



KSB Update

Bi-Monthly Activity Report of the
Kentucky School for the Blind

May-June 2010

2010 Commencement

Eight Seniors Receive Diplomas

The Class of 2010—J.J. Earls, Jessica Martin, Tiffany Patrick, Matt Sparks, Dalton Novince, Ben Small, Tommy Zwick and Marissa Chambers received diplomas during the Commencement Program on Thurs., May 20. Honored guests included Kentucky Board of Education members Kaye Baird, C. B. Akins, Brigitte Ramsey and Joe Brothers.

American Printing House for the Blind President Tuck Tinsley, III Ed.D. delivered the Commencement Address. **Jessica**

Martin, Mayor's Outstanding Senior Award recipient, was the student speaker. **Class valedictorian was Marissa Chambers.**

Brigitte Ramsey presented diplomas to the seniors.



Top left: KBE member Brigitte Ramsey presents a diploma to Dalton Novince. Top right: Dr. Tuck Tinsley speaks to the graduates about "packing for their future." Bottom right: The KSB Charitable Foundation presented the Joseph Kuczvara Scholarship Award and \$500 to senior Jessica Martin. Pictured from left to right are KSBCF Executive Director Rick Ricks, Jessica Martin, Joe Kuczvara and KSB Director of Instruction John Roberts.



KSB presents the Class of 2010. Front row left to right: Valedictorian Marissa Chambers, Ben Small Matt Sparks and Tiffany Partrick. Back row: Tommy Zwick, Dalton Novince, Jessica Martin and J.J. Earls.

Students Do Well in 16th Annual Kentucky Gourd Art Show

KSB students won 39 ribbons in the 16th Annual Kentucky Gourd Art Show that was held at Spencer County Elementary in Taylorsville on May 15-16. This included: seven 1st place, ten 2nd place, eight 3rd place, six 4th place and eight 5th place ribbons. There were a total of 450 Kentucky student entries in the show.



First place entry by KSB's Jay Knott.

Through the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft's Artists in Residence Program, KSB students created gourd art under the direction of artist Patrice Will for the show's new touchable gourds category. KSB teamed with VSA arts of Kentucky and the Kentucky Gourd Society to make gourd art accessible to everyone by creating the show's first "touchable" gourds category. VSA arts provides opportunities for people with disabilities to be part of the life of their communities and to make the world more accessible and enjoyable. Arts education, community arts programming and professional development are vital elements of VSA arts services.



Left : A photo poster of KSB students working on their gourd art was on display at the Art Show. Right: KSB Director of Instruction attended the Art Show. He is standing beside a first place KSB entry.



Dahmke Presented with Paul J. Langan Award

KSB awarded the distinguished Paul J. Langan Award to **Carol Dahmke** during the Founder's Day Program on Fri., May 7. Dahmke a familiar advocate, volunteer and supporter of KSB, accepted the award from Interim Director of Operations Soraya Matthews.

The award, established in 1992, is dedicated to former superintendent Paul J. Langan (1945-56) in recognition of his outstanding service and constructive leadership.

Dahmke has been involved with the school for most of her life, as her father was a KSB graduate. In 1996, Dahmke and her family



Carol Dahmke (left) accepts the Paul J. Langan Award from Interim Director of Operations Soraya Matthews.

moved from Nebraska so that her two sons who are visually impaired could attend KSB. Thus began her quest to become a strong advocate for a comprehensive school for blind students. She recently completed her third term on the KSB Advisory Board. She was a former member of the site based council and was involved in the parent, student and staff organization. Dahmke also serves as the office manager for Visually Impaired Preschools Services (VIPS) in Louisville.

In other Founder's Day activities, the **KSB Alumni Association President Darrell Buford** presented Science Teacher Samir Azer with \$500 for the science department. Buford cited Azer's work as a catalyst in earmarking the association's gift for science.

K-5 Students Come from East to West Participate in Braille and Low Vision Carnival

K-5 students who are blind and visually impaired from Jefferson, Pulaski, Hardin, Madison, Caldwell, Washington, Trimble, Owsley, Whitley, Daviess, Jessamine, Anchorage Independent and Owensboro Independent school districts participated in the Braille and Low Vision Carnival at KSB on Fri., May 14. About forty students were on campus for the annual event conducted by the Short Course staff and volunteers. *At the end of the day, the students took home a "goodie" bag filled with treats, information and mementos from their unique learning experience.*



Left: Jackson Sanders from Madison Co. plays one of several games with primary teacher Jeanie Brasher as his father Lee Sanders watches during the Braille and Low Vision Carnival. Center: KSB student Cody Barnes eyes parent volunteer Jayne Seif as she applies paint to his face. Right: Whitney Earl, from Whitley Co. reads the instructions for the next game. With her is Karen White (right), teacher of the visually impaired and a staff member from the Wilderness Trail Region.

Statewide Students Attend Low Vision Clinic

Twelve students from Barren, Jefferson, Hardin, Letcher, Marshall, McCracken and Elizabethtown Independent school districts received a low vision clinical evaluation through the Low Vision Clinic (LVC) on May 14-15. In addition to the evaluation conducted by Jenny Wood, O.D., occupational therapy observations were rendered to three students by Jennifer Stocker, MHS, OTR/L while attending the clinic.

Many of the students were accompanied by their parents and/or by a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI). With technology recently acquired for the clinic, information provided by Dr. Wood during the examination is video recorded and can be sent to the student's TVI upon request.

The clinic is funded by the KSB Charitable Foundation. The funding also provides districts the opportunity to borrow low vision devices and/or technologies that have been recommended by Dr. Wood on a trial basis.

KSBCF Executive Director Rick Ricks speaks to Barren County school district preschoolers Raechel and Whitney Hall and their mother Jessica Hall during the Low Vision Clinic. In the background, Acting Outreach Director/Low Vision Coordinator Meg Stone speaks with former KSB Superintendent Will D. Evans.



Students Perform Well During May Music Recitals

K-5 students performed on piano, violin and percussion instruments before a large audience of parents, friends, students and staff during an afternoon recital on Thurs.,

May 6. The young students did an awesome job as they tickled the ivories, strummed violins, beat the drums and more! MS and HS students showcased



Top left: Duet, senior Jessica Martin and junior Jon Cord, sing a Stevie Wonder number during the MS/HS Spring Recital. Top right: Fourth grader Taryn Seif strums the violin during the K-5 Recital. Bottom left: The KSB Choir, under the direction of Tabathia Roark, performs during the MS/HS Recital. Bottom right: Staff members Kerry Carr and Crystal Johnson participated in a special staff song and dance number at the end of the recital.

their musical talents during an evening recital on Thurs., May 13. The students played "music of the decades" by Ray Charles, Madonna, Elvis, Beatles, Elton John, etc. At the end of the recital, several KSB staff members, along with the music department staff, presented a dance and song routine to *Love Will Keep Us Together*.

Fair Finally Becomes Reality for MS/HS Students

MS/HS students looked really sharp as they arrived for the **Reality Fair** on Wed., May 5. Dressed for success, the students assumed the roles of responsible adults and faced the challenges of taking on a career, balancing a budget and making critical consumer and lifestyle choices. The Reality Fair finally got underway after it had been cancelled in February due to a snowstorm.

Volunteers from local businesses and agencies, parents, grandparents and school supporters manned a variety of booths where students had to visit the bank, obtain housing, shop for groceries, select a mode of communication, make transportation arrangements, etc.

Freshman Andrew Turner and sixth grader Kevin Brewer were voted "*Best Dressed for Success*" by the volunteers.



Left: Volunteer Bill Pfund, Director of Compliance and Planning for ARCO Aluminum, manned the Uncle Sam Tax Booth at the Reality Fair. MS student Michael Douglas is using a large print calculator to add up his tax bill. Right: Freshman Ashley Busic makes out a large type check to pay for expenses with assistance from volunteer Joy Packer, a retiree from Lexington.



Eighth grader Jay Knott listens to volunteer Michael McCarty, from the Communication Dept. at the American Printing House for the Blind (right) and technology teacher David Hume (left) about purchasing options for mobile communications.



June Happenings:

KSB Services Keep on Going During Busy Month

- **The KSB Alumni Association held their annual reunion on campus on June 4-6.** Over 150 alumni gathered for a weekend of events and informative sessions. During their banquet on Sat. evening, the association presented its first 75th Anniversary Alumni Award to Class of 1935 member **Charles E. "Ned" Cox.**

Throughout his life, Cox has been a strong supporter of employment and educational opportunities for children and adults who are blind and visually impaired. He retired from the Kentucky Office for the Blind where he spent the majority of his 30 year career as Director of the Kentucky Industries for the Blind (now LC Industries, a private company). Along with the Louisville East End Lions Club, Cox was beneficial in establishing the Ned Cox Fund to help students in need who attend KSB. Today, at age 93, Cox serves as president of his Lions Club in Fenton, MO.

- Six statewide high school students participated in the **INSIGHT Post Secondary Preparation Program held at Morehead State University on June 5-12**. This was the fifth year for the collaborative program that provides prospective college students with training on accessing vital campus services. KSB is one of several partners in the unique learning experience.
- **KSB Summer Enrichment Programs will be held on June 21-July 2**. The elementary program theme is *Water, Water Everywhere*. Along with classroom activities, K-5 students will visit a water plant and will spend time enjoying the riverfront water park.
Summer Challenge is the theme of the MS/HS program. These students will participate in a scavenger hunt at the mall and will spend some time behind the scenes at Churchill Down.

KSB Receives Brightside NatureScape Grant

KSB was recently awarded a **\$1000 Brightside Neighborhood NatureScape Grant from Brightside Inc.** The grant will be used to replace “significant” trees that have been lost over the past two years due to weather. It will be also used to add some native trees to the campus landscape.

These “signature” trees will help give the campus a true park-like feeling. The original intent of the school’s founders was to always maintain its “park-like” character. That is still the intent of KSB today, 168 years later. With the assistance of a Metro Parks Landscape architect, a survey of the current conditions of the trees was conducted and a long term plan was developed for replacing and adding to trees to the grounds with the appropriate type and location, including those native to Kentucky.

KSB Boy Scout Troop #10, along with the Cub Scout troop and Venture Crew, under the leadership of their scoutmasters, will plant and care for all of the new trees as part of their scout service requirements.

Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206
Ph: 502-897-1583 Classroom Fax: 502-897-2850
Business Office Fax: 502-897-2994
www.ksb.k12.ky.us
Director of Instruction: John Roberts
Acting Campus Manager: Soraya Matthews
Acting Outreach Director: Meg Stone