



NMSBVI ALAMOGORDO CAMPUS

# Family Newsletter



Residential Campus

October 29, 2021

NMSBVI / ALAMOGORDO **FAMILY NEWSLETTER**

[www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us](http://www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us)

\* Home of the **Golden Bears** \*

[www.nmsbvi.org](http://www.nmsbvi.org)



## LOW VISION CLINICS

It is never too early to register – Clinics fill up quickly!

Assistive Technology help available at each clinic.

Contact Margaret Hidalgo 575-415-6044 or Angela Harris 575-437-3505 ext. 4431



November 3	-	Roswell
Jan. 26-27	-	Las Cruces
February 9	-	Albuquerque
March 9	-	Albuquerque



## PUMPKIN FUN



Elementary class of Hae'Leigh, Mario and Dahlia carve pumpkins, remove the pulp and seeds, to roast the seeds.



# TRANSITION TIPS

FROM HOLLY BIRD, TRANSITION COORDINATOR



*Transition Tips* are bits of information meant to assist you in planning for your child's future. You may have many questions: What supports are available after high school? What resources are available now? How can I best support my child in learning to be independent and self-determined?

As the NMSBVI Transition Coordinator, I am here to help you find answers to these questions and more. Please feel free to contact me to discuss your questions:

Holly Bird, 575-439-4470, [hollybird@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us](mailto:hollybird@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us)

**Tip #3 – America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion** – October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month! The theme for this year is **America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion**. In this Transition Tip, you will find several video links that provide valuable information about employment and employment supports for persons with disabilities. Please take some time to discover some of the programs and supports that exist for persons with disabilities and how you can benefit from these programs.



- Starting at 8:00 minutes into this video, you will learn about *customized employment* and how it can benefit students as well as businesses in your communities: <https://youtu.be/BVG4YqVZaR8>
- The next video discusses the initiative called *Employment First*. A critical priority for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), is to invest in systems change efforts that result in increased community-based, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities. This video gives additional information: <https://youtu.be/jsjStFWVkgS>
- The *Disability Employment Initiative* (DEI) aims to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Here is a link to the website for more information: <https://disability.workforcegps.org/>
- **At work, it's what people CAN do that matters.** That's the simple message behind the *Campaign for Disability Employment* (CDE), an ODEP-funded outreach effort to promote the hiring, retention, and advancement of people with disabilities. Here is a link the *What can YOU do?* website for more information: <https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/>
- Finally, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines *competitive integrated employment* as work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis for which an individual is: (a) compensated at or above minimum wage and comparable to the customary rate paid by the employer to employees without disabilities performing similar duties and with similar training and experience; (b) receiving the same level of benefits provided to other employees without disabilities in similar positions; (c) at a location where the employee interacts with other individuals without disabilities; and (d) presented opportunities for advancement similar to other employees without disabilities in similar positions. Please follow this link for more information about *competitive integrated employment*: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/program-areas/integrated-employment>

If you have questions about any of these programs or would like more information about how you students can participate in or benefit from these employment programs, please don't hesitate to contact your NMSBVI Transition Coordinator, Holly Bird.



## General Medication Information

Found in the Handbook for Students & Families - Pages 35-38

Written below are only a few medication policies from NMSBVI. Please read your student and family handbook for more information and details.

- No student can be at school without **ALL** of their prescribed medications, supplements and supplies. Transportation staff cannot allow them to board without the required items.
- All documents required by Health Services to have a signature **must be signed** before your student may board NMSBVI Transportation.
- No change in a medication/supplement can be executed, or any medication/supplement **discontinued**, until the parent/guardian provides Health Services with a written, signed prescribers order.
- Pills **CANNOT** be shipped back and forth (Board of Pharmacy requirement.) You must have your pharmacist give you **a bottle to send to school and a bottle to keep at home.** This must be done at the time the medication is refilled. The school will continue to send inhalers, eye drops, ointments, pre-packaged pills, etc. that cannot be duplicated for home and school. But if you do have extras of any of these medications, it is preferred that they not be shipped back and forth.
- All prescription medications must be in a pharmacy labeled container. **The pharmacy label cannot be altered in any way.** (e.g., directions or pill count altered.)
- **Daily** prescription medications must have a fill date from the pharmacy within the **last month.** (Exceptions: If your insurance provides you with a 90-day supply, then the date must be within the last 90 days.)
- **“As needed”** prescription medications must have a fill date within **the last year.** It does not matter if the manufacturer’s expiration date is still good. In NM, once the prescription label expires in one (1) year, the medication cannot be administered at school.
- Pills must **NOT** be mixed in bottles. **You cannot pour old medications into the new medication bottle, new medications into an old bottle or in any way tamper with the prescription as it was filled at the pharmacy.** When this occurs, the bottle is considered contaminated and cannot be used.
- Hand medications directly to the driver who picks up your child. **Please do not pack them in student’s luggage or backpack.** If you have any questions please call our office. (575) 439-4457



Thank you,  
Kelly McAlister  
Health Service Supervisor

# Virtual – 2021 NMSBVI Innovations Fair Booklet



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## NMSBVI Girl Scout Troop

NMSBVI's Girl Scout troop, along with other local troops, will have a **Trunk or Treat** at the Alamogordo **Girl Scout Hut**, located at 1012 Oregon Avenue

**5:30-7:30pm, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Join us for the fun & learn about Girl Scouts. This is a **FREE** event & open to **ALL** families!

\*Costume Party   \*Crafts   \*Games   \*Candy

## Ski Club

The NMSBVI Ski Club sent home paperwork for eligible students. The paperwork is due back to NMSBVI, Lori Adam no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.



Jessica holds her arms in front to balance, as the Adaptive Ski Coaches guide her down the mountain.



Dahlia rides a ski lift with her Adaptive Ski Coaches.



## Speech & Debate Club

Mary, Faith, Hector & Shawn will be competing in a regional competition with the National Speech and Debate Association on Friday, October 29 and 30. Mary and Faith have entered the "Informative" speech category. Shawn and Hector have entered the "Congressional Debate" category.





## Construction on the Alamogordo Campus

*Margie Macias, Capital Projects*



As most are aware, construction on the Alamogordo Campus has been ongoing for the past nine years. With the support of many legislatures and champions around the State, the New Mexico Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) and the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED), NMSBVI has been very fortunate to procure funding to renovate existing buildings and/or demolish and reconstruct new buildings on the Alamogordo campus. This has been a long time coming, and NMSBVI sincerely appreciates all the people that find value in meeting the needs of the blind and visually impaired students of New Mexico.

In August, NMSBVI began housing the students in the Sacramento Dormitory in preparation for new construction of the Garrett Dormitory. We are excited to inform you that demolition to the existing building will begin the week of October 25. Demolition will take a couple of weeks and from there, the new building construction will begin. Completion of the Garrett Dormitory is expected to take a minimum of one year.

The new 16,125 square foot building will have 24 double occupancy sleeping rooms with sharing bathrooms and two single occupancy rooms with private bathrooms and small kitchenettes for independent living experience. All sleeping rooms and bathrooms will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

The two separate wings will share one large common kitchen while each wing will have a separate living area with a retractable partition wall to combine both areas for larger social gatherings. Support areas in each wing also include computer rooms and laundry rooms equipped with commercial and domestic washers and dryers. Staff offices and staff restrooms will be housed in the common areas.

The building will have a courtyard in the front (facing the gazebo & rose garden) and another enclosed courtyard in the backside complete with a small basketball court/hoop and plenty of space for other fun, outdoor activities.

An Open House celebration will take place once the construction is completed (tentatively late 2022). Invitations will be sent out for this special event.



# NMSBVI HAPPENINGS!



Aiden watches small toys float by in a water trough.



Cianna trick or treats at the elementary classroom.



Dahlia says, "Trick or Treat," & Ms. Syliva is ready with candy.



Jude helps to carry several pumpkins.



Jessica walks on a moving cylinder.



Jordyn enjoys sitting in the BIG round cylinder.



Jude and Ms. Kris trick-or-treat in Ms. Young's classroom.



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