

E-CONNECTOR



BULLETIN BOARD

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



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, 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.



STAYING ACTIVE AND KEEPING FIT...STARTS IN CHILDHOOD!

SATURDAY, MAY 9!

Kids...bring your parents and your teachers to this fantastic day of fitness and fun. Sample blind friendly sports and exercise opportunities such as goalball, dance, yoga, guide running, self defense, tandem cycling, beep ball and more. You can try it all! This seminar is appropriate for all school age kids. Parents and teachers will have a breakout session to learn and share hints and adaptations for including visually impaired kids in regular p.e. and organized sports. Each participant will also receive a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All for the pre-registration fee of only \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door:

www.wefitwellness.com/services/findyourfit or call Maureen Nietfeldt at 303-778-1130, extension 229.

May 9, 2015
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Colorado Center for the Blind
2233 W. Sheppard Ave.
Littleton, CO



COOL EYEWEAR FOR KIDS



Stay-Put Glasses and decorative eye patches for babies and children can be found at Kids Bright Eyes.

kidsbrighteyes.com.



WHAT 3D PRINTING MEANS FOR BLIND PEOPLE

(Partially reprinted from Ed Lyon Blog, Action for Blind People)

3D printing is beginning to have a real impact on the world...and the blind community will reap the benefits!

What is a 3D printer and how does it work?

3D printers need a 3D design to print. The design could be pretty much anything, from a mug to machine parts. The process of printing has been described as [making a loaf of bread](#), but by baking each slice individually and then gluing them together to create the entire loaf. Each layer can be very complex, meaning 3D printers can create moving parts like hinges and wheels as part of the same object. You could print a whole bike - handlebars, saddle, frame, wheels, brakes, pedals and chain - ready assembled, without using any tools. It's just a question of leaving gaps in the right places.

What is the potential for blind students?

Imagine the doors that will open for blind scientists and mathematicians as 3-D models of everything from microscopic

matter to images from space become tactilely accessible. Just over one year ago Kevin Yang, a blind high school student, and his dad began building an on-line library of 3D models for use by students and teachers. ([See Future Reflections Volume 34, #1](#)) LibraryLyna is now a resource for nearly one hundred fifty 3D models in the categories of chemistry, biology and mathematics.

(<http://www.librarylyna.com/>)

If a model is not available on the website, a teacher can request it and it will be designed for free. If the teacher doesn't have access to a 3D printer, the downloaded file can be sent to a 3D printing service such as [Shapeways](#), [i.materialise](#), or [Sculpteo](#) and the printed model is sent out.

When the cost of buying a printer comes down, the potential will be huge...So you broke your cane this morning? Print a new one this afternoon!



WHERE'S THE CURSED CURSOR?

Here is a link to a [youtube video](#) from TechVision with suggestions for how to make locating the cursor on the computer screen easier for the student with low vision.



BRaille MONSTER

Make Braille flashcards more fun! Cover a cereal box in felt and cut out a slot big enough for index cards to slide through. Make a monster face. The sample illustrated uses googly eyes and a multi-colored feather boa from the craft store, but you could use your own felt cut-outs. Braille letters or contractions on index cards. Clip one corner of the card to help the child keep the cards oriented correctly. Make up a game to fit the reading goal. For example, feed the monster all the dot 5 contractions found in a short Braille passage. (From the Blog on Blindness: Louisiana Tech)



THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT: VOTED BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

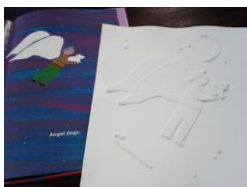
(K-2nd Grade)
The Children's Choice Book Awards is the only national book awards program where the kids vote for their favorite book. They picked *The Day the Crayons Quit!* Poor Duncan just

wants to color, but when he opens the box of crayons he encounters a mutiny! Black crayon wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue crayon needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking--each believes he is the true color of the sun. What can Duncan do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?

To bring this book to life for blind kids, NBP has created a CRAYONS song , a CRAYONS game , and a CRAYONS recipe. Each book includes the print/Braille book, a crayon organizer (with crayons!), and two raised line drawings to color. To order this book, visit National Braille Press.



A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS



Did you ever wonder how a picture in a book is made into an illustration that is meaningful to a blind person? Colorado artist Ann Cunningham has spent years creating tactile art, teaching art

to blind students, and interviewing blind people to better understand what makes an image understandable by touch alone. Ann was recently commissioned by National Braille Press to create a tactile illustration for the print/Braille book, *Dog Heaven*. To see how Ann developed the tactile image visit her blog page: Sensationalbooks.com/blog.

Dog Heaven is a print/Braille book for ages 4 and up. Author, Cynthia Rylant, paints a picture of the ideal place God would create for man's best friend and provides comfort to anyone grieving the loss of their pet. The book may be ordered from National Braille Press for \$17.99.



MAY CALENDAR

* *FAST* Saturday this month is participating in the Fitness Seminar on May 9.

****SATURDAY, MAY 9

Sports and Fitness Seminar:
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Colorado Center for the Blind
2233 W. Sheppard Ave.
Littleton, CO

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****SUNDAY, MAY 10

ANNIE -- Audio Described musical at the Buell Theatre. 1:30 p.m. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available through Brent Batron. Contact Brent at 303-778-1130, extension 222 or bbatron@coenter.org

****WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

MasterDrive: Automobile driving experience for blind drivers!

High school students are invited to join the CCB students in driving a car through an obstacle course and recovering from a skid! Space is limited so please RSVP to Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 extension 222 or at bbatron@coenter.org.

****SATURDAY, MAY 30

Tiny Tot's "Inside the Orchestra": For ages 6 and under. Sit on the floor surrounded by a 30 piece orchestra. Interact with the conductor and the musicians while learning about the instruments. To purchase tickets (\$9.95), go to the Orchestra website. McNichols Building
144 W. Colfax, Denver, CO



SUMMER CAMP LINEUP

It's not too late to sign up for the summer camps offered by the Colorado Center for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

Once again, here is a summary of the summer opportunities for kids from 4 to 18 years of age.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND PROGRAM:

[BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids](#)

This is a one-week program designed to reach out to pre-kindergarten and elementary age children who are blind or low vision. Join us in the summer BELL program and let your children fill their tool boxes with confidence, positive attitudes about vision loss, and the techniques successful blind and visually impaired adults use every day.

A parent seminar takes place at the end of the program to help parents connect. They can discuss: LARGE PRINT?? Braille Dots?? Or Some of Both? IEPs, family activities, and building a network are also a part of the discussion.

A video recorded at a past BELL camp can be viewed [by clicking here.](#)

For further information contact:

Diane McGeorge (Co-Coordinator):
rmcgeorge@comcast.net
303-321-4268

Michelle Chacon (Co-Coordinator Lead Teacher Westminster):
rascal.angel2@gmail.com
303-507-6291

Kaitlin Lombardi (Co-Coordinator, Lead Teacher, CO Springs):
kaitlinmlombardi@gmail.com
303-918-9465

Ready to apply? Applications for BELL are available on the NFB website: nfb.org/bell-summer-program-form

COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND SUMMER PROGRAMS --

CONFIDENCE CAMP:
Elementary age. June 8-26.
Five days each week. Fun activities and outdoor experiences designed to further the skills of everyday living. A youtube video about Confidence Camp can be viewed [by clicking here.](#)

**INITIATION TO INDEPENDENCE
CAMP:** Middle School age.
June 10-July 1: Three week residential program that will focus on Braille, cane travel,

technology, challenge recreation and daily living skills.

EARN AND LEARN: High School age. June 6 – August 1 (Residential*)

SUMMER FOR SUCCESS: College Prep. June 5-July 31 (Residential*)

*Eight week residential programs focusing on Braille, cane travel, technology, challenge recreation and daily living skills. High School students will have a part time job experience. College prep students will have classes relating to success in college. Students in both programs will attend the National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Orlando, Florida in July.

Students live at the Colorado Center for the Blind apartment complex with roommates and are supervised by counselors.

For more information about any of the above programs, contact Brent Batron 303-778-1130 extension 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org for more information.

