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Celebrating Reading

By Tanni L. Anthony

The more you read, the more things you will know.

The more you learn, the more places you'll go.” (Dr. Suess)

The ability to read is a precious gift. Reading is tied to our lives in so many ways: reading road signs, packaged food boxes and cans, pleasure books, newspapers, magazines, computer manuals, songbooks, text messages, work products ... the list is long in most of our lives.

We have much to celebrate in Colorado about teaching and reinforcing reading with our learners who are blind/visually impaired. Check out the article at the end of the newsletter about the National Braille Challenge Day recently hosted at CSDB, if you want to feel a swell of pride! The Colorado Instructional Materials Center has expanded its data collection on braille learners and braille users ... the data include the student who is on the braille continuum as a tactile learner using objects to communicate. This is a change from days long ago when some of our students with additional disabilities were simply classified as nonreaders and not considered on the path to reading.

In addition to the strong focus on braille, we have had a successful year with the conclusion of five low vision evaluation clinics across the state. A key goal of the clinics is to expand the literacy tools of students with visual impairments. Thanks to all who participated in the success of these clinics and to our students who are using low vision devices for improved access to print in their homes, schools, and community.

Finally we are working hard to expand the assistive technology options of using digitized text and audio tools for listening to classroom information. I believe the next year will be groundbreaking for new developments in bringing the written word to more and more of our students.

We have more work to do, but our foundation is strong for supporting the literacy needs of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired and deafblind.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired**

March—April 2010

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Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

[HTTP://TVIVIP.Org](http://TVIVIP.Org)

I am just bursting with excitement. I have been working with Dr. Sudhanshu Semwal at UCCS to put together what we hope will be the first annual **Symposium on Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired**. We can now let you know that it will be happening on Saturday, May 15, 2010 on the UCCS campus.

This year, there will be no cost to attendees. Your only expenses will be gas for your car and lunch. The Symposium will be small and as a result, we will have to limit attendance to 40 participants. We are particularly hoping that you will encourage parents and their school-aged children who are visually impaired to attend. Participation will be on a first come, first served basis. You only need to email me (see address above) with your wish to attend.

The formal announcement is below:

McGMI Program Presents Symposium on Crossover Applications for Persons who are Blind/Visually Impaired - May 15th, 2010 University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO, Room SENG A342, A343 and A327 in the new Engineering Building

Latest statistics are alarming and indicate that *eighty-five* per cent of adult blind and visually impaired in this country are *either unemployed or underemployed*. This is a terrible statistic! Certainly the economy of the past several years has offered few opportunities to reduce this statistic. There is clearly a need to support efforts to change this statistic and support such efforts which will provide opportunity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired to be effective in a work environment.

In the Twenty-First Century, everyone needs to develop technology skills, and people who are blind and visually impaired need even more. They need software access to technology as well as the ability to use it. Technology skills training need to begin at the same time that this training begins for their sighted peers – at the pre-school level and continue to grow as these children's needs for these skills to grow. And this is the place where the lack of software and hardware availability begins to present a challenge. There is limited commercial software available. There are a handful of freeware programs which are often better in quality than commercial equivalents and we have found that quite a few provide opportunities for the visually impaired that are not available in the commercial area.

Organizers: Dr. SK Semwal, Professor CS, UCCS, Ms Bonnie Snyder, Technology Consultant for the Blind, and Ms. Ida Dilwood, Director Disability Services, UCCS.

GMI Crossover Applications [97] is an outgrowth of the research which has focused on creating tangible applications for special-needs *with* mass appeal.

What the Symposium is Going to Establish:

A Symposium on *Crossover Applications for People Who Are Visually Impaired* 2010 is scheduled for May 15th, 2010 for teachers, parents, and persons who are blind/visually impaired. The workshop has the following **tentative** schedule:

8:00-9:00 a.m.	<u>Sign In</u>
9:00-9:30 a.m.	<u>Welcome and Opening:</u> Dr. SK Semwal, UCCS Dr. Tanni Anthony, State Consultant on Blindness and Low Vision, ESLU, Colorado Department of Education Mr. Lou Tutt, Principal School for the Blind
9:30-9:45 a.m.	<u>Keynote Address:</u> Dr. Carlos Aroujo, Associate Dean, EAS, UCCS
9:45-11:00 a.m.	<u>Technology Demo Presentations:</u> Bonnie Snyder, selected Open Source software Brian Wilke, an application for the iPhone Ida Dilwood, UCCS Assistive Technology Lab Jonathan Mezgar, original software: Barnyard Fun Keith Johnson, original software: Multi-sensory Human Computer Interaction using aroma and haptics, sound and graphics VR&Graphics Lab, UCCS) Adrian Johnson, original software: Music as an Input Device Barbara Tracey, original software: Game for Visually Impaired Suzette Stoutenburg, Brain-Computer Interfaces <u>GMI/CS UCCS students and alumni:</u> Nick Sterling, Bill Fitzpatrick, Lisa Gathings, Dr. Richard Doyle, Eric Upchurch, George McDermith, Suzette Stoutenburg <u>Presentations and Displays:</u> Jim Olson, Low Vision, High and Low Tech Dr. Tom Theune, Low Vision Tools
11:00-12:00 p.m.	<u>Lunch</u> (Presently on your own)
1:00-2:00 p.m.	<u>Technology Demo Presentations Continued</u>

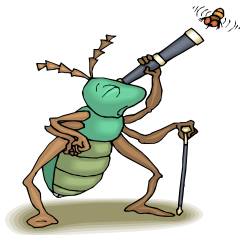


Sponsors: DSoft, President: Craig Newmaker
Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Leadership Unit

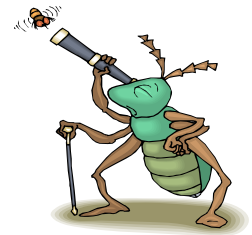
Cost: None for invited guests including teachers and families with a child who is visually impaired.

Limited to only 40 total invited guests on first come, first serve basis. There will be around 6 to 8 groups. Demos will be shown one group at a time and will run before and after lunch.

Editor's Note: Parents and TVIs, please be in touch with Bonnie to assist you with the child's / students' assistive technology needs. Her consultation services are provided through the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit and are of no costs to families / administrative units.



LOW VISION NEWS



Northern LVE Clinic

By Donice Fennimore

Great Clinic – the Northern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic was held Thursday, February 19th and 10th in Brighton. The clinic staff would like to give a special thanks to Wendy Stoltman and Danielle Hillebrand for coordinating the clinic this year. They did an excellent job and the clinic was great (despite the snow).

Ten students from the northern region were seen at the clinic and six school districts were represented. Thanks to Carol Love, Paula Conroy, Teresa Barone, Sally Burch, Rita Albright, Elaine Karns, Danielle Hillebrand, Nancy Cozart and Vicki Pearson for bringing students to the clinic. Due to the weather, Janis Mountford and her student could not get to the clinic.

We would like to thank Adams County SD 27J for letting us use the district's Training Center Building for the clinic.

We have one more low vision evaluation clinic this year, Southern Region, and it is scheduled for Friday, March 5, 2010 in the low vision room of the School for the Blind on the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind campus. All appointment times for this clinic are filled.

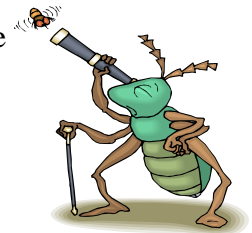
Again, the team would like to thank everyone involved in making the Northern Region Clinic – a great clinic.

Low Vision Clinic Evaluations - We Need Your Input!!

Post-clinic evaluations have been mailed out to the participating families / students and teachers of students with visual impairments of the western, first southern, and metro region low vision clinics. Evaluations will be mailed out in a month's time on the northern and second southern region clinics. The purpose of the evaluations is to determine what worked and what could be improved for future clinics. The results are tallied and shared with the low vision team of Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, and Donice Fennimore. The comments pertinent to hosting the clinics will be shared with our site coordinators.

If you participated or will participate in any of this year's clinic, please take time to complete and return the evaluation form. For those of you who brought more than one student to the clinic, you will be asked to fill out a form per student.

Thanks so much for your time and feedback!!



National Federation of the Blind

2010 Junior Science Academy



A STEM Program for Blind Children Ages 8-12



In 2008 the National Center for Blind Youth in Science (NCBYS), a program of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jernigan Institute, offered its first Science Academy program for elementary students. Once again NFB is making this program possible for children in grades three through six. The NCBYS developed its Junior Science Academy (JSA) in 2004 in order to spark and enhance blind students' interest in scientific study. This year, with hands-on experiences, tactile materials, and innovative nonvisual teaching methods, the JSA will open its doors again to young explorers with two sessions of the program. Applicants can apply for one of the following dates:

Session 1: July 28-August 1, 2010

Session 2: August 4-August 8, 2010

The Junior Science Academy is a four-day session that will expose blind children to the excitement of science in real-life applications. The students will learn about how much fun science can be through hands-on instruction, field trips, and interactive activities. Attending parents will participate in a corresponding seminar with workshops designed to focus on meeting the needs of their blind children.

A registration fee of \$150 will be charged for each accepted student and parent/chaperone pair. The cost of travel, room, board, and program materials will be covered by the NFB Jernigan Institute for all student and parent/chaperone pairs.

Contact Brent Batron at the Colorado Center for the Blind For More Information:

303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

Creating An Art Masterpiece!

By Barbara Jack, Art Teacher, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

All people and especially those who are blind or visually impaired use touch to identify items around them. Hands-on tactile art provides an important experience to broaden and enrich the lives of those who have vision loss. At the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, students learn about various materials in art and methods artists use to create art-sculpture, paintings, drawings, printmaking, collage, and weaving through the study of textures.

Everything that surrounds us has line, shape, color, texture, pattern, form, and space. For example, a photo of a painting is smooth and flat, but the painting is really visually vivid in texture, color, perspective and line. How do we describe and show these concepts to students who cannot see, so they can expressively explore and recreating the item through art? Focus upon just one element of art, texture.



Megan Sweeney, student at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, School for the Blind, had her artwork selected for the 2010 InSights Art Calendar, published by the American Printing House for the Blind.

Many educators think of tactile media as clay, which is highly versatile and great to have on hand. However, many other media are available: paper mache, plaster, wire/pipe cleaners, wikki sticks, glue (when dry, it makes raised patterns/lines), cardboard, papers folded/crumpled, all forms of Styrofoam, bottles/lids w/texture, rubber stamps, APH Quick Draw or tactile drawing paper, beads, things that crinkle, yarns, fibers, fabric, fun foam, sandpaper, wax paper, foil, wood, bark, sticks and many more.

Create a texture box filled with tactically interesting items such as kitchen gadgets, feathers, bubble wrap, sandpaper, and rocks. These items will be available to use in a project (such as a collage), to use as a texture for the project (such as impressions into clay) or to just touch and explore. Approach projects with discussion, touching, and descriptions of what you are doing. Listen to the student and determine what they think of the texture(s).

Vincent Van Gogh's painting The Starry Night has many swirling lines of color depicting trees, town, night, and stars. Describe the painting, then ask questions and listen to comments regarding the students' understanding of the art. Create a tactile version of the flow of the brushstrokes using items such as soft clay, wikki sticks, even plaster to help give the feeling of the painting. Use hand over hand, pointing out all the colors, textures, lines, shapes, and patterns, so students learn the vocabulary and the relationships between concepts and touch. It is possible to have students create art in the brush stroke style of Vincent Van Gogh!

It is always the expressive process with various media that is so very important in art. ALL students, whether visually impaired, blind, or sighted, can enjoy and learn if they are given time to discuss and understand the art they are studying and creating. Hands-on opportunities through working with a variety of materials, opens the door for students to think, imagine, experience, and create wonderful art.



Nothing Stops Us

By Joe Tiner

All our life's it's been there
In the way but not slowing us down

All our life you said we couldn't do it
Because of who we are
But we still went so far

Nothing stops us
We keep on climbing higher
Nothing stops us
We keep on going farther
Nothing stops us
We will not stop
Until we've done it all

All your life it's not been in the way
But still you slowed down

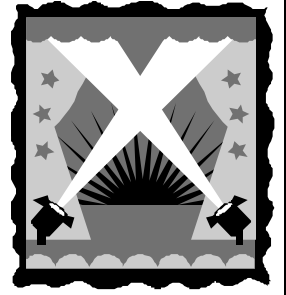
All your life people said you could do it
Because of who you are
But you didn't go as far

Nothing stops us
We keep on climbing higher
Nothing stops us
We keep on going farther
Nothing stops us
We will not stop
Until we've done it all

It does make life harder
But it also makes us stronger
Because of it we can not see
But we still live and breathe
We keep on going because
Nothing stops us

Nothing stops us
We keep on climbing higher
Nothing stops us
We keep on going farther
Nothing stops us
We will not stop
Until we've done it all

Spotlight on



Norrie's Disease

Information retrieved from: www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/resources/vi&multi/eyeconds/Norr.html

By Dr Andrew Blaikie for VI Scotland

What is Norrie's Disease? Very rarely when a baby is growing in the womb not all the parts of the eye grow in the right way. In Norrie's disease the back part of the eye stops growing while the unborn child is still in the womb. This happens about half way through pregnancy. As a result when the child is born the light sensitive film at the back of the eye (retina) is not ready to work and the vision is poor.

What is the Cause of Norrie's Disease? *Growth factors help the unborn child to grow in the womb:* When an unborn child is growing in the womb special chemicals called growth factors are needed. Certain parts of the body need certain growth factors to grow. In Norrie's Disease the growth factor that helps the back part of the eye to grow does not work.

Genes hold the plan for growth factors: Genes are a chemical alphabet held in all the parts of the body. The body has a "built-in" plan to make sure all the growth factors work. This plan is written in our genes. Genes are stored as long threads folded up into thick ropes called chromosomes. Every cell of the body has exactly the same number and kind of chromosomes. There are 23 different chromosomes but each chromosome has a copy of itself so that there are 46 in total (23 pairs). One pair of chromosomes are called the sex chromosomes and hold the plan for making a person grow into a boy or a girl. There are two types of sex chromosomes called X or Y. The letters just describe the shape of the chromosome when seen under a microscope. If a child has an X and a Y sex chromosome then the child will develop into a boy (XY). If the sex chromosomes are both X then the child will develop in the womb into a girl (XX). Children inherit a sex chromosome from each parent. Mothers (XX) always pass on X chromosomes.

Only Boys Develop Norrie's Disease: The gene that has the wrong plan for the important growth factor in Norrie's Disease is on the X chromosome. If a girl (XX) has one X chromosome that does not work she will be protected from developing Norrie's Disease because she has a protective spare. This is because her 'spare' working X chromosome makes enough growth factor to make the back part of the eye grow in the womb. Boys (XY) however have only one X chromosome, with no protective spare. If boys have an X chromosome that does not work then they do not make any growth factor to help the back part of the eye to grow. They develop Norrie's disease. Most children with Norrie's disease have inherited the affected X chromosome from their mother.

Might Another Child from the Same Mother Develop Norrie's Disease? There is a 1 in 2 chance that another son would develop Norrie's Disease and a 1 in 2 chance that he would not be affected. All daughters will not be affected by Norrie's Disease but there is a 1 in 2 chance that a daughter would carry an affected X chromosome like her mother. This daughter would have a 1 in 2 chance of having a son with Norrie's Disease.

X-linked recessive, carrier mother

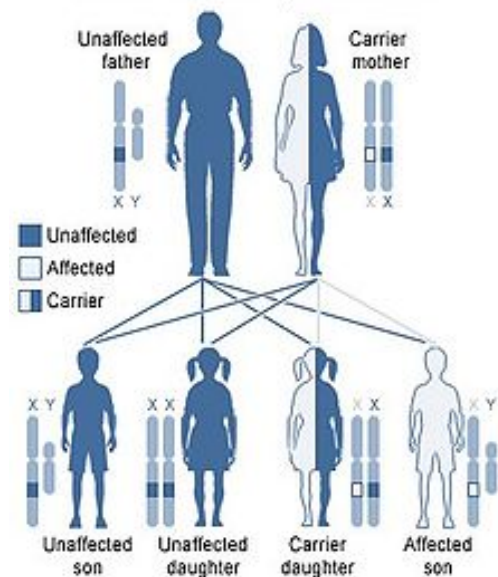


photo found at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norrie_disease

Spotlight on

Screening for Norrie's Disease Can be Performed on the Unborn Child if the Mother is a Known Carrier of an Affected X Chromosome: Norrie's disease is very rare and is not routinely screened for in the unborn child. If however a family already has a son with the condition then a special test can be performed on the Mother and an unborn son to see if the child will also develop the condition.

How does Norrie's Disease Affect a Child's Vision? Norrie's Disease can affect vision in different ways depending on the degree to which the eyes are affected. If only mildly affected then the overall vision may be good enough for the child to see large print and recognize faces. However in Norrie's Disease the back part of the eye or the retina is often affected to a severe level. The vision can be very poor. The child may have reduced sharpness of vision and may only see bright lights and large shapes.

After a few years the lens in the eye can become hazy (cataract). This can reduce the vision further. Sometimes the pressure in the eye can also go up (glaucoma). If the pressure cannot be reduced with drops then an operation may need to be performed.

How does Norrie's Disease Affect a Child? About half of children with Norrie's disease have learning difficulties. After a few years about one third will also develop poor hearing. Many children also develop epilepsy (seizure disorder).

How is Norrie's Disease Diagnosed? Most children can be diagnosed by an examination from an ophthalmologist. A special test of the genes can be performed which can help confirm the diagnosis.

How can Doctors and Other Specialists Help? Special low visual aids may improve vision. Eye care specialists can treat any conditions of the eyes which sometimes develop after a few years. The epilepsy can be treated with medication. If the child has a hearing loss, the child should be evaluated by an audiologist to determine if hearing aids will be of benefit. If the child has a hearing loss, a teacher certified in deafness will be an important team member of the educational team. Teachers certified in the area of visual impairment and certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists can address both educational, movement, and travel needs. When a learner has both a visual and a hearing loss, the family and service providers will also benefit from the services of their state project serving children with deafblindness.

Resources:

Norrie Disease Association (NDA)

Neurogenetics Simches Research Building, 5-238
185 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02114
<http://www.norries.org/>



The Norrie Disease Association is a voluntary not-for-profit service organization dedicated to providing support and information to people with Norrie Disease and their families. Norrie Disease is a rare inherited disorder characterized by blindness in both eyes at birth; some affected children may later develop mild to profound hearing loss and varying degrees of mental retardation.

Established in 1994, the Norrie Disease Association compiles and disseminates educational and research information on the disorder; maintains a patient registry; and provides referrals to medical and/or genetic services. The Association also provides educational and supportive information through its database, directory, and flyers



Where Do I Start?

General Resources for Parents of Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs

Between the alphabet soup of disability labels, laws and regulations--CP, DS, IEP, ADA, IDEA, 504--and all the different agencies that serve families with sons and daughters with disabilities--P2P, PEAK, PEP, CDE, Arc, CCB--well, it can get a little confusing! Here is a quick guide to some major resources and what they provide.

<p>P2P: Parent to Parent of Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to one parent matching, information and referral • Listserv linking parents throughout the state • Up-to-date website with disability specific resources, parent support groups 	<p>1-877-472-7201 p2p-co.org</p>
<p>The Arcs in Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are looking for an advocate, start with your local Arc • The Arc of Colorado has a list of statewide Arcs on their website 	<p>1-800-333-7690 thearcofco.org</p>
<p>Assistive Technology Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device exchange program, database of potential AT funding resources • Make and Take directions on various low-cost AT adaptations and devices • Community based demonstrations, annual conference 	<p>1-800-255-3477 uchsc.edu/atp</p>
<p>CCDC: Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and assistance on disability rights issues for youth and adults • Advances legislation and public policy impacting the disability community 	<p>303-839-1775 ccdconline.org</p>
<p>CDE: Colorado Dept of Education - Exceptional Student Leadership Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website resources on special education law, school/district programs, etc. • FAST FACTS on a variety of topics • Information on educational specialists, parent-professional partnerships 	<p>303-866-6694 www.cde.state.co.us/index_special.htm</p>
<p>Citizens for Patient Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient safety information and referral • Advocacy training for those who have family members in the hospital • Support for families/individuals dealing with legal issues in the medical system 	<p>303-226-5526 citizensforpatientsafety.org</p>
<p>CPRC: Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers mentoring, training and workshops for parents to become advocates for their children • Outreach to underserved groups 	<p>303-365-2772 denvermetroprc.org</p>
<p>DDD: Division for Developmental Disabilities / CCBs: Community Centered Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides various services to individuals with developmental disabilities • Administers children and family programs, adult programs • Information on CCBs (designated as the single entry point into long-term service and support for persons with developmental disabilities) 	<p>303-866-7450 www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd</p>
<p>Easter Seals Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respite, including Discovery Club, weekend programs and summer camp • Warm water therapy and aquatic programs • Employment services/support, transition trainings, transportation assessments 	<p>303-233-1666 x237 eastersealscolorado.org</p>

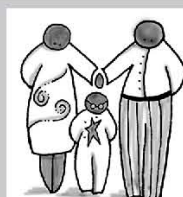
<p><i>El Colorado: Early Intervention Colorado</i> (formerly ECC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects families with early intervention services to help infants and toddlers under age three grow and develop, and to help their families in this process 	<p>1-888-777-4041 eicolorado.org</p>
<p><i>El Grupo VIDA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information, referrals and support groups for Spanish speaking parents Free annual fall conference in Denver 	<p>303-904-6073 elgrupovida.org</p>
<p><i>EMPOWER Colorado</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support, education, advocacy for families of children/youth with mental health issues Support groups throughout the state; statewide listserv connecting families 	<p>1-866-213-4631 empowercolorado.com</p>
<p><i>Family Voices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for children with special health care needs Assists families in navigating health systems including Medicaid, Medicaid waivers and private insurance 	<p>1-800-881-8272 familyvoicesco.org</p>
<p><i>Guardianship Alliance of Colorado</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and referral on guardianship, including a volunteer guardianship matching program Information and training for those wishing to become a guardian for a family member who is 18 or older 	<p>303-228-5382 guardianshipallianceofcolorado.org</p>
<p><i>HCP: Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional offices throughout Colorado with information and referral to services and supports including screening, clinics, financial assistance Coordinated services and supports for children w/ special health care needs 	<p>303-692-2370 hpcolorado.org</p>
<p><i>PEAK: Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide parent advisors who provide information about the special education process and parent's rights Trainings on a variety of topics including Understanding IEPs Online calendar of events throughout the state Inclusion resources and annual conference for parents and school personnel 	<p>1-800-284-0251 peakparent.org</p>
<p><i>PEP: Parents Encouraging Parents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free conference including lodging and meals, held twice per year at various statewide locations (apply early as waiting lists occur frequently) Brings together parents and professionals for education on supporting your child in school and community 	<p>303-866-6846 cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp</p>
<p><i>The Legal Center for People with Disabilities & Older People</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice on the legal rights of people with disabilities Publishes <u>Everyday Guide to Special Education Law</u> 	<p>1-800-288-1376 thelegalcenter.org</p>



So where do you start, who do you call?

Still confused? First of all, don't give up. Let Parent to Parent help you get pointed in the right direction. Give us a call. We are all in this together.

Other information sheets in this series:
 Where Do I Start? Disability Specific Resources
 Available for downloading at p2p-co.org



Brought to you by
 Parent to Parent of Colorado
 1-877-472-7201

A service of CP of Colorado
 08/09



Where Do I Start?

Disability Specific Resources

Parents of children with disabilities frequently request information and support regarding a particular disability. Below is a list of Colorado disability specific organizations that offer resources, information and, in some cases, parent support groups.

Also included are major national organizations (in italics) which may provide materials in Spanish, online forums or a list of support groups by state. Call P2P or visit our website for additional resources.

P2P: Parent to Parent of Colorado, p2p-co.org, 877-472-7201

- One to one parent matching
- Website with additional disability specific resources and parent support groups
- Listserv linking parents throughout the state

Autism/Asperger Syndrome

- Autism Society of Colorado, autismcolorado.org, 720-214-0794 or 866-733-0794
- Autism Society of Boulder County, autismboulder.org, 720-272-8231
- Larimer County Autism Society, autismlarimer.org, 970-377-9640
- M.A.S.K. - Mother's of Asperger's Syndrome Kids, hometown.aol.com/maskas99 (online forum)
- Pikes Peak Region, Autism Society of America, asappr.org, 719-216-7175
- *Autism Society of America, autism-society.org, 800-328-8476*
- *Online Asperger Syndrome Information & Support (O.A.S.I.S.) aspergersyndrome.org*

Brain Injury

- Brain Injury Association of Colorado, biacolorado.org, 800-955-2443
- *Brain Injury Association of America, biausa.org, 800-444-6443*

Cerebral Palsy

- Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, cpco.org, 303-691-9339
- Cerebral Palsy Association of Colorado Springs, cpappr.org, 719-638-0808
- *United Cerebral Palsy, ucp.org, 800-872-5827*

Chromosomal Disorders

- The XYY Project, xyysyndrome.org, 303-400-3456
- *Chromosome Deletion Outreach, chromodisorder.org/CDO, 561-395-4252*
- *National Fragile X Foundation, nfxf.org, 800-688-8765*

Down Syndrome

- Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association, csdsa.org, 719-633-1133
- Mile High Down Syndrome Association, mhdsa.org, 303-797-1699
- *National Down Syndrome Congress, ndscenter.org, 800-232-6372*

Epilepsy

- Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado, epilepsycolorado.org, 303-377-9774 or 888-378-9779
- *Epilepsy Foundation, epilepsyfoundation.org, 800-332-1000*

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

- NOFAS Colorado, nofascolorado.org, 303-692-2620
- *National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, nofas.org, 800-666-6327*

Hearing and Vision Impairments

- American Council of the Blind of Colorado, acbco.org, 888-775-2221
- Anchor Center for Blind Children, anchorcenter.org, 303-377-9732
- Colorado Families for Hands and Voices, cohandsandvoices.org, 303-492-6283
- Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, www.csdb.org, 719-578-2100
- *National Federation of the Blind of Colorado*, nfbco.org, 303-778-1130 or 800-401-4632

Infantile Scoliosis

- Infantile Scoliosis Outreach Program (ISOP), infantilescoliosis.org, 303-691-9339 or 866-417-4873

Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia

- Learning Disability Association of Colorado, ldacolorado.com, 303-894-0992
- Rocky Mountain Branch of International Dyslexia Association, dyslexia-rmbida.org, 303-721-9425
- *International Dyslexia Association*, interdys.org, 410-296-0232
- *LD Online*, ldonline.org
- *National Center for Learning Disabilities*, nclld.org, 888-575-7373

Mental Health

- Empower Colorado, empowercolorado.com, 866-213-4631
- Mental Health America of Colorado, mhacolorado.org, 800-456-3249
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Colorado, namicolorado.org, 888-566-6264
- *Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation*, bpkids.org, 847-492-8519
- *Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance*, dbsalliance.org, 800-826-3632

Spina Bifida

- Spina Bifida Association of Colorado, coloradospinabifida.org, 303-797-7870

Tourette Syndrome

- Tourette Syndrome Association Rocky Mountain Region, tsarmr@att.net, 720-212-7535
- *Tourette Syndrome Association*, tsa-usa.org, 718-224-2999

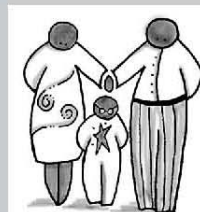
For information on additional specific disabilities, we recommend:

- CHADD (Children & Adults w/ Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder), chadd.org, 800-233-4050
- Muscular Dystrophy Parent Project, parentdmd.org, 800-714-5437
- Parents of Premature Babies, preemie-l.org
- Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation, spdfoundation.net, 303-794-1182

For general information on disabilities from national organizations, we recommend:

- MUMS National Parent-to-Parent Network, netnet.net/mums, 877-336-5333
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY), nichcy.org, 800-695-0285
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), rarediseases.org, 800-999-6673 (voicemail only)

Other information sheets in this series:
Where Do I Start? General Resources
(English and Spanish)
Available for downloading at p2p-co.org



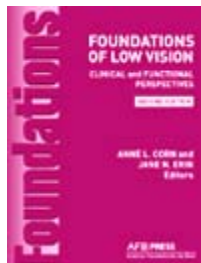
Brought to you by
Parent to Parent of Colorado
1-877-472-7201

A service of CP of Colorado
08/09

Resources and Materials

Second Edition of *Foundations of Low Vision* Just Released

Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives, the groundbreaking text that highlighted the importance of the functional reality of low vision, has been updated and expanded! The revised second edition was edited by Anne L. Corn and Jane N. Erin and written by experts in every area, with information about the latest research, best practices and state-of-the-art technology. It includes five new chapters and has been reorganized to better examine the needs of individuals in different age categories. *Foundations of Low Vision* will be released on February 15, 2010. For more information, go to www.afb.org/store



Celebrates the New Year with Special Subscription Rates

The *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, the leading international journal of record in the field, begins its 103rd year of publication in 2010. The year promises to be exciting for subscribers who can expect cutting-edge research, information on best practices, the latest news and a fall special issue focusing on vision and the brain. *JVIB* will also be enhancing its online offerings with online reader comments, expanded electronic content and a presence on Facebook and Twitter. Don't miss this exciting year of innovation for *JVIB*! A limited time offer provides a one-year online subscription for \$25 and a print and online subscription for \$65.

www.afb.org/afbpress/pubjvib.asp?DocID=jvib0402toc



Perkins Training and Educational Resources Program is proud to present its latest on-demand educational webcast on Accessible Science. This webcast is a part of a series and goes along with a pilot website focused exclusively on making science accessible to students who are visually impaired.

www.perkins.org/whatsnew/accessible-science.html



AFB Press is having a special sale that features some of its classic titles. These seminal publications have become some of the field's most trusted resources for parents, educators and professionals. For more information, please go to:

www.afb.org/store/default.asp?mscssid=WDTNQRNH0L1N9N0JJS6S4WTDJG634JM2

New Leadership Book



"The Blind Visionary" chronicles the life course of Virginia Jacko, current CEO of the Miami Lighthouse. The book discusses Jacko's journey from being diagnosed with RP while working as a university executive to becoming a client at the Miami Lighthouse and to working her way up to be its CEO. In the book, Jacko and co-author Doug Eadie, a seasoned consultant in organizational leadership, demonstrate four areas of practical advice: reaching out aggressively to cultivate mentors, role models and potential partners; acting on opportunities and overcoming barriers; believing in yourself no matter what the naysayers might tell you; and keeping your ego in check and your sense of humor alive. "The Blind Visionary" is available in soft cover for \$19.99 and hard cover for \$29.99 from www.governanceedge.com.

Resources and Materials

New Catalog Section for Persons who are Visually Impaired

Enabling Devices today announced that its 2010 catalog and website will feature a new section devoted entirely to products for the Visually Impaired.

According to Steven Kanor, Ph.D., President of Enabling Devices: "With advancements in assistive technology for people with visual impairments and blindness, we have seen an exponential growth in interest in our products for this population. As such, we have decided to dedicate an entire section of our 2010 catalog and our website to highlight communicators, switches, and adapted toys specifically designed for the visually impaired."

Enabling Devices is a company dedicated to developing affordable learning and assistive technology devices to help people of all ages with disabling conditions. The company specializes in creating custom devices for individuals with severe disabilities.



For more information visit www.enablingdevices.com

Contact Elizabeth@enablingdevices.com

Or call 800-832-8697 x36



Q & A

Question: It is my understanding that even though we create individual accounts for our students, they can only download recreational reading and cannot download textbooks because that must be done through the school account. So, the question is, how about after they graduate and go on to college? Is there the same problem that they can't access textbooks.
(thanks to Sarah Sonnier for the question!)

Answer: The teacher is correct. NIMAC sourced K-12 textbooks can only be downloaded by the educator (from a public school and some private schools and agencies) serving a Chafee qualified student with an IEP. This is a NIMAC policy. So we recommend that the teacher download the book and save it to a USB drive or CD so the student can use the book at home. Once the student transitions into post secondary, they will be able to access any of Bookshare's university level textbooks but not NIMAC because again, NIMAC is only available to K-12 educators.

Resources and Materials

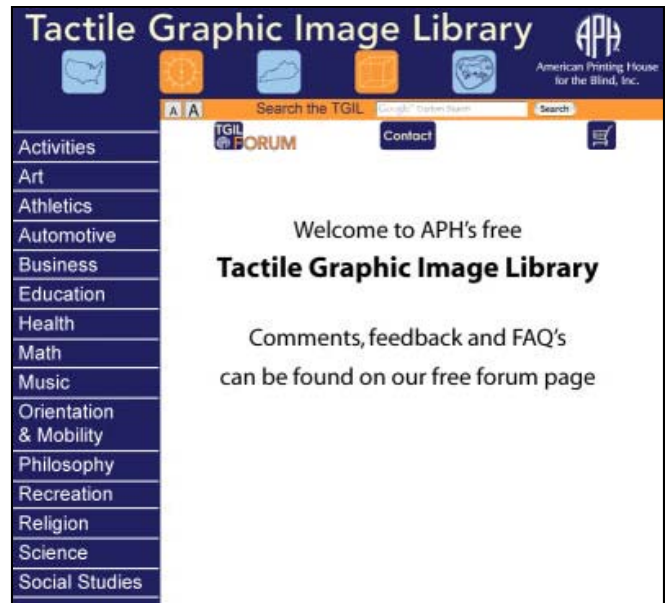
APH Tactile Graphic Image Library 2.0 Launched January 4!

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL), first launched in November 2008, was designed to supply braille transcribers, paraprofessionals, teachers, students and APH staff with a pool of well designed templates to create tactile graphics. This project has proved to be a huge success with the registration of nearly 2,000 users in the United States and around the world.

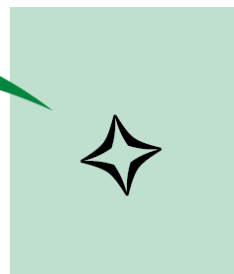
In the past year, APH have received several suggestions from users to enrich the site and have embraced them. TGIL 2.0 makes the site more accessible, creates a more intuitive navigation system, opens the possibilities to receive graphics from other sources, adds a forum for tactile graphic discussions, and includes an automated registration system. As they continue to progress, APH plans to add new components such as ecommerce possibilities, instructional and educational information on creating tactile graphics, and add links to APH products that would be useful in creating tactile graphics.

Visit the Improved TGIL on the APH website at www.aph.org/tgil/index.html and experience the improvements. As always, your feedback is encouraged.

If you have questions, please email APH at tgfeedback@aph.org



Accessibility Principles for Reading Assessments



The National Accessible Reading Assessment Projects (NARAP) recently published a set of principles to inform state directors of assessment and special education and other groups about the best practices for creating accessible reading assessments for individuals with disabilities.

<http://www.narap.info/publications/reports/NARAPprinciples.pdf>



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

National Federation of the Blind 2010 Scholarship Program

Each year at its national convention in July, the NFB gives a broad array of thirty scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars. All applicants for these scholarships:

- ◆ must be legally blind (go to <http://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/Confirmation%20of%20Legal%20Blindness.pdf>) in both eyes, and
- ◆ must be residing in the United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, and
- ◆ must be pursuing or planning to pursue a full-time, postsecondary course of study in a degree program at a United States institution in the 2010 scholastic year, except that one scholarship may be given to a person employed full-time while attending school part-time, and
- ◆ must participate in the entire NFB national convention and in all scheduled scholarship program activities.

In addition to a scholarship, each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2010 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention in July, providing an excellent opportunity for high level networking with active blind persons in many, many different professions and occupations.

**2010 Deadline: Scholarship applications and documents
must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than **March 31, 2010.****

For more information and/or the application materials, please go to: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/scholarship_program.asp

All questions should be directed to the Chairman. E-mail is preferred.

Mr. Anil Lewis, Chairman - NFB Scholarship Committee
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND *at Jernigan Place*
200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Office: (410) 659-9314, extension 2415
E-mail: scholarships@nfb.org





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

USING THE INTERNET IN YOUR JOB SEARCH

If you are looking for a new job in today's competitive market, using online job search tools is an absolute must. But where do you start? Which online sites are best, or most important to your search? And how can you use these online tools effectively and correctly?

Alison Doyle's "Internet Your Way to a New Job: How to Really Find a Job Online" tells how to:

- Create your professional presence online
- Market yourself as a strong candidate for employers
- Connect with contacts who will help you with your job search
- Help prospective employers find you
- Use sites like Facebook, VisualCV, and LinkedIn to your advantage

In braille (2 volumes), and PortaBook (CD and downloadable), \$11.95. Read the table of contents for this book, or order it, at <http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/JOBONLINE.html>

EXCERPT FROM "INTERNET YOUR WAY TO A NEW JOB"

Which Sites to Use: Do you need to create a profile on every networking site there is? I don't think so. First of all, there are more sites than you can easily Keep track of. It's also better to have a few good profiles that you can keep updated without spending all day working on online networking, which you could easily do.

I recommend starting with LinkedIn, JobFox, VisualCV, and Facebook.

Once you have created detailed profiles on those sites, you can consider adding profiles at other sites, but don't overdo it.

What to Include in Your Profile: Keep your profiles simple. Remember that we're discussing professional networking, so avoid adding Facebook applications that don't relate to your job search. Prospective employers won't want to get gifts or candy from you; see who you think is hot, or not; hug you; or do most of the 30,000+ other applications you can add to your profile.

Include the following in your profile: Education, Work Experience (current and past), Summary of Your Background (LinkedIn), Industry (LinkedIn), Location, Web Sites, Email Address (you may not want to make it public)

In addition to bolstering your professional presence, fully completing your profile will allow contacts to search the networking sites and find you. That's especially helpful when you want to be found by recruiters or hiring managers looking for someone with your skills and experience.

Note: Also watch for Anna Dresner's new book, "Social Networking and You: Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn for Blind Users" - coming soon from National Braille Press!

To order any books, send payment to: NBP, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115-4302 Or call and charge it: toll-free (800) 548-7323 or (617) 266-6160 ext 20. Or order any of our books online at <http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/index.html>



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!



YOUTH EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY

Global Explorers provides educational tourism experiences for youth of all physical abilities ages 14-21 through its Leading the Way program. The program integrates science, service, leadership, and culture, resulting in a life-changing adventure. Far more than just a fun trip, each expedition involves preparatory curriculum prior to travel and a service leadership project post travel.

Two trips are planned for 2010: Rim to River Expedition: Grand Canyon, Ariz., July 6-20, 2010 and Yucatan Leadership Program, Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, July 10-18, 2010. For additional information, e-mail LeadingTheWay@GlobalExplorers.org; call 1-877-627-1425; or visit www.GlobalExplorers.org and click "Leading the Way." Braille, screen reader friendly and large print materials are available upon request.

Attention: Parents of Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss

The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project is hosting a parent workshop entitled "Life without Limits." The workshop is custom-designed for parents of children and youth on the Colorado Deafblind Census. It will be held in Denver on April 23-24, 2010. A flyer and registration form will be sent out shortly. The content of the workshop has been planned by parents and will feature David Wiley who will present on the topic of transition planning. It promises to be an action packed opportunity for networking and learning. If you have any questions about the workshop, please be in touch with Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or Gina Quintana at (303) 866-6605.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!



**National Resource
Center for Blind
Musicians**



A Division of the
Music and Arts Center for Humanity

SUMMER BRAILLE MUSIC INSTITUTE

The National Resource Center for Blind Musicians is accepting applications for its seminar for blind college-bound musicians, to be held July 11-17, 2010 at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pa. Designed for serious braille-reading music students preparing for or already in college, the program tailors instruction to each person's need to develop braille music and theory skills and to learn to use technology to submit music assignments in print notation.

All application materials must be received by May 5. Parents and teachers of younger students are invited to discuss coming for an evaluation and guidance. You may also contact the Resource Center about customized distance learning throughout the year. For more information, visit www.blindmusicstudent.org, contact David Goldstein at (203) 366-3300, extension 229, or send an e-mail message to info@blindmusicstudent.org.

The Full Life Ahead Foundation

H.O.P.E. — Helping Other People Envision



The Full Life Ahead Foundation is a national organization that focuses on providing resources and inspiration for young people with disabilities as they transition into adulthood. The foundation has a workbook to assist in navigating the process, both written and video success stories, and interactive workshops for students, parents, and providers. To learn more about this organization, call toll-free 1-866-700-2026 or visit www.fulllifeahead.org.



THE SEE THE FUTURE FUND

Scholarships for the Blind & Visually Impaired

The SEE THE FUTURE “Tools for Life” Program

Application Deadline: April 15, 2010

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund is pleased to award scholarships to qualified visually impaired and blind students who are Colorado residents. This scholarship fund is made possible through generous donations by ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, staff, corporations, educators, foundations and many others with an interest in the lives of the visually impaired and blind. All scholarships are awarded based on individual need.

Updated application information is now available on-line for the 2010 “Education for Life” Scholarships:

1. Go to www.seethefuture.org
2. Click [Enter Here for “Tools for Life” Adaptive Equipment Scholarships,](#)
3. Click [Apply for a “Tools for Life” Scholarship](#) to access more information about the program and the application form.
4. Complete the application form (typewritten or printed legibly) and send, along with required attachments to:

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund

P.O. Box 63022, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-3022

You may also fax applications or questions to: 719-471-3210

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TOM THEUNE AT 719-471-3200 / twtheune@prodigy.net

or TANNI ANTHONY AT 303-866-6681 / anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Benetech, with the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media and the U.S. Fund for DAISY, Receives \$5 Million Award to Transform Production of Accessible Images

U.S. Department of Education Award Establishes Center for Research and Development of Methods and Tools to Make Non-Text Content Accessible

March 3rd, 2010, Palo Alto, CA – The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), awarded \$5 million to Benetech, in collaboration with The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) at WGBH and the U.S. Fund for DAISY (USFDAISY), to create a research and development center that will greatly improve the processes and availability of accessible images for students with disabilities.

The new Digital Image and Graphic Resources for Accessible Materials Center (DIAGRAM) will develop tools and best practices that will make it easier and more cost-effective to create and use accessible images across a range of educational content.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) calls for timely access to educational materials; through projects such as Benetech's Bookshare for Education, access to text has greatly increased. Yet, educational materials include a wide array of other types of content. The burden of accessible image preparation typically falls on educators, who have limited time and tools to create useful descriptions or accessible graphics for students. Too often, students using text-based accessible instructional materials (AIM) are presented with only the words "image" or "graphic" when the devices they use to read digital text encounter illustrations, equations, graphics, photos or diagrams in textbooks.

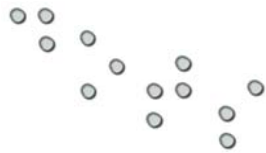
Through rigorous research and testing, over the five year period of this award, the DIAGRAM center will help create a set of tools for producers of accessible instructional materials, such as publishers and state and local education agencies, to expand the field of image description and interactive exploration of graphical content.

Each of the DIAGRAM center partners has led technology initiatives that fundamentally changed how people with visual and other print disabilities experience and interact with all forms of media, from the DAISY standard to the Bookshare library to NCAM's work on image descriptions. Bookshare is an initiative of Benetech, a Palo Alto, CA-based nonprofit that creates sustainable technology to solve pressing social needs.

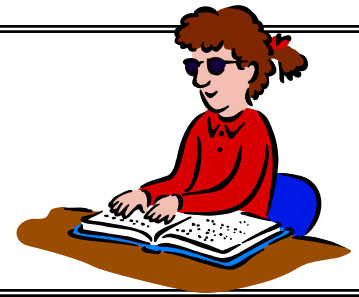
Contact: Valerie C. Chernek, Bookshare - 410-871-2670, valerie.c@bookshare.org

Ann Harrison, Benetech - 415-637-5262, ann.h@benetech.org

More information: benetech.org, ncam.wgbh.org, and daisy.org/about-us



DOTS OF INTEREST



"By the touch of a finger
behold the world."®

Over 1,000 low-cost
children's books in braille!

Seedlings Book Angel Program

The Seedlings' Book Angel Program is back again this year. This is a great way to introduce braille to toddlers and preschoolers who are blind/visually impaired and who may become braille readers. Just sign them up for the Print-and-Braille books, and they will be able to enjoy reading time with their parents and siblings while picking up some important pre-reading skills.

The Book Angel Program is open to visually-impaired children who live in the US. Book Angel orders will be filled when your child's name is selected, and as time and materials allow. The books will be shipped "Free Matter for the Blind."

To register simply fill out our online form by clicking:

<http://www.seedlings.org/special.php> and then on "Book Angel Program".

You can also use the registration form in the 2010 Seedlings Catalog and fax it to: 734-427-8552 or mail it to: Seedlings, PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924. For more information, contact Debra Bonde, Director

Seedlings Braille Books for Children :: www.seedlings.org :: 800-777-8552

The New York Times

Article on Braille

The article entitled *Listening to Braille* by Rachel Aviv has received national attention about the differing viewpoints of braille. Be sure to check it out to "be in the know!"

www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/magazine/03Braille-t.html?



DOTS OF INTEREST



NEW! *Instruction Manual for Braille Transcribing, Fifth Edition*

The Instruction Manual for Braille Transcribing is designed for use by students in the correspondence course in English braille transcribing conducted by the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), and for use by instructors of braille classes.

The course is intended to familiarize the student with the braille system, with braille contractions and their usage, and with the rules of braille transcribing. Rules are set forth by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and published in English Braille American Edition (EBAE).

The course includes lessons covering the braille alphabet, braille contractions, and rules for writing braille. Lessons describe the elements of the braille system, give examples, and provide practice drills. At the end of each lesson is an exercise with sentences or short passages testing comprehension and reviewing concepts and rules from earlier lessons. This manual is produced for NLS by the National Federation of the Blind. For more information, visit www.aph.org



Braille Reading Pals Club: A Pre-Literacy Program for Blind and Low-Vision Children

Registration is now open! The Braille Reading Pals Club is an NFB Jernigan Institute early literacy program that encourages parents to read daily with their blind or low-vision child (ages infant to seven). Participating club members will receive: a print-Braille book, a plush reading pal, a monthly parent e-newsletter promoting tips for early Braille literacy, quarterly Braille activity sheets for young children, Braille birthday cards for child participants, access to a network of resources devoted to serving parents of blind children, an electronic reading log to track the time read with children each day, and a free subscription to *Future Reflections*, a publication for parents of blind children. This program will introduce young children and their families to Braille. The Braille Reading Pals Club will help parents promote early literacy skills, a love of reading, and a positive attitude about Braille through daily reading with their blind children. The Braille Reading Pals Club is co-sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC). To learn more about this new, exciting program, or to register, please visit www.nfb.org/readingpals

AER AWARD NOMINATIONS



It is time to nominate our colleagues for the prestigious AER Awards that will be given at the International Conference in Little Rock in July. Celebrating the accomplishments of our AER colleagues is a key activity in our professional organization. Recognizing our members for their dedication, commitment, service, and leadership for people with visual impairments is a way to honor and lift up our profession and the quality of all of our work.

Please take the time to visit the web site at www.aerbvi.org and review our award categories along with the Ferrell scholarship and the Chapter award. You are encouraged to consider honoring the work of our colleagues through this nomination process. You can also download the applications for the awards from the site and then mail them with the requested material to the AER office.

For complete award criteria and nomination forms, please visit www.aerbvi.org or phone 877-492-2708 extension 201.

PACK YOUR BAGS FOR DALLAS!

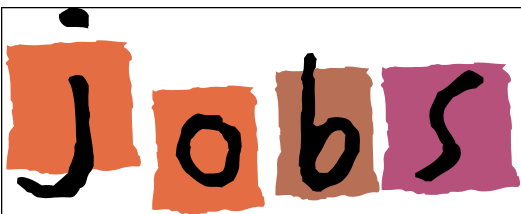
The 2010 convention of the National Federation of the Blind will take place in Dallas, Texas, July 3-8, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Saturday, July 3, is the date for the annual National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Parent Seminar. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear from national experts in the field of education of blind children and to share experiences with parents from across the nation.

Highlights will include:

- *Workshops for parents and educators
- *Braille carnival for kids
- *Braille book flea market
- *Opportunity to hear from (and have consultations with) national experts in education and orientation & mobility
- *Exhibit Hall with what may be the largest representation of products and services for the blind in the world.

Hotel reservations are being taken at 214-761-7500. (\$62-\$67 per night). More details about the parent seminar will be available soon. Stay tuned!





IMPORTANT!

We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for the next school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession. Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado!

Jobs for School Year 2009-2010 or 2010-2011

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment. COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Metro Region

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE): Please visit www.DPSK12.org to apply for this Denver Public School's position.
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Vision (Rehab Teacher/Vision)** Please email: christine.lrsik@state.co.us
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Mobility (Rehab Teacher/O&M)** Denver and Grand Junction - Open Competitive - Residency Waiver - Revised and Re-announced Please email: christine.lrsik@state.co.us
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5 - 1 FTE): Contact Ann Marie Jansen of Adams 12 District in Northglenn at (720) 972-4789 or annmarie.jansen@adams12.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI as Lead in a Preschool Classroom** (1 FTE): Contact Alice Applebaum of the Anchor Center for Blind Children, Denver at aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org or (303) 377-9732 x113
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5 FTE): Contact Callan Clark at Callan_Clark@englewood.k12.co.us or 303-806-2011

Southern Region

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1. FTE): Contact Kim Lovelace at LOVELKM@D11.ORG in El Paso 11 District in Colorado Springs for more information
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.1 FTE or five hours a week for 2010-2011): Contact Debi Blackwell of Canon City Schools at BLACKWD@canoncityschools.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Itinerant Services / Braille Instruction** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at clutz@csbd.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI - On-the-Job Training (OJT) / Daily Living Skills (DLS)** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at clutz@csbd.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@csbd.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI - English / Language Arts; Science; Mathematics; Social Studies** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at clutz@csbd.org for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Certified Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialist** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at clutz@csbd.org for more information



Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- March 1 - April 2** **Early Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Writing and Grades 4-10**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- March 8 - April 9** **Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Writing and Grades 4-10**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- March 22 - 27** **CSUN International Technology & Person with Disabilities Conference - San Diego**
Visit: CSUN at www.csunconference.org
- April 9** **Metro TVI Meeting - Children's Hospital, Denver**
Contact: Nancy Cozart - NCozart@lps.k12.co.us
- April 8** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs**
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- April 13** **Southern TVI Meeting - CSDB/CIMC (Case studies, video assessment)**
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 15** **See the Future "Tools For Life" Application Deadline**
Contact: Tom Theune— twtheune@prodigy.net
- April 16** **Vision Coalition - Anchor Center for Blind Children**
Contact: Tanni Anthony—Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- April 29—May 1** **CO Annual O&M Conference - Anchor Center for Blind Children**
Contact: Tanni Anthony—Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- April 23 - 25** **CA Transcribers and Educators for the BVI - Los Angeles, CA -**
Visit: CTEBVI at www.ctebvi.org
- April 28** **Assessment Window for COACT State Test Date**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- April 30** **Northern Region TVI meeting - Loveland, CO**
Contact: Jan Wood at woodj@thompson.k12.co.us
- May 5** **Southern TVI Meeting - CSDB/CIMC (APH Updates, paras invited) - CO Springs**
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 12** **Assessment Window for COACT Makeup**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- May 15** **Symposium on Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
Contact: Bonnie Snyder at BonnieLS21@gmail.com



More Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- June 10** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- June 14 - 15** **Colorado Assistive Technology Symposium - Denver**
Visit: Colorado AT Project at www.uchsc.edu/atp
- June 21 - 23** **Summer Institute on Deafblindness/ SSN** - TBD
Contact: Tanni Anthony — anthony_t@state.co.us
- June 23 - 25** **First Session of the VIISA Infant/Toddler Course** - Anchor Center in Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony — anthony_t@state.co.us
- June 27 - 30** **International Society for Technology in Education** - Denver Convention Center, CO
Visit: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/>
- July 3 - 8** **National Federation of the Blind National Convention** - Dallas, TX
Visit: www.nfb.org
- July 20 - 25** **AER International Conference** - Little Rock, AR
Visit: www.aerbvi.org
- July 28 - August 1** **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- August 4 - 8** **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- August 9 - 13** **World ICEVI Conference**— Jomtein, Thailand
Visit: www.icevi.org
- August 18 - 29** **Second Session of the VIISA Infant/Toddler Course** - Anchor Center in Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony — anthony_t@state.co.us

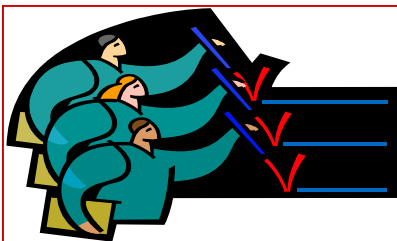
2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

- January 3 - 31** **2010 - 2011 CELApro Testing Window Grades K-12**
Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
- February 2** **2010 - 2011 CELApro Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline Grades K-12**
Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
- February 2 - March 25** **2010 - 2011 CSAPA Testing Window for Grades 3 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science**
Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
- February 4** **2010 - 2011 CELApro Final Pick-up Materials Deadline Grades K-12**
Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011

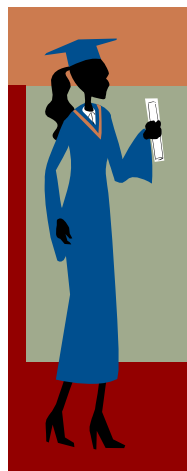
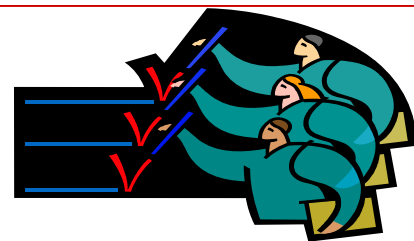
More Calendar of Events

2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

February 4	National Braille Challenge - CSDB, Colorado Springs Visit: Lou Tutt at ltutt@csdb.org
February 7 - February 18	2010 - 2011 CSAP Early Testing Window Grade 3 Reading & Lectura Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
February 22 - March 4	2010 - 2011 CSAP Regular Testing Window Grade 3 Reading & Lectura Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
March 7 - April 8	2010 - 2011 CSAP Early Testing Window for Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura, Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
March 9	2010 - 2011 CSAP Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline Gr. 3 Reading & Lectura Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
March 11	2010 - 2011 CSAP Final Pick-up Materials Deadline Gr. 3 Reading & Lectura Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
March 14 - April 15	2010 - 2011 CSAP Regular Testing Window for Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura, Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
April 1 - 29	11th Grade Alternate Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Assessment Window Visit: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp
April 6	2010 - 2011 CSAPA Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline for Grades 3 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
April 8	2010 - 2011 CSAPA Final Pick-up Materials Deadline for Grades 3 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
April 20	2010-2011 CSAP Pick-up Materials Deadline Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura, Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
April 22	2010-2011 CSAP Final Materials Deadline Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura, Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
April 27	Colorado ACT Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011
May 1 - 6	11th Grade Alternate Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Data Entry on ADE Visit: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp
May 11	Colorado ACT Make-up Date Visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-



CHECK IT OUT!



Earn Your Doctorate!

With a Specialization in the Education of Students who have a Sensory Impairment (Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, or Deafblindness) The National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCSD) has been funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The consortium consists of 24 universities with doctoral programs that have an emphasis in one or more of the three sensory impairment areas: blind/visually impaired, deaf/hard of hearing, and deafblindness. For more information, contact Dr. Kathleen M. Huebner, NLCSD Project Director, Salus University, kathyh@salus.edu

Summer 2010 AER Conference Registration

The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired announces that that registration is open for the AER International Conference 2010 featuring the Orientation and Mobility Division Conference within a Conference. The dates are set for July 21-25 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

What you can expect:

- * More than 200 hours of educational programming
- * Pre-Conference MacFarland Seminar on Traumatic Brain Injury
- * Post-Conference Workshop: Obstacle Avoidance
- * All-important networking with colleagues
- * AER Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest products and services
- * Southern Hospitality at its best in beautiful Little Rock, Arkansas



General and Breakout Sessions will feature experts in the vision field addressing:

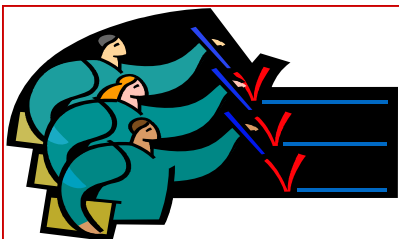
Administration, Aging, Education Curriculum, Infant and Preschool, Information and Technology, Itinerant Personnel, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind, Orientation & Mobility, Personnel Preparation, Psychosocial Services, Rehab Counseling, Employment & BEP Services, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

Accommodations

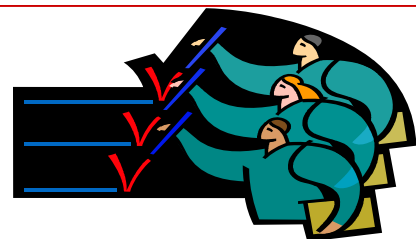
The Peabody Little Rock is offering an attractive nightly rate. RESERVATIONS: Online at www.peabodylittlerock.com; Telephone 1-800-PEABODY (800-732-2639) or 501-906-4000. Use group code 290157 when making reservations.

Register online today at www.aerbvi.org/2010conference.

More Information: www.aerbvi.org/2010conference Questions? conference@aerbvi.org



CHECK IT OUT!



THE NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS



American Printing House
for the Blind
Building Independence Since 1858

The Game's Afoot...

The American Printing House for the Blind has been working very hard to develop products to encourage individuals with visual impairments to become physically active and to maintain physical activity throughout their lifetimes. Among the many offerings from APH are products, curricula, books, and other resources. These products are designed to help facilitate physical education, recreation, nutrition knowledge, fitness and sports.

APH is proud to work with Dr. Lauren Lieberman to provide many of these materials, and would now like to offer a special opportunity for you to learn how to use these materials from Dr. Lieberman herself. We are pleased to partner with Dr. Lieberman to host a series of National Instructional Partnerships events that will showcase these products and how to use them with individuals with visual impairments as well as share how many of them were developed.

National Instructional Partnerships (NIP) events are designed to highlight the use of APH products across the areas of the core curriculum and the expanded core curriculum. Agencies partnering with APH are asked to provide space for the workshop, assistance with local arrangements, assistance with on-site registration, etc. APH will provide fees and travel expenses for the workshop leader and any attending APH staff and will ship all products and materials needed for the event to your site. If you are interested in hosting an event focusing on adapted physical activity in your area, please contact Janie Blome, jblome@aph.org, or 800-223-1839, x 367.

Got Art?

Time to enter APH InSights Art 2010

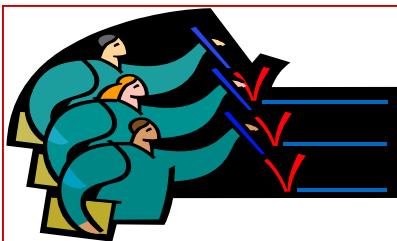
Visually impaired or blind artists of all ages are invited to submit artwork for our 19th annual international art competition, APH InSights 2010.

Artists may enter original artwork created in any medium, including (but not limited to), painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber, metal or wood. The deadline for entries from students in kindergarten through high school is **April 1**. Adult artists have until April 15 to send in their entries. Complete rules and entry forms are posted at http://www.aph.org/museum/enter_insights.html

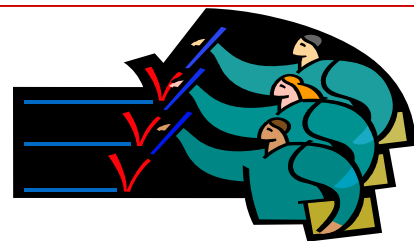


The Dream
Pablo Picasso, 1932

Contact Roberta Williams at 800/223-1839, ext. 357 or rwilliams@aph.org to receive a copy of the rules and application forms by email, or a hard copy in print or braille.



CHECK IT OUT!



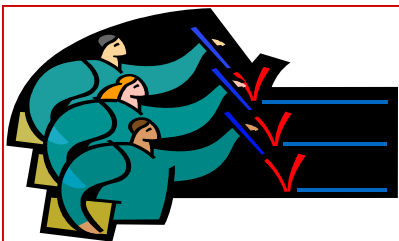
Technology Resources

- Top Tech Tidbits is distributed by Flying Blind, LLC
<http://www.flying-blind.com/>
- Michael McCarty has updated his Fred's Head article on Finding, Researching and Downloading Books, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias on the Net
<http://www.fredshead.info/2006/12/finding-researching-and-downloading.html>
- PupilTube, a growing site where people can submit instructional videos.
<http://www.pupiltube.com/>
- Serotalk Tech chat 45 gave 2009 Highlights and Updates
<http://serotalk.com/2009/12/18/december-17-tech-chat-45-2009-highlights-and-updates-2/>
- This great Fred's Head post describes a great way for Windows 7 users and most users of Windows Vista to gain access to all Windows settings in a very accessible format: <http://www.fredshead.info/2010/01/quickly-access-settings-and-features.html>
- Two editions of the Freedom Scientific official podcast FSCast are out. In Issue 36, the team discusses the continually increasing functionality of the Research feature of JAWS 11, then discusses the Braille Challenge.
<http://www.freedomscientific.com/FSCast/episodes/fscast036-november2009.asp>

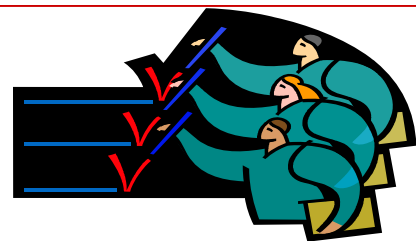
NEW IEP iPHONE APP

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) has developed an **Individualized Education Program (IEP) Checklist iPhone application**. The IEP is an individualized program designed to support the educational needs of school aged students with disabilities. The IEP app is offered free of charge. To download the IEP Checklist app, visit the Apple iTunes store, and type IEP Checklist in the search box or search for IEP Checklist directly in your iPhone's App Store.





CHECK IT OUT!

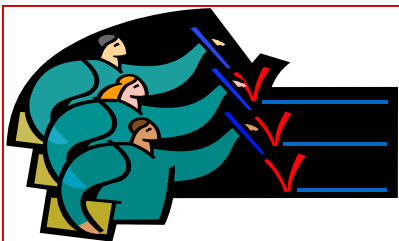


Online Story Resources

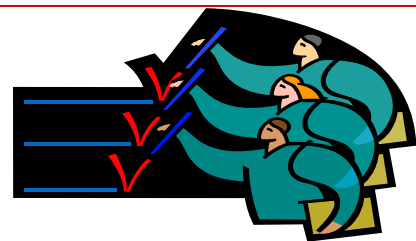
Thanks to a great discussion recently on the COTVI listserv, we have the following online story resources (some will be free while others may require an annual subscription fee):

- Storylineonline.com - this site is from The Screen Actors' Guild, and actors/actresses read stories. We used to use this site quite a bit, until our district blocked it because of video streaming. (contributed by Wendy Stoltman)
- At the end of each chapter in the *Reading and Learning to Read* textbook we had for the reading course last year, is a section called “Related Web Sites”. There are many great websites listed in this section. The library (at least the Pikes Peak Library District) has “Tumble Books” available. Check out Storynory.com and Starfall.com. If students have access to Classroom Suite, there are many good things available, and you can create your own. (contributed by Judy Mumford)
- onemorestory.com (contributed by Holly Guinan)
- helpkidzlearn.com
- storylineonline.net
- tarheelreader.org invitation code to make your own books is “literacy”
- kizclub.com
- woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk
- setbc.org
- hiyah.net
- sunderlandschools.org/portland/PetesStuff.htm
- pppst.com
- cdlponline.org
- brainpop.com
- starfall.com
- papunet.net/games/
- priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/kidsonly/findout/findout.htm
- <http://www.thinkitinkitpublishing.com/bookstore/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.bookstore>
- delicious.com/Adams12_AssistiveTech (above - all contributed by Mike Plansker)
- Do 2 Learn <http://www.dotolearn.com/> (contributed by Michelle Chacon)





CHECK IT OUT!



Seeking Students for Research Study

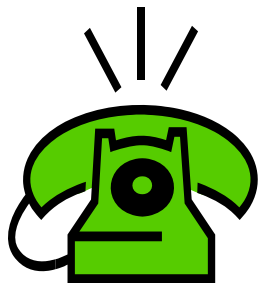
Students between the ages of 16 and 22 who are braille readers and users of assistive technology are needed for a study. This study will explore how students use both braille and electronic information for classroom work and how they learn these literacy practices. The purpose of this research is to add to our understanding of the current role of hard-copy (paper) braille and the use of electronic access to information, as well as the students' attitudes and perceptions about both braille and technology. This information will inform how we prepare pre-service teachers to instruct young braille readers. If you are interested in participating in this study or getting more information, please contact Frances Mary D'Andrea at fmd22@pitt.edu or 412/521-5797.



Update from the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind

- It's been a busy time for students at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Over 45 students participated in the National Braille Challenge event held on campus February 5th. All middle school students competed in an oratorical contest sponsored by the Optimist Club. Three students went on to compete in the city-wide contest, with one student placing third in his division. Two Braille students visited a local elementary school to demonstrate their Braille reading skills in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Bad News Bulldog Band performed at both the State Capitol and the annual Loaf and Jug convention in Pueblo on February 25.
- Two staff members in the School for the Blind attended a course on archery instruction and are now certified. They plan to begin teaching archery to the students this spring.
- Bridges to Life is sponsoring a Resource and Technology Fair for all students at CSDB and their parents on March 4. 20 vendors who provide services for Deaf or Blind individuals will have booths at the Fair. All students from CSDB and their parents have been invited to participate.

CALL US...WE'RE LISTENING!



In an effort to be more responsive to parents, the **Parents of Blind Children (POBC)** now has a voicemail box. You are invited to call and leave a question or comment. Lisa Felix is monitoring the messages and will respond to you or forward your question on to the appropriate person. Just call 303-778-1130 and ask for (or enter) extension 305.

SUMMER FUN AT THE COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND!



By Julie Hunter

It's been a long, cold winter, but believe it or not summer will be here before we know it. Here's what the Colorado Center for the Blind has in store for your kids:

DAY CAMP - Ages 5-9 for the elementary school set. (Transportation provided)

DATE: June 7-18, 2010 - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fun activities will incorporate practice in such things as basic daily living skills, simple cooking and other household skills. Other highlights include recreational outings and putting on a play for parents. Hands on learning with blind role models

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP Ages 12-14

DATE: July 19-August 7 (Kids stay overnight with counselors and fellow campers.)

Highlights include:

- *Travel to job sites to meet independent blind people at work.
- *Supervised cane travel and adaptive skills training
- *Experiences taking the bus, shopping for food, meal preparation.
- *Confidence building recreational activities

EARN AND LEARN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM - Ages 15 and older

(includes trip to NFB National Convention in Dallas)

DATE: June 12-August 7

Highlights include:

- *Live in an apartment with a counselor and experience all that is entailed with independent living.
- *Gain work experience with a half day job and get paid!
- *Social and recreational activities such as going to a Rockies baseball game, technical rock climbing, river rafting and more.
- *Training and assessment on the latest technology

COLLEGE PROGRAM - High School Graduates and Older

(includes trip to NFB National Convention in Dallas)

DATE: June 12-August 7

Highlights include:

- *Residential apartment living with counselors
- *Work on developing the tools for success in college including note-taking skills, independent travel, working with readers, etc.
- *Preview of campus living, working with disabled student services, socialization on campus and more

**For information please contact: Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator
Colorado Center for the Blind, 2233 W. Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120
303-778-1130 ext. 222 or email bbatron@cocenter.org**



Family Learning Retreat 2010

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
33 North Institute Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
June 4-6, 2010

The Family Learning Retreat will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 4-6, 2010. The weekend retreat is for any family with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program. Check-in and dinner begins Friday June 4th, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM followed by an opening session. The retreat ends by noon on Sunday, June 6th. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in the CSDB dormitories. Meals provided include Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast.

The cost of the Family Learning Retreat is only \$25 per adult and \$20.00 per child under the age of 18. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

Parents will be responsible for providing any assisted feeding or medical procedure their child requires. A nurse will not be available during the Family Learning Retreat weekend.

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity. Youth programming will be provided Saturday evening for parents to have time to relax!

Questions? Contact Diane Covington at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind at **(719) 578-2225**. For Spanish speaking participants, contact Gloria Romero **(719)-578-2288**.



Family Learning Retreat

When: June 04-06, 2010

Where: Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind



HANDS & VOICES

The Colorado Department of Education

cde Improving Academic Achievement

Registration Deadline
May 24, 2010

Colorado families with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind attend to network, learn and have fun together. Parents/adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- **Mom's Name** _____
First Name Last Name
- **Dad's Name** _____
First Name Last Name
- **Mailing Address** _____ **City** _____ **Zip Code** _____
- **Phone(h)** _____ **Email** _____
- _____
1st Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- _____
2nd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- _____
3rd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- **Additional Adult** _____ **Relationship** _____
- **Additional Adult** _____ **Relationship** _____
- **Previously Attended? (Circle) Yes No**
- **Accommodations:** _____ Sign Language Interpreter
Specify _____
 _____ Other (such as Braille or Spanish Language)
Specify _____

COLORADO SCHOOL
 FOR THE DEAF AND
 THE BLIND

33 North Institute Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**Check/purchase
 order must
 accompany
 registration**

Make checks payable to:
 CSDB

Mail to:

Attention: Diane Covington
 33 North Institute Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903
 Email: dcovington@csdb.org

FEES

_____ Adult Registration - **\$25.00/Adult**

Total Adult \$

_____ Child Registration - **\$20.00/Child**

Total Child \$

_____ Totals

Total # Total \$\$

For additional information or if you need to cancel PRIOR to the close of business May 24, 2010, please contact Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org. No reimbursements for cancellations made after May 24, 2010. Please request ADA accommodations at time of registration.

The 2010 National Braille Challenge

By Randy Witte

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind recently hosted Colorado's 7th regional contest of the National Braille Challenge. On February 5th, 2010, Braille students from across Colorado, along with one Wyoming contestant, gathered to test their knowledge and skill reading and writing Braille. The Braille Challenge continues to grow--this year we had 37 contestants in the NBC, along with 26 students who took the Rookie challenge—that's a total of 63 Colorado students celebrating Braille that day! We even had a Fox TV crew here filming interviews with Juliana Trunfio from Littleton and Casey Schueler from CSDB, and a reporter and photographer from the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph newspaper:

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/raised-93757-girl-competition.html>

<http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=412486>

With so many contestants, we needed every bit of help we could muster. **Brent Batron** and four of his associates from the Colorado Center for the Blind joined us and they were awesome working with our Rookies. The National Federation of the Blind co-sponsors the National Braille Challenge, and it was great to have them join us. **Trina Boyd-Pratt** was a tremendous asset working with the Rookies! Thank you again, Trina. Our CSDB art teacher, **Barbara Jack**, had the Rookies do this very cool tactile embossing on a thin sheet of copper (I think she probably ruined a bunch of my styluses), while UNC student **Jerri Nelson** brought some fun activities for the Rookies as well.

The 37 students in the Braille Challenge posed a few logistical issues—finding enough dinosaur tape recorders that worked, headphones that had sound coming out of BOTH earpieces, trying to match up Braille writers with kids, 10 Apprentice (1st and 2nd graders) students in one room, this is where we were challenged! It is wonderful working next door to the CIMC—**Jim Olson** and **Donice Fennimore** put together about 25 Next Generation Perkins brailers for the Rookies, and about 30 regular Perkins Braille writers for us to use for the Challenge. Thanks, CIMC!

After enthusiastic greetings and words of encouragement from our Principal, **Lou Tutt**, and CSDB Superintendent **Carol Hilty**, **Brent Batron** and his crew talked about the importance of Braille in their success. This is very powerful for our students to recognize the critical importance of literacy skills. **Debbie Mendoza** and **Ann Marie Jansen** worked the Speed and Accuracy contest, where students get 25 minutes to transcribe tape into Braille. **Mike Plan-sker** and **Amber Rundle Khan**, along with **Wanda Gwinn** and **Amy Gunning**, headed up the 10 Apprentice students. **Elaine Karns** and **Sally Burch** had the reading comprehension room, and they coasted through their contests like **Cheryl Leidich** and **Nancy Cozart** in the Proofreading contest room, all of whom have done battle in the Braille Challenge contests before. **Jan Megarry**, our CSDB science teacher, held down the Charts and Graph room admirably. We were also thrilled to have some mountain TVIs helping, like **Barbara Adams** and **Julie King**, who traveled far to join us. **Marci Reid**, **Lorraine Hutcheson**, **Kristen Lombardi**, **Shelly Moats**, **Michelle Chacon**, **Carol Love**, **Angel Fidler**, **Wendy Schlageter**, **Linda Campbell**, **Jan Wood**---THANKS to all of you for your involvement in the NBC!

Thanks also to the staff at the School for the Blind for everything. And we would be remiss to not mention our Scoring Judges, led by Scoring Room Administrator **Rae Cunningham** from CSDB. All of our judges are required to be nationally certified transcribers, and we were so lucky to have 4 pros scoring 133 contests: **Carol Potashnick**, **Charles** and **Joni Bush**, and **Dottie Love**.

Sorry if I inevitably forgot to mention someone who helped pull off our regional contest!

And a big THANKS to our many sponsors, including national sponsors Seedlings Books and the National Braille Press. We also received donations of prizes from Patsy's Candies (900 pieces of salt water taffy), Bronco Billy's Casino (plush stuffed panda bears), lots and lots of Louie's Pizza, as well as \$250 from the Braille Institute to award as prizes in our regional contest. Checks will soon be mailed to 15 skilled and lucky winners of our regional contest. So now it must be time to announce the state champions of Braille for the great state of Colorado. I figured since this is an official regional contest of the National Braille Challenge, our winners are also our state Braille champions!

(Editor's Note: Before we continue with Randy's article and announce the winners, I think we all can wholeheartedly agree that we all owe gratitude to Randy Witte who worked so hard to bring the NBC to Colorado and for each successful hosting of it. Randy, you are a true braille hero and Colorado says, "Thank you!")

Please congratulate our Colorado Braille Challenge champions:

Apprentice (1st and 2nd grades)

1st Place—Deyannira Villa-Cazares (Marci Reid, TVI) \$15

2nd Place—Izayah Mendoza (Carol Love, TVI) \$10

3rd Place—Uriah Henry (Debbie Mendoza, TVI) \$5

Freshmen (3rd and 4th grades)

1st Place—Paul Seigneur (Nancy Cozart, TVI) \$15

2nd Place—Hannah Bachus (Debbie Mendoza, TVI) \$10

3rd Place—Adam Encrapera (Shelley Moats, TVI) \$5

Sophomore (5th and 6th grades)

1st Place—Juliana Trunfio (Nancy Cozart, TVI) \$20

2nd Place—Elizabeth Romero—(Mike Plansker, TVI) \$15

3rd Place—Casey Schueler (CSDB) \$10

Junior Varsity (7th, 8th, and 9th grades)

1st Place—Mariah Orcutt (Ann Marie Jansen, TVI) \$25

2nd Place—Chandler Williams (CSDB) \$15

3rd Place—Emily Romero (Mike Plansker, TVI) \$10

Varsity (10th, 11th, and 12th grades)

1st Place—Alison Utter (Elaine Karns, TVI) \$25

2nd Place—Hannah Weatherd (Wyoming) \$15

3rd Place—Cody Bair (Angel Findler, TVI) \$10



Congratulations to the winners and all of the NBC contestants, and big CONGRATS to our Rookies, the future state champs! Mark your calendars for next year's National Braille Challenge - Colorado Regional contest on **Friday, February 4th, 2011!**



colorado connections

- ☞ Congratulations to **Elsa D'Angelo**, a new TVI in Denver Public Schools for earning her CDE Certificate of Braille Competency Certificate. Braille renewal clock hours were earned by **Angela Sims**. Thanks to proctor **Sarah Sonnier**.
- ☞ Welcome to **Wendy Unwin Watson**, a new TVI with Pikes Peak BOCES. Wendy started as a residential supervisor at CSDB in 2000 and earned a CO teaching license in 2004. She worked as an elementary substitute for District 38 and eventually took a few long-term assignments at CSDB. In 2007 Wendy left CSDB for public school as a Kindergarten teacher, but realized she missed working with students who are blind/visually impaired. She is now a student (once again!) at UNC working on her TVI endorsement.

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