



Ohio State School for the Blind



Cynthia M. Johnson, Superintendent

December 2013

Deb Miller, Principal
Debbie Haptonstall, Asst. Principal

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'Opening Day' At OSSB

Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

OSSB entered a new era this fall as students and teachers began classes in a brand new space. This long-awaited event was made possible in August after teachers, paraprofessionals and maintenance staff moved classrooms full of equipment and books over from the "original building." It deserves to be noted that the teamwork involved to ready the building for students and staff was exceptional! We hope you will join us at the Holiday Concert and Recital on December 19th, and if you haven't already gotten to see the new building, you may be able to take a peek that night.

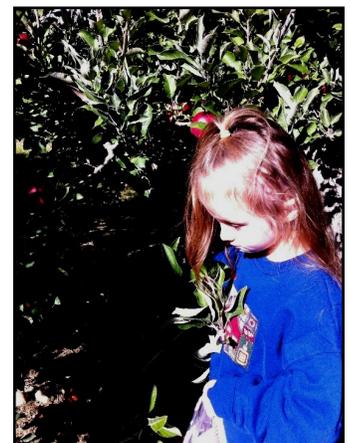
While we embrace the new building, we are also still utilizing portions of the original or "O" building—our beautiful gymnasium, auditorium and the staff and student cafeterias as well. Residential Life has taken up residence in the former school office and principal's office. Soon, the "O" building will begin renovations that will bring new windows along the

western face of the building, and remodeled office space to the former library and classrooms. OSSB has welcomed many new faces to our campus, and we want to introduce you to our new elementary teachers, **Laura Shearer** (K-1) and **Heather Miller** (3-4); Daily Living Skills teachers, **Regina Webster** and **Nancy Honse-Sayna**; Vocational teacher, **Cathern Pitchford**; Art and Physical Education teachers, **Kathleen Canalos** and **Lisa Henry**. New to OSSB are high school paraprofessional, **Natasha Knight**; and vocational paraprofessional, **Kim Craig**. Finally, joining **Chris Ross** in the Speech Therapy department is **Emily Russell**. A very warm OSSB welcome to all of you!

Fall = Apple Picking Time

Mrs. Heather Miller

In late September, the elementary classes went to **Lynd Fruit Farm** in Pataskala to learn about and pick McIntosh apples in their orchard. It was a gorgeous autumn day and the students enjoyed learning how an apple seed becomes a tree, tasting delicious apple cider, and learning the technique for picking apples. In the photos to the right, **Garrett** looks forward to eating his apple, while **Perseus** picks one fresh from the tree.



What's An Advocate? and Other FAQ's

Mrs. Debbie Haptonstall



Hello, I'm **Mrs. Haptonstall**, the new Assistant Principal. I'm very excited to be here at OSSB and I'm glad that I have had an opportunity to meet some of the parents already during IEP meetings. For those of you who don't yet know me, we will probably meet at your child's next Individualized Education Program meeting, as I am now the facilitator (the one with the laptop making any final changes that the IEP team agrees upon)! Others you may see at the IEP meeting will be your child's classroom teacher, or for those in 7-12th grade, their advocate.

What is an advocate? It is a teacher/staff member assigned to follow your child throughout their career at OSSB, and who can help answer questions the student may have. Advocates hold class meetings once a month to discuss student grades, upcoming events like school-wide trips, fundraisers and Prom. If a parent wants to set up a meeting with a teacher, the advocate is the staff member who can assist you. Basically, the advocate is there to help in any way possible.

If you are new to OSSB, you may wonder if we have Parent/Teacher conferences? We do not have particular days set aside for conferences because our students come from school districts all over the state. If at **any time** you would like to set up a meeting (outside of an IEP meeting) with your child's teacher, please call OSSB and we will have the teacher or advocate contact you to discuss any concerns, and to schedule a meeting. Remember, this may be done at any time throughout the school year.

OSSB Marching Band Thrills Fans at Ohio Stadium

Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

Have you heard the **OSSB Marching Band** news this fall?? Our band had the distinct pleasure of marching on the field during half-time on September 21, 2013 with The Ohio State University's Marching Band. And to top it off, OSSB and the OSUMB performed a double Script Ohio, with the OSSBMB presenting their signature, 'Script Braille Ohio' to a standing ovation of 106,000 OSU fans! OSSB's **Superintendent Johnson, Principal Miller** and numerous OSSB staff past and present were at the "shoe" to cheer on our marching Panthers! To see videos of this once in a lifetime performance, please visit the OSSB webpage: <http://www.ossb.oh.gov/MusicNews.php> In the photos below, OSU's band pays tribute to the Ohio State School for the Blind with the print and braille letters - OSSB. At right is a photo of OSU and OSSB in their unique 'Ohio' formations. We send a heartfelt thank you to OSU's Jonathan Waters for giving our marching band this unique opportunity to shine. (photos by Lauri Kaplan and Danene Fast)



Fall Sports at OSSB

Mrs. Nicole Parrish

The OSSB 2013 track team finished another successful season! After an earlier practice meet in Indiana, the team returned to the Indiana School for the Blind for the NCASB conference tournament, September 27-29. Overall, the team did very well, and several students placed. Overall, the Ohio males placed fifth, and the females placed seventh. A list of personal student achievements is listed below:

Kelsey R. (class B) received first place in the Girls Long Jump, second place in the Girls Triple Jump, fifth place in the Girls Three-Consecutive Jump, and third place in the 600 meter run.

Yaqi (class C) received fifth place in the Girls Triple Jump.

Wyatt H. (class A) received fourth place in the 60 meter run, third place in the Boys Long Jump, first place in the Boys Shot Put, and second place in the Boys Three-Consecutive Jump.

Donald (class B) received fourth place in the Boys Long Jump, third place in the Boys 600 meter run, and third place in the Boys Triple Jump. **Brandon G.** (class C) received fifth place in the Boys 400 meter run, sixth place in the Boys Long Jump, and fourth place in the Boys Triple Jump. **Thomas** (class C) received fifth place in Boys Shot Put.

Also participating in the conference were **Jerrimia, Khadijah, and Terry**. Great job to the team!

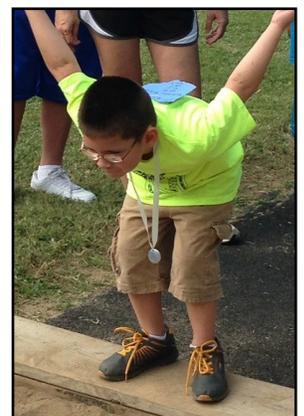


*Pictured at left is the Ohio State School for the Blind 2013 Track Team, and at right are **Brandon, Thomas, Donald and Khadijah** hanging out with new friends from teams competing at conference*



Macy getting ready to run like the wind!

On October 2, many of the elementary students were able to travel to the Kentucky School for the Blind, where the Junior Olympics Track and Field event was held this year. **Autum** said, "the track and field event was really fun because of all of the moving around. When I was running, it felt like I was flying across the track." **Maggie** described herself running "like a blaze of lightning." Kindergartner **Rodolfo** won first place in the standing long jump event (see picture), and Fourth Grader **Jason** had the longest distance in shot put. **Olivia** said, "my favorite part of the day was getting ice cream because I was so sweaty and hot!" Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to this event again next year.



Rodolfo prepares for the standing long jump



OSSB continues our efforts to raise funds for the PTISO by collecting Box Tops; you can clip **Box Tops** from hundreds of participating products in your local grocery store and send them in! Don't forget to collect Campbell's Labels for Education too!

If you are a Target shopper, you can also help OSSB when you designate 1% of your REDcard purchases to the **Ohio State School for Blind, School ID #85364**. In August, we received a donation check for **\$75.31** from Target and since the program's inception our PTISO has received **\$2010.66!** Call Lauri Kaplan at OSSB for more information. Thank you!



Dorm Life Keeps Residential Students Active

Mrs. Missy Strader

OSSB is in full swing and off to a great year. The Residential Department shares in this excitement and has many wonderful activities going on in the dorms of 'Panther Place'. New to OSSB and the Residential Department is **Olivia**, who enjoys socializing with friends and swinging at the playground. **Wyatt**, a new student to OSSB enjoys many of the extracurricular activities offered at OSSB including goal ball and track. Both students are great additions to the OSSB family. We also welcomed two new Youth Leaders, **Sally Williams** and **Monique Jackson**.

Recreational activities are always a source of fun and delight in the dormitories. October included a night of spooky stories in P7, an all campus "Pumpkin Palooza event," open swim, walking trips for ice-cream, and a Halloween Dance. Off campus trips are also exciting for the students and included trips to Polaris Mall, the movies and Target.

Let's not forget the many learning opportunities provided in the dormitories. In October students worked on money management training while shopping for items in the community, improved their cooking skills with dorm dinners and bake nights, improved laundry skills by learning how to operate the washers and dryers and they are polishing their dining skills with one on one instruction by staff members.

The Residential Department is excited to be part of the many changes going on around campus and the students look forward to a variety of enjoyable planned activities while taking time to improve their skills. Good luck on a great year from the Residential Department of OSSB!

OSSB Students Tackle Bullying Through Rise Above

Brendon H.

Welcome back to the 2013-2014 School year I'm excited to announce **Rise Above's** New Assistant Director is **Ethan**. **Ethan** steps in to replace **Megan** who graduated last year. In other news, the **OSSB Rise Above chapter** turned one year old on September 26th and we have a lot going on this year as we continue to reduce the bullying around the OSSB Campus and around our communities as well! You can visit our website at <http://www.riseabovelkw.weebly.com>. At our December 12 meeting, Michelle Thivener from the Columbus West Chapter is coming for a visit and we are going to have a holiday craft at that meeting also, Later in the year we're hopefully going to have Shannon Mangon from the Main Rise Above Chapter come for a visit. We are going to start a pen pal with the Columbus west chapter soon and we hope to have more social media sites here soon also!

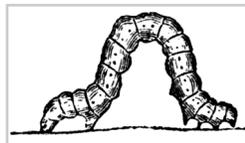
Elementary Happenings

Mrs. Heather Miller

The Elementary students have had an exciting first few months of school, with caterpillars, apples, track and field, and archaeology events!

On September 19, **Mr. Clark** brought in caterpillars, chrysalides, eggs, and cocoons for the students to see and feel. The caterpillars were “bright green, furry and very squishy,” reports **Jason. Garrett** described a chrysalis as feeling “very rough, and it rattles inside!”

The students were very gentle when handling the fragile animals. **Maggie** said, “when the caterpillars were on my hand, it felt like it was pinching every time it moved!” **Caiden** assures us that the caterpillars’ hooked feet feel “just like a flamingo pecking you in the hand.” We were so appreciative of **Mr. Clark** sharing his interest with us, and letting us experience a caterpillar life cycle hands-on.



Left, caterpillar close-up. Right, chrysalis, cocoon, eggs

Braille Transcription At OSSB

Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

OSSB is excited to announce that the Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM) now has **two** Certified Literary Braille Transcribers working in the Accessible Materials Production Center (AMPC) housed at OSSB! **Katie Robinson**, on staff since May of 2010 recently received a Library of Congress certificate in literary braille transcription after 14 months of hard work, and a final exercise that required her to transcribe 35 braille pages! **Katie** joins **Denise Reed** who is also a Certified Transcriber. The AMPC office provides large print braille, digital and audio textbooks to OSSB and to school districts throughout the state of Ohio.

OSSB's PTSF would like to thank the students of OSSB and their parents for participating in the fall, Believe Kids catalog fundraiser. Fifteen students and their families were able to raise over \$1600 to support special OSSB school programs! We are so grateful for this support and hope for even more participation next fall! Special shout out to families of **Autum, Peggy, Brianna, Maggie** and **Zachary K.**

Leo Club/Student Council Sponsor Toy Drive

Mrs. Tami Fisher

The Student Council and Leo Club are hosting a toy drive for Nationwide Children's hospital. There will be collection bin in the lobby of OSSB, **Mrs. Miller's** elementary classroom and **Mrs. Fisher's** classroom. The collection will take place until the end of the holiday concert on December 19, 2013. We are trying to collect new and washable toys in the packages or with the tags still attached. The highest need is requested for infant and toddler toys. Please help us spread holiday magic to children in need. Thank you for your support!

Silent Auction Needs Your Help

Mrs. Tami Fisher

The holiday season will soon be upon us. This is a time of giving and charity. What better way to give than to help the students who travel the halls of OSSB on a daily basis.

Our annual Silent Auction will take place on December 19, 2013. As always, we need to ask for help from our families, friends and teachers. Donations of **baked goods, crafts, or gift items** can be made by contacting **Tamara Fisher** at tfisher@ossb.oh.gov , **Patti Miller** at pmiller@ossb.oh.gov, or call 614-468-8869. **The Auction will be held in the former Vocational area, near the back entrance to the original building (near the ramp).**

We know that times are difficult financially for many families, but with time and creativity on our side, the Silent Auction can be a great success. All money earned will benefit the PTSO of OSSB and help our students to have a fulfilling educational experience.

Remember, no food items can be accepted until the day of the auction. If possible we would like to know of the food donations in advance so we can be prepared for the auction. Food items must be wrapped and labeled with ingredients when brought to the school. Thank you so much for your time and effort in this process.

Ohio State School for the Blind Important Dates to Remember

December 2013

- 12/12/13 Wrestling & Cheerleading @ Indiana
- 12/16/13 Girl Scouts @ 6:00
- 12/19/13 Holiday Concert:
 - 1:00—Recital
 - 2:00—Silent Auction
 - 4:30-6:00—Dinner
 - 6:30—Concert
- 12/23/13 – 1/3/14: No School—Winter Break

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OSSB Mission Statement

The Ohio State School for the Blind, a publicly funded educational facility, is dedicated to the intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of students with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities. Our mission is to work cooperatively with students, families and the community to provide an effective, enjoyable educational experience through specialized curriculum, equipment, material and individualized, disability-specific instruction to develop our students' unique potential.