

PERKINS INSIGHT eNEWS:
Communication Systems

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We're now on Facebook – become a fan!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Perkins-School-for-the-Blind/205883805896>

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PSB1829>

1. INSIDE STORY: Communication Systems

A toddler learns to take turns playing an instrument in music class. A student in Perkins Lower School reviews his schedule for the day by touching the tangible object symbols representing each activity. In the Deafblind Program a student uses picture cards to practice forming simple sentences.

At any given moment on Perkins campus students who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind and with or without other disabilities are practicing the fundamental and yet infinitely profound skill of communication. In every class and activity they are learning to express themselves and interact with others.

“All of our interactions with students use a conversational approach ... I think the way we converse with our students is very unique,” says Marianne Riggio, co-editor of the Perkins Publication, Remarkable Conversations.

Learn more.

http://www.perkins.org/news-events/eNewsletters/insight/inside-story/communication-systems.html#Learn_more

2. PERKINS SPOTLIGHT: Kimi Arevalo, Perkins Deafblind Program Center

Despite being almost totally blind, nine-year-old Kimi Arevalo navigates the classrooms in Perkins Deafblind Program with confidence and enthusiasm.

Using sign language gestures and pointing to picture symbols, she communicates with her teachers and lets them know what activity she wants to do next.

“She’s so highly social, which helps in learning communication because she’s motivated,” explains Assistant Education Director Martha Majors. “Kimi is unique because she's shown us that she can communicate in so many ways.”

Learn more.

<http://www.perkins.org/news-events/eNewsletters/insight/spotlight/kimi-arevalo.html#Learn%20more>

3. PERKINS INTERNATIONAL

Where in the World is Perkins?

Lina Sabbagh came to Perkins Educational Leadership Program to be immersed in educational techniques for children who are deafblind.

After nine months observing educators and working with students in Perkins Deafblind Program, Sabbagh returned to the Lebanese School for the Blind and Deaf to take a lead role in the establishment of a program for children who are deafblind. Today Sabbagh uses the teaching strategies she learned at Perkins to foster communication skills in her students.

“Going into Perkins, I thought that deafblind children were incapable of completing anything,” Sabbagh recalled. “Throughout the year I was surprised to see how [Perkins students] progress and gain new skills.”

Learn more.

http://www.perkins.org/news-events/eNewsletters/insight/international/lebanese-school-for-the-blind-and-deaf.html#Learn_more

4. TAKE ACTION: The 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act

In an era when more and more people watch their favorite sitcoms online, federal accessibility laws for individuals with disabilities have failed to keep pace with the latest technologies.

“The 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act” would amend the Communications Act to update the current disability accessibility mandates to reflect new digital and Internet technologies. This measure has already been introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Help us ensure that individuals who are blind and deafblind will not be left behind by this fast-paced industry. As technology and communication changes daily this becomes more vital all the time.

Write a letter to U.S. Senator John Kerry today asking him to introduce this measure in the U.S. Senate.

<http://support.perkins.org/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&id=156>

5. NEWS

Just Published: Perkins Publications Catalogue

The 2010 Publications Catalog provides descriptions and price listings for all of Perkins' educational publications.

Download as a PDF; an ordering form is included for your convenience.

http://www.perkins.org/assets/downloads/psb_publicationcatalogue_v7apdf-cl.pdf

You can also buy any of our publications online.

<http://www.perkinsstore.org/>

Are you looking for more on this topic? Remarkable Conversations is one print publication penned by experts on campus. This book is a practical guide for teachers, family members and others who play a critical, direct role in the lives of children who are deafblind. Learn more.

http://support.perkins.org/site/Ecommerce?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=1293&store_id=1101

Just Released: New Welcome Video

Take a trip inside Perkins School for the Blind with this video; meet our president and some of our students, and learn about what happens on our campus every day. Watch it now.

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Perkins_Welcome_Video

5. IMPORTANT DATES

Massachusetts Deafblind Awareness Day
Grand Staircase, State House
March 16, 2010
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join us and other organizations providing services to individuals who are deafblind to create awareness around services.

A formal program runs from noon - 1:00 pm. Invited speakers include: Commissioner Heidi Reed, MCDHH Commissioner Janet LaBreck, MCB Asst. Secretary of Health & Human Services, Jean McGuire, House Speaker Robert DeLeo.

Visit us online to see What's New at Perkins!
<http://psb-dev.pub30.convio.net/news-events/news/>

6. PERKINS PRODUCTS: Next Generation Perkins Braille® -- Midnight Blue & Raspberry are here!

Perkins Products is ready to ship the Next Generation Braille in Midnight Blue and Raspberry to customers in Canada and the US. We will begin shipping internationally in the next few months.

The Next Generation Perkins Braille retains all of the features that made the Classic Perkins Braille the most widely used braille writer in the world, plus incorporates new features users have been asking for. Learn more.

<http://www.perkins.org/nextgeneration/>

Visit our online store to see all our product offerings.
<http://www.perkinsstore.org/>

7. OTHER RESOURCES: Perkins Scout

Check out our extensive searchable database of online resources covering all topics related to blindness and visual impairment. Start searching today.

<http://psb-dev.pub30.convio.net/resources/scout/>

8. SUPPORT PERKINS: Become a Miracle Worker Today!

Make miracles happen every day... Join our Monthly Giving Program.

Learn more.

<http://www.perkins.org/supportperkins/ways/monthlygiving.html>