



William Howell <william.howell@asdb.az.gov>

The Agency Newsletter for November 2024

ASDB <media@asdb.k12.az.us>
Reply-To: media@asdb.k12.az.us
To: ASDB Agency <_agency@asdb.az.gov>

Wed, Nov 20, 2024 at 2:30 PM

Full ASL Version

The above links to an ASL version of the full newsletter.



Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

NEWSLETTER
November 2024

A Word From Our Superintendent

Dear ASDB Community:

As I write this, most of us are recovering from all of the fun Halloween activities we participated in with our students. We are now officially beginning our 2024 holiday season. I hope you are planning to celebrate and share the rituals of your favorite holiday with your students. I also hope you are scheduling time for activities during the holidays that you and your family enjoy. Let's be good role models and show our students how to laugh, play, have fun, and celebrate during this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Annette



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Deaf Awareness Week Celebrations

ASL Version



Deaf Awareness Week at PDSD and ASDB Tucson was an unforgettable celebration of Deaf culture, brimming with activities that brought the community together and inspired students to connect with their heritage in meaningful ways. The week kicked off on September 23rd with an inspiring ASL film screening in the BPAC, setting the stage for a series of engaging events. That same day, students took center stage to present on PDSD's rich history, sharing stories about their favorite Deaf or hard-of-hearing role models who have paved the way for future generations.

The excitement continued on September 24th with a Deaf career panel featuring accomplished professionals from diverse fields. Students were inspired to dream big as they explored career paths uniquely accessible to them. Later, the K-12 ASL Contest lit up the room with expressive ASL poetry performances, where students wowed the judges with their creativity and linguistic flair.

September 25th brought the chance to create with ASL artist Jennifer Tandoc, who led an art workshop where students expressed themes of self-love and learned about her journey as an artist. The artistic energy rolled into September 26th, as students immersed themselves in the beauty of ASL poetry, creating stories with playful ABC and 123 narratives alongside staff and peers.

The week wrapped up with a whirlwind of events on September 27th, starting with a lively paint night led by Deaf mentors and capped off with a thrilling performance by Justin Perez. Guests Justin Perez and Ruthie Jordan also hosted a Deaf literature and vernacular workshop, where students explored language through games and challenges that kept everyone engaged and laughing.

Finally, the celebrations came to a grand close on September 28th with a vibrant ceremony at ASDB Tucson. Deaf sponsors and vendors filled the space, emphasizing the power of community and the importance of raising awareness. The week was a joyful reminder of the strength, beauty, and vibrancy of Deaf culture—an experience no one will soon forget!



Itinerant Services Workshop

ASL Version

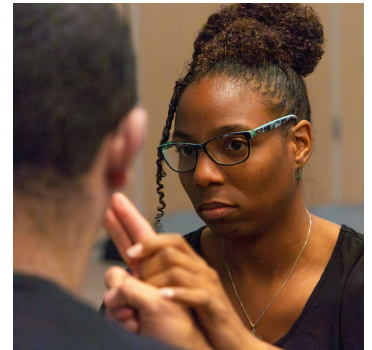
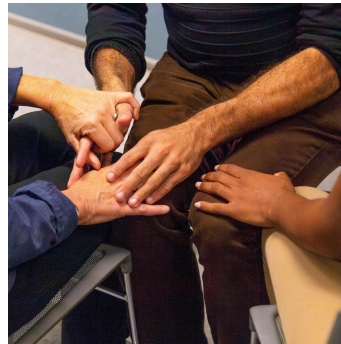


Our Itinerant Services team may be spread across the entire state of Arizona, but their dedication to coming together as a unified group is truly inspiring! Yesterday was a perfect example of their commitment to learning and professional growth. The team organized an enriching day full of workshops, collaborative team-building activities, and inspiring guest speaker sessions. These events were designed to ensure that every member is equipped with the latest knowledge and best practices in childcare. Despite the challenges of being geographically dispersed, the team's shared passion for excellence shines through in their efforts to support each other and the communities they serve. By prioritizing ongoing education and meaningful connections, our Itinerant Services team is always striving to stay at the forefront of childcare services!



Protactile & Co-Navigator training

ASL Version



We're excited to announce the launch of Arizona's first-ever Protactile & Co-Navigator training for interpreters at PDSD, in collaboration with Touch Seeds! This pioneering initiative is designed to improve communication and empower the DeafBlind community. By working together, we're taking important steps toward fostering greater inclusion and accessibility for all.



Campus Happenings

ASL Version

Support our students' impact:

river learning, water conservation, shade projects, and Eagle Scouts' restorations!



Phoenix Day School for the Deaf



ASDB: Tucson Campus

PDSD is buzzing with community-driven projects this October! Thanks to a grant from Phoenix, the Girl Scouts' independent Shade Project is transforming the campus by adding shade structures and planting trees, making outdoor spaces more comfortable. Meanwhile, the Eagle Scouts will be restoring and beautifying the outdoor basketball courts, ensuring they're in top shape for students to enjoy.

ASDB Tucson Campus students recently took part in two impactful environmental learning experiences. ASB and ASD high school students visited the Santa Cruz River, where they explored the vital ecosystem and discussed the importance of maintaining the river's environment. Meanwhile, Project WET, in partnership with the University of Arizona, conducted a session on campus, teaching students about water conservation and the workings of groundwater in our desert landscape.



October Adventures in Blind Programs

ASL Version



The White Cane Day celebration on October 23rd featured hands-on activities such as tandem bike rides, a White Cane obstacle course, and a Goal Ball demonstration. Students also had the chance to learn about public transportation accessibility and participate in a fun, interactive session where they learned to write their names in Braille using a Perkins Brailier. These events fostered a deeper understanding of the Blind/VI community while providing students with new skills and experiences.

ASL Version



Adding to the excitement, the Elementary School students had a blast visiting the on-campus pumpkin patch. They picked out their very own pumpkins, which they later carved and decorated, showing off their creativity and getting into the Halloween spirit. The pumpkin patch was

filled with laughter and joy as the students participated in fun games and activities. A big thank you to Nicole Briney for her dedication in organizing the pumpkin patch and ensuring it was a memorable experience for all the students.

A special thank you also goes to Tucson Hay Sales & Delivery, Lowe's, Walmart, The Home Depot, Albertsons, and Sprouts Farmers Market for their generous contributions that made these Halloween celebrations extra special.

And of course, thanks to the amazing staff on both campuses for their hard work, creativity, and dedication in making Halloween a magical experience for all involved!



Supporting Staff: Jelsa's Kidney Journey

We at ASDB would like to share an important message about one of our dedicated educational interpreters, Jelsa Seid.

Jelsa is a single mother who is courageously facing kidney failure due to [Polycystic Kidney Disease](#) (PKD). Recently, she reached a significant milestone by being added to the UNOS kidney donor list.

While this is a positive development, Jelsa's journey continues to be both challenging and uncertain. She is currently searching for a living donor who can provide her with the opportunity for a healthier future. If you or someone you know might be willing to consider this life-saving act, please visit Mayoaz.donorscreen.com for more information about the donor process.

Additionally, for those who wish to support Jelsa in other ways, please visit her fundraising page at [GoFundMe](#).

Your support, kindness, and willingness to share this message can make a profound difference. We deeply appreciate your consideration and support for Jelsa during this time.

Thank you for being part of our caring community.



A photo of Jelsa and her daughter

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ASDB Human Resources

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We wanted to take this time to let you know that we are here to serve you.

Human Resources help desk system enables Human Resources team members to assist staff by assigning requests directly to the subject matter expert. This system expedites support and you only need to remember one phone number or one email, for faster, better service.

We are available to connect with staff members through google meets, google chat, zoom, email, in-person, and good old fashion phone. We have attached how-tos if you would like assistance in using google chat or google meets. If we need an interpreter, please let us know and we can schedule one.

If we are busy assisting another awesome ASDB Team member and are unable to answer your call, please leave your name, phone number, and reason for your call. If you do not leave a message we will not know that you need our assistance. Voicemails are automatically sent directly to the Human Resources help desk and assigned to a Human Resources team member.

If you need assistance please contact the Human Resources Help Desk at hrhelp@asdb.az.gov or 520.770.3714.

Don't Miss Out on Our Teacher Referral Program!

Know a stellar teacher who would thrive at ASDB? Refer them to us and if they meet our qualifications and are hired, you could receive \$750 (less taxes) as a thank you. Refer to the [attached guidelines](#) for more details.

Help Us Spread the Word!

We're always on the lookout for new avenues to connect with potential candidates. If you have suggestions for places to advertise or professional conferences, career fairs, or associations we should explore, please share your recommendations with us.

Explore Our Current Openings:

For a list of our current openings, [click here](#) or visit our [website](#) and discover the exciting opportunities waiting for you at ASDB.



Friendly Reminders

ASL Version



Media

When requesting Media Support please do one of the following:

Place a request ticket @
<https://asdb.cloud/mediarequests/>

Email us @
mediarequests@asdb.k12.az.us

As part of an ongoing project, the media department will be capturing video and photos of sports memorabilia from both campuses, archiving items such as trophies, plaques, jackets, jerseys, and other hidden gems from the vault, representing the rich history of sports across both campuses.



Information Technology(IT)

For technology issues, IT-related questions, training, or **Student Information System (SIS)** problems, email: it.supportdesk@asdb.az.gov

Visit the IT Helpdesk portal:
<https://asdb.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

Access helpful articles in the [ASDB IT Knowledge base](#)

For urgent issues, call 520-770-3840.

Thanks,
The IT Team



Business Services

Payroll:
paycheckinquiries@asdb.az.gov

Purchasing: purchasing@asdb.az.gov

Warehouse:
Warehouse.Requests@asdb.az.gov

Accounts Payable:
invoices.accounts.payable@asdb.az.gov

Student Accounts:
cashrequest@asdb.az.gov



Operations

On May 9th, the ASDB board approved the master facility plan, including conceptual drawings and the consolidation of the Tucson campus into a new building. Funds have been requested for FY 2026. The vote did not address land or building sales, transfers, or leases. The final plan will be posted on ASDB's website in August.

ASDB's fleet will now be under ADOT's ownership, following state legislature changes. ADOT confirmed no major operational changes, but they will handle all vehicle claims.

Upcoming Events



ASB Winter Concert

This year, the after-school music group and the Sons of Orpheus chorus will take the stage for an evening performance.

December 4th, 2024
BPAC Tucson Campus
7:00 PM



APS Electric Light Parade

PDSD will proudly represent ASDB in the parade for the first time this year. Our group will include a mix of students, staff, buses, floats, and more as we march the 2.5-mile route along Central Ave. in Phoenix.

December 7th, 2024

For more information contact Jill Voit



Dancing with the Deaf Stars

Deaf staff teams from across the campus will showcase their dance moves in a fun-filled competition hosted by the ASDB Athletic Department. This exciting event will highlight creativity, teamwork, and a sense of community as teams go head-to-head in a friendly, spirited dance-off. Expect lively performances, plenty of energy, and a celebration of ASDB's vibrant staff culture!

Contact Gerald Brown to get your tickets!

Board of Directors

Board of Directors Meetings

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Board Meetings

Join us for the following scheduled Board of Directors meetings for the remainder of the calendar year:

November 14, 2024 in Tucson

All meetings commence promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Locations:

Tucson: Berger Performing Arts Center (BPAC)

Phoenix: Sports & Performing Arts Center (SPAC)

Access Past Meeting Resources Online

Missed a meeting? No problem! You can access previous meeting agendas, notes, and recordings online for your convenience.



Full ASL Version

The above links to an ASL version of the full newsletter.



ASDB VISION

We Are committed to respect, support, and the wellbeing of all.

Arizona School State for the Deaf and the Blind · 1200 W Speedway Blvd · Tucson · Arizona · 85745

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