

E-CONNECTOR

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

Inside this issue:

- **NFB CONVENTION PARENT SEMINAR DAY COMING UP!**
- **TEACHING TOUCH**
- **BLIND ATHLETES IN THE NEWS**
- **SAVE THE DATE: COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND BENEFIT**
- **JUNE CALENDAR**



NFB CONVENTION: A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS IS COMING UP!

The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Seminar Day for parents is around the corner. Numerous educational sessions for parents of blind/visually impaired kids will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 as part of National Federation of the Blind Convention in Orlando, Florida. Not going this year? Here is a list of some of the things you will miss...

Independence in the Classroom: Tools, tips, and techniques for setting up the classroom and training the student for independent functioning; **Independent Movement & Travel for Children with Additional Disabilities; Low Vision Toolbox:** Useful items for low vision students and how to

determine the most efficient method for the task; **First Steps:** Exploration and independent movement and travel in early childhood; **Accessible Technology:** Using accessible technology for meaningful participation in school, at home, and in the community.; **Independence Skills at Home & in the Community ; Hands Off!** Honoring the child's right to personal space and control over his/her body.; **Independent Movement & Travel for the School-Age Student:** High expectations, real-life goals, and how to achieve them in the area of independent movement and travel. ; **Tactile Graphics—The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly:** The basics of creating a good tactile graphic that will really work for the blind child. ; **I Get Around:** Getting around independently when you do not drive. ; **Saying It My Way:** Encouraging communication, learning, and play in children with communication needs. ; **Social Skills for the School-Age Child:** Encouraging appropriate social interaction and play.; **College Checklist: Is Your Blind Child Ready? Are YOU Ready?;**

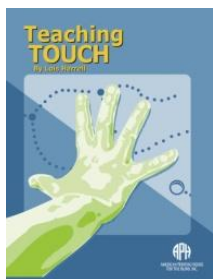
Editor's Note:

Please 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.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.

Unified English Braille (UEB):

It's new. It's coming. What is it, how will the transition be made.; **IEP Basics for Parents of Blind/VI Students ; IEP Development and Legal Process Overview:** Dos & Don'ts for the IEP meeting; preparing for possible mediation, due process, etc.

The full convention will take place July 1-6 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. There's still time to make your reservations! For more information and to view the full convention agenda go to NFB.org.



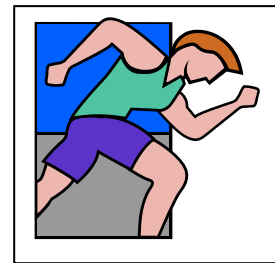
TEACHING TOUCH

As they progress through school, blind/visually impaired children will be required to make sense of raised line drawings, maps, graphs, scientific illustrations and other tactile graphic representations. Just as learning to distinguish the patterns of Braille dots in letters requires practice, so does the ability to make sense of tactile pictures. The American Printing House for

the Blind offers a teaching tool for developing the skills for tactile learning. Here is what APH says:

"[Teaching Touch Kit](#) by Lois Harrell helps parents or teachers encourage young children (ages 4 to 7 years) who are blind to become active explorers and readers of tactile graphics. Teaching Touch is written in a style that is accessible to parents and non-professionals to show how learning through touch is different from learning through sight. It emphasizes the need for concept development that's based on a rich background of hands-on exploration of the environment. Various skills that contribute to exploration and appreciation of tactile graphics are addressed in the included booklet. These include tracking, searching, verbal description, and the use of symbols. There are 16 tactile worksheets included with this kit. They range from very simple shape tracing and line tracking activities to more complex activities that require the ability to locate a tactile symbol within an array of different symbols and textures. The tactile graphics provided use three different production methods on three types of paper to allow exposure to a variety of graphics."

[Teaching Touch Kit](#) is available from [APH](#) for \$35.00.



BLIND ATHLETES IN THE NEWS

FOOTBALL:

Blind high school senior, Aaron Golub, from Massachusetts will be playing on the Tulane University football team in the fall. Golub, who was born with total blindness in one eye and near blindness in the other, has, through relentless practice, become one of the premier long-snapper recruits in the nation: [247Sports](#) rates Golub as the No. 12 long snapper nationally. Aaron loves football and has found a way to be a successful player on the team. [Check out this news release from CBS Boston](#) titled "Blind Football Player Gets a chance to play at Tulane University."

MARATHON RUNNING:

A number of blind runners participated in the Colfax Marathon on Saturday, May 18th. One of those runners, NFB member Amelia Dickerson, was interviewed by CBS Channel 4. Amelia completed the 26 mile run in three and a half hours...forty five minutes faster than the race average.

Here is a link to that interview.

[Blind runner completes the Colfax Marathon.](#)

Running is a physical activity that is wide open to blind people. Just over a year ago Achilles International came to Denver. [Achilles International](#) connects able-bodied runners with athletes with disabilities for fun, no-pressure group running outings. Blind youth can join Achilles International for a run—or leisurely walk—every Monday at 6 p.m. in Washington Park. The group meets at the northeast corner of the park, at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Franklin Street. For more information contact Jessica Beecham: 303-778-1130, ext. 223.



**SAVE THE DATE!
COLORADO CENTER FOR THE
BLIND BENEFIT.**

The Colorado Center for the Blind will be hosting their 14th annual fundraising gala **MOSAIC: A Showcase of the Arts**, on September 5, 2014. Headliner, *Café Americana*, will be performing a musical combination of Jazz, Bluegrass,

Folk and Americana music. The evening will begin with a pre-show reception with demonstrations of students' tactile and industrial art, an array of delicious food and drink from local restaurants, and a live auction. Proceeds will go to CCB youth programs. Tickets are priced at \$30 for adults and \$10 for children. Personal and corporate sponsorships are available. Call Dan Burke to purchase tickets and for more information. (303) 778-1130 x 213.



JUNE CALENDAR

June 7: **FAST Saturday**
A CCB Youth Program

GOAL BALL!

10 am–2 pm at the Colorado Center for the Blind, 2233 W. Shepperd Ave. Littleton, CO

Parents are invited to join in the game. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by June 2nd to Brent Batron: bbatron@cocenter.org or 303-778-1130 ext. 222. There is NO COST for this event.

REMINDERS:

*The Colorado Center for the Blind's **Confidence Camp for Kids** runs from June 9-June 27.

*There are still openings for the **BELL Program**.

BELL is a two-week Braille enrichment camp for kids ages 4-12. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities.

BELL CAMP COLORADO SPRINGS: July 14-25: On the CSDB Campus.

BELL CAMP METRO DENVER: July 21-August 1: Rocky Mountain MS Center, 8845 Wagner St., Westminster. For more information contact Diane McGeorge, at 303-321-4268 or e-mail rmcgeorge@comcast.net.

WELCOME TO SUMMER!

