

Utah Schools for the
Deaf and the Blind

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USDB Friday Letter - Stories from Across Utah This Week

1 message

Superintendent Joel Coleman <info@usdb.org>
Reply-To: Superintendent Joel Coleman <info@usdb.org>
To: Friends of USDB <susant@usdb.org>

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USDB Friday Letter

#WeAreUSDB

Dear friends of Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB),

Please enjoy this week's snapshot of the great work underway from USDB campuses and programs across the State of Utah.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Coleman', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Joel Coleman

USDB Superintendent

Parent Infant Program Prepares for Preschool





PIP (Deaf & Hard of Hearing)

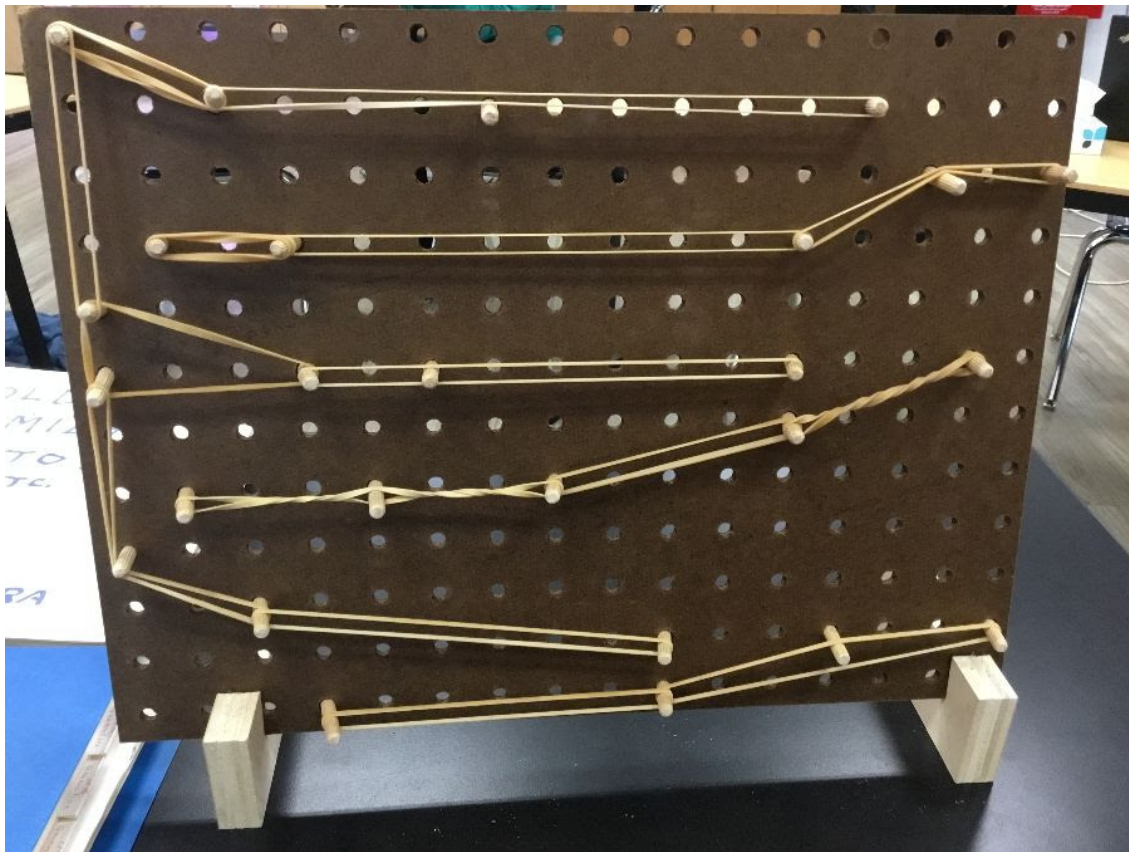
The Salt Lake Toddler Group with the Parent Infant Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has fun learning names, music, story time, crafts, and snacks. PIP serves little ones from birth to age 3, after that they transition to preschool. So PIP invites families to the preschool once a week so it is familiar,. The family enjoys a comfortable environment before transitioning from one program to another at 3 years old.

PIP (Blind & Low Vision)

At PIP for the blind, They offer a toddler group on all three campuses and one at Kauri Sue Hamilton School in South Jordan. The PIP team works on goals which cannot easily be achieved in the home such as peer interactions, developing school skills, trying out specialized technology, and navigating unfamiliar environments. Toddler group helps prepare children and families for preschool placement at either USDB or a district preschool.

Science







Jean Massieu School of the Deaf USDB Salt Lake City Campus

The JMS Science Room has been hustling and bustling. Middle school classes are learning about genetics and heredity through pictures of family brought from home. They've also started a hydroponics garden and already have sprouts! High school physics students are learning about motion by creating a Marble Down project, trying to see which one will prove to be the slowest. Earth Science students completed some amazing projects on the Geologic Time Scale, helping one another to get the work done, and learning a lot about the history of the earth.

The Academic Bowl

The Academic Bowl is a competition amongst other schools for the deaf across the country. This competition is very intense and requires a great deal of overall academic knowledge including science, social studies, math, geography, US History, World history, modern culture, etc. The questions can even be difficult for adults to answer. If our students win this regional competition they will be advanced to the national level. This is a broad academic competition by students who worked for their spot on the team. The students have been practicing for this event all year and we anticipate they will perform well in Oregon.

"Thanks to some of our wonderful staff members, our Academic Bowl team is ready to fly to the Oregon School for the Deaf on Thursday, February 9th, to compete in Gallaudet's Western Regional Games. Go TEAM!" --Shari Solomon-Klebba, Science Instructor

Studying Street Signs

For Blind and Low Vision Students



Image Description: a screen shot of youtube shows Alex chatting on camera using his laptop.

This is one video in a series of many excellent tips for students who are blind or low vision. Get all the Take Charge Daily Challenges [here](#). Want to submit an idea or a video? Email Robbin Clark, robbinc@usdb.org. Coming Soon Take Charge Tips will be available in Spanish. Follow [@9MoreThanCore](#) on instagram or contact Robbin for details.

Grateful Parents



A family in Orem loves going to the library with their deaf child, who recently got two cochlear implants. The child got her CIs activated five months ago and is already starting to babble and recognize music. The child also has close to 200 signs that she uses to communicate.

The family wanted to practice reading with their deaf child, so they went to their local library with their deaf mentor. They picked a children's book and practiced a strategy from the 15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children. These principles are so helpful for parents who are learning how to best read to their deaf child. The family checked out the book to practice reading it repeatedly with the strategy they learned from their deaf mentor.

[The 15 Principles](#)

Collaboration Works!

One District Teacher + One USDB Teacher + the Assistive Learning
Materials Center = Success!





The ability to work together to create something that assists in the learning of a child is a wonderful thing. CeCe Christensen who attends Moroni Elementary School and receives Vision Outreach Services, benefited from the efforts of her classroom teacher, Tiffany Cisco who wanted to find a more meaningful way to teach letter identification to CeCe. With the assistance of Keri Ostergaard at Assistive Learning Materials Center, a creative way was found and learning began to be fun. Also let's be honest, what young girl would not love pink letters!

CeCe also experienced using these letters on an Orientation and Mobility Lesson at a local grocery store. She brought the letter "C" with her as she used Orientation and Mobility techniques to locate her favorite "C"ereal.

Collaborate ON!

[Learn More About the Center and the Materials](#)

Let's Celebrate Counselors



It's National School Counselor's week. Let's celebrate our amazing counselors, Holly Arndt, Brian Tingley, Wade Hester, and Kim Thornsberry. School counselors assist students in academic achievement, career development, and social-emotional learning. Holly Arndt submitted this story about the Riding Club from the Utah School for the Blind, Ogden campus.





The Utah School for the Blind Riding Club invited a guest speaker, Dr. Clay Robinson, Veterinarian. Dr. Robinson shared his experiences working with and taking care of horses. He quizzed the students on some fun facts about horses. Students enjoyed a bird's eye view of equipment used to maintain shoeing, teeth, health, brushing, shots, etc. Student Rebekah Payne modeled the stylish chaps and spurs.

A Personal Best

Deafblind Services



Bridger is thriving! Bridger and his intervener Tori use his Experience book on his iPad to have a conversation about how fun physical therapy can be! Bridger has worked very hard this year to hold his head up without support, and on that day, he did it for over 20 minutes, a personal best for the year

Football Preps for Next Season





[More Pictures](#)

The football banquet was held for athletes, parents, and families to culminate a season of learning experiences. The players and coaches looked back on the team coming together, an improvement of skills over the course of three months, and honoring our three seniors (Jordan, Miguel, and Nathalia). Now, the team will build upon this past season into the Spring. The players will start on Monday, March 6 with both cardio and weight training for twelve weeks. The new football season will start Monday, July 31. Four players were awarded:

Miguel Soria-Ortega: Hardest Worker of the Year

John Morgan: Defensive Player of the Year

Jordan Paredes: Offensive Player of the Year

Nathalia Neuman: Most Improved Player of the Year

Sledding



Snow Fun!

The Utah School for the Deaf preschool classes in the Salt Lake area are learning about winter and all the fun activities that we can do during the winter time. We learned about ice skating, skiing, making snowmen, snowball fights, and of course sledding! What better way to learn about activities than to go experience them? We loved having so many families come to join in on the fun while we played, practiced social skills, and used some of our new vocabulary words right here in our community. Those of us using two languages also practiced code-switching, which is intentionally switching between ASL and spoken English.

Goalball Video



Image description:

A series of video clips show boy and girl students playing goalball.
Video produced in collaboration by the team, Kari Fredrickson, and a parent.

Video created by the team and a parent.

It is GOALBALL season for blind and low vision students across Utah.

Know anyone who might like to join a goalball team in Utah? [More Info](#)

Have a Wonderful Weekend!



GIVE

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