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OSB HUSKIES HAVE PRIDE!

Within the past two years, OSB has collaborated with our region’s school districts and charter schools to provide students with visual impairments the vital educational and supplemental services they need to become successful.

"School Age Itinerant Services is probably the fastest growing program in OSB right now," says Lynne Williams, OSB Administrative Coordinator for Early Intervention Services. "We are receiving a lot of referrals to do independent evaluations of students in distant communities like Lehigh County to southern New Jersey, and more."

Currently, a total of 32 students in the region are being seen by OSB professionals for vision services with six of those same students being seen for orientation and mobility services as well.

"Our goal is to provide vision services to students and families regardless of where their primary placement is," says Williams. "We want to make ourselves available as a resource to families and educators however possible, and this School Age Itinerant Program allows us to do that."
Welcome New Staff Members


Executive Director’s Message

Dear Friends,

With more than half of the 2015-2016 school year completed, I thought it was a good time to share a few highlights with you regarding the current status of our organization in a few paragraphs, I did want to share a few with you. During this school year, we have:

• Partnered with WHTV-TV on their Media Matters, a media education program that teaches blind students how to operate camera, frame-shots, sound cues, interview, and edit it.

• Partnered with General Electric Lighting, Vanguard Building Solutions, and the Foundation for Fighting Blindness (FFB) to improve lighting in our field house, our outdoor walking campus, and our early childhood classroom.

• Partnered with Content to bring their newest video innovation, the "Talking Guide," to more visually impaired people in our region.

• Launched our fundraising opportunities with events like the Overbrook School Intervener "Light Up" tour to more visually impaired people in our region.

• Explored our visibility, internationally, with staff members Jackie Brennan, Dael Cohen, and Wenru Niu, recently presenting in China.

In some cases, children who begin here at OSB in the Early Childhood Program move on to other school programs, and when their needs change, they return to OSB. "This shows how diverse our services are and how well we serve our students," said P. F. Hoganson, Executive Director and CEO. "We think that says a lot about how we want to help, on campus or at home.

Wherever the students are based, OSB seeks to empower families with the knowledge and resources we need to be advocates for their children. "At OSB, we provide a continuum of services from pre-kindergarten through high school," says Braden. "Our role is to partner with families effectively in getting services, whether they’re here on campus or we’re going to their homes. Life is busy, and we’re here to support families and help them advocate for their children.

The TVI Program, presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) within the Department of Labor & Industry’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, is the only CVI-specific program in Pennsylvania. To qualify for the TVI Program, a child must be registered with the BBVS and must be determined by the BBVS to be vision impaired for employment. Students who are planning to attend school programs that are appropriate to their abilities and needs, that provide the experiences and opportunities. Enjoyed by their typical peers, and to become as independent as possible.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Overbrook School for the Blind and the Philadelphia Filipino-American Lions Club. Beginning at 8:30 AM, the Annual Breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee, and all for just $5.00. Tickets are available at the door. The Annual Breakfast is also available on the OSB website at www.obs.org.

REACHING OUT

The TVI Program is presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) within the Department of Labor & Industry’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. To qualify for the TVI Program, a child must be registered with the BBVS and must be determined by the BBVS to be vision impaired for employment.

For more information or to apply for the TVI Program, contact Stephanie Maps, TVI Program Coordinator, at stmaps@obs.org or (215) 979-8413, ext. 306.

OSB Executive Director and CEO Gerald Kitchoff introduced the dates of this summer’s OSB Transition Orientation Initiative (TVI)

From July 10th to July 20th, OSB will present this TVI Program, a three-week summer residential program to prepare students (ages 16-21) who are blind or visually impaired for employment. Students who are planning to attend school programs that are appropriate to their abilities and needs, that provide the experiences and opportunities. Enjoyed by their typical peers, and to become as independent as possible.

The Early Childhood Program, led by Margarette Bradley, is the cornerstone of OSB’s Comprehensive Services.

“While service children ages three through five at OSB, says Bradley, “It’s particularly exciting to be able to work with our students who have blindness, and we want to empower them to be as independent as possible.”

The Early Childhood Program provides a hands-on approach to teaching foundational skills, such as communication, advocacy, and self-advocacy. The program is designed to give our students a head start in developing the skills they will need as they transition to school programs. The Early Childhood Program is open to children ages three through five who have blindness or low vision. The program is designed to give our students a head start in developing the skills they will need as they transition to school programs. The Early Childhood Program is open to children ages three through five who have blindness or low vision.

1. Lighting Improvement

Continue to Develop, Support and Strengthen OSB’s Board, Faculty and Staff

2. Music Therapy

Diversify and Expand OSB’s Revenue Sources and Increase its Financial Sustainability...
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Currently, a total of 32 students in the region are being seen by OSB professionals for vision services with six of those same students being seen for orientation and mobility services as well.

“Our goal is to provide vision services to students and families regardless of where their primary placement is,” says Williams. “We want to make sure we are available as a resource to families and educators whenever possible, and this School Age Itinerant Program allows us to do that.”

Just For Fun

Students from Ms. Tia’s Early Childhood classroom dressed up as one hundred year-olds to celebrate the 100th Day of School at OSB. Hang on, Old Timers. Only a few more months to go!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MAR 23 Wed SPRING VACATION BEGINS SCHOOL CLOSED
29 Tue All Students Return. Classes resume at 8:15 a.m.
APR 1 Fri L2 Noon Dismissal for Students; Professional Development Day; afternoon for staff
4 Mon SCHOOL IN SESSION
MAY 6 Fri Prom at 7 p.m.
19 Thurs Singing Concert at 7 p.m. Auditorium. Public invited.
27 Fri Achievement Day at 9 a.m. Auditorium
30 Mon MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
JUN 6 Mon Fun Day for all educational programs
16 Thur Commencement at 9:30 a.m. Auditorium
17 Fri Last Day of School L2 Noon Dismissal for Students
24–26 Wknd Alumni Weekend

Hang on, Old Timers. Only a few more months to go!
HAPPENINGS AT OSB

1. Lighting Improvement

OSB’s vice president of operations, Patience Piesecki, shared a strategic planning update with you. If you have an interest in the OSB Strategic Plan, please contact Gloria A. Pfeiffer, our Executive Director and CEO, at ext. 350.

2. Music Therapy

Congratulations to the Music Therapy Program which presented their first theater production ever here at OSB entitled “The Governor.” There was dancing, singing, and musical instruments, with adaptors for those with multiple disabilities, and included about 50 students from the Elementary to the School To Work Programs.

3. “Daredevil” Star Charlie Cox

Stop by for File a film on May 24 to speak with OSB high school and School to Work students about working in the entertainment industry. Cox, who stars Matt Murdock, the blind lawyer-by-day, superhero-by-night Marvel comic book character on Netflix’s new TV series, “Daredevil,” Charlie Cox will challenge blindness applicants, Jae Storkey (from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visually Impaired Services), to apply for the TVI Program, which focuses on building skills that we use to apply for the TVI Program which focuses on building skills that are essential for employment and living independently. Attend the TVI Program which focuses on building skills that are essential for employment and living independently.

3. Pancake Breakfast

Bring your appetite to OSB on Sunday, April 10th! It’s our Annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Overbrook School for the Blind District 14A Cabinet Committee and the Philadelphia Filipino-American Lions Club. Beginning at 8 a.m., breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, parsley, coffee, and juice, all for $5 per person. Raffle tickets are each, and prizes are $50 for 1st, $15 for 2nd, and $5 for 3rd prizes. Tickets are available at the door.

REACHING OUT

The TVI Program is presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visually Impaired Services (BBVIS) within the Department of Labor & Industry’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. To qualify for the TVI Program, students must be legally blind, between the ages 16-21, and must have a TVI Program Certificate of Completion. For more information, please contact Stephanie Mays at the TVI Program Coordinator, at ext. 230. To apply, contact Stephanie Mays at the TVI Program Coordinator, at ext. 230.

FROM JULY 10TH TO JULY 29TH, OSB WILL PRESENT THE TVI PROGRAM, A THREE-WEEK RESIDENTIAL SUMMER PROGRAM TO PREPARE STUDENTS (AGES 16-21) WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOR EMPLOYMENT. STUDENTS WHO ARE PLANNING TO MOVE ON TO SUPPORTED OR COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT, ATTEND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, OR ATTEND COLLEGE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, MAY APPLY TO THE TVI PROGRAM TO HELP START THEM ON A PATH THAT WILL IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE. THE TVI PROGRAM IS NAMED FOR THE WHITE HALL INDEPENDENT LIVING APARTMENTS ON THE OSB CAMPUS.

OSB Executive Director and CEO Gerald Kitzhoffer announced the dates of this summer’s TVI Transition Vocational Initiative (TVI).
During this school year, we have:

• Expanded our visibility, internationally, with OSB staff members Jackie Brennan, Arias-Torres (Human Resources Specialist), Nia Green (Middle School Social Worker), Sterling Hainey (Housekeeping), and Victoria Hahn (Executive Director and CEO) working to strengthen and enhance our international presence.

• Enhanced our branding opportunities and have new “looks” for the TOWERS Newsletter, the general OSB brochure, and our annual report.

• Increased our funding opportunities with events like the Overbrook Gala and our Annual Pancake Breakfast.

• Diversified and expanded our revenue sources.

Although I am hard-pressed to feature all of the current partnerships of our organization in a few paragraphs, I did want to share a few highlights with you.

1. Lighting Improvement

OSB is a recipient of a significant amount of campus lighting improvement, thanks to a Foundation Fighting Blindness collaboration with GE Lighting. The re mapping effort replaced much of the school’s existing lighting with energy-efficient lighting and fixtures throughout several classrooms, along the outdoor canopy corridor, and within OSB’s Field House. GE donated new lighting products and all fixtures were installed by Vanguard Building Solutions, LLC. Representatives from GE Lighting, Vanguard Building Solutions, the Foundation Fighting Blindness, and other guests gathered with our students for a “Light Up” tour to experience dinner "Talking Guide,” to more visually impaired people in our region.

2. Music Therapy

The Music Therapy Program at OSB has been named a “STAR Program” by the American Music Therapy Association. This designation indicates that the program meets national standards for excellence in music therapy practice and is essential for employment and living independently. The Music Therapy Program provides training and experiences for students who are interested in pursuing a career in music therapy.

3. "Daredevil" Star Charlie Cox

Stop by first floor OSB to speak with OSB high school and School to Work students about working in the entertainment industry. Cox, dressed as Matt Murdock, the blind lawyer-by-day, superhero-by-night Marvel comic book character on Netflix’s new TV series, “Daredevil,”Charity Cox, blind volunteer, with Daniel A. Garcia, OSB Speech Therapist

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Bring your appetite to OSB on Sunday, April 10th for our Annual Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by the Overbrook School for the Blind Dietetic Council at the Philadelphia Half Marathon. Beginning at 8 a.m., breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, toasts, potatoes, coffee, and juice. All rates are $10 for adults, $6 for children and $3 for kids. Tickets are available at the door.

For more information or to make reservations, call (215) 877-0313.

"BRANCHING OUT" the 2014-2015 Overbrook School for the Blind Annual Report is now available. If you would like to request a copy, please contact Maryann Flack in the OSB Development Office at (215) 877-0313, ext. 206. The Annual Report is available in a variety of formats, including Braille, large print, audio, and condensed. Thanks to Rodnae Brooks, OSB Braille Transcriber.

OSB Executive Director and CEO Gerald Kitchoffer announced the dates of this summer’s OSB Transition Volunteer Initiative (TVI)

From July 10th to July 20th, OSB will present the TVI Program, a three-week residential summer program to prepare students (ages 16-21) who are blind or visually impaired for independent living. Students who are planning to move on to supported or competitive employment, attend vocational training, or attend college after high school, may benefit from the OSB TVI Program. The program aims to provide survivors of blindness and others who are essential for employment and living independently.

The TVI Program is administered by the White House Independent Living Program on the OSB campus. The TVI Program is presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services within the Department of Labor & Industry’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. To qualify for the TVI Program, students must be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services and have a diagnosis of blindness.
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In addition to the Itinerant Program, the OSB Early Intervention Programs provide services to children and their families throughout Philadelphia and surrounding counties, and are delivered in a variety of ways. The community based services (ages birth to three) are typically provided in the home and occasionally in daycare settings. The three to five year-olds are usually seen in preschools/daycares and occasionally in the home.

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