

# E-CONNECTOR



## Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Direct all communications to:  
[copobc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:copobc.newsletter@gmail.com),  
attention Julie Hunter, editor.



### Dear Readers:

I regret to tell you that this will be the last issue of the e-Connector to land in your e-mail box. All things must come to an end and after seven years of monthly news from the Colorado Parents of Blind Children this e-publication is being retired for now. To help you keep abreast of issues and concerns relating to raising a blind/visually impaired child be sure to check out the following:

1. BLINKID List: The BLIND KID e-mail list is a service of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. It is a place for sharing of information for people interested in the welfare and development of blind children. You can join the BLINKID list by [clicking here](#).

2. For information about activities and programs for children and youth at the Colorado Center for the Blind, submit your e-mail information to Brent Batron, CCB Youth Services Coordinator, [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org). Brent will let you know about the monthly FAST Saturday programs, Goal Ball, summer programs for elementary, middle school, high school and college students and more.

3. For information about college scholarships, NFB conventions, legislative activities, NFB of Colorado chapter meetings and more, check out the NFB of Colorado website: [NFBCO.org](http://NFBCO.org).

4. The National Federation of the Blind website, [NFB.org](http://NFB.org), is a resource for information on just about any concern regarding the education and raising of blind children. You can read current and past issues of *Future Reflections*, the

magazine for parents of blind children, order a free white cane, search the Independence Market for adaptive equipment of every kind and much more.

Thank you for your readership over the past seven years. Best wishes to you all.

*Julie Hunter*, editor



### **A GREETING FROM SANTA... IN BRAILLE!**

The National Federation of the Blind is once again assisting Santa Claus in writing letters to children in Braille. This program is a fun way for blind children to practice their Braille skills while receiving a holiday greeting from Santa himself. The Braille letter will be accompanied by a print copy (for mom and dad to read) as well as some other fun Christmas time activities. Parents of children under the age of ten can visit [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) and fill out [a Santa Braille Letter request form](#). The form can also be printed and faxed to 410-685-2340. The deadline for letter requests is December 18, to ensure that a return letter in Braille is received before Christmas.



### **GAME APPS FOR BLIND KIDS**

Kid Friendly Software, Inc. is a company that has developed free game apps for ios devices. The first game they developed was [Blindfold Racer](#), an audio game where you drive with your ears instead of your eyes. Dozens of other accessible games that now comprise the Blindfold Games Series are now available in the [iTunes App Store](#). All the games are designed for rapid audio play and were built with the help of visually impaired gamers. Now your blind/visually impaired kid can play games on his iPad, iPod or iPhone just like his sighted peers. Other games available include Blindfold Bowling, Blindfold Roulette, Blindfold Pong, Blindfold Simon, Blindfold Craps, Blindfold Dominoes, Blindfold Hearts, Blindfold Vee Ball and many more.



### **COLORADO GIVES DAY**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015, thousands of donors will come together to support Colorado nonprofits like the Colorado Center for the Blind. A contribution to the CCB will

help fund the programs that help our kids. You don't have to wait until December 8. A donation can be scheduled any time between now and the 8th on the [Colorado Gives Day page](#). Your donation will help to make the CCB eligible for a percentage of an incentive fund. Please help them reach their goal. Thank you!



### **INTERESTED IN CRAFT LESSONS FOR BLIND/VI KIDS?**

The Krafters Korner, a division of the National Federation of the Blind, is interested in starting a crafting group for blind and visually impaired children. Many of the blind and visually impaired crafters in the division have taught crafts to children. The classes would be taught through virtual instruction (phone conference or computer classes). Currently they are trying to gauge if there is enough interest in this project to go forward. If you would like more information or have questions please email Marianne at [marianne@denningweb.com](mailto:marianne@denningweb.com)



### POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

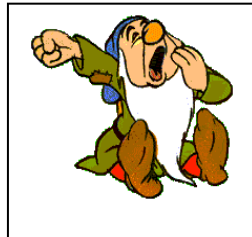
Power at Your Fingertips is a family-friendly introduction to Braille from the American Printing House for the Blind designed in partnership with Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS). Through this course parents will learn how to bring Braille literacy into everyday routines to give their pre-schoolers a head start while learning the basics of the Braille code. Available at [APH](#) for \$19.00.



### EXPLORING THE WEATHER

An exciting opportunity is in store for some lucky kids who are interested in weather when the Colorado Center for the Blind begins to create an accessible weather station at the Center. The CCB recently received a grant from the Raspberry Pie Foundation to create an accessible weather station and soon they will be seeking applicants between the ages of 11 and 16 to assist with the design and implementation

of the weather station. Be sure to get on Brent Batron's mailing list so you will receive notice of this great opportunity for your child/student. Contact Brent at [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext. 222.



### NON-24-HOUR SLEEP-WAKE DISORDER

Without natural light cues, many people who are totally blind experience a circadian rhythm disorder that causes problems with sleeping. With this disorder it is common to have problems falling asleep and staying asleep. The time when the body feels like it needs sleep may shift over time and individuals may fight to stay awake at school or work. If your child is totally blind and has difficulty with regulating sleep patterns, you may want to talk to your child's pediatrician about tasimelteon (brand name Hetlioz), a new FDA approved prescription medication for Non-24 Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder. FDA approval for use by children is expected early in 2016. For more information visit <http://www.hetlioz.com/>



### HOLIDAY PARTY FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

On Saturday, December 12, FAST Saturday at the Colorado Center for the Blind will have a holiday theme. Kids of all ages and their family members are invited. There will be holiday crafts, candle making, cookie baking and decorating and caroling. Kids will have the chance to learn how to wrap gifts. There will also be a fun event for the parents. The activities will start at 10 a.m. and end around 2 p.m. Lunch will be included. Please RSVP with Brent at [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext. 222 by Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>.



### GOAL BALL

Goal Ball is a great competitive sport for blind and visually impaired kids of all ages. Everyone plays under sleepshades, so it makes no difference how well you see. The 2016 Goal Ball season will begin in January. A schedule for practices will be available the first week of January. If your child is interested in this contact Brent Batron at [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130 ext. 222