

# The MSDB Cottage Bulletin

October 2022  
Vol. 2, No. 2

## Message from the Director

By Jim Kelly II

Happy Fall Greetings!

Hard to believe this is the second travel weekend of the school year! Travel home days are a busy time for the students and the staff. Hopefully this newsletter will provide a glimpse of what has been happening in the cottages and feel free to ask your child about some of the activities. Travel return days are also busy and the students enjoy being back with their friends! Please remember to include some warmer clothes as I am sure winter is just around the corner – but you never know with the Montana weather! Have a wonderful weekend with your student and family.

## STUDENT HUB

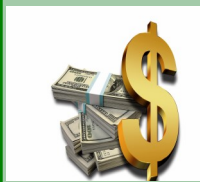
This year our students have been involved in many activities both at MSDB and in the community. All of our students participate in at least one club or activity. The students participate in the following clubs/activities at MSDB: Expressions of Silence (EOS), Visually Impaired Performers (VIP), Flying Hooves, Student Council, Jr. Nad, Goal Ball and Academic Bowl. Some of the activities that students participate in off-campus are school sports (volleyball, basketball, football), art lessons at Heisey, and piano lessons. Cottage staff support students in these activities by providing transportation, assisting at activities and being a "cheerleader". In addition to the staff attending games, Cottage students have attended to show their support to their peers.





## High School Happenings

*With Erin Faulkner*



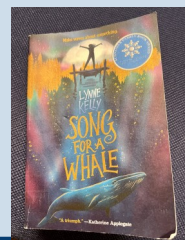
This is one of three new columns that are being introduced this month. This column will showcase different programs and activities that the high school cottage students are involved in that will help guide them toward independence after graduation.

Each student that lives in the Cottage has a student account. Money earned through work study is deposited here. Students can access these funds to get snacks from the school store, to go shopping, or to save. In order to teach the students about cash flow, they are required to keep a check register of their spending and income. The goal is for them to input the information as it happens and then compare it to their account statement. This activity is a first step towards independent money management.

## Finding Fun in Learning

*With Cheri Luongo*

Finding fun in learning is the title of the newsletter column addition dedicated to the elementary and middle school students here in our cottage. This month I want to share the happenings of the Geyser Girls book club. The girls were each provided a copy of the book *Song for a Whale* at the Spring DEW. This Fall we decided to meet together as a group and read it. After dinner, the students read a short chapter on their own, highlighting or marking words or passages they want to discuss. Next we read the same chapter together, taking turns reading either out loud or in ASL. Then comes the fun. The girls and staff ask questions, review vocabulary and discuss the content. We sometimes compare it to times in our own lives and often empathize with the deaf main character. Although we have coordinated with the school staff regarding what we're doing and shared materials, there is no extra homework or written assignments to be done. This club is purely for the enjoyment of a good book. We are hoping to continue with other titles in the future. Please let us know if you have a good recommendation.



The third new column in our October issue will describe what events and activities Student Council coordinates and participates in. Student Council meets every Wednesday at 3:00 following social time and the School Store. The meeting follows an agenda led by the President with reports from the other 3 officers.

This year's officers are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Blair</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Daemien</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Marissa</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ayvia</b>



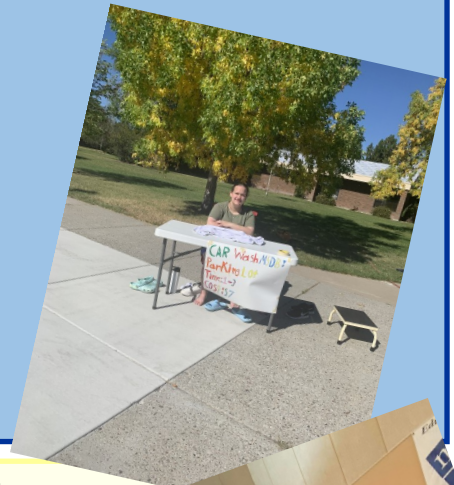
Staff at MSDB are participating in SEL trainings each month. During September's training, staff learned about developing "norms" with students for classes, clubs, and activities. Blair led an excellent discussion with Student Council discussing what they would want to feel comfortable and safe in the Student Council meeting. Four norms were identified prior to the meeting: Respect, Inclusivity, Participation, Positive Attitude. Students gave examples of what those mean. Since then, the Student Council meetings have been productive and positive under the leadership of Blair and the other officers.

## CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

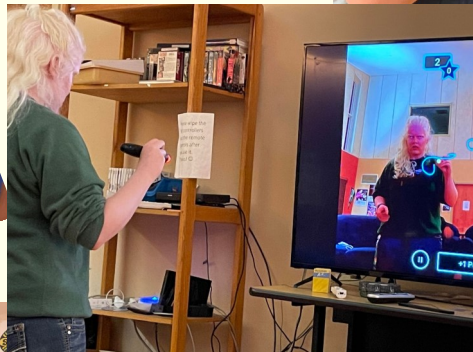
*by Cheri Luongo*

September 25th was the perfect day for a car wash and our student council was ready to provide the muscle. Each and every student and staff member pitched in grabbing buckets, sponges, hoses, and rags. As the line of cars were cleaned, shined and dried, other students were holding signs and directing more customers in.

Activities like this have many benefits. The student council earns money for future projects, and more importantly life skills are gained. Our students practice customer service, handling money, attention to detail, teamwork, and communication. All of these positives wrapped up in an afternoon of fun and giggles is a win for everyone



## FUN TIMES IN THE COTTAGE



Bunco  
Air Pictionary  
Video Games  
Movie Nights  
Apples to Apples  
10's & 2's





## STAFF BUZZ

**We asked the Cottage Staff..."What is your favorite thing about working at MSDB?"**

**Working with great people who have great sense of humor.**

**I love everything about this job.**

**Seeing the kids having fun and enjoying the projects that they make.**

**Helping kids become as successful as they can be.**

**Family!**

**Watching the students learn and grow as individuals.**

**I love the EOS performance!**

**Helping kids become as successful as they can be.**

**My favorite thing about working at MSDB is hearing, "When will I see you again?"**

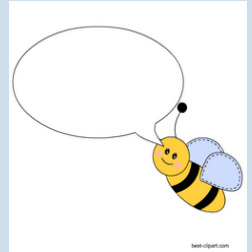
**The kids!!!**

**Everyday is a different exciting challenge.**

**The cottage is the glue that holds us all together.**

**My favorite thing at MSDB are the kids and most of the staff.**

**Like Shep, we are always there for the kids.**



## Outings/Activities

### Weekly

- EOS (Mon/Wed)
- Goal Ball (Tues)
- Student Council (Wed)
- VIP (Wed)
- School Store (Wed/Fri)
- Flying Hooves (Thurs)
- Crafts (Sun)

### Look what we did!

- ILSP Wkshp: Pharmacy explor (9/22)
- Poultry Show (9/24)
- ILSP Wkshp: Bus training (9/29)
- Hocus Pocus Double Feature (9/30)
- Bunco (10/1)
- Cottage Game Night (10/8)
- DEW (10/14-10/15)
- Movie Night (10/15)

### Coming Soon-

- Halloween activities (10/28-10/30)
- VIEW (11/11-11/12)
- CAT/GRIZ Game Party (11/19)
- Thanksgiving Formal Dinner (TBD)
- Travel Home (11/22)
- Travel Return (11/27)

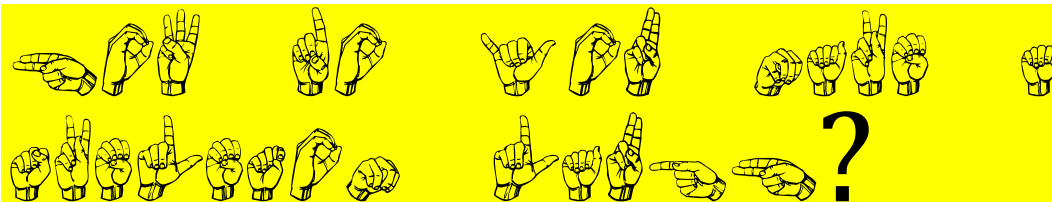
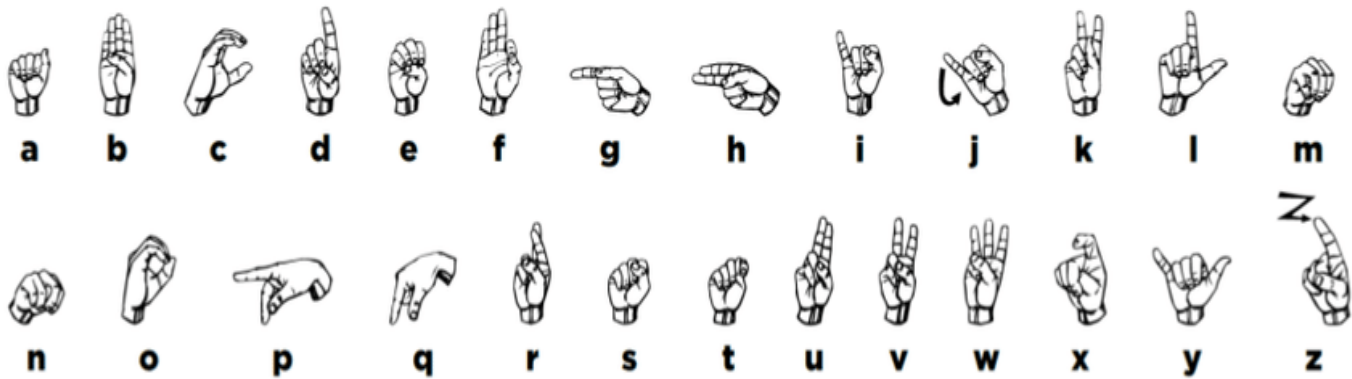
## Community Connection

**This year, MSDB is participating in various Community outreach activities to both connect with the community and to teach the students about giving back. The Cottage had a plan to attend the annual Pumpkins for a Cause event. We discussed the purpose and what it means to donate and how much should be donated based on income. Unfortunately due to weather, we were unable to attend this year. Hopefully next year! In the meantime, the Cottage Student Council will continue to look for ways to make our own community connections!**

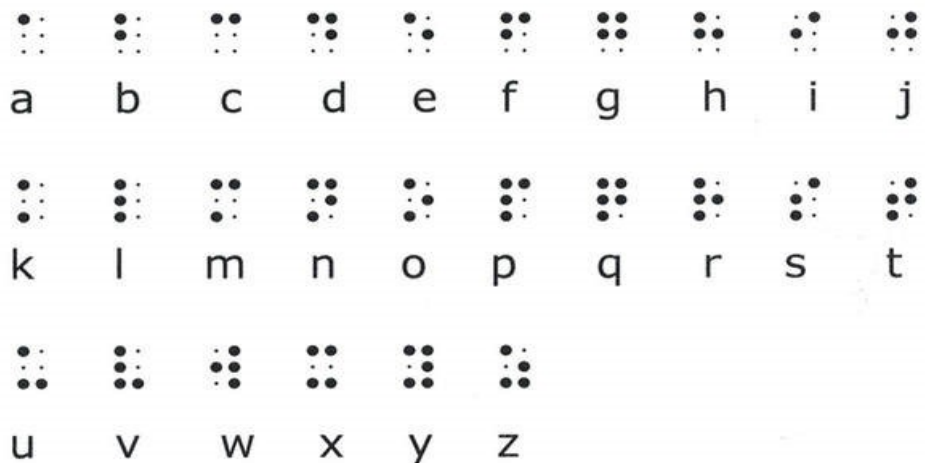
# PUZZLE PAGE

Decode the phrases using ASL Fingerspelling and Braille!

**Fingerspelling** is the process of spelling out words by using hand shapes that correspond to the letters of the word. A set of hand shapes used to spell words is known as a "manual alphabet."



**Braille** is a system that enables blind and visually impaired people to read and write through touch. It was devised by Louis Braille in 1821 and consists of raised dots arranged in "cells." A cell is made up of six dots that fit under the fingertips, arranged in two columns of three dots each.



## September 2022 Puzzler Answers:

Fingerspelling: Why do math books always look so sad?

Braille: Because they are full of problems.

**Erin Faulkner**

Editor—Designer—Writer

**Contributors**

Jim Kelly

Cheri Luongo

Email puzzle results to [efaulkner@msdb.k12.mt.us](mailto:efaulkner@msdb.k12.mt.us) by 10/26/22

for a chance to win a \$1 coupon to the School Store.