

Missouri Record

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Latino Cultural Fair

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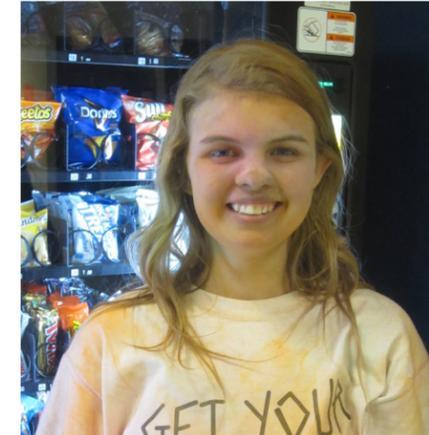
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On the Cover



Cover designed by Heather Dunn and MSD's Digital Imaging Department. Cover is about Latino Cultural Fair. See page 10 for stories.



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Superintendent Reflections

By Ernest Garrett, III

The past few months have been something of a whirlwind, and so I welcome this opportunity to share with you some activities in which the superintendent has been involved. Before I begin, let me ask you a question:

TOP 10 BY 20

“How familiar are you with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) “Top 10 By 20” initiative?”

On Tuesday, October 28, 2014, the State Board of Education approved the Department’s Updated Top 10 by 20 Plan for fiscal year 2015. Within that plan are the following 4 goals:

1. All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready;
2. All Missouri children will enter kindergarten prepared to be successful in school;
3. Missouri will prepare, develop and support effective educators;

4. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

At the most recent Missouri School for the Deaf Board of Advisors meeting, we discussed the idea of aligning MSD’s strategic planning efforts with DESE. There was an overwhelming consensus that doing so would not only make good business sense, but would also allow MSD to tap into the resources that the department already has available in regards to the Top 10 by 20 initiative. In the coming school year, you will continue to hear more about this, specifically what it means for us at the Missouri School for the Deaf.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

In the same way the DESE has experienced leadership changes within their department, we at the Missouri School for the Deaf are experiencing the same. Dr. Chris L. Nicastro retired as Commissioner of Education and I had the opportunity to wish her farewell at her retirement party and to thank her for her service to the State Department

of Education. She has been succeeded by Dr. Margie Vandeven, who is continuing to lead the department’s “Top 10 by 20” initiative. Within our own leadership suites, Bethany Peterson, M.Ed., has moved on from the position of Director of Student Life. We are grateful for her years of service in that capacity and wish her well in her new endeavors. Two other key leadership posts that will be vacant at the end of this school year are those filled by Assistant Superintendent Margilee LaBorde, as well as Director of Fiscal Affairs Harold Siebert. Their institutional knowledge, years of experience, and dedication to the school will be tremendously missed. I am grateful to all 3 for their support during my first year as the superintendent. Rest assured that my office will move forward with filling those key posts and will keep MSD’s stakeholders (faculty, staff, alumni, etc.) abreast of our process for filling those positions.

SUPERINTENDENT TRAVEL

I had the opportunity to represent the Missouri School for the Deaf at the White House Summit on Disability



Superintendent Garrett attending White House Summit (2015)

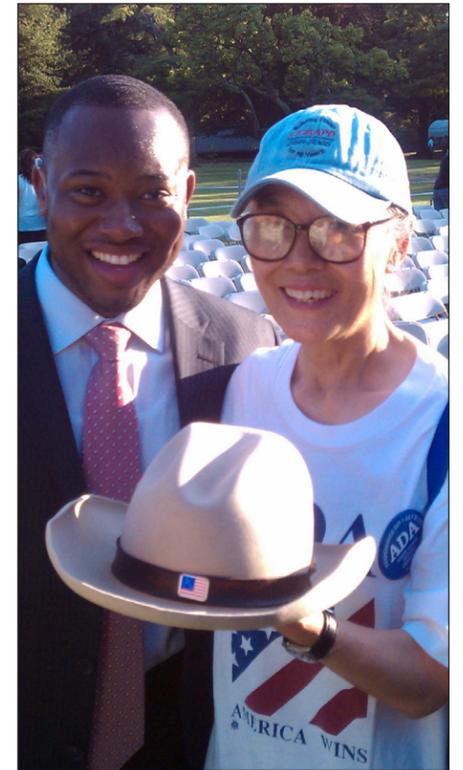
and Employment on February 3, 2015. In addition, I attended and completed two Ph.D. academic residencies – one in the Washington D.C. area, and the other in Indianapolis, IN from December 26-30, 2014 and from February 25 – March 1, 2015. I will be done with all of my doctoral coursework this summer and have already begun my doctoral dissertation. I also attended the Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Worker’s annual conference from March 20-22, 2015. Last but not least, I will be attending the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) conference later this month in Tacoma, WA.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Between now and the end of the school year, my goal is to complete my interviews with the dorm staff in the same manner in which I did the school staff. I will also work with the outgoing administrators to develop a transition team to ensure that the new Assistant Superintendent, Director of Fiscal Affairs, and Director of Student Life hit the ground running. Additionally, I will continue working with the Board of Advisors to finalize the staff survey (campus wide) that we plan to send out to collect data and to host a summit on the State of Deaf Education in Missouri in the 21st century, with a specific focus on our school for the Deaf. I will share more details once our plans are finalized.

I would like to thank Ron Danuser for his willingness to take over the duties of the Student Life Director on an interim basis. To the esteemed residential life staff, I look forward to our one-on-one interviews over the month of April. And to all of our staff, students, alumni, and school stakeholders, we are almost at the end of

the school year. Hang in there. The work that you do to support our student’s success is crucial. Keep above the fray, work with our students to take personal responsibility for their future, and continue to support their academic, social, and emotional development. Why? Because at MSD, it is not just a job, it is the right thing to do. We are working arm in arm to improve the lives and opportunities of all deaf and hard of hearing students. Let’s march on – heads held high – and see what the end will bring for our students!



NBDA President Ernest Garrett at the White House 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the ADA posing with Yoshiko Dart. She is holding the hat of her late husband, Justin Dart, Jr., who is regarded as the “Godfather of the ADA.”



Superintendent Garrett with Yoshiko Dart (2015)

1st Deaf Missourian Officially Licensed to Drive 18 Wheeler Truck

By Tom Bastean

James Gooch became the 1st Deaf Missourian to receive his CDL-A license to drive an 18 wheeler truck. This has been his life-long dream. He was previously licensed to drive commercial straight bed trucks in Missouri. But, James kept his dream in back of his mind and was hoping something in the law would change that would allow Deaf individuals to have the opportunity to drive 18 wheelers.

James graduated with a High School diploma from the Missouri School for the Deaf in 1978. While a student at MSD, he was in the metal trades and woodworking classes. After graduation, he worked many odd jobs which integrated what he learned in both of those classes, before he started driving



James Gooch with his own truck.

flatbed trucks and buses.

I interviewed James about driving his 18 wheeler and about his experience in what it takes to get a license:

Alumni Editor Column (ACE)- When did you first hear that driving a 18 wheeler truck become legal for the Deaf?

J.G. - I learned about Deaf becoming commercial truck drivers through a friend while working at ZVRS around fall of 2011.

ACE- What did you have to do after you heard about this?

J.G. - I contacted NAD (National Association of the Deaf) in Maryland. The NAD referred me to the NAD legal personnel to get factual information. Through the use of VP (Video Phone), NAD legal personnel and I had a conversation about my experience with driving trucks. NAD asked for my driver's license and other personal information. After that, I did not hear back from NAD for long time.

ACE- When did you move back to Missouri?

J.G. - I decided to move back home to Missouri in 2013.

ACE- What did you do when you got back home?

J.G. - I was determined to follow-up on the truck driving issue. I reapplied with the Department of Transportation/ FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) in Washington, D.C.

Few days later, I received an email from DOT/FMCSA asking me to complete DOT's form. I was corresponding with them through email the entire time. There were lots of questions and answers from them. After thirty(30) days I received a notice that my name appeared on the Federal Registration list. I also received a certified letter stating that DOT waived my hearing impairment. Now I have a card/document that I have to carry with me at all times while driving the truck and for annual physical examinations.

ACE- After receiving your waiver approval letter, where did you go to find training?

J.G. - I contacted the Vocational Rehabilitation in Jefferson City to help find a CDL-A truck driver training school. While waiting to hear from VR for the training sites, I took the CDL-A test on my own, and this test was insufficient and did not fulfilled the requirements of driving the semi truck. So I entered the C-1 training in Kansas City, Mo. I was the first Deaf applicant taking the classes. It was a 3 week training. Next, I took the CDL-A tests. The tests were Pre-Trip, Road Skill tests, Offset parking and Parallel parking and tests about how the air brakes and parts of the truck work, and of course, as in any career training the knowledge of safety. After completing the tests, I was hired by SWIFT Transportation trucking company.

ACE- Do you think this will be a great

career opportunity for Deaf applicants?

J.G. - Yes, applicants must display exceptional knowledge about truck driving especially the 18 wheeler.

ACE - It is our understanding that you are the first Deaf Missourian who is legally licensed to drive 18 wheeler truck. Is this correct?

J.G.- Yes, when I am on the road, I have to carry my documented medical card at all times. Now this is the law for all CDL-B and CDL-A license drivers, Federal Law with DOT mandates that the drivers carry with them at all times- their documented medical card when on road hauling in and out of the states or over the road transporting.

ACE- After applying with your present company- SWIFT Transportation, how long did you wait? And what was the company's reaction on hiring you as their driver?

J.G. - My present company had hired Deaf drivers in past who were restricted to driving in their state.

ACE- When you were hired by SWIFT Transportation, did SWIFT have any pre-requirements before it allowed you to drive the semi truck?

J.G. - Yes, they did and it is part of their safety plan. They hire drivers who acknowledge and follow the overall safety regulations while on the road. Fortunately, I had a CODA mentor who owns his own truck and was able to communicate with me through sign language. I was with my mentor on the road for a month and learned all skills and requirements of loading and unloading. After that, SWIFT handed me one of their trucks and I was on the road on my own.

ACE- What means of communication do you use to communicate with your company or other drivers while on

road?

J.G. - Basically, I use the UBI device and pencil / paper at the office. There was not so much communication on the road. The company has its system called Qual-Comm device- it shows hours of service, GPS, and message while on road. For other ways, I use my Z5 (cell phone using text) to contact the stores or company.

ACE- What do you do while your truck is being loaded and unloaded?

J.G. - As for loading, once the truck is loaded and ready to go, all I have to do is pick up list of items and which site to go first. Unloading- I checked all the labeled items as they come off of the truck to make sure the site has all of it's orders.

ACE- There are procedures that you have to perform before getting on road every time. What are the priorities?

J.G. - Pre-Trip inspections - Tires having enough air in, lights- check all of them and if burned out, replace while at the site and even if one rivet is missing, get that fixed.

ACE- How many days are you on the road?

J.G. - 5 days sometimes 6

ACE- Are there any restrictions about how long you are allowed to drive a day?

J.G. - Yes, 11 hours. Let me break it down: You are allowed to drive 8 hours straight with a 30 minute break



resting on the ramp shoulders, rest areas, truck stops, or stores with a truck parking lot. Then you can drive 3 more hours. There is a service notice in truck that will tell you to get off the road after using all 11 hours.

ACE- How does the wage work for all drivers?

J.G. - It all varies from company to company. You get paid an hourly wage, plus mileage. Point of emphasis, you are mandated to work within your 11 hours on road.

ACE- Have you faced any inclement weather while on road?

J.G. - Yes - snow! When you encounter snow, you have to slow down or pull over if necessary.

ACE- Any addition comments?

J.G. - Yes, my mentor has encourage me to consider the idea of owning a semi truck. It will bring more income for me. I could get 3 times more on the mileage than I am currently making. The hour pay will be about the same. So, I went along with the idea and bought my own truck recently. I am now an owner/operator of a semi truck.

Obituaries

Michael J. Ray age 56, of Williams-ville, Mo., passed away Saturday, May 3, 2014. Michael was born September 16, 1957 in St. Louis, Mo. He worked as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service and in the construction industry. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and the outdoors. He was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Branch, Mo. Michael graduated from Missouri School for the Deaf in 1976.

On June 21, 2012 he married Cynthia (Tolie) Ray. She survives. Other survivors include his children, Michael Ray of Topeka, Ks. and Dakota Ray of Independence, Mo.; four stepdaughters, Melissa Cobb, Tiffany Cobb, Chyenne Cobb and Cherokee Cobb; his mother, Patty Ritz and step-father, Wallace Ritz; four sisters, Sharon Nichy, Janie Lane, Jeanie Roles and Misty Reynolds; four brothers, Steve Ray, John Ray, Tim Little and David Little; one grandchild, Haiden and three step-grandchildren, Carmine, Domenic and Michael. He was preceded in death by his father, Wilson Ray.

Catherine H. (Huber) Rice age of 98 passed away at the Monroe Manor in Paris, Mo. November 17, 2014. She was born February 28, 1916 in Lexington, Missouri. She married Glenn D. Rice Sr. on May 5, 1940. He preceded her in death on February 8, 2001.

Catherine graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf spring of 1936. She was a homemaker and served two separate terms as a houseparent at her alma mater. She was the first MSD alumni to serve on the Missouri School for the Deaf Board of Advisors.

Catherine loved needlepoint, sewing, crocheting, knitting, cooking, and gardening. Survivors include two sons and their wives, Glenn D. Rice, Jr. of Centralia and Melvin R. Rice of Lee's Summit; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and several other relatives. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one sis-

ter, Ethel Mae Boyles.

John Irving Riley, age 75, passed away in Cox South Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri Wednesday, December 24, 2014. He was born on August 4, 1939 in Callaway County, Missouri. He was the son of Virgil and Florence Riley who preceded him in death. He was united in marriage to Virginia Carey on December 6, 1963 in Howell County, Missouri. Virginia preceded him in death on January 11, 2001.

John graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf, in May of 1959. He was employed by 3M in Columbia, Missouri where he worked as a line operator when he retired. He loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and camping.

He is survived by one daughter, Carol Lewis of Jefferson City, three grandchildren and one great grandchild, one sister, Betty Kramer of St. Charles and one brother, Don (Dot) Riley of Fulton.

Janet Lea Pearce 68 of Farmington passed away on January 27, 2015. She was born January 9, 1947 in Berkeley, Missouri and was daughter of the Russell and Thelma Pearce. In addition to her parents, she preceded in death by a brother Keith Pearce. Janet attended and graduated from the Missouri School for the Deaf in May of 1967. After graduation, she worked as a wig stylist for Famous Barr in St. Louis, Missouri. In her spare time she enjoyed dancing, handcrafting, making jewelry, reading, and particularly enjoyed crocheting, having made over 300 afghans. She is survived by a brother, Russell D. Pearce, Jr. of High Ridge and a sister, Jeanie Stairs of Marquand and many relatives and friends at the St. Francois Manor and New Horizons RCF.



The MSDAA Board is searching for a member who is interested in accepting the position of chairperson for the 2016 Reunion. Please contact MSDAA President Ella Eakins at president@msdaa.org for further information.

We are seeking a chairperson who lives in Fulton or nearby with some qualifications such as assertiveness, energetic, knowledgeable, reliable, passionate and most of all, loyal to MSDAA and MSD.

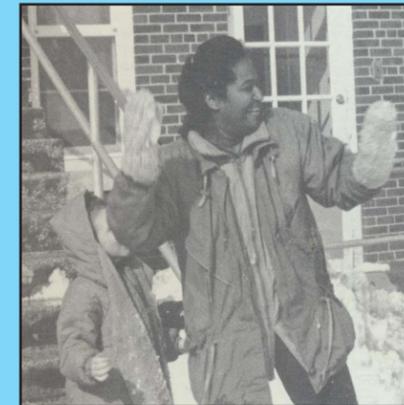
Celebrating an Extraordinary Woman

By Shanda Collins



Ella Washington
P.E. Teacher / Athletic Director
33 years

On December 19, 2014, the Missouri School for the Deaf celebrated the retirement of one its family members. Ella Washington worked for the Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) for over 30 years. She dedicated her time to the growth of each student she came into contact with. On Friday, December 19th the staff of MSD came together to show Mrs. Washington their appreciation and gratitude for her years' of dedication. Mrs. Washington touched the lives of all her students over the course of three decades. The celebration was held at the Eagles Nest after school with her family and friends. The celebration was a great success and a complete surprise for Mrs. Washington. The celebration was filled with stories from her past students, words from family and friends, food, and socializing. Mrs. Washington was presented with gifts from the staff which included a memory album filled with pictures of her years at MSD. Mrs. Washington can never be replaced and will always be missed.



33Years of service

New Staff



Allison Thorbergson
Home School Coordinator



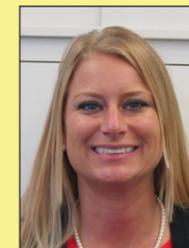
John "Jack" Gardner
Teacher



Victoria Hudson-Brooks
Teacher



Dawn Barnes
Stark Secretary



Deston Hunt
Accounting Specialist



Peggy Belt
Interpreter

MSD Parents' Organization News

By Jeff Patridge

The 2014-2015 school year is drawing to a close, but don't tell the Missouri School for the Deaf Parents' Organization (MSDPO). There are still several activities like Staff Appreciation Week, and end-of-year awards ceremonies on the horizon. These events are just a couple that the organization supports throughout the busy year.

This school year started with the sponsorship of the MSD Football team profile in the [Mid-Missouri Pig Skin Preview](#). This annual publication highlights all teams in the Mid-Missouri area. The MSDPO has proudly sponsored the team in this publication for almost 10 years.

The organization agreed once again to donate shirts for both the September and December MSD Student Council and National Honor Society Blood Drives. In the past, these shirts had been provided by the American Red Cross. The MSDPO purchased a total of 50 shirts to present to donors. This has proven to be a successful partnership, as the blood drives have met or exceeded collection goals for the past two years, and have provided a graduating senior with a scholarship from the American Red Cross.

For a fourth consecutive year, the MSDPO also sponsored the MSD Talent Show. Prizes in the form of gift cards to local restaurants were purchased for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The cards continue to be a hit with participants.

To support these activities, the MSDPO undertook several successful fundraising efforts. These included selling MSD apparel and items at the Fall and Winter Homecomings, and conducting two pre-sale campaigns for special

MSD bling shirts, hoodies, and sweatpants. Thank you to all who supported, and continue to support our efforts through the purchase of items.

The MSDPO also continued to oversee the Box Tops for Education program for the school. Last year the organization collected almost \$500.00 in Box Tops. Based on that success, a goal of \$750 was set for this year. At the time of the writing of this update, the MSDPO really needs your help, as we have only earned \$212.00. This is well below the goal for the year. To learn more about how you can help us achieve our goal, check out our website.

The MSDPO is always looking for new members. If you are interesting in finding out more about the organization and our activities or would like to join us, visit our Facebook or website. You can find us on Facebook under "Missouri School for the Deaf Parents' Organization" or on the web at www.msdp.org.

Latino Festival

By Lucille Blackwell

March 3rd was a special day at MSD. Latino guests shared their culture with our students and students from other schools. The Festival de Latinos success is due to everyone's help. The weekend before the festival, students arrival was postponed to Monday night, because of a late season snow storm. Thus MSD's staff volunteered and helped to get everything ready. Guest presenters were very impressed with the set up and with the students participation.

Melissa Draganac-Hawk presented on Peru. She is Vice-President of the National Association for the Deaf. She is active as an advocate and leader. As keynote speaker she talked about leadership and the need for deaf people to participate in organizations. For her



St. Louis Zoo presenting on animals from Latin countries.

presentation she talked about how life in Peru is very limiting for deaf people. Her parents were unable to work and had to have relatives sign papers for them to be able to get married. They moved to America for work opportunities so that they could be independent and self supporting.

Azael BuPerry presented on Honduras and spoke about sign language from that country. He is a Deaf Services Specialist in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His keynote presentation was about "Identity". He encouraged the students to learn about their culture and about who they are. Mr. BuPerry said more schools need to do these kind of cultural events to help kids learn more about what's out there.

Jose Miguel Feliciano is from Puerto Rico. He recently moved to the states and is employed as a caretaker. His keynote speech was about his home.



Allie got her facepainting at one of booth at the festival.



Melissa Draganac-Hawk was one of few keynote for the cultural Fair.

His love for his home was very evident in his presentation. Mrs. Bethany Petersen, our Dorm Life Director worked with him at his booth all day. They had plantain and other items from Puerto Rico on display.

Luis Rivera, a MSD high school teacher who gave a keynote speech on how life here is very different from life in Puerto Rico. His all day presentation was on politics in Central and South America.

Other people presenting that day were: The St. Louis Cultural Flamenco Society (a group of dancers who taught students some latin dances), St.



St. Louis Cultural Flamenco Society showed students how to dance.



Azael BuPerry presented on Honduras.

Louis Zoo (presenting on animals from Latin countries), the Dignan and Morales families (deaf community members presenting on Mexico and Ecuador), and the MSD Drama students provided art and craft activities.

The Donkey at the Latino Festival

By Lucille Blackwell

"The cultural fairs started out as a venue for drama students to get a bigger audience. Drama continues to play a key role in the fairs. I'm proud of my students and the time they've put into preparing for this fair. Most students took responsibility for their booths doing the leg work.

The donkey piñata was a huge project. I told the drama students I wanted a big donkey. They made it BIGGER than I expected!

The donkey was a learning experience. In the beginning only a few students understood the vision. The stu-



Front of Donkey pinata.



Side of Donkey pinata.

dents worked hard, even if they didn't quite understand where we were going with it. As the donkey took shape, more students took ownership of the project. It became a high school project as we got closer to the finish line. Many students and staff volunteered after school the last two weeks to get him ready in time.

The donkey was a huge hit at the festival. He was adopted by the Westminster University Spanish Club. He will participate in a festival on their campus. Smaller individual piñatas also received acclaim and have been adopted by various MSD fans.

I'm proud of my students and my committee. It's been a long rough journey, requiring a lot of volunteer hours. I have found I have a big TEAM of supporters here at MSD."



Elementary students with the donkey pinata.

MSD offers Free Community ASL Classes through the Resource Center on Deafness

By David Kingsbury

This year, Missouri School for the Deaf continues its tradition of offering free community American Sign Language classes to Missouri residents but with several exciting changes.

The administration of the classes has moved from the communications department to the Resource Center on Deafness. Providing these classes helps parents, teachers, and others who work with deaf and hard of hearing children improve communication access by learning sign language, which aligns with the Resource Center's mission to provide a comprehensive range of programs and services supporting the educational achievement and psychosocial development of Missouri's deaf and hard of hearing children.

Each regular class session has been extended to seven weeks to allow students to spend more time on each lesson and receive more attention from their instructor. Sessions previously lasted six weeks.

Perhaps the biggest change to the classes is that beginning this June, summer sessions will be offered in a new intensive format over only four weeks but with the same amount of instruction time as the regular seven-week classes. This makes it easier for people who have to drive a long distance to get to MSD. The Resource Center is already seeing strong interest in this new format, and parents from as far away as Kansas City have told us they are willing to make the drive to

the Fulton campus to participate.

Another exciting development is our expanded collaboration with community partners to promote our sign language classes. While we continue our relationships with longtime partners such as William Woods University and the Fulton Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased that the local Dollar General distribution center is encouraging their employees to take our classes to improve communication with deaf employees, and Fulton's Holiday Inn Express is encouraging their staff to take our classes to improve communication with deaf guests.

Through these changes, the Resource Center maintains the goal of offering high quality sign language instruction by continuing to have all classes taught by native deaf signers.

Families First Early Intervention Program Continues Growth, Welcomes 10 New Parent Advisors

By David Kingsbury

Families First, one of the programs provided by the Resource Center on Deafness at Missouri School for the Deaf, is Missouri's only public early intervention program specifically designed for deaf and hard of hearing students. Any Missouri family with a child from birth to age eight with documentation of a suspected or confirmed hearing loss is eligible for free services, and the program has one of the widest age ranges for eligibility of any state.

Families First parent advisors provide in-home services wherever a family lives in Missouri. They help families learn about many important issues like communication options, educational options, and assistive technologies and

they always emphasize the importance of early language exposure.

Laura Scott, the lead parent advisor, recruits and trains new parent advisors from all over the state. This school year, we welcomed ten new parent advisors to our framework due to increasing demand for services, giving the program 42 fully-trained parent advisors providing services to 81 families.

Laura also coordinates ongoing professional development workshops for our parent advisors to ensure they have the most current information in the field. Three expert guest speakers presented at the spring workshop on February 28, and 36 parent advisors attended.

A number of families who participate in the program decide to send their children to MSD when they are old enough, and those who choose to keep their child in a local school are much better prepared to advocate for their child's communication and education needs as a deaf or hard of hearing student. When families graduate from the program, the parents are typically able to communicate much more effectively with their children than when they started, and the children have shown significant gains in language development.



Families First parents advisors.

Jewel Thief Activity

By Ron Danuser



The HS boys recently held an activity called 'Jewel Thief'. The premise is, that each 'thief' snakes his way through a corridor laden with 'laser' alarms (strings stretched across the hall at various angles). Once past the alarms they grab a jeweled necklace, dash out of the building and to the finish line, all while being timed. The fastest time wins. We have a very competitive bunch of boys but in the most positive way possible. The group clustered at the head of the hall to watch each contestant take their shot at making it through, then as they ran to the finish line the group would all move to the windows to watch the sprint home. Good sportsmanship and comradely ruled the day. In the end Terrell Owens was our winner with Cleve Farrell our unofficial winner by a scant few seconds. The boys enjoyed it so much they insist we set up another 'mission' in the near future.



Nancy Baker is giving Dakota a few tips.

Elephant Rock and Johnson Shut-In



High School Speech Contest

By Sarah Neumann

On a much-anticipated fall day in October, six high school students addressed “how their optimism will help them press on to greater achievements in the future.” These students were tackling the topic as participants in the Optimist Club Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. MSD has enjoyed a longtime relationship with the Fulton Optimist Club; students at the high school and middle school level have participated in the contest for many years. Students drew upon the words and actions of others who have used optimism to overcome challenges. The audience learned about the steps the participants would take to reach their personal goals for the future, and how optimism can assist in achieving those goals. A panel of judges consisting of MSD staff carefully considered and evaluated each speech. In the end, the winners were Chris in 3rd place, Avalon in 2nd place, and Danna in 1st place. All three students are eligible to compete in the next level of the Optimist Club’s Communication Contest. Since our students live all over the state, another student who did very well is also eligible to attend the Regional competition in her area of the state. That student is Cheyenne. The Regional competitions come with a \$2,500 scholarship opportunity for the winner. Good luck to all of our students competing, and bravo for a job well done.



Sammi gives presentation on her Vampire Science Project.



Jesse showed to the crowd his Science Fair project.

Science Fair another Success

By Gary Bonsall, Sr.

Science Fair is an event students always look forward to. It gives them an opportunity to explore the wonders of nature and learn through experimentation and sometimes even failure. In this case, students are allowed to fail; failure is not a bad thing, as it provides the insights necessary to get it right the next time, or the next.

Preparation for the fair begins almost immediately at the onset of school in August when students are encouraged to begin thinking about what they might want to do. Printed resources and ideas are provided to them along with adequate time on the Web to find something of particular interest. Once each student settles on a project, material lists need to be developed early so we are assured of having the items necessary to carry out their ambitions. A reasonable amount of Web and library time is also needed to learn what they can before performing their individual experiments. Occasionally, students will form a team to work on a single project.

Once that is under way, time is dedicated to projects on an as needed basis. For example, students who are growing something or working with an incubation period need to get a head start. During the weeks immediately preceding the fair, students spend increasing amounts of time preparing, practicing,

and collecting data. Despite a change of teachers in one of the high school classes just prior to the fair, students continued to work diligently to build, grow, design, and prepare their projects for presentation on the big day.

With 27 high school entries, we had a wide array of projects as they worked with electricity, chemical reactions, plants, insects, and even human senses among other things. Joseph Allen won first place with his demonstration of soil erosion. Coming in second was Chris Scott and his water filter. Terrell Owens and his electric spatula finished in third place.

We had a fine panel of judges in Margilee LaBorde, Tom Basteau, and Art Dignan. They took time out of their day to conscientiously examine every display, watch every presentation, and view every data collection to determine each student’s knowledge of his or her project and what was gained by having completed it. This is where the difference between a mere demonstration and a genuine project comes into play. A demonstration is performed from information that is already out there for anyone to look up. A project results in information that was not previously known.

Any time students apply themselves to bring their individual plan to fruition, we consider it a success if, in the process, they learn what works and what doesn’t work. Either way, instructors are on hand to explain why and assist students in understanding the mechanics of their results. We don’t consider simply facilitating a result a completed project. Knowing why it happened or failed to happen and having worked through it first hand is the outcome we need.



Elizabeth's Science Fair.

Cosmetology Class

By Paloma McClelland

Missouri School for the Deaf’s cosmetology class provides a broad range of specialty areas including; safety concerns, various hairstyling techniques, nails, and skin treatments. In the classroom, we have a smart board where we can read and research different data related directly to cosmetics. In addition, we have a laboratory room where the student is able to practice on their personal mannequins with variety of cosmetics tools.

The students were able to learn about the ancient history of cosmetics. They learned various things such as; how in B.C. people used bone and oyster shells as implements, how the ancient people used roots, herbs, nuts, minerals and insects to create their own colors for hair coloring and certain make-up. Also, they learned that hair evolves through the years, not only with female, but with male as well.

During the school year, we participated in several enrichment activities that were good experience for all of us. First, we had the opportunity to visit several hair salons in the community. The students were able to visit and ask questions at their preselected salon. We were able to take pictures of each place, and we visited with the workers, and an-



Joyla and Azara observing The Edge Salon.

alyzed the different set up in each salon. For example, some salon had fancy hair dryers and some had tanning beds! Fortunately some of the salons were able to donate their expired hair color productions for the cosmetology classes. Second, the students learned that they were able to make facial cleanse mask out of fruits, vegetables, and other natural products. We were able to research and analyze what kind of skin (oily, combination or dry) they have, and which facial cleanse will be a better match for their skin. We tried several kinds of mixtures; orange peels, bananas, cinnamon and honey. The students in my class had their own preference as in which mixture worked better for them. We discovered that none of them like the dry orange peels mixed with water. Third, they learned how many chemicals are hazardous to their health. They were able to research and found that a lot of cosmetic products included a variety of hazardous chemicals; Parabens,

Formaldehyde, Triclosan, Ethylene Oxide and Lead. They had a great time learning how to give speeches about the information and turning the information into a presentation, which included other health awareness’s that needed to be recognized by other students who are not in cosmetology



Elizabeth and Paloma experiment with cinnamon and honey facial mask.



Najah and Tyra at Hot Iron Salon.

class. We were able to create this presentation onto a DVD which was displayed on the students’ media TV!

Now, they are capable of putting that essential information to a better use in their daily life. Some of the students at MSD have ethnic hair, a lot of them learned how to do the proper procedure of blow drying, curling iron and flat iron various kind of hair texture. They also learned how to do manicure and pedicure with foot spa including the necessary chemicals. The students in this cosmetology class had a great time practicing make-up techniques on each other, meanwhile, trying some new tricks and ideas. Overall this cosmetology class is very beneficial for the Missouri School for the Deaf’s students.



Kara tried the strawberry facial mask!

MSD Stu-Co has an Affiliation with American Red Cross

By Becky Payne

MSD has, for many years, hosted blood drives with the American Red Cross, planning 2 drives per year. In the past couple of years, we have bumped that up to 3 drives per year. There is a very good reason for this change. American Red Cross Blood Services has launched a scholarship program called High School Young Minds Change Lives. Any high school that is currently scheduling blood drives is eligible to participate in the scholarship program. The amount of the scholarship is based on the total number of units collected at the school drives during the program timeframe. Basically, if we collect 30-100 units of blood in our combined yearly drives, one Senior is eligible for a \$250 scholarship. If we collect 101 – 200 units of blood, one of our Seniors is eligible for a \$500 scholarship, and if we collect 200+ units, we are eligible for a \$750 scholarship. This is an easily attainable scholarship. Each high school that participates is eligible for one scholarship. There is no contest or other criteria necessary to qualify. Last year, the American Red Cross awarded a \$250 scholarship to one of our MSD Seniors! We still have one blood drive to host – on April 27th from noon to 4:00 PM – so we don't yet know how many units we have collected for this year. We are hopeful that we will qualify for the \$500 scholarship this year!

For the past 2 years, we have received help from the MSD Parent's Organization to try to bring up the number of units that we collect. They have purchased t-shirts with our design to give to each donor who presents to give blood. This year our Parent's Or-



Sarah is a faithful blood donor.

ganization has donated 50 shirts to our blood drives, and we have met and/or exceeded our goals for each drive. Many thanks to MSDPO for their continued support!

Also mentionable is the Red Cord program from the American Red Cross. This program awards a red cord for Seniors to wear at graduation if they have donated blood at least four times during their high school career or volunteered at least 8 hours at their school blood drives. This is community service at it's finest! Last year we awarded 5 red cords which were proudly worn by our graduating Seniors.

One donation can help save the lives of up to 3 people. If you can, please attend our blood drives and help support our community and one of our Seniors.

MSD Student Council Attends State Convention

By Becky Payne



On March 19th, six high school students and three sponsors loaded into vans and headed for Park Hill South High School, in Riverside, MO (close to Kansas City). We were going to



Students pose on stage at MASC State Convention.

the Missouri Association for Student Councils (MASC) Annual State Convention, a three day event designed to teach leadership skills to high school students in Missouri. The first day,



The gymnasium is filled with over 1,000 Stuco students from around the state of Missouri at MASC convention.

when we arrived, there were students outside the school (dressed in goofy costumes) to greet us and lots of students who were campaigning for election to become next year's officer schools. The officer schools are responsible for hosting the next convention, where over 1000 students and sponsors attend. While we registered, there were scholarship interviews going on with the MASC Board of Ad-



Part of the fun at MASC Convention in Kansas City, Missouri



Outdoor color powder dance at MASC convention.

visors. Soon we would meet our host families. The host families volunteer to house the students who attend the conference in their own homes and transfer them from their home to the events at school. This keeps the cost of the convention down, so more kids can attend.

At the opening session, Ken Morrow spoke. Ken is a retired professional American ice hockey defenseman and currently serves as the New York Islanders director of pro scouting. He is a member of the United States Hockey Hall of Fame. Morrow played for the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team that beat the Soviet team in an event known as the Miracle on Ice during the 1980 Winter Olympics before defeating Finland to win the gold medal.

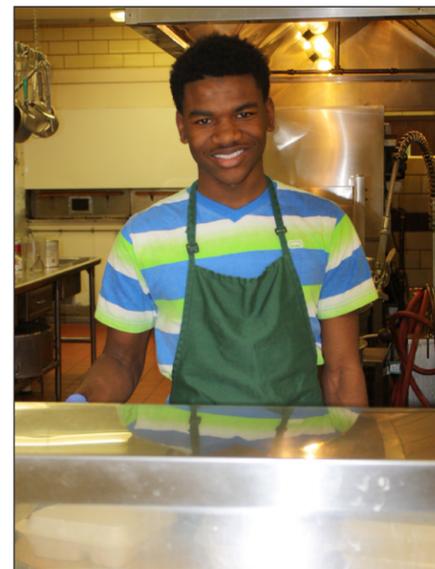
The second day started with speaker, Harriett Turk. Her website states, "My ultimate goal is for everyone who hears my presentation to walk away with a confident sense of self, to embrace their unique abilities, and to move towards developing the skills that will help them to thrive." She talked about the invisible costumes we wear each day and how to take them off and uncover our unique gifts.

In the afternoon general session, we heard Houston Craft speak. He is a leadership trainer who specializes in working with middle school through college aged students at schools and conferences across the country. He spoke about practicing kindness and facing failure. He explained each one

of us has the potential to make a tremendous difference in our lives and the lives of others. At lunch, we voted for next year's president, vice president, and secretary schools. After our group workshops and dinner, we attended a color powder dance.

On the last day, we attended a closing session where scholarship winners were announced, and Certified Student Leader Awards were presented. When the election results were read, Platte County High School was chosen to serve as 2015-2016 president school, with Timberland High School as First Vice-President, and Mexico Middle School as Second Vice President, and Chillicothe High School as Secretary. These schools will plan and host the next MASC convention, in 2016.

The last thing, before adjourning this convention, was the duck dance. The MASC mascot is a yellow rubber ducky. The saying goes, "we are ducks because they look so calm on the surface of the water but underneath, they are paddling like mad." Each year we do the duck dance to adjourn the meeting. We said a quick goodbye to all of our new friends and loaded the van to come back to campus. Thank you MSD for sending our Stu-Co kids to this very worth-while event!



Jeff works at MSD cafeteria to gain work experience.



Azara working at MSD kitchen to gain work experience.

2015 Work Study Program

By Charlene Allison

The Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) 2014-2015 Work Study Program has been a growing success. This year the program has expanded by adding another Fulton community business, the Clothes Cupboard. This program gives our students the opportunity to work in a safe environment. The MSD Work Study Program was established to provide learning and teaching experiences. The Program has two main goals. The 1st goal is for the student. Goal 1 is to provide the opportunity and confidence for students to gain experience in the work force and to



Joyla working at clothes cupboard to gain work experience.

provide real life situations for students to achieve and overcome communication barriers. The 2nd goal is for the community. The goal is to help develop and maintain a working relationship between the deaf community and the business community. MSD and the Fulton community are working jointly to establish an effort in educating and accomplishing more opportunities for the deaf and finally to grow a successful bond and provide working opportunities year after year. The Work Study Program has been a successful part of MSD for at least two decades and is a continued success due to our staff, students, and community.



Additions to MSD's National Honor Society

By Angela Russell

The MSD Chapter of the National Honor Society's membership increased by four students this school year. In the fall, Joyla joined the prestigious society and this spring, Christopher, Avalon, and Cheyenne joined the ranks. NHS students have assisted with 2 blood drives on campus this school year, and another is planned for April 27th. Students have worked hard to fundraise this year by painting and selling holiday ornaments and by leading a craft table during the Winter Homecoming cakewalk. Proceeds went to the NHS activity fund and some money was used so that members could have a fun night on campus in early March- enjoying one another's company while watching a movie and devouring Chinese food.

MSD's NHS students continue to be great models of Scholarship, Leadership, Character and Service. They are great student role models and are all actively involved in sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities at MSD and in their hometowns.



Welcome new NHS members!



Terrell explained each models of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Services.



Current member, Joyla, lights candles for each new member symbolizing their role as NHS members.



NHS members: L to R: Chris, Avalon, Joyla, Cheyenne, Danna, Joseph, and Terrell,

Stark News Eagle Friends

By Laura Smith

Children need your presence not your presents.

Our Eagle Friend program is alive and well at Stark School. At the time of this writing we have 26 students (Pre K-6th grade) with adult MSD staff members as their Eagle Friend.

The students receive extra attention through lunch dates, hugs when they bump into each other on campus, high fives in the hallways, a playmate during recess time, classroom visits, short notes in campus mail and a variety of other ways the staff find to give their young Eagle Friend a little extra love.

Elementary classroom teachers state that the Eagle Friend program is a positive experience for their young students. The students are always thrilled to see their Eagle Friend and the students know that there is someone on campus that truly cares about them. Just this week one Eagle Friend stopped by and helped her young friend study her spelling words and another Eagle Friend showed up at her young friend's birthday party even though she was out due to health issues.

Positive meaningful connections are being made!



Virginia and Natali



Colton and Ethen are counting 100 gummy bears.

One Hundredth Day of School

By Cherise Santoriello

One hundred is a large number. In counting the days during calendar time we are finally using the hundreds column. The two digit numbers are left behind and the only two digit number we worry about is that there are only eighty school days left. For these past one hundred days we have learned, made mistakes, tried new experiences and made relations. This is how Stark Elementary celebrated these one hundred days of hard work.

A poster was hung in the lobby that depicted a tree. This tree was not an ordinary tree but one with leaves shaped as hearts and in a multitude of colors. A tree of love. Look closer. Writing

can be seen, is it the same? Look closer still. As the writing is clearer each heart has different handwriting. Read them. "I love MSD because make friends." "MSD proud Deaf!" "I am working at MSD because it is a supportive environment." "Signing great! Here yes happy." It's our tree of why we love MSD. Students and staff worked together to collect one hundred reasons and to collect one hundred hearts.

Announcements have finished and we can start our one hundredth day



Isabella and Rebecca want to let you know the 100 reasons why they love their school.



Susan and Ethen



Daniel and Ethan wearing their 100 days celebration crowns.

some sugar licking a candy cane one hundred times. And to fit in their style they made one hundred day celebration crowns.

Announcements have finished and we can start our one hundredth day of learning. The First and Second Grade walk under the one hundred Day Banner with the zero cut out. The first and second grade classes joined together to celebrate this day. The class raced against each other ... the challenge - identify one hundred sight words. During their writing class they wrote with prompts that were focused on the one hundred. In reading class there was a book talking about one hundred things. They made necklaces with one hundred Froot Loops for math to follow a pattern. They also accepted a challenge to see what they could build with one hundred cups.

Announcements have finished and we can start our one hundredth day of learning. The Third and Fourth Grade walk under the one hundred Day Banner with the zero cut out. During calendar time their addition and subtraction equations had to equal one hundred. During reading they read a fictional book about the One Hundredth Day Project. Their one hundredth day writing prompt ... What will I look like when I'm one hundred years old? The common answer you wonder ... old, wrinkly, with a cane. During math there were different activities set up, each focused on the number one hundred. A group could play the one hun-



Second grade students walk under 100 day banner.

dred's chart game where you race to steal the pencil from your classmate to fill in your one hundred's chart first. In partners you could use dice to make equations that equal one hundred and the kids took turns making a poster full of equations that equal one hundred, with no repeated equations. They made about 20 equations and that was how Stark School celebrated its one hundredth day!

Middle School Science Fair

By Kathy Meyer

The Stark Middle School Science Fair was held on November 24th, 2014, from 1-3 in the Stark Gym. All of the middle school students participated. Science fair is an important part of science education. It reinforces the premises of the scientific method which is a difficult concept for most students. Science fair teaches students how to use inference and deductive reasoning skills. Organizational skills are a must when completing a project. This year the students enjoyed using display board kits for the first time. They found their projects appeared more organized and attractive to their audience. Students prepped to present the basic facts about their projects to this year's visitors. We were proud of the achievements of this year's participants.

First place was taken this year by Delanzia with her project working with crystal growing. Her title was "Crystals are a Girl's Best Friend". Great job Delanzia! Second place was won by Cristin with her "Meteor Rocket" project. Jordan took third place with his project, "Cold Rockets are Hot!". Sara earned honorable mention with her project "Why Does it Pop?".

Congratulations to this year's participants on a job well done!



Delanzia working on crystal growing project.



Devyn is working hard on his science project.



Cristin is getting help from Damar on her science project.



Jordan showing his science project "cold Rockets are Hot."

Winter/Fall Sports Highlight

By Heather Dunn

We were so sad to see Ella retire from Missouri School for the Deaf but We know she will enjoy her retirement. I took over this job as an interim Athletic Director, and I want to say a special thanks to everyone who helped me. I wouldn't be able to do my job without any of your help! We had a busy semester with winter homecoming, all basketball games, GPSD basketball tournament in Iowa, MSD invitational track meet, and GPSD track meet. The students worked so hard in each sport and I wanted to put all of highlights of Winter/Spring sports. Enjoy them!



All Tournament team members from 8 different schools. Josph was one of the selection.



MSD girls played against Kansas School for the Deaf for the 5th place. They worked so hard but didn't win.



MSD boys played against Oklahoma School for the Deaf for the 3rd place. They had an overtime but didn't win the game.



Cheerleading team at GPSD.



MSD basketball boys didn't win another championship but they bought back Sportmanship award.

MSD Homecoming: Illinois School for the Deaf vs Missouri School for the Deaf



Joyla tried to break the defense to get the ball.



Azara, Eagle (Avalon), and Cheyenne G started the Pep Rally with a cheer.



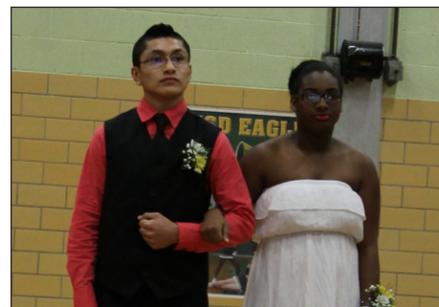
2014-2015 Winter Homecoming Queen Azara recieved her crown from Supertindent Garrett III and Dr. Dee Peneston.



Debbie Burnaman, introducing our 2014 -2015 Winter Homecoming Court.



2014 -2015 Winter Homecoming Court: SR. Jeff, and SR. Danna.



2014-2015 Winter Homecoming Court: JR. Noe and SR. Azara.



2014 -2015 Winter Homecoming Court: SR. Jeff, SR. Danna, (King) JR. Terrell (Queen) SR. Azara, JR. Noe, and SR. Nicole.

GPSD Track & Field Arkansas School for the Deaf

By Heather Dunn

This year we went to Arkansas School for the Deaf for the Great Plains School for the Deaf Track meet. It was their first time to host a track meet. They did a wonderful job hosting. This year, MSD boys earned third place and MSD girls earned fifth place at the GPSD. The kids did their best and each kid brought home a medal. The coaches are so proud of them.

Team Scores

Girls

1. Minnesota150.0
2. Kansas117.0
3. Iowa87
4. Arkansas.83
5. Missouri56.50
6. Oklahoma.53.50
7. Wisconsin17

Boys

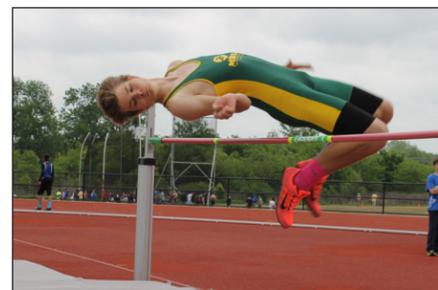
1. Minnesota.151.50
2. Kansas105
3. Missouri94.50
4. Iowa69.50
5. Arkansas.68
6. Oklahoma.42
7. Wisconsin37.50



Boys track team with their 3rd place trophy.



Avalon and Melissa raced in 4x100 meter relay.



Benson won 1st place in the high jump event.



Elizabeth raced in 200 meter dash.

2015 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
9/3	Oklahoma SD	Home	11 AM
9/12	*Arkansas SD	Home	7 PM
9/19	Kansas SD	Away	2 PM
9/24	Wisconsin SD	Home	11 AM
10/3	Minnesota SD	Away	2 PM
10/17	Iowa SD	Away	TBA
10/22	Illinois SD	Home	11 AM



2015 Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
9/1	North Callaway	Away	5:30 PM
9/2	Oklahoma SD	Home	7 PM
9/12	*Arkansas SD	Home	3 PM
9/17	Chamois	Away	6 PM
9/19	Kansas SD	Away	9 AM
9/23	Wisconsin SD	Home	7 PM
9/28	Linn	Away	6 PM
9/29	North Callaway	Home	5:30 PM
10/3	Minnesota ASD	Away	10:00 am
10/9 & 10	GPSD Tournament	New Mexico	TBA
10/13	Chamois (Senior Night)	Home	6 PM
10/15	Calvary Lutheran	Away	6 PM
10/17	Iowa SD	Away	TBA
10/19-22	District	Away	TBA

2015 Cross Country Schedule Middle/High School Cross Country

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	HOME/AWAY	TIME
Wed	09/09	Vienna Invitational	MS/HS	Away	4:00 PM
Thu	09/24	Belle High School	MS/HS	Away	4:00 PM
Thu	10/01	Moberly Invitational	MS/HS	Away	4:00 PM
Tue	10/06	Hermann Invitational	MS/HS	Away	4:00 PM
Tue	10/13	Centralia Invitational	MS/HS	Away	4:00 PM
Sat	10/31	District Cross Country	HS	Away	TBA

