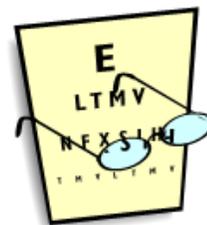


The Spectacle



The Heart of the School **The Learning Resource Center**

TSBVI Parent
Newsletter
June, 2016



Renee Toy, Library Director, reads to classes on a regular basis.

Located in the center of the first floor of the main building on campus is the Learning Resource Center, or LRC. More than just a library, it also houses a computer lab, a work area for staff, tables for listening, working or meeting, comfortable seating areas for group activities, a state of the art embossing room—and we can't forget the fish tank!

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The LRC is the Heart of Our School

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The LRC was designed in cooperation with the GSC Architects with input from the library staff. The result is an attractive, well-lighted space that serves the multiple needs of the TSBVI staff and students, including a lowered space of the check out desk that accommodates short students and wheelchair users.

The LRC contains almost, 3,000 braille books, 1,500 audio CDs, 400 large print books, 2,700 regular print books, 800 digital audio books, 250 Kindle e-books, 150 movies, 200 music CDs, 150 movies and a variety of magazines in braille and large print. It also houses a large number of adapted games such as tactile chess and

checkers, UNO, scrabble , braille playing cards and tactile dice.

With all of the aforementioned resources contained in the LRC, the most important resource of all is the LRC staff. Renee Toy, the LRC Director, has worked at TSBVI for 30 years. For most of those years she was a teacher in our Elementary Department. She brings with her a strong passion for literacy and literature and firmly believes that students who do not like to read have just not found the right book yet.



Sue Mattson is a braille specialist who does braille transcribing and tactile graphics for students, works with Texas Tech University and Stephen F Austin

A student searching for a book in the 1980's



A student searches for a book today.



Continued on page 3

LRC continued

continued from page 2



University VI teacher prep programs in the area of assistive technology, works with Education Service Centers and TSBVI to train

teachers, residential instructors, other instructional staff and braille transcribers, and runs Braille Boot Camp in conjunction with TSBVI's Outreach Department. In addition, Sue is becoming an expert in 3D printing.

Mendy Hudson does braille transcribing and brings her music background to her job by working with our music teachers to



provide braille music for their students.

Tag Millikin does some braille transcribing, all large format printing at the school, works with students and staff to

make materials, makes covers for audio CDs recorded by the Junior League, designs programs for school-wide events, and assists students selecting books.

Students and staff are in and out of the LRC all day, participating in a book club, a coding club, staff development or story time. The work room is always available for staff to prepare materials and someone is always available to assist a student in selecting a book.

The TSBVI LRC has been selected as a project of the Junior League of Austin each year since 1999. The Junior League accepts applications from over 200 nonprofits and selects approximately 30 organizations to receive volunteers and funds. JLA volunteers provide TSBVI hours of recording and scanning to help put books into auditory and braille formats.



The LRC STAFF

Sue Mattson, Tag Millikin, Renee Toy, Mendy Hudson
The wonderful staff of the Learning Resource Center, led by Director Renee Toy, works diligently to encourage and entice

The LRC is the Heart of Our School

continued from page 3

students to come find a book to read for enjoyment. Reading is the foundation for education, communication and academic success. Developing the love to read will improve literacy proficiency. Research has established that there is a correlation between reading books and literacy levels; students that read in their leisure time score better on literacy assessments and do better academically than students who do not read beyond what is required for their coursework.

- Reading forces the brain to concentrate and stimulates creative thinking.
- Reading improves your vocabulary.
- Reading improves memory.
- Joining a book club to read gives the opportunity to interact with others and exposes you to new ideas.
- Higher literacy correlates with positive social behavior and a better quality of life.

The intellectual benefits of reading can lead to academic success, better employment and life-long learning. The Learning Resource Center at TSBVI is a priceless resource for our students.

One of the features of the LRC that most former students remember fondly, is a



Old Scar Face

carved horse's head called Old Scar Face. There is a legend about a great stallion who ruled the wild

horses where Roswell now stands. He had a pale white eye and there were scars on his face. It was said that the storm-gods had touched his face with lightening and after that the white eye could see a man through rocks and hills. Not even the Apache could capture him! Old Scar Face was carved by Dr. W. L. DeGinder from a chunk of Texas elmwood that was originally intended for firewood. It was saved when his daughter noticed that the piece resembled a horse head. While it was on display at Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Mr. DeGinder noticed how everyone wanted to touch it, so he decided to donate to Texas School for the Blind in 1969. It has enhanced our LRC in the decades since.

Comprehensive Program

White Cane Day, October 14, 2015

White Cane Day is a special day for TSBVI students and staff. The entire school population celebrates along with students from local districts, members of the Lions Clubs, DARS, Travis Association for the Blind and many other groups and organizations who serve the blind in some way. We travel by bus or van to downtown Austin, march from the Capitol to City Hall to listen to speeches by the Mayor and others, and then walk over



to Republic Square Park for a picnic lunch and games.

White Cane Day is recognized nationally on October 15th. The mission of White Cane Day is to ed-

ucate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities, to celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and to honor the many contributions being made by blind and visually impaired people.

Parent Weekend, November 14, 2015

The Parent Weekend Fall Carnival is the highlight of the year as we welcome families to share the weekend on our beautiful campus. It begins with a meet and greet barbecue on Friday night for families who can come in early. The big day is Saturday, with breakfast tacos at 8 AM to a student performance and pep rally at 3 PM. In between there are meetings with teachers, Orientation and Mobility blindfold experiences, an OT/PT open house, an art show and speakers for EXIT program families. And that's just the morning!



The afternoon becomes a carnival atmosphere with activities for visitors of all ages, including family portraits, jump rope and hula hoop contests, a cake walk, motorcycle rides, a rock wall and a moon walk. There are also pedal car rides, face painting, health and wellness activities, and a clown creating balloon animals. Wow!

Comprehensive Program continued



TSBVI Fine Arts Department presented three performances of Jonathan Rand's comedy Check Please on May 19-21, 2016

The play consisted of short skits in which the major characters encounter strange partners on blind dates that seemingly couldn't get any worse -- until they do.

Dating can be hard. Especially when your date happens to be a raging kleptomaniac, or your grandmother's bridge partner, or a mime. Guy and Girl are forced by their well-intentioned best friends to plunge back into the dating pool. Unfortunately that pool is filled with foot-reading psychics, a vote-starved politician, a wannabe rock star, an extreme accountant, and a pirate.



Directed by drama teacher Robert Pierson, the cast of sixteen talented performers played multiple hilarious characters to standing ovations.



The cast and crew of Check Please

Comprehensive Program continued

LEO Club News By Patti Robinson

This year the TSBVI LEOs completed an amazing number of service projects for such a small group. In the fall, we made meal bags for the homeless people who live under the bridge in Austin, packed and shipped 12 shoeboxes of toys and toiletries to Ecuador (Operation Christmas Child), with other LEOS in our district we made cards for care packages going to the troops (Operation Gratitude), and we wrapped animal shelter collection boxes to collect food bedding and collars for lost and homeless animals at the Austin Animal Center. We collected a full car load of products which were delivered on December 16th.

The spring brought new opportunities and we doubled our efforts in service. Inspiration came when some of us attended the 100 year anniversary of our sponsor club,

The Austin Founder Lions, at the Bob Bullock Museum. The LEO's of Texas sang the LEO Song to the room of over 200 guests, including Austin Mayor Steve Adler. In January, we planted 306 trees at Bastrop State Park on MLK's Birthday. We learned about a community home for children that has been around almost as long as TSBVI and planned a chili/Frito-pie dinner fundraiser in which we raised \$1,000 for Helping Hand Home for Children. In April, we went to the Texas Lions Camp work day and helped our sponsor Lions Club paint a very large cabin. We concluded our service to the community with another round of sandwich meal bags for the homeless. Everyone is very proud of their service to the community and proud to be part of a world-wide organization of Lions Clubs.

2015-16 LEOs were: Moreblessings Chikavanga, President, Christian Sanchez, Vice President, Tyrell Weeks, Juan Carlos Jimenez, Juan Cruz, Seth Bethea, Daniel Hernandez, Mya Gipson, Rowdy Cogdell,



Dimitri Deese, Jemal Pettit, Jay Washington, and Miguel Lopez. The sponsor was Patti Robinson, member of The Austin Founder Lions.

Comprehensive Program continued

Tandem Cycling Pairs Students with the Austin Community

Most kids love to ride bikes, experiencing the feeling of flying through the wind. For TSBVI students, the tandem cycling program began in earnest in 2000, when the school became a project of The Junior League of Austin, who purchased 4 tandem bicycles and provided "Bike Buddies" to captain them. Since that time, the program and number of bikes has



mushroomed. Today we partner with an Austin bike-riding group called Social Cycling Austin to ride together every Monday evening that daylight allows. Social Cycling promotes the rides as "A leisurely ride through a nice neighborhood with the kids from the school. You will have as much fun as they do."



In goalball all players wear blindfolds.

Goalball is the King of Sports at TSBVI

Goalball is a competitive team sport created in 1946 for blinded war veterans. Today it is part of the Summer Paralympics and World Championship. No wonder TSBVI students love to play.

This year TSBVI Wildcats showed their goalball expertise at two major tournaments as well as at Sports Extravaganza in Dallas. The 2015 USABA National High School Goalball Championships Tournament was held in November at the Florida School for the Blind and Deaf in St. Augustine, Florida. Sixteen teams competed in this highly competitive tournament and TSBVI boys and girls excelled. Boys brought home the Silver Medal and girls the Bronze. In addition, TSBVI student Demetria Ober was named a High School All American.

The LONE STAR CLASSIC Tournament was held at TSBVI in early October. Ten highly skilled teams fought for the gold. TSBVI Girls grabbed the Bronze Medal and the Sportsmanship Award; the boys also won the Bronze. TSBVI plans to host the LSC



Comprehensive Program continued

South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) Tournaments

Wrestling, Cheerleading and Performance Arts at Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, January 21-24, 2016

The 2016 SCASB Wrestling Tournament was a great opportunity for a very young and inexperienced TSBVI Wildcat Team to show what they had in store. The six first-time wrestlers on this team displayed grit, focus, and great skill. Their overall performance should be viewed with great pride by the TSBVI Family!

The Wildcat cheerleaders won 2nd Place. Captain Demetria Ober, Co-captain Amina Abdalla, Ta' Lia Woodard, Mikkah Margrave, Ashley Pryor, Maritza Graves and Selena Contreras did a great job. Kimberly Berry, our Wildcat Mascot, also received a 2nd place and Demetria Ober competed in the solo routine and won 2nd place.



SCASB Track Meet at Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired on April 9-10, 2016

The TSBVI Track Team worked hard throughout the two months leading up to the SCASB event, using guide runners from the Volunteer Program.

The girls track team of Demetria, Ober Adelyn Granger, Amina Abdalla, Maritza Graves, Mikkah Margrave, Emma Tarr, Moreblessings Chikavanga, Yezmiene (Mili) Martinez, Ashley Pryor, Ta'lia Woodard, Ariana Baeza, Chanel

Davis and Julie Valadez showed off their dedication and team work and received 1st place!

The boys track team of Hector Lara, Tyrell Weeks, Davieon Perez, Ricky Castaneda, Wyatte Hertel, Cameron Smith, Cesar Chapa, Juan Cruz, Marc Mendez, Dimitri Deese, Matt Arnold, Elias Lopez and Juan Carlos Jimenez-Macedonio worked very hard and received 2nd place. We are so proud of both teams and are looking forward to hosting the event next year.



Comprehensive Program continued

We're Having a BAD Day!

In the Dual Enrollment Program a group of TSBVI students attend McCallum High



School for advanced math and science, foreign language and Advanced Placement classes.

This spring 12 Dual Enrollment Program students hosted 26 McCallum peers on **Blind Awareness Day** (BAD), who gained insight into the lives of TSBVI students by using canes, making lunch, playing goalball and walking an obstacle course all under blindfold. It was a BAD day, but a great one for learning and sharing experiences.

Venture Crew at TSBVI

This is a group of forward thinking young adults and staff. The Venture Crew members are involved in a myriad of undertakings, such as volunteering with children. They hone their ability to work as a team through experiencing activities that require effective communication, teamwork and commitment. The Venture Crew members embody leadership by setting a positive example throughout the campus.



The Crew racing in a Dragon Boat

Career Education Banquet

In April, the Career Education department held a banquet for Austin employers who provide off-campus work training opportunities to our students. Some of the businesses in attendance included: Holiday Inn Midtown, Texas Coffee Traders, Appliance Associates, Goodwill, Top Drawer, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Pease Elementary, Parson's House Independent and Assisted Living Community, Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center, Dragon's Lair Comics, and Zinger Hardware.

Other potential community partners were also invited to explore the possibilities of forming work opportunities for our students. Students, staff, and employers shared positive stories of these community job placements while enjoying a meal,



followed by desserts prepared by students from the Culinary Arts program. Students were included in the planning and preparation of the event and learned many valuable skills in the process.

Comprehensive Program continued

TSBVI Student Council

The 2015-2016 Student Council was a hard-working team that dedicated many hours to their projects. This group of students was full of energy and ideas for serving our student body and the community.

- Their first activity of the year was to provide the refreshments for the school's Red Ribbon Week celebration.
- They hosted a jump rope and hula hoop activity at the Parent weekend festivities.
- They sponsored Spirit Week, when students were encouraged to participate in a variety of spirit activities to show off their Wildcat Pride.
- Giving back to the community is an important part of the Student Council's yearly activities, so they helped collect donations for the Jump Rope for Heart organization, hosted a drive to raise donations to send care packages to U.S. soldiers overseas, and made sandwiches that were distributed among Austin's homeless community.
- Council members put together a program celebrating the implementation of the new Unified English Braille code.
- They partnered with the fabulous AT&T Volunteers to bring an Easter egg hunt to our students, complete with beeping Easter eggs. How satisfying for students who are blind or visually impaired to be able to find the eggs all on their own.
- Once again, the Student Council produced a school-wide talent show, which was well attended and a huge success.
- To end the school year on a celebratory note, the Council sponsored an ice cream social after our secondary awards ceremony.



Front: Moreblessings Chikavanga (Secretary) and Mariana Flores (Treasurer); back: Ms. Nancy Hefner (Faculty Sponsor), Ms. Belinda Rosas (Faculty Sponsor), Jemal Pettit, Christian Sanchez (Vice-President), Devin Gutierrez, Miguel Lopez, Demetria Ober, Julie Valadez, Ashley Pryor (President), and Kim Wright (Sponsor)

Comprehensive Program

A "Hawaiian Paradise" Comes to Austin for the 2016 Prom!



One of the highlights of the TSBVI school year is the prom each spring. Students dressed in formal attire hardly look like the students we know, but more like Hollywood stars. Short-term Programs High School Independence Weekend students are included in the festivities.

And royalty . . .



There is dining . . .



And dancing . . .



"The TSBVI Prom was amazing and our students (and staff) looked fabulous. Many thanks to the team that puts this together each year, led by Tammy Reed, Jeanne Williamson and Beth Bailey. Bryan Maffett spun the tunes and Amanda Anguiano made very large and realistic palm trees in keeping with the Hawaiian theme. Our RIs and TAs that come to the prom make sure everyone is up on the dance floor and having a good time."

-Bill Daugherty, Superintendent

Short-Term Programs

Summer 2015

Summer Programs (June - July) include a variety of enrichment classes for VI students of all ability levels. Classes vary in length from 4 days to 5 weeks. The programs change from year to year. Here are those that were offered during the summer 2015. A 2016 program list can be found on the TSBVI website at <http://www.tsbvi.edu/summer-programs>.

Academic Secondary Enrichment

- Art from the Heart, 1 week and 2 weeks
- Camp Challenge, 1 week
- Getting There 1 week and 2 weeks
- Middle School Enrichment 1 week and 2 weeks
- Middle School Enrichment 2 weeks
- Performance Arts Intensive, 2 weeks
- Physical Education SBOE, 3 weeks
- Rock Band, 1 week
- Summer Actors' Workshop, 1 week
- Taste of Independence, 2 weeks
- Wildcat Catering & Bistro, 3 weeks

Practical Academic Summer Enrichment

- Classes 1-7, 2 weeks

Life Skills Camp

- 3 1-week classes

Elementary School Enrichment

- 4 classes, 1 week
- 7 classes, 2 weeks

SWEAT – Summer Work Experience in Austin Texas work program, 5 weeks

WALIC – Working and Living in Community work program, 4 weeks

Short-Term Programs ♦ Summer 2015

Life Skills Camp

During Life Skills Camp, students were able to participate in a variety of activities, practice being away from home, and build relationships with caregivers other than their family members and teachers back home.

This year, our community activities included visiting Mount Playmore, a grocery store-sized indoor playscape, Gattiland with pizza, games, and rides, bowling at Dart Bowl, a trip to Candlelight Ranch to explore horses, gardens, a treehouse and take a ride on the zip-line.



opmental gym, participate in simple food preparation, play board games with their dorm mates, and

develop their gross motor skills in the playroom. Each activity embedded skills from the Expanded Core Curriculum for Blind and Visually Impaired Students (ECC).

By Kathi Garza, TVI

We also took a trip to Austin’s famous



Zilker Park to ride the Zilker Zephyr train.

On campus, students had the opportunity to play in the devel-



Short-Term Programs ♦ Summer 2015

Elementary Summer Enrichment

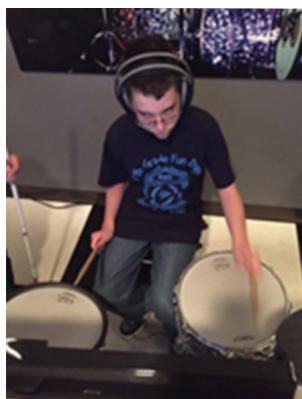
These classes promote the acquisition and practice of Expanded Core Curriculum skills through high-interest themes. One of the elementary classes during Summer 2015 was “The Time Machine.” Students in this class explored a number of important periods in history through class discussions, stories, activities, and community outings. They built a time machine out of recycled materials and art supplies, then each morning they entered the time machine and exited into a new historical period.



The class visited a dinosaur park, created their own coat of arms, explored the wild west, and went to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Students also considered the future and made predictions about based on current events and the state of the world. In addition to class activities, students participated in a music class, an adapted PE class, a campus-wide field day, enriching residential activities, and a final performance.

Practical Academic Secondary Enrichment (PASE) Class: “A Sound Future”

In this class, students focused on career education, centered around the theme of music. Students participated in a variety of activities that included cooperative research, employability skills training, visiting several venues for music-based career information gathering, as well as engaging in conversations with professionals working in the music community.



The students attended a gallery showing of historic Beatles memorabilia, toured the Moody Theater at Austin City Limits, visited the KOOP radio station, and

listened to guest speakers who work in the area of digital music.

Academic Secondary Enrichment

Academic Secondary Enrichment classes are for middle- or high-school students whose academic work is on or close to grade level. The classes last from one to three weeks, and have a variety of themes, including a credit PE class, running an actual catering and bistro business on campus, art, theater, O&M and independent living skills, and science & technology topics.

Short-Term Programs ♦ Summer 2015

SWEAT Summer Work Experience in Austin Texas

This year during SWEAT, students gained work experience in a variety of job placements throughout the Austin community. Examples include working in the kitchen at Double Tree Hotel, providing customer service at the reception desk of Umlauf Sculpture Garden, and working as a teacher's assistant at Open Door Preschool.



In addition to gaining work experience, students also learned to live independently during their stay in our dorms. Students practiced essential household tasks such as cleaning, laundry, and cooking.

Students also had the opportunity to research and select recreation and lei-

sure activities throughout Austin. They chose a trip to McKinney Falls State Park and a visit to a youth art exhibit at the



Pump Project Art Complex. SWEAT culminated with an Employer Appreciation Party, which gave students an opportunity to thank their em-

ployers for their generous devotion of time and resources.

It was so exciting to watch students gain confidence in their skills and achieve their goals during this five-week program!

By Amanda Fierro, M.Ed., TVI/
COMS



Short-Term Programs

School Year 2015-16

Our School Year Programs (August - May) include a wide range of classes addressing needs from academic to recreational for students on or near grade level. Students are able to quickly learn independent living skills in a relaxed, positive environment that focuses on the unique needs of students with visual impairments. Students must be referred by their local Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI). The programs change from year to year. Here are those that were offered during the 2015-16 school year. A 2016-17 program list and calendar can be found on the TSBVI website at <http://www.tsbvi.edu/calendar-and-class-descriptions>.

Elementary

- ◆ Access to academic skills #1 (grades 3-5)
- ◆ Tech for Tykes and Math for Munchkins (grades 2-3)
- ◆ Low vision tools and strategies (grades 4-6)
- ◆ JAWS: Don't Be Afraid! (Joint Student-Teacher Workshop) (grades 4-6)
- ◆ Let's Get Cooking! Elementary independence Weekend #1 (ages 7-9)
- ◆ Elementary Independence Weekend #2: Outdoor Adventures (ages 10-11)

Middle school

- ◆ Game of Life! Middle School Transition (grades 6-8)
- ◆ Junior Access to Academic Skills (grades 6-8)•
- ◆ Health & Well-being: An Introduction to Sexuality (grades 6-8)
- ◆ Junior Independence Weekend: Iron Chef (grades 6-8)

High School (some include 7th or 8th grades)

- ◆ High School Access to Academic Skills (grades 9-12)
- ◆ Assistive Tools & Technologies for Access to Mathematics (grades 8-12)
- ◆ Low Vision Tools & Strategies (grades 8-12)
- ◆ High School independence Weekend #1: Outdoor Challenge
- ◆ Empowered: Bring It On! (grades 11-12 only)
- ◆ In the Driver's Seat: Introduction to Safe Driving with Low Vision (grades 9-12)
- ◆ City Travel for COMS and Their Students (grades 7-12)
- ◆ High School Independence Weekend #2: Prom (grades 10-12)

You Want It, You Got It: Individualized Instruction

Short-Term Programs ♦ School Year 2015-16

Junior Independence Weekend—Iron Chef

In this class, based on the premise of the Iron Chef television show, students prepared and cooked a variety of basic foods. They learned a variety of culinary techniques, including using a stove and oven, how to handle raw meat, cutting/chopping/dicing, pouring, measuring, food safety, using a timer, storing items safely, working in a team, reading recipes, setting a table, and shopping/grocery store navigation.

In both classroom and dorm they were able to practice other skills of independent living, social skills, recreation, leisure, and self-determination. Simply being together and sharing similar challenges can be an invaluable, life-changing experience for students.



Short Term-Programs ♦ School Year 2015-16

Elementary Independence Weekend-Outdoor Adventures



In this class elementary-age students participated in activities such as canoeing, ziplining, interacting with horses, and doing a guided nature walk. They also learned about Texas Hill Country's natural history and had a measurement lesson that used trundle wheels to measure the distance and height of the three ziplines. A goal of the class is to challenge yourself with new experiences, assess risk-taking, and build awareness about your strengths and challenges.

High School Independence Weekend-Outdoor Challenge

The weekend provides an overnight outdoor camping experience for students in grades 8-12. During the class, students participated in outdoor cooking, setting up and breaking down a campsite, ziplining, low ropes course activities, team-building games, and a guided nature walk. Students learned about outdoor clothing and equipment needs (e.g., tents, sleeping bags, lanterns, camping cookware and food). The weekend provides opportunities for stu-

dents to practice self-determination and social skills through problem-solving, goal setting and attainment, active listening, and assertive communication.



Outreach Program

The TSBVI Outreach Program is considered by many to be one of the best in the nation at supporting local district programs serving students with visual impairments and deafblindness. The many services it provides helps TSBVI fulfill its mission to be a leading center of expertise to improve educational outcomes for students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with deafblindness or additional disabilities.

For students not attending TSBVI in Austin who need extra help beyond what their local district or Educational Service Center can provide, the many members of the Outreach Program provide that support. Their working philosophy is “When a child is in need, distance should never be a problem. If you can’t come to our campus, Outreach brings our campus to you.”

Among the programs of this department of highly qualified VI & DB specialists are:

- Individualized local consultations to families, schools, and other related agencies or community organizations
- Training for families, professional and paraprofessionals through face-to-face workshops and conferences around the state and via web-based technologies. Go to <http://www.tsbvi.edu/on-the-go-learning> to see many free informational videos.
- Resources on visual impairments and deafblindness such as articles (<http://www.tsbvi.edu/tagged-resources>), videos ([http://www.tsbvi.edu/distance/ On the Go Learning](http://www.tsbvi.edu/distance/On the Go Learning)), American Printing House for the Blind (APH) materials, and an Assistive Technology Loan Program.
- Partnering with local, state and national agencies and organizations to help build quality local programs for students with visual impairments and deafblindness
- A Mentor Center which serves university students currently working toward VI & O&M certification, as well as novice teachers who learn by observing experienced VI professionals at TSBVI and in nearby local districts. There are three Mentor Centers a year in Austin.



Outreach Program continued

Outreach Program - Statewide Trainings

There are many opportunities for families to learn more about your child's needs. Some of the face-to-face conferences coming up next year include:

- DBMAT (Deafblind family organization) hosts a family weekend September 16-18 at Camp Young Judea in Wimberly, TX
- Intervener Team Training for educational teams serving students with deafblindness who have an intervener - October 6-7 at TSBVI in Austin
- Jan van Dijk, practitioner, researcher and advocate in the field of deafblindness, will present at TSBVI on November 2
- TEXAS CHARGERS family organization hosts a family weekend at Camp Allen in Navasota on November 4-6
- Game of Life: A Short Term program for middle school aged students and their parents at TSBVI on December 1-4
- Texas Symposium on Deafblindness in Austin March 2-4
- In the Driver's Seat: A Short Term Program for students and their parents at TSBVI on April 7-9
- Active Learning Conference in Fort Worth on June 12-13



For more information about Outreach Programs, visit the website at <http://www.tsbvi.edu/outreach>. You can connect directly with our family engagement specialists, Edgenie Bellah (DB Outreach) at 512-206-9423 and Rachel Scales (VI Outreach) at 512-206-9418.

Outreach Program continued

A Message from Karen Whitty, President-Elect of TAPVI

(Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments)



TAPVI 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization made up of parents and professionals committed to providing support to families of children who have blindness or visual impairments including those with other disabilities.

TAPVI enables parents to find relevant information and resources. We offer networking opportunities and events to connect families, we foster communication among the agencies and organizations, and increase public awareness about the specific needs of our children so they are included in their community.

TAPVI has family support group (FSG) meetings to connect, support and educate families in the following areas:

- ◆ TAPVI Austin FSG meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at TSBVI Outreach Building, 1100 W 45th St, Austin, TX 78756. For more information please contact Karen Whitty at mekarefree@yahoo.com.
- ◆ TAPVI Dallas FSG meets every 1st Tuesday of the month at Region 10 Service Center, 904 Abrams Rd, Entrance B, Richardson, TX 75081. For more information please contact Liza Sisneros at ლისის6789@aol.com or Michelle Murrey at michellemurrey@gmail.com.
- ◆ TAPVI Fort Worth FSG meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at Cook Children's Medical Center, 801 7th Ave, 2nd floor Atrium Room, Fort Worth, TX 76104. For more information please contact Olga Uriegas at 817-201-7963 or olga.uriesgas@cookchildrens.org or Jean Robinson at 512-744-3005 or robinsonj@tsbvi.edu.
- ◆ TAPVI San Antonio FSG will begin Fall of 2016. For more information please contact Karen Whitty at mekarefree@yahoo.com.
- ◆ HAPVI meets in and around Houston. For more information please contact Deb Christoph at debchristoph@gmail.com or Alison Brown at smith_alison@hotmail.com.

If you would like more information about TAPVI or would like to join, membership is free! Please check us out on www.tapvi.com or on our Facebook page at Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments. For additional questions contact Karen Whitty at mekarefree@yahoo.com.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing's Currency Reader

TSBVI has been asked by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to spread the word about their U.S. Currency Reader Program providing currency readers, free of charge, to eligible blind and visually impaired individuals.

Individuals interested in receiving a currency reader must submit an application, signed by a competent authority who can certify eligibility such as a doctor or other medical professional. The application must be in the name of a visually impaired person, and can be downloaded in English or Spanish at <http://moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html>.

The BEP also wants to alert you to two mobile applications, EyeNote® 2.0, a free mobile device application developed by the BEP as an aid in identifying denominations of Federal Reserve notes. It uses image recognition technology and the device's integrated camera to recognize a bill and utilizes a continuous scan function with no need to hold the device still or capture a photo. EyeNote® is built on the Apple iOS platform and is available to download on the Apple App StoreSM.

EyeNote® 2.0 also utilizes VoiceOver for vocal and gesture feedback if it is turned on for the target iOS device. For Android phones, IDEAL® Currency Identifier is a free downloadable app that operates on that platform.

You can get this and more information at <http://moneyfactory.gov/resources.html>.



In Memory of Phil Hatlen

Dr. Phil Hatlen, TSBVI Superintendent from 1990-2007, passed away on January 14, 2016. He was known throughout the world as a visionary in the field of education of blind and visually impaired students. He was involved in the creation of the Expanded Core Curriculum, which has since been made a part of Texas educational law.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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**Visit us on the
Internet
www.tsbvi.edu**



*A center for educational
services for all blind and
visually impaired
students in Texas*

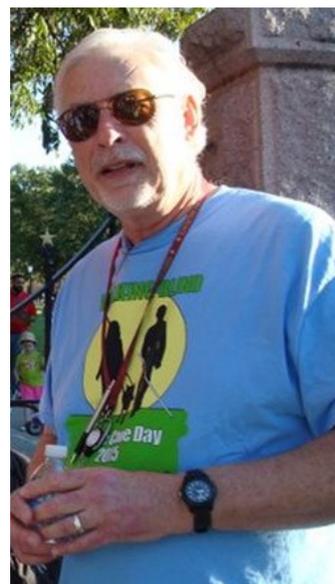
Gloria Bennett, Editor

A Message from Superintendent Bill Daugherty

I hope you have enjoyed reading through our newsletter. We have had an extraordinary year at TSBVI, and even a fine newsletter like ours can only scratch the surface of what 2015-16 was like on our campus. We have many new staff who are bringing great talents and fresh energy to our school, and of course, our more "seasoned" staff continued to make outstanding contributions in all areas of our organization. And our students? As in many past years, we think that this year's student body was the best group ever. These young people are here to learn and to take advantage of all the resources that TSBVI has to offer. They come from such diverse backgrounds, and have such diversity in their learning needs and style. But they come together here and get along with each other so beautifully that it is amazing to watch. Disciplinary issues are practically nonexistent, as are instances of bullying and other negative social behaviors. What we do see in

abundance is kindness, tolerance, and mutual support. This is something that staff and parents should be especially proud of, right up there with the growing independence each student displays. We hope you have an excellent summer. If you are returning to TSBVI, we look forward to seeing you on a scorching hot Sunday in August. If you are moving on, we wish you the best and hope to see you again.

Sincerely,
Bill Daugherty



Mr. Daugherty joins the march on White Cane Day.