



BRAILLE BITES



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONATION

Gina Ouellette, Superintendent

The California School for the Blind wishes to thank The Brian R. Boggs Trust for a bequest in the amount of \$30,000. This generous gift has been deposited into CSB's Endowment Fund. Our Endowment Fund has strict rules about how proceeds can be used, and specifies that all Endowment Fund expenditures can only be used for activities that provide a direct benefit to CSB students. This donation will add to the principal in the account, and the interest gained will be used to support blind and visually impaired students at CSB in perpetuity.

For information regarding how to make a donation to CSB, please visit our website and click on "Support Organizations" under the "About CSB" tab.

White Cane Day 2019

ADRIAN AMANDI

Director of the CA Education Resource Center

White Cane Day should be celebrated by every person with a visual impairment and every person that supports and is impacted by someone who is blind or has low vision. CSB was proud to have filled another White Cane Day with a full day of celebratory activities. Students and guests were welcomed to campus to participate in a scavenger hunt put together in collaboration with the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind Mad Lab as well as art activities that culminated in a Cane Fashion Show. CSB students and students from local districts and programs that joined us had the opportunity to strut their stuff to the cheers of a theater full of pride. The day continued with trivia, a BBQ lunch, and a walk-a-thon lakeside at Central Park in Fremont. White Cane Day is celebrated every year at CSB with a full day of activities. With a focus on providing services and education to maximize the independence of every student enrolled on our campus, we invite every family, district, and program to join us in future years to celebrate the greatness that is in every student at our school and in local programs!



Apple Days

SCOTT JAFFRAY

Assistive Technology Specialist

Swift Coding Event

On December 10th, 2019 our school hosted an Apple sponsored Swift Coding Event. More than 20 CSB students, of varying skill levels, were introduced to coding on iPad's using Apples Swift Playgrounds app. Once they were oriented to the app, the students learned to program and fly drones and a dancing robot later in the day. It was a huge success and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves; it was great seeing our students take on the challenge, succeed, and have fun.



The Apple staff were great and really got into teaching our kids how to code while using the VoiceOver screen reader. Five of the staff from the Palo Alto Apple store were able to come and reconnect with our students that they have met previously when the students attended past trainings at the Apple store. They commented that it was great to see the students in their own environment.

Throughout the day a TV crew from CBS filmed the event as a backdrop to celebrate the accomplishments of Jordyn Castor, a blind engineer/programmer who helps develop the VoiceOver software that so many of our students and staff use every day. The film will be used to develop a segment on the CBS Saturday morning young adult TV show "Mission Unstoppable" promoting the importance of women in STEM.

Apple Days (cont'd)

Apple VoiceOver Event

On December 13th 2019 our school also hosted a VoiceOver Event that invited TVI's from CSB and local schools to learn about how the VoiceOver screen reader on iPads and the Mac computer can be used to meet the needs of students with visual impairments.

Starting with the most basic gestures/commands and moving through all the new and cool features that have been developed recently, the presentation touched all areas of disability but focused mainly on students with a visual disability.

Please look forward to more Apple sponsored trainings focusing on CSB and community TVI's. We will announce the programs as they are planned and scheduled.



CSB Art at Fremont Library

MINDA TAYAM

Art Teacher

An exhibit of CSB students' art is now on display in the lobby and children's section of the Fremont Public Library. The exhibit is presenting colorful paintings, drawings, ceramics, and collages. The display is up now through February 28th, 2020. The library is located at 2400 Stevenson Blvd in Fremont. Take the opportunity and check out the students' wonderful work at the library!



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Art Room News

The art room is a busy place! Students are currently working on a variety of exciting projects. They're knitting, painting, drawing with tactile boards, making ceramics, and creating with other multisensory art materials. When students come to art, they are invited to choose their own activities and participate as independently as possible. Students are encouraged to tactually explore materials to further their understanding of spatial concepts, cause and effect, and 2D and 3D shapes. Ceramics continues to be very popular. Students develop their hand skills and learn to work with tools to create pottery and sculpture. In addition to shaping a basic pinch pot, students are learning to use the coil and slab methods when working with clay. Some students benefit from using toy figures as a reference when building their clay pieces. One student says "I like clay the best because I can hold it and feel what I'm doing as I make something. It's interesting and helps me be creative." Often students find inspiration by examining art made by their peers. Ahmad and Eman recently began collaborating on a project after Eman admired the animal sculptures Ahmad was making.



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Short Courses

SCOTT SMITH

Short Course Teacher and Coordinator

There are many ways that CSB is a resource for visually impaired students throughout California. One opportunity CSB provides is for students to come to our campus and participate in short courses and summer academy programs. Short courses and summer academies offer students the opportunity to learn about multiple aspects of the expanded core curriculum, including but not limited to: technology, braille, daily living skills, recreation, orientation and mobility.

This fall we have held three short course programs. We offered two new courses, Building Advocacy, Self Esteem and Social Skills, and Low Vision: Access to the Classroom. We also offered an annual favorite course, Preparing Your Best Burger. These courses have been full with 18 students from throughout California in attendance.

Students have used these courses to learn more about the anatomy of the eye and their own visual impairment. They have also improved their knowledge of the variety of low tech and high tech options for accessing their classroom curriculum. And finally, they have improved their cooking skills along with their knowledge of accessible and safe cooking tools.



Short Courses (cont'd)

Just as important as the expanded core curriculum is the opportunity to experience some of the other aspects of CSB's unique school environment. These students have had the chance to participate in art, music, greater independence in a residential setting, and a variety of sports and social activities. Time at CSB also offers the opportunity to meet other students with visual impairments and create social connections that sometimes last beyond their time on campus. During this year's White Cane Day celebrations, after listening to the guest speaker talk about her own journey with her white cane, one of the short course students reached into his backpack and pulled out a new looking white cane. He told me that the cane had been in his backpack for nine months and that he had never taken it out. He said, "It seems like a good day to try it out."





Sports

JASON TUCKER

Counselor and Coach

CSB has finally added general Strength and Conditioning to the available extracurricular programs and the kids are off to an impressive start. The program is now running into the 2nd and 3rd season. Students began the program fidgeting, inattentive and unable to hold themselves upright. They have now progressed beyond the initial Phase I challenge of stabilization and core control into demonstrating proper form and technique for basic lifts and are gaining strength with measurable efficacy.

This season, Strength and Conditioning was combined with Goalball to mimic a more mainstream program of sport specific training and strength training. Athletes are gaining orientation skills and have demonstrated increased accuracy and power. The kids have fun during the play but we can also see the excitement delivered from measurable progress in skill and strength. Athletes have also demonstrated an increase in adherence to the expectations of the program, self-control, teamwork, communication and spacial awareness.



Sports

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We hope to create an atmosphere of awareness and a desire to be healthy and strong throughout life. Students with personal goals for fitness, strength, weight management, body recomposition and sport specific improvements should plan to make the CSB Strength and Conditioning program a priority for their extracurricular activities to build a foundation of strength and health education that will keep them going into adulthood.

Child obesity among the disabled population is 22.5% compared to 16% of children without disabilities. Let's encourage our students to choose activities that challenge them physically and encourage growth and physical strength, coordination, balance endurance while promoting healthy living habits. Please feel free to contact me regarding standards for health and strength recommendations.

