

# Ohio State School for the Blind

## Panther Country

**Fall/Winter 2014-15**

Cynthia M. Johnson, Superintendent

Jeff Reinhard, Interim Principal

Debbie Haptonstall, Asst. Principal

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# **OSSB Interim Principal, Jeff Reinhard**

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Break, and are looking forward to the New Year! 2015 brings some new staffing opportunities at OSSB, for several folks. As your Interim Principal, I will be serving the school community, following Principal Deborah Durham-Miller's retirement on December 31st.

I am a retired school Principal, having served the Hilliard City and Dublin City School Districts for several years. I have been blessed with several "interim" principal appointments during the past few years, and always enjoy serving in new capacities. I had the pleasure of being at the OSSB Winter Concert on Thursday, December 18th, and thoroughly enjoyed the music, the energy, and the excitement shared by students and staff. I spent the day on Friday, December 19th visiting the school and briefly saying hello to many of our school friends.

During the opening weeks of 2015, and our first days back together, I will be enjoying sharing our hopes and dreams for the New Year. I look forward to meeting your student, and I am hopeful that you will visit our place so that we may be able to get to know each other better.

Please feel free to email or call me whenever you have a question or need information. I have learned already that OSSB is an amazing place, filled with hope and promise. I will endeavor in every way to meet the needs of each child.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Together we WILL Leave a Legacy.

Jeff Reinhard  
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# OSSB Goings-on Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

OSSB is pleased to welcome 17 new students to OSSB this fall. In the elementary department are Bryanna, Nolan, Andrew, Sara, Emily, Aidan, Jared, Kamari and Jolee. Joining the middle and high school are Andrew, Cara, Annalicia, Colby, Makalia, Ahmed, Ricardo and Tanner. This year, students have come to us from many districts across the state in cities such as Amanda, Ashland, Blue Ash, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Columbus, Grove City, New Albany, Newark, Reynoldsburg, Springboro, Worthington, and from the country of Egypt!

The OSSB Outreach department recently welcomed new staff member, Shelley McCoy, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Instructor (O&M). (Coincidentally, Ms. McCoy won the OSSB Staff's 'Most Fun Apparel' contest on December 19th-photo at right). Almost

\$100 was raised in the contest, and the money was donated to the OSSB PTSF. A good time was had by all!

Also joining the Outreach department is longtime OSSB employee, Patti Miller, (who was previously at the front desk). We are thrilled to have Mrs. Miller and Ms. McCoy joining our team! Much of the Outreach department and Related Services are now housed on the second floor of the original OSSB school building and we are enjoying our new space.

Erin Sansone has transferred from food service, and is now a teacher's aide in Ms. Patterson's classroom. This fall we were joined by OSU O&M intern Lisa Johnson, and Western Michigan O&M intern, Steve Hoyt. We wish them well as they finish their respective programs!

Please remember as we go through the school year, if your child is going to be out for an appointment or due to illness, you must call the OSSB front office at 614-752-1359. Donna Trapani who is new to our front office is handling

absence calls and she may be reached at 614-468-8869.

Welcome Donna!

## **OSSB Important Announcements**

### **Mrs. Debbie Haptonstall**

Parents and Guardians,

I hope everyone had a great holiday and had the opportunity to enjoy family and friends! Here at OSSB we have had a few changes for the New Year and we want to keep you updated.

Mr. Rick Geyer, Vocational Teacher, retired at the end 2014 and we wish him the best on his retirement. Mr. Geyer devoted over 34 years to OSSB and we are truly grateful for his time and efforts. Stepping into the Vocational role is Mrs. Tami Fisher, and substitute teaching for Mrs. Fisher is Ms. Becky Reed.

There will be a new Administrative Professional greeting you soon at the front desk of OSSB, Ms. Diane Sexton. She is

coming to us from the Residential Department of OSSB. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Sexton.

OSSB would like to congratulate the following students who have passed all sections of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT): Colby, Ben, Donald and Ethan.

We have several students who have only one section left to pass and the next OGT testing sessions will begin the week of March 16th.

Monday, March 16 will be a Professional Day for teachers, so there will be no school on that day. Residential students will return Monday evening, rather than on Sunday evening.

This year I have been facilitating Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings for our students with multiple disabilities and the elementary classes. There may be a few other IEP meetings I might be involved with moving forward. As always, if you need to reach me please don't hesitate to call - my number is 614-468-8887 and I may be

reached by email at [dhaptonstall@osdb.oh.gov](mailto:dhaptonstall@osdb.oh.gov) Have a great day.

## **OSSB Track Team Adventures**

### **Mrs. Nicole Parrish**

The 2014 OSSB Track Team finished another successful season this fall! Team members included senior Boniface; juniors Donald, Colby, and Ethan; sophomores Brandon and Thomas; freshmen Sam; and middle school students Yaqi, Madison, and Autum. The coaches were Mr. Jeff Shaw and Mrs. Nicole Parrish.

Our track season included two meets this year. On September 11, the team traveled to Indiana to take part in a day-meet. Despite the cold and wet weather, students did a wonderful job competing against other teams and putting their practice skills to the test!



Conference took place at the Tennessee School for the Blind on September 27, 2014.

On the way to the competition, the team planned a detour for Mammoth Cave in Kentucky where the kids had a great time exploring the depths of the cave, climbing all 500 steps, and squeezing their way through one of the cave's notable features, Fat Man's Misery! It was truly a "mammoth" and memorable experience!

The weather in Tennessee was bright and sunny for conference this year, but the athletes stepped up to the challenge and performed extremely well! All of the students maintained positive outlooks as they competed the best they could and earned points for their respective teams. Overall, the girls finished in sixth place, and the boys finished in seventh. Donald was named Outstanding Male Track Athlete of the Year, a title he rightly earned due to his strong work ethic and helpful nature to his teammates. The evening concluded with authentic Tennessee Bar-B-Que and a visit from the Jeni's Ice Cream Truck!

# **Kudos to Mrs. Peirano!**

## **Ms. Laura Shearer**

Congratulations to OSSB Elementary Teacher, Ceil Peirano on her National Board Teacher Recertification! She has received this twice- no small feat! National Board certification is the highest mark of professional accomplishment in the field of education. Mrs. Peirano is one of 23 teachers in the entire state of Ohio that have been awarded this distinction this past year in the field of special education.

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education. Completion of National Board Certification signifies that teachers have voluntarily gone above and beyond. Recipients developed and demonstrated the advanced knowledge, skills and practices required of an outstanding educator.

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and professional teacher here at OSSB. If you see Mrs. Peirano be

sure to congratulate her on this prestigious accomplishment.  
OSSB is proud of you, Mrs. Peirano!

## **Save the Date**

**Saturday May 2nd, 2015**

**8:00am – 3:30pm**

Assistive Technology Family Conference for parents, students who are blind or visually impaired, and the professionals who serve them.

### **Featuring**

Keynote speaker

Breakout sessions

Assistive technology vendors

Hands-on demonstrations

Working breakfast and lunch

# Location

Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

2080 Citygate Drive

Columbus, Ohio 43219

# Sponsored by

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Collaborative Partners:

American Council of the Blind (ACBO)

Center for Instructional Support and Accessible Materials  
(CISAM)

Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE)

Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB)

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Education and you should not assume endorsement of the Federal Government.

Two OSSB staff received recognition for their work at the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio (AERO) State conference this fall. Deafblind Outreach Consultant, Bernadette Van Den Tillaart won the Judy Cernkovich Excellence in Education Award, an award that recognizes an Ohio educator who has proved to be outstanding in the field of special education for students with visual impairments. Ann Pilewskie, Transition Coordinator received the J. Kenneth Cozier award, This award is given to an outstanding person in the field of visual impairment and blindness and is a huge honor! Congratulations to all!

# Art Room Activities

## Ms. Kathleen Canalos

Sculpture and assemblage were a big part of this term's art making agenda. Using a variety of media to create three-dimensional forms, OSSB art classes explored papier-mâché making, cardboard construction, assembly, fastening, collaging, sewing and binding techniques. Several of the cardboard constructions were painted holiday colors to match the "Christmas Village" installation set up in the lobby. A collection of painted papier-mâché animal figures and characters were nicely displayed in the display case in the school lobby throughout the fall.

In a study of textile arts, seventh-graders took some time out to learn knotmaking and macramé. They created hand-knotted or macramé keychains, bracelets and necklaces. Students also used mesh fabric to design a pouch, learned how to sew various stitches and string up some beads, tied strong knots, and created seams for their bags.

Nothing seemed as fascinating to the kids as a nicely 'slapped' ball of clay. Students at all levels learned to shape and squeeze, press and manipulate soft clay into pinchpots, rounded beads and flat slabs. OSSB students studied a brief history of ceramics, pottery and clay-building techniques. Relying on both fine-motor and gross-motor skills, they learned to throw, knead and work the moist clay, and then learned the steps for simple firing and glazing applications. With Mr. Geyer's help in the old Voc-Tech room, we were able to fire up the kiln and renew production of Christmas ornaments, pinchpots, coiled pots and colorful handmade beads. Many students made holiday gifts out of these items.

Students also made time to contribute to the OSSB Silent Auction effort by hand painting and decorating donated ceramic food containers. Everyone seemed to enjoy their imaginative creations.

# OSSB Honor Roll

## Ms. Kenyata Campbell & Mrs. Lauri Kaplan

The following students in grades 7-12 achieved a 3.00-3.49 GPA for the second quarter of school and have their names up on the OSSB Honor Roll Board: Selvin, DeCoda, LeeAnn, Wyatt, Sam R., Kavon, Kris, Casey, Taylor, Ethan, Donald, Andrea, Jacob, Brandon, Rae, Don, and Ahmed.

Those students who made it to Super Honor Roll with a GPA from 3.50-4.00 are Yaqi, Austin, Ben, Boniface, Cameron, Sam D., Colby and Amanda.

We also want to celebrate the students who made honor roll during the first nine weeks of the school year. The OSSB Honor Roll Board included: Alyssa, Chantel, Decoda, Troy, Thomas, Kris, Kavon, Andrea, Jacob, Megan, Wyatt, Olivia, Sam R., Casey, LeeAnn, Brendon, Tanner, Brianne, Donald, Sam D., Brandon, Taylor, Ben and Eboni. Those students with a Super Honor Roll designation were Selvin, Madison, Yaqi, Boniface, Ethan, Amanda, Cameron, Colby and Austin.



We are so proud of all of these young people! Keep up the great work, and inspire others to do the same!

## **2015 OSSB Marching Band Events**

### **Mrs. Carol Agler**

The OSSB Marching Band has a number of engagements this winter and spring, and we hope to see you at one of these events:

Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 5:40 p.m. OSSB Marching Band performs at Ohio School for the Deaf basketball game vs Mt. Gilead in the OSD gymnasium, 500 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214. The game begins at 6:00 p.m. OSSBMB plays 20 minutes during the warm-ups prior to the start of the game, and at the half. The public is invited.

Monday, January 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Worthington Civic Band and the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band will

present a joint concert in the auditorium at OSSB. The public is invited.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, Time to be announced, OSSB Marching Band performs at the Battle of Worthington (a basketball game), Worthington Kilbourne High School, 1499 Hard Road, Columbus, OH 43235. The public is invited.

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 1:00 p.m. OSSB Marching Band will present a joint concert in the Atrium of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum, Collection Auto Group Plaza, 1100 Rock and Roll Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio 44114. The public is invited. Students will also participate in an educational course called "Fight the Power: Music As a Social Force" which is a powerful way for the students to learn how music effects our lives, our history and our future. This class features songs from the 1960s and early 1970s that have challenged audiences to consider the alternatives and make changes in our society. Students explore recordings and videos of legendary artists to examine expressions of social commentary contained in lyrics, performance styles, and

historical images. The band members will tour the museum as well. See more at: <http://rockhall.com>

Thursday, May 14, 2015, 1:00 p.m. Spring Recital at OSSB Auditorium.

6:30 p.m. Spring Concert, OSSB Auditorium.

The public is invited to both events.

Friday, May 22, 2015 Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band departs for Washington, D.C.

Monday, May 25, 2015, 1:00 p.m. Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band will proudly represent the Great State of Ohio, and demonstrate the abilities of those with disabilities when they march in the National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C.

The Best Blind Band in the Land has been raising funds toward covering the cost of the trip May 22-25, 2015 to Washington DC. They are selling royal blue t-shirts with the band's logo on the front, and on the back is a silhouette of a trumpet player in a band uniform, his/her trumpet angled upward and the words "Best Blind Band in the Land." The

shirts are in sizes youth XS through adult 3XL and are \$15 each. They will sell these shirts throughout the school year. To order yours, contact a band member, marching assistant, Carol Agler or Yolanda Johnson.

## **OSSB Student Council/Leo Club Holiday Project**

### **Mrs. Tami Fisher**

In November the OSSB Leo Club and Student Council collected items for the Dahlberg-Gibson Learning Center. It is an early intervention center for young students living in Columbus with various types of disabilities. We collected items to help the families with personal care needs during the holidays. Our collection for Dalhberg was a huge success! We collected....drum roll....383 items to give to the school along with a \$20.00 donation. Mrs. Fisher's class counted out all of the items and made a table graph. We collected 5

hygiene products, 33 rolls of toilet paper, 28 deodorant, 44 tubes of toothpaste, 34 toothbrushes, 8 rolls of paper towels, 123 body soaps, 12 hand soaps, 9 bottles of lotion, 73 bottles of shampoo and conditioner, 1 bottle of laundry soap and 6 various other items.

We are very proud of the hard work Ms. Fisher's class and the Leo Club/Student Council did to support our school in this amazing drive for those in need! YEAH OSSB!!!

## **OSSB Student Takes Talents To SUNRISE**

### **Mrs. Lauri Kaplan**

In December, OSSB student Andrew had the chance to entertain the fine folks of SUNRISE of Worthington, not once, but twice! Mrs. Carol Agler arranged for Andrew to perform at SUNRISE and to share his talents. I spoke with Andrew about his experience and he had this to say: "I played Go Tell it on the Mountain, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Silent Night, The 12 Days of Christmas, We Wish You a Merry

Christmas, Jingle Bells, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, and Deck the Halls.” I asked Andrew if the consumers had a favorite song? “Yeah, they had a favorite and I played it so slow and tranquil, it was ‘Go Tell it on the Mountain.’ Andrew is currently working on another set for the new year including hits from the 1940’s such as You Are My Sunshine, and Don’t Sit Under The Apple Tree (With Anyone Else But Me). When asked about any final thoughts, Andrew shared, “My time at Sunrise was very good ... I sang and I played nice and slowly.

## **OSSB Important Dates to Remember**

*(subject to change)*

### **January 2015**

January 15 Wrestling & Cheerleading to Kentucky for Day Meet

January 19 NO SCHOOL MLK Jr. Day

January 20 Girl Scouts

January 21 Leo Club

January 23-24 NCASB Conference, Wrestling & Cheerleading to  
Tennessee

## **February 2015**

February 2 PeeWee Practice Starts

February 3 Girl Scouts

February 4 Leo Club meeting

February 17 Swimming & Forensics practice begins

February 23 NO SCHOOL President's Day

February 24 Chocolate Fair

February 27 Hathaway Brown Orchestra

Ohio State School for the Blind

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Columbus, OH 43214

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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.