Tiger Track Off and Running

Tennessee School for the Blind began their 2019-20 interscholastic athletic program by hosting an invitation track meet. On September 13th, athletes six other schools began arriving on campus for the all-day-Saturday competition. Participating this year were teams from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Arkansas. It was a great weekend seeing the camaraderie among all the athletes, both on and off the track. These athletic events create friendships, wonderful socialization avenues, and times of bonding with like-minded peers from other parts of the nation. Together, they learn life lessons on commitment and striving for achievement, as well as tucking away in the pockets of the mind great memories for tomorrow. Many TSB alumni reflect back to wonderful life lessons learned through their involvement in the school’s athletic programs. The mid-September invitational also serves as the catalyst for the Tiger track teams to test their resolve and prepare for the NCASBS Conference competition later in the season. This year’s young teams showed spirit and were anxious to unveil the results of weeks of early morning and afternoon practices. Abbi Garcia claimed first place in the 1200 Meter Run “A” Class. On the boys’ team, KeAunte Smith placed first for (cont. on pg. 8)

Reflection and Hearts of Gratitude as Year Begins

It was with heavy hearts that many of the staff and students at TSB entered into the fall semester. Thinking of events from the summer left a void in the heart yet unfilled. During the short seasonal break, the school experienced the loss of one of its “sweetest” students. On June 20th, officials at the school received the message that Audrey Williams had passed away. Reflections of the young, sandy-haired girl filled hearts with gratitude in having known one who, in such a short time, made a wonderful impact on the lives whose paths she crossed. For anyone looking, her smile and zeal for life was hard to miss. “Audrey was such a blessing to know,” said Amber Meyer, an educational assistant at the school who had worked closely with Audrey. “She had a sweet, sassy spirit, and she loved making others laugh. Seldom did you see her without a smile adorning her face, even when you knew she was so tired or not feeling her best.” Audrey loved coming to school, and she was always eager to be involved, as was seen in the way she willingly offered her help. She found joy and satisfaction through the assistance she gave others. Audrey especially had a love for art and working on her colorful projects. Among her favorite things to draw were ducks. It didn’t take long to discover minions, and anything related to Disney ranked among her favorite things. She also loved listening to music and dancing. Forever we will be grateful to have known and encountered the joy from her wonderful spirit. (Additional tribute found on pg. 9)
Speaking of a Special School

Greetings TSB Families,

What a fantastic start to school we have had at TSB! This first quarter has just flown by. I am grateful for the support that our school receives from our families and stakeholders. As I walk through the halls and into classrooms, I see students engaged in learning and staff working hard to meet the unique needs of our students.

Our first big event of the year was our annual Career Day. It was a resounding success. Our students were given the opportunity to listen to speakers and meet with folks from a variety of career fields. Transition from school to post-secondary opportunities is a big focus at TSB. I would like to thank Robin Bush for taking the lead on planning this event and all the speakers and presenters who attended.

Our athletics program is in full swing. We just finished up our track and field season. Due to the timing of writing this article, I do not have the results from the NCASB meet, but I can report our student athletes showed true dedication to the program. Because of the typical temperatures during track season, our students and coaches get up very early in the morning for practices. This makes for a very long day for all involved. I would like to thank all the coaches and volunteers who made track season possible. Without the support of these folks, our students could not receive the immense benefits that sports provide our students. I would like to also give a special thank you to all of those who volunteered the weekend of September 13-15 and helped us host blind schools from around the region during our own track invitational. As we move into the goal ball season, I look forward to the continued success of our students. Our athletes exemplify teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Fall a Season of Benefit Because of FTSB

Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind (FTSB) make the fall season a beneficial, enjoyable time by presenting events with a purpose. The 501(c)3 non-profit organization operates on the expressed purpose of assisting students at the school with numerous services and benefits. Since its conception in 1997, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been channeled into making the world a much better place for blind and visually impaired children. From providing recreational and sporting equipment to renovations, adaptive technology, and field trips, all of the students at the school have had their lives enriched through the thoughtful planning and caring initiatives of FTSB.

Now is the right season to become involved with the organization. During the month of September, FTSB joined forces with the Breakfast Rotary Club of Murfreesboro in hosting the Blindness Awareness Golf Scramble. Students from the school even assisted in everything from music to putting on the greens. This event was an exciting, enjoyable way of raising both awareness and needed funds for the students. Plan now to be part of next year’s scramble.

On November 6th, FTSB will join hands with Bob Parks Reality and the Parks Group providing yet another exciting time for involvement. You’ll find the annual “Brunch and Bid with Friends” a delightful event that not only helps out the kids, but you’re sure to walk away being entertained, with unique holiday gifts, and a belly full of delicious food! The beautiful Courtyard by Marriott, located at 1980 Providence Parkway in Mount Juliet, is where to be from 11:30 am-1:30 pm on that Wednesday. Be part of the excitement, hear the music of the TSB Chorus, and bid on both live and silent auctions items you will love!

For additional information on how you can contribute, visit the website at FriendsofTSB.org or catch the latest on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofTSB/.
Greetings Families, Students, and Staff,

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the 2019-20 school year at Tennessee School for the Blind! We take pride in ensuring our students have a welcoming, supportive, academically-rigorous, and safe experience at TSB. Positive energy from students, teachers, and staff has been evident throughout the building. Teachers are teaching and students are learning! Each calendar year, we focus on building success across our campus!

We have updated our former life skills program to focus on the academic learning and success of our students with the most significant disabilities by renaming it the Alternate Academic Program (AAP), after the state assessments that students are required to take each year. Additionally, students pursuing a general education diploma focus on academic learning that aligns with the TNReady assessments, thus this program has been renamed the TNReady Academic Program (TAP). In this school year, we have also initiated our new social/emotional learning program, called LionsQuest, school-wide during one class period on expanded core curriculum (ECC) Fridays. This comprehensive K-12 curriculum learning program “promotes the development of healthy and responsible young people by supporting social and emotional learning (SEL), character development, negative behavior prevention, and a commitment to community service” (Lions Club International). Our Work-Based Learning (WBL) program is off to a great start this year, too! Our amazing work-based learning team of teachers and educational assistants is dedicated and motivated to see our students succeed. Our students are working on campus in the O & Mmmm Coffee Shop, the cafeteria, the media center, and the resource center. Also, our students have resumed working off campus at the FiftyForward Senior Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Bojangles, and the Donelson Café. We are very proud to announce that a new worksite, the Donelson Library, has partnered with us and is another worksite where our students can build their skills in the world of work. It is a privilege to be able to build on classroom-based instruction to develop employability skills for our students. In this way, our students are being prepared for success in postsecondary careers. We are very grateful to our community partners for believing in and supporting our students by providing these worksite opportunities.

Finally, as our season moves from summer to fall, please be reminded of several events at TSB. Our Orientation and Mobility (O & M) department is sponsoring a White Cane Day (WCD) contest for students, and it will culminate on October 14th. The winners will be announced on WCD, October 15. Our annual Rocktoberfest is set to kickoff on Thursday, October 24 after school. Food trucks, music from local bands, and festival-like activities will permeate our campus. Bring your family and friends to join us in this celebration of fall! Last, but not least, please remember that student attendance at school is a measure of student success. When students are present at school and engaged in learning, successful outcomes are increased all around. Let’s continue to work together to ensure achievement for our students.

Happy Fall and Go Tigers!

Dr. Tonja Dandy

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**Welcome Our Newest TSB Tigers!**

- **Alexis Branch**
  5th Grade- Ms. Harold

- **Samuel Chrismon**
  AAP - Ms. DeSalvatore

- **Nathaniel Cornwall**
  AAP - Ms. DeSalvatore

- **Abigail Garcia**
  8th Grade- Mr. Ducharme

- **Jimena Lopez-Morales**
  5th AAP - Ms. Atwell

- **Jose Miguel Jose**
  8th - Mr. Ducharme

- **Mariam Williams**
  AAP - Ms. DeSalvatore

- **Breanna Wiseman**
  9th Grade - Dr. Parsons
In Case You Haven't Heard...

Tennessee School for the Blind released its latest video for You Tube on August 8th. Entitled “Come and See” the minute-long series of student clips made for social media features over a dozen of the students. The students share things they are excited about and want others to know about their school. A group shot of the school’s staff is also seen as they encourage folks to “Come and See TSB.” Here’s a link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ktviynxopcu

In repositioning for needs in the school’s admissions operation, Lavette Sales recently became the school’s new Admissions Coordinator. She will be serving as the main liaison between TSB and the local education agencies (LEAs) and the parents of prospective students. Lavette previously served the school in the residential area. Visit her office in the A-wing corridor and congratulate her!

Kim Jack accepted the position of Educational Assistant Coordinator. Some of her duties include assisting with new Educational Assistants, Edison and Timekeeping, and providing guidance. Kim shares desk space in the Blue Roof Administrative Office Complex.

The Tennessee School for the Blind Leo’s Club recently announced the newly-elected leadership for the 2019-20 school year. Elected were: Treasurer- Austin Rogers, Secretary- Parker Delph, Vice President- Korey Netttles, and President- Isis Noneman. Along with the officers, also serving on the Board of Directors will be Gage Yokley, Tegan Tadlock, and Leah Mayberry.

TSB Chorus sings “God Bless America” in tribute on September 11th

As we remembered the national tragedy of terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the school staff and students paused to honor the 2,983 men, women, and children who lost their lives. At 1:00 pm, September 11th, after a moment of silence, the chorus sang “God Bless America” over the school’s PA system. May we never forget.

During the month of October, TSB student art work will be on display at Nashville’s Main Library.

Gift cards are now available for the O&M Coffee Shop! They come in $5, $10, and $25 amounts, creating easy access to those early morning “pick-me-up treats.”

Erinne Kilby recently changed positions from a Youth Service Worker to an Educational Assistant.

TSB Work-Based Learning Students Featured in Video

Recently, the Tennessee Disability Coalition began a new initiative entitled “Tennessee Businesses for the Better.” The goal of the program is to break down stereotype barriers about hiring people with disabilities. They seek to spread awareness in general about the great benefits of disability employment. By removing any barriers and spreading awareness about the positive aspects of a disability work force, business owners will be encouraged to take the next step towards inclusivity. As part of the initiative, Hannah Vickery was assigned the task of producing a video depicting the scope of work, usefulness, and benefits gained. Hannah decided to begin her video by highlighting businesses within the state that already recognize these benefits and currently do a great job in this area.

In making contact with Mark Dickerson, co-owner and operator of the Donelson Cafe, she became aware of the Tennessee School for the Blind students. Donelson Cafe partners with various organizations in the area, including TSB and its Work-Based Learning (WBL) program, and provides realistic training in a hands-on learning environment for the students. Both Mark and his business partner Kevin gave input about their decision to invite the students to be part of the cafe. They spoke of the many benefits they have witnessed to their business by having the student workers. On September 9th, three of the TSB’s Work-Based Learning students, Rachel Haynes, Yenise Olivares, and Haddan Lewallen were interviewed on location. The students were excited about the opportunity. The video is expected to be completed and ready to début sometime in mid-October. The latest word is that Mark is planning a “video premiere party” for the film’s release at the Donelson Cafe. Stay tuned as the date is still to be determined.
Welcome back, Tigers! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer! It was wonderful to see so many families on campus during registration and student move in! We spent a great deal of time over the summer preparing the cottages for the students’ arrival! At registration, you should have received the phone number for your child’s cottage – please call any time you need to. Keep in mind, staff are not in the cottages during the school day, and they may be out and about in the evenings, but you may leave a message and your call will be returned.

The residential department is making a few changes to our processes as a result of the information you provided to us in the “Parent Survey” we sent out last spring. First, the youth service worker staff will be using the weekly calls home to touch base with you about your child and other events occurring after school. This comes as a result of your request for more frequent communication with staff. Second, the youth service worker staff will be working with you to set some goals for your child in the cottage. Do you want her/him to learn more about cooking? Cleaning? Making her/him bed? This is a result of the information you provided letting us know you have not felt that you have ever been asked what you feel would be meaningful for your child to learn in the cottages. We are excited to make these changes, and we hope they will prove beneficial to you!

A few reminders and upcoming events:

- Fall Break begins Monday, October 7th! Bussing will resume Sunday, October 13th.
- Nine Week Summaries will go home on Friday, October 18th, following the end of our first nine weeks of school on October 4th.
- Weather is still fluctuating, but it may be a good idea to send a fall jacket and some fall weather clothing to school with your child! Some days may be too chilly for shorts and a t-shirt! If you need assistance with this, please call me.
- ROCKTOBERFEST will be October 24th at TSB! This event is open to the public! Come out and enjoy some music and activities!
- HALLOWEEN is Thursday, October 31st! Send a school-appropriate costume if you would like! We will have an after-school event planned for the students – information will be communicated to you as we get closer!

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns! We are looking forward to a great year!

Michelle Cormier,
Director of Residential Services

Students Enjoying Activities

Staff welcomed students back to campus on Wednesday, August 29th, with a cookout, music, ice cream, and games. A video of the bash is posted on the school’s YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EMbWpo9HbE

Golf activities are in full swing this fall. On September 18th, practice was held at the Hermitage Golf Course with Dr. Chad NeSmith, the co-founder of AVID. Students attending were: Alexis Branch, Alexis Nichols, Tegan Tadlock, Nevaeh Valdes, Aubrey Davis, Ryan Mayberry, Bobby Brown, Danny Brown, Carson Umphrey, Levi Dykes, Mason Downard, Tedarrel Brooks, and our senior golfer, Maggie Hall.

On October 31st, the younger students will visit the cottages for candy. After a pizza party, a dance-along with a costume contest will involve both the younger and older students. A Christmas stocking party with Delta Gamma Girls from TN Tech of Cookeville will be held on November 19th. Will Santa be there?

The residential staff is recognizing exemplary student behavior by selecting a “Residential Student of the Week.” A student “caught doing good deeds” is chosen each Thursday. Student winners so far are Leah Mayberry, Ella Brown, Tegan Tadlock, Bryan Rock, and Alyssa Aydelott. Congratulations guys on your great behavior!

So What's Up With Stanley?

What’s going on with Stanley? Glad you asked! Anyone following the happenings of TSB is familiar with Stanley, the beautiful, energetic, black Labrador puppy in training to become a future leader dog. TSB’s Director of Residential Services, Michelle Cormier, began caring for the pup in his early days in preparation, so he could attend Leader Dogs for the Blind. After caring for Stanley this past year, he was returned to Michigan the first of August. “It came so fast, I can hardly believe it! It was sad to see this little guy go,” said Michelle. Before returning him to Leader Dogs, Stanley was subjected to a baseline test in order to give trainers an idea of his skill set. “His training has been awesome, and he is a very smart and alert, too.”

Updates on Stanley’s progress come every few weeks. He has been out running and playing with new friends in the Canine Development Center. Teams have been spending time grooming, giving canine massage and T-Touch, and ultimately providing loving personal time and attention to help with the adjustment in becoming a Leader Dog. Stanley passed his veterinary exams and X-rays. He is becoming focused and enjoys working on protocol.
In Harmony with the Symphony

For kids, the word symphony can mean “a usually long musical composition with a full orchestra.” However, when you have a couple of members of the symphony illustrating and explaining what it’s all about, the definition sounds more like “tones, melody, harmony, and music sounding sweet and beautiful to my ears!” TSB was privileged to partner with the Nashville Symphony to present an interactive session with some of the school’s younger students. Two very talented musicians arrived at the school with a violin and bassoon in hand. Dawn Hartley (bassoon) and Anna Lisa Hoepfinger (violin) demonstrated, performed, taught, and gave the students hands-on interaction with the instruments. Involved were students in K-2nd grade and AAP 2. After last year’s visit, symphony members wanted again to impart their love of music to the receptive students. The kids loved the September 19th afternoon by the many Learning reflects on the harmony in rhythm of life can move symphony!

Here Today, History Tomorrow

Arthur Humphrey’s sixth and seventh-grade social studies classes used primary and secondary sources to investigate the history of Tennessee School for the Blind. They viewed archived photos, interviewed Mr. Ron Beasley, Mrs. Leister, Mr. Tim Jack, and listened to a documentary about the history of TSB. Here are a few treasures they found: Sir Francis Campbell was knighted by the Queen of England because of his hard work in helping blind students. When he was younger, he was a student at TSB! The school moved from Hermitage Ave. to Stewarts Ferry Pike. The original building had beautiful spires that made it look like a castle or church. A portion of the cornerstone from the 1901 Eastwing is displayed on campus right now, and the bell that is in our tower also came from the old building as well as the bell in the back lobby of the Blue Roof building. The Blue Roof building bell was used to awaken the students in the mornings. Back in the day, there wasn’t cottages. They lived in dorms. Guess what… the kids only went home during holidays and the summer! For years and years, our yearbook has been given the name of our state bird: The Mockingbird. Through research, we have realized that each day we are making history. Hey, what will history say about you? Are you the next Sir Francis Campbell?

Career Day Celebrates Work Ethic Before Labor Day

Just before students went home for the extended Labor Day weekend, they had the opportunity to gain some insight into cultivating a good career. Throughout the morning of Friday, August 30th, the students celebrated Career Day. The event was organized by Robin Bush, TSB’s Transition Case Manager, who assists students in their transitioning from school into the workforce. Her duties has her heading up the school’s Work-Based Learning Program.

“Career Day is a career awareness activity in which business partners from a variety of companies and jobs come together to share information about their companies, their jobs, and the education or skills required for success in a career,” said Robin. “Career Day helps students connect what they are learning in school with the workplace.” The students listened to speakers talk about their careers and then were able to inquire about the industry and the career options it provides.

Events began in the school’s auditorium at 8:00 am for students in 8th through 12th grade. The keynote speaker for this year’s event was Becky Rhea, Outreach Administrator for the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC).

Following Ms. Rhea’s address, students attended one of two different concurring seminars. Each seminar was divided into two 25-minute sessions with different presenters. After completion of the first seminar, students were able to attend the second seminar. TSB alumnus, Alex Hubbard, who works as an Opinion Columnist for the Tennessean newspaper, was joined by Emily West, a news reporter, as the speakers in the first session. Barry Bryant, a specialist with Tennessee Business Enterprises, introduced the students to TBE during the second session. The speakers at the second seminar were Sabrina McClure, Director of the TSB Media Center, and Jenny Robinson, a Marriage and Family Therapist.
Riches from the Resource Center

RCVI and TSB Outreach OFF TO A BUSY START

Staff at the Resource Center for the Visually Impaired have been very busy all summer and continuing through the beginning of school, procuring accessible instructional materials for student across the state and at TSB. Twenty-five new titles were sent to be transcribed into braille for the 2019-20 school year, most of which were new science and social studies adoptions.

RCVI hosted the TCAP inkprint review of the End of Course Tests in Biology and U. S. History on August 28, 2019. This consists of a group of certified teachers of the visually impaired and certified braille transcribers reviewing the print copy of the test and making suggestions as to how to present the materials in a tactile format. The braille versions will be reviewed before they are given to students this fall. The Next inkprint review will be on October 15, 2019 at RCVI.

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TSB Outreach teachers have been busy doing evaluations, providing direct and consultative services, providing assistive technology deliveries and set-ups, and orientation and mobility services. Six TSB Outreach staff currently serve a total of 173 students from 77 local school districts across the state of Tennessee. The following staff provide outreach services for local school districts:

**East Tennessee**
- Allison Conway- VI and O&M
- Susan Lee- VI and Assistive Technology

**Middle Tennessee**
- Wendy Morrison- VI and O&M
- Patrick Rich- VI/O&M/Assistive Technology

**West Tennessee**
- Kay Jackson- VI and O&M
- Cindy Adkins- VI/O&M/Assistive Technology

The TN Accessible Media Productions (TN AMPS), housed at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institute in Nashville, currently has 18 offenders who are taking the Library of Congress Braille Certification Course. Two of the offenders are close to starting their final manuscript for certification. There are three more who are not far behind. For more information about the braille program at Riverbend Prison, go to the following link, or click above to see a You Tube video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9enj1zevBs

**Kathy Segers**

Dr. Kathy Segers
Director of Accessible Instruction Materials and Outreach

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**Students Take Morristown Trip**

Five TSB students traveled to Morristown, TN on September 11th to investigate and learn more about the Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (VBI). VBI is a wonderful organization that has become a source of income for several TSB students after graduation. The company focuses on offering those who are blind or visually impaired the dignity of independence through gainful employment. Although widely know for their mattresses, the company also produces box springs, mattress pads, military apparel, military helmet covers, industrial strength paper towels, tote bags, and safety ties. VBI operates companies in Tennessee in both Morristown and Johnson City.

Making the trip were Parker Delph, Craig Heggie, Brian Rock, Austin Rogers, and Gage Yokely.

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[Image of Morristown Trip]
his showing in the long jump and 800 Meter Run “C” class. Lee Smith also placed first in taking the Triple Jump and 3 Con “B” class. A good number of the Tigers supplied points for the team with second place finishes. They included TaMyah Jordan, Ella Brown, and Avery Mayberry, who placed second three times. The remainder of the team contributed by working equally as hard in placing in the top six rankings to gain the team points.

On September 27th, the teams and coaches boarded the charter bus for Indiana School for the Blind to compete in the NCASB Track & Field Conference competition. Ten additional teams competed at the meet. Events began Friday evening with the tandem races and field events. TSB’s boys tandem team consisted of Preston Taylor and Johnathon Grissom, and placed second. Additional highlights of the meet are as follows:

Girls Team
TaMyah Jordan- 1st place 3 Con, Ella Brown- 2nd place Triple Jump, Ella Brown- 3rd place 60 Meter Dash, Abby Sweet- 2nd place 600 Meter Run, Abbi Garcia- 2nd place 1200 Meter Run
Boys Team
Lee Smith- 1st place Class B Triple Jump, Lee Smith- 1st place Class B 3 Con, Lee Smith- 3rd place Class B 60 Meter Dash, Lee Smith- 2nd place Class B 600 Meter Run, KeAunte Smith- 2nd place Class C 400 Meter Run, KeAunte Smith- 2nd place Class C 800 Meter Run, KeAunte Smith- 3rd place Class C Long Jump Run, Avery Mayberry- 2nd place Class A 600 Meter Run, Avery Mayberry- 2nd place Class A 1600 Meter Run, Avery Mayberry- 3rd place Class A Triple Jump, Avery Mayberry- 3rd place Class A 3 Con, and Kevin Giron- 3rd place Class A 600 Meter Run.

“We are proud of how well the students represented TSB on the trip,” said Andy Joiner, boys team coach and Athletic Director. Making up this year’s teams are: Girls: Ella Brown, Abbi Garcia, TaMyah Jordan, Sydney Little, Tegan Tadlock, and Abby Sweet. Boys: Kevin Giron, Cody Grissom, Johnathon Grissom, Craig Heggie, Tyler Lester, Avery Mayberry, Austin Rogers, Donnie Sands, Lee Smith, KeAunte Smith, Preston Taylor.

Say Hello to our New Staff

Amber Leffew
AAP Teacher

Tina Schlipp
Teacher

Jennifer Sweeney
Youth Service Worker

Judy Denning
Music Teacher

Amber Hardy
Youth Service Worker

Tammy Gardner
AAP Teacher

Sharon Boyle
Youth Service Worker

Owen Crowe
IT Support Specialist
Forever in Our Hearts

In tribute, and as a way of wrapping our thoughts around a larger portrait of Audrey, Mary Anne Williams, her mother, has been willing to share the following information about her daughter. For this we are most grateful.

Audrey was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor called an oligodendroglioma in April of 2014. She underwent a total of four surgeries, radiation therapy, IV and oral chemotherapy, and then experimental targeted therapy. She overcame multiple obstacles throughout these treatments but ultimately lost her fight on June 20th, 2019.

Audrey had an incredible sense of humor that saw her through many obstacles and kept all those around her on their toes. She could make you laugh at the drop of a hat. With her incredible wit, you never knew when you were going to be at the end of one of her tricks.

She loved art, had a very creative spirit, but also liked to incorporate her sense of humor into her creations. She liked to draw birds and they took on the personalities, as she saw it, of the people around her. She saw the world in color and often spoke about the many colors in the sky. One of our favorite memories is her telling me to look at the sky on a dark and stormy day. As we stood there looking heavenward, she said, “Look at all the color in the sky.” Until then, the sky just looked gray and gloomy to me.

Audrey loved to swim and participated in lessons with the Nashville Dolphins. She always felt free, in the water and she loved to show off how long she could hold her breath. She was drafted in 2016 as an honorary member of the Vanderbilt Women’s swim team through a program called Team Impact. These girls became some of her best friends, and she looked forward to going to swim meets and spending time with them. She was always excited to see them at her concerts and voice recitals.

Audrey loved music of all kinds (except she would say she wasn’t so fond of rap). I used to say she had an old soul when it came to music because she loved the old pop hits from the 80’s and was especially fond of Michael Jackson. She loved to sing and was a part of the choir at TSB and MET Singers. She also sang at church and with the church choir.

Audrey loved animals and dreamed of being a vet someday. Even when she knew it was unlikely that she would ever be able to make that a career, she wanted to work in some way with animals. She especially loved her dogs, Buddy, Belle, and Daisy. Audrey and Buddy were inseparable. He was her constant companion from the day he saw her at the shelter. He misses her very much. Daisy was her service dog, and they had just started learning to be a team when she got sick this last time.

Audrey loved her school and her friends and was fiercely loyal to her friends. She loved being a part of their activities.

Being very socially conscious, Audrey loved working with the underprivileged. She went on mission trips and enjoyed being a part of Mountain Top and Collide. She enjoyed working with the homeless folks she met at Room in the Inn and Bridge Ministry. Audrey found joy in raising awareness for brain tumor research and pediatric cancer awareness. With excitement, she formed Audrey’s Minions. Through this support group, she raised money for brain tumor research as well as the Make a Wish Foundation.

Additional New Staff

Sobrinyo Piloto
Custodian

Donna Agee
Educational Assistant

Alissa Walker
Educational Assistant

Sara Ramos
Companion

Naijyana Hudgens
Mr. Ducharme

Raylin Holt
Ms. Schlipp

Additional New Students

Celebrate with Amber Meyer

Always smiling

Mary Anne Williams
Camps in Rear View Mirror Reflect Good Direction for Future

Thanks to generous donations from the Lions Club, Tennessee School for the Blind continued its tradition of hosting three weeks of summer camp in 2019. The camps were held during the month of June. The school has altered the lives of hundreds of blind and visually impaired students from across the state through its summer enrichment programs. The camps have been held each summer on the school’s campus for several decades. The past two summers, Mr. Andy Joiner and Dr. Tammy Parsons have served as directors.

Each week of camp comes with a different emphasis and focuses on particular ages and abilities of the children. This summer, the first week of camp brought together elementary-age children and also focused on those needing to learn CDC/Life Skills.

Athletics was the focus of week two and was geared for kids of the middle and high school age. During the final week of camp, this same age of students focused on learning in the areas of orientation and mobility.

“I am grateful for all of the amazing friendships that I’ve made while at camp.” said Graham Walker of Erin, TN. Graham has been plugged into TSB’s enrichment opportunity now for six years. “I keep in touch with the friends I’ve made at camp throughout the whole year by texting and social media. We all look forward to meeting up again at camp during the summer for two weeks of fun.” He went on to put things into perspective by saying, “I love my community and friends at home, but I have something huge in common with my friends from summer camp.” Graham, who will be graduating from high school this coming spring, hopes to return next summer as a volunteer to mentor some of the younger campers.

Bryan Joiner came to camp for the first time this year from Greeneville, TN. A portion of his day was spent participating and learning skills of orientation and mobility with the assistance of TSB’s O & M instructors. Bryan’s mom said, “Bryan learned how to find things and their logical locations in a store, how to cross an intersection, and how to build operational tools with Legos. He even learned how to keep his space clean.” Bryan was overheard saying that he was having so much fun he wants to come to TSB throughout the school year, too! “He learned so much, and we’re so proud of Bryan and how he made friends because he has always had a hard time with socializing,” she said. Bryan seemed to fit right into the program from the moment they arrived on campus. “It was amazing! Thank you so much for giving Bryan this opportunity,” his mother said. The camp staff all passed along how excited they were to see Bryan in camp and they really enjoying having him here, too!

The McKibben family from Oak Ridge, TN, experienced all three weeks of camp as three of their children were able to attend this year! “Elijah (attending week 3) and Judah (who attended week 1) had such a great time at camp; they are still talking about it,” said Ms. McKibben. She went on to say, “The kids connected with other students their age and made friendships that they are still continuing by keeping in touch. My kids enjoyed all of the places they went and had a lot of new experiences they would not been able to do if it were not for TSB. For this we are so grateful.” Mariah, the eldest of the bunch, was in attendance in both weeks 2 and 3. She was an enthusiastic participant in all the activities throughout the week. Her time was so enjoyable that she has already set her thoughts on attending next summer. She already misses many of the kids with whom she made a special bond.

Each week of camp began with the kids arriving at TSB on Sunday evening. Campers staying on campus throughout the week were given cottage assignments. Staying in the cottages afforded them a chance to experience what dorm life at the school might be like. For some, this was the first or only time they had been away from home for an entire week. Parents anxious about leaving their child had an opportunity to meet and become familiar with the school’s Youth Service Workers, who staff the cottages. The experienced house parents do a wonderful job of making the campers feel at home.
This year, the camp days were jam-packed with great activities. After breakfast, the stage was set to engage the campers in events out of the ordinary. New adventures and experiments within the classroom explored activities supporting STEM and the arts. Then there were adaptive games, sports, and swimming. There were also many social opportunities to engage the staff and interact with other campers. Refreshments were provided and even the making of cotton candy.

Day trips included outings to the Nashville Zoo, Mary's Magical Playground, and an opportunity to go ice skating. Friday mornings culminated in fun at a water park with a trip to Nashville Shores.

Depending on the campers and the week attending, the evenings hardly were a time to catch your breath and rest. Campers found themselves occupied with field trips, meals at area restaurants, train rides, family fun center trips, and planned activities on campus. This year, campus events included cook-outs and cool water fun with water slides.

Camp was successful in part because of the efforts of the wonderful TSB staff. Teachers and para-professionals give their time each summer to participate and lead exciting events. The medical staff at TSB cares for the students' health care while on field trips and on campus. This year's volunteers, Ms. Meghan from Vanderbilt and Mr. E, from Chicago, were such an asset to camp. Anna, Ms. Meghan's guide dog, was able to attend camp many days as well. TSB strives to form partnerships with local universities which enables them to build a great volunteer base for future camps.

This summer, camp filled up in record time. While we look for as many students to attend as possible, there are limits on the number of and levels of support staff that can be provided for the campers and those staying on campus. The deadline for 2020 applications will be in early April to allow proper planning. Campers in grades 2-6 will again attend week one. Campers going into grades 7-12 will have two opportunities: one week of sports camp and a middle and high school camp which operates concurrently with the orientation and mobility camp. Anyone interested in attending should look for details on TSB's website in February of 2020.

Summer camp at Tennessee School for the Blind allows students from across the state to meet with other students who, like them, are blind or visually impaired. For some, this is the first time meeting someone else with a similar condition. Camp activities are designed with accessibility, allowing many of our students first-time experiences in a safe environment away from home.
TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Upcoming Events Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Roby Games</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>Oct. 7-11</td>
<td>Fall Break (no classes)</td>
<td>TSB</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-S</td>
<td>Oct. 18-20</td>
<td>Goal Ball Invitational</td>
<td>TSB</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Goal Ball Invitational</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-S</td>
<td>Nov. 1-3</td>
<td>Goal Ball NCASB Conference</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>19th Annual Brunch and Bid with Friends</td>
<td>Mount Juliet</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day (no classes) Monday Busing</td>
<td>TSB</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Unity Conference Thursday Busing</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
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<td>M-F</td>
<td>Nov. 25-29</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-S</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>TSB</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Parent Contact Day (no classes) Mon. Busing</td>
<td>TSB</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>MLK Day (no classes) Monday Busing</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-S</td>
<td>Jan. 24-26</td>
<td>Wrestling Cheer NCASB Conference</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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Tennessee School for the Blind is a state special school established in 1844 to meet the unique needs of visually impaired students living in the state of Tennessee. The school provides academic and professional services tailored to benefit students placed in its care through the Local Education Agencies across the state. Beyond a tradition of academics, TSB specializes in the instruction of expanded core-curricular areas such as braille, mobility, technology, career education, and independent living skills. Students at the school also enjoy the opportunity to participate in team sports, campus clubs, organizations and many leisure-time activities. In addition, the school provides outreach services to visually challenged students, their parents, teachers, schools, and other agencies assisting the visually challenged.