

PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

<http://osb.k12.ok.us/>

OSB Gym Refuge Area & Larry Hawkins Memorial Bench Dedication

**By Cathy Spaulding,
Muskogee Phoenix**

Tommy Robertson recalled running down-stairs for shelter when a tornado hit Oklahoma School for the Blind on April 12, 1945.

"I was 6 years old, I had been at the School for the Blind for a few months," Robertson said. "Two older boys were helping us come over the debris, and we came up out of there."

Robertson, now in his 80s, had a safer place to share such memories Tuesday afternoon. He spoke at the dedication of OSB's new gymnasium and tornado "area of refuge," which doubles as a wrestling practice room.

The ceremony also included dedication of a steel bench in memory of Larry Hawkins, who was OSB Superintendent from 2010-11 and in 2016.



OSB Superintendent Rita Echelle shared her gratitude to the staff members, state officials, architects and contractors who made the gym possible.

"This could not have been possible without the contribution of many of you," she said. "The OSB faculty and staff shared passion for the vision for the gym and collaborated with the Department of Rehabilitation in order to see it to fruition."

High School Principal Lynn Cragg said "this gym has been dreamed of, and thought about and talked about for a very long time."

Cragg shared some school history to help people "fully understand the importance of this gym and the dedication that happened."

She said the 1945 tornado blew roofs off campus buildings and collapsed steel girders that supported the gymnasium roof.

She said three OSB students were killed — Delores Hicks, 14; Alda Stephens, 15; and Juanita Moss, 15. The girls will be memorialized on a plaque by the safe room.

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Oklahoma School for the Blind

2021 - 2022, Issue 2
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Special points of interest:

- OSB Gym Refuge Area & Larry Hawkins Memorial Bench Dedication
- FCCLA Updates
- Traveling History Trunks

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Students of the 2. Qtr.

Elementary: Haidyn James

Middle School: Stephanie Story

High School: Emileigh Jackson



Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



It's never too late to be caught being good....
So keep up the good work students!!
We are proud of you all!

"Caught Being Good"

- ◆ Adan Duran For being a class leader and taking on responsibilities.
- ◆ Branson Leonard For working on his patience with things! He is doing aahmazing!
- ◆ Coffee Cart Crew For taking such good care of us all by providing a great variety of coffee, creamers, tea, cookies, etc. and always with a positive attitude.
- ◆ Dayton Baccus Filling in during announcements.
- ◆ Eric Enzenauer For his willingness to help his classmates.
- ◆ Hayden Bruzzini For holding doors and being helpful in PE.
- ◆ Kaylie Minter & Rayce Phillips - For feeding the fish & frogs while I was out of town.
- ◆ Kennedy Sullivan For helping guide Kesslee to the auditorium for Kids for Christ.
- ◆ Kolten Pennington For helping a student with braille.
- ◆ Lillian "Lily" McDonald - For helping Lane to the playground during lunch recess. And for helping peers at her lunch table.
- ◆ Miracle Jones For helping a student with their cane.
- ◆ Nikki James For keeping Mrs. Mock on her toes!
- ◆ Nina Cutler For helping others in her classroom.
- ◆ Rudy Hunter For helping another student with their belongings to class. And for helping a classmate with technical issues.
- ◆ Samantha Six For helping other students in the clinic.
- ◆ Shae McGuire For helping others find their way to Kids for Christ

Social Services Department
Rebecca Mills

7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens - Habit # 3 & 4

By Keri Chaffin & Maggie Mattox



We would like to continue our "7 Habits for Highly Successful Teens" series with Habits 3 & 4.

Habit 3: Put First Things First

This habit helps teens prioritize and manage their time so that they focus on and complete the most important things in their lives. Putting first things first also means learning to overcome fears and being strong during difficult times. It's living life according to

what matters most.

Execute on most important priorities.

To live a more balanced existence, you have to recognize that not doing everything that comes along is okay. There's no need to overextend yourself. All it takes is realizing that it's all right to say no when necessary and then focus on your highest priorities.

A perfect example is the big rock - small rock principle. Imagine your life is a jar. If you put in the big rocks first, the smaller rocks will settle in the cracks, allowing them to fit into the jar. It's pretty much like how urgent things work their way through major tasks in real life.

<https://www.franklincovey.com/habit-3/>



Habit 4: Think Win-Win

Teens can learn to foster the belief that it is possible to create an atmosphere of win-win in every relationship. This habit encourages the idea that in any given discussion or situation both parties can arrive at a mutually beneficial solution. Your teen will learn to celebrate the accomplishments of others

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7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

instead of being threatened by them.

Work effectively with others to achieve optimal results.

Think Win-Win isn't about being nice, nor is it a quick-fix technique.



It is a character-based code for human interaction and

collaboration.

Most of us learn to base our self-worth on comparisons and competition. We think about succeeding in terms of someone else failing – that is, if I win, you lose; or if you win, I lose.

Life becomes a zero-sum game. There is only so much pie to go around, and if you get a big piece, there is less for me; it's not fair, and I'm going to make sure you don't get anymore.

We all play the game, but how much fun is it really?



<https://www.franklincovey.com/habit-4/>



OSB Gym Refuge Area & Larry Hawkins Memorial Bench Dedication (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Robertson, who started at OSB in 1944, recalled the 1945 tornado, even down to the names of fellow students who helped him.

"This happened in April and I had not seen my mother since Christmas," he said. "I used to sit on the sidewalk, waiting for my mother to appear."

He recalled sitting on the sidewalk on that April day.

"And it was a pretty day," he said. "There were some red and green things up in the sky and it started sprinkling, and they told us to come in.... The tornado hit while we were going downstairs. The basement was about four or five feet below ground."

Robertson recalled coming out of the basement. He said one boy reported hearing on the radio that President Roosevelt had died.

"And I said they're talking about somebody dying and here we are, just about getting blown away," Robertson said. "The big boys' cottage was 20 to 30 feet east of the little boys' cottage, and somehow it wasn't damaged."

He said doctors and nurses examined him and other students on the cottage porch. He said he spent the night at "a medical facility." He said his mother took the bus from their home in Briartown to get him.

"For the next few months, if it would cloud up or started thundering, I'd have the fits," he said.

Department of Rehabilitation Services officials joined members of the Hawkins family in remembering Larry Hawkins, who died in 2019.

Former DRS Director Noel Taylor said Hawkins always had "a great

vision for the students and their success."

"He had an open door policy and open for his students," Taylor said. "Larry made students feel heard and respected."

Hawkins' daughter, Jill Hawkins, recalled some of her father's favorite sayings. They included "Let people hang themselves from their own rope. They don't need your help."

"You probably feel the way I feel about my dad, but seeing so many other people feel that he met their needs was just overwhelming," she said, recalling her father's consistency. "When you hear the same kind of compliments wherever you go, it's just consistency."

SCASB Spaghetti Dinner

By Emileigh Jackson



Tuesday, November 2nd, OSB held the 9th annual Spaghetti Fundraiser at the Bedouin Shrine to benefit the **SCASB Athletes** and **Jazz Band**.

The money raised comes from the entry fee/donations, a silent auction and a dessert auction.

The silent auction consisted of baskets that classes and groups at the school put together and the dessert auction had desserts that were donated by staff members, some bakeries and other individuals.

Some of the baskets donated were a Coffee Basket, Manly Man Basket, Rainy Day Basket, Art Therapy Basket and a

Christmas Basket that raised over **\$180**.

Overall, we raised **\$4,678** and with the Trinity Lodge 502 donation of **\$2,500** we ended the night with **\$7,187!**

We thank the Trinity Lodge 502, the Bedouin Shrine, the OSB Kitchen staff for cooking and everyone else that helped behind the scenes, with donations and with putting everything together for an amazing fundraiser to help our Panthers attend **South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB)** Wrestling, Cheer, and Performing Arts event in January 2022.



SCASB

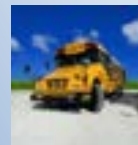
As part of the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) OSB participates in **yearly competitions** in Wrestling, Cheerleading, and Performing Arts (Jazz Band).

This conference includes:

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

The schools take turns in hosting the event, so each school has to travel 5 years to the hosting school and hosts all other schools when it's their turn.

The money raised with this fundraiser is used for travel (or hosting) expenses for the next event.



Student "Senior" Spotlight

By Julio Valdez

In this edition of **Senior Spotlight** we will be featuring two more members of the class of 2022. You will be introduced to Audrey DeBrosky and William Winston.

William Winston is from Oklahoma City and has attended OSB for 12 years. He has been a member of the Jazz band, wrestling, track and field and boy scouts.



This school year William has had the opportunity to update everyone on sports like basketball every Wednesday morning during announcements, which he says he enjoys doing.

Before graduating, William would like to have the honor of being the high school student of the year.

During the time that William has been at the school he has enjoyed spending quality time with friends.

After graduation he would like to come back for what is called a "fifth year." Fifth year students are given the opportunity to continue attending OSB after graduating and improve some of their independent living skills or take classes at local Colleges or Tech Centers. William wishes those who will graduate after him good luck and hopes to reconnect with them in the future.

Audrey DeBrosky

is from Enid and has been attending OSB for six years. She is currently a member of the OSB FCCLA chapter and the jazz band. She was also a cheerleader



from the ninth to eleventh grade.

Similar to William, Audrey has made good friends and enjoys spending time with them.

Audrey says that her biggest accomplishment is how far she has come during her high school years and plans to make even more progress after graduating.

She plans to attend the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and earn a Bachelor's degree in Fine art.

Audrey plans to make her last year at OSB the best and advises those who have the chance to continue attending OSB to enjoy their time and make memories with friends while they can. "Because one day it will all come to an end," she said.

Employee Spotlight

By Abby Norton

This edition's first employee spotlight is **Mrs. Annette Underwood**.



Mrs. Annette has worked at the school for **3 years** as the secretary for the clinic and outreach.

Her favorite part of working at OSB is getting to put a smile on everyone's face. A normal day on the job for Mrs. Annette is helping kids come into the clinic for meds, helping to turn morning frowns upside down, and other tasks involving clinic, Outreach or Low Vision Clinic.

Mrs. Annette says, "A highlight of my mornings is usually when a student comes in and sings to me. I have had students pray and sing multiple times for us in the clinic." Her goal for this year is to take a beach vacation!

The next employee spotlight is **Mrs. Munekia Moore**.

Mrs. Munekia has been working at OSB for **5 years** and is one of the Independent Living Skills (ILS) Specialists at the school.



Her favorite part of working at OSB is getting to see the students evolve their skills beyond their own expectations. A normal day at work for Mrs. Munekia starts with working with kids in many different fields like anything from kitchen management to money management. This ranges from learning how to cook their Grandmother's favorite dish or even comparing prices between grocery stores to purchase said ingredients at the best price. Other things that she teaches include laundry, social management, and other important transition skills that are tempered to fit every individual student's

needs.

Mrs. Munekia says, "My overall goal and hope is that all students, whom interact with our department, leave us with more developed skills and enough confidence in themselves to complete their daily living skills - within their skill level - independently."

The last employee spotlight is **Mr. Mike Bynum**.

Mr. Bynum has worked at OSB for **19 years** as a maintenance tech. He enjoys going on trips



with the kids. He spends most of his day tending to the OSB lawn.

Mr. Bynum's goal for this year is to spend more time with the kids and hopefully in a few years retire.

Wellness Corner

By Staff



As the year progresses, **Wellness Wednesdays** have become an important part of the week here at OSB.

Topics have included the **8 dimensions of health** which are: Physical, Social, Mental/Emotional, Spiritual, Intellectual, Financial, Occupational, and Environmental. Plus, monthly fitness calendars; World Sport Stacking Association cup stacking

challenge; World Kindness Day; and ideas for how to use our holiday leftovers.

All of these tips and activities help



the staff and students find ways to promote a healthy lifestyle and focus on the importance of not just our physical health, but our mental health as well.

We would like to thank Mrs. Webb for continuing to provide the Wellness Wednesday emails and we are looking forward to more information and activities for 2022!

HS Walk to School Day & Okie Country appearance

By Julio Valdez



OSB high school residential students took part in the "Walk to School" Day on Nov. 9th

(rescheduled from Nov. 3rd due to weather).

Instead of going to the cafeteria at breakfast time, all students boarded a bus and rode to the park across the street, where they unloaded and started their walk. Students then walked back to the OSB campus using proper cane and street crossing techniques. Upon arriving back to campus, students were treated to a delicious yogurt buffet.

Residential students do not have the opportunity to travel from home to school every day, so the walk gives students the chance to

experience what it is like to walk to school while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. The walk also aimed to bring attention to city improvements that would make traveling as a pedestrian around Muskogee a much safer experience.

To ensure that these suggestions were heard, Abby Norton and I spoke at the morning show on **Okie Country 101.7**.



We talked about the benefits of attending OSB versus a public school as blind and visually impaired students and discussed some of our suggestions for improving pedestrian travel, including additional traffic lights and improvements to city

sidewalks.

The walk to school and yogurt buffet were part of the national walk to school initiative. They were organized by OSB's Faye Miller, Doug Walton and Tiffany Tolbert from TSET's healthy living program serving Muskogee County, Susie West and Lacey Wallace from OSU's high obesity prevention program, as well as Connect Muskogee.



Thank You to everyone who helped organizing it and Thank You to Okie Country for having us.

2021 WSSA STACK UP

By Tera Webb

We officially heard from the **World Stack Up Association**. Although they did not break the record, it was still a great turn out and OSB enjoyed participating. We had 46 stackers going on record.

Please see the official email we received below:

*Thank you for participating in the **2021 WSSA STACK UP!***

*We had more than **1,800 schools** from **16 countries** participate, from first timers all the way to those who have helped us break the record in previous years.*

The good news is we joined together around the world with

over a half a million stackers but unfortunately we came up short in breaking our previous record.

COVID-19 is still making it hard for people to come together to participate in events like the STACK UP!

Even with the event expanded to allow stacking over 3 days, many schools and organizations were still unable to be part of the event.

*Nevertheless we consider this year's event a success in bringing so many people together to share a sport we love and also benefit a variety of causes. Thank you to the **509,544** that were able to participate this year. We look forward to going after the 638,503*

record again next year and more importantly look forward to having all of you be a part of this awesome event!

The WSSA Stamp Of Approval certificates are ready to download and can be used for both schools and individuals. Visit and/or send your students to thewssa.com/stackup/ to download a personalized version.

Thanks again and we hope you can join us again next year!



Advise Column: Rest Your Mind, Spare Some Time

By Abby Norton

One of the most important parts of having a healthy brain and calm mind is taking breaks and socializing with friends. School can be really overwhelming and sometimes unbearable, but that's why we should take breaks.



Taking a break could consist of many things that would all help lift some weight off your shoulders:

ONE, step away for a second and chat with your friends.



TWO, help yourself to a healthy snack and a drink to replenish your energy.

THREE, join an after school activity to help build your confidence and to get you out of your comfort zone.



While you're at it, encourage your friends to join with you, that way you'll have someone there alongside you to help ease the nerves of a new activity.

FOUR, talk to someone about what is going on. Talking about your problems is one of the most therapeutic ways to relieve stress on the brain and help calm your emotional state.



Last but not least, FIVE, do some art! Art is very calming especially when you do it in a group.



Mental health is very important to have a healthy and successful life, that's why we need to preserve our minds while they are still young.

FCCLA Fall Conference

By Julio Valdez

The OSB FCCLA chapter has been working hard since the beginning of this school year.



They were sponsors of a Blood Drive with the **Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI)** and also participated in the

Socktober: a drive to gather as many socks as possible during the month of October to give to our local Veterans' hospital and the Gospel Rescue Mission.



Some members also attended the **2021 District Leadership Conference** in Tahlequah.

Eight chapter members attended the District Leadership Conference which took place on October 30th at Tahlequah High School. District officers were awarded and sworn into office.

Different projects, that the district is working on, were also discussed.



The conference also featured lots of **dancing**

and a



motivational speaker, which Angel Cozort and Elbin Carrillo said were their favorite parts.

Angel appeared to have really enjoyed herself, dancing to every single song that was played.



After the conference, those who attended enjoyed a nice lunch at Chili's before returning to OSB.

Big projects are in the works for FCCLA throughout the remainder of the school year.

Additional **Blood Drives** have been scheduled and **STAR Events** are fast approaching.



The OSB FCCLA chapter would not have been able to attend the conference without the help of Ms. Garner, who is chapter advisor, and Ms. Mills, who was the driver for the day.

Big shout out to both of them!



FCCLA STAR Events

By Emileigh Jackson



FCCLA STAR Events are competitive events where members compete at

a regional/district, state, and national level.

The acronym **STAR** stands for “**S**tudents **T**aking **A**ction with **R**ecognition”.

In STAR Events students can be recognized for achievement and proficiency projects, leadership skills, and career preparation. There are over 30 STAR Events students can take part in. Students can choose to compete in the different STAR Events

that recognize students who demonstrate their skills, knowledge, and abilities to actively identify an issue

Tuesday, November 30th, four students traveled to Sallisaw Oklahoma for different STAR Events. The students that went to Sallisaw were Macey Millar, Stephanie Story, Angel Cozort, and Emileigh Jackson.

At this event Macey participated in **Creed speaking** and interpretation, Stephanie participated in **New Member Facts**, and Angel and Emileigh both participated in **Children's Literature**.

Angel participated in Children's Literature level one and Emileigh participated in Children's Literature level two.

Macey Millar and Stephanie Story both **placed second** in their categories and Angel and Emileigh both **placed first**. Angel and Emileigh will advance to the Regional Competition in February.

I would like to thank Ms. Garner, Mrs. Jackman, and Ms. Garrett for taking the participants to compete.



From Left: Angel, Macey, Stephanie, Emileigh

November = Native American Heritage Month

By Staff



What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan

concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the

governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “**National American Indian Heritage Month**.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

Information taken from:

<https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/>

Socktober Update

By Emileigh Jackson

During the month of October FCCLA and the Leadership Class sponsored **SOCKTOBER!**

Socktober is a **community service project** that has been held **annually for 3 years now.**



The point of Socktober is to collect socks to send to the **Muskogee**

Veterans Hospital and the **Gospel Rescue Mission.**

Usually there are boxes around the school to collect the socks. However, this year they had a brilliant idea to bring some fun to it ...

THE SOCK-O-METER!

The Sock-o-meter is a long tube that was placed at the front office to throw socks in as a fun way to collect socks and quantify how many socks have been collected.



In total, they have collected about

250 pairs of socks.

All of the socks that have been collected were donated to the Muskogee Veterans Hospital and the Gospel Rescue Mission.

A big **THANK YOU** to Mr. Nail for the sock-o-meter and to all the students and staff that supported the service project.



Veterans Day - Celebrating our Veterans

By Trinity Vreeland



On Thursday, November 11th, OSB honored our veterans by providing breakfast and having a short assembly in their honor.

The FCCLA club purchased ingredients to make **breakfast casseroles** for the Veterans and the Leadership Class decorated the A2 Conference Room.



The Braille classes used their skills to make **Flag Cards** for each Veteran for them to take home.

That afternoon Mr. Butler's 8th Grade class, along with the elementary students with the help of Mr. Jackman and Mr. Ferrell, put on a wonderful assembly

celebrating the service of our veterans.

In order to prep for the assembly, Mr. Jackman's Academic Achievement class sanded and stained new poles for the flags that represented each of the five branches of the military.



Mr. Jackman, who is a USAF Veteran, spoke to the students about a Native American Choctaw Code talker and war hero, Joseph Oklahombi, and Oklahombi's experiences in the 36th Infantry Division during WWI.

In the United States, Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11th became a national holiday beginning in 1938.

One way Veterans are honored around the globe is by wearing a



Red Poppy Flower.

Red poppy flowers represent consolation, remembrance and death. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

During World War I, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The Belgium Flanders, the northernmost point of the Western Front during the First World War, became one of the most devastated regions in the battlefield. The war turned the

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Veterans Day - Celebrating our Veterans (continued)

(Continued from page 9)

beautiful countryside into a field of mud where nothing could grow. But poppy flowers sprouted on the land of thousands of dead men.



OSB Veterans

Jeremy Jackman
United States Air Force (USAF)

Robert Miller
Army & Oklahoma Army National Guard

William O'Neal
Army Military Police Officer.

Gina Woods
Army Reserve & California Army National Guard

Michael Robinson
United States Coast Guard

Thank You for Service!



MS - Virtual Fieldtrip to NSU Optometry

By Emileigh Jackson & Lorie Cox

On November 1st the middle school went on a virtual field trip to the NSU Optometry University.

In past years OSB middle schoolers have physically gone to NSU for the experience but sadly due to COVID-19 they could not attend physically but were able to attend by zoom. During this zoom meeting Dr. Jonathan Hatley talked about NSU and the Oklahoma College of Optometry. Some of the specific things he talked about were what the students do in the Low Vision Clinic there and how exactly one can become an optometrist.

After that, Mrs. Miller talked about braille and how to do **body braille**.

In case you don't know what body braille is, it is where you use your left hand as dot 1, left hip as dot 2, left foot as dot 3, right hand as dot 4, right hip as dot 5 and right foot as dot 6 to make letters and words. Mrs. Miller's personally favorite body braille letter is "g" because you put both your hands in the air and shake your hips left and right.

Then, the NSU and OSB students went into breakout rooms and introduced themselves, asked questions, and played a game of **Braille BINGO**.

Many of the students really enjoyed multiple parts of the experience. Hunter Kelly said he enjoyed learning about the college and how many people are in a class. Another student, Justin Millar, really enjoyed interviewing the NSU students. Lastly, Julia Cisneros commented that she really enjoyed the Braille BINGO. Overall, the students all really seemed to enjoy it and are so excited to attend again next year.



Counselor Day

By Staff

On Tuesday, November 30th many of the high school students had the opportunity to visit with their DRS **S**ervices for the **B**lind and **V**isually **I**mpaired (SBVI) counselors.

The SBVI counselors provide guidance for job placement,

training, and other services upon graduation.

It is important for our students to develop strong relationships with their SBVI Counselors as early as 16 years of age in order to begin preparing for the transition from high school.

If you would like more information

about how to contact DRS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired check out their website.

<https://oklahoma.gov/okdrs/job-seekers/sbvi.html>

Goalball

By Lorie Cox

Goalball is a loved sport at OSB. There were a lot of students who wanted to try it out this year.

On November 3rd, a few of the students were introduced to the game of goalball and the basics of how the game works.

On November 9th, 23 of our students went to Tulsa to learn and play goalball on an official field.

So, what is goalball you might be asking? Goalball is a team sport constructed specifically for athletes with a vision impairment. Participants compete in teams of three, and try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the

opponents' goal. Two teams of three players each confront one another across a court that is nine meters wide and 18 meters long. The job of the defense is to listen for the oncoming ball and try to block it with their bodies and the objective is to capture the ball and get control of it. Once they do, they become the offense team.

For the OSB game, participants were split in half, one team on each side of the goalball courts.



Participants were then split into four teams, two teams per court with three players on the playing field and 1-3 on hold for each team. Once we were ready to play, we were given the instructions and allowed to play for an hour or so before sadly having to leave back to school.

Thank you to Margie Crossno, Director of Programs at The Center For Individuals With Physical Challenges. She is also in charge of the volunteers.

We are currently working on the possibility of going to Tulsa again on Jan. 11th in the evening. Practices will start after Christmas Break.

Red Ribbon Week

By Abby Norton

According to youthfirstinc.com, the tradition of displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance toward the use of drugs began in 1985 as a way of presenting a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a Drug-Free America. Red Ribbon Week is a week of awareness across many different public schools that focuses specifically on drugs. Here at OSB we celebrated all week long!

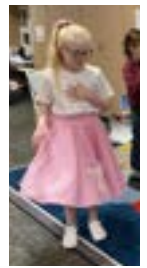


On **Monday** we were **"REDy to say no to drugs"** (wear red day).

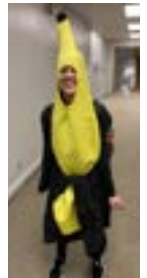
Tuesday was **"leave drugs in the past"** (decades day).



On **Wednesday** it was **"wake up drug free"** (pajama day).



And on **Thursday** we said **"BOO to drugs"** (costume day).



We had a lot of great costumes and it was really fun to see the creative outfits people have put together.

Emileigh says "I really liked dressing up," and Jerry said "It was one of the best weeks I've ever had."



Tessa's Book Corner

By Trinity Vreeland

Welcome to Tessa's book corner!

Tessa has read many books this year and she has some recommendations that you might like.



The first book she would like to recommend is **Ember in the Ashes** by Sabaa Taahir.

Ember in the Ashes is a thrilling fantasy adventure. Laia is on a mission to save her brother, who is imprisoned by the ruthless Empire. He has been making amazing swords that can overpower the Empire's soldiers and give the rebellion a chance.

She recommends this book to people like her who like epic adventures! There are four books in this series that will keep you on

the edge of your seat for a while.

Tessa will be giving another recommendation soon, in the meantime: **Keep Reading!**



Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest

By Staff



OSB Braille Readers will be competing in the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults "**Readers are Leaders**" Competition

Dec. 1, 2021 - Jan. 21, 2022.

During these 50 days, students will be logging minutes read of Braille and entering those totals into the contest.

Students will receive digital badges and an opportunity to win cash prizes!

If you would like more information,

please check out their website:

<https://www.actionfund.org/programs/braille-readers-are-leaders>



Jr/Sr Fundraising Project

By Staff

The Jr/Sr class would like to thank everyone who bought t-shirts and hoodies for their first fundraiser of the year.

They sold **83 items** and made a **profit of \$415 !!!**

It was a great success.

The class would also like to thank everyone who showed their baking talents for the annual Holiday Dessert Auction.

There were 34 delectable desserts to bid on and at the time of the writing of this article, the

bidding was getting heated! The OSB staff and students really like their sweet treats!



Again, a **big THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the Jr/Sr class by purchasing a shirt or hoodie, baking a dessert, and bidding on them. All money raised through fundraising this year will go towards the end of the year activities.

Update:
The dessert
auction
brought in
\$ 385

Recreation Activities

By Nancy Brice

We ended October with the Fall Festival and Costume Contest!

Let me tell you about the Fall Festival first.

There were games, the hay-less hayrides, the train rides, kettle corn, cotton candy, a **Blow-up Castle**, and an awesome Haunted House.



It takes an enormous amount of people to pull this off.

First there is the Fall Festival Committee members which are myself, Paul Butler, Gina Woods, Cassie Shelton, Kim Thomas, Brian Culver, Machel Thornton, Mrs. Craig and Ms. Coplen. We start planning about a month ahead of time. After that we start recruiting people from there.

This year Tracy Davenport and Sheila Fritz helped organize the **haunted house**. They started working on the haunted house about two weeks ahead of time. There were also workers who helped them run the haunted house. These workers included co-workers and some of their spouses, children, and even grandchildren got involved.



The **hay less hayride** was organized by Mike Bynum who drove and Marcella Bynum who loaded

the kids each trip. They too had help from other co-workers.

Mr. & Mrs. Butler donated their time to provide **kettle corn** and the **train ride**.



There were numerous staff members who donated their time to stay and run the **games** and events.

A **big Thanks** to Mrs. Echelle, Ms. Coplen, and Mrs. Craig for their support and help to make this event happen!

A **Huge!!! Thanks** to everyone who donated the candy. This event could not happen without your donations. I realize that I have left off some names of our staff who helped with the fall festival. But trust me you were greatly appreciated. Your hard work and donations made me look really good and this event couldn't have happened without you. THANK YOU!!!!

The next evening we had our parade and costume contest. This year there were more students dressed up than I can ever remember. It was great!

Here are the **costume contest results**:

4th Place

receiving \$5
Mykel Eagle and



Trinity

Treysen
Brown



Treysen & Mykel

3rd Place

receiving \$10
Trinity Vreeland

2nd Place

receiving \$15
Branson Leonard
and Genevieve
Fitzgerald



Branson & Genevieve



Angel

1st Place

receiving \$20
Angel Cozort

Thank you to the Judges: Cammeron Brice, Howard Ashwood, Karen Reed, and Jamie Garrett. That was a tough job, I am glad I didn't have to do it.

The first week in November we had the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.



The elementary stayed back and we watched **Space Jam 2**. We ate popcorn and candy.

It's only been two years in the making but we finally had the **Wii bowling tournament**. Justin Millar took first place and Eric Enzenauer took second place.

There were 13 contestants and it took two days. But I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

The second Tuesday of each month is "Craft Night".

In November we made **encouragement** and **thank you cards for the Veterans**. These cards were given to Mrs. Garner and Ms. Daniels and put with the projects they do for Veterans. The cards along with some other

(Continued on page 14)

Recreation Activities (continued)

(Continued from page 13)

nice things were given to our Veterans of OSB and Veterans at the VA Hospital. Some of the students had to be off campus the night we were making the cards, so they asked me if they could make them the night before because they wanted to help with this project. Those kids made 16 cards. Then we finished making the rest of the **cards** the next night. Our goal was 50 and we made it with **52**. Thank you to all the students that helped with this project, you are a great bunch of kids and I am so proud of you all!

We had our **Turkey Stomp Dance** just before we took a break for Thanksgiving.



A **BIG thanks to the Kitchen staff** for the wonderful snacks they provided for the dance. I know they were very busy that day making the Thanksgiving lunch. Which I understand was very good! Thanks to Abby for being the DJ and the work-study students for working the refreshment table.

December started off with Hot Chocolate! Which worked out since it was a cold 40 degrees that night.

The kids had been really looking forward to the next event "Christmas Karaoke". Even though not everyone sang Christmas songs. It was a fun night! Everyone always enjoys the chance to perform.

We ended December with our Birthday party and Dorm Parties.

I really hope everyone has a happy and safe Holiday!

Looking forward to 2022!

Happy New Year!

Nancy Brice,
Rec Director



Fundraiser lunch with Muskogee's Mayor

By Mike Robinson

John D. represented OSB on Thursday, December 9th, at the Muskogee Civic Center as guest of the Mayor, Mayor Coleman.

The event was a Fundraiser organized by Mayor Coleman for which he invited a representative of each local school, as well as numerous business representatives.

John looked sharp and his

behavior was impressive as he did grace the Mayor's table with Panther Pride!!!

The Mayor also talked about his tour that he received at the gym dedication ceremony and his praise for the school as well as identifying John as having a profound impression on him for blindfolding him during White Cane Awareness Day and stating **'I will**



lead the way Mr. Mayor."

John definitely used all the valuable tools that you guys have worked so hard with him on over the years!!

So if you see John let him know that you are proud of him for representing the school so well.

It was a GOOD moment!!!

Random Act of Kindness

By Shawna Coplen

LaShae brought all of her old glasses to donate for an act of kindness.



Recycle Old Glasses

Our clinic will gladly accept old/used glasses.

Just have your student drop them off there **OR** you can drop them into our "Recycle" box in the front parking lot. (right side inside the gate)

Traveling History Trunks

By **Abby Norton**
(& Jeremy Jackman)



Mr. Jackman brought some “**history trunks**”, filled with various items, to class.

Students got to take a closer look at the items and even played “dress up” with some of the old clothes.



This – of course – got the attention of our news team, so I wanted to interview Mr. Jackman to get a little more information on this.

Here is our interview:

Abby: Where did you get the trunk of stuff from? And why?

Mr. Jackman: I borrowed the “**traveling trunks**” from the Oklahoma History Center in OKC.

My history classes have recently learned about the **cattle drives of the late 1800s.**



The trunks were a hands-on learning opportunity for students to reinforce what they had learned in the classroom. I arranged to have them the week before Thanksgiving break because students seem more restless at this time.

Abby: Please give examples of some of the items in it and which was most interesting to you?

Mr. Jackman: Students discovered what life was like on

the long drive for cowboys (aka “Drovers”) through an outfit and items he might have carried on the cattle trail, such as a quirt (small whip), cuffs, spurs & straps, a gun holster, chaps, and various other items.

My favorite hands-on item was the cowhide, which served multiple purposes.

It could keep you warm in the cold, it had a map of the cattle trails, and with game pieces you could play a game similar to Monopoly.



Here is a link to some of the content:

<https://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/forms/trunks/okietalescowboytrunk.pdf>

My question is... what was your favorite article in the trunk?

Abby: My favorite item was the cow rug. It felt like touching a real cow and it was so cool.

Abby: Can you give me a quote that represents the events that took place?

Mr. Jackman: It was fun sharing the contents of the traveling trunks with my classes. Students experienced the smell of lye soap and leather. They felt the lasso in their hands and the boar bristle shaving brush on their cheeks. I hope this helped them to imagine what daily life on the **Chisholm Trail** would have been like.



a brief historical summary of the events that took place around the era?

Mr. Jackman: The items were from the late 1800’s. The cattle drives only lasted about two decades after the Civil War, but the cowboy made a huge impact on our nation’s cultural identity.

Below are some items out of the trunk:



Bandana



Shirt



Cuffs



Quirt



Long Underwear



Spurs & Straps



Shotgun Chaps



Gun Holster

Chisholm Trail

A 19th-century cattle drovers' trail in the western United States.

Although its exact route is uncertain, it originated south of San Antonio, Texas, ran north across Oklahoma, and ended at Abilene, Kansas.

The Chisholm Trail was the major route out of Texas for livestock.

Although it was used only from 1867 to 1884, the longhorn cattle driven north along it provided a steady source of income that helped the impoverished state recover from the Civil War.

Cultural Diversity - Thanksgiving & Christmas

By Maggie Mattox

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. Germany covers an area of 357,022 square kilometers (137,847 sq miles), with a population of over 83 million (average ~602 people per sq mile) within its **16 constituent states**.

In comparison: Oklahoma covers an area of approx. 69,899 sq miles, has 77 counties, and a population of approx. 3.97 million (average ~57 people per sq mile).

Each state (and family) has its own traditions, so I can only speak to the traditions I grew up with, which were pretty fun and special to me.

We didn't celebrate Thanksgiving like here, instead we had a "Thanksgiving" at church on the first Sunday of October (*I think*). The altar was decorated with fruits, vegetables, etc. to say "Thanks" for all the harvest we received throughout the year.

However, Christmas was a different story. It started with celebrating "**Nikolaus Day**" on December 6th.

There are various stories about **St. Nikolaus** and his buddy "**Knecht Ruprecht**", but the one I learned was that St. Nikolaus was bringing goodies to people that deserved it, while Knecht Ruprecht was punishing the ones that were bad.

So, as kids we would shine our biggest boots (rain boots) on the night



of Dec. 5th and put them outside our bedroom door, so St. Nikolaus could fill them with candy, fruits, and nuts (*hoping that you were good and wouldn't end up with switches or coal instead*).

In Elementary school (Gr. 1-4) we would have St. Nikolaus and Knecht Ruprecht visit on Dec. 6th. St. Nikolaus would bring gifts for the good kids, while Knecht Ruprecht had a bunch of switches so he could punish the bad kids.

I still remember some of my classmates hiding behind other kids so Knecht Ruprecht wouldn't see them.

Even though we also decorated the house beginning of December and celebrated Advent with a wreath and lighting the candles each Sunday, we did **not put up our Christmas tree until Christmas Eve**.

I remember going tree shopping with my parents, just a few days before Christmas Eve, to look for the "perfect" tree (*a real one*).

On Christmas Eve morning my dad would put up the tree and decorate it (*nobody else was allowed to help*), while my mom was trying to keep us kids busy with other activities.

In the evening dad would wait in the closed living room next to the tree for the "**Christkind**" (*an angel-like creature with blond hair and wings*) to deliver our gifts.



My brother and I were sitting in the family room listening to a

Christmas story on the radio, trying to catch a glimpse of the Christkind, but we always missed it.

When the gifts were delivered my dad would ring a small bell on the tree and we were allowed to go into the living room to see all our gifts. We would sing a few Christmas songs together and then we were finally allowed to open the gifts. **Yes, we open our gifts on Christmas Eve.**



We also have two holidays for Christmas, Dec. 25th and 26th. Those days were usually used to have the big family gatherings or just to spend some quality time at home.

But **this is not the end of Christmas yet, no...** our Christmas tree stayed up until the **arrival of the three Holy Kings** on Jan. 6th.

In some areas of Germany (*mainly where the Catholic Church is dominant*) they have **parades with the "Three Holy Kings"** riding in, to see the newborn child.



After the arrival of the kings, Christmas is officially over and the decorations and trees are taken down until next year.



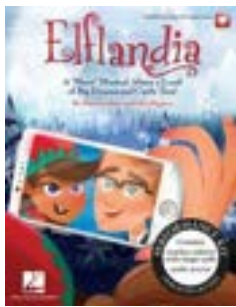
The Christkind meets Santa Clause



Panther Pride

Elementary Christmas Program “Elflandia”

By Lorie Cox & Staff



Welcome to **Elflandia** - the land of Santa's elves - busy making toys and getting ready for Santa's yearly trip round the world to bring presents to all the deserving humans on the planet. But wait! **Do human beings really exist?** The reports the elves have heard are not very encouraging. Many are grumpy and stressed at holiday time, others are downright sour when they wake up from a nap, and some are just big and loud and hairy!

On December 16, the OSB Elementary was scheduled to help Santa's elves discover if humans really do exist and what lessons they learned as they took Elfie Selfies and spread holiday cheer.

Unfortunately, the **performance had to be cancelled** due to cast members falling ill. However, **one of the rehearsals was taped *)** and it shows off this year's cast, which included:

Santa: Kelton Jordan

Elves: Hayden B., Avery D., Braylen F., Ryan H., Kelton J., Kesslee T., Jesse W., Eric E., Kairi H., Audree “Elli” M., Blaze C., Austin H., Gabriella “Gabby” H., Branson L., Dawson S., Kennedy S., Katelyn Y., Deegan D.,

LaShae M., Haidyn J., Khup T., and Nina C.

Teacher: Mrs. Eckerson

Songs: Elflandia - Making Toys - Silly Humans Solo: Gabby H. - All a Part of the Story - Elfie Selfie

Special Thanks to Mr. Ferrell for organizing the program and to Mrs. Eckerson, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Leatherman, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Culie, and Mrs. Webb for all of their help with this program. Also a big thanks to Mrs. Marcella, Mrs. Becky, and Mrs. Traci for all of their help during rehearsals.

***) The video will be posted on our OSB Facebook site.**

Christmas at the OSB Clinic

By Annette Underwood



The clinic bulletin board is a masterpiece with the help of **Mrs. Thomas' elves!** Thank you Mrs. Thomas' class! LaShae McGuire, Haidyn James, Khup Tuan, Xane Allen and Nina Cutler!

But OH, what is this? Intruders... Two older elves wanted to join in as well... Mr. William Grayson and Mrs. Lisa Yokum couldn't help themselves.



Santa's Mailbox



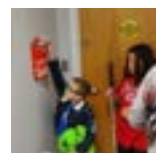
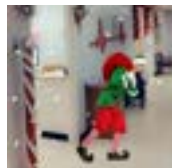
Santa's elf dropped off a special mailbox in the OSB Clinic again this year!

The children are so excited.

Thanks to Sherry Holder, Outreach Coordinator, this started last year after she spoke with Santa's press secretary and we got to have it

again this year.

Every afternoon an elf of Santa's stops by the clinic and collects the letters.



All elementary students wrote a letter and dropped it in the mailbox in hopes that Santa would get each



thing that they have requested.

Last year, Santa replied to each and every one of the letters with a printed letter along with a braille letter. He personally mailed them to each student's home address. Santa's elf said that he plans to do that again this year!

Here are some pictures of the clinic after Santa's elves delivered the mailbox and decorated the clinic for us!



They wanted to leave Christmas Cheer for everyone.

Thank you Santa & Elves



Oh NO, the Grinch!

GOING THE EXTRA MILE -



Following employees were nominated for their devoted support of our students, staff and school:

Maintenance Department

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We wanted to give a great big THANK YOU to our maintenance department for all of their help with things in the clinic!! You guys have gone above and beyond in helping us. YOU GUYS ROCK!!!

The Clinic
Glinda, Karla, JoAnn,
Teresa and Annette

William and Lisa

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!! Behind every clean clinic is an aahmazing janitor!!! Thank you to William and Lisa for always making sure that things are cleaned in the clinic! You guys are awesome in how you are always organized with making sure the clinic is cleaned and sanitized.

The Clinic
Glinda, Karla, JoAnn,
Teresa and Annette

Laci Goins

Thank you for feeding the fish & frog over Thanksgiving Break while I was away.

C. Daniels

Faye Miller

Thanks to Mrs. Miller and her student shoppers for purchasing FCS lab supplies!

A. Garner

Faye Miller & Gina Woods

Shopping with O&M students and purchasing groceries for the OSB Food Drive.

A. Garner

Susana Jackman

We are grateful for your help with our Children's Literature ebook!

Angel C. & Emileigh J.

Laci Goins

Thank you for helping do hair and make-up for our FCCLA girls before contest!

A. Garner

Karen Reed

Thank you for all that you do for our OSB students and also students around the state of Oklahoma!

Outreach Dept.

Sherry Holder

Thank you for having the heart of a servant and always helping students and staff!

Outreach Dept.

Samantha Charles

Thank you for all that you do for the students!

Outreach Dept.

The Nurses

Thank you for helping keep everyone safe during this school year from illnesses! YOU ALL ARE AAHMAZING!

Annette Underwood

Mrs. Eckerson

Thank you for always being willing to help in all areas.

Laura Leatherman

Mrs. Thomas

Thank you for helping me with my bulletin board this time!

Annette Underwood

Cassie Shelton

Thank you for praying for staff and students; for being a Proverbs 31 Lady
S. Young Mock

Chris Carden

Mr. Carden, after a full days work, went to the mall with the high school and walked around Woodland Hills Mall donating his time and with a smile on his face the whole time he was there. Thank you Mr. Carden for going the extra mile .

Nancy Brice

Karen Reed

Thank you for all you do around here. You do not "just" do IEPs, you are also in charge of Outreach, incl. new student eligibility verification, OVTI institute (training program for teachers all across Oklahoma), and you are the peace keeper on so many fronts. And this doesn't even consider all the other scheduled (or unscheduled) meetings.

THANK YOU.

Maggie Mattox

Dwayne Estep

Thank you for fixing the ice machine in the Panther's Den! Is there NOTHING this man can't do, do it quickly (almost before asked), and do it well? Thanks!

S. Young Mock

Thank you guys for going the extra mile.

It is highly appreciated.



Birthdays

Students

FULLER, BRAYLEN	1	2
JONES, MIRACLE	1	14
COX, JOSIE	1	17
BROWN, JADEN	1	20
DEBROSKY, AUDREY	1	28
DOBSON, DEEGAN	1	28
LEONARD, BRANSON	2	1
HOLM, IAN	2	5
FITZGERALD, GENEVIEVE	2	6
PEOPLES, DIESEL	2	6
HOWELL, DELILAH	2	8
HUSMANN, KAIRI	2	8
CALGER, BLAZE	2	12
BLACK, JERELYN	2	24
DURAN, ADAN	2	25
STORY, STEPHANIE	3	1
VREELAND, TRINITY	3	2
DUONG, JOHN	3	4
DUONG, TYLER	3	4
PEDERSEN, LILITH	3	6
MCGUIRE, LASHAE	3	7
BACCUS, DAYTON	3	8
POPEJOY, AISLINN	3	13
COZORT, ANGEL	3	18
MCDONALD, LILLIAN	3	26



Staff

SWEENEY, MELISSA	1	5
ISOM, AMANDA	1	15
COWAN, BETTY JO	1	17
JONES, JEANA	1	17
MILLER, FAYE	1	26
MILLS, REBECCA	2	6
GRAYSON, WILLIAM	2	9
BRYANT, DAWN	2	13
FRITZ, SHEILA	2	15
MILLER-DAUSE, MINDY	2	15
CULVER, BRIAN	2	18
YOUNG MOCK, SUSAN	2	18
HOLDER, SHERRY	2	21
GOINS, LACI	2	24
SLATEN, KIM	2	25
GRAVES, MELISSA	2	29
KAULAY, KELLY	3	3
LARUE, BECKY	3	4
NAIL, CHARLES	3	10
WILSON, HELEN	3	16
CULVER, MARQUETA	3	20
O'BRIEN, BRENDA	3	24
THOMAS, KIMBERLY	3	28



Recreation Activities **JANUARY**

JANUARY 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
2 Welcome Back! Open Rec.	3 Open Rec Night	4 Bingo! 5:30-6:30 - A2&B2 6:35-7:35 - A3&B3 7:45-8:45 - B1, LH, and B4	5 Open Rec Night	6 Home Going	7	8
9 Dorms Open Open Rec.	10 Homecoming 6:00 pm Cake & Punch in Rec. to follow	11 Craft Night! A2 5:30 B2 6:10 A3 6:50 B3 7:30 B1, B4, LH - 8:00 Open Rec. starting 6:30	12 Open Rec Night	13 Home Going	14	15
16 Out for MLK Day	17 Dorms Open Open Rec.	18 Open Rec Night	19 Bowling at Green Country Lanes 6-8 pm (All) Loading at East Lobby at 5:45 pm	20 Home Going	21	22
23 Dorms Open Open Rec.	24 Open Rec Night	25 Birthday Party! 6:00 - A2&B2 6:40 - A3&B3 7:30 - B1, LH, B4	26 Open Rec Night	27 SCASB All others: Home Going	28 - 29 SCASB	
30 Dorms Open Open Rec.	31 Open Rec Night					

Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278

ALL Calendars are "subject to change". - Please visit our website <http://osb.k12.ok.us> for updates.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

3300 Gibson Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Toll Free: (877) 229-7136
Voice/TTY: (918) 781-8200
Fax: (918) 781-8300

It takes more than sight to have vision!

Please check out
our website at:



OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

New Hires:

Jason Jenkins, Police Officer, effective 12/1/2021

Welcome on board. Glad to have you !



Resignation/s:

Darlus Reeves, effective 11/30/2021

Retirement/s:

William Grayson, effective 12/31/2021



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS !!! - Save the Date/s !!!

12/17/21 - 12/31/21 Christmas Break - NO School

01/02/22 Dorms Open - Bus Routes Run

01/03/22 Classes Resume

01/06/22 End of 2nd Qtr. / 1st Semester

01/10/22 HOMECOMING (Wrestling) - 6:00-7:00 pm in new gym

01/17/22 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL - Dorms Open - Bus Routes Run

01/18/22 Classes Resume

01/27/22 - 01/29/22 SCASB @ Alabama School for the Blind, Talladega, AL

01/31/22 LYRIC KIDS CLUB HOUSE INTERACTIVE PROGRAM @ OSB

02/09/22 OBI Blood Drive @ OSB (11:30am - 3:00pm)

