

The MSDB Cottage Bulletin

February, 2023

Vol. 2, No. 6

Message from the Director

By Jim Kelly II

I hope reading this newsletter will provide you with a glimpse of the great stuff we have happening in our Student Life program. It is hard to believe the year is going by so quickly – as they say “time flies when you are having fun”. I am really excited with all of the different afterschool opportunities that are provided to our students. As always, don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions, suggestions or concerns for your child!

KITCHEN KORNER

by Mo Aguon, Cook

I tried this cookie recipe a while back, and it turned out pretty good. Personally, I like to add 1 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips, or white chocolate chips to give it a little something extra. This is an easy to follow, simple cookie recipe that is fun to make with the family.

Walnut Cookies

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 12 mins

Total Time: 22 mins

Ingredients

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour

½ cup white sugar

½ cup packed brown sugar

¼ teaspoon baking soda

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ cup butter, softened

¾ cup chopped walnuts

[https://www.allrecipes.com/](https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/18187/walnut-cookies-ii/?print=1/1)

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Directions

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.

Step 2

In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, white sugar, brown sugar, and baking soda. Add the egg, vanilla, and butter; mix

until dough forms. Stir in the chopped walnuts. Roll dough in to 1 inch balls and place 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.

Step 3

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until the edges are golden brown. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

Nutrition Facts

Per serving: 237 calories; total fat 13g; saturated fat 6g; cholesterol 36mg; sodium 90mg; total carbohydrate 28g; dietary fiber 1g; total sugars 18g; protein 3g; vitamin c 0mg; calcium 21mg; iron 1mg; potassium 67mg

FUN WITH LEARNING

by Cheri Luongo

Our MSDB 4-H Club has really gotten rolling this month. We have had our first meetings and elected officers. Congratulations go to our President, Marias DeRoche and our Secretary, Ayvia Kosine.

Our 13 club members chose individual projects to pursue their interests. Examples of these include, photography, baking, robotics, child care, movie making, crochet, and pet training. These projects will allow the students to work on the things that interest them the most with support from the cottage staff.

On February 4th, we attended our first 4-H county Project Day. The students had a wonderful time meeting other 4-H members from across Cascade County. Some of our students chose to attend a workshop on astronomy and then go to crocheting while others spent their time learning cake decorating techniques.

February 12th we attended our new member orientation meeting at the MSU County Extension Office. This was a fun potluck dinner with other new 4-H members followed by an informational talk, some fun and games. Our group even demonstrated how we are signing the 4-H pledge in ASL. This has already been a great opportunity for our students to make connections and new friends in the community. Additionally, the community has learned more about what we do here at MSDB.





ASL EDUCATION

With Diane Moog

This year I have been using a curriculum known as True+Way ASL. It is a virtual ASL curriculum designed to support teachers, such as myself, an inclusive, modern and 100% digital program. The students learn how to use ASL to communicate in real-world conversations and situations that they are most likely to encounter in their daily lives. This program was designed by a group of Deaf ASL teachers.

Some features of this program include a searchable ASL-English dictionary, lecture slides, assignments and worksheets, tests, quizzes, and rubrics. It follows the standards for teaching foreign languages (ACTFL Standards) and is easily adaptable for the groups I serve here on the MSDB campus. Currently I work with administration, education staff, support staff, business office staff, administrative secretaries, residential staff, nursing staff, food service staff, night watch, our Foundation members and staff in our LEAP program. I can design programs to meet their individual needs and areas of work.

Materials are divided into 18 different content areas which include: Welcome to the Deaf World!, Academics, Families and Relationships, Residences and Communities, Scheduling, Good Times, All About Food!, People Among Us, My Home, Finances and the Workplace, Wellness and Fitness, Destinations, Narrative Building Blocks, Narratives, History, The Human Body, Sports and Activities and finally Animals and Terrains. Within each of these topics, students learn about Deaf culture and aspects of the ASL language. We enjoy learning the material and practicing that within digital conversations and worksheets. I have the best groups to work with! I am blessed to have the support of Deaf here at the school to assist me in this journey.

THEY WORK HARD FOR THE MONEY

By Erin Faulkner

MSDB has a wonderful tradition of offering the students in each graduating class a Senior Trip. While the MSDB Foundation supports the staff who sponsor the Senior Class, it is the students themselves who must pay their way for the senior trip. In addition to paying class dues throughout their high school attendance, the students are involved in a variety of fundraising activities beginning as Freshmen. Fundraisers have included selling items, such as cards, wreaths, Pampered Chef, candies, etc. The current Senior Class has hosted Bingo Nights and a Bunco Night. In addition to these efforts, all high school students and sponsors are required to work concessions at the Mustang Center for the Foothills Christian School volleyball and basketball games. Students are not only earning money for their classes, but also learning about customer services, handling money, using a cash register, stocking, cleaning up and making foods, such as popcorn, hot dogs, nachos, pretzels and grilling hamburgers. This spring all 8 of the high school Cottage students were able to work at least 2 shifts each. They all did a wonderful job. They were enthusiastic and eager to learn.

STAFF BUZZ



A place where families and coworkers could brag about cottage staff to say, "Wow! They are good at their job!"?

I would like to nominate **Carrie Dawes**. She works tirelessly to meet the needs of all students. She has developed positive relationships with the participants and they all feel comfortable working with her. She is currently taking ASL classes and uses it all the time. Communication with Deaf staff and participants has improved by LEAPS and bounds! (Carrie is a LEAP Coordinator)

by a Cottage Staff

I want to nominate **Carrie Dawes** in the LEAP program! She is such a joy to work with and is willing to let me try out new lessons and ideas with her post-high school students, as well as welcomes our students to their area to practice life skills. The LEAP students are so welcoming and really take pride in their independence. The LEAP program is such an incredible addition to our campus and we are lucky to have this opportunity for our high school graduates from across Montana!

by an Education Staff

I would like to nominate **Cheri** because she has volunteered to be on the literacy team's subcommittee for family and community engagement. (Cheri Luongo is a Cottage Counselor)

by a Support Staff

For the past few months **Fran Aguon** has gone above and beyond. In addition to her regular nightwatch shift (midnight to 8:00 AM) she recently worked 14 days without a day off. This was due to illness of other staff. Fran also worked one of her days off while we were waiting for the LEAP shift to be filled. Thank you Fran for your dedication to help keep our kids safe while we are all sleeping.

by a Cottage Staff

I would like to nominate **Erin**. She has supported my child with feedback, structure and caring. She has grown leaps and bounds. My daughter has definitely flourished with more structure and expectations. (Erin Faulkner is a Cottage Counselor)

by a Parent of a Cottage Student

We would like to give a shout out to **Bill**. We are new to cottage life and there were many concerns. With Bill's help and guidance our boy has navigated these changes with ease. Bill has also calmed our fears and we are so thankful to have him step in as a surrogate parent and mentor while our boy is there. (Bill is a Lead Resident Life Advisor)

by a Parent of a Cottage Student

Diane Eddy has been working her tail off. She continues to serve both students and staff even if she isn't feeling well herself. :) (Diane is the Director of Health Services)

by a Support Staff

Cheyenne is always in "on" mode at work. She understands the students' goals and strives to teach them on a daily basis. She isn't afraid to ask questions and get clarification if it means improving her job performance and the learning of the students. (Cheyanne Tucker is a Resident Advisor)

by a Cottage Staff

High School Happenings

With Erin Faulkner

Students who work School Store jobs or other on-campus work experience opportunities, are learning valuable skills. Some of these skills are specifically related to the job they are doing: operating a cash register, counting back money, shredding paper, copying and sorting worksheets, etc. When we start a new job, these are the skills we get training on. There are other, arguably even more important, skills that employees need to be successful in the workplace and in life. These are called **soft skills**. These skills are what allow us to work well with others, solve problems, multi-task to name a few. Recently, the high school cottage students attended a workshop where we discussed 8 important soft skills.

- Attitude
- Communication
- Planning and Organizing
- Critical Thinking
- Interpersonal Skills
- Teamwork
- Professionalism
- Media Rules

Please take some time to discuss these with your child. What does it mean to them? Can they think of examples? Can you relate these concepts to your life? The more these students are presented with these concepts and specific examples, the more they will be able to apply them to their own lives and jobs. If you have any questions or want more information on these concepts or our workshop, please contact me.

Outings/Activities

Weekly

- EOS (Mon/Wed)
- Swim Club (Mon/Tues)
- Goal Ball (Tues)
- Academic Bowl (Tues)
- 4-H (Tues)
- Student Council (Wed)
- VIP (Wed)
- School Store (Wed/Fri)
- Swimming (Wed/Sun)
- Workshops (Thurs)

Look what we did!

- New Hire Orientation (1/17)
- Bingo (1/20)
- Movie Night (1/21)
- Workshop: Job Soft Skills (1/24)
- DEW Planning (1/27)
- Movie Night (1/28)
- Bingo (2/3)
- Games (2/4)
- Workshop: Managing Money (2/9)
- Super Bowl Party (2/12)
- Workshop: Wants vs Needs

Coming Soon-

- TBD
- Travel Home (3/9)
- Travel Return (3/14)

Plans for Spring -

- Bowling
- AMC Movies
- Roller Skating
- Arcade
- Brush Crazy
- Mini golf

STUDENT HUB

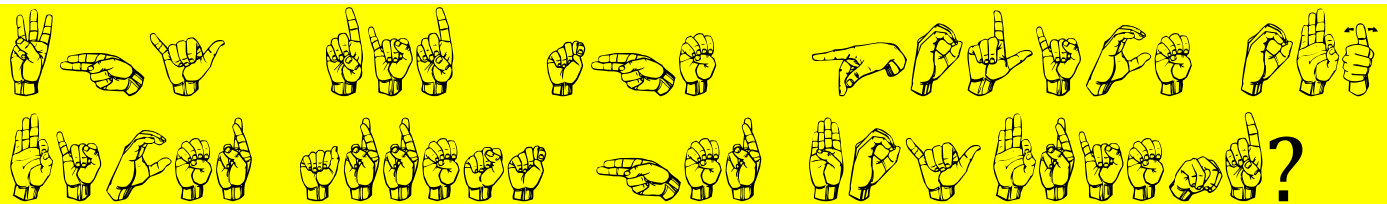
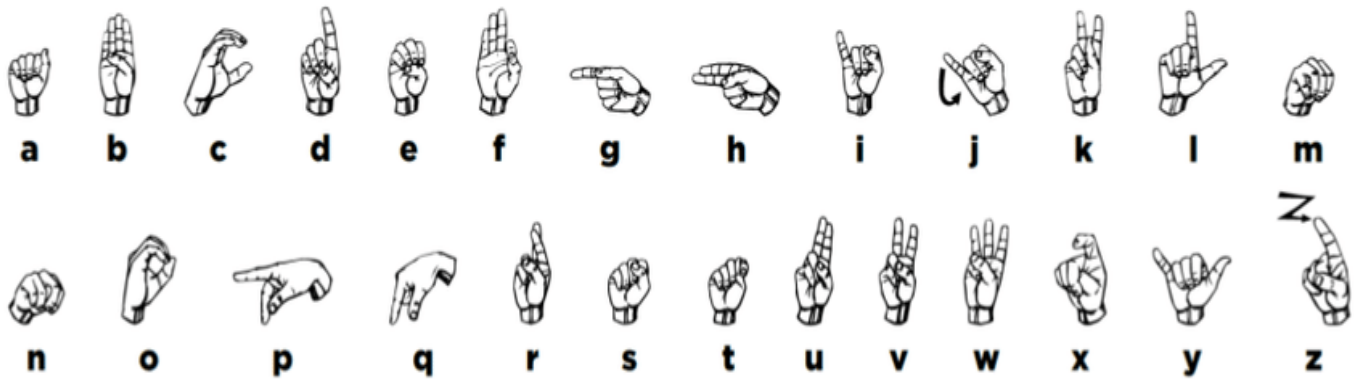
Madison Chacon competed in the 4-H communications competition. She made a movie and edited it using her iPad and phone. At the competition, she presented her short film and answered questions about the content and production. Judges comments included "your interview questions were well answered". See the photo below with her showing off her certificate and red ribbon award. Congrats Madison!



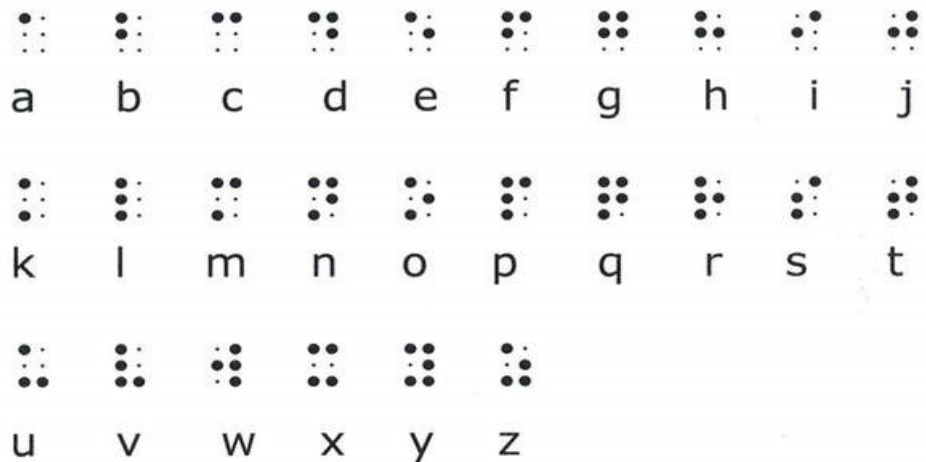
PUZZLE PAGE

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.



January 2022 Puzzler Answers:

Fingerspelling: What kind of cakes do snowmen like? Braille: The ones with lots of icing