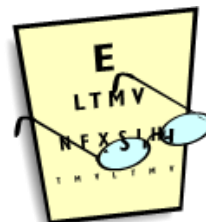


Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

# ***The Spectacle***

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



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

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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Excerpt from  
TSBVI Parent  
Newsletter  
June, 2016  
  
Gloria Bennett,  
Editor

# 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-lit 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

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A student searching for a book in the 1980's




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A student searches for a book today.



*Continued on page 3*

# LRC continued

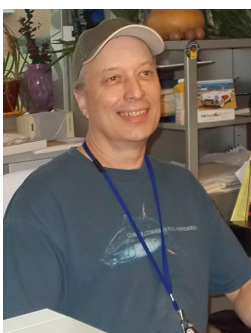
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University VI teacher prep programs in the area of assistive technology, works with Education Service Centers and TSBVI to train

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 non-profits 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

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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.