



March 2017 Newsletter



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Greetings

Goal Ball

On March 10-11, 2017 Leland Public School District and area sponsors welcome the public to an event designed to demonstrate how sports can be inclusive for individuals with or without a disability. Come watch the U.S. men's goalball team play a sport that combines soccer, hockey, and rugby in an exciting game that sighted and non-sighted individuals can play together.

During their visit, the goalball team will show case the sport as well as their teamwork, communication skills, and athletic ability that led them to become silver medalists at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Come join in the fun!

For more information on this event go to:
<https://mdelio.org/news/mens-paralympic-goalball-team-visit-northern-michigan-school>



Greetings!

Please enjoy reading the March MDE-LIO Newsletter. It is a joint effort to provide the latest information directly to you. Please note the many professional development opportunities provided and news in the fields of Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

It is extremely rewarding to see all of the wonderful things happening around the State of Michigan. You are all major contributors to the education of our youth. What a difference you all make in the lives of our students. Keep up the good work!

Collette Bauman

Collette Bauman

Supervisor, MDE-LIO
APH Ex-Officio Trustee

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Instructional Materials Center (IMC) News

Order Early



Textbook Transcription & Book Searches

Spring is a prime time to start to look ahead to next year. We would like to encourage you to begin providing the information that we will need for the 2017-2018 school year. The average geometry textbook can take as long as six to eight months to transcribe.

It is our goal to have braille textbooks on site the day that school starts so our braille readers will have the same material that their sighted peers do, and at the same time. We need your help to make that goal a reality! Order today!

We are here to help!

Please don't hesitate to seek assistance.

Contact Robert Beaton for more information at:
Email: beatonr@michigan.gov
Phone: 517-377-2107

Free and Reduced Funds

Do you have a student that receives free and/or reduced meals? If so, there are monies that have been allocated to help offset the cost of their original braille transcriptions. These funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Order today!

APH Orders

Demand for American Printing House for the Blind (APH) items continues to increase each year. Our goal at MDE-LIO is to get your students the APH products they need as fast as possible. Please note some items may be on back order. It's never too early to submit your APH orders. We recommend ordering now for next year to make sure your students have what they need for fall 2017.



New Books Available



ABC's for VIP's

Thanks to a generous donation from Seedlings Braille Books, MDE-LIO has added 18 new Preschool - Kindergarten ABC's for VIP's boxes to our library. If you have been on the waiting list to receive an ABC's for VIP's you can expect to receive your order within the next few days. Demand is high and we often don't have any collections available in our library. We have 17 different collections of ABC's for VIP's. Each collection is unique and there are hundreds of titles.

Each ABC's for VIP's box is available for a three month loan. When your loan expires please return it to MDE-LIO. To return a box please contact us by email at msdb-imc@michigan.gov and you will receive a prepaid UPS return label.

Increasing circulation of these wonderful book collections will ensure more students can take advantage of the ABC's for VIP's program.

UEB Literacy Expansion Program

MDE-LIO is offering Unified English Braille (UEB) recreational reading books **free of charge** to students across Michigan. Each month our catalog of books will expand as we continue to make more titles available. Expand your students' literacy and their understanding of UEB by taking advantage of this exciting new initiative.

Email Robert Beaton at, beatonr@michigan.gov with the following:

- Book Title
- Format (braille or digital file)
- Unique Identification Code (UIC) of the Student
- Shipping address

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Camp Tuhsmeheeta

Outdoor Education Workshops

Outdoor Education Workshops are opportunities for students who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) to learn through outdoor experiences. Each experience is designed to be challenging and to push participants outside of their comfort zones.



Outdoor Education Workshop: Confidence

June 20-21, 2017

For middle school students grades 6th-8th

Middle school students in grades 6th-8th are encouraged to sign up and attend this 2 day / 1 night workshop at Camp Tuhsmeheeta. Middle school students are developmentally ready to discover and test their physical, social-emotional and mental capabilities. The program will include one-touch self-defense training, outdoor recreation activities and team-building challenges which are all focused on building self-determination.

Outdoor Education Workshop: Backpacking

August 15-18, 2017

For high school students grades 9th-12th

Participants will learn skills for overnight backpacking and participate in a backpacking trip on Camp Tuhsmeheeta property. High school students are ready for outdoor recreation skill development and leadership. The Outdoor Education Workshop: Backpacking will serve as a strong foundation for future backpacking and camping adventures.

If you or someone you know is interested, registration will be available for these Outdoor Education Workshops this spring on the MDE-LIO website. www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events



Family Nature Club



Family Nature Club Highlights

Our first Family Nature Club event was a huge success. We were able to get outside and enjoy the 50 degree weather, learn about birding and count a number of feathered species for Cornell University and the National Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count. Nine families, including adults and youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI), participated in outdoor and environmental education workshops at Camp Tuhsmeheeta. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the monthly Family Nature Clubs at Camp T, please email Jereme Vanden Heuvel at vandenheuvelj1@michigan.gov.

Upcoming Family Nature Club Events

Camp T and MDE-LIO are pleased to host the Family Nature Club: Spring Hiking event on March 25, 2017. We will celebrate the Vernal (Spring) Equinox when the sun crosses over the celestial equator marking a point in which day and night are nearly equal. We will be outside hiking, exploring and discovering how the amount of sun is changing the woods and wetlands around Camp T. Guided and self-guided hikes are available around the camp property. A variety of outdoor educational activities including the quarter mile braille Storywalk® trail and the Maze in the Pines will delight and challenge your family. After hiking through the woods, take a break by the campfire and enjoy s'mores, songs and stories with new friends.

The Family Nature Club is an opportunity for families to get outside and play. We desire to create a natural space for families to enjoy each other and the great outdoors.

Food and lodging are available for those who are interested in staying the night.

Register online for the Family Nature Club: Spring Hiking Event at: www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events/family-nature-club-spring-hiking-event

Book ahead for our upcoming Family Nature Club events:

April 21-23, 2017

Spring Gardening Event

May 6, 2017

Equine Guided Journey

May 19-21, 2017

Family Camping & Canoe Event

October 20-22, 2017

Pumpkin Party Event

MDE-LIO is pleased to present:

The 2017 Space Camp Essay Competition

Essays Due: April 30, 2017



Essay Grand Prize



Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) is pleased to sponsor the 2017 Space Camp Essay Competition. Two winners (one male and one female) will be selected by the Space Camp 2017 Essay committee to receive an all expense paid trip to the Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS). The winners will travel to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama to train in the Advanced Space Academy September 23-29, 2017. Trainees will undergo a variety of astronaut training exercises, engineering challenges, and teambuilding activities, all culminating in an extended-duration simulated space mission.

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Grades 7th -12th
- Blind/Visually Impaired
- Able to navigate new surroundings and care for self independently
- Have an interest in math, science and space science
- Enjoy new social and learning experiences
- Complete and submit a one page (or two in Braille) essay on:
"Why I should be chosen to go to Space Camp"

Questions can be answered by Jereme Vanden Heuvel at:

Email: VandenHeuvelJ1@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-515-2543

Submit your essays to:



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PO Box 30742

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DHH Workshops

EIPA Skill Development Workshop

MDE-LIO's two-day workshop entitled "EIPA Skill Development Workshop" was held on December 9-10, 2016 in Okemos, Michigan. Registration for the workshop filled in eight days with over 25 on a waiting list. Thirty-one educational interpreters attended the two-day training.

A team of two highly qualified educational interpreters presented content developed specifically to instruct candidates in preparation to take, or retake, the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).

Feedback after the workshop was overwhelmingly positive:

"This was the best workshop I have attended in a long time! Totally different approach and new information. Loved it!"

"The presentation was well organized and the information was relevant and applicable."

"The information was current. I appreciated the opportunity to practice with different interpreters and get honest feedback. Lots of new ways to practice! Great workshop!"

Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) is pleased to announce three additional opportunities for educational interpreters to attend our "EIPA Skills Development Workshop."

March 25-26, 2017

Northview High School
Grand Rapids, MI

April 21-22, 2017

Lansing Community College
Lansing, MI

June 26-27, 2017

Traverse Bay Area ISD
Traverse City, MI

Registration for these workshops is available on our website. Attendees will earn 0.95 Michigan BEI/EIPA CEUs for attending the full two day presentation. Interpreters may register to attend more than once, but content at each workshop is the same and CEU credit can only be earned once.

Register on line at:

www.mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events

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Tips

www.mdelio.org



Orientation and Mobility Tip - Yoga

Do you have students who need to improve motor abilities? Yoga is a great way to incorporate these needed skills. Additional benefits include but are not limited to teaching relaxation, helping with balance and being a lifelong recreational activity.

Yoga can be learned in a class, by reading a book, and/or from a video. Research supports the benefits of yoga for students with a visual impairment. Texas School for the Blind's website has a new publication, "Yoga for Children with Visual and Multiple Impairments."

www.tsbvi.edu/store/ecom/index.php?action=ecom.pdetails&mode=yoga

Also available online is a free video with an overview of the book that features strategies for working with students.

<https://library.tsbvi.edu/Play/Chapter/3516>



Independent Living Skills (ILS) Tip

It is never too early to begin teaching ILS to children. This article from Paths to Literacy explains how one mom is promoting independence by creating an accessible job chart, making storage accessible and adding braille labels.

www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/independence-kitchen-braille-your-world



Aipoly App for iOS and Android

Aipoly is an object and color recognizer that helps people who are blind/visually impaired (BVI), and color blind understand their surroundings. Simply point your phone at the object of interest and press the large toggle button at the bottom of the screen to turn on the artificial intelligence. Aipoly will keep running and recognizing objects until you switch to a different tab, or toggle the Aipoly button. Aipoly is suited for users who are visually impaired or sighted.

Recognize Objects:

Aipoly can recognize a wide variety of objects at a rate of three times a second. Simply switch on the Aipoly button and it will start identifying what it sees through the camera. Recognizing objects does not require an internet connection.

Recognize Colors:

Aipoly can tell up to 954 colors apart. The list can also be simplified to a few through the settings if you are unfamiliar with most color names.

VoiceOver:

For those with VoiceOver switched on, simply access the text above the toggle button. For those who are sighted and do not require VoiceOver, you can access the Speaking Voice setting to listen to what the app can see.

Teach Aipoly:

Aipoly will learn more objects if its users help it by writing descriptions of what it sees. This is a good way for sighted users to help students who are BVI. Press the pencil button once object recognition is toggled on to write a description of the object or scene in focus. Detailed descriptions work best. Over time, Aipoly will begin learning about more items thanks to its users.

Voice Modes:

You can switch between different voice modes in the settings page. Ranging from standard, which says one word at a time, to advance for multiple words, to likelihood and fun, which express the likelihood of the item viewed and add additional captions respectively.

Intelligent Torch:

When Aipoly detects darkness through the camera, it will automatically turn on the torch so you don't have to worry about lighting. When the light is switched on, it will turn the torch off.

Aipoly works on:

iPhone 5S, iPhone 6, iPhone 6Plus, iPhone 6S, iPhone 6S Plus, iPad Air and above, iPad Mini 2 and above.

To learn more about this app visit Applevis at:
www.applevis.com

Easy Reader App for iOS and Android

Easy Reader is a pure reader app for e-books, which offers you best reading experience. Key features:

- Support formats as EPUB, TXT, PDF, etc.
- Turn pages with a tap or swipe.
- Process bar lets you check the reading progress easily. Swipe the process bar to skip or backward.
- Provides easy navigation inside the book using table of content, bookmarks or notes.
- Customize with your preferred font style, font size, background color, including night mode.
- Import books by Wi-Fi transfer or iTunes.

You can use "Open in" to use Book Reader to open any EPUB, DOC, TXT, PDF documents from any other apps. With Easy Reader, you can carry on your mobile devices to read all your eBooks anywhere you go.

Upcoming Technology Workshops

MDE-LIO, in collaboration with HumanWare, will be offering two dynamic workshops:

BrailleNote Touch Introduction

March 16, 2017

BrailleNote Touch Intermediate

March 17, 2017

If you were unable to attend these workshops this past fall, you really missed out! These workshops will focus on navigating the tablet, victor reader, GoogleDrive, GoogleDoc(s), Math and more. There is still space available!

Teaching Excel Using JAWS

April 6-7, 2017

For those of you who will not be on Spring break, this is a very informative and hands-on workshop that you may wish to attend. Come and acquire skills and knowledge that will help assist you in helping your students to: Understand what a cell is and how to identify and find a cell; Create, Open, and edit Workbooks; Use JAWS to switch between opened worksheets; Insert and delete a worksheet; and much more!

Register online at:

www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events



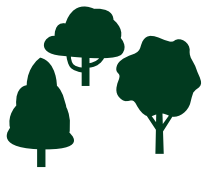
Michigan Regional Braille Challenge 2017

On Saturday February 25, 2017 students from across Michigan gathered for a braille reading and writing competition. The Braille Challenge® is an academic competition unlike any other. This two-stage contest is designed to motivate students who are blind to emphasize their study of braille, while rewarding their success with a fun-filled, but challenging, reading and writing event. Many thanks to Genesee ISD, parents and volunteers that made this event possible for 16 Michigan students that competed across 5 contest levels. Students will find out in May if they qualified for the National Braille Challenge held in Los Angeles, CA in June.

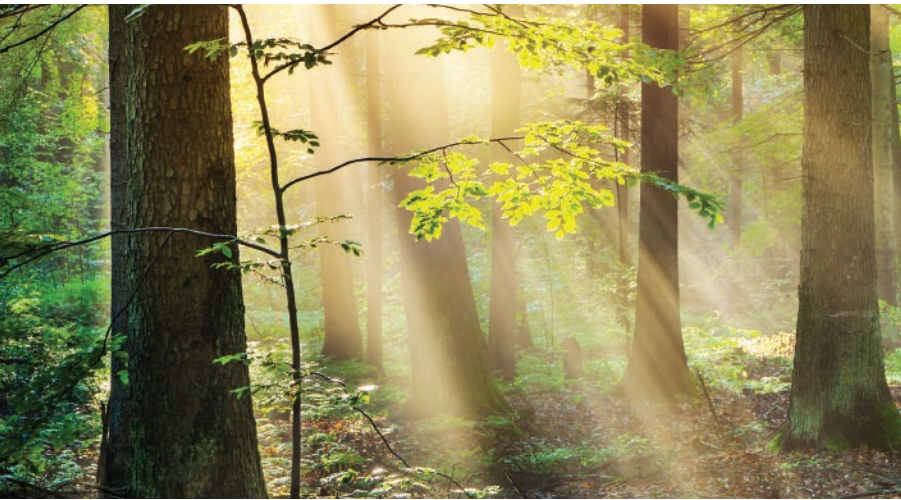
Transition

MDE-LIO has added information on Transition to our website. For lesson plans and resources for transition go to:

www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/expanded-core-curriculum/transition



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

The Newsletter is edited by Collette Bauman, Rory Goodine, Brenda Mahoney and Lynn Pensari. Comments or questions can be directed to Collette Bauman at baumanc@michigan.gov, or Lynn Pensari at 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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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