

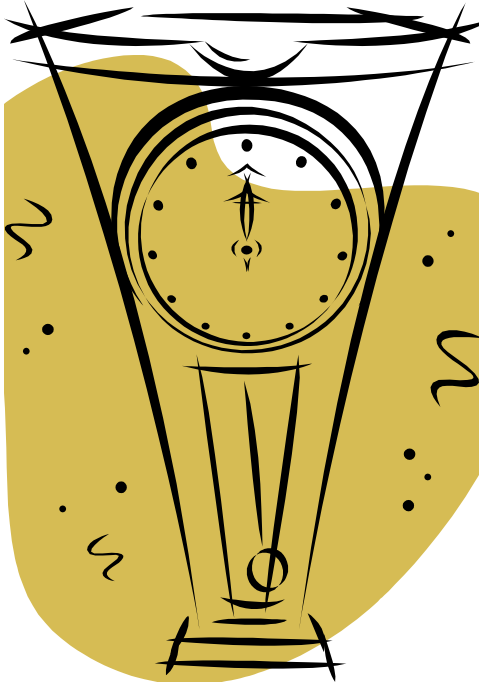
TROJAN TALK

Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired

JANUARY 2012

ISSUE V

New Year's Resolutions —Cy Moore



Every year starts off with several people making resolutions to try to better themselves. Many resolutions were made at LSVI this year. The most popular resolution made by faculty and staff at LSVI for the year 2012 was to lose weight and be healthier.

Mr. Heard's resolution is to save money, be more pleasant to people, and do more for his family. Coach

Jackson's resolution is to be wealthier. Mrs. Lamont said that her resolution is to smile more.

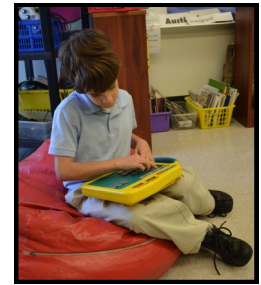
Fourth grader, Noah Mobley was very serious when he announced that his resolution is to play more. Transitional student, Samantha Harrell, proudly exclaimed that her resolution is to begin working with one of the younger classes and participate in circle time with them. Senior, Robin Smith, will work hard so that she can finish school. Eighth graders, Ryan Barnes and Denise Jones, both have a resolution to work harder in school. Ryan also wants to improve his spelling and reading skills.



Many people declared that they have already broken their new year's resolutions, and it is still January! Others decided not to bother with making a resolution this year because they knew they would break it anyway.

Every student at LSVI should be very excited; Mrs. Bello's resolution is to not yell so much. Isn't that wonderful?

Everybody get going!!!! The clock is ticking... Who will finish 2012 meeting their goal? Have fun trying!



2012

The Trojan Store —Sheriff Shelbs

The Trojan store is a classroom set up like a store. There are different table-boutiques with all kinds of items such as key chains, snacks, i-Pods, CD players, stuffed animals, jewelry, toiletry goods to name a few. Smaller items sell for one Trojan buck and the larger ones range between 20-60 bucks.

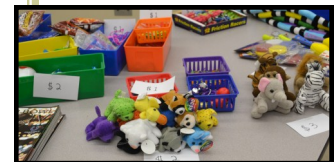
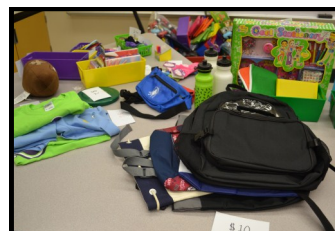
Students earn Trojan bucks for following the rules and working hard. The buck store is open to students who follow the PBIS rules, which stands for Positive

Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

The most popular items are thumb drives and snacks.

Trojan bucks are shaped like small dollars like Monopoly money. A Trojan head is on the front, and the back has space for student and teacher's name to make it official.

This is a wonderful way to motivate the students to be on their best behavior and work hard.





Keeping Track Of Alternate Track —Mariah Williams



It is a happy new year in Alternate Track. The news on the hall is that Mrs. O, Mrs. Lamont, Mrs. Alvin, Mrs. Wells, and Mr. Hilliard's classes are studying Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement; as well as other information about black history. Ms O's class is also celebrating the Chinese New Year that occurs in January. All of the teachers work together on their lessons.

Two students, Jasmine Petties and Bradley Garrett will have art on exhibit in the New Orleans Museum of Art, February 3-5th as

part of a Fine Arts evening between the museum and Artfully Aware. The alternate track students use art to help them with seasonal activities.

When asked if the kids enjoyed their holidays, all of the students replied, "Yes!!!!". Their teachers agreed that "...they all came back with great attitudes!" Great beginnings for this new year are happening with this group.

K-3rd NEWS —Sheriff Shelbs

The K-3rd graders were excited to have a 3-day weekend. Trinity Schley(1st) said, "I am going shopping with my mom." Lakeria Carter, third grader said, "I learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., and I have a dream to be a math teacher at LSVI when I grow up."

When the kids were being interviewed, they were in Braille class, which they participate in every day. The students learn all about the braillewriter, the Mountbatten, braille games, alphabetic and short-form words depending on their grade level. They stay very busy with Mrs. Lord, their Braille teacher.

The K-1st graders are learning the life

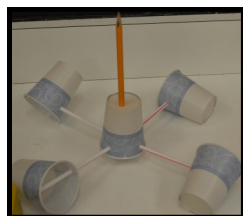
cycle of a butterfly. A real branch with a paper leaf and cocoon attached leans against the wall of the classroom for all to see.

They also celebrated the 100th day of school and decorated their own crowns to wear for the day.

Sa'Lynn Woodside(K) and Nicholas Johnson(3rd) have art work on exhibit with other LSVI students at the New Orleans Museum of Art to be viewed February 3rd-5th. Sa'Lynn's piece was an impression made from a coffee filter and tissue dye. Nicholas' work is a mask made from celluclay. All of the K-3rd graders enjoy every day at LSVI!



Gail Lord, Braille teacher



During the month of January, 4th-6th graders are having hands-on experiences that are helping with their core subjects. Lessons in U.S. travel, money management, and organization are a few of the new skills.

Fourth grader, Austin Dugas says, "I love the book so far," as he holds City and Farm, one of the Patterns series. Since Austin is reading more, his point level for Accelerated Reader has improved. Mrs. Sterling-Nichols' class is learning how to measure wind speed with their homemade instruments. She also uses travel games on the SMARTboard to teach cities and states.



What's Up With 4th-6th? —Cy Moore

The fifth graders are learning to increase their Braille writing rate. Sixth graders are enjoying learning to create a drum line under the leadership of the school's music teacher, Mike Durham.. Within their classroom, Elijah, Christy, Peyton, and Asya are learning how to count money. Once they finish that, they will solve math problems with the money.

Fifth grader Dontay Penn's art piece *Fish*, is included with the other LSVI's art on display in New Orleans next month.

The new year promises to 'ring' new experiences for all!

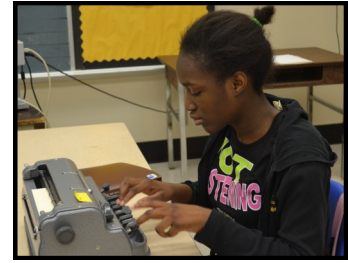


7-9 NEWS —JC

Seventh through ninth graders have been busy in the new year. Mary Hilton, a seventh grader, is learning about poetry and how to write poems in ELA. In computer applications, she is learning the keyboard and how to make Word documents. A fun activity she is looking forward to is attending the LSU men's basketball game. Eighth grader, Da'Johnnia Sauls, said she has joined the publications staff and is writing her first article for the January newsletter. Some of the eighth graders will be going to SCASB to compete in wrestling. Go Trojans!

Five students who are in seventh through ninth grades will have art work on display in the New Orleans Museum of Art, February 3rd-5th. These are Mary Hilton(7th), Denise Jones, and Josh Young(8th), Jodi Comeaux and Rasheeta Williams(9th).

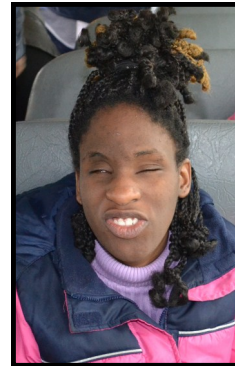
As to New Year's resolutions, Jodi said, "I am going to begin the year in the right way by having a better attitude at school, working on bringing up my grades, and improving my posture when sitting in a classroom chair."



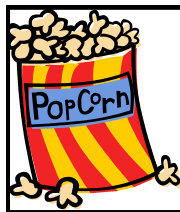
Top of the Line —Scotty DK

This month, the students in the 10th-12th grades have been working towards a lot of things. The president Dylan Faughn and Vice President Dominique Armont attended the Mayors Youth Advisory Council meeting at City Hall. They both enjoyed the meeting, and Dominique said he might run for president of the council. The next day, the juniors and seniors accompanied the O&M staff to ABL (Affiliated Blind of Louisiana) and ULL (University of Louisiana at Lafayette). They enjoyed themselves and learned about the great programs they offer in Lafayette. Along with a brief tour around

the campus, they were shown around the facilities at ABL by former students of LSVI, Amber Meaux and Krysta Aymond. Then they went to Jackson, Mississippi for the annual SCASB wrestling match along with the cheerleaders and performing arts students. The wrestling team came in fourth place overall. The cheerleaders won 6th place in the competition, and co-captain Robin Danielle Smith got 3rd place in the individual competition. Over all, the students had a lot to do this month, and they still kept up their grades. GEAux TROJANS!!!



Dorm Life —JC



The new year started off with many activities within the dorm. One major event was the BCS championship game. Even though all of the students were hoping for an LSU victory, it was only the boys who watched the game enjoying popcorn and soft drinks. Many shouts and groans could be heard later as LSU was defeated.

Though the next day was quiet on campus, the students looked forward to their weekly roundtable discussion with the school's director, Mr. Bobby Simpson. He began meeting with the students before the holidays. During the discussion, students can voice their concerns. Anyone who has a

question or wants to speak with the director is welcome to attend. Roundtable discussions are held once a week in the school's gym. Members of publications class say the time is beneficial and enjoyable.

Other dorm outings held after school this month included a movie night with Junior League, trips to Wal-Mart, swimming at the indoor pool on campus, and learning to record music with Mr. Mike, the music teacher.

Dorm students look forward to a new calendar of activities each month!



Sports With Scotty —Scotty DK

This month the LSVI Trojans went to compete in the annual SCASB competition in Jackson, Mississippi. The performing arts kicked off the weekend on Friday the 20th at 3:00. Desmond Lane started off with "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele. This was followed by solos from Cyquotta Moore, Rasheetta Williams, Donavon Doughty, and Kayla Tidwell. Finally, they ended with another favored Adele song, "Rolling in the Deep." The next morning the wrestlers and cheerleaders got their chance to show what they could do. The cheerleaders started off the day with their compulsory cheer. Then the Trojan wrestlers took the mat and

began to dominate. In the end Patrick Fontenot won the 106 weight class. Other winners include Josh Young, Desmond Lane, and Vincent Lee. At the end of the day, the Trojan wrestlers got 4th overall. The Trojan cheerleaders got 6th. Robin Smith won 3rd place in the individual competition. In the end, the LSVI Trojans came out with a good number of victories, and for that they are very proud of themselves. The Trojans have something in which to be truly proud.



Students of the Month: January and February

Alternate Track– Jessie Trahan



Elementary– Daylen Teets



Middle School– Denise Jones



High School– Dylan Faughn



Life at LSVI



Trojan Talk Staff

S.Webb– K-3rd, Features
C. Moore– 4-6th, Features
J. Comeaux: 7-9th, Dorm Life
D. Faughn– 10-12th, Sports
R. Williams: Alternate Track, Spotlight
D. Sauls– Special Assignment
B. Lauland, AC Gayle: Editors



SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: CALENDAR ART —Da’Ja

Bradley Garrett, an 8th grader in Mrs. Lamont’s class is having his art work titled “Snow Globe” printed as part of the American Printing House for the Blind’s (APH) 2013 calendar. His picture was on display at the national conference of APH Trustees held in October being one of eighty-two chosen nationwide to be on display.

The art is made of paper circles in the shape of a snowman on a blue round background. Sparkly white glitter is glued onto that. Most people would like to hang it in their bedrooms or living area. What a cool thing!

LSVI is proud of Bradley!

SPOTLIGHT: Mrs. Paulette Dunn —Mariah Williams

Prior to coming to LSVI, Mrs. Paulette worked for a hospital. Though she has worked for LSVI the last year, she has been a custodian for twenty-one years. When she was asked what she enjoyed about working here she replied, “Being around these kids.” Mrs. Paulette said this with a big smile. Her other job is ‘keeping an eye’ on her daughter, Imani.

In her spare time she likes to listen to music on her i-phone. Mrs. Paulette is cool – she keeps up with friends and family on Facebook!

Mrs. Paulette is an avid sports fan. Her favorite football team is the Cowboys. For basketball, she likes the Celtics. According to Mrs. Paulette, the Super Bowl winner will be the New York Giants.

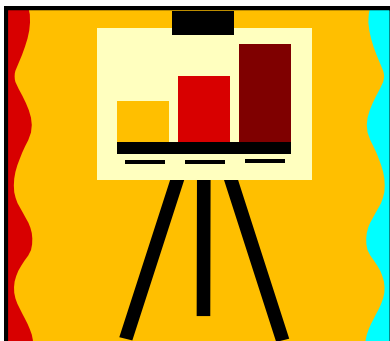
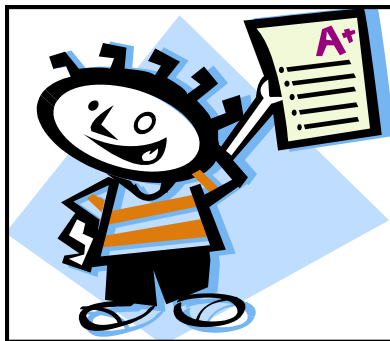


In closing, Mrs. Paulette offered this piece of advice to the LSVI students: “Be successful in life and make sure you get your education.”

CONTEST:

LSVI needs a name for the yearbook, and the publications staff is asking for your help! Please submit ideas of yearbook names to Ms. Gayle. Teachers can collect students’ suggestions, along with the student’s name, and place them in Ms. Gayle’s mailbox or send it to her via email. The publications staff will select a name from the suggestions. The person whose suggestion is chosen will win 15 Trojan Bucks!

Having BLTs at the PLCs



Not bacon, lettuce, and tomato but the “Best Literacy/Numeracy Techniques” at the “Professional Learning Community”. There are four PLC groups: ELA, Math, Alternate Track, and Progress Monitoring. Within each meeting the roles of moderator, scribe, and instructor are filled. Minutes are taken in order for each group to keep track of previous tasks designated as well as to fulfill grant requirements for the PLCs.

Each group focuses on areas specific to their content. ELA viewed the scores of students’ standardized testing to discover skills where students needed improvement then developed strategies for teachers to use in their classes. Examples of strategies are:



Quick Reads-reading three 1-minute portions to increase fluency; Right Writes-assessing writing using the 1-minute time frame by marking student work with symbols representing correct and incorrect usage. The Math PLC has devised ways that math is to be utilized cross-curricular to help reinforce basic problem-solving skills. The Alternate Track PLC discusses and implements positive behavior strategies for students of special needs. The teachers help each other with lesson plan development. They are currently looking at a new curriculum. The fourth group, Progress Monitoring meets to devise forms/charts for the other PLCs to track data of strategies being used in classrooms.

The time together improves their collaborative efforts and allows time to encourage each other. Both students and teachers benefit from PLCs!