

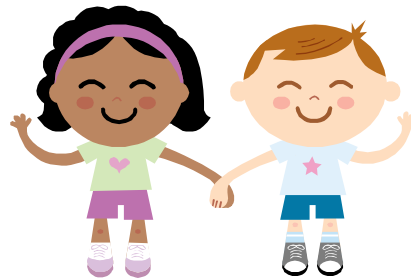
# E-CONNECTOR

## News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

### Inside this issue:

- Making Friends
- Academic Guides for Parents
- More Information about the NFBCO Vacation Travel Raffle
- July Calendar\*

\*Don't Miss the Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 21!



### MAKING FRIENDS

Making friends is sometimes difficult for blind and visually impaired kids. Other children in the neighborhood or the classroom may feel hesitant about approaching or speaking to a child who is seen as different. Here are some strategies for parents to encourage the development of friendships.

1. Create an environment in your home that attracts kids; make it a fun place for them to get together. Be prepared with games or toys that you know your child is familiar with and that others will enjoy. Also, it never hurts to have some tasty snacks on hand!
  2. Play "detective". Observe the places where other children in the neighborhood hang
3. Sign your child up for community groups and activities that involve other neighborhood children of the same age. Consider scouts, swimming, summer day camps, after school clubs, or church youth organizations.
  4. Help your child reach out to children he/she likes. Make phone calls, invite kids over to watch a video, take several children along to the pool the mall or on a family outing.
  5. Be sure your child has a typical routine, school day and lifestyle to minimize differences.
  6. Find and model ways for friends to help your child participate. Demonstrate ways to include your child in games and activities as well as techniques to make your child feel comfortable and safe in new situations. Then let the kids be together

out, noting the activities they enjoy, trends in clothing, music, hairstyles, etc.

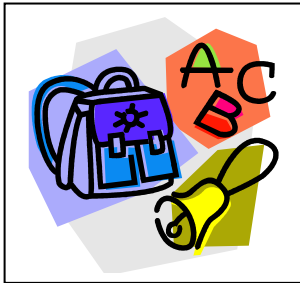
**Editor's Note:** Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: [copobc@gmail.com](mailto:copobc@gmail.com), attention Julie Hunter, editor

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with minimal parental interference.

7. Find a role in which your child can succeed, using his/her interests and strengths in different settings.
8. To keep things moving, invite two friends at a time to play with your child.
9. Become visible with your child in neighborhood and community activities.



### ACADEMIC GUIDES FOR PARENTS

Have you ever had questions about your child's school curriculum? Is he or she learning what they need to know in their particular grade? Two years ago Colorado joined 39 other states in adopting [Common Core State Standards](#) in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies & Science, and Mathematics. Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country, the standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning in each

grade to prepare for college and career. As an assist to parents in understanding the Common Core Standards and to help parents in supporting their children's education, the National PTA has written the "Parents' Guide to Student Success."

The *Guide* includes:

- \*Key items that children should be learning in English language arts and mathematics in each grade.
- \*Activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning.
- \*Methods for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child's teacher.
- \*Tips for planning for college and career (high school only).

There is one guide for grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Guides are available in English and Spanish and can be printed directly from the [pta.org](#) website.



### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NFB CO VACATION TRAVEL RAFFLE

You can now purchase tickets for the NFB of Colorado Vacation Travel Raffle on line! Go to [nfbco.org](#) and click on Vacation Travel Raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn at the NFB of Colorado state convention banquet, October 27, 2012. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to support the BELL Braille Literacy Program for children and education scholarships

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. **How much are the tickets?** The price is: one ticket for \$10 or three tickets for \$20.
2. **Does the winner need to be present at the drawing?** No. As long as we have the contact information – the gift card is yours!!!
3. **How much is the gift card for?** The winner will receive a gift card equivalent to the amount of \$3,500.

**5. What can I use the gift card for?** The amount won can be used towards any package of your choice. Anything the travel agency can book: cruise, air, hotel, all-inclusive resorts.

If you are booking airfare, it would need to be combined with one of the above mentioned options.

**7. Does the gift card need to be used all in one transaction?**

No. The gift card can be used in multiple times as long as you book one of the options mentioned above.

**8. When will the gift card**

**expire?** The trips will need to be booked (not completed) within one year from the date of the drawing which will be on October 27, 2012.

**9. Is the amount on the card transferable to another person?**

The winner of the raffle will need to make the reservation, but the reservation could be for another individual.

**10. Are there any blackout dates the winner will need to follow?**

No. The winner will contact the Travel Agency and make arrangements. The only thing to keep in mind is the fact that prices are higher during certain seasons. Otherwise, if we can book it – you can use it!



### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Saturday, July 21



What:

### **SUMMER PICNIC!**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Colorado Center for the Blind—2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120

DETAILS: Join the Colorado Parents of Blind Children and the Denver Chapter of the NFB of Colorado for an old-fashioned summer picnic... barbecue, games on the lawn, and fun for all! Bring a dessert to share.

#### Monday, July 23

What: **ROCK CLIMBING FOR AGES 11-14.**

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Drop off and pick up at Colorado Center for the Blind—2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120

DETAILS: Five openings for middle schoolers to go rock climbing in Eldorado Canyon. RSVP to Brent Batron, 303-778-1130 ext. 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org).

#### Wednesday, July 25

What: **INTRODUCTION TO MARTIAL ARTS FOR AGES 11-14.**

Time: 1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Center for the Blind—2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120

DETAILS: Martial Arts for Middle School age students. Six spots available.

RSVP to Brent Batron, 303-778-1130 ext. 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org).

#### Saturday, July 28

What: **SCIENCE SEMINAR FOR AGES 10 AND UP**

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Colorado Center for the Blind—2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120

DETAILS: Professors from Arapahoe Community College and Metro State University will lead the students through chemistry experiments, shark dissections and more. RSVP to Brent by July 20<sup>th</sup>. Brent Batron, 303-778-1130, ext. 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org).