

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principal: Lynn Cragg

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

Western Heritage Days

Nov.-Dec. edition to be released Dec. 15th, 2016.



Rita Echelle

OSB Students attend a fun filled Western day of activities for Day at the our students Silver Spur and this year Western was no Lodge in different.

Haskell on September 28, 2016

For the past nine years the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, the Silver Spur Western Lodge and about fifty volunteers from OQHA, have teamed up to offer



Elementary and middle school students, parents and OSB staff had the time of their lives riding horses, stagecoaches, and hay wagons.

They climbed a rock wall and rode a mechanical bull. Other activities included roping, fishing, exploring the lodge and learning about the old west and more.



Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch of mouthwatering chicken, potatoes, hot rolls and delicious cookies.

Watch for pictures on face book that some of the parents plan to share.

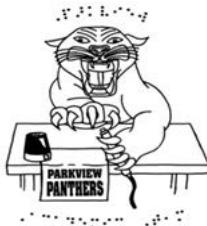
Linda Graber,
OSB PTO



Academic Team

Oginali Academic Conference will have awards on November 1st, after playing our last 3 games. We also hosted the OSSAA District Seeding tournament on October 10th.

Our teams have each played 24 games this season at 8 different sites. Although we haven't won many games, we've played well and answered many questions.



We will be seeded 3rd from our district going into the Regional tournament in Webbers Falls on Saturday, November 12th.

Our OSSAA team this year will be Richelle Zampella, Kaylee Ragon and Garrett Kennedy.

Individual Points as of October 25th:

Richelle Zampella 320
Garrett Kennedy 280
Kaylee Ragon 130
Ariana Richardson 50
Jacob King 30
Brianna Brennan 20
Jillian Matthews 10
Tai' Yauri Thomas 10

Laci Goins & Faye Miller, sponsors/coaches

Oklahoma School for the Blind

2016 - 2017, Issue 2

October 26, 2016

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Special points of interest:

- Space Camp
- Manufacturing Day
- White Cane Day
- PE News
- Various Projects
- Rec. Activities

Inside this issue:

Space Camp	2
Social Services	3
Manufacturing Day	4
Future Shock	4
White Cane Day	5
Cane Quest	5
PE News	6
Boy Scouts	7
Veteran's Day	7
Coat Drive	7
918 Rocks	8
Elem. Field Trips	8
City Bus Travel	9
Rec. Activities	9
Birthdays	10
Going the Extra Mile	11
Calendars	12-14
Tulsa World Article	15-17

Space Camp 2016 - Huntsville, Alabama



From Left:

Tai T., Cameron H., and Garrett K.

At 5 am on September 24th, three excited students, Tai' Yauri Thomas, Cameron Hughes and Garrett Kennedy, and one nervous chaperone arrived at Tulsa Airport ready for an adventure of our lives, Space Camp.



Space Camp is held in Huntsville, Alabama. The week long Space Camp program is held through the year for students from around the U.S. and around the world. Every September, Space Camp is held just for blind and visually impaired students.

Garrett participated in the Robotics program where he built and programmed robots using the Lego Mindstorms system.



The robotics activities focused on science, technology, engineering and math. They had fun working in the lab for their land and air activities and at the lake for their sea activities.



Graduation

Garrett said, "Space Camp was awesome to say the least. I remember the day I got there and met my roommates, one of them was from Texas and another was from Maryland. I met a lot of kids at Space Camp from all over.

I remember meeting one kid from Australia and some from Ireland, Belgium, Israel, Canada, South Africa, and Greece. I think the food was one of the best parts. Trying new things from all around the world I liked the German, Danish, Swiss, Italian, Belgian, and Russian food the most. My favorite dishes were chicken Kiev, braedende kaerlighed, and German sausage and bread. I liked Space Camp a lot and I think I would like to go again next year."

Tai and Cameron participated in the Aviation Challenge program.



In this military-style program, Tai and Cameron experienced many realistic combat scenarios.



Cameron in flight simulator

From within a flight simulator they took off, flew and landed a fighter jet.

They went down a 150-ft zip line to simulate a parachute water landing, escaped from a sinking



helicopter in the lake, climbed a 50-ft pole and scaled a 50-ft wall, just to name a few of their activities.

"One of the best things about Space Camp was getting to know people from around the world", said Cameron.

Tai said, "Participating in the Aviation Challenge was a blast! I learned about airplanes. I learned how to taxi a plane and how to take off. My favorite part of Aviation Challenge was patrolling. We would get into a specific line, and we would patrol a certain part of the ground. When the guards would come around we would have to hit the ground immediately."

Robert Miller,
sponsor/chaperone



Cameron on the rock climbing wall

Updates from our Social Services Department



Students & Staff "Caught Being Good"

- ◆ Cameron Hughes – for helping a student safely to the clinic by being tolerant.
- ◆ Trinity Lewis – for being tolerant by waiting patiently in the clinic and being cheerful to another student.
- ◆ Shannon Winter – for being willing to help no matter what the situation might be and always willing to help at any time.
- ◆ Katungi Bryant – for helping a student around an obstacle and being tolerant by helping another student be redirected.
- ◆ William Winston – for helping an adult carry chairs for an academic meet by showing tolerance.
- ◆ Ocie Webster – for helping another student in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Gunner Harris – for doing a great job speaking and raising money for "Cane Quest".

- ◆ Ms. Laci Goins – for using tolerance with our students in a difficult situation.
- ◆ Mr. Clint Tibbs – for helping students be tolerant by guiding students around a ladder.

Social Services Department
Sylvia Sterling
Jane Thomas

Social Services News

We are entering one of the busiest times of the year for the Social Services department.

In the next few days, your child will be asked, along with a teacher or other adult, to list some items they would like to receive for Christmas. It is a long standing school tradition that every child receives some form of gift or gift card for Christmas. These items are donated by organizations outside our school, including the Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, and by employees within DRS.

Additionally, we will be contacting many of you this week to inquire about your need of extra food for Thanksgiving.



The parent teacher organization collects donated food items to help with this need. However, our resources are somewhat limited.

Therefore, we ask that if you have a tribal Native American card, please check with them to see if they have food to offer your family as part of tribal benefits.

We are continuing to study about family changes and how to live with them. We just finished reading about a child who is learning to live in two different homes and how to enjoy the differences.

In November, we will be reading books and discussing the feelings and actions which are normal to experience when someone loses a pet, or a loved one, such as a grandparent.

We are also working on helping students understand the meaning of words which are virtues for good character.

"Patience", which is defined as "The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry".

Caring

December's word of the month is "Caring", which is defined as "Displaying kindness and concern for others".

Students will also be eligible for recognition from Mrs. Sterling, with the "Caught Being Good" program.

We are looking forward to the next couple of months, and the special times the holidays offer for families.

Jane Thomas,
Social Services Specialist

Patience

November's word of the month is

National Manufacturing Day - October 5, 2016

On October 5th, 2016, NewView Oklahoma welcomed 38 OSB high school students to their manufacturing plant in Oklahoma City to celebrate National Manufacturing Day.



Our students broke up into 6 smaller groups and completed a tour of the plant. This included seeing where they make fire hoses for the US Forest Service, the vinyl department where they make shower curtains, and a visit

to the Call Center where they coordinate transportation for individuals with disabilities. Students also visited Adam Higby, an OSB graduate, at the Computer Numeric Controls (CNC) department. Adam made special metal coasters for prize drawings for our students using the CNC machine.

Our students were able to visit with NewView employees, several of whom attended OSB, and learned about the work environment and how things are adapted in the workplace. They also talked about the expectations of work and how high school helps to prepare them for work.

"You guys have given me the hope that even though I might have a visual impairment; it doesn't mean I can't do the things I set my mind to." - Ariana Richardson

"I've been going to OWL camp for a couple years now, but I didn't realize that there was so much more to NewView. It really opened my eyes to opportunities for my future." - Kaylee Ragon



Faye Miller

Future Shock Career Day - November 3, 2016



The Oklahoma School for the Blind Parent Teacher Organization and the Oklahoma School for the Blind cordially invite you to attend the annual

"Future Shock"

**Career Day on Thursday,
Nov. 3, 2016**

from 12:30 pm until 3:10 pm

on the OSB campus, 3300 Gibson Street in Muskogee.



We target a specific group of students and offer a different approach to informing these young adults about the career opportunities that are available to them.

This one of a kind educational experience is designed for the blind and visually impaired students across the state of Oklahoma, their families, teachers of the visually impaired and other interested individuals.



One unique feature is that the majority of our speakers are blind and visually impaired. The speakers who present their knowledge to the students have achieved the success and independence the students at OSB, as well as all blind and visually impaired individuals are expecting for their lives.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful day with you.

You can **RSVP to Linda Graber** (**helpful but not required**) via email lgraber@osb.k12.ok.us or call 877-229-7136 (toll free in Oklahoma).

Linda Graber,
OSB PTO



OSB PTO White Cane Day at Arrowhead Mall



From Left: Rita Echelle, Representative Ed Cannaday, Linda Graber, Lynn Cragg

Wow! What a great turn out for the third annual OSB White Cane Day at Arrowhead Mall on October 11th.

Numerous vendors, various blindness organizations, local legislators, and students and staff from OSB were on hand for this event.



The award winning OSB Jazz band, under the direction of



Mr. Chris Ferrell, preformed an awesome concert to wrap up the day's activities.

The idea behind White Cane Day is to provide Muskogee with the opportunity to learn more about what the white cane means to the individuals in the community who use a white cane in their everyday lives.

The vendors and organizations are in attendance to offer information to those individuals who may be in need of equipment or services but are not sure who they need to contact.



OSB is the number one resource for the blind and visually impaired in Oklahoma. Staff and students

attending this event are able to showcase just a few of the wonderful opportunities offered to students who attend OSB.

Linda Graber,
OSB PTO



(see also attached article from the Tulsa World on Page s15-17)

White Cane Safety Day at Sapulpa Lions Club

Thank you to Gunner Harris, who presented information about the white cane to the Sapulpa Lions Club this month.

Individuals who are blind or visually impaired can use the white cane to identify obstacles and surface changes, including curbs and stairs.

Gunner showed the Lions the many choices consumers have for

white canes from the different materials canes are made of, to the types of tips that are available.

He gave the Lions a lesson on how to hold the cane and what constant contact looks like.

He also made sure the Lions knew Oklahoma White Cane Law,

Oklahoma
White
Cane
Law

which requires drivers to stop 15 feet from a person with a white cane or guide dog who is in the road, crossing the street.

Faye Miller



Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest - December 1, 2016



Twenty-six students have registered as contestants for **Cane Quest on December 1st.**

So, contestants **keep practicing your O&M skills and think about the answers to these questions:**

- ◆ What are the parts of a cane?

- ◆ What is a 90 degree turn?
What is a 180 degree turn?
- ◆ Where is North? ...South?
...East? ...West?
- ◆ What is touch and drag?
- ◆ How many sides/corners do you walk around when you walk around the block?
- ◆ How do you cross a street with a pedestrian signal?

We'll see you on Thursday, December 1st from **10:00 am to 2:30 pm**, ready to earn points and win prizes!

Faye Miller

PE News - Special Olympics Bowling



On Wednesday, October 19th, eight of our OSB Special Olympians traveled to McAlester's "Great Balls of Fire" bowling alley, to compete in Special Olympics Bowling!

Our students compete against students from McAlester, Glenpool, and Hilldale.

The staff at Greats Balls of Fire are always welcoming and friendly to the special Olympians and their helpers.

We are lucky to have a friend in the Kiamichi area director who allows us to join their area for various competitions since most in our area fall on Fridays or weekends.

After our competition, we traveled to a local park to enjoy our lunch and a little bit of fun time before traveling back to OSB.

Here are the results of our athletes:

Jacob King 2nd place
- open bowling-heat 25

Miracle Jones 1st place
- ramp bowling-heat 1

Morning Star Clark 1st place
- ramp bowling-heat 2

Kolten Pennington 1st place
- ramp bowling-heat 5

Blazen Sitterly 3rd place
- ramp bowling-heat 6

Justin Whitmire 1st place
- ramp bowling-heat 9

Seth Wedel 2nd place
- ramp bowling-heat 9

Lorenzo Rodriguez 3rd place
- ramp bowling-heat 9

Tera Webb,
PE teacher/coach



Jacob King



Kolten
Pennington



PE News - Spin Class

Six students have had a unique opportunity to travel off campus to Champion Fitness to try a Spin Class.



A local spin instructor, Esthela, was interested in starting a spin class for people with low vision. She contacted Gina Woods and me early in the school year.

After working out the details, we found a small group to test out her

teaching skills and our spin class skills!

For six weeks Kinzie Peters, Cameron Hughes, Preston Fenton, Nicolas Jackson-Morrison, Tai' Yauri Thomas and Conner Hilton have had the opportunity to attend this spin class that is designed to help the low vision student understand a traditional spin class at a fitness facility. They have worked hard to learn how to properly get on the bike, the different hand placements, seat positions, and how to monitor their tension levels. The kids have really worked through some fears and uncertainties.

October 24th was our last official trip on this trial run. All, Esthela

and the kids, were looking forward to these sessions and we hope to find a way to start a new group or keep the current group attending spin lessons!

A big **THANK YOU** to Esthela for her encouragement and great instruction and a big **THANK YOU** to Mr. Culie, Ms. Jamie Allenbaugh, and Ms. Woods for working with me to make sure that our students can take advantage of this opportunity!"



Tera
Webb

Boy Scouts Troop 672 - Operation Christmas Child



Boy scouts and cub scouts Troop 672 is taking donated items for boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 ... **OR** you can fill an average shoebox with items such as stuffed animals, hygiene products/personal items and **WOW TOYS**. You can also include a personal note and photo.

"Operation Christmas Child" is a project of love to children in need around the world. If you chose to fill a shoebox, please put the age of the child and boy or girl on the box. Thank you.

Help support the scout troop 672 in giving a smile to each child that receives a shoebox.

Collection week is November 14-21, so if you fill a box or bring items **please have them at**

school by November 14th.

Troop 672 and a child in need thank you.

Becky LaRue,
sponsor

Reminder:

Boy scout troop 672 is going camping October 27-30 at Sequoya state park in Hulbert.

Veterans Day Project

By: Jillian Matthews



Veterans Day is quickly approaching, and in honor of that, the Service Learning Class and FCCLA decided upon a project to support the veterans.

To celebrate veterans and all they have done for us, we have

reached out to the VA Hospital in Muskogee and discovered that they are in need of some items for their patients. These include travel-sized hygiene items, such as shampoo, conditioner, razors, lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. In addition we learned there is a need for socks.



We have set up donation boxes for the listed items in two locations, the FACS lab and the front office.

Please feel free to contribute; we will be taking donations until November 16th.

FCCLA and the Service Learning Class will deliver donations after Thanksgiving break.

Your support is appreciated.

Service Learning Class - Coat Drive



The OSB Service Learning Class will be doing a **coat drive** for needy kids, teens, and adults

now through December 1.

You can bring gently used or new coats of all sizes to Ms. Daniels or call and a student will pick them up.

Thank you for your support.



918 Rocks Project



OSB students will be participating in a **918 Rocks** project.

The participating students will be bringing in small smooth round rocks and start painting them to later take around their hometowns as well as the Muskogee area and other surrounding areas to place for other people to find. They will be able to paint anything their imagination can come up with (as long as it is appropriate). Once painted the rocks will be sealed with a clear coat to make it weather resistant and keep the paint from washing off.

918 Rocks was started after a similar group was discovered in Memphis, TN. Hunter Kelley and his mom, Miss Kimberly along with her mother, created a group page on Facebook called 918 Rocks! and have been painting and placing rocks all over the 918 area code since early September.

The rules are really simple and easy to follow. Find bare rocks, paint them with anything you want (tie dye, characters, words, random blotches of paint, you can even transfer temporary tattoos and stickers onto rocks). Seal with a clear coat sealant. Once dry, drop it off anywhere you would like (**see below for restrictions**). If you find an art rock, take a picture and share it with the 918 Rocks! Facebook page and hash tag #918Rocks on Facebook and Instagram. You may either keep it or re-hide the rock!

If you want your rock found and posted back here, our suggestions of what to write on the back are.....

1. #918Rocks
(use the fb logo, too)
2. 918Rocks!
(use the fb logo, too)
3. Post a picture to 918 Rocks!
Keep or Re-hide
4. Find us on Facebook, 918 Rocks! Post a picture,

#918Rocks, Keep or Re-hide.

Creating art and encouraging creativity + activity (creactivity) by painting rocks to hide around 918 (the WHOLE area!!) or wherever you travel! Use this to brighten someone's day, send a needed message, or just to spread joy. The goal is to encourage art, creativity and community... the things 918 is all about!

Join us and have some fun!

- ◆ Please make sure your artwork is sealed with a sealer. (Sometimes it takes a few coats)
- ◆ **National Parks and/or Private Property are off limits unless permission is granted.**

(Respect is also part of having fun!)

Kimberly Politte,
918 Rocks sponsor

Elementary Field Trips

On Thursday, October 6th Mrs. Adams' and Mrs. Wassom's classes attended the annual **"Fire Safety Program"** at the Muskogee Civic Center.

Local firemen dressed as clowns and acted out how and what to do in case you were ever in a fire.

Lots and lots of laughter occurred and the children learned a whole lot.

Afterwards the two classes went to visit the fire station on York Street near our school. The fireman

showed the children all of their gear, explained how it worked, answered many questions and then let the students crawl all through their fire truck.

It was an exciting and extremely educational time for everyone.

Kathy
Adams,
Teacher



On October 12, the classes were scheduled to go on their annual **"Pumpkin Patch"** field trip. Unfortunately this trip was **cancelled** due to the weather.

O&M City Bus Travel

Several members of the OSB graduating class experienced city bus travel in Tulsa last month.



From Left: Mathieu Noah, Jacob King, Logan Deaton
As part of our Orientation & Mobility (O&M) education, students learn options for public transportation and then get to experience the planning and executing of a trip

on the Tulsa city buses.

Students learn the cost of travel, how to ask the right questions of a bus driver to make sure we are on the correct bus and where to exit the bus at the correct stop.

At the Denver Avenue Bus Station, where there are 11 bays where buses stop, we have to request assistance to make sure we find the correct bay for the bus we want to board.

Of course, the highlight of the

day is our stop for lunch at a fast food restaurant.

Faye Miller
& Gina Woods,
O&M instructors

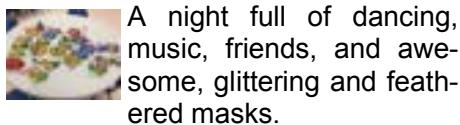


From Left: Seth Wedel, Patelin Cogswell, Isaiah Hayes

Recreation Activities

Masquerade Ball

On October 5th, OSB had the most magical night! We had our very first Masquerade Ball.



The majority of the students dressed formally for this exciting event, and danced till forced to return to their individual dorm.



painting their handprint on the side of a majestic horse, glow in the dark bracelets and monster hands, hot dogs and refreshing juice, and a hayride that was entrancing and scary all in one.

The students at OSB and staff would like to express their gratitude to the members of the Muskogee Round Up Club!



We had an amazing time.

S'mores, campfire, and scary stories

was **cancelled** due to weather.

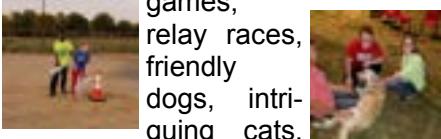


Round Up Club Autumn Outing

OSB students and staff left campus on a brilliant and clear day to go to our first Autumn Outing with the Muskogee Round Up Club.



The students got to enjoy several games, relay races, friendly dogs, intriguing cats,



Movie and Popcorn for 12 and under

The kids were able to sit down, relax, and enjoy their popcorn, and movie "Gnomeo and Juliet".



Movie and Popcorn for 13 and over



The kids got to enjoy "**Alice through the Looking Glass**", along with socializing, drinking ice tea, and snacking out on popcorn.

Costume Contest

OSB had a glorious time at the Costume Contest! Children dressed up in their costumes and competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

The winners were:

1st Place

Josie Cox

2nd Place

Xerek Hitchcock

3rd Place

Tyler Duong



Josie was an awesome zombie with her half eaten teddy bear.

Xerek was Ronald Weasley from Harry Potter.

From Left: Xerek Hitchcock, Josie Cox, Tyler Duong

Tyler was the Tiger King from A Faraway Kingdom.

Congratulations to our winners and **THANK YOU** to all our contestants.

Belinda Thomas,
Recreations Activity Specialist

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:



December Birthdays

Students

Payton Crum	Dec	3
Xerek Hitchcock	Dec	4
Trinity Lewis	Dec	7
Seth Wedel	Dec	14
Kesslee Travis	Dec	15
Garrett Kennedy	Dec	17
Jimmy Anderson	Dec	22
Khatungi Bryant	Dec	27
Blazen Sitterly	Dec	27
Thomas Raines	Dec	28
Shaylin Wells	Dec	30

OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

NO changes at this time.

November Birthdays

Students

Quante Sellers	Nov	1
Brianna Brennan	Nov	13
Michael Thompson	Nov	15
Nicholas Jackson-Morrison	Nov	21
Jacob King	Nov	24
Julia Cisneros	Nov	25
Hunter Kelley	Nov	25
Holly Felkins	Nov	26

Staff

Jeremy Jackman	Nov	23
Barbara Collins	Nov	27



December Birthdays

Students

Amy Morgan	Dec	1
Ana Ledezma	Dec	3
Kathy Barrett	Dec	13
Trisha Hart	Dec	15
Cammeron Brice	Dec	19
Allison Garner	Dec	23
Brent Webster	Dec	29

Staff

GOING THE EXTRA MILE - OCTOBER 2016



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

Thank you to **Andrew Nail** for making a student's day. Using the backpack leaf blower was a great reward and made a memory that he will always have.

Faye Miller

Thank you to **Brent Webster** for the driving lesson for a student's 16th birthday. She will never forget getting her Gator license!

Faye Miller

Thank you to **Gina Woods, Chris Carden, Jeana Jones and Speech Intern Katy** for helping with the Special Olympics trip October 19th!

Tera Webb

Thank you to **Amy Morgan, Jamie Allenbaugh and Rob Culie** for helping with bowling practices for the first nine weeks.

Tera Webb

Thank you to **Belinda Thomas** for coming up with great ideas for Rec. activities, for decorating the Rec. Center and for always providing me with brief summaries of the activities for our newsletter. It sure is a great addition to our monthly editions.

Maggie Mattox

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone involved in organizing and working at the Fall Festival. We greatly appreciate you.

Maggie Mattox

Thank you to **Mr. Robert Miller** for filling in short notice to take our students to Space Camp. I am sure the students and Ms. Daniels appreciated it.

Also, thank you **Mr. Robert Miller** for helping me making the newsletter better accessible for our JAWS users. I appreciate all your help and tips in improving our monthly editions.

Maggie Mattox

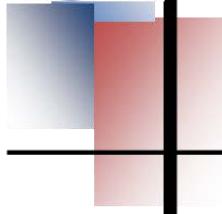
Thank you guys

for going the extra mile.

It is highly appreciated.



Schedule of Events

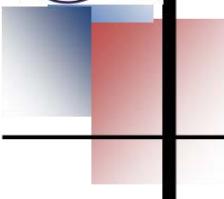


November
2016

Dorms Open NO School School In Session

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
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			

Date	Time	Event
Tue, Nov. 1	5:30 pm	Academic Team Meet @ Hilldale
Thur, Nov. 3	12:30 pm	Future Shock Career Day - all High School students Cane Quest Permission forms DUE
Thur, Nov. 10		Spirit Day - Red, White & Blue (<i>in observation of Veteran's Day</i>)
Sat, Nov. 12		Academic Team OSSAA Regionals
Mon, Nov. 14	6:00 pm	Jazz Band @ NSU, Tahlequah
Tue, Nov. 15	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Fundraiser w. Jazz Band Concert @ Mason's
Nov. 21 - 24		THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO SCHOOL !!!
Sun, Nov. 27		Dorms Open / Bus Routes run
Mon, Nov. 28		Classes Resume



December
2016

Dorms Open NO School School In Session

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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

Date	Time	Event
Thur, Dec. 1		Cane Quest Spirit Day
Thur, Dec. 15		Elementary Christmas Play
Dec. 19 - 30		CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO SCHOOL !!!

Recreation Activities

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Thank You Letter Craft Night @ 6:30 pm	2 Hot Cocoa Making Night @ 7 pm followed by Open Rec	3 Home Going	4	5
Dorms Open	6 Boy Scouts from 5:30 –6:45 pm Open Rec @ 6:45 pm	7 8 Thank You Letter Craft Night or Open Rec @ 6:30 pm	9 Turkey Magnet Making Night @ 7 pm	10 Home Going	11	12
Dorms Open	13 Boy Scouts from 5:30 –6:45 pm Open Rec @ 6:45 pm	14 15 Dining Out Night @ 5 pm (KFC, Long John Silver's,	16 Happy Birthday November and December @ 7 pm	17 Home Going	18	19
20 Break No School	21 Break No School	22 Break No School	23 Break No School	24 Break No School	25 Break No School	26 Break No School
Dorms Open	27 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec @ 6:45 pm	28 29 Autumn Leaves Dance @ 6:30-8:30 pm	30 Knighting Ceremony for Cane Questers @ 7:00 pm			

Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278

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

Recreation Activities

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Home Going	2	3
4 Dorms Open	5 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Winter Ornament Craft Night	6 Woodland Hills Mall for Jr High/High School @ 4:30 pm	7 Open Rec @ 6:30 pm	8 Home Going	9	10
11 Dorms Open	12 Boy Scouts from 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec @6:45 pm	13 Elementary Dining Out and Wal-Mart @ 4:45 pm	14 Dorm Parties followed by Winter Social	15 Home Going	16	17
18 XMAS BREAK	19 XMAS BREAK	20 XMAS BREAK	21 XMAS BREAK	22 XMAS BREAK	23 XMAS BREAK	24 XMAS BREAK
25 XMAS BREAK	26 XMAS BREAK	27 XMAS BREAK	28 XMAS BREAK	29 XMAS BREAK	30 XMAS BREAK	

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Ginnie Graham: Learn the meaning, laws about white canes

BY GINNIE GRAHAM News Columnist | Posted: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 12:01 am

From the time Linda Graber's granddaughter entered the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee at age 2, Graber was there for each step in her quest for independence.

Graber has become an essential volunteer, champion for visually impaired people and coordinator for many events at the school. The latest is the White Cane Safety Day celebration Tuesday at Arrowhead Mall in Muskogee.

"We want to educate the community about blindness and visual challenges and what the white cane signifies to an individual who uses it," Graber said. "Also, the School for the Blind is the best-kept secret."

Graber helps out the parents of her granddaughter, Sara, by driving her to school each day from their home in Haskell. Instead of driving back during class time, Graber remains at the school.

She has experienced and witnessed how children learn mobility as they grow.

"For the person who uses a cane, it is their tool for finding out where they are, knowing the obstacles in front of them and surrounding them. They have a certain sense of security because they can be independent and don't have to wait for someone to walk or guide them somewhere," she said.

Evolution of the cane: The white cane movements took off through efforts in the 1930s in France by Guilly d'Herbemont and in the United States by Lions Clubs International.

The first American city to pass a white cane ordinance, in December 1930, was Peoria, Illinois, which granted blind pedestrians protections and the right-of-way while using the cane.



Grabers

Linda Graber stands with her granddaughter, Sara Graber, who is a student at the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee. GINNIE GRAHAM/Tulsa World

During World War II, a veterans rehabilitation specialist at Valley Forge Army Hospital, Richard E. Hoover, improved the cane to be lighter and longer.

Known as the Hoover Method, the technique is to swing the cane from the center of the body and back and forth in a rhythm with walking.

Now, white canes are being developed with “smart” technology, such as infrared and ultrasonic sensors and GPS.

On Oct. 6, 1964, a joint resolution of Congress was signed into law authorizing the president to proclaim Oct. 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day. President Lyndon Johnson was the first to make the proclamation.

States began implementing laws to protect visually impaired people using the canes.

Under Oklahoma law, only blind people may carry white canes. Drivers must stop their vehicles 15 feet from pedestrians using white canes or dog guides. Violations could result in a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to three months in jail or a \$100 fine.

About 3.3 percent of Oklahomans have vision disabilities requiring a white cane or dog guide.

Awareness: Students at the Oklahoma School for the Blind are taught the Hoover Method along with other independent skills in an orientation and mobility instruction course.

“These are not random movements,” Gruber explains. “It is a sweeping of the area in front of them in an arc to let them know if there is a bump in the sidewalk or some kind of obstacle in the way. They are very well-trained in not only the use of a cane, but in using their other senses to locate where they are.”

Gruber’s granddaughter was born blind. Her family decided that a school with a population of students with similar challenges would be more beneficial.

“We knew she would need Braille, an abacus, hands-on learning and other types of one-on-one skills to learn math and other subjects that sighted kids did not need,” Gruber said. “What separates the School for the Blind from other schools is the teachers know Braille, (mobility) training and teach independent living skills like eating, dressing and doing laundry — things you don’t get in public school.”

Her granddaughter is now a junior in high school and making plans for college. She has a knack for languages, speaking and studying Italian, Norwegian, French and Serbian.

“She’s very interested in foreign languages and wants to be an interpreter and translator,” Gruber said. “Many she taught herself by downloading programs and learning.”

Gruber said events like White Cane Safety Day and an annual career day show the public and

employers the possibilities and contributions people with visual impairments can make.

"People have preconceived notions about what our kids or blind people can or cannot do," she said.

"There are all kinds of people in all walks of life with blindness or visual challenges maneuvering around, traveling independently and living their everyday lives. We want to educate people on White Cane Day so they have a better understanding of the cane or a dog guide when they see it."