

Ohio State School
for the Blind

PANTHER COUNTRY

Winter 2018

Danny Ransey, Principal

Michelle Wagner, Assistant Principal

Inside This Issue

K/1 Class **1**

OSSB Social Media

English classes, Boxtops **2**

Cross Fit Workout

Panther Graduate, Dale **3**

Yankee Candles

OSSB Cheerleaders **4**

Smart What?

OSSB Preschool Fun

OSSB Podcast **5**

Guardianship in Ohio

Vocational Catering

Important Dates **6**

OSSB Wrestling

World Braille Day

K/1 Class Stays Busy!

Ms. Laura Shearer

The K/1 class has sure been busy! We went on a field trip to a greenhouse in October where we learned about plants and got to take a hayride and get a pumpkin, and we also got to see many different kinds of plants and flowers. The kids did their own flower arranging and learned about the different kinds of soil and flowers. This fall we also visited Lynd's Fruit Farm to pick apples, we celebrated our Veterans, and enjoyed playing with Playdough with our classmates.

Picture Omitted:

Ms. Laura Shearer's Kindergarten/First Grade classroom enjoyed many activities both at OSSB and in the local community. Students include Ansu, Brenna, Cheyenne, Jayven, Korbyn, Lyric and Mikaia. Stay tuned to the next Panther Paws newsletter for more adorable faces and fun!

The Ohio State School for the Blind welcomed Principal, Danny Ransey this past fall. Among all of his other duties, he is working with the OSD/OSSB Communications department to make the OSSB website more user friendly, and to keep it up to date with current information you need and want to know! Check us out at www.ossb.oh.gov. We have also added a school sponsored Facebook page that will include upcoming events, as well as photos from school activities. You may find our Facebook page at this link: https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateSchoolfortheBlind/?ref=br_rs or by searching on Facebook for Ohio State School for the Blind government agency. Also look for OSSB's official YouTube Channel found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_fNwrgfpmfgQL4DWMDYkBQ Come join us on the web, and on social media!

2

PANTHER COUNTRY

Winter/Spring in English Language Arts

Mrs. Erica Bardon

State Tests are coming up in April! Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 will have ELA tests.

Here is what's happening in English Language Arts.

Junior High: Studying conflict, Southern Sudan, Point of View, and reading “A Long Walk to Water” by Linda Sue Park

9th Grade: Focusing on empathy, research, and essay skills while reading fiction and nonfiction pieces about America's Great Depression

10th Grade: Learning about the mystery novel genre while reading Agatha's Christie's classic “And Then There Were None”

11th Grade: Analyzing women's role as American authors and female character development. Also, the ACT is coming up in March!

12th Grade: Focusing on essay structure and composition

Mr. Heath's 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade: Researching a figure from the American Revolution and writing an informational acrostic poem

Just a reminder to parents that grades update in ProgressBook once a week and my contact information is ebardon@ossb.oh.gov. Enjoy the weather and keep warm!

Working Out!

Mrs. Tamara Fisher

Mrs. Brewer-Wood's Physical Education class participated in an exercise unit to learn about a variety of ways to keep their bodies active. As part of the unit, Mrs. Fisher brought in equipment from Back Home CrossFit of Centerburg, Ohio. The students really enjoyed learning about warm up stretches, kettle bell swings, dumbbell presses, and snatches. There are several blind and visually impaired CrossFit athletes around the world that participate in daily training and the annual CrossFit games. We are looking forward to creating a fitness club to assist our students in creating a habit of lifelong learning.

Pictures Omitted:

CrossFit lesson in Physical Education Class. Photo left—Evan, Peggy and D 'Arionna. Center—Emily and Mrs. Fisher. Photo right—Jared and Ian.

Thank you to all of our parents who have been saving Boxtops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education. The Campbell's Labels for Education has been discontinued as of January of this year, but we will continue to collect Boxtops for Education coupons. The students from Delta Gamma help us submit the Boxtops and the money from the Boxtops for Education program helps fund field trips, the arts festival or other special needs of the students. Please continue to send all Boxtops for Education to Mrs. Peirano. Thank You!

3

PANTHER COUNTRY

Spotlight on a Panther Graduate

Mrs. Rachel Smith, COMS

I recently had a conversation with former Panther Dale Ellis. Upon hearing about his life post OSSB, I decided to interview him and share that with our Panther Newsletter audience.

Q: Dale, when did you graduate OSSB?

A: I graduated in 2014.

Q: What is your current living situation?

A: I live in my own apartment in Athens, Ohio. I live independently of my family and the only help I receive is when my mom visits, she sometimes takes me shopping for groceries or other stuff that I may need. I visit with my mom every weekend so we can stay connected in each other's lives.

Q: Dale, are you currently working?

A: Yes, currently I work as a greeter at the Texas Roadhouse. I work Thursday, Friday and Saturday night during the dinner time rush. I love when I see regular diners come into the

restaurant and get to talk to them. Sometimes, I even get tips for doing my job well. I am able to navigate around the restaurant independently and I take the bus to get to work.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: One thing I really like to do is take the bus to get to my volunteering job at the Laurels nursing home in Athens. There I talk to the residents and help out if someone needs help. I have been told that I cheer the residents up. Other things I like to do in my spare time are go to different restaurants to eat, participate in leisure activities, go for walks and visit with my mom.

Q: How did you find these opportunities?

A: I found the job at Texas Roadhouse and the volunteer opportunity through a Developmental Disabilities agency called Personnel Plus.

Q: Any advice you would like to give students of OSSB who are getting ready to graduate?

A: Life can be hard after you graduate, keep the faith that things will work out with some hard work on your part and work hard to move forward with your life. I have learned that you really need to be able to rely on yourself rather than relying totally on others. It's good to have something to do after you graduate instead of just sitting around. Really pay attention to your teachers and what they are trying to teach you and advise you, they really do have your best interest at heart regardless of their teaching style or personality.

Picture Omitted

OSSB's Parent Teacher Staff Organization held our Yankee Candle fall fundraiser in September of this school year. Thank you so much for helping your student with orders this year. We were able to raise over \$1460.00! This has become an annual fall sale for OSSB, so look for catalogs to come home with your student next September!

4

PANTHER COUNTRY

OSSB Cheerleaders have Spirit!

Coach Ashley Shope

Picture Omitted:

Coach Shope and Coach Traucht, first year cheerleading coaches, led a crew of 9 cheerleaders throughout a wonderful season full of awesome learning experiences. We travelled to Indiana for a day meet and Wisconsin for our Cheer Competition. Our cheerleaders: Autum R., Aujanee B., Sarah C., Sophia L., Cameron C., Alex S., Sumeya H., Samiro H. and Kayla G. worked very hard and took 5th place in the team competition. Sophia, our outstanding cheerleader, took second place.

Picture Omitted:

You may have noticed some new white paint in front of and around the exterior of OSSB. What you are seeing is something called 'smart paint' to be used in tandem with a smart cane.

It is a collaborative effort with numerous educational and city partners, as well as several industries. The photo at left shows O&M instructor Mary Swartwout demonstrating a smart cane. For more information, check out the article in [Government Technology](#) for the latest about smart technologies designed to help people who are blind or visually impaired navigate the world around them.

Early Learning Center—Preschool Fun

Mrs. Debbie Grim

The Early Learning Center (ELC) of OSSB and OSD kept busy early in the new year. Winter snowfall was beneficial to our study of the arctic. We were able to use real snow to build igloos and we also explored water in its liquid form in our warm classrooms. After we put our trays of water outside in the cold air of twenty-two degrees, we used tools to experiment with breaking the sheets of ice. Some sheets were too thick to break, so we added warm salt water to help melt our ice to find treasures we had put into the water before freezing.

The Early Learning Center provides students with many opportunities in the community through weekly field trips. However, after our first trip to Buckeye Gymnastics, we decided to make that a once a **month** trip. The staff is phenomenal, and the kids really look forward to the physical activity, especially in weather so cold that we aren't able to have outdoor recess! The ELC also took a trip to COSI to visit the new dinosaur exhibit. We brought with us some prior knowledge from our dinosaur theme we studied in the fall. One thing we learned was how to distinguish a dinosaur skull from other skulls. Did you know that dinosaurs all have a hole in their skull in front of their eye sockets? The purpose was most likely to reduce weight to help them run and fly faster.

While the dinosaur exhibit brought us to COSI, some students made a brief visit to space... the exhibit that is! And for a music enthusiast who is blind, a trip to COSI isn't complete without a short visit to the laser harp in the lobby for some impromptu song creation.

Pictures Omitted

5

PANTHER COUNTRY

OSSB Podcast now on SoundCloud and iTunes

OSSB started a podcast a little over a year ago. What is a podcast? It is a digital audio file made available on the internet or downloaded to mobile devices, typically available as a series. This OSSB project originally started in the vocational department where students would find a topic and discuss it, make a recording, and edit that recording to produce a podcast. In September of this school year, the podcast transitioned to a different level.

While students are still working on conversation skills, skills of inquiry, transferring information and computer concepts, the podcast also became an audio newsletter.

During the 2017-18 school year, OSSB high school students study a different country each month and learn about different cultures. We also try to feature an alumni from OSSB to learn what they have been up to since graduation. In February, we heard from Larry Smith, who graduated in 1960. With the podcasts, we try to capture what is going on at OSSB in a given month. We ask for contributions by staff and students and our podcast team of Andre, Latrell and Jason conduct and edit interviews and then compile everything into one master podcast each month. Mr. Kelley's fifth period computer class contributes material based on research and discussion. Check out our podcast found on Soundcloud.com and iTunes. You can also do a search on your podcast app for "ossb" and we will be the top hit. Thank you for checking out our podcast!

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has recently updated their user-friendly information guide—[Guardianship in Ohio](#). Learn about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship when a child turns 18. This booklet offers a comprehensive overview of guardianship and alternatives in Ohio. The information is written for families who have a child with a developmental disability but may be relevant for others who need to navigate the often confusing and intimidating world of probate court and guardianship. Here is a [web link](#) that will take you to a PDF of this new guide, or you can contact Lauri Kaplan, OSSB Parent Mentor for a print copy at 614-728-1567, or lkaplan@ossb.oh.gov

Vocational Catering at OSSB

The OSSB Vocational catering department recently sharpened their skills, and dressed for success to provide a special treat at the Ohio Department of Education in Downtown Columbus. OSSB catering program students, under the direction of Sarah Salvagna and Cindy Swisher, and students from the Ohio School for the Deaf Culinary department, prepared and served a luncheon meal for ODE administrators in December. The students cooked lasagna, salad, bread and holiday cookies. It was a great collaborative effort, and they all learned skills that will be helpful long after they graduate.

Pictures Omitted

OSSB's Andre, Sarah, Aujanee and Alex teamed up with OSD Culinary students to prepare and serve a meal.

OSSB Important Dates

(subject to change)

APRIL

April 2-6, 2018:

NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

April 12, 2018:

Swimming and Forensics Day meet @ Indiana School for the Blind

April 19, 2018:

Senior Dinner—6:00 pm

April 27-29, 2018:

NCASB Conference—Swimming/ Forensics-Ohio

April 27, 2018:

Swim/Forensic Pep Rally 9th Period

MAY

May 2, 2018:

Girl Scouts End of Year Party— 6:00 pm

May 4, 2018: **Walk-a-Thon**

May 10, 2018: **Spring Concert**

May 23, 2018:

Music Awards Night—7:00 pm

May 25, 2018: **Graduation**

May 30, 2018:

Last Day of School—Dismiss at 2:30pm

For more important dates in May go to: [OSSB Activity Calendar](#)

Pictures Omitted

OSSB Wrestler's Marwan, Ian, Alex C., and Latrell pose with our Panther Mascot at a recent meet. Latrell and Marwan took 1st place in their weight class, and Alex and Ian each took 2nd place. Evan (not pictured) was unable to participate.

Above center and right—OSSB students and staff celebrated World Braille Day in honor of Louis Braille's birthday. Students participated in a team quiz competition, and also enjoyed teaching and practicing braille with their friends. Other activities included braille cookie decorating (with chocolate chips as the dots in the cell), braille card games such as Uno, and other board games.

Ohio State School for the Blind

5220 N. High Street

Columbus, OH 43214

614-752-1359 www.ossb.oh.gov

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.