**MSB Reaching Out Newsletter**

**December 2017**

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Hello,

With the holidays and winter break right around the corner some of us may be looking forward to a little time off our work routine! While I can think of at least 5 different home projects that need my attention, I also plan to utilize my time off by tapping into resources for my family. Having a child with special needs makes us a little more aware of what is out there to assist with specific obstacles and hurdles.

During your time off in the next few weeks, I ask that you check out our new favorite blog, <https://veroniiiica.com>. Veronica Lewis is a young adult, with a visual impairment, that writes a weekly blog on her site, *Veroniiiica With Four Eyes.* She covers topics such as “How do People with Low Vision Go to Conferences?” and “Designing Accessible Documents with Microsoft Word”. Miss Lewis speaks of circumstances from the perspective of a young, independent adult, referring to daily encounters of everyday life. I invite you to tap into & encourage your teenage/young adult son/daughter to join Veroniiica’s email list to receive her posts. She has an honest, fresh perspective that brings real-life topics to fruition.

Maryland School for the Blind will be hosting a **Transition Conference** on **March** **10th, 2018** for parents and families of students with a visual impairment that are preparing for transition from high school. Veronica will merge with MSB for the day to present on the topic of “Transition”, speaking from her personal experiences. She is currently attending college outside of D.C. and is studying Information Technology and Assistive Technology. You can read about her journey, past and present and subscribe to her posts by going to her site [www.veroniiiica.com](http://www.veroniiiica.com) . It is easy to navigate and brings every day situations to light.

I wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season! Until next time,

Renee

*** Upcoming Events ***

* **Informational Parent Webinars;**

**December 12th ,2017** – 11:30am-12:30pm

Topic: **“*Social Skills for Independence”***

Presented by: **Susan Vanderhoff,** MSB Outreach Social Worker

*Link to join webinar:* [*https://zoom.us/j/324681325*](https://zoom.us/j/324681325)

**January 30th, 2018** – 11:30-12:30

Topic: “***Quality Assessments – The Key to Literacy”***

Presented by: **Michelle Horseman,** M. Ed/Teacher of the Visually Impaired

*Link to join webinar:* [*https://zoom.us/j/580590652*](https://zoom.us/j/580590652)

* **“Try-It- Blind Ice Hockey”**

Have you ever wanted to play Ice Hockey!?   Now is your chance!

**Who:** Any student who is visually impaired ages 10- 17

**Where:** Kettler Capitals Iceplex- 627 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203

**When:** January 7th from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm (times may vary depending on meeting point)

The Washington Wheelers are a Blind Ice Hockey team that practices at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington VA (Same place as the Washington Capitals!).  The Wheelers compete across the nation in the growing sport of Blind Ice Hockey.  The game is played the same as hockey but with a larger puck that rattles and makes noise.  B1 (totally blind athletes) athletes are in goal as B2 and B3's (Partially sighted and visually impaired athletes) play the forward lines and defense.  The fast pace game is a blast.  At Try-It! Blind Ice Hockey players of all ages can lace up their skates and learn how to skate, how to handle the puck, and scrimmage.

The Maryland School for the Blind will be providing students who sign-up the opportunity to go to this event with hands on help from the PE staff.  Pick up time will be Sunday January 7th at 8:30 am at The Maryland School for the Blind.  An additional pick-up location will be added at the Greenbelt Metro Station for students who live closer to that area at 9:15 am.  Families are also invited to attend and meet us at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex at 10:30 am. Drop off will be at 4:30 pm at MSB (Sunday students can stay) or 3:30 at the Greenbelt Metro Station.



**SIGN UP DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20th**

**Sign up NOW!**

<https://goo.gl/forms/9DG0XPvhknMYXs6j1>

For more information email Matthew Mescall @ [matthewm@mdschblind.org](mailto:matthewm@mdschblind.org)

* **The Maryland Regional Braille Challenge**

**February 3, 2018** *(Snow date* – *February 10, 2018)*

Location: The Maryland for the Blind

Follow us on Twitter @mdbrlchallenge#mdbc18

<https://www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org/current-events/outreach-events/>​

* **G.R.I.T.S. in the Kitchen** (Gaining Real Independence Techniques & Skills)

Join The Maryland School for the Blind for a series of 5 skill-based lessons on kitchen basics for students 12-17 years old. Topics will include labeling, organizing, storage, knife skills, and more. Classes will culminate in a picnic style lunch for family and friends!

Dates: **January 13th, February 24th, March 10th, April 21st,**

**May 19th, and June 2nd.**

**10 am– 2pm**

***Follow us on Twitter & Facebook* @MSB1853 & @MSB\_Outreach**

***If you have any questions about any of our programs or are in need of resources for your child or would like to be removed from our emailing list, please contact:***

***Renee Kirby***

***Parent Coordinator/Maryland School for the Blind***

***3501 Taylor Avenue / Baltimore, MD 21236***

[***reneek@mdschblind.org***](mailto:reneek@mdschblind.org) ***or***

***410-444-5000 ext. 1489***

