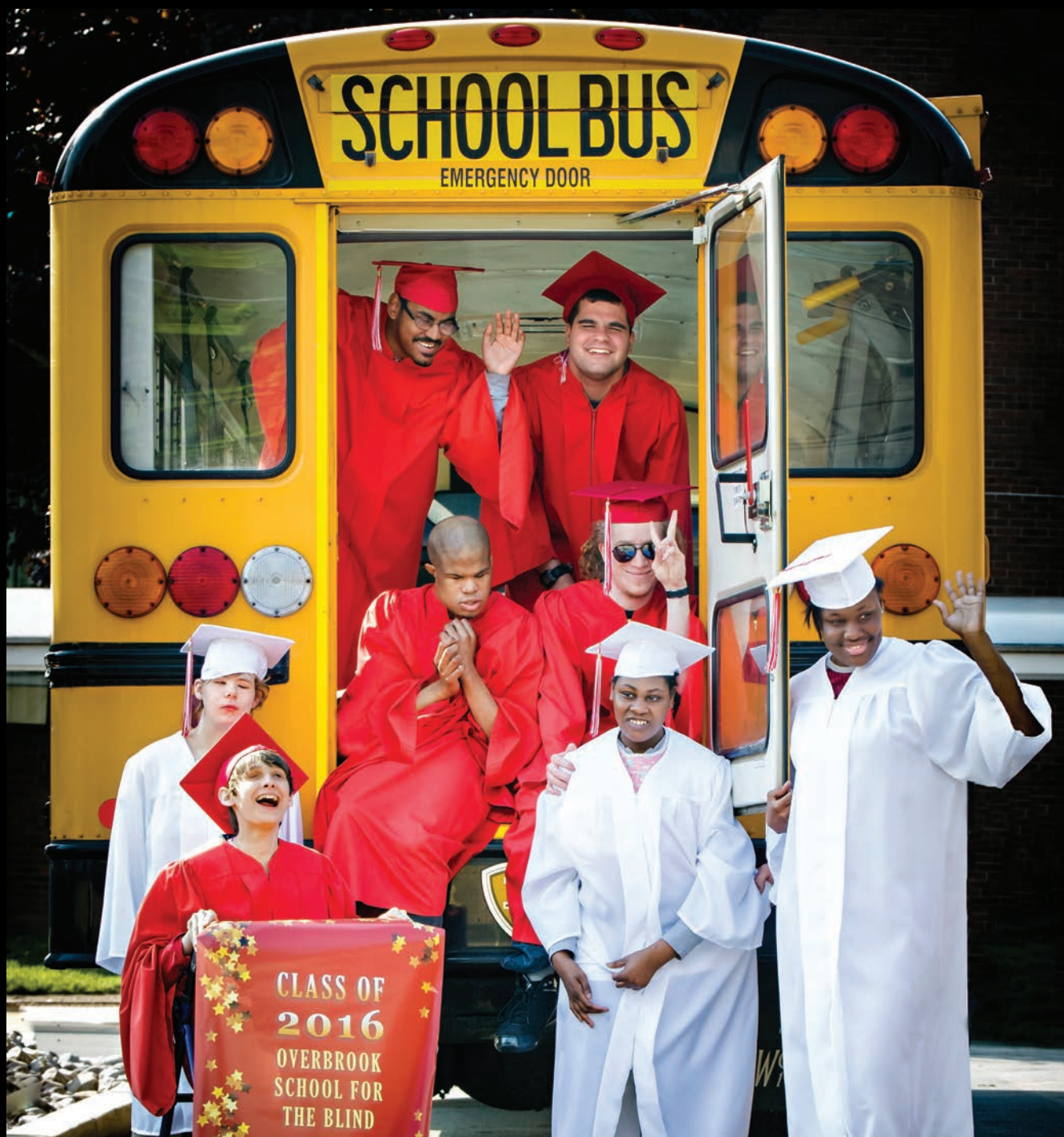




OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

VOL. 70, No. 3, JUNE 2016

TOWERSNEWS



CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!

WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Gerald Kitzhoffer

Dear Friends:

If you are a recent graduate of Overbrook School for the Blind, you are now part of our global alumni community. Welcome!

At this year's Commencement ceremony, we honored Overbrook alumna, **Linda Haskell Justice**, with the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to society, and has demonstrated unusual courage, persistence and imagination in overcoming challenges.

Following her graduation from Overbrook, Linda received an Associate Degree in Communications from Williamsport Area Community College where she later received the Trustee's Award. She worked for several local businesses including DuPont and was an active volunteer at a community radio station. In 1985, she started volunteering at Upper Moreland Middle School's Acceptance Day Program, describing life as a blind working adult. The school awarded her the Martin Luther King award in 1999 for her outstanding service.

In 1994, Linda was hired as a telephone specialist at Home Depot and became a successful advocate for having the Home Depot computer system made accessible, resulting in a system that was in use for many years. When she found out that many of her co-workers did not know how to handle requests from persons with blindness or physical disabilities, she wrote a manual called "Disability Awareness," portions of which are now permanently included in Home Depot's Employee Handbook. Linda also taught classes for many years in the Home Depot District Headquarters on Disability Awareness as part of the Home Depot New Hire process. Essentially, Linda has made significant changes in how employees at a major U.S. corporation interact with persons with disabilities, and over the years, she has been a great supporter of OSB.

We encourage you, recent graduates, to remain engaged with your alma mater. Stay in touch with us, so that we can provide support, share benefits, and enjoy lifelong friendships.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Sincerely, "Mr. K"
Executive Director and CEO



TOWERS NEWSLETTER
Vol. 70, No. 3, June 2016
Overbrook School for the Blind
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Established 1832

Gloria A. Pfeiffer
gloria@obs.org
Editor

Denise Mihalik
denise@obs.org
Photos

OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2015-2106

President
Warwick S. Wheeler

Vice Presidents
Robert D'Anjolell
Robert B. Gallant
J. Freedley Hunsicker, Jr., Esq.
Elizabeth Passanante-Rodriguez

Treasurer
Joseph T. Doyle, Jr.

Secretary
Marjorie G. Stein

Parent Representative
John P. Dougherty

Members
F. Howard Braithwaite
Peggy Garrett
John Goldschmidt, Jr.
Bryant Greene
Jacqueline Keenan
Vince McVeigh
Robert L. Pratter
Sid Rosenblatt
David Ross, Ed.D.
Emmeline VanderZwaag

OSB Executive Director and CEO
Gerald Kitzhoffer



United Way
00816

FOLLOW US



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Christopher Seeds and Joseph Ranieri (Maintenance)

COMMENCEMENT 2016



Graduation is an exciting time. It's both an ending and a beginning; it's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. All of the staff at Overbrook School for the Blind wish our 2016 Graduates great success with their new beginnings and new challenges. We are proud to have known you as students and look forward to you remaining part of the Overbrook family as alumni. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Presenting **2016**

the class of



GRACE MARGARET BOWEN



BRITTANY BROWN



NATHANIEL LOUIS BURT



JOHATHAN GOODSON



NJEMA K. LENNOX



CHRISTOPHER MOLINA



AARON PRESTON



CHRISTOPHER LUKE THOMAS



DAVID WALSH

TO OUR YOUNGEST GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES:

With pride and pleasure, the entire staff of Overbrook School for the Blind celebrates your success as you move from Early Intervention to other adventures in learning.



ZAYAD A.



ALI B-K.



MAHAD B.



MAURICE B.



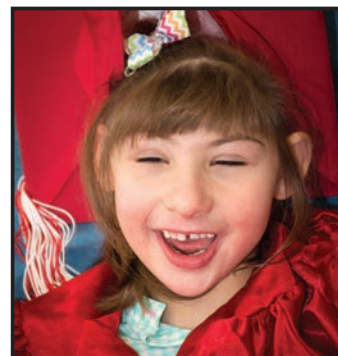
TRINITY B-W.



LINIYAH D.



NEHEMIAH F.



AVERY G.



NAMIR G.



CONNOR H.



JANE H.



TYLER H.



DANIEL I.



ADRIANNA J-H.



TY'JNAI J.



KEVIN K.



DAVID L.



MALIKAH M.



TAYDEN M.



FAITH O-N.



SYNCIR P-C.



ANABEL R.



BRIANA R.



ESME T.



KAMIYAH W.



SI'EN W.



YSHAK Y.

NOT PICTURED:
MALIHAN D.





OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

... ..

The 2016 – 2017 school year marks Overbrook School for the Blind's 185th year! Check back with us in the fall for more information about activities planned to highlight this significant occasion.

2016–2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUG	30	Tue	Teachers, Aides and Houseparents return IN-SERVICE DAY 8:30 A.M.	FEB	20	Mon	PRESIDENT'S DAY – No school for students & Instructional Staff
	31	Wed	Professional Development Day	MAR	17	Fri	12:00 p.m. Dismissal for Students; Professional Development Day in Afternoon for Staff
SEPT	1	Thu	Professional Development Day		20	Mon	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
	2	Fri	NO SCHOOL FOR INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF	APR	7	Fri	SPRING VACATION begins end of school day
	5	Mon	LABOR DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED		18	Tue	All students return. Classes resume 8:15 a.m.
	6	Tues	First day of school for all OSB students	MAY	5	Fri	Prom 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
OCT	3	Mon	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS & INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF		18	Thu	Spring Concert 7:00 p.m. Public invited.
	14	Fri	Parents' Day – PTA Meeting		26	Fri	Achievement Day 9:00 a.m. Auditorium.
NOV	4	Fri	End of First Quarter Grading Period		29	Mon	MEMORIAL DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
	11	Fri	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	JUN	5	Mon	Fun Day for all educational programs
	23	Wed	12:00 p.m. Dismissal for Students; 1:00 P.M. Dismissal for Instructional Staff; Long weekend begins at end of school day		9	Fri	Early Childhood Summer Celebration 10:00 a.m. Auditorium
	24	Thu	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED		14	Wed	Commencement – 9:30 a.m. Auditorium
	25	Fri	SCHOOL CLOSED		16	Fri	12:00 p.m. Dismissal for Students; 3:15 p.m. Dismissal for Instructional Staff; Last day for students & Instructional Staff
DEC	8	Thu	Holiday Concert – 7:00 p.m. Auditorium – Public Invited	*19 – 20	Mon		Snow Make-Up Days
	15	Thu	Early Childhood Winter Program 10:00 a.m. Auditorium – Public Invited	23 – 25	F-S		Alumni Weekend
	22	Thu	WINTER VACATION begins at the end of school day	Jul	3	Mon	Early Childhood Summer Program begins
JAN	3	Tue	All Students Return. Classes resume at 8:15 a.m.		4	Tue	Independence Day Observed SCHOOL CLOSED
	16	Mon	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	Jul 3 – Aug 10			Early Childhood Summer Program Program runs Mondays – Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
FEB	17	Fri	12:00 p.m. Dismissal for Students; Professional Development Day in Afternoon for Staff	Jul 5 – Aug 10			ESY Program – Program runs Tuesdays – Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. * Additional Snow Make-Up days if needed

Congratulations to Our Retiring Staff Members!

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement after many years of outstanding service. We are extremely grateful for the assistance, guidance, and leadership you have provided throughout the years. Best of luck!



(Photo, left to right) Joan Kuchinos (Middle School Teacher): 17 years; Dael Cohen (Transition) 25 years; Hiram Castro (Housekeeping) 16 years W. Timothy Macaulay (Orientation and Mobility) 34 years



6333 Malvern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 7472
Philadelphia, PA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016
FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL
OVERBROOK EXPERIENCE

Co-Chairs:

Robert L. Pratter, Esq., *OSB Board of Trustees,*
Pooh Gephart, *former Board Secretary*

The evening will be complete with
a silent auction cocktail hour, dinner and much, much more.
All proceeds will benefit OSB's programs and students.

For more information, please call the
Development Office at 215-877-0313 ext. 264.