

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Brent Pearce

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

1st and 2nd Qtr. / 1st Sem. Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

1st Qtr.

Elementary

Abraham Cooper
Haidyn James
Khup Tuang
Neal Summerlin

2nd Qtr.

Elementary

Neal Summerlin

Middle School - 1st Semester

Braylen Fuller
Madilyn Gray
Douglas Lee

High School - 1st Semester

Stephanie Glynn
Amber Knipp
Tessa Williams

Students of the 1. & 2. Qtr.

Elementary:

Haidyn James (Qtr. 1)
Khup Tuang (Qtr. 2)

Middle School:

Madilyn Gray (Qtr. 1)
Elijah Cervantes-Phipps (Qtr. 2)

High School:

Piper Conner (Qtr. 1)
Stephanie Glynn (Qtr. 2)

"B" Honor Roll

1st Qtr.

Elementary

Nina Cutler
Paisley McCall
LaShae McGuire

2nd Qtr.

Elementary

Abraham Cooper
Hunter Farmer
Peyton Froehlich
Haidyn James
LaShae McGuire
Khup Tuang

Middle School - 1st Sem.

Lukus Beavers
Blaze Calger
Elijah Cervantes-Phipps
Eric Enzenauer
Garrett Hillshafer

High School - 1st Sem.

Jaden Brown
Jaylee Burnside
Jacob Cantu
Piper Conner
Josie Cox
Angel Cozort
Payton Crum
Noah Dougan
Kennedy Fowler
Kyler Harrington
Nathanial Hiatt
Delilah Howell
Aaron Hubbard

Jesse Martinez
Justin Millar
Macey Millar
Genevieve Owens
Kolten Pennington
Blake Priddy
Hunter Pugh
Kelton Ricks
Leah Sailors
Quante Sellers
Lane Sutterfield
Anicka Weller
Ian Willhight

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2024 - 2025, Issue 2

12/19/24

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Next Edition (tentative): 3/6/2025

Special points of interest:

- Space Camp
- World Stack-Up World Record
- STUCO OASC Convention
- FCCLA Updates
- Touch the Art Event
- OSB Fall Festival

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Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



By Maggie
Mattox

On October 15, 2024,
OSB held its annual

Spaghetti Fundraiser dinner.

All donations from this event are going towards our athletic program to help cover some of the expenses related to various sports competitions like SCASB in January (wrestling and cheerleading), SCASB Track in April, and Extravaganza (Goalball & Track) in October.

All of these are usually “Out-of-state” competitions and require traveling. However, this time we were even more motivated to get as much money raised as possible. Do you wonder what was different this time? Well, in January our athletes will not be traveling out of state, but instead **we will be hosting SCASB** here on our campus (see the SCASB article on page 12 for more information).

Tickets to the event were \$10.00 per person, and it was well worth it.

Our cafeteria provided a great Spaghetti dinner with the option of meat sauce or meatballs, salad, a huge variety of desserts to choose from, and a soft drink or water.

For entertainment, we had live performances from our **Jazz band**,



OSB Jazz Band

a special performance from our **soloist**, Macey Millar,



Soloist Macey



OSB Choir

and a few songs from our **Choir**.

We also had a silent auction with **40 baskets/items**, incl. a puppy, and a **dessert auction**, which got very heated the further we got into it.

The friendly competition between some of our guests was undeniable, especially since neither of them put on their poker faces. Our auction spotters were busy swiveling their heads not to miss any bids and our auctioneer could hardly keep up with the fast pace on some of the items.

Thank you, Mr. Brice and helpers. You all put on a great show and helped raise **\$1,885** just for the desserts.



Boom-a-rang Diner donated cases of bottled water for the dinner and, like in past years, presented us with a **\$3,000 check**.

THANK YOU! We appreciate your support very much.

At the end of the evening, we raised **\$8,664** with our ticket sales, auctions, and special donations.

**Great Job
Everyone!**



However, this was not our final amount yet.

For years, this event has been a partnership between OSB and the **Masonic Muskogee Lodge #28 A.F. & A.M.**, who added another **\$1,336**, bringing the final amount to **\$10,000**.

Thank you Masonic Lodge for your ongoing support. We appreciate you all.

A huge **“THANK YOU”** to everyone who was part of the event. Your support means a lot to us.



Caught Being Good...



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



EVERYONE !

- ◆ **Aaron Hubbard** helped a newer student to the clinic and back to the dorm.
- ◆ **Alexandra Antolin** guided a student to his seat in the cafeteria.
- ◆ **Braylen Fuller** offered to take one of the Elementary students to the Rec. for recess, as he didn't know the way.
- ◆ **Delilah Howell** helped a fellow student through the clinic and back to the dorm.
- ◆ **Eli Poplin** was extremely polite and helpful at the front door, greeting students and holding the door open.
- ◆ **Elijah Cervantes-Phipps** is always willing to jump in and assist his classmates without being asked. He is a good friend.
- ◆ **Jacob Cantu** always helps deliver snack bags and helps carry things. He also offered his support and assistance to a student who was struggling to play a new instrument.
- ◆ **Kolten Pennington** helped direct a student to find their way through the hallway.
- ◆ **Lane Sutterfield** informed Ms. Goins of an ill student in the bathroom, resulting in the school being able to get emergency assistance.
- ◆ **Lilith Pedersen** volunteered to escort a new student from 5th floor to 1st floor on their first day at OSB.
- ◆ **Lily McDonald** noticed a student was not feeling well and struggled to walk. The student was having a difficult time standing and Lily provided support while heading to the clinic.
- ◆ **Madi Gray** helped a student find her seat in the cafeteria.
- ◆ **Nikki James** helped get things out of a staff member's truck and was smiling while doing it.
- ◆ **Piper Conner** came and got me (nurse) to lead me to a student in distress on the State Convention field trip. She also found a police officer for me so I didn't have to call 911.
- ◆ **Treysen Radick** helped pick up recess equipment that was not his responsibility.
- ◆ **Austin Heffley** voluntarily passed out Braille writers, calculators, and paper to the other students in his class.

Healthy Schools Oklahoma

By Tera Webb



The HS Life Skills class would like to challenge the OSB family to a **Panther Reset!**

Starting January 1, 2025, we want everyone to choose a way to reset!

Since "Reset" means something different to each student/person, here are some ideas for the dimensions of health we have covered in our class...

Mental Health:

Being more mindful and using Positive Self-talk.

Physical Health:

Eating healthier, exercising more, and/or quitting addictive behaviors such as vaping, smoking, dipping, drinking alcohol, or other substance abuse.

Social Health:

Reaching out to a friend you have not talked with in a while or starting a new friendship.

Financial Health:

Looking to start saving for a goal or creating/updating your budget for the New Year.

Our HS Life Skills class will be choosing individual resets so we can share our journey and celebrate the victories.

If you would like to share your reset with our class, please email twebb@osb.k12.ok.us.

Panther Pride: Character Challenge

October was Spooky Season is Here



October invited us to embrace creativity, fun, and a little bit of mystery. Engaging in the playful spirit of Halloween and spooky season allowed us to unwind, bond with friends, and tap into our imagination - all while enjoying the excitement of the season.

November was Gratitude Challenge



We focused on gratitude that helps shift your mindset towards positivity, especially when life feels overwhelming. By practicing gratitude daily, you can improve your mood, strengthen relationships, and build resilience in the face of challenges.

December was Joy Challenge

With the holidays and winter break on the horizon, December was a perfect time to focus on finding joy in everyday moments. Embracing joy not only boosts your mood but also helps to reduce stress and foster a sense of connection with others.



January will be New Year, New Effort

The start of a new year is the perfect opportunity to set fresh intentions and start building habits that will lead to success. By putting in consistent effort now, you can make the most of the year ahead and create a strong foundation for achieving your goals.



February will focus on Self Care, Self Talk, Self Love



School, life, and circumstances can be challenging, and it's easy to neglect your mental and physical health. Focusing on self-care, positive self-talk, and self-love allows you to build resilience, boost your confidence, and maintain balance amid the pressures of school.

March will focus on Luck of the Habits



The habits you form now will shape your future. By working on consistent habits, whether academic, social, or personal, you create a path to long-term success and well-being that is far more reliable than relying on luck.

Gratitude Challenge



By Whitney Gamble

Our OSB MS and HS students had the privilege of meeting with Mrs. Stephanie Jones, the author of "**The Gratitude Challenge**," on Tuesday, October 29th.

I was so inspired that I wanted my students to participate in a gratitude challenge of our own during

November, with Thanksgiving it seemed like perfect timing.

I offered the details to anyone who wanted to join in and had a wonderful response school-wide.

The many stories that were shared were such an encouragement.

One of my favorite quotes came from Mr. Culie. He said, "*One of*

the amazing things about this whole challenge is that it brings hope and opens the door to more things to be grateful for. Mrs. Webb, thank you for sharing such a personal experience. You have brought me hope for what is to come."

THANK YOU to everyone who participated and shared their stories.

White Cane Awareness Day

By Faye Miller

OSB middle and high school students celebrated **White Cane Awareness Day** with a walk in downtown Muskogee.

The white cane is a symbol of independence for people with visual impairments and this day celebrates the accomplishments and successes of people with vision loss.



L-R: Dir. Fruendt and Sherry Holder

Macey Millar, Ryan Williams, and Kim Ford shared their experiences



L-R: Kim Ford & Sherry Holder

with losing vision and using a white cane.



L-R: Ryan, Macey, Dir. Fruendt, and Sherry Holder

Then everyone followed the seniors, who were holding a White Cane Awareness Day banner, along a walk down Broadway Ave.



DRS Director Melinda Fruendt and OSB Interim Superintendent Brent Pearce walked under visual occlusion with Julia Cisneros



Piper (L) and Director Fruendt



Julia (L) and Mr. Pearce

and Piper Conner as their human guides. This gave them an experience of using senses other than vision to perceive the world around them as they completed the walk.

White canes or **long white canes** allow a person to walk with confidence instead of shuffling their feet, walking hesitantly, or looking down at the ground when they walk.



They are a symbol of mobility, safety, and freedom of movement.

White canes are used for three (3) main purposes:

- ◆ **Identifying a person** with a visual impairment,

- ◆ **Identifying obstacles** below waist level, and
- ◆ **Identifying changes in surface**, such as drop-offs like stairs and curbs, or changes in the surface, for example, a change from tile to carpet.

The white cane is held in front of you because it previews the area and allows time to react to different conditions. For example, if your cane tip drops off at a curb, you can react by stopping before you step into a street. If your cane contacts something in front of you, you can react and walk around the object without your body bumping into the object.

The white cane itself is supposed to make contact with objects so your body doesn't have to.



L-R: Tonya Givens, Misty Simmons, and Dawn Bryant



"I was impressed with the time and hard work the students put into this event. The speeches given were very informative. It was an honor to attend and watch them carry the banner and make the walk." - Kim Howell, nurse

12th Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest

By Faye Miller

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 was a record-breaking day for Cane Quest! Forty-one contestants competed to earn medals and prizes for demonstrating their O&M skills! **Over 80 volunteers** came out to support the contestants by scoring stations, being teammates or shadows, and helping to put scores together. Two other contestants who were absent during Cane Quest came back to school and completed their routes, making the grand **total of contestants 43!**



Contestants on the OSB campus, Scouts, went through 13 stations that tested their ability to use sound localization, understanding



Haidyn w. partner & scorer

of basic cane techniques, and use their communication skills to teach their partners how to pour water into a glass without spilling it.

Contestants, who competed in downtown Muskogee, Explorers, and Trailblazers, completed a 1-mile-long route that ended at the Muskogee Civic Center.



These contestants demonstrated their ability to cross different types of streets, use more advanced cane techniques, and ask



for and follow directions.

"You could not have had a better day if you designed it yourself. The weather was wonderful. The students were giving their all along with the staff. Great job for all that were involved."

– John Schneider, Nurse

A special **Thank You** goes to Natalie Armstrong. She wrote an American Indian College Fund Grant for **\$1000** to fill the prize tables for all our contestants!



Also, **thanks to Senator Dewayne Pemberton** for joining us to celebrate our contestants!



Thank you to all of our sponsors: Oklahoma School for the Blind, Braille Institute, Donations in Memory of Frank Dirksen, Friends of the Library OSLS, Lawton Council of the Blind, American Indian College Fund Grant & Natalie Armstrong, Liberty Braille, Muskogee County Health Department, NanoPac, NewView Oklahoma, Oklahoma Chapter of AERBVI, Oklahoma Council of the Blind, Oklahoma State University – HOP, Oklahoma University – Pre-ETS, Ruth Kelly Studios, Sapulpa Lions Club, Services for the Blind and



Visually Impaired, Transcribing Mariners, Tulsa Downtown Lions Club.

You can see the results and additional photos on the [Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest website](#).

12th Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest Results

Top Scouts (3-way tie)

Kaos Davis, Alva
Justus Hoover, Alva
Haidyn James, Muskogee



Explorers B1



Gold: Gabby Henderson, Muskogee
Silver: Kennedy Sullivan, Okmulgee

Explorers B2



Gold: Avery Dollar, Muskogee
Silver: Kairi Husmann, Oklahoma City
Bronze: Stephanie Glynn, Tulsa

Trailblazers B1



Gold: Quanté Sellers, Oklahoma City
Silver: Hunter Pugh, Talala

Bronze: Delilah Howell, Westville

Trailblazers B2



Gold: Julia Cisneros, Webbers Falls
Silver: Evy Kizzia, Fort Gibson

Bronze: Alexandra Antolin, Chelsea

Trailblazers B3



Gold: Chris Sumner, Chickasha
Silver: Piper Conner, Perkins

Bronze: Angel Cozort, Ketchum

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS*)

By Cheryl Daniels-James

In October, Mrs. Daniels-James took five students to Huntsville, Alabama, for Space Camp.

Participants: Ocie Webster, Evy Kizzia, Ryan Williams, Leah Sailors, and Ian Holm



L-R: Leah, Ryan, Ocie, Ian, Evy

Programs:

Leah and Evy participated in the **Advanced Academy Program**, while Ian, Ocie, and Ryan were engaged in the **Aviation Challenge Mach 3** program.



Awards: Ryan's outstanding performance earned him the **"Right Stuff Award"**!

It was an enriching experience for all involved, and we are excited about the knowledge and skills they brought back to share with our school community. The week was a fantastic chance for the students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in a fun and supportive environment.



Evy getting ready to scuba dive

Leah (left) and Evy (right) getting ready to climb.



Evy (left) and Leah (right) enjoying the pool.

Ian (left), Ryan (middle), and Ocie (right) all geared up.



Ian



Ocie



Ryan & Ocie

We are proud to report that our students, the Oklahoma Astros, excelled at Space Camp this year!

Please join us in congratulating our remarkable students:

- ◆ **Evy Kizzia** and **Leah Sailors** of Team Elysium: Winners of the **"Advanced Academy Commanders Cup"**!
- ◆ **Ryan Williams** of Team Argonauts: Recipient of **"The Right Stuff Medal"**!
- ◆ **Ian Holm**: Achieved an incredible **17-second climb** of the 30-foot telephone pole - an unheard-of feat!
- ◆ **Ocie Webster**: Captivated an audience of over 200 people with a moving speech about his Cherokee heritage. Ocie climbed the pole in 30 seconds!

We encourage you to celebrate these achievements with your children and commend their hard work and dedication!

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we want to **extend our heartfelt gratitude to:**

The Oklahoma Foundation for the Education of Blind Youth and Children, Inc., The Ann and Henry

Zarrow Foundation, Patsi Nix, and The Nix Foundation, for their ongoing support and encouragement of the Space Camp program at OSB.

Together, we create a nurturing environment where our students can thrive.

Thank you also to the parents and guardians for being a vital part of our school family. We look forward to continuing this journey together and celebrating more successes in the future!

*) SCIVIS is a weeklong camp that takes place at the **US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama** once a year, coordinated by teachers of the visually impaired.

Around **180 VI students from around the world** attend each year.

The camp is fully accessible. The computers used by students in the Space Camp Programs have been adapted for speech, and large print output; materials and equipment used during missions are available in braille and large print, and students participate fully with hands-on exercises (each student is screened based on their individual eye/medical condition).



Evy & Ian



Evy



Ryan getting ready



Ian & friends

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry trip



By Faye Miller

OSB middle school students traveled to NSU in Tahlequah to visit the

Oklahoma College of Optometry 3rd year students.

Dr. Jonathan Hatley and his students welcomed us to the college, and we learned what it takes to become an optometrist.

We taught the students about braille, using our bodies to represent Braille dots.

Dots 1-2-3 are your left hand, hip, and foot. Dots 4-5-6 are your right hand, hip, and foot.

Next time you are on the dance floor, make the letter “g” and you will have your hands waving and hips moving left to right.



Picture: Students forming Braille letters with their bodies.

We played a game of **Braille Jeopardy** to test our knowledge of the history of Braille and numbers and letters.

Gabby Henderson and her partners Deryn and Carlye scored 310 points, the highest point score of the day.

Kesslee Travis with Clay and Alec tied with Doug Lee and his partner Corbin at 300 points.

Congratulations to all the OSB and OCO students!



L-R: Patsy Nix Smith & Faye Miller

Patsy Nix Smith purchased pizzas for all of us and we were able to enjoy lunch with the Optometry students.

Douglas Lee and Avery Dollar both appreciated visiting with Patsy again this year and enjoyed the pizza.

Unfortunately, even though we didn't get to visit her cabin, we did drive past and Douglas and Avery were able to see it out the bus window and remembered our time there last year.

"It was very fun to play and win the Jeopardy game! Alec, Clay, and I made a great team!" - Kesslee Travis

"This field trip was amazing because we made new friends, Reed and Haylen, and got to teach them and practice body braille!" - Blaze Calger

After lunch, we took a tour of the Low Vision Clinic and saw the exam rooms and the special low-vision exam room. The building used to be an old hospital. They still have eye surgeries performed there.

"I loved exploring the old hospital part! Also, Taylor and Ryan are so cool!" - Ronaldo Zamacona

Usually, we take a walk to the **Sequoyah statue** that greets visitors to NSU.

Sequoyah was a Cherokee Indian who created the



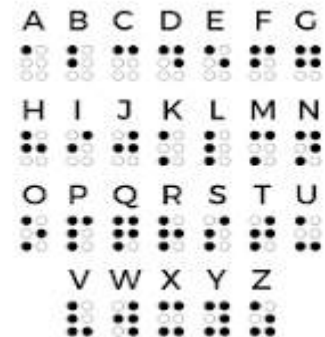
Cherokee syllabary. This allowed the Cherokee language to be written and read.

Unfortunately, this year the rain kept us from a walk, and a visit to **Patsy's log cabin** that was built in 1833.

Her family came to Oklahoma on the **Trail of Tears** in 1830 and built this house when they arrived.



We'll get to it next year, though.



Braille Alphabet Chart

"The trip to NSU by the middle school was educational as well as fun! OSB's own, Mrs. Miller, had students from OSB and NSU competing to WIN the Jeopardy contest! NSU provided a hands-on tour of the optometry school. NSU was a very gracious host! Mrs. Patsy provided pizza for all. Fun day!"

LaDonna Edwards, nurse

Union Big Boy Locomotive – October 14, 2024

By Maggie Mattox

On October 14, 2024, OSB students, teachers, and staff had the incredible opportunity to witness a historic moment when the **Union Pacific Big Boy Locomotive** passed through Muskogee.



This all-school field trip gave us a chance to experience first-hand the massive power and incredible history of one of the largest steam locomotives ever built.

The **Union Big Boy**, a 132-foot-long locomotive that weighs over 1.2 million pounds, is a symbol of the golden age of railroading. Originally built in the 1940s to help transport freight over the steep terrain of the Rocky Mountains, Big Boy locomotives were among the most powerful engines ever made. This specific engine, #4014, was restored by Union Pacific and began traveling the country as part of a celebration of its **150th anniversary**.



Our school arrived early to find a perfect spot along the tracks.



Students were buzzing with excitement, eager to see

the massive train as it slowly made its way into town.

The sounds of its horn and the sight of the enormous wheels turning made the event even more spectacular.

It was amazing to see how big the train was! It was like stepping back in time and seeing a piece of history in person.



The visit also gave students the chance to reflect on how transportation has evolved over the years, from steam-powered locomotives like Big Boy to the high-speed trains and advanced technologies of today.

The locomotive stopped for a little while to allow the crowd to take photos and talk to the engineers, who seemed to enjoy the interest people took in their work. They answered questions and posed for photo ops.

Many students expressed a sense of awe and appreciation for the event, making it a memorable experience for all.



Overall, the field trip to see the Union Big Boy Locomotive was a fantastic event filled with excitement, learning, and the chance to witness a historic moment.

It was a reminder of how the past shapes the present, and how every piece of history has a story to tell.

“This event was very exciting for the students and staff attending.

Our students listened and followed directions from staff members. They stayed together and enjoyed the event.

The whistle-blowing was a hit!!”

Kim Howell, Nurse

“It was very exciting to see a piece of history close up, but even more fun was to see the faces of our students. They were having such a great time.”

Linda Milton, Nurse Supervisor

The crowd is taking a closer look at the locomotive.



This group of students couldn't miss the chance to take their picture with "Big Boy".

The crowd is walking towards the locomotive for a closer look.



Big Boy has stopped and the engineers are getting out of the locomotive.

Chili Cook-Off Showdown: A Spicy Success!

By Maggie Mattox

On November 12, the Junior and Senior classes at OSB took on the staff in a sizzling **Chili Cook-Off** that had everyone fired up!

Seventeen (17) enthusiastic teams entered the competition, each eager to show off not only their culinary skills but also their creativity.

The event wasn't just about creating the perfect chili - each team also brought their A-game when it came to themes, hoping to snag the coveted titles of Best Chili and Best Theme.



The **60 tasters** who attended were treated to a deliciously diverse spread, with chili ranging from mild to wild, all paired with unique and imaginative themes.

To make it even more exciting, each taster was given two tickets to vote for their favorite chili and theme, ensuring everyone had a say in the final results.



After much deliberation, the winners were crowned:

Best Chili: Mr. Culie, whose chili left everyone craving more!

Best Theme: Ms. Marcella, who wowed the crowd with her creative presentation.

Taster's Prize (door prize): Ms. Maggie, walked away with a hand-crafted door prize.

A big thank you to all the participants, tasters, and volunteers who made this event so memorable. It was a spicy showdown filled with fun, flavor, and fantastic community spirit! Let's do this again.

Note from Mrs. Butler, sponsor:

A big **"THANK YOU"** to all who participated in our fundraiser.

The class made **\$461**.

Veterans Day Celebration at OSB



By Chris Sumner

Veterans Day means so much to the staff and

students at OSB. Not only is it a day to honor the amazing men and women of the service, but also to know who on our staff deserves this honor as well.

Our **Veterans Day Assembly** joined our staff and students together to honor veterans and we started by having students carry flags representing each branch of the military. The United States Armed Forces Medley was played, and as the song addressed each branch, the students carried the corresponding

flag in. The first flag carrier was Kyler Harrington, carrying the American flag and Air Force flag, followed by Alexandra Antolin, carrying the U.S. Army flag, followed by Maria Komers carrying the U.S. Coast Guard flag, and Noah Davidson, carrying the U.S. Marines flag. The last flag, the U.S. Air Force flag, was carried by Quanté Sellers.

Chris Sumner played the snare drum for the United States flag walk-in, he also played for the choir which consisted of Leah Sailors, Piper Conner, Genevieve Owens, Macey Millar, and Stephanie Glynn. Mrs. Butler, the choir

director, played the piano.

Following the choir's amazing performance, we honored our veterans by letting them stand next to the flag of the branch they served and had them tell us their names and in what position they served.

Following the ceremony, we honored the veterans by offering them coffee and breakfast.

Thank you for your service!

Thank you to all who contributed to making this great experience transpire!

Extravaganza

By Blake Priddy

On October 25, OSB took their panther team to Irving, Texas, to play other teams in Goalball at **Extravaganza**, a Para sports event.

We were going there to give each student a chance to participate in our goalball team, even if they are not on the SCASB team. This gives students the opportunity to experience learning more about the sport, and what it's like to play against other teams.

On our way to the hotel, we stopped at a Travel Plaza to take a bathroom break and let students buy some things. Then we went to Raising Canes to get lunch, which was absolutely delicious. When we were done with lunch, we stopped at Buc-ee's as OSB does every time they're in Texas for a trip.

The students had so much fun and the fun hadn't even begun. Everybody got what they wanted

at Buc-ee's. We went straight to the hotel after that, got our rooms situated and then we went to the high school, had dinner, and split up into 4 teams.

Girls Team 1: Piper, Evy, and Jaylee

Girls Team 2: Blake, Payton, and Stephanie

(**Editor's note:** Blake was kind enough to help out the girls, since they were one short.)

Boys Team 1: Braylen, Ocie, and Ian

and **Boys Team 2:** Jacob, Nathan, and Treysen

The trip was so fun because we had the opportunity to learn more about the sport, play the sport, go against other teams, and obviously go to Buc-ee's and Canes.

Ocie Webster said, "It was really tiring", but we know he had a good time.

On October 26, the Panthers left Texas and went back to OSB.

OSB did pretty good this year.

Our **Boys Team 2** got **1st place**. All other teams got **2nd place**.



Overall, everyone had a great time, and it was a good adventure for everyone.

"Even though it was a long trip, it was enjoyable to witness the participants in a competitive environment.

They gave their all and did a wonderful job."

- John Schneider, nurse

OSB Special Olympics – Bowling

By Tera Webb



OSB held its first annual **OSB Special Olympians Bowling tournament**.

On Dec 2 and Dec 16, the students traveled to Green Country Lanes to compete against each other in a fun day of bowling.

Mrs. Stanfield's class had the MOST fun of all the kids!



Nathaniel Hiatt, Josie Cox, and Nikki James rose to the challenge by using traditional bowling methods **without BUMPERS!!**

Way to go guys!

Congratulations to all our winners. We look forward to continuing this new tradition in 2025!

Note: Unfortunately the winners names were not available yet at the deadline for this newsletter.



Nikki (L) and Nathaniel



Jaden (L) and Genevieve

Ms. Mickie is helping Ronaldo getting his bowling ball set up.



Ronaldo (L) and Ms. Mickie



Genevieve (L) and Mrs. Jackson

SCASB - to be held at OSB - January 24-25

By Tera Webb

OSB is excited to host the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) **Cheerleading, Wrestling, and Performing Arts competition** on January 24 and 25, 2025.

Teams from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas will travel to our campus and join us for the weekend.

The Performing Arts portion will be held on **Friday, January 24th** in our auditorium, starting after lunch. Our OSB Jazz band will

perform along with other acts from the different states.

Saturday, January 25th (all day) will be the Cheerleading and Wrestling competition, held in our new gym. Refreshments and snacks will be available at the Concession stand.

We would like to encourage friends and family to attend both days if available.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Tera Webb, SCASB coordinator, at twebb@osb.k12.ok.us.

PLEASE COME OUT and support our school and students.

All events are FREE and open to the Public !!!



Alabama



Louisiana



Mississippi



Texas

World Stack-Up Competition 2024

Here is a short post from the [WSSA website](#):

*A huge thank you to each of the 752,632 stackers and **2,298 schools/organizations** who took part on November 12, 13, and/or 14 to help set a **new WSSA World Record** for the "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations".*

Participating Locations/Regions (12):

United States (733,824) - Canada (14,622) - Spain (1,565) - Japan (968) - Germany (349) - Denmark (320) -

Switzerland (301) - United Kingdom (262) - Hungary (203) - Ireland (124) - Australia (61) - Kazakhstan (33)

90 stackers from Oklahoma School for the Blind (**OSB**) helped set a **NEW WORLD RECORD!**

Congratulations to Tera Webb for organizing this event. Your child participated in **one of the largest World Record attempts EVER!**

They joined others around the world to set a NEW World Record for "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations", bringing

the number to a total of **752,632**, breaking the previous record of 746,698.

Thank you OSB participants. Great Job!



Storm the Fort - Wrestling tournament

By Chris Coomer

On December 14, OSB wrestling participated in the "**Storm the Fort**" tournament in Ft. Gibson.



Elijah Cervantes-Phipps, Kairi Husmann, Lukus Beavers, LaShae McGuire, and Abraham Cooper all competed and represented OSB well.

Though it was a tough day of matches, Elijah won 2nd place, Lukus won 3rd place, and Kairi won 4th place.



Lukus (L) & Elijah (R)



We can all be proud of our athletes, they worked hard and never quit.

CONGRATULATIONS!

STUCO - OASC state convention

By **Stephanie Glynn**

From November 2nd through the 4th, OSB student council executive officers attended the **2024 OASC** (Oklahoma Association of Student Councils' state convention).

Members in attendance were:

Piper Conner, Ryan Williams, Blake Priddy, Stephanie Glynn, Julia Cisneros, Leah Sailors, and Jacob Cantu.



L-R: Stephanie, Blake, Jacob, Ryan, Mrs. Kaulay (sponsor), Julia, Leah, and Piper

Each day featured inspiring speakers, breakout sessions, networking opportunities, and fun activities for all.

Day 1 kicked off with lots of fun games and activities to do while everyone was registering for the event. Schools from around the state were running to become OASC state officers.

The candidates were campaigning and we went around listening to their campaigns to decide whom we should vote for as president and vice president of OASC.

Day one's main event kicked off at about 3 o'clock with speaker, **Michael Ivenov**.

Michael was an incredible speaker and got everyone pumped up for the awesome weekend that was before us.



Michael V. Ivenov

Afterward, everyone broke up into individual sessions.

We all rotated through speakers and had a delicious dinner provided by Chick-fil-A at the end of the day.

Day 2 kicked off with speaker **Kyle Willkom** who woke the room up on an early morning with his laughter and energy.



Kyle Willkom

Afterward, everyone broke out into individual sessions for the second day. These sessions helped us work with our peers and learn how we can better benefit our councils and schools. Everyone gathered to hear the final speeches from the previous state officers. Candidates from schools around Oklahoma, running for office, gave speeches.

Piper Conner and Ryan Williams, OSB student council president, and vice president were OSB's voting delegates. Piper and Ryan took feedback from the council members and voted on whom we thought was the best choice to be nominated for council.

That night there was a huge **OASC party**, which featured a **dance**, **laser tag**, and many fun **games**.



It was a great networking opportunity and a chance to meet peers from around the state.

Unfortunately, **Day 3** was a pretty rainy day. We still made it to the

final session of the OASC state convention though.

We heard the winners of president and vice president, and found out next year's convention will be held in Ponca City!

The speaker that day was **Dr. Adolph Brown**. Unfortunately, we had to head home early due to a storm that was on the way, so we were unable to hear his speech.



Dr. Adolph Brown

Overall, OASC was an incredible experience for OSB student council members.

Piper Conner said: *"I had such a great time at OASC. I met so many people, got to explore and test my leadership skills, and learned more about them. I enjoyed going to seminars and meetings and learning from mentors and motivational speakers. I really enjoyed my time at the OASC conference in Bartlesville and I think it's an experience everyone should have at some point."*

OSB student council is excited to bring back all we have learned from the convention to make OSB a better place for all and we are excited to spend the rest of this year learning, leading, and representing OSB with pride!

Kim Howell, nurse, said: *"I was so very impressed with our students' participation at the state convention. They listened to the speeches of the schools nominated for the upcoming year. Our group had two voting delegates and their choices were discussed among the group. I was proud to attend with our student council members."*

FCCLA STAR Event Districts



By Allison Garner

**Stephanie
Glynn's**

Rediscovered

Play - Sensory Board Secures Impressive Second Place Finish!

STAR Events are competitive opportunities where members can participate at various levels: region/district, state, and national.

Participants are recognized for their achievements in individual and chapter projects, leadership abilities, and career preparation. Students can compete solo or in teams, choosing from over 30 events that showcase their knowledge and skills.

These events focus on identifying issues related to families, careers, or communities, researching these topics, and developing projects that promote positive change.

Recently, Stephanie Glynn took part in the **Repurpose and Redesign event**.

In this challenge, students transform used fashion items, household goods, or other recycled materials into new products. This activity emphasizes creativity, recycling, and environmental awareness, as students must also consider the ecological impact of their projects. Staying within a budget is crucial, especially if new materials are needed. Participants follow a rubric and present their work to judges.

Stephanie created a sensory board aimed at supporting individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. Insights from her Family and Consumer Sciences class helped her design a board that fosters creativity, enhances fine motor skills, encourages sensory exploration, aids cognitive and speech development, and promotes independent play and sensory stimulation.

Well done, Stephanie!

Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and achieving

2nd place is an impressive accomplishment.

Keep up the great work!

Stephanie will advance to the regional competition at the end of January.



Photo Descriptions:

Stephanie, wearing an FCCLA t-shirt, is showing of a board featuring various items such as sandpaper, sequined keychains, a padlock with a key, a chain lock, a pink bike horn, fidgets, a zipper, a bell, a doorknob, a remote control, and more.

The black display board includes details like the project title, the planning steps, a materials list, a time log, a cost breakdown, and a photo storyboard.

FCCLA – Lead Conference

By Allison Garner

The OSB FCCLA Leadership Team participated in the annual Lead Conference held in Glenpool this fall.

Members from OSB included:

Julia Cisneros, Piper Conner, Stephanie Glynn, Macey Millar, and Leah Sailors.

Lead is designed for current chapter officers and those looking

to become leaders in their chapters!

The day was organized by Oklahoma FCCLA District Officers and featured a keynote speaker.

Additionally, State Officers conducted workshops aimed at equipping chapter officers with the skills necessary for the upcoming year.



L-R: Macey Millar, Stephanie Glynn, Leah Sailors, Piper Conner, and Julia Cisneros

FCCLA District Leadership Meeting Highlights

By Allison Garner

This year the annual **FCCLA District Leadership Meeting** took place on October 10, bringing together twelve members from the OSB FCCLA chapter.

The enthusiastic attendees included Piper Conner, Julia Cisneros, Liliith Pedersen, Delilah Howell, Macey Millar, Nikki James, Payton Crum, Blake Priddy, Amber Knipp, Maria Komers, Skylar Hopkins, and Stephanie Glynn.

The students engaged in fun activities and gained insights into the

significant role of FCCLA.

The event kicked off with lively music and trivia, creating an energetic atmosphere. This was followed by an opening ceremony that included the official swearing-in of four new district officers, adding to the day's excitement.

Lauren Frost, **Miss Oklahoma 2024**, served as the keynote speaker. As a passionate advocate for adoption and foster care, she shared her own adoption story, inspiring others to consider providing a loving home for children in need.

The OSB FCCLA members had a fantastic time at the District Leadership Meeting. They not only enjoyed themselves but also acquired valuable knowledge and skills throughout the event.



L-R (back row): Maria, Stephanie, Macey, Delilah, Payton, Blake, Amber (front row): Nikki, Skylar, Julia, Piper, Liliith

FCCLA Members Volunteer at Tulsa Food Bank



By Allison Garner

Amber Knipp and Skylar Hopkins, members of FCCLA, recently dedicated their time to volunteering at the Northeast Food Bank in Tulsa.

Alongside other helpers, they successfully **packaged over 2,300 pounds of food!**

Their task involved sorting and packaging cornflakes into smaller, easier-to-handle portions from larger bulk packaging.



L-R: Mrs. Garner, Amber, Skylar

Packaging cornflakes is just one of the many tasks staff and volunteers do at the Food Bank.

It is important to note that **more than 50%** of individuals who rely on food pantries are actually fully employed. Additionally, **1 in 6 people** in Oklahoma face food insecurity, and **10% of seniors** in the state deal with hunger on a daily basis.

FCCLA members are excited to continue their efforts and will be volunteering again in February!



L-R: Ms. Amy, Skylar, Mrs. Garner, Amber

FCCLA Members Bring Holiday Joy to VA Hospital

By Allison Garner

Recently, FCCLA members Quanté Sellers, Delilah Howell, Stephanie Glynn, Macey Millar, Alexandra Antolin, and Kelton Ricks visited the **Jack C. Montgomery VA Hospital** in Muskogee to spread some holiday cheer to our veterans.

In Mrs. Garner's classes, students packaged socks, painted ornaments, and crafted holiday braille cards.

During their visit, the students engaged with patients and handed out their gifts, creating a joyful

celebration of both the holiday season and our veterans.

OSB's own veterans, Miss Amy Lynn Stouffer and Ms. Gina Woods, joined the students for this uplifting event.

The students proudly donated **102 pairs of socks** for both men and women!



Blood Drive News



By **Stephanie Glynn**

On September 4, OSB hosted its first blood drive of the school year.

Our goal was to collect 15 units, and we were thrilled to exceed that goal!

This success allowed us to donate blood to people in need.

Last year, over 60,000 people died from blood loss in the U.S.

Our blood institute (OBI) donates over a quarter of a million units of blood each year, with most of that blood coming from blood drives like ours.

I had the opportunity to speak with Derek Steele, who came to donate. He said, "My experience

was good; I liked the quick service. The waiting time was very little, and I was able to give my blood and leave in an orderly fashion."

THANK YOU to everyone who donated. We appreciate your contribution, and we hope to see you at our **next blood drive on January 29th, 2025!**

"Touch the Art" Event

By **Maggie Mattox**



On October 15, students from the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) had the unique opportunity to attend the

"Touch the Art" event, a special exhibition designed to engage the senses in new and exciting ways.

This hands-on experience allowed students to explore and interact with various art pieces, not through sight, but by touching and smelling them.

Held at the **Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity** in Tulsa,



the event encouraged students to connect with art beyond visual impressions.



They were invited to touch textured paintings, and other tactile artworks, providing a deeper understanding of the creative process.



They were invited to touch textured paintings, and other tactile artworks, providing a deeper understanding of the creative process.



In addition, the exhibit featured pieces designed specifically to be experienced through scent, allowing students to "smell" the art and experience its essence in a way that was both innovative and engaging.



One of the highlights of the day was a special musical performance by **Rory Hoffman**, a



blind musician, who shared his talents with the students.

He played the guitar and the accordion, filling the space with beautiful, soulful melodies.

The students were very eager to hear his stories, after the performance, and to take a closer look at his instruments.



Elementary and Middle School students pose for a group picture with Rory Hoffman

The "Touch the Art" event provided a memorable and enriching experience, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity in the arts and allowing OSB students to experience the world of art in a truly unique way. Through touch, smell, and sound, students gained a fresh perspective on creativity and the endless possibilities for artistic expression.

This event also served as a reminder of the importance of making the arts accessible to everyone, regardless of ability. The students left the event inspired, with a deeper appreciation for the power of art and music to transcend barriers.

Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible for our students!

Rory Hoffman has played worldwide and even at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN where he resides whenever he is not touring somewhere.

He has played with too many names to list and is very popular amongst artists who are looking for a "special and unique" sound, as he has a very extensive collection of different instruments.

He even designed some of his instruments himself, to fit his needs, and had them custom-made.

For more information, **check out his website** at <https://www.roryhoffman.com/>

OSB Fall Festival

By Vickie Pofahl

OSB's annual Fall Festival was held on October 29, the windiest day of October, so we had to move everything indoors this year, except everyone's favorite dunk tank!



Both gyms were full of fun, food, games, and plenty of bouncing. The old gym held two fun inflatables and the kids had tons of fun bouncing in the pumpkin house and sliding down the slides on the fun house. They even had time to rest in the bleachers with it being inside.

The new gym held lots of



games and food.



Ms. Jennifer and her niece Lauren had the whole gym smelling of those fantastic funnel cakes! Mr. Brice and Ms. Nancy had the slushiest slushies ever and Mrs. Jackson and her granddaughter Addi, along with Mrs. Shelton, served us up some great nachos and hotdogs. Who doesn't love some cheesy nachos and chili dogs?



Ms. Vickie and Ms. Autumn made some cotton candy as well for anyone to stop by and grab.

We had lots of games for everyone to try their hand at: our famous cake walk, face painting, scarecrow toss, monster eye toss, balloon pop, zombie eyeball toss, plinko, and more.



Ms. Autumn painted us up a couple of new game boards this year, as well as the new fall festival **photo booth**.



She did a great job on all those projects and the pictures from the photo booth were fabulous.

Just like last year, the balloon pop was on fire all evening.



The sound of balloons popping was bouncing all over the gym. All the kids had fun trying their hand at the games this year.

Everyone's favorite dunk tank was full of excitement. We had students and staff venture in this year!

Leah, Blake, and Isaac went in. The kids could not wait to dump Isaac! Leah was also tossed in over and over.



Isaac

Ms. Amy and Ms. Autumn went in for the staff and everyone had a blast making sure those two got super soaked.



Ms. Amy

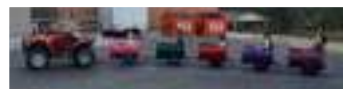
Mike and Mike from maintenance helped run the wild hayrides and boy did the kids have fun. This year they got



to take a nice long ride around the whole hill.

When they got to the end they had Ms. Jeana passing out treats. It was a great hay ride for all!

Mr. and Mrs. Butler



brought their train and the kids loved being pulled along by Mrs. Butler.

Mr. Butler also made us some wonderful kettle corn. It tasted sooo good.



Last but not least, Mr. Pearce and his family came up and did "trick or treats" for everyone who ventured down to the Superintendent's house. They had a great time meeting lots of the students and their families, as well as families of the OSB staff.

Everyone enjoyed trick or treats from them.

A huge **"Thank You"** to all the staff that came up to help after school. We couldn't do it without everyone assisting in this event. This year, we even got help from the work-study crew and Ms. Goins. She commandeered like a boss and had the kids all lined out. They did a great job!



Couch Gamble (L) and Mrs. Gamble (R)



L-R: Ms. Amy & Ms. Gina



Panther Pride

Computer Science: Robotics

By Robert Miller

Robotics Students Light the Way with Miniature Traffic Light Project

The high school robotics class has wrapped up an exciting project: designing and building a fully functional miniature traffic light! Using a combination of technology and creativity, the students created a system that mimics real-world traffic control.

The project featured a Raspberry Pi microcomputer, a breadboard, three LEDs (red, yellow, and green), a buzzer, jumper wires, and 3D-printed components. With Python as their programming language, students coded the traffic light's sequence, ensuring the LEDs illuminated in a precise pattern to simulate real traffic signals.

This project required a variety of technical skills, including:

- ◆ **Circuit Design:** Students connected LEDs, a buzzer, and the Raspberry Pi using jumper wires and a breadboard.
- ◆ **Programming in Python:** They wrote and debugged code to control the timing and sequence of the LEDs and buzzer.
- ◆ **3D Printing:** Custom parts were 3D printed to house the traffic light components, adding a professional touch.
- ◆ **Problem-Solving:** Students worked through challenges, such as ensuring proper power flow and adjusting code for timing accuracy.

By completing this project, students not only learned how to integrate hardware and software but also gained hands-on experience in coding, engineering, and teamwork.

The robotics class continues to inspire curiosity and innovation, and this traffic light project is just the beginning of more exciting creations to come!



Justin Millar



Piper Conner



Finally done!

Justin (L) and Piper (R) are showing off their traffic lights.

Senior Bus Trips to Tulsa

By Faye Miller

Learning how to ride public transportation is essential to increasing independent travel when you leave school and live on your own. It gives you access to the community you live in, letting you plan trips to your grocery store, outings with friends, and get to work.

As part of our Orientation & Mobility program our seniors learned about different transportation options that are available to people who don't drive. Besides public buses, there are paratransit options, rideshare options, and, in some places, subways and trains.

Split in three groups, the seniors capped off their learning experience with a trip to Tulsa to ride the city buses.

Group 1 (back row L-R):

Elijah Cantu, Jacob Cantu, and Ryan Williams

(front row): Ocie Webster



Group 2 (L-R): Jesse Martinez, Tessa Williams, Kolten Pennington, and Jaden Brown



Group 3 (L-R): Skylar Hopkins, Alexandra Antolin, Sara Cantu, and Alani Kindelan



All three groups chose to plan trips to Woodland Hills Mall, so we started at a location along a bus route. They used Google Maps to plan their trips and asked questions of the bus driver and others around them to make sure they got on the correct buses and got off at the correct stops.

Great Job Everyone !!!

Pumpkin Patch visit



By Beth Stanfield

Rocking R Pumpkin Patch is an OSB elementary favorite!

This was our third year to visit the Tahlequah pumpkin

patch.

On October 23, the elementary boys and girls loaded the bus and made the trip to enjoy beautiful weather, animals, games, and rides.

The upper elementary started by visiting the calves, rabbits, goats,



chickens, and even a big tortoise at the petting zoo.

The tortoise was on loan and was over a foot long.

Everyone received a cup of pellets to feed the animals.



I think the teachers enjoyed this as much as the kids.

The younger elementary started with a wagon ride through the woods on a spook trail complete with skeletons, ghosts, and gravestones.

We were happy we went when the sun was out!



Afterwards the kids were free to choose from various activities such as a **barrel train ride** through the pumpkin patch.



The kids each chose a mini pumpkin to take home with them.



There was a corn maze with letter stations to solve a riddle.

The kids also enjoyed jumping on a big bounce pad, riding a barrel bull, shooting baskets into an antique collecting wagon, riding trikes around a hay bale track, and sliding through metal tunnels down a hill.



The cafeteria provided sack lunches which we enjoyed under shade trees before we loaded the bus and returned to school. Such a beautiful day!

"The students had a blast, running and playing. There was a smile on everyone's face."

- John Schneider, nurse

NaviLens Codes - Update

By Faye Miller

In the last edition, you read about those colorful **NaviLens codes** you see on the walls around OSB.

We also mentioned that you might have seen them on products in grocery stores. For example, Coca-Cola, Kellogg's, Pringles, and Nestle are just a few companies that use NaviLens codes to give more access to individuals with visual impairments.

Have you looked for them and tried them out yet? Do you find them helpful?

If you have not tried them out yet, we would like to challenge you to

do so.

As stated before, the codes will give you any information included in the code, e.g. nutrition facts, serving size information, locations, etc.

The codes posted around OSB are intended to provide guidance information (locations) to all our SCASB friends, who will be here in January.

We still **NEED YOUR HELP**...

If you have not done so yet, **PLEASE download** the free NaviLens or NaviLens Go app and scan a code. The apps are available on your school iPads

through the app portal.

Listen to the information posted around the school and let Mrs. Miller or Mrs. Webb know how the codes work.

We need your feedback as soon as possible, so we can fix any issues before January 24.

Here are a couple of sample codes for you to try:



It's getting festive in the Clinic



By Annette Underwood
'Twas the Week before Thanksgiving

'Twas the week before Thanksgiving, and all through the clinic, Not a soul was quite ready, not even the cynic.

The charts were all scattered, the phones rang non-stop, While the nurses tried to avoid the full mop.



As the week wore on, the clinic looked bright, With twinkling lights and a

tree shining white. Tinsel and garland were hung with great care,



While Santa's red mailbox stood proudly right there.



Patients would stop, with smiles on their faces, To drop off their letters for Santa's embraces.



The staff all would chuckle, some writing their wish, For a quiet holiday and a festive dish!



The nurses were checking their patients with care, While visions of mashed potatoes danced in the air. The nurses were prepped with thermometers and Band-Aids, But secretly hoped for a break and some sweet lemonade.



There were flu shots aplenty, and patients galore, And a student came in saying, "I think I've got a sore!" He sneezed on the counter, and

coughed with a groan, Miss Annette, the secretary, whispered, "Please cover that zone!"



By Wednesday it peaked, the waiting room packed, People calling, "Is the nurse here? Is the nurse coming back?"

Miss Annette tried to keep calm, though the lines were long, Hoping they'd make it through, holding on strong.

But by Thursday, they finished, the clinic all done, The patients were seen, no more waiting for one. With smiles all around, the staff locked the door tight, And headed to their feasts - Oh, what a delight!



OSB showing off some Christmas spirit

This year, the dorms had a rousing competition to get some great decorations on their windows and doors. They plotted secretly between evening and night shift DCS to see what inspired them the most. The Grinch was strong on the girls end and some last minute switching on the boys end gave us that Hawaiian feel (we would all love to see Santa on the beach!) Santa's workshop had a long naughty list (someone may get coal in their stocking!) It was great fun and everyone enjoyed getting in that Christmas spirit.

The winners were chosen from voting between students and staff. We even had some Facebook voting! **B1 took first place** with Ms. Melissa and Ms. Cheri doing some mighty fine Hawaiian work and **A2 took second** with Ms. Jayla and Ms. Sheila being Grinchy!

Ms. Vickie and Ms. Jennifer made a gift basket with cash, gift cards and snacks for 1st place and 2nd place received a beautiful Christmas cactus! Thank you everyone who voted!

Vickie Pofahl



A2 dorm



Ms. Jayla (L) & Ms. Sheila (R)



A3 dorm



Lowrey



B1 dorm



Ms. Cheri (L) & Ms. Melissa (R)



B2 dorm



B3 dorm (boys)

Random Pictures:

Elementary Christmas Shopping Trip to Walmart



Merry Christmas from the Clinic



And who might be the Grinch?



It looks like Mrs. Annette's desk



L-R: Melissa,



Amy (L) & Gina (R)



Front Office Crew



Genevieve

OSB Choir spreading Christmas Cheer

By Rachel Butler

On December 16, the OSB choir went to the “**Muskogee Nursing Center**” and on December 17, to the “**Country Garden Assisted Living**” to sing with the residents and spread some Christmas Cheer. They did an amazing job. It was wonderful!

Those attending were: Genevieve Owens, Piper Connor, Evy Kizzia, Macey Miller and Stephanie Glynn.



L-R: Macey, Stephanie, Mrs. Butler, Evy, Genevieve, Piper



Mrs. Butler



OSB’s Christmas program 2024

By Maggie Mattox

On Thursday, December 19, OSB held its annual Christmas program with a great choir performance and a fun-filled play from our Elementary students.

First it was time for our young actors to shine. Mr. Ferrell did an excellent job with our Elementary Christmas play again.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this a success.

Following the play, it was time for our **choir members** Stephanie Glynn, Macey Millar, Genevieve Owens, Piper Conner, Leah Sailors, and Evy Kizzia, with Mrs. Butler on the piano. They closed the program with following songs:

- ◆ Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- ◆ Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- ◆ Let it Snow
- ◆ Silver Bells
- ◆ and Silent Night

to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. **Great Job, Ladies!**



A Martian Christmas

by Teresa Jennings

Synopsis:

While decorating their school for Christmas, a group of local elementary school students is interrupted by a surprise visit from a band of Martians and their dog, Rover. The Martians' curiosity gets the better of them as they observe the strange holiday rituals of the Earthlings. They ask many questions, which the students are more than happy to answer. But they are particularly intrigued by the singing, which the students first demonstrate, then teach. Just as the fledgling friendships are developing, the commander of the Martian spaceship, Darph Meanie, enters. He is angry that the Martians have not freeze-dried the Earthlings. Upon further investigation, we learn that the Martians stopped at Earth to take some snow, which fuels their spaceship. To the surprise of the Martians, the students offer the snow freely to them. They accept and all is well. The students and the Martians join together to celebrate the very first Martian Christmas.

Cast

Darth Meanie - Haidyn James

Martians:

Xane Allen - Abraham Cooper -
Neal Summerlin - Khup Tuang

School Students:

Tali Ball - Bella Cooper - Deegan Dobson - Peyton Froehlich
Judah Jones - Samyrah Martinez
Paisley McCall - Shae McGuire
Elijah Poplin - Kyzin Rife
Liam Ritchie - Dawson Silva

Scene 1

Christmas At Our School

Scene 2

A Reason For The Season

Scene 3

Follow Me

Scene 4

The Right Thing To Do

Soloists: Shae McGuire and Bella Cooper

Scene 5

Celebrate Out Of This World



Classroom Randomness - Art Appreciation

By Paul Butler

My 1st Hour Music & Art Appreciation class made Snowmen out of old Bedsprings this week. They all did a Great Job!



Students pictured holding their Snowmen (from left to right) are: Angel Cozort, Jordan Cyrier, Alani Kindelan, Kyler Harrington, Elijah Cantu, and Jacob Cantu.



Aren't they adorable?



Recreation Activities

By Autumn Reeve

We had many fun activities going on in October.



We started with a **UNO tournament** in the Rec.

Kennedy S. was our first winner, she was also the only middle schooler at the table! The other winners were Lily, Chris, and Skylar.

The other kids got candy for showing great sportsmanship.

Another night we got together for a **Spooky Craft Night**, the kids got to paint magnets, where some painted ghosts, spiders, and witch's hats. The kids showed off their creative sides and had fun.



We also **decorated pumpkins**. The kids added gems, glitter, and funny faces to their pumpkins!



We ended the week with **swimming** at the **Muskogee Swim and Fitness**.

Some of the kids were playing volleyball with Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Amy, others



even had a **splash contest** amongst each other.

On Sunday, we had **Open Rec** and sold chili cheese nachos from the Panther Den.



We started our Monday night with **Ghost Bingo!**

Instead of your traditional bingo, I told the kids to **yell GHOST-BUSTERS!** The kids loved it. We played 1 line, Black Out, Postage Stamp, 4 Corners, and make an X.

I had a lot of winners, just a few were: Nikki, Julia, Genevieve, Kennedy S., Alex, and Delilah.

The kids didn't want to stop playing!

For **Birthday night**, we celebrated a lot of **Halloween babies**, Nina, Kennedy S., Amber, Elijah C., Jacob C., Kolten, Tessa, Avery, Nikki, Noah, and Chris.



The kids sang and wished them a happy birthday. It was a blast!

On November 3, we had **"Open Gym"** in the new gym.



Chris, Isaac, and Jordan played basketball.



Delilah, Anicka, Lane, Aaron, Kesslee, and Genevieve were on the hop balls, singing the **Bad Boys song** and

having a blast.

Some of the kids walked around socializing with their fellow peers and some worked out in the exercise room. The DCS even played with the kids.

The next night we had **Trivia night**, which is always a lot of fun.



For **Veterans Day**, I had the kids make **cards for the Veterans** at the VA hospital in town.

I drew names, to have three students go with me to drop them off. The three winners were Nathan, Kolten, and Peyton F.



We also had a **movie night**, where the kids watched **"Free Birds"** in the auditorium.

Free Birds is about a pair of turkeys who discover a time machine and decide to use it to travel to the first Thanksgiving, to take turkeys off the menu forever.

The students really enjoyed it!

We started December with **Open Rec**. I played the **Santa Claus movie** on the TV. Leah, Jordan, and I played **UNO**. Chris and Blake played pool. Others just socialized.

On Dec. 2, we had **Craft Night**, where we did an apple cinnamon craft. I had cookie cutters the kids could pick from to make an ornament. There were stockings, snowmen, reindeer, and a Christmas tree. The kids had a lot of fun and kept asking if they could eat it!



On Dec. 3, we had **Open Rec** again. I played **Home Alone** for Leah and some of the other kids.

On Dec. 4, we went to the **Woodland Hills Mall** in Tulsa. The kids had \$40.00 (donated) to spend on Christmas presents. The kids had a blast and so did the DCS.

Sunday Dec. 8, was **Open Rec** again. I played the **Santa Claus 2 Movie** and played **The Elf**. Ethan J. likes to come in and we play Mario Brothers on the Wii.

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Recreation Activities (continued)

Continued from page 22

On Monday and Tuesday (9th and 10th), I planned to take the kids to the Rhema Bible College for the lights but the weather had a different plan. Monday it rained out and Tuesday it was too cold. Therefore, on Monday I had a **movie night** in the Rec with the big screen and popcorn. Shae, Peyton, Skylar, Alex, Chris, Kelton, and Kolten came to watch the movie.

On Tuesday, we did a bunch of **Christmas crafts**. Leah and Kelton made dog ornaments to put on the Rec Christmas tree. Angel and Julia made snowmen and ginger-



bread men. Lane, Aaron, Jaden, and Destiny (Aaron's Para) colored the Santa Claus ornaments. I also played the movie **Frank Klaus** for the older kids.

Thank You to Ms. Linda from the clinic who donated the majority of the Christmas crafts.



The last week started out with **Movie Night**. We watched **Santa Clause 3**, while we enjoyed some hot cocoa and some candy canes.

On Monday we went to watch the **Christmas Parade** at downtown Muskogee.



It was a lot of fun, with lots of great floats, some decked out cars and trucks, and even some dance groups.



Tuesday night was **Christmas Karaoke!**

We had a lot of fun singing a bunch of our favorite Christmas tunes. Karaoke is always a fan favorite here at OSB.

We ended the week with **Dorm Christmas Parties**.

I wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

See you all again in January.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE



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

Christy Hargrove - She saw one of the flags wrapped up in a tree as she was leaving for the day. She stopped and took the flag off the pole, fixed it and returned it.

Tera Webb

Staff that organized White Cane Day - Our students look forward to White Cane Day and enjoy this special day!

Jennifer Eckerson

Staff that organized Cane Quest - This is a special day for our students of all ages. They enjoy competing and picking out their prizes. We have some wonderful sponsors as well.

Jennifer Eckerson

Faye Miller - She has been working on the Navilens codes you see around the school. These codes will allow visitors to our campus (specifically SCASB weekend) to navigate our school with ease.

Tera Webb

Chris Coomer, Rob Culie, Marcella Bynum, Maggie Mattox, Laci Goins and Shelby Gamble - For helping search for things that I thought I had just dreamed up!! LOL

Tera Webb

Mindy Miller-Dause - For taking such good care of our students. She doesn't hesitate to call the clinic and let us know when something is going on with the students. She is very caring.

Kim Howell

Amy Stouffer, we appreciate your readiness to drive us safely during our trips and your eagerness to assist the staff with activities both in and out of our classrooms. Thank you for your support!

Faye Miller & Gina Woods - We appreciate your help and support in shopping for non-perishable items with our stu-

dents for the OSB Food Drive. Your involvement has allowed them to practice their travel and money management skills. Thank you for being a valuable part of this effort!

Susana Jackman - Thank you to Mrs. Jackman for her exceptional skills in video production! Her support in promoting our programs and activities has greatly enhanced the learning experience for our students, and we truly appreciate her efforts in making it so engaging!

Tera Webb - A big thank you to Tera Webb for dedicating her time and effort to organize, schedule, and keep everything up to date for SCASB! Your hard work is truly appreciated!

Briana Harrington - I so appreciate her for taking care of Branson. She brings him down each morning for his medications.

Kim Howell

Thank you guys for going the extra mile.

It is highly appreciated.



Birthdays

Students

CERVANTES-PHIPPS, ELIJAH	12	1
CRUM, PAYTON	12	3
MILLAR, JUSTIN	12	4
SUTTERFIELD, LANE	12	4
TRAVIS, KESSLEE	12	15
TUANG, KHUP	12	15
COOPER, ABRAHAM	12	17
HIATT, NATHANIEL	12	29

FULLER, BRAYLEN	1	2
COX, JOSIE	1	17
BROWN, JADEN	1	20
HOPKINS, SKYLAR	1	23
DOBSON, DEEGAN	1	28

HOLM, IAN	2	5
OWENS, GENEVIEVE	2	6
JONES, JUDAH	2	7
HOWELL, DELILAH	2	8
HUSMANN, KAIRI	2	8
ZAMACONA, RONALDO	2	8
ANTOLIN, ALEXANDRA	2	11
CALGER, BLAZE	2	13
FROEHLICH, PEYTON	2	21
FARMER, HUNTER	2	23

GLYNN, STEPHANIE	3	1
BEAVERS, LUKUS	3	4
MARTINEZ, JESSE	3	4
PEDERSEN, LILITH	3	6
MCGUIRE, LASHAE	3	7
COZORT, ANGEL	3	18
MCDONALD, LILLIAN	3	26



Staff

COOMER, CHRIS	12	3
LEDEZMA, ANA	12	3
THORNTON, MACHEL	12	5
PEARCE, BRENT	12	6
KNOWLES, TRACY	12	8
SACCOMANO, TAMMY	12	9
COOPER, LYNETTE	12	17
BRICE, CAMMERON	12	19
GARNER, ALLISON	12	23
BUTLER, RACHEL	12	24
SMITH, LYNZI	12	28

ISOM, AMANDA	1	15
ROUDEBUSH, CHERI	1	15
COWEN, BETTY	1	17
JONES, JEANA	1	17

HUGGINS, REGINA	2	7
BRYANT, DAWN	2	13
CULVER, BRIAN	2	18
HOLDER, SHERRY	2	21
GOINS, LACI	2	24
GRAVES, MELISSA	2	28

KAULAY, KELLY	3	3
NAIL, ANDREW	3	10
STOFFER, AMY LYNN	3	11
CULVER, MARQUETA	3	20
THOMAS, KIM	3	28
MARIE, MULDOVEN	3	30

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:

Marie Muldoven, Nurse, effective 12/2/24
Bobbe Mayfield, DCS 3rd Shift, effective 12/9/24

Welcome on board. Glad to have you !

Reassignments:

Amanda Isom, ILS Supervisor, effective 11/1/24

Resignations:

Michelle Belyeu, effective 10/24/24
Peyton Skates, effective 11/3/24
Lacey Moran, effective 11/30/24

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

12/23/24—01/02/25 CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO SCHOOL

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 01/05 | Dorms Open / Bus Routes Run |
| 01/06 | Classes Resume |
| 01/20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL - Dorms Open / Bus Routes Run |
| 01/24 (AM) | Parent/Teacher Conference |
| (PM) | SCASB Performing Arts @ OSB Auditorium |
| 01/25 (all day) | SCASB Wrestling/Cheerleading competition @ OSB - NEW Gym |
| 01/29 | OSB Blood Drive @ OSB Circle Drive (10am - 3pm) |
| 02/04 | Lyric Interactive Theatre Performance @ OSB Auditorium (1pm) |
| 02/06 | FCCLA NE Region STAR Events (all day) |
| 02/11 | FCCLA Volunteering at Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Tulsa (all day) |
| 02/17-18 | Girls Wrestling Regionals |
| 02/20 | Counselor Day / Career Expo @ OSB |
| 02/21-22 | Boys Wrestling Regionals |
| 02/25 | Cap & Gown Pictures |
| 02/27-28 | State Wrestling Match (if placed) |
| 03/02-03/06 | Read Across America |
| 03/05 | Braille Challenge |
| 03/06 | End of 3rd 9 Weeks |
| 03/17-03/20 | SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL |