

Dare, Care, Share!

By Tanni Anthony

Reading specialists know that phonemic awareness is a good thing. One common phonemic awareness activity is for kids to learn how they can make a new word by taking off the front letter, leave the “root family,” and add a new front letter. How about if we take the root family of “are” and add a three new front letters? Add on D , C, and SH and you have three pretty powerful words that reflect some the good things we have in our state.


DARE—Colorado is filled with excellent professionals who dare to challenge their expertise each year by attending trainings, reading professional journals, talking to one another and investigating new technology. Colorado parents, braillists, TVIs, and COMSs have dared to advocate for children / students, participate in state and national research studies, post questions on the listservs, contribute to position papers and newsletter articles, build the low vision regional clinics, add to the state accommodations’ manual, and improve accessibility on state tests.

CARE—good teaching is predicated on caring relationships with our students. Finding out who a child really is gives us great information about how to truly personalize our teaching to motivate each child to learn at an optimal level. There is a whole lot of kid-caring in Colorado as also evidenced by all the extras offered during the school day and time spent after hours and on weekends. A great recent example of some pretty amazing caring was the Snow Shoe Weekend! There is also some great collegial caring coming up as we honor our teammates with the upcoming CAER Awards.

SHARE—we are all in this together and there is serious evidence of cross agency / multiple discipline teamwork across our state with people on the CAER Board, members of the Vision Coalition, regional TVI / COMS meetings, and shared development / hosting of events and products.

I don’t mean to compare and please don’t glare or even stare, but I do think what we have in our state is pretty rare!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
March—April 2012



Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

<http://TVIVIP.org>

Symposium on Technology for the Blind & Visually Impaired

May 12, 2012 • 8AM – 3PM • UCCS Campus

The latest innovation in math for the blind and visually impaired (and actually can be used for just about anyone) is Math ML. This technology format can be read visually, auditorily, and in braille. Dr. John Gardner, formerly a physics professor at Oregon State, and now CEO of ViewPlus, Inc. will address this technology via Skype. Susan Osterhaus, from TSBVI and a recognized expert on math for the blind and visually impaired, will present via Skype on Math ML at the high school level. We will also have presentations by Dr. Semwal's students and by several end users of technology for the blind and visually impaired. We are presently working on a "surprise" presentation. Not sure if it will fly, but we will try our best.

Please save this date and join us on May 12th. I think you and your students will benefit greatly from the information. Also, please share this information with the parents of your students.

I will post a notice in the COTVICOMS listserv when we are ready to take registrations. There is no cost to those of you who attend.



Tips & Trick on Enhancing the Video Display

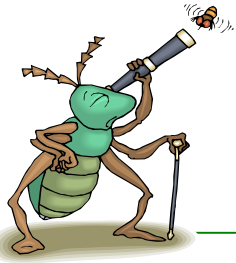
Part 2

A quick and easy way to magnify the information on the screen is to hold down the control key and roll the mouse roller forward. The more you move the roller forward, the larger the display will be come. This feature does not work in all programs, so you'll have to just try it for each one. Interestingly, in Firefox, the most recent magnification done this way is "remembered" so that when you return to a web page that you initially magnified with the control key, mouse roller, it will be already magnified. You can lower the amount of magnification by rolling down. This feature works in both Windows XP and Windows 7.

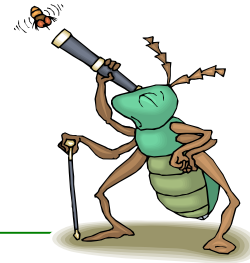
Display Tuner (Dtuner) is a really nice freeware for adjusting many facets of the video and audio. When you run it (after installation), an icon remains in your system tray so that you can access it any time you feel the need to make the video display better for the comfort of your eyes. Again, this program works in both Windows XP and Windows 7.

Is that mouse cursor just too small? Well, Bigger Cursors can solve that problem. This is another freeware. All you have to do is unzip the cursors into the Windows/Cursors folder and then select the one you want via the Control Panel/Mouse listing. Once chosen, the cursor will remain that way until you wish to change it. This program works in both Windows XP and Windows 7.

There's more, but I'll share it with you next time!



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Thanks for Another Great Year!

A huge thank you to our Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team- Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, and Debbie Haberkorn—for all their great work with the clinics this year. A special thanks to our site coordinators: Sarah Sonnier, Donice Fennimore, Nancy Knight, Rita Albright, and Vicki Pearson for their important contributions to their organization and onsite work. Many thanks to all the TVIs and families who attended—and, of course, thanks to the participating students.

If you participated in a clinic this year and have turned in your evaluation—THANK YOU! If you still have not turned in your evaluation, please do so, as these data will be shared internally within CDE as evidence of the clinics' outcomes. Please let Tanni know if you need a new blank evaluation.

The clinics have been funded for school year 2012-13 and we hope to have the corresponding regional dates by the May newsletter!

Summer Symposium

*Leveraging Opportunities for Students:
Unifying Colorado's Education Reform Agenda*

Symposium (sĭm-pō'zē-m) n., pl., -si-ums, or -si-a: A meeting or conference for discussion of a topic, especially one in which the participants from the audience contribute to the presentations.

Save the Date - 2012 CDE Summer Symposium

The Colorado Department of Education is pleased to announce the 2012 CDE Summer Symposia, a series of three learning opportunities for district leaders across the state. These symposia will focus on leveraging Colorado's educational reform initiatives (educator effectiveness, standards and assessment, RtI and accountability) to achieve breakthrough results for students. The intent of the symposia is to create collaboration between and among districts and CDE in order to develop a coherent vision around Colorado's reform efforts. District leadership teams are encouraged to save the date to attend one of the locations. Dates and locations are as follows:

Monday and Tuesday, June 4-5 in La Junta

Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12 in Grand Junction

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19-20 in the Denver metro area

More information will be forthcoming in the Scoop about registration, agenda and guidance regarding intended district audience. Registration will be capped at 200-300 participants depending on the location.



Spotlight on



STRABISMUS

What is Strabismus? Strabismus is a vision condition in which a person cannot align both eyes simultaneously under normal conditions. One or both of the eyes may turn in, out, up or down. When one or both eyes turn in (cross), the condition is called esotropia. When one or both eyes turn out, the condition is called exotropia. Hypertropia occurs when an eye(s) is turned upward and hypotropia describes the condition of one or both eyes turned downward.

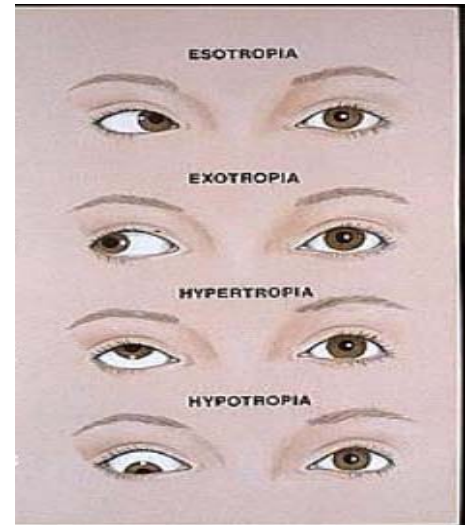
An eye turn may be constant (when the eye turns all of the time) or intermittent (turning only some of the time, such as, under stressful conditions or when ill). Up to the first six months of age, intermittent strabismus is a normal developmental milestone. After six months, any evidence of continued eye misalignment should be evaluated clinically.

Whether constant or intermittent, strabismus always requires appropriate evaluation and treatment. Children do not outgrow strabismus.

What is the Prevalence of Strabismus with Children? Strabismus affects five percent of people in the United States or more than 12 million individuals, most of them children. Infantile esotropia affects about one percent of full term, healthy babies and a higher percentage of babies born prematurely or born with other facial defects. Congenital (present at birth) esotropia, is rare but does not occur at a higher rate in premature babies. Strabismus occurs equally in boys and girls and shows no variation in racial or ethnic distribution. Most strabismus develops in young children, although a few diseases may cause it to develop in adults

What are the Causes and Risk Factors for Strabismus? Strabismus is caused by a lack of coordination between the eyes. As a result, the eyes look in different directions and do not focus at the same time on a single point. In most cases of strabismus in children, the cause is unknown. In more than half of these cases, the problem is present at or shortly after birth (congenital strabismus). In children, when the two eyes fail to focus on the same image, the brain may learn to ignore the input from one eye. If this is allowed to continue, the eye that the brain ignores will never see well. This loss of vision is called amblyopia and it is often associated with strabismus

Other conditions associated with strabismus in children may include: (a) many syndromes including Apert, Down, Prader-Willi, or Noonan syndrome; (b) cerebral palsy; (c) congenital rubella; (d) hemangioma near the eye during infancy; (e) incontinentia pigmenti syndrome; (f) hydrocephalus; (g) retinopathy of prematurity; (h) retinoblastoma; (i) traumatic brain injury; and (j) Trisomy 18 where a child has 3 copies of chromosome 18, instead of the normal 2 copies. A family history of strabismus may be a risk factor.





Farsightedness may be a contributing factor. If a child is significantly farsighted (hyperopia), an inward turn of the eye may occur when focusing to look further away, such as when looking at a television. If the amount of turn is greater at near than far, the eye doctor may prescribe a multifocal lens. For children this could be a traditional bifocal with a line, or a form of no-line bifocal or progressive lens.

If excessive inward turning of an eye is first noted around two years of age, it may be due to difficulty integrating the focusing (accommodative) system with the eye alignment (binocular) system. Normally when a person looks across the room or beyond, the eyes are parallel, or straight. However, when a person looks at things up close, there are two things that happen. The eyes first need to converge (aim inward at the same time) and, second, the eyes need to input more focus, or accommodate to keep things clear. Children have large amounts of focusing power, and sometimes in getting things clear, inward turning or esotropia results. If the inward turning only occurs up close, as when playing with small objects, making eye contact, coloring, looking at picture books and so forth, the child may need glasses for near activities to reduce or eliminate the esotropia.

Strabismus that develops in adults can be caused by: (a) botulism; (b) diabetes (causes a condition known as acquired paralytic strabismus); (c) Guillain-Barre syndrome; (d) injuries to the eye; (e) shellfish poisoning; (f) stroke; (g) traumatic brain injury; and (h) vision loss from any eye disease or injury.

No matter the age of the individual, any other disease causing vision loss may cause strabismus. This is a key consideration for children who have a pediatric visual impairment as they may also have strabismus.

What are the Visual Implications of Strabismus? Children with strabismus may initially have double vision. This occurs because of the misalignment of the two eyes in relation to one another. In an attempt to avoid double vision, the brain will eventually disregard the image of one eye (called suppression).

What are the Needed Tests and Diagnostics to Confirm Strabismus? A physical examination will include a detailed examination of the eyes by an eye care specialist. The eye doctor can help to rule out false strabismus. False strabismus (pseudostabismus) occurs when a child appears to have a turned eye; however, this appearance may actually be due to other factors such as (a) extra skin that covers the inner corner of the eye, (b) a broad, flat nose, and/or (c) eyes set unusually close together or far apart. False strabismus usually disappears as the child's face grows.

What are Treatments for Strabismus? The goal of strabismus treatment is to improve eye alignment which allows for better work together (binocular vision). Treatment may involve strategies to strengthen the weakened muscles and realign the eyes. Glasses and eye muscle exercises may be prescribed.

Resources

American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus - <http://www.aapos.org/>

ORIENTATION

A new O&M listserv has been created!

If you are interested in joining, please go to:

OrientationAndMobility-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

then reply to the confirmation e-mail asking who you are to ensure only interested parties are really involved in this national listserv.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals Workshop

This 1-day workshop will be held at the Colorado Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center in Golden and three video satellite locations across the state On May 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The training will provide information on current Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) technology and guidance on selecting features and designing installations. It consists of seven modules:

- Module A:* Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and Accessible Public Rights-of-Way
- Module B:* Travel Needs of Blind or Low Vision Pedestrians / Understanding Traffic Signals and Modern Intersection Design
- Module C:* APS Features
- Module D:* When to Install APS
- Module E:* Designing Installations
- Module F:* Installation, Operation, and Maintenance
- Module G:* Public Education on APS

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to: 1) Understand the purpose of APS installations, 2) Understand how blind and low vision pedestrians travel (applies to traffic engineers and signal technicians), 3) Understand how traffic signals and intersections are designed (applies to Orientation and Mobility instructors), 4) Know when APS should be installed, 5) Select the appropriate APS features for various situations, 6) Design the APS placement on intersection corners, Set up and maintain the APS

This workshop is designed for Traffic engineers, Orientation and Mobility instructors, and Signal technicians. The workshop can be modified based on which types of audience members are attending.

Materials provided by Instructors will be *Accessible Pedestrian Signals: A Guide to Best Practices* and the handouts of slide presentation.

For more information contact Patty Wagner at patty.wagner@state.co.us or 719-482-7980.

& MOBILITY



California Association of Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Calling All Interested Presenters!! LEAPING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS 2012

The California Association of Orientation and Mobility Specialists (CAOMS) seeks presenters for its annual statewide conference, November 16-18, 2012 at the beautiful Westin Gaslamp in San Diego, California. Presentations must address at least one of the 13 ACVREP approved content areas.

***** Applications must be received by May 16, 2012 *****

For topics of interest expressed by CAOMS members and to apply, please go to the website and download the Presenter Application located at http://www.caoms.org/coming_events.htm and follow the directions.

For presenters who are ACVREP certified, you will receive CE points under Category 3: **Publications and Presentations**. If you have any questions about ACVREP Continuing Education, or for more information, please refer to the ACVREP website at www.acvrep.org.

Please send submissions by May 16, 2012 to Lindsay Hass at lnhass@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the Presentation Information Sheet or need a physical address to submit your proposal via US Mail, please contact Ms. Hass.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SOMA 2012!

The South Eastern Orientation and Mobility Association (SOMA) conference will be held September 30-October 2, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia at the Crown Plaza Downtown and everyone is invited to attend!

If you are interested in presenting, attending, being on the planning committee, or assisting during the conference, please email kwalker@alliedinstructional.com to be sure you are on the email list for future announcements.

Resources and Materials



Stickler Syndrome: Educational Film Series

Stickler Syndrome is an under-diagnosed disease with profound medical consequences particularly with respect to vision and mobility. A genetic malfunction in the collagen found in bones, eyes, ears and the face, can lead to blindness, hearing loss, degenerative joint disease, chronic pain and facial effects. It is our goal to improve access to information on Stickler Syndrome to assist in the reduction of complications and improvement of quality of life.

FILM 1: Stickler Syndrome - Learning the Facts

Provides the facts about Stickler Syndrome. It aims to increase awareness of what can happen, the possible treatment options and provides support to those with and affected by Stickler Syndrome.

FILM 2: Finding Hope - Living with Stickler Syndrome

Managing the physical manifestations of a chronic disorder is the initial concern, but addressing the emotional and spiritual impact is equally as important to the well being of the individual and family. This film explores how 3 families living with Stickler Syndrome get the best out of life.

Watch both films at this website: www.sticklervideo.org/



**The Hadley School
for the Blind**

New Hadley Course Gives a Voice to Braille Music

The Hadley School for the Blind's new course "Braille Music Basics" offers an introduction to the fundamentals of braille music for sighted users who want to learn about transcribing print music into braille, teach braille music, or simply support someone who is interested in learning the braille music code. The information in this introductory course does not enable students to professionally transcribe print music, teach music, or teach braille. However, after completing the course, students can enthusiastically support and encourage a music student who is blind and learning to read music independently. "Learning the basics of braille music is a great opportunity for music teachers working with students who are blind. Reading braille music can open many doors toward self-confidence and further independence," says instructor Linn Sorge. The American Printing House for the Blind provided part of the funding to help Hadley develop this valuable course. For more information or to enroll, please visit www.hadley.edu or contact Student Services at 800-526-9909 or student_services@hadley.edu

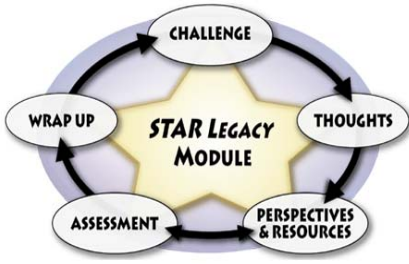
Resources and Materials

IRIS Center Module on Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students



The IRIS Center announce the posting of its latest *STAR Legacy Module*, *Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students*.



In *Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students*, you'll meet Mr. Shelton, a high school mathematics teacher. For years, Mr. Shelton has enjoyed success teaching high school honors and Advanced Placement or AP mathematics courses, but lately things have been a bit more challenging. Two years ago Mr. Shelton began teaching Algebra I, a required course for all students. Although he is teaching the concepts in the same manner as before, many of his Algebra I students are not performing well. Seeking possible reasons for this difference in student performance, he speaks to several Algebra I teachers in his district whose students are performing well. They point out that Mr. Shelton's Algebra I class probably has students with a wider range of ability levels than he is used to. They explain that they use an approach called differentiated instruction to achieve their results. Mr. Shelton is not sure what differentiated instruction is so he sets out to learn more.

Please feel free to share the IRIS materials (<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>) with your colleagues and students. If you have any questions concerning IRIS materials, please contact Kim Skow at 800-831-6134, kimberly.a.skow@vanderbilt.edu, or iris@vanderbilt.edu.



TRANSITION INFORMATION
ABOUT MOVING ON!

CareerConnect®



Have you visited AFB CareerConnect lately? Looking for a free, online, self-paced employment course for teens and young adults – check out the Job Seeker's Toolkit under "What's New." Explore the Career Clusters – connect with mentors in a new way. <http://www.afb.org/cc>



Colorado Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

10th Annual Snowshoe Weekend at Snow Mountain Ranch

By Mike Plansker

This year's snowshoe weekend took us to the beautiful Fraser Valley at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch. The event would not have been possible without the sponsorship of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and CAER and the many who gave time and energy to set up and coordinate the event.

This year's event was attended by 26 students, 9 room volunteers and 3 additional full weekend volunteers. There were 8 new faces and 16 returning snowshoers which allowed for existing friendships to re-visited and for new friendships to be made. Introductions were facilitated with wonderful activities by Barb Galgano and Trina Boyd-Pratt. The kids loved the hula hoop activity and Shipwrecked. The volunteers enjoyed the Tidal Wave portion of Shipwrecked (we got to spray the kids with water). We had beautiful weather for our day of snowshoeing and all participants were able to trek around in the snow for varying distances. We were greeted shortly after snowshoeing to 60 mph winds which made us cancel our evening campfire, smores, ice skating, and tubing, but allowed the kids to hang out, sing, listen to music, play games and recover from a busy day. Everyone also had the opportunity to swim, roller skate, ice skate, go tubing and eat wonderful meals at the YMCA Commons. Tubing was a highlight on Sunday for many who participated and there was even a 10 person tube amoeba ride down the slippery slopes. Not only did the participants gain experience in recreational pursuits, but learned independence, social skills, organizational skills, daily living skills, and eating skills.

Special thanks to the wonderful volunteers who worked as room supervisors: David Gooldy, Jim Strader, Dan Spigarelli, Trina Boyd-Pratt, Aimee Twaddle, Barb Galgano, Elaine Karns and Tina the CSDB Nurse. Thanks also to Deb Andrews, Kaitlin Lombardi, and Cheryl Leidich for spending all waking moments with the kids during activities. Lastly, thanks to Elsa D'Angelo and Jasmine Campbell for joining us as extra hands to snowshoe on Saturday. *Editor's Note: A big thank you to Mike Plansker for all of his work to plan and implement this weekend of fun!*

2012 Snowshoe Weekend -Anthem/Song by Jaylen Anders & Ms. Barb Galgano



Snowshoes on our feet
Poles in our hands
Walking in the sunshine
All around the land
Spashing in the water
Trying to get Ms. Barb
Having a fun snowshoe trip is really really large
Top bunk, bottom bunk, any bunk is fine
Remember to be careful, for every time you climb
New friends, old friends, X-Man is our friend
He's really really tall
He's stronger than the wind



Colorado Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

CAER Nominations

It is time again for award nominations for the AER Banquet. Please send the nomination requests by April 11, 2012 to either Heather Parsons at hwparsons@hotmail.com or Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org. Feel free to pass this email on to other AER members and interested parties. The banquet is still in the planning stages. More information to come, thank you so much for your support of AER!!

CAER Awards Criteria:

President's Award: This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities. The current board president, Samantha Hoffman, will select and present this award.

Gary Schmidt Award: This award honors an AER member who works directly with student/clients. Nomination criteria include: ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board and Janice Schmidt review the nominations.

Connections Award: This award recognizes cooperative efforts that cross organizational lines, perhaps even groups working collaboratively to benefit our field. The CAER Board considers the nominations.

Lifetime Achievement Award: This award is presented to professionals who have given of themselves to clients/students throughout their career and are preparing for retirement.

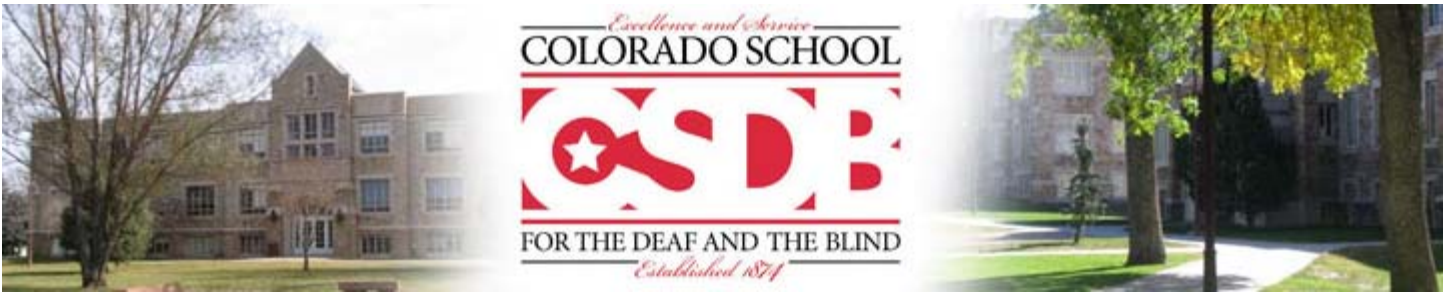
Summer Symposium - June 4 & 5, 2012

- Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- 1500 East 128th Avenue, Thornton, Colorado
- Full day workshops Monday and Tuesday
- Dinner and presentation Monday evening



For more information:

www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/programs/atp/Events



SAVE THE DATE for Career Day for Middle School and High School Students Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or Blind/Visually Impaired

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

April 20, 2012 at CSDB, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

**** Please note this event is limited to the first 20 students who register. ****

CSDB will be hosting the fourth annual Career Day on Friday, April 20th. Our goal is to expose students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind or Visually Impaired to professionals within a variety of career fields. More specific goals include the following:

1. Expose students to a variety of pathways so they understand what is required to enter specific careers.
2. Experience Role Models
3. Excellent opportunity for students to build their Individual Careers and Academic Portfolios (ICAP)

Students will be given an interest Inventory representing the following Pathways. Each Pathway could be represented by, but is not limited to, the following suggested occupations.

- Math/Science – high school teacher, statistician, biologist, chemist, engineer, architect
- Athletics – coach, PE teacher, lifeguard, referee, yoga instructor
- Production – assembly line worker, food preparation worker, baker, post office employee
- Entertainment/Arts – actor, photographer, sculptor, painter, video editor, cartoonist
- Communication – journalist, technical writer, TV anchor, editor
- Legal field – lawyer, policeman, security guard, court reporter
- Marketing – public relations, salesperson, cashier, real estate agent
- Medical – doctor, Emergency Medical Technician, dietitian, nurse, veterinary assistant
- Personal Services – child care worker, hair stylist, waiter, massage therapist
- Social Services – counselor, social worker, psychologist, probation officer
- Mechanics – appliance repair, airplane mechanic, car mechanic, diesel mechanic

The day will begin with a keynote speaker and end with a general session and skit.

After the keynote speaker's presentation, students will have an opportunity to rotate through a minimum of three of the pathway presentations. These will be based on the interest inventory, which will be sent to your school once you are registered.

To register, send the following information to: baottmar@csdb.org

Name of School
Number of students and their grade level
Number of staff attending

We hope you can join us for this worthwhile event!

Family Learning Retreat 2012

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

33 North Institute Street

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

719-578-2100; www.csdb.org

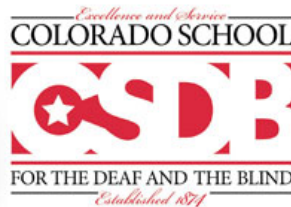
June 22-23, 2012



The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 22-23, 2012. The FLR is a two-day retreat focused on families 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.

- ◆ **The cost of the FLR is \$10.00 per person** over the age of one year. 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.
- ◆ Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity.
- ◆ 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**.



Public Comment Period

The Colorado Department of Education is making available for public review and comment the following proposed documents: (1) The State of Colorado's Part B Application for grant funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for federal fiscal year 2012; and (2) proposed Amendments to the Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act regarding disability categories and other changes required by HB11-1277. All documents are available online at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp> Information about scheduled regional hearings is also available at the same online address. Hard copies of the proposed documents may be requested by calling Kim Hubbard at (303) 866-6690. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2012. Send written comments to Kim Hubbard, Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Unit, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202-5149, by fax to (303) 866-6767, or by email to hubbard_k@cde.state.co.us



Bits and Pieces

Of the Expanded Core Curriculum

High School Students

June 4-7, 2012

Short Course for
students who are blind
or visually impaired



- JAWs - Beyond Basic Commands
- Trekker Breeze Outing
- FREX to Denver
- College Information
- Role Models



... Learning, Thriving, Leading
33 North Institute Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-578-2100
www.csdb.org

Contact:

Donna Keale, 719-578-2251
dkeale@csdb.org



Spring 2012 Sports Camps

for Students Athletes, who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or
Blind/Visually Impaired, Grades 8-12

Camp Dates:

May 21-23
Goalball
(minimum 12)

May 28-30
Boys' Football
(minimum 12)

May 28-30
Girls' Volleyball
(minimum 12)

June 10-12
Boys' Basketball
(minimum 10)

June 10-12
Girls' Basketball
(minimum 10)

**Maximum of
20 Campers**

**Reserve your space
NOW!**



Learn and
prepare for the
upcoming
seasons

RSVP by
April 27 at
719-578-2106,
719-358-2628 (VP)

or
vhernandez
@csdb.org

Include the
following
information:

Camper name
Camp Choice
Parents' names
Phone
Email

Coaching Staff:

All camp coaches
have coached
at the high school
or middle school
level and/or have
played at the
college level

Sample Schedule:

8:00-4:00 p.m.
Activities Around the
Pikes Peak Region
(for non-CSDB students)

4:00 p.m. Weightlifting
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Stretching
6:30 p.m. Station Drills
8:30 p.m. Offense/
Defense
9:00 p.m. Scrimmages

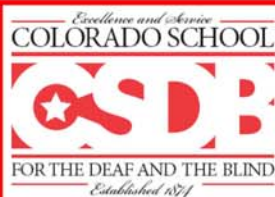
\$40.00

CSDB Students

\$80.00

Non-CSDB Students

Camp fee
includes
lodging,
meals,
activities and
supervision



... Learning. Thriving. Leading

33 North Institute Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-578-2100; www.csdb.org



Camps are subject to cancellation, if enrollment
minimums are not met. Refunds will be granted, if
CSDB cancels the camp.

just for PARENTS

PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences are family-centered events designed to offer support, information and education to **both parents and professionals** who work with children with disabilities across Colorado. PEP promotes the partnerships between parents and professionals that are essential in supporting and including children with disabilities in schools and communities.

The next PEP Conference will be April 26-28, 2012 in Steamboat Springs

For more information about PEP and to complete the preliminary application, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>. You may also call 303-866-6846 or 1-877-834-0588 toll-free for general information. We look forward to seeing you at PEP!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child has graduated, please be in touch so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. If your child is still enrolled in a Colorado school district and you have a new mailing address, please be in touch with your address changes

TVIs and COMSs: If you have any changes in program contact information for the next school year, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up-to-date! Send changes to anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESLU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or call and leave her a voice message at (303) 866-6681.



FamilyConnect!

FamilyConnect offers parents and families connections and unique information all in one location – explore FamilyConnect today! For more information, please go to: www.familyconnect.org

just for PARENTS



ONH/SOD NATIONAL SURVEY STUDY

Dear Parents,

Thank for your on-going support of The Vision Center's "Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (ONH)/ Septo Optic Dysplasia (SOD) Disease Distribution Study" at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. This is an on-going survey aimed at understanding the geographic distribution of ONH/SOD and the association with population and environmental factors.

The ONH survey is available through an easy to remember web address – www.onhsurvey.org If you are area parent with a child diagnosed with ONH/SOD and have not completed this survey, please consider completing the survey.

ONH/SOD continues to rise in prevalence, making this study an essential component to understanding the underlying prenatal causative factors. We are excited to share findings from our first analysis of the geographic data. We identified a number of geographic areas with a high density of cases (note: these are not clusters). Our subsequent studies will focus on these areas so that we may have a high enough number of cases to look more closely at the prenatal factors of mothers..

The Vision Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is committed to improving the lives of children with ONH/SOD through research - both clinical and epidemiologic. Our program administrator has created a Facebook page; please feel free to visit it by searching for "optic nerve". The CHLA Vision Center has also launched a webportal to assist parents with finding services within their state. The webportal can be found at:

http://www.chla.org/site/c.ipINKTOAJsG/b.7549317/k.7699/Seable_Resources_ONH_Portal_Optic_Nerve_Hypoplasia_Resources.htm.

If you have any questions about this survey or our ONH/SOD research program, please feel free to contact the survey personnel at (323) 361-2267.



DOTS OF INTEREST



CIMC BRAILLE TEXT ORDERS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2012

Please start working with your curriculum departments for your book orders for next year. All book orders must be received by May 1, 2012. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org. Thank you!



BRAILLE/TACTILE POSTERS AVAILABLE FOR REQUEST

As part of the "From Earth to the Universe" (FETTU) project, a NASA-funded tactile and Braille poster series for the visually impaired community was launched in 2009. These posters are accessible to both visually impaired and sighted readers. The free materials available for present celestial objects as they appear through visible-light telescopes and in different spectral regions that are invisible to the naked eye. The 5 posters use a combination of Braille and large-format traditional text, and a variety of tactile textures and symbols are shown to represent different physical features and characteristics of the images. <http://chandra.si.edu/edu/fettutactile.html>

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR TACTILE GRAPHICS

Printable, Searchable PDF Version Now Available on BANA Website!

BANA now offers the Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics, 2010 publication in two versions: an online HTML file and a zipped PDF file that can be downloaded and printed. This PDF file has been developed for accessibility. See below for links to each version.

PDF version: This printable, PDF version of the *Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics, 2010* has been designed with accessibility in mind. The document is fully navigable using bookmarks, and screen reader users can navigate to all major sections using headings. Special care has also been taken to make tables and charts accessible. This is a large file that is available as a compressed file for downloading. When prompted, choose "Save".

HTML version: This online version of the *Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics, 2010* can be searched using standard text commands. The html version is not formatted for printing. Optional download copy of the online version - February 2012 may be saved to a drive or CD.

Publication Note: Hardcopy print and braille editions, along with the supplement of tactile graphic examples, will be produced for sale. A hardcopy supplement, which includes an array of actual tactile examples, is also being produced and will be available for purchase.

Find all documents on the BANA website: <http://brailleauthority.org/tg/index.html>

DOTS OF INTEREST



SAVE THE DATE: NFB TACTILE GRAPHICS CONFERENCE NOV 30 - DEC 1, 2012

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute is delighted to present its first conference on tactile graphics. We will offer a 2-day, in-depth look at how tactile graphics can and are being made, and how tactile graphics enhance STEM education for the blind. This conference is especially relevant in light of the following:

- The recent BANA publication: Guidelines and Standards For Tactile Graphics: <http://www.brailleauthority.org/tg/>
- The rapid adoption of digital textbooks
- The June 29, 2010 DOJ/OCR letter to colleges mandating equal access to educational materials. See: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20100629.html>
- The May 26, 2011 Frequently Asked Questions document. The June 29, 2010 guidelines apply to all K-12 and post-secondary schools. See: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-ebook-faq-201105.html>

For those wishing to present at the NFB Tactile Graphics Conference, **abstracts are due no later than March 31, 2012.**

For more information, submission criteria, or to submit an abstract please visit www.nfb.org/tactilegraphics or contact Clara Van Gerven at the NFB (cvangerven@nfb.org or 410-659-9314, ext. 2410).

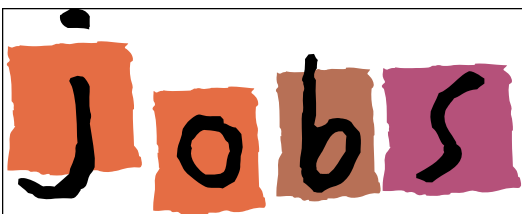
B.E.L.L.: A SUMMER BRAILLE CAMP FOR KIDS

The BELL Program, a project of the NFB Jernigan Institute, is a two week day camp experience for children who are blind and visually impaired between the ages 4-12. Officially the letters B.E.L.L. stand for “Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning”, but for the kids the letters stand for F.U.N. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities. There will be two BELL camps this year. The first BELL program is being held in Colorado Springs from July 16 through July 27, 2012 on the campus of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. The second BELL camp will be held in Westminster area from July 23 through August 3, 2012 at the Rocky Mountain MS Center. The programs will run Monday through Friday. There is no cost to attend, but families will be encouraged to volunteer at least one day during the programs. Cash donations will also be appreciated. Transportation to and from the camps will be the family’s responsibility. Space is limited, so call soon to request an application. For more information contact program coordinator, Diane McGeorge, at 303-321-4268 or e-mail rmcgeorge@comcast.net, or Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or phone 303-456-9000.

FREE BRAILLE BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Since 1997, the American Action Fund has provided popular and award-winning children’s books, including titles from popular series, to blind children throughout the United States as well as to libraries and other organizations that serve blind children. The books have been and will continue to be distributed by mail, but now readers and libraries will also be able to download them from the American Action Fund Web site below. The BRF files are ready to be used on Braille notetakers and other Braille-aware devices.

http://www.actionfund.org/actionfund/Free_Braille_Books.asp?SnID=1464826538



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this 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!

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.

COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Metro Region Jobs

- ✓ **Early Childhood TVI** (1FTE): Anchor Center for Blind Children. Submit cover letter and resume to Alice Applebaum at aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): Aurora Public Schools. Apply online at www.aps.k12.co.us. For more information contact Jo Cunningham at 720-271-9668 or Brenda Shepard @ 303 995 7913
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): Jefferson County Public Schools. For more information, contact Karie Yenter in Human Resources at (303) 982-6515.
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (.5—1 FTE): Adams 12 Schools. For more information, contact Brian Printz at Brian.L.Printz@adams12.org

Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI - Mathematics** (1 FTE / Mathematics): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at clutz@csdb.org for more information
- ✓ **Principal, School for the Blind** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at clutz@csdb.org for more information.

Western

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): San Juan BOCES. For more information, please contact LeiLani Scott at lscott@cortez.k12.co.us or 970-560-2532

Northern

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** - 1 FTE - Position with Brighton School District. For more information, please contact Mary Gomez at mgomez@sd27j.org or 303-655-2925.

Statewide

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (hourly contract work): Colorado Virtual Academy position. Flexible to your schedule. Contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 or saltman@covcs.org

More Calendar of Events

2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
May 21 - 23	CSDB Spring 2012 Sports Camps (Goalball) - Colorado Springs, CO RSVP by April 27: vhernandez@csdb.org , 719-578-2106 or 719-358-2628 (VP)									
May 24	Accessible Pedestrian Signals Workshop - CDOT Traffic Ops Center, Golden, CO Contact: Patty Wagner at patty.wagner@state.co.us or 719-482-7980									
May 28 - 30	CSDB Spring 2012 Sports Camps (Boys Football) - Colorado Springs, CO RSVP by April 27: vhernandez@csdb.org , 719-578-2106 or 719-358-2628 (VP)									
June 4 - 5	SWAAAC Summer Symposium - Adams 5 Star Schools, Thornton, CO Visit: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/atp/Events									
June 4 - 7	CSDB HS Students Short Course - Colorado Springs, CO Contact: Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org									
June 6	CAER Meeting - Left Hand, Longmont Contact: Mike Plansker at Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org									
June 10 - 12	CSDB Spring 2012 Sports Camps (Basketball) - Colorado Springs, CO RSVP by April 27: vhernandez@csdb.org , 719-578-2106 or 719-358-2628 (VP)									
June 11 - 15	2012 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN - Denver, CO Contact: Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681 / anthony_t@cde.state.co.us									
June 21	CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs Contact: Carol Vallee at cvallee@csdb.org									
June 22 - 23	Family Learning Retreat 2012 - CSDB, Colorado Springs Contact: Diane Covington 719-578-2225 or Gloria Romero (Spanish) 719-578-2288									
July 12 - 15	Nat'l Organization for Albinism & Hypopigmentation Conference - St Louis, MO Visit: www.albinism.org/noahevents.html									
July 16 - 27	BELL Summer Braille Camp for Kids - CSDB, Colorado Springs, CO Contact: Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or 303-456-9000									
July 18 - 22	AER 2012 International Conference - Bellevue, WA Visit: www.aerbvi.org									
July 23 - Aug 3	BELL Summer Braille Camp for Kids - Rocky Mtn MS Center, Westminster, CO Contact: Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or 303-456-9000									
Last week in June	Sports Camp for the Blind/VI - Colorado Springs, CO Contact: Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org									
September 30 - Oct 2	South Eastern Orientation and Mobility Association Conference - Richmond, VA									
October 4-6	CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681									

More Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- Oct 25 - 27** **Colorado State NFB Convention** - Harvest House in Boulder
Contact: <http://cocenter.org/>
- November** **ICEVI and WBU have agreed to hold a joint General Assembly** - Bangkok
Visit: www.worldblindunion.org or www.icevi.org
- November 16 - 18** **2012 CAOMS Statewide Conference for O&Ms** - San Diego, CA
Visit: www.caoms.org
- November 30 - Dec 1** **NFB's Tactile Graphics Conference** - Baltimore, MD
Visit: www.nfb.org/tactilegraphicsconference

Colorado Center FOR THE BLIND

Upcoming events with the Colorado Center for the Blind

- April 5th** Robotics Seminar with WizKidz Science and Technology Centers
- April 11 & 18** Cultural Experience Visit to Museum of Nature & Science
- April 14 – May 5** Swim Lessons with National Sports Center for the Disabled
- April 24** Success in School & Beyond for middle and high school students—lunch provided!
- April 28 – May 19** Rock Climbing and Hiking with National Sports Center for the Disabled
- June 8 – August 3** Summer for Success College Prep and Earn & Learn High School Programs
- June 11 – 22** Confidence Camp for Kids for kids aged 5 -11
- July 16 – August 3** Initiation to Independence Middle School Program for kids aged 11 – 14

Please RSVP to Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

Visit www.cocenter.org for more information or call Brent
if you have any questions about any of these events.



iPad Apps for Children who are Blind

There are hundreds of thousands of apps for the iPad and iPhone, check out the categories below to find what you are looking for: Getting Started, Cause & Effect, Read to Me Stories, Music & Sounds, Communication, Games & Recreation, and Education

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/ipad-apps#started>



APH's Refreshbraille 18 Becomes a Teaching Tool!

Check out this YouTube video about using an iPad2 with APH's Refreshbraille 18 that demonstrates how the iPad and a Refreshbraille 18 can be used as an instructional tool for parents and general education teachers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV9XKB1fb5I>

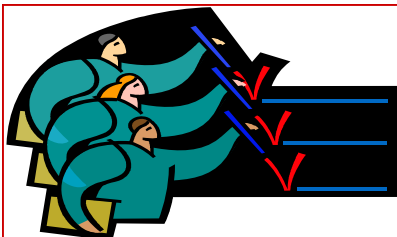


Presentations from Annual Meeting 2011 Now on Web

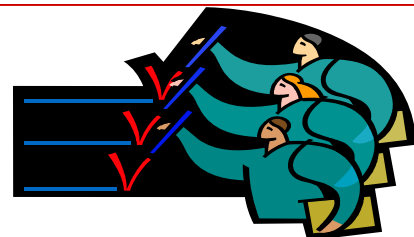
Each year, APH employees and others from the field of blindness present excellent workshops at the American Printing House for the Blind Annual meeting. Some of these outstanding presentations are now available on our website in audio format. Topics include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Adult Multiple Disabilities, Building on Patterns, Cortical Visual Impairment, and more. Check it out at: <http://www.aph.org/anmtg/2011/media.html>

Response to Intervention (RtI) Newsletter

The Colorado Department of Education will publish (electronically) the RtI Implementation Newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter in the future, please do so through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RtINewsletterSignUp>



CHECK IT OUT!




Educator Effectiveness Releases Teacher Rubric

The Colorado Department of Education wants to thank more than 350 individuals that participated in focus groups to provide initial feedback resulting in this draft Rubric for Evaluating Teachers. The Educator Effectiveness team will continuously collect feedback on both the principal rubrics as we pilot the CDE Model Evaluation System.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/RB-CDEModelEvaluationSystem.asp>



PERKINS
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND


webcast

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program presents

Cortical Vision Impairment



00:00:19

In this webcast Ellen Mazel, M.Ed., talks about the diagnosis of cortical vision impairment and the resulting implications. Ellen shares strategies for assessment and intervention and emphasizes the importance of early intervention. This webcast provides excellent information for parents and teachers who are just learning about cortical vision impairment.

The webcast includes the following chapters:

1. Introduction,
2. Evolution of Intervention and Assessment,
3. Assessment and Strategies for CVI Characteristics,
- and 4. The Benefit of Early Intervention.

Watch the Webcast here:

http://support.perkins.org/site/MessageViewer?m_id=13821.0&printer_friendly=1



Training the Trainers: Teaching and Supporting Users of Access Technology

May 9-11, 2012 @National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

Technology is in a constant state of flux. New devices, software, and services are being implemented by business and education on what seems like a daily basis. Users who are blind or low vision need access to these same technologies in order to compete with their sighted peers. Access technology vendors are constantly working to help consumers meet these needs. With the challenges come opportunities for users, and the people who train and support them. This two-and-a-half-day seminar is designed to provide trainers and content creators with the information they need about these powerful tools to ensure that their blind and low vision users can succeed in their endeavors. To meet this goal, the training will provide hands-on involvement with:

- Screen access software
- Braille
- DAISY eBooks
- Tactile graphics creation
- Apple's iDevices
- Mac computers
- Notetakers
- Low vision solutions
- Other tools

This is an opportunity to learn from experts in the access technology field, experience the latest in the industry, and visit the largest showcase of blindness technology in the United States.

The cost of registration is \$300. Lunch will be provided.

More information, agenda, and registration at www.nfb.org/trainers. For questions, please contact Clara Van Gerven at cvangerven@nfb.org or at 410-659-9314 x2410.

2012 Social Skills Cinema: Lessons for the Real World

Video Project: "Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool"

Lights, Camera, Action---The 2nd Annual Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool Video Contest is ready for your creative entries. The *Texas Advisory Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments* is challenging teachers, parents, and students with visual impairments to **submit a short video on the theme, "Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool."** This contest is a perfect opportunity to show your colleagues a favorite lesson that you use to teach social skills at home, school, or in the community.

For more information: <http://www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/3354-cinema>

Application Deadline April 11, 2012



New CDE Assessment Website

CDE has just launched a new Assessment website. The new format and navigation are available to help schools and districts find assessment information and training materials.

Visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/index.asp> to access the new site directly. If you go to the old URL, you will now see a screen that re-directs you to the new site. Please remember to update your bookmarks. The previous resources are still available.

As CDE continues to improve the new site, you will notice updates and current news listed on the New Assessment homepage. Look for announcements for new assessment resources & information, and testing information for parents here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/GeneralInfo-Parents.asp> and training materials here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-Training.asp>

AFB – Macular Degeneration Blog

Check out the latest AFB Blog post about Judi Dench about her diagnosis of macular degeneration: www.afb.org/blog

AFB Leadership Conference

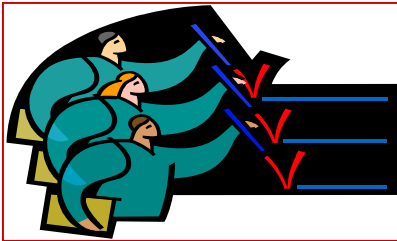
The AFB Leadership Conference (including a preconference) from AFB and Florida AER will be held on May 3-5, 2012 in St. Pete Beach, FL. The theme is *Catch the Wave!* You can find a list of the proposed sessions and catch the 2012 Migel Awards, Access Awards, and stay connected with the latest information. There is an O & M Preconference featuring Mickey Damelio, Dona Sauerburger, and Dianne Ketts. Check out the full agenda and conference details at: <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=28&TopicID=460>

Vision Aware

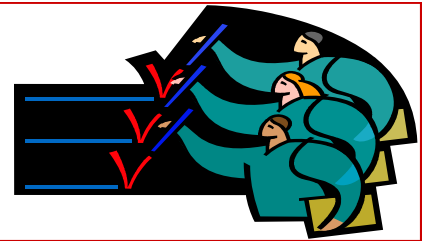
Did you know Vision Aware is part of AFB's family of websites? Have you checked out Vision Aware and all the unique insight – blogs, articles, and more. For more information, go to: www.visionaware.org

AccessWorld

A free online technology magazine that evaluates mainstream and assistive technology – stay relevant and follow *AccessWorld!* Check it out at: www.afb.org/aw



CHECK IT OUT!



NEW from CDC Fact Sheet on the Topic of Concussions

A new Center for Disease Control (CDC) fact sheet, [Returning to School After a Concussion: A Fact Sheet for School Professionals](#), provides steps that school professionals can take to help facilitate a student's return to school and recovery after a concussion. It emphasizes the importance of a collaborative approach by a team that includes not only school professionals, but also the student's family and the health care professional(s) managing the medical aspects of the student's recovery.

Why is this Important? Each year hundreds of thousands of K-12 students sustain a concussion as a result of a fall, motor-vehicle crash, collision on the playground or sports field, or other activity. Most will recover quickly and fully. However, school professionals will often be challenged with helping return a student to school who may still be experiencing concussion symptoms—symptoms that can result in learning problems and poor academic performance. Knowledge of a concussion's potential effects on a student, and appropriate management of the return-to-school process, is critical for helping students recover from a concussion.

To learn more, download the new CDC fact sheet at:
www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html

HQ for TVIs - Heads Up for All New TVIs in Colorado

Many TVIs are contacting CDE to clarify the highly qualified requirements. A CDE specialist in the area of Highly Qualified has shared, "All teachers, regular or special education, general classroom teachers, or specialists working more on an itinerant basis, are required to demonstrate elementary subject matter competencies if services are provided to elementary aged students. The only way for a teacher to demonstrate these competencies is by having a passing score on the Elementary PLACE or PRAXIS, or, if applicable, the employing school district may apply for elementary HOUSSE provisions, which is a combination of elementary content coursework/professional development and prior work experience at the elementary level. If your school district is indicating you must complete the PLACE or PRAXIS, then HOUSSE may not be an option they choose to utilize, or you may not qualify for HOUSSE."

It will be very important for new TVIs will need to work closely with their districts on this requirement. Most will need to take the Elementary PLACE or PRAXIS.



Dr. Cary Supalo to Present Science Lab Workshop

At the 2012 CSUN Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference, view the latest in science technology for students in the laboratory. This text-to-speech software for the Vernier LabQuest is opening the doors to students with visual impairments and allowing a hands-on learning experience similar to their sighted peers.

Learn how a student can focus his or her education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields of study. The hand-held device has a Periodic table with 20 audible descriptors for each element?

Science Labs for Students with BLV Using TTS

Presenter: Dr. Cary Supalo

Date: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 Time: 10:40 AM

Location: Edward AB

This workshop will give teachers of the blind (TVI) the opportunity to learn how they can incorporate cutting edge accessible science equipment into high school laboratory classes. More information can be found on the Independence Science blog at www.independencescience.com/blog

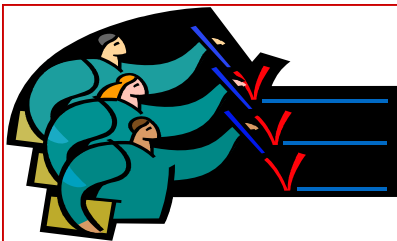
Job Creation and Advancement for People who are Blind

Reported by the National Industries for the Blind, some of the 2011 highlights include a 3.8% increase in employment of people who are blind, wages up 6.0%, and 787 people who are blind were promoted or obtained competitive positions with NIB associated agencies or other organizations in their communities as a result of vocational training and specialized rehabilitation services.

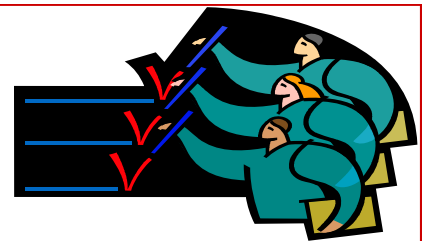
In the past two years, wage increases for 52 employees, 23 jobs converted, from sighted to blind jobs and development of several new positions for employees who are blind were the result of the rehab engineers working with more than 30 agencies. Read the full NIB 2012 report here: www.nib.org/sites/default/files/2011AnnualReport/NIB%202011%20Annual%20Report.pdf

Accessible, Mobile, Talking Periodic Table for Students with Visual Impairments

The most consistently useful feature has been the Talking Periodic Table. Access to the full periodic table on the go allows a student to carry 20 different descriptors of each element throughout the science classroom and beyond. Learn more at: www.independencescience.com/blog



CHECK IT OUT!



NIMAC REACHES 30,000 FILES!



The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) is a federally-funded, national electronic file repository that makes National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) files available for the production of core print instructional materials in specialized formats. Created under IDEA 2004, the NIMAC receives source files in NIMAS format from textbook publishers, and makes these files available for download to Authorized Users in the United States and its territories through an online database. Once downloaded, files can be used to create a variety of specialized formats, such as braille, audio, or digital text, on behalf of qualifying blind, visually-impaired or print-disabled students in elementary or secondary school.

The NIMAC is pleased to announce that their repository has reached another milestone with its recent acceptance of our 30,000th file set. They report that use of the NIMAC continues to increase by leaps and bounds. In 2011, the NIMAC experienced a 92% increase in downloads over the previous year. As of mid-February, over 10,900 NIMAS file sets had been downloaded for use in production of accessible materials for students with print disabilities. Access to NIMAS source files helps to expedite the delivery of accessible materials to students, and brings us closer to the day when all students will have the instructional materials they need on the very first day of class. For more information about NIMAC, please go to: <http://www.nimac.us/>

AFB American Foundation[®] for the Blind

Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

ENHANCED WEBSITE REDESIGN UNVEILED!

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) launched a redesign of its main website, www.afb.org, early last month. The new design offers a more interactive, engaging experience, making it easier for visitors to locate information on everything from accessible technology to raising a child with visual impairments to webinars on the latest research in the blindness field. Like the former AFB website, the new [afb.org](http://www.afb.org) is fully accessible to people with vision loss. Visitors can change colors, font, and font size to increase content readability or use a screen reader to access every bit of content on our pages. On the new site, visitors will find:

- ◆ Improved navigability via a cleaner design, more dynamic content, and a new information architecture
- ◆ Slideshows that highlight news, events, and resources on living with vision loss
- ◆ New and enhanced ways to engage with AFB through public policy campaigns and various social networking channels including blogs and message boards
- ◆ Robust and dynamic landing pages for key programs including the AFB Center on Vision Loss and AFB Press
- ◆ The ability to easily share content by e-mail, Facebook, or Twitter
- ◆ A vibrant and supportive community on AFB's award-winning family of websites, including VisionAware, Family-Connect, and CareerConnect
- ◆ In-depth descriptions of more than 1,600 agencies and organizations that offer services to people with vision loss



colorado connections

🔊 **Dr. Kay Ferrell** framed and presented **Dr. Dean and Naomi Tuttle** with a copy of the engraved stone that was recently mounted on the Wall of Tribute in the APH Hall of Fame. This tribute honors Dean and Naomi for creating all 48 Hall of Fame Inductee biographies. *Their words truly do bring our heroes to life.* Hall of Fame website at www.aph.org/hall_fame/index.html

🔊 Congratulations to, **Leslie Kelly Watrobka** (JeffCo) and **Ingrid Mayer** (Littleton) for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency. Good work to the following people who have earned clock hours toward their renewal certificates: **Paula Quintana, Helle Hill, Peg Collins, Edie Smith, and Elaine Brown.** A very big WOW to all the district brailleists who are doing such great work in demonstrating and renewing their braille competency certificates! Thanks to proctors **Julie Wetzstein** and **Lucia Hasty.**



🔊 A huge thank you to all the TVIs and students who participated in the Auditory Description study this past school year. **Kay Ferrell, Sylvia Torres Correa, Cathy Smith, Kathryn Botsworth, and Tanni Anthony** traveled to Salt Lake City in early March to review the preliminary results of the tri-state study.

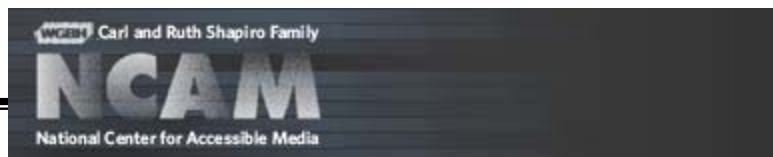
Auditory Description Study Information!

Colorado had 61 students with visual disabilities and 35 with print disabilities participate in this tri-state study. There were 19 braille readers (there were only 28 total), 32 large print readers, 10 regular print readers.

The preliminary conclusions are:

- ◆ Braille readers were more likely to select the correct answers when given image description without tactile graphics.
- ◆ All other students in the study were equally likely to select the correct answer whether given image description or not.
- ◆ Image description is an unbiased accommodation.
- ◆ Teachers reported strong belief in the potential effectiveness of image description.
- ◆ Preliminary qualitative data suggest strong student preference for image description.

Check out http://ncam.wgbh.org/experience_learn/educational_media/describing-images-for-enhanced for tutorials and more information.



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