

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLIND ATHLETES

For many years parents of blind and visually impaired youth have fought for the rights of their children to be included in school athletic activities. Too often kids are sidelined in gym class, turned away from tee-ball teams and excluded from playground games. Try out for the football team? Forget about it! But a recent ruling from the Department of Education requiring schools to include blind and visually impaired kids in school athletics may change all that. With simple accommodations blind kids can participate in school athletics and this new ruling should help open the eyes of school personnel to the fact that blind kids can and should be included in physical activities on all levels...from the playground to the gymnasium. Here is an excerpt from the

January 25th edition of the Washington Post about the changes that are coming:

U.S. Department of Education Issues 'Landmark' Directive for Disabled Student Athletes

By Preston Williams
January 25, 2013

In what is being hailed as a "landmark moment" that will do for students with disabilities what Title IX did for female athletes, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued a directive Friday detailing how schools are bound by federal law to ensure that students with disabilities are given equal opportunities to compete in school athletics.

The newly stated guidelines, which cover interscholastic, club and intramural sports at all education levels, stress that schools must make "reasonable modifications" for students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified to play on mainstream teams whenever possible as long as those modifications do not fundamentally alter the way the sport is played.

The guidelines also stipulate that schools are obligated to

pursue other sports opportunities, such as wheelchair-based teams, when modifications cannot be made to play on the mainstream teams.

According to a 2010 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, students with disabilities were being denied equal access to the health and social benefits of playing school sports, in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The guidelines state that school systems also should provide alternative athletic opportunities for students for whom they cannot make reasonable accommodations, such as wheelchair tennis or wheelchair basketball teams or "allied" or "unified" sports teams that include students with disabilities and without.



NFB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME

Attention all high school seniors and college students. Scholarships for higher education are waiting to be claimed! Don't delay as application deadlines are around the corner. Here are the details:

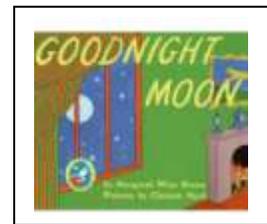
STATE:

This year the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will be awarding up to \$15,000 in scholarships for students who are legally blind residents of Colorado and who plan to attend a full-time post-secondary course of study in the fall semester of 2013. All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, service to the community, and financial need. Applications are due by Monday, April 15, 2013 and the winners will be announced no later than June 1st. If you are a winner, be prepared to accept an expense paid trip to the National Federation of the Blind National Convention from July 1-6, 2013 in Orlando, Florida! The scholarship grant for each successful applicant will be awarded at the banquet of the NFB of Colorado state convention to be held in October, 2013. For additional information about the scholarship program, contact Buna Dahal, NFB CO Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at 303-758-1232 or email her at bunadahal@dynamicbuna.com. The application form may be accessed at www.nfbco.org or by [clicking here](#).

NATIONAL:

The National Federation of the Blind (national organization) awards 30 scholarships to legally blind high school seniors through grad school students. Thirty awards will be made ranging from

\$3,000 to \$12,000 each. The application deadline is March 31, 2013. In May, all 30 winners will be personally notified that they are a 2013 scholarship winner. If you are a winner, pack your bags! With the financial assistance of the NFB, all 30 winners attend the annual NFB Convention, in Orlando, Florida. Students arrive July 1 and depart July 7. The announcement of individual awards is made at the convention banquet on July 6. For more information go to www.nfb.org/scholarships



"GOODNIGHT MOON TO TOUCH" GIVEAWAY!

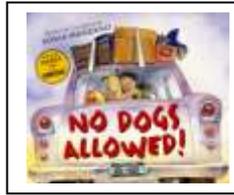
Wonderbaby.org is holding a drawing for the *Goodnight Moon to Touch* Kit from National Braille Press. This includes a copy of the book with Braille overlay and a large wire-bound book that includes tactile illustrations and descriptions. For example, in the illustration of the little bunny sitting in bed, they ask you to find the legs of the bed and follow the line of the bed up to the headboard. In the illustration of the telephone, they explain that this is an old fashioned phone with a twisted cord and rotary dial. The little mouse that hides somewhere on every page can be found by the blind child as it is marked

with a small Braille dot. In other words, the To Touch Kit brings the wonderful illustrations in the book to life. Enter this [giveaway](#) by going to [wonderbaby.org](#). Entries will be accepted until **February 14th** at midnight.



PRINT & BRAILLE: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

As we know, (or at least we hope) a great many children with visual impairments will grow up with Braille designated as their primary reading medium and print as secondary. Parents may have questions about how to integrate the two so that their child can achieve the best benefit from both Braille and print. Sharon Maneki, a leader in the NFB, has recently published a free ebook entitled *Integrating Print and Braille: A Recipe for Literacy*. In this book Maneki gathered techniques and strategies for teaching and learning Braille and print together from teachers, parents and blind adults. Each chapter suggests an “ingredient” that becomes part of the child’s “recipe” for dual media success. [Access the book online](#) or [download the eBook](#).



AUDIO DESCRIBED PLAY

The Arvada Center Children’s Theater presents *NO DOGS ALLOWED!* February 7 through April 12, 2013. The play chronicles the crazy misadventures of a family on a day trip to the lake. Humor and cooperation save the day in this warm family adventure.

AUDIO DESCRIBED on March 5th at both the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. shows.

Weekday general admission tickets: \$8.

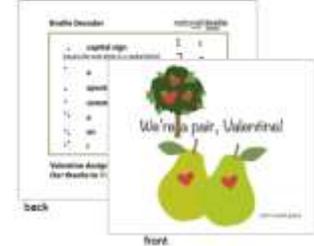
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COOKING WITHOUT LOOKING

Stir It Up! Recipes and Techniques for Young Blind Cooks is a new Braille/print book from National Braille Press. Dozens of recipes were tested and modified with suggested adaptive techniques for the young blind chef. Children are given hints on how to crack eggs, measure liquids

and solids, fill a muffin tin and much more! Order on line at [www.nbp.org](#) (\$20).



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Braille scratch ‘n sniff valentines available from [National Braille Press](#). 20 valentines for \$10.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



February 5, 12, 19 & 26:

Goalball clinics continue at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Call Brent Batron for more information. 303-778-1130 ext. 222.

February 27:

NFB of Colorado Day at the Capitol. 8:00 a.m. to noon Join us at the State Capitol (200 East Colfax) as we visit the offices of our state senators and representatives to communicate the legislative priorities of blind Coloradans. Meet in Old Supreme Court Chambers at 8:00 a.m. For more information call Jessica at 720-440-2632