

# NEWSLETTER

spring edition



## Pushing MSB Forward, One Vision at a Time

On our campus, progress has never happened by accident. It has always come from people who saw what our students needed and who refused to settle for less. One of the strongest examples of that legacy is the **Casper G. Sippel Pool**.



Pictures on this page feature a student using the original Casper G. Sippel Pool, alongside images of swimming instruction and construction of a new campus facility, highlighting MSB's legacy and continued growth.



For generations of students, the pool wasn't just a aquatics center – it was a place to build strength, confidence and independence. It held swim team memories, joyful milestones and opportunities that many students wouldn't have had anywhere else.

In a recent conversation with **Judy Wolfe**, she shared the story of how it came to be – thanks to her husband, **Herbert J. Wolfe**, the late Superintendent of MSB from 1965 to his death in 1977. He believed the students deserved every possible resource in order to thrive and saw to it that they had every one possible.

Following the rubella epidemic of 1964, Mr. Wolfe knew that many children needed assistance with their physical development and motivation. At a time when aquatherapy and pools were being utilized to help strengthen muscles and support therapies, he became convinced that MSB students would benefit from having one available for them on their campus. And once he had that vision, Judy said, he couldn't and wouldn't let it go.

Then generosity met determination.

A close friend and neighbor of the school, **Casper Sippel**, visited Mr. Wolfe in his office on a regular basis and every time he did, he began his visit with, "What do you need?" and Mr. Wolfe always answered with "I want a pool." After several years of hearing this response, Mr. Sippel surprised him with a new one: He reached into his jacket pocket and said, "Okay – here's your pool." And handed the shocked superintendent a check that helped make his dream come true for his students. He immediately began designing a therapeutic pool and gathering all the appropriate licenses, etc. that were required.

**Judy's memories remind us that leadership isn't only about what gets built; it's also about what gets changed.**

Photos on this page show students swimming and learning aquatic skills in the Casper G. Sippel Pool over the years, highlighting its role in building confidence, independence, and strength for generations of MSB students.



These images capture the transition from the demolition of the old pool to the construction of the new facility, reflecting MSB's history and its commitment to continued progress.

She explained that, when she began teaching at MSB, Maryland didn't have a special education certification program for teachers of the blind/low vision. **Mr. Wolfe** helped change that, too, by working with Judy when she recruited **Dr. Donald Cassat**, a Psychology professor at Towson State, to help achieve the goal of enabling the faculty of MSB earn their Special Education teaching certificates, salary increase and the professional recognition they deserved.

Today, we continue moving forward because of people like Herb Wolfe – people who believed in that which MSB could be and helped push this campus, its programs and staff toward those goals.

see: : : :  
beyond  
festival

# SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, October 3**

Our 5th Annual Festival is coming—and this year we're celebrating in the fall for the first time ever.

Same great activities.  
Just a little less rain.

Bring your friends, bring your family, and join the fun.

More details coming soon.  
**Mark your calendar today!**



[seebeyondfestival.org](http://seebeyondfestival.org)

**Pictured across Pages (left photo collage and center images):** Students, families, and community members participate in hands-on experiences at the See Beyond Festival, including adaptive sports, STEM and technology demonstrations, sensory art activities, and assistive technology—highlighting accessibility, inclusion, and innovation in action.





# Bee-lievable Success: Celebrate Wrestling and Cheer Team Victories!

The **MSB Bees** recently showcased their confidence and athleticism at the Eastern Athletic Association for the Blind (EAAB) Wrestling & Cheerleading Championship, an annual competition for blind and visually impaired student athletes.

Our wrestlers fought their way to an exciting third-place finish overall, led by **Jia Min**, who brought home the gold! **Danny** and **Presley** also reached the podium with impressive second-place finishes.

The Bee Cheerleading squad clapped, jumped and shouted their way to the prestigious first-place Sportsmanship Award and a second-place overall finish. In addition, **Keith J.** earned first-place honors in the individual cheer category.

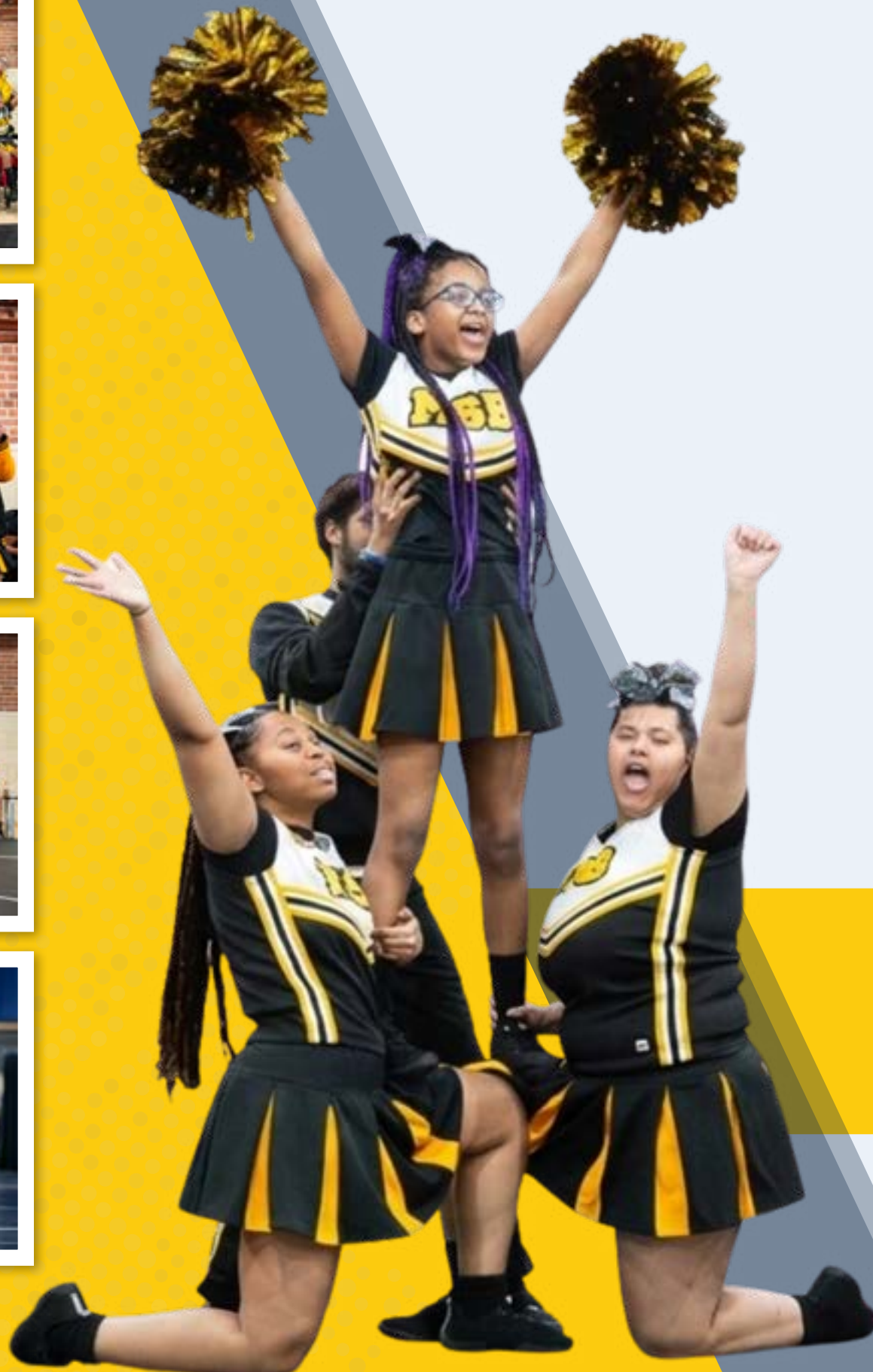
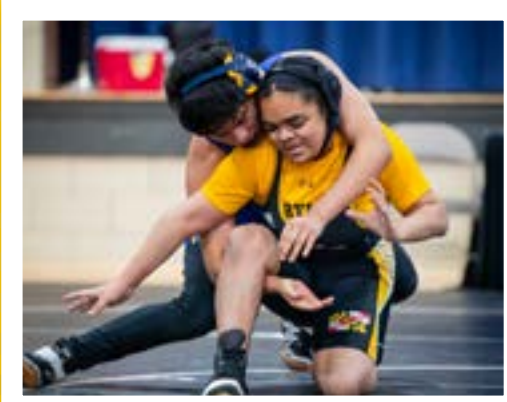
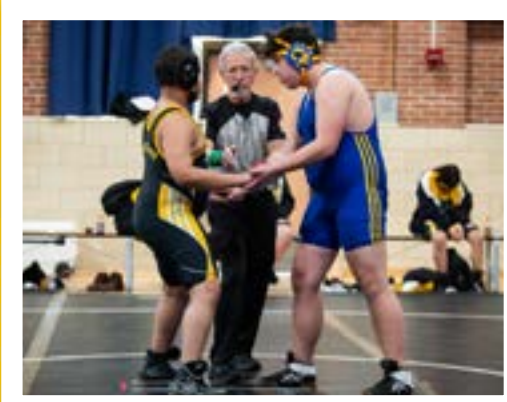
Congratulations to our Bees athletes and coaches for representing MSB with excellence and pride.



### Make an Impact

Scan to support MSB student-athletes or visit [q.me-qr.com/vpq6mbxt](https://q.me-qr.com/vpq6mbxt).

**Pictures on the left** highlight MSB Bee cheerleaders celebrating and performing in black and gold uniforms, alongside wrestlers competing on the mat and supporting one another after matches.



# MSB Goalball Team Shows Resilience and Growth

The Maryland School for the Blind Goalball team recently hosted the West Virginia Black Bears for an exciting day of competition. We are grateful to everyone who came out to support our student-athletes in person or tuned in online. The encouragement from the MSB community means so much to our teams!

While the final scores were 6–11 in the women’s game and 8–16 in the men’s game, the matches highlighted tremendous progress from our athletes. Players demonstrated growing strength in communication, technique, strategy, and stamina—important skills that continue to develop throughout the season.

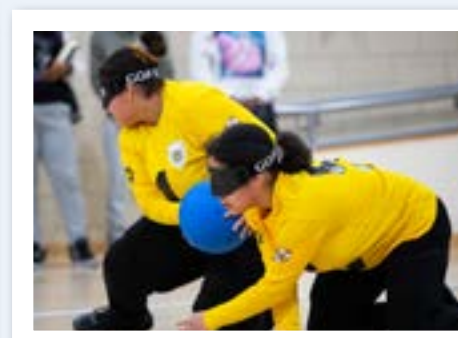
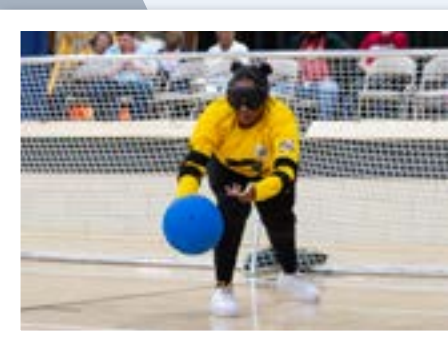
As the season continues, the team will travel to Virginia for additional games and prepare for their upcoming tournament. We look forward to cheering them on as they continue building momentum!



## Make an Impact

Scan to support MSB student-athletes or visit [q.me-qr.com/vpq6mbxt](https://q.me-qr.com/vpq6mbxt).

**Pictured across pages,** large images show MSB student athletes playing goalball, wearing light-blocking eyeshades and using a ball with bells to locate it by sound. Along the bottom, smaller photos highlight moments from the match, including players preparing to throw, blocking the ball, and teammates supporting each other on the court.



# Accessible Birding Comes to The Maryland School for the Blind

This spring, The Maryland School for the Blind will host the **2nd Annual Blind Birder-a-Thon**, an event that celebrates birding through sound, community, and accessible technology. The event will take place on **May 3, 2026, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** at the school's campus on Taylor Avenue.

Led by MSB's Assistive Technology Team, the event will highlight how technology and adaptive tools make birding accessible for everyone.

**Participants will explore hands-on assistive technology, including:**

- **Birdsong identification apps** such as Merlin Bird ID, BirdNET, and Audubon Bird Guide
- **Portable audio bird call players** like APH's Joy Player
- **Talking QR codes** created by MSB students that share facts about local birds
- **Accessible field guides** with Braille, large print, and tactile markers
- **Audio bird sound boxes and bird song audiobooks**
- **Magnification tools** such as binoculars, monoculars, and handheld magnifiers
- **Tactile trail maps and raised-line guides** for orientation
- **Switch-accessible bird care tools** and Braille counters for recording bird sightings

In May, Baltimore's birds are especially active. Participants may hear species such as Northern Cardinals, American Robins, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays, Baltimore Orioles, and even migrating warblers.

Guests will also join a **guided listening tour** on the accessible campus trail in the Wolfe Memorial Garden. Led by Assistive Technology Specialist and Master Naturalist **Jennifer Keenan**, small groups will listen for birds and record the species they hear as part of the international Birdability citizen science project.

The event is open to students, families, and community members. No birding experience is required. To RSVP, please email [jenniferk@mdschblind.org](mailto:jenniferk@mdschblind.org).

**Pictured on the left page**, a large photo shows students and staff on an accessible wooded trail using a bird field guide and assistive technology to learn about birds through sound and exploration. A small illustration of the Baltimore Oriole, Maryland's state bird, appears alongside a label identifying the species.



**Merlin Bird ID App**



**Joy Player**

Specialized Assistive Technology Device



Explore the joy of birds and nature through our featured children's book collection.





The Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Talyor Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236



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