

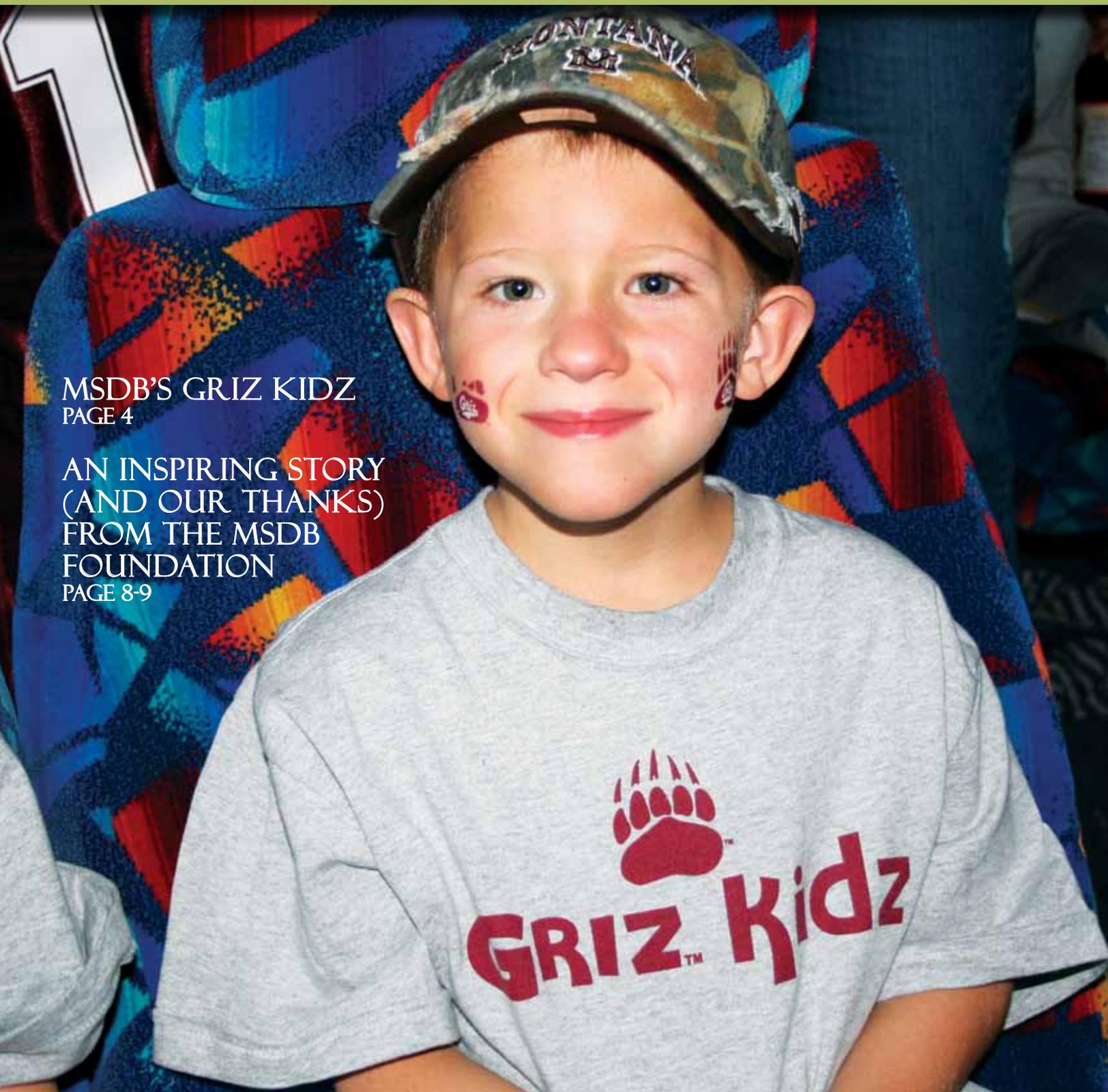
MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF & BLIND



# Express

giving kids the building blocks to independence

Volume IX, Issue 1, Fall/Winter 2010



MSDB'S GRIZ KIDZ  
PAGE 4

AN INSPIRING STORY  
(AND OUR THANKS)  
FROM THE MSDB  
FOUNDATION  
PAGE 8-9

In Tribute to Gallaudet-Clerc Day  
December 10, 2010

## FOR MY SON

**Brad Ingrao**

**Audiologist and father of a deaf child**

(reprinted from the Internet)

Look my child, and you shall see,  
All the things that you can be.

Open your eyes, free your mind,  
Leave the garbled words behind.

Your hands have the power  
to touch our souls,  
Without the need for volume controls.

The Hand and Eye, not Lip and Ear,  
Will make the world around you clear.

L'Eppe' and Clerc and Gallaudet  
Knew which language on which to bet.

Sign fits your body like a glove,  
So you can see your parents' love.

You need not speak to prove your worth,  
For Sign was with you at your birth.

So Sign my child, that we may see,  
The wonderful You  
That you will be.



*Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc co-founded the first school for the deaf in North America. Students at MSDB will celebrate Gallaudet-Clerc Day by researching famous deaf people and then presenting what they learned to a schoolwide audience.*



Outreach Consultants for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (left to right) Sarah Eyer, Kitty Griffin, and Sandy McGennis teaching sign language at MSHA.

## MSDB CONSULTANTS PRESENT AT MSHA

### Sarah Eyer, Outreach Consultant

***"I learned SO much and it was fun! My expectations were actually exceeded. As a student, it was inspirational: I think that I'll look into a focus on working with the deaf..."***

***"The three speakers were very knowledgeable and were a great fit together. There was a lot of information, but the leaders made it fun, too. Lots of hands on."***

***"...helpful resources and this workshop has made me want to go home and learn tons of signs!"***

Over 35 participants spent a beautiful October day in a conference room at the Holiday Inn Express in Butte learning about hearing loss and sign language. The quotes above are just a few of the positive comments from the Speech-Language Pathologists, teachers, University of Montana students, and others who attended the presentation at the Montana Speech-Language and Hearing Association's Fall Convention. Kitty Griffin, SLP and Outreach Consultant for MSDB, organized this all-day training and enlisted the help of Sandy McGennis and Sarah Eyer, MSDB Consultants. Kitty, Sandy and Sarah provided instruction to the entire group and then broke into three groups based on the learners' sign language abilities and goals for learning sign language. There was signing, singing and lots of laughter as the audience learned more about sign language and the needs and gifts of deaf and hard of hearing children. ❖

## VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL CORNER

The students had a great time trying on aprons, oven mitts, and chef hats. They practiced pouring and mixing. We capped off our kitchen play with a fieldtrip to the Five Loaves Bakery.



# WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR AT MSDB!

**Kim Schwabe, Principal**

The 2010-2011 school year has been busy and full of change. To start with, there were staff changes in the education department. Mrs. Diane Moog stepped down as Principal to return to the classroom, and I took her place in the center office. Her contributions during her tenure as



Principal and now in the classroom are much appreciated.

Mrs. Alt has assumed the position of the supervising teacher of the elementary deaf department, and with Ms. Sayler's departure Mrs. Darko has become our new Orientation and Mobility Specialist. We were also extremely lucky to add two new teachers, Mrs. Blake (teacher for the visually impaired)

and Ms. Taylor (teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing) as well as three new teacher assistants, Ms. Pike, Ms. Maciag, and Mr. Pipinich to our ranks.

We began some new schoolwide learning activities this fall to support our vision of "Education, Communication, and Independence for Life." **Wednesday Activities** include leisure/recreation, community awareness, health and safety, social skills, job skills, career awareness, life skills, and academic skills. The **Reading Calendar** encourages students to practice reading and improve their literacy skills. **Student Team Meetings** enable teachers, support staff and others to meet to discuss how an individual student is doing across settings. **Learning Connections Homework** allows students to apply their academic and life skills to real life activities at home and in the cottage, as well as to gain an understanding that what they are learning at school is important for them now and in the future.

We are already planning activities to celebrate upcoming holidays. It is our hope to stream our Christmas Program again this year so please be on the lookout for directions on how to access it on our website.

We look forward to working with your children and you throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns about their program. ❖

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# THANK YOU, GRIZ KIDZ!

**Dee Blake, MSDB Teacher**

Have you ever set your alarm for p.m. when it was supposed to be set for a.m.? Have you ever run out of your house carrying your shoes and socks because you were running late? Have you ever climbed the stairs onto a bus expecting the worst and getting the happiest and loudest “Good Morning” you have ever heard? Now, come on. How many of us are that happy getting up at 6:00 on a Saturday morning? Let me assure each of you that this is exactly how our bus ride was on October 9th! Each and every one of the MSDB students was smiling and laughing and discussing “The Griz!” And just when one doesn’t think that the happiness can get any better...the bus moves out of the parking lot...WaHoo!!



We settled in and some questions began about our schedule. “What time do we get there?” “What time do we eat?” “How much longer before we get to the Griz game?” “How much does a hot dog cost?” “Do I have enough money to buy a Monty doll?” What a fantastic opportunity

to practice our money skills and time management. We took turns practicing how we fold our bills so we know which ones are which, counting out money to purchase items, and ordering food and souvenirs. Time management was fun, also. “If we left MSDB at 7:00 in the morning and we have an hour and a half drive until we arrive in Lincoln, what time will we arrive there?”

When we arrived at the Griz game, Jim and Tami Kelly were all ready for us with the ultimate Griz Tailgating BBQ! The food was cooking, the music was playing, and the smiles were abundant. After we ate, three students were asked to talk with the Griz Kidz organizers. We walked over to their tailgating party and had the incredible opportunity to thank the Griz Kidz in person! The MSDB students and chaperones were thankful for the Griz football game tickets, the Griz Kidz t-shirts and the Griz hats. Some of the students stated that they wouldn’t have had the opportunity to see a Griz football game if it wasn’t for the generosity of the Griz Kidz. Utilizing our white cane techniques we walked to the football stadium and found our seats, but not before the students found the concession stands. The students used their money management skills to purchase their food and then

# COOKING LESSONS START AT PIZAZZ

**Betty Cook,  
MSDB Teacher**

**T**his year two Life Skills classes are offered in the Visually Impaired Department. There is an elementary level class and a combination Life Skills /Consumer Math Class for high school and transition students. Both Life Skills classes are focusing on improving all students' levels of independence in many different areas. One area that is a favorite for many students is cooking.

During class discussions, many of the students expressed they were unfamiliar with cooking terms and were unaware of the many different cooking tools that would be helpful for them. To remedy this problem, we decided to take a field trip to Pizazz, a wonderful culinary gadget store. On Tuesday October 12th, 8 students and



6 staff jumped on the city bus for a quick ride to the transfer station downtown. From there, they walked one block to Pizazz on Central Avenue and were greeted by the store manager, Veronica. Veronica's enthusiasm and knowledge of kitchen items soon became apparent as she explained some of the

newer gadgets that would be helpful to students with visual impairments. After listening to Veronica and checking out some of the items she thought would be helpful, students asked questions, and then were given time to wander around the store and see all the different items available.

The field trip was a great way for students to find items that might help them become more independent in the kitchen and also to use their Orientation and Mobility skills riding the city bus, walking around downtown, and navigating through an unfamiliar store. ❏

paid for it by themselves. While the students and I watched the game, I would describe what was happening. When we scored a touchdown, I let the students know to look forward to the canon exploding. They absolutely love when the canon goes off! We danced to the Griz Marching Band, we did the "wave," ate until we were ready to pop, and laughed until our sides hurt!

Lastly, we won the game... of course...and we were encouraged to go onto the football field and get some autographs from the players, cheerleaders, band members, and coaches. The very first young man we talked to not only signed my students' hats, but he tracked us down and gave us a football! I was thanking him and crying at the same time...how sweet and considerate every player was to us! Mere words cannot express my



A big "thank you" goes out to kicker/punter Brody McKnight and all the other Griz players who took the time to sign autographs for the MSDB Griz Kids!

gratitude as a teacher and parent. Thank you, Griz Kidz, for allowing us this opportunity to be kids! ❏

***Support from the MSDB Foundation also makes the trips to the Grizzly games possible.***



## OUTREACH TEAM WINS GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

**Nancy Getten and Carmel Yarger,  
Outreach Consultants**

**M**SDB's team of Outreach Consultants received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance at the 2010 Awards Program in Helena in September.

State employees representing a wide range of agencies that nominated them received these awards "for their outstanding work on behalf of all Montanans," according to Governor Brian Schweitzer. MSDB's Outreach Supervisor Dennis Slonaker nominated his team of consultants.

According to Mr. Slonaker, the Outreach staff is consistently exploring new ways to serve their constituents. They have come up with innovative ways to meet the needs of youth and families by developing the Family Learning Weekends and the Enrichment Weekends. These events provide opportunities for families to connect, to learn from each other, and to have fun in the process.

"The programs take a lot of planning and effort, but the Outreach staff of MSDB recognizes the needs of parents and willingly addresses them, going above and beyond the required duties of their job descriptions," he wrote in his nomination. "With limited resources, they have been very creative in developing better methods to serve the families of sensory impaired children in Montana."



MSDB Outreach Consultant Barb Rolf and her daughter Katie enjoyed the time they shared with the Governor.

The award recipients from the Department for the Visually Impaired were: Pam Boespflug, Steve Fugate, Jane Garrison, Nancy Getten, Kerri Norick, Barb Rolf, and Sharon Woods. Recipients from the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing included Lisa Cannon, Jim Cline, Laura Copp, Sarah Eyer, Kitty Griffin, Emily LaSalle, Sandy

McGennis, Jennifer Wasson, and Carmel Yarger. Each consultant received a plaque, and the group had their picture taken with Governor Schweitzer.

Congratulations, award winners! We're glad to have your important work acknowledged in this way. ■■

## DEAF/HH PRESCHOOL CORNER

J and Bridger get fitted with their first Phonic Ears! This FM system will help them hear their teacher better in the classroom.



## GOALBALL/ ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

**Sharon Woods, Outreach Consultant**

Participants ranging in age from four years old to high school enjoyed activities tailored to their ages and needs at our latest Goalball/Enrichment Weekend for young people with visual impairments on November 5-6. The kids learned the how-tos of social interaction and manners at a birthday party. "Balloon Man" (MSDB Outreach Consultant Steve Fugate) helped children create balloon hats and animals. They also got to practice their social skills at a formal lunch. Orientation and mobility training included exposure to a Talking GPS for the older students, and finding Eddie Echo for the younger students. As always, there were also lots of goalball activities!

For those who are unfamiliar with the game, goalball is a popular sport for people who are blind or visually impaired. All players are blindfolded to make the game fair, due to varying levels of sight among the players. The object is to roll a heavy ball with bells in it past the opposing team, which tries to block the ball with their bodies. Goalball can get very exciting and challenging! ❖

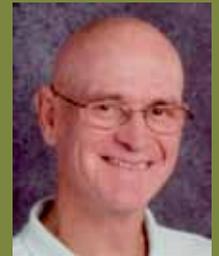
*Support from the MSDB Foundation makes the Enrichment Weekends possible.*



## GFHS, CMR STUDENTS LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE

**Gary McManus, MSDB Teacher**

I'm teaching a sign language class at Great Falls High School this semester and it is really fun to see the students get absorbed in wanting to learn to sign. Some of the students either have deaf relatives or know of someone who is deaf, or they meet someone at their work who is deaf. The basic reason for this class is to expose the students to sign language, but I am also talking to them about deaf culture. For example, how do the deaf hear doorbells, bed alarms, make phone calls, text, and use the relay services?



The students learn many verb signs. For an icebreaker, they watch a video, "The House that Jack Built." The students then each have to get up and sign a portion of that story. They seemed to all really enjoy doing this one. They learn a nursery rhyme and a Christmas song for class projects. They must first demonstrate their sign skills without using their voice or the music. Then they have to sign the rhyme while using their voice and sign the song to recorded music to see how well they can connect the signs to the words.

They also learn about blindness and how to use a cane in hallways at the school. Finally the students get to come to MSDB to observe classes and to watch the Christmas Program.

This is by far their favorite thing to do! So thanks to the teachers who have taken them into their classes for observations! All students go away with a great sense of pride in being able to sign and fingerspell.

Next semester, I will teach the class at CMR High School. ❖



# Montana School *for the* HELP US GIVE KIDS THE BUILD

## A MESSAGE FROM COREY STAPLETON, MSDB FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

**A**s a young child in Helena, Caleb Blokzyl's visual impairment kept him glued to his parents' side. "He was scared to death to go anywhere or do anything," his mother, Beverly, said. After a month at MSDB, she could barely recognize him. Water had been one of the many things he was afraid of, but when his parents visited him at the school, he showed them his fearless jumps into the pool's deep end.

"He was not the same person," she said.

"It was fun being with people who were like me," Caleb said of his experience at MSDB. **"It made me feel like there's more people like me in the world."** Now a senior at Helena High School, Caleb is busy working as lead technician in the theater department, building props for an upcoming production and helping with lighting and sound. After play practice, he heads to his job bagging ice for an ice company. He shot his first deer last year and hopes to get an elk this season. Next year, he plans to attend MSU-Bozeman to study agriculture and would like to eventually work for the Montana Department of Agriculture, helping farmers find the best ways to grow crops.



Caleb Blokzyl, Helena High School senior

Beverly Blokzyl attributes much of her son's can-do attitude to his early education at MSDB, where she said the teachers insist their students learn to say 'I can.' **"I can't was Caleb's chief saying before he went to MSDB. Now he says the only thing he can't do is drive."**

***"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."***

*~Helen Keller*

**T**hanks to the generosity of our contributors, the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation has been able to provide vital services and equipment for the students

at MSDB for more than 25 years. The MSDB Foundation is committed to funding academic and extracurricular activities that help prepare students for independent lives. ❖

# Deaf & Blind Foundation

## BRIDGING BLOCKS TO INDEPENDENCE

Caleb attended 3rd-5th grades at MSDB before returning to East Helena for middle school. Until entering high school, he returned to MSDB for one week each month to keep up on Braille and technology skills. Since that time, he and his family have continued to benefit from MSDB's outreach services, and technology has developed to a point where Caleb no longer needs to rely on Braille but does well with a magnification system and a talking screen reader program.

**“He’s so outgoing and independent and accomplishes so much,” his mother said. “If we hadn’t sent him to MSDB, he wouldn’t be that same person,** and we wouldn’t have done it if the school weren’t such a great school. MSDB teaches kids to go out and about and be comfortable in the world, and how to advocate for themselves rather than complain about things. They get these great life lessons. When I look at the teachers at MSDB, they’re a step above – they’re always looking for something to make the kids more confident and independent.”

MSDB Outreach Consultant Nancy Getten has worked with Caleb since he first came to the school, when she taught in the Visually Impaired Department. **“Watching the transformation of this scared, insecure little boy into a confident and independent young man has been so rewarding,”** she said. “It took a lot of courage for him and his family



to send him to MSDB, but the end result is what we would all hope for our own children.”

**You can help us teach more students like Caleb to overcome their fears and grow up to be happy, independent adults.** MSDB provides all of these services at no cost to families, and the MSDB Foundation helps make that possible. Please consider making a contribution using the enclosed envelope, or online at [www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org). ■■

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Stapleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corey Stapleton, President

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**Just 13% of the MSDB Foundation’s budget goes to administrative costs. When you support the Foundation, you are supporting programs for kids.**



# Montana School *for the*

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*We also recognize the dedication and effort of all current MSDB Foundation Board Members, and we thank all past members for their service.*

*We have made every effort to confirm this record. If we have failed to record a gift or record a gift incorrectly we apologize. Please drop us a note so we can correct our records. ❖*



# CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

**Gerri L. Darko, Certified Orientation  
and Mobility Specialist**

When each one of us thinks about independent travel, what comes to mind? Driving ourselves to work each day? Walking throughout our environments without assistance? Driving to the grocery store to buy milk and bread? Driving our children to sporting events and school activities?

Independent travel can have different meanings to each of us depending on our skills and experiences. I consider myself a very independent traveler when I am in Great Falls. However, I may not look like an independent traveler as I travel through large cities with roadmaps, Map Quest directions, or a TomTom portable GPS in my lap. The reality is that all of us need support and assistance in some area of life to be as independent as possible.

A white cane is a tool, used by persons with visual impairments, that serves to identify someone who has

a visual impairment; it can also be used to probe the environment to ensure the safest path for travel. When a white cane is held in front of a person and is swung from left to right on the ground, it can detect obstacles in the path such as objects, curbs or other drop-offs, large cracks in the sidewalk, and other tripping hazards.

Each year on October 15, students and staff at MSDB and people across the United States celebrate White Cane Day to honor the achievements of persons with visual impairments and to celebrate the symbol of blindness and the tool of independence—the white cane. Many of MSDB's students with visual impairments use a white cane for identification and to keep themselves safe in all environments.

For White Cane Day this year, MSDB was visited by Officer Smail of the Great Falls Police Department. Officer Smail visited with all of our sensory impaired students about laws pertaining to pedestrians and gave everyone tips on staying safe at street crossings. The discussion included some very important points: dog guides and who can get one; how do people with hearing or visual impairments know when it is safe to cross a busy street; crossing the street at the intersection (not in the middle of the block); being careful not to dart out into the street between parked

## WHITE CANE QUIZ

1. Which U.S. President made the proclamation that White Cane Safety Day would be observed each year on October 15?
2. What is it called when a sighted person uses his or her arm to guide a person with a visual impairment?
3. What is the small white part at the end of the cane called?
4. When a person with a visual impairment holds the cane directly in front of her body and swings the tip from left to right, what is this technique called?
5. What two things can the cane tip detect in front of a person with a visual impairment?
6. If a person cannot use her vision when traveling independently, how can she tell when it is safe to cross the street?
7. Why is it very important for a person with a visual impairment to use his white cane at every street crossing?
8. Name the three parts of the white cane.

cars; and the importance of persons with visual impairments using a white cane at every street crossing. Officer Smail gave a great presentation and the conversation made everyone aware of the importance of this type of safety training.

Students and staff in the Visually Impaired Department also prepared several activities to help others across MSDB's campus learn about the education of people with visual impairments. They invited the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department to participate in several activities: watching a public service announcement which included students using their white canes around the community, reading a timeline about the progression of education for people with visual impairments, and a blindfold simulation where students were able to experience using the white cane without vision. After these activities, students from both departments were given a short quiz to see what

they had learned.

After students demonstrated their knowledge of white cane use, everyone was treated to a performance by the Visually Impaired Performers (VIP). Many people that attended our White Cane Day celebration were really excited to try on a blindfold and learn how a cane helps students with visual impairments be safe and independent. Students and staff participated in the various activities with smiles on their faces and an eagerness to learn. Everyone involved in the Visually Impaired Department was willing to take time out of their classrooms to teach others new skills while students and staff from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department were willing to learn something new. It was a very eventful morning where participants were able to learn something new about traveling safely, efficiently, gracefully, and independently through all environments, whether familiar or unfamiliar. ❖

**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 2. Sighted guide 3. The tip 4. If the cane tip is kept on the floor and is swept from left to right, it is constant contact. If the cane tip is lifted slightly off the floor tapping on either side, it is called two-point touch. 5. Drop-offs and obstacles 6. The person could use her hearing to listen for a lull in traffic in the intersection or she could listen for and walk with her parallel traffic. 7. To identify himself as a person with a visual impairment. The white cane tells drivers the person doesn't see very well and allows the cane user the right-of-way. 8. The grip, shaft, and tip

## WHITE CANE DAY IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

**Sharon Woods,  
Outreach Consultant**

A great time was had by all who attended the 2010 White Cane Day celebration in Billings. The afternoon was filled with fun and games and several group walks around Rimrock Mall. Young and old had the opportunity to walk and talk together, using either white canes or guide dogs. Toddlers and a MSU college student joined retired folks and school age children in the festivities. Parents had the opportunity to meet one another and visit while their children bumped and pushed balloons and balls, played pin the tail on the donkey or had their faces painted. Many thanks to the Billings Crime Prevention Center, to Rimrock Mall for their hospitality and to Party America and City Brew for providing treats and all the things that made our celebration super festive! ❖



Yellowstone County students had fun participating in White Cane Day festivities.

# AN ENRICHING WEEKEND

**Emily LaSalle, Outreach Consultant**

An enrichment weekend for deaf and hard of hearing students of Montana took place on the campus of the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind on October 15th & 16th. The weekend began with a performance by the Expressions of Silence directed by MSDB staff Dessica Wilson and Jennifer Wasson. Pizza and a fun game of Montana trivia followed in the Mustang Center and the evening was highlighted with a splash party. The connections that occurred in the pool were an amazing sight to see. The goal of the weekend was to bring students together in a fun atmosphere, and by Friday night our goal had been met and the connections made continued until the last goodbyes were exchanged on Saturday.

During the breakout sessions on Saturday students participated in a variety of activities including: the puzzles in our lives and where our choices lead us, letter/post card writing skills, bowling, using a GPS tool, independent living skills, and learning ways to express emotions.

Thank you to all of the staff that made this weekend a success. My deepest appreciation to Jim Kelly and Maeona



Lee; I'm in awe of the hard work you do each and every day to make cottage living as close to a home environment as possible. Thanks also to the cottage and kitchen staff for your smiles and talents that are grooming our students to be responsible adults; the office and maintenance staff – someone has to keep us organized, set up and clean up after us; lifeguard extraordinaire Wendy McDunn; PEPNET Coordinator Mary Morrison – you planted seeds that will grow; Outreach Consultants Jennifer Wasson, Sandy McGennis, Laura Copp, Sarah Eyer, Carmel Collum – you let me take my ideas and run with it; Carol Clayton-Bye and Dennis Slonaker – thank you for supporting me every step of the way; MSDB staff for sharing your work space and lending us guidance where it was needed; to the parents that ventured across the state to join us – thank you for entrusting your children to us; and last, but certainly not least – to each and every MSDB student: I am so proud of you, you welcomed students and families from across the state and made them feel at home, you opened your hearts and minds and impacted many lives over the weekend.

We look forward to the next Enrichment Weekend, "Finding Yourself," planned for February 25-26! ❖

*Support from the MSDB Foundation makes the Enrichment Weekends possible.*



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## STATE SETS STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS

**Tiffany Harding, Coordinating Interpreter**

Parents may be interested to know that state standards for educational interpreters will go into effect on July 1, 2011. The standards will be based on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), which rates skill levels from 1 (Beginner) to 5 (Advanced) and is available in three language models: American Sign Language (ASL), Pidgin Signed English (PSE), and Manually Coded English (MCE). The state's goal is for interpreters to obtain a score of 3.5, and working interpreters will be allowed time to improve their skills. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has been working diligently to provide testing and training opportunities.

If you would like to know if the interpreter work-

ing with your child has met the minimum standard, please feel free to contact the school district's administrator. They should be able to tell you what their hiring standard is and whether or not the interpreter is in compliance with the state standard. If you would like to know more about the rating system, please check out the EIPA website: [www.classroom-interpreting.org/EIPA/performance/rating.asp](http://www.classroom-interpreting.org/EIPA/performance/rating.asp)

It is our hope that the new standards will help interpreters strive to provide quality services to deaf and hard of hearing children in Montana. With your support and encouragement, the interpreter will continue to be a valuable member of your child's IEP team.

The State's ruling can be viewed at the following: [www.mtrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=10.55.718](http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=10.55.718) ❖

# FUN, FOOD, AND FRIGHTS AT MSDB'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

**Darreck Hale,  
Cottage Counselor**

Over a hundred guests joined us at MSDB's annual Halloween barbeque and party to celebrate and enjoy each other's company while feasting on hamburgers, hotdogs, and many other Halloween treats. It was a wonderful time for MSDB to open its doors and share its passion and hospitality with friends and family. While the parents enjoyed some social time, the children helped themselves to some festive games and treats.

The cottage students were excited to show off the fun haunted house and take part as monsters inside. Some of the other activities involved making Halloween art, eating cookies off strings, finding toys in soggy noodles, and matching the floating pumpkins. As always, the musical chairs and haunted house were the biggest hits of the evening. MSDB was very happy to enjoy the company of the staff and friends that came to support us in this event, and we hope to see you all again. Thank you all very much for all of the time and planning that went into the party. Thank you all for all that you do to help MSDB be a successful and fun learning environment. ❖

*Support from the MSDB Foundation helped fund the Halloween party.*





MONTANA SCHOOL  
FOR THE DEAF & BLIND

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## • MSDB CALENDAR •

### DECEMBER

- 10** Gallaudet Day
- 15** Dress Rehearsal 9:00 am
- 16** Christmas Program 1:00 pm  
Christmas Tea to follow
- 17** Travel Home

### JANUARY

- 2** Travel Return
- 3** Classes Resume
- 17** End of 2nd Quarter
- 21** Travel Home
- 24** Travel Return
- ??** Homecoming

### FEBRUARY

- 18** Travel Home
- 21** Travel Return
- 22** Classes Resume

For a detailed calendar of the school year, check out our  
**new website at [www.msdb.mt.gov](http://www.msdb.mt.gov)**

We're still adding photos, etc., but it's an updated and more user-friendly site!



## “A BUFFALO HUNT”

Written by: Juan, Skylee, Alysha, and Gabriel from Debi Knuth's Social Studies Class

We went on a Buffalo Hunt for Social Studies. Juan pretended to wear a wolf skin so not to scare the buffalo. Gabe quietly crawled on the rugged ground. Alysha used her bow and arrow. Skylee crept closer to the herd and speared her buffalo.

We cut open the skins and took out the liver (candy bar). We offered thanks to the buffalo when we ate the liver.

Red licorice represented the heart, beef jerky meant the meat, soft egg was the bladder and the brown bag became the hide of the buffalo.

We rubbed and rubbed and rubbed the hide to make it very soft. We drew pictures on the hide. Our pictures tell the story of our Buffalo Hunt. ::