

Missouri Record

Winter-Spring 2007



First Lady Blunt Donates Books to MSD

By Katherine Cummins, *The Fulton Sun*

Four pairs of eyes grow round as a stack of new books is placed on the table before them.

Four pairs of hands eagerly sort through the pile, setting aside titles approved for further review.

Four avid readers immerse themselves in stories about baking elephants, unlikely friendships, mysterious houses and dinosaurs.

It is for this moment that Missouri School for the Deaf librarian Virginia Johns has been waiting ever since she received the news that MSD was one of two schools selected by Missouri First Lady Melanie Blunt to receive 120 books from Scholastic Read for Life.

“We’re going to use some for the library, some for the dorms, some for the teachers, and some for prizes,” Johns said as she watched Stark Elementary second-graders Scotty, Elizabeth, Lamont and Cheyenne lose themselves in the new books.

Scholastic Read for Life is a special program that culminates each December in a special day during which children around the world participate in a read-a-thon for 33 minutes. The students also are asked to make a commitment to read every day throughout the next year.

As a way to encourage participation in the program, schools are selected for the donation of new books. This year, Blunt — Missouri Parents as Teacher’s Ambassador for Reading, chose MSD to receive multiple copies of 10 different books for children ages 4-12.

“This is great because it brings us new titles that are interesting to read and take a look at,” Johns said. “It helps us to get books into the hands of our students and encourage them to be lifelong readers.”

Although she said the MSD libraries have a good selection, the schools always welcome donations of new books because “it always excites the students with something new to learn.”

Stark teacher Angie Gannon agreed.

“If the library gets new books and puts them out on the table, they’ll go straight for them,” Gannon said

through an interpreter.

Her students certainly were excited about the new volumes Johns showed them during their weekly trip to Stark’s Raymond F. McCallister Jr. Library (that) afternoon.



Photo courtesy of Justin Kelley, *The Fulton Sun*

Missouri School for the Deaf second graders from left, Scotty, Elizabeth, Lamont, teacher Angie Gannon, and Cheyenne sort through books that were donated to the Stark Elementary School’s Raymond F. McCallister Jr. Library by Melanie Blunt, the wife of Governor Matt Blunt. Blunt donated more than 100 books to the library.

“I think they’re cool,” Cheyenne said through an interpreter as she singled out “Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship,” the story of a giant tortoise that helped raise an orphaned hippopotamus, as her favorite. “I like animals, and they’re friends.”

Lamont said his favorite new book is “Ella Takes the Cake,” the story of a young elephant helping her mother by delivering a birthday cake.

“I like it because you know she’s walking, and the birthday

cake is there, and it rolls away,” he said through an interpreter.

Scotty and Elizabeth had more trouble picking favorites.

“I like them all. I like ‘Zen Shorts’ best, and this one, and this one, and this one,” Elizabeth said through an interpreter as she pulled copies of each book toward her side of the table. “I think it’s a neat idea that they were donated. I have lots of books at home, too.”

Seeing the students’ enthusiasm for the new books has left Johns inspired to get the school active with next year’s read-a-thon.

“We’ll definitely be participating this time,” Johns said as she prepared to check out four stacks of books.

—Reprinted by permission from *the Fulton Sun*





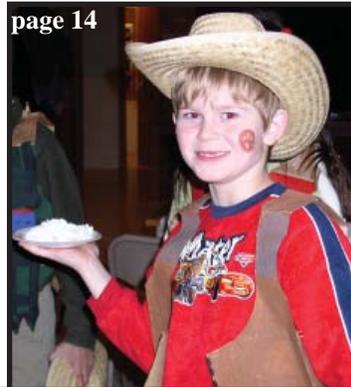
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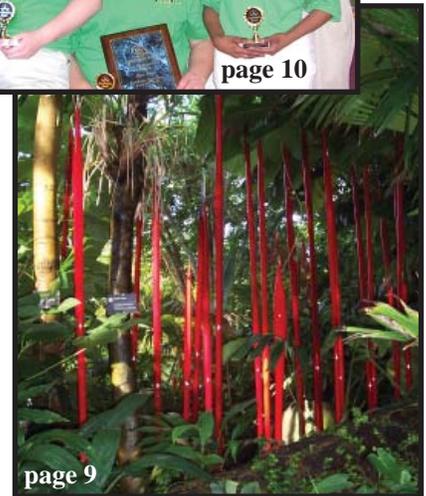
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Cover design by Kevin Spencer and MSD’s Digital Imaging Department. The cover picture shows the MSD Eagle mascot standing in front of the “M” at the north end of the football field.

Signs of the Time

by Barbara Garrison



Another chapter in Deaf History begins as Robert Devila has just taken the reins as Interim President of Gallaudet University. This act ends the protest by students, faculty and alumni world-wide relative to the process that had appointed Dr. Jane K. Fernandez as predecessor to Dr. I. King Jordan as Gallaudet President and served as a demonstration for the preservation of values within the Deaf Culture, world-wide:

1. FLUENCY IN A SIGN LANGUAGE AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LANGUAGE.

The grave difficulty of acquiring spoken language for the prelingually deaf has been balanced by the community's genius in creating original, indigenous sign languages that are truly "of" the nation that nurtures the signing deaf as citizens, embodying both their national culture and the culture of the Deaf community itself.

2. KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT FOR THE CULTURAL NORMS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY.

Waving a hand, creating a vibration with an object to gain attention, and pointing at people is not considered rude behavior with the Deaf community and direct eye contact is insisted on to glean meaning. There are Deaf culture norms for introductions and leave-taking, which are prolonged and physical with much contact, humor, and wit. Many other cultural norms are different from those of the hearing culture within which Deaf culture is embedded.

3. ADAPTATIONS TO DEAFNESS.

Deafness may present both liabilities and assets in the interaction of the Deaf with the surrounding world. While one cannot attract the attention of a deaf person by calling their name, deaf people can communicate freely where ambient noise prohibits communication, or even comfort, among the hearing.

4. THE DEAF DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS DISABLED.

Deaf people in this country are a linguistic subculture. They identify themselves as Deaf, as an ethnic identity, and not a physical condition. People who identify themselves as Deaf belong to a proud and distinctive subcultural group known as the Deaf community. The uppercase "Deaf" is used to identify those who are members of the Deaf community. They feel they are simply a linguistic minority, and are no more in need of a cure for their condition than are Haitians or Hispanics. Hearing people who treat deafness as a disability or subscribe to a pathological perspective of deafness are sometimes met with hostility by those in the Deaf community. As rare an instance as it is, it is a reaction to the hostility that deaf people experience from hearing people throughout their lives.

Until the mid 1980's in America, most Deaf children learned about deaf culture in schools for the Deaf, from other children, teachers, and dormitory leaders. The cultural link was strong, and the Deaf community is quite cohesive. Since that time, Federal law has focused on educating the Deaf child in his family's local school and new techniques like cochlear implants have caused a shift from the sociological model of acceptance to the pathological model of "fixing something broken" again. Ninety percent of deaf children have two hearing parents and parents who are unknowledgeable of the Deaf culture and opt to educate in their local school (85%), only a minority of Deaf community members (15%) acquire their cultural identity and distinctive social skills from the Deaf community. This attack on the existence of the Deaf community results in conflicts both within the Deaf community and Deaf education.

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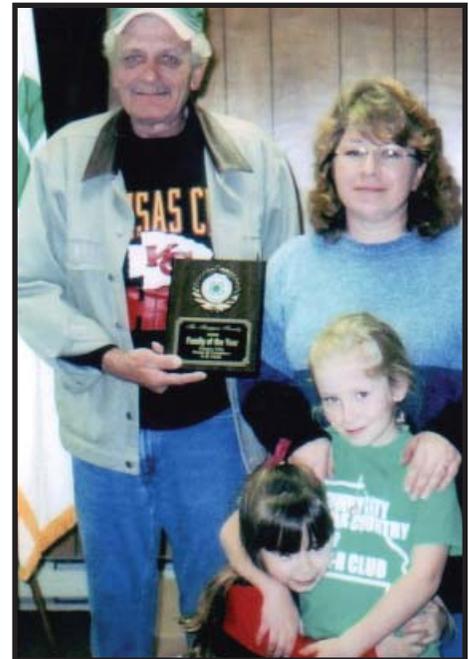
Alumni News

by Tom Bastean

Tshappat's Named Family of the Year

At the November meeting of the Lowry City Town and Country 4-H Club the Tshappat family was named the 2005-2006 Family of the Year. Bob, Linda and daughters, Amelia and Alicia have been a very active family this past year taking part by attending club meetings, assisting at Clover Kid activities, community service activities including Make a Difference Day, Christmas caroling at Truman Lake Manor, Community Easter Egg Hunt, and Lowry City Craft Fair booths and parade. They participated throughout the year beginning at Osceola Rodeo Daze in September 2005 and continuing all year and finished the year at the pool party and picnic in August 2006. Amelia is a very active Clover Kid, exhibiting at St. Clair County Achievement day and leading songs and giving reports at club meetings. The Tshappat family is an asset to the club and very deserving of this honor.

—Reprinted from *St. Clair County Courier, Osceola, Mo., Nov. 24, 2006*



Bob Tshappat (1967 MSD Graduate) and Family. Bob, Linda, Amelia, and Alicia Tshappat were recently named Lowry City Town and Country 4-H 2006 Family of the Year.

Obituaries

Robert E. Clark ('58) passed away peacefully with the people he loved by his side on December 3, 2006 at his son Kevin's home in Sacramento, Ca. He suffered from a long term illness of pulmonary (lungs) fibrosis. Born December 21, 1938, he believed his most important job was being a husband and father, and he was a phenomenal one. He loved one woman his whole life, Margaret L. (Creasey, '57) Clark. They were married for 48 years. They have three beautiful children: Roberta (1980), Kevin (1987), and Darline (1989). His unconditional love, his generous spirit, his big heart and his compassion for others are all ways in which he showed that he loved us very much. He enjoyed 6 years of retirement after working for the Butternut Bread Company for 42 years. Also, he was a loyal member of the Heart of America Association of the Deaf for more than 30 years and was treasurer of H.A.A.D. for 25 years. He is survived by his wife Margaret

L. Clark, their children Roberta Clark, Kevin Clark and his partner Jim Henderson, Darline and her husband David Gunsauls, his grandchildren Tanya and her husband Nate Northcraft, Aaron Barnett, Tiffany Gunsauls, Selina Gunsauls, and his great-grandbaby Cannon Northcraft.

John Alton Moore ('37), age 90, long-time resident of North Kansas City, died Monday, January 1, 2007 at Johnson County Nursing Center, Olathe, Kansas. John was born January 11, 1916 in Browning, Missouri to John B. (Jack) and Merry Glenn Moore. He was a mill worker for Whitetaker Cable, retiring in 1981 after 33 years of service. John graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf in 1937 and was active in both the Greater Kansas City and the Heart of America Associations of the Deaf. After graduation, he was immediately hired as a residential advisor of the boys dormitory and worked in that position for several years. He also enjoyed bowling, fishing, and hunt-

ing, and managing a Deaf women's softball team. John is preceded in death by a brother, Robert and sister-in-law, Beverly. He is survived by sons, Louie (and Cindy), Monticello, MS and Gary (and Hallie), Tonganoxie, KS; daughter, Cara (and Steven) Gregory, Raymore, MO; step-daughter, Reba Perkins, North Kansas City, MO; several grandchildren, great granddaughter, and a niece. (Reprinted from *Kansas City Star* on January 4, 2007 with corrections from daughter Cara.)

Paul S. Curtis, Jr. (1950) passed away at the age of 72 on February 13, 2007. Paul graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf in 1950. He returned for short time as a Post Graduate student until the end of December, 1950. (Published in the *Kansas City Star*- February 15, 2007).

Obituaries, continued

Shana Post ('95), age 32 of Fulton, died Friday, January 12, 2007 at her home. She was born June 13, 1974 in Joplin to Bud and Liana (Aronhalt) McClure. Shana graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf in June of 1995. Survivors include two brothers, Ronnie McClure of Sedalia and Michael McClure of Leesville, La.; a sister, Tammi Post of Booneville; three nieces, a nephew; a maternal grandmother; and several aunts and uncles. Shana Post worked at Kingdom Projects and the Fulton Taco Bell. (Reprinted from *Fulton Sun* January 18, 2007.)

Signs of the Time

(continued from page 4)

Cochlear implants to the Deaf community indicate that they aren't good enough and need to be "fixed" while they may not see themselves as "broken". Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing are scattered throughout public school classrooms all over America. The fear is that mainstreamed programs do not hold the same values and opportunities for our Deaf children and that the focus on pathology and not sociology will undermine a strong Deaf identity and pride.

Residential schools along with colleges like Gallaudet are facing declining enrollments and changing profiles of their students. The movement toward inclusion into the "hearing" world affects all organizations related to deafness. How will the Deaf community educate students who are D/HH that we never meet? More to come.

DESE Names Atkins Lieberman to Lead Division of Special Education

Heidi Atkins Lieberman, a veteran official of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has been selected to lead the Department's division of special education. Commissioner of Education D. Kent King announced her appointment in March, 2007. She replaces Melodie Friedebach who retired last December.



She joined the state education agency in 1990 and has served as legal counsel for the Division of Special Education since that time. Before joining DESE, she was a lawyer in private practice in Jefferson City for four years.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in special education, as we make the connection between compliance and student performance. I look forward to working with our stakeholders and staff in continuing our focus on improving achievement for all students," she said.

A New York native, Ms. Atkins Lieberman graduated from law school at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville in 1984. She served a one-year clerkship with Missouri Supreme Court Justice Andrew Jackson Higgins before entering private practice in Jefferson City.

Soaring Eagle Awards

Soaring Eagle awards are given each month through the school year. MSD employees are nominated by their co-workers and selected by committee to receive the award. The Soaring Eagle award is given in recognition of Outstanding Service to the school. Here are our recipients since the last issue for the 2006-2007 school year. A big THANKS and Congratulations to each winner!



December 2006
Jean Steiferman



February 2007
Susan Anderson - nurse



March 2007
Darlene Bangerter - Secretary



April 2007
Paul Wolfe - RA

Fulton Public Library/Garden Club Beautification Recognition

At the request of the Fulton Garden Club, Dwayne Baker, landscaper from MSD's maintenance department, and Barbara Garrison went to the Fulton Public Library where they were presented a Beautification Award for the MSD campus. Specifically noted were the Reed Water Garden, the area around Alice's statue and the entrance to Wheeler Hall. We should also recognize Dawn Culbertson, our horticulture instructor as she was the mastermind behind the water garden; and all MSD staff and students who have made that area such a pleasant and beautiful addition to our campus. The award will hang in the power house entrance way. Those of us who live and work here speak often of our beautiful campus. It's really nice that the local community also appreciates the MSD campus. Congratulations MSD!

Elementary Activities at Stark School

Reading Across America

On March 2nd, Stark School took part in the 10th annual Reading Across America celebration. The event was established by the National Education Association to promote literacy, and is the nation's largest reading event. The event also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, and this classic children's author is directly tied to the occasion.

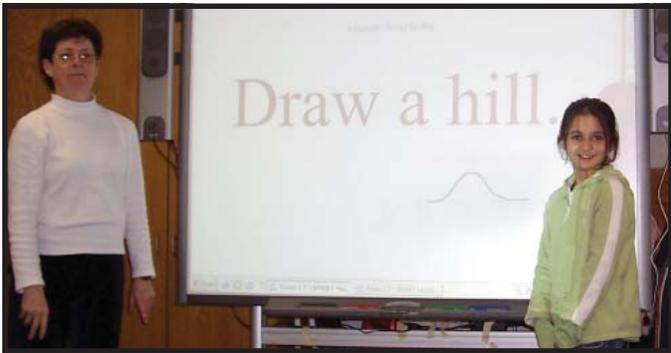
We started off the day with a special visit from Superintendent Barbara Garrison and Assistant Superintendent Tom Bastean. They had the children entranced with their reading of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

The week prior to the special event, Mrs. Maxwell's art class made special stovepipe "Cat in the Hat" hats to commemorate the occasion. During the experience, each child was assigned to read with a staff member, and put on their new hats. Each child also received a new book for the celebration.



Dustin, Leman and Cheyenne read with Mrs. Wood.

Academic Bowl



Martha Eisenhour supervises as Elizabeth is asked to draw a hill during the Stark Academic Bowl.

It was February. The bitter air bit our cheeks. But for one week our little 'Starkies' didn't feel the cold. The heat of competition radiated throughout Stark School. There could only be one explanation for this heat in a very cold February: The Academic Bowl.

The Academic Bowl gives our students a chance to show off their skills in varying subjects and have fun. This year the Academic Bowl incorporated the use of our SMART-boards. This technology helped the teachers categorize all of the questions into folders on a computer — rather than the old way which included an abundance of transparencies and papers. The competition was tense and exciting, and both our students and staff had a grand time.

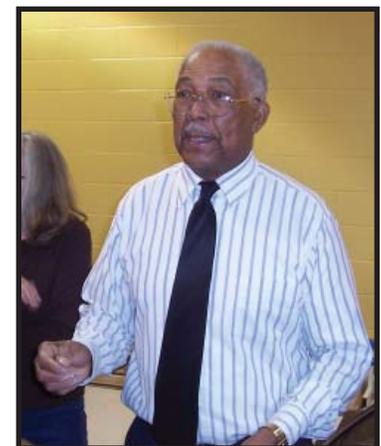
Mr. Jack McBride, the President of Fulton NAACP and President of the Youth Life Improvement Association, took the elementary students at MSD on an incredible journey through his life as he spoke during their celebration of Black History month. He spoke about his heritage, segregation and how he went to war to fight during World War II for the civil rights of *all* people, but came back to a still segregated America. Through his stories the students could relate to a broader meaning of respect, equality and perseverance.

The students were fascinated with Mr. McBride's stories of the war — when he served in the United States Navy on an amphibious assault ship, and of a Japanese plane suicide attack on the ship where he was serving. During that attack, there wasn't enough time to get his hearing protection and consequently he lost some of his hearing.

Through his stories, Mr. McBride showed the students how he stood up for change. The powerful message was about channeling energy into productive activities as a catalyst for change. Mr. McBride told of sitting in the movie theater, enrolling at school and eating in restaurants and of how those actions helped promote change because he was standing up for his rights without being violent.

Mr. McBride planted lots of seeds in the minds of the students that day. Stories from his past taught the lessons that help individuals become stronger and better people. Mr. McBride's story will be passed down for generations and now it will extend even farther into the Deaf community.

Celebrating Black History Month



Jack McBride speaks to students at Stark during Black History Month.

Middle School News

Science Fair



Wheeler Middle School held its annual Science Fair on January 25, 2007. All of our middle school scientists gathered in the scout cabin to present their experiments. Each student was required to develop an experiment that included testing variables. They had to plan the experiment, gather the materials, perform the experiment, record observations, and develop a conclusion. They also had to create a poster to display what they learned. The teachers involved in working with the students were Ann Hollenbeck, Sheri Medlock, and Jill Haus. Aides Barbara Jones and Susan Maddox were very helpful, too.

There were experiments from all areas of science, covering the subjects of beauty (testing shampoos), to the truly gross (growing mold and dissolving egg shells). From physics, there were experiments about force, balance, flight, pendulums, periscopes, and the effects of heat and cold on objects. From chemistry there were experiments about testing shampoo, creating the best “gluep,” growing crystals, dissolving egg shells, invisible ink, the electrolysis of water, creating carbon dioxide, the density of alcohol and water, and bubble solutions. There were several biology experiments, including growing plants in different soils, measuring the water that transpires out of leaves, observing flowers that absorb colored water, and the growth of yeast in bread. In earth science, one student studied how soil filters water.

The projects were judged by 6 judges. Each grade level had first, second, and third place winners. The judges had a very difficult time arriving at their decisions, as all students were really winners while they learned the scientific process.

—by Jill Haus



Steven and his periscope.



Shaquille is talking to Stark Hall students about making carbon dioxide with lemon juice and baking soda.

2006 World Champion Cardinal Trophy

Several MSD students and staff members had a chance to view the 2006 St. Louis Cardinal’s world champion baseball trophy close-up!

The trophy was traveling through the state with St. Louis Cardinal staff members who were touring through small towns and allowing the public to view the hard-earned trophy. The group stopped in Fulton, so a field trip was quickly planned. Several students were in awe at seeing the impressive trophy! High school honor roll students participated along with middle school students who have earned the distinction of being on the honor roll and/or on level 3.



First row, left to right: Bonnie Nelson-staff, Madison, Joel, Barbara Jones-staff. Second row, left to right: Dayanara, Victoria, William, Miranda.



Bright red Chihuly glass sculptures look like they belong in the Botanical Garden.



Right: A group of students and staff standing behind a boat filled with Chihuly glass sculptures. Front row left to right: Andy, Berenice, Michael, Steven, Zac, Miranda, Madison, Catherine, Dayanara, Evelyn. Second row, left to right: Mathew, LaJuan, Angelo, Vonisha, Jarrell, Debbie Ripley-art teacher, LeDaya, Barbara Jones-teacher aide.

“What’s Chihuly?”

by Debora Ripley

What an experience some middle school and high school art students had on their field trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis!

The students observed numerous, awesome, displays of art glass by Dale Chihuly.

Chihuly is a contemporary glass artist with a special approach to glass using organic forms and bright colors. Dale Chihuly lives in Washington State but creates his designs in glass factories all over the world. Chihuly has been making glass for more than 30 years, focusing on outdoor exhibits and his organic forms that seem to become part of the foliage in garden surroundings.



Contest Winner Announced

Missouri School for the Deaf is very pleased to share the news that the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center has announced the winners of the annual Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and Sign Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. **Da’Shawn** from MSD’s Middle School has been awarded the Most Promising Award in the Sign category and we extend to him our best congratulations. His sign (photo) will be published in **Celebrate!** a printed magazine of all the essay, art, and sign entry winners and can also be seen on-line at the **World Around You** magazine, printed by Gallaudet University (identified by first initial and last name on-line). Over 300 students throughout the country entered this contest. In a unique collaboration with the 2007 Winter Deaf Olympics Committee, the theme for this year’s contest was: “What does going for the gold mean to me? How do I go for the gold in my own life?”



Da’Shawn

Congratulations Da’Shawn!

High School Happenings

MSD's Academic Bowl Team went to Texas!

by Sheri Medlock

Missouri School for the Deaf's Academic Bowl team had the opportunity of participating at the Mid-West Regional Gallaudet Academic Bowl competition during the week of March 1 – 4, 2007. Gallaudet University established the Academic Bowl program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to promote an academic competition among school teams. Teams from various schools compete with each other in answering questions on a variety of subjects relating to the high school curricula, current events, and deaf studies.



2007 Academic Bowl team holding their Sportsmanship awards. Front from left: Kira, Johnny, Tiffany. Back from left: Jarrell, Sheri Medlock-sponsor, and Kevin Spencer-sponsor.

This year the Mid-West regional was held in Austin, Texas, with the Texas School for the Deaf hosting the event. Sixteen teams participated in this competition. They were split into two groups, blue pool and buff pool. Dividing into two pools allowed the competition to be ongoing during the whole event. Our team was placed in the blue pool. After seven matches were done, the number of wins was added, placing the appropriate teams for the Championship match.

MSD's Academic Bowl team members are Johnny, Kira, Jarrell, and Tiffany along with their coaches Sheri Medlock and Kevin Spencer. Johnny was the only returning member on this team.

Indiana School for the Deaf won this year's competition and were named the present champion of the 2007 Mid-West Regional Academic Bowl. They will be attending the National Competition at Washington, D.C. in April. The MSD Academic team did not come home empty-handed though. MSD won the Sportsmanship Award for the blue pool participants. All participating coaches and players, cast a

vote for the Sportsmanship Award. The qualities necessary to win this award were teamwork, cooperation, friendliness, dedication, fairness, honesty, hard work, extra effort, and positive attitude.

Not only was our team happy about their accomplishment, but they are more determined to hit the books and study current events so that they are ready for next year's Gallaudet Academic Bowl competition to be held at Indiana School for the Deaf at the end of February! The MSD's Academic Bowl wants to thank the MSD Parent Organization for providing the jerseys and the students and faculty for helping to make the "Kiss the Pig" and sweatshirt sales a success!



Renee Haack

New Vocational Staff

Renee Haack teaches life skills, citizenship, language arts, and general math at the Middle School/High School level. She is a recent graduate of Ball State University in Indiana. She majored in Special Education, Mild Disabilities and Deaf Education. During college she worked as a Supportive Living Trainer providing daily living assistance to older adults with disabilities. She also worked at Indiana School for the Deaf in various positions assisting teachers and providing for after school programming. Renee believes that developing positive relationships with students, parents and other staff is crucial in teaching. She is also the assistant coach for MSD cheerleaders.

Students Learn to Help Others

by Becky Payne

The Class of 2009 (sophomore class) hosted a clothing/toys/books drive before Christmas this year and sent the items they collected to a Deaf school in Quayaquil, Ecuador with a second box going to an orphanage in Chaing Rai, Thailand.



The Sophomore class with some of the donations they collected.

omore class president Valen said they chose those specific organizations because of connections through MSD staff - one was founded by a staff member's uncle, and the other by a staff member's father. According to Valen, "She and her classmates were really impressed by the response they received. The whole school got involved. MSD is like one big family, when someone needs help, we all come together to help."

It looks like the lesson was successfully learned.



Lucille Blackwell



Debora Ripley

MSD Teachers Recognized by Gallaudet University

by Barbara Garrison

Two MSD teachers were recognized by Gallaudet University at *The 150 Years on Kendall Green: Celebrating Deaf History Conference* in April. Lucille Blackwell, English and Drama instructor - for her work in preserving the writings by MSD Alumnus, Laura Redden Searing, class of 1858, and Debora Ripley, Art instructor - for her work in helping students relate to Deaf History and Culture through cross curricular activities.

Using the pen name, Howard Glyndon, Laura Redden was a Civil War correspondent, poet, newspaper editorialist and friend to President Abraham Lincoln. Laura's side saddle used to travel from battlefield to battlefield is housed in the MSD Museum and her birthday is celebrated annually at MSD in February.

Both women were invited to speak at the conference in Washington, DC. Mrs. Ripley spoke on *Connecting Laura Redden with Today's High School Students* and Ms. Blackwell spoke on the subject of *Laura C. Redden: Public Poet*. Ms. Blackwell has edited a large body of work (about 400 poems) and worked with MSD National Honor Society as publishers and MSD Graphic Arts Department as printers of the book. Without such a Collected Works available to entice and inspire current and future scholars, the brilliant legacy of this woman will not achieve the recognition she so richly deserves.

High School Speech Competition

by Lucille Blackwell

Nine High School students participated in the High School Optimist Speech Competition. These students wrote speeches in relation to the theme: "My Biggest Challenge Is..." All the students did well. Awards were given to 1st place — Johnny, 2nd place — Rosie, and 3rd place — Rochelle.

Highlights from the speeches included challenges of preparing for college, learning English, showing respect, controlling one's temper, and developing stronger muscles. Three representatives from the Fulton Optimist Breakfast Club helped tally scores.

Johnny and Rosie will represent MSD for Division 2 at the GPSD competition in Kansas. Donte and Tyler will represent MSD for Division 1. Johnny will also go to St. Louis for the regional competition, competing against some public school Deaf students.

Vocational News

A Visitor from the Other Side of the World

Written by David Haus with information supplied by Doris Scribner, translator

On January 17, 2007 the Missouri School for the Deaf had a visitor from Russia. Natalia Epikhina came to the Coats Career and Technology Center to gather information about our vocational program to share with a professor friend in Russia. Ms. Epikhina is the founder and director of the not-for-profit organization, Our Children. She works in Ryazan, Russia, which is about a 2 ½ hour drive southeast of Moscow. Her organization serves children with special needs and their families. Of the approximate 5000 children with special needs in the Ryazan region, Ms. Epikhina works directly with 120-150 of the children. Often family members have low expectations about what their child can accomplish. The fund tries to lift those expectations by interacting with the family and child. In a country where in the past, children who didn't fit the right 'normal model' were shut away in institutions out of public sight, Ms. Epikhina's organization gives them a way of saying to the public, "We are here. We exist. There are a lot of us, and we are like you."

Ms. Epikhina's visit was spurred by a request from a professor friend, who is starting a program at the Ryazan State Pedagogical University to train up to five sign language interpreters from among the hearing impaired population. These interpreters could later serve as tour guides for hearing impaired visitors in the area. Ms. Epikhina was asked to see what was being done in Missouri in the sphere of training and professional development for hearing impaired students. She was quite impressed with MSD, with the attitudes of both instructors and students and with the opportunities available for hearing impaired children in the States. She left feeling encouraged that, little by little, the children and families she works with might have hope for a brighter future.



From left: Natalia Epikhina, Doris Scribner-translator, and Doris' husband-the driver.

Ms. Epikhina toured our facility and learned about our program. As she visited, our staff and students had an opportunity to talk with Ms. Epikhina and learn about her country. The first thing we learned about was that Natashia and Natalia are like Robert and Bob in America. One is a formal name and the other is informal. When we visited the culinary arts kitchen, we learned that it is unusual to have men in the kitchen in Russia. Of course, our instructor Kevin Voelker thought that was strange. After sampling some of the goodies being made that day, we were able to talk about cochlear implants. Apparently cochlear implants are an issue in Russia, just as they are in the U.S.A. After talking about it for a while, we met a student who was asked her opinion about having a one or two year old child get a cochlear implant. The student said she thought it would be important for the child to have a chance to grow up and make that decision when she was able to be included in the decision making process. That was a surprise for our visitor.

We also learned some Russian signs, including hello and the sign for Russia. We were able to share some of our own signs and explain the reasons behind them. As we continued our tour, we visited the digital imaging classroom. Kevin Spencer was able to show how he can use the Smart Board for instruction. Ms. Epikhina was impressed with the technology our students benefit from on a daily basis.

The tour that Ms. Epikhina enjoyed was also a very good lesson for our students and staff. We learned much about each other in a very short amount of time. We realized that people on the other side of the world care about their children just as much as we do!

2007 Brain Bowl Kicks Off With Fast Facts

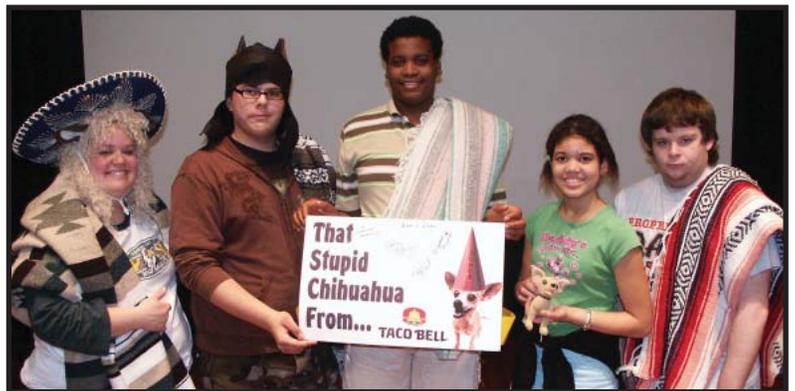
This year's theme for the Brain Bowl was *Fast Food/Fast Facts—Food for Thought*. Four teams were selected. Captains were Jarrell, John, Haley and Valen. Each team had three high school members, a middle school member and a staff member.

Congratulations to the Ronald McFatty's Gang team for winning this year's Brain Bowl championship. Members of the team were Valen, Tyler, Judy, Daniel (DJ) and Mr. Tom Basteau. The runner-up team was The Stupid Chihuahua from Taco Bell. Members of the team were John, Ryan, LaJuan, Dayanara, and Ms. Sheri Medlock. The team scores were 8-8 after the regular match. The Ronald McFatty's Gang stole the first question in overtime and answered their next question to win 10-8. Great sportsmanship was shown by all participants and the audience.

After the student competition, the student captains challenged the staff members who were on the four teams. Ms. Nancy Carr had another set of questions ready for the match. The staff won that competition by the score of 7-2, but the four captains are looking forward to a rematch next year.



The champions for the 2007 Brain Bowl are as follows, left to right: Valen, Tyler, Daniel (DJ), Judy and Tom Basteau.



The runner-ups for the 2007 Brain Bowl are as follows, left to right: Sheri Medlock, Johnny, LaJuan, Dayanara and Ryan.



The captains of the Brain Bowl teams left to right: Johnny, Haley, Jarrell and Valen.



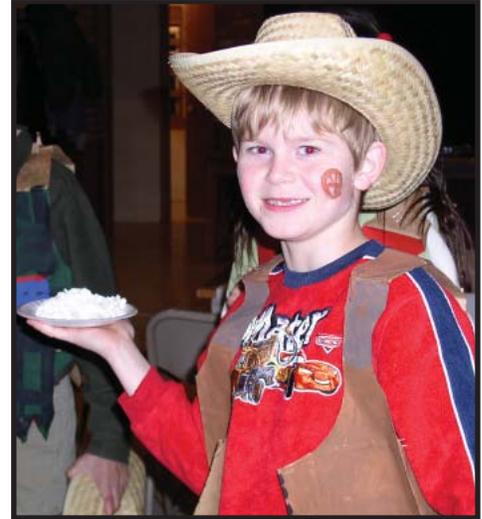
The staff team for the Brain Bowl competition versus the students, left to right: Sheri Medlock, Lucille Blackwell, Renee Haack and Tom Basteau.

Student Life News

Old West Takes Over Scout Cabin

Recently the Scout Cabin was turned into a scene from the yesteryear as the elementary students held their Cowboy Days party. The staff did an excellent job of creating numerous decorations and games that transformed the cabin into a nostalgic representation of the old west. To help get the students in the mood prior to the party, they made traditional cowboy attires. Vests and chaps were made from paper bags and then painted as each child saw fit. After eating a chuck wagon dinner of hot dogs and beans, the children were treated to a mixture of games from “Pie in the Bull’s Eye” to “Prickly Cactus Bowling”. As the sun set on the party all rode off with smiles on their faces from a most wonderful party.

—by Ron Danuser



Scotty prepares to fling a pie into the “Bull’s-Eye”.

Lady Eagles Tackle the Gridiron

On a recent chilly fall afternoon, through swirling wind and bitter cold, eight rough and tough MSD football players marched toward the field ready for battle. This would not have been a unique sight except for the fact that these MSD players were lady eagles! After trading in “powderpuffs” for war paint, cheerleading uniforms for jerseys and flags, volleyballs for footballs, and a service line in favor of a scrimmage line, the women were ready to play!

Soon after the opening snap, the Green team was first to score with a quick burst of offense. Quarterback Ashley, wide receiver Chetara, center Paige, and running back Berenice all worked together to execute plays for the score. The Gold team came back quickly with a touchdown on the very next drive. Gold team quarterback EmmaLee, center Elizabeth, wide receiver Vonisha, and running back Diane combined forces to move the ball downfield. The offensive power of both teams continued as each showed speed, agility, and strength driving the ball into the end zone. With the score tied at halftime, teams discussed defensive strategy and reviewed plays while warming up in the locker room. They returned to the field ready to dig in and fight for the win in the second half. With several key defensive stops, and a few spectacular rushing touchdowns, the dust finally settled with a very close score. The Green team pulled out a victory, winning 30-28 over the Gold team.

—by Stephanie Crooks



Coach Brian sets the next play.



Girls' football teams with coaches Angelo for the yellow and Brian for the green.



Coach Angelo works with quarterback EmmaLee.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Winter Sports

Senior Recognition Night

Assistant Superintendent, Tom Basteau presented picture plaques to the senior basketball players at their last home game. Below each senior shared some of their hopes or fondest memories of their basketball seasons at MSD:

Kira is the granddaughter of Vickie and James of Flemington. This is Kira's fourth year on the team. Her most memorable moment was when the team beat Iowa School for the Deaf and her coach got so excited that as she was jumping up and down, she accidentally wet her pants and sprained her ankle. It was so funny. It was also our assistant coach, Ms. Dignan's birthday so we were happy to give her a win on her birthday.

Deidre is the daughter of Velma of Cape Girardeau. This is Deidre's fourth year on the team. Her most memorable moments are her constant encouragement to her team, telling them to never give up, always think positive and having fun.

Angelo is the son of Marsha of St. Louis. This is Angelo's fourth year on the team. Angelo's most memorable moment was last year when we went to Iowa School for the Deaf for GPSD. While we were there, Iowa got about 10 inches of snow. As we went to lunch, he decided to pick on the coach Kevin Voelker. He got a snowball and tried to throw it at Kevin Voelker, but it hit Johnny Weggenmann. We laughed and laughed. Kevin Voelker really got lucky.

Matthew is the son of Terry and Jane of Joplin. This is Matt's third year on the team. Matt wants his team to stay positive and always try to improve their skills. He will miss the rest of the team.

Nathaniel is the son of Kenneth of Florissant. This is Nate's first year on the team. Nate says he enjoys moving the basketball and driving to the basket. In the future he would like to participate in basketball on the college level.

GPSD Basketball and Cheerleader Tournament February 8-10



The MSD girls' basketball team won the Sportsmanship award while the cheerleading squad won 3rd place in the cheer competition and the Spirit Stick award. Way to go ladies!

2007 Cheerleader squad, left to right-front: Ashley Row 2-Ber-enice, Rochelle; Row 3-Diane, Brent, Elizabeth; Row 4-Tiffany.

Winter Homecoming January 27

The high school students chose "Eagles—Blasting Into the Future" as the theme to celebrate the winter homecoming.

Coronation Ceremony

Junior Johnny and senior Terra were crowned the 2007 Winter Homecoming king and queen. The homecoming court also consisted of junior Haley, senior Kira, junior Brian and junior Andy.



Terra and Johnny were crowned 2007 Winter Homecoming Queen and King.



2007 Middle School Basketball Record

Boys 2-4 Girls 1-5

2007 High School Basketball Record

Boys 0-18
Girls 0-18

Missouri School for the Deaf
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God's Special Child

by Roberta Temple

I cannot hear the breeze blowing my hair,
or the birds singing in the air.
But I can see the children playing their games
with laughter and joy that they share.
I may not be able to hear all the beautiful sounds of life,
but I realize far more than you
That LOVE and LIFE are not sounds—
They are feelings,
And seeing life itself all around.
Your smile and touch are the greatest things that
I could ever hear.



Roberta is the mother of Robert Temple—a 1998 graduate of MSD. She wrote this poem for him many years ago, when he was a student at Stark School, and she recently shared it with us.