



The Grizzly Press

Featuring the Bare Necessities and Other Events

From the Director



Oregon School
for the Blind

Volume 3 - Issue 3

April/May 2009

The House Education Committee of the Oregon Legislature approved House Bill 2834 on April 10th. House Bill 2834:

- Directs Superintendent of Public Instruction to close Oregon School for the Blind by September 1, 2009.
- Directs the Department of Education to develop comprehensive transition plans for certain students who attend Oregon School for the Blind.
- Establishes Oregon Trust Fund for Blind and Visually Impaired Students. Requires moneys in trust fund to be used to further independence of the educational opportunities for certain blind and visually impaired students. Establishes Board of Directors of the Oregon Trust Fund for the Blind and Visually Impaired Students.
- Directs board to develop plan to sell Oregon School for the Blind. Requires proceeds from sale to be deposited in fund.
- Establishes Blind and Visually Impaired Student Legacy Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for deposit in Blind and Visually Impaired Student Legacy Fund.

This bill was sent to the Ways & Means Committee.

House Bill 2834 is not current law. It is following the normal legislative process. I want to reassure parents that OSB remains committed to providing a high quality education for the students who attend OSB. While the future is uncertain, we are planning for future operation and programs designed to meet the needs of your children.

I commit to keeping you up-to-date on the status of House Bill 2834. We will post updates on our website and, if you choose, I would be happy to add you to the e-mail distribution list for those who are interested in what is happening at OSB. Please e-mail me at don.ouimet@state.or.us and ask to be placed on the "Interested Parties" list. If you have concerns, or would like to speak to me, please feel free to call me at 503-378-5959.

HALL OF FAME

By Eric Paterson

On Thursday, April 30th, The Oregon Blind Athletes Hall of Fame will induct 5 distinguished individuals. They are: **Larry VanWynyarden**, Special Service Award; **Kirk Adams**, Wrestling, skiing & Mountain Climbing; **Charlene Cook**, Dragon Boat Racing; **Bonnie Cooper**, Arm Wrestling & Dragon Boat Racing; **Jon Squally**, Wrestling & Water Skiing. OSB is having an assembly from 2:00-3:15 and then there is a social time in Bracher Lounge from 3:30-4:00. The dinner banquet starts at 5:00-6:30 followed by the induction ceremony in the school auditorium from 6:45-8:00.

Points of Interest

- ☺ From the Director
- ☺ Sports
- ☺ Parent Perspective
- ☺ School-Student Story
- ☺ Dormitory
- ☺ What's Cookin'



STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

April
16th Diana (DJ)
29th Elena

May
16th Caitlin
23rd Zane



Parent's Perspective



House Bill 2834 calls for the closure of Oregon School for the Blind by September 1, 2009. As parents, we need to do everything in our power to make sure OSB continues on for all of our kids. DO NOT put off contacting your local State Senator AND State Representative to set up an appointment with them. This won't take much of your time...but your investment of time will pay off if we ALL do this. Don't want to go alone? Call me...e-mail me....and I will go with you to speak to them. Don't know who you should contact? Go to www.leg.state.or.us and click 'Find Your Legislator' on the far right-hand side. ALSO, have your family members and friends contact their local State Senator and State Representative -- especially if they live in a district of a member from the Ways and Means Committee. We need to let the people in Salem know:

- The House Education Committee rushed through the process of preparing this bill without adequately doing their homework.
- What experiences we have had with services from the local school district and regional level in the past; the reason our child is at OSB to begin with is they stated in the IEP they were **not** able to provide services locally.
- OSB is the only place where your child can get the quality education and services they deserve.
- You want them to do everything possible to help support OSB!

No date has been set for the Ways and Means Committee to vote on House Bill 2834 as of yet **but** the committee will be holding a series of public hearings around Oregon to take public input on the proposed reduction lists of state agencies. Members of the committee have indicated that public response to the proposed cuts will be vital to their decision-making process. This would be a great opportunity for **all of us** to show up and voice our opinions for the proposed cut of OSB.

Scheduled meetings starting next week:

April 20th, 6 - 9 pm in Lincoln City - Lincoln City Cultural Center

April 21st, 6 - 9 pm in Portland - Portland Community College at the Cascade Campus in the Moriarty Arts & Humanities Building Auditorium

April 23rd, 6 - 9 pm in Salem - State Capital in Hearing Room F

April 29th, 6 - 9 pm in Bend - Location TBD

April 30th, 6 - 9 pm in Ashland - Southern Oregon University at Stevenson Union in the Rogue River Room

May 1st, 1 - 4 pm in Eugene - University of Oregon at Prince Lucien Campbell Hall in Room 180

Please mark your calendar and attend one of these sessions -- and don't forget to let your voice be heard. Obviously, there will be numerous other topics discussed, but these committee members need to hear from people all over the state. Don't forget to share this information with other supporters of OSB that you know of.

If you are not regularly receiving e-mails from me, please e-mail me or call me so we can keep in contact.

Kathy O'Malley: kromalley@comcast.net Phone: (503)789-8078

It is **important** that **OSB parents AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES** have a chance to get together to share and talk about information regarding any proposed legislative action concerning OSB or that might affect OSB. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in these discussions. Email: kromalley@comcast.net Phone: (503)789-8078

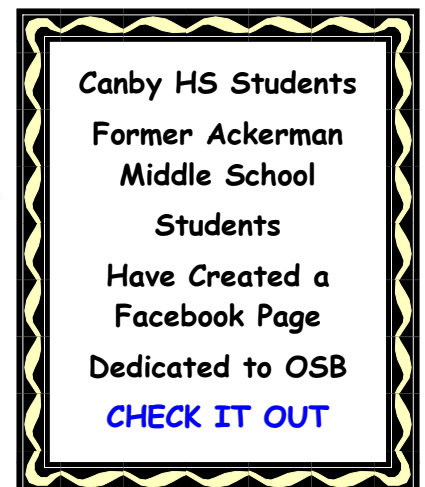
New Resource

In an effort to better communicate the services and activities sponsored by Oregon School for the Blind, a new Resource Guide is available on our website. The link to the documents is http://www.ode.state.or.us/osb/formspubs/pdf-docs/osb_statewide_resource_for_all_vi_students.pdf

If you desire a copy and are unable to access it online, please contact me and I'll get a hard copy to you.

Don Ouimet

503-378-3820



**Canby HS Students
Former Ackerman
Middle School
Students
Have Created a
Facebook Page
Dedicated to OSB
CHECK IT OUT**

Bare necessities and other events

OSB Prom - May 14, 2009

Memorial Day - May 25, 2009 - No School

Summer School - July 2009 - Call 503-378-3820 for Information

Congratulations To Cherie and Adam Campbell. They welcomed Charlie on April 2, 2009.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OSB STUDENT Jeremy Doney



Jeremy Doney's gift and passion is music—listening, playing and performing on the piano. He is a 20-year-old tribal member from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon. He has been totally blind since birth. Even when very young, he was constantly drawn to music and playing with his electronic keyboard which helped to motivate him to explore his world.

He now works with a professional piano teacher who instructs him on the more difficult piano playing techniques. His lessons and the production of his first CD have been supported by the Snowman Foundation which was started 10 years ago by Portland Pianist/ Composer Michael Allen Harrison with the mission to enrich children's lives with music. Jeremy has greatly been blessed by the generosity of Michael and the Foundation.

During his education at the Oregon School for the Blind in Salem, Jeremy demonstrated exceptional auditory skills. Those skills assist him in learning mobility routes, remembering his daily schedule and of course learning a huge repertoire of music. He learns his pieces from listening to any device that produces music, but is greatly inspired by others' performances.

During the last several years Jeremy has shared his music at a variety of events at the Oregon Capitol, with several different senior living centers, public school children, holiday shoppers, churches, and a memorable performance with the 10 pianists at the Ten Grands Concert in Portland in April of 2007. He has just finished participating in the 2009 concert in Seattle and Portland. On April 11, KATU highlighted Jeremy with a story as he picked up his CDs and rehearsed for the Portland Ten Grands concert.

Below is the link to KATU news stations story entitled "Young Ore. Pianist a phenom- despite obstacles

<http://www.katu.com/home/video/42860852.html?video=pop&t=a>

Quotes from people who know Jeremy

From his piano teacher, Jill Hickenlooper:

"Jeremy has been an adventure to teach. Music streams out of him. And I have observed that the more he learns, the more his creativity expands. He appreciates and explores all sounds, kinds, and styles of music. New sounds and ideas are captivating and enjoyed. And Jeremy's social interaction is equal to any other musician when he plays with other musicians. He understands, he cooperates, he anticipates, and he shares through the moments. The limitations he has without music fall away when he is in his element. It is a wonder to see and hear."

From Mert Meeker, Vice-Chair, Snowman Foundation, following the 2007 Ten Grands Concert:

"The giant smile on Jeremy's face while he was playing on stage with the other ten pianists Saturday night said it all. I think he moved many in the audience to tears."

Below is a link a article in The News Review "Grand piano playing keys support for youth music programs"

<http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20090416/NEWS/904169994&parentprofile=search>

From Don Ouimet, Director, Oregon School for the Blind:

"I think that the greatest joy of Jeremy's life is sharing his musical gift with others. He plays and gives from his heart."

Jeremy's CD \$15. Call 503-378-3820, If you are interested in purchasing one



Tech Center “Re-arranged”



Admittedly I’m not always the neatest person around. I often enjoy clutter as long as it’s “controlled clutter”. That is, having things arranged in such a way that I can usually locate them when needed. So, in that respect, maybe my clutter is nothing more than too much stuff for the available space.

As Lorinda Macomber will tell you, I’ve been somewhat willing to de-clutter the OSB Tech Center this year. At the start of the 2008-09 school year, we went through many cabinets, shelves, and cubbies in order to weed out stuff that we no longer needed.

The process of de-cluttering should be, in my humble opinion, an orderly one. While a hurricane certainly has the power to de-clutter a person’s life, it typically creates more problems than it solves. Therefore, I wouldn’t recommend using this blast-out approach to ridding yourself of unneeded items.

So, too, it is when one or more people gain – as the police typically say – “unlawful entry” to an area that may need to be de-cluttered. Their intention – as you shall see - was not to create order ... but disorder.

And so it was during the evening of Sunday March 22, 2009 when we had a break-in at the School Building. Not only was the Tech Center hit during this late night raid, but a couple of other rooms in the school building also felt the wrath of a deranged person. Unfortunately he got away, but the police are investigating. Still we are fortunate that no one was injured and that nothing was actually stolen.

Well, being the eternal optimist, there must be a good side to all of this, right? So here are some possible “silver linings” to this dark cloud in the history of the OSB Tech Center.

1. No one got hurt during this rampage of what must be a very angry, out-of-control person. Altogether 5 workstations – including the desk of yours truly – got “rearranged” during this un-invited visit.
2. All of the computers still work! That’s a miracle, of sorts, considering the force that some of these items were ripped from their cable connections.
3. This event gave us a chance to dust under a number of the computers. Why some of the desks had their contents cleared off thereby creating an excellent opportunity to clean the countertops. We normally have to clean around things – thereby making it difficult to sometimes get all of the dust.
4. Well, on a personal note, the bulk of my prized pictures were left unharmed. Had those gotten damaged in this rampage ... THEN it would be personal!
5. Our new “security” enhancements to the Tech Center doors proved that they were neither secure ... NOR doors! A glass panel was punched out of one door. Had we known this guy was coming we could have left the door unlocked and, in so doing, saved a lot of clean-up.
6. My small plastic shark collection (in tribute to JAWS screen Reader) was rearranged, but not stolen.
7. My plastic collection of tropical birds had the same fate as the sharks. Moved around a bit – but still intact.

So, as you can see, there were some good points in all of this. Still, as opportunities go, I would rather have been without the experience.

It should go without saying that we are most appreciative of the excellent help we received after this event. The OSB Maintenance Dept. did a terrific job cleaning up after this break-in ... as did Dick Kahler, of the Oregon Department of Education, who came over and put in many hours getting all of the computers checked and back in order. Thanks to all of the help we received, the OSB Tech Center was back in business when school started up again after spring break!

Students of Joyce Lonsford's Transition Class planned and participated in a special ceremony to retire an old and tattered American Flag. This ceremony took place before a school-wide assembly at Camp Grizzly on the OSB campus.

The students stood before a roaring campfire as they each read their parts describing the symbolism of the American flag. The red, they related, represented the lifeblood of brave men and women who are ready to die for their country. The white stripes, they told, reminded us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed and the blue stands for truth and justice.

Further, the students explained that while it is generally not permissible to burn a flag, a flag ceases to be a flag once it is cut into pieces. Therefore, as part of the ceremony the students first presented the flag to the audience and then stretched it out while their classmates carefully cut the flag into four pieces. They explained, as part of the ceremony, that the blue field containing the 50 stars - as with the union it represents - is left intact. Then, with a solemn and respectful manner, the students carefully added the four pieces to the fire and stood a sentries over the fire as each part turned to ash. The students and staff learned about flag etiquette and how to conduct a flag retiring ceremony that emphasized respect for a country that, while not perfect, has provided numerous opportunities for countless people throughout its history.



Dormitory News



By Terri Nichols

"Summer Shines in 2009" is up and running. Staffing has been assigned and some registration forms have begun to arrive. Summer programs will only run in July this year and will offer the following camps: Summer Work Experience Program (SWEPE), Techno Trail, Early Concepts and Opportunities, Sports Camp, Creative Enrichment, Food for Thought and Outdoor Education. You might notice that this is a couple camps less than we have offered in the past. The reason for this is due to the fact that we over extended our offerings last summer and that created a shortage in our funding for this year. Next year we hope to offer all the camps that we have in past summers. If you are interested in participating or know someone that is, they can get registration forms on the Oregon School for the Blind Website or they can contact **Terri Nichols at 503-378-8090** Sunday - Thursday to request them personally.

Hope to see everyone here for "fun in the sun" this summer.

Phenomenal Year

By Melanie Lindquist

Throughout the course of the 08-09 school year, many Willamette University Delta Gamma volunteers have stepped up to assist with a variety of tasks during our day program. They have been placed in classrooms, the music room, the gymnasium and Sensory Garden. In the evening, they have participated in bowling, swimming, Goal Ball and crafts. Many of them also accompanied students to the pumpkin patch and fun was had by all!

The Willamette University Delta Gamma has volunteered 194 hours of service thus far during the 08-09 school year! They have been instrumental in making this place the best that it can be for our students by taking an interest in both our school and dormitory programs!





What's Cookin' - It smells "Beary" Good!



This recipe is from - www.weightwatchers.com

GLAZED PEAR MUFFINS

- 2 spray (s) cooking spray
- 2 large pear (s), ripe, Bosc with skin
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup sugar, granulated
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup fat-free skim milk
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, unbleached
- 1/2 tsp table salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tsp warm water, or more if necessary



Preheat oven to 375 degrees F and coat a 12-hole muffin tin with cooking spray or muffin liners.

Core and chop pears into tiny cubes; place in a large bowl. Add cinnamon, granulated sugar and lemon juice to pears; set aside. In a small bowl, whisk together sour cream, egg, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and milk; set aside. In a large bowl, sift together flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder. Make a well with a spoon in center of flour mixture and pour in sour cream mixture and fruit mixture, alternating in small batches; mix until barely blended. Do not over beat. (NOTE: Batter will be very thick) Drop batter by heaping tablespoons into muffin holes until about 2/3 to 3/4 full; bake until top is golden, about 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes in muffin tin; remove from tins to racks and cool completely. (Or leave slightly warm to dip into glaze for easier preparation.) While muffins are cooling, make glaze: Mix powdered sugar, ginger, 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla and warm water together in a small bowl (add another teaspoon of water if glaze is too thick). Spread a thin layer of glaze over each muffin. Yields 1 muffin per serving. NOTE: You can swap apples for the pears if desired.

