

TOWERS

VOL. 73, No. 2, SPRING 2021



**VISION
AND VOICE:**
DIVERSITY,
EQUITY AND
INCLUSION
AT OSB
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TOWERS NEWSLETTER
Vol. 73, No. 2, Spring 2021
Overbrook School for the Blind
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Established 1832

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

Just when we think we've straightened out all the issues the pandemic has tossed our way, it throws us a new curve ball.

The challenges have been too numerous to list, but OSB has proven that we can be as versatile as the variants in adjusting to a new reality and finding different ways to thrive. The resilience and hustle of our community has showcased itself repeatedly, and we have continued to hold the course of providing our students the education they deserve. I am proud of all that we have accomplished, some of which you will read about in this issue of *Towers*.



Over the past few weeks, OSB's Development and Communications team conducted several exercises to help us focus, discover and soon, deliver a marketing message about OSB's culture and community. As a result of the effort, we developed a slogan to quickly and efficiently sum up what we are all about: **Believe & Achieve**. Each and every day,

we strive to educate, inspire and provide our students with the opportunity to believe in themselves, and a growth mindset that gives them the greatest chance for success.

We look forward to sharing the achievements of the Class of 2021 and all of the celebration that accompanies it.

Sincerely,

Todd Reeves
Executive Director and CEO



ON THE COVER: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Joslyn Johnson.

VISION AND VOICE: DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AT OSB

Middle School Intervener Joslyn Johnson has created many opportunities over the years for members of our campus community to learn about the richness of Black History during the month of February, which is recognized as Black History Month.

"We gathered a committee to contribute accessible lessons and activities for all grade levels for the entire month," says Johnson. "We wanted to make connections for our students, so that they would learn about and be inspired by the contributions Black people have made in our history."

Some of the highlights of the month's programming included guest speakers in individual classrooms and a field trip to the African American Museum in Philadelphia. But the most impactful activity recognizing Black History Month was Johnson's final program in the Multi-Purpose Room, which was decorated with famous quotes from notable Black figures in history and arranged on a wall in Braille for students to experience on their own. Colorful poster boards of photos and facts about African Americans communities were displayed, and music from different eras of Black history was played. Students and staff members who wished to participate were asked to wear African prints or African garments.

"I also asked everyone to wear a nametag with the name of a prominent African American so we could go around the room and have a discussion about that individual," says Johnson.



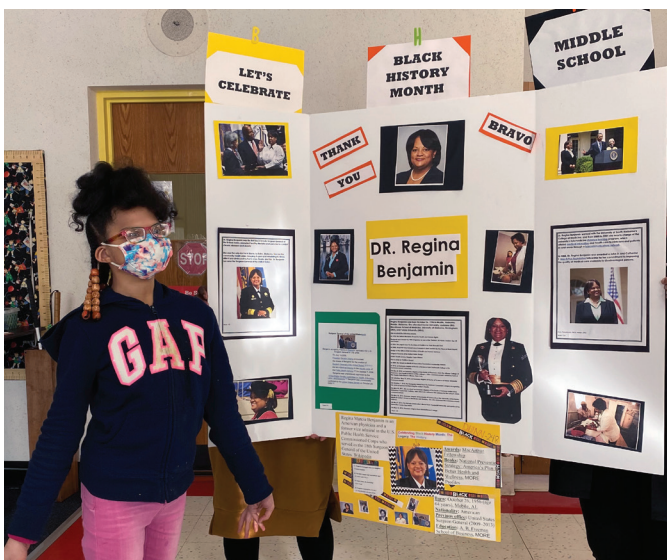
(l to r): DEI Committee Chair Joslyn Johnson with Paraeducators Clarice West and Eileen Jenkins.

Later, each educational program picked an era from history and created a multi-sensory experience to highlight a newsworthy event from that era. Most notably was the Middle School Program's transformation of one of the hallways into "Black Wall Street," the former byname of the Greenwood neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where African Americans had created a self-sufficient prosperous business district that ended tragically with the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. Middle School students created an accessible and interactive program in video, audio, and braille about this example of the strength and resilience of the Black community.

The series of Black History Month programs were well received by students and staff, and once February was over, the committee continued to meet.

"We realized that what we produced went beyond Black History," says Johnson. "At Overbrook, there are many races and cultures that should be celebrated, and we came up with a plan to expand the committee to work year-round to share information, resources, and plan activities that would help all of us become more culturally diverse and responsive."

continued on next page



Sydney stands in front of the Middle School display created for Black History Month.

VISION AND VOICE AT OSB *continued*

The committee met with Executive Director and CEO Todd Reeves to pitch the idea. "Before we could share our idea of becoming the Diversity Committee, Todd suggested that because we had done such a great job with Black History Month, maybe we should expand our efforts," says Johnson. By the end of June 2019, the OSB Diversity Committee was up and running.



Todd Reeves

To begin, the Diversity Committee focused on planning school-wide activities, such as "Facts Of the Day" for Hispanic Heritage Month, a "Wear Green Day" in support of Mental Health awareness, a food drive after the riots and looting in the city following the shooting of Walter Wallace, and a partnership with the Penn Museum for virtual lessons on Asian Culture in time for Lunar New Year.

As the Diversity Committee expanded to include staff from the instructional departments, Human Resources, and the Development and Communications Department, plans were developed to include an LGBTQ component and a professional development subcommittee, led by School Psychologist Danielle Sychterz.



Danielle Sychterz

"We voted on a name change," says Sychterz. "It's now the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI). We want to make sure our name accurately reflects our mission. Diversity is important. Having many different perspectives and backgrounds represented is powerful. But diversity alone is not enough. Creating a school culture that is representative, inclusive and equitable for

all staff, students and families is the ultimate goal."

With support from the Board of Trustees and OSB Administration - who are engaging an outside consulting

firm to ensure OSB is inclusive and equitable—the DEI Committee will continue to encourage new programs that increase diversity, equity and inclusion, and provide support to various classrooms within OSB.

"The long-delayed but growing dialogue centering on racial injustice is pivotal to promoting a positive future for each student we serve," says Todd Reeves, Executive Director and CEO. "Not unlike the racial disparities plaguing our society, virtually every investigation into housing discrimination for individuals with disabilities has found it. And for generations, people with visual impairment have graduated from high school only to run headlong into under- and unemployment statistics at or above 70%, despite possessing employable skills. The rising tide of efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion will raise each boat that our students must row to find their safe harbor in life. It's imperative that Overbrook position itself in the swift part of the current and not stand on the shore."

While OSB's student population is diverse (see chart on next page), there aren't as many minority teachers or therapists on staff.

"The terms diversity, equity and inclusion frequently make people feel uncomfortable," says Carol Havens-Dobbs, Human Resources Director. "I prefer to be uncomfortable. I have been uncomfortable most of my life. However, this journey is bigger than me. It's about the important work that needs to be done to become more inclusive and equitable. While Overbrook has always had several classroom projects highlighting prominent historical black leaders, the need to continue with these projects year-round would be an awesome experience for students and staff. We want all of our staff to actively take part in this journey for the betterment of our school community, to increase students' sense of self esteem, and boost staff morale. We're also engaging an outside consulting firm to help us ensure we're inclusive and equitable in our hiring practice and daily operational outcomes."



Carol Havens-Dobbs

With the DEI Committee in place, and with the full support of OSB's leadership and Board of Trustees, the goal is for everyone at OSB to feel heard, represented and supported.

"As a committee, we seek to educate not only our students, but ourselves so Overbrook continues to become a better place for all who work and go to school here," says Johnson.



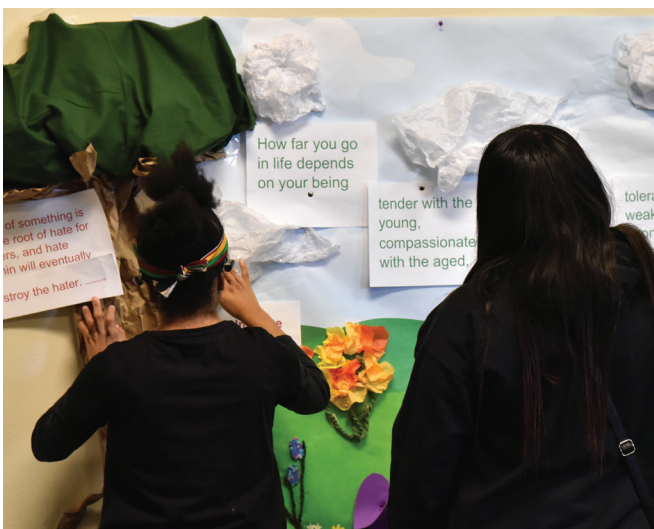
High School Student Farangiz wore a Kamala Harris sticker for the lesson on prominent African Americans.



Paraeducator Betty Blickley and Early Childhood Students show off the hallway bulletin board they created in honor of Black History Month.

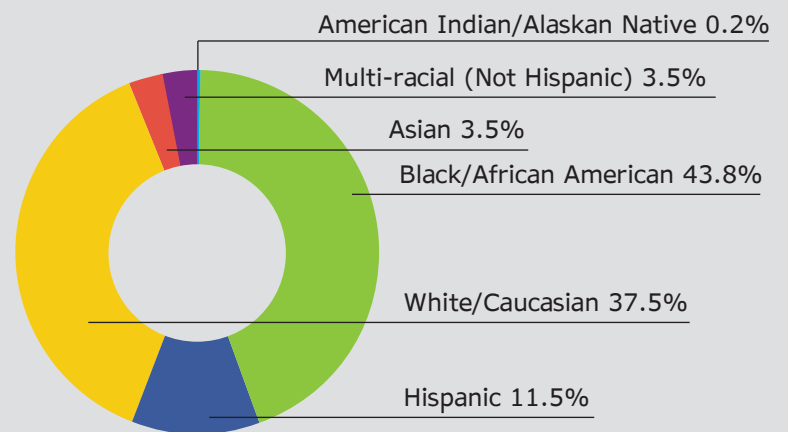


Paraeducator Steven Lindsay assists Iham with his poster board.

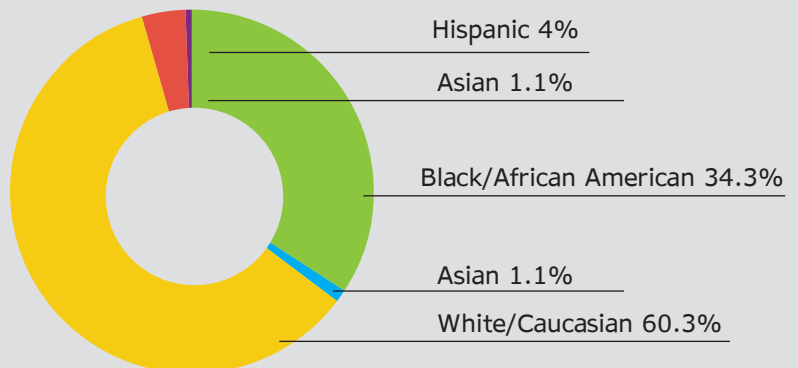


Students could experience the brailled quotes on their own.

**STUDENT
DEMOGRAPHICS 2020**



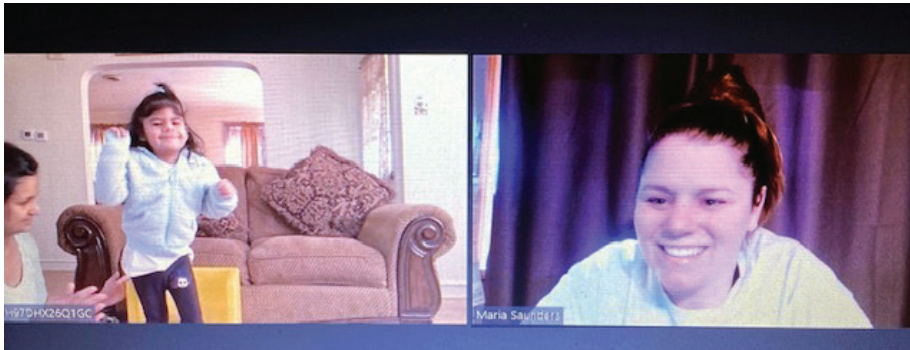
**STAFF
DEMOGRAPHICS 2020**



IN THE CLASSROOM

Here's a peek inside some of our distance learning classrooms. See how OSB teachers engage students in active learning and problem solving, connecting technology to key learning outcomes that prepare students to succeed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



With encouragement from mom, Myla celebrates her new skill with teacher, Maria Saunders, over Zoom.

includes Occupational Therapist Jill Samberg, Speech Therapist Laura Stephan, and Physical Therapist Darreth Zeccardi. And of course, Myla's mother.

"Myla's mother, Rukhsana Momain, joins all of Myla's sessions and has been instrumental in practicing with Myla throughout the day," says Zeccardi. "Myla is demonstrating increased independence not only with walking, but with transfers and performing positions, such as hands on knees and a tall kneel," says Zeccardi. "These are new additions to her skill set, and it has been a pleasure for the entire team to witness her progress this year."

There's nothing better than seeing one of our students take a giant step forward, even if it's over Zoom.

Early Childhood student Myla Momain began taking steps independently while in a Zoom class with her teacher, Maria Saunders.

"Myla's entire team is so proud of her, and Myla is proud of herself," says Saunders. "Now she doesn't want to stop walking. This is a result of teamwork at its best."

In addition to Saunders, Myla's team

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

In addition to her daily responsibilities as a teacher in the Elementary Program, Colleen Miller oversees a student teacher from Kutztown University who is studying to become a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment (TVI).

Miller asked Student Teacher Rebecca Weber to read, *All the Colors We Are* by Katie Kissinger to students learning virtually and in the classroom.

"This book explores the beautiful diversity of skin color," says Weber. "It provides a simple, but scientifically accurate explanation about how our skin is determined by our ancestors, the sun, and melanin."

At the end of the lesson, Weber asked students in her classroom if they knew the color of their skin. They each drew a picture of themselves using a crayon that matched their skin tone.

We think seven-year-old Hannah's self portrait is remarkably accurate. 😊



Elementary Student Hannah



MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM



“Middle School is the time to place an emphasis on future goals,” says Lauri Leonard, Coordinator of the Middle School Program. Students participate in career education—which is part of the Expanded Core Curriculum—from their youngest days at OSB. Middle School students have opportunities to learn and practice basic classroom jobs, on-campus deliveries, on-campus customer service, and food prep jobs, and eventually, as they grow into their high school years, they are preparing for off-campus work.”

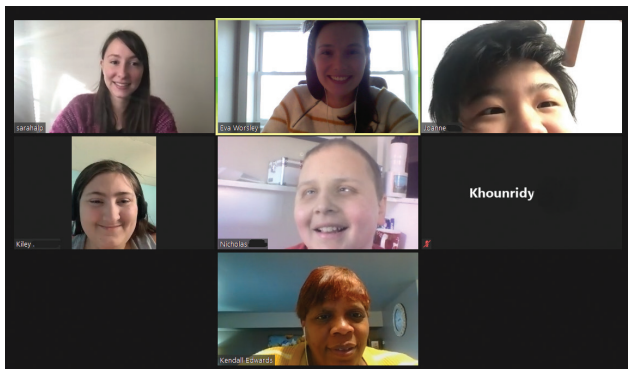
In order to expand their knowledge of jobs, companies and employment opportunities in today’s market, students spent two weeks on a Career Awareness Unit.

“Dunn 248 students learned that job possibilities are endless and attainable,” says Damaris Shiavi, TVI (Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment). “If you’re open minded and continue to take education seriously and work hard to develop skills, you can do anything you set your mind to for the future.”

Via Zoom, phone calls and in person, students prepared questions to interview participating OSB staff members to learn more about their current and previous jobs, education, training, salary, and skills. Specifically, students asked about first jobs, being fired, how to look for a job, how to apply for a job, how to act when you have a job, and important questions to ask during a job interview.

“I learned that it’s okay to change jobs or to have more than one job or one career in life,” says Dawood. “I want to find out more about becoming an art teacher or an Athletic Director,” says Neemra. “This program made me see that there are so many more possibilities for me. I have more options to consider.”

The most important lesson learned from the Career Awareness Unit? “Not to limit myself,” says Dawood. “Someday, I want to be the next Todd Reeves and be the head of this school!”



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

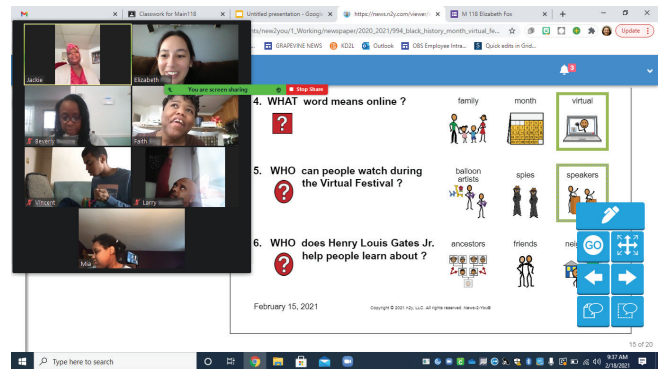
Macromolecules and biology were brought to life during Miss Worsley’s High School Science Zoom class with Scientist Sarah Preston-Alp.

A research Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Science with a focus in Cancer Biology and Genetics at Temple University, Ms. Preston-Alp gave a presentation on the CRISPR-Cas9 method, the basis of a technology that can be used to edit genes within organisms.

“This project won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and it was the first all-female scientist team,” says Worsley.

While Preston-Alp’s presentation focused on current uses of genome editing and bioethics in the science community, she also participated in a discussion with students about what a career in science is like.

“I loved learning about how genomes work,” says Nicky, an 11th grader in the High School Program. “I hope scientists can figure out how to use them in other ways. Maybe one day they will work in people.”



SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM

Like many of us, students in the School to Work Program frequently begin the day by reading the newspaper to catch up on current events.

“I like using News-2-You (n2y.com), an accessible symbol-supported newspaper to connect students with unique learning needs to current events,” says School to Work Teacher Liz Fox. “I can choose to read a story to the class or the audio will play it, and it can be controlled on the screen.”

When the pages finish reading, students will verbally tell Ms. Liz to turn the page or use their communication device to tell her.

In this photo, Faith is able to answer questions when the screen control is shared with her. Vincent likes to answer the questions using tactile objects.

Mia says, “I like to tell Ms. Liz to turn the page while listening to the articles.”

PARENT CAFES



Carolyn Eisner, Middle School parent; Rhonda Davis, Parent Liaison; Yari Alvarado, Early Childhood parent; Naomi Benditt, OSB's Contract Social Worker; Erin Kreszl, Early Childhood parent; Izzy Clark, Early Childhood parent; Monique Dickens, Early Childhood parent; and JD Dougherty, parent of an OSB alumna.

CONNECTING COUNTS: PARENT CAFES CONNECT STAFF TO VACCINE

“I understand that most families are “Zoomed out” and exhausted from juggling their child’s education and their own work,” says OSB Parent Liaison Rhonda Davis. “But we’ve found that the Parent Cafe Zoom meetings have been able to connect parents in surprising ways this year.”

Originally known as Third Thursdays at Woodbine House in 2017, these monthly workshops for parents were conceived of as a way for parents to meet in a casual atmosphere, to share knowledge and experiences, and to give and receive support. In October 2018, the parent meetings were moved to a more convenient location, the OSB Museum and were dubbed, “Parent Cafe at the Museum.” Lately, of course, the Parent Cafe meetings have been held virtually on Zoom.

“OSB families live across five counties, and there are not many opportunities for parents and guardians to get to know and support each other,” says Davis. “We bring OSB parents together to talk about topics specifically related to raising children with disabilities, such as *Social Skills for Children with Visual Impairment*, *Understanding Evaluations*, *Self Care for Caregivers*, and *Transition to Adulthood Planning*, among others.”

During this very unusual year, parents have been sharing how the pandemic is affecting their families and have made suggestions for important discussions during the meetings that have had a surprisingly positive impact schoolwide.

“At a Parent Cafe Zoom gathering in December, a parent asked if we could have a speaker to address vaccines in children with disabilities,” says Davis. “Two parents suggested that I contact a CHOP (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia) doctor they know and love, Dr. Paul Offit. I reached out to him, and he gave me the name of a doctor who is working on this very topic, Dr. Jeff Gerber. Dr. Gerber was the guest of our January Parent Cafe, and I think helped us all feel better about vaccines, and about our students attending school in person. Then, as administrators hit dead ends in their searches for vaccines for OSB staff, they asked me to reach out to Dr. Gerber for any leads. Within a few days, Dr. Gerber had referred us to the CHOP/Philadelphia Health Department program which aims to vaccinate all education personnel in Philadelphia. We’re enrolled, and vaccination appointments have begun.”

When there isn't a guest speaker for a Parent Cafe workshop, more time is spent sharing and supporting individual experiences. "We've had parents discuss their child's upcoming surgery and what to expect during recovery to another parent asking for suggestions or tips for dealing with specific behaviors," says Davis. "A few parents have asked me to create a program that will connect these parents outside of Parent Cafes in a concrete way, something like a parent mentor program or parent partnership. We've started that process by beginning an email group with families who attend the Parent Cafes."

The remaining Parent Cafes for the year are April 15th, and May 20th. If a parent has a specific suggestion for a Parent Cafe topic, suggestions can be emailed to rhonda.davis@obs.org. A week or two before the meeting, Davis emails a Zoom meeting link to OSB parents.

"Mostly, my hope is for parents to find community, connection and comfort in getting to know other OSB parents," says Davis. "And my big hope is that through the above, they will also have some fun."

"Mostly, my hope is for parents to find community, connection and comfort in getting to know other OSB parents."



Dr. Jeff Gerber from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was the guest speaker for January's Parent Cafe.

Mark your calendars for the next Parent Cafes on April 15th and May 20th at 3 p.m.

If you are interested in subscribing to the Parent Cafe email group for resource sharing, camaraderie and support, please send an email to Rhonda Davis, Parent Liaison at rhonda.davis@obs.org.



TEAM EFFORT

When the pandemic shut down schools, the indefinite shift to distance learning posed many challenges for English-language learners and students with physical or learning disabilities.

Four-year-old **Evan Resto-Torres** joined the Early Childhood Program virtually last year. Evan has Cortical Visual Impairment, is non-verbal, uses a wheelchair, and comes from a home where Spanish is his family's first language.

"Every therapy session, every IEP meeting, for every lesson we have for Evan, we use an interpreter to translate to mom to coach her through activities to work on his vision, communication, physical therapy, and fine motor skills," says Julie Diaz, Evan's teacher. "We utilize interpreters virtually from the Nationalities Service Center of Philadelphia, and they join in our Zoom sessions and interpret for Evan's mother."

Evan's team also works with the interpreters to translate documents and lesson plans into Spanish, and add Spanish subtitles to pre-recorded instructional videos that are recorded in English.

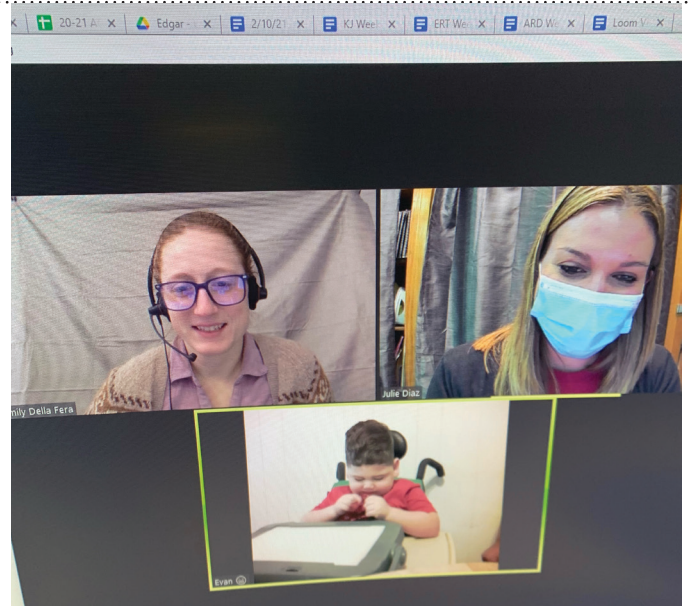
"The language barrier is difficult," says Evan's mother, Jailyn Torres Cosme. "I am just thankful to the team. They are always helpful and there for us. A big part of his progress is that they sent so many materials to our home."

With the help of his team and interpreter, Evan can now show his mom that he understands simple phrases that she says to him, and he is responding to his name.

"Evan's overall skills have dramatically improved since March of 2020," says Lisa Lisicki, Lead Teacher in the Early Childhood Program. "He is reacting to lights and noticing translucent yellow shapes on his lightbox. He has become much more interactive and vocal. Evan especially likes objects that make silly sounds. He loves making the blender start and laughs heartily each and every time!"

"Evan has progressed a lot," says Torres Cosme. "He is now able to grab toys all around him, such as behind him, to the sides, and in front. He is picking up food and small objects with his fingers easier than before. I am also noticing more knowledge of on/off toys and kitchen appliances with his PowerLink and switches. I also feel like he is better able to concentrate on activities."

"Within the next year, we think he will walk and communicate better," says Torres Cosme. "I'm sure he's going to surprise us with more."



(top left) Interpreter Emily Della Ferra joins Evan and his teacher, Julie Diaz, during a Zoom class.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Despite a global pandemic, progress is still being made within the OSB International Program. Wenru Niu, Coordinator of the International Program, recently announced that one of our partners in the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Educational Technology (ON-NET), the Sao Mai Vocational and Assistive Technology Center for the Blind in Vietnam, was recognized by the internationally-renowned Zero Project for creating software to meet the needs of people with visual impairments globally.



Wenru Niu, Coordinator of the International Program

“We are thrilled that the Sao Mai Center has been recognized in the category of Innovative Technologies by the Zero Project,” says Niu. “We are proud to support and develop products to promote equality, access, and inclusion for people with visual impairments in the Southeast Asia region and beyond.”

Led by Executive Director Dang Hoia Phuc, the Sao Mai Vocational and Assistive Technology Center has developed software for blind users, specifically, *The Sao Mai Braille*, *The Burmese Text to Speech Engine*, and *The Sao Mai Music Reader iOS Version*, which was officially released in the Apple Store. It’s a free music reader that both visually impaired and sighted people can use, and it’s available at: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sm-music-reader/id1532411611>

The Zero Project was initiated by the Essl Foundation in 2008 to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) of the United Nations and to work for a world without barriers. The approach of the Zero Project is to research and share innovative practice and policies worldwide, by engaging with a worldwide cross-sectoral network of innovators, decision-makers and opinion leaders.

In addition, *Partnerships for Change: National Strategies – Regional Collaboration*, the book collaboration by the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Educational Technology (ON-NET) and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) which was funded by The Nippon Foundation, is in the final stages of production and will be published by OSB’s Towers Press

this spring. The official launch of this E-book will take place at the 2021 WBU-ICEVI World Blindness Summit at the end of June and will be free to download from the websites of ON-NET and ICEVI.



“We are proud to support and develop products to promote equality, access, and inclusion for people with visual impairments in the Southeast Asia region and beyond.”

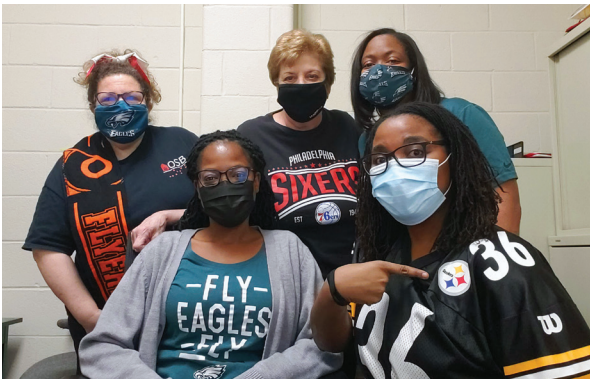
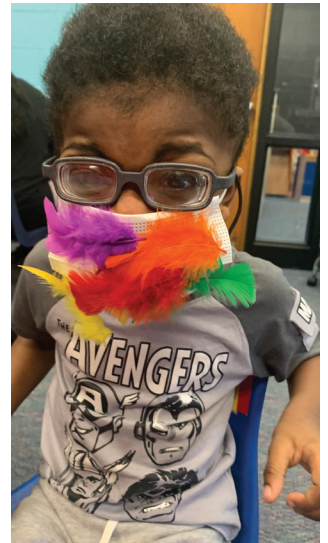
SPIRIT WEEK

CAN'T MASK OUR SPIRIT

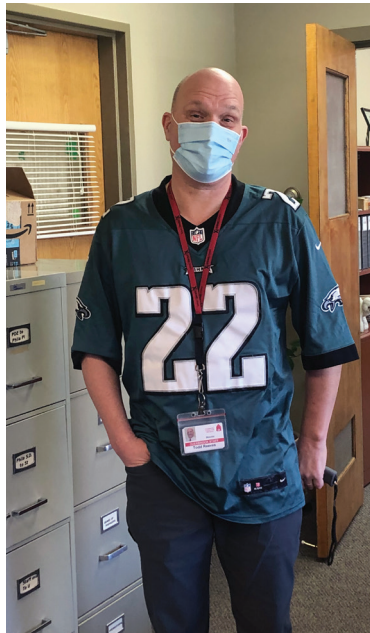
Not even a global pandemic can stop Overbrook Huskies from showing their school spirit! There was a sea of red and white pride over Zoom and on campus during Spirit Week. Classrooms were divided up by teams—red and white, of course!—with points earned for those who participated in the different activities and dress-up themes for each day.

On Monday, students and staff wore crazy hats and hairstyles. On Tuesday, everyone wore jerseys, t-shirts and hats featuring their favorite Philly sports team. There were some wacky outfits on Wednesday for Mismatched Day, and students and staff wore comfy pajamas and slippers on Thursday. And on Friday, the winning team was announced. Once again, the Red Team won in a landslide!

CRAZY HAIR/ HAT DAY



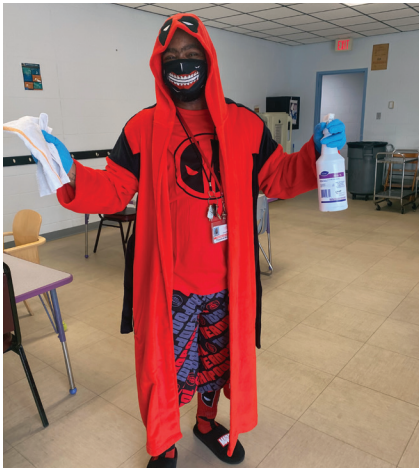
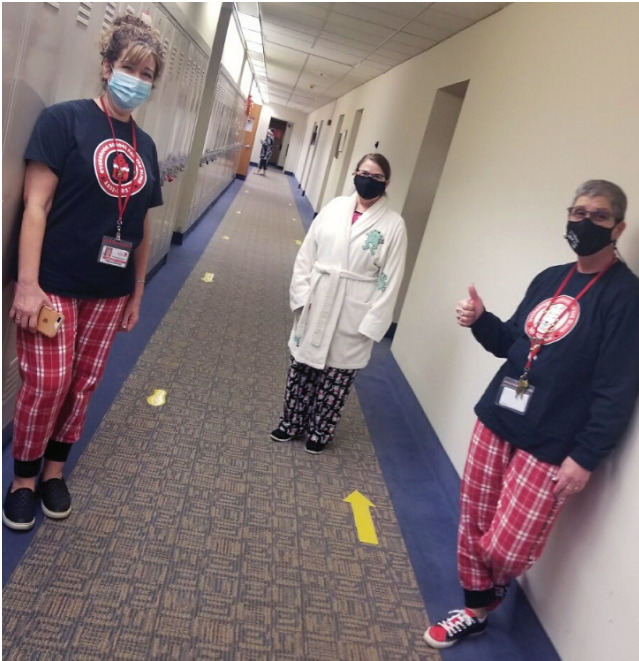
SPORTS TEAM DAY



MISMATCHED DAY



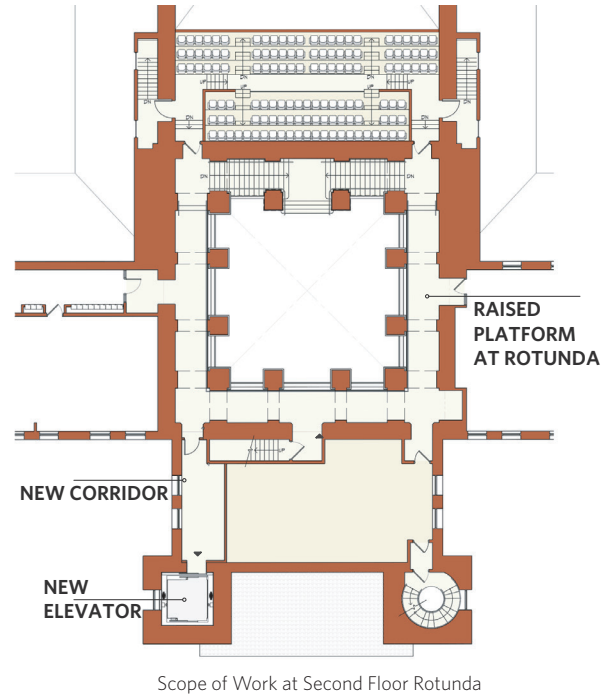
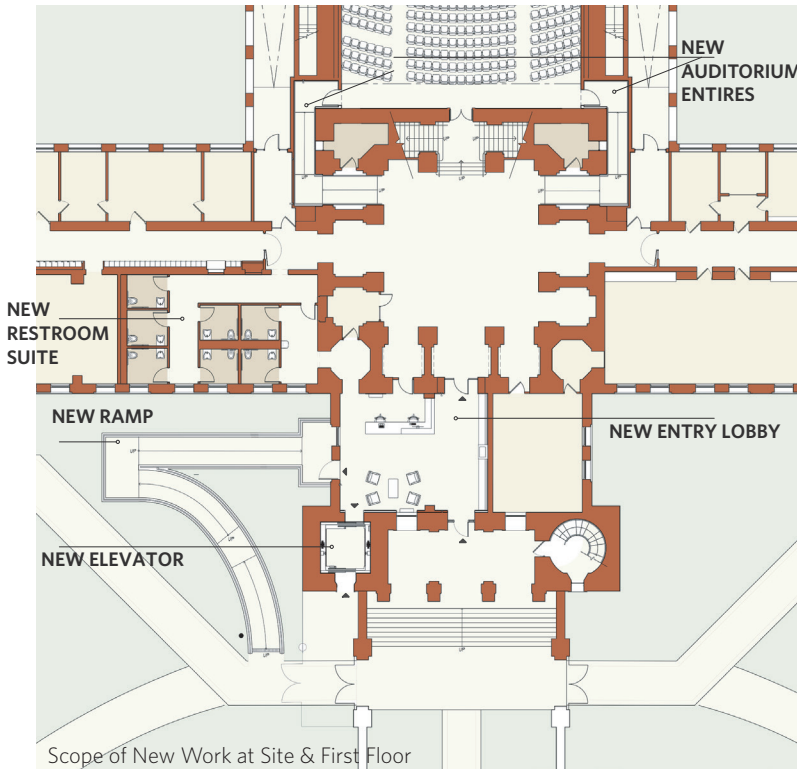
PAJAMA DAY



RED/
WHITE
TEAM
DAY



HAPPENINGS



THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY of State Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery) and State Rep. Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia), Overbrook School for the Blind is the recipient of a \$750,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to improve accessibility and safety at the school's main entrance and within the Rotunda building.

RACP is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. At OSB, the grant will benefit our visually impaired and increasingly non-ambulatory student population with adaptations that will make the main school building publicly accessible and secure. All of the components - from an elevator large enough for multiple wheelchairs to the installation of ramps and additional accessible routes for rapid egress—will serve and protect our student population.

"Our students face all kinds of hurdles and barriers each and every day," says Todd Reeves, Executive Director and CEO. "Special thanks to State Senator Vincent Hughes and State Rep. Morgan Cephas for recognizing how important this project is to our school community."

The first phase of this project will begin in late summer.



DREAM SEEKER

By Choir Director/General Music Educator Christopher Sapienza

On May 13th at 7pm, DREAM SEEKER will be presented virtually by the Overbrook School for the Blind Music Department on our website at www.obs.org.

DREAM SEEKER is a concert that will share stories and songs of what dreaming can do for the soul. Did you ever have a dream to be a doctor, lawyer, teacher, astronaut? Did you ever dream of going to another country, seeing the Grand Canyon or even climb a huge mountain? If so, did any of your dreams come true?

Our dreams give us hope. Our dreams give us an escape. Our dreams make us WANT MORE in our lives and we should always WANT MORE in our lives.

With musical selections from previous concerts as well as new material recently recorded by the Voices and Ladies of Overbrook, we will take you on the journey as a DREAM SEEKER. Until then, keep dreaming of wanting more!



High School Teacher Evangeline Worsley (TVI) collaborates with students during English class over Zoom.

IN RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING WORK in the field of visual impairment, High School Teacher **Evangeline Worsley, M.Ed.**, will receive the **2021 Elinor Long Educator of the Year Award** from the Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (Penn-Del AER).

"I am humbled to receive the Elinor Long Educator of the Year Award," says Worsley. "I am thankful to my students and their families who work collaboratively with me daily to set and reach goals. I am endlessly grateful for my paraprofessional, Kendall Edwards, who can make anything happen and brings joy to our classroom community, and I would like to thank Helene Marano, Coordinator of the High School Program and Overbrook for supporting my continued education and challenging me to reach for bigger, better things each year."

Worsley began her career at OSB in the fall of 2012. She received her undergraduate degree from The Pennsylvania State University in Secondary Education with a focus in English and Communications. She received her TVI certification and her M.Ed from The University of Pittsburgh in the spring of 2016. In addition, Worsley completed a Special Education 7-12 certificate program through West Chester University in 2018, and presented at the Penn-Del AER conference on how to use a team-teaching approach to teach career education and soft-skills to transition-aged students.

Ms. Worsley will be recognized during a virtual awards ceremony on Thursday, April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. *Dream*, an original song written, produced, and virtually performed by The Voices of Overbrook Choir, will also be featured during the three-day conference.

IN MEMORIAM

Our beloved Food Services Supervisor, **Maria Iovannicci**, passed away in November. For more than 30 years, Maria was a leading light at Overbrook. Whatever you asked of Maria, even if it was something at the last minute, her response was always, "Not a problem." She loved our students and staff and would do anything for her Overbrook family. She is dearly missed, and she will always have a special place in our hearts.

Ramon Figueroa, a Senior in the High School Program, passed away in early February. Ramon came to OSB at the start of the school year in 2018. He enjoyed coming to school and spending time with his classmates. One of his favorite things to do was to get out of his wheelchair and spend time on the mat listening to music or working on activities. Occasionally, Ramon would toss an object and flash his playful smile at you. He will be truly missed by his OSB family.

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of a former long-time OSB employee and friend, **Edith Willoughby**, in March. Edith was a leader in the creation of the OSB Museum on campus and was the author of, "Overbrook School for the Blind," as part of The Campus History Series for Arcadia Publishing (2007). Edith served OSB as our librarian and later, as archivist. She was 97.

Former OSB Human Resources Manager **Bill Hayes** passed away in February. He worked at OSB for 16 years, and he was a lifelong fan of the St. Joe's Hawks. Bill loved basketball and was a scout and assistant coach for North Catholic High School's basketball team for over 20 years. He was 75.

Jean Mignongna started working at OSB in 1978 and stayed for 24 years within the Food Services Department. She then switched hats to become the Secretary for the Outreach Program, and later, her role expanded to include the Early Intervention Outreach and Therapy Departments. She was known at OSB for having a great work ethic and always lending a helping hand when needed. She was 77.



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