

2013 Kentucky Regional Braille Challenge



Students gather in the auditorium for the opening rally of the 2013 Kentucky Regional Braille Challenge hosted by KSB and APH.

On Feb. 21, Kentucky students who read and write Braille joined together for a day of fun and competition at KSB and the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to take part in the Kentucky Regional Braille Challenge. This event is the first step in the National Braille Challenge, which is the only Braille reading and writing contest in the nation for blind and visually impaired students.

Braille Challenge included competition in reading comprehension, reading speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs.

The preliminary round is open to students of all skill levels. Agencies and schools throughout the U.S. and Canada have partnered with Braille Institute to host 42 Regional Braille Challenge contests from mid-January through mid-March.

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The top scoring contestants from regional competition go to Los Angeles in June for a Final Round—two days of competition, camaraderie and fun.

Students selected to compete at the national level will be made on May 1.



Above: APH President Dr. Tuck Tinsley presents eighth grader Shane Lowe with a first place award for winning his division.

Top left: MS students Logan Armstrong (forefront) and Miguel Magallenes test their skills during the competition.

Bottom left: Senior Jessica VanBruggen works hard during the Kentucky Braille Challenge.



CBI Teacher Connie Hill is February Extra Mile Award Winner



KSB Welcomes New Staff Member



Israel Wright is a new Para-Professional. Wright is a Louisville native having graduated from Central High. She studied elementary education at UK. She has worked in both customer service and child care environments. Wright is most experienced working with children ranging in ages Pre-K through 5th grades.

Recently, Wright and her husband moved to Shelbyville and are die-hard Big Blue fans. Those who know her best would describe her as an energetic fun-loving gal with a big sense of humor.

KSB welcomes Wright!

Elementary student Mickie Foard displays the tactile map she designed and constructed. It is used to help her navigate with ease from her classroom to gym teacher Kyle Sochia's classroom. Terrific job Mickie!

Map Study It's All About Location

By: Elementary Teacher Jane Harty

What are the first-third grade students up to in Social Studies?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

The classes started the study of maps with a trip to the KSB library to experience a large, tactile map of the Clifton neighborhood area. They looked at the many features that the map contained and studied the map key. How would they know what the two lines on the map meant? After a little thought, they knew the answer was the railroad tracks because they used the map key.

Then, they went back to the classroom and discussed what they had observed and learned. The students then made their own maps with map keys and a compass rose. The compass rose showed them on a map which direction they are going to travel. The maps showed the students how to get from their classroom to their gym classroom.

Now, if anyone needs to know the way to Mr. Sochia's classroom, ask one of Ms. Hardy's students!



Wrestlers Excel at NCASB Wrestling Tournament



*Members of the 2013 Kentucky School for the Blind Wrestling Team are:
From left to right, front row: Zac Adams and Elijah Wegner. Back row Kyle Givens, Jonathon McCarty, James Lewis, Lance Oliver and Justin Hedges.*

KSB had an outstanding showing at the 57th North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) Wrestling and Cheerleading Meet held at the Indiana School for the Blind the weekend of January 25-26. **The wrestlers placed an unexpected second** and the Wildcat cheerleaders placed sixth.

Kentucky had two individual weight class champions in seniors **Kyle Givens** and **Jonathon McCarty**. Every KSB wrestler won at least one match and placed in the top four in their respective weight class. Other place finishers included **Lance Oliver 3rd**, **Elijah Wegner 3rd**, **Zac Adams 4th** and **James Lewis 2nd**.



**KYLE
GIVENS**

(at left)

**2013 NCASB
Wrestling
Champion**



**JONATHON
McCARTY**

(at right)

**2013 NCASB
Wrestling
Champion**

**Congratulations to Wrestling Champions
Kyle and Jonathon!**

A special thanks is extended by the coaching staff and Athletic Director to all the parents who helped support the KSB wrestling team this year.

Hopes are high for next year's wrestling squad with the returning athletes. *GO WILDCATS!*



"The Only Disability in Life is a Bad Attitude"

Matthew Jeffers

Outreach Staff Serves Up Mardi Gras Celebration

KSB students and staff were treated to the Outreach Staff's Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb. 11-12. The Outreach hallway located on the first floor of the McDaniel Building, was decorated with fleur de lis, beads and confetti. Cajun music was played while everyone took the walk down the hall. Students were offered beads and moon pies from costumed Outreach staff. All were given the opportunity to try on a Mardi Gras mask or hat.



Top right: Here is the court jester of Mardi Gras. Upon closer inspection, it's none other than Kindergarten student Luke Hagan.



Bottom right: KIMRC Program Co-ordinator Paula Penrod dresses frivolously on Mardi Gras!



Short Term students, from left to right Kayla Newton, Austin Stephens and Tyler Sanders celebrate Mardi Gras.



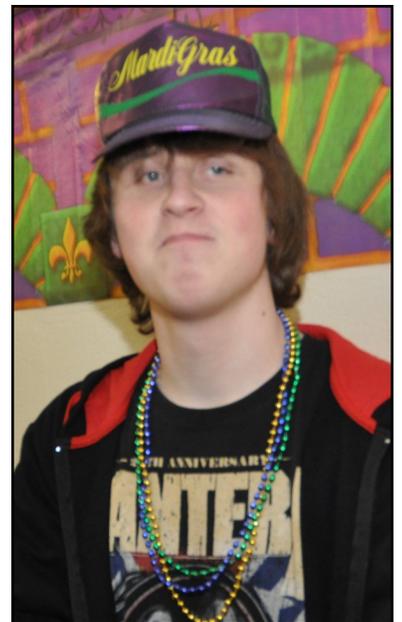
Left: are buddies Ashley Johnson and Tatiana Carroll modeling their beautiful masks adorned with feathers.

Right: Nobody wears beads like Zac Adams, flashing that great big grin in honor of the Mardi Gras.





The two Mardi Gras merry makers putting on their masks are MS/HS English teacher Kim Klump and Science teacher Samir Azer. No Mardi Gras celebration would be complete without them.



Left: Selena Tirey looks stunning in her mask and beads. Center: Outreach Director for Statewide Support Services Meg Stone visits with a student party goer. Right: Kenton Smith models his Mardi Gras hat and beads.

Tiny Tourists Visit the Library Media Center



Under the tiki hut, Librarian Heather Davis reads to VIPS children.

Approximately 14 students from Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS), their teachers, some parents and even a few siblings came for story time and exploration at the KSB Library.

KSB Librarian Heather Davis started the visit by reading "Stand Back," said the Elephant, "I'm going to Sneeze!" by Patricia Thomas. The story was supported by wind, tissues, feathers and quite a bit of noise from the young visitors.

After the story, students were able to explore the library by visiting various centers: Animal Scavenger Hunt, APH Tactile Map, Tactile Books, County Puzzle Map, etc. The youngsters were able to get close and personal with some (opossum, rooster, kingfisher, weasel, badger, etc.) of the over 50 mounted animals that are on display in the Media Center.

Each student was presented with a plush toy elephant and enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria with the KSB primary classes.

Right: VIPS student Layla Grottenthaler shares a hug with a goose. Could it be Mother Goose?



VIPS students (left to right) Stella Emmons and Braeden Robinson check out the bunny and the weasels.



VIPS O&M Specialist Maury Weedman and Christian Greenwell have a funny conversation about the Canadian Goose.

