



# Ohio State School for the Blind



Jeff Reinhard, Interim Principal

**2014-15 Year-End News**

Lauri Kaplan, Editor

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## Thanks For A Great Year!

Dear Friends and Families of OSSB,

Already, we miss you! It's only been two weeks, but the empty hallways, classrooms, and cottages have made us lonely! I hope everyone is enjoying Summer vacation and a chance to rest and hopefully reflect on the past school year!

On behalf of the entire OSSB Community, we want to thank our students, parents, and families for sharing an exciting 2014-2015 School Year with us! Although we dealt with lots of change and transition, we maintained a positive attitude and pushed through difficult times courageously! I am extremely proud of our spirit of "community" and our eagerness to help others in need! It is a true gift which you share and one that I will always remember!

Even though "school is out for the Summer", the business of school life continues. A number of camps and learning opportunities have kept many staff busy already these first few weeks, and planning for up-coming camps is underway!

With the retirements of several teachers, we've been busy interviewing and selecting replacements for those who have transitioned to another life chapter. We'll be welcoming new staff to the OSSB Family very soon!

Graduation 2015 was a very exciting time for twelve students moving forward with career and life plans. Congratulations to: **Shitaria, Amanda, Brandon, Rae'don, Christina, Ricardo, Ahmed, Jacob, Sabrina, Khadijah, Boniface, and Amanda!** We wish for you much happiness and HOPE!

Our new school year begins with registration on August 17th, and the first day of School on August 18th! Included with this newsletter is information about next year and activities you'll want to mark on your calendar.

As I transition back to retirement, I take along fond memories of my time here at OSSB! Each of you have filled my heart with kindness and I will treasure the opportunity to serve as your principal forever! With an attitude of gratitude.....THANK YOU!

Have a wonderful Summer!

Leave a legacy!

Jeff Reinhard  
OSSB Interim Principal



## Snow Mageddon Dorm Fun

Mr. Ben Horton



In the dorms in February, the students participated in several competitions. One that stands out was *Snow Mageddon*. The boys in P7 put forth their best effort. **Nolan**, our team leader helped bake, ice and decorate the cookies. He says that this was the most fun he has had in the dorm since he "couldn't remember when." **Nolan**



helped his dorm friends **Zach K, Jared and Ethan** set up the table and got things in order for the presentation. **Nolan** was the perfect host for the evening. When the judges stopped by, he took their coats, offered them refreshments, and engaged in conversation with each person. We all very much enjoyed *Snow Mageddon*, and cannot wait till next year; we plan to destroy the competition!

## 20th Annual Chocolate Fair = Success!

Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

The OSSB Community put on their aprons, and got cooking during February in preparation for the **20th Annual Chocolate Fair**. Classrooms and students from the Independent Living Skills classes found their favorite chocolate recipes, gathered ingredients and created an amazing array of goodies for everyone to enjoy on the afternoon of February 17th.

This OSSB tradition began twenty years ago, to help staff and students enjoy a little bit of fun during the long winter months. The Chocolate Fair continues to be held on 'Fat Tuesday,' that's Mardi Gras in French; and it coincides with the end the Carnival season, and the beginning of Lent. Each year, OSSB TA, **Cindy Swisher** (a former New Orleans resident) shares bead necklaces she has collected with staff and students, and celebratory Chocolate Fair buttons are created by students in the vocational department.



**Miranda** makes careful choices at the Chocolate Fair as her friends **Autum** and **Alyssa** watch. **Jacob** fills his plate with such delicacies as "spaghetti and meatballs" and "dirt pudding," while **Wyatt** and **Ms. Patterson** serve their pudding with a smile!

## O—H—I—O !

Mrs. Nicole Parrish

The OSSB 2015 cheerleading squad completed another successful season! Members of the team included junior, **Colby**; seventh grader, **Autum** and eighth grader, **Chantel**; the team was led by **Coach Libby Patterson** and **Assistant Coach Nicole Parrish**. This year, there were day meets in Indiana and Kentucky, and the season culminated with the NCASB Conference in Tennessee. The cheerleaders also participated in the all-school pep rally before the big Ohio State game!

Although the team was small, the members were filled with spirit and rocked out to four different cheers, including their "Hang on Sloopy" remix, which brought down the house at conference! Our panther mascot also made a special appearance thanks to **Colby**! After the competition, the team members were able to explore a little of downtown Nashville, including a spot at the Grand Ole Opry, before ending the night with a social and a visit from the Jeni's ice cream truck! Great job to the team and a special thank you to **Principal and Mrs. Reinhard** for making the trip to Tennessee to cheer on the cheering panthers!



Shown in photos above, are Chantel, Autum, and Colby at the NCASB tournament in Tennessee. Also shown in the traditional O-H-I-O pose, left to right are Coach Parrish, Autum, Chantel and Coach Patterson with our OSSB Panther Mascot!!

Former OSSB student, Kate Katulak was recently featured in an article from WGBH out of Boston. Kate, who has been blind since she was 15 is now a secondary teacher at the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. The article highlights Kate's training in order to run the 2015 Boston Marathon in April. To read the article and watch a short video, check out this link: <http://wgbhnews.org/post/running-blind-through-snow-toward-boston-marathon>



## 2014-15 Wrestling News

Coach Shaw and Coach Kelley

We were small in numbers this year, but mighty in heart. Senior, **Ahmed**, an exchange student from Alexandra, Egypt wrestling for his first time, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in his weight class at the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) wrestling championships at the Tennessee School for the Blind. **Ethan**, a junior, wrestling for his second season also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in his weight class. Congratulations to both wrestlers for working hard throughout the season and thank you to the Tennessee Tigers for hosting a wonderful tournament.

## Ohio's Online Education and Career Planning Tool



OhioMeansJobs.com is Ohio's premier free, virtual employment and career planning center. This online hub serves all Ohioans – and it has a special section just for students in grades K-12. For students, the journey begins by going to OhioMeansJobs.com, clicking on INDIVIDUALS, and then clicking on the K-12 icon—the cardinal in a graduation cap. From there, they can register for an OhioMeansJobs K-12 account. OhioMeansJobs K-12 can help even young students find careers that match their interests.

Students can store all their important information in an online backpack—things like their budget plans, career plan, information about education and training programs, resumes, and job search results. They can even take free college entrance or career preparation practice tests. To see everything the site has to offer, just click on the green “TAKE THE GUIDED TOUR” button on the OhioMeansJobs.com website.



The National Library Service (NLS) has partnered with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) in support of its U.S. Currency Reader Program, which will provide currency reader devices, free of charge, to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

The currency reader, called the iBill Talking Banknote Identifier, is a compact device that announces a note's value in one of three ways: Voice, pattern of tones, or pattern of vibrations. Just insert a note into the device and press the button on the side to have the denomination identified. This device operates on a single AAA battery, which typically lasts for more than a year. The initial battery is supplied.

**The currency readers will be mailed Free Matter for the Blind. Applications for this device are available on the BEP website. To learn more about the U.S. Currency Reader Program or other aspects of the U.S. government's initiative to provide meaningful access to U.S. Currency visit [www.bep.gov](http://www.bep.gov).**

## Rise Above Bullying!

**Brendon H, OSSB Junior**



Rise Above is an anti-bullying program that was started by Shannon Mangon of Thornville, Ohio in memory of her daughter, Lauren Katie Wright who was tragically killed in a car accident on her way home from a fireworks display on July 4, 2011.

Lauren was bullied and eventually hospitalized with depression. When Lauren died, Shannon founded Rise Above, an anti-bullying group that focused on reducing bullying by changing ourselves first. **Brendon H.** an OSSB Junior started his own chapter in 2012. This year, OSSB held a 'Purple Out' to raise awareness, and we hope to reduce bullying on the OSSB Campus and around our communities! Our website is: <http://riseabovelkw.wix.com/riseabovelkw#!home/mainPage>



## Welcome Ms. Robol to OSSB

Mrs. Carol

Though many of you are familiar with Melissa Robol due to her volunteerism (piano teaching, marching assistant, talent bringer) and her work in the Holiday Concert, I want to formally welcome Melissa to OSSB in the capacity of accompanist and piano/voice teacher. Melissa is teaching piano and voice lessons as well as accompanying the choir and assisting in band. She will be at school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Melissa Robol was selected the **Independent Certified Teacher of the Year 2014** by the Ohio Music Teachers Association, a HUGE honor!! We are so lucky to have Ms. Robol! For more information about this wonderful award, please see the announcement online <http://www.ceomta.org/melissa-robol-named-state-teacher-of-the-year>: Thank you Melissa for joining our staff!

## OSSB Music Department News

Mrs. Carol Agler



The Marching Band had the pleasure of performing with the Worthington Civic Band (WCB), and the WCB presented a magnificent 45 minute concert for us in February.

We were lucky to have two groups perform for OSSB students. The King Arts Complex sponsored the performance/workshop by Humble G and the Afripeans, mixing European and African and American



pop music, for marching band members; and the Jazz Arts Group sponsored the performance of Ritmos Unidos which mixes Latin jazz, American funk and Brazilian pop music.

The Marching Band performed with the Hathaway Brown Orchestra April 2nd at the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. They each played selections of their own, and they joined together for 'Pinball Wizard' by The Who. OSSB recent graduate, **Na'kita** was able to join the band on snare drum. OSSBMB members enjoyed listening to other high school and junior high bands all day long as they rotated turns on the stage. After the performance, the Marching Panthers ate lunch and toured the museum. Before the performance they enjoyed a presentation by museum staff on the affect of music on social change.

Mrs. Agler's final Spring Concert was a special memory for all who attended on May 18th. The theme was "America!", and it was a wonderful presentation packed full of patriotic music, narrated beautifully by English teacher, Mrs. Pat Wilson. What better way to send off the OSSB Marching Band who traveled to Washington, D.C. May 22-26 to march in the National Memorial Day Parade! *Editor's note: Mrs. Agler, Thank you so much for all you have done for the students of OSSB, and congratulations on your retirement!*



## OSSB Senior Trip

Mrs. Nicole Parrish



This year, members of the senior class ventured to the Windy City for their senior trip! Students who chose to go on the trip included **Boniface, Ahmed, Jacob, and Rae'Don**. The class traveled to Chicago via MegaBus with Senior Advocates **Mr. Nixon, Mrs. Parrish, Mr. Kelley and Ms. Russell**, and had a great time exploring the city and its great food! The trip included a stop at Giordano's for some famous deep dish pizza, a guided tour at the Shedd Aquarium, a photo stop at the iconic "Bean," and a walking tour of the city. The students had a wonderful time getting a taste of Chicago culture!

iOS App that may be of interest... **Be My Eyes** – This app developed by Hans Jorgen Wiberg, an entrepreneur who is visually impaired from Denmark, allows the blind user to 'handle big and small tasks' thru a video connection with a sighted 'helper'. Is that a can of corn, or cherry pie filling in my cupboard? Check it out at [www.bemyeyes.org](http://www.bemyeyes.org).

## Forensics Team Represents OSSB at Conference

Mrs. Nicole Parrish

This year, the OSSB Forensics team had a day meet in Indiana, presented their speeches for the student body at OSSB, and traveled back to Indiana for its conference meet. The participants were very well-prepared, and it showed!

Newcomer **Boniface**, participated in the eight-minute speech and took first place! Veteran

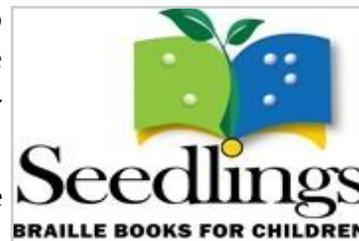


**Eboni** doubled this year and took second in both Great Speeches and Humorous Interpretation! **Ben** did poetry this year, **Colby** doubled in Impromptu and Farrago, **Makalia** read for Serious Prose, and **Autum** served as the alternate for Humorous Prose. Overall, the team took Fourth Place! Congratulations on a successful season!

## Seedlings 2015 Book Angel Program

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is offering two free books to children who are blind or visually impaired each calendar year. The Book Angel Program is open to visually-impaired children, ages 0-21, who live in the US and Canada.

Seedlings has over 1,300 titles from which to choose. They range from Print-Braille-and-Picture Books for toddlers and preschoolers, to best-selling novels for young adults. Please list four books that your child would enjoy, and Seedlings will send two of them .



To register simply fill out the online form by going to Seedling website at [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org) Click on **Special Projects**, and then click on **2015 Book Angel Program for VI children**. You may also fax the registration form to: 734-427-8552 or mail it to: Seedlings, PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924. If you have any questions, please email: [info@seedlings.org](mailto:info@seedlings.org) or call 800-777-8552.

## OSSB Important Dates to Remember

(subject to change)

August 2-7	OSSB Marching Band Camp
August 7	Band Half-time debut - 2:30pm
August 17	Registration 12-4pm
August 18	OSSB First Day of School
September 7	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Labor Day
October 15	OSSB Marching Band to Circleville Pumpkin Show Parade - 8pm



Check out the new signage at *The Panthers' Den*! Special thanks to **Mr. Jeff Shaw** for helping the school store look spiffy before his retirement! Shown above is senior, **Christina**, ready to serve the next customer!

In February, OSSB's speech-pathology and adapted physical education teams collaborated to help students 'learn by doing' while enjoying *The Mitten*, by Jan Brett. After listening to the book, **Mrs. Brewer-Wood**, **Ms. Russell** and **Mrs. Ross** built an obstacle course to simulate the events of the story. Students made a 'sniffing' sound like a mole, a thumping sound like a snowshoe hare, and imitated many other animals as they crawled through the course. At the end, they squeaked like mice, and scampered into the 'mitten,' finally sneezing like the bear as the adults pulled the mitten (parachute) off! What a wonderful job our teachers did of bringing this book to life for our students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities. For pictures and more description of the activity, go to <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/strategies/integrating-emergent-literacy-adaptive-pe>.

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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.