



March 19, 2011

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Teaching a Blind Student

Julie Campbell, a teacher's aid at the Treynor schools, spoke at the Optimist Club on March 19 about her experience. She started as a teacher's aid seven years ago. She has been working with a blind student named Tyler since he was in third grade. He is now in eighth grade.

The Braille system is a method that is widely used by blind people to read and write, and was the first digital form of writing. It consists of six dots that are raised. Each combination of dots represents a letter, digit, or character. Some words also have contractions in Braille. Julie uses a specialized machine to type Braille which produces only one size of type for Braille characters, making them easier to read.

Julie said that her goal is to make learning fun for her student and to help the teachers. The first year she was with Tyler in his classes, but now she just goes along to math class, since math is difficult to learn if you cannot see. To help make Tyler independent, Julie folds papers different for each subject, similar to the method blind people use to distinguish different denominations of money.

The teachers at Treynor are very cooperative. They have to explain everything verbally, not just write things on the board. They provide Julie lesson plans a week ahead of time so she can transcribe the lesson into Braille.

Julie Campbell has always loved art, which makes her job easier when she has to create maps and charts for Tyler to use. She works closely with his parents also. Tyler gets additional assistance from the AEA three times a week. He is in Band and on the honor roll.

Meeting Minutes

Dennis White opened the Optimist Club meeting on March 19 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Arlyn

Norris gave the opening prayer. Jim Clausen, Gary Funkhouser, and Keith Denton provided jokes. There were 15 members and two guests at the meeting.

Gary Funkhouser contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of the Treynor team taking second place in the Quiz Bowl. Keith Denton, Chuck Nielsen, Kirk Vorthmann, Steve Irvin, and Dennis White helped 14 youth sort cans in the Can Kennel.

John Klein was in town for the weekend and won the 50/50 drawing. Keith Denton won the attendance drawing.

The meeting on Saturday, March 26 will be at St. Paul Lutheran church, since the Community Center will be busy.

CALENDAR

Mar 30 - Can Kennel sorting at 3:30 p.m.

Birthdays

Mar 2 - Ward Chambers

Mar 11 - Kenneth Graham (recognized)

Mar 20 - Jon Jacobsen

Anniversaries

Mar 4 - Gene & Erika Seran

Mar 8 - Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)

Mar 15 - Dick & Betty Baber

Mar 15 - Jeff & Carrie Nelson

Speakers

Mar 26 - LeRoy Cobia - Beekeeping

Programs

Mar - Dale Willenborg

Apr - Gary Guttau

May - Keith Denton

June - Dick Baber

July - Judy Guttau

Aug - Treynor Bank Employees

Sep - Jeff Jorgensen

Oct - Gary Funkhouser

Nov - Arlyn Norris

Dec - Chuck Nielsen

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You Know It's Time To Turn Your Computer Off When...

- A friend calls and says, "How are you? Your phones have been busy for a year!"
- You forgot how to work the TV remote control.
- You see something funny and scream, "LOL, LOL."
- You meet the mailman at the curb and swear he said YOU'VE GOT MAIL.
- You sign off and your screen says you were on for 3 days and 45 minutes.
- You buy a laptop and a cell phone so you can have AOL in your car.
- Tech support calls YOU for help.
- You beg your friends to get an account so you can "hang out."
- You get a second phone line just to call out for pizza.
- You sneak away to your computer when everyone goes to sleep.