

# MDE-LIO Newsletter

January 2018



Low Incidence Outreach  
702 W. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
[www.mdelio.org](http://www.mdelio.org)

# MDE-LIO January 2018

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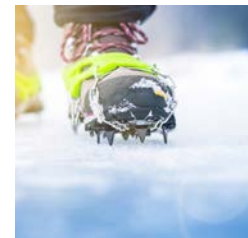
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# APH Census

**H**appy New Year from Low Incidence Outreach. LIO has mailed out the annual American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Census that identifies students who meet the definition of blindness. This census directly affects the funds credited to Federal Quota accounts, which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustee. Please make sure to register all eligible students.

A new requirement this year is a Parent Consent Form, which gives LIO permission to share each student's information with APH for funding. If LIO does not receive this information, the student will not be counted as eligible to receive quota funds. The consent form needs to be completed only once for existing eligible students. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete and return the census and consent form.

[Consent to Release Student Information Form](https://goo.gl/fKbd5d) ([goo.gl/fKbd5d](https://goo.gl/fKbd5d))

If you need assistance or have questions on the status of receipt of your census, please email Stacy Guthrie at [guthries@michigan.gov](mailto:guthries@michigan.gov).

Thanks.

Roxanne Balfour  
Michigan Department of Education, Low Incidence Outreach  
Ex Officio Trustee



**If LIO does not receive this information, the student will not be counted as eligible to receive quota funds.**

# Braille News

## StoryWalk

LIO continues to collaborate with the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) to offer the StoryWalk program, which encourages students to read books while enjoying the outdoors. It is very exciting to provide this opportunity for local libraries. Be sure to stay tuned, as more information is sure to come. Summer program preparations are already underway!

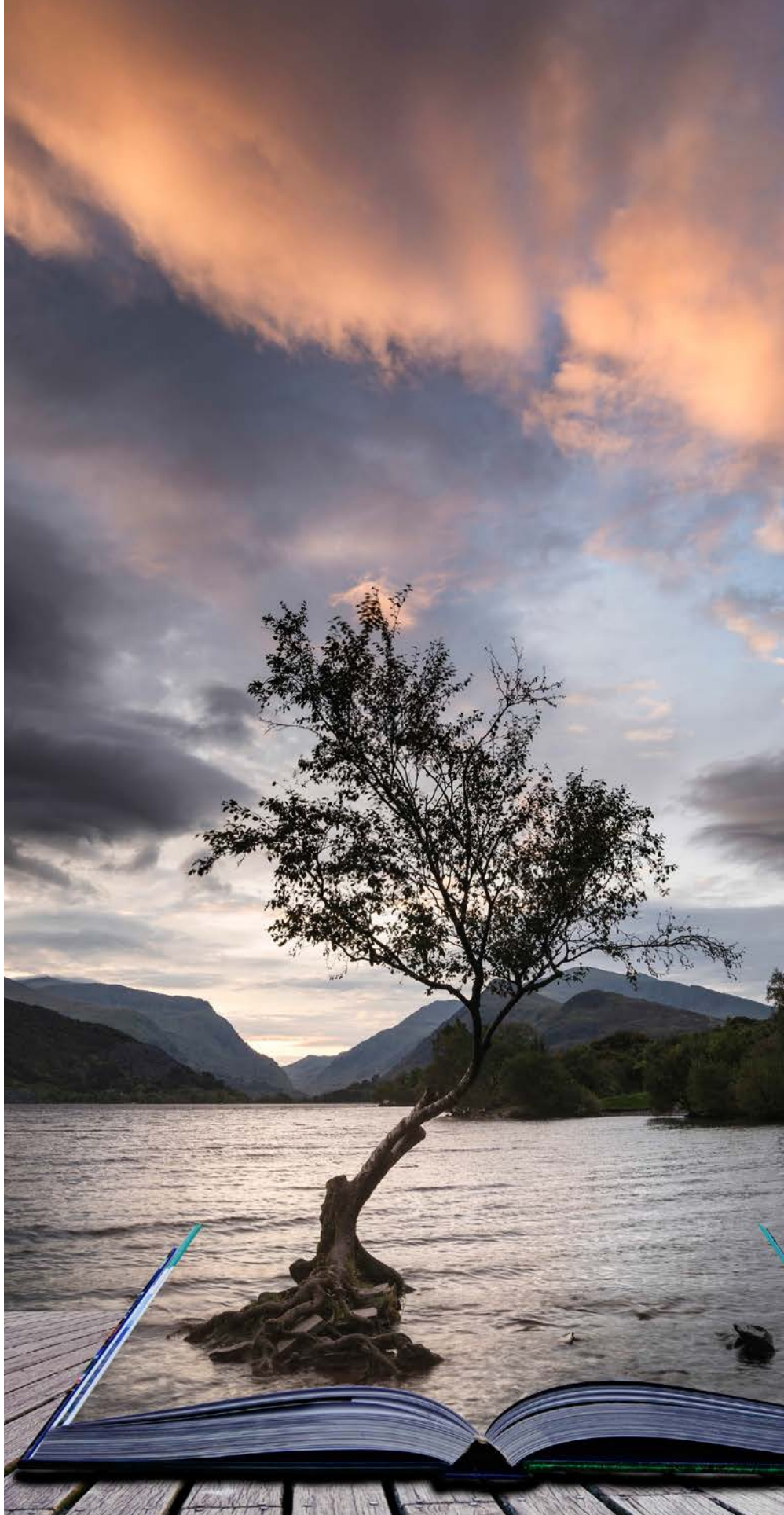
## IMC Production

MDE-LIO is proud to be able to offer high-quality braille transcription to meet our students' needs. From music and history to math and science, we are here to help.

We are currently in the process of completing 2017–2018 original textbook transcriptions. We are also ready to take work orders for the 2018–2019 school year. If you need an order, send it in!

## UEB Literacy Expansion Program

This past school year, LIO offered Unified English Braille (UEB) recreational reading books free of charge to students across Michigan. Each month, our catalog of free books expands. LIO currently has several leisure reading books available, such as *I am Malala*, *A Night Divided*, and *The Wild Robot*, as well as classics like *The Scarlet Letter*. Please check the LIO listserv for new releases; we will post them as they become available.



Save the date for:

Michigan AER  
April 26-27, 2018

National Braille Association  
October 24-26, 2018



## Struggling Readers

# Who Use Braille

**I**t's not uncommon to come across a student who uses braille and struggles as a reader. The job of the teacher consultant for the visually impaired (TCVI) is to determine whether or not the student struggles with the braille code itself, needs tactile skill refinement, or simply struggles as a reader. [Paths to Literacy's Overview of Struggling Readers](http://pathstoliteracy.org/topic/struggling-readers/overview) ([pathstoliteracy.org/topic/struggling-readers/overview](http://pathstoliteracy.org/topic/struggling-readers/overview)) features several posts about readers who struggle as well as strategies to address their needs.

# Upcoming Deaf/Hard of Hearing Events

## The Importance of Family Engagement

**M**DE-LIO is collaborating with Gallaudet University Regional Center (GURC) and Michigan Hands & Voices to offer evening family events with Sheri Cook in March. Sheri is currently the director of GURC Midwest. Sheri, who is Deaf, will share her experiences of growing up and how her parents and grandparents contributed to her (and her sister's) language and academic development. Sheri is an engaging presenter who will bring an encouraging message full of tips and resources for parents! Visit the [MDE-LIO DHH Events page](http://mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events) (mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events) for more information regarding dates and locations.

## Statewide Conference for Professionals

MDE-LIO is collaborating with Michigan School Professionals for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MSPSDHH) to host a statewide conference at Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) on April 27, 2018. Keynote and panel discussions will focus on how to prepare and engage our students who are DHH to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Visit the [MSPSDHH website](http://mspsdhh.org) (mspsdhh.org) for more information.

For more information on MDE-LIO's upcoming DHH events visit the [MDE-LIO DHH Events page](http://mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events).

(mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events)



## EIPA Video Conference Series

MDE-LIO is once again sponsoring Boys Town National Research Hospital's annual EIPA video conference series for educational interpreters in Michigan. The conference series is well underway. Feedback from the fall and winter workshops indicates they were well received. The two remaining dates are:

### February 10, 2018

Roman Numeral II: Unpacking Sign-to-Voice Essentials

### April 7, 2018

Roman Numeral I: Unpacking Use of Space and Classifiers

Eight host sites will present the conferences via livestream from their respective locations. Educational interpreters can earn .4 MI BEI/EIPA CEUs at each conference.



# DHH Resources Available

## **New Resources From Gallaudet University**

The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University now offers a series of guides centered around classroom interpreting. The six guides are for school administrators, educators, educational interpreters, students, and parents, and aim to support language access for DHH children in general education settings. The guides were developed in collaboration with Dr. Brenda Schick and Boys Town National Research Hospital and are based on the content of Dr. Schick's Classroom Interpreting website maintained by Boys Town.

- [Classroom Interpreting: A Series of Guides for Parents, Professionals, and Students](https://goo.gl/aj3Lt3) ([goo.gl/aj3Lt3](https://goo.gl/aj3Lt3))

## **Service Delivery Tools**

MDE-LIO has updated and reformatted several service delivery documents for use with students who are DHH. Please find updated versions of the following documents on the [MDE-LIO DHH Service Delivery Tools page](https://mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/service-delivery-tools) ([mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/service-delivery-tools](https://mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/service-delivery-tools)):

- Secondary Transition Guide for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Educational Impact Matrix for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

## **Administrator Crosswalk**

MDE-LIO has created a guidance document to assist administrators in evaluating educators working with students who are blind/visually impaired (BVI) or DHH, as well as Certified Orientation and Mobility instructors. [The Administrator Crosswalk for Evaluating Low Incidence Service Providers](https://goo.gl/tejL3E) ([goo.gl/tejL3E](https://goo.gl/tejL3E)) is divided into six areas of evaluation, which are aligned with all areas of the state's four approved evaluation tools.



**Explore**

**Camp Tuhsmeheta**

**in 2018**



# About Camp T

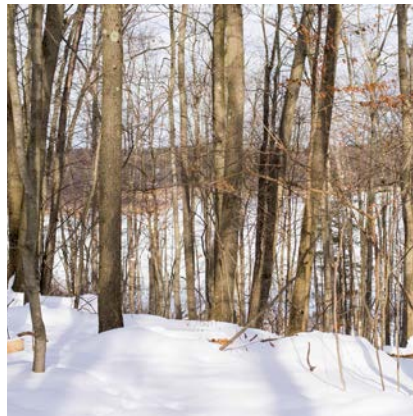
**C**amp Tuhsmeheeta (Touch, Smell, Hear, and Taste) provides an outdoor learning environment dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired.

Using specific outdoor and expanded core curriculum programs, such as adventure and environmental education, independent living skills, orientation and mobility, leisure awareness, and outdoor recreation, Camp Tuhsmeheeta promotes each participant's health and functional capacity.

Our overall aim is to enhance participants' quality of life with feelings of satisfaction, contentment, joy, self-determination, wellbeing, and mastery!

## Coming soon!

Camp Tuhsmeheeta is excited to announce the construction of a single-family cabin. The cabin, designed for privacy and quietude, is located on the ridge just east of Birch and Maple Lodges. Construction started this fall with clearing the area and laying a concrete foundation. The plan is to have the cabin completed by late spring. Camp Tuhsmeheeta's mission is to be an outdoor learning environment dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired. Families are the primary support group in the lives of children and youth. Having a variety of housing options for families to enjoy Camp T and the outdoors is one way we aim to meet our mission for years to come.



Learn more at:  
[www.camptuhsmeheeta.org](http://www.camptuhsmeheeta.org)

# Family Nature Club

## Snow Adventure

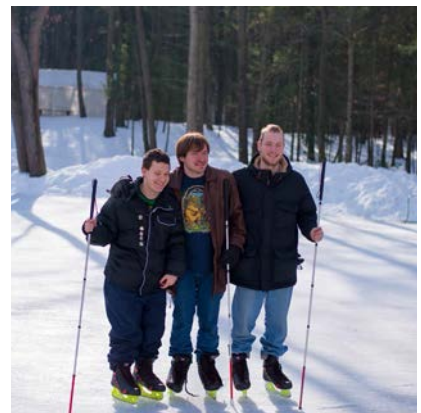
**W**ith average winter temperatures in the teens, most of us like to stay inside with a hot cup of coffee, watching a movie or reading a book. Not members of Camp Tuhsmeheeta's Family Nature Club!

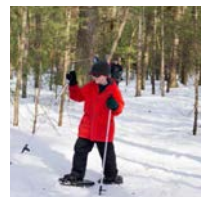
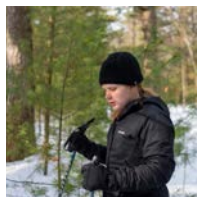
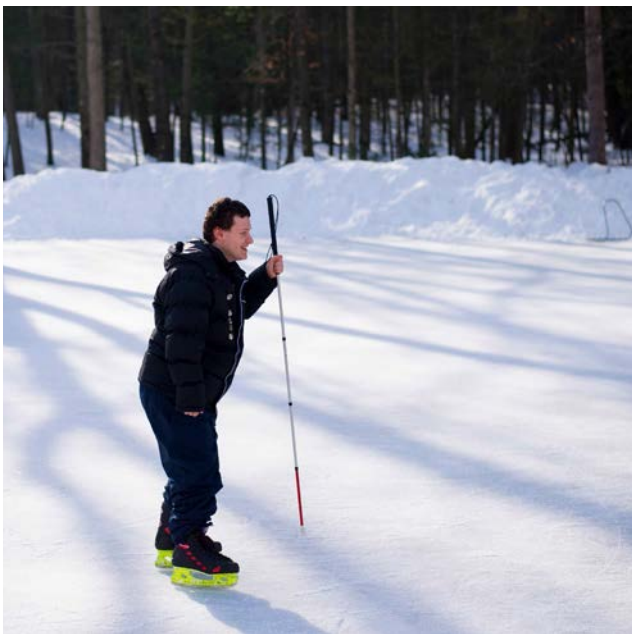
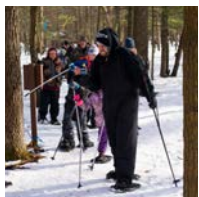
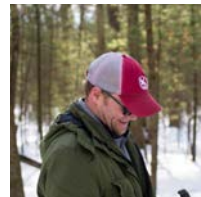
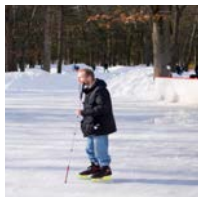
Instead of staying cozy indoors, a group of 30 courageous outdoor enthusiasts traveled from Camp T to the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex a few weeks ago. The Winter Sports Complex offers a variety of cross country ski and snowshoe trails, ice rinks, sledding hills, and even a luge run! Our goal, however, was to travel by snowshoe in one of the most unique winter landscapes in Western Michigan: the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Snowshoeing in temperatures that reached 40 degrees, we were very excited to visit the shoreline and experience the power and rugged force of Lake Michigan in winter. After meandering through woodlands and scaling dunes, we arrived at the shore. To our surprise, we found none of the mighty waves and thunderous crashes we expected from one of Michigan's great lakes. Instead, the water was frozen for hundreds of yards from the shoreline.

We were awestruck by the quiet of such a vast expanse. Mountains and caverns of ice, along with plateaus of frozen water, separated the sandy dunes from the blue, waveless horizon. The group explored the arctic terrain, climbing the icy hills and sitting in smooth, concave depressions formed by waves. The unique opportunity to climb on Lake Michigan in the winter will be something our group will remember forever.

The Family Nature Club (FNC) is a monthly group where families meet up at Camp Tuhsmeheeta and connect around a natural theme. All families and adults who are blind or visually impaired (BVI) are invited to attend. Register for FNC events on MDE-LIO's [BVI Events page](http://mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events) (mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events).





# Upcoming 2018 Camp T Events

**C**amp T events provide a unique combination of specific outdoor activities and expanded core programs designed with students and families in mind. From the Family Nature Club to Outdoor Education Workshops, all ages can participate in fun outdoor educational activities at camp.

For more information about upcoming events:

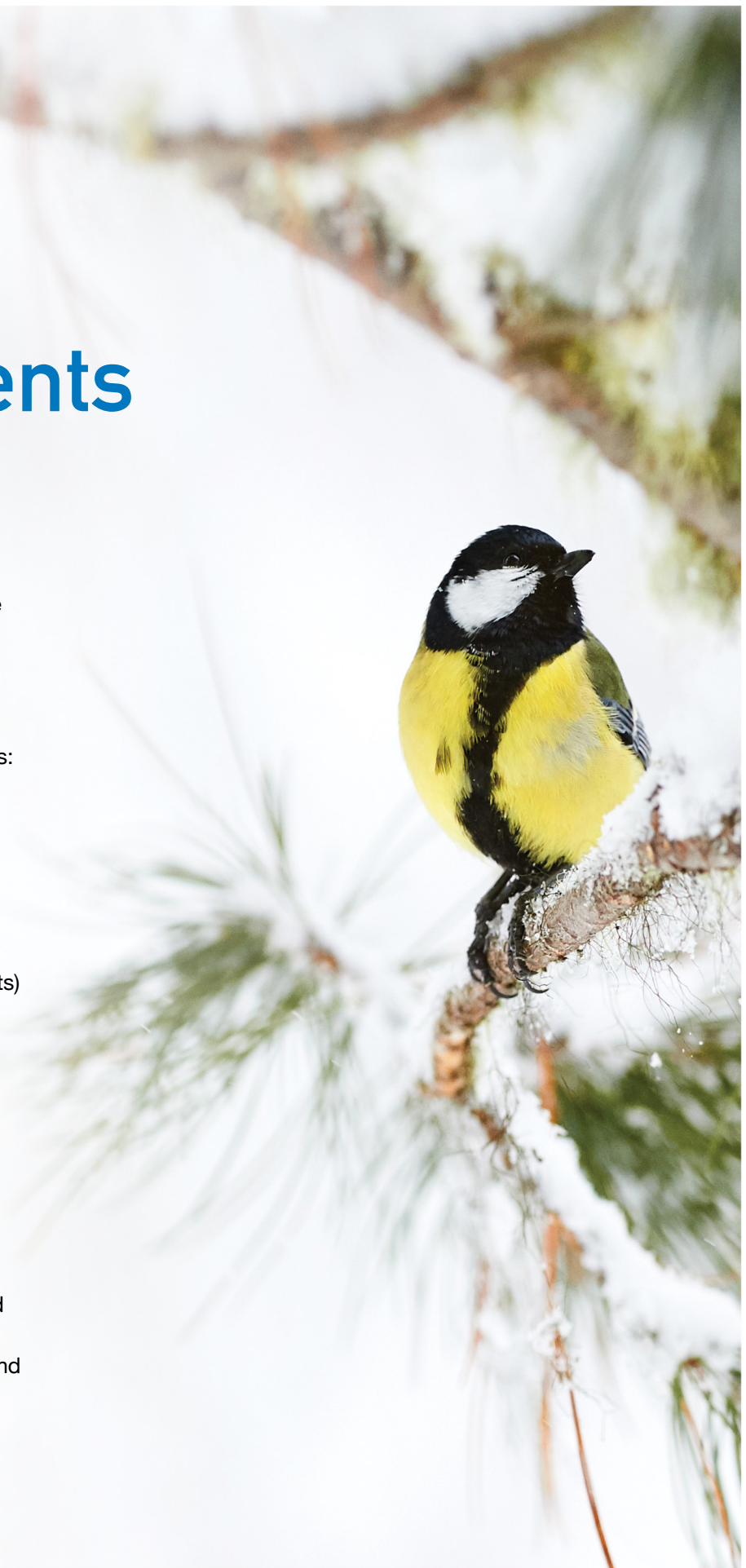
- [Subscribe to the LIO Listserv](mailto:listserv.cenmi.org/scripts/wa-CENMI.exe?SUBED1=LIO-NEWS&A=1)  
(listserv.cenmi.org/scripts/wa-CENMI.exe?SUBED1=LIO-NEWS&A=1)
- [Check the MDE-LIO Blind/Visually Impaired \(BVI\) Events page](http://mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events)  
(mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events)

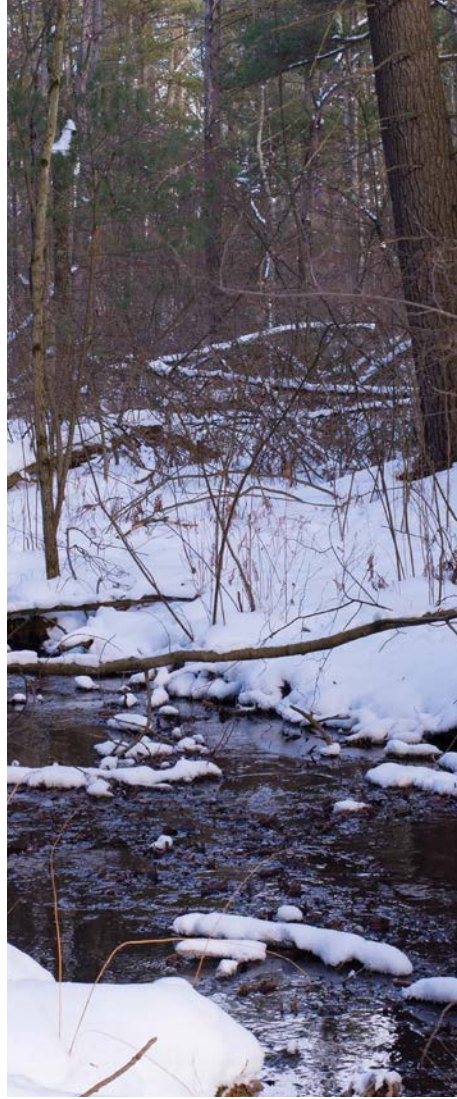
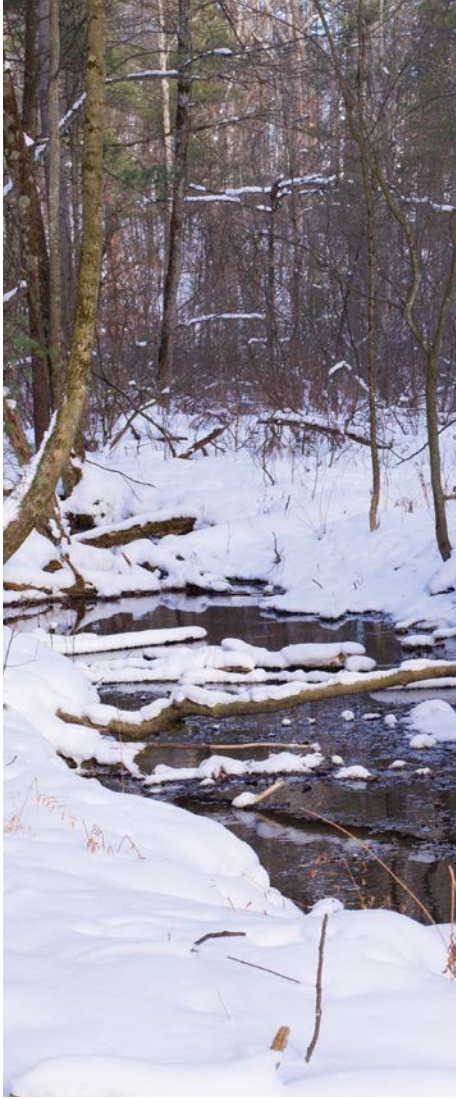
## **Family Nature Club: Great Backyard Bird Count**

February 16-18, 2018

All family members will enjoy our annual bird count at Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T). Guided nature hikes, birding workshops, and environmental awareness activities connect citizens and scientists during this fun weekend event at Camp T.

Cost is \$5 per family, with lodging and food included.





### **Family Nature Club: Spring Outdoor Adventure**

March 16-18, 2018

The Family Nature Club seeks opportunities to get families outside any chance it can. Come explore the changing of the seasons at Camp T with family and friends.

### **Family Nature Club: Recreation and Leisure Pursuits**

April 20-22, 2018

Leisure can be defined as “freedom from” and “freedom to”! Come to Camp T to discover what leisure can mean for your family. From trying new recreational activities to developing leisure awareness, you will learn how leisure can enhance your family’s life.

### **Family Nature Club: Celebrate Urban Birds and Gardening**

May 18-20, 2018

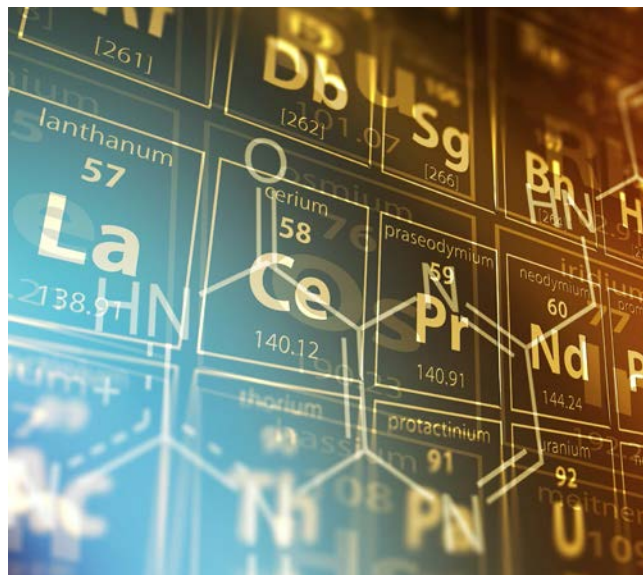
Spring is a wonderful time of year at Camp T. In May, Michigan reaches peak bird migration. Cool mornings bring birds like orioles, warblers, loons, and waterfowl as they migrate along the Great Lakes and drift to the open waters of Camp T. The forest floor comes to life with lupine, columbine, and round-leaved ragwort plants. Our Family Nature Club: Celebrate Urban Birds and Gardening event will provide an opportunity for families and friends to explore their natural surroundings and learn how to care for birds, plants, and flowers in a beautiful outdoor learning environment.

### **Outdoor Education Workshop: Backpacking 101**

June 18-21, 2018

Hiking and backcountry travel is one of the fastest growing outdoor leisure pursuits, and Michigan offers so many opportunities to hike! In fact, Michigan’s Iron Belle Trail is the United States’ longest intra-state trail. Students ages 12-17 will learn, through practical, hands-on demonstrations the necessary clothing and equipment for safe backcountry travel. They will also learn food preparation, cooking, water purification, and judgment/decision-making skills, which will equip them for safe and effective backcountry travel.

# Assistive Technology Apps



## Apps for Learning About the Periodic Table

The following periodic table apps may be beneficial to you and your students:

1. Periodic Table  
(Free; Royal Society of Chemistry)
2. K12 Periodic Table of the Elements  
(Free; K12 Inc.)
3. Periodic Table !  
(Free; Kiran Kumar Ragam)
4. The Elements by Theodore Gray  
(\$11.99; Touch Press Inc.)
5. Quick Periodic Table of the Elements (Free;  
Quick Learning LLC)

Register for a workshop or learn more about upcoming events by visiting the [MDE-LIO BVI Events section](#).

([mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events](http://mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events))



## Pages App

This app functions like Microsoft Word in that it allows the user to write down and format their document. Available from Google Play and the iTunes App Store, Pages is a great and accessible word processor to use. One of its most effective features can be found within a given document: You can convert any file into PDF, RTF, DOCX, or EPUB. The following steps outline how to do this:

1. Open a document in Pages and tap “more.” Several menu options will appear.
2. Select the “Send a Copy” option. A screen with the formats mentioned above will appear. Choose the format you want to convert to.
3. After choosing a format, another set of choices will appear. These are the ways you can send or share this document.
4. Tapping on an option (“Mail,” for example) will allow you to enter the address, subject, and message to the recipient. The document will accompany the email as an attachment.

# Upcoming Workshops And Trainings



## **Advanced BrailleNote Touch**

Location: Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lansing  
Date: February 8, 2018

The BrailleNote Touch offers braille-reading students numerous ways to access academic content and express ideas in classroom settings. This advanced workshop will focus on web browsing, accessing books, sharing content to the cloud, and using KeyMath to graph equations. Those attending will participate in a mix of demonstration, discussion, and hands-on activities.

## **Beginner BrailleNote**

Location: Woods Edge Learning Center, Portage  
Date: February 8-9, 2018

This hands-on workshop will instruct participants on the various features of the BrailleNote and how it can be an effective tool in the classroom.

## **Connect 12 / MATT Connect Introduction**

Location: Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lansing  
Date: February 9, 2018

The Connect 12 / MATT Connect combines a high-performance digital magnifier with the versatility of an Android tablet. In this hands-on workshop, participants will use features of the devices to view and capture printed materials. They will utilize the distance camera to make observations and annotate on worksheets using writing, typing, and highlighting functions. Participants will also turn on magnification features of Android and explore apps that can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

## **Developing an Assistive Technology Assessment For a Student Who is Blind or Visually Impaired (BVI)**

Location: Lansing  
Date: March 21-22, 2018

To succeed in the educational setting, students who are BVI must learn to maximize their use of assistive technology. Therefore, it is important to select assistive technology that matches students' abilities with learning goals, which can be challenging for teachers and administrators. This two-day interactive workshop will explore how to effectively choose the right technology for BVI students in the classroom, home, and community. In addition, participants will learn what the assistive technology assessment process entails.

## **Teaching Excel 2010 Using JAWS**

Location: Genesee Intermediate School District (ISD), Flint  
Dates: March 15-16, 2018

This course is designed for individuals who will be teaching a student with a visual impairment how to use Microsoft Excel 2010 using JAWS. Participants should be experienced with the basics of Microsoft Excel and using JAWS with Microsoft products.

## **On-Site Assistive Technology Evaluations**

MDE-LIO will provide on-site assistive technology evaluations for students April 3-6, 2018. If you are interested in having your student or child evaluated during this period, please email Pat Love-Sypho at [lovep@michigan.gov](mailto:lovep@michigan.gov) for more information and technical assistance forms to fill out.

## **Other Workshops in Development**

We are currently working on hosting a Duxbury Braille Translator workshop and an Intermediate Apple iOS workshop. They will be scheduled sometime in the spring!

# Tips and Reminders



## Orientation and Mobility Tip

**T**his winter's snow and ice has presented safety issues for orientation and mobility (O&M) specialists when walking on slippery or snow-covered sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots. A good traction aid such as ice grippers, ice cleats, or ice spikes may prove to be useful, easy, and inexpensive.

Removable traction devices are meant to slip on and off your shoes and have some sort of flexible harness that stretches to fit over your shoe or boot. They can be made of steel or aluminum spikes, coils, or chains, and are placed on the underside of your footwear.

Keep in mind that devices can differ greatly from each other. A nonslip device that works well on hard-packed snow might not work as well for walking on hard ice. A lower body weight may correlate to reduced traction, so those with a lower weight might want to consider a device with spikes instead of coils.

There is no perfect device, and what might work best for you is unique to your situation. Consider using a nonslip device frequently or only on rare occasions, as some devices last longer than others and prices can vary greatly. The following are examples of websites that suggest which type of device works best under various uses and weather conditions.

- [The Z8: Top 8 Best Ice Traction Cleats in 2018 – Buyer's Guide](http://thez8.com/best-ice-traction-cleat) (thez8.com/best-ice-traction-cleat)
- [Wirecutter: The Best Nonslip Traction Devices](http://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-nonslip-traction-devices) (thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-nonslip-traction-devices)
- [Thought Co.: The Best Ice Grippers for Hikers](http://thoughtco.com/the-best-ice-grippers-for-hikers-1766085) (thoughtco.com/the-best-ice-grippers-for-hikers-1766085)



## APH Tips and Reminders

- MDE-LIO has a surplus of the traditional gray metal braille writers available. If you have a student in need, please send an order in. You can request more than one braille writer per student!
- Please do not send back incomplete consumable items (e.g., stickers, labels, etc.).
- When returning high-ticket items, please email [MSDB-IMC@michigan.gov](mailto:MSDB-IMC@michigan.gov) to receive a prepaid UPS return label. Please indicate if the item is broken or if the student no longer needs it.
- Remember, it's never too early to submit orders for the 2018-2019 school year.

You can request more than one braille writer per student!

## Independent Living Skills (ILS) Tip

Do you have an Amazon Echo? The small device offers many useful functions for a person with a visual impairment. Through the Echo, you can set timers and alarms, read the news, and control appliances—all simply using your voice.

Below are several resources explaining the Echo's functions:

- [Hadley Institute: Amazon Echo Video Seminar](http://hadley.edu/SeminarDetails.asp?sid=359) (hadley.edu/SeminarDetails.asp?sid=359)
- [Assistive Technology Blog: Amazon Echo Overview](http://assistivetechblog.com/2016/02/amazon-echo-great-internet-of-things.html) (assistivetechblog.com/2016/02/amazon-echo-great-internet-of-things.html)
- [Royal National Institute of Blind People: How does the Amazon Echo help people with a vision impairment?](http://rnib.org.uk/nb-online/how-does-amazon-echo-help-disabled-people) (rnib.org.uk/nb-online/how-does-amazon-echo-help-disabled-people)

**Note:** Any reference from this document to a specific product, process, or service does not constitute or imply an endorsement by Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) of the product, process, or service, or its producer or provider.



# Go Green

## Save Paper

Protect the environment and go paperless whenever you can. Let us know your email address if you want to be added to our email list. Just send a request to:

[msdb-outreach@michigan.gov](mailto:msdb-outreach@michigan.gov)

The Newsletter is edited by Roxanne Balfour, Rory Goodine, Brenda Mahoney, Kaitlin Shawgo, and Lynn Pensari. Comments or questions can be directed to Roxanne Balfour at [balfourr@michigan.gov](mailto:balfourr@michigan.gov) or Lynn Pensari at [pensaril@michigan.gov](mailto:pensaril@michigan.gov) or (888) 760-2206. This publication is available in alternate formats. Please contact us for braille, print or large print copies.

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Email: [msdb-outreach@michigan.gov](mailto:msdb-outreach@michigan.gov)



## Michigan Department of Education Statement of Assurance of Compliance With Federal Law

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it received financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

For further information or inquiries about this law, contact:

The Michigan Department of Education Civil Rights Coordinator  
P.O. Box 30712  
Lansing, MI 48909