

Editor:

Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.
State Consultant on
Blindness/Low Vision

Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175
Denver, CO 80202

(303) 866-6681 (voice)

(303) 866-6767 (fax)

E-mail: anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

"Have a Great Summer" App

By Tanni L. Anthony



According to Wikipedia, application software, also known as an application or an *app* is computer software designed to help the user to perform specific tasks. Apps can run on a computer, smart phones, tablets, or other electronic devices. Everywhere you look these days, there are apps to download. Apps to find the weather, speak another language, locate a great area restaurant, play a game, turn your screen into a mirror or a flashlight, and/or do amazing things to engage children and adult alike. We are an increasingly app society - with people first wanting the tools to download the apps and then the apps themselves. Some cost money and some are free. Some save us time and some become all-time consuming activities in our day. And no matter how many you have, there are a zillion more to choose from out there!

With all that said, I would like to end the school year with advice for an old fashion app. This one is called, the "have a good summer app" - it is free and there is no special device or download needed. Just be sure to take time to enjoy the summer days ahead. Get outside, sit in the sun or the shade, take a walk after dinner when the heat of the day subsides, and enjoy the magnificent beauty of a Colorado summer. Drink a lemonade on a hot day, delight in making a purchase from the neighborhood ice-cream truck, and take some time to feel the grass between your toes. Think about a time before all the gadgets and find time to huddle around a picnic table with your family and good friends. Go to the zoo or a state park. Fill your life and your child's life with real life experiences that will fuel memories and concepts for the next school year.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against the electronic apps - and we plan to do some training on this very topic in the next school year - but I encourage you to create your own personal app(lication) of summer fun. And as always, thank you for another great school year.

My best wishes for a wonderful summer of (h)app(y) times!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
May 2012**



Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

<http://TVIVIP.org>

Tips and Tricks for Enhancing the PC Visual Display, Part 3



It has been my observation that when the eyes fatigue, as they read text on the PC screen, they can very easily skip lines. VueBar4 helps to alleviate this problem by providing a configurable bar to frame the text as you read it. You can configure the length and width of the bar as well as its color. It is a nice little program and well worth investigating.

SSOverlay provides a colored overlay of your screen to help allay screen glare. The overlay is configurable for color and density.

Chunky Cursors is a selection of chunky cursors for anyone who finds the existing cursors too small. Simply download the zip file and extract into the Windows/Cursors folder and you are ready to go.

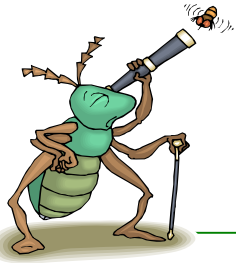
Finally, Negative Screen is a program that will reverse the colors of the screen if you find that the white space on the screen is too harsh. There are several inversion modes and the hot keys for any changes are contained in a readme file. There are two different versions of the program, one for 64 bit computers and the other for 32 bit. This program is for Windows 7 only.

At present, I am in the process of creating links to all of the visual enhancement freeware I have addressed in the newsletter. These links will be on my website (see above), so you might want to check from time to time to see what has been put there. I think it will make finding these programs much easier than Googling them.

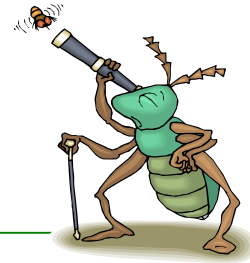
Have a wonderful Summer!

Editor's Note: Congratulations and great applause to **Bonnie Snyder** for another wonderful year of the Annual Technology Symposium! A huge thank you to Bonnie for all her work to keep technology on the front burner in Colorado. Many thanks to the TVIs who took the time to attend as well! **Donna Keale, Marci Reid, Nicole Lewis, Wendy Stoltman, Nancy Knight, Suzan Barlow, Miriam Schaper, Melinda Holtz, Vicki Pearson, Barb Galgano, Carol Davidson, and Donice Fennimore.**





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—see the schedule below!

Southern 2 Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

By Debbie Haberkorn

The last Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic of 2011-2012 was held Friday, March 2, 2012 in the CSDB low vision room. This one day clinic provided evaluations for seven students from three school administrative units (CSDB, El Paso County District 8, and El Paso County District 20). Five sets of parents and four TVIs from three administrative units attended the evaluations with their students. The team would like to acknowledge Donice Fennimore for her wonderful job of coordinating the clinic. We would also like to thank CSDB for hosting the clinic.

2012 / 2013 CDE LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC DATES

REGION	DATES	PAPERWORK DEADLINE	SITE COORDINATOR
Southern 1 (CSDB low vision room)	Friday Aug 24, 2012	Thursday, August 9, 2012	Donice Fennimore
Western (Hawthorn Building/Grand Junction)	Fri Sept 14, 2012 Sat Sept 15, 2012	Tuesday, August 28, 2012	Sarah Sonnier
Southern 2 (CSDB low vision room)	Thurs Sept 27, 2012 Fri Sept 28, 2012	Tuesday, September 11, 2012	Donice Fennimore
Northern (Location to be determined)	Fri Nov 16, 2012 Sat Nov 17, 2012	Tuesday, October 30, 2012	Vicki Pearson
Metro (Anchor Center for Blind Children)	Wed Feb 27, 2013 Thurs Feb 28, 2013 Fri March 1, 2013	Friday, February 8, 2013	Nancy Knight
Southern 3 (CSDB low vision room)	Fri April 12, 2013	Wednesday, March 27, 2013	Donice Fennimore



Spotlight on Anophthalmia / Microphthalmia

Information retrieved from: <http://anophthalmia.org/treatment.shtml> and <http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/anophthalmia.asp>

What is Anophthalmia? Anophthalmia, also known as anophthalmos (Greek: ἀνόφθαλμος, "without eye"), is the congenital absence of one or both eyes. It is a medical term that describes the lack of eye of ocular tissue and globe from the eye. The absence of the eye will cause a small bony orbit, a constricted mucosal socket, short eyelids, reduced palpebral fissure and malar hypoplasia.

What is Microphthalmia? Microphthalmia (microphthalmos) is a congenital condition in which the eye(s) started to form during pregnancy but for some reason stopped, leaving the infant with small eye(s). The size of the eye can vary from child to child. If very mild, microphthalmia can almost go unnoticed, but usually it is fairly obvious. At the other end of the scale there is extreme microphthalmia, which is almost the same as anophthalmia.

Complex microphthalmos denotes an eye that is small and that has been found to have additional eye findings. These include cataract (clouding of the lens), coloboma (absence of a portion of a structure of the eye such as the iris, retina, and/or optic nerve), and orbital cyst. The degree of vision is dependent on the extent and location of the associated eye findings.

Microphthalmia, anophthalmia and coloboma are on a spectrum of eye abnormalities often referred to as MAC.

What is the Prevalence of Anophthalmia / Microphthalmia? Both of these conditions are rare, but the exact incidence is unknown. One report from a prospective study of 50,000 newborns found an incidence of microphthalmia of 0.22 per 1,000 live births. In a recent study in England, the prevalence of anophthalmia and microphthalmia was 1.0 per 10,000 births. The combined birth prevalence of these conditions is estimated to be up to 30 per 100,000 population, with microphthalmia reported in up to 11% of blind children in another study.

What are the Causes? Anophthalmia or microphthalmia can be congenital (present at birth) or acquired later in life. Causes of these conditions may include genetic mutations and abnormal chromosomes. Either condition can occur alone or along with other birth defects. A/M may result from inherited genetic mutations, sporadic genetic mutations, chromosome abnormalities, prenatal environmental insult or other unknown factors. Anophthalmia is an extremely rare disease and is mostly rooted in genetic abnormalities. It can also be associated with other syndromes.

What are the Functional Vision implications? Children with microphthalmia may have some functional vision. A prosthesis can be made to cap the microphthalmic eye to help with cosmetic appearance, while preserving the remaining sight.

What Medical Treatments? An infant with anophthalmia/microphthalmia should be evaluated by an ophthalmologist, ocularist and perhaps an oculoplastic surgeon. An ocularist is a health professional who specializes in prosthetic devices for the eye.

The orbits (eye sockets) are very important for proper growth and development of the face. If an eye is missing or too small, the bones around the eye may not grow properly. A conformer is a plastic shell-like device made by the ocularist

Spotlight on

that can be placed inside the orbit to help support the growth of the eye socket and the bones in the face. As the child grows, and the orbits and facial bones develop, the ophthalmologist can make prosthetic (artificial) eyes. Since each child is unique, the age when the child will be ready for a prosthetic eye varies. The ophthalmologist works closely with the ophthalmologist and oculoplastic surgeon to make conformers and prosthetic eyes that are best suited for the child. Sometimes surgery may be recommended to implant a prosthetic device deep into the orbit in order to make it easier to fit the prosthetic eye. There are various surgical options available when the conformers are not enough alone.

There is no treatment that can reverse microphthalmia. It should be monitored according to the complexity of the eye involvement. If a cataract(s) is present that is causing reduced vision then an operation to remove it may be performed. There is increased risk of detached retina in eyes that are microphthalmic. Visits to the ophthalmologist will probably be more frequent during the early years to monitor for treatable conditions that might develop, but will depend on the individual needs of the child. The child may need to be followed up periodically when the condition is seen to be stable and there are no other complications. If the eye is small or badly malformed, then an artificial eye or lens (sometimes called a scleral shell or prosthesis) can be fitted for cosmetic reasons and/or for promoting socket growth.

In infants, a prosthesis or conformer generally must be enlarged every few months to expand the socket. This is necessary to stimulate the socket tissues and bony orbit to grow at a normal rate. In the case of a congenitally small orbit, the socket and lid opening is actually smaller than the companion eye. Due to the difference in size, a series of conformers are necessary to stretch the tissues and form a socket into which prosthetic eye can later be fit. The conformer is usually enlarged once a month or as necessary to increase orbital volume as circumstances allow.

As the child grows the prosthesis will need to be checked regularly for size, comfort and fit (usually 2-3 times a year). The prosthesis will also need to be polished and checked for any damage such as scratches or sharp edges.

When a child's eyes are fully developed, usually by the preteen years, the prosthesis will generally remain the same shape and size for a longer period of time. It is necessary, however, to enlarge the artificial eye periodically or fabricate a new prosthesis from time to time. Depending on the child's age, this procedure will need to be done every 3-5 years.

If the microphthalmia is unilateral (only one eye is involved) and causing reduced vision in that eye, then the eye care specialist may want to consider prescribing protective glasses with polycarbonate lenses to protect the better eye from injury.

What are Educational Implications? Children with anophthalmia or microphthalmia will benefit from specialized instruction and equipment for learners who are blind/visually impaired. A certified teacher of student with visual impairments and a certified orientation and mobility specialist will be likely members of an educational team.

Resources

Ican: (International Children's Anophthalmia/Microphthalmia Network) is a support group made up of families and professionals, for families dealing with these issues. The support group can put you in touch with other families or medical professionals who can help. Phone:800-580-ican or <http://anophthalmia.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.

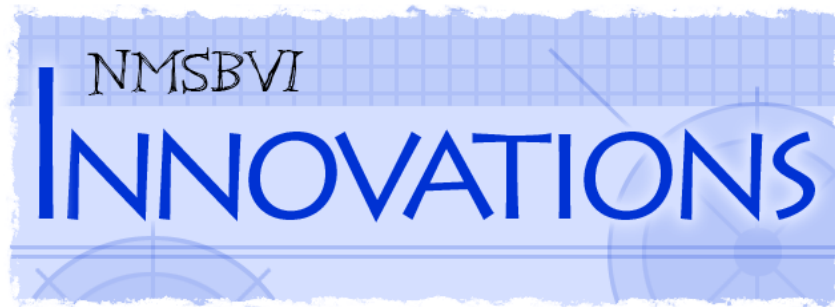
Materials provided by Instructors will be *Accessible Pedestrian Signals: A Guide to Best Practices* and the handouts of slide presentation.

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

& MOBILITY

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.



NMSBVI has just launched an Innovations page where you will find information about new VI/O&M tools created at NMSBVI. Please do check them out and contribute feedback.

www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us/Innovations/innovations.htm

NEW O&M VIDEO

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired has made a video on O&M skills. It was designed to help people become more familiar with basic O&M techniques and be able to enforce them in non-school environments. They also hope it will be helpful for parents of very young children that are blind/VI to get an idea of what to look forward to in regard to O&M. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EREbS3PrmtM&feature=youtu.be>

NEW DVD - AN O&M APPROACH TO GUIDE DOG TRAVEL

Mastering the Environment through Audition, Kinesthesia, and Cognition produced by Institute Nazareth et Louis Braille and written by Helene Guerette and Carole Zabihaylo, COMS. Great new resource for O&M professionals! \$59.95. 35 minutes. To purchase go to www.afb.org/store or call 800-232-3044



The United States Association of Blind Athletes Impacts Lives through Sports and Recreation

There are an estimated 52,000 school-aged children who are blind and visually impaired in the United States; nearly 70 percent do not participate in even a limited physical education curriculum. The barriers that blind and visually impaired youth face are numerous and primarily the consequences of moving their education from residential schools, where physical educators with blindness knowledge deliver specialized services in relatively small classes, to public schools where educators may have less knowledge, time and resources to apply to students who are visually impaired.

In 1976, the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) was founded by Dr. Charles Buell for the purpose of improving the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired. Since then, USABA, a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) organization, has evolved into a national organization that provides sports opportunities to thousands of athletes of all ages and abilities that are blind and visually impaired. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, USABA enhances the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired through sports and physical activity by providing opportunities in various sports, including, but not limited to, track and field, Nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, judo, wrestling, swimming, tandem cycling, powerlifting, rowing, showdown, triathlon, archery and goalball. USABA recognizes that sports opportunities allow people who are blind and visually impaired to develop independence through competition, without unnecessary restrictions. Like sighted people, people who are blind and visually impaired should have the opportunity to experience the thrill of victory and the reality of defeat.

The benefits of sports and recreation have been shown to continue from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood. A recent survey of USABA members revealed that not only do participants benefit academically from their involvement in sports during elementary and high school, but 57 percent of USABA members continued on to higher education to pursue a college degree - which is more than double the national average of 23 percent for their visually impaired peers. Helping to increase the involvement in physical activity as well as higher education, 18 agencies assisting youth who are blind and visually impaired are working towards a healthier lifestyle with the start of the National Fitness Challenge created by the United States Association of Blind Athletes and funded by the WellPoint Foundation. "Each participating agency submits baseline data and monthly updates that are used to create and modify achievable fitness and weight loss goals for the teens to help them decrease their Body Mass Index," said Mark Lucas, executive director of the United States Association of Blind Athletes. USABA and the WellPoint Foundation are actively working towards a healthier lifestyle by providing talking pedometers as well as fitness and nutrition coaches for each agency. Each athlete has the opportunity to be the top boy and girl from their agency and participate in the final National Fitness Challenge, a four-day camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 18-21, 2012, where they will participate in track and field, goalball, swimming and strength and conditioning workouts in order to learn more about fitness and become more involved in their local community. Mark Lucas explained, "Our goal for the National Fitness Challenge is the top 36 teens will go back to their communities and join sports teams. We want to reward the teens for their hard work and dedication towards leading an active and healthy lifestyle. Each participant will be provided skill development that can lead to national and international competitions."

Each of the 18 agencies has a special sport they are practicing in order to become more physically fit while having fun. For example, some are playing goalball while others have a running league, swim team, ski team or tandem cycling. "The WellPoint Foundation is committed to helping children and adults have active lives and avoid the health risks associated with sedentary lifestyles and obesity," said Mike Walsh, president and general manager of WellPoint's Specialty Business, which includes dental, vision, workers' compensation, voluntary, life and disability benefits. "We believe no one should ever be denied the right to enjoy the physical and emotional benefits of exercise, and we are proud to partner with the USABA to ensure that vision impairments do not limit the recreational opportunities afforded to teenagers across the country." The WellPoint Foundation is the philanthropic arm of WellPoint, Inc., and through charitable contributions and programs, the Foundation promotes the inherent commitment of WellPoint, Inc. to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and families.

These 700 teens are taking the leaps and bounds to break stereotypes and become more physically fit by showing how active people with disabilities can be, while enjoying themselves. As the National Fitness Challenge year comes to a

close, USABA and the WellPoint Foundation hope the athletes met their goal of a 50 percent total decrease in body mass index (BMI). Not only will these teens lower their BMI, but through participation in sports and physical activity, these teens will realize new levels of independence, confidence and determination.

USABA is dedicated to providing physical activities for everyone who is blind and visually impaired, especially veterans and military service members who are blind and visually impaired. Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom resulted in the highest percentage of eye wounds of any major conflict since World War I, so it is particularly important that USABA provides opportunities to returning wounded warriors. USABA began Operation Mission Vision in the summer of 2008. The goal of Operation Mission Vision is simply to bring normalcy back into the lives of veterans and active duty service members who are blind and visually impaired, and to accelerate their rehabilitation process through sport, recreation and physical activity. Lonnie Bedwell, 46 year old, Navy veteran lost his sight 15 years ago, and has been a member of USABA for many years. He has said many times, "I want to thank all of you for these opportunities and allowing me to be a part of USABA. USABA and all of you that run it are absolutely first class," he continues to say. "When you give your time to help others, that's something that can never be replaced. It's phenomenal. I just wish I could repay these guys. I feel like the only way I can do that is to pay it forward. It's like I was in front of a huge brick wall. No way around it, no way through it, and they put a door in it, and then they took me through it. The events, a lot of the time I don't know how you put into words what they do for people," Bedwell said. Participation in physical activity is often the most critical mental and physical aspect of the rehabilitation process for both the injured person and that individual's support network. In partnership with the United States Olympic Committee's Military Sports Program, USABA fully funds veterans and their coaches so they can attend and participate in the USABA summer and winter sports festivals.

In order to specially help veterans, goalball was developed after WWII to keep veterans who lost their sight during the war physically active. Goalball is a unique ball game played by people who are blind and visually impaired, but many sighted people also play on local teams for fun. Goalball has become a premier team game and is a part of the Summer Paralympic Games. It is played in 112 countries in all International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) regions. In partnership with the U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States Olympic Committee, USABA manages the sport of goalball from the grassroots to the elite level. Goalball is played with bells inside of it so the players can locate it audibly. For this reason, silence at events is vital. It is played on a court with tactile markings so players can determine their location on the court and the direction that he/she is facing. All players wear eye masks to block out light and thus equalize visual impairment between the athletes. USABA's goalball season is starting soon and goalball teams around the national will play in tournaments with the hopes of becoming national champions. For more information on the goalball schedule go to www.usaba.org.

USABA offers many other sporting events for youth such as the IBSA World Youth Championships, which occurs every two years. In addition, more than 250 athletes ages 12-19 from more than 20 countries compete in sports that include judo, goalball, swimming, and track and field. Team USA is represented by young athletes currently competing on their high school or club teams. USABA also provides regional goalball tournaments, sports education camps, summer sports festivals, annual winter sports festivals, and cycling camps. For more information on USABA sports programs go to www.usaba.org or visit their Facebook page.

Sports and physical activity is the gift that keeps on giving, the benefits can be reaped through childhood until adulthood. Regular exercise can help protect us all from heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, noninsulin-dependent diabetes, obesity, back pain, osteoporosis, and can improve our mood and help to better manage stress. For the greatest overall health benefits, experts recommend that we do 20 to 30 minutes of aerobic activity three or more times a week and some type of muscle strengthening activity and stretching at least twice a week. USABA strives to be recognized as an easy access portal for any information and events for all blind and visually impaired people who seek participation in sports and physical activity. Parents, teachers, community program leaders, coaches, volunteers and people who are blind and visually impaired can easily seek out USABA staff and coaches for their expertise. As the United States Olympic Committee is for the Olympic movement, the United States Association of Blind Athletes is for the blind and visually impaired athletic movement.

For More Information

For more information in becoming involved or for general information contact Lacey Markle at the United States Association of Blind Athletes at (719) 866-3222 or military_pgm_asst@usaba.org, or go to USABA's website at www.usaba.org.

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.

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

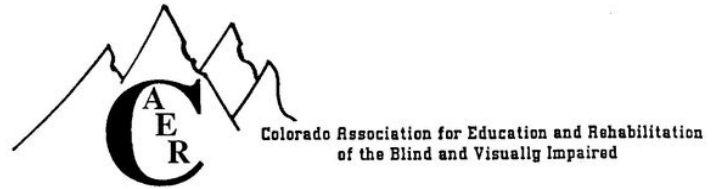


For more information:

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

CAER Awards

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.



Overview: The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, advocates for individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

Services Provided

- Professional development opportunities and resources
- 17 divisions for specialized information (one specific to the Division on Visual Impairments)
- Journals and newsletters with information on new research findings, classroom practices that work, federal legislation, and policies
- Conventions and conferences
- Special education publications

Audience

Teachers, administrators, students, parents, paraprofessionals, related support service providers.

Population Served

All aspects of the education and development of students with disabilities and/or those who are gifted.

The **Division on Visual Impairments (DVI)** advances the education of children and youth who have visual impairments that impede their educational progress. Members receive the *DVI Quarterly*. The DVI website is <http://www.cecdivi.org/>

For more information about CEC, please call 888-232-7733 or go to www.cec.sped.org 888-232-7733

NSCD and CAER Spring Recreation Seminar & CAER Annual Meeting

Who: All teachers of students with visual impairments, O&M instructors, parents, students, and adults with visual impairments

What: An informational and experiential morning with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD). Starting with a short session to learn about NSCD's summer and winter recreation programs. We will finish the morning with hands on experience in rock climbing and camping under blindfold or simulators. The CAER Annual Meeting will be afterward with lunch offered. Lunch will be \$5 for AER members and \$10 for non-members.

When: Wednesday May 23, 9-12 and meeting from 12-1 pm.

Where: El Dorado Canyon State Park. Park entrance is \$8. Participants can meet at parking lot at NE corner of Marshall Rd. and Highway 93 at 8:45 to meet NSCD van to get a ride into the park.

Why: To provide teachers and families with information on outdoor recreation opportunities available through NSCD.

Click below for NSCD Summer Program Brochure

<http://nscd.org/be-an-athlete.html>

RSVP to Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org by **Wednesday May 16th** to reserve your spot. Please specify how many will be attending and whether you are attending the seminar and lunch or just the seminar. Also state if you will drive into the park or need a ride from the parking lot outside the park.

Minimum of 10 participants required to hold the event.



www.nscd.org

Family Learning Retreat 2012

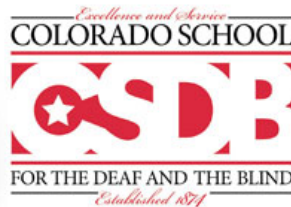
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
33 North Institute Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
719-578-2100; www.csdb.org
June 22-23, 2012



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**.



School for the Blind Spring Program
Peter Pan



Peter Pan Production at CSDB!

Congrats to the CSDB School for the Blind for their outstanding production of Peter Pan. The Spring Program was presented on May 8th to a huge crowd of admiring fans! The musical director was Julie Novak. The Bad News Bulldog Band provided great musical accompaniment. A very special thank you the cast of featured students of many ages from the School for the Blind.

Check out the photos on the CSDB website at:

<http://csdb.org/Default.aspx?DN=609296e8-bb46-4322-9664-30f4806967a9>



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

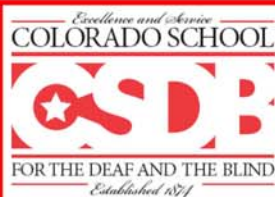
\$40.00

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.

COLORADO SPORTS EDUCATION CAMP

Students who are Blind/
Visually Impaired

Ages 10-16
June 24-29, 2012

Activities ...
Wrestling, Judo,
Tandem Cycling,
Track & Field,
Goalball, & more



Enrollment limited to 20 students.

\$80.00/student (cost includes all food, lodging, and activities)

To register, contact Donna at 719-330-7387 or
dkeale@csdb.org



...Learning, Thriving, Leading
33 N. Institute Street ~ Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-578-2100, 719-578-2239(fax), www.csdb.org



PARENTS ARE A CHILD'S FIRST TRAVEL TEACHER

Parents often need support when it comes to developing strategies that encourage their children who is blind/visually impaired to move and explore their environment. In order to help give parents the tools they need to be good travel teachers, the National Federation of the Blind has introduced the "Early Explorers Program". Participating families will receive a welcome packet containing an informational DVD, a child-sized white cane, a copy of *Cane Travel and Independence*, and Joe Cutter's *Independent Movement and Travel in Blind Children: A Promotion Model*. In addition an e-newsletter, *Travel Tales*, will arrive in you in-box every quarter. *Travel Tales* will be filled with practical tips and information, such as how to turn a trip to the grocery store into a teachable moment, or how to travel through snow with a cane. For more information on how to get involved in the Early Explorer's Program go to www.nfb.org/earlyexplorers. Or call 410-659-9314. The program is designed for children infant to seven years of age.

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.

PEAK Parent Center

Peak Parent Center is Colorado's federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PEAK assists families and others through services like its telephone hotline, workshops, conferences, website, and publications. As a PTI, PEAK offers parent-to-parent support, but it does not hold support group meetings. We work one-on-one with families and also collaborate with state government and the education, rehabilitation, and medical communities to make system changes that improve outcomes for children.

To contact Peak:

Phone: 719-531-9400

Fax: 719-531-9452

Hotline: 1-800-284-0251

E-mail: info@peakparent.org

DOTS OF INTEREST



GETTING READY TO READ

Article from the may 2012 E-Connector Newsletter, News from CO Parents of Blind Children

Kids who read Braille need strength in their arms, fingers and hands in order to push the Braille writer keys or punch paper with a stylus. They also need to be ready to take in the tactile sensations of dots on paper. Fortunately it's easy to build strength, hand coordination and tactile readiness through play. Here are some activities that will help build strong Braille readers.

FOR ARM AND HAND STRENGTH:

The human wheelbarrow—hold the child's feet while they walk on their hands.

Fill pails with sand, lift and pour.

Climb on play equipment at the park.

Push and pull toys.

FOR HAND AND FINGER STRENGTH:

Squeeze water out of sponges.

Attach clothes pins to the edge of a box.

Open jars with lids

Play with pull-apart toys such as pop beads, Legos®, and magnets.

Pull the trigger on a squirt gun or spray bottle.

Mold and pinch play dough.

Pull up a zipper.

FOR FINGER SENSITIVITY:

Find toys with interesting textures and sort...smooth, fuzzy, bumpy, etc.

Bath time: Talk about the feel of the soap, the washcloth, and the lather of shampoo.

Finger paint with shaving cream.

Serve finger foods with different textures such as cracker pieces, soft bread, spaghetti, cereal.

DOTS OF INTEREST



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.

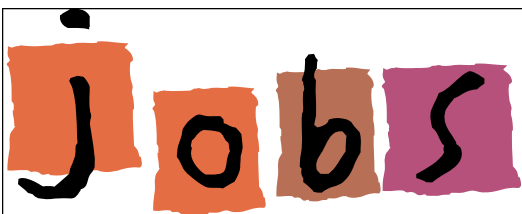
NEW RELEASE OF BRAILLE FORMATS IN THREE ACCESSIBLE VERSIONS

BANA is pleased to announce the immediate release of the new *Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription, 2011*. This completely revised publication is available in three accessible electronic versions: enhanced PDF, BRF, and online HTML. These are available at www.brailleauthority.org and are offered without charge. This is an extensive revision of the previous formats publication. Appendix A of the new publication provides a quick reference of changes and additions.



GREAT RESOURCES FOR YOUNG BRAILLE READERS!

Did You Know that the Early Braille Trade Books Website (<http://tech.aph.org/ebt/>) has a link to Building on Patterns? Log on to see what books your young braille reader can now enjoy reading independently. If you just purchased the latest release, Building on Patterns: Second Grade: Unit 4, your student now has 17 books from the Early Braille Trade Books Collection to choose from. There are 29 additional titles that are "An Almost Perfect Match"—within 1-4 contractions. The website is free, accessible, and a great tool to use to match books to a student's knowledge of braille contractions.



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

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (2 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

- ✓ **CSDB** is actively recruiting and accepting applications for positions for the 2012-13 school year. Those interested in TVI positions specific to early childhood, the School for the Blind, and/or the Outreach Program should contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@csdb.org or (719) 578-2114.

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



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 to: vhernandez@csdb.org, 719-578-2106 or 719-358-2628 (VP)
- May 21 - 23** **NSCD / CAER Spring Recreation Seminar / CAER Annual Meeting**
 RSVP by April 27: to Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org
- 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 16** **CO Center for the Blind Home & Garden Show** - Littleton, CO
 Visit: www.coloradocenterfortheblind.org
- 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

More Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- 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—Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681
- October 11 - 13** APH Annual Meeting of Ed Officio Trustees - Louisville, KY
Visit: www.aph.org
- 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 - Summer Programs

For more information about these CO Center for the Blind Programs, please be in touch with Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 ext. 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

CONFIDENCE CAMP FOR KIDS *Ages 5-11*

June 11 – 22

Confidence Camp is a day program for Denver area kids designed to reinforce and build the adaptive skills of blindness while having fun. The children will prepare their own lunch each day and practice household chores. Braille and cane travel will be incorporated into the many exciting activities. The children gain confidence as they go on outings to swim, hike, and visit an amusement park.

INITIATION TO INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM *Ages 11 – 14*

July 16 – August 3

This is a three-week residential program where the students live in apartments with a counselor and other students. Core classes in Braille, travel, home management and computer technology will be combined with recreational experiences, and career exploration.

EARN AND LEARN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM *Ages 14-18*

June 8 – August 3

This is an eight-week residential program where the students live in apartments with a counselor and other students. Core classes in Braille, travel, home management and computer technology will be combined with the opportunity to participate in part time paid work experiences. Recreational activities and a trip to the National Federation of the Blind national convention in Dallas, Texas are highlights of this program.

SUMMER FOR SUCCESS COLLEGE PROGRAM *High School Graduates planning to further their education.*

June 8 – August 3

This is an eight-week residential program designed to prepare students to handle all aspects of a university or vocational program. Recreational activities and a trip to the National Federation of the Blind national convention in Dallas, Texas are highlights of this program.

Colorado Center FOR THE BLIND

Upcoming events with the Colorado Center for the Blind

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.

In the Swim of Things!

Barb Galgano, COMS/TVI - Trina Boyd-Pratt, COMS/TVI - David Gooldy, COMS/TVI - Jeannie Lei, TVI

It came to our attention way back in February on a Friday night outing to Utah Pool that the majority of the children with blindness/visual impairment that attended that Friday Night Swim, could not swim! Not to mention that the majority of them could not even float!

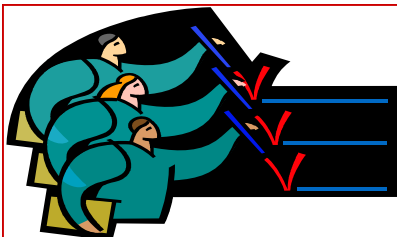
Thinking that swimming is truly a life-long recreational skill that everyone can enjoy, we decided to do something to change this. In a nut shell, Barb contacted the Aurora Parks and Recreation Aquatic Director (Julie) and asked if a class could be set up, specifically for children with visual impairments, to learn to swim? After some checking on their part, they said "YES!" Needing some help to pull this off Trina, David and Jeannie (and Jeannie's daughter Drew) graciously agreed to help out.

Nine courageous swimmers joined in. There were four from Cherry Creek Schools and five from Aurora Public Schools ages 5-16, the majority of these students had limited or no swimming instruction prior to the program. The children had six weeks of lessons taught by a Utah Pool WSI certified instructor consisting of 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of practice/free time. The kids loved it!

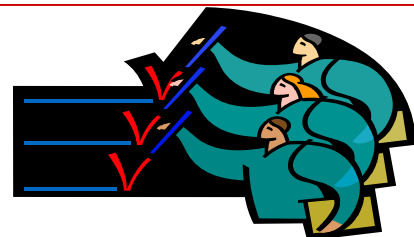
Since the program was such a success and there is so much more to learn, we are planning on hosting it again next year!

Super Swimmers: Kaitlin, Tyler, Dakota, Calvin, Tony, Ian, Gavin, Allison & Alma!





CHECK IT OUT!



You're invited to visit our new website devoted to "all things" intervener found at www.intervener.org. Please visit this site often for information, resources, and discussions related to the work of interveners with children and youth who are deafblind.



Fourteen New Unforgettable Videos—Too Many New Stars to Count!

Fourteen teams submitted videos to the Unforgettable American Printing House (APH) Star Contest. Three teams received cash prizes, three received Amazon.com gift certificates, and all will go down in history as Unforgettable APH Video Stars.

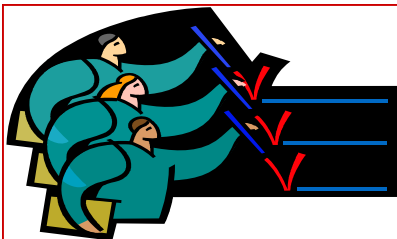
The first, second, and third place prizes went, respectively, to the following videos:

Interactive Periodic Table of the Elements Study Set by Maddie from Minnesota

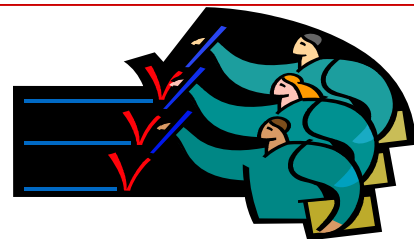
The Hundreds Board by Fairfield Elementary School, Winnsboro, SC

The Gift of Time by California State University Graduate Students

Everyone's participation made the Winter 2012 contest a big success. Watch for a new contest coming soon. Meanwhile, enjoy the Winter 2012 entries at: www.aph.org/contest



CHECK IT OUT!



NEW LITERACY WEBSITE

Paths To Literacy website is the result of a joint project between Perkins School for the Blind and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI). By combining our resources and expertise, we hope to assist educators and

families in the quest to provide literacy experiences for children who are blind or visually impaired. The information on this site ranges from a basic overview of literacy to various stages of development and special challenges, as well as an exploration of different media (print, braille, auditory strategies). People are encouraged to add your ideas and questions, so that this will be an interactive hub of resources. www.pathstoliteracy.org



PATHS TO LITERACY

for students who are blind or visually impaired

Making Science and Engineering Accessible to Blind Worldwide

Students who are blind or visually impaired may have been underrepresented in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields due to the limitations of access to scientific curricula in the classroom. The new collaborative effort between GW Micro and Independence Science strives to provide a solution that will enable more students who are blind and visually impaired to enter the STEM fields.

Research by Dr. Cary Supalo, Independence Science, and GW Micro has led to the development of a text-to-speech package that acts as the missing link between the technology and students who are visually impaired. We envision a classroom that exhibits the full integration of students with VI and reduces teacher anxiety about accommodating students during lab activities," said Dr. Supalo, who is himself a blind scientist. My experience developing these access technologies has taught me that blindness need not be a barrier in the pursuit of one's ambitions."

For more information and/or to take advantage of special introductory pricing, please contact GW Micro or Independence Science at the following:

GW Micro—Phone: (260) 489-3671—Email: sales@gwmicro.com —Web: www.gwmicro.com

Independence Science—Phone: (866) 862-9665—Email: info@independencescience.com—Web: www.independencescience.com



A LIBRARY OF AUDIO DESCRIBED MOVIES

The Texas Center for the Visually Challenged (TCVC) circulates descriptive movies to blind/low vision persons in the United States. Descriptive movies are standard movies that have an audio narration inserted on the sound track. The audio narration describes the scene, action, and activities between gaps in the dialog. Of the 200 videos and DVD's available, many are appropriate for children, such as "Toy Story", "Up", and "Wizard of Oz."

A one-time subscription fee of \$25 is charged. This fee is the "insurance" that movies are returned. You will be asked to make a list of the videos you are interested in. Videos will be mailed to you one at a time. To see the list of movies available, go to <http://computersfortheblind.net/movie-list.html>. For more information call 972-530-2949 or e-mail info@computersfortheblind.net

Announcing the Unforgettable APH Star Video Contest, Summer 2012

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH)to be the first to know! They are now accepting entries to our Summer 2012 Unforgettable APH Star Products Video Contest!

This is their third video contest, and they invite students, parents, teachers, administrators, rehab instructors, and all of their customers to shoot their own videos demonstrating uses of their favorite APH products. We received 14 entries to the winter 2012 contest and the top three received cash prizes! Contest guidelines are simple, and you don't need to be a video professional—just be yourself and have fun! Check out the guidelines at <http://www.aph.org/contest/official-rules.html> Entires for the summer 2012 contest must be postmarked by Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

If you want ideas on how to create your video, or haven't had a chance to view the winter 2012 entries, visit their video contest page at <http://www.aph.org/contest/index.html>



SCHOOLview® Data Lab Report

The CDE SchoolView Data Lab has been upgraded, and is now available the general public) at this link:

<http://elm.cde.state.co.us/cognos8bi/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi>

With this tool you can explore growth and state assessment data back to the 2003-4 academic year, breaking results out by district, school, demographics, and educational service programs. About a month ago specific disabilities and areas of giftedness were added to the mix. The version released today contains some additional disaggregations: Region, LEA, Title I School, Administrative Unit, Charter School, Online School, Magnet School, and Alternative Education Campus

The home page for the SchoolView Data Lab is here: <http://www.schoolview.org/performance.asp>

On that page there is an instructional video to guide you through the interface; a link to FAQs appears within the application.

Least Restrictive Environments and Free Appropriate Public Education for Preschool Children with Disabilities

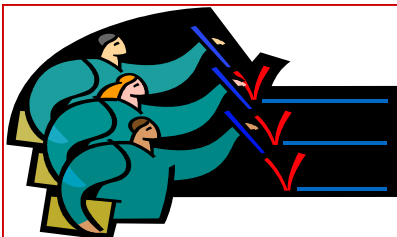
Colorado recently received a letter from Melody Musgrove, director of the Office of Special Education Services, regarding Least Restrictive Environments and Free Appropriate Public Education requirements for preschool children with disabilities.

The letter reiterates the importance of adhering to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements when making placement and service delivery decisions for preschool age children with disabilities. The letter from OSEP can be found on the Special Education Guidance page on the Exceptional Students Service Unit website at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/Guidance_OSEP_LRE-FAPE.pdf

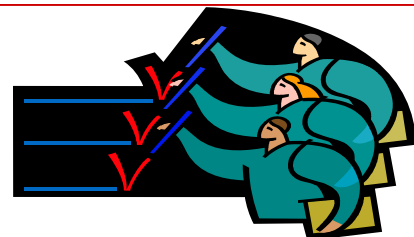
Video on Sensational Blackboard

Denver 9 News anchor Kyle Dyer interviewed Karen Parsegian and Ann Cunningham during the 8am hour of the morning show in the 9 News studio on Friday, May 4. To check out the video or learn more about The Sensational Blackboard go to the link below and watch the 3-minute video.

<http://www.9news.com/video/default.aspx?bctid=1621260374001&odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|featured>



CHECK IT OUT!



New from NICHCY - The DisAbilityConnect App for iPhone!

There's an App for that!

Are you on the go? Looking for organizations in your state with disability info or support for parents? Fumbling to find contact info for a national organization focused on a specific disability? NICHCY has just the app for you - **DisAbilityConnect**! Find contact information for organizations providing information on disabilities, special education, early intervention, support groups, and much more!

If you have a Barcode Scanner app on your phone, simply scan the QR code above to go directly to our **DisAbilityConnect** app in the App Store. Or you can download it here for Apple:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/disabilityconnect/id510714471?ls=1&mt=8>

It is also available for Android smart phones at:

<https://market.android.com/details?id=com.amdee.disabilityconnect>

stopbullying.gov

HHS & Education Department Launch New 'Stop Bullying' Website

www.stopbullying.gov

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have launched a redesigned Stop Bullying website to encourage children, parents, teachers and communities to take action to stop and prevent bullying. The website has a map with information on state laws and policies (www.stopbullying.gov/laws/key-components/index.html) and videos for young people, along with practical strategies for schools and communities to make sure that environments are safe. (www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/special-needs/) It also includes suggestions on how parents can discuss bullying with their children and information on the dangers of cyberbullying (www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/how-to-report/index.html) and ways to prevent it.



webcast

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program presents
Addressing Issues of Sexuality
with Students who are Visually Impaired

In this webcast, Jeff Migliozi, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, talks about the importance of sexuality education for individuals with vision impairments including those with additional disabilities. Jeff emphasizes the need to specifically teach many of the concepts related to sexuality education that sighted children learn incidentally as they observe the world around them. He talks about instructional strategies for parents and educators when providing instruction and information on this topic.

The webcast chapters are: 1. Introduction, 2. The Importance of Language in Early Sex Education, 3. Puberty and Sexual Development, 4. The Social and Sexual Implications of Personal Appearance, 5. Strategies for Parents and Teachers, 6. Preventing Exploitation Through Sex Education.

Watch the webcast here:

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Addresssing_Issues_Of_Sexuality

COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND EVENT

On Saturday, June 16, 2012 (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) the Colorado Center for the Blind will host a Littleton Home and Garden Tour. Some of Littleton's finest homes will open their doors for all to view the spectacular architecture, décor and gardens within. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20 per person, or for \$25 on the day of the event. To buy, go to www.coloradocenterfortheblind.org or purchase at the CCB, 2233 W. Shepperd Ave., Littleton, Colorado. Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase at the Colorado Center during the home tour hours.



“Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool!” Contest Winners

Five national teams produced winning videos for the 2011 Social Skills Video Contest. To check out the winning videos, please go to www.dcmp.org and the YouTube site to watch the videos showing creative ways to teach social skills. <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL89A63265E8487A6B&feature=viewall>

The Described Caption Media Program (DCMP) (www.dcmp.org) partnered with the Texas Education of Blind and Visually Impaired Students' Advisory Committee to provide captions and description for each video.

You may also view the videos and lesson guides on the website of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) www.tsbvi.edu, or through the DCMP free-loan library collection (anyone can view) as follows:

- ◆ **GAME NIGHT** <http://www.dcmp.org/Catalog/TitleDetail.aspx?TID=6771>
- ◆ **MY DREAM NIGHT OUT** <http://www.dcmp.org/Catalog/TitleDetail.aspx?TID=6772>
- ◆ **REWIND BUTTON** <http://www.dcmp.org/Catalog/TitleDetail.aspx?TID=6773>
- ◆ **GREAT CUP STACK CHALLENGE** <http://www.dcmp.org/Catalog/TitleDetail.aspx?TID=6774>
- ◆ **RAISING CANE!** <http://www.dcmp.org/Catalog/TitleDetail.aspx?TID=6775>



ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER GAME: “THREE-D VELOCITY”

Three-D Velocity is a combat flight simulation game designed with blind gamers in mind. The player is in complete control of the simulated aircraft, from take off to landing on an aircraft carrier. The pilot can engage in aerial dog fights with other aircraft or play in “Mission Mode” where the pilot carries out an assigned combat mission. Unlike standard video games where information is conveyed through graphics, Three-D Velocity uses directional sound. “If you’ve ever wanted to fly at mach two, shoot down other aircraft, make split-second decisions to save your own life, and play the lead role in the outcome of a mission started by United States black operation forces, Three-D Velocity is definitely for you.” (Quoted from The Braille Monitor, October 2011, page 812). To download a copy of this game go to www.bpcprograms.com.

Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2012

Persons in Attendance: Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, Charlotte Javier, Jamie Lugo, Judy Mumford, Jim Olson, Angela Sims, and Wendy Stoltman.

Persons Absent: Kathryn Botsford, LaVerne Dell

MISSION OF THE VISION COALITION

The purpose of the Vision Coalition is to bring the collective resources of the group together to address state priorities improving services to students who are blind/visually impaired.”

(April 1998)

LEGEND OF ACRONYMS

CDE	=	Colorado Department of Education
CIMC	=	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
COMS	=	certified orientation and mobility specialist
CSDB	=	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
DVR	=	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
ESSU	=	Exceptional Student Services Unit
TVI	=	teacher certified in the area of visual impairments

PROGRAM UPDATES

Northern Region (Wendy Stoltman)

There is an opening in Brighton School District. Wendy, who is retiring from Brighton School District, has been clearing out here office and shared some of her teaching relics – including items on memo paper and yellow plastic sheaths to put OVER the dittos to increase contrast. She also shared her “hand written” worksheets that she created before classroom typewriters or computers. She showed her handouts that have traces of White Out!

Thank you to Vicki Pearson who will coordinate the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinics. The northern region thanks the low vision evaluation team for their onsite expertise.

Discussion Item: There are huge concerns with districts making technology choices that are not compatible with VI-specific technologies.

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

We had our final meeting of the school year on April 19th. TVIs brought questions to the table about a variety of issues including use of paraprofessionals, how to handle communications with classroom teachers, instruc-

tional time in/out of the classroom, etc. It was a wonderful opportunity to dialogue with peers. Nancy Knight and Cheryl Leidich gave an update on the happenings in the blind school in Sierra Leone.

We have scheduled our first two meetings for next year. The first will be September and the second will be November.

Southern Region (Judy Mumford)

We had a great turn out for our April 16th meeting. The presenter was Barbara Fanning, Optometric Vision Therapist, from Chapel Hills Vision Development Center. Barbara discussed vision therapy objectives and demonstrated many of the activities.

Our next meeting will be May 14th, 1 p.m. in the Lions Building. Bonnie Snyder and TVIs will be sharing iPad, use of and applications with students. Jim will be sharing new APH products.

District 20 Braillist, Christine Maynard, not only received the Learning Services Para Professional for 2012, but has been awarded the District Classified Employee of the Year. An honor well deserved!

Western Region (Angela Sims)

Another school year is quickly winding down. The mandatory testing windows have closed and there were issues with computerized assessments. There were many conversations about screen corruption issues caused by magnification software, as well as the inability to pause a test for visual breaks. Next year the teachers will be collecting a body of evidence to show a student's progress rather than continuing to struggle with online testing issues.

Angela shared that there has been a recent "break through" on eliminating screen corruption caused by Zoomtext software. This fix was successfully tested with both Zoomtext 10 and 9.1. Go to the Zoomtext toolbar and select Color, then settings. Once under setting, click on the Font tab and change the Enhancement Type from xFont to Standard.

Kevin O'Brien reports Delta and Montrose caseload numbers have been rising. TCAP testing went fine. Mesa TVIs are already projecting ahead to next fall's low vision clinic in Grand Junction and have five potential referrals. Next school year Kevin will be supervising Beth Myers' VI practicum in the fall and Meghan Crosby's VI practicum in the spring so this will keep him very busy.

The rest of the western slope is quiet with no new news. Everyone is looking forward to a summer break to rejuvenate and prepare of the next school year.

CAER (Kathryn Botsford)

The Annual CAER meeting / workshop / banquet will be on May 23rd. (*Editor's Note: Please check out the flyer on page 12 of this newsletter*).

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (LaVerne Dell)

Things have been quiet at DVR over the past few months. Joe Fiorini is the Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind in the Northglenn office. In our Denver Metro Office, Lin Rutland will be working with transitions, spe-

cific to students with a vision loss in the Denver area. The Personal Adjustment Training Program has a 4 - 5 month waiting list. The Independence Training Program at The Colorado Center for the Blind also has a 4 - 5 month wait list (this is the adult training program.)

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Charlotte Javier)

Staff News: Congratulations to Sarah Bickford on her wedding May 6, 2012! All our best wishes go out to Sarah and Chris!! We are sad to say goodbye to our occupational therapist, Carol Spicer. If there are any occupational therapists out there - we are hiring one part time.

Key Events: Anchor's 30th Anniversary is quickly approaching! We are trying to find post-graduates of Anchor Center to be a part of our celebration. If there are any of your students who are a post-graduate of Anchor please have them contact us for a Class Reunion Celebration we are planning June 2013. This spring has brought us beautiful tulips throughout all of our gardens as well as large numbers in our Toddler and Preschool classes. June 8th will be the preschool Graduation with 13 graduates moving on to school districts. Dr. King's eye exam days at the Anchor Center have been very successful here in our building. One day a month when Dr. King or staff is here, his schedule is booked solid. On June 14th & 15th we are having an Expanded Core Curriculum Seminar based on Early Childhood Education given by Dr. Sandy Lewis and Kitty Greeley. This is open to all of you. Feel free to call and RSVP if you would like to attend. Sanctuary Golf will be June 14th. Call for details and to sign up.

Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)

New Employees! The CIMC would like to welcome two wonderful new staff members who started working in the CSDB Outreach Programs and Services department with the CIMC work unit in April 2012: Ginny Gallagher (email: ggallagher@csdb.org) and Marla Garceau (email: mgarceau@csdb.org)

May 1st deadline for book orders for the 2012-2013 school year: Plan Ahead! **May 1 of every year is the deadline for book orders** for the following school year. This is the same date many of the instructional resource centers across the U.S. agree upon. Please plan to place your orders for the 2012-13 school year no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Administrative Units (AUs) may contact the CIMC for a printout of their current book order status at any time. The spreadsheet data is shaded grey if the book order has been delivered complete to a school district within an AU. For orders received by the May 1st deadline, the CIMC will try their hardest to provide districts with at least partially completed volumes of embossed braille by the first day of school.

Orders received after May 1st are not guaranteed to be delivered, even partially complete, at the start of the new school year. The CIMC will make every attempt to deliver completed book orders in a timely manner.

Returning books to the CIMC at the end of the 2012-13 school year:

- A "Return Shipping Label" must be used.
- Districts with large quantities of braille shipments have been assigned color-coded labels specific to their district. All other labels are printed on white paper.
- Return shipping labels should be filled out accurately and completely.
- Labels should be adhered to the side of the box so that they are visible when the boxes are stacked vertically, 6 boxes high.
- Boxes need to be packed and taped securely so they do not break open during shipment.

A guidance document is available on the CIMC webpage of the CSDB website (www.csdb.org).

Request for updated contact information sent to district contact personnel: Please check with your district's designated contact person for CIMC to verify and update your contact information. Please notify the CIMC if you have special shipping requests during the summer months. Email updates to Ginny at ggallagher@csdb.org.

Phone numbers: The CIMC currently uses the following numbers:

- Ginny Gallagher, ggallagher@csdb.org
- Marla Garceau, mgarceau@csdb.org
- Debbie Haberkorn, office (719) 578-2197, dhaberkorn@csdb.org
- Jim Olson, office (719) 578-2195, jolson@csdb.org

FAX: (719) 578-2207 (if you FAX, please contact us to verify we received your FAX)

CSDB and the CIMC are implementing a new unified communications platform, Microsoft Lync; integrated into Microsoft Office including IM, Audio, Video, Web Conference and Presence. Our current phone numbers could be changing. Information will be disseminated as we know more.

CIMC Forms: Please use current versions of all forms - available on our website. Current forms all have footers that state "May 2011" or newer. The "VI Registration" form is in the process of being revised.

How to Navigate to the CIMC Website: Go to: www.csdb.org Click on "Programs & Services", "Outreach", "CIMC." Click on the link for "CIMC Documents and Order Forms"

"CIMC Documents and Order Forms:" VI Registration Form for Students Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired; VI Exit Form for Students Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired; Order Form: APH Educational Materials; Order Form: Braille and Large Print Books; Order Form: CIMC Professional Lending Library; Order Form: Brailier; Brailier Repair Form; Leisure Reading Books In Braille By Age Level; Recommended APH Products from Fall 2011 CDE Conference; Recommended APH products for Science instruction; Recommended APH Products Related to Recreation and Leisure; Recommended APH Products for Orientation and Mobility; Instructions for Completing the VI Registration Spreadsheet; How To Read Your VI Registration Spreadsheet

Where Do You Send Your Email Attachments?

Send new "VI Registration" forms to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org

Send "Exit" forms to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org

Send order forms for APH educational materials to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org

Send order forms for braille and large print books to: cimcbookorders@csdb.org

[Send brailier request forms to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org](mailto:cimcaphorders@csdb.org)

[Send braille repair forms to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org \(and call or email Debbie at \(719\) 578-2197 or dhaberkorn@csdb.org to notify her\)](mailto:cimcaphorders@csdb.org)

Contact Debbie Haberkorn (dhaberkorn@csdb.org) with your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic inquiries and orders for prescribed devices.

Colorado Statewide VI Registration Count: The January 2, 2012 statewide VI registration count for Colorado has been completed. This account is updated daily as new VI Registrations and Exit forms are submitted by TVIs and school districts. On the first Monday in January annually (the same count day used for the Federal

Quota program count administered by APH) the count spreadsheet is locked and individual spreadsheets of student registration information is printed for each individual Administrative Unit (AU). This year, spreadsheets were mailed in early April to Directors of Special Education for each AU who registered students as blind/visually impaired. A second printed copy has been mailed to each district designated CIMC contact person.

Federal Quota Count Process (Administered by APH) for January 02, 2012: Data from the statewide Colorado VI Registration count was used to by school districts to determine eligible students for Federal Quota count day. Eligible students were entered into the Federal database by CIMC staff and Phase I of this process has closed. Phase 2 has just begun. During Phase 2 States look for duplicate registrations based on count day enrollment. For more information regarding the Federal Quota program, please visit www.aph.org

CSDB – BVI Outreach (Jim Olson)

Retirement announcement: Louise Gettman, a TVI in the Early Education area of CSDB’s Outreach Programs and Services department, has announced her retirement. Her last day of work will be June 1, 2012. If you would like to send cards to CIMC, we will make sure she gets them as we celebrate her retirement at the next Southern region TVI meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012.

Recent Events: April 14: A “Sensory Safari” activity was held at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs for students who are blind/visually impaired between the ages of birth and 2nd grade and their families. Participants were invited to touch, hear, feel and smell various exhibits. They visited interpretive stations and had the opportunity to talk to zoo and wildlife staff.

Upcoming Events: Additional information regarding upcoming events can be located by clicking the “Events” tab at the bottom of the homepage at www.csdb.org

May 3: “Coloring the Twirl” by the 1 and only JAG! (Deafblind ASL entertainer)- \$5.00 per person, \$15.00 per family. Contact Diane Covington (719)578-2225, dcovington@csdb.org.

June 4-7: Bits and Pieces of the Expanded Core Curriculum (Short Course) - Short course for students who are blind or visually impaired. Focus on: JAWs-Beyond Basic Commands, Trekker Breeze outing, FREX transit to Denver, College information, Adult Role Models. Contact Donna Keale (719) 578-2251, dkeale@csdb.org

June 24-29: Colorado Sports Education Camp - (ages 10-16) Activities will include wrestling, judo, tandem cycling, track & field, goalball and more. Enrollment limited to 20 students. Cost: \$80.00 per students (cost includes all food, lodging, and activities). To register, contact Donna Keale at (719) 330-7387 or dkeale@csdb.org

June 22-23: Family Learning Retreat - 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. Contact: Diane Covington (719) 578-2225, dcovington@csdb.org

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jamie Lugo)

The Foresight Ski Program, led by Mark Davis, took students to Vail Mountain for skiing lessons and adventures. The skiing season ended for our students with an event called, “Champions Week.” During this time,

Vail Resort sets up a race course by Golden Peak. The kids feel like Olympians hearing their names and times called out as they cross the finish line.

Our school music teacher, Julie Novak, will be putting on another wonderful program, “Peter Pan.” The school for the blind will be performing their production on May 8th at 6:30 in the gymnasium.

Our school just finished up with a lighting demo and assessment for all of our students with low vision. The students were tested under both warm and cool LED lights with dimmers. Thanks to our maintenance department, we also have beautiful accent walls painted in each of our classrooms for better contrast.

One of our high school students just returned from the Close Up trip in Washington DC. She will share her “close up” view of the U.S. government with her fellow classmates soon!

University of Northern Colorado – VI Program (Paula Conroy)

There will be ten graduates this spring. Four graduates are from Colorado!

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

CDE News: Peg Brown Clark has been hired as the new Assistant Commission of the Office of Special Services. She sat in on the unit’s budget boot camp and had a chance to learn about all the project activities for the next school year.

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: The project is in its fourth year of a five-year grant cycle. The project’s mission is free technical assistance to parents and services providers of children and youth, ages birth through 21 and who are deafblind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel.

- **Census:** A total of 133 children and youth have been currently identified across the state. These learners, their families, and their service providers are eligible for free technical assistance through the grant project. THANK YOU to all the TVIs who participated in collecting the needed information for the census. You are most appreciated!
- **Project Webpage:** Everyone is encouraged to check out the recently updated project webpage (located at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind>) and specifically the Topic Index page. This page holds over a hundred documents and/or links to training information pertinent to deafblindness. Another way to get to the webpage is to go to CDE’s webpage, which is www.cde.state.co.us and type in deafblindness in the search box, which will take you to a direct link to the project page. The website has a steady diet of new documents – so please check periodically to see what is NEW!
- **Summer Institute:** The June 11-15, 2012 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs will once again feature two internationally-recognized experts in the field of literacy and learners with significant disabilities. It will be offered as a five-day, two-semester-hour graduate course. Registration confirmations have been sent out to the selected participants. Registration is now closed.

Annual O&M Conference: Thanks to the hard work of Patty Wagner, this year’s O&M training will be held on May 25th. This free workshop will provide information and guidance pertaining to the features, design, and installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS). This full-day workshop is the product of a national research project that developed guidance on APS to optimize safe and independent crossing at signalized intersections by pedestrians who are visually impaired. The two trainers will be Janet Barlow, COMS – Accessible Design for the Blind and Daniel Carter, P.E. – University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: All five clinics have occurred. TVIs and parents who participated in the clinics are encouraged to send in their evaluations, if they have not already done so. The clinics are funded again for school year 2012-13. Jim Olson will be the certified low vision therapist for the southern clinics and Wendy Stoltman will come on board as the new CLVT for the western, northern, and metro clinics.

Recruitment and Retention: We currently have 2 FTE openings in Aurora School District, 2 FTE in Jefferson County, 1 FTE in Brighton School District, several positions with CSDB (Outreach and the School for the Blind), and a 1 FTE Principal position at the School for the Blind.

If you anticipate an opening in your administrative unit for the 2012-13 school year, please be in touch with Tanni so we can be highly proactive with national-level recruitment.

Listservs: The CDE ESSU maintains two separate listservs specific to personnel working in BVI programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMs. The second one is specific to Colorado braillists. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

Eligibility Definition - Visual Impairment, Including Blindness: One of Tanni's tasks this school year has been to facilitate important work around House Bill 11-1277. This bill renamed many of the disability categories for school age students to align with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The draft definitions are posted on the CDE website for a public comment period that will continue through May 7. Public comments must be made in writing and can be sent to Kim Hubbard at khubbard@cde.state.co.us

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Budget for 2012-13

CDE ESSU Approved Funded Projects

- State Conference: the identified focus for the Fall 2012 Conference would be on tactile graphics
- Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Braille Format TCAPs
- Braille Competency Testing and Mentor Support
- Vision Coalition
- Technology Consultative Support

TVI Mentoring

The CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment will be held in Denver on October 4-6, 2012. The Thursday night session will involve vendors. Jim Olson will help Tanni with the organizational logistics. The Friday and Saturday sessions will feature our very own Lucia Hasty on the topic of creating and instructing on instructional graphics.

Another training topic of high interest is the use of tablets with students who are blind/visually impaired. Tanni will work to set up a two-day trainer-of-trainer training for early fall 2012.

CSDB – Blindness

CIMC

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (CSDB staff)

Vision Coalition Members for 2012-13

Metro rep – Nancy Cozart

Northern rep – to be determined

Southern rep – Judy Mumford

Western rep – Angela Sims

CAER – Barb Galgano

School for the Blind – to be determined

Anchor Center for Blind – to be determined

Colorado Parents of Blind Children – to be determined

Work Activity: Mental Health Module

Nate Thompson from the Littleton School District joined us for a discussion about the need for support documents to assist with the mental health support needs of students who are blind/visually impaired. Three topical audiences were identified: community mental health personnel, parents, and school personnel. Ideas for what content should be included in each of these areas were captured. Over the summer months, a draft version of each document will be created for review in the fall.

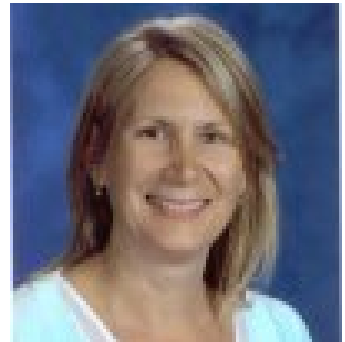
Task	Person Responsible	Date Due
Poll students on “what I wished my teachers knew,” “what I wished my parents knew” on content that might provide information to the	Jamie, Nancy, Angela, Wendy, Paula, and Judy	End of the school year – information sent to Tanni
Determine Vision Coalition rep for school year 2012-13	Charlotte – for Anchor Center; Wendy for northern region; Tanni for parent	End of the school year – information sent to Tanni
Organize initial logistics for Thursday evening vendor night session of state conference	Tanni and Jim	June 15, 2012
Create draft Mental Health documents	Tanni, Nancy, Judy	August 15, 2012
Send Tanni program report updates	All VC members	September 15, 2012

Date and Agenda for next Meeting:

September 20, 2012 (Review of draft Mental Health documents, State Student Data Review)

Retirements & Good Byes

Wendy Stoltman will retire from Brighton School District at the end of this school year. She has worked in Brighton as a TVI/ COMS since 1987! Wendy is a graduate from UNC's teacher training program. She was the Lions' Club President in 1994 and 1995. Wendy received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education in 1995, the Gary Schmidt Award in 2001, and the Brighton School District 27J Reaching Out Award for Outstanding Service to Students in 2008. Wendy has been an active member of the Vision Coalition, has shown up for every training that the state can offer, has hosted the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinics, and traveled to Boston one year for the preview and analysis of the braille-format state assessments. It is hard to summarize all that Wendy has contributed to her students and her field over the years. She is a rare educator with a deep skill set and dedication to her students and field that is truly amazing. The very good news for Colorado is that Wendy will be hired as a part-time CDE employee in the next school year to work on projects specific to blindness/visual impairment and deafblindness.



We say also goodbye to: **Niki Lewis** who is moving back to Pennsylvania after her year with us in Colorado. Niki worked at CSDB as a member of their Early Childhood team. **Jerri Nelson** also from the EC Team at CSDB this past year is heading to Kansas. **Julie Novak**, the music teacher from the School for the Blind, is relocating back to Florida after ten wonderful years at CSDB. **Phyllis Trutna**, is retiring from CSDB after 24 years as a dedicated speech language therapist! **AnnMarie Jansen** and family have relocated to Pensacola, FL. AnnMarie has been a long time TVI and COMS in Adams 12 and a bright star in our field. We are sad to say goodbye to **Leilani Scott** who is moving to Arizona to be near her parents and to start a new job. Leilani has worked in Colorado for the past 18 years, seven of which have been as a TVI and COMS in the southeast corner of Colorado. She most recently has been a Special Education Director. She will be a principal and director at SHARP School in Mesa, AZ. We wish each of you all the best and say thank you for all you have given to Colorado!

Congratulations on Your Retirement, Brenda!

Brenda Shepard received her undergraduate degree in elementary education from Moorhead State College in Moorhead, MN. She received her Master's degree from UNC. Brenda first started working with children with visual impairments when she was teaching in an elementary classroom and one of her students was visually impaired. She began working as a TVI in Aurora Public Schools in 1980. Brenda's professional tenure includes: years of mentoring new teachers; assisting with developing the CO literacy plan; CAER board work (including serving as President); teaching at UNC; Braille mentoring and proctoring; participating in numerous CDE boards and committees; textbook/publication reviewing; and serving as a leader/consultant within the APS Special Education Department for the TVIs and District Transition Services--modifying, reviewing/leading in the restructuring of APS's transition services for all students.



Brenda is a flexible, innovative, communicative, and intelligent teacher and leader of teachers. Her sense of humor, down-to-earth approach, and kind smile will be missed by the APS Vision team and countless other professionals who have been warmed by her presence and leadership.

Brenda, as you venture into the next phase of your personal journey--know you are loved and will be deeply missed by your colleagues. Brenda will continue her work as a part-time CDE braille competency proctor.

Retirements & Good Byes

Louise Gettman Retiring June 1, 2012

"We just need to see more of Louise" said one parent of a two year old youngster who has a vision loss and multiple disabilities. That is the sentiment of many parents who have had the pleasure of having Louise come to their homes to assist them in learning how to best support their child's vision and additional needs.

After graduating from the University of Northern Colorado with a master's degree in special education/visually handicapped, Louise began her teaching career as an itinerant teacher of the visually impaired (TVI) in El Paso District 11 where she worked until joining the staff at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in 2005.

Louise has traveled to many small, rural towns in southeastern Colorado to see young children in their homes and provide information and educational materials to parents to help them understand their child's vision loss. She has been a mentor to new teachers and a strong advocate for the needs of children with whom she worked.

While contemplating whether it was "time" to do other things, Louise said "My head is there (as in retiring), but my heart is not quite there yet." Over the past few months, her heart has caught up with her head and she is ready to travel and have more time to do other things that she loves. Louise has a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Nebraska. Perhaps, her future holds going to many more concerts and enjoying taking in the sights of the world.



Candiss Leathers—Retired January, 2012

In January 2012 Candy Leathers retired from the State of Colorado, Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation services after 32 years of service. Candy began her professional career working with Services for the Blind in 1980 as a Rehabilitation Teacher and Orientation and Mobility specialist for Field services for the Blind. She secured this position after graduating from the University of Northern Colorado with a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and special certification for Vision services in Orientation and Mobility. Candy notes that her education served her extremely well as she secured employment in the greatest job ever. She worked with outstanding people in the field of Rehabilitation and Education, serving children from birth to six years old, to prepare them and their families to enter the education system and as well as working a caseload for the elderly blind (her favorite clientele). As time went on the Division modified services and the focus on her profession centered on Adult Vocational Rehabilitation. She had the distinct pleasure to work in a Center based, Independent Living program and served as the manager of this unit for many years. The final chapter with the Division was working as a Regional Supervisor for the last 6 years covering General DVR services in Northern and Eastern Colorado.

Candy notes, "It was a great ride, and the most important lessons I learned were from the blind and visually impaired individuals I met through the years and from the great staff of educators, and rehabilitation specialists who are dedicated to improving the lives of all they meet. I thank all those who I have had the good grace to work with, serve, and befriend. I hope to keep connected to the field through friends and professionals in the years to come. Thank for the memories!" We thank Candy for her great service to our state, our profession, and to all she gave to so many people!





colorado connections

🔊 A new face in Colorado! **Karin Auld** is a new TVI at in Denver. She has a Bachelors in Microbiology from the University of South Florida and a Masters in Visual Disabilities from Florida State University with a specialization in Early Childhood. She also served the deaf/blind children in their school based program. Additionally Karin worked with the year round transition program at the Lighthouse of Pinellas where she taught life and career skills to blind and visually impaired teenagers. She just moved from Largo in Pinellas County, Florida and relocated to the Denver area to be closer to her daughter. Her son graduated from FSU last year and is still living in Tallahassee. In Karin's spare time she enjoys reading, spending time with family, watching baseball, and now exploring Colorado!

🔊 Congratulations to **Mimi Schaper**, in the Cherry Creek School District. She is receiving a Golden Heart Award. This prestigious honor is given to individuals who have "opened their hearts" to touch the lives of students with special needs in Cherry Creek. Each recipient of the award has gone "above and beyond" to support Cherry Creek Special Education students. We are very proud of you, Mimi!

🔊 Congratulations to **Amber Rundle Kahn** and her family on the birth of new daughter/sister Zosha Elise, who was born on April 15th at 4:06 a.m. See photo! →



🔊 Hats off to **Donice Fennimore** (Pikes Peak BOCES) and **Roberta Wiedemeyer** (Jefferson County School District) for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency.

🔊 Another hats off to **Judy Wiepert, Mary Chambers, Carol Jordan,** and **Edie Smith** for earning braille renewal clock hours. Thanks to proctors **Lucia Hasty** and **Julie Wetzstein**. Special thanks to mentors **Paula LaBossiere, Brenda Shepard, Lucia Hasty,** and **Sarah Sonnier**.

🔊 Congrats to District 20 Brailist **Christine Maynard** for not only received the Learning Services Para Professional for 2012, but also the District Classified Employee of the Year. This is wonderful and well-deserved!

🔊 So proud of our very own **Jim Olson** is a member of the Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) with the American Printing House for the Blind. The group met on April 2-5 at APH in Louisville, KY for discussion surrounding key topics, including training in support of products, the APH website and social media presence, the Louis and AMP databases and more. They also had the important task of selecting five 2012 APH Scholars from 15 well-deserving candidates.

🔊 Happy Wedding Bells and Marriage to **Judy (Wiepert) Dickson** and Peter Dickson who were married on April 1st. The couple enjoys dancing, hiking and bicycling together.... what fun!

🔊 Wedding wishes to **Sarah Bickford** (Anchor Center for Blind Children) and Chris Vallese who were married on May 6th, 2012. We wish the happy couple all the best!



colorado connections

- 🔊 Happy wedding and marriage congrats to **Jasmine Campbell** (Denver Public Schools) and husband-to-be Daniel Gomez! They are getting married June 9th in Tampa, Florida.
- 🔊 Happy wedding wishes also to **Julie Novak** (School for the Blind) and Iftach Michaeli on their upcoming wedding, which will be held July 15th in Florida!
- 🔊 A huge thank you to all the great TVIs who took the time to complete and return a TCAP Item Analysis Form for this year's testing administration with large print and braille-format summative tests. You are very appreciated: **Karin Hensel, Karen Jamison, Sarah Sonnier, Elaine Brown, Debbie Mendoza, Elaine Karns, Diane Fitzkee, Shannon Martinez, Michelle Chacon, Julie Wetzstein, Kerry Auld, Jeannie Lei, Kathy Gallina, Judy Wiepert, Linda Campbell, Morgan Turner, Mike Plansker, Amy Gunning, Barbara Jack, Jamie Lugo, Bertha Guerrero, Mia Ottesen, Leslie Kelly-Watrobka, Nancy Knight, Brandon Mapes, and Angela Sims. THANK YOU SO MUCH!**
- 🔊 MANY people contributed to making the recent 2012 Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo that was hosted in Denver an amazing success! High accolades to **Gina Quintana** for serving as the Colorado Host Chair. Gina organized countless volunteers for the convention, including the following TVIs and COMSs who provided volunteer hours: **Paula Conroy, Christine Moe, and Silvia Correa Torres.**

A huge thank you to **Lisa Brocard** who transcribed the braille handouts and to **Mike Plansker** for working to organize O&M Specialists to be available onsite. TVIs/ COMSs from Colorado in attendance of the convention included: **Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Kay Ferrell, Barb Galgano, Amy Gunning, Jamie Lugo, Jeannie Lei, Christine Moe, Julie Novak, Silvia Correa Torres, and Judy Weipert.**

Colorado had seven places on the presentation docket (out of 20 presentations!). Presentations by Colorado TVIs / COMSs (and colleagues) included:

- *Description as an Assessment Accommodation* by Dr. Kay Ferrell, Dr. Silvia Correa Torres, Dr. Jennifer Howell, and Wendy Carver
 - *Assessment of Concepts for Young Children* by Dr. Kay Ferrell and Cathy Smyth
 - *Teaching Literacy to Students with Significant Disabilities and Visual Impairment* by Christine Moe
 - *All for Literacy: Literacy for All* by Dr. Tanni Anthony
 - *Preparing Teachers to Work with Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Students with Visual Impairments* by Dr. Paula Conroy
 - *Characteristics of Students who are Deaf-Blind: Meeting the Educational Challenges* by Dr. Sandy Bowen and Dr. Silvia Correa Torres
 - *State Braille Competency Testing of TVIs: Lessons Learned* by Dr. Tanni Anthony
- 🔊 Hats off to new CEC DVI members **Tanni Anthony** and **Elaine Brown.**

GREAT ACCOLADES TO EVERYONE FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

ENJOY YOUR H(APPY) SUMMER!

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Exceptional Student Services Unit
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175
Denver, CO 80202



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