



MSB REACHING OUT NEWSLETTER



THE MARYLAND
SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND

Volume III, Issue I

Spring 2017



MSB's DOT5UDOGS Compete— First Lego League

By Gina Fugate

Maryland School for the Blind's First Lego League team, DOT5UDOGS, competed at Roboquake on the Lake. The tournament involved 20 teams and was hosted by the Boys Latin School on January 21st. All teams presented on Core Values, a research project related to the Animal Allies theme, and the robotics competition. The DOT5UDOGS received the Judges Award.

Additionally, a Lego Scrimmage was held at the Verizon Center on February 26th. This special, one-time event allowed Maryland School for the Blind to offer the Lego Robotics experience to both MSB and Outreach students who had never been a part of the First Lego League. Seven students participated in the experience and worked hard during the robotics competition. Following the scrimmage, the DOT5UDOGS enjoyed lunch and attended a Wizards Game. Derrick Day was one of the students selected to give a high five to the Wizards as they entered the court. Qualik Ford and Isaia Pinales were selected to represent MSB and First League League on the court during the national anthem.

First Lego League provides an opportunity for kids to work together as a team to research a problem, learn about programming, and apply their skills to solve robotic challenges. The social opportunities are abundant and the Core Values of Lego emphasize involving all people in a spirit of what they call "coopertition" (cooperation + competition). Students involved in First Lego League are eligible for special scholarship opportunities and are more likely to be involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

Outreach will be forming a First Lego League and First Lego League Jr. teams in the fall. If you are interested, please look for more information in upcoming newsletters. Students will need to be committed to attending team meetings and doing some homework outside of team meetings. First Lego League will compete typically in December or January. First Lego League, Jr. involves commitment to team meetings and research as well.



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WRAP



Work Readiness After-school Program

On the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - the unique resources of Maryland School for the Blind will be focused on helping YOU get ready to work:

- ✓ Start building an employment profile- identify your interests and skills!
- ✓ Improve workplace communication, relationships and problem solving skills!
- ✓ Know and advocate for YOUR adaptation needs- including the technologies- for each worksite we visit.
- ✓ Improve the skills for independence needed for work- including organization, appropriate dress for work, mobility skills, shopping for and preparing lunch.

Activities are facilitated by highly qualified MSB staff including Orientation and Mobility instructors, Career Education teachers, Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, Low Vision Specialist, Social Worker, and Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Dinner is provided and some transportation assistance home is available. This program is made possible through **Pre-Employment Training Services (Pre-ETS)** Funding provided by **the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)/Office of Blindness and Visual Impairment Services (OBVS)**.

For additional information please contact Susan Vanderhoff, L.C.S.W.-C, at

410-925-0364 or susanv@mdschblind.org

www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org

The Maryland School for the Blind

2017 Maryland Braille Challenge

By Jacqueline Otwell



The Maryland Regional Braille Challenge was held on MSB's campus on January 28, 2017, thanks to the efforts of many staff and departments on campus! Thirty students participated the day of the Challenge! It was an exciting day of hard work and fun. Students participated in a variety of contest categories that may have included Reading Comprehension, Spelling, Proofreading, Charts and Graph Reading, and Speed and Accuracy, depending on the student's grade level. At the end of the day students received prizes, visited a variety of vendors, made Braille jewelry, had their faces painted and walked away with balloon animals! In addition, medals with the words "MD Braille Challenge" in Braille were placed around student's necks at the Award Ceremony!

This year we added a new program for students who are not quite ready for the Braille Challenge because they are new to learning Braille. This program was called "Mini-BELL" and provided students with fun, non-competitive ways to practice their blossoming Braille skills.

Special congratulations to the following MSB students who participated: LaShai Richardson, Melika Aziminia, Sydney Smith, Andrew Rhoads, Virginia Jacobs and Daphne Williams.

Thank you to all the staff that helped make this event a success! Please go the Ustream link below to view the Keynote address from Christine Day, Parent of two Braille readers, a presentation called, "Getting Ready for College Begins in the 3rd Grade" from Carol Castellano, Consultant and the Awards Ceremony.

To watch these events please go to;
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/MSB-Outreach-and-Training>.

Thank you again and we hope to see you at the 2018 Maryland Regional Braille Challenge next year!

Follow the Maryland Braille Challenge on Twitter @mdbrlchallenge #mdbc17



Transition Tuesdays



Figure 1 A person on a computer screen connecting with other people.

No need to leave the comfort of your home or office!
Participate via your computer with Maryland School for the Blind Outreach as we explore **transition** in a monthly, informative, *free* webinar focusing on the transition process and resources available for your student with a visual impairment.

Third Transition Tuesday:

Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

11:30 – 12:30pm

Katelyn Traut, *Service Coordination Manager/Kennedy Krieger Institute*– will present on an overview of *"Transitioning from Infants and Toddlers to a Preschool Setting"*

Please go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/maryland-school-for-the-blind>

Fourth Transition Tuesday:

Tuesday, April 25th, 2017

11:30 –12:30

*Please contact MSB Parent Coordinator, Renee Kirby with any questions concerning
Transition Tuesdays



Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services will be mailed the *Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey* from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services during the week of February 1, 2017. Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by **May 1, 2017**. The survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a real difference for your child and many other children across the state of Maryland.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.



Resource for Families

Family Connect

For Parents of Children With Visual Impairments

Family Connect is a website created by the **American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)** and the **National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI)** to give parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and find resources on raising their children from birth to adulthood.

Every parent wonders, "Will I do a good job raising my child?". If your child is blind or visually impaired, you'll have the same question...and many more.

[FamilyConnect](http://www.familyconnect.org) has the answers. Whether your child was recently diagnosed, has been living with a visual impairment for years, or is multiply disabled, you'll find the personal support, information, and resources you need to raise a child with vision loss from birth to adulthood.

Visit us @ www.familyconnect.org



OUTREACH SUMMER PROGRAM CREATURE CRAZE July 5th to July 7th, 2017



Figure 1 CHILDREN BUILDING WITH LEGOS

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**An Overnight Camp for Kindergarten to 5th grade
who are Blind or Visually Impaired.**

Located on the campus of The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD

Are you crazy about creatures? Want to play with Legos and learn about programming. Kids will learn about animals, build Lego creatures, and have an introduction to programming including moving motors and simple machines.

Students will learn about First Lego League, Jr.'s Creature Craze and the opportunity to participate in FLL, Jr. throughout the following school year!

Parents are invited to view Team posters and presentations on July 7th!

Email if you have any questions at: Ruth Ann Hynson, Director of Statewide Outreach Services at ruthh@mdschblind.org. Go to marylandschoolfortheblind.org for registration. Registration due by May 26th, 2017.



The Maryland School for the Blind
ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE

OUTREACH SUMMER PROGRAM

July 17-21 & 24 - 28, 2017



Figure 1 STUDENTS BUILDING WITH ROBOTICS

**An Overnight Camp for Middle/High School students
who are Blind or Visually Impaired.**

Run of the Robot!

Students will build with Legos, create and test robots, and run robotics challenges on a tournament mat and other challenges!

Experience includes fieldtrips for hands-on experiences and research!

Summer teams of students will participate in a “coopetition” testing their abilities to work together and use technology.

Students will learn about First Lego League’s Animal Allies robotics challenge! **No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn new skills and have fun!**

Located on the campus of The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD

Email if you have any questions to: **Ruth Ann Hynson, Director of Statewide Outreach Services** at ruthh@mdschblind.org. Go to marylandschoolfortheblind.org for registration. Registration due by May 26th, 2017.



The Maryland School for the Blind
— ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE —



CAMP ABILITIES

An Overnight Sports Camp for Youth Ages 9 to 17
who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

July 10th to July 14th, 2017

Located on the campus of The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD

Swimming, Goalball,
Beep Baseball,
Soccer, Judo, Track
and Field

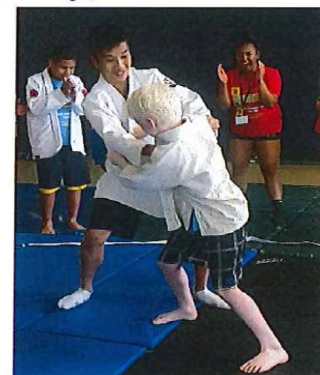


Fitness Activities,
Camp Fires, Meal Times,
Daily Routines.
Field Trip, Social Time



Email if you have any questions at:
matthewm@mdschblind.org

COST: \$150.00



Please complete registration forms and mail with check (payable to MSB) to:

The Maryland School for the Blind
Outreach Department
3501 Taylor Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236

Registration due by May 26, 2017

Full payment or written authorization from a funding source due by June 9, 2017

Sports physicals and doctors clearances will be needed

Information about the (SFSP) Summer Food Service Program meals can be found at MDsummermeals.org

www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org



Like us on Facebook



The Maryland School for the Blind's Camp Abilities





The Maryland School for the Blind
Division of Rehabilitation Services/OBVS

M.I.S.L.E. Summer Institute

(Mastering Independence Skills Through Living Experiences)



July 10 – August 4th, 2017

The M.I.S.L.E. program is a work based, residential (Monday-Friday) program for students with visual impairments ages 14-21 years of age. Students will be housed at Goucher College in Towson, MD.

At the MISLE program students will be provided the opportunity to:

Earn pay for budgeting/use for leisure and learning activities (amusement parks, restaurants, movies, etc.)

Work in a community based setting. Live in a college environment.

Explore various work environments including Giant Food, Walmart, Hershey Park, and Under Armour.

Socialize with peers.

Develop proficient social skills while in the community.

For Additional Information contact:

Dareen Barrios 410-444-5000 ext. 1203 or dareenb@mdschblind.org

For registration forms for this program, go to marylandschoolfortheblind.org—Due by May 26th



THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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MSB's Mission

As a statewide resource center, The MD School for the Blind provides outreach, school & residential services for students to reach their fullest potential by preparing them to be as successful, independent & well-rounded contributing members of their communities as possible.

Since we 1st opened our doors in 1853, we have treated the whole child, not just the disability. We provide instructional, residential, orientation & mobility, recreational activities, sports teams, clubs, health services, physical, speech, & occupational therapies & braille instruction as well as all the basics: including math, reading, content & science.

We also understand the role of caring & compassion as it relates to our students. We never forget that our students have many specialized & unique needs. Most importantly, we never forget they are also children, youth & young adults.

2017 Judo MSB Short Course

