
appreciated.**



## EDITOR'S CHALLENGE

In this edition I would like to challenge everyone to "**MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH / SMILE (daily)**".

I challenge you to make at least one (1) person laugh or smile per day. Share some positivity and see how it affects your personal life. I bet you will notice that your day/s just got a lot brighter.

Let's make a difference...

# Happy Birthday !!!

## November Birthdays

### Students

Quanté Sellers	Nov.	1
Levi Smith	Nov.	10
Gerry Rodriguez	Nov.	12
Brianna Brennan	Nov.	13
Nick Jackson-M.	Nov.	21
Julia Cisneros	Nov.	25
Hunter Kelley	Nov.	25
Holly Felkins	Nov.	26



### Staff

Rita Echelle	Nov.	21
Jeremy Jackman	Nov.	23
Barbara Collins	Nov.	27



# November 2017

Dorms Open
  NO School
  School In Session

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		

## Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Event
Thur, Nov. 2	all day	Supervisory Training at OSB
Tue, Nov. 7	8:00 am	School Picture RETAKES
	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner @ Masonic Lodge, Muskogee w. Jazz Band performance, silent auction and desert auction
Wed, Nov. 8	2:35 pm	Veterans' Day Program @ Auditorium
Wed, Nov. 15	tbd	Panther Prowl Race
Thur, Nov. 16	10:00 am	Cane Quest
Nov. 20- 24		THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO SCHOOL !!!
Sun, Nov. 26		Dorms Open / Bus Routes run
Mon, Nov. 27	8:00 am	Classes Resume
Thur, Nov. 30	10:30 am	Future Shock Career Day - MS & HS students



# Dec. 2017 - Jan. 2018

Dorms Open
  NO School
  School In Session

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
31						
Jan. 7	8	9	10	11	12	13

### Upcoming December/January Events:

Thur, Dec. 7	FCCLA District STAR Events at Sallisaw
Tue, Dec. 19	Elementary Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
Wed, Dec. 20	Elementary Christmas Play
	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - HOME GOING</b>
Thur, Dec. 21 - Jan. 5	CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO SCHOOL
Sun, Jan. 7	DORMS OPEN - BUS ROUTES RUN
Mon, Jan. 8	CLASSES RESUME
Mon, Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL
Jan. 19-21	SCASB—hosted by OSB

# Recreation Activities

## NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Thank You Letter Craft Night at 6:30 pm Open Rec to follow	2 Home Going	3	4
5 Dorms Open Open Rec	6 Boy Scouts 5:30—6:45 pm Workout Room 6:30—7pm Turkey Craft Night to follow	7 Spaghetti Fundraiser 5:30 pm Rec Closed	8 Swimming at Muskogee Swim and Fitness 6:30—7:45 pm	9 Home Going	10	11
12 Dorms Open Open Rec	13 Boy Scouts 5:30—6:45 pm Workout Room 6:30—7pm Seasonal tea Making Night	14 Happy Birthday November at 7 pm Open Rec to follow	15 Cane Quester Ball 6:30—8:45 pm in gym	16 Home Going	17	18
19 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	20 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	21 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	22 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	23 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	24 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
26 Dorms Open Open Rec	27 Boy Scouts 5:30—6:45 pm Workout Room 6:30—7pm Hot Cocoa and Open Rec	28 Riddle & Trivia Night 6:30 pm Open Rec to follow	29 Autumn Leaves Dance at 6:30—8:45 pm	30 Home Going		

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:

### Retirement:

David Likins, Fleet Specialist, November 1<sup>st</sup>



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

### NOVEMBER 2017:

Tue., Nov. 7	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Fundraiser @ the Masonic Lodge, Muskogee
Wed., Nov. 8	2:35 pm	Veterans' Day Program @ OSB Auditorium
Wed., Nov. 15	time tbd	OSB's annual "Panther Prowl Race"
Thur., Nov. 16	10:00 am	Cane Quest
Thur., Nov. 30	10:30 am	Future Shock "Career Day"

### DECEMBER 2017:

Wed., Dec. 20	time tbd	Elementary Christmas Play
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### JANUARY 2018:

Fri-Sun, Jan. 19-21	SCASB (South Central Association of Schools for the Blind ) @ OSB Welcoming: <b>Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia</b> students.
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## OK School for the Blind Friends and Family Cookbook Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/s \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Purchase 5 or more of any item, or a combination of 5 items, and receive a **\$2.00 discount per item** (i.e. 4 print books + 1 electronic pdf = \$50).

Format	Quantity	Amount	Total
Print		\$12	
Braille		\$12	
Digital (PDF) not screen reader friendly		\$12	
Digital (PDF) screen reader friendly; 4 volumes		\$12	
		Subtotal	\$
		Discount	\$ -
		TOTAL ORDER	\$

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Payment due upon order. -

**Please make checks payable to OSB FCCLA.**



**Date: 11/07/17**

Time: 5:30-8:00 pm

Price: Donations

## Spaghetti & Meatballs Salad - Garlic Bread - Dessert



**Jazz Band performance**

~ 5:30-6:00 pm

**Silent Auction** (gift baskets, etc.)

5:30-7:00 pm

- Silent Auction winners to be announced after closing of bids. -

**Dessert Auction** after announcement of winner

~ 7:00 pm

(times are estimated and subject to change)

## Masonic Lodge

121 S 6<sup>th</sup> St. W, Muskogee, OK 74401

(located next to the Muskogee US Postal Service)