

# The MSDB Cottage Bulletin

May, 2023  
Vol. 2, No. 8

## Message from the Director

*By Jim Kelly II*

This is the last travel weekend prior to the last day of school – June 2. Since returning from Spring Break the students have been busy with both the Deaf Enrichment Weekend (DEW) and the Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend (VIEW) and many other activities. Almost every weekend has something to offer for all of our cottage kids. Enjoy the time with your child and wishing you all a Happy Mother's Day!

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT MSDB

Summer is right around the corner along with some great activities.

Family Learning Weekends provide families with an opportunity to learn and grow with other families from around the state. Students involved with MSDB and their siblings have structured activities during the day while their adults are in informative classes and discussions. Please see the links below for more information and to register for the events.

[Blind/VI FLW registration](#)

[Blind LW Flyer](#)

[Deaf FLW registration](#)

[Deaf FLW Flyer](#)

Games for the Blind and Visually impaired is planned for May 20th. This is an event that has not been held for the past several years and we are excited to be bringing it back. Please check out the schedule of events and link to register.

[VI Games Registration and Schedule](#)

Summer camps for both the Deaf/HH and VI/Blind are again being held this summer. This is always an exciting week for the students where memories are made that last a lifetime. Registration links are attached.

[Deaf/HH Summer Camp](#)

[VI/ Blind Summer Skill camp](#)

These links are also available on the <https://msdbmustangs.org> web site or through the QR code. We look forward to extending the learning experiences with your students throughout the summer!



## High School Happenings: Banking for the First Time

*by Erin Faulkner*

One of the most powerful signs of independence in young adults is getting their first checking and/or savings account. I have had the opportunity to assist several of our students this year in setting these up. Before heading to the bank, these students attended workshops, classes at school and one-on-one meetings to make sure they understood the vocabulary, the pros and cons, and the importance of and how to monitor their accounts. Before going to the bank, students must make sure that they have the following:

- A state ID or a driver's license
- A second form of identification (school ID is acceptable)
- A physical and mailing address
- Phone number and email address
- Cash or check to deposit into their account(s)

There are different kinds of banks and credit unions. Choose the one that is right for you. Talk to your parents and friends, research online, call and ask questions. No matter what you choose, when you go to set up your account, be sure to listen carefully, ask questions and review all personal information carefully!

Below are some words that we discuss in our workshops and meetings.

ATM	Automatic Teller Machine	Balance	Amount of money available in your account.
Budget	A plan to determine how much is needed for bills and expenses	Checking Account	An bank account used for spending using checks or a debit card.
Credit Card	A card used to borrow money that is paid back with interest.	Debit Card	A card used to pay for things from your checking account.
Deposit	Money that is put into your checking or savings account.	Overdraw	Spending more money than you had in your checking account.
Savings Account	An account used for saving money long-term.	Withdraw	Taking money from your account using the ATM, a check or a debit card.

## High School Happenings: Moving into an Apartment

*With Erin Faulkner*

Most young adults are anxious to leave home and show everyone how independent they are. They think it is easy! Make money, pay bills, have fun! In order to help our students have a better understanding of the realities of moving away from home, we did a group activity. Separated into 3 groups off 3-4 students, the students came up with a list of things they were need to buy or bring with them to their new home. Each group had 2 rooms. The home was as unfurnished, one bed-room apartment. It had a stove/oven, refrigerator and washer and dryer (luck them!)



We had a competition to see if the students could come up with a better list than me. They did! All of the students said they learned that moving away from home required a lot more money and preparation than they had thought!!!





## ASL EDUCATION

*With Diane Moog*

We will continue with some information on how to sign various structures in ASL. We will look at signing articles, apostrophes, and the cultural differences of the Hearing and Deaf when signing in conversations.

### 1. How do I sign articles in ASL?

We know that most languages generally use articles to talk about something specific. In English we frequently use the article "The". How does that look in ASL? ASL has that article too. To use the article "The" by using a pointing finger. For example, in English I would say "I am going to the store." In ASL I would sign "STORE POINT I GO". The point means I am pointing to identify/refer to the exact store.

### 2. How do I sign names with apostrophes?

The use of apostrophe can be confusing. In ASL there are two ways to sign apostrophes depending on if it is a brand or it is an object. Say we are talking about a restaurant. This restaurant is named Bob's. I would sign BOB and then use a twisting motion when I sign 'S. Now if I am referring to books that belong to Bob, I will sign BOB THEIR BOOKS. THEIR is signed with a flat open hand with palm facing outwards.

### 3. You may be aware of cultural differences when using language in conversations. The following are examples of how the hearing culture and the deaf cultures differ.

#### Using Names:

**Hearing culture** will often use names for example: "Hi Steve" "How are you Steve?"

"See you later Steve."

**Deaf Culture** does not use names. They may sign "Hello. How are you?" "See you later. Take care."

#### Signing names with titles like "Mr.", "Ms.", and "Mrs."

**Hearing culture** often address people with their titles like "Mr. Kelly", "Ms. Alt" or "Mrs. Moog"

**Deaf culture** does not use titles. People are referred to by their sign name.

Have a great summer. We will pick up again in the Fall and look at other topics related to ASL. Enjoy!

## STUDENT HUB

Daemien is graduating this year! He came to MSDB in the 2nd semester of his Junior year. Here is what he has to say about his Cottage experience.

"Well, I certainly can't say everything was perfect. I did find there was often good communication between the DHH and VI departments with the staff serving as the "middle man". The School Store is a wonderful thing in the Cottage. It helps support the students that live there so they can do fun activities during the weekends. Though, I do propose renaming the store "Snack Shack" as it rolls off the tongue better.

Yours truly,  
The Apathetic Student









## 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 **Jennifer St. Pierre**. She is a strong support to the LEAP staff and students. She is willing to step up to help on a moments notice. Students enjoy visiting with her and she is very courteous to visitors in the area. (Jennifer is a Resident Advisor in the LEAP program)

by a Cottage Staff

I would like to nominate **Mo Aguon**. He is a motivated student in my sign class. Mo is eager to develop his skills to communicate with both staff and students. He possesses a strong work ethic and is committed to doing a top notch job. Mo strives to do his best and is a joy to work with. (Mo is a Cook)

by a Cottage Staff

I thought that it would be a good idea to nominate **Dorothy Nutter**, because she is the one that has mostly impacted my life. She has helped me along in my journey, while I have been working with her, teaching me life, skills, and other things that will help me succeed. She's giving me a lot of great advice, and she has also been a great support person for me. I love her lots, and I hope that she stays until my graduation. She has helped me so much in these last few years of her being here with me. (Dorothy has been a Resident Advisor with MSDB for 42 years)

by a Cottage Student

I would like to nominate **Mo and Bobbi**. They prepare the best meals around--there isn't a school with a better menu than ours! They serve students and staff with smiles on their faces. They go the extra mile to make themed meals, celebrate holidays and put on the spread for our formal dinners. We are so lucky to have such caring staff feeding us each day! (Bobbi Fritz and Mo are Cooks)

by an Education Staff

I'd like to nominate **Terri Knotts**. Terri does a fantastic job making the Cottage look fabulous and she is always nice to visit with. Terri is very much an asset to MSDB! (Terri is the Cottage Housekeeper)

By a Support Staff



**The Cottage Student Council**  
invites you to their annual  
**Spring Car Wash Fundraiser.**

**When: Saturday, May 27**

**Time: 1:00-3:00**

**Where: MSDB main parking lot.**

**Cost: \$10**





## CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

In celebration of Earth Day (belatedly), the Cottage Students and staff participated in a campus clean-up activity. We divided up by Cottage in order to cover more ground. We cleaned up garbage from almost the entire campus, including all around the cottages, the Mustang Center, Bitterroot, Aspen and the Vocational building.

Thank you to Daemien, Josh, Morris, Marissa, Madison, Ayvia, Lexi, Amera, Blair, and Angelina, with support from Amanda, Christine and AJ.



## COTTAGE FUN



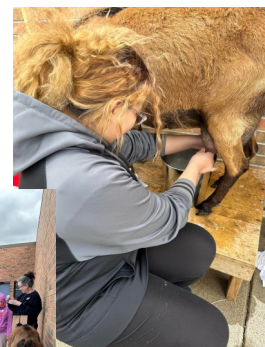
# 4-H Project Day



Gardening



Goat Milking



Sewing



Cheese Making



## Outings/Activities

### Weekly

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

### Look what we did!

- Wkshp: Bus review (4/13)
- DEW (4/14-4/15)
- Bowling (4/16)
- VIEW (4/21-4/22)
- Bunco (4/22)
- Ice Breaker Road Race (4/23)
- Super Mario Bros. Movie (4/23)
- Wkshp: What I Need for my Apt (4/27)
- Campus-Clean-up (4/29)
- Movie Night (4/29)
- Black Eagle park (4/30)

- Wkshp: Moving Out (5/4)
- EOS Performance (5/5)
- 4-H Project (5/6)
- Game Night (5/6)
- Craft (5/7)
- Brush Crazy (5/7)

### Coming Soon-

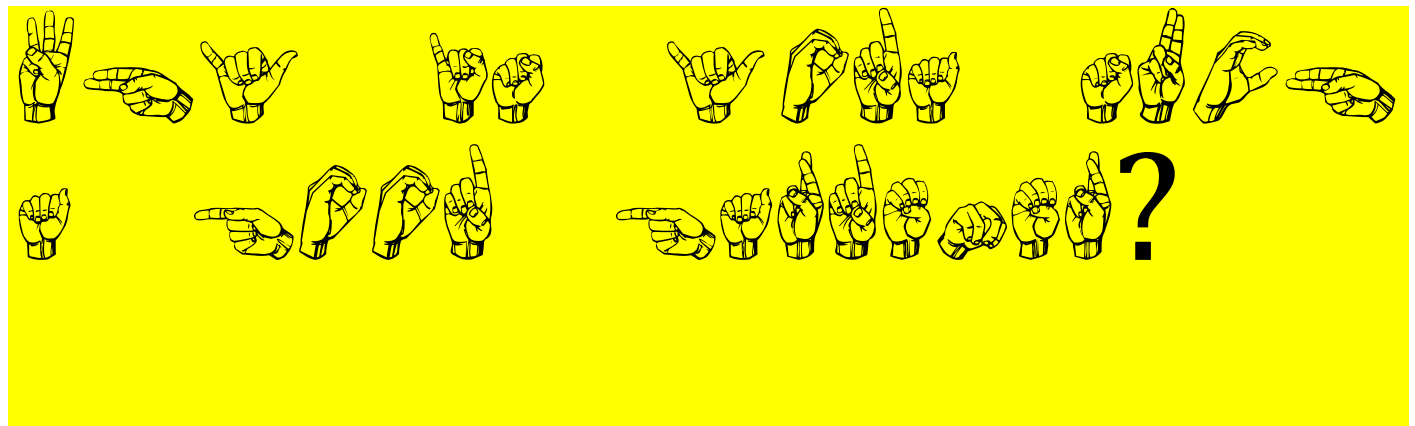
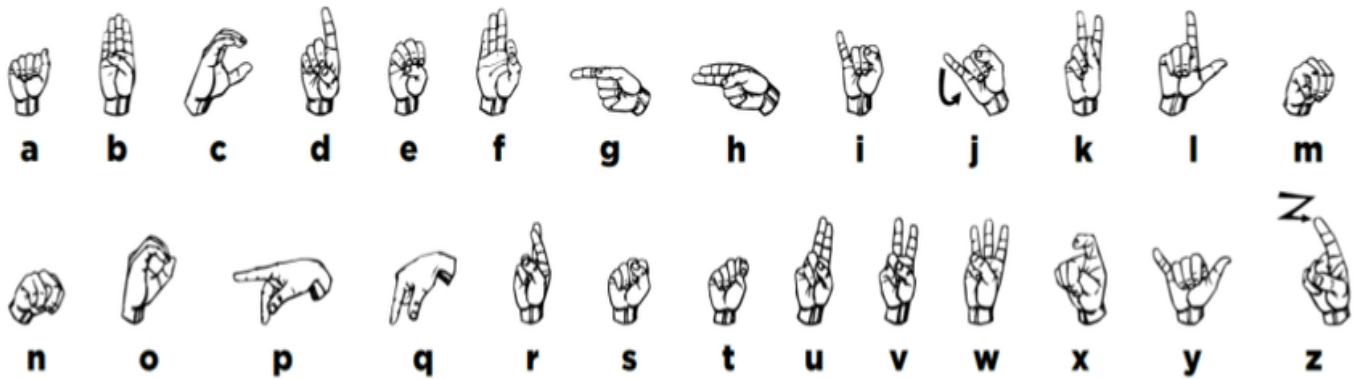
- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Career Expo      | Graduation        |
| Prom             | Mem. Day Activit. |
| VI Games         | Ryan Dam Picnic   |
| S.C. Annual Trip | SUMMER BREAK!!    |
| Grad Party       |                   |



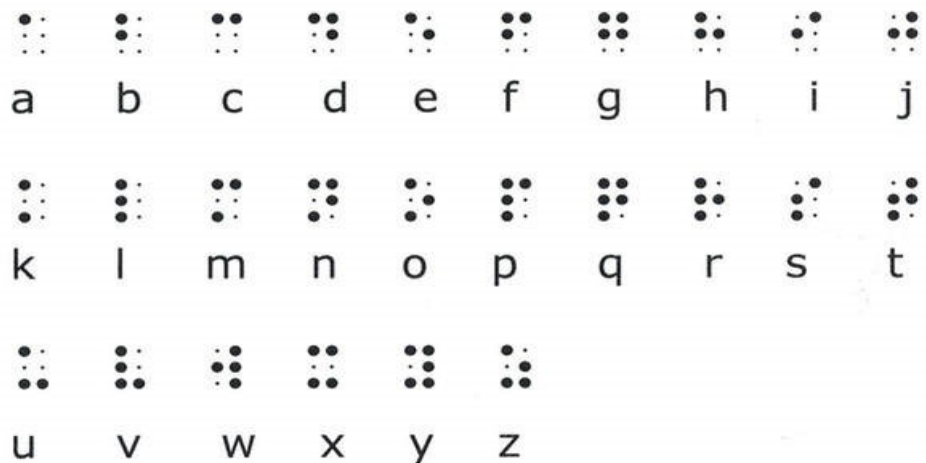
## PUZZLE PAGE

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.



### May 2023 Puzzler Answers:

Fingerspelling: What did the Easter egg ask for at the hair salon?

Braille: A new dye job