

# PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

website: <http://osb.k12.ok.us/>

## Western Heritage Day

By Whitney Gamble



On Wed, September 27, 2023, OSB students and staff attended our **annual Western Heritage Day** at the **Silver Spur Ranch** in **Haskell**, Oklahoma.

The students got the opportunity to fish, ride horses, climb a rock wall, jump on a trampoline with bungee straps, ride in a horse-drawn



covered wagon, ride on a horse-drawn flatbed trailer, pet various farm



animals, learn to use a lariat rope, feel some animal skins, and were fed a great lunch



of chicken chunks, potato wedges, roll, and a cookie.



DRS Director Melinda Fruendt & Tonya Garman

## THANK YOU

to all the Connors students who helped our students make the most of the time they had at the ranch,



but most of all, thank you to the **Webb family** for your hospitality!



It was a fun-filled day to say the least!



## Oklahoma School for the Blind

2023 - 2024, Edition #1

October 11, 2023

Editor: Maggie Mattox

Next Edition: December 20, 2023

### Special points of interest:

- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- BNSF Railroad Field trip
- ESSER Grant
- Touch the Art
- OSB Blood Drive
- Sock Fundraiser
- Panther Pride 5K

### Inside this issue:

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	2
Becky LaRue Dinner	2
Caught Being Good	3
Counselor Corner	3-4
BNSF Railroad Field Trip	4
ESSER Grant (After school programs)	5-6
Teens 4 Christ	7
Touch the Art	8
OAHPERD Conference	8
Cane Quest	9
Tulsa Lions Club Donation	9
Habitude Assembly	9
OSB Greenhouse Update	10
White Cane Day	10
FCCLA Lead Conference	11
OSB Blood Drive	11
STUCO Update	12
Made in OK Café	12
Recreation Activities	13
Going the Extra Mile	14
Birthdays (Oct.-Dec.)	15
Staff Changes	16
Upcoming Events	16
Sock Fundraiser Flyer	17
Panther Pride 5K Sign Up Form	18
Panther Pride 5K Sponsor Form	19

## Donors Choose Awards

By Rita Echelle

Congratulations to our counselor, **Ashton Frisby!** Her



**"Mrs. Frisby's Counselor Corner"** was recently funded. This enabled Mrs. Frisby to purchase several books and products to assist in counseling students.

Thank you, Mrs. Frisby, for applying for the Donors Choose funding. Our students will reap the rewards!

Congratulations to **Elisha Moore!** She just received a Donors Choose grant of \$578!



Her students will be reaping the benefits soon! Thank you, Ms. Moore, for applying!

Donors Choose project,



# Spaghetti Dinner

By Lynn Cragg

On Sept. 26, OSB partnered with the **Muskogee Masonic Lodge #28** for our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

The kitchen staff served delicious spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic toast and dessert.

We had great participation from the community, staff and parents. **We served over 200 plates of spaghetti.**



The Jazz Band delighted the crowd by playing a couple of tunes, then soloists Evy Kizzia and Leah Sailors wowed the

crowd with their performances.



A silent auction was conducted from donations and baskets provided by classes, school groups and community supporters.

A dessert auction by our own OSB auctioneer, Cammeron Brice brought in more money for the fundraiser.

Boomerang Diner presented a check for **\$3,000** to support the fundraiser.



We raised a total of **\$7,495** at the fundraiser.

The Muskogee Lodge #28 will apply for matching funds **up to \$5,000**, bringing our total this year to **\$12,495**.



A huge **THANK YOU** to Muskogee Masonic Lodge #28, Boomerang Diner, and all the other sponsors that donated to our school.

It was a great evening of food, music and fellowship.

# Becky LaRue Benefit Dinner

By Annette Underwood

October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month and this year it "hit home".

One of our own, Miss Becky, received some news a few months ago that she has liver cancer. For those that do not know, when you work at OSB, you are more than an employee. **You are family!**

After finding out, she realized that she did not have a cancer policy to help with the bills that would start arriving in the mail. So she prayed.

God answered that prayer by laying it on everyone's heart to help.

Everyone, family and friends,

banded together and organized an Indian Taco Dinner, which was held on September 30th.

There was a raffle, silent auction, and a very lively "live auction" which offered baked goods and other items to bid for.

Many people purchased a t-shirt to show their support for Miss Becky, which they showcased during the fundraiser.

Miss Becky was overwhelmed with the number of people that showed up to support her in her fight and lots of tears (of joy) fell that day.

The dinner was very successful and Miss Becky will be able to pay on her medical bills.

Miss Becky would like to thank

each person that helped and contributed! May God bless each and every one of you.

**T-shirts are still available:**

If you or someone you know would like to get a t-shirt, just let Miss Marcella or Miss Annette know. Below are the three different designs to choose from.



# Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



It's never too late to be caught being good....  
So keep up the good work students!!  
We are proud of you all!

## "Caught Being Good"

- ♦ Austin Heffley Helped a student to his class.
- ♦ Blaze Calger Helped a new student to their next class.
- ♦ Chris Sumner He helped clean up a mess on the route Thursday. He was a great help.
- ♦ Diesel Peoples Was helpful and kind to a classmate.
- ♦ Diesel Peoples Always helps new students find their way around.
- ♦ Kesslee Travis Kesslee has offered help to Delilah with her Braille contractions.
- ♦ Neal Summerlin Always holds the door for his classmates.
- ♦ Rudy Hunter Picked up a staff's badge and returned it to her.
- ♦ Sara Cantu Sara was quick to assist a student during recess.
- ♦ Scott Moore Voluntarily cleaned up a mess on the floor for someone in B-1.
- ♦ Ellie Montgomery Carried a backpack to class for a friend.

## Counselor Corner

By Asthon Frisby

We are very happy to have a very diverse "After School Activities" program through the ESSER grant this year. The students seem to really enjoy the different options they can choose from. *(Please see the ESSER Grant article for more details.)*

Other fun activities are coming up as well, for example we will be celebrating **Red Ribbon Week** from October 23-26.



What Is Red Ribbon Week? It is a way for communities to unite and **take a stand against drugs**. The mission of the Red Ribbon

Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a drug-free America.



Each day will be under a different motto, **Monday** will be "**Freedom is Living Drug Free!** (Wear Red/white/blue) Day", **Tuesday** will be "**You'd be Crazy to Use Drugs!** (Crazy Dress Day)", **Wednesday** will be "**Chillax Drug Free!** (Pajama Day)", and **Thursday** will be "**This is Me Drug-Free!** (Costume Day)". Staff and Students alike have enjoyed this crazy week in past years and there is no telling what this year will bring.

October is also **Bullying Prevention Month**.

National Bullying Prevention Month (NBPM) is an important time to elevate the conversation about addressing and preventing bullying of K-12 children and youth.

**Bullying Prevention Month is an opportunity to:**

- ♦ Offer information and education to students, with steps to address and prevent bullying. 
- ♦ Share bullying prevention information through news

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Counselor's Corner (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

media, social media, videos, and print publications.

- ◆ Speak with educators about their role in bullying prevention.
- ◆ Promote a dialogue between educators, parents, and students on their roles in addressing and preventing bullying.
- ◆ Share information about bullying prevention resources.

◆ Inspire everyone to promote kindness to help prevent bullying.

◆ See the Bullying Prevention Toolkit [here](#).

### Resources for Mindfulness:

- ◆ [Conflict Resolution](#)
- ◆ [Brain Breaks](#)
- ◆ [Coping Tools and Resources](#)
- ◆ [Support in Uncertain Times](#)
- ◆ [Circle of Control](#)
- ◆ [Self-Care](#)
- ◆ [Family Self-Care](#)



## BNSF RAILROAD FIELD TRIP

By Susan Young Mock

On Wednesday afternoon, October 4, 2023, students traveled to BNSF tracks 3001-3002 in Muskogee to learn about jobs appropriate for blind and visually impaired people.

Job titles such as clerk, head-quarter positions, and intermodal liaison were discussed.

Ryan Albright, SPM 151 Foreman, and David Nickles, Superintendent of Operations showed us around a static



display and lead us on a tour around an engine.



"It's important to understand some of the vocabulary and workings of the trains in order to better understand a job elsewhere in the company." noted

Superintendent Nickles.

According to Superintendent Nickles, a high school graduate can earn **\$30/hour** straight out of school!



Employees can utilize a computer, large print, and braille.

People with disabilities tend to stay with a company longer than their non-disabled peers.



BNSF offers competitive pay, full benefits, and a generous retirement.

Visit [www.bsnf.com/careers](http://www.bsnf.com/careers) for more information.

A follow-up visit by the BNSF Human Resource Management

team is being planned.

**Students who attended were:**

**5<sup>th</sup> Year students:** Julio Valdez and Elbin Carrillo;

**Seniors:** Lorie Cox, Emileigh Jackson, Scott Moore, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Katelynn Zampella;

**Juniors:** Alexandra Antolin, Elijah Cantu, Jacob Cantu, Sara Cantu, Ocie Webster, and Ryan Williams;

**Sophomores:** Julia Cisneros, Angel Cozort, Kyler Harrington, and Chris Sumner;

**Sponsors:**

Mrs. Garner, FCCLA Advisor and Mrs. Young Mock, Student Council/DECA Advisor;

**Chaperone:** Ms. Cheri;

**Driver:** Ms. Jessica.



# ESSER Grant - After School Programs

By Laci Goins

This September OSB began its final year of the ESSER Grant which provides opportunities for the students, both before and after school, to get extra help from a mentor teacher or participate in unique activities.

On **Mondays** students can choose between Game Night and Art.



At **Game Night**, students learn how to play a variety of board games and at the end of the semester we will be having a **game tournament**.

The games include Sorry, Checkers, Candy Land, Life, Clue, and many others that they can teach their families to play.



Game Night alternates weeks with **Art**, where students get to express



their creativity through different mediums culminating in an art show at the end of the year.



Several students have taken advantage of the **early morning times** to work on learning new skills and/or catching up on



**Tuesdays** offer a choice between 3D Printing and Walking Club / Braille Club.



**3D Printing** is a popular activity amongst the students.

During this activity the students learn how to code for the item they want to print out and explore all of the fun things that a 3D printer can do.



The **Walking Club** meets every other week at 4:15 pm and the goal is to participate in the Panther Prowl 5K this November.



We have a fun time exercising with friends. We use the track outside or walk inside the school if we can't walk outside due to the weather. Come join us soon!

The **Braille Club** alternates with the Walking Club and they explore all things Braille and discuss the importance of Braille Literacy. They play games and do fun activities together that include using Braille skills. Come join in the fun!

their school work.

The **after school program** offers the students a choice between two activities each day before dinner and has also seen a great response.

On **Wednesdays** students can participate in Crafty Creations, the Leadership Club, or learn the basics of self-defense.

**Crafty Creations** is a fun activity where students get to learn how to knit, make scrapbooks, and other crafts that they can turn into hobbies. (see Knit Wits article on next page)



The **Leadership Club** focuses on what it means to be a leader and will be planning not only the 5K but other activities throughout the year as well.



From L to R: Macey M., Braylen F., Ryan W., Emleigh J., Angel C., Kaiti H.  
Added on top: Stephanie G. (L), Piper C. (R)

Alternating with the Leadership Club is the **"Introduction to Self-Defense"**



class which will provide training specifically for the blind and visually impaired. The students will learn to recognize a threat, analyze that threat, respond to that threat, and recognize appropriate action and the legalities of self-defense.



## ESSER Grant - After School Programs (continued)

### Crafty Creations - Knit Wits

By Cassie Shelton

I think it's fair to say the title of our knitting group describes us well.

Some of us are trying out something completely new for the first time, one of us is self-taught, but all-in-all, we come to have a good time and laughing at ourselves is required.

Knitting can be hard to learn, but

once the concept is understood and you put in the time and practice, you have something beautiful to show for it.

Many have commented they would like to give their creation as a gift.

I invited my Mom to join us for our first lesson. She taught me how to knit this past summer.

She's taught me



throughout the years, but I never really stuck with it.

For whatever reason, this time it stuck.

I knew this was something I needed to offer as an after school activity.

Some come on Tuesdays and others on Wednesdays. So whichever day is better for you and you've been thinking of trying something new, consider joining us "Knit Wits."

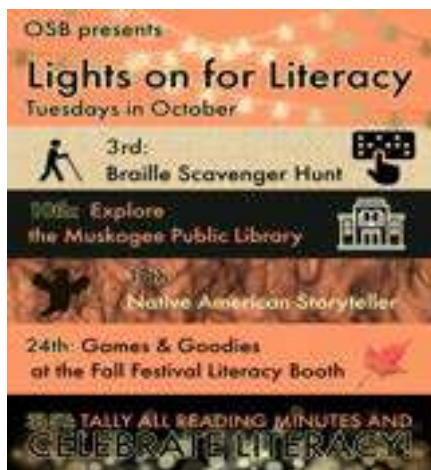
We promise to have FUN with every single stitch.

## ESSER Grant - Big Plans are still ahead

By Laci Goins

In addition to these activities big plans are in the works for other evening events. We are hoping to once again partner with the HOP program and TSET, attend a play or musical, explore a museum, and maybe even an open-mic night. We will also be having extended library hours so the students can visit the library after dinner one day a week for checkouts and other activities.

In October we are partnering with the Afterschool Alliance by participating in the **24<sup>th</sup> annual "Lights On for Literacy"**



Afterschool — the only national celebration of afterschool programs.

Mrs. Jackman has been working hard to organize these events.

**Read Every Night:** The entire month of October we will be asking students to read every day, even for just 15 minutes, and turn in their reading time at the end of the week. At the end of the month we will tally up the minutes for each grade level and celebrate the number of hours read.

**Lights On for Literacy Kick Off:** On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we kicked off our "Lights On" event by having a **Braille scavenger hunt** and celebrating Braille Literacy. Students worked as teams to follow braille clues around the school gathering the ingredients for Braille Trail Mix. It was a lot of fun.

**Library Adventures:** On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the students got to explore the Muskogee Public Library and participated in activities that brought literature to life while learning about what

the libraries in their home communities can offer.

**Stories by the Fire:** On October 17<sup>th</sup>, a Native American storyteller will be telling stories by the campfire and sharing the importance of storytelling for his culture.

**Fall Festival:** As part of the Fall Festival on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Jackman will have a fun table set up celebrating literacy with games and goodies.

**Read Every Day in October:** October 31<sup>st</sup> will be the last day to turn in minutes read for the month and see which grade level read the most during the month of October.

These are just a few of the exciting things that are happening and we are only getting started!

Watch for more updates about the amazing after-school activities that will be happening throughout the year.

# Teens 4 Christ



By **Annette Underwood**

## See You at the Pole

"See You at the Pole" was held on September 27<sup>th</sup> and it was not only a national day for students to pray but also worldwide. For those that do not know, this is a day that students gather at the flag pole and pray for their school, staff, students, friends, city, law enforcement, government, etc. It was started in the 1990s in Burleson, Texas. Now it spans the entire globe!



This year's theme was Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 13, which says, **"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."**

When Jesus was asked, "What is the most important commandment? His answer began, "You must love the Lord, your God, with all your heart." Not half, not part, not most but.... Wholehearted! 100 percent!

This year, our students not only wanted to pray for our city, law enforcement, firefighters, city officials, etc., but they wanted to pray for them face to face.

Muskogee has some of the biggest hearted employees! Our calls to their offices were met with an overwhelming response to our request of having our Muskogee

police, emergency management and firefighters in attendance. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who came.



**Piper Conner** did an awesome job introducing each student to pray.



**Lane Sutterfield** prayed for everyone at the pole around the country and the world.

**Treysen Radick** prayed for our nation and government.

**Blake Priddy** prayed for students around the world, family and friends.

**Justin Millar** prayed for family and friends.

**Macey Millar** prayed for OSB's administration.

**Delilah Howell** prayed for all of the students at OSB.



**Kolten Pennington** prayed for our city government, law enforcement and firefighters.



Then last but not least, **Lynn Cragg** blessed the students and all in attendance by singing while everyone gathered around the pole to pray.

The heartfelt prayers touched many in attendance.

One student was crying and said that she could feel the Holy Spirit to a staff member, who in turn said that that is what it is all about! God showed up in a mighty way and Oklahoma School for the Blind is blessed.

### The "See you at the Pole" Story

A small group of teenagers in Burleson, Texas, came together for a DiscipleNow weekend in early 1990.

... Compelled to pray, they drove to three different schools that night. Not knowing exactly what to do, they went to the school flag poles and prayed for their friends, schools, and leaders. Those students had no idea how God would use their obedience.

... The challenge was named **See You at the Pole™** at a brainstorming session during a meeting of key youth leaders. The vision was shared with **20,000 students in June 1990** at Reunion Arena in Dallas, Texas. ... At 7:00 a.m. **on September 12, 1990, more than 45,000 teenagers** met at school flag poles in **four different states** to pray before the start of school. Reports came into toll-free number for days after the first event.

..Since 1991, See You at the Pole™ has grown to God-sized proportions. Within the first few years, the movement began to spread to other nations through missionaries from the U.S. Now each year, an **estimated 1 million students** from all over the world participate in See You at the Pole™. Students in **more than 64 countries** have participated.

For the full story, please visit: [https://www.timesnews.net/news/local-news/the-history-of-see-you-at-the-pole/article\\_1a761936-a800-5676-8406-79e66ad6644b.html](https://www.timesnews.net/news/local-news/the-history-of-see-you-at-the-pole/article_1a761936-a800-5676-8406-79e66ad6644b.html)



# Touch the Art

By Laci Goins

I am super excited that we got to take the students to the McKeon Center on September 25, 2023.

The students had the opportunity to "Touch the Art" that is on



display there. They got to experience lots of different art mediums as they explored the

artwork that was on display.

Afterwards they created some art with **John Bramblitt**, a blind painter.



The High School kids made clay roses. They painted "blind" (blind-folded as applicable) by using their other senses.



They had to gather information about an unknown object from a box by touch, then

they drew the object they experienced on a textured paper while being blind-folded.

They then had to blindly taste a jelly bean and paint what they associated that taste with.

They also used textured paint to fill in a flower indicated by raised outlines. It was so much fun.

John Bramblitt is the only blind muralist in the world with murals in New York and Dallas.

Bramblitt is known for his bright colors and a style that mixes impressionism combined with the

modern feel of pop art.

You can check out his work on his website <https://bramblitt.com/>

A **big shout out to Annina Collier** at the McKeon Center for organizing this event for us. We really appreciated it.

Also a huge '**Thank You**' to all the sponsors that came along and helped out. We couldn't have done it without you all.



## OAHPERD Conference

By Tera Webb

Coach Gamble and myself, got to attend the Oklahoma Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD) conference recently.

OAHPERD hosted many sessions that introduced new ideas, equipment and/or resources to professionals and college students interested in PE, Health Education, Recreation Therapy and Dance!

Coach Gamble and I were able to attend several sessions that gave us new ideas for our PE programs and Health classes.

We started the experience with

an awesome opening session speaker, Mrs. Sherri Coale, former OU Sooners women's basketball coach.

Since I serve on the board and council of OAHPERD I was asked to do a presentation on adapted sports.



So, Coach Gamble and I, held a session introducing many to Goalball, Beep Baseball and Blind Soccer.

College students and professionals alike joined in to participate in basic skills for these sports



and even played a modified version of a game of goalball.



A big **THANK YOU** to our OSB administration for supporting our trip!





# Cane Quest Pre-Event Update

By Faye Miller



Are you getting ready for the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Regional Cane**

**Quest** event?

There are **33 contestants** registered to compete on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from noon to 4 pm.

Contestants will be joined by **over 60 volunteers** coming from all over Oklahoma to score at stations and partner with each contestant.

We are back to our regular Cane Quest event with more than 10 stations for each of the contestant categories.

**Scouts** compete on the OSB campus. They will demonstrate basic cane skills, guide skills, and

work with their teammates to complete O&M tasks.

**Explorers** and **Trailblazers** will complete a route in downtown Muskogee. There are 5 types of street crossings they will have to complete and be able to demonstrate some more advanced cane skills.

**We look forward to seeing you at OSB for Cane Quest!**

We want to send a special **THANK YOU** to Natalie Armstrong for using her **Let's Choose Love grant for \$1000** to buy cool prizes for Cane Quest contestants! Natalie will be back this year for a special presentation of her prizes and to volunteer for a 5th year!

Let's Choose Love is an organization that provides mini grants, up to \$1000, mostly to people ages 16 to 30, to

do something good in their community. The movement is dedicated to bringing forth a world where **Love Rules!** (<https://www.letschooselove.org/>)

We also want to thank all other sponsors, as this event would not be possible without them.

**Thank you!**



## Tulsa Downtown Lions Club Donation

By Faye Miller

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to the Tulsa Downtown Lions Club and Orpha Paciorek!

They donated \$500 for Cane Quest prizes, \$500 for Braille Challenge prizes, and another \$1000 for activities here at OSB

for all the kids!

Gabby Henderson and Kennedy Sullivan welcomed Ms. Orpha to our school on October 3, 2023 to receive the big donation.

The photo was taken by the **Panther Walk of Honor** by the front office to OSB and feature

the panther smiling wide!

**Thank you** again to the Tulsa Downtown Lions Club for your generosity!



From Left to Right:  
Ms. Orpha, Gabby, Kennedy

## Habitude Assembly - September

By Coach Shelby Gamble

On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, all of our students gathered in the auditorium to attend the first 2023-2024 Habitude Assembly.

This gathering consisted of celebrating all of the things that our students have been participating in since the

beginning of school, and how **making a good attitude a habit is important.**

The Habitude for the month of October is **DISCIPLINE**.

I talked about how discipline is the bridge to get us from where we are to where we want to be.

There were **three key points:**

- ◆ Show up,
- ◆ Try, and
- ◆ Keep pushing.

The students enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next assembly.

# OSB Greenhouse

By Anne Page



It's been a tough summer for the greenhouse. The heat has not been kind to our plants.

However, we still have sweet potatoes, various succulents and other houseplants busy growing.

We have planted lots of new seeds and hope to harvest some



greens in a few weeks.

The sweet potatoes should also be ready toward the end of October.

We were able to harvest carrots and onions that the students had planted at the end of last year. The carrots were very unique shapes, but



they tasted great!

The students are great workers, planting, repotting, watering and harvesting!



We hope to have plenty of plants for a spring sale and greens for the cafeteria throughout the year.

## White Cane Day - October 15<sup>th</sup>

By Macey Millar



In 1921, James Biggs invented the white cane after an accident took his sight. James had felt threatened by increased motor vehicle traffic near his home, so he painted his walking stick white. By painting it white it made it easier to see and people would be more aware of him as he traveled independently.

The white cane has helped millions of blind people with navigation, gaining independence, and spreading awareness about visual impairments. One of those people that benefit from the invention of the white cane is me.

According to the Braille Institute, white canes were introduced in the 1930s as a way of assisting visually impaired pedestrians to travel independently. They also helped motorists identify and yield to people using the white cane, and their use has been protected by law in the United States since that time.

White Cane Safety Day, October 15, was established in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson in

an effort to raise awareness of people who carry a white cane.

My experience with the white cane has been life changing. For years I wondered "What am I supposed to do if I can't see what's in front of me? Trip until I find where I'm meant to be going?" However, when the white cane was introduced to me, it opened up a whole new realm of possibilities. Finally, I'd be able to walk around without the fear of falling down a flight of stairs! The white cane has also helped people see that I am blind. When people see it, they usually know to stay out of my way. Overall, the white cane has helped me become a more independent person, as well as bringing people awareness to my disability.

The **white cane law states** that people using white canes are always yielded the right-of-way when crossing a road. Meaning, if a person with a white cane is crossing a street, drivers must stop their vehicle. People with a white cane are also required to stop if a car is already crossing a street.

The Braille Institute gives some **tips for people driving when they see a person with a white**

**cane ...**

1. **Stop at least five feet from a crosswalk.** Pedestrians who are visually impaired or blind may use the sound of your engine to locate crosswalk boundaries. If any part of your car is in the crosswalk, they may misjudge the safe area.
2. **Avoid honking at individuals who use a white cane.** People who are blind or visually impaired have no idea why you're honking.
3. **It is okay to ask if assistance is needed.** Ask the person who is blind or visually impaired for permission before trying to assist. If the person asks you to help guide them, offer your arm. They will hold your arm just above the elbow to follow your path.

See these links for more information:

<https://qldblind.org.au/living-with-blindness/history-of-the-white-cane/>  
<https://brailleinstitute.org/white-cane-day#:~:text=They%20also%20helped%20motorists%20identify,who%20carry%20a%20white%20cane>  
<https://brailleinstitute.org/orientation-mobility-month>

# FCCLA - Lead Conference

By Allison Garner



On September 7, two students from the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter attended the **2023 Lead Conference**.

The Lead Conference, one of 4 planned around the state, was held in Glenpool. Attending from OSB was Ryan Williams and Stephanie Glynn.



“Lead Conference is a great opportunity for our FCCLA chapter officers to gain leadership experience, network with other officers in their region, and learn

how to make an impact on the organization”, said Brittani Phillips, FCCLA State Adviser.

Shea Booster was the keynote speaker for the conference. Shea is a former National FFA officer and has traveled the country speaking to student organizations and motivating them to get involved and “get going” with what they love.

The 10 State Officers led the training, which focused on teaching the chapter officers how to be effective leaders in their schools. Each chapter officer attended a specific leadership track for their office.

Oklahoma FCCLA serves approximately 17,000 members in 400 chapters in both junior and senior high schools and on technology center campuses.

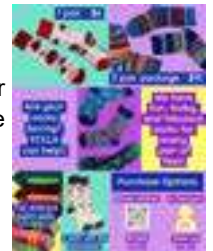
Known as the “Ultimate Leadership Experience,” participation in FCCLA national programs,

competitive events, and chapter activities helps members gain skills for life and become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities.

FCCLA’s mission is “to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer science education.” It is the only CareerTech student organization with family as its central focus.

FCCLA is one of seven Career-Tech student organizations affiliated with CareerTech programs. It is affiliated with family and consumer sciences.

FCCLA organizes all of our OSB Blood Drives (see below) and numerous other “service oriented fundraisers” (see the “sock” flyer at the end of the newsletter).



## OSB Blood Drive - October 16<sup>th</sup>

OSB FCCLA hosts its next “Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) - Blood Drive” and needs your help.

Blood banks are low and in desperate need of donations.

### 20 Donors Needed !!!

The next Blood Drive will be held at the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) on **Monday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm.**

Join us on the Bloodmobile at OSB, 3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, OK 74403

### [Schedule Your Appointment!](#)

Click on the link above to schedule your appointment.

**Walk-ins are Welcome** too.

- ◆ Receive your Free Glow in the Dark T-Shirt and Zoo Ticket.
- ◆ Find out your Blood Type for Free.

Thank you for giving and helping the community. We appreciate you.





# Student Council (STUCO)

By Susan Young Mock,  
STUCO advisor

The student body has recently elected their representatives to the student council (STUCO).



From Left to Right: Macey, Braylen, Ryan, Emileigh, Angel, and Kairi  
Not pictured: Piper

The new representatives are:

- ♦ **President** and Junior Class Representative: Ryan Williams,
- ♦ **Vice President** and Senior Class Representative: Emileigh Jackson,
- ♦ **Parliamentarian** and Sophomore class representative: Angel Cozort,

- ♦ **Secretary** and Freshman class representative: Piper Conner,
- ♦ **Treasurer** and 8th Grade representative: Macey Millar,
- ♦ **Historian** and 7th Grade representative: Braylen Fuller, and
- ♦ **6th Grade representative:** Kairi Husmann.

Student Council has started planning activities for the coming school year.

## Plans include:

- ♦ Morning announcements
- ♦ Red Ribbon Week October 23 - 26
  - ♦ **Monday – Freedom is Living Drug Free!** (Wear red/white/blue)
  - ♦ **Tuesday – You’d Be Crazy to Use Drugs!** (Wear school-appropriate crazy

dress / hair / socks)

- ♦ **Wednesday – Chillax Drug Free!** (Wear school-appropriate pajamas or chillaxing clothes)
- ♦ **Thursday – This is Me Drug-Free!** (Wear your favorite costume)

- ♦ Kindness Tree
- ♦ Panther Pride 5k (will be November 11, 2023)  
**Entry and Sponsorship forms are attached at the end of the newsletter.**
- ♦ Graduation Party
- ♦ Talent Show
- ♦ Leadership Club
- ♦ OK Association of Student Councils membership
- ♦ Purchase and design a headstone for William and Lura Lowrey

# Made in OK Café

By Allison Garner

Elbin Carrillo assisted staff from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture in the **Made in OK Café** at the Tulsa State Fair.



He served customers, prepared food, stocked inventory, washed dishes and assisted with general clean up.



The café prepared and served

food using products grown, produced, and manufactured in Oklahoma. The purpose of the café was to promote Oklahoma’s food and agriculture products.

In preparation for Elbin’s experience he was required to take a food handler training course and test.

It was a great experience working in food service and a chance to meet new people. Elbin had the opportunity to visit with the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Blayne Arthur, about his time

working in the OK café.

Two days working in the café was an invaluable experience and supplied patrons with some exceptional eats!

**To learn more about Made in Oklahoma products, visit the MIO Coalition webpage!**



Scan Me

# Recreation Activities

By Jill Gill

Hi there! My name is Jill Gill, and I am the new Activities Coordinator. I am super excited to join the school in this capacity and hope to bring lots of fun ideas & energy to OSB!

My daughter was visiting from Australia, so I got a bit of a late start joining this school year.

I understand the Rec center was under construction for most of August. Due to the construction they had the **"Welcome Back Dance"** in

the new gym on August 16th.

I wasn't there, but I heard from the kids that it was a blast.



Once the Rec was open we were able to have a party to celebrate **August birthdays** with cupcakes for all.



The first week in September we had surprise visitors - two young ladies, who were good friends of Ms. Coplen's.



They came and played guitar and sang beautifully for the kids in the auditorium. That was a real treat for all.



The next week we kicked off the week right with an **ice cream night** on Monday.



Then on Tuesday we had a **craft night**. The kids got to choose from a big variety of unfinished wooden crafts which they painted with various paints - watercolor, acrylic and chalk paint. I was very impressed with some of the finished products!



Wednesday we got to do one of my favorite all time activities -

**SWIMMING !!!!** As

a certified swim instructor, I taught swimming lessons for the YMCA for many years, so I am passionate about water safety and the importance of teaching children to learn to swim. The kids really enjoy this activity. As the students are getting to know and trust me I was thrilled to be able to encourage a few young swimmers, who were previously scared, from the little pool into the big pool.



On Sept 19<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful turnout for **Karaoke** night. We served popcorn, cookies and punch and a fun time



was had by all. Some of our kids really know how to sing!!

Then the next night we all went **swimming** again at the

Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center.

The final week in September, the kids had two field trips and their big spaghetti **fundraiser dinner**, so they were busy.

Here in the Rec area we were able to squeeze in a birthday night to celebrate all **September birthdays**.



I can't wait for next month, as we have lots of fun fall activities scheduled - including our big **Fall Festival on October 24<sup>th</sup> (5-7pm)**.



It is truly a pleasure to bring joy & excitement to these kids. They just seem to have a special talent for making you feel wanted & appreciated.

Jill Gill,  
Activities Coordinator

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE



Following employees were nominated for their devoted support of our students, staff and school:

**Gena Bass** for always loving on and speaking kindness to both students and staff. What a blessing she is!

S. Young Mock

**Annette Underwood & Dwayne Estep** for all their hard work and time spend on our Teens for Christ. They were able to get bibles donated and even got the local Fire Department and Police Department to come to the "See you at the Pole" event. Great Job guys!

Maggie Mattox

**Dwayne Estep** for always having a smile and always being willing and ready to help with anything that is asked of him!

Jodi Cottrill

**Ann Page** cleaned a personal fridge for a coworker who was absent for a period of time.

Tammy Saccomano

**Carla Cotney & Laci Goins**, they both were very kind in offering their assistance when I subbed for another

teacher. They checked in to see if I needed anything and helped with some technology issues.

Tammy Saccomano

**Donna Stewart** is always willing to step up and help with anything we need done. She has taken over the weekly calendar and is doing a great job.

Tonya, Dawn & Melissa

**Susana Jackman** always puts together some awesome promotional videos, as well as for any other occasions, e.g. Becky's fundraiser dinner. She also comes up with great events for the kids and works late hours just to be part of it and to make sure all is going "as planned. Thank you.

Maggie Mattox

**Laci Goins** for helping with Technology in my class while I was out of town.

Cheryl Daniels-James

**Jeremy Jackman** for covering lunch duty for me while I was out of town.

Cheryl Daniels-James

**Carla Cotney** for helping my sub while I was out.

Cheryl Daniels-James

**Jeannie Hatcher** for filling up the van for me!

Allison Garner

**Susana Jackman** - We appreciate her assistance with our FCCLA promotional materials!

Allison Garner

A huge **THANK YOU** to our **kitchen crew** for their hard work for the spaghetti dinner, as well as to all other staff that helped out that night. This event would not be possible without your help.

Maggie Mattox

**Laci Goins** for always putting extra effort in everything she does. She always helps students and other teachers wherever needed and does it with a smile.

Maggie Mattox

Thank you to **all the teachers and staff** that came up with some creative activities for our "**after school program**", allowing our students to try out new things or just do something they really enjoy.

Maggie Mattox

Thank you to EVERYONE involved in the Fall Festival. Your hard work makes this event a fun filled activity for our students and their families.

Maggie Mattox

**Thank you guys for going the extra mile. It is highly appreciated.**





# Birthdays

## Students

### OCTOBER

CUTLER, NINA	10	5
SULLIVAN, KENNEDY	10	8
CANTU, ELIJAH	10	18
CANTU, JACOB	10	18
CANTU, SARA	10	18
PENNINGTON, KOLTEN	10	19
WILLIAMS, TESSA	10	22
COX, LORIE	10	25
DOLLAR, AVERY	10	26
DOUGAN, NOAH	10	27
JAMES, NIKKI	10	27
SUMNER, CHRISTOPHER	10	28

### NOVEMBER

SELLERS, QUANT'E	11	1
MONTGOMERY, AUDREE	11	6
KIZZIA, EVY	11	11
RODRIGUEZ, JERRY	11	12
JAMES, HAIDYN	11	14
ENZENAUER, ERIC	11	19
ROBERTS, BRAYDON	11	24
CISNEROS, JULIA	11	25
PUGH, HUNTER	11	25
HARRINGTON, KYLER	11	27
HOYL, KATIE	11	27

### DECEMBER

CERVANTES-PHIPPS, ELIJAH	12	1
CRUM, PAYTON	12	3
MILLAR, JUSTIN	12	4
SUTTERFIELD, LANE	12	4
TRAVIS, KESSLEE	12	15
TUAN, KHUP	12	15
ANDERSON, JIMMY	12	22



## Staff

### OCTOBER

CUNNINGHAM, KARLA	10	3
ESTEP, DWAYNE	10	3
MESSER, AMY	10	7
UNDERWOOD, ANNETTE	10	8
SMITH, MELISSA	10	8
DARROUGH, DEBRA	10	10
STANFIELD, BETH	10	13
CULIE, ROB	10	25
MILLER, MARK	10	25
COTNEY, CARLA	10	26

### NOVEMBER

ECHELLE, RITA	11	21
JACKMAN, JEREMY	11	23

### DECEMBER

COOMER, CHRIS	12	3
LEDEZMA, ANA	12	3
THORNTON, MACHEL	12	5
KNOWLES, TRACY	12	8
SACCOMANO, TAMMY	12	9
BARRETT, KATHY	12	13
COOPER, LYNETTE	12	17
BRICE, CAMMERON	12	19
GARNER, ALLISON	12	23
WEBSTER, BRENT	12	29

## Oklahoma School for the Blind

3300 Gibson Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Toll Free: (877) 229-7136  
Voice/TTY: (918) 781-8200  
Fax: (918) 781-8300

It takes more than sight to have vision!

Please check out  
our website at:



## OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

### New Employees:

- ◆ Brightpath Reynolds, Direct Care Specialist, Aug. 1, 2023
- ◆ Ashton Frisby, School Counselor, Aug. 7, 2023
- ◆ Jill Gill, Recreation Activities Specialist, Sept. 5, 2023
- ◆ Jessica Eubanks, Transportation Officer/Student Aide, Sept. 5, 2023
- ◆ Max Johnson, Direct Care Specialist, Sept. 10, 2023
- ◆

**Welcome on board. Glad to have you !**



### Promotions:

- ◆ Traci Davenport, DCS to ILS, May 1, 2023
- ◆ Vickie Pofahl, DCS II to DCS III, Aug. 1, 2023
- ◆ Dwayne Estep, C/M Tech II to C/M Tech III, Aug. 1, 2023



## UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS !!! - Save the Date/s !!!

<b>OCT.</b>	12	White Cane Day Celebration, Downtown Muskogee Counselor Day (9:30am - 1:00pm)
	16	DECA Fall Leadership Conference, Norman, OK (all day) <b>OSB BLOOD DRIVE (10am - 3pm), OSB Circle Drive</b>
	18	Pink Out Day Home Going Day / Routes Run
	19	<b>DISTANCE LEARNING DAY</b>
	23-26	<b>RED RIBBON WEEK (school appropriate outfits only)</b>
	23	Freedom is Living Drug Free! ( <b>Wear red/white/blue</b> )
	24	You'd Be Crazy to Use Drugs! ( <b>Wear crazy dress / hair / socks</b> ) <b>FALL FESTIVAL (5-7pm)</b>
	25	Chillax Drug Free! ( <b>Wear pajamas or chillaxing clothes</b> )
	26	This is Me Drug-Free! ( <b>Wear your favorite costume</b> )
	30	Forensics field trip to the Museum of Osteology (all day)
<b>NOV.</b>	2	National Goalball, Austin, TX
	8	Cane Quest (12:15 - 4:00pm)
	20-23	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK !</b>
	27	Middle School trip to NSU OK College of Optometry (9am-3pm)
<b>DEC.</b>	29	FCCLA District STAR Events
	20	Christmas Program Home Going Day - Bus Routes Run
	21	<b>DISTANCE LEARNING DAY</b>
<b>DEC. 25 - JAN. 4 CHRISTMAS BREAK !</b>		
<b>JAN.</b>	7	Bus Routes Run - Dorms Open
	8	First Day Back at School



FCCLA - Sock Fundraiser



1 pair - \$6



3 pair package - \$15

Are your socks boring?  
FCCLA can help!!



We have fun, funky, and fabulous socks for every pair of feet!



For every 6 pairs sold,



1 pair will be donated!

Purchase Options

Shop online!



SCAN ME!!

In Person!



Talk to me!!



# Panther Pride 5k

Benefiting the students at OK School for the Blind in Muskogee!



The mission of Oklahoma School for the Blind is to provide appropriate individualized academic, social and vocational education, evaluations, and outreach services to Oklahoma's blind and visually impaired children and youth. Students, professionals, communities, and parents will work together to develop and maximize each child's potential for becoming a productive and supportive member of society.



## 1 kilometer Fun Run/Walk and 5K Run/Walk Event management by 1:40 Race Services

**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

**OSB Campus and Civitan Park**

**3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, OK**

**Virtual 5K from November 4 – November 11, 2023**

- Awards for top Male/Female, top three 5k finishers in each age group, participant ribbons for all fun runners
- Registration onsite begins at 7:00 a.m. in the main parking lot on the OSB campus
- Technical shirts to all paid entrants
- Age Categories: 5k overall and 5 year increments
- 1 kilometer Fun Run/Walk starts at 8:30 a.m. and 5k Race starts at 8:00 a.m.
- 5k is chip timed
- Course certified through USATF

**Entry Fees:** \$25 per person pre-registered \*\* \$30 per person on Race Day \*\*

\*\*\* \$5 discount for OSB staff / parents (use code – osbstaff) and WINGS members (use code – wings5k) \*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: XS S M L XL 2XL Event: 5K ☐ 1 k Fun Run/Walk (Strollers welcome!) ☐

**Registration:** Mail entry and fee to OSB Panther Pride 5k, 3300 Gibson St, Muskogee, OK 74403

**Register Online:** [www.runsignup.com/pantherpride5k](http://www.runsignup.com/pantherpride5k)

**Contact Information:** Susan Mock, Race Director, [syoung@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:syoung@osb.k12.ok.us), (918) 781-8214

**Fine Print:** I know running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that although police protection may be provided, there will be a possibility of traffic on the course. I assume the risk of running in traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with running this event including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, and the conditions of the roads, all risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I agree to yield to all emergency vehicles. I am also fully aware that baby strollers and wheels of any kind, except competitive wheel chairs, animals, and head phones are strictly prohibited and I agree not to have them on the course. Knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting me entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive on their behalf from any and all claims or liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of my participating in this event whether same be caused by negligence or fault. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants permission to sponsors and/or agents authorized by them to use any photos, video tapes, motion pictures, or any other record of this event for any purpose. Minors accepted only with parent or guardian's signature. No refunds. No makeup weather date.

The undersigned parent and natural guardian or legal guardian does hereby represent that he/she is, in fact, acting in such capacity and agrees to the extent permitted by law to save and hold harmless and indemnify each and all of the parties referred to below from all liability, loss, cost, claim, or damage whatsoever which may be imposed upon or incurred by said parties because of the participation of the minor in the event shown, and releases said parties in this regard on behalf of both the minor and the parents or legal guardians, as well.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature (if a minor) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Panther Pride 5k

Benefiting the students at the OK School for the Blind *in* Muskogee!



The mission of Oklahoma School for the Blind is to provide appropriate individualized academic, social and vocational education, evaluations, and outreach services to Oklahoma's blind and visually impaired children and youth.

Students, professionals, communities, and parents will work together to develop and maximize each child's potential for becoming a productive and supportive member of society.



## **1 kilometer Fun Run/Walk and 5K Run/Walk Event management by 1:40 Race Services**

**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

***Virtual 5k November 4 – November 11, 2023***

**OSB Campus and Civitan Park  
3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, OK**

### **T-SHIRT ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

*Friends of the Pride Sponsor* (includes 4 tee shirts) -- \$500 ☐

*Blue & White Panther Sponsor* (includes 2 tee shirts) -- \$300 ☐

*Panther Paw Sponsor* (includes 1 tee shirt) -- \$100 ☐

*Panther Growl Sponsor* (no tee shirt) -- \$50 ☐

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person and Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:* **OK School for the Blind** ("Panther Pride 5k sponsorship" on memo line)

*Return this form and check to:* Panther Pride 5k  
OK School for the Blind  
3300 Gibson Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Sponsors who volunteer on race day may put their business banner up along the course for no additional cost!

**Deadline for Ad copy is Friday, November 3, 2023**