

Vision Newsletter



Who we are:

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LKDSB Vision Program

The Vision Program is comprised of Specialist Teachers of the Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disabilities. We support students from JK to Grade 12 as well as their classroom teachers and EAs. Our focus is to support students with visual impairments so that they can access the curriculum, using appropriate accommodations and visual aids and to gain independence. We teach collaboratively with classroom teachers, support

staff, Resource Teachers, other itinerant teachers, school administrators and outside agencies. After a functional vision assessment, we suggest appropriate accommodations. The vision teaching includes the Expanded Core Curriculum, specifically lessons from the following areas of development: Compensatory Skills, Orientation & Mobility, Social Interaction Skills, In-



dependent Living & Personal Management Skills, Recreation and Leisure Skills, Career & Life Management Skills, Assistive Technology, Visual Efficiency Skills, Self Advocacy Skills. The Expanded Core Curriculum is comprised of expectations that enable students with visual impairments to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully proceed to post secondary education and or the working world.

Resources on the Web

Texas School for the Blind www.tsbvi.edu

cnib www.cnib.ca/en/Default.aspx

VIEWSON Ontario www.viewson.ca/index.html

Special Education Technology BC <http://www.setbc.org/>



How to Promote Self Advocacy



- Encourage the child to learn more about his/her eye condition and how he/she can accommodate for their visual impairment.
- Teach the child how to ask for help in an appropriate, polite manner.
- Let the child know that at some point, all children re-

quire confirmation of information and help with directions. Asking for help is not something to be afraid of - it just needs to be done appropriately.

- Listen when the child asks for help.
- Ask the child if environmental conditions are optimal for activities (e.g. lighting, seating, ability to hear the

speaker, and then gently remind the child to let others know about their needs.

- Encourage the child to speak up for him/herself when unable to access something others are doing/working on.

Adapted from the E.A. Workshop Committee, Toronto District School Board, Vision Program



Watching blind students visit the Charles Hayden Planetarium in Boston where she works, astronomer **Noreen Grice** realized how exclusive her field is. Blind students might be able to read about space, but they could not see the Rings of Saturn or look at images of solar flares and distant nebula - images that awe and inspire even the most unscientifically minded. So she decided to make astronomy more tactile, and to make these images available to the visually impaired. Her books are called *Touch the Stars*, *Touch the Universe* and *Touch the Sun*.

This latest book will have images from NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) and the Transition Region and Coronal Explorer (TRACE) spacecraft, as well as a close-up of a sunspot from the National Solar Observatory in New Mexico.

To listen or download the podcast about this interesting story, go to the following website.

<http://www.cbc.ca/quirks/archives/04-05/feb05.html>



A student reviews a prototype image of the Eagle Nebula.
www.touchtheuniverse.com/

Heard a Great Book Lately?



Sarnia Public Library has a great selection of books in various formats. Any one can check out large print books and audio books; there are a variety of talk-

ing books available at special request. All you need is a valid library card and you can read or listen to your hearts delight. Check out what is available at the Sarnia Public Library: www.lclmg.org/lclmg/Default.aspx,

The London Public Li-

brary:
www.londonpubliclibrary.ca,

and the cnib library:
www.cnib.ca/library

The vision department also has a variety of large print books available to borrow. Contact your vision teacher for more information.

Amazing Adventurer: Miles Hilton Barber



Miles Hilton Barber and his copilot Andy Cubin

Miles Hilton Barber has recently broken another world record. He has spent his adult life traveling around the world, participating in amazing races and breaking numerous world records.

Here is a snapshot of some of the adventures he has experienced over the last 25 years:

- Completed "The Toughest Foot-race on earth" - 150 miles across the Sahara Desert in the Marathon des Sables

- Climbed to 17,500 feet in the Himalayas

- Ran the 11-day Ultra-Marathon race across China from Gobi Desert to Great Wall

- Circumnavigated 38,000 miles around world using 80 forms of transport

In fact, during these incredible feats, Miles was blind. He has lived with blindness for the past 25 years. Recently he was featured on Discovery Channel's "Daily Planet" which

covered his flight in a Hawker Hunter jet. As the pilot he used assistive technology to help him perform aerobatics and to fly over 600 mph. Read more at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/gloucestershire/6956954.stm>

and

<http://www.milesilton-barber.com/adventurer.html>