

# E-CONNECTOR



## BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: [copobc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:copobc.newsletter@gmail.com), attention Julie Hunter, editor.



### WRITE ABOUT BRAILLE AND WIN!



Flying Blind, LLC is offering any vision impaired student the opportunity to win a brand new BraillePen Touch Refreshable Braille Display valued at \$995.00. Students must submit a 200-300 word essay explaining how Braille has, is, and will impact their educational experience within the classroom, and within their community. The contest will close on Friday, June 19th 2015.

For more information about the BraillePen Touch, please visit [www.braillepen.com](http://www.braillepen.com). For additional information regarding the contest go to [flying-blind.com](http://flying-blind.com).



### SPELLING DICTIONARY HELPS KIDS WITH NEW BRAILLE CODE

Changes to the Braille code are here. UEB or Unified English Braille, is taking the place of EBAE, English Braille American Edition. Most of the English speaking nations of the world have adopted the new code so that Braille will no longer vary from one country to the next. The changes are taking place in order to (among other things) allow for the addition of new symbols and make computer translation of print to Braille more accurate. In the new code the alphabet and numbers stay the same. However, nine contractions have been completely eliminated and some of the remaining contractions are used more often in their place. There also

have been some changes to punctuation.

National Braille Press has stepped up to help kids meet the challenge of change. They recently published a spelling dictionary for elementary age students transitioning to and newly learning the UEB Braille code. It includes 1400 elementary-level words, listed alphabetically without definitions, enabling elementary school-age children to look up the spelling of words independently. Both the contracted and uncontracted Braille version of each word is given. The new edition is in print/Braille, so sighted and blind children and teachers or parents can use it together. \$15.00 from [National Braille Press](#).



### EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Here's a notice from the NFB Jernigan Institute. Applications are due by June 7.

"Calling all blind and low-vision high school students! Are you interested in pursuing work in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) after high school? Join the National Federation of the Blind for **NFB EQ**, a week-long engineering program for blind

and low-vision high school students. At this program, you will collaborate with other students to solve authentic problems that exist in developing countries. You will spend the week working on a team to engineer solutions to a given problem. Your team will create proposals with accompanying models, which you will pitch to various stakeholders. After constructing life-size prototypes of your designs, you will test them in authentic settings. You will also have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with a number of engineers from across the country, some of whom happen to be blind. To learn more and to apply, visit [www.blindscience.org/NFBEQ](http://www.blindscience.org/NFBEQ).

#### The Specs:

Participants: Twenty blind and low-vision high school students (currently in grades 9-12)

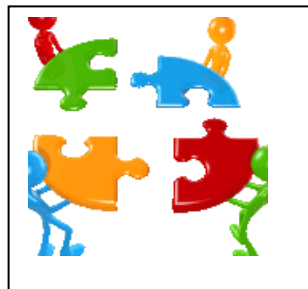
Dates: August 2-8, 2015

Location: National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute in Baltimore, MD

Application: [Apply Now!](#)

Applications are due by June 7.

Cost: \$0 (This program is free of charge)."



### ACCESSIBLE BULLETIN BOARDS

Bulletin Boards are a lively and engaging feature found in most elementary school classrooms. But for the most part blind and low vision students are left out. There are many ways that classroom bulletin boards can be made appealing to both blind and sighted viewers. Accessible bulletin boards can incorporate Braille alongside print and tactile elements. Real objects, such as candy, jewelry, leaves or any object that fits the theme, can be used to encourage children to touch. Different textured materials like sandpaper, foam cutouts, foil and cardboard can be cut and folded into any shape to give otherwise flat graphics a dimensional characteristic.



Here's an example of an accessible bulletin board that is available for purchase as a kit! This kit contains: 26 movable Braille letter butterflies, Velcro for attaching butterflies to board, Velcro strip (to form words at bottom of board), border, a tactile tree and leaves for the tree, spring stickers,

butterfly net, caterpillar Braille cell, die cut letters to form title, directions for creating the board in print/Braille and 8 x 10 color photo of the sample board. All proceeds from purchases will support the NFB BELL Program in Louisiana. Click to [purchase your Catch the Literacy Bug Bulletin Board Kit today from the NFB of Louisiana's online store!](#)



### **LAST CALL: NFB NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Time is running short. The 2015 convention of the National Federation of the Blind will take place in Orlando, Florida, July 5-10, at the Rosen Centre Hotel at 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819.

Sunday, July 5 Parent Seminar Day

[Click here](#) to read the agenda for parent/kid activities over the course of the week.

Monday, July 6 Registration Day

Tuesday, July 7 Board Meeting and Division Day

Wednesday, July 8 Opening Session

Thursday, July 9 Business Session

Friday, July 10 Banquet Day and Adjournment

For full convention details [click here](#).



### **BELL CAMP STILL OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT**

[BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids](#) is accepting additional students for camp sessions in Colorado Springs and North Denver for the week of July 13-17. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities.

For more information contact program coordinator Michelle Chacon:

[rascal.angel2@gmail.com](mailto:rascal.angel2@gmail.com)



### **JUNE CALENDAR**

**\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

NFB of Denver Chapter Meeting  
10:00 a.m. to Noon  
At the Colorado Center for the Blind  
2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO  
Parents and kids welcome!

**\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, JUNE 20**

### **FAST Saturday**

9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

FAST Saturday (Fun Activities and Skills Training)

### **SCIENCE SEMINAR**

Seminar will focus on Chemistry, Computer Programming and Birding by Ear. Professors from CU Boulder and Metro State University and artist, Ann Cunningham, will facilitate. All middle school and high school students are invited, RSVP to Brent Batron at 303-778-1130, extension 222 or [bbatron@coenter.org](mailto:bbatron@coenter.org)

**\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

**WICKED** -- Audio Described musical at the Buell Theatre.  
2:00 p.m.  
[denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

